

The Bigger PICTURE

paper industry charitable trust
PICT

paper industry charitable trust news

Issue No. 28 Email version
December 2020



*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy, Healthy
New Year
to all
our readers*



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annual lunch postponed



In the Summer newsletter we announced that the Annual Lunch would be postponed to March 2021, unfortunately, the PICT committee believes that with the current guidance and actions being carried out by the government, it will be best to once again postpone the Annual Lunch and move it to **Friday 15th October 2021**.

Ticket prices and further details will be announced during 2021, as well as in the next newsletter and on the website. However, as before, if you have already had a ticket for this year's lunch, and you are still



happy to do so, the ticket will just be transferred to the new 2021 date.

I can also confirm that the entertainer booked for the lunch, Paul Sinha, better known as one of the chasers on the ITV

Quiz show, The Chase, is once again able to join us in October – so we haven't missed out on his company.

So just to recap – the PICT Annual Lunch will be held at the Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel on London's south bank (our usual venue) on Friday 15th October 2021. Please remember, that the Annual Lunch is PICT's main fundraising event for the year, and this year the charity has been unable to benefit from this funding, so please do join us.

The committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support and understanding, and hopes that most of the membership will endeavour to attend the lunch and help raise much needed funds for PICT.

Please make a note in your diary of the new date and remember it's a win:win situation – you get to have a great day of good food, friendship and fun ... and it helps a good and needed cause.

Margaret Curle

200 club

The 200 Club is now an established institution, which helps raise much needed funds for PICT. At the last committee meeting, which was held as a conference call in September, two draws were held and the results are as follows:

Summer draw

1st	£250	Mike Gee
2nd	£100	David Hesketh
3rd	£50	Patrick Ferguson

Autumn draw

1st	£250	George Dean
2nd	£100	Peter Bothwick
3rd	£50	Stephen Berry

If you fancy joining the 200 Club and being in with a chance of winning, as well as making a small contribution to PICT's funds, please contact Anne James by e-mailing: anne@pictuk.com, who will send you further information and a form. It's as easy as that.



Well, who would have believed that this time last year, we could have expected the year we have had. Last year we would now all be looking forward to Christmas with friends and family, company Christmas do's, drinks with friends and shopping in bustling high streets and towns – the party season in full swing. What a difference a year makes

For PICT, 2020 has seen its Annual Lunch, and major fundraiser, move from March to October and then to March 2021 and now once again moved to October 2021, details on page 2. Many of the charity's sporting events have also had to be cancelled – but fortunately a few have still managed to go ahead. The Angling section has been able to hold three events during the year, although two of them had to be socially distanced – however, in fishing this is not as much of a problem! Shanks also managed to get together, be it for only one of their events. And, fortunately, the Tennis was allowed to be held – again relatively easy to socially distance in that game too. Reports of the Autumn sporting events are in this newsletter.

Unfortunately, during 2020, we lost some well-known and much-loved faces from the industry. Earlier this year we lost Lionel Scott and Richard Bolton. In July Aubrey Heyer and Kenneth Worsley passed away, and most recently Peter Shrive and William Lancefield.

In this issue, I have also continued the Lockdown Anecdotes – thank you to those that have once again contributed and if any of you have any stories you would like to share (only those printable of course!), please do send them to me for a future issue.

Other items in this newsletter, which hopefully will be of interest, is a potted look at the history of Christmas cards and a short article on War Memorials.

Now, before I go, I must remind you all that the PICT subscriptions are due on 1st January, so don't forget to get those monies off.

Finally, leaving hopefully on an up note with the announcement of COVID vaccines on the horizon, let's hope that in 2021 we all see the light at the end of the tunnel and the year can return to some form of normality. In the meantime, I wish you and your families a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you at the Annual Lunch in 2021.

Margaret Curle

trustees' report

This is perhaps not so much a report on Trustee activity in 2020, more an expression that we shall be glad to see the back of 2020!

It has been obvious to all PICT members and supporters that most of the Trust's usual events have had to be cancelled during this year. This, of course, included our Annual Lunch, which is the major fundraiser for us.

However, even though our income has been severely damaged this year, our determination to give help where we can has not! It is gratifying to report therefore that we have received new requests for assistance, which are currently in process.

We shall, as always, continue to promote the objectives of PICT, and, in the light of current national and global circumstances, we believe that it is more important than ever to do so. The original

date for our 2021 Annual Lunch, 12th March, has been cancelled, and a new, safer date of 15th October has been earmarked. With the great support of our members, we hope to healthily restore our income generation at that event.

However, in the interim, our resolve remains to help our industry colleagues, past or present, who may have found themselves in difficulty, through no fault of their own.

As we have said before, we sincerely thank all PICT members for staying with us during such difficult times. Please help us to help you and your colleagues, by maintaining your support, and let us all look forward to the next PICT lunch on Friday 15th October 2021.

