

# The Bigger PICTURE



paper industry charitable trust news

Issue No. 12 December 2012

## 2013 The “Follow Through” Year...

**W**ith the glamour and the clamour of this Olympic Year receding, we at PICT are determined to follow through to 2013 by taking a bullish approach to the challenges that all of those in business understand. We are especially determined not to be phased by any of the negativity that seems to sell so much copy these days. Our Vice-President Jeremy Martin is very much signed up to this and has made it clear that he wishes to stress in his year of office the core values of the Charity which is to raise funds. The sporting sections do a terrific job, no doubt about that. Very considerable donations are raised at their events and we expect high levels of support in the coming year.

At the very centre of our activities is our flagship event, the Sporting Lunch. This is our industry’s best luncheon event by far. It will be, as ever, very special, dynamic, full of the right sort of noise and very, very entertaining. Please note the following and make that diary entry right away as we are more than halfway to our max of 400 seats... so book that table.....! It will be held on **Friday 15th March 2013 in the Ballroom of the Riverbank Plaza Hotel, 18 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7JT.**

The AGM will commence at 11am in Plaza Suite 1 as before, to which all Members are encouraged to attend. It is usually a short meeting in which the outgoing President receives his Past President’s Badge and the new President is elected plus whatever other business needs to be aired. An important fact is that the bar opens at 12 noon for pre-lunch drinks (very reasonable bar prices) and the Lunch itself begins at 1pm. Do contact Anne James for tickets for this prestigious event and note guests are very welcome. More good news... the ticket prices remain unchanged at members £75, guests £85 and retired members £60.



Bobby George

There will be auctions both of the conventional and table variety, and of course, entertainment. With no major sporting event this year, at least on the scale of the Olympics, we have decided on having star guests with a “lighter touch”. Darts champ extraordinaire Bobby George known as “The King of Darts” and the owner of a very (very) large personality will both entertain and act as auctioneer and general barker.



THE STIG unmasked ...

Then we have a man of mystery THE STIG no less. That white overalled, gleamingly helmeted icon from Top Gear who shall, probably without his helmet, entertain us with tales from the world of motor sport. For all you petrol heads out there, this is a must.

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## sporting lunch/cont

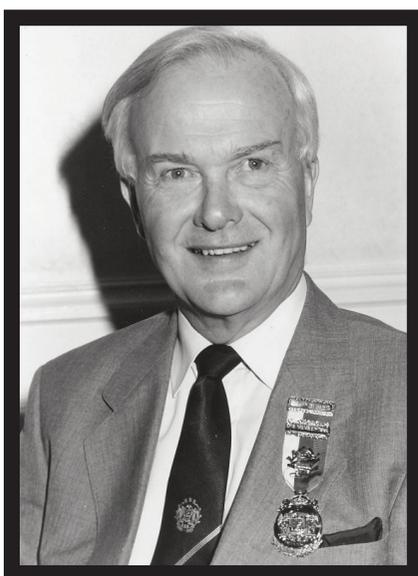
We wish to add that there are best money options should you wish to stay at the Riverbank Plaza where the food is good and I repeat, the bar prices are reasonable.

all a happy and healthy holiday. Have a good rest, you have no doubt earned it and we look forward very much to meeting again next year.

In conclusion it has been a good year full of event and interest and with many donations made to those in need. We at PICT wish you

*Bev Steele*

## obituary



### BRIAN LING 1931 - 2011

**B**rian learned his papermaking at the Waterside Paper Mills in the Lake District followed by a year at Aylesford Paper Mills. He then joined his father in the family firm started by his grandfather in 1917.

Brian continued the paper merchandising activities of the company with a particular emphasis on newsprint. When the newsprint manufacturers switched to more direct selling he extended the company into paper converting.

The next big change was his entry into the greetings card business and Ling Cards became a household name. Brian then sold the company but being rather disappointed with the way his successors ran the company, he bought it back again and eventually sold it for a second time!

Brian was educated at Bradfield where he excelled at sport, soccer, tennis, squash, boxing and his great love, golf. He got down to a handicap of 2, was elected Captain of Walton Heath Golf Club in 1998 and was Captain of the Paper Trade Golfing Society in 1971.

He first joined the Stationers Social Society in 1952, having been proposed by his grandfather, Henry Ling and seconded by his father Harold Ling (President in 1948). He joined the committee in 1954 and later became Treasurer for 10 years. He became President in 1978 and was made an Honorary Life Member in 1995.

