

## The Chase is now on for 2021



The announcement by PICT that there was no alternative but to cancel the rearranged 2020 Annual Lunch probably came as no real surprise to anyone. With the uncertainty of COVID-19 and being a large social gathering it did not make sense to hold the event. PICT also realised that at this difficult time a number of members would need to be focused on their businesses. So the decision was taken to cancel and not let members and their guests take unnecessary risks.

On a brighter note, we now all have something to look forward to with the announcement of the date for 2021!

Next year's PICT Annual Lunch will be held on **Friday, 12th March 2021** at the Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel on London's south bank (our usual venue). So put the date in your diary now!

Ticket prices and further details will be available later on in the year, and in the next newsletter. However, please be assured that

if you already had a ticket for this year's lunch, if you are happy to do so, the ticket will just be transferred to the 2021 date. If PICT's Secretary, Anne James, has not already been in touch with you, if you can contact her to confirm that this would be okay, that would be helpful.



Paul Sinha

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## annual lunch

Now back to the forthcoming Annual Lunch itself. You may remember that PICT had booked Paul Sinha, better known to everyone as one of the Chasers on the ITV quiz show, The Chase, well you will be pleased to know that you have not missed out on this entertainer, he has also agreed to join us next year.

Please remember, that the Annual Lunch is PICT's main fundraising event for the year, so it is hoped that most of the membership will endeavour to attend and help raise funds for the charity.

As always a great day is in store. Not only comradeship and a delicious three course meal, but there will be the entertaining Heads and Tails, a table raffle and an auction with an eclectic mix of items up for grabs. And all in a good cause – to help those that have supported our industry and that now need our support.

As in previous years, PICT's AGM will be held before the lunch in one of the hotel's smaller rooms (again details will be available

closer to the time). This in essence is to encourage members to come along to this important meeting prior to the lunch. For those that don't know, the AGM is kept short, you are greeted on arrival with refreshments before the business takes place, along with the inauguration of the new President. And that's it. So you will still have plenty of time to mix with colleagues and enjoy a drink before the lunch at 1.00pm. So why not break the habit of a lifetime and come along to the AGM as well as the lunch.

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

*Margaret Curle*

## 200 club

The 200 Club is now an established institution, which is drawn quarterly and helps raise much needed funds for PICT. The lucky recipients of the Spring draw are as follows:

1st	£250	Martyn Eustace
2nd	£100	Phillipe Gibson
3rd	£50	George Dean

If you fancy joining the 200 Club and be in with a chance of winning, contact Anne James by e-mailing [anne@pictuk.com](mailto:anne@pictuk.com) who will send you further information and a form to complete. It's as easy as that.

## bptss annual lunch

Like PICT's own event, the Annual Lunch of the Birmingham Paper Trade Social Society (BPTSS), which was to be held in October, has been cancelled. However, the Society has announced the date of its 2021 lunch, which is **Friday 8th October 2021**. So watch out for further details closer to the time and put the date in your diary for next year.



Well, how things have changed in the last six months or so. In my last Editor's comment we were all looking forward to the new year and everything it held – along with the Annual Lunch, talk of new sporting events and sections such as Skiing, and a bright and successful year all round.

But – that all changed in the UK in March, as we saw the movement of COVID-19 spread quickly across from the East and then into Europe. Everything gradually got cancelled and closed down, including our own Annual Lunch, which was firstly postponed to September and then the realisation that this was still not viable, so cancelled. As lockdown restrictions lifted slightly in May, some of PICT's sporting events, such as fishing, were able to take place, but everything is very limited and the future is still unknown.

Economically, industry is in disarray, with certain areas faring okay but many others such as hospitality and tourism not – and at the moment there is still no end in sight. Some have likened this time to the war years and ironically we should have all been celebrating VE Day on 8th May – even the bank holiday had been moved to accommodate this – but obviously all the major events had to be

cancelled – however, people still celebrated in their own way – socially distancing of course - with bunting out and street parties.

With regards environment issues, this pandemic is a double edged sword with reducing the use of plastics taking a retrograde step, as there has been increased use of plastic bags and packaging – but on the other hand, flora and fauna has flourished as there have been less cars and, in particular, air travel – so air pollution has dropped dramatically.

Hopefully, as and when things get back to near normality, people will also remember the good things during this period – being more thoughtful to each other, for example, applauding those that were working on the front line and looking out for elderly neighbours, having more time to look around themselves and be more aware and kinder to the environment, exercising more and being less materialistic in general.

Even amongst the PICT members, this forced lockdown has seen new hobbies flourish and passions being realised – you can read all about it in the lockdown report on page 16.

So in this time of queuing for shopping and the wearing of face masks being the norm .... we must all look forward and be positive, and in the words of the late great Dame Vera Lynn – 'we'll meet again!' Until next time.

*Margaret Curle*

## trustees' report

As recorded in the President's report, it was very satisfying that we donated an increased amount to deserving cases in the last year. That is after all why we are here. But that is nothing to be complacent about, we long to do more, and that is why we must continue to promote the objectives of PICT.

When things do finally get back to some form of normality, we shall again be stressing the help that PICT can give, along with some new initiatives with which to enhance our basic message.

In previous Trustees' reports, you may have heard us lamenting the fact that our incoming requests for assistance have been minimal. This does not in any way diminish our resolve to help our industry colleagues who may have found themselves in difficult circumstances.

Sadly, of course, we had to take the inevitable decision to cancel our Annual Lunch for this year. The PICT lunch is, of course, very popular but is also our major income stream of the year.

Hopefully, our momentum of increased attendance numbers will continue when the PICT lunch returns in March 2021. This will mean that the resulting income generation will enable us to give charitable requests the consideration and attention that they deserve.

