

iCONTACT

No. 86 April 2023

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.

Thanks!

In our last edition of the magazine we invited pensioners to opt out of the paper magazine in favour of reading our on-line copy. We're pleased to say that 17 pensioners decided to make that move to digital which saves paper and money and reduces waste.

Digital for you?

If you're ready to make the switch to taking the digital magazine, please send an email to rbcontactmag@gmail.com along with your postal address and we will make it happen.

Our digital readers get an email notification when a new edition has been uploaded to our website. The digital magazine occasionally has more content than our printed magazine e.g. more or larger photos or more information on an article.

Apologies It was brought to our attention that some of our Pensioners who'd passed away last year in June, July and early August had not been recorded in our August or December magazines. We looked into this and found that it was due to human error, for which we offer our sincere apologies. Those omitted now appear in a separate section later in the magazine.

We do try our very best to ensure that the information we produce (in all of our articles) is accurate but occasionally errors can be made. If you find something that you think is wrong, please send an email to rbcontactmag@gmail.com and we will look into it and report back. *Editor*

Strong Growth for Reckitt

Reckitt Benckiser Group plc results for the calendar year 2022 showed an increase in revenue of 7.6% on a like-for-like basis and an increase in operating profit of 9.2% on the same basis.

Commenting on the results, Nicandro Durante, Chief Executive Officer said "Reckitt delivered a year of strong growth in net revenue and earnings amidst a continued challenging environment. We are now 28% larger than we were in 2019. Our healthy balance sheet underpins our financial strength and we are delighted to grow the dividend in 2022 with the aim to deliver sustainable dividend growth in future years.

We enter 2023 as a strengthened business with enhanced financial, operational and brand resilience, and continued growth momentum."

The share price was slightly down at the end of the day that the results were published.

Pension Increase 2023

A rate of 5% will form the basis of the RB Pension increase in April 2023. Trafalgar House will send each pensioner a detailed breakdown of this increase and this will be sent towards the end of April 2023.

If you have any queries about your pension, please contact Trafalgar House ideally via your on-line account or alternatively call them on 020 7330 0703.

RBPA Committee

The first committee meeting of 2023 was held on Microsoft Teams. Aside from routine business and reports, a selection of policy documents came up for review.

Pensioner Visits

Pensioner visits can take one of many formats these days. Where possible and if required, a Pensioner 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.

Get-togethers

In addition to the availability of one-to-one pensioner contact and the iContact magazine, the RBPA committee feels very strongly that our get-togethers are increasingly the most important benefit of the Pensioners' Association.

Due to issues around data protection, it is not always easy for our get-together co-ordinators to seek out and invite pensioners who are not already known to them. We would appreciate your help in spreading the word of our get-togethers to any former employees.

There are several formats operating for our get-togethers (frequency and type) organised by our co-ordinators. You will see that we hold get-togethers in Hull, Norwich, Derby, Leicester, Nottingham, Chiswick, High Wycombe, Bournemouth, Sidmouth, and Gosport (Portsmouth). We would be pleased to consider other areas if we can find enough interested members. The details for each venue are printed on Page 2.

There is no charge for attending any of the get-togethers.

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



MELTONIAN Polish

The Meltonian brand was born on 18th September, 1893 and this year it will celebrate **130 years** of business. In 1928 it was bought by Chiswick Products and then, in 1954, by Reckitt & Colman. During the R&C tenure the brand acquired the Royal Warrant to HM Queen Elizabeth II. In 2016, the then owner, SC Johnson, abruptly discontinued the brand but an entrepreneurial group of fans managed to secure its intellectual property and rescue the brand which was re-launched in 2020.

Get-togethers

Diary dates



Norwich Alistair Stewart

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

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 733753.

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.

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.

Hull Phil Shearsmith

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

Dates for 2023 are (all Wednesdays and starting at 10am), 19th April, 14th June, 6th September, 18th October and 6th December. 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

Chiswick Chris Mann

The date for the next get-together is **Thursday 12th October, 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.

High Wycombe Paul Gilliam

Your next High Wycombe get-togethers are both at the Paper Mill (Brewers Fayre), Loudwater, High Wycombe on **Wednesdays 5th April and 18th October 2023 from 12 noon.** All are welcome. Please contact Paul Gilliam on 07799 796289.