Brian was a great family man, much loved by his wife, Althea and his two daughters Penny and Jo. He was a great guy to spend time with, he loved his golf and his wine, he did a very great deal for the Society and we all miss him and his wonderful laugh very, very much.

*Richard Cossens*

## 200 club winners

The sixth draw of the 200 Club took place after the committee meeting on 14th November.

1st Prize £250 - Tony Poyner

2nd Prize £100 - Malcolm Lane-Ley

3rd Prize £50 - Dennis Cole

## from the editor's pen



When writing of a year such as this it is difficult to avoid superlatives but the fact is, it has been, at the national level, a truly outstanding one. The Jubilee, the Olympics, the Para-Olympics, Andy Murray's success at last; even the weather eventually playing ball; these have conspired to make 2012 a real stunner for UK Plc. That the nation's stock rose in the eyes of the world is beyond doubt I think, and more importantly perhaps for us that live here, 2012 gave hope and a beacon light for so many of the less privileged members of our society. As a hopeless optimist I am convinced we shall follow through and make 2013 a good one. We all look for the economy to improve and as I write this "they" tell me we are out of recession albeit by a small margin. With 2012 more or less under our belt it is up to us at PICT to keep to our message which is to do what we can for those less fortunate that need our help.

The Sporting Sections have done sterling work. SHANKS, TENNIS and ANGLING go from strength to strength and their Secretaries are to be congratulated. The time and the energy these dedicated individuals give to the Charity is simply exemplary. Margaret Curle has given us another very interesting report on all things to do with the Paper Trail. No Cricket this time,

a casualty of the weather, but plans are afoot for next year. Regarding Ski-ing we must wait and see. For these things kindly look at the web page.

There is however something for which I must make a special plea. You will note that both the President Andy Thompson and the Trustees make a big point in this Newsletter about the "200 Club". This is deeply under-subscribed. For it to succeed and to work properly requires

at least 100 subscribers and we are currently about half that. I do ask you to look at this. Kindly contact Anne James for the very simple entry documentation.

Andy tells me he has had a busy year and has asked that I mention regional QUIZZES. These are at the planning stage just now and will take place in April 2013. The plan is to run them simultaneously in 3 regions, North, Midlands and South. Do keep an eye on the

PICT web page for information regarding this and we ask you to support this very sociable event.

I hope you find something of interest within the folds of this Newsletter and I wish you the compliments of the Season and if not before, see you on 15th March.

*Bev Steele*

## trustees' report

Perhaps reflecting the economic turmoil through which the nation and therefore our industry is passing, there has been continuing numbers of applicants for assistance from all areas of our trade.

The Trustees have been able to meet all requests so far thanks mainly to the income generated by the sporting lunch. However, if the numbers grow significantly, then we may have to dip into our reserves – and they are not unlimited!

The Trustees do urge members to support the '200 Club' which could be such a useful source of income, and let's face it – is not a

significant burden on its participants and with always a chance of a win!

Trustees forecast grants totalling some £13,500 for 2012, although this total could of course grow.

**Barry Fowler**

**Phil Carr**

**Patrick Shorten**



# stationers' company



## Message From The Stationers' and Newspaper Makers Company - An ancient institution flourishing in the modern changing World

The former name of PICT was the Stationers' Social Society and you might have wondered why the name 'Stationer'. Kevin Dewey, a Past President of the Society and the newly elected Master of the City Livery Company explains:

600 years ago most craftsmen in London were itinerant. However the manuscript writers and illuminators decided to concentrate their efforts and set up stalls or 'stations' around St Paul's Cathedral. Because of this they were given the nickname 'Stationers' and this was the obvious choice of name for the guild they established in 1403 and for its home, Stationers' Hall, which remains within a stone's throw of the Cathedral in Ave Maria Lane.

When printing came to England in the late 15th century, the Stationers had the good sense to embrace it and we have continued to adapt to the many changes in the Content and Communications industries ever since. The technology may have changed from pen and inks to print and on-line links but the name has always remained the same.

Today the Company has over 800 members, the vast majority of whom are senior executives in the complete range of trades within the Content and Communications industries, from paper, print, inks, publishing, packaging, office products, newspapers, broadcasting and online media. Membership is drawn from across the UK and increasingly throughout the world and now includes major companies as well as individual members.

