

iCONTACT

No. 85 December 2022

Visit our website
www.icontactnewsletter.co.uk

Did you know that the RBPA has a website?

On our web pages you can find previous editions of the magazine, dates of get-togethers, lists of obituaries and our contact details.

Digital magazine?

Rather than have the magazine posted out, a growing number of pensioners have decided to use our website to read their copy of the magazine. Saving paper and money and reducing waste, a lot of our busy lives now happens on-line. If you're ready to make the switch to taking the digital magazine, please send an email to rbcontactmag@gmail.com and we will make it happen.

The digital magazine occasionally has more content than our printed magazine e.g. more or larger photos or more information on an article.

CEO Rapid departure

Laxman Narasimhan announced on 1st September that he was stepping down as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Reckitt Benckiser Group (RB) with effect from 30th September 2022. He stated that this was for personal and family reasons as he wished to relocate back to the USA. He was subsequently confirmed as CEO of Starbucks.

Nicandro Durante, current Senior Independent Director of RB, steps into the role of CEO while the Board evaluates and appoints the future leader. Nicandro is a highly experienced CEO who led the transformation of British American Tobacco over a nine year period. He is deeply familiar with the strategy and direction of RB having been on the Board for a number of years.

Trafalgar House

All pensioners received a notification earlier this year that the administration of our Pension Fund was going to be transferred to Trafalgar House. This has now happened and in October you will have received your "Welcome" brochure containing details of how to set up your personal account on the My Work Pension web page, along with details of how to contact them. The pack included your "membership reference". This is an important piece of information and you should keep it handy.

The key message to get across is that pension payments and the rules (Trust Deed) that determine such things as the annual increases remain unchanged.

If you're an on-line type of person, there are some benefits of having web access - you're just a 24/7 click away from seeing your payslips and P60s, being able to check your personal details and send secure messages to Trafalgar House.

If on-line is not your thing, then you can call 020 7330 0703 and speak to a representative of the RB Fund.

Pension Funding Update

There has been significant volatility in markets recently with the conflict in Ukraine, rising energy prices and the impact of the mini-budget and budget reversals in October. However, thanks to the relatively low-risk investment strategy run by the Trustees, the funding position has been well protected and there will be no impact on your current or future pension payments from the Fund.

RBPA Committee

The second meeting of the year took place on 22nd September at the Sibson Arms, Peterborough. The next meeting is scheduled for 23rd March, 2023 and, as agreed in our March meeting, it will be held on Zoom.

Pensioner Visits

Pensioner visits can take one of many formats these days. Where possible and if required, a Pension visitor can visit in person. Alternative ways of keeping in touch can be arranged using the telephone or social media such as emails and WhatsApp. If you would like to be 'visited', please complete the form on page 3 and we will try our best to support you.

New Committee Members

In the absence of nominations Martin Fox (West Country drop-in organiser) and Martin Noblet were elected to the committee.

Re-Election

Paul Gilliam, Gill Morrell and Alistair Stewart were re-elected unopposed.

RBPA Constitution

In light of the change to the committee, it was agreed that the RBPA constitution would be reviewed.

Trustee update

Martin Keeley (Pensioner Nominated Trustee) gave the committee an update (see Funding Update below).

Retirements & Replacements

We extended our grateful thanks to Kevin O'Berg and Trevor Clark for serving on the RBPA committee and giving their support over many years. We hope they enjoy their second retirement. Following on from this, replacements were nominated and approved. The table below gives details of the full committee, followed by contact phone numbers.

Paul Gilliam, Chair, High Wycombe
07799 796289 / 01494 562843

Tony Swell, Vice Chair, Thames Valley
07519 281648 / 01189 691390

Jon Sewell, Secretary (Hull)

Gill Morrell, Treasurer & iContact Editor (Hull)

Martin Fox, West Country
07903 220386 / 01458 850468

Martin Keeley, Pensioner Nominated Trustee

Lorraine Muggleston, Derby, Leicester, Nottingham
01159 733753

Martin Noblet, North West
07794 132141

Alistair Stewart, Eastern region (Norwich)
01603 436391

Get-togethers



Norwich Alistair Stewart

The dates for the 2023 get-togethers are: **January 10th, April 11th, July 11th and October 10th, all starting at 10:30.** The venue is The White Horse, Trowse, NR14 8ST. You can contact Alistair by phone on 01603 436391.

