

iCONTACT

No. 88 December 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! We've continued to receive requests for our on-line only 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 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.

@ Q3 update

Group like-for-like (LFL) net revenue growth was 3.4% led by strong growth across the Hygiene and Health portfolio which delivered LFL growth of 6.7% on a combined basis. This LFL growth was reduced by an 11.9% decline in the nutrition business, reflecting the rebasing of the US market following the shortage crisis in the prior year.

Volume declined by 4.1% on a group basis with improving trends in Hygiene offset by the expected decline in the nutrition business.

A share buyback programme of £1bn over the next twelve months was announced.

Kris Licht, Chief Executive Officer, commented that "We are firmly on track to deliver our full year targets despite some tough prior year comparatives that we continue to face in our US Nutrition business and across our OTC portfolio in the fourth quarter".

We Will Remember ...



Pictured above with a poppy wreath is Ken Pusey - a pensioner of Reckitt Industrial. He attended the National Service at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

RBPA Committee

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 20th March 2024.

Committee Elections

With no other nominations, Lorraine Mugleston was re-elected to the committee.

Election to the committee is for a period of 3 years. The next committee members due for re-election will be Tony Swell (Vice-chair) and Martin Keeley (Pensioner Trustee). Any member may stand for election and further details about this and how to make a nomination will appear in our August magazine.

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 below 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 Mugleston, Derby, Leicester, Nottingham
01159 733753

Martin Noblet, North West
07794 132141

Alistair Stewart, Eastern Region (Norwich)
01603 436391



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: _____

Get-togethers

Diary dates



Norwich Alistair Stewart

The dates for the next get-togethers are **Tuesdays 9th January and 9th April 2024 both 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

The first Derby 2024 get-together is arranged for **Tuesday 30th April, starting at 11:30 for 12noon**. 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 **Tuesday 23rd April 2024 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 is on **Friday 26th April 2024** 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. All get-togethers start at 10am.

The final date for 2023 is Wednesday 6th December. Dates for 2024 are 14th February, 17th April and 12th 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

Chiswick Chris Mann

The date for the next get-together is **Thursday 18th April 2024 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 13th March 2024**. All are welcome. Please contact Paul Gilliam on 07799 796289.

West Country Drop-in Sidmouth Martin Fox

The date for the next West Country drop-in will be on **Thursday 22nd August 2024** at The Victoria Hotel, The Esplanade, Sidmouth, EX10 8RY. 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 or by phone on 01458 850468 / 07903 220386. Alternatively you can contact Tony Swell on 01189 691390.

Bournemouth and Gosport Tony Swell

Do you receive invitations to our get-togethers?, If not, Tony would welcome hearing from you and you can get in touch with Tony on 01189 691390 or 07519 281648. **Please check in our April 2024 magazine** for dates (likely to be May or June) and venues for a get-together to keep pensioners living in these areas in touch with us. The important message is to keep in touch!

Norwich GTG & news October

Alistair continues to host get-togethers at The White Horse and is eager to see new faces - please contact Alistair on 01603 436391.

Remembrance Service at Carrow House

On Friday 11th November 2023 a short service of Remembrance was held at the War Memorial at Carrow House (now owned by Norwich City Council). Alistair tells us that the minister who took the service is the daughter of a former Carrow employee.

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 - September and October

The Hull Team have had two get-togethers since our August magazine. The Sails Cafe is turning out to be a great venue with the ability to sit outside when the weather is fine as well as sit inside when the weather is less clement. We have a bunch of regular pensioners coming along and we'd be more than happy - in fact we'd be delighted - to welcome new "recruits". At one end of the table the range of conversation varied from our experience of getting a Covid injection and the flu jab to the recent TV docu-

drama "The Reckoning" - all agreeing that Steve Coogan's portrayal of Jimmy Savile was uncannily accurate in voice, mannerisms and looks. (Coogan first impersonated Saville in 1988). And all of this whilst supping our coffee, tea and eating tasty treats.

There's a little update on the Skidby Mill sails on the back page.



Scary Pensioners in October?

Can you see at our October meeting (below) that the Sails management team had to put "KEEP OUT" and "CAUTION: ENTER IF YOU DARE" warnings across the windows!! (I didn't think our pensioners looked that bad!!!)



