

# iCONTACT

No. 87 August 2023

**Visit our website**  
[www.icontactnewsletter.co.uk](http://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!

We've continued to receive requests for our on-line only option, with further 26 pensioners taking up this option.

## Digital for you?

If you're ready to make the switch to taking the digital magazine, please send an email to [rbcontactmag@gmail.com](mailto: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** Since the move to Trafalgar House we've once again struggled to get accurate obituary information and we have a further 9 pensioners who were missed from the lists. We know how important this information about our dearly departed pensioners is to both the families and the readers. The Pensions Department and Trafalgar House are working hard to get this right.

The editor offers apologies to our Norwich pensioners - emails sent in by Alistair Stewart were mislaid. These now appear in this edition.

## New CEO appointed from within



Reckitt has named Kris Licht as CEO designate to succeed Nicandro Durante and he will be taking the helm by the end of the year, following a transition period.

Licht, who has served as president of Reckitt's Health Global Business Unit and as Global Chief Customer Officer since July 2020, was appointed to the Board as an executive director from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023.

Durante stated that "having played a pivotal role in both the transformation strategy and the significant turnaround of our Health GBU, Kris is the right leader to take Reckitt on to the next stage of its exciting journey".

Durante will stay with Reckitt until December to ensure a smooth transition.

Kris joined Reckitt from PepsiCo in 2019, where he held a variety of senior operational and strategic leadership positions, concluding his time there as Division President for Pepsi Beverages North America with revenues of over \$4 billion.

Kris, a Danish national and long-time US resident, will be relocating to the UK with his family.

**Remember ...** This magazine is one of the key ways in which we can keep in touch with all of our pensioners.

Our grateful thanks go to everyone who contributes photos, articles and obituaries - keep it up! If you have any ideas or suggestions for articles then please don't be shy - send them in!

## RBPA Committee

The next committee meeting of 2023 is scheduled for Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

### Committee Elections

Lorraine Muggleston (representing Derby, Nottingham and Leicester) is due for re-election and has said she is willing to stand again. Any member of the Association may stand for election to the Committee. Nominations can be made on forms obtainable from The Secretary, Reckitt Benckiser Pensioners' Association, c/o Pensions Department, Reckitt, Dansom Lane South, Hull, HU8 7DS, to arrive by **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September**.

### Pensioner Visits

Pensioner visits can take one of several 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

# Get-togethers

## Diary dates



### Norwich Alistair Stewart

The date for the next 2023 get-together is **10<sup>th</sup> October, 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 next 2023 Derby get-together is arranged for **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, starting 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 next get-together is on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 12noon** at The Fox Pond, Glen Rise, London Road, Oadby, LE2 4RG. Please call Lorraine on 01159 733753.

### Nottingham Lorraine Mugleston

The next get-together for 2023 is on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> 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 which can be found in the courtyard of Skidby Mill, Beverley Road, Skidby, HU16 5TF.

The final dates for 2023 are (all Wednesdays and starting at 10am) **6<sup>th</sup> September, 18<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:phil.shearsmith@gmail.com)

### Chiswick Chris Mann

The date for the next get-together is **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 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-together is at the Paper Mill (Brewers Fayre), Loudwater, High Wycombe on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 from 12noon**. 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 as last year, The Victoria Hotel, The Esplanade, Sidmouth, EX10 8RY, **starting at 2:30pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 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! You can contact Martin by email on [martin\\_fox28@hotmail.com](mailto: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 Bournemouth drop-in, usually held in April, is being reviewed by Tony with a view to attracting more of our pensioners from this region. Look out for further details in our December issue or Contact Tony Swell on 01189 691390 or 07519 281648.



## THANK YOU!

To all of the team that host the get-togethers and keep in touch with our Pensioners



# Regional reports and photos

## HULL get-togethers - April and June



The group photo shows the attendees at the glorious June get-together with the smaller photos from the April event.



## **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, Dansom Lane South, Hull, HU8 7DS.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TEL No: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



# Regional reports and photos cont'd

## Bournemouth drop-in - April



Given the upcoming Coronation of Charles III, the choice of The Royal Bath Hotel was most appropriate as it was opened in 1838 on Queen Victoria's Coronation Day.