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 August 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.

Gosport (Portsmouth) (New Venue) Tony Swell

There isn't a confirmed date for this get-together/drop-in but Tony says that he is planning to hold another Gosport event in the midsummer and you are kindly asked to contact Tony on 01189 691390 or 07519 281648 if you would like to attend.

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 or 07519 281648.



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!

Regional reports and photos

HULL get-togethers - December and February



CHISWICK get-together March



GDPR & Request for a Pensioner visit/contact

If you would like to be contacted by one of our Pensioner Volunteer Visitors, 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: _____

HERITAGE: Gordon Stephenson, Steve

Gordon Stephenson

We are sorry to report the recent passing of Gordon Stephenson on 31st October, 2022, aged 82, a man who could also be known as 'Mr Heritage'. This obituary covers key moments in Gordon's Heritage career - a career at Reckitts that spanned just over fifty years but first we have a brief mention of Gordon's passion outside Heritage - Hull City. Gordon was one of those few supporters who can claim to have attended the first match at Boothferry Park in August 1946, when Hull City drew 0-0 against Lincoln City (the Imps), and the final match there in December 2002 when they lost 0-1 to Darlington. Gordon continued to support Hull City at the new all-seater stadium (KCom, now MKM) and last year, with the help of stadium staff, he attended his last match there, proudly showing off his match-day program and reminiscing about his team to his hospital visitors. David Wallis also believes Gordon was a keen cricketer in his youth. Kevin O'Berg tells us that he was a prolific traveller - try to find a place Gordon hadn't visited! In 1966 Gordon bade farewell to the Hull City Council's Library Service (where he'd been employed for 15 years) and joined Reckitt & Sons Ltd to take up the post of Librarian in their existing Laboratory Library. This was the first time that the Company had employed a Chartered Librarian.

Gordon became enthralled by the Company's history from the day he joined when, like everyone who joined at that time in the 1960's, he was given a book entitled "The history of Reckitt & Sons Ltd". Its author was Basil N Reckitt, the then



Chairman of the business and a keen historian and author. The book became an inspiration for all that came afterwards in Gordon's attempts to pass on his enthusiasm for corporate historic research. At that time the role of the Library and Information Service to extend its remit beyond serving solely the needs of an information-hungry staff of highly qualified scientists, whose task it was to extend the Reckitt product portfolio of OTC healthcare products into the prescription medicines market by creating novel patentable formulations with real potential for growth. The Scientists needed to know the results of scientific research carried out in all corners of the world. Once published, it was the library's task to trace it and put it before the Scientists as soon as possible. The most noteworthy success to come from all of this, in Reckitt terms, was Temgesic which launched in 1978.

The Library and Information Service eventually became more than a facility provided for the sole benefit of Dansom Lane's teams of scientists and acted as a focal point within the Reckitt & Colman Group for the dissemination of scientific, technical, commercial and business information on a world-wide scale. In order to achieve these objectives, additional support staff were brought in from on-site departments and elsewhere. This expansion enabled Gordon to move and manage the newly-created Business Intelligence Unit, a circumstance brought on by the increasing availability of business information on the internet which could

be accessed on a growing number of personal computers held across the working environment. After his early retirement in 1995, there remained the question of what to do with the store of company-specific historic documents and artefacts which had been deposited over many years for safe keeping within the BIU's offices, simply because there was nowhere else to keep them nor was there anyone whose working commitments would allow them time to administer such a vital collection of unique documents and artefacts. Suggestions were made by local site management that this material, despite much of it being confidential and related to the Company's past decision-making and marketing experience, was of little consequence to a "forward-looking" business and should be deposited in some external repository such as the local University or Public Library. Gordon, quite rightly, disagreed with that proposal. He could see the value to the business of the collection of material that had come into his possession and how it might one day form the nucleus of a resource which could support so many ventures that the Company might delve into in the future. Many other leading blue chip companies had similar heritage departments and indeed when Reckitts sold a company (e.g. Robinsons to Britvic), the new company would usually insist that the brand's heritage stayed with the product. He had also seen how the collection could be utilised in supporting the present activities of the Company and expected that, if such material ever left the site, it would never again be readily available to those who needed it, when they needed it. The collection of such material within the BIU had come about almost by accident, mainly because Gordon had become recognised as something of a company historian with established links to the Company's top hierarchy.