From the Trustees of PICT



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RIVER TEST, ROMSEY, HANTS - Tuesday 27th October 2020

Lesley and I always stay nearby in our caravan so that I can be up nice and early to greet guests. We arrived on a lovely afternoon and soon had the kettle on the boil, when she pointed out that there was 'something' on the window. I went out with the camera and following on from my lockdown story about bugs and insects, I found a Western Conifer Seed Bug, a species introduced into Europe in 1999, arriving on the south coast of England in 2008, but native to the USA.

We then went for a walk in the sunshine and later watched an almost full moon rise above the pine trees along with a starry sky. However, our daughter texted

that it was due to rain at 5.00am and sure enough out of a clear sky it started to rain at 5.23 and it continued all morning – an organiser's nightmare!!

Up early the next day to greet the first arrivals at 8.15am in a steady light rain. COVID restrictions meant that I had arranged for cash to be handed to me in sealed envelopes before sending cars on to park and the anglers to disperse along the 2.5 miles of riverbank.

They had all arrived within half an hour and I was able to join them. By this time not only was it raining, but the wind had strengthened thus making it more difficult to cast and even more miserable.

It was remarkable that we had a record turnout of 29 anglers and were joined by Dennis Cole mid-morning and PICT President Rod Benwell who arrived at lunchtime. A big thanks to both for giving their support on such a foul day. In fact, it was so bad that several people packed up at lunchtime after eating their sandwiches in splendid isolation, with none of the normal banter and fishy stories.

Only three Brown Trout and one Grayling had been caught but later one guest, who persevered into the afternoon, was rewarded with some takes on a dry fly, quite amazing given the conditions. By this time most of us were trying to dry out soaking wet 'waterproofs'!

Despite everything, most people had enjoyed their hours on the river and were already looking forward to next year – gluttons for punishment.

It had been a successful day with the record number of anglers, all of whom contributed generously to PICT and I thank them all for their support. A big thank you must also go to David Gould, who was once again instrumental in getting access to the river.

Perversely, back in the caravan with a hair dryer at work on my wet trousers, I looked out and there was the moon rising above the pines, out of a clear sky!!!!

FUTURE DATES

I was hoping to run another event in November, but the government had other ideas! However, with the latest COVID lockdown, I am pleased to say that fisheries are to remain open, but any form of club meeting is prohibited, which rules out the possibility to fish as a group until after 2nd December. So unless the weather is particularly mild in December it looks as though we have had the last session for 2020 and I would like to thank you for your support.

Whilst we are unable to meet up can I encourage you all to get down to your local water and support them in these difficult times. Do check with your local fishery as many are now operating on a pre-booked only basis. In the meantime, stay safe and I will send more news out as soon as I have it.



A Western Conifer Seed Bug near the River Test

ANNUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT - Thursday 17th September 2020

What a year it has been. Having worked throughout this pandemic whilst sadly seeing colleagues, friends, customers and relatives manage this unprecedented situation, I found myself undecided as to whether we should miss a year of PICT Tennis. Having taken a cross section of opinions from some of the hardy annuals, I decided almost at the eleventh hour we will not let this beat us!

On the quiet it also meant me and my partner's name would still be the latest on the Penman Trophy, ha ha. Knowing full well that the experienced duo of Jonathan Clay and Andrew Dunning were back together this year.

At one stage, the week before, we were up to eight pairs, which would have ordinarily been a grand turnout, sadly no ladies but common sense prevailed as Brian Garson confirmed he woke up with a voice that Barry White would have been proud of. This knocked one pair out. Then an e-mail from Tony Wood's partner, Steve Maher, who had a back injury that just wasn't going to go away. So, missing these regulars, we still managed with six pairs in the Round Robin and, hopefully, a once in a lifetime before picture with masks, hand sanitizer, thermometers and nitrile gloves all at the ready, sponsored by Premier Paper.

On arrival temperatures were taken and here we have the league table of who's hot and who's not:

JL Hagger	36.1
Paul Williams	35.5
Andrew Dunning	35.2
Jonathan Clay	35.0
Bernie Byers	34.9
Olly Gale	34.6
Matt Kidd	33.8
David Kentish	32.9
Wesley Perks	32.8
Martin Dibsdale	32.8
John Vic	32.4
Pete Stevens	32.6
Phil Trudgeon	32.0

And as you can see from the beautiful blue skies the weather blessed us all again.

Sam Ayling, also at the eleventh hour, kindly replaced himself with the very welcome Bernie Byers so that we maintained a pairing from Ricoh.

We also had some visitations throughout the day. With Brian Garson nursing himself, David Kentish still kindly turned up for the day along with PICT President Rod Benwell, whom we nearly got involved in the tennis and Simon Pilkington from Fedrigoni, who once again kindly sponsored the lunch, many thanks also to Sappi UK for covering the courts and bar and Papico for the trophies and balls.

