

A seriously funny lunch on the cards!

It's that time of year again when thoughts turn to the Annual Lunch, which by all accounts looks set to be a fun filled event – if the after-dinner speaker is anything to go by. PICT has booked Robbie Glen, who is described as “one of the finest after-dinner speakers you're likely to hear and his gift for making people laugh surely qualifies him for an entry into the Guinness Book of World Records”. So be prepared!



The lunch itself is being held on **Friday 9th March** in the Plaza Suite of the Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel in London. So put that date in your diary now! As always, this Annual Lunch is PICT's main fundraising event for the year, so it is hoped that most of the membership will endeavour to attend and help raise funds for the charity.

As usual a great day is on the cards. Not only excellent food and comradeship, but the entertaining Heads and Tails, a table raffle and an auction with an eclectic mix of items up for grabs.

Now back to the entertainer – last year's speaker hailed from the police service, and this year's is from the prison service (are we following a trend here?!). Robbie Glen was born in Lanarkshire and educated at Hamilton Academy and Strathclyde University. He taught briefly before joining the prison service in 1969 as Assistant Governor. He then went onto become Governor at several Scottish Prisons

before retiring from the Scottish Prison Service in 1996. In his younger days, he played junior football professionally but his career was cut short at an early age due to lack of ability! However, he still holds the Lanarkshire Schoolboy 440 yards record, because it's now gone metric! Robbie is married with two daughters, one of whom is profoundly handicapped. In fact, Robbie developed a walking aid for her with the help of his staff and prisoners in 1981 and it is now being used in 41 hospitals and schools in Scotland to teach handicapped children how to walk.

As in previous years, PICT's AGM will be held before the lunch in one of the hotel's smaller rooms (details will be available closer to the time). This, in essence, is to encourage members to come along to this important meeting prior to the lunch. For those that don't know, the AGM is kept short, you are greeted on arrival with refreshments before the business matters take place, along with the inauguration of the new President. And that's it. So you still have plenty of time to mix with colleagues and enjoy a drink before the lunch at 1.00pm. So why not break the habit of a lifetime and come along to the AGM as well. Tickets for the Annual Lunch are now available and have been kept at last year's prices of: Members £85; Retired Members £70; and Guests £100.

So once again, hopefully all of this will have whetted your appetite and you will be making a note of the date in your diary and contacting Anne James to book your tickets. And remember, PICT needs your support so it can help support those that need it. So it's a win win situation – you get to have a great day of good food, friendship and fun and it helps a good cause. So see you all in March at the Annual Lunch, and the AGM?

Margaret Curle

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trustees' report

Since our last report we have continued to support a number of deserving causes. Many of these requests come from other charities, which are helping people who have spent a number of years in the paper trade and are seeking our assistance. Obviously we look in detail to the circumstances surrounding any such case, but if approved we find ourselves, along with the Charity initially involved, being a significant help to people in severe need.

The majority of the requests we receive, however, come direct from you or one of your colleagues, and once again we would encourage

you to advise us should you learn of anyone you feel you would like to be considered.

In the first instance, please direct any correspondence to our Secretary Anne James and as always we do assure you of total confidentiality

From the Trustees of PICT

birmingham paper trade lunch

The Birmingham Paper Trade Social Society (BPTSS) held its Annual Charity Lunch at The Bank Restaurant in Birmingham, on Friday 13th October 2017.

The BPTSS President, Paul Tooby, welcomed over 70 Society members and their guests who had gathered for a civilised afternoon of plentiful cuisine, great social camaraderie, and important charity support.

The BPTSS special guest for the Lunch was former Warwickshire and England cricketer Ashley Giles MBE, a proud member of the victorious 2005 Ashes winning England team. Ashley is currently Director of Sport at Edgbaston, the home of Warwickshire County Cricket Club.

Ashley regaled an utterly transfixed audience with a moving account of his wife's battle against a succession of brain tumours – a battle that she has won, thanks in no small way to the treatment she received at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Following such successful treatment, Ashley and his wife Stine set up The Giles Trust, to help raise awareness and funds to support continued brain tumour work at the QE Hospital. The BPTSS prides itself on supporting local charities, so, given Ashley Giles long standing connections with Edgbaston and Birmingham, The Giles Trust was a highly appropriate beneficiary of the Society's charitable support in 2017.

Ashley Giles also answered questions from the audience on all matters cricket, promising that he would answer everything honestly, as long as his answers "stayed in the room"!! Ashley brought along with him

some high quality sporting memorabilia items, which were quickly consumed by eager bidders during the auction.

The funds raised from the auction, together with the traditional Heads and Tails game, plus the table raffle, will mean that a donation approaching £3,000 can be made by the BPTSS to The Giles Trust.