The Company uses Stationers' Hall for the purpose for which it was built all those years ago: to bring together the major players in our industries so that they can enjoy each other's company, learn from one another, swap ideas and together develop strategies for the future of industries that are vital to global economic growth. Activities range from formal dinners, informal lunches, lectures, seminars and intimate round-table sessions to online reports and discussion fora.

Peter Day, a BBC global business correspondent, encapsulated this in a recent speech at Stationers' Hall: "The Stationers' Company is more relevant today than it was at the time of Caxton". It is because of, and not despite, its 600-year history that the Company remains determined to continue to adapt to the ever-increasing pace of change in the media industry.



Stationers' Hall



## stationers' company

The Company's mission is to be recognised as the most effective independent forum in the UK Content and Communications industries, actively contributing to the strategic development, success and education of these industries. We do this by:

encouraging a broad balance of membership (both by individuals and panies) from all sectors of our industries, covering most of the senior executives and businesses in our industries;

delivering high-quality events at Stationers' Hall, on subjects that are up-to-date, forward-looking and strategic, that provide excellent networking opportunities and good value for money and are fun;

maximising the resources of our charity, the Stationers' Foundation, and directing them towards improving literacy, the education of young people seeking careers in our industries and the welfare of those connected with our industries;

developing our facilities at Stationers' Hall to enhance the benefits of membership, better preserve and provide wider access to our treasures and archives, and increase commercial lettings;

playing an active part in the work of the Corporation of London by encouraging and supporting our members to contribute to the Corporation's work, by participating in new initiatives and by building our relationships with other livery companies, particularly those with trades related to ours;

adding value to membership through improved communications, improved membership facilities at Stationers' Hall and the organisation of events;

creating full transparency in our governance procedures so that all members are able to maximise their contribution to the work of the Company and develop their standing within the Company; increasing our impact in the industry through improved public relations and stronger relationships with our media partners;

encouraging the use of Stationers' Hall by our partner Trade Associations and other communications-related membership organisations;

preserving our library and archives, which record our role as custodians of copyright from its very beginnings, and making this unique collection accessible to a broader public audience.



Members are able to attend and bring guests to around 60 events held each year at Stationers' Hall. These events are a mixture of formal dinners, lunches, receptions, lectures and discussions, and are designed to enable members to network with one another, learn from one another and share in the wonderful resource of Stationers' Hall as the 'heart and home' of the Content and Communications industries.

The Company is managed by a Court of some 30 senior members chaired by the Master, who is assisted by two Wardens. The Master serves for one year and acts as the ambassador of the Company throughout our industries and within the City of London.

You cannot just join the Company, you need to be invited and sponsored but the business and personal benefits of membership can be considerable if you become involved. Many members of PICT are already Liverymen or Freemen. More information can be found at [www.stationers.org](http://www.stationers.org).

## charity golf day 2013



Rothley Park Golf Club

Fred Haines tells us he will be holding a Charity Golf Day at Rothley Park in deepest rural Leicestershire mid-June 2013. Rothley Park is a lovely golf course making a great background for a terrific day of golf. We ask you to note Fred's contact details. Do help him put some teams together to make this a special day. The actual date was not available at the time of writing but will be shown as soon as possible on the PICT web page. His email address is:

[Fred\\_Haines@fedrigoni.co.uk](mailto:Fred_Haines@fedrigoni.co.uk)

The Editor



# london pride society

In the June Newsletter I mentioned that the old LPS had re-structured as a Luncheon Club and that we were at that time about to approach two small London based charities to whom donations would be made. One donation to the St Mary le Bow Young Homeless Charity has now been made.



Owen and Bev pass LPS Donation to a young representative of the Young Homeless Charity at St Mary le Bow

It was a pleasure for Owen Davis and myself to attend this short ceremony at St Mary le Bow church in Cheapside in September, to meet Michael Kenny the Director of the Young Homeless Charity and two young ex-offenders. It is a great enterprise that Michael Kenny and his team are involved in, working constructively with young people many of whom are damaged almost beyond repair, but he was very pleased to tell us of his successes which greatly outnumber the failures.



Ron Thompson telling a story

With regard to the LPS itself we seem to be rising very successfully from what was a condition of increasing deterioration. It may still be a bit early to tell but a very few years ago we were having dinners with as few as 8 or 10 attendees. Since the re-structuring 15 came to our April 2012 Lunch and 25 signed up to come to the Lunch at the Boot & Flogger in Redcross Way on Thursday 22nd November.

