

Lunch akin to Groundhog Day



In what feels rather like Groundhog Day, the latest news on the PICT Annual Lunch, which was to be held on 15th October, is that it has once again been postponed. At a virtual meeting held earlier this year, the committee debated all the facts and in the light of being liable for substantial costs if the event did not take place, or was postponed closer to the October date, it was agreed to move it to 2022. It was also felt that as a number of overseas visitors attend the lunch it would be prudent to have a later date. It must be remembered that as PICT is a charity, it is important that any function it holds raises money for the charity and does not deplete its assets.

So, to recap – the PICT Annual Lunch will now be held on **Friday 11th March 2022** at the Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel on London's South Bank (our usual venue). We are also fortunate that the entertainer that was booked for the lunch, Paul Sinha (one of the chasers on the ITV quiz show), is still able to join us on the new date.

Ticket prices and further details will be announced later this year as well as in the

winter newsletter and on the website. But as before, if you have already had a ticket for the 2020 lunch, and you are still happy to do so, the ticket will still be transferred to the new 2022 date.

Please remember, the PICT Annual Lunch is the charity's main fundraiser and as it has not been held for two years, the charity has



Paul Sinha

been hit quite hard (like most charities) – so please do come along and support the lunch. Make a note in your diary of the new date,

contents

Charity Lunch 2022	01
From the Editor's Pen	03
Trustees' Report	03
President's Report 2021	04
AGM Minutes	05
Charity Golf Day	06
Cricket Section	06
Skiing Section	06
Shanks	07
Angling Section	10
Tennis Section	10
Lockdown Anecdotes	12
Easy Reference	15

Hon Editor:
Margaret Curle

E-mail: margaretcurle@yahoo.co.uk

annual lunch

and 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. And remember, by joining in you get to have a great day of good food,

friendship and fun and it helps a good and much needed cause.

Margaret Curle

trustees' case study

Over the last few years, PICT has had a small number of regular beneficiaries, to whom modest financial assistance has been given on a periodic basis.

One such lady recipient, whose husband had worked in the paper industry, sadly passed away in March 2021, at the grand age of 94. The expressions of gratitude by that lady's family have been powerful endorsements and reminders that the work of PICT is so valuable.

In this case, the support offered by PICT enabled our beneficiary to stay in her own home until just before her death, which was what she had wanted above all else. Thanks to the grant from PICT, the lady was able to acquire some home assistance services, which helped her with washing, cleaning, cooking, and conversation.

Whilst maintaining confidentiality as always, we have been given permission by the lady's daughter to record this case study as an example of PICT's great work, indeed with a quote as follows:

"Please give our sincere thanks to the Trustees for the payments to my mother. It would be good for your members to know what a difference the grant had made to her. It has had such a major impact on her life".

Such appreciative comments serve to motivate the driving forward of the PICT message. Although major gatherings of PICT members and supporters have not been possible for many months, our objective has remained unchanged – we are here to give help to members of our industry, past or present, who have found themselves in difficulty, through no fault of their own.

We ask all members and friends of PICT to continue broadcasting that message. Thank you.

From the Trustees of PICT

200 club

Now an established fundraising institution, the 200 Club helps raise much needed monies for PICT. Two draws have been held so far this year, and the results are as follows:

1st	£250	Peter Bothwick	1st	£250	Peter Bothwick
2nd	£100	Chris Bosworth	2nd	£100	B Humphreys
3rd	£50	Barry Fowler	3rd	£50	P Finney

If you fancy being in with a chance of winning, as well as contributing to PICT's funds, why not join the 200 Club. For further information please contact Anne James by e-mailing: anne@pictuk.com, who will send you a form to complete. It's as easy as that!

bptss annual lunch

Once again, like PICT's own event, the Birmingham Paper Trade Social Society took the decision to cancel its Annual Lunch, which was booked for Friday 8th October, and will now focus on October 2022. So, look out for further details of this event in a future newsletter.



Well, here we go again – it feels, as I mentioned on the front page, like Groundhog Day – although fortunately, since my last comment, things appear to have moved on a little bit towards getting back to 'normal'. Also in my last comment, I mentioned that a COVID vaccine was on the horizon, well who would have thought that six months later the majority of us have all had our double vaccines – absolutely amazing work from

all involved to get a vaccine from an idea into people's arms within such a short space of time, and, hopefully, it appears to be helping.