Our pictures show the hotel and guests enjoying their afternoon tea. Seen in our picture of guests are (left to right), Carole Fox, Celia Williams, Tony Swell, accompanied by his wife, Patsy, Martin Fox and our new chairman, Paul Gilliam. Paul's wife, Carol, was behind the camera. Unfortunately Mike Urry, our pension visitor in the area who was scheduled to attend, was unexpectedly unable to come. Discussions are underway to come up with ideas to improve attendance at this and the Gosport drop-ins.



## Norwich News

### Get-togethers

Our October meeting was attended by 15 pensioners. The January meeting was attended by 8 of our hardy pensioners - the weather was truly atrocious! We had another meeting in April where, once again, 8 of our pensioners attended.

**We send our best wishes to Alistair who's been in hospital recently.**

### Memorial Service

In 2020 and 2021 we were unable to hold our annual remembrance service to the fallen Colman employees of the two world wars because of Covid. However, Carrow House is now owned by Norwich City Council and, despite renovation works taking place, they kindly allowed us to hold a service on 11th November 2022, which was attended by 20 pensioners and friends.

## Leicester GTG - April

It was good to catch up with Mary Burnett again at our April meeting but sad that there was only one attendee. It is difficult to pick a venue for Leicester that is convenient for all to get to and I realise that this is the most likely the reason that numbers are low. **If anyone has any suggestions for a different venue for next year please let me know.**



## High Wycombe drop-in - April

*Paul Gilliam writes:* The first get-together of 2023 was held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April and we welcomed 25 colleagues from the High Wycombe area. It was a very successful meeting with everyone so delighted to meet up with friends.

We were able to bring two former members of Winsor & Newton to the meeting including Margaret Wiggins who wished to be remembered to any former WN employees reading this magazine. We hope the newcomers enjoyed themselves and that they will join us again in October.

We had some difficulty bringing the meeting to a close and in fact we left a group of seven magnificent men, led by John Rolls, in the restaurant well past the official closing time! I am convinced there are many more former Reckitt & Colman pensioners who are eligible to attend. Do email me for details of the next event.

The theme for the meeting was Easter and contributions to raffle prizes from members present were snapped up before the official raffle prizes! Flowers grown by Tony Collier were the first to go! We discussed changing the venue and moving to a pre-chosen-meal but the unanimous feeling was to remain unchanged - so we're staying with Brewer's Fayre for our October meeting (Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October) when we hope even more will join us after what we hope will have been a glorious summer.

## Nottingham GTG - April

The Nottingham get-together was a very friendly meeting and once again it was a pleasure to chat and reminisce.

**All welcome at our next get-together in September.**



### Unruly lot?

*Left Photo: John Walker (left front) keeping his group in order  
Middle photo: Stan Williams (left front) keeping his group in order  
Right photo: John Rolls (2<sup>nd</sup> from front on right)*





# Regional reports and photos cont'd

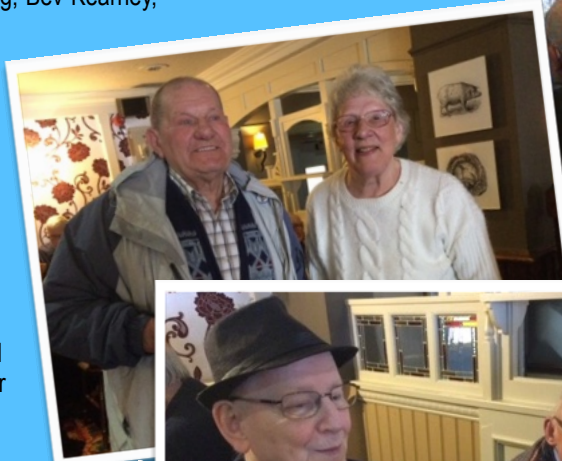
## Derby get-together - April

Our Derby meetings are always lively affairs with lots of banter, lots of laughs and of course lots of reminiscing and our April meeting was no exception. We always have a really good turnout but it was brilliant to welcome more familiar faces who joined us for the first time.

