

# iCONTACT

No. 89 April 2024

## @2023 EOY Results

Reckitt's annual results for 2023 were published on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and these showed that like-for-like revenues for the full year were up 3.5% against the previous year. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kris Licht commented that "2023 was a year of progress for Reckitt. We generated strong free cashflow and significantly increased cash returns to shareholders, enhanced by our new sustainable share buyback programme. The organisation is fully focused on executing the strategy which I outlined in October, including strengthening our product superiority, optimising our fixed cost base and improving our in-market execution. While our performance in Quarter 4 was unsatisfactory, we look forward to 2024 and beyond with confidence. We target another year of mid-single-digit growth in Health and Hygiene, driven by a more balanced contribution from price, mix and volume." The share price dropped 10% in early trading after the results were announced.

## RBPA Committee

A (remote) committee meeting was held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### Committee Elections

Our August magazine will give the details for elections/re-elections due in January 2025, including how the nomination process works.

### 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.

### Committee Members

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) rbcontactmag@gmail.com

Martin Fox, West Country  
07903 220386 / 01458 850468

Martin Keeley, Pensioner-Nominated Trustee

Lorraine Muggleston, Derby, Leicester and Nottingham 01159 733753

Martin Noblet, North West  
07794 132141

Alistair Stewart, Eastern Region (Norwich)  
01603 436391

## 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.

**Digital for you?** If you're ready to make the switch to taking the digital magazine, please send an email to rbcontactmag@gmail.com, together 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.



# THANK YOU!

To all of the team that host the get-togethers and keep in touch with our Pensioners - and also to all of you that have contributed articles for the magazine.

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

## 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 2024 get-togethers are **Tuesdays 9<sup>th</sup> April, 9<sup>th</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> 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

The Derby 2024 get-togethers are arranged for **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September both 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 Leicester 2024 get-togethers are arranged for **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September both starting at 12 noon** at The Fox Pond, Glen Rise, London Road, Oadby, LE2 4RG. Please call Lorraine on 01159 733753.

### Nottingham Lorraine Mugleston

#### PLEASE NOTE NEW APRIL DATE

The Nottingham 2024 get-togethers are arranged for **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September both starting at 12:00** 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.

**Dates - all Wednesdays - are 17<sup>th</sup> April, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 11<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 18<sup>th</sup> April at 12 noon** 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 2024 High Wycombe get-together is at the Paper Mill (Brewers Fayre), Loudwater, High Wycombe **on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 12 noon**. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:martin_fox28@hotmail.com) or by phone on 01458 850468 / 07903 220386. Alternatively you can contact Tony Swell on 01189 691390.

### Bournemouth and Gosport Get-together Tony Swell.

The Bournemouth and Gosport get-together has been arranged for **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, at the Sailmakers Carvery, Fareham Road, Gosport, PO13 OZX**. A carvery lunch will be provided starting at 1-1:15pm when Tony Swell and Mike Urry will be there to welcome you. If you would like a chat with Tony beforehand, then please call him on 01189 691390 or 07519 281648. The important message is to keep in touch!



Image capture: Jul 2023 © 2024 Google United Kingdom

# Regional reports and photos

## HULL get-togethers - December and February

The Hull group have had two get-togethers at the Sails Cafe since our December magazine. 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". The topics of conversation are varied but with the ultimate aim of catching-up and, wherever possible, having a good old laugh.



# ...more regional reports and news

## Hull Christmas do ...

December

Jon Sewell and Bill Maxwell organised an event with a buffet held at the Rose and Crown pub in Beverley. Here are photos of just a few of the folks who attended.



Carl Tyson, Jackie Whitham



Andy Forster, Janet Gibson, Dave Copeman, Phil Gibson, Barbara Worrell, Joy Green  
In the background - Mark Hulme and Syd Newman



Fiona Houghton, Bill Maxwell, Pauline Settle

## Norwich Get-together ...

January

On a sunny winter's day, the first 2024 Norwich get-together was held on 9th January. There were 9 pensioners present enjoying a chat over a cup of coffee.

If you haven't been to one of Alistair's get-togethers, he would be more than happy to give you a warm welcome. Please see our diary dates for future events, along with the contact details for Alistair, on page 2.

## Norwich News ...

### Carrow House Memorial Service

A short service was held at the War Memorial in Carrow House on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The service was conducted by Reverend Rosemary Braby. A wreath was laid by Paul Harter. We were honoured by the presence of a Standard Bearer, bearing the standard of The Norfolk Regiment. Some of the Carrow employees who fought in the wars were members of the Norfolk Regiment. The service was attended by 15 pensioners and friends. The service was made possible by Norwich City Council which owns Carrow House.