With regards PICT, 2021 saw once again the Annual Lunch postponed, firstly from March to October and now to March 2022. Here's hoping it will be able to take place next year and if so please do try and support it.

Another way you can help to support PICT is by joining the 200 Club, which raises monies for the charity but also gives you the chance to win some back. As you will see from the results of the last two draws one of our esteemed Trustees has been very lucky with his numbers – obviously the more numbers you have the more chance you have to win. I would, however, like to point out that many of our 200 Club winners generously gift the prize monies back to PICT. So why not have a go – you too might be a winner!

PICT's President Rod Benwell has had a strange time of it – 2020 was a bit of a wash out with regards sporting events to attend, however, he agreed to stay on as President for 2021 and as you will

see from his report on page 4 he has been able to join in some of the events that have managed to take place. Unfortunately for Rod, he has not been able to attend an Annual Lunch as President – but on the plus side for him he hasn't had to put up with the banter from the guests during his speech either!!

With regards the sporting sections, some have managed to go ahead with their events, others have had difficulty – as you will see from the various reports. Paul Johnston-Knight is still looking to organise running and cycling events in the future, as well as a skiing trip, so if you are interested in joining in please do contact him direct.

Unfortunately, I also have some sad news. Just as we were going to press, we were informed that Mike Windett, one of the stalwarts of PICT and a long-time Shanker, had passed away. A full obituary will be in the Winter newsletter, but Mike 'Kit Kat' Kerlogue has said a few words after the Shanks report.

I have once again included a Lockdown Anecdotes feature in the newsletter – and it is my intention to continue this feature in forthcoming issues, but under the title of Members' Anecdotes. A chance for our readers to divulge interesting tales or reveal hobbies they may have, which others will find amusing and/or of interest (only printable ones of course!). But obviously this feature does depend on you – our readers – so please do keep these stories coming, just e-mail them to me.

Anyway, enough from me for the time being – and here's to the light at the end of the tunnel getting even closer and, to cheer you all up, it's only 125 days to Christmas!! On a serious note, don't forget to jot down the new date of the Annual Lunch in your diary now and support PICT.

Until next time.

Margaret Curle

trustees' report

What an unimaginable period of time we are going through, with many businesses in the early stage of the pandemic closing for long spells and others working short time.

The effects on the print community and their customers have been immense. Fortunately, there has been some exceptions, in particular, the packaging sector has thrived.

These circumstances have reflected on our charity with activity levels, in terms of requests for support, being lower than normal. We expect this to pick up towards the end of the year and into 2022.

With this in mind, we would ask for your help. Should you come across anybody who you feel needs help, please advise them to contact us where we will consider their situation.

As we always mention, the charity's purpose is to help those from our industry who fall on hard times and to try and provide a little financial comfort.

Your continued support is really appreciated.

From the Trustees of PICT



Rod Benwell

Ladies and Gentlemen, firstly, I hope you are all well and enjoying the summer, which has finally arrived.

What a first half of 2021 it has been!! Unfortunately, most of our events have been cancelled or postponed and the ability for the Charity to do its good work has been very restricted.

I did get the chance to attend the well supported Shanks event at Badgemore Golf Club, Henley on

Thames, on 23rd June. The weather held out very well and a 'Shanking' good day was had by all. Thank you to Mike 'Kit Kat' Kerlogue for his usual high level of organisational skills, which ensured the day was most enjoyable. A very big thank you to those who attended and supported the Charity. We have another event planned for the 12th October at Aldwickbury Golf Club in Harpenden, please make every effort to be there. If you are a golfer, patience is very much a prerequisite, if you are not, it is not a problem. Most players are high to very high handicappers, and if getting value for money is based on the number of times you hit the ball, most of us get good value.

We also have a Tennis event on the 16th September at Northampton County Lawn Tennis Club in Weston Favell. The Angling Section will be holding its annual day on the River Test on the 25th October and will be announcing some other events soon. Please watch the website.

Please can I ask you to make sure you have the next Annual Lunch date, 11th March 2022, fixed in your diaries. I will be handing over the reins to my Vice President, Tony Wood, who I am sure is well known to most of you and will make an outstanding President.

With the continued fantastic support of the Committee, the Trustees, my Vice President, Sports Section Secretaries, Editor and most importantly Anne James, who's time and dedication keeps our Charity going, we will continue the good work of the Charity to the best of our ability.

