

## PICT lunch returns to great aplomb



After what seems like forever and a couple of false starts due to the pandemic, the PICT Annual Lunch finally took place on Friday 11th March, and what a brilliant 'do' it was.

After a couple of 'will it, won't it' moments, the lunch, the first since March 2019, was held at its usual venue, the Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel on London's Albert Embankment. And as always, the lunch took place after the AGM, again the first to be held in person and not as a conference call, which was followed by the obligatory pre-lunch drinks.

Proceedings kicked off with the Loyal Toast given by Joe Piggott in his own inimitable style. And following a delicious starter of oak smoked salmon, Peter Bothwick and Andy Thompson announced that the legendary game of Heads and Tails would take place. It didn't take long for the room to be left with only five contenders who made their way to the stage to continue their quest to be the winner. And then it was all over ... with the winning person very graciously agreeing to

donate the money back to the charity. A great gesture.



Heads and Tails

Peter and Andy then took the opportunity to auction some of the items including an overnight stay at the Park Plaza Hotel, and a four ball golf day at Westerham Golf Course. After the mains, a very tasty beef shin with fondant potatoes, roasted baby beets and a red wine jus, and while the plates were being cleared, a David Luiz Brazil football shirt as well as two hospitality box tickets for Manchester United against Norwich, were

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# annual lunch

auctioned, both raising princely sums. A yummy dessert of passion fruit and citrus cheesecake was then served, followed by coffee – and a comfort break.



Delightful dessert

Then, Peter Bothwick, in his unofficial role of MC, introduced Tony Woods as PICT's new President, whose first job was to present past President badges to not only Rod Benwell, but Peter Bothwick as well – this because no Annual Lunch had been held since 2019.

Tony then went onto give his speech – with many tables participating in the age-old tradition of timing the speech hoping that their guess would be closest in order to win a drink off their colleagues!

After Tony had welcomed everyone to the lunch – stating it was the first for three years – and introducing his special guests, he began by asking all the assembled to take a few quiet seconds to reflect on the humanitarian disaster unfolding in Ukraine.



Top table guests

After this time of reflection, he continued by saying: "In comparison to former PICT Presidents who normally talk about the previous year's events, I have the dubious pleasure of having three years to reflect upon momentous happenings such as Brexit (do you remember Brexit?), a tragic Pandemic and the advent of the strange world of Woke." He went onto say that all would be aware that the past three years had been some of the most difficult times that the paper and many other industries have experienced. He went on to talk about the effects that Brexit had on many companies and then the Pandemic, and the chilling effect on business due to the almost total shutdown of the economy. He added: "Although Government assistance helped many companies get through, others having to

mitigate the financial effect made many good and hard-working colleagues redundant, let's hope that with the recovery many of these will find their way back into the industry."

He continued by saying whilst all the events have been traumatic, it is the rising cost of paper and board which presents the greatest threat and challenge to the industry today. "Whilst some elements of our industry have benefitted from changing consumer patterns such as graphical board and packaging due to the growth of on-line shopping and the increased use of packaging, other areas of commercial print, publishing and office papers have seen declining demand for at least the last 15 years."

Tony then told the guests why the PICT lunch was so important, explaining: "It is not just to meet your industry chums but to support the Paper Industry Charitable Trust." He elucidated that the funds it raises enables the Trust to assist current and past Paper Industry employees and their families in times of great need. He then cited some examples of those that had been helped by PICT monies. Explaining: "Small contributions from PICT make a big difference to those affected." He stressed that all requests for assistance were treated with the utmost confidentiality.

He added that PICT, like many other charities, had a very difficult time during 2020 and 2021 with hardly any fundraising activities taking place due to Covid restrictions. He went on to thank all the sport section secretaries for all their hard work and for the monies they raised for the charity. After promoting all the different sports available, he hoped that many of those present at the lunch would be able to join in with some of the sporting events throughout the year and, in turn, help to raise much needed funds.

With his speech drawing to a close, Tony thanked the PICT Committee for their tireless work and, in particular, Anne James, who organised the lunch and for all her hard working during the year. Finally, he thanked Rod Benwell, who had been PICT's President for the past two Covid affected years, adding: "During that time Rod has not had the opportunity to stand in front of you to make an address – I offered him a guest slot but oddly enough he declined." He finished by thanking everyone for supporting the lunch and hoped all would have a great time.

After much applause, Peter Bothwick came back to the stage to introduce the long-awaited after lunch entertainer – Paul Sinha.



Paul Sinha entertaining the room

Paul, who is well known for appearing on TV's programme, The Chaser, informed the assembled audience that he was, in fact, a qualified doctor and then became a stand-up comedian, much to the 'joy' of his parents. He quipped that it had been a life-long dream of his to be at the "PRICT dinner" – oops – much laughter went round the room at this faux pas – and the afternoon continued in this hilarious vein. He talked about his involvement in the TV quiz show, stating that his Chaser name was the Sinnerman – and in fact the only Chaser not to be named after a sex toy!

Harping back to his career choice he said: "As you can imagine my mum and dad were absolutely thrilled when I gave up being a qualified GP to be a comedian – their only son had become a clown!"

Paul talked about his life and his illness (he has Parkinsons) peppered with humour and amusing remarks. He stated: "You should enjoy life as you never know what lies ahead" and he likened his Parkinsons to Man United – "you've got to stay happy when the Sheiks take over!"

After a great performance of anecdotes and humour, he finished by playing on his earlier faux pas and saying "PRICT you've been absolutely wonderful – have a great year with your new President – as the American's said in 2016!"

After the clapping subsided, Peter Bothwick thanked Paul for his entertaining look at life. He then proceeded to auction the last few remaining items, which included a case of wine, a 3-course dinner at a renowned coastal Indian restaurant, two separate weeks in a villa in Turkey and a mill visit to Fedrigoni for four people with flights and



President foxes Quizzer

transfers paid for. He then announced the winners of the table raffle, who all very kindly donated their winnings back to the charity.

Finally, summing up on behalf of PICT, he thanked everyone for coming along to support the Annual Lunch and for their generosity in all the monies raised during the afternoon, he then announced that the formal part of the day was over and that people could repair to the bar or a local hostelry to continue 'networking'.

All in all, a great day – and so wonderful to be able to once again see everyone and have an enjoyable afternoon of good food, good company and good fun. And let's hope that we can now all look forward to next year's fundraising lunch.

*Margaret Curle*

## ANNUAL LUNCH 2023

### Stop Press - Diary Date!



An early date for your 2023 diary – make a note now that next year's PICT Annual Lunch has been fixed for Friday 24th March 2023, to be held at the usual venue – the Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel on London's south bank.

Apart from lunch ticket sales, PICT has a number of sponsorship packages available and will also be looking for auction items. So, if you would like to have further information about these and/or would like to reserve a table or places at the 2023 Lunch, please don't hesitate to contact Anne James at [anne@pictuk.com](mailto:anne@pictuk.com)

We at PICT, all hope you will be able to join us and support this very worthwhile charitable event, while enjoying good food, fine wine, and plenty of networking with friends and colleagues old and new.

## 200 club



### 200 Club - it could be you!!

The 200 Club is now an established institution and an important fundraising stream for PICT. At the last committee meeting in April a draw was held and the results are as follows:

1st	£250	Margaret Curle
2nd	£100	Stephen Mason (who kindly donated it back to the charity)

If you fancy being in with the chance of winning, all you have to do is 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.