Thank you for staying with us, and 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 12th March 2021.

*From the Trustees of PICT*

## profile new president



Rod Benwell

**P**ICT's 2020/1 President is certainly not new to the Trust, as he has been involved in the Charity in its current form, and its previous format of the Stationers' Social Society, for some 28 years.

Rod Benwell was born in South Africa and was educated there, attending 12 schools over his schooling career. He says each change was his choice but we haven't been able to substantiate this, as the records don't go back that far!! In 1983, he joined Ernst & Young to serve his Articles while completing a Bachelor of Commerce degree through correspondence with UNISA.

In 1989 he set sail for the UK to start his travels of Europe. He then realised the South African Rand's

buying power was limited and joined Coopers and Lybrand. This then opened doors for him to run businesses that had fallen into Administration while the Receivers found buyers, an experience he describes as a good education on how not to run a business.

In 1991 he was approached by Sun Paper & Board, a subsidiary of the Suzano Group from Brazil, to join them as Financial Controller for the UK and Europe. He used this position to learn what he knows about paper and the commercial side of the business under the strict stewardship of Brian Elmore, a Past President of Stationers. In 2000 he took over as Managing Director, a position he held until 2008, when he was approached to run an Investment fund linked to the owners of the Suzano Group, which had suffered losses due to the 2008 financial crisis. He held this position for four years.

In 2013 he made the move to Elliott Baxter and was appointed to the Board six months later as Commercial Director, a position he still holds today.

On a personal note, Rod is married to Nicky, who is credited with the accolade of smoothing off some of the 'traits' Rod thought he was going to import from South Africa, but soon found out were not going to work here. They have also had the pleasure of raising two daughters, Zoe 22 and Brooke 21, who have also assisted Nicky to moulding Rod into the calm relaxed person he is today. As Nicky would say: "If you don't think he is now, you should have met him 30 years ago."

Rod has always supported the objective of PICT and has been keen to help. He was therefore extremely grateful when the Committee approached him to be President. He was hoping to push the Charity forward and, with everyone's support, make 2020 a year to remember. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic he has had a lot of his plans scuppered. However, he does feel all members should be happy to send in a donation to PICT as they didn't have to listen to his speech!

Rod is still committed to doing what he can and will work closely with the Committee and Trustees not only now, but in the future.

*Margaret Curle*

## agm report

**P**ICT's AGM is normally held in the morning of the Annual Lunch, however, this year it was all slightly different. Due to COVID-19 it was agreed that the AGM would be held as a conference call, which according to PICT's Secretary Anne James, worked very well. However, when things are done virtually certain aspects are not quite the same, for example, the convivial banter that normally takes

place amongst the assembled members, and in particular, the participants miss out on the yummy cookies that the hotel normally provides at this annual meeting!

So here's hoping the 2021 AGM will be 'back to normal' ... or as much as normal can be.

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 27TH MARCH 2020

**The place: BT Conference Cloud**  
**Time: 11.15 am**

The President, Peter Bothwick, took the chair. There were 20 members in attendance.

1. **Apologies for Absence** were recorded from: M Bairstow, O Davis, R Dickens, G Fowler, D Houseman, P Penke, J Perry, M Randall, C Spear, B Steele, J Uwins.

2. **The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8th March 2019** were proposed by J Piggott, seconded by M Kerlogue and unanimously approved.

3. The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported on his year of office (report in Newsletter No.27).

4. **Presentation of Accounts for the period 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019** by Robert Lockwood. The adoption of the Accounts was then proposed by R Benwell, seconded by K Dewey and unanimously approved.

Robert Lockwood and Peter Blakeley were thanked for their work on the Accounts.

### 5. Election of Officers

The President announced that the Committee recommended that Rod Benwell be elected President for 2020. This was proposed by K Dewey, seconded by J Piggott and unanimously approved.

Rod Benwell then took the Chair and took over the running of the meeting. His first duty was to announce that it was the Committee's recommendation that Tony Wood become Vice President for 2020. This was proposed by B Garson, seconded by L Robinson and unanimously approved. Tony Wood responded with thanks for his election.

The appointment of the Treasurer, Robert Lockwood was proposed by J Piggott, seconded by T Wood and unanimously agreed. The President thanked Robert Lockwood for all his hard work as Treasurer.

The appointment of the Secretary, Mrs Anne James, was proposed by P Blakeley, seconded by M Windett and unanimously approved. The President thanked Anne James for all her hard work as Secretary.

According to the Articles of Association the longest serving Elected Director, Andy Thompson, had to retire but was re-elected. This was proposed by J Piggott, seconded by T Bowler and unanimously approved.

The election of Peter Blakeley as Independent Examiner was proposed by P Bothwick, seconded by M Kerlogue and unanimously agreed. The President thanked Peter Blakeley for examining the Accounts.

### 6. Report on Benevolent Fund Distribution by Peter Bothwick:

"As recorded in the President's Report, it was very satisfying that we donated an increased amount to deserving cases in the last year. That is after all why we are here but that is nothing to be complacent about, we long to do more, and that is why we must continue to promote the objectives of PICT.

When things do finally get back to some form of normality, we shall again be stressing the help that PICT can give, along with some new initiatives with which to enhance our basic message.

In previous Trustees reports, you may have heard us lamenting the fact that our incoming requests for assistance have been minimal. Speaking frankly, and without wishing to assume or pre-empt anything, it may well be that the economic and financial impact of our current circumstances might lead to an increased influx of requests for help from paper industry personnel. Whether that does or does not happen, that is why we considered it so vital that we postpone our Annual Lunch, rather than cancel it altogether.