Please stay safe and well, and support the Charity as much as possible.

All of the very best.

Rod Benwell

annual general meeting

When I wrote the AGM report last year, I ended by saying here's hoping to the 2021 AGM being 'back to normal' well, as we all know, this wasn't the case. So, PICT once again held its AGM as a conference call with some 20 members in attendance. However, as I commented last year, it is not quite the same as being with the assembled members and having the convivial banter taking place – but obviously it is a necessity and at

least the AGM can be held. Let's hope that in 2022 the AGM will be able to take place 'as normal' – and with the lunch being moved to March it should be held on the morning of this event in the hotel, allowing more members to come along and participate. Oh, and not forgetting the yummy cookies and refreshments that the hotel provides – that alone is definitely worth you joining in!!

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 26TH MARCH 2021

The place: BT Conference Cloud
Time: 11.15 am

The President, Rod Benwell, took the chair.
There were 20 members in attendance.

1. **Apologies for Absence** were recorded from: K Dewey, D Gould, N Haslam, D Hesketh, M Kerlogue, B Kingham, J Mannix, P Penke, J Perry, M Randall, B Steele.

2. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th March 2020 were proposed by J Piggott, seconded by P Blakeley and unanimously approved.

3. The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported on his year of office.

4. **Presentation of Accounts for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020**

The Accounts were then proposed by M Gee, seconded by M Windett 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 re-elected President for another year. This was proposed by B Garson, seconded by R Lockwood and unanimously approved.

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

The appointment of the Secretary, Mrs Anne James, was proposed by N Gee, seconded by J Piggott 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, Peter Bothwick, had to retire but was re-elected. This was proposed by M Windett, seconded by B Garson and unanimously approved.

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

6. **Report on Benevolent Fund Distribution** by Peter Bothwick: "Obviously, since the beginning of 2021, general activity within PICT has continued to be severely curtailed due to COVID restrictions. Nevertheless, the Trustees remain on hand to offer support to PICT members and their families wherever possible.

New incoming requests to the Trustees have been very few. This makes the onward communication of the PICT message even more important.

Even though our income has been virtually wiped out in the last 12 months, we do have existing resources from which pre-approved levels of assistance can still be given. Our determination to give help where we can is as resolute as ever!

The PICT Trustees, and all Officers of the Trust will, as always, continue to promote the objectives of PICT.

As we now know, our 2021 annual lunch date of 15th October has been postponed. This means that our next opportunity for significant income generation will be Friday, 11th March 2022.

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

As we have said before, we sincerely thank all PICT members for staying with us during such difficult times."

The meeting closed at 11.30 hours.

The 200 Club draw resulted as follows:

3rd	£50	P Finney	No. 73
2nd	£100	B Humphreys	No. 19
1st	£250	P Bothwick	No. 48

charity golf day

Regrettably, the Charity Golf Day, another of PICT's fundraising sporting activities, has again been affected by the continuing pandemic. With the lockdown earlier this year and then the resurgence of everyone wanting to get out and about, Fred Haines, who organises this event, has had great difficulty in trying to book the golf course for the event this year. However, he is hopeful that he can arrange the golf day for 2022.

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

cricket



Secretary: Mike Robertson
Home Tel. No: 01943 839029
Mobile No: 07831 351465
E-mail:
mike.robertson@ipaper.com

Unfortunately, as last year, with the lockdown rules, the chance has been missed to organise a cricket match this summer, however Mike is hopeful that he can arrange a game for 2022. But he does need your help in doing so.

So, if you are interested in being part of a cricket team in 2022, or indeed can get together a team, why not contact Mike.

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

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

skiing



Secretary: Paul Johnston-Knight
Tel. No: 07740 710757
E-mail: paul@papico.co.uk

The newly reformed skiing section has not had much luck. As was reported in the summer 2020 newsletter, its inaugural ski trip had to be cancelled due to the growing pandemic, and 2021 didn't augur well either, with lockdowns in force during the prime skiing months.

However, Paul Johnston-Knight is not one to give up lightly and is hoping that something might be able to be arranged for 2022.