High Wycombe Paul Gilliam

Your next High Wycombe get-together is at the Paper Mill (Brewers Fayre), Loudwater, High Wycombe on **Wednesday 5th April, 2023 from 12 noon.** All are welcome. Please contact Paul Gilliam on 07799 796289.

October 2022

High Wycombe played host to 26 pensioners at our latest get-together in October, including two guests who had come up from Bournemouth and Poole to stay with local family ahead of the lunch. However, we were missing four of our regulars who were either on holiday or attending hospital appointments. We hope to break the thirty barrier next time!

We had a splendid selection of raffle prizes, many being donated by members, including Tony Collier who has regularly donated both flowers and his 'hand made' bird boxes to our events. Sadly Tony was unable to attend as he was having his first cataract operation. We wish Tony and all our poorly pensioners well.

As usual, we found it difficult to 'remove' all our guests from the restaurant in order that Brewer's Fayre could set the tables for the evening! Their staff are used to us - and it is great to see colleagues meeting up again post-Covid.

Interestingly, we have made new contacts with some former employees of Reckitts Colours and I am hoping to meet up with them later in the year. If you worked for Reckitts Colours in the Milton Keynes area, please do contact me and I will try to visit. Also, mainly due to distance, we only have two regulars from Winsor & Newton. If you live in the GLC area you should be able to travel free to Amersham (Metropolitan Line via Harrow). We can pick you up and return you to Amersham Station and bring you to our lunches.

One of our members kindly gave us some wonderful photographs which our Heritage Centre did not have, enabling them to add to their records. If you have something you think may be of interest to our Heritage Centre, please let me or any of our Pension Visitors know and we can arrange to pass it on to them.

Pictured below are Margaret Wiggins (Winsor & Newton) winning the star prize of the Christmas goodies bag and Tony Citrone and Mike Stroud (High Wycombe) with the raffle prizes they won.



West Country Drop-in Sidmouth Martin Fox

Your next West Country drop-in is at the same venue, The Victoria Hotel, The Esplanade, Sidmouth, EX10 8RY, **starting at 2:30pm on Thursday 24th August, 2023.** We look forward to seeing our regulars again. If you would like to join us for afternoon tea and a chat, whether you live in the region or are on holiday in the area at the time, then we'd love to see you! A reminder will appear in the April edition of iContact. You can contact Martin by email on martin_fox28@hotmail.com or by phone on 01459 850468 / 07903 220386. Alternatively you can contact Tony Swell on 01189 691390.

August 2022

A small group of us met on a very sunny August afternoon at the Victoria Hotel in Sidmouth for an enjoyable chat and a catch-up of what we had been up to over the past year since we last met. Our number was unfortunately a bit smaller than usual due to illness and the untimely breakdown that morning of Angela Symes' stairlift which left her stranded at home despite the best efforts of the engineer. Hopefully that's now sorted and Angela can get downstairs and onto her scooter! We also missed the company of Arthur Williams who had sadly died the previous week. Arthur was always great fun to be with and had a seemingly endless supply of anecdotes and jokes and we send our sympathy to his relatives.



Gosport (Portsmouth) (New Venue) Tony Swell

In June a new venue for a get-together was tried out in Gosport. The results were encouraging (see below). We plan to organise another one in June

2023 and, if anybody is interested in joining us, please contact me, Tony Swell, on 01189 691390 or mobile 07519 281648.

More details in the next edition of contact.



... in your region

Hull Phil Shearsmith

Venue: Sails Cafe can be found in the courtyard of Skidby Mill, Beverley Road, Skidby, HU16 5TF.