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

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

## bptss annual lunch

Our sister Society, The Birmingham Paper Trade Social Society (BPTSS), will hold its Annual Lunch at The Bank Restaurant in Birmingham, on Friday 14th October 2022. Reception at 12.15pm for lunch at 13.00pm.

After two years with no event, the BPTSS President, Carl Barritt, eagerly looks forward to welcoming Society members and their guests for a splendid afternoon of plentiful cuisine, great social camaraderie, and important charity support.

The traditional Heads and Tails game will feature early in the proceedings, and the Society's resident quizmaster Andy Thompson will keep all tables busy with his quiz, which is sure to be as competitive as ever! We shall also include a table raffle, and an auction where some high quality items are anticipated!

As always, the BPTSS Lunch will include a guest speaker, and more specific details on this will follow in due course, together with the named Charity to be supported on the day.

All funds raised from the day's activities will be donated to the Society's chosen Charity.

The Lunch formalities normally close just before 5pm, and regular attendees will know just how enjoyable this occasion is, a truly civilised way to spend a Friday afternoon.

Tickets can be obtained from Society Secretary Paul McDermott – [paul\\_mcdermott.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:paul_mcdermott.t21@btinternet.com)

Please support our local industry Society - you will be most welcome.

*Peter Bothwick*



Well wasn't it great to once again be able to enjoy the PICT Annual Lunch, after what seems like forever. I for one enjoyed my foray into the capital and then seeing old friends at the event – how wonderful. And I hope everyone else who attended felt the same. This lunch had record numbers with some 257 enjoying the afternoon. The ticket sales, along with the auction, heads and tails

and table raffle, all helped to raise much needed funds for PICT. And a big thank you must go to those people and companies that provided the great auction items, which in themselves raised a considerable amount from the generous guests. So don't forget if you want to be part of this event in 2023 make a note of the date in your diary now, which is Friday 24th March.

Members can also help to raise funds for the charity in other ways as well, by joining in with some of the sporting events – for all of these sporting sections you don't need to be brilliant to attend you just need to want to have a go and have some fun with friends and colleagues – and all in a good cause. There's lots of things to choose from fishing, tennis, cricket, skiing, and golf, be it more serious or a lot less serious with Shanks! Go on give it a go, contact the sport secretaries to find out more information on how to join in.

Another area to help raise funds for PICT is to join the 200 Club. There is a small annual cost and you have the chance to win in the bi-annual draw. You can either join as an individual or a company can buy a number of shares for its employees. So why not have a think about it and read the information on the 200 Club on page 4. Go on you can win ..... I know .... I did this time..... yay!!!!

Once again you will notice from this newsletter that I have continued the Members' Anecdotes section – please do keep these stories coming – they are really interesting and it's great to get an insight into some of our members' lives as well as making good reading. So let's have more for the Winter newsletter – just e-mail them to me along with pictures that would be great.

Out in the real world, we have had a busy year so far with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, coming second in Eurovision and of course, the Commonwealth Games. And on this subject, wasn't it

great to see that books and printing featured prominently in the opening ceremony in Birmingham. A giant printing press highlighted the achievements of local luminary John Baskerville, the 18th century printer and typographer, who was renowned for his typeface and for inventing wove paper. The ceremony also featured Samuel Johnson, depicted as a bookworm, and William Shakespeare among the city's greatest exports. However, I always feel it's sad that the history of printing always seems to rate far higher than the actual papermaking process and it's history in this country.

And talking of paper, I read that the Confederation of Paper Industries (CPI) has accused the BBC of failing to provide the full picture in a documentary about reducing carbon. In its programme 'The Art of Cutting Carbon', in a segment about the paper industry, they visited BillerudKorsnas in Sweden, and although the journalist involved described paper as "a fantastic material" he also said that "countless trees are felled from the world's great forests" to make paper and described pulp and paper as "another one of the world's biggest CO2 emitting industries". However, the CPI states that BillerudKorsnas is 97% fossil free thanks to its use of biofuels, and all of its raw materials come from sustainably managed forests. The CPI has said that the BBC has failed to give the full picture. Unfortunately, this is not the first time that this kind of misinformation has happened with regards the paper industry and I expect will not be the last. We, as an industry, still need to get the paper story out there.

However, one bit of good news I noticed was that in some new research, it appears that western readers still prefer to read 'real' books, rather than e-books or listening to audio books. In a survey by Stora Enso, which covered the UK, France, Germany and the US, nearly 65% of us prefer physical books, with 21% preferring e-books and 14% opting for audiobooks. The survey also showed that the pandemic had spurred more reading, particularly in the UK and US, where more than 70% said they now read more.

Anyway, enough of my trivia.... I hope you all enjoy the rest of the summer and manage to join in with some of the sporting events that are organised to raise funds for PICT, and don't forget to make a note of the 2023 Annual Lunch date.

Until next time.

*Margaret Curle*



Rod Benwell

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

Where has the last year gone? Fortunately, from July 2021 most of the events have managed to take place and the Charity has been able to continue its good work. Shanks managed to hold its autumn meet up

along with Tennis and Angling. The turnout was reasonable and support much appreciated. The Sporting Section Secretaries made sure their functions were great fun and we would certainly like to see a lot more new faces, along with those that enjoyed the days last year, join in later this year.

We then managed to hold our long-awaited Annual Charity Lunch in March this year. As you can see in the full report, the day was well attended and extremely enjoyable. I was able to hand over the reins to our 2022/3 President, Mr Tony Wood, after my two interesting years in office, who I believe will be a fantastic asset to our Charity.

With the continued dedicated support of the Committee, the Trustees, our new President, his Vice President, Sports Section Secretaries, the Editor and most importantly Anne James, whose time and knowledge keeps our Charity going, I am sure the Charity will be able to carry out its purpose to the best of its ability.

I would like to thank you all for your support and express my appreciation for giving me the honour of being our Charity's President.

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

All of the very best.

*Rod Benwell*

## annual general meeting

### A view of the PICT AGM

P ICT's AGM is held in the morning of the Annual Lunch – and this was the first to be held in person since 2019. Quite a few members managed to attend and be involved in the proceedings – as well as enjoy the wonderful cookies the hotel provides (worth attending just for these!).



As always friendly banter echoed around the room as the meeting took its usual course – outgoing President Rod Benwell, who had held the position for the last two years, gave his account of his time in office, saying how much he had enjoyed it and went onto thank the Committee for tolerating him for two years.

The election of the officers took place with it being announced that Tony Wood would be the new President. Tony then thanked Rod for his time in office and announced that Mike Gee would be his Vice President, and awarded him with his badge of office.

And then, as quickly as it had begun, the AGM was over and everyone could repair to the bar for pre-lunch drinks with colleagues and friends.

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 11TH MARCH 2022 IN PARK SUITE TWO OF THE PARK PLAZA RIVERBANK HOTEL, 18 ALBERT EMBANKMENT, LONDON SE1 7TJ

The meeting commenced at 11.15 am.