The formalities closed just before 5pm, with everyone fully satisfied that they had enjoyed an excellent lunch, with a top quality guest. Please watch for details of the 2018 BPTSS Lunch, and get involved – you will be most welcome.

Peter Bothwick

200 Club

The 200 Club is an established institution, which helps raise much needed funds for PICT. If you fancy joining the 200 Club and be in with a chance of winning contact Anne James by e-mailing anne@pictuk.com who will send you further information and a form. It's as easy as that.

Draw at the August 2017 Committee Meeting

1st Prize	£250 - Peter Finney
2nd Prize	£100 - David James
3rd Prize	£50 - Fred Haines



Well it's that time of year again – the run up to Christmas – where does the time go these days....? There are quite a few things to report on both PICT and the wider world of paper.

Obviously the most important thing, is the announcement of the PICT Annual Lunch – so don't waste a minute put the date in your diary now while you think about it and book your tickets with Anne James. It looks a great fun event as usual and with your help will raise lots of money for this important charity.

With regards the sporting sections, I would like to make a plea on behalf of the Cricket Section – it would be great to see a cricket match back on the agenda in 2018. Remember, you don't need to be a top batsman or bowler, you just need to want to have a fun time and most importantly raise funds for PICT. So please do try and be involved – contact details are on page 13.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, PICT is looking to start two new sports sections, namely Walking Football and Bowling. This has now moved on slightly so look out for the

items in this newsletter about these two pastimes and how you can be part of them.

Now to the wider world of paper. In September there were two items I picked up on – one happy and one sad. The happy was the announcement that sales in wallpaper have increased, with the UK's leading wallpaper manufacturer, Graham & Brown, seeing its online sales grow at over 30% a year. It is believed that this renaissance in wallpaper sales is due to consumers wanting more colour, texture and design in their lives.

In contrast, I read the sad news that the historic postcard manufacturer, J Salmon, is set to close its doors in December after 140 years. UK sales of postcards are estimated to have fallen from around 20 million in 1992 down to just 5 million today. The Salmon brothers reported that changing holiday patterns and new technology have had a huge effect on their business.

Another story that has just grabbed my attention is that GF Smith has launched Extract, a new paper made from fully recycled material from disposable paper cups. The luxury paper grade is made by

removing the polyethylene coating from the cups using fellow manufacturer James Cropper's CupCycling Technology, whereby 90% of the cup is converted into FSC-certified paper fibre.

You may remember that I mentioned in the Summer issue that Veolia was looking at a recycling initiative with the support of Costa Coffee and Starbucks, so this story is brilliant news and can only help in the fight to reduce the estimated 2.5bn cups that are thrown away each year!

Anyway, off my soapbox and back to now, don't forget to book your place at the Annual Lunch, and why not make your New Year's resolution to support the PICT sporting events during 2018 ... and remember the two new sections.

So until next time, I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – and look forward to seeing you all in March at the lunch ... and the AGM?

Margaret Curle

past presidents' lunch



The PICT Past Presidents' lunch was held on 6th October at the Boot and Flogger in Southwark, London. In attendance were (l-r) Geoff Poole, Martyn Eustace, Peter Bothwick, Stephen Mason, Joe Piggott, Peter Chilton, Barry Fowler, David Houseman, Kevin Dewey and Richard Cousins. Nick Gee took the photo



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A combination of events, mainly people taking holidays, meant that we had a very meagre turnout for our outing to this delightful fishery at Churt, Surrey. After the usual frustration of the M25, I arrived at 8.30am to find that a lot of work had been carried out since our last visit, with a newly built open fronted barn, housing two barbecues as well as a fireplace, to be used for outdoor entertaining. The old lodge had also been opened up on the first floor and fitted with large tables and chairs, ideal for corporate visits but sadly neither facility was necessary for the five of us who turned up on the day!

The weather was ideal, with a gentle ripple on the six lakes, a hazy sun, which clouded over later and with fish cruising tantalisingly close to the surface, it seemed we should be in for a good day. However, looks can be deceptive and we all found it

rather difficult to entice fish to take our flies. Andrew Smith had the first excitement when his Thermos cap bounced three times and disappeared without trace into the lake but had the consolation of being the first of us to see real action when he landed a nice 2lb Rainbow. It was much later that a bailiff suggested using bloodworm and after 20 minutes sorting out a terrible tangle and eventually discarding my leader, I managed to catch a super fish on the first cast using a bloodworm made from red rubber! When this happens you automatically think that you have the answer, but not another touch before lunch.