The last date for 2022 is Wednesday 7th December at 10am. Dates for 2023 are (all Wednesdays and starting at 10am), 15th February, 19th April, 14th June. Phil sends out an email reminder one week beforehand, so it's a good idea to let Phil know your email address to ensure that you are kept up to date. Phil's contact details are: Tel 07858 137178, 01482 850569 or email phil.shearsmith@gmail.com

September and October 2022

The group has met twice since our last magazine. We were a smaller group in September but the numbers swelled to twenty five or so in October. Kevin O'Berg sadly missed out on the September get-together - he was dog-sitting his son's very attractive Dachshund and the Cafe wouldn't let the pair inside - a shame because he would have been so well behaved - as would the dog! And, thanks to one of the group, we managed to get a photo of the man behind the camera - our organiser Phil Shearsmith (below right with Pauline Settle). See more in the digital copy. The October meeting saw some new faces turning up and we hope to see them again at future get-togethers. Come and join us - all are welcome! Here are a selection of the photos from both groups.



GDPR & Request for a Pensioner visit/contact

If you would like to be contacted by one of our Pensioner Volunteer Visitors (Covid-19 conditions providing), please complete this form and return it to us at the following address: RBPA c/o Pensions Department, Reckitt Benckiser plc, Dansom Lane South, Hull, HU8 7DS.

NAME: _____

TEL No: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

...continued

Derby Lorraine Mugleston

Your 2023 Derby get-togethers are arranged for **Tuesday 25th April and Tuesday 19th September, both at 11:30 for 12 noon.** The venue is the **Toby Carvery, Nottingham Road, Chaddesden, Derby, DE21 6LZ.** All pensioners - new and old - are welcome. You can contact Lorraine by phone on 01159 733 753.

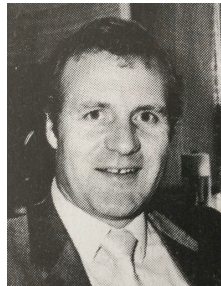
September 2022

Once again we all gathered for our get-together at the Toby Carvery, Chaddesden. We are getting quite used to there being quite a few of us these days and it was great to welcome the familiar faces of Diane Dinsdale and Sharon Orme. We were also joined by our friends Jean and Brian Bradley. Peter Barber kindly stood and shared a few words and of course a joke - it wouldn't be Peter if there wasn't a joke!

Vaughan and Sally Laws arrived in style in a beautiful 1935 MG NA MAGNETTE. This beauty is the proud possession and pride and joy of Vaughan. It was one of only 750 built and has been lovingly restored. It was taken off the road in 1969 and the whole car was taken to pieces to start the restoration. It has taken 50 years to find all the correct parts and in some cases make the components that were no longer available. The car was returned to the road in 2019 and has now completed 1200 miles. This is truly what you call a labour of love.

At the last Derby get-together Keith Horton kindly brought in some memorabilia amongst which were a few old copies of the pamphlet "Derby Sight". One such copy dated October 1983 featured a photo (left) of the Derby Manager, Tony Shelley. In the article it explained that after nine years Tony and his family were leaving Derby to join Reckitt & Colman in Columbia. Tony made a significant contribution to the success of the Derby site and it was with great sadness when I noticed his name in the obituaries. Tony will always be remembered at Derby.

Thanks so much for the flowers, I was very touched.



See the digital magazine for bigger photos



Chiswick Chris Mann

The date for the next get-together is **Thursday 9th March, 2023 at 12noon** at The Wheatsheaf Hotel, London Road, Virginia Water, GU25 4QF and, if anyone wishes to come along, please call Chris Mann on 07824 446392.

20th October

We had another successful lunch today at the Wheatsheaf Hotel. The event was attended by 23 and I am pleased to say we had a new face in Anita Hopkinson. I am also pleased that Gill Moores (widow of Peter Moores) came along again accompanied by her son Chris. We were sorry not to see Ann Howell. We hope to see you - and any newcomers - when we next meet in March.