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



Secretary: Mike Kerlogue
 Mobile Tel. No: 07970 148056
 E-mail: mike@kerlogues.plus.com

SHANKS SPRING HACK

Badgemore Park, Henley on Thames

- Tuesday 23rd June 2021

CRACKING WEATHER, CRACKING COURSE & CRACKING DAY

Despite having a delay of a few weeks due to the current pandemic restrictions, our Spring meeting was undoubtedly a success, as we managed to tick all the boxes to ensure a cracking day.

Badgemore has become a regular haunt of Shanks and this is the fourth visit in the past eight years and all those attending can vouch that the course and facilities just get better and better.

So, 23 golfers met at 12 noon for the bacon roll and coffee and debriefing instructions, with the first group setting off at 1.00pm. Six teams set off competing for trophies and prizes. Brilliant sunshine and immaculate fairways and greens awaited us – and we were

not disappointed. Badgemore has a few tricky holes with left and right turns halfway down the fairway, some punishing par 3s, which for the oldies needed drivers, and interestingly only one par 5 but some long par 4s. While out roaming, we were accompanied by red kites flying and soaring in the thermals, which is a sight to enjoy – just another bonus that made this a special day.

A few hours later we were back at the golf club to recover with a nice cool drink and to reminisce about our golf experiences – and for the first time in my memory the number of 'incidents', which you expect from Shankers, was minimal. A buggy driver who lost his way, a golfer driving a ball from a fairway to the car park and avoiding some expensive cars / windscreens – all to be expected on a Shanks day. But none of these qualified for being Shanker of the

Day and being awarded the Steve Beckett Trophy – more news on the winner later.

Our meal for the evening was traditional steak and kidney pie, followed by apple crumble and custard – proper golfers' grub, which was appreciated by those dining as another sign that normality is slowly returning.

The golf results at Shanks are not something that is a prime objective of the day – comradeship, exercise and surprise makes a Shanks day so special. But I can announce that the best Stableford score was recorded by Jonathan Tame with a stonking good score on the front nine, and then as we all know followed by a mediocre back nine; so that earned Jonathan a bottle of bubbly. The winner



Team A



Team B



Team C



Team D



Team E



Team F

of the Syd Humphries Trophy, which is awarded to the golfer with a handicap of 24 and higher, with the highest Stableford score was Phil Trudgeon. Nick Piper had the best guest score.



Phil Trudgeon winner of the Syd Humphries Trophy

For as long as I can remember we have had the Yellow Ball team competition and it still baffles me that with the simplest of instructions, whereby golfers take it in turns to play each hole with a yellow ball, we still manage to enter a long debate before and after playing on the rules of engagement. And this golf day was no exception.

So, the teams have their cards written up with names, order of play per hole and a BRAND NEW YELLOW BALL with their team number clearly shown on the ball to help them play the proper ball. Nothing could be easier I am sure you will agree. Alas, if a team should lose the yellow ball, then the game is over, and the score up until the loss of the ball is the result they will be judged upon. The objective being to complete the round with the yellow ball and to get the maximum Stableford score. So, at Badgemore on this Wednesday we saw three teams lose the yellow ball – for one team it was all over by the 4th hole, another at the 11th and one team lost their ball on the 13th. However, for the rest, two teams completed the course with the original yellow ball clearly showing the security marking of their team 'letter'; but one team allegedly lost their yellow ball on the 18th (last hole). That was somewhat strange as the Shanks 'police' found their ball marked ball 'A' on the right hand side of the 10th fairway by the side of a tree.

In the light of this yellow ball infringement, it was a unanimous decision that Team A would be reprimanded by being awarded the Steve Beckett Trophy for the misdemeanour. You would have thought the members of Team A would know better – one ex-President of PICT, the current President and Vice President – and if that's not enough our very own Shanks Captain – Peter, alias Faldo. Speechless is I think the term that sums up the situation.



Nick Piper - best guest score

Oh, by the way, the Yellow Ball competition was deservedly won by Team F – Alan and Nick Piper, Tim Bowler and Jonathan Tame. Congratulations and they earned a bottle of wine each.