The PICT Lunch is, of course, very popular but is also our major income stream of the year. The continuation of our increased attendance numbers will enable us to give charitable requests the consideration and attention that they deserve.

So thank you for staying with us, and please help us to help you and your colleagues, by maintaining your support on (hopefully) 4th September 2020."

## london pride lunch



Members at the lunch in November 2019

Along with just about every other organisation in the land, the London Pride Luncheon Club has been deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The St George's Day Lunch set for 23rd April became a casualty and was much missed, as can be imagined. The next lunch is set for 12th November but with all the uncertainty out there even this date cannot be guaranteed. However, if the conditions allow we will put a notice out to the Members immediately the green light shows.

Nothing more can be said just now. We all keep positive, emailing each other upon occasion and keeping the lint off that Saville Row suit!

Keep well, safe and smile as often as possible.

*Bev Steele*

## star paper reunion 2019



Pictured from left to right are: John Burton, Colin Winn, Mike Windett, Dai Evans, David Buttler and David Gould

An informal get-together of six former employees of Star Paper took place on 14th December 2019 at The Plough in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

It was worked out that, between them, their careers in the trade spanned the years 1951 - 2018! There were many happy (and some not so happy!) memories shared of working for Star and tales of

Blackburn and Barnsley Mills brought back to life the paper trade from a completely different era. Names from bygone times were recalled and the many personalities that dominated then. Most, sadly, no longer with us but now remembered again, including the immortal phrases and sayings of Jim Walker.

Brand names such as Stargloss, Superstar, Lithostar, Premium Bond and Campaign Poster surfaced and many tales about the trade and paper merchants were recalled with hilarity, including the 'Order that Saved Star from Closing' - 250 tonnes of Superstar for the decimalisation leaflets in 1971 as OMCO (Off Machine Coated Operation) machine literally had no orders at that point! Another story was of two enormous orders on Paladin and Superstar for a world atlas. Printed samples were displayed throughout the company with pride but this was shortly followed by the salesman responsible being made redundant! If someone wrote a book about all the experiences, no one would believe it in today's paper trade!

This merry band plan to meet annually (DV) and the next date has already been fixed for 15th December 2020. If there are any other former Star Paper people out there who would like to make themselves known, please contact Mike Windett at [michael.windett@gmail.com](mailto:michael.windett@gmail.com)

*Mike Windett*

**FRENESHAM LAKES**  
- Wednesday 18th March 2020

The days leading up to this event were full of warnings about the Coronavirus pandemic but the full government restrictions were yet to come into force and so it was that seven members and guests made their way to Frensham Lakes on a pleasant morning with sunshine and a gentle breeze.

The greetings were rather more subdued than usual, no handshakes and keeping our distance, but a fishing lake usually has plenty of space, is out in the fresh air and seemed the ideal place to avoid coming into contact with the dreaded virus. Frensham has always been a self-service fishery with envelopes to post through a letterbox with payment for the day's fishing, so no human contact necessary here either.

There are six lakes in total so we spread out to find our chosen spots, well away from human contact but able to chat at a distance. The first couple of hours were very hard going with only one fish being caught by regular guest Granville Ainly, who always seems to conjure something up when no-one else is catching.

However, mid-morning a van pulled up with a tank of fresh trout that were offloaded into the various lakes. Newly stocked fish are known to sulk after their journey and do not usually feed but on this occasion they seemed very lively and were soon spread out round the lakes. One never knows if it is the new fish or whether they have stirred up the existing stock, but rods

soon started to bend and fish were being landed or returned, depending on the ticket purchased.

Lunch was far from the normal bonhomie that is enjoyed at PICT meetings, on this occasion everyone eating their sandwiches in well-spaced micro groups. Alan Badcock presented the Monk Trophy to me at arm's length, no handshakes and the trophy held in the green baize that always wraps it, with only Robert Taylor present to photograph the event.

Most people had chosen to have a morning ticket, fishing from 8.00 to 2.00pm so after the quick break we had another hour or so during which more fish were caught.

The traffic on the M25 was busy but it seemed everyone was behaving sensibly, so no hold-ups, which should be a lesson to us all. I found the atmosphere almost subdued, no doubt minds focused on what may lie ahead for the country and the world.

At the time of writing this report it was difficult to say when the next event would take place as many of the fisheries had closed under government guidance. However, restrictions with regards fishing have now been lifted, as you will see from my next report.

Finally, I would just like to wish good health to every member of PICT, their families, friends and guests - look after yourselves.



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Gerry about to land



Alan presenting the Monk Trophy to George at arms length



Granville and Gerry



Robert with Brownie

## CHIGBORO FISHERY

- Wednesday 20th May 2020

This event was originally scheduled for the 14th May but with COVID lockdown still in place I sent out a cancellation/postponement only to hear that the ban was being lifted two days later!

A hasty rearrangement meant that some people were still in lockdown and one or two had immediately made arrangements to fish elsewhere. So it was that Robert Taylor and I were the only

participants in this rescheduled event. It turned out to be the hottest day of the year so far, which is never conducive to trout fishing so it was a real struggle and apart from a lively 2lb 4oz Rainbow that I caught, neither of us had another bite.

We had lunch with social distancing in operation and decided to call it a day after a few more casts.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Lockdown has affected us all in many different ways and fisheries have been closed much the same as many other commercial enterprises.

For the past 24 years we have managed to obtain a day for our members and guests on the River Test, thanks entirely to David Gould who is a regular season rod holder. This year has been different, because fishing on the Test has also been closed and when it did re-open, season rods were obviously anxious to make use of any spare days that would normally be made available to organisations such as PICT.

The result of this is that we cannot get our usual mid-October slot but it is still hoped that we will be able to get a day at the end of October, so all I can say is that as soon as I hear something I will let you know.