Thanks to all these kind people we will be sending a cheque to PICT for £240.00, which is the sum of the subs for the day to help with all of their excellent work in the industry.

Now to the tennis ...

The Round Robin blatantly proved one thing, that the much sought after Wooden Spoon would be a straight fight between Bernie Byers/Wesley Perks and Olly Gale/Pete Stevens pairings. The Ricoh pairing ran away with the Wooden Spoon Trophy.



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Paul and Phil, Johnston Cup Winners

The Johnston Cup final pitched Paul Williams and Phil Trudgeon against JL Hagger and Martin Dibsdaile. They elected to play the best of three sets, and they indeed needed all three sets as the score in the first set was 7 – 6 in a tie-break to Martin and JL, then Paul and Phil took the second set 6 – 2 and the deciding championship tie-break set 10 – 3 and thus the new pairing of Paul Williams and Phil Trudgeon featured as worthy 2020 Johnston Cup Winners.



JL and Martin, Johnston Cup Runners-up



Matt Kidd and John Vic, Penman Trophy Winners

The Penman Cup, shock, horror, was to be between last year's holders, Matt Kidd and myself, against the returning three times winners Jonathan Clay and Andrew Dunning. Was it to be a one season wonder or would Matt and I get past our Nemesis pairing from 2016/2017/2018. Again we decided the best of three sets and Matt and I took the first set 6 – 2. We found ourselves 1 – 4 down

in the second set and déjà vu psychologically beckoned. Amazingly we got back to 6 – 6 to win the tie-break and get back-to-back wins but this time against the favourites from previous years.

Happy, but now the adrenalin had ceased to oil the knees, we all retired to the balcony bar for a socially distanced and well earned beer.

Thank you to everyone that persevered in times that would have easily allowed for us not to bother at all. This invisible killer will not win! So once again, thank you to all the players, sponsors and Northampton Lawn Tennis Club, whose facilities just improve year-on-year.



Jonathan and Andrew, Penman Trophy Runners-up



Bernie Byers, Wooden Spoon Winner

I can now confirm the date for 2021 is Thursday 16th September 2021. So save the date now!

John Vic

SHANKS AUTUMN HACK Westerham Golf Club - Thursday, 24th September 2020

Readers of this section will know of the extraordinary network that Mike 'Kit Kat' Kerlogue has built up whilst organising the regular Shanks Spring and Autumn meetings and that he is in touch with higher authorities to ensure that we enjoy calm and sunny conditions.

So it seemed again, as we entered through the environmentally hidden gates of Westerham Golf Club, to be greeted with a very pleasant, sunny, autumnal day and a course in excellent condition. However, he must have slipped up at Mass, or issued a profanity during his round, as we were subjected to a major deluge whilst negotiating the back nine!

No matter, 16 hardy and enthusiastic golfers started the day with a coffee and bacon roll (which Ron Ingarfield couldn't eat on medical grounds) and were then put into teams by our organiser. When he had finished, your scribe foolishly mentioned what a relief it was not to have a Yellow Ball Competition to spoil the occasion, whereupon the organiser rose again

saying "Just one more thing, the Yellow Ball" and the scribe was advised that he should have kept his mouth firmly closed, or words to that effect!

Best wishes were sent by Mike 'Divot' Windett who couldn't be with us, placing a further financial strain on our Secretary for the outlay on chocolate.

In time-honoured tradition Kit Kats were then distributed (which Ron Ingarfield couldn't eat on medical grounds) and players made their socially distanced way to the 1st Tee.

Normally we would have a group shot but in these COVID-19 days we observed the regs and stayed well apart, hence two starting pictures.

Yes, only 11 golfers feature, probably because the photographer went out with the second group and couldn't be bothered to wait for

everyone to assemble! Any suggestion that the others did not want photographic evidence in case they were meant to be isolating could be construed as slanderous.

The teams were:

Team A: Nigel Howl, Rod Benwell and Keith Spiers.

Team B: Chris Bell, Ian Failes and Mike Kerlogue.

Team C: Geoff Parnell, Chris Godfrey and Graham Warley.

Team D: Ron Ingarfield, Mark Ingarfield and Martin Stears.

Team E: Andy Thompson, Jason Middleton, Steve Ghost and Graham Farrell.

Two teams managed to hang on to their Yellow Ball for all 18 holes – Team B and Team C, but as only Mike, Chris Godfrey and Graham Warley were able to stay for dinner they all won a bottle of wine.

The winner of the guest's bottle of wine was Steve Ghost, who let slip that he is a Tottenham fan and probably remembers the late, great



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Group one - socially distanced



Group two - again socially distanced

shanks

John White whose nickname was The Ghost. Our other Tottenham fan, Captain, Faldo, him, Peter Bothwick, was again AWOL having had to isolate following a family holiday in Spain – it may even have been his own family.