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

1. **Apologies for Absence** were recorded from: O Davis, N Dinnadge, M Eustace, N Gee, D Hesketh, D Houseman, J Perry, M Randall

2. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26th March 2021 were proposed by J Piggott, seconded by P Bothwick 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 2021 to 31st December 2021.** The Accounts were then proposed by A Thompson, seconded by P Bothwick 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 Tony Wood be elected as President for 2022. This was proposed by J Piggott, seconded by M Gee and unanimously approved. R Benwell invested the new President with his badge of office.

Tony Wood then took the Chair. He thanked the meeting for this honour and his first duty was to announce that it was the committee's recommendation that Mike Gee become Vice President for 2022. This was proposed by T Wood, seconded by A Thompson and unanimously approved. The new President invested Mike Gee with his badge of office.

The appointment of the Treasurer, Robert Lockwood was proposed by P Blakeley, seconded by B Fowler 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 A Thompson, seconded by P Bothwick 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 Gee, seconded by R Benwell and unanimously approved.

The election of Peter Blakeley as Independent Examiner was proposed by R Benwell, 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:**

"A difficult two year period for everyone is now gradually easing, as we learn to live with a new normal. Inevitably though, there will be more challenges ahead.

However, whatever the future holds within the paper and board industry, the presence of PICT as a charitable support vehicle will be maintained.

In our latest Newsletter, we re-stated our purpose and our determination to support our industry colleagues. We also gave reminders of some of the specific assistance that PICT has provided over the last few years. We would urge everyone to absorb this information, in order to be fully aware of the scope of help that may be obtained from PICT.

The Newsletter also included contact details for addressing a Charity request to PICT. Let us re-state our firm promise that any approach to us shall be treated in complete confidentiality.

Our thanks to all PICT members and friends for staying with us during the last two years.

Let us all hope that things will be more stable throughout 2022."

The meeting closed at 11.45 hours.

## profile new president



PICT's new President, Tony Wood, was born in Beckenham, Kent, where he still lives today (be-it Bromley, which is less than a mile from Beckenham).

He attended Beckenham & Penge Grammar School where he was encouraged to pursue his real passion in life, sport. He states he needed no encouragement to play sport almost full time at

school but to the detriment of his academic achievements. After disastrous mock A level results, it was time to leave education and so he persuaded one of his father's contacts (who was also a Paper Merchant) to enrol him onto the Wiggins Teape (WT) trainee management course at the company's Fort William Mill for a year.

After the year and working through all the areas of the UK's sole integrated paper mill, as well as picking up some intimate knowledge of Whisky, he was designated to the group's Dartford mill, a role he declined as "the mill seemed to be held together mainly by pieces of rope and clearly investment wasn't uppermost in WT's business planning". So he went off to WT Merton to learn how to become a Paper Merchant, where he claims "they were wonderful trainers but awful payers".

After a short stay with OPB Paper Sales, Tony joined R A Brand where he stayed for the next 24 years, in roles of Salesman, Sales Manager,

Regional Director, Sales and Marketing Director and finally, Business Papers Director for Papyrus, when Brand Paper and Caxton merged. Fortunately, Howard Smith Paper was looking for a London Regional Director, a position he was delighted to accept. Then a further challenge presented itself when he decided to join other HSP colleagues at Premier, to effect a business turnaround in the then ailing company. Eventually the business having been largely turned around was sold by Sequana to Graham Griffiths and Courtney Candler, the owners of Beswick Paper. Tony added: "Graham saw some potential in appointing me the Group Commercial Director, a role I held for the next 15 years and enjoyed immensely before taking a reduced role for Premier as retirement age was upon me."

On a personal note, he is married to Marieline, his French wife, whom he states "must know Paper Merchants almost as well as I do judging by the amount of time I spent over the years talking to her about the industry and she never complained (well not much anyway)." They have a daughter Stephanie.

Tony states that although he was not directly involved in PICT previously, other than attending events, he was delighted to be asked to become President this year and would like to try to develop a greater awareness of the Trust, which is there to assist members of the industry who may for some reason need help. He added: "It's time to give something back to the Industry I have worked in for just short of 50 years and have enjoyed so much."

And on that note, we wish him a very successful and fulfilling year as PICT President.

*Margaret Curle*

## trustees' report

A difficult two year period for everyone has now eased to some extent, as we learn to live with a new normal. Inevitably though, there will be more challenges ahead.

However, whatever the future holds within the paper and board industry, the presence of PICT as a charitable support vehicle will be maintained.

In our last newsletter, we restated our purpose and our determination to support our industry colleagues. We also gave reminders of some of the specific assistance that PICT has provided over the last few years. We would urge everyone to absorb this information, in order to be fully aware of the scope of help that may be obtained from PICT.

That newsletter also included contact details for addressing a charity request to PICT. Let us restate our firm promise that any approach to us shall be treated in complete confidentiality.

Our thanks to all PICT members and friends for staying with us during the last two years.

Let us all hope that things will be more stable throughout the remainder of 2022.

*From the Trustees of PICT*



**London Pride Society Lunch  
– Thursday 21st April 2022**

This was our regular, if there can be such a thing as regular these days, lunch at the Boot & Flogger wine bar in Red Cross Way, Southwark, held on Thursday 21st April. The London Pride Society meets twice a year, April and November, always a Thursday to coincide as closely as possible with St George’s Day and Armistice Day respectively. It is one of those events where we evoke the old days of the paper trade as it was in London.

Twenty of us met in the upstairs bar to hear the sad news that our prime organiser Owen Davies had been struck down with the demon Covid that very morning and called in to say he would be a no-show. The burden of formulating the running order of speeches, toasts etc, went to Mike Rust.

We were conducted down the stairs to a delightfully laid long table on the lower level where Mike opened the proceedings with a prayer sent in by Owen, a beautifully couched piece leaving us all somewhat thoughtful. Mike went on to toast Absent Friends with poor Owen at the top of the list and our old friend John Raynor alongside his absence, owing to a recent operation. He went on to tell the tale of

the ‘Cockney Society’, which was the name proposed in 1952 when the Society was formed, this almost immediately changed to the London Pride Society, which remains to the present. Jon Worsley was there to give us a short talk on his grandfather, Tim Worsley, a founder member of the Society. Jon has access to the earliest records of the Society and dipped into these for our delectation. It all made for an interesting tale. Bev stood to recall that it was, this very day, Her Majesty’s birthday for which we rose.

The food was very good this year, a seafood starter followed by an excellent steak and kidney pie then a delicious dessert all accompanied with plenty of wine.

We bade our goodbyes. some repairing to a pub along the way, others for a final glass and a cigar in the Boot’s courtyard. It was, as ever, a very special event with feel-good factor writ large.

The next Lunch is on the 10th November.

*Bev Steele*



Mike Rust welcomes us all



Table from the north end



Jon Worsley tells of the old days



Table from the south end

## tennis



Secretary: John Victoros  
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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 15th September 2022.

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 e-mail: john.vic@paper.co.uk and remember you don't have to be a budding Emma Raducanu or Novak Djokovic to play – just come along and enjoy yourself with fellow colleagues and friends and help raise much needed funds for PICT.

## cricket

Once again it was not possible to organise a cricket match this summer, however Mike is forever hopeful that he can arrange a game for 2023. He is in fact looking at a new 100 cricket match in line with the new format perhaps in June or July.

However, as always, he does need your help in doing so. So, if you are interested in being part of a cricket team, 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 friends 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.



