

The Bigger PICTURE

paper industry charitable trust
PICT

paper industry charitable trust news

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An inspirational PICT Lunch!

As announced in the last newsletter, after many years of being held at the Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel on London's Albert Embankment in March, the PICT Lunch is on the move! PICT has decided it's time to revitalise its Annual Lunch with an exciting move to an inspirational new venue in Central London and, a new date.

The 2024 PICT Annual Lunch will be held on Friday 17th May at RIBA, a stunning venue between Oxford Street and Euston Road in London's West End. Apart from the delightful interior, guests will be able to enjoy drinks on an outside terrace as well – and it was for this reason it was decided to move the event date to mid-May to ensure some warmer weather.

Built in the 1930s, this Art Deco building was designed by George Grey Wornum, and was officially opened on 8 November 1934 by King George V and Queen Mary. Serving as the HQ for the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place encompasses many arts and crafts features, from the decorated bronze front doors to etched glass screens and wooden panelling.

RIBA's first-floor terrace, where drinks will be served, is described as a green oasis in the heart of London's bustling West End, while its architecturally significant building is in easy reach of several tube stations and a short walk from both Euston and Marylebone stations. There are also several hotel options in the area should guests require overnight accommodation.



The Art Deco RIBA building

It is intended that the Lunch will follow a similar format as before, with an auction, raffle and the eponymous heads and tails, but with the added advantage of a stylish new venue. The guest speaker will also be a move away from the norm - an inspirational guest to go with an inspirational new venue!



Florence Hall - the stunning event space

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annual lunch 2024

Sian Sutherland is the co-founder of A Plastic Planet, a global campaign organisation with a single goal – to ignite and inspire the world to turn the plastic tap off. Sian was an unlikely eco-warrior – an entrepreneur, opening a Michelin starred Soho restaurant, then running a brand agency and founding Mama Mio, a pregnancy skincare brand. But everything was to change, and it began when she was asked to advise on distributing the documentary A Plastic Ocean.



With regards the tickets for the Annual Lunch – although slightly dearer this year, they do include 'extras' – an arrival drink, along with a half bottle of wine with your lunch. Members' tickets are £130 and guests' tickets are £150. Also, it has been decided to give a 50% discount for attendees under the age of 30. The discount is for one person on each table, however, guests can have as many under 30s on their table as they wish.

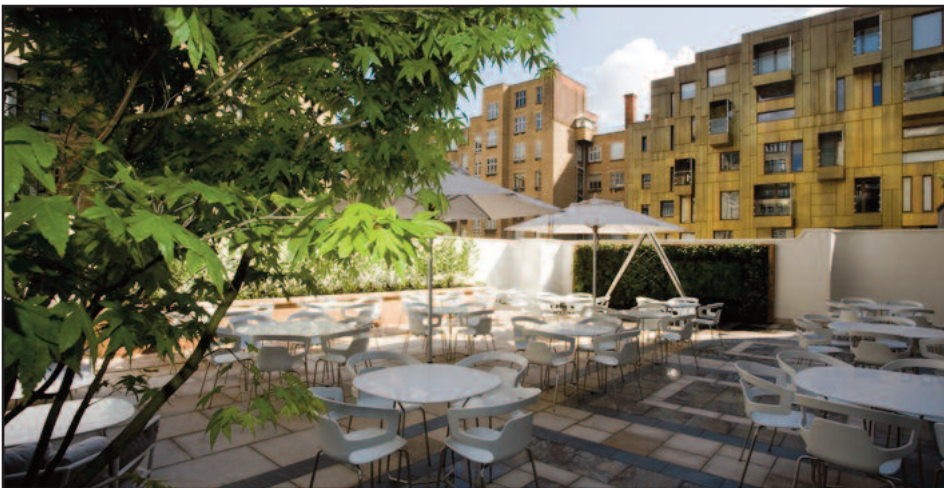
We at PICT, all hope you will be able to join us and support this very worthwhile charitable event, while enjoying good food, fine wine, and plenty of networking with friends and colleagues old and new. And please remember, this is PICT's main fundraiser during the year – so do come along and support the lunch

So, make a note in your diary now of the date and contact Anne James. And just to reiterate the quest for PICT remains unchanged - to support those who will, who are, and who have, supported our great industry and who are now in need of our support.

To reserve your places, be it a table or just one ticket, e-mail Anne James at anne@pictuk.com. Also if you would like to donate an auction item – again please contact Anne.

I, for one, am excited to see this new venue, and look forward to seeing you all at the lunch – hopefully in warm sunshine sipping a drink or two on the terrace.

Margaret Curle



RIBA's drinks terrace - a green oasis in the heart of London

trustees' report

As always at this time of year, we challenge ourselves as to how widespread the knowledge about PICT and its activities has been during 2023.

We have engaged in considerable effort towards promotional communication amongst paper company CEO's and HR departments. We hope that at the very least, more individuals are now aware of PICT.

However, we are not averse to pursuing alternative channels for our charitable distribution, whilst, of course, still remaining within the registered Memorandum of Association and Objects of PICT. We feel that the appropriate targets to explore are within the field of industry

related education and training, and specific prospects have been identified for exploratory contact.

Notwithstanding this new line of activity, our commitment to help paper industry colleagues who need assistance remains as strong as ever. We must therefore continue to demonstrate whenever possible the value of PICT to those who need our support.

We wish all members and supporters of PICT, a happy and prosperous 2024.

From the Trustees of PICT



Firstly, I would like to wish all our readers a belated Happy New Year and hope 2024 is looking bright. Obviously, the top news in this newsletter is the up-and-coming PICT Annual Lunch – with its change of venue and date. I, for one, am really looking forward to this. I'm particularly excited to see the Art Deco building and to enjoy its lovely outside terrace area for drinks – let's hope the May weather is kind to us!

Unfortunately, a sad start to the New Year, has been the announcement that the paper industry has lost two of its giants – Thomas Tait and Patrick Shorten. Both were respected doyens of the paper world and they will be greatly missed.