### Wow! Jazzy Christmas jumpers

Robert Thurston forwarded a link to an article in the Norwich Evening News showing the employees of Condimentum in their matching Christmas gear - an unexpected gift from the management. *(Never thought I'd see anything like that!)*

### Who are Condimentum?

Back in 2009, the English Mustard Growers, aware of the aging equipment at Carrow Works and anxious to preserve their farming heritage, invited the similarly-affected Norfolk Mint Growers to collaborate with them. When Unilever decided to move out of Norfolk, the two groups got together and formed Condimentum.

You may remember that the new business moved to a purpose-built facility on the Food Enterprise Park near Easton which included a state-of-the-art mill. Many of the Condimentum employees are ex-Colman's and are committed to their brands and the quality of their mustard and mint condiments.

They have a very interesting website which is definitely worth a visit at [condimentum.co.uk](http://condimentum.co.uk). Some interesting facts include: Brundall mint leaves are harvested and the stalks are left on the field; mint is processed no more than 2 hours after harvesting - hence the importance of the location of the processing plant;



Mustard seeds are scanned at 8 million seeds per minute (wow!) to ensure only mustard seeds enter the process; the mustard flour is sieved 200 times to produce double-superfine mustard flour. White mustard seeds provide pungency and brown mustard seeds provide heat. *Do any of our Norwich pensioners have any stories to pass on about the Carrow Works mustard and mint processing?*



## Winsor & Newton at the Ashmolean

On a recent visit to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, our Chairman Paul Gilliam visited the exhibition entitled 'Colour Revolution - Victorian Art, Fashion and Design'. Whilst there, he noticed a display of Winsor & Newton oil colours. The tubes of oil are displayed showing the paintbox and pallet belonging to the American artist, Whistler. This display explains the important role of Winsor & Newton who, in 1840, "began selling paint in portable tubes which dramatically improved the artists' ability to



travel with their supplies and paint outdoors."

The exhibition included fashion pieces – from Queen Victoria's monotone mourning dress to the most daringly vivid clothing



and accessories – and works by artists including Millais, Ruskin, Rossetti, Turner and Whistler, as well as objects from around the world and some of the earliest colour 'photograms'. It revealed the vital role that colour has played in shaping our art and culture and offered a rare opportunity to see some of these objects on public display.

*Note from the Editor: Although the exhibition is now closed, the trailer clip on the Ashmolean website (hopefully still there when you get this magazine) gives you a flavour of the vibrancy of colour used in that period of time. It's left me feeling that I definitely need to pimp-up my wardrobe! And, if like me, you haven't heard of photograms, it's a technology that pre-dates cameras and is often referred to as cameraless photography, where objects are placed onto a light-sensitive material and exposed to light. Different effects are achieved depending upon the opacity of the objects.*

## An email from Peter Smith ...

Peter was alarmed to see his name appear in the obituaries section (iContact 86 showed Peter Smith, from one of the Service's depots, had sadly passed). Quoting Mark Twain "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated", Peter wanted to assure those who knew him at Colman's that he is still with us (quite clearly!). It is a bit disconcerting to see your name appearing in the obituaries section, confronting you with your own mortality but duplicate names, even on the same site, are perhaps more common than you'd think. (The editor once had two such "lads", of very similar ages, in her team necessitating some very creative nicknames!)

Peter also picked up an old story we'd run about "Bull's Blood", the Hungarian wine. He says "I would just add that this name was not a marketing man's invention. The wine was, and still is, a traditional Hungarian wine. The Hungarian name is Egri Bikaver which translates as Bull's Blood of Eger, the city where it is still produced and which was besieged by the Turks in the account of the name's origins. The strapline for most of the UK advertising was 'Red Wine with Horns!'".

Finally, he sent in a photo of a framed 1968 price list. It's an interesting reminder of bygone brands like Nulon, Bathjoys and Rimflo to name but three. The price of a gallon (yes, a gallon) of Brasso was 24/-. Who on earth had so much brass that they needed a gallon of the stuff!

## "Long ago" long service awards



Prompted by our article about the centenary of the death of Sir James Reckitt, Ian Burnham sent in an email to tell us about his great-grandfather, Mr George Burnham, who received a gold half-hunter pocket watch with the engraving: "Presented to Mr G Burnham, from Reckitt & Sons Ltd, in appreciation of his

valued service 1878 to 1922" - a marvellous 44 years! In a recent look at his family tree, Ian found several ancestors who had been employed at Reckitt & Sons Ltd.