These were Linda Whiting, Bev Kearney,

Esme Bowler, Carol Copeland, Narinder Kaur, Pam Dosanjh and Davinder Jamal - it was great to see you all.

Look forward to seeing you all again in September plus anyone else who would like to join us. You will be so welcome. At this rate I'll have to source a bigger venue. 😊



The "Derby crew" having a great time together!

## Memories from Keith Fowler (Norwich)

The photo (right) comes to us from Keith Fowler. Keith worked in the Mustard Mill for many years. When Colmans sold the business to Unilever, Keith was asked to stay and work till 1998 when he retired. He was given a free hand as to whom he could invite to his retirement party and the photo shows quite a mixture of those who had worked at Colmans prior to its being sold. Keith thought it might bring back memories for pensioners who knew him. Write in and let us know if this jogs your memories of Norwich times.







## Bob Davies

*Bob's son, Nick, wrote in to tell of the sad passing of his father, Bob. He said "Just a few years ago, and luckily for us, Bob wrote down some of his recollections. We thought your readers might enjoy some of his memories which provide some interesting historical facts regarding the company. He spoke*



*fondly of his days at Reckitt & Colman and of the friends he'd made over his long career there. Bob joined the company straight out of school in 1947 and remained with the company all his working life. He enjoyed reading iContact and actively followed company developments."*

### Recollections of my days at Reckitt & Colman by

**Bob Davies:** I joined the company on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1947 and was based in the offices at Quarrybank, a large house in Hessle, where the company had been relocated after the offices in Dansom Lane had been flattened during the air raids on the city. My first job was with Charles Hewson, the boss of the Research Department which was part of the Advertising Department. His responsibility was to control all of the advertising of the Company overseas, including the Branch Houses established in most major countries, and also the smaller countries where the company was represented by import agencies.



The media advertising (principally press) was placed by Intam who were an advertising agency and part of the London Press Exchange. Each week we would receive piles of newspapers and magazines showing that the campaigns we'd ordered had been carried out. To see what the competition was up to, we went through the voucher copies cutting out their ads and circulating them to interested managers.



*Christmas party at Quarrybank (photo) Missing from this photograph: Bob West, Jack Pollard, St John Mann, Charles Hewson, Betty Campion (GMS'sec),*

*James Cleminson, Michael Colman, Joe Harmon.*

### The People

The people in the Advertising Department, except for the boss, were crowded into the attic. There were seven of us, Gwen Sawyer (Accounts), Claire Scholes (Show Material), Hazel Kay, Shirley Pollard, John Scruton (Research), Gilbert Stocks (trainee) and me. In another room, still on the top floor, were two chaps, one of whom I don't remember except that he was ex-Navy and the other chap was 'Skipper' Alan Russell-Sienesi. He was ex-Gurkha Regiment, very proud of his moustache and was often caught out at his desk during a trimming session! His job was to design and make sure that the packaging of all the export products had the right indications and language and he was responsible for creating what were called show cards that advertised the products. The cards were created either by the R&C studio or often by a local artist called Frank Armstrong. The studio was situated

in an old chapel in Dansom Lane, Hull and headed by Harold Crawforth.

John Scruton's (of Research) background deserves noting: he was the son of the chemist, Scruton, who engineered the discovery of Dettol in the 1930s. John took part in the unsuccessful 1940 attempt to prevent the Germans from occupying Narvik in Norway and was badly wounded.

Geoffrey Samuelson (Sammy), Chairman of the Board, was a "mountain" of a man; very tall and broad-shouldered he had a ready smile and a powerful personality. D.A.W. Cumming, Chief Financial Officer, was just as tall and broad shouldered but seldom smiled and was certainly not as outgoing as Sammy. H.L.Knee (Peter Knee's father) was a lively character and recently returned from the R.T French company in the U.S.A. Bill Powell (Continental Europe) was (outwardly) not terribly dynamic but rather more of a father figure. Others included Arthur Capron (South America and Iberia) a quiet thoughtful gent who gave the impression of keeping himself to himself; Gordon A Crute (secretary to the Board and Agency Markets) a dynamic character who made up for his short stature by being noisy and somewhat bossy!; Ernie Shaw (Personnel) was another father figure; Ted Wright (Australasia and South Africa), Lesley Giggins (India), Bob Slack (Technical), Bob West (accounts), Sydney Morgan (West Indies), Jack Pollard (Ultramarine Blue) and Dennis Leng (Hampshires).