In the event 19 showed, the shortfall due to sickness and work pressures but we had several guests along too and a very convivial time it was. A short meeting was called at 12 noon and the Lunch began at about 1pm. The food, wine and company were exemplary as ever. We have another Lunch set for April 2013, actual date is yet to be fixed but do contact the editor should you be interested to attend.

*Bev Steele*



John Rayner in good voice



A dark but very noisy room



## River Test

Friday, 19th October 2012

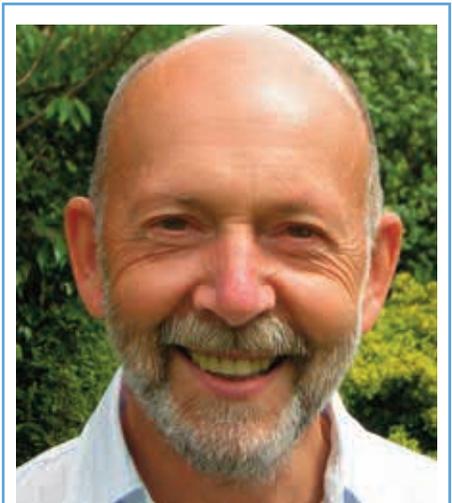
Conditions leading up to our annual visit to the River Test were diabolical as Lesley and I discovered when we spent two nights earlier in the week, with the rain hammering down on our caravan roof. A trip to Lymington reinforced the situation where we found the sea gently lapping over the quay despite flood barriers being closed, and access to the waterside pub cut off by flooding – a real tragedy!

It was no surprise therefore that the gravel track leading to the fishing hut was flooded in places and the river was the highest we have seen it in all the years we have been making our annual pilgrimage to this mecca of fly-fishing.

Not one of the members or guests was put off by any of this and a total of 19 eager participants turned out, many leaving home at 4.00a.m. in order to be there when I opened the gate at 8.00.

In fact the morning weather was not too bad, cloudy, overcast, little or no wind and dry from above but seriously wet under foot, or in my case in foot after a shallow puddle turned out to be about a foot deep!

It was no surprise after the early starts that people started coming in for lunch from about 11.00 onwards and it was quite obvious that the raging torrent had not been mastered in any way. There were tales of fish that had been hooked and got away but only two had



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Weathervane on the camp site



Patrick Shorten (right) and guest Tony Bostrum

actually been landed, a sea trout by Robert Taylor and a brown trout by guest Roy Burgess. Even the regulars David Gould and his guest Mike, who fish the river every fortnight, could not catch anything.

When it started to rain after lunch, it was quite natural for people to say “enough is enough” and start to make their weary way home. There were just sufficient stalwarts still around at 3.30 to help push Mike out of an enormous hole in the soft earth, aided by a tow from guest Mark Vincent – strong stuff, that electric cooker cable, every car should carry some!

My thanks to everyone for their support and enthusiasm on this ghastly day, it makes it all worth my wet feet, also to David Gould who makes the essential arrangements with the fishery.

I didn't bother to get my camera out but did take a photo of the delightful weather vane on the camp site which shows an angler landing a fish and a fish at all four points of the compass which I think is probably where they were on this day!

# angling

## Rib Valley Thursday, 9th November 2012

It was wonderful to wake up to a perfect autumn day with clear blue sky and a very light breeze all of which augured well for a good day's fishing.

Rib Valley is my local water so for once I did not have to go near the dreaded M25 and it also meant a nice relaxed start in addition to the lovely weather. We had a total of nine members and guests coming from as far as Suffolk and Surrey and two who had actually missed breakfast to drive up from the wilds of Kent!

I had a quick word with the bailiff who said that there were plenty of fish in the lake, but as always it was just a case of finding them! A recent competition had seen a catch return of just over 2 fish per rod so maybe it would not be too easy for us.

My day started with promise when I had a pull on the line very soon after casting out my first fly but I was unable to connect with the fish. The trout at Rib Valley are known to patrol the margins looking for fly life that emerges from the water near the bank, so my next cast was parallel to the bank. The line looked as though it had caught weed but in such circumstances it is always best to lift the rod and sure enough I was into my first of the day. More followed and it went on to become a memorable morning for me, catching 6, losing 2 and missing several others.



Robert Taylor playing a fish

We had a very sociable lunch with much banter during which the weather changed slightly with more cloud being brought in on a breeze that had also changed direction. This changed the fishing and the afternoon proved much harder, with only the occasional fish being caught.