Leicester Lorraine Mugleston

The dates for the 2023 get-togethers are **Friday 21st April and Friday 22nd September at 12noon** at The Fox Pond, Glen Rise, London Road, Oadby, LE2 4RG. Please call Lorraine on 01159 733753

14th October

The Leicester get-together took place at the Fox Pond. Unfortunately due to various reasons Mary Burnett was the only attendee. It was however lovely to get to know Mary and hear about Reeves Dryad where both Mary and her husband worked. Fingers crossed that there may be a few more next time and don't hesitate to contact me on 01159 733753 if you would like to come along.



Nottingham

Lorraine Mugleston

The dates for 2023 are **Friday 28th April and Friday 29th September** at The Shepherds Stonehouse, Stragglethorpe Road, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottinghamshire, NG12 2JZ. Please call Lorraine on 01159 733753

28th October

Although not great in numbers at our get-together it was an excellent friendly meeting with lively, interesting conversation and I came away feeling that I had made two more friends. **An increase in the numbers would be welcome so if anyone else would like to come next time please ring Lorraine on 01159 733753.**

Bournemouth Tony Swell

The date for the next drop-in is **Tuesday 18th April, 2023, at 2pm** at The Royal Bath Hotel, Bath Road, Bournemouth, BH1 2EW. The hotel is close to the pier and is next door to a car park. All are welcome to drop in for afternoon tea, cakes and a chat. Contact Tony Swell on 01189 691390/07519 281648

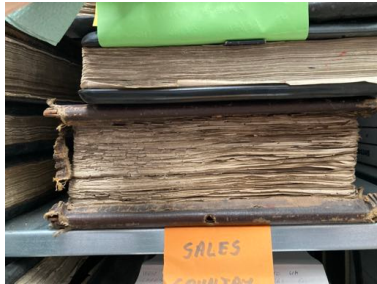
Quaker Heritage

The Society of Friends or Quakers arose in the mid-1600s, a time of religious

turmoil in England. The Church of England had been established by Henry VIII and consolidated by his daughter, Elizabeth I. The Quakers were regarded as an enemy of the State and, as such, were persecuted in England and Hull was no exception to this. They were banned from public office which drove them to economic independence and many of our great national companies owe their existence to this. Their early disagreements with the Church of England gave rise to unconsecrated burial areas or Quaker Burial Grounds (QBG). The local Quaker Meeting decided on the form of monuments which were generally simple and did not set one person up above another. Monuments do vary between Meeting areas. Two QBGs exist within the current Hull boundary, one between Spyvee St and Hodgson St (now a plot of grass) and one off Springbank West in the old General Cemetery. This QBG dates from 1855 to 1974. The plot (0.23 acres) contains the graves of many of Hull's important benefactors who gave money and facilities for the betterment of Hull's population, the Reckitts, the Thorpes, the Goods and the Priestmans to name but a few. At the present time a small group along with Friends of the Hull General Cemetery are slowly renovating the Springbank West QBG through grave renovations, planting, weeding etc. to make it a place for Hull's people to enjoy not only as a historical resource but also a peaceful area for reflection. There is a log seat at the south end where visitors can sit. The best way to find the QBG is - from Bransburton Street (off Springbank West) -- go across the crossing and you will be facing it. *Dr Chris Coulson.*

Curious finds

Some of the curious finds in the Heritage Centre (clockwise):



A dusty old ledger.
Advertising material from yesteryear.
(The most curious) - a spade handle used in the Morley Street Muffle Stove Houses (1910-1955).

The mallet presented to Sir James Reckitt on the occasion of laying the foundation stone for the Hull Central Public Library and also in recognition of his great services to the inauguration of the Public Libraries movement.



Spade Handle
used in Morley Street
Muffle Stove Houses
c 1910 - 1955





Manny Bags!