A recent poll of members produced a consensus for a final outing in November and my plan is to arrange an outing to one of our regular spots for Thursday 19th November assuming that there are no spikes or return to lockdown.

In the meantime, look after yourselves and I will be in touch whenever possible.

P.S. Anyone following my insect 'blurb' (see Lockdown report on page 16) will be interested to know that on the morning of 21st July I had a total of 21 Jersey Tiger Moths in and around my light trap – fantastic!

# ski-ing



Secretary: Paul Johnston-Knight  
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In 2020 the PICT Ski section had its first trip planned for several years. Unfortunately we realised as our departure on 19th March approached, that Austria and much of continental Europe was rapidly closing down and that our enjoyment would likely be severely curtailed, that's if we even managed to reach the slopes of Schladming at all. So we decided to cancel the trip.

However, we are hopeful of being able to schedule a successful trip for 2021 – so watch this space!

If you are interested in joining or just want information about the reformed skiing section please contact Paul to register your interest.





Secretary: Mike Kerlogue  
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## SHANKS

### - Positive News for September 2020

Clearly trying times this summer after everything went into lockdown following the arrival of the virus – COVID-19 - in late winter, and we are hopefully now seeing a slow resumption to a changed world around us. I do not think we shall see life return to what we remember as normal times, adaptations and change will be with us for a long time ahead.

So, with a heavy heart we had to postpone our Spring outing to Abbey Hotel and Golf Club at Redditch in May - our Captain's home course - until next year (2021). We could not cancel as we did not want to let COVID-19 know that it had beaten us!

As Spring turned to Summer we saw the green shoots of change and fortunately we golfers, especially Shankers, were able to start playing - on the basis that we are outside in the fresh air and we could fulfil self-isolation conditions. Whoever heard of Shankers

being any closer than two metres from one another on the golf course! In fact, to make our golf seem ideal in these conditions we have invented a new ruling, which came about as a result of a government advisor a few months back. This ruling is known as the Dominic Cummings rule - you can hit a ball as far as you like out of bounds and without a penalty.

Enough of the past, we must move on and as per the heading to this article we shall be playing our Autumn meeting at Westerham Golf Club in late September. So here are all the details about the day.

It will be held on Thursday 24th September 2020 at Westerham Golf Club, Valence Park, Brasted Road, Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN. Meet at 12 noon for Bacon Roll and Coffee, Tee off from 1.00pm.

The only query is after the golf, hopefully some hospitality will be available for prize giving and essential 19th hole discussions on who wins the coveted Steve Beckett Trophy for the Shanker of the Day. We shall also be playing for the Steele Bowl for the best stableford score for handicaps of 24 or higher - in September last year at Badgemore Park the winner was David Melville, who I am sure will want to retain this magnificent trophy.

As always, we would like to see as many playing as possible, and guests are most welcome - just drop me a line by e-mail or ring my mobile to book yourself in for a memorable game of golf.

*Mike 'Kit Kat' Kerlogue*



Steele Bowl



Westerham Golf Club - 9th and 18th fairways



Ladies and gentlemen, firstly may I repeat my gratitude to the Paper Industry Charitable Trust, for entrusting me with a second term of office as President. For me, the last 12 months have been pretty active, which has made something of a nonsense of being retired!

Of course, the presidential year started with the 2019 Annual Lunch, where we achieved something like a 25% increase in attendance on the

previous year. And how pleasing it was that before the current health crisis, we had continued that positive momentum with another uplift in numbers for the 2020 Lunch, which should of course have been today! (Friday 27th March).

Such increases of course by definition help to generate additional funds for PICT, which can be used to help our deserving charitable recipients, and again, I am proud to say that we have given out more donations in the last 12 months than we did in the previous year.

But we can, and indeed wish to do more. I am sure you will have read about the charitable case studies that we have included in recent newsletters. Hopefully, this gives everyone an indication of the variety of ways that PICT can help paper industry personnel, past or present, who have found themselves in difficulties.

But we still need more requests to come in, in order that we can judge where and how best we can help. You may recall that in my words last year I indicated that we wished to visit some PICT members, to update and to listen to suggestions. There was much constructive feedback from a number of such visits, which has prompted some new actions that you will hear about during my successor's year of office.

During the year, I represented PICT at the Birmingham Paper Trade Society Annual Lunch. I also accepted an invitation to attend the Manchester 25 Club Annual Lunch – unfortunately, they gave us the wrong date! Bizarrely, they tried to claim that it was we who had made the date mistake, until a certain mega efficient PICT Secretary produced the erroneous e-mailed invitation, which resulted in a stony silence around the M62 area! I also attended the LPS (London Pride Society) Lunch Club, not as an official guest, but as a supporter of a fellow society who, like us, has changed its methodology, and all credit to them.

Also during the year, I attended the Fishing Section meet on the famous River Test in Hampshire, where a fantastic 28 anglers turned out for the day's challenge. Well done to George Fowler for all such arrangements. I attended only one of the two Shanks Golf Section events. A Champions League engagement in Amsterdam prevented me from being at the Spring meet, but organiser Mike (KitKat) Kerlogue was most magnanimous in his understanding of my priorities. Suffice to say there will be no such issue this year, and my thanks to Mike for all that he does for Shanks. I was present at the Tennis Section day, partly as a spectator, partly as photographer, and to present the winners with their prizes. This day is always run very efficiently by John Victoros,

including the organising of perfect weather, and we are grateful for all his efforts. Sadly, there was no cricket match last year, so the PICT cricket team remains unbeaten for another year. But the Cricket Secretary Mike Robertson will be trying hard again this year to arrange a fixture. Our immediate past President, Paul Johnston-Knight, is trying valiantly to resurrect the Skiing Section. He had organised a trip to Austria for this month, but was cruelly denied by the Coronavirus restrictions. However, he remains determined, so do please watch for news from Paul about a future trip to the slopes!