Winner of the magnificent Steele Bowl was Keith Spiers with an eye watering 41 points, with Chris Bell runner-up on 31. The Secretary did query Keith's total (good naturedly, naturally) but as PICT President, Rod Benwell and your scribe had witnessed the event, particularly the impressive back nine, the score was upheld. The handicap committee may well be meeting late into the night, though. Unfortunately, Keith was unable to stay for dinner so you will have to imagine a virtual photo of him holding the trophy aloft.

The contenders for the Steve Beckett Memorial Trophy for 'Shanker of the Day' were:

Andy Thompson for increasing his points total by adding VAT.

Keith Spiers for hitting timber and the ball ending up 10 yards behind where he started.



Steele Bowl Winner, Keith Spiers

Graham Farrell for a dead straight drive that went 10 inches.

Rod Benwell for losing control of his golf trolley and endangering the lives of others.

After a short discussion and vote it was deemed that the President of PICT, Rod Benwell, should be awarded the trophy as it seemed he couldn't be bothered to run after his wayward trolley. Stories that Ron Ingarfield had to leap out of the way like a young gazelle to avoid being hospitalised are apocryphal (allegedly).

This is the fourth time that Rod has been the recipient of this trophy, but no doubt Andy Thompson will be doing his best to wrestle it from him in the future.

Our thanks to Westerham Golf Club for looking after us in a COVID-19 secure fashion, for all the golfers who turned out and to Mike 'Kit Kat' Kerlogue for organising another fine event and turning a small profit for the PICT coffers.

Nigel (the Scribe) Howell



Rod Benwell receives the Steve Beckett Trophy from Mike Kerlogue (ps they are elbow bumps not a single teapot stance!)

paper appreciation course

After being postponed twice, the decision was taken to go ahead with the popular Paper Appreciation Course on Wednesday 23rd September. It was fully booked, with only one drop out a couple of days beforehand, and everyone was happy to be attending.

To ensure the safety of the delegates and facilitators, the course was held entirely at Frogmore Mill in its large visitor space – so plenty of room to socially distance. Delegates wore masks on arrival and when walking around the mill. Food and refreshments were served, to ensure everyone's safety.

This one-day course, organised by Tim Bowler through his company Focal Strength, includes a mix of technical and useful information, along with the chance to see paper being made on a small historic Fourdrinier paper machine. The next course is scheduled for Wednesday 21st April 2021.

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."

Comments from recent participants include: "This course will help me focus more on end-users requirements – customer first!"; "Fantastic. Enjoyed my day and will definitely recommend."; and "I enjoyed the course and how interesting it was. John was an excellent facilitator. I learned a lot. And what a place the Frogmore Mill is – so atmospheric – and so interesting to see the other attractions as well as the paper machinery."

For further information on the next Paper Course or to book your place, please contact Tim Bowler on 0115 960 9595 or e-mail: trb@focalstrength.co.uk

Unfortunately, at the time of writing the summer newsletter, cricket was one of the sports not allowed by the government so Mike Robertson took the decision not to organise a game for 2020. However, he intends to try and arrange a match next year.

So, if you are interested in being part of a cricket team in 2021, or indeed can get together a team, why not contact Mike.

Just to reiterate, you don't need to be a hot shot cricketer to join – you just need to want to have an enjoyable day out with colleagues and friends in your industry – and most importantly help raise funds for PICT's good causes. Remember, guests are also welcome to join in – so why not get a few mates together and have a fun day out.

As ever, we all agree that it would be great to see cricket back on the PICT sporting agenda.



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charity golf day

Unfortunately, another of PICT's fundraising sporting activities has also been affected by the pandemic this year – the Charity Golf Day. Fred Haines who organises this event, took the decision to cancel it this year but is keen to say that he intends to organise this valuable fundraising day in 2021 – details of which will be made closer to the time.

However, if you would like to register your support of this golf day or have any questions please contact Fred Haines by e-mail: f.haines@icloud.com

As reported in the summer newsletter, unfortunately the newly reformed Ski section's inaugural ski trip was stymied by the growing pandemic. It had all been organised and everyone was ready to go, but as Europe was closing its doors, cancelling was the sensible option.

However, Paul Johnston-Knight is not one to give up lightly and is hoping that something might be able to be arranged for 2021.

So if you are interested in joining in or would just like further information about the skiing section please contact Paul to register your interest.



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skiing



Kenneth Worsley

It was with great sadness that PICT heard that Past President, Kenneth Worsley, passed away peacefully on 20th July in Epsom Hospital at the age of 92.