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

## skiing



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

As yet the 'newly' reformed skiing section has yet to go on a skiing trip, however, its Secretary, Paul Johnston-Knight is not one to give up lightly and is keeping his fingers crossed that he might be able to arrange something for 2023.

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: michaelkerlogue@outlook.com

## SPRING MEETING

Drift Golf Club, Horsley, Surrey

- Thursday 19th May 2022

Our Secretary Mike 'Kit Kat' Kerlogue had a distinctive return to form as the sun was shining gloriously on turning into the Drift Golf Club car park. Clearly, he'd made his peace with the golfing Gods as it remained a beautiful pre-summer day, warm enough to culminate in taking refreshments on the terrace after perambulating the course.

Eighteen keen and optimistic competitors assembled in the well-appointed lounge for coffee and baps before teams were announced and the yellow ball competition explained. Except, the Secretary only had one yellow ball! He quickly moved into HM Government mode and blamed the golf club, the pro shop, and Uncle Tom Cobley for the lack of spherical yellow objects, whilst denying that he had been partying and had forgotten to purchase them in advance. PICT President, Tony Wood, immediately offered to 'loan' several pre-marked yellow balls he had accumulated on previous winning occasions (allegedly).

Kit Kat thanked him profusely but stated he had improvised with some cheap white balls and a marker pen and this would be sufficient.

It should have been an orderly procession to the first tee but the Secretary (yes, him again) was approaching meltdown as he had lost his expensive (allegedly) sunglasses. His playing partners were sympathetic, naturally, until the said objects were spotted residing on the head of Mike Gee. He maintained that he "had only borrowed them, M'lud" to remain incognito in his newly engineered slim fit body. Kit Kat would have none of it and demanded criminal proceedings whilst the rest of us chuckled loudly.

With order restored Team A were allowed to tee off.



New Shanks recruits on the first tee



Team A



Team B



Team C



Team D



Team E

Unfortunately, Team A are out of shot on the first tee as the Sec (still miffed, obviously) thought the geese more worthy of the honour. When the teeing area was cleared of wild fowl Team A were allowed an image.



Phil Trudgeon best score winner

You will notice from the Team pictures that Team B are in the bar rather than on the first tee. The investigation to determine if they participated in the golf is ongoing.

It also looked as though Team D could play a bit which was out of order but one of their number scooped two prizes. More of that later.

According to the Secretary's records only Team C managed to hang onto their yellow ball for the entire round, so easily won the competition with oodles of points. Fully deserving of their wine prizes.

The best overall score of the day was returned by Phil Trudgeon with 38 Stableford points and he collected his prize from Captain Bothwick, after a fine trencherman effort in consuming two dinners and two desserts.

Jeremy Hazell, who was lurking in that Team D that looked as though they could play, won the Syd Humphries Trophy for best score by a golfer with a handicap of 24 or higher. That handicap is under review as he also won the nearest the pin prize, albeit by only two inches. Two inches matters (allegedly). And if you think Jeremy and Peter are looking a little strained in the picture, it is due to them shaking hands for 10 minutes whilst the Secretary sorted out his misbehaving phone camera!



Syd Humphries Trophy to Jeremy Hazell

Patrick Carty was allowed to touch and smell the Steve Beckett Trophy he won at Aldwickbury GC in October, after it was rescued from Tony Wood's cupboard under the stairs where it had resided for the last six months. Patrick, enjoyed his 20 seconds of trophy presentation before it had to be handed back to be awarded to the Shanker of the Day for this Spring outing.

There were two nominations for this award with Keith Spiers competing with Mike Kerlogue (yes, him again). Keith was seen releasing his wildlife club covers onto the course, necessitating his playing partners having to track him and corral the said beasts before they mated and spread havoc. The Pink Panthers were a long way from their natural habitat (Durham, durham, durham durham durham – sorry, I'll get my coat).



The late presentation to Patrick Carty of the Steve Beckett Trophy



Mike Kerlogue winner of the Steve Beckett Trophy

Roland Walton turned a one-minute citation on why Mike Kerlogue should win the trophy, into a 10 minute epic on searching for his lost ball, giving up, playing another, only for the original to be found under Mike's trolley where he had carefully parked it. A conspiracy was alleged.

A democratic discussion resulted in Keith agreeing to make a donation to the PICT charity in lieu of us reporting him to WWF, whilst the unanimous vote gave the Steve Beckett Trophy to Mike Kerlogue. Mike pointed out that he had previous at this golf club having won the trophy in 2007 for hitting a shot that ended 75 yards behind him. Mike received the trophy from Captain Faldo after it had been snatched from Patrick's grasp!

Dinner and convivial conversation were enjoyed by all, except Graham Warley who only had a domestic pass for the golf. Hence the 'extra' dinner nobly put away by Phil Trudgeon.

Our thanks again to Kit Kat for keeping this section going and organising another fine day. The next Shanks meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 14th September at Mid Herts GC and the PICT Golf Day will take place on Wednesday 19th October.

*Scribe for the day - Nigel Howl*

## Shanks Diary Dates and News

### Autumn Meeting

#### Mid Herts Golf Club - Wednesday 14th September 2022

We are back in Hertfordshire, close to Harpenden with a course next door to an old favourite, but this time we are going to rock up at Mid Herts Golf Club in Wheathampstead, which is at Lower Gustard Wood, Lamer Lane, AL4 8RS. We will meet up at 12.00 noon for coffee / tea and bacon rolls. Tee off from 1.00pm and after ambling around a prestigious parkland course we'll have a 2-course dinner. Cost £75. Please let Mike Kerlogue know that you are coming. New golfers are always welcome regardless of your golf prowess.



2nd hole at Mid Herts

### And a date for 2023

#### Abbey County Golf Club, Redditch - Thursday 18th May 2023

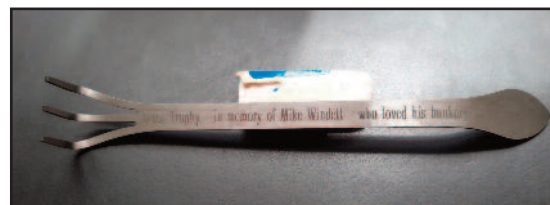


10th hole at Abbey GC

Next year we have booked to play at our Captain's course in Redditch, Worcs, which will be a welcome return after a number of years. For those travelling up from the 'south' we have hotel accommodation at the course for those who want to overnight. Please put the date in your diary and more details will follow later this year.

### New Trophy - THE DIVOT TROPHY In Memory of a great Shanker - Mike Windett

This time last year we lost our great friend Mike Windett, and our Captain Faldo – alias Peter Bothwick - has decided that we have a trophy to remember Mike. So, we agreed that as he loved his bunkers (for he visited them many times and perhaps more than any other Shanker), we would have a new competition at Shanks' meetings for the player who lands in the most bunkers. We have commissioned an appropriate trophy, an enormous rake which will be presented after each meeting, along with the Steve Beckett Trophy for Shanker of the Day. When we meet at Mid Herts in September, we are hoping that Mike's wife Gill will join us for dinner and present the Divot Trophy to the first incumbent.