At one time the long service awards were more traditional in style and, like George, a gold watch was a very typical gift. Later, the recipient could choose an item from a list of gifts. Eventually the recipient was able to personalise the gift and make their own choice. Long service was recognised at 25, 35 and 40 years service and (for Hull employees at least) presentation ceremonies, including a buffet and framed certificate, used to be held in the board room suite.

The editor notes that, from the 1990's onwards, employees were deciding to be more 'mobile', changing employers more frequently in order to broaden their experience. Consequently "a job for life" - a familiar phrase to most pensioners - has started to become an odd concept.

*See more photos and more about Ian's ancestors in the digital edition. It would be interesting to hear from our readers; how long was your service and what gift did you receive? Do you still have a long service certificate? Like Ian, do you have a long service gift inherited from a former employee? Write in and let us know.*

## Looking back 100 years at 'Ours'

*From the editor:* Reading back through old editions of 'Ours' magazine, there is so much to admire in our shared history - the achievements, the progress, the clubs and sporting activities etc.

Occasionally, you do have to set aside the fact that the approach to gender equality was 'of its day' and consequently is not of the standard expected in today's life. Mostly its eye-rollingly amusing; however, I was quite shocked when I saw the following article in the 1924 'Ours' magazine. I can't for the life of me think why the article was written (even then). What on earth did it have to do with life at Reckitt & Sons Ltd.? What did the author hope to achieve? Not perhaps the finest moment for the 'Ours' magazine. As soon as I'd overcome the shock it did strike me as hilarious in its absurdity and I couldn't resist sharing it with you. (*Apologies for the truncation of the article.*)

### Marriage Wisdom.

HE state of being in love—save in the very rarest and most miraculous instances—is not permanent. It is indeed startlingly impermanent.

I do not assert that people cannot, and do not, love each other steadfastly for a lifetime, but not one person in a hundred thousand remains "in love" for more than a relatively short period.

Few wives have much use for tongues that don't speak, lips that don't smile, eyes that don't glisten, arms that don't embrace. Their love is nourished on small, outward symptoms of love in husbands. They generally remain girls even after ten children.

A woman must be won afresh about once a week. Being won is about ninety per cent. of her existence and probably less than fifty per cent. of her husband's existence.

#### BLOWS THAT WEAKEN LOVE.

Efficient housekeeping can be achieved by any woman of average brains and average will—to learn. It is really nothing more difficult than good dancing—and to-day the young woman who cannot dance well blushes (rightly) for her imperfection.

Wives who know themselves to be efficient housekeepers are too frequently so proud of their achievement that they can see nothing beyond it. They are occasionally so proud that they consider the husband to be made for the home instead of the home for the husband.

Love will withstand all manner

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Paul Gilliam, our very own RBPA Chairman, was delighted to hear that his case study (Laugh, Learn, and Live) had been published as part of a collection of online case studies for the Progress Report 2023 of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing.

his u3a Group should see benefits in terms of increased membership.

Paul now believes that for the RBPA it might be possible to show that awareness and use of opportunities to communicate more easily could lead to more members joining as well as an enhanced 'keeping-in-touch' experience for existing members. After all, the principal target group for both the RBPA and the u3a is non-working adults, with the aim of enriching lives through community and friendship.

The only regret Paul that had was that he was unable to go to Geneva to celebrate with other award winners! If you have information you would like to share with Paul on the work that you or our pension visitors undertake for Pension Associations like ours, please email him directly at gilliamph@aol.com.

The case study used material gathered over a period of time from his local u3a Group. The u3a is identified as a Local Community Association, developing programmes and activities, reflecting the current and future needs of an increasingly diverse, multi-cultural and ageing population.

The u3a's work in helping to overcome loneliness, developing friendships, and organising social events, formed a fundamental part of the submission within the UN's overall brief of activities seen to be contributing to both longer and healthier lives. With these aims, in many ways similar to those of the RBPA, Paul now plans to submit a further case study reflecting the work of the RBPA within the context of 'Pensioner Associations'.

The pandemic gave his u3a Group time to re-evaluate its role and purpose in the local community. However, with difficulty in recruiting new members to the u3a, he knew, from around 20 years of working in the local community, that a new, revitalised approach was now needed. New members were beginning to express their frustration at the ways the u3a was working, including frustration that it was not engaging in the recent technologies that they had come to know during their recent work experience.