As you will see from this newsletter, the sporting sections finished the last half of 2023 with a flourish – although they would all still like to see more members and guests attend the events. Following the resignation of its Secretary, the Angling section keeps rolling along with

three of its members jointly taking on the job of organising the fishing days during the year. Once again, Shanks has had a good year too, with tales of jollity and frivolity in its Autumn Hack report. Also, just for a bit of fun, we have printed a Shanker of the Day 'Roll of Honour', which highlights the winners of this 'sought after' Shanks' trophy and the recipients' various misdemeanours!! Have a look – it makes good reading.....

Please do remember, the reason for these sports sections is not only to enjoy that particular sport with friends and colleagues, but also to raise some monies for PICT. So well done to everyone – the sports secretaries that work hard to organise the days and all those that take the time and effort to join in. Even the smallest amount of monies raised from these events helps PICT help those that need it.

Unfortunately, however, two of the sporting sections are having problems. Firstly, the Skiing Section. After the inaugural trip had to be cancelled due to COVID, its Secretary, Paul Johnston-Knight, has not been able to drum up any interest from members to partake in this sport, so unfortunately has decided to throw in the

towel. We are all sorry to hear this. Also, the Cricket Section has been struggling to raise any interest and its Secretary, Mike Robertson, would have continued in his role, but he now believes that as he is involved in the European side of the industry, it would be better for someone else to take over the post of Secretary. Thank you, Mike, for all your hard work over the many years you have been involved.

So, if anyone would like to take up the mantle of either of these sporting sections – in the first instance please contact Anne James, anne@pictuk.com

Anyway, enough of me – I hope you can find time to join in with some of the PICT sporting events during the year, the secretaries work very hard to ensure that they are enjoyable and fun filled days, while raising some monies for PICT. And most importantly, please don't forget to contact Anne with regards tickets for the Annual Lunch in May – it's all set to be a great event, and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Margaret Curle

200 club

Now an established fundraising institution, the 200 Club helps raise much needed monies for PICT. With two draws a year, the last draw was held in October and the winners were as follows:

£250 – Mike Kerlogue
£100 – Marlene Alexander

If you would like to join the 200 Club and be in with a chance of winning, please contact Anne James by e-mailing: anne@pictuk.com, who will send you further information and a form to complete. It's as easy as that.

And it is worth remembering that you can either join in as an individual or perhaps your company may wish to get involved and block buy some shares. The shares are just £25 each per year and help make a much-needed contribution to PICT's charitable funds.

So really it's a Win:Win situation – you could win in one of the draws and PICT wins by being able to help those in need. Go on – contact Anne now and sign up! You never know at the next draw it could be you!



PICT FLY ON THE RIVER TEST, ROMSEY, HANTS – Tuesday 24th October 2023

A misty morn welcomed 24 eager fly-fishers to our annual visit to the River Test in Hampshire.



A murky misty morn

Whilst the day started misty and murky, Mother Nature worked her magic, with the sun yielding a beautiful day with, almost, ideal fly-fishing conditions. The October rains had considerably coloured the water and boosted the river flow - affecting the catch returns for the early fly-fishers who started at 08:00hrs.

Even with these challenging conditions it was not long before rods were bending and some good-sized Brown Trout were being landed, primarily on Nymphs and Sea Trout flies but also on Klinkhammers and Daddies. With such a variety of flies being used; nymphs, lures and dry flies, inevitably out-of-season species were also being hooked, Grilse and Salmon Parr among them.



A good size Brown Trout

Whilst the low attendance from our regular members was disappointing, our numbers were fortunately boosted by 14 dedicated fly-fishers from the Leconfield Fly Fishing Club and a further five from MTSFC, resulting in an excellent turnout of 24 eager fly-fishers.



Fly-fishers gather



Fisherman's tales abounded at lunchtime

This event allows us to fish a 2½ mile stretch of the River Test running from near to the M27 in the South all the way up to the Broadlands Estate in the North. Many of the beats on the fast-flowing river are reasonably deep requiring the need for heavyweight nymphs to get down to the fish near to the riverbed. Whilst no wading is allowed, we have bank fishing available to us from either side of the river; three trout beats from the South, with a further three salmon beats to the North finishing at the Broadlands Estate.



First cast



Mike takes advice

With such an excellent turn-out, it was necessary to take lunch at two different locations at 13:00hrs, when many fisherman's tales of "the one that got away" caused great merriment, thanks in part to the fine wines donated by our President Mike Gee. Mike entered into



David Gould and son Steve

the spirit of the day by trying his hand at casting, after some persuasion from David Gould. Fine sport continued after lunch when most fish were being netted. The total catch returns from the 24 fly-fishers numbered 22 fish; one Salmon Parr, one Grilse, six Grayling, 13 Brown Trout and one Perch. It is no mean feat landing wild Brown Trout and Grayling, and indeed Salmon, on this beautiful, world renowned,

River Test. It constantly maintains its reputation by continually 'testing' the skills and ability of even the most experienced of anglers.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate George Fowler, our long standing, recently retired Secretary, for, after many years of trying, successfully landed a fine Salmon Parr. His dedication to his art is only surpassed by the many years he held the reins and guided and helped many of us to embrace our sport. Well done, George, and thank you!



What a Day!

A special thank you also to David Gould, our most dedicated member, for arranging the event for PICT fly-fishers. Despite the low turnout of PICT members, I am confident everyone enjoyed the day and looks forward to the opportunity to return next year.

We are always keen to welcome new members, both experienced and beginners, the latter are always welcomed and helped to begin this fascinating, and to enjoy, this most challenging sport. Whatever your ability, it is always a fun day out.

Alan Badcock

ALBURY ESTATE FISHERIES, SURREY – Wednesday 15th November 2023

We had organised the meeting at Albury Estate Fisheries, but unfortunately only three attended, which was a tad disappointing. I knew that Gerry couldn't make it, and in fact he and I fished the water on the 1st November where he caught two nice Rainbow Trout and I absolutely blanked!

