

CONTACT

For Pensioners of the Reckitt Benckiser (formerly Reckitt & Colman) Pension Fund

No. 75, August 2019

RBPA Committee

The April meeting of the Reckitt Benckiser Pensioners' Association was told that three members, representing the Northern and Eastern Regions, were due for re-election to the committee for January 2020.

All three, Trevor Clark, Gill Morrell and Alistair Stewart, have offered themselves for re-election.

Any member of the Association may stand for election to the Committee. As provided for in the RBPA Constitution, witnessed nominations can be made on forms obtainable from and returnable to The Secretary, Reckitt Benckiser Pensioners' Association, c/o Pensions Department, RB plc, Dansom Lane South, Hull, HU8 7DS to arrive before **Friday 24th September, 2019.**

Carrow



Remembrance Service

Alistair Stewart (RBPA Committee member for Norwich) has asked us to let you know that there will be a Remembrance Day service at Carrow House on Monday, November 11th, starting at 11am. All are welcome to attend.

New RB CEO: Laxman Narasimhan

Laxman Narasimhan has been appointed as the CEO to replace Rakesh Kapoor.

Laxman joins RB from Pepsico where he was the Chief Executive Officer of PepsiCo's Latin America, Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa operations for food and beverages.

Chris Sinclair (Chairman of the board) said, "The Board is delighted to have appointed Laxman as our new Chief Executive Officer after a thorough and rigorous global selection process from a strong bench of internal and external candidates. Laxman's



initial priorities will be to focus on delivering outperformance, especially in the Health business unit, and to drive RB2.0". He goes on to say "Laxman has exceptional strategic capabilities and consumer insight with a proven track record in developing purpose-led brands and driving consumer centric and digital innovation. This, combined with his excellent people engagement and leadership skills, gives the Board confidence that he will continue to evolve the strong culture of RB and deliver outperformance."

Calling West Country Pensioners

Martin Fox and Tony Swell would like to try something new for our West Country Pensioners: a West Country drop-in/get-together. You are cordially invited to join them at **The Victoria Hotel, Sidmouth**, on Thursday 15th August from 2pm, for tea and a chat (and we're sure cake may be involved!) - just turn up and



you will be assured of a warm welcome.

Tony says if you would like a chat, please phone him on 01189 691 390.

It would be really good to see you there, so please pencil this date into your diaries.



DIARY DATES 2019

Forthcoming get-togethers:

CHISWICK/LONDON (W)

Thursday, October 17th, at 12 noon
The Wheatsheaf Hotel, Virginia Water.

Contact Chris Mann,
Tel 07824 446392

HIGH WYCOMBE

Wednesday, October 16th at 12 noon,
Brewers Fayre, Loudwater,
High Wycombe.

Contact Paul Gilliam
Tel 01494 562843

WEST COUNTRY POP-IN

Thursday, August 15th from 2pm
The Victoria Hotel, Sidmouth

Contact Tony Swell
Tel 01189 691 390

DERBY

Tuesday, September 10th at 10:30am

The Potting Shed Cafe,
Markeaton Garden Centre,
Markeaton Lane, Derby.

Contact Lorraine Mugleston
Tel 01159 733753

NOTTINGHAM

Tuesday, September 24th at 12 noon

The Shepherds, Stragglethorpe,
Radcliffe-on-Trent, Notts.

Contact Brian Bradley
Tel 01526 321575

LEICESTER

Tuesday, October 8th at 11:30am

Fox Pond, Glen Road,
Oadby, Leicester,

Contact Brian Bradley
Tel 01526 321575

NORWICH

Tuesday, October 8th at 10:30am

The White Horse, Trowse.