Amongst the trainees were some ex-Army Intelligence Officers who, when the Germans capitulated, found themselves all together in Berlin. Cedric Rowntree was one of them and Basil Reckitt had asked him to see what he could do to recruit others for future managerial positions within the Company. Amongst those Cedric recruited was St John Mann who had been a school teacher when called up. One of the first jobs he was given was to market (overseas) the products of Hampshires, a company R&C had recently acquired. The products were a pretty mixed bunch and included Zubes (*still on the market*) cough lozenges, Snowfire balm for coughs and colds and also a range of cosmetics (possibly including Loxene shampoo).

### National Service Interruption

In May 1949, King and Country called me for National Service. I joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in Blandford in Dorset, and subsequently was transferred to Honiton in Devon.

As soon as the two years were up I returned to R&C where splendid new offices had been constructed to replace those demolished by enemy air raids. At Dansom Lane I was to gain first-hand experience in making sure everyone found their equipment and files next to their desks in the new premises!

Whilst I was away, Leslie Cort had been replaced by Ray Bloomfield. Ray had been with Colman's in Norwich before WWII. He was tall, as thin as a rail and sported a generous moustache; he hardly ever sat down and had the habit of rattling short change in his trouser pockets! He was very good with people and went out of his way to hear the views of others in order to come to a decision.

### Opportunity opening Belgian doors

It was Leslie who came to see me one day when I was sitting in Skipper Sienesi's office to suggest that I apply for a grant from the Philip Reckitt Educational Trust to study abroad. No sooner suggested than done, and in March 1952, I started a "Cours de Civilisation Francaise" course at the Sorbonne in Paris.

In 1953 René Disteche (the General Manager of the Belgian branch of R&C) and his number two, St John

Mann, were summoned to Head Office together to explain why and how the branch's advertising budget had been overspent. I wasn't part of the inquest, but the outcome certainly affected me! Ray Bloomfield thought I had the right approach to advertising and suggested that I be given the opportunity to help sort things out in Belgium.

So off I went, accompanied by an accountant from the Overseas Company, who was to carry out an audit and suggest improvements to the system. We sailed from Hull in a smallish cargo boat which did the Hull to Antwerp trip on a regular basis. The cabins were surprisingly luxurious, panelled in mahogany and set on three sides around the mess with its vast dining table. The journey can't have been more than 24 hours but I can remember gradually making our way up the river Scheldt on a bright sunny day, discovering the flat countryside of Flanders.

The Destrée factory and offices were on Rue Dobbelenberg in Haren, which is very close to Vilvoorde, north of Brussels, and not the most attractive suburb. The roads and footpaths were all made of 'pavés' (cobblestones), and it was very much an industrial area with old factories. The Destrée factory was no exception having been built in 1880 by Louis Destrée for the manufacture of Ultramarine Blue.

Reckitts had acquired Destrée in 1926 for 18 million Belgian francs. It remained the name of the company in Belgium until the 1980s, when it was changed to R&C Belgium. Ultramarine Blue was no longer made in Haren but the factory buildings remained and were then producing Harpic, Glassex window cleaner, Karpex carpet shampoo, stove polishes Zebrit, Zebracier and Zebraline, metal polishes Brasso, Silvo and, separately (!), Dettol, Steradent denture cleanser and Dispril analgesic.

Destrée had taken over the Belgian Nugget Polish Company which had been part of the Chiswick Polish Company acquired by Reckitt and Sons in about 1912. The Belgian factory (which had been sold) and the offices were in Molenbeek. The Destrée offices moved there from Haren. The closest pronunciation in French of Nugget is 'muguet' but Jean Effel, a famous French cartoonist, made a case for a pronunciation to rhyme with the verb 'jeter' in French, thus our 'Nugget en jette plein la vue' advertising campaign was born.