We were able to have a brief al fresco lunch with most of us eager to get back to the fishing as we only had half-day tickets finishing at 2.00pm. We were joined by Les Bidewell who had set out with the

intention to fish, only for his car to let him down. He had to return to borrow his wife's car, by which time it was too late to do anything other than enjoy the chat and the scenery, not only kingfishers but a couple of Spitfires flying overhead. Our regular guest, Ron Gorin fished through lunch to no avail, but had the excitement of seeing fish following his fly on each cast.

In the final half hour, I managed to get a second and saw Alan Badcock catch one, before leaving him to fish out the afternoon – a glutton for punishment obviously! Later, I learned his perseverance had paid off as he caught another two after we had all disappeared.

My thanks to everyone who attended, your commitment is really appreciated. Next, it's on to the River Test, which might be even harder fishing!!



Alan Badcock and Andrew Smith in front of the new BBQ lodge



Happy Angling Secretary!



A bloodworm proves to be a helpful lure

RIVER TEST, ROMSEY, HANTS – Monday 23rd October 2017

Our visit to the River Test came in the wake of storm Brian, which prompted one or two urgent messages asking if our visit was still on. In the event, the day started drizzly with light winds but after a couple of hours the drizzle had stopped and we were able to enjoy a reasonable day, with the river running fast and clear as usual.

My wife and I had gone down the day before to spend a few nights in our caravan, which gives me a head start as our site is only 10 minutes from our meeting point. So I was delighted, and not a little surprised, to find our President in front of me as I pulled up to the gate at 7.30am. Joe Piggott had driven from Birmingham just to see us all set out on our endeavours to catch Brown Trout, then had to leave an hour or so later to return for a meeting in the afternoon. It really was a splendid gesture and I am just sorry that he was not able to see any of the action.

Talking of action, once again it was rather sporadic, or in my case non-existent! It was the same for my co-organiser David Gould who fishes the river regularly and neither of us caught a fish all day – I put it down to organisers curse!!

Elsewhere fish were being caught, but such is the length of the beat, news about catches was not heard until lunchtime when we met up

in dribs and drabs to eat our sandwiches and talk about the morning. It turned out that several Brown Trout had been caught and carefully returned.

A total of 17 anglers attended, made up of PICT members and guests supplemented as usual by six members of MTSFC, which meant that the event was a success and after paying the fishery there was a surplus for PICT funds. I would like to thank everyone who turned out for their support and generosity.

This year's catch was a very good mix consisting of two Salmon, ten Brown Trout, one Sea Trout, a metre long Pike, and a decent size Chub, plus six anglers who blanked. Judging by e-mails I have received it seems that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day whether they caught or not, which is not only due to the status of the River Test as one of our foremost chalk streams, but just because the setting is so delightful.

My thanks as always to David Gould for organising matters with the fishery and we look forward to the same opportunity next year.

MONK TROPHY

For the second year running, the Monk Trophy was won by Alan Badcock, from George Fowler and Dennis Cole. Congratulations to Alan who consistently catches fish at each event and even managed to catch a couple of small fish on the River Test.



Gerry's 2.5lb Brown Trout



Tranquil fishing on the River Test



Bob, Ian, Mike, Dave, Alan, Dennis, John and Gerry enjoying lunch

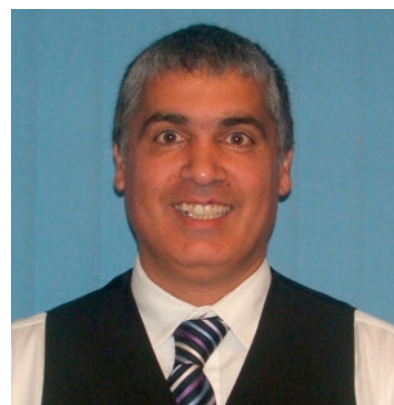
DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2018

Thursday 15th March - Chigboro Lakes, Maldon, Essex
 Thursday 17th May – Frensham Lakes, Churt, Surrey
 Thursday 6th September – Tringford Lake, Tring, Herts
 October - date TBA - River Test, Romsey, Hants

ANNUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT - Thursday 14th September 2017

We were blessed by the weather gods this year! As the week approached we had rain Monday, rain Tuesday, rain Wednesday, it stopped on Thursday for the duration of the 2017 PICT Tennis day – we even had some beautiful sunshine for a large part of it, and then on Friday it continued to rain.

In times of Brexit, we had an influx of players from Germany and Switzerland to join our challenges this year. Here we have the before mugshot:



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This year's tennis virgins included seven of the 20 players, with a delegation that included a tennis coach from Germany and a self-adhesive vinyl expert from Switzerland. We had representation from all parts of the industry: manufacturing; merchandising; agencies; OEM manufacturers; and printers.