So, another angling year comes to an end during which attendances have held up remarkably well. My thanks to everybody who has attended any of our meetings this year, it makes it all worthwhile and I hope to see as many of you as possible next year together with your guests.



Sandy White playing a fish

Similar success was being had by other members with Sandy White catching 4 and he didn't arrive until 11.00! Robert Taylor also had 4 to prove his consistency, he being the only angler to have caught fish at each of our 4 outings in 2012 and this alone should have justified him winning the MONK TROPHY but he actually won it by having the heaviest catch throughout the year. Congratulations to Robert – it was a very close competition and the outcome might have been different if Dennis Cole hadn't had tickets to watch tennis at the 02!



Les Bidewell & Andrew Smith

## Annual Tennis Tournament Thursday, 20th September 2012

On Thursday 20th September 2012, it turned out we clashed with the Past Presidents' Lunch in London. It was to be the 13th but that clashed with a trade show at the NEC we were involved with which ironically ended up postponed. What a palaver. Sadly this affected the numbers somewhat as we lost quite a few of the regulars including the holders of both trophies! So the usually crowded "before" snapshot looks a little anaemic but we still had a great day and the weather was very kind once again.

The positive spin is that I am happy to announce that 30% of the participants were ladies this year! We are also proud to announce that we have a second ladies name in all the history on the Johnston Cup. More about that later as there was also another first; a lady appearing in the Penman Trophy Final.....er indoors no less with yours truly.



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Due to the numbers this year we decided to forego the evening presentation and instead enjoy a little more variety on the lunch for all participants.

A big thank you to all the sponsors who helped cover the costs involved in the day: Fedrigoni UK, Mondi UK, Sam UK Ltd, I.P. UK Ltd and Mitsubishi HiTec UK Ltd. This kindness enables the monies left over and subs for the day to go towards PICT charity funding, so a cheque for £255 is on its way to Anne James.

So it was a straight 5 pairs with a round robin before and after lunch which would culminate in a straightforward top two fighting it out for the Penman Trophy, 3rd & 4th fighting it out for the Johnston Cup and 5th position for the cherished wooden spoon.

Well with many of the usual suspects missing it was going to be great to see some new names on the trophies, but it would also be great to see those that could not make it return to challenge again next year. We do have a great incentive for that, more on that later! See the NB at the end!

During lunch Tim Winstone and I quote asked: "How's that gorgeous

granddaughter of yours?" "Well" I answered Bradley is great" and helped settle the 1st timers to the PICT tennis day: Elaine Candler and Chris Wileman who kindly stepped in at the 11th hour.

Amazingly me and my good lady enjoyed 4 straight wins in the round robin and headed the table on 28 points with the new pairing of Tony Wood & Andy Veasey due to Fred being at the Past President's dinner. So a 3 setter for the Penman Trophy ensued.

The Johnston Cup had another 1st, a mixed final. Karen Scurfield & Paul Le Serve making his comeback, versus another new pairing of Elaine Candler & Tony Poyner. Elaine was very nervous about attending and thought she would not be amongst similar tennis players. She was right on 2 counts, Brian Garson was missing and she is that lady player when you play mixed against every pair that annoyingly consistently gets it back. I hope she and Tony enjoyed the day. They did end up as the runners up in the Johnston Cup and congratulations to Karen & Paul who won the day 6 - 4, 6 - 3.



Winners Johnston Cup 2012 Karen Scurfield & Paul Le Serve

# tennis



Runners up Johnston Cup 2012 Elaine Candler & Tony Poyner

The Penman Trophy began in what were very windy conditions and a strange 1st set that Claire and I won 6 – 0. Sadly in set 2 & 3 the comeback was complete when they realised a combination of using their height and approaching the net combined with the windy conditions that made lobbing impossible. Congratulations to Tony and Andy on a 0 – 6, 6 – 3, 6 – 2 victory and their names go on the Penman Trophy for the 1st time.



Winners Penman Trophy 2012 Tony Wood & Andy Veasey



Runners up Penman Trophy 2012 Claire Vic & John Vic

There was no escape as 5th place in the Round Robin table meant the sought after prize of the wooden spoon as posed below went to Tim Winstone and Chris Wileman. Tim I am sure will come back fighting next year but not with Chris who I again thank as he thought he was coming to take photographs and ended up playing. He did say though after not picking up a racket for a couple of decades he has got the bug and he and his wife will start playing again!