Dr. Ian Mackechnie Ian Jolliffe wrote in to tell us about the recent passing of Ian MacKechnie. "Ian was a leading research scientist and at one stage in the 70's led a team looking into immunological products. At one stage in the '70s he led a team looking into immunological products before taking on the roles of Planning Manager (in R&D) and then Senior Regulator. He looked after Gaviscon where he made sure that the development team produced all of the right data for licence submissions, ensuring international licenses were obtained.

On a more exciting note in the late 80's we had something called the ProcTech challenge. It was an event organised by the Process Development team and originally some sort of weekend team-building for them and the manufacturing/QC teams. It was so successful that it was decided it should be repeated for R&D and Marketing in the Peak District. At one point it involved going down a gravel track on a tandem. Ian steered and I was at the back. It got steeper (and faster) and we headed towards a narrow pedestrian gateway. Ian shouted "Shall we go for it?" I told him that he was the driver and anyway I was going to close my eyes. Thankfully one of Ian's many skills was steering tandems through tiny gateways - he had a huge grin on his face! In fact I seem to remember he usually had a grin on his face!"

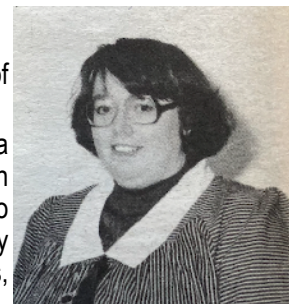
Ian was also a management representative on the "Job evaluation" panel. The editor remembers attending an appeal when Barbara Wallis was trying to explain how our demographic data was set up in our Clinical Trial databases. She said "You might have age in one field, height in another and then you could have sex in another field .." With a roll of his eyes and a cheeky laugh, Ian replied "I knew sex would have to come in to it somewhere!"

Jean Prince

We are sorry to hear of the passing of Jean Prince on 20th December 2022.

Many of you will know that Jean was a senior in the Microbiology department in the Hull laboratories before moving to Professional Relations. She was very much involved with antiseptic products, principally Dettol.

One piece of work that Jean was involved with was the development of a new product called Detttox. Detttox was an antiseptic surface cleaner. There had been a worrying increase in the incidents of food poisoning - it had nearly doubled in the previous 10 years - and addressing this problem was the major incentive behind the



West, Rosina Baxter & Grace Chapman

It was through the good offices of Basil Reckitt, Sir Michael Colman, Vernon Sankey, (CEO) and Nick Swash, a Hull-based marketer with an eye for the past who acted as a go-between in presenting the "Stay in" proposals to HQ, that a decision was taken to create a permanent Heritage collection on the Hull site, available equally to all parts of the business yet funded by HQ. It was further agreed that it should be known as Reckitt's Heritage and would be staffed on a contract basis by two part-time staff.

This took effect in February 1996 and the two part-time "likely lads" were Gordon and **Steve West**. Steve brought to the table a wealth of marketing experience gained in a number of world-renowned companies including Reckitt's own ShoeCare Division.

Thus began a working partnership which lasted more than twenty years and was only to be broken by Gordon's "final" retirement in March 2017 at the grand age of 83.

The collection in the Heritage centre contains a broad and disparate collection of items, from ceremonial trowels to sporting trophies (these are two of the less "whacky" items!) and more pertinent items such as brand history, advertising materials, packaging and the company's social, commercial and economic history.

Heritage has responded to many requests for information from both inside the business and outside. Stands at various events have been set up by the



The "Likely Lads" - Steve & Gordon

Heritage team, for example, joining a group of 60 exhibitors as Castle Hill Hospital celebrated 50 years of the NHS, displaying (on a premium placed stand) "vintage and modern advertising and information tracing the company's pharmaceutical products throughout the 50 years of the NHS".

The Heritage facility has occupied several sites in Hull. Firstly alongside the Works Council Chamber (a lonely spot, out of the way, with no footfall). This moved to the Chicken Run (*it would be interesting to know why it was so named*) which was on the route to the canteen and company shop. It now resides in one of the units in the Shine Industrial Units that were built on the site of the demolished Reckitt's Packing and Transport Department.