Anyhow, the three of us had a good time in very nice conditions (maybe a little blowy at times) and each had success. George Fowler caught two, Alan Badcock caught two and I managed to get one, so didn't feel too disappointed. We had a picnic lunch together and had a good catch up, which was nice.

I'm sorry I don't have anything else to add except to say that we really do need some better support. I had a note from one member saying that he couldn't come due to a last-minute business commitment, which is very understandable, but it would have been nice if others could have indicated their expected absence.

However, undeterred, Alan, Gerry, George and I will put our heads together and see what venues we can offer for events in 2024, and hope to see some of you at these.

Andrew Smith

ANGLING DIARY DATES

Coltsford Mill Fishing day – Tuesday 26th March

The Angling section's first outing of the year is to Coltsford Mill Fishery in Oxted, Surrey. Although the weather can be variable at this time of year, usually there are good catches at this venue. Fishing can start from 8am until dusk – so no excuse not to join in. To book your spot or for further details please e-mail Gerry Overy at overyfamily@gmail.com

At the time of going to press – only the one outing has been confirmed for 2024 – but further fishing days are being organised and as soon as dates are available they will be posted on the PICT website. Alternatively you can contact either Alan Badcock (alanbadcock@btinternet.com), Gerry Overy (overyfamily@gmail.com) or Andrew Smith (smithac452@ntlworld.com) to register your interest in joining this enthusiastic band of anglers. So why not dig out those rods and check your flies and join in. Even if you have never fished before and fancy a go, why not contact one of the above organisers and have a chat – and then enjoy a relaxing day out by the water with great company – and all for a good cause.



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ANNUAL PICT TENNIS TOURNAMENT - Thursday 14th September 2023

Held once again at the Northampton County Lawn Tennis Club in Weston Favell, this is the first year we have not seen any face masks or had to put out any hand gel around the club on the day.

Although the weather threatened a little, the forecast was for overcast but warmish, many would say perfect tennis weather, and in the main it was, barring a few spits mid-afternoon.

First and foremost, I would like to thank all the sponsors that have again allowed the subs for the day to become a donation towards the PICT, to help those less fortunate than ourselves within our industry.

Fedrigoni for, as usual, the scrumptious lunch; PCL Avery for the courts hire and bar cover; Iggesund for the tennis balls; and Premier Paper for the trophies and flowers. As a result of

these kind sponsors, we are sending £320.00 to PICT. It never feels like much but hopefully every little helps.

So, as you will see from the annual before picture, that we were once again blessed with perfect tennis weather, cloudy but warm.



A big thank you to Kerry Cotter from PCL Avery who was unable to partake this year due to injury but so grateful for her help throughout the day, and for being our official photographer.

And now to the tennis...

We did start the month of September with nine pairs but we lost the Konica pair at the eleventh hour and then injury to Kerry from PCL Avery and Wesley from Ricoh (both gutted). But a swift replacement of Lee from PCL Avery and Michael from Premier allowed us to do a little mixing and matching, for which I apologise to Stephanie but blame Martin Dibsdale's return, which was most welcome, but JL and Martin reformed their partnership and I was blissfully unaware of the tennis levels of a couple of our newcomers. Hindsight will be applied next year for pairings where required. This meant a full round robin with the much sought after wooden spoon going to the pair with the least points but would also enable them to appear as semi-finalists in the Johnston Cup, with the top four as usual fighting it out for the Penman Trophy.

As the round robin unfolded the annual quest for the wooden spoon fell to the newly formed partnership of David and Andrew (sorry Andrew) as their baptism of fire saw them amass five points. Both thoroughly enjoyed the day and both will hopefully return, but methinks with different partners!



Tony & Andrew, Johnstone Cup Winners

The Johnstone Cup semi-final was blessed by the aforementioned David and Andrew, who played Tony Wood and Andrew Dunning with a straightforward 6 – 0 in a one set semi. The other semi was between Steph and Lee versus Ian R and Sam Ayling with a very close fought set involving a tie-break, which Ian and Sam won to meet Tony and Andrew in the final. I think we can safely say, that had Wesley been around, Sam would not be appearing in the Johnstone Cup final but there would have been much merriment had Wesley been there and he was missed. Andrew and Tony won the final 6 – 2 and become this year's worthy winners of the Johnstone Cup.



David Huggins & Andrew Veasey, Wooden Spoon Winners



Steve Maher & Paul Williams, Penman Trophy Winners

The Penman Cup semi-finals involved the highest scoring round robin pair of the last two year's holders, Steve and Paul, versus Matt and myself, thanks to the eagle-eyed JL, as he and Martin amassed the same points as us but the head-to-head result between us meant that they got to play newcomers Mark and Michael in the other semi. This culminated in a final with JL and Martin versus the current holders, Steve and Paul.

After a full day of tennis, they, like last year, decided to play the best of three sets in the final. This was not required as Steve and Paul deservedly became winners, for the third year running, with a 6 – 1, 6 – 2 straight sets win, but with the rest of the players

watching with a well-earned drink in hand. However, it was not as one-sided as the score suggests.

The overriding comments made by many this year, is that the level of tennis had touched a new high, which was lovely to hear. This was a combination of some new arrivals raising the all-round level but combined with those that persevere and join the annual day improving year-on-year. We hope to get some of the better players from this year matched up with their equivalent level of partner next year.

There was also a desire to maybe have a bit of a get together in the evening as there are a few that stay overnight, so we will also look at that for next year.

Once again, with thanks to Northampton Lawn Tennis Club, all that took part, all that sponsored and everyone that helped on the day. I look forward to 2024, hopefully with many new faces and, if enough people attend, to continue with a dinner presentation in the aftermath of the day's event, as we did previously.

I can now confirm the date for 2024 is Thursday 19th September 2024. So, save the date!