Kenneth lived a full life and had many attributes. He was not just a gentleman, but a gentle man. A confirmed Christian, he was caring and considerate, intelligent and well-read, interesting and interested, with integrity, generosity and humour, which made people like and trust him.

He enjoyed a very successful career as a paper merchant, taking the family business to great heights with the Inter-Merchanting part of the business.

He was a stalwart committee member of the NAPM and highly

respected by his lifelong friends of the United Paper Stockists Group.

The pinnacle of his career came in 1988 when he became President of the Stationers' Social Society.

His hobbies were the swimming pool in the garden, photography and competitive scrabble with his wife Olive (two games played daily until quite recently).

Kenneth met his wife, Olive, at the age of 16 and was smitten. They became secretly engaged at age 18 and 17 respectively, and rushed to share their news with the vicar at the church they attended at the time (Emmanuel Church, Streatham Common) and were taken aback by his lack of enthusiasm, telling them they were too young to make such a commitment – how wrong he was, the couple had a glorious 76 years together – from being teenage sweethearts right through to their dotage.

Ken and Olive were married by this vicar in 1947 and continued to worship at the church until they moved to Epsom Downs. They then attended Banstead United Reformed Church, where his hobby of photography earned him the role of official photographer at many church events. He also looked after the running of the sound system for many years, and thinking of others, he also provided recordings of the services, either as a memento for those attending, or as a means of including in church life those who were unable to attend.

Kenneth was not only a devoted husband to Olive, but a loving father to Jon, Warwick (deceased) and Mandy, as well as being a proud grandfather, great grandfather and uncle. He was much loved by all four generations of his extended family as well as his many friends and colleagues. He will be greatly missed by everyone that knew him.

Jon Worsley



Peter Shrive

Peter Shrive, who has died aged 77, was one of the personalities of the paper merchanting trade. His company and entertaining wit were always a pleasure to experience.

Peter joined the paper industry in 1960 as a young trainee with the Inveresk Group before moving on to Star Paper. In 1969, he moved from manufacturing to merchanting when he joined Robert Horne in Leeds where he became part of a dynamic sales team together with Tony Knight and Stephen Mason. He was subsequently appointed Branch Manager at Robert Horne Bolton.

In 1979, he moved to Robert Horne Group's headquarters in Northampton as Marketing Manager. His flair and enthusiasm in his new role were quickly recognised. Peter was always keen to come up with new ideas many of which were developed successfully as Robert Horne grew in stature.

In 1983, he became Managing Director of R A Brand, latterly Brand Papers. In his new role he rapidly transformed a regional company into a national paper merchant.

Peter was elected President of the National Association of Paper Merchants in 1992 before leaving the trade in 1994 to pursue other interests.

Peter was an enthusiast at everything he did. He threw his heart and soul into his job, photography and building model aeroplanes. He was an outstanding motivator of people and a first-class team builder.

Peter will be missed and remembered fondly by all who worked with him, his industry colleagues and friends, but mostly by his daughter Clare and son Jamie.

Vince Collins



William (Bill) Lancefield

William Edward John Lancefield fondly known as Bill, was born in King's College, South London, on 14th October 1936, three years before the impending Second World War became a reality. Bill and his parents were bombed out of their home, witnessing first-hand the atrocities of the Blitz. They went to live with relatives in Westminster, which ironically was one of the biggest targets!

This experience at such a young age left an indelible mark on Bill and for the rest of his life, he always valued his family. He was quite a quiet youngster but like most boys loved playing football and he supported Chelsea Football Club. He was also a Yorkshire cricket supporter, since his father's family originated from there.

Bill was still at school when he first met his wife. After three months the couple went their separate ways, to do different things but fate was to later play its part. Two years later, having been conscripted to National Service joining the Navy, Bill was looking for a penfriend. He remembered Jean's address and wrote to her. Corresponding by letter, the friendship developed into something deeper and romance blossomed.

Having been demobbed, Bill returned to Brixton and joined the paper trade working for Cowan's Paper Merchants.

Bill and Jean married in March 1960 at Forest Gate, London, and recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Going back in time, a year before their marriage, Bill had been offered the job with Cowan's in Birmingham and so a honeymoon was out of the question. They started their married life living in Birmingham and were blessed with two sons; Andrew in 1963 followed by Stephen in 1967.

Meanwhile, Bill had gone on to work for Robert Horne, becoming Branch Manager. Bill was a lovely natured, kind hearted man, committed to his family as a good provider. Having spent their formative years in Birmingham, the boys moved to Hemel Hempstead with their parents, Bill now working for Horne's Head Office in London, commuting to work every day.

Although Horne's then transferred their office to Northampton, Bill and his family stayed in Hemel Hempstead, Bill undertaking a long commute. He became a Buyer and this gave him the privilege of work on golf courses and travelling all over the World including Brazil where he contracted Dysentery!