Steve Beckett Trophy winners - Team A

So, a great day at Badgemore, which raised £218 for the PICT charity, and thanks to everyone who attended. I just now want to conclude by making a special mention for a couple of Shankers, who, unfortunately were not fit enough to join us for this golf day but wanted to wish all



Jonathan Tame - best score of the day

the players a good day's golf. Firstly, Mike Windett (and occasional starter and Kit Kat provider), alias Divot, who regrettably has mislaid his clubs and as many of you know is wrestling with some health issues. Patrick Shorten phoned me a while back and was concerned that he would love to be at a Shanks golf day, especially as he keeps up-to-date with our progress through e-mails and reports in the PICT Newsletter but the will is there but the body is not up to strenuous exercise, and he wished all a good golfing day. I have told Mike and Patrick, and all those ex-Shankers – once a Shanker always a Shanker – we will continue to keep you posted with our developments, anecdotes, and trivia.

Finally, our next Shanks outing is at Aldwickbury Park Golf Club, Harpenden AL5 1AB. Tuesday 12th October 2021. Meet at 12 noon, golf and evening meal. Cost £65. Come and join us.

Mike 'Kit Kat' Kerlogue

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 12th October 2021 – Aldwickbury Park Golf Club,

Piggottshill Lane, Harpenden, Herts AL5 1AB

Meet at 12 noon for bacon roll and coffee, tee off from 1.00pm and early evening meal around 6.30/7.00pm. Cost £65 each and buggies available. I'll be sending out a reminder nearer the time but would appreciate advice if you can make it so I'll have an idea of numbers.

Thursday 19th May 2022 – The Drift Golf Club,

East Horsley, Surrey KT24 5HD

Advance warning as society bookings now need to be made well ahead, and really looking forward to checking the Drift out as it is the sister club to Badgemore that looked after us so well in June.

Death of a Shanker

I had a call from our Captain, alias Faldo, with the very sad news that our stalwart golfer Mike Windett (The Divot) had passed away.

Mike, as many of you will know, was one of the earliest supporters of Shanks, but in recent years poor health had sidelined him from active duty – but he was often there to see us off as the starter. Mike had been in hospital recently for more work on his heart and according to Peter had recently had a fall after the operation, which clearly was just too much for Mike to recover.

It's Divot's fault that I 'won' the nickname – Kit Kat; due to him and another departed Shanker, Steve Beckett, seeing me endeavour to reclaim a Kit Kat choc bar from inside my bag at the half-way house of East Herts Golf Club just off the A10.

Mike assisted me from time to time in supplying the ubiquitous Kit Kats at the start of Shanksers golf days, and now I have lost that resource.

I suggest we use the upcoming Shanks Golf Day – Tues 12th October at Aldwickbury Park Golf Club, Harpenden (not far away from Mike's home at St. Albans) as a day of remembrance to reminisce about our good friend/colleague and paper trade mate, Mike Windett – The Divot.

Mike Kerlogue



Secretary: George Fowler
Tel. No: 01707 874062
E-mail:
georgefowler464@gmail.com

In November last year I announced that I would be retiring as Secretary of the Angling Section after 25 years in the post. Sadly, nobody stepped forward to take over from me although Alan Badcock and Andrew Smith have volunteered to organise a day each at their respective local waters.

Fishing has been allowed during lockdown but with restrictions on travel it didn't seem right to hold any meetings until after the lockdown had come to an end.

Alan and Andrew will therefore be organising their outings as and when water temperature and fishing conditions are deemed appropriate.

We will be holding our main money raising event of the year with the help of David Gould as follows:

River Test – Romsey, Hants, on Monday 25th October 2021.

Full details will be circulated nearer the date but if anyone is new to fly-fishing and would like to join us, please contact me at georgefowler464@gmail.com



Secretary: John Victoros
Tel. No: 07740 819161
E-mail: john.vic@paper.co.uk

Tennis secretary, John Victoros has announced that the PICT Tennis Tournament will be taking place at the Northampton County Lawn Tennis Club, Church Way, Weston Favell NN3 3BX, on Thursday 16th September 2021.

Meet and greet with tea, coffee and biscuits will be at 9.15-10.00am. A pre-lunch round robin will take place, followed by lunch at 1.00pm. The quarter and semi-finals of both the PICT Plate and PICT Trophy will then be played. Tea and cakes will be served as the finalists prepare to play. The presentations will be held in the bar, or outside if the weather is lovely, at around 6.30pm.

If you would like to join in and enrol for this year's PICT Tennis Tournament, with or without a partner (we will find you one!), please send an e-mail to john.vic@paper.co.uk and remember you don't have to be a budding Ashleigh Barty or Novak Djokovic to play – just come along and enjoy yourself with fellow colleagues and friends and help raise much needed funds for PICT.