Manny Galitzine, our inveterate TV quizzer, has done it again! This time his success was seen on the channel 4 show "Money Bags" hosted by Craig Charles and Kevin Duala. The big scoop is to win £1,000,000. Competing daily, Manny managed to get to the front on day 2 to play for a chance to get into the final but sadly chose the wrong bag - result - bankrupt! But it wasn't over and on day 3 he was playing again, this time winning his head-to-head, taking £25,000 through to the three way

play-off. After some lucky guesses and some lucrative "stealing", Manny made it through to the final with an amazing £143,000! But the money wasn't in the bag yet (so to speak!) as the game format required more correct answers to be given before he could walk away with any money. After correctly answering two questions and having banked £28,600, the next question was worth £71,500 but the question - Which statue has the largest wingspan, Angel of the North or Christ the Redeemer? - was a step too far for Manny who wasn't certain of the answer and he made a great call to safely bank his money bag and walk away with £28,600. Manny had thought the answer was Christ the Redeemer; the correct answer is in fact The Angel of the North. Well done Manny for winning - and knowing when to quit!

Cover up?

It's a privilege to visit the Heritage Centre and browse through some of the old magazines - and sometimes see some very amusing photos like the one here that shows T. Berridge, A. Lang and D. Grimes from the



laboratories, showing off the trophy they'd won for the Men's Inter-departmental swimming. It's to be hoped that Mr Lang was wearing his trunks underneath that trophy!

Bulls Blood

In our iContact83 magazine we reported on the death of Brian Fouracres. Since then his family have passed on a thick folder of "stuff" (now with the Heritage Centre) that related to Brian's time in Sales at Reckitt & Colman. The folder included details of Sales meetings, samples of packaging labels and sales campaigns. One of the campaigns from 1984 was to promote Bulls Blood, a full bodied red wine from the Eger region in Hungary. The accompanying information says that "In 1552 when the city of Eger was besieged the defenders who drank this wine fought so fiercely that the besieging Turks believed they were drinking bulls' blood." This 1984 advertising campaign, which was postered in the London underground, ran with two catchy strap lines - "You have to be smooth to carry off a name like Bulls Blood" and "That Magyar was rough and ready but this wine was anything but."



1918 The family of Marjorie Watson, who sadly passed away recently, sent in a Christmas 1918 copy of the "Reckitts" magazine. Contained within the 112 pages were some interesting articles. Here are just two snippets: *Gertrude Oliver was awarded a prize for showing good presence of mind by preventing the explosion of live detonators inadvertently left in scrap tins. About 60 pages were dedicated to WWI including many letters sent home from POWs of the Great War - thankful for being out of the firing line but clearly starving on the bare minimum rations and suffering mental anguish from being captured and having very little to do.*

Energy Crisis

In Spring 1947, the "Ours" magazine ran an article reviewing a letter written in 1850 by Mr Francis Reckitt in which it was stated that the Hull works would look much more brilliant in view of the substitution of gas lighting for candles. (*It's hard enough to imagine working under gas lights, let alone candles!*). The article went on to say that in the 1947 daily papers there were some photographs of offices in London which were being compelled to use candles instead of electricity owing to the fuel crisis! The article then speculated whether the "Ours" magazine of the 1980s would have to report that "owing to a breakdown of the means of obtaining atomic energy, that industry might have to fall back on the old stand-by, the humble and usually despised candle."

Well almost. Although the factories and offices did not resort to candle power (*think of the health and safety!*), many of us will remember the planned power cuts in the 1970s as a result of the miners strike and the shortage of gas to produce electricity resulting in the 3 day week. And now, at the time of putting this magazine together amidst the incredible rising cost of energy, there is a potential shortage of gas to run electricity generating stations and the National Grid has warned that they may need to initiate planned power cuts this winter. What goes around, comes around!



THANK YOU!

The editorial team sends a massive thank-you to all of those who took the trouble to write in and supply their interesting stories!

OBITUARIES

Gordon Stephenson

It's with sadness that we note the death of Gordon Stephenson. Gordon was the man who recognised the value in the heritage of Reckitts in all of its guises - the business, the brands, the buildings and artefacts and the people. We plan to do a more in depth article in the next issue of iContact and, if you have something you'd like to say about Gordon, please get in touch with the editor at rbcontactmag@gmail.com.