From research he knew that there was resistance from some older members to new technologies, particularly Facebook, but, given sufficient training and a demonstration of its potential, he felt that



Interested in the u3a? Get more information from its website [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk). Membership of u3a costs around £25-£35 a year and you can find your local Groups on the website. The web page of each local Group gives you a complete list of the local activities. It might be called a university - but don't worry - there are no exams. Follow the link to find Paul's contribution to the report <https://www.decadeofhealthyageing.org>



## Whatever happened to ...

### LOOK!

This product was acquired in 1969. A transparent cooking film that could be used to cover and brown food in the oven. It was packed in a unique triangular-shaped carton printed in blues and oranges. It seems innovative for the era but this type of product is still on sale today - just not branded as Look!



## Anyone for hockey?



(September 1985) Pictured here is Ray Lamswood, retiring Mixed Hockey Club secretary. Ray had been in office for 17 years and for that reason had decided it was time to hand over the reins to Diane Buffey.

Ray retired in a flourish of success as the club swept the board in the Tudor Mixed Hockey League. He is seen here with the Club's trophies for the knockout competition and the seven-a-side and the indoor six-a-side competitions.

*Were you in the hockey team? Has this photo jogged any memories you can share with us?*



## Custom made thanks!



This framed 1993 letter (left) is from Juliet Marsham, who lived at the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace, expressing her grateful thanks and appreciation to Dr Gowland - and all concerned - for making a perfumed spray starch just for her!

**Do you think Juliet might have starched and ironed some of Queen Elizabeth's clothing?**

Does this ring any bells with you? Were you involved? What's the backstory?

# OBITUARIES

## Sir Michael Jeremiah Colman Bt: July 1928 - December 2023

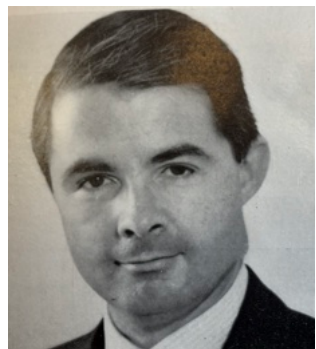
The sad news of Sir Michael's passing came to our attention early this year. He passed away peacefully on Boxing Day, 2023, aged 95.

Born in London on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1928 to Jeremiah, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet, and his wife Gwen, he was the second of three children (elder son) and was educated at King's Mead School and Eton.

His National Service, which he took up after WWII, saw him undertake his training with the Royal Marines, serving as a captain in the East Riding of Yorkshire Yeomanry.

Following his 2 year National Service he was then encouraged to join the family business, J & J Colman and in 1948 he joined the group at Carrow. In 1950 he was transferred to the Overseas Company based in Hull for general training. From the autumn of 1951 onwards he spent periods in a number of Overseas Branches, notably South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

In 1955 he joined the Commercial Research Department as assistant to Mr W. Parr, before returning to South Africa later that year as Head of the Research Section. In January 1956 he was appointed Secretary of the South African Development Committee.



He returned to Britain in 1958 when he began his connection with Latin America. Two years later he succeeded Mr E.J. Bickersteth as Secretary of Reckitt Colman Chiswick (Overseas) Limited as it was then and, in May 1962, was appointed to the Boards of Reckitt Colman Chiswick (Overseas) and Reckitt & Sons where his overseas responsibilities centred particularly on the Americas, whilst at home

he had been closely involved with development.

In 1969 he became Chairman of the Industrial Division. In 1970 he created the Group's first Corporate Planning department. In 1980 he was appointed Group director to the main board before making his way to Chairman in 1986. He finally took his leave from the business in 1995.

Kevin O'Berg tells us, "He was Chairman of the Trustees of the Pension Fund for many years as well as being chair of the Pension Fund Investment Committee. He took a great interest in pension matters and was very supportive of the pensioners throughout his career. Although he held various senior positions within the Company, he never let this conflict with his role with the Pension Fund. He was also a supporter of the Reckitt Benckiser Pensioners' Association and had attended the Chiswick get-together in the past."