It was once said "If you want to know something about Reckitts - ask Gordon" and that also became true of Steve and **Rosina Baxter** (who replaced Gordon after his final retirement).

Rosina had spent most of her career as a Trade Mark Attorney in the Global Brand Protection team - making her well-suited to this role. She retired in April 2016 with a brief overlap before taking over from Gordon.

During the tenure of Steve and Rosina, and in



Handover to Rosina

with a brief overlap before

order to keep up with our ever increasing need for immediate digital access, the team are in the process of copying relevant material to digital media.

In safe hands

Heritage now moves on to a new era as Steve and Rosina have themselves decided to retire (that's their second retirement too!). They have handed over the reigns to Grace Chapman. Grace is ideally suited to the Heritage role - and also working at Reckitt. Grace tells us, "I have a PhD in disability history and taught medical humanities at Huddersfield University. Whilst I was studying (and beyond) I worked at Selby Abbey, first in heritage engagement and then in Appeals & Development, working on conservation planning, heritage activities, partnership development, education, temporary exhibitions and managing their archive.

I'm originally from Hull and my family worked at Reckitt and grew up around James Reckitt Avenue, so my roots are here and at Reckitt.



I'm working in the External Affairs team, which includes sustainability and communication, so I'll be covering everything Steve and Rosina did, plus a lot more community-facing activity."

A fun fact about Grace is that she has a bulldog -

and here they are!

development of this new product. At that time Salmonella was present in many raw meats (particularly chicken) and, although with thorough cooking the bacteria would be killed, if the raw meat touched a work surface, the Salmonella could pass on to any foodstuffs that came into contact with that surface. Jean and her team conducted extensive testing against a range of bacteria to make sure that the claims for this new product could be substantiated.

Turn me off!

Jean was president of the Hull Microbiology Society and at one of their annual dinners, where it had been planned that Jean, as president, would speak, she found that a last-minute change to her holiday plans meant she would not be able to attend. Ever resourceful and with the help of the R&C training department, Jean was able to record her speech and it was delivered at the annual dinner on TV screens. She said that, if they didn't like her speech, they could turn it off!. Jean thought that this was probably the first time that the Microbiology presidential speech had been delivered in that way. Jean went on to say that delivering her speech to a camera was rather unnerving and she would rather do it in person.

Outside work ..

One of Jean's keen hobbies was walking and to that end she was on

the committee of the Reckitt's Rambling and Outdoor club. In 1983 Jean arranged four weekends away at the Wharfshed on the banks of the Cromford Canal in the Peak District and for this she won "Clubman of the Year" trophy and was hailed as a hard-working committee member. In 1992, Jean arranged a further two weekends at the same venue. The first was a "family" excursion and the group reported that it was a great weekend with beautiful walks, canoeing and a BBQ. Amazingly a pike was seen late at night writhing away on the doorstep of the accommodation (literally a fish out of water!).

The editor remembers in 1990 walking to Bakewell with Jean and a few others (for a Bakewell tart of course!) the day before manning the start and finish station with Jean for the Meltonian Marathon event in Derbyshire.

Jean was also a trustee of the Friends of Wheeler, a school-based local charity, whose aim was to facilitate fundraising activities to enable pupils to access and participate in cultural, sporting and social activities and to help develop projects in the local community. Jean had led a request to R&C employees to donate book vouchers to enrich the reading skills of the pupils of that school.

If you have any stories about Jean please send them to the editor at rbcontactmag@gmail.com.

Brian Parkes



We are sorry to hear of the passing of Brian Parkes on 12th December 2022. Brian's wife, Judith, wrote to tell us that Brian suffered a major stroke in August and unfortunately, after residing in a nursing home for just 13 days, he passed away in his sleep.

He joined Reckitt & Colman, Derby, after the Company he worked for (FW Hampshire) was taken over by Reckitts. After many promotions he eventually moved up to the Hull office in September 1984, when he took up the position of General Sales Manager for the Household Division with a team of at least 140 salesmen. He had

many happy years with the company and took early retirement at the age of 54. In retirement he continued playing plenty of golf and enjoyed going on holidays.

He loved being with his family and grandchildren right up to the end of his life.