Divot Trophy

**P**ICT is delighted to announce that its Charity Golf Day will be held on 19th October. The event will be returning to Rothley Park Golf Club, Rothley, Leicestershire, which is a few minutes from Junction 21 of the M1. Fred Haines, who organises this event, has told us that Rothley is hosting the English County Senior Men's finals during the first week of October so the course, which is always in lovely condition, will be even better for the PICT event.

Arrangements have been made for a 9.30am start with lunch and prize giving to follow the golf. The cost to enter a team of four players, which includes, bacon roll and coffee on arrival, 18 holes of golf and a buffet lunch, will be £360. As always, this event is looking for company sponsorship, whether in the form of prizes for the golf or a raffle. Please let Fred Haines know if you can help in this way.

If you wish to enter a team, please e-mail Anne James [anne@pictuk.com](mailto:anne@pictuk.com) and she will send you an entry form so that you can advise your team details. Please confirm as soon as possible and no later than the end of September.

We hope this year the day will prove to be well supported and valuable for the Charity as it is one of the key events for fund-raising this year.

If you wish to stay locally The Rothley Court Hotel is next door to the Golf Club and offers comfortable accommodation at reasonable prices. If you would like further information or can help in the form of sponsorship, please contact Fred Haines by e-mail: [f.haines@icloud.com](mailto:f.haines@icloud.com)

## charity golf day



Secretary: George Fowler  
Tel. No: 01707 874062  
E-mail:  
[georgefowler464@gmail.com](mailto:georgefowler464@gmail.com)

## COLTSFORD MILL, OXTED, SURREY

– Friday 25th March 2022

After a considerable gap in our activities due to Covid, our group had not had a chance to get together for some time. It was great therefore to get a chance to meet at Coltsford Mill Fishery for our first outing of 2022.

When we arrived at the venue at 8.00am the weather was glorious (sunny and warm) and this persisted throughout the day. Also, Coltsford was looking beautifully manicured with perfect grass and easy to reach swims. There was a good turnout (11 of us) and we were soon having a good catch up before getting on with the task in hand – fishing.

Our initial worry was that on days like these would we catch any fish, as the fish notoriously tend to prefer nasty windy cold weather? However, we all caught one or more fish, all of a good size and some interesting variations of Trout hybrids.

Neil, the Manager, kindly let us have the use of the patio behind the bar for us to get together for our packed lunches and we had to force ourselves to leave this comfort to do a bit more fishing.

More fish were caught in the afternoon and we finally parted company, having had a great day, looking forward to, and talking about, the next outing at Frensham ponds in Surrey.

*Gerry Overy*



Gerry about to lose one



Gerry successful



Andrew hooks another



Tony in action

## FRENESHAM TROUT FISHERY, SURREY

- Tuesday 10th May 2022



The magnificent seven fly-fishers

The dedicated members of the PICT Fly Fishing group convened on Tuesday 10th May at Frensham Trout Fishery, Churt, Surrey, for our second meeting of the year. Unfortunately, our numbers were reduced to just seven fly-fishers, a little disappointing being down from the 11 who attended our first outing at Coltsford Mill in March this year. The weather was not as warm as forecast, somewhat chilly and rather more overcast than predicted, with a little light rain to start proceedings.

Our magnificent seven started to arrive from 08:00hrs onwards, everyone eager to test their skills at what is, from personal experience, not only one of the most challenging but undoubtedly one of the prettiest locations we are fortunate to cast a line. Our host, Jillian Twite, has spent a great deal of time and effort, been very busy throughout lockdown, improving many of the pitches and surrounding grounds. The facilities must now be considered amongst the best available in the south.

The morning session started with much optimism with several fish being visible near to the surface on each of the lakes. However, Frensham was again proving to be a testing venue, with fish totally ignoring anything on the surface with only the exceptional rise, taking heavens knows what? But, it was not long before some beautiful Trout were netted utilising a wide selection of buzzers,

nymphs, and the odd dry fly, all eventually proving successful in the morning session, prior to a break for lunch.

As lunch concluded the weather started to improve and everyone was keen to try their luck, especially as a new delivery was made with several fresh fish being released into each of the six lakes available at Frensham. The increase in temperature increased fly activity with some good hatches but still the lures and nymphs proved the order of the day.

The afternoon session proved successful for everyone landing some very fine fish with a total of 12 Tiger Trout, 3 Brown Trout, 5 Blue Trout and 15 Rainbow Trout. These were landed on a variety of different flies/lures; Montana's, gold head Blue Flash Damsel's, mini Cats Whisker's, GRHE's, gold head black nymph, red epoxy buzzer and brown swimming shrimps. It was great to see that all fly-fishers tried such a variety of attractors, which emphasises exactly why the sport is not only challenging but most rewarding when you find what works. To finalise the afternoon session, the sun made a well-timed appearance completing a great day of sport in enjoyable fun company of friends and colleagues with the last fly-fisher departing at 17:30hrs. Everyone has stated how enjoyable and challenging the fishing had been capping yet another superb day at Frensham.

We are always keen to welcome new members to try this fascinating and challenging sport. Even if you are not a fisherman you must give it a try, all you need is a little patience and a willingness to accept a challenge. It really is rewarding and simply great fun!

Prior to our annual visit to the River Test in October, we are all looking forward to our next meeting at Albury in the Autumn.

*Alan Badcock*

### DIARY DATES 2022

River Test, Romsey, Hants – Tuesday 25th October

Albury Fisheries, Surrey – Tuesday 22nd November

More information on both of these events will be available shortly.  
Don't forget guests and new members are welcome.

# letter from the paper trail

Looking back, the closing part of 2021 was a very positive one for The Paper Trail. Our new CEO was on board and the Education Team were readying themselves for the groups that were beginning to book for 2022. In addition, we were speeding ahead with key additions and developments to our paper production areas. Alas, that all changed on Saturday 22nd January!



2022 cafe pre-fire

At around 3pm on that fateful day, a fire was started on site, which quickly escalated. The cause of the fire was investigated by Herts Constabulary and has been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service who will be leading the case against the alleged perpetrators. Despite the very timely response and best efforts of Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, The Paper Trail's entire visitor centre (circa 2008) was destroyed along with many of its priceless artefacts that were on show in the museum. The café, shop, art gallery, offices and education rooms were all destroyed.

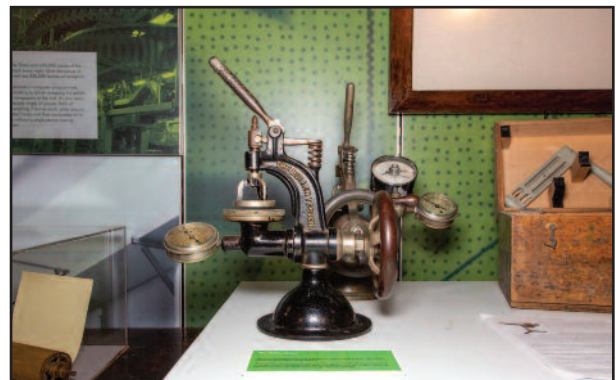
Fortunately, if such a word is appropriate, the immediate response from the fire brigade and the brick wall separating the production area from the visitor centre prevented the fire spreading to the older parts of the Mill.