### Paris

It was in 1958, the year of the Belgian Universal Exhibition, when Peter Knee asked me to meet him at a café on the motorway midway between Paris and Brussels. Peter informed me that a swap was proposed which involved John St Lawrence currently in Choisy-le-Roi (the R&C Branch House in France) being transferred to Belgium, and me taking his place in France. I didn't take long to accept as the job of Advertising Manager was far more interesting and was accompanied by much bigger budgets. Living in Paris for a few years didn't sound too bad either!

The French offices were in an 18<sup>th</sup> century dependency of the Chateau de Choisy, of Madame de Pompadour fame. It had a big courtyard paved with cobble stones and was enclosed with wrought iron railings and a gate. On the ground floor the reception area was to the right of the main entrance where the Purchasing Manager, Madame Pridhom, had her office. On the first floor there was the main meeting room with a view over the courtyard to the front and towards the garden at the back. Management were on the second floor, Dick Cowl (G.M.), Paul Andrews

## Bob Davies ...

(wife Marian, children Michael and Caroline) Finance and Charles Wildblood, my boss, Sales and Marketing. A rather redoubtable lady, Mademoiselle Odette Bernier, Head of Personnel and secretary to the Management Committee, had an office next to the GM. The Factory Manager (Faudot?) must have had an office on the same floor together with the Sales Manager, Marsepoil. Marsepoil had an assistant called Bernard Morton (wife Heather and children Lynn and Tina) who was the son of the British G.M. prior to WWII.

R&C products in France at the time were Harpic, Glassex, a stove polish, Blue, right alongside Savora. All were made in the same ramshackle factory and sold by the same sales force. The advertising agency was Elvinger (Francis Elvinger was the owner). Their offices were in a 19<sup>th</sup> century mansion on the Avenue Marceau in Paris, which was a much nicer place to have meetings than ours!

The advertising budgets available were for the most part spent in women's magazines (although we did manage to include Paris Match occasionally). We also had a yearly contract with the Paris Metro for a large number of poster sites which took up an important part of the budgets. Creating the posters was the fun part (particularly for Savora) and then doing inspections in the Metro to make sure we were getting our money's worth was time consuming.

George Smith took over as G.M., having previously been G.M. in Sao Paolo, Brazil, and started to modernise the business by moving the factory to a new Zone Industrialisé in Chartres. The first factory manager there was a Scot called Andy Mitchell, with his assistant called Claude Mazuel, and the Chief Chemist was Richard Weiss.

I was involved in packaging design, and worked with an American designer called Harold Barnet who had been working successfully in Paris for quite some time. He came up with some extremely good work but I had no luck in getting it past George!

In 1962 Tim Howden (wife Penny and children Charles, Jo and Dominic) arrived in Choisy. His father was the owner of a U.K. company called Floor Treatments Ltd which R&C had acquired. Tim had come to launch the systems which consisted not only of products but also rotary machines for cleaning and polishing floors. We created the name Traitsol for the outfit in France and spent a lot of time translating, designing and printing the many leaflets covering the machines and products. As a result of this acquisition R&C reckoned it had sufficient product knowledge to take on Johnson Wax and launch a self-shine floor polish.

I think in 1970, Lionel J Williams (Bill) was appointed G.M. and George Smith retired (dying shortly afterwards). Bill had been headhunted by R&C and was previously with Aspro Nicholas, an Australian company. He recruited Philippe St Geours as Sales Manager, a Monsieur Marcille as Factory Manager, Ray Williams as Head of Finance, and promoted me to Marketing.

The move to custom-built offices (together with a vast warehouse) in Massy-Palaiseau must have been a psychological fillip for all the employees. It wasn't all that far from Choisy so transport wasn't a problem and the working conditions was so much better. Everything was brand-new – managers were given carte blanche to furnish their offices as they pleased – I was very happy with mine which was mainly white Saarinen chairs and table despite its being christened the 'ice cream parlour' by the personnel!

I must make a mention here about the advertising agencies we worked with: Dorland was selected, with a Belgian called Jan van Aal as the account executive. For some reason we didn't stay with Dorland very long. We switched to Havas - a brave move as Havas belonged to the French State and as a matter of principle, all major international advertisers were agreed that they would not put any business in a state-backed organisation. The Hamas account executive was Claude Douce, the younger brother of

Jacques, the top man at Havas, a sign of the importance they attached to their first multinational client.