Unfortunately, the Charity Golf Day at Rothley Park run by Fred Haines clashed with another industry event, so Fred was not blessed with as many teams as he would have liked. But he rallied them round, and raised a healthy amount for PICT. Incidentally, Fred was due into hospital on 26th March for a much needed hip replacement operation, but he may well be a casualty of the current non-essential cancellations programme. In any case, we wish him well. But I must record my thanks to all the Sports Section Secretaries, who work so hard with such commitment to attract participants in order to boost funds for PICT.

I must also thank my fellow Board and Committee members for all their support, ideas and actions over the last 12 months. I am pleased to say that the average age of the Committee has reduced in the last year, so that gives us a chance to connect more with the 'yoof' culture!

While I am in gratitude mode, I must thank all those who had donated prizes for our auction that should have taken place at our lunch. Such unselfish giving really does help PICT to generate what we need, so I hope that this generosity can be carried forward to our 2021 Annual Lunch. But ladies and gentlemen, my greatest thanks go to the lady that I have already mentioned, our Secretary, Anne James. She works tirelessly for PICT, particularly dealing with everything that arranging our Annual Lunch throws at her, none more so than this year obviously. And does she fluster - no she doesn't! Anne, on behalf of all of us and all members of PICT we thank you very sincerely.

Ladies and gentlemen, on a sad note, during last year we lost some stalwarts of our Society: Ivan Gunn and Doug Brown, both regular attendees at our events; John Garlick, who for many years worked diligently as our Treasurer and Independent Examiner; Alan Ward, a past Secretary, organiser and regular champion of our Bowls Section; and Lionel Scott, who was our President back in 1976. They all remain in our memory.

So, my year is over, my personal thanks to everyone who has contributed during the year, and, of course, I pledge my continued support to my successor and his Vice-President for the year ahead. With that in mind, can I tell you that the date for this AGM and Annual Lunch in 2021 should be Friday 12th March. That means of course that my successor will only be in office for 50 weeks, not 52. I think that gives you an insight into the credentials of the incoming President – he's not even in the job yet, and he's already negotiated a discount!

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you all for your support, and please enjoy all of your involvements with PICT during the next 12 months and beyond. Thank you very much.

*Peter Bothwick*

Unfortunately, the decision has been taken to cancel this year's PICT Charity Golf Day, which is held at Rothley Park in Leicestershire. However, Fred Haines, who organises this event, is keen to say that this valuable fundraiser for PICT will be once again taking place in 2021. Details of this event will be made closer to the time.

If you wish to register your support of this golf day or have any questions please contact Fred Haines on [f.haines@icloud.com](mailto:f.haines@icloud.com)

## tennis



Secretary: John Victoros  
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Tennis Secretary, John Victoros has checked with Northampton Lawn Tennis Club and the current situation is that they are happy to host us for the day. So the intention is to proceed with this year's Annual PICT Tennis Tournament on Thursday 17th September 2020.

Depending on how things are by September, food and drink may have to be done a little differently, but the important thing is to proceed with the day and not let this situation beat us.

John intends to keep in touch with the information communicated by the LTA as regards tournaments in case rules change, but at the moment he is planning to go ahead.

If you would like to join in and enrol for this year's tournament, with or without a partner, please either e-mail or call John.

## cricket

Sadly cricket is one of the sports currently not allowed by the government (at the time of writing) so with all the uncertainty the Cricket Secretary, Mike Robertson, regretfully took the decision not to organise a game for this year, but will try and arrange a match next year.

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 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.

We all agree it would be great to see cricket back on the PICT sporting agenda.



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Unfortunately the paper trade has seen a rash of deaths since the last newsletter, so here we pay tribute to a few well-known faces from our industry, all of whom will be sadly missed.



**LIONEL RONALD ST. JOHN SCOTT**

Paper Merchant, Sportsman, Raconteur, Bon Viver and Hero – a few words to describe Lionel Scott.

Lionel was born in Beirut, his father being a Captain in the Army and his mother French. He returned to England to stay with his grandfather, a vicar in Hampshire. His family eventually settled in Richmond and he was educated at

Cranleigh where he played first eleven cricket and rugby, but of more significance in his later life, he picked up his first golf club!

He joined the army in September 1939 on the day after war was declared. He transferred to the RAF in 1940 and served as a radio operator in bomber command, as unfortunately due to an eye injury sustained playing rugby, he failed the eyesight test to be a pilot. He flew many missions over Germany and occupied Europe and was granted a commission in February 1944. That month he was shot down over Northern France and bailed out of his burning Lancaster bomber. He was picked up and sheltered by a French doctor and his wife who immediately discovered that he spoke fluent French. It was not long before they realised he was also a radio operator, which was a heaven-sent opportunity for the French Resistance which he joined, thus becoming an 'evadee' and not an 'escaper'. He then accepted an automatic pistol from a French secret service agent and thus forfeited all his POW immunity rights under the Geneva Convention. He was given forged identity papers to become an itinerant Yugoslav workman and was able to move about Northern France mixing with the local population whilst working with the French Resistance. His radio operator skills were invaluable by keeping the Resistance in constant touch with England and being informed about plans for the allied invasion. He narrowly escaped execution by being lured to a brothel, but luckily realised this was a trap and went elsewhere. He was eventually liberated by American troops and returned home in 1945. He transferred to Transport Command and took part in the Berlin airlift, eventually being demobbed in 1947.