For what I believe is a first time in its recent history, the London Pride Society Lunch, always held on a Thursday, will actually be on the 11th November, which happens to be the 103rd anniversary of the Armistice ending what was then known as the Great War. We try and lunch as closely to St George's Day in April and to Armistice Day in November. As every year, for the previous 10 years or so, it will be held at the Boot & Flogger Wine Bar, 10-20 Redcross Way, Southwark, London SE1 1TA.

It is always a very good time indeed, this lunch taken in a somewhat traditional manner, which in no way detracts from the good fellowship and fun that is to be had.

The usual caveat must be mentioned here. Since Covid-19 struck last Spring we have been unable to hold this event. It could well, perish the thought, happen again this time. Do look at the PICT website for how things are closer to the time.

With optimism our watchword, it would be good to see you there.

Bev Steele

Trying times for us all. Just two weeks ago we learned that the long-awaited lifting of restrictions has another month to run, July 19th being the new date. For Apsley Paper Trail (APT), appropriate and necessary decisions have needed to be taken. The official reopening of Frogmore Mill visitor centre has been put off from 1st July, and will now happen on 28th July. However, in accordance with the Government guidelines, a soft opening where the public can once again visit was set for 3rd July, albeit with Covid rules of compliance.



Cylinder Mould Machine

This has proved to be a great success, over 80 adults and 22 children visited Frogmore Mill, none of which had visited the Mill before. The exit notes confirmed all were extremely impressed. Hopefully these will prove to be local ambassadors.

To this end, volunteers (in small groups and complying with the rules) along with those staff not furloughed, worked feverishly to prepare the way in readiness for 3rd July.

The lockdown has, of course, affected the progress set out in our article in the Winter 2020 issue of the PICT Newsletter. Nonetheless huge strides have been made, and worthwhile itemising here:

The externals of the 1960s engineers block have been addressed, including the replacement of all windows and blown concrete lintels. The engineering tenants, IJB, have rewired and refurbished all internals to the block.

Elements of our roofing have been stripped and replaced. The area that is to be home to the new Hollander Beater and Cylinder Mould

This year, the popular Paper Appreciation Course had to be postponed from an earlier date but is now scheduled to take place on Wednesday 8th September. This course, organised by Tim Bowler through his company Focal Strength, will be held at the historic Apsley Paper Trail near Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

This 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 on the course, the lecturer, John Watson, said: "The objective of this course is not to

Machine has been completely revamped with new floor, electrics and lighting.



Hollander Beater

appointed Collections Manager. This all bodes well for us to drive towards museum accreditation.

Finally, we've applied through the Borough Council Conservation office for some external building alterations that will facilitate a very direct and interesting route into the visitor centre from the adjacent car park.

And that is just the physical bits, we're working on some very interesting items to improve the visitor proposition, more on that next time. You should come and visit us sometime. Meanwhile, have a look on our website www.frogmorepapermill.org.uk. But for now stay safe and here's to the future.



Wet Lap Machine

John Watson

paper appreciation course

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: "Fantastic, enjoyed my day and will definitely recommend" and "This course will help me focus more on the end-users requirements – customer first!"

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

Members' Anecdotes

Continuing on from the lockdown reports in the last two issues – now that many restrictions have been lifted and most people, if they weren't before, are now back at work, I have changed the title of this report to Members' Anecdotes. I hope, like me, you will find these stories interesting and an insight into some of our members' worlds.

The first item is from Bev Steele, and reveals a side to him that many probably know nothing about

Well it was a paying hobby ... by Bev Steele

Like many young men of my generation, I was called away for two years National Service, in my case with the Army. I had been a jazz enthusiast since school days and during my time in the army I met a bunch of like-minded souls and we put a small band together. When duties allowed, we would entertain across the camp. It was all in all a good thing to do acting as a foil for the occasionally rough and tough military activities and was much encouraged.