Contact Alistair Stewart
Tel 01603 436391

HULL

Wednesdays, September 11th,
October 23rd & December 4th at 11am

Cheval Cafe, Willerby
Contact Phil Shearsmith
Tel 07858 137 178
alloa@alloa.karoo.co.uk

Get-togethers

Nottingham - The Shepherds, Stragglethorpe

Brian tells us that another enjoyable time was had at The Shepherds, with one pensioner telling of his interest in beekeeping and making honey. We also wished John and Pamela, who will be shortly setting off to Canada, a lovely holiday. We're all looking forward to the next get-together in September.



Hull - Cheval Cafe, Willerby

The Hull group, made up of thirty-three attendees, welcomed two newcomers (on the right of the top photo). There was a great deal of table shuffling going on until it was realised that we'd never all fit round a long table! Old magazines (some very old!) were passed around and a lovely ceramic cup from the Reckitt's Motoring Club (RMC) was handed over for safe keeping at the Heritage centre.



Chiswick - The Wheatsheaf Hotel, Virginia Water

Chris Mann tells us that they had a Chiswick Pensioners lunch at Virginia Water and it was attended by 25. The next get-together is on 17th October at the same venue (see diary on the left). If you haven't been to the Chiswick get-together, and would like to attend, please contact Chris on his mobile (07824 446 392).



- around the regions

High Wycombe - Brewer's Fayre, Loudwater

Paul Gilliam, Pension Visitor for High Wycombe, recorded their best attendance ever with 28 guests at the luncheon held on Wednesday 3rd April, 2019.

There were several raffle prizes donated by our guests, including a splendid fruit basket put together by Tony Collier. There were some initial problems at the restaurant owing to the success of Mother's Day, the previous Sunday, depleting some of the "old favourites" on the menu. After lengthy negotiations the head chef decided to make a special apple crumble served with Vegan Custard - a first for all I think. The delay in serving the meal led to perhaps our longest event ever with many stories being told. There was general agreement that the lunch turned out to be one of the best ever. We were all delighted to see Meg Lambert and Ken Pusey who had been missed on some previous occasions due to health issues and/or family commitments. Plus Stan Williams who had driven up from Portsmouth, although he had forgotten to bring Carol her shuttlecocks!

Paul and his wife, Carol, were severely jet-lagged having just returned from around a month in New Zealand where they were surprised to see so many Reckitt products in the shops. One of the pictures shows tins of Reckitt products, possibly a little past their sell by dates. The eagerly-awaited next event is set for Wednesday 16th October.



From the top: Meg Lambert & Ken Pusey; David Carter & David Francis; John Simmons, Dick Avery, John Rolls, Mike Stroud and Toni Citrone; Stan Williams & Pat Hearne; the aged Reckitt products

Leicester - The Oadby Owl, Oadby

Brian tells us that it was a nice little get-together for the Leicester group. Mary Burnett kindly brought along some photos taken at the then Dryad Works where they made cane furniture, work baskets and also cloth materials for school/hospital orders. See page 5 for the Dryad photos.

NOTE: There's a new venue for the next Leicester get-together in October. Still in Oadby, it's at the Fox Pond.



Derby - The Potting Shed Cafe, Markeaton

The April get-together at the Potting Shed Cafe was once again a very lively event with 29 attendees. The coffee, cake and bacon sarnies were up to the usual standard. It was particularly good to welcome accountant Malcolm Wallace who worked at Derby for many years. We had a raffle and some of the prizes came in the form of Easter Eggs (the non fattening variety of course!).

We have a really friendly group and, if anyone new is wondering if they should come along, then please do, we would love to see you. Lorraine.



PTO FOR THE NORWICH GROUP



Norwich get-together - The White Horse, Trowse

Alistair Stewart - get-together organiser and RBPA committee member - sent us this picture of the Norwich folk enjoying their time together at The White Horse. A dozen folk turned up for the event.

The next get-together is booked for the 8th October and we're sure that the group would be happy to see new (or old!) faces. Contact Alistair for more information.