In the meantime, here are some more visuals from the day.





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SHANKS AUTUMN HACK Mid Herts Golf Club, Wheathampstead - Tuesday 5th September 2023

What a splendid bonus it was for Mike Kerlogue to have booked our Shanks Autumn outing when September temperatures were at near record levels, necessitating sun cream, lots of water and headgear protection.

Most of the party turned up in good time for coffee and bacon baps served in a cheerful and friendly manner by the Mid Herts staff (after all, they had seen us play last year and were determined to stay humorous!). That is except for one person who will be revealed in the prize giving section.

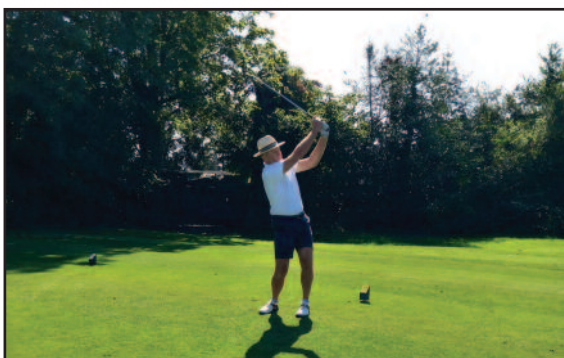
Mike (Kit Kat) Kerlogue handed out the scorecards with the usual fictitious handicaps and declared that 'again' there would not be a yellow ball competition but a prize for the best score in each group. This made it easier as scorers had to record the number of bunkers visited by each individual participant in addition to gross, nett, and points.

The party assembled at the first tee. Notice the glorious blue sky and those already seeking shade from the blistering sun and ensuring their Kit Kats didn't melt.

- Team A: Peter Bothwick, Nigel Howl and John Haslam
- Team B: John Turner, Martin Fagan and Charles Eaton
- Team C: Mike Jones, Chris Bell and Steve Elliott
- Team D: Tim Bowler, Graham Warley, Ryan Langworthy and Gary Brady.



John Haslam got us underway, with a relaxed long iron down the first and put us all under pressure by keeping it on the fairway.



First drive, John Haslam

The Mid Herts course is challenging but forgiving, particularly with minimal water to mess with your head but inevitably one or two drives deviated from their intended direction and disappeared into the lush undergrowth. On one such occasion for Team A, this meant searching for a couple of balls in close proximity to some members teeing off on an adjoining hole. Naturally, we observed protocol and stood well clear of the drives but one member asked dryly "Are you enjoying playing our course?" "Yes", we responded, when the rejoinder came back, "Well why don't you stay on it, then?" Harsh but fair.



Eyes down for a putt - Graham and Tim

It should be noted that the Captain, him, F a i l d o Bothwick was a little put out by the description of him lashing one 40 yards down the fairway at the Abbey and, in fairness, he did make the cut stuff on a couple of occasions this time. Pleased to put the record straight.

PICT Vice President, John Haslam, did have a quiet chuckle when one of Peter's drives just managed to clear the ladies tee but was mortified to find that his hadn't – a glorious own goal on the 17th, just for the record.

Our Secretary, Kit Kat, was unable to participate in the golf due to a recent surgical procedure but stated he'd had one of his best days for some time by relaxing with a pot of tea and the paper in the clubhouse, exchanging pleasantries and then observing our efforts into the ninth. We, naturally, wished him well.



John Turner's birdie

Best score in Team A went to John Haslam, Team B was John Turner, Team C was Chris Bell, and Team D was Tim Bowler. Bottles of wine for each. While best score overall went to John Turner, who added a bottle of fizz to his wine.



Steele Bowl winner, Mike Jones

was the front nine having started on the 10th, whereas Steve visited two on the back nine, which was the front nine. We didn't understand it either!



Divot Trophy won by Nigel Howl

The Steele Bowl for the best score, with a handicap of 24 or more, was won by Mike Jones with 36 points.

The Mike Windett Divot Trophy went to Nigel Howl, who along with Steve Elliott, visited three bunkers but on countback, Nigel had visited two bunkers on the back nine, which

Finally, Shanker of the Day, and mention now of the person who only just made it to the start. PICT Vice President, John Haslam had turned up at the course in good time, changed, had a look around the facilities and went in search of the coffee and bacon baps. They



Shanker of the Day winner, John Haslam

were not visible so a visit to the pro shop ascertained that there wasn't any society booked in that day and certainly no free coffee or baps. The pro then queried whether he should be at the 'other place' as he quaintly called it and a telephone call established that he should have been at the Mid Herts GC but had mistakenly gone to East Herts GC. To rub salt in the wound, the coffee and bacon rolls had been cleared up by the time John found the correct venue.

There was no need for a debate and the Shanker of the Day Trophy duly went to John, who is carrying on a family tradition as father, Neil, held the trophy in 2011 and 2017.

The day was rounded off with a hearty supper of ham, egg and chips with an Eton mess dessert. Mike informed us that he had received a message from PICT President, Mike Gee, who could not be with us as he had an urgent commitment in Montenegro. Whistles and sighs all round.

Our thanks to Mid Herts Golf Club for looking after us and for Mike in organising another splendid day, which contributed £44 to PICT funds.

Mike is searching for an eager volunteer to take over his secretarial duties, so if you can spare a bit of time to organise two meetings a year, he'd love to hear from you.

Nigel (the Scribe) Howl

For a bit of fun, a Shanker of the Day Roll of Honour is being printed in both this and the Summer Newsletter.



Shanks Diary Date 2024

Shanks returns to the new parkland course at Westerham Golf Club – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

It's always good to plan your golf in the winter months when the weather is indifferent and you can reflect on past success, and you know you will be doing better in 2024. So, book yourself into Shanks, who are returning to a course that we have played a number of times when it was a true woodland experience, and now re-invented as a parkland course, with vistas across to the North Downs, and down the Darenth Valley. Cost is £75.00, buggies available, meet @ 12.00 noon for Coffee and Bacon Roll, Tee off from 1.00 pm. Two-course dinner and prize giving – 6.30pm.