PICT Wooden Spoon 2012 Winners  
Brian Garson & Mike Thomsett

Once again a big thank you to my wife for putting up with me as a partner for the day but thanks to her I made my second appearance in the Penman Trophy Final. Maybe third time lucky. Also a final thank you to Courtney who took lot's of piccies.



Once again, thank you to all that participated and facilitated. I hope a great day was had by all. I look forward to the numbers returning to normal for 2013 so please keep spreading the word. Just to confirm the date for next year is **Thursday, 12th September 2013.**

NB. The venue will be the same next year but the good news is if the weather is kind to us we have the possibility of grass court tennis as the club has 3 lovely new grass courts alongside the rest of their facilities along with a 2nd clubhouse dedicated to the grass courts.



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**SHANKS Autumn Golf Meeting  
 Aldeham Golf & Country Park, Watford, Herts  
 26th September 2012**

**S**HANKS secretary extraordinaire Mike "Kit Kat" Kerlogue decided to give this meeting a slightly northern bias and what a happy result that was for us, the Common Horde. 14 like minded of us Common Horde were treated to a round of golf on a beautiful parkland course with ancient trees and wide (thankfully wide) sun-dappled fairways. Very uplifting.

The Fortunate Fourteen were:

Mike (Kit Kat) Kerlogue, Bev (Slicer) Steele, Rod Benwell, Neil (Count) Haslam, John (Deerhunter) Vanderpump, Chris Godfrey, Bob (Commodore) Green, Alan Piper, Tony Spicer, Andrew Causer a newcomer, Martin Spears a newcomer, John Walker a guest, Roland Emery a guest, Grant Wilkinson a guest.

We met at about midday for coffee and bacon baps and teed off at 1pm. We were squared off into 4's where possible having been issued with the customary Kit Kats supplied by the

eponymous Mike K and the fiendish Yellow Ball was given to each team. This is where we play as a team and each player in turn must play the Yellow Ball, loss of which comes close to constituting a Shanks Moment.

Stapleford Individual Score

- 1st - Martin Stears (with a lot of points)
- 2nd - Andrew Causer
- 3rd - Bob (Commodore) Green

Most improved Shanker – Bev (Slicer) Steele. A real game of two halves for him. Guest winner – a tie between John Walker and Grant Wilkinson.



Kit Kat doesn't bother with a ball

Good News and Bad News. The good news is about the rain which threatened constantly but had stayed away until about the halfway mark but then descended in buckets for about 10 minutes, quite enough to soak us thoroughly, after which the sun came out and stayed that way allowing us to dry out a bit. The bad news, (this most disappointing for the scribe) was the lack of SHANKS moments. No real disasters, howlers etc.. No one fell in the lake, drove the wrong way off a tee or played through the car park. We do have a SHANKS Trophy to award for the biggest mistake though, but fair reader, kindly be patient a little longer.

The prizewinners were:

Yellow Ball Team 1 – Alan Piper/Tony Spicer/John Walker



The Commodore having driven superbly

Here at last is patience rewarded.... The Steve Beckett Trophy for Top Shanker went to Andrew Causer for allegedly coming close to decapitating his partner with a powerful but profoundly sliced shot. His partner was still looking a bit peaky when he sat down to dinner and I noticed they weren't speaking. It must have been close. He shall now be known within SHANKS circles as "Killer" Causer.

The dinner was delicious and substantial and the service very good.

Mike Kerlogue is to be congratulated again on his organisational powers and the icing on the cake is that £130 was raised for PICT. A very special day.



# shanks

Hot news just in. "Kit Kat" Kerlogue tells us he has booked the Spring Meeting 2013 and the details for this un-missable event are as follows:-

Cost - a truly amazing £55 for coffee and bacon bap upon arrival at 12 noon, 18 holes of golf on a cracking course, 2 course dinner, all in a company that just can't be bought. What can be better than that? Please contact Kit Kat aka Mike Kerlogue in due course.

The venue is Westerham Golf Club. **The date is Thursday 23rd May 2013.**

*Bev Steele*



The Fortunate 14 excluding cameraman



Kit Kat presents 1st prize to Martin Stears



Bev "Slicer" Steele receives Most Improved Prize



Andrew "Killer" Causer receives the Steve Beckett Trophy



cricket

**M**ike Robertson tells us that though there was much interest, no cricket could be played this year owing to inclement weather. There will be another match arranged for next summer. Please look for information regarding his on the PICT web page and in the June edition of the Newsletter.