Lionel wrote two books about his exploits behind enemy lines. The first, censored by the Air Ministry, entitled 'I Dropped In' published

in 1959 and the second published in 1988 after the censorship had been lifted with the title 'Parachuting to Danger'.

He chose the paper industry as his post war profession and joined Walter Makin Ltd. in 1947. He became Managing Director of the Group in 1957 after it acquired George Bateman Paper, H G Quilter, W D Horrocks and J Ramsay, all very well known merchants in their day. The Walter Makin Group was acquired by Cartwright Brice in 1973, where Lionel stayed until 1976 when he joined Link Paper, which was eventually acquired by the MoDo Paper Group. He ended his working life as the Deputy Chairman of its UK subsidiary. Lionel was President of the Stationers' Social Society in 1976 and Captain of the Paper Trade Golfing Society in 1966.

He had many interests outside of the paper industry. He became the first lay Chairman of the SPCK (Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge), he was a member of The Athenaeum for 42 years being Chairman of its wine committee for many of those years, but golf was his main interest. He was Captain of Royal Mid Surrey in 1966 and then Captain of Walton Heath in 1975. He played off scratch or one handicap continuously from 1948 to 1973. I visited him on his 77th birthday when he was devastated that his handicap had risen to 7! He told a lovely story about playing in the Pro-Am when the European Open, sponsored by Panasonic, was held at Walton Heath. He played with Nick Faldo and they won, in fact he beat Nick Faldo. At the prize giving Nick Faldo received a substantial cheque and Lionel was presented with a vacuum cleaner! It was the last Pro-Am he ever played.

He also 'ghost' wrote a third book 'Touch Wood' being the autobiography of Duncan Hamilton, one of the most colourful characters ever in motor racing, who won the 24 hour Le Mans race driving a 'C type' Jaguar 1953 with Tony Rolt. This must be one of the most amusing motor racing books ever written and well worth a read if you can get hold of a copy.

Lionel's wife Margaret, whom he married in 1945, sadly died in 2010. They had three children - two sons, Peter, who was tragically killed in South Africa, and David and daughter Carolyn. They produced four grandchildren for Lionel and now one of those grandchildren has given Lionel three great grandchildren, an extended very happy family of whom Lionel was immensely proud.

I am sure all of you who remember Lionel will agree, that it was a great privilege to have known such a talented man of so many parts.

*John Vanderpump*



### RICHARD MARTYN BOLTON

Just a few weeks into lockdown, Richard Bolton sadly passed away at the age of 71 after a long battle with cancer. Richard spent almost all his working life at GF Smith, joining the company at the age of 22 as Assistant to the Financial Director, and in those early days of the company's

growth, was responsible for the integrated computerisation of all the various office procedures. Within eight years, he became Company Secretary to the GF Smith Board, and was rapidly promoted to become the youngest Director to be appointed to the Board. This marked the beginning of an amazing 38 years as Financial Director, then Managing Director and finally, as Chairman until his recent retirement in 2018.

During this time, Richard was a vital conduit in creating a progressive world-class marketing and sales environment, which enabled GF Smith to become the UK's leading Speciality Paper Company. His fiscal talents were complemented with a deep understanding of all the company's activities and he became an inspirational leader. Richard always considered one of his key roles was to ensure staff were developed to fulfil their full potential and he always made time to mentor, encourage and empower this team to prosper and be successful.

Phil Alexander, Joint MD of GF Smith commented: "My career at GF Smith started in 1988 as Richard's assistant, and I worked closely with him right up until his retirement. I owe Richard an immense debt of gratitude for his support and guidance throughout and for instilling in me his work ethic and professionalism. Above all, his drive to always 'do the right thing' is a memory I will cherish the most."

Ray Earle, former Sales Director of GF Smith also added: "I have had the privilege of working with Richard for over 50 years, and he became an exceptional man and leader, always welcoming, caring, supportive, great company and conversationalist but above all, he became a very special friend."



GF Smith Board (l-r) Richard; Ray Earle; Neil Pack; John Alexander; Neil Haslam

Richard considered one of the keys to a successful company was a strong relationship with suppliers, and strove to strengthen

these throughout his working life. Nigel Read, former Sales Director of James Cropper said of Richard: "He was intelligent, astute, warm and supportive and a source of calm and wise counsel. He was a person of immense integrity and was very highly respected and liked by all at Croppers."

Richard (and GF Smith) was an active supporter of the many paper trade organisations. He served as Financial Director of AIMS for over six years, and played a major role in the development of its standing and importance within the paper trade. He was also known to be a consummate host – and was very often the last man standing at the bar at the various paper trade events that the industry perhaps can no longer afford! (Some may remember the famous Donside/Alpsbach ski trips!).



AIMS Group (l-r) Geoff Clode: Andrew Clode; Mike Wheat; Keith Young; Ray Earle; Richard; Alan Crowther; Howard Davis; Phil Worsley; John Alexander; Tim Bowler; Neville Crossland; Simon Crowther; David Fordham

Over 25 years ago, Richard married Jill (formerly Mannix) and moved to Linton near Harrogate. Richard became heavily involved in various local activities and they both had a wide circle of friends from the village. For many years, Richard and Jill enjoyed travelling to various different countries of the world, including Antarctic, Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Myanmar but their favoured place, to which they returned many times, was South Africa. However, their favourite holidays were spent with their families and many grandchildren.

Despite his long fight with cancer, very few people knew about his illness, as he endured all the many invasive treatments with great courage and determination. So it came as a surprise and shock to many of his friends and colleagues that Richard had passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family. Unfortunately only family members were able to attend his funeral, but his wife, Jill, and the family will be arranging a celebratory service in memory of Richard when they are able to do so.