Book with Mike Kerlogue, either by calling 07970 148 056 or e-mail: michaelkerlogue@outlook.com

You know you want to play golf with paper trade mates so book TODAY. Guests are always welcome and have a chance of winning a prize for the best guest stableford score.

The Steve Beckett Memorial Trophy – Shanker of the Day

ROLL OF HONOUR – Part 1

Date	Name	Venue
Autumn 2005 For hitting the clubhouse roof on the 9th	Peter Ingram	Westerham Golf Club, Kent
Spring 2006 For hitting the clubhouse in front of the Tee Bar	Rod Benwell	Silvermere Golf Club
Autumn 2006 For disturbing deer while playing from the rough	John Vanderpump	Hampton Court Golf Club
May 2007 For hitting tree and ball travelling 75 yards backwards	Mike Kerlogue (Kit Kat)	The Drift Golf Club, East Horsley
September 2007 Attempting a one-legged shot, with ball lodged in fork of the tree	Bev Steele	Westerham Golf Club, Kent
Spring 2008 For the longest and deepest divot of the day	Rod Benwell	Pine Ridge Golf Club, Camberley
October 2008 A drive across water, only for ball to hit post and fall into stream	Peter Bothwick	Chart Hills Golf Club
April 2009 A double somersault tee shot, and finishing prostrate on his back	Mike Gee	Lamerwood Country Club
September 2009 For landing in and negotiating bunkers on five consecutive holes	Mike Windett	Millford Golf Club
May 2010 For losing one wheel off his trolley - and then phoning Kwik Fit for assistance	Keith Spiers	Woldingham Golf Club
October 2010 For reaching the Ladies Tee on the 1st hole in two shots	Rob Seymour	Overstone Park Golf Club
May 2011 For leading his team from 13th green to the 16th tee – missing 14th and 15th on the way	Matt Ingram	Hampton Court Golf Club
September 2011 Teeing off from the 8th tee, back down the 7th fairway – and the best drive of the day	Neil Haslam	Welwyn Garden City Golf Club
May 2012 Forgetting his golf shoes and playing on a VERY WET DAY in his smart suede shoes	Martin Triggs	Park Wood Golf Club at Tatsfield
September 2012 For attempting to decapitate a fellow partner with a sliced golf shot	Andrew Causer	Aldenham Golf Club, Watford
May 2013 For an amazing chip shot that ended up 20 yards behind the player	Richard Kerlogue	Westerham Golf Club, Kent
October 2013 Impressive fairway shot, with huge divot travelling 20 yards and ball barely 18 inches	Justin Lawes	Abbey Hotel and Golf Club, Redditch
May 2014 For hitting the same tree twice and disturbing two mating mallard ducks on second shot	Rod Benwell	Hampton Court Golf Club
October 2014 For thrice striking the golf ball into the same tree	Barry Gregory	Badgemore Golf Club, Henley on Thames

On Wednesday 4th October, we returned to Rothley Park in Leicestershire for the PICT Charity Golf Day, which was very well supported with nine teams competing.

The weather was kind and, as always, we were made very welcome by all the team at Rothley Park. The course was in very good condition and the quick greens proved a challenge but the winning team obviously found them to their liking, posting an impressive score.

Congratulations to the winning team from GF Smith, which was led by Simon Dennison, and included Lee Webster, Kevin Hales and Adam Ward.

A big thank you must go to Victor Stationery, Devon Consulting, Denmaur Paper and Metsa Board, who provided generous prizes.

The day raised just under £1,000 for PICT and, once again, we all enjoyed a great day of golf in great company. I look forward to seeing our regular supporters next year and hopefully a few new teams will join us.

Fred Haines



The winning team from GF Smith - Simon Dennison, Lee Webster, Kevin Hales and Adam Ward

Unfortunately, it was not possible to organise a cricket match this summer, and Mike Robertson feels that due to this lack of success it is probably time for him to hang up his bat, and for PICT to look for another Cricket Section Secretary. Mike states that as he is no longer involved in the UK paper industry, as he now has a European role, it would be better for the Cricket Section to have someone at its helm who is active in the UK industry and has the contacts to be able to arrange an annual cricket match.

So, to all those budding cricketers out there, if you feel you can take on this role, in the first instance e-mail Anne James anne@pictuk.com.

Just to reiterate, you don't need to be a hot shot cricketer – 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.

cricket



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past presidents' lunch

The recently resurrected Past Presidents' lunch was held on the 1st November at Brasserie Blanc on London's Southbank. Unfortunately, once again, health issues and various winter bugs kept our numbers slightly down on expectations, at 11.

The lunch gave the opportunity to see and enjoy the company of old friends and contacts and to discuss the current activities of PICT. The

Committee continue to look for ways for our Charity to make an impact that benefits our industry and those who have worked in it.

A convivial lunch was enjoyed by all.

*Tony Wood
Past President*



The Past Presidents enjoying their lunch

bptss lunch 2023

Our sister Society, the Birmingham Paper Trade Social Society (BPTSS) held its Annual Lunch at The Bank Restaurant in Birmingham, on Friday 13th October 2023. Seventy-three members and guests were in attendance, to enjoy a wonderful afternoon of good food, convivial socialising, and important charity support.

After a pleasant drinks reception, the BPTSS President, Carl Barritt, got proceedings under way with a speech of welcome, and an explanation of the day's events. Carl also introduced the Society's official guests, which included PICT President Mike Gee.

After the usual Heads and Tails game, Society quizmaster Andy Thompson introduced his always competitive Quiz, consisting of general knowledge rounds, and a picture identification round.

Following the excellent lunch, our guest speaker, David Busst, was introduced. David is a former Premier League footballer, making a total of 50 Premier League appearances for Coventry City. Unfortunately, David suffered a broken leg during a match against Manchester United in 1996, which ended his playing career. David

spoke very eloquently about his playing days, and very candidly about his injury, even revealing the damage to his leg around the BPTSS lunch tables!