Back home a few months after demob, it would have been April 1960, I was out drinking with friends in a pub in Mitcham when our eyes lit upon a notice advertising a talent competition that very night at a school just along the road from the pub. I rose to the dare and put my name down to appear. It required a brief registration and a very quick meeting with the leader of the band accompanying the various acts, dancers, singers etc., this to tell him what you wanted to do, set the key etc., and await your turn. After performing my number, I was invited to join his dance band as their vocalist. This began a relationship with his family that has lasted until the present. This musical relationship went on for just six years as lives went in different directions, as is the nature of things but several years later, I was invited to join a newly formed seven-piece jazz band based in Croydon. The band was formed by the trumpet player from the dance band days and this continued for the next nearly 20 years and took up many of my Saturday and occasionally other nights too.

It was very unusual for a semi-pro jazz band to have a dedicated male vocalist. Most bands would have a playing member that had voice enough to carry a song. Some were very good and entertaining as I remember. Girl singers were considerably less rare and, of course, they could and many did decorate the band, a thing an overweight 40-something bloke in glasses could not do. He had to look to his tubes, get the timing right and make the right noises. It came to a sad end with the death of the bandleader. I took over the band for a very short while but soon decided band leading was not my thing, too much admin and not enough performance. I appeared for the next few years with a small but very versatile jazz outfit based on pubs in Twickenham and Shepperton where I could perform some of my preferred ballads mostly from the 'golden age' along with the more traditional jazz things.

A jazz singer leads the band when behind the microphone, dictating the course of the number. When well-rehearsed this is an exciting

place to be and I loved it. To strut your stuff with a good band behind you, the sound system behaving itself was a thrill. When appearing as a guest with a band that knew the numbers but not your style was a more testing thing to do but if you steered the band through, using the international sign language that jazz musicians understand, it was a real kick to get it right and a source of considerable satisfaction. There were good nights and some less than good, as for many of the performing arts much depended on the audience and its reaction.



Bev aged 22 with the dance band

Contrary to popular belief, most gigs were played sober as you invariably drove home well after midnight from some deep country venue with police lurking along the way. I was never stopped in all the years but I did pass many who were receiving the attentions of the local constabulary.

It was fun and for me more than just a paying hobby. I took it seriously at the time, as to be any good at all, you had to have your eye on the musical ball and keep the 'pipes' in good order, in other words, keep in practise and be well rested before a gig. I played with the idea of going professional. I remember a band member commenting after a particularly well received number "Nice one Bev but keep the day job eh?". Very wise counsel, and the truth is, I was having too much fun in the Paper Trade



Bev in action with the Croydon based jazz band

The Gig

*Saturday afternoon late it begins,
the 'tiger' feeling, tension,
nerves tighten, appetite gone
the long bath to practise,
to run those notes, to put the voice
beyond its usual travel
others understand your need
to retract and let the focus build...*

*Dress slowly, carefully,
shoes shine, shirt, jacket
tie these your support for the part
you soon will play. A parting kiss,
a wish good luck then in the car,
drive with voice still running the scales,
loosen the vocal cords
to give the 'reach' then, there's the venue
church hall, club house, pub,
small dive whatever...*

*Shouted greetings, help the boys set up,
keyboard, drums no road crew here
music desks, the mikes
the speakers, five minutes to the start..
First number band leader sings
Move out front to check the sound
then, in a heart beat up on stage,
nod to the drummer, four bar intro
count the band in,
hit the note...away you go....*

Bev Steele - November 2020

Well, well, who would have believed it – our Bev a jazz singer, gosh I would have loved to have seen that back in the day. And I see you have still been writing the poetry.

Another one of our regulars, George Fowler, has again been keeping an eye on the insect population and is happy to pass his notes and observations onto our readers.

Lockdown Joy continued by George Fowler

I am continuing my passion for all insects as illustrated in my previous articles. Despite Covid lockdown and the cold and windy weather, nature in the garden and hedgerows has continued to throw up plenty of new specimens and some old friends as well.

SURPRISING CRANEFLY (Daddy Long-legs)

Last time I gave you a Green Cranefly but this one that flew out of the shrubs and almost into my edging shears is even more remarkable. Most Cranefly are rather dull grey or brown but this one was astonishing for the bright colour and shining orange and black body. Also look at those antennae protruding from its face showing that it is a male of the species *Ctenophora pectinicornis*.



Cranefly - *Ctenophora pectinicornis*

LESSER SWALLOW PROMINENT MOTH

It is hard to believe that a creature of such beauty is likely to be flying round your garden at night, but along with at least 2,000 other species they are there. They are only in this world to find a mate and procreate, they do no harm to plants or man and have a very short life.