He will be remembered as being charming, kind, genuine and unflinchingly courteous – a true gentleman.

*Jill Bolton*



## **WILLIAM (BILL) MCDERMOTT**

On Saturday 19 January 2019, Bill McDermott, loving husband and father of three children, passed away at age 78.

William (known as Bill) was born on 29th August 1940 in the Gorbals, Glasgow, won a bursary to Allen Glens and

earned his apprenticeship on The Clyde with Billy Connolly before completing a maths degree at night school.

Bill married Lynne (Caunter) in 1963 and came south to England where they had three children, Andrew, Graeme and Simon, and nine grandchildren.

In the 1970s, Bill started work as the Operations Director for R E Salter Waste Paper merchants, which was based in Deptford, London, and from there in 1983 he set up his own company, Fleet Paper Sales, with his good friend and golfing partner, Bob Lowry. Working at one whilst setting up the other.

On retirement, Bill moved into helping good causes with The Rotary, St John Ambulance and was a Trustee for Age UK – giving something back.

Bill was a keen golfer, regularly playing to 14, becoming Faversham Club Captain in 2008 and Secretary to the many golf societies including the Paper Trade Golf Society.

In 2004, Bill joined The Caledonian Club of London and headed various committees including membership before becoming Vice Chairman in 2015 and Chairman in 2018.

*Graeme McDermott*

## **KENNETH WORSLEY**

**I**t is with deep sadness that PICT has heard that Past President, Kenneth Worsley, passed away on 20th July peacefully in Epsom Hospital at the age of 92. There will be a private funeral, with a memorial service held at a later date. He leaves behind a devoted wife, Olive, along with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. A full obituary will be in the PICT Winter newsletter.

## **AUBREY HEYER**

**I**t has recently been announced that Aubrey Thomas Heyer died peacefully on 17th July, aged 93. Aubrey had a successful career in the paper industry, becoming Chairman of Olives Paper Mill. He was a life member and past President of the Stationers' Social Society, as well as being a Liveryman of the City of London. Aubrey was a loving husband to his late wife Anne, father to four daughters and to five grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by all that knew him.



John Watson

The purpose of Apsley Paper Trail (APT) is to retain Frogmore Paper Mill as a heritage and education centre. To this end it has welcomed visitors, whether schools, families or associations, both from home and abroad, to experience the magic of papermaking and the part paper has, and is, playing in society. That basic function came to an

abrupt end on 23rd March! However, due to the commercial demand for Frogmore Mill paper, our two papermakers have continued to produce, fulfilling orders for Europe as well as the UK. Lead times are some eight weeks even during this crisis ..... busy, busy.

Of course, the Trust has needed to furlough all the education and visitor management staff. We have also needed to close the paper mill to all volunteers. As the lockdown has eased and accepting the distancing rule, very recently a few volunteers have returned and are keeping the gardens pristine at the Cottage where the First and Second World War memorial resides acknowledging the John Dickinson employees who fell in the two wars.

As with many other businesses, we have benefitted from the council business rates on Frogmore Paper Mill being suspended for a year, we successfully applied for and received the £25,000 business grant and we have negotiated with Dacorum Borough Council to have a rent free holiday on the paper mill through to this December. The downside is the two buildings on the John Dickinson site, that housed over 20 small licence paying businesses that help underpin



The historic Frogmore Mill

the Charity's costs, have shown reduction in income. These small, and prior to the lockdown, profitable businesses are struggling. Some have simply closed, and with others we have needed to either defer their rent or accept a proportion through to at least October. A great deal of work in promotion and publicity will be required to secure new tenants, and we believe it unlikely to generate a recovery this year.

As with most charities, staff and volunteers are enthusiastic, resourceful and stoic. APT is no different. For example, believing it unlikely that visitors will return to the mill this year, the Trust is working up a grant that will allow the Charity to develop outreach programmes that will be offered to schools. Additionally, video stories connecting the offsite public with Frogmore Mill and associated historical events via its website are also being costed.

For now stay safe "We'll meet again".

*John Watson*

## paper appreciation course

After being postponed twice, the decision has been taken to go ahead and hold the popular Paper Appreciation Course on Wednesday 23rd September. This informative course, organised by Tim Bowler, through his company Focal Strength, will be held at the historic Apsley Paper Trail near Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire.

The lecturer, John Watson, who is also a Trustee of The Paper Trail, states that a risk assessment has been carried out to ensure that all delegates will be safeguarded. The actual course will take place in the large visitor space at Frogmore Mill, where there is room to socially distance. Delegates will be asked to wear masks throughout.

The one day course includes a mix of technical and useful information, along with the chance to see paper being made on a small historic

Fourdrinier paper machine. Commenting, Watson 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 the end-users requirements – customer first!" and "Fantastic. Enjoyed my day and will definitely recommend".

For further information on the above course or to book your place, please contact Tim Bowler on 0115 960 9595; e-mail: [trb@focalstrength.co.uk](mailto:trb@focalstrength.co.uk)

Well how things have changed since the last newsletter – all of us looking forward to the PICT Annual Lunch, booking summer holidays, planning all sorts of things and then ..... Coronavirus hit.

When we first heard of it on the news, as something in China, perhaps we thought it might be a flash in the pan – but unfortunately it has turned into something that none of us have seen anything of the like before. The majority of us were confined to our home environment, except for shopping and going for exercise but unable to go to work or travel. Some could, of course, work from home, and key workers were doing all the essentials. We were now all in LOCKDOWN!

So, what did you do during lockdown? How did you spend your time if you were unable to work or enjoy your usual pursuits? Did you find a new hobby, rekindle a previous pastime, or just become a couch potato?