### Greece

In 1972, I was transferred to Greece as General Manager of R&C Greece. This was a neglected operation, little had changed since the 1930s when it was set up, showing little growth and providing no profit to the UK because of Greek exchange control. In three years, factory and offices were moved from Drapetsona to new premises (right) in the North of Athens at Metamorphosis (splendid name for a company's change of momentum!) and sales and profits were on target at £1 million and £100k respectively.

In 1977, after five years in southern Europe, I was transferred to head up



R&C Belgium as General Manager. I was back in the old depressing offices I had left in 1969 with the task of undertaking a new product launch programme and closing down the old factory premises. The offices and warehouse took up temporary residence in Anderlecht. When these premises grew too small we moved (in 1986) to purpose built premises on the Erasmus Research Park, just outside Brussels. Sales reached one billion Belgian francs in 1988 with profit before tax at 12%.

*Bob retired from R&C in 1991, having enjoyed his time at the company and forever grateful for the opportunities afforded him. He was close to his family, enjoyed gardening, renovation and keeping abreast of world affairs. He made several return trips to Yorkshire, which he loved and travelled to many interesting parts satisfying his passion for history. He spent most summers on the beautiful island of Evia in Greece. Bob is survived by his wife Lisa, his children Sarah, Nick, Justin, Roxanne, and his grandson Alexis.*

## Bill Stewart ...

Bill very kindly sent in two pictures. One picture was of Charles Hogg's retirement presentation held in Edinburgh (see the digital edition). The other was this great caricature of the Scottish Sales Team. This was done after the team won the award for the Top UK Sales team for the Harpic product range. Bill says that he would be happy to be in touch with any of his retired colleagues. Please contact the editor for Bill's email and/or phone number.



Back: Neil McAfferty, Bob Young. Middle: Ernie Duff, Murray Ferguson, Jim McAuley, Frank Bolton. Front row: John Blake, Bill Stewart (Regional Sales Manager). George Waugh, Les Henderson.



## Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Belated congratulations to Betty Willis and Joseph Stow who each celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in September 2022. We hope you both had an enjoyable day!

## Russell Manning (Norwich) photo

In our last issue we printed a photo of the late Russell with some of his colleagues. We asked if you could identify any of those in the photo and Melvyn Mickleburgh stepped up to the plate. Please see the digital edition for the photo along with names.



We have a number of "shoe polish" pensioners and last month we made a small mention about the Meltonian brand. Cherry Blossom is another of our heritage shoe polish brands. In 1913 Reckitt & Sons Ltd. joined the founders, the Mason bros., under the name of the Chiswick Polish Company. In 1923, it provided its employees with a Pension Fund scheme. Dandy Nichols (Daisy Sander), of 'Til Death Us Do Part fame, was an employee. In 1994, Grangers International acquired Cherry Blossom and production was moved to Alfreton, Derbyshire. In 2019 a move to a state-of-the-art factory (just off junction 29a, M1) is made and the product continues to be a brand leader.

## Congratulations Jeremy ...

As a magazine we definitely don't have any political affiliations, but we are pleased to hear when any of our pensioners have been successful and so we congratulate Jeremy Wilcox who told us "My RB contemporaries will be amused and amazed to read that I was elected as an East Riding Councillor for the Lib Dems for the Beverley Rural ward."



# Snookered with Disprin



Thirty years ago, the R&C *Insight* magazine described advertising for painkillers as "... authoritative, dramatising the pain and trauma of headaches (in other words downright boring!)". This cartoon was one of a series of cartoons launched in mainstream newspapers in an attempt to lighten up the everyday nature of headaches.

## Forthcoming events in Hull

Ian Jolliffe very kindly forwarded details for two forthcoming events in Hull:

On the 8<sup>th</sup> August Reckitt are holding a (**free**) Dettol event at the Hull History Centre (Worship Street, Hull, HU2 8BG) to celebrate the 90 years of Dettol in Hull.