Supervisors' Dinner - keeping in touch



Ladies: Angela Lamb, Hazel Mee, Joy Sutton, Lil Pooley, Janet Gibson, Gill Morrell, Pauline Settle, Andi Wright, Fiona Houghton, Jackie Whitham, Sue Carpenter. Gentlemen (back row): Brian Hugget, John Smallwood, Steve Rial, Tony Pawson, Tony Payne, Tony Martin, Ken Johnson, Ted Parker, Richard Bays, John Howden, Chris Chapleo, Mark Hulme, Andy Forster, Phil Gibson, Alan Brooke, Carl Tyson, Dave Copeman, Dave Price. (middle row): Malcolm Rudderforth, Ian Jolliffe, Syd Newman, Ian Pooley, Trevor Busby, Ken Houghton, Ron Watson, Pete Hessel, Ian Mackechnie, Trevor Hill, Mike Spence, Alan Clarke, Paul Beaumont, Dave Nellist, John Laydon, Bob Allison, Vic Carpenter.

Forty-six guests arrived for the Hull Supervisors' Dinner. They sat down to a splendid five course meal. Lamb shank was the star of the show and stalwart organiser, Brian Hugget, had really no cause to worry about whether it would go down well - it was enjoyed and commented on by many of the guests.

Guest Speaker - Lil Pooley

Brian had asked Lil to make the speech a couple of weeks earlier and, although at first she'd not been keen, she finally decided that once again it was time for the ladies to take to the stage (there had only been 3 lady speakers in the past).

Lil took us on a tour of her career at Reckitts. Lil hadn't wanted to work in a factory but, with a myriad of family members working at the company, her father had different ideas and so Lil went for an interview. She thinks that her 100% attendance record at school was the key factor in her being appointed to the Canister works. For four months (until the next young person was appointed) she was the "runner". Jobs varied from collecting money for the TSB bank to collecting toast for the breaks - and woe betide being late with the toast! During her time there, she used to supply the women who made the cans. As they were paid for each piece

produced, it was essential that she didn't keep them waiting for components. It was a very noisy and dirty place to work. With no ear defenders in those days, Lil said you either had to lip-read or shout loudly! After seven years, Lil applied to work in the Disprin production area under Flo Bilton (see *iContact 71 for more about Flo*). She was amazed at how clean and quiet it was. In the 1990's, she saw the production line move from the old Kingston Works South (KWS) building into the new Kingston Works East (KWE) production facility. She kept the last bottle and carton of Disprin tablets that



were produced on the lines before they moved. Lil revealed how, back in 1985, she and Pauline Settle had managed to "persuade" Brian to invite women to the dinner - and so began a new tradition. Eventually Lil left Reckitts and set up a floristry business not far away on Holderness Road, Hull. After twenty years in the floristry business, she will be calling it a day and hanging up her ribbons and secateurs at the end of this year.

Lil, we wish you all the very best and send our thanks for a very entertaining speech.

See more photos in the digital edition



Colman's in North Yorks?

Bob Thurston (Colman's sales force 1960-1992) visited the Ryedale Folk Museum at Hutton le Hole in North Yorkshire. Amongst other exhibits there was a grocer's shop and a chemist, decked out with products from yesteryear. Of course the typical Colman's products eg Mustard and Robinsons squash were present, but Bob spotted an unfamiliar product - "Colman's Complete Bakemix Sponge Cake". Amazingly Bob still has in his possession a price list dating from 1959, but alas this product wasn't listed. It's thought to have been around in the 1930's/40's. **Do you remember this product? Did your mum (or dad!) make you a "Colman's cake"?** If this does prompt any recollections, please send them in to us, using our contact details above.

*Clockwise:
Colman's Semolina
and the Sponge
Complete Bakemix,
Colman's Mustard
& Colman's Starch*



Call-out to ex-Moussec Wine Sales Force

Brian Bradley, RBPA committee member and organiser of the Nottingham and Leicester get-togethers, has asked us to ask if there are any pensioners who used to work for Moussec. Brian worked with Moussec for 9 years before Reckitt & Colman took them over to become part of the Food & Wine division. He would like you to contact him by email at brian@bradley1938.plus.com.