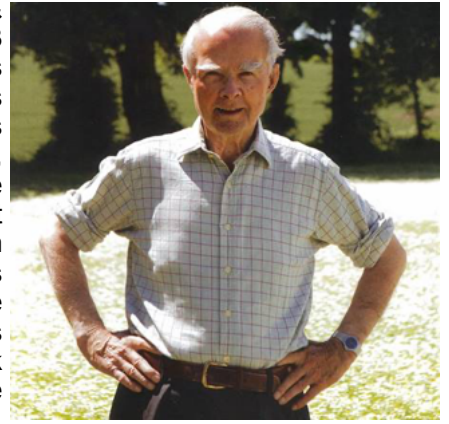
Kevin goes on to tell us, "My first experience of Sir Michael was at an internal management course in the late seventies where he was giving a presentation. He had a habit of suddenly pointing to someone and asking a question. This ensured that no-one dozed or daydreamed during his presentation as you had to be ready in case he pointed at you!"

Outside Reckitt & Colman, between 1993 and 1999 he served as the Church of England's First Church Estates Commissioner, overseeing the Church's investment portfolio, taking them out of risky investments and stabilising the pensions of thousands of clergy. For this work he was awarded the Cross of St Augustine.

He was also awarded an honorary Doctor of Law by the University of Hull and was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He was also a past president of the Royal Warrant Holders' Association.

After leaving the business in 1995 aged 67, he took up the production of mint on his farm at Summerdown. At that time a pea-growing co-operative, he wanted to return the farm to growing mint (which it had done 30 years previously). In order to achieve the highest grade of peppermint, the farm focussed on a strain of Black Mitchum mint which took several years to establish. A visit to America was required to import state-of-the-art distilling equipment to make peppermint oil which, like fine wine, improves with age. The farm has since added the production of other essential oils such as lavender, camomile and spearmint.

Sir Michael is survived by his wife, Judy, three daughters and two sons. Jamie (Jeremiah) succeeds to the baronetcy.



### About the Baronetcy

To the left is the arms of the Colman baronets.

A baronetcy is a hereditary title awarded by the Crown and can only be inherited through the male line.

It is the only hereditary honour that is not a peerage. It is ranked between a knighthood and a baron. Baronets are addressed as "Sir" and have the abbreviation of "Bt" or "Bart" following the surname.



## Beverley Jackson

We are so sorry to share with you the sad news that Bev Jackson has passed away. Bev worked in the Hull Factory and R&D Regulatory teams, notably GI, and consequently was known to many people at the Hull site.

Bev has been described as a very kind and helpful person who did an excellent job. She had a great sense of humour, was a great team-player and carried a calm efficiency about her. She was a keen walker and runner and will be very sadly missed by all those who knew her.

# OBITUARIES

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

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

Kathleen May Turner (73) 6

## **Chiswick:**

George William Martin (97) 41,

Michael Jeremiah Colman (95) 46

## **Derby:**

Thomas Patrick Donohoe (87) 8,

Patrick Hall (75) 6,

Cynthia Lillian MacDonald (88) 15,

Frances Toth (84) 32

## **Hull:**

Betty Acey (95) 40,

Edwin Atkinson (90) 32,

Wendy Margaret Benn (86) 24,

John Michael Bentley (92) 20,

Evelyn Dalton (97) 42,

David Draper (80) 25,

Martin Trevor Gibbs (69) 15,

Brian Giles (76) 4,

Gordon John M Graham (80) 10,

Beverley Leigh Jackson (65) 32,

Michael Richard H Jackson (75) 23,

Dennis Kay (71) 31,

Stuart David Littler (69) 2,

Jack Nichols (89) 21,

John Michael Parkinson (79) 20,

Harriet Pellatt (93) 13,

## **Hull cont'd:**

Jean Mary Prideaux (86) 16,

Maureen Reditt (80) 13,

Margaret Susan Shortland (83) 6,

Kenneth Sleet (90) 42,

Audrey Rose Spires (89) 18,

Jannine Audrey Sutherland (67) 14

## **Norwich:**

Jennifer Ann Dean (85) 27,

Hannah Isabella Edgar (92) 17

Anthony Edward Pearce (89) 36,

Elizabeth Ann Tye (87) 38,

## **Nottingham:**

John Clayton (79) 1

## **PMUK /Industrial/RCS:**

Peter John Fox (92) 5

## **Services Division/Depots:**

Richard Alan Collins (93) 22

## **Wealdstone:**

Robin Michael MacKervoy (90) 7,

Violet Emily Martin (89) 8,

Christine Hind Smalley (85) 8

## **Unknown site:**

James J Barrett (70) 14,

Lance Bratley (62) 13

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

## **Michael Jackson**



Ian Jolliffe kindly put this tribute together. It was sad to hear that Mike Jackson, pharmaceutical analyst and formulator, passed away on 2nd February. The point Mike started at Reckitts has been lost in the mists of time, but he is fondly remembered by those of us in R&D in the 1970s, 80s, 90s and noughties.