Edwin 'John' Carvell 1921-2022

John has sadly passed away at the grand age of 101 years and 6 months. One of six children, he was born in the parish of Egham in Surrey on 20th April 1921. After several moves the family settled in Bedford where he was brought up.

He won a scholarship to Bedford School, leaving in 1937 to start work as a junior clerk for Bedfordshire County Council in the education department.

Having earlier joined the Territorial Army, he was called up in August 1939, weeks before the start of the Second World War, and remained in service until June 1946 before returning to work for the local authority until 1954.

After a brief period as a commercial traveller, he applied for and was appointed as office manager for Floor Treatments in High Wycombe.

The company was acquired by Reckitt & Colman in 1960 and, after acquisition, was merged with Progress Universal to become Progress Floor Treatments. After a major reorganisation resulted in the group splitting into operating divisions, Progress Floor Treatments became the basis for Reckitt Industrial.

During all this, John progressed to Company Secretary, then onwards to Marketing Director and finally Export Director for the division.

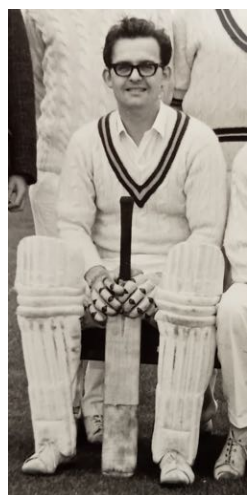
In 1980 he retired from the company to join his family's retail business in Marlow from which he finally ceased working in 1989 before moving to Wales with his wife Joan.

He was widowed in 1994 and moved back to Marlow where he took on the role of a pension visitor for many years in the West London area. He continued to live in the town surrounded by his family until his death.

John will be sadly missed by family and friends.

OBITUARIES

John F Saville 1942, 2022



David Brewster writes: John Saville was a local lad, born in Hornsea in 1942 to parents Marjory and Harry. As a WWII child he spent many a night in an Anderson shelter wearing a cardboard gas mask (how familiar “mask” sounds today eh?). He attended the local schools of Hornsea Primary, Cavendish Primary, Maybury High, then on to Hull College of Technology, and finally the University of East Anglia in Norwich where he completed an MSc on the chemistry of opioids.

John joined the “Organic Laboratory” of Reckitt & Colman’s Pharmaceutical Division in 1965 as a synthetic organic chemist. His elder brother Keith Saville coincidentally worked in the same lab for a time. The Organic Lab. back then had a quaint tradition in which the chemists referred to

each other by their initials. John was an enthusiastic pioneer of this habit and had a great repertoire of colleague initials that he would insert seamlessly in conversations. He would even compose poems using them. He liked to be known as JFS and used this as a signature with friends evermore.

Synthetic organic chemistry was John’s great passion and the lab. was the place where new chemical compounds were made and tested for medicinal benefits. He served as a member of two large multi-disciplinary research teams, one for new anti-inflammatory agents and another to develop a morphine-like analgesic without addiction potential. Both project teams successfully brought a product to market. These were Flenac (fenclofenac) and of course Temgesic (buprenorphine). Flenac was first synthesised in the organic lab.’s Bay 1 which then comprised Dr Keith Godfrey (KEG), JFS and Mike Stillings (MRS). Its discovery was an outcome of analysing the structure-activity relationships of hundreds of new compounds.

John was a dedicated chemist who, just as in his private life, was always eager to help and motivate newcomers. He influenced me greatly. Mike Stillings commented: “How sad that John has passed away. I was lucky enough to start working with John and Keith Godfrey back in 1966 straight out of school. I was a nervous, naive schoolboy but with John’s guidance I found my feet and we three worked really well together. He had a wonderful dry wit and I’ll always be grateful for the help he gave me at the start of my 35 years at Reckitts”. As new chemical research at Reckitts was scaled down, John changed direction and, with the arrival of computers, he moved into systems and clinical study data management where he became a respected member of the groups. I remember buying my first “powerful” PC in 1992 after the tribulations of Atari and BBC machines and John was straight round helping set it up. He continued to help and encourage me with my PCs for years after.