Russell Manning

Russell (aged 79) passed away peacefully after a short illness in April 2022. Starting in November 1972 and leaving in October 1994, Russell always spoke fondly of his 22 years at Reckitt & Colman in Norwich. The family found a couple of old photos they thought that the readers might like to see which include Russell and his colleagues. Russell is far right in the colour photo (seen in our on-line magazine) and fifth in from right in the black and white photo. (*Do you know any of Russell's colleagues in these photos?*)



This magazine is produced by the Reckitt Benckiser Pensioners' Association, Dansom Lane South, Hull, HU8 7DS.

Hull Supervisors' Dinner - The Last Hurrah!



This annual event had taken a necessary pause in its long history, due of course to the pandemic, and it was in fact four years since this group had actually sat down together - and sadly, it was to be the very last of these gatherings. Mark Hulme, Alan Clarke and Pauline Settle were instrumental in organising this event, which was marked as a glowing tribute to Brian Huggett who had been the organiser for the previous 45 dinners (he must have been very young when he first started doing that!). At the door everyone donned rose-tinted glasses (or perhaps it was the wine) as all that could be heard was "You're looking well", "My word, you haven't changed a bit".

As it was to be the last occasion, the event was very well attended with 67 present. Before we sat down to eat our meal, Mark took us through a list of apologies (not many) and sadly a list of colleagues who'd passed away in the intervening years.

After the main course, the traditional group photo was organised. It's fair to say that the photographer, Kevin (himself an ex-employee), found it much akin to herding cats - there were shouts of "Ladies, one chair, 3 cheeks", "Gentlemen, get cosy". (Good job he's patient and has a loud voice!)

Eventually, moving on to the speeches, the assembled group were treated to some fine stories with much hilarity liberally distributed by four great raconteurs, Bill Foreman, Dave Nellist, John Smallwood and Alan Brooke. Thanks were given to Brian for his tremendous efforts in keeping this essential get-together going over the previous 45 years.

Those in attendance (in alphabetic order): Mandy Adams, Bob Allison, Richard Bays, Karen Beach, Paul Beaumont, Michael Bowsher, Alan Brooke, Trevor Busby, Sue Carpenter, Phil Caygill, Chris Chapleo, Alan Clark, Dave Copeman, Martin Craven, Tony Dale, Phil Dale, Alan Duff, Roy Farnhill, William Forman, Andy Forster, Janet Gibson, Phil Gibson, Joy Green, Rae Hampson, Andrew Hersom, Peter Hessel, Trevor Hill, Ken Houghton, Fiona Houghton, Tony Houghton, Brian Huggett, Mark Hulme, Ken Hunter, Bev Jackson, Kenneth Johnson, Ian Jolliffe, Michael Kaslow, Angie Lamb, Tony Martin, Bill Maxwell, Hazel Mee, Gill Morrell, Garry Mowforth, David Nellist, Sydney Newman, David Parker, Ted Parker, Tony Pawson, Tony Payne, Lil Pooley, David Price, Patricia Quarterman, Bridget Rimmington, Steve Rial, Adrian Robinson, Geoff Samuel, Pauline Settle, Jon Sewell, John Smallwood, Joy Sutton, Keith Sumner, Charles Trafford, Jo Trafford, Carl Tyson, Martin Usher, Barbara Worrell, Jackie Whitham. See the digital edition for more photos of the assembly.



Happy Birthday

We're happy to send our congratulations to John Bower and Thomas Kearley who both celebrated their 100th birthdays in December 2022. We hope you both had an enjoyable day!

Roderick Spokes

After seeing the death of Rod mentioned in our last magazine, Trevor Schofield wrote to say "Sad to note the passing of Rod. Rod and I worked at Colman Food whilst I was Production Manager of Soft drinks - I eventually married his secretary, Victoria Palmer."

Who'd have thought ...

... on the subject of 100th birthdays ... that the Department for Work and Pensions has a Centenarian Team who (provided you have a state pension) will send your details to the King's Anniversaries office who automatically send you a personalised card to celebrate your 100th, 105th and all subsequent birthdays.



This beautiful picture on the front of "Ours", Spring 1947, reminded the editor that the newly refurbished sails are sat at the base of the Skidby Windmill (see iContact 84) awaiting a large crane to hoist them into position.