Mike was the friendly analyst I met on my first visit to the Analytical lab (first floor KWS1 in 1979). On that day he was a friendly, helpful guy - and continued to be so. His colleagues agree that he was always busy but never too busy to help anyone else.

Mike had a wide technical knowledge and a scientific curiosity together with hands-on

nous that made his contribution to Reckitt life so valued. Here are a few stories that epitomised Mike from some of those who knew him:

Early in the 1990s Mike made a move from the Analytical lab to formulation. This was a good outlet for Mike's creative skills and gave him a chance to employ his down-to-earth science.

In the late 1990's a major refurbishment of the Analytical lab was needed and the decision was made to move to a new location in what had once been the Steradent area on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of KWS3. A single space was required that was to combine the old two separate laboratories of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors of KWS1. The design team was led by Andy Lynn and included Mike (not least for his knowledge of plumbing!) and Jim Elfleet. The project started in 1999 and the laboratory was finished in 2000. They did a great job and the innovative design was shortlisted for an award by the widely-read Laboratory News as being one of the top five in the country. The award ceremony included a presentation at a black-tie dinner in London.

Liquid processing and scale-up would see Mike in his element, striding around in his white pilot plant wellies and waving a large spanner around. One colleague recalls working with Mike in the pilot plant making a scaled batch of Dettol Hand Wash. Some of it had to be put to waste and the sight of the very large frothy/foamy mess had them in fits of laughter (perhaps not the finest environmental moment!).

He would bring his passion for miniature transport into his work place. On one occasion when he worked on Deep Fresh (a Dettol antiseptic bath foam/ shower gel) a whining noise was around the lab. This came from a radio-controlled model Transit van that Mike had made up with the Deep Fresh logo and get-up.

This theme continued back in Analysis where a rail track with a train would transfer messages between Mike and his colleagues' desks.

Mike was generous with his "railway skills". On hearing that the engines of a colleague's son needed repairs, Mike took them away and returned them with a note saying "to Driver xxx, from engineer Jackson".

Sometimes his helpfulness nearly ended in disaster. When he volunteered his garden roller to a colleague, it turned out to be so heavy that it nearly crushed them both getting it into the car boot!

One Red Nose Day Mike courageously volunteered to have his legs waxed with Veet. Onlookers reported that he didn't flinch and hoped the agony raised a lot of money!

With a restructuring in around 2002, the antiseptic team that Mike was part of was moved to the US and he left Reckitt Benckiser to join Nippon Gohsei at their Salt End site where once again he was in charge of setting up a new laboratory - right up Mike's street.

He eventually retired from "real" work and, among other things, he spent his retirement with plumbing projects and restoring a huge white American car - called Pearl.

Always busy, helpful and friendly - definitely a Reckitt legend!



# Digital Extras

## The Burnham Family

On page 5 we featured an article from Ian Burnham with regards to the watch his great-grandfather received upon the completion of 44 years service at Reckitt & Sons Ltd. The photos below shows more photos of the watch (still keeping god time), as well as a photo that Ian believes is of the hard-working George.

### George's family:

Recently Ian has been lucky enough to delve into the family history which revealed a strong family commitment to R&S Ltd from several of the children of his great-grandfather George - who had 10 children altogether. These are the names, year of birth and jobs that some of George's children undertook: Annie Matilda (1885) Blue hand; Ginnie (1883) Blue hand; James Edward (1887) Blue Factory Hand and Esther (1896) Blue wrapper.

James Edward Burnham, was killed in action at Gallipoli 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1915. He served with the NE Lincs regiment and was one of 158 Reckitt employees who were killed in the Great War.

### In those days ...

... and even into the 1970s, it was necessary to have a relative working at the business in order to be considered for a job.

Did this approach to recruitment affect you?

### Not only, but also ...

The current Burnham connection with Reckitt Benckiser is actually through Ian's wife, Julie (nee Kemp). Julie worked in the Aerosol factory between 1971 and 1983. Julie tells us that Aerosols was a "tight run ship" under the command of Di Bennet.

Do you remember Julie or Di? Have you any memories you'd like to share?



# Photos

Can you identify the location of this seaside picture (July 2023)?



Hessle Foreshore showing the River Humber at low tide (October 2023).