A very big thank you also to this year's official photographer Brian Garson, who was far too nervous about his daughter's forthcoming wedding and was considering his recovery period from a full day's tennis, he'll be back hopefully next year for his Wooden Spoon presentation.

With an even bigger thank you to Fedrigoni UK, which once again sponsored the gorgeous lunch. An equally grateful sponsoring of balls, courts, trophies and bar lady from a combination of ATP, The Navigator Company, Mitsubishi HiTec Paper UK and Denmaur Paper, means that we are able to donate the sum of £350 to PICT.

A big thank you to you all!

Now to the tennis...

With 10 pairs it made the format fairly straightforward. The Round

Robin top four went into a semi-final for the Penman Trophy, the next four for the Johnston Cup, with the bottom two fighting it out for the coveted Wooden Spoons.

And so in reverse order, we have two of the many newcomers below with the sought after Wooden Spoons for 2017. Sam Ayling from Ricoh UK and David Kentish from Mitsubishi UK who were up against Gary Kelly and Richard Simpson two more of the newcomers. Gary Kelly and Richard Simpson won the set 6 - 2 and so below we have our Wooden Spoonists.



In the Johnston Cup final we had Graham Hall with new partner Pete Stevens from Fedrigoni UK (who beat Andrew Veasey and Simon Bishop 7 - 5 in the semi) up against Doug Hacking and Steve Plaistowe (who beat Daniel and Axel 6 - 3 in the semi), how Daniel was still playing this late in the day was astounding considering he badly twisted an ankle in the second Round Robin match in the morning. Doug and Steve triumphed 6 - 3 (as we can tell from their larger trophies compared to the runners-up!) They sensibly decided to play a one set final!



And to the biggie, the Penman Trophy. This was to be contested by the two year in a row holders against yours truly and my new partner Matt Kidd, in an attempt to grapple the Trophy from their clutches.

Jonathan and Andrew beat Steve Maher and Tony Wood 6 - 4 in a very closely contested semi final. Whilst Matt and I despatched last year's Johnston Cup holders Martin Dibsedale and John Lloyd Hagger 6 - 2 in the other, to set up the final.

A three setter was agreed, mistake number one! We took a thrilling first set and also led comfortably in the second, but the tide turned and experience and consistency shined through and the holders have done the hat trick. Well done to Andrew Dunning and Jonathan Clay with a valiant attempt from Matt Kidd and myself. I will try and get a date in September next year when I know they cannot make it, only joking. Hopefully, we'll all be back, with perhaps some more participants, in 2018. My only silver lining was the shot of the match - a behind the back down the line winner during a rally in the second set.



Once again thank you to all the players, sponsors and Northampton Lawn Tennis Club.

I can confirm the date for 2018 is **Thursday 13th September 2018**. Save the date! Also the 2018 PICT Tennis Tournament will be a very large anniversary of the Penman Trophy and we will try and mark it with, if numbers and support allows, an evening presentation to commemorate it!

John Vic

Bowls and Walking Football moving forward

It has recently been mooted about starting-up two new sporting sections – namely Walking Football and Bowls – and this is now gathering momentum.

Walking Football. PICT member Philippe Gibson has stepped up to the plate and offered to get this section up and running. So if you are interested in playing this popular new sport please e-mail philippe.gibson@koehlerpaper.com

Bowls Section. Alan Ward is happy to organise a competition for the Woollacott Cup, which is a singles competition played to a finish on one day. It would be on a handicap basis with PICT members and/or wives/husbands/partners being eligible to compete. Those knocked out in the morning sessions would play in a triples competition in the afternoon so that everyone has a full day of bowling. Alan would need at least 20 interested players so that there would be 16 or more to play on the day. Players can be novice or experienced and the only requirements would be grey trousers/skirts, white tops and flat-soled shoes – no heels! Alan is hoping this will be at the Bellingham Club in South East London in July or August. And is hopeful that if he can get just one game arranged, he could look at resurrecting matches against Bellingham and Aylesford Paper Mills BC at a later stage. Commenting on the possibility of a resurgence in a bowls section within PICT, Alan said: "We always had great days with competitive bowls played in a friendly and sociable atmosphere. The handicap system would be generous to novices!" If you are interested in being involved please e-mail Alan Ward to register your interest alan.ward53@ntlworld.com

SHANKS AUTUMN HACK

Abbey Park - 27th September 2017

Mike (Kit Kat) Kerlogue organised the Autumn meeting on a warm but overcast day that threatened a wet back nine unless the section did something extraordinary and completely out of character by playing quickly!