David Busst now commits his time to the charity Sky Blues in the Community, helping those in and around Coventry who are in need, and the BPTSS is pleased to support this local charity for 2023. The proceeds from the Annual Lunch, the Heads and Tails, raffle and auction, enables the BPTSS to make a donation approaching £3,000 to Sky Blues in the Community.

Formal proceedings on the day closed just after 5pm. Some guests moved on, seeking liquid continuation elsewhere. Others headed for home, content in the knowledge that they had enjoyed a very successful afternoon in Birmingham.

Please watch for forthcoming notices about the BPTSS Annual Lunch in 2024, you will be most welcome to join us!

Peter Bothwick

The London Pride Society Lunch – Thursday 9th November 2023

This November Lunch, as tradition has it, was set to approximately chime with Armistice Day. Twenty of us came along to the Boot & Flogger wine bar in Red Cross Way, Southwark, our very well-established venue. The food was good, the traditional steak and kidney pie as main course, this between a tasty seafood starter and cheese as final course, with plenty of wine to help things along.

Owen Davis, our organiser in chief, made us all welcome, Paddy Byrne toasted the Society, Mike Gee said Grace, and Mike Rust reminded us of Absent Friends. Bev made the Loyal Toast. Bev had brought along a guest, his cousin Nick from Australia. Owen commented that we might have some country members but none from quite that distance. Nick is an historian and writer and is in London pursuing these activities.

John Rayner, with his own historian's hat on, told us about the birth of watermarks in paper and where the word Foolscap was derived. Very clued up is that John. Bev got up and recited a poem about life in commerce and Andy Buxton, a natural comic if ever, brought considerable humour to the proceedings with some jokes.

As events moved to a close, several repaired to the Kings Arms just across the Borough High Street for a final libation or two.

Another great lunch full of good fellowship and humour. The next is scheduled for Thursday 18th April 2024; same venue, same good fellowship and same good humour....

*Bev Steele
LPS Past President*



Paddy Byrne having toasted the Society



The company assembled



Mike Rust tells of Absent Friends



John Rayner tells us about derivation of Foolscap and other things

PATRICK SHORTEN - Past President and Life Member



Patrick Shorten died peacefully on 21st December 2023, aged 90, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. He leaves his wife, Glynis, three children, William, Ben and Melissa and five grandchildren, Katie, Harry, Izzy, Jack and Arya.

His Service of Thanksgiving was held at All Saints Church, Brill, Buckinghamshire on 18th January 2024. The church was full and the service had been curated by Patrick and included six hymns of a typically robust nature, reflecting the character of the true gentleman to whom so many had journeyed to pay their respects, including many from the paper industry.

Patrick was born on 19th September 1933, the son of a Protestant Irish farmer and cattle dealer. He was educated at Bedford School and, in 1955, joined Bowater Paper Corporation, where his great charm and communication skills enabled him to rise to become Director of Sales and Marketing, and Deputy Managing Director. In 1978, he joined Reed and Smith Ltd as Director of Marketing and Deputy Managing Director, and then to Billerud Sales Company as Managing Director and, after its acquisition by Stora, Patrick became MD of the merged entity.

His final position before retirement was to found, in 1988, the UK subsidiary of Continental Cellulose SA, where he became MD of an international paper agency, representing a wide range of mills. He served the industry by becoming Treasurer and Vice President of the Paper Agents Association and, for 12 years, as a Board member of the British Paper & Board Industry Federation, holding various Chairmanships of committees.

But Patrick was not just an accomplished and astute man of business ploughing a selfish furrow. He also found time to Chair the once famous Fleet Street Club, that raised funds for people in our industries who had fallen on hard times.

Similarly, in 1969, he joined the Stationers' Social Society (now PICT) and became involved in its work, rising to be elected President in 1996. Patrick afterwards became a Trustee of the Charity for many years and was awarded Life Membership in 2013 for his service.

In 1983, he became a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers and was clothed as a Liveryman in 1984. His focus again here was on charity and in 1998 became a Trustee of the Company's Educational Charity rising to become Chairman in 1999, where he served with distinction until 2005, when he became Master of the Company.

Other than family interests outside the industry, Patrick busied himself with support for his old school, where he served as a Governor and as a Trustee of various charitable trusts associated with the school and his village and church.

Patrick was a very kind, generous and convivial gentleman in the fullest sense of that word. He was unfailingly courteous and was always interested in 'you' rather than 'me' when engaging in conversation. True to his roots, he had a quick wit and a similar temper but he never held a grudge and would always seek consent rather than conflict.

He was greatly respected in the industry and this was reflected in the significant number of his industry friends, who attended his Service of Thanksgiving in a small village deep in West Buckinghamshire, remarkable for a 90-year-old.

Kevin Dewey

THOMAS TAIT OBE

It is with great sadness that PICT has been informed that Thomas Tait OBE, passed away in the early hours of 1st January, after a long illness. A full obituary will be in the Summer newsletter.

TOM HENDRICK

PICT has also been informed that Tom Hendrick passed away just before Christmas. Although no longer a member of PICT, he was a well-known figure in the industry for many years, past jobs included Sales Director at Reed and Smith's Silverton Mill. Tom was also a keen cyclist and gardener, and enjoyed working on his allotment.

paper & print courses

Paper and Print Courses in 2024

Following the success of both the Paper and Print Courses held last year, Tim Bowler has organised more courses for 2024. And good news - PICT members will now receive a 10% discount if they quote the code PICT10 when booking.