Bill became a very proud grandfather to Adam, Matthew and Thomas. He adored them and they him. Living a wonderfully full and varied life with his family, Bill was able to share wonderful and very memorable holidays with Jean, visiting her brother and his family in Australia, and after retirement, a trip to Canada, returning on Concorde! They experienced various cruises and travelled here, there and everywhere. Bill loved his holidays.

Throughout his full and varied life, Bill enjoyed his hobbies, particularly golf and as a Chelsea Football Club season ticket holder. He had a terrific sense of humour and being a good mixer, loved to socialise with his different groups of friends developed through golf, family and work. Bill had the ability to connect with people from all walks of life and all generations.

Bill suffered from Parkinson's Disease for 17 years but with his remarkable tenacity of spirit, determination and resilience, he never let it get the better of him. A man of courage and fortitude, Bill continued to live a full life even though he was eventually confined to a wheelchair. Bill was admired by all who knew him for his amazing ability to accept life's challenges head on and with good grace, taking each day in his stride as he calmly and capably carried on, even though the last year of his life was tough. This was in no small part due to the tremendous love and support of Bill's family, who cared for him in his own home.

Bill was sadly lost to us on 16th September 2020 aged 83. He died at home with Jean beside him, lovingly remembered and pivotal to family life.

He was a true gentleman who will be missed by so many people but has left those with so many good memories. Thank you.

Martin Randall

On Wednesday 11th November, I attended a short Act of Remembrance being held at the War Memorial in the garden at The Paper Trail in Apsley, Hemel Hempstead. Of course, as you may or may not know, this garden was originally part of John Dickinson



& Company and the war memorial is dedicated to its workers who fell in the first and second world wars. Attending this short service made me think of all the other war memorials dotted around the country, a lot of which were erected by companies, paper mills included.

The aftermath of the First World War saw the biggest single wave of public commemoration ever with tens of thousands of memorials erected across England. This was the result of both the huge impact on communities of the loss of three quarters of a million British lives, and also the official policy of not repatriating the dead, therefore the memorials provided the main focus of the grief felt at this great loss.

At the time paper mills were large employers, and many erected war memorials on their sites to honour their employees who died during one or both wars. John Dickinson & Company, which alone employed over 5,000 people in 1937 at its Apsley Mills site, erected a war memorial as a permanent testament to the sacrifice made by its workers who lost their lives. Officially unveiled in 1929, this memorial is in memory of workers not only from Apsley but from its London HQ and offices, Croxley, Home Park and Nash Mills.

War memorials are found everywhere, and link the tragic impact of world wars with local communities. Every community sent people off to fight and work and virtually all suffered losses. Memorials took many forms and in some places the war was commemorated by dedicated parks and gardens, village halls, tree planting, church lychgates and playing fields.

The majority of paper companies in the UK would have built war memorials to their fallen employees, and although many of these paper mills have long since gone, the war memorials will have survived and will still provide a quiet place where people can reflect and possibly hold a short service on Remembrance Day.

Margaret Curle

christmas cards

In a year when the postal service has been a god send to some – keeping people in touch and delivering items which have been ordered by phone or on-line – my thoughts turned to Christmas cards, a wonderful use of paper and board, and I thought I would delve a little into their history.



It appears the Christmas card really came to fruition in the UK in the Victorian times and was probably influenced by the already popular Valentine cards.

It is reported that in 1843, a certain Henry Cole commissioned an artist to design a card for Christmas (pictured above), which he used himself but also attempted to sell at one shilling each. These were too pricey for ordinary Victorians and so were not taken up. However, the sentiment caught on and many children – Queen Victoria's included – were encouraged to make their own Christmas cards.

In the Victorian age of industrialisation, colour printing technology became more advanced, causing the price of card production to drop significantly. This together with the introduction of the halfpenny postage rate, the Christmas card industry took off. By the 1880s the sending of cards had become hugely popular, with 11.5 million cards produced in 1880 alone.

But what about the images depicted on the cards?

Snowy scenes – in the winter of 1836 there was extremely heavy snowfall followed by similarly white winters in the 1840s and 50s. As a result, cards depicting snow scenes became fashionable in the late Victorian period; **Father Christmas** – some version of Father Christmas has existed for centuries, but until the 1930s, he was depicted in green and blue, as well as red. Apparently it wasn't until a campaign by a certain red themed drinks company that Father Christmas became exclusively crimson suited; **Holly and ivy** – there seems to be a few ideas around these. Firstly holly, ivy and other greenery such as mistletoe were originally used in pagan times to celebrate the winter solstice, ward off evil spirits and to celebrate new growth. The other idea is that evergreen plants such as these were the only means of brightening up less affluent homes during the dark winter months; **Robins** – although there are many theories, it is generally believed it is because the postmen in the 1800s wore bright red uniforms and were called 'robins' after the red-breasted bird.