He was a sporting all-rounder. In particular he played tennis, table tennis, bowls, mixed hockey and snooker. As a genuine sportsman he always praised opponents who got the better of him or his team. Foremost however, John was a Reckitts cricketer and, in his more portly, bearded days, resembled W G Grace. His first team captain Peter Bacon writes: “John was a great, dependable and stubborn opening batsman and was part of the 1st eleven that won the Amateur League title in 1968 and 1969. He was in the Geoff Boycott mould. He would regularly stay there for 20 overs and complete his job to see off the opening fast bowlers and the new ball. His dad Harry used to support him at every match. He could be very dry. Once, when out for not many runs, he uttered ‘Sorry skipper, but that last ball did everything; it must have done to get me out!’ It is sad to lose people who were part of your history, but I will remember John with great affection”. John played a lot of tennis doubles partnering his lab. boss Dr Keith Godfrey (KEG), a high quality player who arrived in Hull from the same Finchley club as British Davis cup player and 4 times Wimbledon quarter-finalist Bobby Wilson. Like the Boycott batsman he was, John could block anything at the net! Sporting ability was obviously

in the family as his brother Keith played football for Reckitts in the 60’s and his cousins Chris and Pat Saville played football and hockey for Reckitts. John was an avid fan of Hull City. He watched them in the iconic years of the 1960s-70s where Chris Chilton and Ken Wagstaff were his heroes and he continued to support the Tigers in spirit all his life. He loved following English test cricket of course and always tuned in to Test Match Special.

He was a talented musician and, over the years, played numerous instruments including piano, guitar, flute, saxophone, clarinet and trumpet. He could sing a bit too! His younger relatives were inspired by their “Uncle John” and some became very musical themselves. John had a strong work ethic and clear moral values and he led by example which helped many of them, and us, to be the people they are today.

Finally, JFS was a naturally funny personality, very self-deprecating, and the organic lab’s own Eric Morecambe, especially with his trademark “glasses shuffle”. He could make you laugh with a sudden Eric Morecambe twitch, an admonishing stare or a Ronnie Barker smile. Nothing was funnier to us both though than that legendary moment in 1970 on a coach to **Spain** when the holiday representative, checking the boarding list, called out “**Mr Seville?**” A hilarious moment which we never forgot. I’ll so miss the daily texts with Mr Seville, Juan Seville or Senõr Seville when we would send each other updates on Hull City news, test scores and our latest musical instrument purchases. Fond memories indeed. Rest well JFS – my “Mr Seville”.

Peter Howell 1926-2020

Chris Mann writes: “Peter worked at Reckitt & Colman for 20 years, between 1969 and 1989. Working mainly in Law and Insurance, he held the position of Insurance and Risk Manager for Reckitt & Colman (as it was then) based in Chiswick.

Peter enjoyed a good life. After he completed his education, Peter was called up in 1944, joining the Army (2nd Welsh Regt.) where much of his service time was spent in Burma before discharge in 1947.

Peter left a loving family with wife, Ann, a son, daughter and two step-daughters. He was also a grandfather and great-grandfather.

Peter’s wife Ann and family have kindly donated a lithograph that had been given to Peter. The picture is number 258 of a private edition of 300 lithographs presented to Directors and Managers of the Chiswick HQ. It depicts the Chiswick Group Headquarters site prior to its demolition and redevelopment. This picture has now been handed over to the Heritage Centre at RB in Hull. It seems there were several pictures of the same style done at this time and the one below fills a gap in the Heritage Centre’s collection. On the reverse of the picture there is a label that tells us: “Before moving into the new



offices at Chiswick, Reckitt & Colman commissioned Paul Hogarth to paint their former corporate headquarters at 1-17 Burlington Lane prior to its demolition. The painting was executed in May 1984. The offices, which have been continuously occupied by the company from the start, were built in three sections. The

earlier parts, to the left of the picture, were erected in the 1920’s and 30’s. The extension on the extreme right of the picture was built in 1957 in sympathetic style and on this occasion the architects were W. Leslie Twigg and Michael W. Twigg. It is particularly appropriate that Paul Hogarth should have been selected as the artist because not only is he, to quote Sir Hugh Casson, “one of the liveliest and most outstanding topographical artists of our time”, but he is also a direct descendant of the eminent painter William Hogarth whose house, which he occupied from 1749 until just before his death in 1764, is only a hundred yards from the site of Reckitt & Colman’s offices.”