Derby, September 2023 - a lively get-together!

Another lively get-together at the Toby Carvery. One or two members were missing due to holidays and in one or two cases, operations and stays in hospital; you were all greatly missed.

Wendy Bowler brought lots of photos of yesteryear which raised a few smiles and comments about how young we all looked. I really had forgotten some of the occasions the photos commemorated and how many leaving do's there were!

A warm welcome to Josephine and Dave Shires and Janet Tempest from HVL.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 30th April 2024. Put it in your diary and, **if you haven't been before, come along. We would love to see you.**

Thanks Lorraine - great job!



Leicester gtg - September

No photos as rather sadly this get-together was a bit of a non-event! Our regular attendee was unable to be there and unfortunately nobody else turned up!

Lorraine would be more than happy to see any newcomers and has some dates set up for 2024 - see page 2 - and get those dates in your diaries!

Sidmouth Drop-in - August



Another fine summer's day in August greeted us at the Victoria Hotel in Sidmouth for the West Country get-together. Although there were only a few of us, we nevertheless had an enjoyable afternoon chatting and enjoying tea and cakes as well as having a fine view over the Sidmouth seafront. Unfortunately Malcolm and Mary McNair escaped before we remembered to take a photograph!

We meet up at The Victoria Hotel in August each year. We are always pleased to see our regular attendees who enjoy the company, tea, coffee and cakes as well as the superb sea views from the hotel but it would also be great to welcome some new people. ("Kiss-me-quick" hats, and sea-bathing are optional!)

So if you live in the southwest, you're on holiday in the area or fancy a day at the seaside, please come along and join us on 22nd August 2024 at 2:30pm. For any more details or information please contact Martin Fox on 01458 850468 or 07903 220386, email martin_fox28@hotmail.com or Tony Swell on 07519 281648

Chiswick gtg - October

Chris Mann sends us this picture of 22 of our pensioners enjoying their time at the Chiswick get-together held at The Wheatsheaf Hotel.



Nottingham gtg - September



There was lovely autumn sunshine for our Nottingham get-together but unfortunately there was only one attendee. The next meeting will be on Friday 26th April 2024 and, if you have not been before, please do come along, it would be great to see you.

High Wycombe gtg - October

Paul Gilliam (Chairman) wrote in to tell us about the High Wycombe get-together held on the 18th October:

The prospect of storm Babet did not deter 23 members attending our Autumn meeting. We were delighted to see several members who had travelled long distances to be with us on the day. Some of them had moved as far away as the the South Coast, but fortunately for us, they still have family living in our area.

We also fell foul of 'fake stamps' bought in good faith. We know this resulted in some members - without email - being unaware of the date of our meeting.

Our photographs show several members who won raffle prizes, many of which had been contributed by our members.





Sir James Reckitt Centenary of death 18th March 2024

The centenary of the death of James Reckitt (Bart) will be celebrated on 18th March 2024.



Such was the impact of Sir James on Hull that he has been described as one of the great philanthropists of his time, and his work still carries on by way of charitable trusts set up in his name. Steve West (ex RB Heritage) described him thus "You will struggle to find a businessman anywhere in the North of England who has had a bigger impact on a place than Sir James had on Hull."

Many of our pensioners will feel a great deal of pride at having worked for the business that grew substantially under his leadership and which remains part of his legacy in Hull.

Grace Chapman (Heritage Centre manager) is busily gearing up for this notable event and says that there will be a great deal of activity in Hull next year as clearly many organisations exist or have benefitted through his charitable work. So, get your Google search engine ready!