The Editor



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ski-ing

**K**indly keep your eye on the PICT web page for news regarding arrangements for the coming season or contact Richard Fowler direct.

The Editor

obituary

22.1.39 – 30.4.12 Harry Gordon Campbell



**H**arry (Gordon) was born in Morningside, Edinburgh on 22nd January 1939. He went to George Heriots school in Edinburgh where he took an active part in sports, including rugby and athletics. He was a member of the George Heriots Former Pupils Association becoming a season ticket holder and a passionate supporter of the Heriots Rugby Club and Scottish Rugby. After leaving school he spent two years in the RAF based in Northern Ireland.

He then joined the Inveresk Paper Company in 1961 as one of the very first trainees. As part of his work experience he went to Henry Bruce, makers of book papers, to be followed by time in Caldwell's Manchester Sales Office. He joined the London Sales Office in the mid

1960's through to the 1970's with particular interest in Carrongrove's coated qualities. His wide experience of Inveresk's activities made him the ideal selection as Sales Manager for the newly formed Scottish Sales Office responsible for Scotland and Northern Ireland. However, with the closure of some of its mills and the takeover by the American forest industries Georgia Pacific Corporation this office was closed and Harry left the company in 1986 to join the Ekman Cleave agency where he worked for six years. He then joined the Royal Bank of Scotland Cash Centre until he retired. Harry's success in his commercial activities was in part due to his keen interest in people and the paper trade at large. He joined the Stationer's Social Society in 1965 (now The Paper Industry Charitable Trust) and remained an active member until his death in April 2012. He was equally supportive of the Scottish paper trade through the NAPM, curling, rugby and golf involving his staff whenever possible. Even after he left the industry he was closely involved with the Scottish "Waters of Leith Conservation Trust" and also found time to attend reunion dinners at Kelso.

Harry will be sadly missed by his wife Vanessa (who he met whilst she was working as a secretary for the Inveresk Paper Company in 1966), his daughter Suzanne, son Ross and family and friends.

## letter from the paper trail

**W**ell the winter months are now upon us, with Christmas just round the corner. Here at The Paper Trail, Halloween half term week was fun with lots of families enjoying the crafting activities we organised. In fact, we appear to have become a magnet for local childminders – somewhere to bring their small charges and also able to have a coffee and a chat at the same time – without having to clear up afterwards! By the time you read this our Christmas Market will have come and gone – with over 40 craft stalls, hand papermaking and letterpress printing – this is always a popular event and a good fundraiser.

Before I chatter on with more news from Frogmore – I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Grupo Portucel Soporcel, which kindly donates copier paper to us for our general office work, mail outs and in particular our Paper Appreciation Course manuals; and also to GF Smith, which sends us eclectic selections of papers to be used for our family activities – thanks a lot we really do appreciate it. And, of course, if any other company would like to donate some paper to us – that would be absolutely brilliant. Just contact me.

One ‘hot’ bit of news is that we have just been awarded a small Heritage Lottery Grant in support of a project called ‘The Paper Valley’. The project is an exploration of how mass produced paper, first made in Apsley, brought benefits to the Gade Valley as well as the whole country. The story is to be told through the lives and times of the paper industry pioneers plus the communities of the Gade Valley during the period 1750 to 1950. The overall aim is to attract communities to be aware and proud of their unique industrial heritage.

This grant is great news, because apart from anything else, it means that the Heritage Lottery Fund feel confident in our longevity to award this to us. Watch this space.....

Now back to the day-to-day running - school visits are still buoyant, however as mentioned in my last letter – schools are struggling to pay the ever rising costs of coach travel. It’s such a shame, because without fail all the children and students love coming to Frogmore and finding out about paper.

The adult groups are ticking along, with bookings already on the calendar for autumn next year. However, I still believe footfall off the street could be dramatically increased if we could get some brown signs in place. This is now a ‘bee in my bonnet’ and I am on a mission to raise money to pay for these signs, which can only do us good. Even a £1,000 would enable us to have a few brown signs – so if anyone fancies sponsoring us – please, please contact me.

Two Rivers Paper, the company which leases the ½ metre wide 1902 paper machine at Frogmore, is busy making a new range of papers called Inclusivity. Papers include Summer Blossoms, containing Devon grown flower petals in both board and paper weights; DeNimes Graphic produced from old jeans; Carpenters, made from the sawdust and wood shavings from the Olympic wooden boat project; as well as three other interesting grades.