2022 fire damage to cafe and gallery

It has been possible, after a thorough clean-up, to recommence paper production on the ex-Bury paper machine (PM4), and to continue with the bespoke build of the wet-lap machine (PM5) along with the recently installed Hollander Beater and electric steam boiler. Further progress and improvements have already been scheduled. There will be a later closure of paper production whilst its roof is removed and replaced, because whilst the building escaped the fire, toxic smoke did settle on the underside of this extensive roof, rendering it unsafe.

The Paper Trail has an incredibly resilient team. Already plans are being put forward that will effectively create a new visitor entrance and alternative tour route through the Paper Mill, utilising existing buildings. Designers, structural engineers and architects are already engaged with this task. Elena Lewendon, CEO, and her team, are working up a strategy that will see a practical future for the Apsley Paper Trail unfold. It will, of course, include engagement with local groups and the wider community in order to factor in their expectations and interests. Pop-up exhibitions of paper's future are now being worked on. The team are bringing forward to just five years, the ambitious plan to construct a new-build visitor centre that engages with environmental objectives, is sustainable, attractive and meets the needs of wider audiences.



2022 instruments on display pre-fire



2022 instruments post-fire

Of course, this strategy will require funds, which will inevitably extend beyond the limits of our insurance claim. The team have launched a fundraising campaign that includes grant applications as well as a request for personal donations. Please do visit the website <https://www.frogmorepapermill.org.uk/fundraising/> where more information is available.

The Board of Trustees is very appreciative of the additional hours both staff and the team of volunteers have put in thus far. Their expectation is re-opening as a visitor destination in January 2023. Evidenced by the progress already, it will, with public support, be a resounding success.

*John Watson*



As mentioned in previous newsletters, I hope to keep the Members' Anecdotes section running in forthcoming issues – however, it is most reliant on you, our members, for the stories, so please do keep them coming. I know our readers find them enjoyable and interesting, and a wonderful insight into our members' worlds.

And talking of insights, one of our members, Bev Steele, always has an interesting tale to tell and this is another of his wonderful stories.

### A heavy landing by Bev Steele

September 1972. As an aviation enthusiast I decided it was time I did something about it, so I booked a weeks' course for my wife Evelyn and myself at the Scottish Gliding Centre at Portmoak in Kinross. This is a beautiful site overlooking Loch Leven not far from my old employers Tullis Russell in Markinch. Later we learned Portmoak was the premier base for all sorts of UK gliding records, altitude, duration etc. Sometimes you get it right.

We arrived on the Sunday early afternoon as I remember, shown our rooms, spartan but neat. There was a dining area and bar and a common room with classrooms off the main corridor. Our party was about eight in number. Monday morning was given to lessons in airmanship, how aeroplanes work and what was important to know on the ground and in the air in the locality, safety procedures etc. Bishop's Hill, a big bald hill, overlooked the airfield and it was this that provided the initial lift, which made the site so ideal for gliding.

First flights were in a Fournier Motor Falke, a powered glider with a flat four aircooled converted VW car engine up front, the instructor and student sitting side by side, this to give us the hang of it. Left and right banked turns getting round a full 360 deg to a point on the horizon, all good fun and not difficult at all. Later we used un-powered pure sailplanes, the Slingsby T-21, with side-by-side seating and then the somewhat more advanced and aerobatic K-9 with two seats in tandem, student in front, instructor behind. These were very good fun indeed. It was in one of these, however, that the incident occurred.

We learned the intricacies of being pulled into the air by a winch driven cable on a truck down the other end of the cinder paved runway. As you reached the end of the cable at 900 feet you pulled a yellow handle in the cockpit that dis-engaged the cable, then you turned away towards the Bishop Hill to tool up and down it's windward side to gain height. We'd reach about 5000 feet before turning away and doing the rest of the lesson, minor aerobatics etc.

I was getting on very well, I thought, getting into some quite advanced manoeuvres as the week wore on. I could perform hammerhead stalls, a loop (that gets your attention) side-slipping etc. Then it was Friday, our last day of the course. Weather was good, we did a lot of flying that day and at the end of play the CFI asked the group for anyone that wished to take the last flight. I must have looked expectant and none of the others seemed keen so with a nod from the CFI, I clambered into the front seat of the K9 and buckled up.

With canopy closed a volunteer hooked us up to the winch cable followed by a sign to the winch driver and a call from the volunteer that all was clear above and behind. We head off down the runway. The plan was that I would fly the whole circuit as if solo. I was certainly up for that. All went well, good take-off, popping the cable directly over the winch, made a right turn to begin the prescribed two circuits before landing. I managed that alright, got the right angle and rate of descent and pulled off a decent landing. Bit of a daisy cutter actually coming to rest very close to the launch point. It was at this point the CFI asked if I'd like to go again, (he could see I was very keen and brimming with confidence - fatal) and there was still plenty of light in the sky. Well yes, said I.

Off we went, same drill as before, except at some point during the first circuit the CFI said he'd like me to come in at right angles to the runway and land towards the hangar so there'd be less distance to pull the glider in. OK I thought, should be alright, the CFI seemed confident. It meant a different approach. Instead of making a crosswind before turning to line up with the main runway I was to keep going with the crosswind and land straight ahead. In the event I was too high and way too fast on the turn onto the final. Realising this I pulled the airbrake lever. This puts slats out above the wings spoiling the lift causing the aircraft to lose forward speed but gain vertical speed in the direction of down!

Well, I over did it. The ground came up at an alarming rate. I frantically closed the airbrakes but too late and we hit the grass with a terrific thump, dust rising from the cockpit floor. We slithered straight ahead, thank goodness, but I thought I'd broken something in the 'plane. In the event there was nothing broken except my self confidence. I remember slumping forward in the seat, very disconsolate to hear the CFI opening the hood. He clapped me on my shoulder saying something about he'd seen worse than that. Really, I thought, he must have seen some real shockers then. We dragged the trusty un-wrecked K-9 into the hangar, closed up and went into the clubhouse for a pint, a debrief and to tell Evelyn the story.

Oh dear Bev, but at least you are here to tell the tale and what a great tale again from you .... Keep up with the stories – they are great and we all enjoy them.

Another one of my regulars, George Fowler has a tale to tell, and this time not of the bug kind.

### French inspiration by George Fowler

We have been caravanning for more than 40 years and have toured to many far-flung places including Croatia, Venice, Corsica, but our favourite has always remained France, which it is probably fair to say, we have seen more of than most French Nationals.

To put our enthusiasm into some form of perspective we are now on our third caravan and this one has just reached 75,000 miles of towing behind a variety of cars. Early on I published a Caravanners Record Book and sold about 2,000 copies so that caravanners could keep a detailed record of their travels. Sadly, most people would do this digitally these days but paper will always be my chosen means.

I am writing this in a small town in France, Hauterives, which is known for a rather splendid structure called the "Palais ideal", which has tenuous connections to the printed form. It was built by one man,

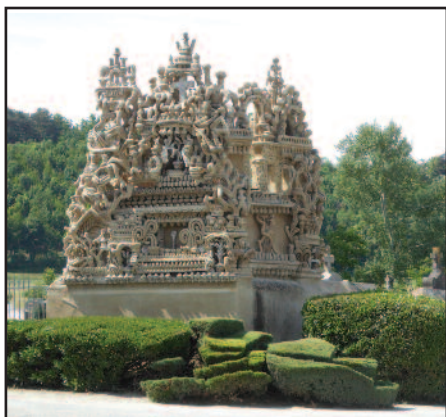


The intricate Palais idéal

Joseph Cheval, a village postman who at the age of 43 stumbled across an odd shaped rock that gave him the inspiration to build the remarkable structure that was named the Palais idéal in his garden.