The Abbey Park course was not looking its best as the greens had been treated with an anti-fungal agent, so that it appeared you were putting across a green and black zebra skin, which did little to assist such 'touch' golfers as found within our ranks. However, as there was only one of these, the rest of us made merry on the camouflaged greens when we were lucky enough to land on them.

Our numbers were down with only 11 shankers making the journey. Sadly, our resident starter, Mike (The Divot) Windett has had to have a new injection system and catalytic converter fitted, which means his engine ticks over evenly and his exhaust levels are reduced (much thanks there). When he shakes your hand, it doubles as an internal taser so it's best to avoid physical contact if possible. Our best wishes to Mike, who is making a speedy recovery with his new defibrillator and wants his new nom de plume to be 'Defib Divot'.



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Stephen Goodwin winner of the Steve Beckett Trophy



The Steele Bowl awarded to Martin Stears



Team C - Yellow Ball Winners

Coffee and bacon baps were consumed whilst Mike Kerlogue distributed cards and the infamous Team Yellow Balls. No new competitions were introduced as it was not a day for multi-tasking. The President of PICT, Joe Piggott, could not be with us but had sent a message declaring "may all your drives be long and your putts accurate" which proved he hadn't a clue what the Shanks were all about.

We should have been underway at 1.00pm but Andy Thompson had to change into his golf wardrobe without the aid of an assistant and Martin Stears was negotiating the car park. It was pointed out to the secretary, that the first communication had stipulated a 1pm tee time, whilst the second communication had a 2pm start. Of course, no one had bothered to query this in advance so the photo shoot had to be delayed until all had assembled. (This has nothing to do with Mike kneeling, as this is his usual praying position before starting a round!)

Teams 11 players 4 teams.

Team A – Peter Bothwick, Stephen Goodwin and Neil Haslam

Team B – Mike Kerlogue, Martin Stears and Tony Poyner

Team C – Chris Godfrey, Geoff Parnell and Gary Brady

Team D – Andy Thompson and Nigel Howl

Competition Results

Yellow Ball Competition. The winning team was C with 16 points and they lost their yellow ball on the 7th. All the other teams had lost it by, or on, the third hole. Our despairing secretary declared this the

worst yellow ball performance ever at a Shanks golf day, so there's a benchmark for the future!

High handicappers - 24 and above playing for the Steele Bowl. The winner on 27 points was Martin Stears playing off 27. Suggestions that he should turn up in his cowboy hat next time were a little unkind but good-humoured.

Steve Beckett Trophy - for Shanker of the Day. There were three considerations:

1. Andy Thompson for emulating the Eurovision Norwegian jury with nul points after 18 holes. In a very considerate manner he did give your scribe the full benefit of his coaching skills, which enabled me to record a much lower score than usual and so retain Shanks status.
2. Stephen Goodwin for finding the fairway and then taking a divot larger than a roll of turf at B&Q.
3. Peter Bothwick for not organising drinks on his lawn, which adjoins the 13th.

It was judged that the Captain, 'yes me. Captain', Bothwick was just watching the pennies with retirement fast approaching and while Andy's was a remarkable effort, it must be considered as a performance rather than a Shanks incident. So, the winner was Stephen Goodwin for his gardening skills.

A splendid day rounded off with dinner and conversation in the adjoining Abbey Hotel.

Nigel Howl



SHANKS team Autumn 2017

Spring Meeting – Wednesday, 16th May 2018

Shanks Spring Meeting will be held at the Grim's Dyke Golf Club, Oxhey Lane, Hatch End, Pinner, Middx HA5 4AL. Meet at 12 noon, tee off from 1.00pm and dinner early evening. Cost is £55 – price now held for 3 years!! Please contact Mike Kerlogue – mobile 07970 148056 or e-mail mike@kerlogues.plus.com to book your place.

PETER WEST

Life Member & Past President

1930 – 2017



Sadly Peter West passed away in July, below is the Eulogy written and read out by Jack Perry at the funeral held on 3rd August 2017.

Peter was a man of many attributes. Simply put, he was a nice man. A decent human being. Never an unkind word about anyone. A family man. A caring husband and father. Home loving. A sportsman. A social person. An organiser. Reliable and modest. Not exactly a saint perhaps, but the gates will surely open for him without any border control.

He was also a very good friend, to many, and it is my privilege to represent them all on this sad occasion. He and I first met in August 1948 when I replaced him as Office Boy at L S Dixon in Salisbury Square, London EC4. The spark of friendship was quickly fanned into a close relationship, which lasted 69 years. During that long, rewarding, and enjoyable period, we worked and played together, holidayed and partied together. All the milestones of his life shared.