Do you recognise anyone in this "rogues gallery"? Do you have any photos you'd like to share? Send them, or any other interesting recollections, to our email address above.

Photos, Photos, Photos ...

Readers sent in some photos looking at times past

Who's Who in the 1974 Sales Management Team



We printed this photo in the obituary for Gordon Foster in our December magazine and asked if any of our readers recognised these trendy-looking guys. We had two replies. Sheila Parkes, whose husband Peter sadly passed away in September last year, was able to name them all thanks to her husband keeping a veritable archive of his time with Reckitts. Here are the names: (back row) Albert Watson, Gordon Foster, Peter Parkes, Geoff



Prompted by this photo of the Cricket team published in iContact84, Dr Chris Coulson comments: "I think Charles Rhodes (Reckitts Statistician) is in the centre behind the cups."

Remembering a cricketing story, Chris says, this was a popular post-war lunchtime occupation. I think it was played on the north side of the site as I remember the story of a batsman smiting the ball out of the site, through a pub window and taking a glass of beer off a table." I wonder if the pub was the Victoria Tavern that was located on Chapman Street before it was demolished by R&C?

See more photos in our digital edition

Hamilton, Bernard Walsh, Reg Evans, Geoff Pilsbury, Frank Waldron. (Middle row) Sid Hold, Les Gribble, John Thrower, Brian Tapp, Bryce Kaye, Robin Butler, Jimmy Lindsay, Dennis Vickery, Fred Lee, John Williams, Gerry Best. (Front row) Jeff Taylor, Charlie Hodge, Ken Bott, Greg Jephcott, Peter Miles, Ray Gentry, Don Windsor (?), Doug Percival, John Dobbs. Warrick Snowball (New Zealand) wondered if the chap at the extreme left of the front row Hogg who'd worked for Reckitts in New Zealand - hmmm, who's right?

was Charles

The black and white photos were sent in by Dr Chris Coulson and the coloured photos by David Yau



OBITUARIES

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

June-August 2022 (omitted from the August/December magazines)

Hull: (age) service years

Alan Bogg (88) 16
William Chappell (98) 36
Raymond Cowen (88) 46
June Parker (89) 16
John Robinson (90) 31
Norma Usher (91) 13
Arthur Willett (80) 24

Norwich:

George Barnard (93) 42
Trevor Cooper (80) 46
Roger Harris (86) 45
Ann Kett (88) 14
Barry Pearson (82) 55
Jack Smith (93) 7
Oliver Woods (91) 28

Nottingham:

John Clark (75) 64

Services Division Depots:

John Glover (85) 2

Batley:

Irene Watson (74) 16

November 2022-March 2023

Bletchley (age) service years:

Liborio Iacono (77) 3

Chiswick/Windsor/Slough:

Thomas Kearley (100) 39

Derby:

David Brownsword (79) 21
James Robertson (89) 5
Pamela Stone (92) 21

Ex-Pats:

Robert Davies (92) 27

Firefighters:

David Medcalf (90) 20

Hull:

Kenneth Ayliffe (87) 40
Sally Benstead (70) 5
Peter Bone (91) 29
Karen Broughton (61) 8
Anthony Chapman (91) 27
Jean Johnson (91) 14
Harry Johnson (95) 46
Anthony Lord (87) 13
Ian MacKechnie (81) 31
Brian Parkes (85) 28

Hull (cont'd)

Valerie Preston (88) 10
Jean Prince (79) 31
Dennis Proby (92) 20
Berenice Robinson (82) 16
Walter Sanderson (91) 16
Marjorie Stead (90) 20
Gordon Stephenson (82) 50
Michael Tindall (88) 40
Raymond Waller (93) 23
Frank Ward (88) 33

Mel Wren:

Eldred Mehl (88) 11

Norwich:

Brian Ahern (79) 20
Margaret Bradfield (87) 31
Clifford Burrell (91) 19
Elizabeth Burrow (84) 5
Anthony Fox Carter (83) 25
Thomas Davidson (90) 25
Rosa Dye (99) 6
Donald Lynn (92) 14
Gordon Marrison (88) 20
Maurice Middleton (92) 14
Maxwell Peake (85) 32

Norwich (cont'd)