Every day he took the mail on very long rounds in a wooden wheelbarrow and returned with it full of stones, not just for a few days, weeks or months but for 33 years! He saw postcards from around the world and magazines, which showed him many different places from around the world even

though he had never been outside the countryside surrounding his house.



The Mausoleum

After it was finished at the age of 77, he spent another eight years building a mausoleum in the local cemetery, where he was buried a year later.

It is a fine testament to his workmanship on both buildings that they are in remarkable condition, with numerous visitors allowed to walk through the corridors and use the staircases almost 100 years after he died. Two amazing monuments to an amazing man.

A Google search for Palais idéal will give full details for anyone interested in more information.

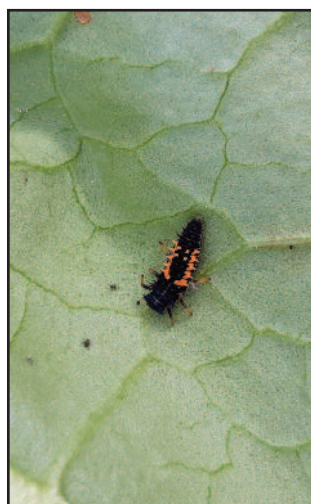
Just in case anyone has missed my regular bug articles, I went on to take about 600 photos in the weeks we were away, many of which were insects, ranging from a Rhinoceros Beetle to an Antlion, so perhaps back to entomology in the next newsletter!

Yes please George, but this was a great interlude – what a wonderful story to one man's tenacity.

Anyway, George (and readers) you will be pleased to hear that I have continued in your footsteps and have kept my eyes open for various bugs that seem to inhabit the garden and also the moths and butterflies I have seen while dog walking. And so here are a few for those readers that might be getting withdrawal symptoms from lack of bugs!!



Knot grass moth caterpillar



Ladybird larva



Scarlet Tiger Moth



Speckled Wood Butterfly

I also had a bit of a creative spurt to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and made some bunting and also this ribbon wreath for the door.

Well readers, once again I hope you found these stories of interest



and remember if you have any intriguing or entertaining stories or tales, or even what you enjoy as a hobby, please do e-mail them to me and I will include them in the next newsletter. And if you have accompanying pictures – even better.

*Margaret Curle*

## 45 years with Paperun Ltd

Paperun has been my one and only job, starting on Friday 1st July 1977 as a Trainee Paper Merchant. I had the most incredible introduction to both the Company and the Industry.

Prior to my start date, Michael Black the Managing Director, telephoned me to ask "have you got a current passport? as you are invited to Paris for the weekend," thanks to the Sales Team having broken sales targets in consecutive months.

So, eight days later on Saturday 9th July 1977, we left our offices at 81 The Cut, London SE1 at 7.00am! We had a coach to Heathrow, arriving not only in Paris, but staying in the world famous prestigious George V Hotel, just off the Champs-Élysées.

An extraordinary start for me that has led to a career in the paper industry that has spanned 45 years, 19 years as Managing Director.

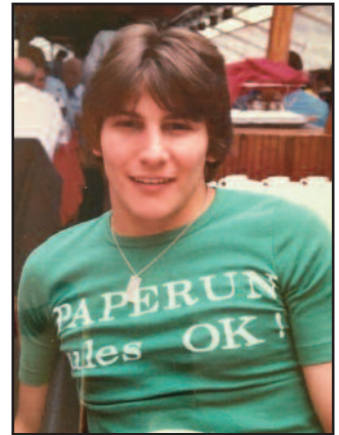
One of my proudest moments was to celebrate Paperun's 50th Anniversary in October 2021. Throughout that time we have consistently had a special 'family' bond, working with many colleagues for a period of 20-40 years.

It has been a privilege to have worked with so many wonderful people in all sectors of our industry.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to my successful career.

Who knows, perhaps I can celebrate the final days of my career (no time soon of course) where I started, at the George V Hotel!!

*Gary Brady*



Gary Brady, Managing Director  
Paperun Ltd  
Sunday, 10th July 1977  
enjoying lunch cruising down  
the River Seine

## David John Papers Ltd celebrates 50 Golden Years!

Slough-based paper merchant, David John Papers Ltd, celebrated 50 years in business on 27th March 2022.

David and Doreen Gould incorporated DJP on 27th March 1972 and celebrated this achievement exactly to the date by inviting staff and family to a day at the races in a private box at Ascot.

Throughout the 50 years, diversification has been key, with the movement away from traditional merchanting to embrace the ever-

changing customer demands and rapidly moving technology. Quality, Service and Price have been the foundations of the longevity and will continue to be for the foreseeable future.

Here's to another 50 years!!

*Stephen Gould*



## paper appreciation course

The next Paper Appreciation Course will take place at The Paper Trail near Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire on Wednesday 5th October.

The course lecturer will be Don Turner, following John Watson's retirement. Don is well placed to take over from John, as he has worked extensively within the paper industry and for many years has been involved in training and team building.

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

This one-day course is ideal for employees who would not normally have the chance to visit a fully working paper mill but are working within the paper merchanting, printing or associated industries.

Comments from recent participants include: "This course gave me a different view on the paper I deal with, into how it was made and the role it is destined for", "Fantastic, enjoyed my day and will definitely recommend" and "This course will help me focus more on the end-users requirements – customer first!"

For further information on the course or to book your place, please contact Tim Bowler e-mail: [trb@focalstrength.co.uk](mailto:trb@focalstrength.co.uk) or call 0115 960 9595; or visit the website [www.focalstrength.co.uk/pacintro.htm](http://www.focalstrength.co.uk/pacintro.htm)

## obituaries



### BRIAN ELMORE

When Brian Elmore passed away on February 23rd, shortly after his 90th birthday, we had known each other for about 70 years. We used to meet for coffee when he was with C S Oiserman and calling on me at, then, L S Dixon. The friendship blossomed to the extent that his wife Muriel invited me to offer the eulogy at his funeral in Kinsale where they have

lived now for several years. How could I refuse even though the thought of flying anywhere, having been locked down for much of the time since we last saw each other. Unfortunately, Brian suffered greatly as his declining health took over his very being. He was bed ridden at the end and could hardly manage a telephone conversation. During our last he said, in a very weak voice, "I've had enough Jack, I am ready to go."

I am pleased to have this opportunity of repeating what I said back in Kinsale at his laying to rest service.

Brian was a man of many parts, some of which, in more recent times, he would gladly have done without. His giant hernia inevitably attracted attention but was at least of rugby ball shape which brought him some pleasure, he being a lover of that sport. Especially since he came to live and work in Ireland.

Brian Geoffrey Elmore had been an increasingly close friend for almost 70 years. The last time we saw each other was Christmas 2019 when my wife Lilian and I shared the festive season with Muriel and himself. Like for so many people, the pandemic put a heavy damper on close relationships. Thanks to the internet though, and more occasionally the telephone, we were able to maintain our friendship. Indeed some of the conversations we shared when the end of his life was clearly imminent, were heart breaking, and will remain in mind forever.