Prominent, Lesser Swallow

HAIRY SHIELDBUG

One of a range of insects that live on plants and shrubs and seemingly do no harm to them. Many of them are plant specific but there is a range of sizes, colours and patterns. They are a useful starter species because they are very tolerant of being approached with a camera and rarely fly off.



Shield Bug, Hairy (formerly Sloe Shield Bug)

lockdown anecdotes

That is your taster for this edition. Look on plants, hedgerows, green wheelie bins and you will be astonished at what you will find. At the moment the hedgerow shrubs are showing small moths that come into the category of Bird-poo Moths, just look for a black and white dropping on a leaf and make sure it is not a moth! If you find something interesting let me know.



Tortrix, Marbled Orchard (aka bird-poo moth)

Once again George, an interesting item and you'll be pleased to hear that I have kept my eyes peeled and can add my little bit on this topic.

Our rhubarb plant leaves have had some large holes recently appearing in them – so I started to check the undersides and found this little culprit – hmm rather unusual not the normal caterpillar I see in the garden on the swede leaves, which is the prodigy of the cabbage white butterfly. So, I looked it up and apparently it is the caterpillar of the Vapourer Moth..... well there you go, you learn something new every day. Amazingly the leaves of the rhubarb plant are highly toxic but obviously this little chap isn't affected!



Caterpillar of the Vapourer Moth

Recently, a friend lent me a book called *The Paper Mill Girl* by Glenda Young and you can imagine my surprise upon reading the appendix section at the back of the book on how the author did her research about paper mills in the early 1900s, to find that she had visited Frogmore Paper Mill in Apsley.



Young needed an old mill that was still running and found Frogmore. She quotes: "I spent two happy days at the mill, talking to staff and the mill's very helpful archivist." She also

made a sheet of handmade paper which she says remains special to her. She reports that she took in the sights, sounds and smells of the mill, and hopes she did justice in bringing it to life in the pages of her book as the fictional Grange Paper Works. Young then gives website details for the mill and suggests people should try and visit. She also mentions in the appendix the book *Three Hundred Years in Paper* by GT Mandl – a past member of PICT.

Talking of Frogmore Paper Mill, I was invited and have just attended a drinks reception to celebrate the re-opening of Frogmore Paper Mill after lockdown. The event given by the Trustees was to share their exciting new plans and be given a tour of the new installations at the Mill. Guests included the Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, the Mayor of Dacorum and various local councillors, quite a turnout and they all seemed very impressed with the improvements – and so was I! John Watson in his Letter from the Paper Trail (on page 11) gives more details about these improvements.

Once again, I hope you found these stories of interest, and I intend to continue these snapshots into our members' lives in future issues of the newsletter - but I am relying on you our readers. So if you have any interesting tales or stories (that can be printed, of course!) please do e-mail them to me and I will include them in the next Newsletter.

Margaret Curle

shout out to members

Make a note in your diary now that the PICT Annual Lunch has been moved to Friday 11th March 2022. Further details will be given in the Winter newsletter and on the PICT website. But please do try and support it as the Charity has suffered due to the lack of fundraising events being held over the last couple of years.

Also, remember that the sporting sections raise funds for PICT, so why not join in with one of their events. You don't have to be a budding sportsperson to join in – it's all about having a fun time and socialising, while helping to raise some monies for PICT's good causes. I know we all lead hectic lives, but to keep PICT's sporting sections alive they need to have more participants. Any of the sporting section secretaries would love to hear from you.

easy reference

President

Rod Benwell

E-mail: r.benwell@ebbpaper.co.uk

Secretary

Anne James

E-mail: anne@pictuk.com

Treasurer

Robert Lockwood

E-mail: robert_lockwood@msn.com

Trustees

Andy Thompson

E-mail: andrewthomps@hotmail.co.uk

Peter Bothwick

E-mail: pedrotres@hotmail.co.uk

Newsletter Editor

Margaret Curle

E-mail: margaretacurle@yahoo.co.uk

Paper Industry Charitable Trust
(formerly Stationers' Social Society)
Company Number: 5919035
Charity Number: 1118232



Anne James, Secretary
Paper Industry Charitable Trust
Bramble Lodge, 1 Mid Cross Lane, Chalfont St Peter,
Bucks SL9 0LF
anne@pictuk.com