The first course to take place will be the Introduction to Printing Course, which will be held on Thursday 7th March at St Bride's Foundation, London. This course has been developed for people who work in businesses allied to the printing industry including paper merchants. Its aim is to help 'non-printers' understand the fundamentals of how printing works and gain a better insight into the world of print. The course is also suitable for 'starters' in the printing industry. The intention is not to make delegates experts in printing but to give them knowledge to understand and converse with printers in making the right choices for products and end-use, particularly paper for printing. With regards this course, Tim Bowler, said: "Feedback for the printing course, which includes a guided tour of St Brides, was excellent, one such comment was: "Brilliant, it was really interesting and I've learned a lot."

The next Paper Appreciation Course will take place at The Paper Trail near Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire on Wednesday 13th March. This course is unique in that it focuses on the benefits that paper and

its attributes bring to the end-uses. So, whilst the many elements of paper production are discussed, at each stage it is described how this process affects the paper, for example, formation, opacity, thickness, stiffness and so on. The key objective of the course, is not to produce budding papermakers, but for the delegates to better understand the attributes of the various grades of paper and what they bring to the end products.

This one-day course is ideal for employees who would not normally have the chance to visit a fully working paper mill but are working within the paper merchandising, printing or associated industries. Comments from recent participants include: "This course gave me a different view on the paper I deal with, into how it was made and the role it is destined for"; "Fantastic, enjoyed my day and will definitely recommend" and "This course will help me focus more on the end-user's requirements – customer first!"

The lecturer for both of these courses is Don Turner, who has worked extensively within the paper industry and for many years has been involved in training and team building.

For further information on either of these courses or to book your place, please contact Tim Bowler on 0115 960 9595; e-mail: trb@focalstrength.co.uk. Or visit the website www.focalstrength.co.uk

As a new year unfolds, one of my usual members' anecdotes suspects has furnished me with an excellent ditty about the first month of the year. So enjoy.

Nonsuch Park in January

January, joy, on suburbs fringe
 where parks await those souls that find
 their pleasure in the muddy grass,
 spread mirrors of much standing water,
 sharp angled sun, foliage so sparse....

Dog walkers, five or six leads each,
 animals close to running free,
 perhaps not quite, but free enough suffice
 to bark and jump and play,
 their minders, young girls mostly,
 eyes held firm by the Device.

The Device hard gripped, attention constant
 it never seems to stray
 they are so wrapt, so unaware
 unseeing of the beauty
 of this raw, this lovely, January day....

by Bev Steele - January 2020

Thank you Bev, and so apt. A lot of people don't see what's around them when they are out and about – in this fast paced and often stressful world, people need to take the time – breathe, and look around and smell the roses!

But one such person that definitely keeps his eyes open, is our resident doyen of the bug world and here's his latest observations.

Fig-leaf skeletonizer and others! by George Fowler

As reported in the previous issue, 2023 was very slow to get underway on the Entomology front but come the middle of the year, the moths and insects had shaken off their winter torpor and some very interesting sightings were made in the garden.

It is not necessary to go miles to find unusual insects and even the smallest of gardens will provide a regular feast of 'bugs', if you keep your eyes open.



Fig-leaf skeletonizer moth

At the end of July, we had just returned from a caravan trip up North to visit our daughter and I drew on to our drive with the caravan in tow to park temporarily beside our fig tree. The first thing that caught my eye was a tiny moth perching on one of the leaves, so I was soon out with the camera!

A bit of research and I learned that it was a Fig-leaf skeletonizer moth (*Choreutis nemora*) and the first reported sighting of it in Hertfordshire. Thus, began months of study, starting with a desire as an entomologist to learn and protect it but sadly changing to a quest to try and prevent it returning next year!

The moth finds a suitable fig leaf and lays eggs on it from which caterpillars evolve. An individual caterpillar then spins a web over itself and in the comfort of its silk tent prepares to eat the juicy part of the leaf leaving it in a skeletal form. The caterpillar, having grown in size, then folds over the leaf and the caterpillar (larva) turns into a pupa (chrysalis). After evolving over a period of weeks, an adult moth emerges to start all over again.

Unfortunately, the damage is not only done to the leaf but also to the immature figs, making them inedible. If any of you have Fig trees this is one to look out for! It first arrived in the UK in 2014 and is now spreading rapidly.



Damage and culprit

This moth belongs to the Choreutidae family and it was only when I was going through my French holiday photos that I came across another from the same family, Beautiful Twitcher (*Tebenna micalis*), you will see the similarity.

Fortunately, this one lives on Common Fleabane so not much trouble for gardeners.



Beautiful Twitcher

Finally, one of the species that is very common and will be seen in summer basking on the leaves of Stinging Nettles – this is the Nettle Tap moth – (*Anthophila fabriciana*). Don't forget, whether it be Garden or Hedgerow, keep your eyes open for the unusual!



Nettle-tap moth

Thanks George, an interesting report, as usual - and a bit of a worry for all those with fig trees.



Silvery topped trees

I too have continued to be aware of my surroundings and recently, while dog walking, looked upwards and the dull, dank woodland suddenly took on a whole new light – the afternoon sun was catching the tops of the leafless trees – making them look almost frosty – I just had to take a picture!!

I have mentioned before, that I have a fascination for butterflies, and this took on a whole new meaning on a recent holiday to Florida. We decided to go to Butterfly World, when we were staying near Fort Lauderdale.



Siproeta Stelenes



Blue Morpho



Idea Leuconoe

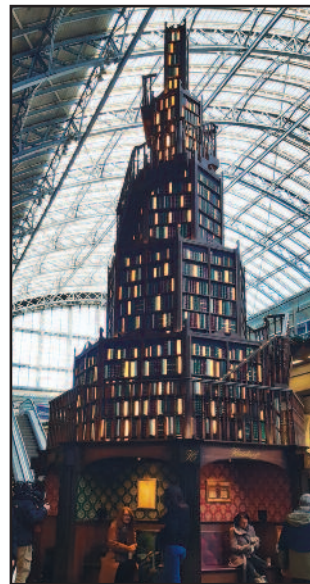
The guide book mentioned you would experience lots of different butterflies – hmmm I thought - expecting to 'hunt' the butterfly! How wrong I was. After going through protective screens, you are immediately surrounded by a myriad of varying sized and colourful butterflies – absolutely amazing. The pictures here are just taken with a phone camera – no telephoto lens – and if you were really lucky they would even land on you. Trouble is you did need to be careful where you walked!!