An internet search on Moussec revealed two intriguing stories and it would be interesting to hear if there is any "insider" knowledge.

The first story was found on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/10/a5560210.shtml> and relates to a story from Albert Smith, whose mother worked filling wine bottles in the Moussec factory at Rickmansworth. His mother would never speak about her work there and it seems that he later found out that the workers perpetually filled (and emptied) the wine bottles with water and that, behind the facade, was a tank factory with tanks dispatched under cover of darkness!



The second story was found on the Bonham's Auctioneer website (https://www.bonhams.com/press_release/12696/). In 2012, a find of American gold coins was made in a building belonging to Lanson Bonnet, who have vineyards in Les Riceys, France. Apparently, whilst restoring the building, a worker was surprised by the gold hoard literally falling from the ceiling. The hoard was later sold for just under \$1 million and half of the proceeds was given to the humble workman who discovered the coins. According to a local historian, the building was previously owned by Moussec. One line of thought is that the coins were secreted during WWII.



Mary Burnett (Leicester get-together) kindly brought along photos taken at the then Dryad Works where they made cane furniture, work baskets and cloth materials for school and hospital orders. **Do you recognise any of the ladies in the photo on the right or at the Christmas party below?**



DRYAD MEMORIES



Far left: Mary & Rose at work making up orders in the Material dept. Left: The Dryads Christmas party group enjoying themselves. Above: Two ladies working in the weaving dept.

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE ...

RECKITT'S MOTORING CLUB (RMC)

We'd love to hear your stories about the RMC. Send them to us at rbcontactmag@gmail.com

At the Hull area get-together in May, Philip Robinson brought in a trophy (pictured) from the RMC. Philip tells us that the cup was given to him by the niece of the late Con Dobson, who won it in a competition many years ago. It has been passed on to the RB Heritage centre who were pleased to accept the safe-keeping of the trophy.



The RMC was one of many sporting and social clubs that have been a mainstay of employees throughout the years and a visit to the archives tells us a little more about the history of this club.

The club opened in 1937 and was associated with the RAC to which it offered RMC club members "all the privileges and advantages of full associate membership of the RAC". This must have been a very attractive option as it gave RMC members a 50% RAC discount. Amongst others, the club's objectives were to "encourage the use of the mechanically propelled road vehicle" and to "afford information, advice and assistance on all matters connected with automobiles".

At the time, RAC members benefitted from legal defence, the "Get You Home" service, touring facilities, road maps & routes, inspected hotels, telephones and insurance - which for 1931 seems quite a comprehensive and a not-too-dissimilar version of today's services.

You've got to laugh ...

Many of the old magazines contain topical and amusing cartoons. This one caught the *Editor's* eye when browsing for RMC stories. Although these days game hunting and trophies are quite rightly pilloried, back in 1931 this wasn't

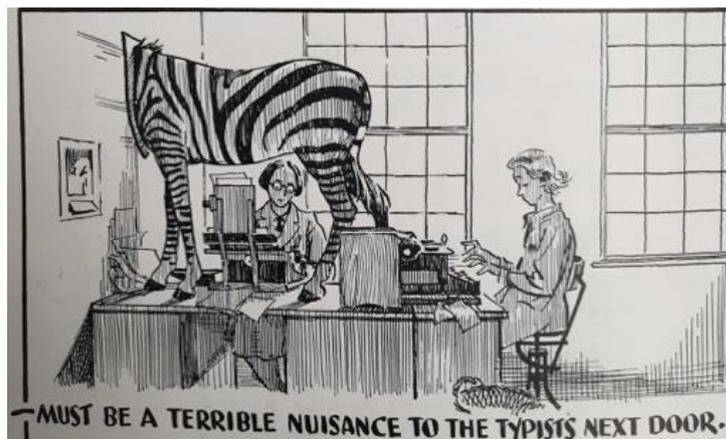
By 1938, the club had 44 members and the second AGM reported that during the year "Three of the members had used the RAC 'Get You Home' scheme, but fortunately nobody had availed themselves of legal service"