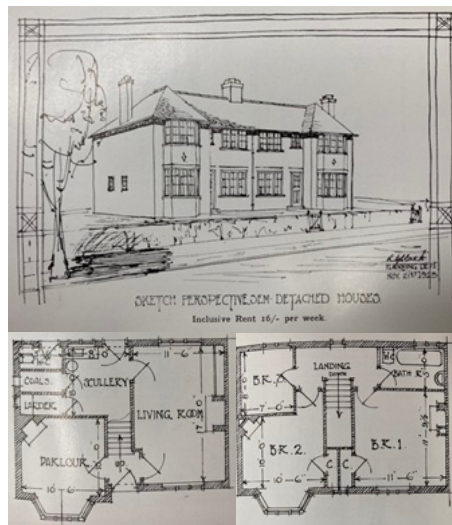
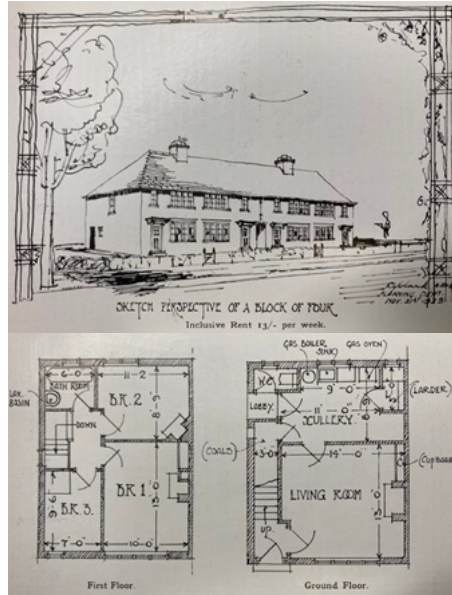
One of the most obvious marks on the Hull landscape was the creation of Garden Village which sits just to the north of the Hull site. When opening the village in 1908, Sir James made a speech: "The objects of this Garden Village are to provide a house, and a good garden, in fact a better house if possible, and a garden attached for the same rent as is now paid for inferior houses with no garden at all." A couple of years later the occupiers of the houses presented Sir James with a beautiful album containing an address and photographs, expressing their deep appreciation of the conditions under which they were then living.

In the December 1923 (the year before the death of Sir James) an article in "Ours" magazine reports on a very well attended meeting held in the Works Council Chamber and describes a further development of houses supported by the Directors, once again to address the poor housing conditions of some of the Reckitt workers.

The plan was to build 44 small houses (built as terraces and described as non-parlour) and, following a petition for larger houses, it was later agreed to build 12 semi-detached properties. The plans that were published in Ours can be seen here.

The weekly rent for the properties was 13/- and 16/- which equates to (approx) £48.50 and £59.50 today. Given that the rent was the same as inferior working class housing of that era, which were built cheaply, had fewer rooms (two up, 2 down typically for a family of at least 5), had no running water and, least of all, a flushing toilet or a garden, these modern houses must have seemed like palaces and, as previously mentioned, the occupants were very appreciative of them.

The architect's plans for these properties can be seen here. Do you, or do you know anyone who now, live in one of these properties? Have they changed much over the years?



Sir James also supported the wider community in Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire and was one of the leading pioneers in the free library movement in Hull and district, and when the town refused to adopt the Free Library Act he built his own, the Reckitt Library, on Holderness Road was built close to the the Hull factory and, after standing empty for several years, this Grade 2 listed building has been converted into managed flats.

The James Reckitt Library Endowment, known as the James Reckitt Library Trust, was established by Sir James Reckitt in 1892. The Endowment was originally intended to support solely the James Reckitt Library, but today helps to develop public library provision throughout the City of Hull.

In the City's Central Library sits The James Reckitt Reading Room. The James Reckitt Library Trust tells us that "It was originally the City's first reference library. Virtually unmodernised since its Edwardian heyday it had become a fascinating, if somewhat shabby, reminder of the original 1901 library building, and it had remained unused since the local studies library was relocated to the flagship Hull History Centre building. An award from the James Reckitt Library Trust was used to refurbish the room and bring it back into use. Although there was a need to modernise the electrical and lighting system, the refurbishment mainly involved restoring the room to its original state. The most significant architectural features are the glass-fronted wooden shelving, the fine stucco plasterwork and the large oak tables and period Captain's chairs. All of this was in need of considerable and considerable restoration. Such was the quality of the original workmanship that, with a sympathetic approach to its restoration, the room now looks as fresh as the day it was built, and is set to serve the people of Hull for another hundred years and more.