Paper was also the basis of another Christmas item from the Victorian era. In 1848 a British confectioner, Tom Smith, invested in a bold new way to sell sweets. Inspired by trips to Paris where he saw Bon Bons (sugared almonds wrapped in twists of paper) he came up with the idea of the Christmas Cracker - a simple paper package filled with sweets that snapped when pulled apart. The sweets were replaced by small gifts and paper hats in the late Victorian period, and crackers still remain an essential part of the Christmas festivities.

Margaret Curle



Developed for the Outreach Programme

It is an understatement to describe 2020 as a challenging year. However, it has really caused the Trustees and staff to focus on two fundamental issues that is surely facing all organisations, survival now and plans that will shape our future.

The Paper Trail is a complex Charity with its visitor attraction, commercial papermaking and tenants that rent space in our various buildings. In March we took the decision to furlough all staff associated with the education and visitor attraction, streamlined our paper range for maximum production and sales, and helped our tenants receive grant support from our Council so they could continue to pay rent.

We then set about seeking grants. So far we have secured three. The first was a European Regional Development Grant (The Management Growth Programme) supporting our project management cost towards the installation of a Hollander Beater, which will be completed this November. The second was an Emergency Grant that allows monies to develop an outreach programme for schools and selected local communities. This is

being driven by our Education and Design Manager Sue Woolnough. It will be completed by the middle of December and includes videos and papermaking kits.

Of further and far reaching significance, Apsley Paper Trail (APT), the Trust that runs Frogmore Paper Mill, is one of a number of heritage organisations across the country set to receive a lifesaving financial boost from the government, thanks to the £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund to help them through the coronavirus pandemic.

In one of the sectors 445 organisations will share £103 million, including APT, to help restart vital reconstruction work and maintenance on cherished heritage sites, keeping venues open and supporting those working in the sector.

APT for its part has been awarded £210k, and it will help cover some of the significant costs that managing a working industrial heritage site incurs. In part, this significant and generous grant will also help fund the reconstruction of a small cylinder mould machine.

Two principle mechanical papermaking processes were developed in the Gade Valley (Apsley), the Fourdrinier machine developed in 1803 (which we have a more modern 1902 working example donated by Bury College). This process was followed shortly after – circa 1804 – by the Cylinder Mould machine, invented by our former mill owner, the iconic John Dickinson. This papermaking process went on to kick start the mechanical papermaking industry in the USA. The Cylinder Mould process was instrumental in developing specialist papers, including security papers, bank notes and the Penny Black stamp.

In addition to these good news events, our volunteers have kept our gardens in good shape and are in the process of refurbishing our visitor boat, the Bryan Donkin, so it will all be ready for visitors when we re-open, hopefully, in the not too distant future.

John Watson



The 1902 Fourdrinier conveyor mould paper machine will soon be partnered with a cylinder mould paper machine

Following on from the lockdown report in the last issue, I sent out a request for any interesting stories, and I have received a couple of items. The first is an intriguing story from one of our members (and indeed ex-Editor of this esteemed publication).

A brush with Lawrence of Arabia ... and an unexpected trophy

In the late summer of 1968 at age 30, I moved from London to Fife to take a position in the Export Department of the Tullis Russell Paper Mill based in Markinch. I had worked for the company at its City-based London Office for the previous six years and was in need of some new horizons. That was the theory anyway.

The HR Manager at the Mill called me prior to my leaving to tell me his elderly mother who lived alone in a sizeable bungalow in Kirkcaldy, a few miles from the Mill, had a spare room and was keen for some company. It seemed to be a convenient solution to the temporary problem of finding somewhere to live while my flat was being completed. The flat was on the 14th floor of a 15-storey high rise in Glenrothes, a new town close to the Mill.

I drove the 400 plus miles to Kirkcaldy in my somewhat ratty 1957 but much-loved Wolseley 15/50 to meet my landlady, a 70 years plus lady. We seemed to get on well enough and my having a car pleased her greatly.

I had noticed that on the sideboard was a large lapis lazuli casket, very ornate and strapped in solid silver with ball and claw feet, a truly impressive piece. Over a drink one evening I asked if I could take a closer look. On the affirmative and with great care I lifted the heavy cover to reveal several military decorations many with ribbons attached. I remember seeing a Croix d'Guerre and I think a DSO and several other strange and very ornate medals, which to my untrained eye were of an Arabic nature. On enquiry she told me her deceased husband, he had died about 10 years previously, had served as a Machine Gun Corps Lieutenant with the Arab Legion under a certain Colonel TE Lawrence and commanded a Rolls Royce armoured car as part of the Hejaz Battery. She added that there was mention of the exploits of this unit against the Turks of the Ottoman Empire in 1918 in Lawrence's famous book of that campaign The Seven Pillars of Wisdom. Lawrence mentioned in the book that his Rolls Royce armoured cars were "more valuable than rubies".