Brian was born in Sutton, Surrey on the 9th February 1932. He went to Ashurst Wood School, then to East Grinstead Grammar School. He did his national service in the grey of the RAF serving Queen and country without actually flying anywhere.

His career in the Paper Industry began at John Dickinsons, an historical paper mill, little realising that he was thereafter to spend 40 plus years selling the same product. Paper. Four more companies followed before he bit the bullet and started Sun Paper & Board on his own, albeit with Muriel at his right hand. His travelling increased substantially after forming a relationship with a Brazilian group.

We first met through both being employed in the Paper Industry. He was a salesman and used to call on me at regular intervals. We got to coffee together, socialise a little, and then his life changed, and it was all my fault.

I was invited by the company for whom I worked to consider managing their Dublin office. I went through the usual motions, decided against so doing and then, knowing Brian was ambitious and unsettled, suggested he contact my employers. Briefly put he got the job, met Muriel who was on the staff then, et voila, love

was in the air. Like me he remained in the Paper Industry for the rest of his working life.

After some years he broke away to set up a company of his own, in partnership with two other men with similar aims in life. As a small outfit they prospered before deciding to open up in England, in Kent, not far from where Lilian and I lived at the time. Thus, we got to see more of each other and, as a foursome, our friendship widened and began to embrace exchanging dinner parties, weekends away, and ultimately holidays together.

However, it was clear to all that Brian had been smitten by the Emerald Isle. He was more Irish than Muriel, and she was born here! The urge to return became overpowering until, jumping ahead a bit, a return was manoeuvred. They bought a sizeable plot of land in Sandycove, built the first 'Tullyhill', which Lilian and I visited quite frequently. With the passing of time, and the onslaught of age and health issues, it became too big for them so they sold up, kept part of the land, built a second, smaller 'Tullyhill' but with the same wondrous views over Sandycove to the sea, which he was able to enjoy for the rest of his life.

In the Paper Industry, around which our lives rotated, we were both very much involved and derived enormous enjoyment from what used to be called The Stationers' Social Society (SSS), founded in 1881 and boasting a controlled membership of 750 nationally when we joined on recommendation. Brian and I each went on to become Secretary and then President.

The SSS was devoted to sporting and social activities, as well as charitable collections for those in need. He once played in the tennis. Now Brian was to tennis what Rudolf Nureyev was to sumo wrestling. I wrote the following for the magazine at the time. "He is best remembered (true story) for the smart leather case he brought onto court. It contained a bottle of gin, glasses, ice, lemon and tonics. He began his day by offering and having a drink at the end of each set. Then at each change of end. Then between service. Sometimes, late in the day, after each rally. He never managed to win anything but thoroughly enjoyed himself and was great fun to watch."

We came to golf quite late in life, early 50s as I recall. Our age not the decade. As Pall Mall members of the RAC we were able to utilise the country club at Epsom, which offered two courses and, at the time, didn't require one to have a handicap. Every Saturday morning for some years we would travel there together and gradually get swallowed up by the lovely game it is. Or was before the World Handicap System came on the scene.

As many of you fellow members will know well Brian was an enthusiast, both for the game and the club, especially for the now renowned Mashies of which aged sector he was President until he left us all. There was to have been a special presentation to him at the club on his 90th birthday but, very sadly, glasses had to be raised without him.

He was for many years a very keen and active Freemason, a member of three lodges, of which he became master of two.

His musical tastes were dubious. Bing Crosby, Frankie Vaughan, Al Johnson and other prehistoric favourites. He also fancied himself as a singer and without much persuasion, or a plentiful intake of gin, would launch uninvited into a whole series of Father O'Callaghan songs. "Climb upon my knee, sonny boy" was a huge favourite of his, sung loudly and dramatically in many an unsuspecting restaurant or clubhouse. It should also be mentioned that he was no mean dancer. Very light on his feet for someone of his size.

Brian's likes included people and eating. When agitated his right knee was known to twitch violently. He liked to do things in style. Cost was seldom a factor, at least in later years. He was always interested in politics, canvassing for the Blues as a young man and dreaming of office one day. A dream never realised.

Brian wasn't a perfect human being by any means but he was a great chap to have as a friend, and will be missed by many.

*Jack Perry*

## GEOFF POOLE

It is with great sadness that PICT has been informed that Geoff Poole passed away on 18th July. Geoff was a Life Member and Past President of the Charity and will be sadly missed. A full obituary will be in the Winter newsletter.

## IAN SMITH

Ian's funeral was held at Guildford Crematorium on 6th June followed by a celebration of his life at West Surrey Golf Club, where he had been a regular playing member.



Most of his working life was spent in the 'family' business of Lepard and Smiths (est. 1757) which in more recent times became Link Paper and then MoDo Merchants.

Ian was a keen sportsman and an accomplished hockey player and during the 1960s he toured the USA, India, South Africa and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) where he was greeted after a match by the then Prime Minister Ian Douglas Smith - they exchanged signatures!

In a colourful life, Ian met Salvador Dali on a beach on the Costa Brava where both he and, his then girlfriend, got invited back to the 'shack' in Portlligat for drinks and a chance to view Dali's latest creation!

Ian also befriended Françoise Hardy, the French singer and '60s heart-throb. He enjoyed driving through France whether for the MoDo 'Beaujolais Nouveau Run' or to meet friends in Cavaliere on the Cote d'Azur. During a trip to Cavaliere, Ian met Isabelle and it was there that they were happily married in 1995.

Always an optimist and forward looking, he attended London Pride lunches when health allowed and bravely fought on through the last five years of terminal illness. Ian with his calm and caring temperament will be greatly missed by Isabelle, family, friends and all who knew him.

*Michael Rust*

## DON (DAI) EVANS



Dai Evans, as everyone in the Paper Trade knew him, was really Don Evans, but when he joined H Reeve Angel in 1951 there was already a Don working there, so they decided that as his name was Evans, he had better be called Dai. This meant that he was the first Cockney Welshman in the trade.

His first job was working for H Reeve Angel, which looked after Star Paper Ltd on behalf of a Finnish company called Kymmene, which, because of the war, was classed as a potential enemy as it had been at war with Russia at the beginning of the Second World War. Dai joined them in August 1951 and worked there until he was called up to do his National Service in 1954 in the RAMC, where he served in the Far East. Unfortunately for Dai, when he should have been demobbed, the Suez crisis was on so instead of coming straight back to England he had to do an extra six months in the Army in Cyprus.

Dai had met Mary the year before he was called up and they got married in 1958, after he returned to England. He was still employed by H Reeve Angel but transferred as a salesman to Star Paper, and over the years was probably one of the best-known representatives in the paper trade. He knew everyone and they all knew him. He was asked to move twice by Star Paper to various places in the south, which he did, but on the third occasion when Star wanted him to go to Blackburn, he said no, so was made redundant. He had been with the company 35 years. Dai then joined an Italian Mill where he worked until he retired.

Dai had always been interested in bowls and during his retirement won many trophies and cups and was Captain of Little Gaddesden Outdoor Bowls Club. He was also a very active member of the local Church.

He leaves his wife Mary, two daughters, Jeanette and Paula, and six grandchildren.

Dai will be sadly missed by all.

*David Gould*

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