Renamed the James Reckitt Reading Room on its reopening, it has become the venue of choice for intimate literary events, readings, workshops and meetings. Thanks to its warm acoustics it has also served as a music venue and the location of several music videos. Since becoming a venue licensed for marriages it holds the honour of being the first library in the Country to hold a wedding ceremony."

These are just a couple of areas that bear the name of this great philanthropist. If you happen to be in the Hull area in 2024, look out for events that will celebrate the centenary of his death.





Quaker History (Dr. Chris Coulson)

Tying in with the centenary of the death of Sir James Reckitt, Dr Chris Coulson wrote in to supply us with an article on the history of the Quakers and the Quaker Burial Grounds. Chris and his colleagues from the Friends of the QBG are very keen to take part in the 2024 centenary events and may hold a few sessions with tours of the QBG off Spring Bank West in Hull. Chris writes ...

Formation and troubled beginnings

For many years Hull was regarded as a non-conformist town, where many branches of religious groups could be found and indeed this was one of the reasons that King Charles I was refused entry at the Beverley Gate by Lord Hotham in 1642. The actual story is more complex and resulted in Hotham being executed in London. The exclusion of the King from Hull helped to precipitate the English Civil War.

The Quakers (also known as the Society of Friends) arose as a group in England under the leadership of George Fox (1624-1691). The group, which had mainly taken root amongst the artisans, believed in the freedom of religious beliefs and worship and found their expression of God through quiet contemplation. They believed in equality between people, men and women and equal opportunity for all. Unfortunately this led them into conflict with the authorities who regarded them as a threat to what was seen as an ordered society, recovering as it was from the regicide of Charles I and the establishment of the Church of England.

George Fox (founder of the Quakers) was imprisoned in Scarborough Castle under very poor conditions but so impressed the castle Governor that he petitioned the King for Fox's release.

Upon his release Fox set off east through Holderness, preaching as he went. One can trace his footsteps by the people he converted, the Meeting Houses he started or supported and the friends he made.

In Hull the rumour of a Quaker plot in Sutton caused them to be abused in the street and even dragged from their houses and beaten. Unfortunately the garrison (situated to the east of the River Hull) played a part in this religious intolerance. Indeed, when the statue of King 'Billy' was unveiled in the Market Place in 1734, the council provided Quaker households with candles to put in their windows to make it look as though they were part of the celebrations and thus left alone!

The Quakers, believing their God was within them, found there was no need for a structured service as such and because of this they fell under suspicion of the State and Church of England. Banning them from civic office, university education etc, pushed them out further from main line governance so they

became rather independent of the State, forming their own successful businesses, schools and help groups. In short they became important industrialists and, because of their background, great benefactors.

The Quaker origins of some businesses are well known, such as Reckitts, Priestmans, Rowntrees and Cadbury's but others have been lost e.g. Barclays and Lloyds banks.

Burial Grounds

Believing that the earth under us belongs to God and not Civic Society, their burial grounds (of which there are many) are not consecrated, and are classified as 2nd Class. Each burial ground is under the control of the local Meeting House which dictates the style of grave, headstone annotation, grave position and grave surrounds.

The Hull QBG is approximately ¼ acre in size. It was opened in 1855 under a 999 year lease costing £100 but closed for burials in 1971. It is the resting place of many of Hull's important industrialists and benefactors. An early QBG in Hodgson Street had a few headstones on a brick plinth but they were removed in the 1960s to the Spring Bank BG. They were later found and put on display near the entrance. The one of Elizabeth Wells is of particular interest as, besides its age (15th century), it probably came from the now closed QBG at Owstwick in Holderness.

I and Dr Andrew Palfreman oversee the QBG on behalf of the Pickering and Hull Area Meeting House. We and the Friends of the Hull General Cemetery (under the guidance of Bill Longbone) would like to see the QBG used as a place of quiet reflection and to this end a seat has been placed at the south west corner. Anyone willing to help with this important local restoration should get in touch with us. There are some mysteries about this plot which could appeal to those less able to do physical work. Meetings at the HGC usually take place on a Monday but volunteers carry on other days. You are invited to make contact and help out. Email us at hello@friendsof HullGeneralCemetery.com



Perimeter of Hull General Cemetery

Brandesburton Street

OBITUARIES

Pauline James

David Spurge wrote in to tell us of this sad news: "It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform the readers of the passing of my wife, Pauline James (aged 66), a beloved member of our community. For nearly five decades, Pauline was an integral part of the Reckitt & Colman family, and her contributions will forever be etched in the history of the brush factory at Winsor Newton, Wealdstone, Harrow.