OBITUARIES

Gordon Foster 1935-2022



Gordon's wife, Pat, writes: "It is with great sadness that I write to you regarding the death of my husband Gordon Ernest Foster. He passed away on 26th June, 2022 aged 86 and his funeral was held on 11th July.

Gordon joined Reckitt & Colman in April 1960. He joined as a junior sales representative in Liverpool. After moves to York, Newcastle and Nottingham, as assistant manager then manager, he then moved to Hull as Promotions manager. He had many happy years there before retiring in April 1991.

Gordon and I married in July 1969 and have 2 children Clare and Paul, and 6 wonderful

grandchildren who he was very close to. Gordon will be very sadly missed by us all."



Gary Dunn, who spotted the record of Gordon's death wrote to us: "Gordon Foster was a true gentleman with a cheeky streak, who I worked with at Reckitt House in the Sales Promotions Department. I was with R&C for 31 happy, happy years, working in the office but mainly with the Grocery Sales Force."

Gordon's daughter, Clare, sent us some photos taken during Gordon's time at R&C. (Below left) Gordon working busily away at his desk - note the china tea cup! (Below) The Sales Management Team at Reckitt House - her dad is on the back row, second from left. She also recognised Peter Miles shaking hands and wearing glasses and Doug Percival front row with arms folded.

Do you recognise any of the dapper chappies in the photo below?



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

NORTHERN

Hull: (age) service years

Barbara Hodgkinson (83) 7

Helen Holdsworth (71) 63

Brenda Howe (90) 13

Stella Kitching (83) 16

Dennis Arksey (94) 45

Michael Leonard Cross (78) 32

Nancy Dormer (92) 1

Sonia Jenkinson (85) 9

Sissons:

Patricia Hillerby (93) 12

EASTERN

Norwich:

Ena Powley (90) 63

Austin Aldrich (88) 35

Gordon Betts (90) 31

Eric Trevor Hart (85) 28

John Middleton (91) 8

Nigel Riley (97) 26

Joyce Roberts (82) 32

John Brown (81) 25

SOUTHERN

Nottingham:

Anacleto Gualini (69) 2

Derby:

Harold Pick (98) 9

Chiswick:

George Roger Chadwick (89) 19

John R Watson (93) 9

Paul Lovejoy (87) 32

Jeyes High Wycombe:

Edwin Carvell (101) 24

OTHER

Wealdstone:

Violet Small (96) 0

Services Division Depots:

Margaret Hicks (91) 2

Roy Alvey (90) 39

Swindon:

Robert Boulter (64) 26

Stevens/Lowestoft:

John Raven (81) 9

Michael Roy Wickert (89) 43

PMUK Industries:

Reginald Rushmer (97) 5

Stockport/Kay Bros/Platt

Freda Skillen (95) 12

Derek Brokenshire Smith (98) 12

Ex Pats:

Roderick Spokes (81) 38

Roy Ferris (86) 8

iCONTACT

Digital Extra

DERBY - ENLARGED









HULL - ENLARGED







Crossword

DOWN

1. The American version of Dettol (L)
3. A laxative pod (S)
4. The Ispaghula based motion potion (F)
5. The colourful Carrow product (M)
8. A fragrant product (A)
10. The CEO's first name (L)
11. Good for the family silver (S)
12. A great Derby toilet product (H)

ACROSS

2. Good for polishing equestrian ornaments (B)
6. The flowery part of shoe polish (B)
7. The first name of Mr Reckitt's Hull Institute (F)
9. The main ingredient of Haematogen (B)
13. Best for family planning (D)
14. Head office used to be here (C)