Margaret Pummell (85) 14
Gordon Tunmore (87) 17
Herbert Wilsea (96) 51

Nottingham:

James Blore (74) 2
Christopher Morrell (68) 7

PM UK Industrial:

Griffith Davies (91) 9

Services Division Depots:

Peter Smith (79) 11

Skipton:

Sheila Young (101) 29

Stevens Lowestoft:

Hilda Marshall (99) 11

Stockport/Kay Bros/Platt:

Martin Costello (91) 9
Denis Smith (92) 3

Wealdstone:

Michael Digby (72) 7

Take part in this social history project and record your memories of Reckitts

We introduced you to Grace Chapman on Page 5 - you'll remember she's the new custodian of the Heritage Centre. Grace tells us that she is working on a project in partnership with the Carnegie Heritage Centre (West Park, Hull) and they would like to invite any of our pensioners, who are willing to volunteer, to come along to recording sessions (voice not video) so that your memories of Reckitts can be collected.

The recording sessions will take place on **Tuesday 9th and Friday 12th May between 10am and 4pm**. If you do want to take part - or if you'd like any more information - you can book a slot with Grace by

emailing her at heritage@reckitt.com or calling her on 07408 814526 (between 9am and 4pm - or leave a message for a call back). Grace tells us that "Sessions are 1:1 but, if people want to come in a group e.g. husband and wife, multigenerational, or a group of friends, we can do that too. The slots are anything between 30mins and an hour. There will be a short form to fill in on the day and some information explaining where the recording will be held and what it may be used for."



Gordon Stephenson - A Personal Obituary

Born in 1934 in Gipsyville, Hessle Road, Hull, Gordon was a bright and athletic boy from a humble background. He was proud to become a Hull Grammar School student, had an excellent academic record and would no doubt have gone on to study at university. Having a lifelong talent for drawing & sketching, his dream was to become an architect. However, his own father passed away when Gordon was only 16 years old. It is a mark of the young man that he would forego his own ambition in order to financially support his mother. Upon completion of his "A" levels, he started a career as a Librarian for Hull City Council. He also completed his National Service, serving as a Sergeant in the Army in Cyprus.

Gordon joined Reckitt & Colman as a Senior Librarian in October 1966. His ultimate role as Manager of the Library & Information Service at Reckitts led him to be custodian of many of the company's archived materials. It was during this time that he recognised the immense value of this material. Prior to his *initial* retirement in December 1984, he proposed and garnered support for the creation of what we now know as Reckitts' Heritage. Without Gordon's vision, this important resource would never have happened and the hugely valuable collection of archives would have simply been thrown away.

He re-joined about 6 weeks later (not a very long retirement!), in February 1985 as an Archivist for Reckitt's Heritage.

During his time in the Heritage centre he developed a very trusting friendship with Basil Reckitt, great grandson of Isaac Reckitt and the last Chairman of the business descended from the founder. Gordon would occasionally visit Basil's home in the Lake District and they would often share correspondence. He continued in his archivist role until his final retirement in October 2016, at the grand old age of 82, after a staggering 50 years of loyal service.

He had three great passions in life, Firstly his family. Gordon was the most loyal, loving, caring and patient husband, dad, grandad and great grandad. Married to Mary since 1958, with two children (Carolyn & David), five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Secondly, the local team, Hull City. Gordon was a Tiger for 76 years attending his first match at the newly built Boothferry Park in August 1946 and his last match at the MKM Stadium in September 2022, just 8 weeks before his death. Finally - and as you might have gathered - Reckitts. In a final demonstration of loyalty to the company, during his final days of life, he requested to be interred wearing his favourite blazer, shirt and Reckitt tie (Queen's Award) that he always treasured.

Gordon touched the lives of many people. Without exception, everyone who had the fortune to know him would characterise him as a "lovely man". He is deeply missed.

DAVID STEPHENSON

Russell Manning



Photos from David Yau



Photos from The Supervisors' Dinner

The Speakers

Top: Bill Forman, Mark Hulme (organiser and compere), Dave Nellist
Bottom: John Smallwood and Alan Brooke



Photos from The Supervisors' Dinner Round the Tables ...















Bill Forman, Mark Hulme, Kevin (photographer), Pauline Settle