Pauline's journey with Reckitt & Colman

began in 1974, when she joined the ranks of the brush factory. Her dedication and hard work were evident from the start, and she soon transitioned to the watercolour department, showcasing her versatility and commitment to excellence. As time passed, she took on new challenges, ultimately becoming a VDU operator on-site, where her skills and diligence continued to shine.

In addition to her professional achievements, Pauline found love and happiness with our family. Our marriage, which lasted for an incredible 29 years, was a testament to our deep bond and enduring

partnership. Pauline's love extended to her three children, Amy, Katie, and Jon, and 4 grandchildren who were her pride and joy. Her legacy lives on through them, and they will undoubtedly carry forward her memory with the same love and care she provided them.

Pauline's passing on the 1st of July 2022 leaves a void in the lives of all who knew her. Her warm smile, her dedication to her work, and her unwavering love for her family touched the hearts of many but we also celebrate the impact she had on our lives."

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

Please note: The magazine faithfully reproduces the list of our dearly departed colleagues using a list of names supplied by Trafalgar House.

Batley (age) service years:

Lilian Jackson (78) 13

Chiswick:

Sukebir Kaur Dhillon (90) 5

Joan Mary Lambert (70) 22

Derby:

Linda Allsop (67) 11

Maureen Edna Carter (81) 3

Carol Lynne Cooper (72) 9

Gladys Mary Kelly (89) 9

Irene Otter (73) 7

Nanette Urwin (94) 7

Enfield:

David Lawrie Hawkins (83) <1

Hull:

Gordon Andrews (91) 29

Trevor Roy Johnson (75) 30

Ronald G Wicks (93) 24

Norwich:

Edward George Ames (80) 21

Peter Victor Bruce Arthur (71) 16

Rita Elizabeth Elphick (91) 15

Marlene Dawn Freeman (86) 16

Rosemary Ann Judge (77) 7

Antonio Giuseppe Pisacane (75) 7

Edgar Percival Smith (94) 14

John Sam Thomas (82) 10

Brian Whileman (74) 16

Dennis Eric Wing (77) 19

Norwich cont'd:

Barbara Ann Woods (84) 7

Frederick Alan Woods (89) 14

Porter Paints:

John Douglas Cumming (89) 12

Services Division Depots:

John William Arthur Clowes (83) 8

Harvey Duxbury (96) 23

Unknown site:

Duncan Brown (59) 3

Rachael Ann Carew (48) 3

Philip Murden (68) 7

June Roche (92) 10



Trouble at t'mill?

When our Hull pensioners moved to their current venue - Sails Café - we featured an article about the Mill at Skidby (Issue 84) which was - and continues to be - without its sails. The sails had been removed due to wet rot and the timing for the improvements became extended due to the pandemic and the sad business closure of the first millwright. As you can see from this fantastic aerial photo, the sails have now been repaired and returned to the courtyard and are awaiting installation (no date yet, much to the frustration of the locals!). Many visitors have commented that the sails appear to be incomplete inasmuch as there are huge gaps in the frames of the sails where previously there had been the shutters. It turns out that the mill will be refitted with these "bare sails" - a not uncommon feature of many retired mills. These sails mean that there will be far less strain on the mechanism and that the sails will dry out more quickly after rainy weather and be less susceptible to wet rot in the future. It will be great to see the sails finally in place on this local landmark, even if that means that the mill won't be producing any flour in the future. *Richard Munkley kindly provided this photo from a recent flyover of Skidby with his drone. More of Richard's work can be found on <https://elevationpics.etsy.com>. See our digital edition for a full size photo.*

Digital Extras

Skidby Mill East Yorkshire

Richard Munkley kindly provided this photo from a recent flyover of Skidby with his drone. More of Richard's work can be found on <https://elevationpics.etsy.com>.