While still in Florida, we were very privileged to see a Manatee in the 'wild', while sitting by the water having lunch. Legend has it that these gentle creatures were often mistaken as mermaids by sailors in days gone by – but unfortunately these bottom feeders are now in danger from the large quantity of motor boats in the waters they feed in.



The gentle and endangered Manatee

Ok, enough of my nature ramblings, now for two paper-ish related items. Just before Christmas I met a friend at St Pancras station and saw the amazing 'book' Christmas Tree. In partnership with Hatchards, the UK's oldest bookshop, this 12-metre-tall tree consisted of around 4,000 books all hand painted with Christmassy titles. Apparently it was inspired by the magical ability of both books and train travel to transport people to exciting places. At its base there were eight booths where you could sit and read or listen to an audio book. What a brilliant idea to promote the written word.



The stunning book Christmas Tree

And, speaking of books, a second-hand bookshop in my home town held a craft morning in December to make paper Christmas decorations. They used the paper from books that had been donated but had not sold – so I went home with four upcycled snowflakes – what a brilliant idea!



Upcycled snowflakes

Well readers, I hope you found some of these stories of interest and remember if you have any intriguing or entertaining stories or tales, or even what you enjoy as a hobby, please do e-mail them to me and I will include them in the next newsletter.

Margaret Curle

Letter from The Paper Trail



Happy New Year to everyone from Apsley Paper Trail. It has been an incredibly busy 2023 for the staff and volunteers here at Frogmore Mill. The significant event early in the year was that the Trust finally reached a settlement with the insurers following the fire in January 2022. This has meant we have a sum of money that will help with the 'Pheonix Project' - the construction of a temporary visitor centre within the existing

Frogmore building. Temporary being a minimum of five plus years!

This, in normal circumstances, might be considered a straightforward project. But dealing with a 100-year-old building that is showing very serious signs of distress, and containing asbestos that needed removing, the task is proving anything but straightforward. The project, however, is moving on a pace. A strategic plan that encompasses the general layout of the visitor reception and information area has been approved. The café, shop, auditorium and museum will be located at the Durrants Hill end of Frogmore Mill where once the World War Two experience was housed.

To date, internal scaffolding has been erected around the big PM2 paper machine to provide a working platform. This facilitates a safe environment for the heritage carpenter as he works to strengthen and/or replace rotting roof trusses. Also, enormous 'top hat' scaffolding has been erected to protect the roofers from our somewhat changeable weather. Before any scaffolding was brought to site, a considerable amount of asbestos sheeting had to be successfully removed.

Whilst very visible work is ongoing with the building, staff have not been idle. Many outreach seminars have been given, including

successful story boat events (*), a food market, and, improvements have been made to the Trust's commercial rental properties. Paper production had a record-breaking end-of-year with matching sales. Production has effected some high-profile pulp trials and seen the release of David Shrigley's 1984, something the Production Team should be very proud of! Oh, and one incredibly positive thing, the recently commissioned PM5 (designed to produce specialty seed papers) is performing very well.

It is hoped that the visitor centre will be open by the very beginning of 2025 if not by the end of 2024, and to this end, the Charity needs to know what audiences it can attract, and what will encourage those groups to want to come! It recently received a grant of £177k towards an innovative partnership project with Essex Uni and the UK Innovation Fund. The funding will allow us to develop the capability to measure and enhance the impact of the Frogmore Paper Mill visitor experience, improve engagement with the Mill's sustainability heritage and encourage our audiences to adopt long-lasting climate-positive behaviour change. The academic team from the Psychology Department will support the work of a Behavioural Science Researcher who will gather data over two years and formally publish their academic findings. The findings will feed into our long-term development plans, which aim to revolutionise the impact the Mill experience has on visitor awareness and behaviour around recycling, sustainability and circular economies.

For Apsley Paper Trail, 2024 and beyond is looking very exciting. It is hoped to report even more positive news from its archive in the next PICT newsletter.

John Watson

(* story boat events are held during school holidays, whereby children have stories read to them while travelling along the River Gade and Grand Union Canal on The Paper Trail's boat)



Roof of Frogmore Mill



Side of PM2 Hall

PICT Diary Dates for 2024

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

March

Thursday 7th - INTRODUCTION TO PRINTING COURSE - St Brides's Foundation, London
Contact Tim Bowler for details - trb@focalstrength.co.uk

Wednesday 13th – PAPER APPRECIATION COURSE – Hemel Hempstead, Herts
Contact Tim Bowler for details - trb@focalstrength.co.uk

Tuesday 26th – ANGLING SECTION – Coltsford Mill Fishery, Oxted, Surrey
Contact Gerry Overy for details – overfamily@gmail.com

April

Thursday 18th – LONDON PRIDE SOCIETY LUNCH – Boot & Flogger, London
Contact Owen Davis for details – owenjodavis56@btinternet.com

May

Friday 17th – PICT AGM & ANNUAL LUNCH – RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London
Contact Anne James for details – anne@pictuk.com

Wednesday 22nd – SHANKS SPRING HACK – Westerham Golf Club, Kent
Contact Mike Kerlogue for details – michaelkerlogue@outlook.com

September

Thursday 19th – PICT TENNIS TOURNAMENT – Northampton Lawn Tennis Club, Weston Favell
Contact John Vic for details – john.vic@paper.co.uk

October

TBC - PICT CHARITY GOLF DAY – Rothley Park, Leics
Contact Fred Haines for details – f.haines@icloud.com

November

TBC – LONDON PRIDE SOCIETY LUNCH – Boot & Flogger, London
Contact Owen Davis for details – owenjodavis56@btinternet.com

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