Papermaker Jim Patterson enthusiastically told me that these wonderful unique papers are already selling through Paperchase, and that sales are increasing. So why not give him a call to find out more, and even what he can produce for you.

And I don’t know if the economy is moving upwards slowly – but I have noticed in the last month we have seen a slight increase in the bookings for our conferencing facilities. So don’t forget us for your meetings – we can offer a unique venue with personality.

The last Paper Appreciation Course of 2012 was very popular with a good healthy number of delegates from publishers, merchants and mills – many booked through the NAPM.

Finally again something completely different – you may remember from my last letter – the group of Ghost Hunters did come along for a trial run – when we were down near the back of the machine one of them “felt something all over her face” – wasn’t sure if she meant cobwebs or not!! I kept quiet – but I think she meant something more supernatural!! Hmm..

And very finally - Frogmore Mill has once again been on YouTube!! So come on all you ‘hip young things’ go onto You Tube and search ‘Foreign Beggars – Apex (the official video)’ and look very closely - you may just recognise the surroundings!!! And on that note! I will depart and as always remind you all – that we are here promoting the paper industry and its sustainability not only to adults, but future generations, and if any of you can help us in this mission in any way – please contact me.

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## where are they now?

### LES BIDEWELL

..... that Man of Kent.....

Les was born on the snowy 24th February 1947 at Cray Valley Cottage Hospital, now extinct, a few hundred yards away from the Bull Public House situated next door to William Nash Ltd, Cray Valley Paper mills where he was destined to start life in the paper industry 16 years on. He worked in the family coal yard in St Mary Cray after final schooling at Dartford Technical College. His first 'job' was at a butchers in St Mary Cray opposite the coal yard. At 16 he moved full time to William Nash Ltd at Cray Valley Paper Mills as a sample boy involving knowledge of rag papers, 4th, 5th and 6th Creams and azure woves, banks, bonds etc., alien terminology to today's paper industry. He successfully sat the City and Guilds Paper Making Technology exams and remembers his time at Willam Nash with great affection where rags were sorted by hand and the Salles were full of young ladies in those barmy days!



Les Bidewell the Compleat Angler at his ease

Thanks to Hector Sutherland the Sales Director, he became first the Export Manager then General Sales Manager, a great opportunity that later included forming an agency department importing papers from Spain, Brazil and France. When Nash took over Horton Kirkby in the early 1970's Lionel Robinson joined the team and in 1976, thanks to Michael Nash, Bison was born from Bldewell and Robinson. Changes came along and people moved on but Bison remained. Les's son Mark entered the business and took the company through its transition to digital printing to effectively save the firm from extinction with the radical changes seeing off so many paper mills, merchants and agents. BiSon Paper continues very successfully to this day.

Les is a great hobby man and in order of priority tells me they are food, alcohol, aviation, fishing, shooting, steam engine preservation, wildlife conservation and country living, with golf not high on the list. Most spare time was given to flying both for business and pleasure with many happy memories visiting customers throughout the UK by 'plane and the fun and excitement that went with it. He tells of meeting Liz Hurley at a young age when she first came to fame in the BBC production of Christabel having done a 'military' parachute drop in

Dorset for one of the episodes. He flew a Junkers 52 that workhorse of the Luftwaffe and drove a Battle of Britain Class 'Manston' locomotive. He tells how lucky he was to have had these privileges entirely thanks to the Paper Industry without which none of it would have happened!

He met his wife Melanie at Nash's in 1967 when, as his temporary secretary she became full time and love blossomed and they married in 1969.. Later they moved to a small farm in Egerton and Pluckley, having land in both parishes where they still live with their horses, sheep, ducks, goats and geese. Les is a man of many parts alright and retirement has been a gradual transition. He retains an interest in Bison and he and Melanie play with the things they both enjoy. Les is a fly fisherman all thanks he says to George Fowler, who gives up so much time organising events throughout the year for PICT, and with Martin Randall there comes an association with Stationers Hall and with odd clay pigeon days slotted in and visits to pubs, which is where this all started, at the Bull, St Pauls Cray! There we have Les Bidewell.....very much a Man of Kent.

The Editor

## past presidents meeting

The Past President's Lunch was held on Thursday, 20th September 2012



Past Presidents finding common ground?



Mr Aubrey Heyer in good form...

# easy reference

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