The second event will be held on 8/9<sup>th</sup> September when Reckitt will host a Heritage Open Day on the Hull site. Booking is required and you can find the details on the following website

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/670701996727>

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

## August-October 2022 (omitted from earlier magazines)

### **Hull: (age) service years**

Rita Blackburn (89) 18

John Clifford (93) 11

Vera Hindley (79) 21

Nora Knight (86) 9

### **Hull cont'd:**

Norman Parkin (84) 2

Barry Walsh (84) 12

### **Norwich:**

Elizabeth Dewbery (68) 9

Philip Strachan (86) 7

### **Unknown location:**

Nicholas Williams (85) 25

## December 2022-June 2023

### **Batley (age) service years:**

Kenneth Gillian (93) 25

### **Chiswick:**

Norman Bennett (93) 31

Peter Milligan (93) 26

Christopher Poole (90) 20

William Turner (80) 10

### **Derby:**

Audrey Boyd (90) 8

Patricia McKeaveney (80) 7

Allan Scott (69) 9

### **Ex-Pats:**

Charles Hogg (97) 30

### **Hull:**

John Brenchley (87) 36

Eileen Broadwell (89) 16

John Coggle (81) 16

Elizabeth Drury (63) 22

David Hill (85) 14

Lilian Hilton (90) 9

### **Hull cont'd:**

Doris Holt (91) 9

Gerard Hooper (84) 1

Marlene Ketley (87) 37

Vera Lillford (90) 14

Madeline MacLean-Hutton (94) 37

Brian McLean (91) 40

Cyril Roberts (101) 47

George Sheard (89) 25

Phyllis Welsh (86) 37

Ian Wright (93) 16

### **Jeyes/High Wycombe:**

Patrick Hearne (73) 9

### **Norwich:**

Kenneth Cole (87) 11

Gwendolene Gooda (87) 7

Alistair Leggat (76) 12

Anthony Lyon (90) 31

Pamela Pyer (88) 18

Jennie Bell (97) 5

Ronald Bradley (96) 9

Linda Field (59) 6

### **Norwich cont'd:**

Brian Read (82) 28

Peter Smith (90) 10

### **Page/Tottenham:**

Ertan Aktolga (69) 5

### **PM UK Industrial:**

Carmel Murphy (86) 8

### **Services Division Depots:**

Harry MacKenzie (84) 24

John Wither (86) 17

### **Shoecare:**

Jacqueline Barker (66) 15

### **Sissons/Hull:**

David Rees (90) 6

### **Wealdstone:**

Leslie Grundon (91) 3

Edith Noad (91) 3



# Digital Extras

## Charles Hogg's retirement presentation



Back: Neil McAfferty, Ron Buchan, Johnny Geddes, Bill Binns (Hull head office), Jim McAuley, Ernie Duff, Jim Galway, Les Henderson, Bob Henry, Murray Ferguson.  
Front row: John Blake, Sid Tanner, Charlie Hogg, Bob Young, Sid Geddes, Bill Stewart.

## Russell Manning (Norwich) photo



John Forder, John Himpleman, June Baxter, Frank King, me (at the back), Cecil Warren, John Allman, Peter Whymark, Mary Jarvis, Russell Manning, Philip Green, Ted Herbert, Jack Elvin, David Pond. Sadly, many of those pictured are no longer with us. Supplied by Melvyn Mickleburgh.



# Jeremy Wilcox



## **Congratulations Jeremy (left) ...**

As a magazine we definitely don't have any political affiliations, but we are pleased to hear when any of our pensioners have been successful and so we congratulate Jeremy Wilcox who told us "My RB contemporaries will be amused and amazed to read that I was elected as an East Riding Councillor for the Lib Dems for the Beverley Rural ward."

## **Dr Chris Coulson IS LOOKING FOR A LOST EMAIL!**

We've all done it! We've all got the Tshirt!

Someone sent Chris an email about the Quaker Burial Ground and, alas, he can't find it anywhere.

If you have sent Chris an email about the Quaker Burial Ground within the last year, please could you resend it to him? Alternatively you can send it to the magazine's email address [rbcontactmag@gmail.com](mailto:rbcontactmag@gmail.com) and it will be forwarded to Chris.