I was able to see his children arrive, and grow, and make him and Shirley so understandably proud. They have all been unfailingly supportive during his illness and suffering. A lovely, lovely family of which Peter always spoke highly. No more so than on his deathbed during what was to prove our last conversation.

Peter and I spent our entire working lives in the Paper Trade, and it is pleasing to see some of our mutual friends from the industry here this afternoon. Via an unplanned, and probably unique route, he effectively spent his 50 years with the same employer, an achievement unheard of today. Apart from his two years serving Queen and Country, as he would claim, in the RAF, albeit on the ground, he continued at L S Dixon, which then merged with Lepard & Smith, later to become Link Paper, a spell under the Inveresk umbrella, and finally MoDo Paper. Being office boy in those days involved looking after the sample department, in which there were thousands of different paper qualities and substances, and this was to prove an important period in his learning curve. Soon though, back from his National Service, his disposition, his likeable nature, his well grounded knowledge, led to him going "out on the road" as we used to say. He became a salesman and, apart from some spells of management and meetings, remained so at heart for the rest of his career, at increasingly higher levels. No more two reams of Large Post, some envelopes and some rubber bands, but substantial tonnages into major accounts mainly. Peter was a master dealmaker, respecting both customer and supplier. His retirement lunch in Stationers Hall was as well attended by both those categories as by family, friends and fellow workers. One of whom called him a "Super Salesman", I recall, another used the word "Legend".

At his office retirement party David Roberts, who is here today, presented a lengthy poem extolling Peter's skills and virtues. Too long to quote it all but a couple of lines fit nicely here:

*"Since then he's done so many things to mark his proud career.
The trade will be the poorer without him there, I fear.
The gentleman, the character, loved by many a friend.
Respected by the trade in all, an era at an end"*

In his early days Peter used to run middle distances and for Polytechnic Harriers. He was more than useful and it was during this period that he first met Shirley, who swam and played water polo noisily! Sorry Shirley. Couldn't resist. When those days were done skiing became an enthusiasm at which they both did very well. Later in life they took up golf and when they moved from their Harrow home "near Sudbury Court Drive", an in joke, forgive me, it was only natural to join West Chilton Golf Club where they both played regularly, often two or three times a week. Peter was a member of The Gaffers, the veterans section, and derived great pleasure from their sociability. I know there are representatives here today also. He was a popular man. The sale of the Club and its conversion into vineyards was a blow, especially coming out of the blue, but at least the ensuing product will have met with his approval.

Some measure of this terrible disease, which has robbed us all of him, is that just a year ago he was not only still playing golf, and decently for an 86 year old, but walking the courses! In fact, his energy expenditure was never restricted to his own game. One can still see him moving swiftly to help others search for their balls, or help in a tricky situation. Raking Shirley's bunker was always high on his gentlemanly agenda.

Within the Paper Trade there used to be the Stationers' Social Society, which was national, and for many of the years we were in it the membership had to be restricted to 750. Both Peter and I served as Secretary for some years, went on to become President, and then Life Members. Thus our contact was further extended by committee meetings, grand social functions, and a small myriad of sporting events. Happy days indeed. He also belonged to The London Pride Society, now sadly defunct, but for many, many years a thriving social organisation embracing all manner of indoor and outdoor sports. Those close to Peter's vintage still meet for the occasional and protracted lunch and it is a delight to see some of their familiar faces in church today.

As a member of Probus he helped organise many of the visits they made, and lunch meetings they held. I know he and Shirley derived a great deal of pleasure from that interest. Nor must the Paperweights be forgotten. This was a society name adopted by a small band of golfers and for which there were just three qualifications: Male; Paper Trade related; Non smoker. For almost 30 years we gathered together for a week's golf in desirable locations all over Europe. We were never more than eight in number. It is wonderful to know that seven are still alive, five of them here today, and the other two prevented only by illness. Peter was one of the quieter, less argumentative ones, but enjoyed these annual tours enormously.

Not that Peter ever shirked a verbal battle. He and I have enjoyed some lively discussions down the years, sometimes fuelled by Rioja, but never were they acrimonious or ongoing. I was born an optimist. Peter rather less so. There were bound to be friendly disagreements. One about the future of mankind comes to mind, long before Trump and Brexit.

In so many ways Peter was a very private person. There were subjects on which he could never be drawn to speak. Some aspects of his life may well now remain a secret, known perhaps only by the very closest few. A big passion in his life was music. Principally of the classical denomination, especially opera, but any of you who have seen him and Shirley jitterbugging together will know that his musical appreciation really had no bounds. Beatles to Bach. Beethoven to Bananarama, all brought him pleasure.