1917 DWM Luger similar to the one described in this story

She asked if I would like to see the Luger which was in the loft? What Luger thought I. How could I not? It was to be found in a paper bag just to the side she said. I erected the ladder and up I went and sure enough there it was.

Upon examination (I went through the standard safety drill. I was a pistol shooter/collector at that time) to 'check for clear'. The magazine came out alright but I could scarcely open the action it was so clogged with 50 years of dirt and detritus. This was achieved eventually and it was seen to be safe.

It was a magnificent presentation piece made beyond doubt for some eminent person, an 8-inch barrelled Artillery Model of date stamped 1917 with an unusual light blue finish complete with Austro-Hungarian double headed eagle mounted on top of the receiver. The story was that during one of the actions where the armoured cars were used to attack coastal forts, the surrender of one of the forts was taken by the car commander, this lady's husband, along with the Austrian fort commander's pistol. It became a trophy of war and was brought back to England as such.

My landlady told me that the last time it had been fired was to clear it down the garden of their then new family home in Purley in 1922 into an unsuspecting dustbin. I can't imagine what the neighbours would have thought about that even in those somewhat more robust times.

What happened to me is true. The stories behind the stories I cannot totally vouch for. Don't shoot the messenger!

Bev Steele

How fascinating Bev, a great tale. The other report I received is a follow on story revealing further tales from George Fowler's passion for insects and bugs.

Lockdown joy continued by George Fowler

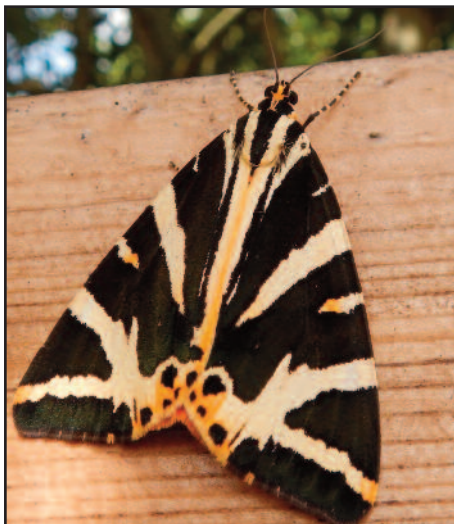
INCONSPICUOUS LADYBIRDS - I am not sure how many of you

read my article on insects in the August 2020 edition as there were no phone calls to find out what the 'mystery bug' was! It was in fact the larva of a Scymnus Ladybird, another new species to me which come under the category of Inconspicuous Ladybirds. There are only 20 or 30 species and they are tiny, only 2-3mm long so you need good eyesight to spot them. On a warm day see if you can see them roaming around the inside of the lid of your green waste bin.



The photo is *Scymnus interruptus*, which is not necessarily the same as the larva.

JERSEY TIGER MOTH - Last time I posted the larva (caterpillar) of this beautiful moth, which can often be seen in gardens during the day. It has an interesting history in that it was confined to the Channel Isles for years, eventually being seen in the Torquay area. In recent years it has spread widely and is now regularly seen in Southern and the Home Counties. Can you imagine my delight on 8th August to find 51 had been attracted to my moth trap, all safely left to fly away I hasten to add.



Jersey Tiger Moth

GREEN BODIED CRANEFLY – (Daddy Long-legs) - This one was seen on our kitchen door window and caused quite a stir because I was not able to identify it. Member of Herts Natural History Society couldn't, neither could the Royal Entomological Society.

It was purely by luck that I found its identity on Wikipedia. As far as is known, this was the first recorded sighting in Hertfordshire.



Lesser Cranefly - *Dicranomyia chorea* - green bodied version

BEETLE - *Polistichus connexus* - This was another species with an interesting history as it is a European beetle and was first seen in the UK in 2019. It can fly so one can't entirely blame all those vehicles crossing the channel although you can be sure that many insects hitch

a ride. This was also attracted to the moth trap and a lot more have been seen in Southern Counties this year although only a couple in Hertfordshire.



Beetle - *Polistichus connexus*

This is another taste of what is out there so keep your eyes peeled for anything interesting and have a digital camera handy.

Thank you George for another fascinating insight into the world of bugs.

As far as what I have been up to – well I am still continuing with my block printing, and am now in the middle of printing various items to



Block printed tea towel

give to my friends and family for Christmas. Also, oddly enough a couple of my friends have heard I enjoy making cakes and I have recently been asked to make a couple of birthday cakes ... funny how things happen.

I hope, once again, you have enjoyed this snapshot into our members' world, and if you have any stories or tales you would like to share with us, please send them to me and I will include them in the next newsletter.



Personalised birthday cakes!

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