Two of our members so far have divulged to me their interests but I am sure there are many more of you out there that also have hidden talents or passions! – so please let me know.... But, in the meantime, here are their stories.

PICT's Angling Secretary has let slip a couple of times in his reports about his passion .... for insects and bugs in general. So he has sent me a report on his lockdown joy and I hope you all enjoy it too.

### LOCKDOWN JOY by George Fowler

In May 2019 I wrote an article expressing my interest in nature, especially the Entomological side of life – that means insects, bugs, creepy-crawlies, anything small that crawls, walks or flies. This is really a spin-off from fly-fishing where the angler is trying to match the artificial fly being used with the real thing being eaten by the Trout.

For me this has been taken to a whole new level but I am pleased to report that others have begun to take an interest. Alan Badcock sent me a photo of a Poplar Hawk-moth, Gerry Overy described his shiny Rosemary Beetles and Les Bidewell sent a photo of a Sabre Tooth Longhorn Beetle that he had seen on Facebook. I have not been in full lockdown, which has enabled me to wander down the road looking at the verges for insects (essential exercise) and with the garden continually springing surprises, I found a total of 20 species new to me during May. Just a few to whet the appetite depending on how squeamish you are!



Shieldbug, Brassica

**BRASSICA SHIELDBUG** – There are many types of Shieldbugs often associated with individual plants, this one is a colourful creature only 6-7mm long that lives on plants of the cabbage family.



Jersey Tiger Larva

**JERSEY TIGER LARVA** – For years the beautiful Jersey Tiger Moth was confined to the Channel Islands and the South West but has now spread wider afield. Adult moths have been seen in our garden for the last four years and the larva is evidence that they are breeding. Google to see the moth.



Varied Carpet Beetle

**VARIED CARPET BEETLE** – normally associated with carpets and seen indoors this colourful beetle is 3-5 mm long and just as happy on Hogweed flower heads as on a carpet.



Mystery Bug

**MYSTERY** – The green wheelie bin is a source of much wildlife and this tiny white woolly ball was seen on ours, but can anyone identify it? It took a long time to discover what it is and if you are interested send me an e-mail!



George sums up by saying that hardly a day goes by when he doesn't see a new species in his garden or even inside his house! So if this article has been of interest why not keep your eyes open for bugs and insects in your surroundings – and if you see anything unusual you could take a picture and send it to George.

Moving on from the world of bugs, the other PICT member who has divulged his passion to me is Bev Steele, who has told me that apart from walking miles to maintain what passes for sanity, he has been writing poetry! He does state that the likes of Keats, Shelley, Wordsworth and Tennyson needn't worry as yet .....

However, he has written around nine pieces – two of which are printed below. In his own words, Bev explains his first piece 'Ode to Diesel' – "I'm a shocking petrol head, but diesel is under threat, and perhaps it should be, but it has done a lot of work in the past, especially in our industry with diesel powered haulage, so in a way I'm bidding farewell to it."

### Ode to Diesel....

*How much is blamed on this  
our once fine and trusted friend,  
It did the lot, ships, trains, the tanks, the trucks  
white vans, the buses, more, but ...*

*Now called dirty, a filthy beast not fit to roam the land,  
Yet nothing moved nor commerce done unless was hauled by  
one of these, that smoked and roared, incessant din,  
pollution following in its trail and yet (and yet,) what can be done  
as still we need the power, that from compression ignition comes....*

*Efficiency yet to be surpassed, the grunt at bottom end, that shifts  
the dozer, digger, the grader too,  
and drives the piles that makes the concrete grow,  
Perhaps with turbos bigger yet, bigger filters at the rear  
will give our ex-friend the diesel, a life beyond just another year?*

Bev Steele - March 2020

Bev's second piece of work is called 'Lockdown' and he explained that he wrote it after comparing the wasted time in lockdown owing to the pandemic to an older person to that of a younger person.

### Lockdown!!!

*What is a summer or a year that's gone  
forever when you are twenty one?  
For it is then that time runs slow, so much to do.  
A little time waste of small concern, 'tis nothing much,  
but, when one is old, and days flick by,  
like tracers past a target, the velocity is such, you gasp and wonder;  
with raging eyes that fill with tears  
at a waste of nothing, but the golden gift of years.*

Bev Steele - May 2020

Well, some thought provoking words there from Bev – and I hope you enjoyed them as much as I did.

I am sure many of you during lockdown have been manicuring your gardens and DIY'ing your homes – but let's hope most of you have done it safely – unlike one of PICT's very own Trustees, who decided to stain a total of 25 fence panels. To do this, Peter Bothwick was sitting on a supposedly specialist garden workseat when it gave way. In his own words: "I could feel myself sliding away, with nothing to grab onto for support. It became a decision as to the best way to land onto a paved patio. I must have chosen the worst option, as the landing damaged my shoulder, which continues to give me some discomfort even now."

Oh dear Peter, we all hope it gets better and that you will be able to participate in all the usual PICT sporting events you enjoy as and when they happen.

And what did I do during lockdown, you may ask?

Well I discovered the art of block printing – a bit similar to potato printing but more sophisticated!!

Seriously, just before lockdown I went to a craft show with a friend who bought some Indian Printing Blocks, and I saw some printed examples on display – it all seemed intriguing and relatively easy to do. So I looked the company up on line and bought some blocks, ink and items to print on and since then have been busily printing away – from lampshades to tea towels and scarves. So now guess what all my friends and family will be getting for birthday and Christmas presents!!



Printed lampshade in situ

I hope this snapshot of some of our members lockdown antics has made you smile, and if you have any interesting stories (that can be printed of course!) please do let me have them and I will put them in the Winter newsletter.

*Margaret Curle*

# easy reference

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