I mentioned at the beginning that Peter was not exactly a saint. Like all of us he had his little foibles. His approach to money, for example, was that of Royalty. He did not incline to carry sums such as most would consider normal. He would certainly have needed notice of a kitty. Nor was numeracy on the golf course a strong suit. Not deliberately, heaven forbid, but enough to earn him some leg pulling and/or marital criticism. A lot of people forget those penalty drops, when totting up, or missed six-inch putts. Easily done, Peter! Especially as memory dims with age.

Gastronomically he was a nightmare for Shirley with a substantial list of foods he didn't like even though he had never tasted them. As in most walks of his life he was a creature of habit. He could have lived on fruit salad, soup, ice cream and, stretching things a bit, but not a lot, tomato sauce. Mushrooms he hated. Mushroom soup was a favourite. Not to be dismissed as a foible was his handwriting, which remained of a calligraphic standard all his life. One didn't need to open the Christmas card to know it was from him. Nor did his hand waver with age.

There has been a flood of cards and letters, all full of kind and complimentary comments. Today's turnout another indication of the esteem in which this special person was held. Shirley, Jane, Richard, and Joanna will be gratified by this response to his departure. So, as we gather to honour Peter, to say our goodbyes, to remember the part he played in so many lives, let us remind ourselves of a truism used many times before: "To live in the hearts of those we leave behind, is not to die".

Jack Perry

paper appreciation course

The popular Paper Appreciation Courses will once again be held in 2018. These informative courses are organised by Tim Bowler, through his company Focal Strength, and held at the historic Paper Trail near Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire. The next course is scheduled for Wednesday 21st March.

The lecturer is John Watson, who presents these one-day courses in his own inimitable style. Commenting, he said: "The objective of this course is not to produce budding papermakers, but for the delegates to better understand the attributes of the various grades and what they bring to the end products."

The syllabus includes a mix of technical and useful information, along with the chance to see paper being made on a small historic Fourdrinier paper machine.

Comments from recent participants include: "This course will help me focus more on the end-users requirements – customer first!" and "Fantastic. Enjoyed my day and will definitely recommend".

For further information on the paper course and/or to book your places, please contact Tim Bowler on 0115 960 9595; e-mail: trb@focalstrength.co.uk

charity golf day

This year's Annual PICT Charity Golf Day held at Rothley Park in Leicestershire was another success despite a smaller number of teams taking part.

Only eight teams participated this year, as the event clashed with a couple of other industry events and we had a few dropouts. However, the participants were rewarded with a lovely autumn day and the golf course at its picturesque best. And, more importantly, the support of the companies and teams that took part meant we raised just under a £1,000 to swell the Charity's coffers.



The winning team of Nick Holton, Jonathan Clay, Gertjan Hakkers and Alan Winn

The winning team, DC Comics, came from one of the two teams entered by our President's company, Devon Consulting, and they had the last laugh winning by some margin - so congratulations to: Nick Holt; Jonathan Clay; Gertjan Hakkers; and Alan Winn. A special mention must go to Gertjan Hakkers from CVG, not only for his wonderful name for a golfer, but for also coming all the way from Holland to support the day.

Another acknowledgment must go to Stephan Paul from Antalis, who won the prize generously donated by Devon Consulting, for the longest drive - having driven from Glasgow!

As always we were made very welcome and well looked after by the staff at Rothley Park, which ensured everyone enjoyed a good day. Hopefully, we can encourage a better attendance next year and we will confirm the date early in the New Year.

Once again thank you to all the teams who participated this year.

Fred Haines

cricket

Unfortunately we could not get enough people to support a 20-20 match this year. However, we will try to arrange a game in 2018.

So if you are interested in playing please get in touch with me and let's get cricket back on the PICT sporting agenda.



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London Pride Luncheon Club - 9th November 2017

This, the second London Pride Society (LPS) lunch of the year (they are held in April and November) took place at our traditional meeting venue, the Boot & Flogger Wine Bar in Redcross Way in the deep of historical Southwark, and how good it is for this part-time scribe to report another resounding success. Just in case you are hearing about the LPS for the first time, we are a loyal lot and try and make the lunches coincide as closely as possible with St Georges Day in April and Armistice Day in November.

No less than 38 of us sat down to the traditional steak and kidney repast. If it had been 39 we would have broken our attendance record. It was particularly good to see so many that had made some really substantial journeys to be there. Naming names is always fraught and I am bound to have missed some but I feel obliged to mention just a few. Ivan Gunn comes to mind, joining us for the first time for several years coming up from the far West. Joe Piggott attended for the first time making the journey from the Midlands and Andrew Seymour from Longleat in Wiltshire.