It seems that the club was suspended due to the second World War and the next mention of the club was in 1961 when an article was put in *Ours* seeking new members. Ninety members initially answered that call and a programme of social events took place: film evenings, treasure hunts and a driving test round an obstacle course in one of the car parks! A night time rally was held in November '61 starting at 11pm and finishing at breakfast: it covered 200 miles. The rally was won by P Mayor/E Lown in a Riley. The rally proved a popular event and a points scheme was devised to enable annual club awards for champion driver, navigator and enthusiast. The first club champion was a shared trophy and was won by Mrs C Hillerby and Mr E Lown.

Many of you will remember the Reckitt's men's grooming product - Cossack hairspray (yes, hard to believe that, back in the day, the male hair-do required some serious "hold"). Cossack became the sponsor of Roger Clark, a professional rally driver in the World Rally Championship. His most notable success was winning the Lombard RAC rally in 1976 in his Cossack sponsored Ford Escort RS1800. Phil Shearsmith tells us that, during that time, Roger and his car was a major draw when night time rallies, run by the club, set off from the square at Beverley Market.



the case. Presumably in acknowledgement of Zebra Grate Polish, the taxidermied head of a zebra was received and hung in the Directors' vestibule. Mr Crawforth (cartoonist for *Ours* magazine) put together this cartoon:



Top Team in Top Quiz

In 1989 (30 years ago) a team from Hull's pharmaceutical division, comprising of Martin Usher, Kevin O'Berg (our very own RBPA Chairman), Tony Pawson, Mike Fare and Ruth Jefferson, took part in Europe's toughest business game.

Each team was given three imaginary products and, acting as the board, was asked to run a "virtual business". Making decisions on subjects such as production costs, product turnover, capital investment and marketing, the team used a familiar policy - backing premium products with high profile marketing. Having won the local finals, the team progressed through to the regional stage. Kevin recalls that regional final very well: he'd been away in Australia and, upon landing in the UK was met by his son, who whisked him off immediately to the Cranfield School of Management to join the rest of the team. Tony Pawson was unable to make this stage of the competition so Steve Sowerby took his place. Sadly that's where the story ends as

they were knocked out of the competition. The team enjoyed the experience with Martin Usher saying, "It's been a great exercise in management training, as well as being highly exciting."



"Company Chairman" Martin Usher, along with Kevin, Steve, Mike & Ruth. Just loving that computer - very 1989!

Garden Parties - Not just for the Queen ...

In 1969 (50 years ago) Mr & Mrs B.N. Reckitt "threw open their grounds at their house in Roos". They hosted two garden parties which were attended by pensioners and their spouses. Six hundred people attended the two events but, due to the large numbers involved, the invitations had to be restricted to those who lived in the Hull or East Riding area. We are told that the weather was good and that guests had a great time "wandering around or catching up with old colleagues". The picture shows Mr & Mrs Reckitt welcoming their guests. The lady with the white hat looks remarkably like the Queen.



OBITUARIES

Once again we are sad to record the deaths of our pensioners and former colleagues, who are listed in the columns below.