Owen Davies our dedicated and hardworking organiser welcomed us all and Joe Piggott said grace. The meal began with a smoked salmon starter followed by the steak and kidney pie with trimmings then cheese and biscuits. Wine was very freely poured, all conspiring to make for a lot of fun and conviviality. How could it be otherwise?

The policy with LPS lunches is to make them more or less a "speeches free zone" but some things must be done. Mike Rust told us of absent friends and Phil Worsley made the loyal toast.

I have mentioned Ivan and Joe already but it was good also to see long-time absent member Paul Woollett here with us again and a joy as ever to see Ron Ingarfield in very good form.

It is extraordinary how this old Society of ours has prospered since we transmogrified from the fully blown, structured Society it was, into a luncheon club those few years ago.

Several of us with time available repaired to the Kings Arms in Union Street for a few libations and a final debrief. What fun that was. Our next lunch is on Thursday 26th April 2018. Please book early.

Bev Steele



Mike Rust tells us of absent friends



Joe Piggott says grace



No shortage of red wine here



Phil Worsley makes the loyal toast

Since my last letter, some changes have been afoot at The Paper Trail. Jacky Bennett, the Charity's CEO and, latterly co-Chair of Trustees, has finally taken the decision to retire – officially doing so on 3rd November. Jacky joined The Paper Trail in 2000, her main remit being to generate funding and this she successfully did throughout her time with the Trail – from a £2m grant from EEDA and £1m from the Heritage Lottery Fund to numerous smaller grants.

In the last couple of years, she had a co-Chair of Trustees in Derek Pullen, enabling her to hand over the reins slightly in readiness for her retirement. Now taking on her role as co-Chair, is John Watson, a well-known face from the paper industry.

In fact, in future, John will be writing this informative page to keep you all up-to-date as to what is happening at this important historic site. So, here goes, over to you John

Frogmore Paper Mill in Apsley, Hertfordshire, is a great visitor experience, but is probably only delivering 10% of its potential. I accepted the nomination as co-Chair of The Paper Trail because along with the other Trustees I believe that with the right support its real potential will be realised, and now is a good time to develop the business plan that will see us achieve this.

Frogmore Paper Mill has its own history having been a flour mill as early as the 1100s and being the first paper mill in the world (1803) to produce paper commercially using a mechanical process, the Fourdrinier papermachine. But I look on the mill as a physical theatre where we can stage some fascinating elements that will show off not just its own history, but the story of paper, where it has come from, where it is now and what sectors it will serve in the future!

Although the Fourdriniers financed the development of that first machine, and the young engineer, Bryan Donkin, built it, it was an incomplete papermachine, it was only the wet end. The drying system that would complete the mechanised Fourdrinier process along with the invention of the Cylinder Mould machine (the latter kick starting the American paper industry) was conceived by an innovator and very successful entrepreneur. He lived in the Tower of London for some 20 years, he employed Telford and Stevenson to manage projects at his mills near Hemel Hempstead. At 19 he employed his first engineer and in that same year helped Sir Walter Scott avoid bankruptcy. By the age of 21 he was considered the world's leading expert on gun cartridge material, he also pioneered the development of paperboard and many other important items... yet the public know little if anything about this man, John Dickinson.

I want his, among other stories, to be staged and promoted through The Paper Trail. We've already located an ex-John Dickinson lorry that we're now renovating with the purpose of taking the story as an outreach project to schools. But the purpose of The Paper Trail is not just to bring to the public's attention the history of paper, or the people that developed it to the point it still has a place even in 21st



John Watson, co-chair of Trustees

century, but also to promote its environmental supremacy, its fibre options and the future it will play including in the innovative world of packaging. There's a lot to do but we believe this is the ideal location for such a project.

Other news from The Paper Trail

Elliepoo, the name, is now ours. The Paper Trail has just acquired the brand name 'Elliepoo Paper' and the brand's website from The Exotic Paper Company. Frogmore Paper Mill has supplied this grade to the Company from the beginning, and Elliepoo Paper has been the lead story in a number of TV programmes featuring Frogmore Paper Mill. It is the first commercial acquisition that the charity has made, and already the order requests for this product is incredibly encouraging.

Royal visits. In the space of just a few weeks The Paper Trail first received the new High Sheriff and then the new Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire. Although both posts are historic titles, they are still appointed as representatives of the Queen. Each having specific roles, for example one of the responsibilities of the Lord Lieutenant is to arrange and manage Royal visits to the County. Both have an interest in social sectors including volunteer groups. We were particularly delighted that the Lord Lieutenant picked The Paper Trail as one of his chosen visits during his familiarisation tour of the County.

Until next time.

John Watson

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