NORTHERN

Hull (unless otherwise stated):
Susan Marilyn Smith (72 years), 7 years service,
Olive Cockshaw (90) 19
Mary Needley (96) 18
Annie Margaret Whitham (84) 23
Albert Dew (84) 16
Harry Taylor (94) 23
Lawrence William G Johnson (91) 7
William C Beacock (99) 22
Peter King (91) 31
Raymond Swyer (60), 11
Arthur Spivey (77) 16

Hull HQ:

Kenneth J Walker (102), 5

Colours, Morley Street:

Albert Edward Barley (90), 46

SOUTHERN

Chiswick:

Susan Elizabeth Mead (74) 24
Robert John Burns (97) 20
Peter John Maydon (77) 33

Colours, Bletchley:

Michael Francis V Peart (79), 3

Reeves: Fine Arts & Graphics:

Reginald Cyril Havard (95), 49

Nottingham:

Christopher Alan Latham (76), 2

EASTERN

Norwich:

Anthony Derek Smith (86) 26
Vernon Neville Reeve (79) 27
John Ivan Perrement (89) 45
Colin Reginald Harvey (88) 15

OTHER

Colours, Backbarrow:

Margaret Dakin (90), 3

Industrial Division:

Adrian Barry Binks (83), 16
Jack Cook (86), 7

If you have any recollections or memories of former colleagues, please email them to us and we will endeavour to print them in our next issue.

iCONTACT QUESTIONNAIRE PRIZE DRAW - 3 prizes

To help us provide you with an appealing magazine, the Editorial team would like to ask you some questions to find out what is important to you. We're offering a prize draw for anyone who sends us a reply: we'll put all returned questionnaires into a hat (if we can find one big enough!). The first name out will win a **£50** love2shop voucher, with two further vouchers worth **£25** each for the second and third names picked out of the hat. All you need to do is answer the simple questions below and send your completed questionnaire in the post to: RBPA QUESTIONNAIRE, c/o RB Pensions Department, Dansom Lane South, HULL, HU8 7DS. Entries for the draw close on September 30th. The draw will take place at the Hull get-together on October 23rd. Winners will be published in the December magazine. **Please circle your responses below:**

How much of the magazine do you read?

None 25% 50% 75% 100%

Which articles do you read? (circle any that apply)

Front Page Get-togethers In Touch Obituaries Other articles

What do you think of the quality of the articles in the magazine? (1=poor, 5=excellent)

1 2 3 4 5

If the magazine stopped, would you miss it?

Yes No

Should we have a digital only magazine?

Yes No

How could the magazine be improved? _____

Any other comments? _____

To be entered into the prize draw, please fill in your name and address and post to the address given above.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____



PENSIONER VISITING - GDPR POSITION REVIEWED

In our December issue of *iContact* it was explained that visits to elderly and sick RB pensioners would cease due to Data Protection issues. After much research and discussion, it may be possible that we are able to maintain contact either by visiting or by phone calls, depending on location

If this is possible and you would like a visitor from the Pensioners' Association to contact you, then please provide your details below and return this portion to RBPA c/o Pensions Department, Reckitt Benckiser, Dansom Lane South, Hull, HU8 7DS.

NAME: _____ **TEL No:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

Supervisors' Dinner - keeping in touch



John Laydon, John Smallwood, Lil Pooley, Carl Tyson, Steve Rial, Syd Newman, Tony Payne, John Howden



Ian Mackechnie, Bob Allison, Vic Carpenter, Ian Jolliffe, Pete Hessell, Sue Carpenter, Richard Bays, Ron Watson



Andy Forster, Mike Spence, Phil Gibson, Janet Gibson, Dave Nellist, Malcolm Rudderforth



Trevor Busby, Trevor Hill, Tony Pawson, Chris Chapleo, Ken Johnson, Ted Parker, Tony Payne



Andi Wright, Fiona Houghton, Pauline Settle, Jackie Whitham



Ian Pooley, Andi Wright, Paul Beaumont, Fiona Houghton, Dave Copeman, Pauline Settle, Jackie Whitham, Ken Houghton, Brian Huggett, Gill Morrell

Supervisors' Dinner - cont'd



Pauline Settle & Brian Huggett



Mark Hulme, Brian Huggett, Dave Copeman



Andy Forster, Mike Spence



Paul Beaumont, Syd Newman, Dave Price, Tony Payne



Tony Martin, Brian Huggett, Trevor Hill