

KierLink

The magazine for the Kier Fellowship Trust | Issue 37 | Autumn/Winter 2018



ROGER FORBES BATTLING
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS –
PAGE 6

BOMBAY SAPPHIRE
GIN DISTILLERY –
PAGE 18

PLACES TO VISIT – THE
TITANIC EXPERIENCE –
PAGE 26



Neil Meixner

Chairman's matters and Administrator's report

On Sunday 24 June 2018, we celebrated our 21st Garden Party since the formation of the Trust back in 1998, with 213 members and executive directors in attendance.

With glorious weather, good food and live music the day was a huge success. Our thanks go to Kier Group for providing the marquee and facilities staff.

The Best Performing Area Award deservedly went to Bristol & Newport with thanks to David Priddis and his team. The Most Improved Area Award went to Tempsford and Harold Thompson who, together with his team, had a splendid year of interesting events.

In addition to the those above, we would like to thank all the area organisers and their teams for the amazing array of events they organised over the course of the year. One hundred and one events with 2,850 attendees! Well done.

In April this year Sonia Webb retired after 25 years working for Kier Eastern and the Fellowship Trust – originally at the Wisbech office and more recently the Waterbeach office. We wish to thank Sonia for all her hard work, commitment, enthusiasm and organising events over the years. We extend a warm welcome to Alison Alexander who has agreed to take over the role left by Sonia.

During recent months we have continued to improve and develop our new website for the Fellowship at: www.fellowship.kier.co.uk. The new site includes a home page, membership invitation page, calendar of events, contacts page, blog, gallery of photographs from events and previous editions of KierLink. Please have a browse! You are now able to flick through the calendar of events and contact organisers from outside your area to join in any activity that may interest you. Members can add new photographs from events and any items for the blog by sending them to Andrea McDaid at kierfellowship@gmail.com

Interest in the Trust remains high with new members joining from most divisions of the company around the country with membership currently standing at 1,331.



Brendan O'Boyle

We have received some excellent articles from members for inclusion in the KierLink magazine and we are still seeking more interesting articles for future editions. If you have been on a special holiday, have an unusual hobby or perhaps remember previous iconic Kier projects please contact any member of the editorial team namely, Andrea McDaid email address kierlinkmag@gmail.com, Neil Meixner or Brendan O'Boyle and we will be pleased to assist you.

New members wishing to join or re-join the Kier Rewards Scheme need to be aware that the team at Rushden service centre cannot register them direct. They must contact either their area organiser or Brendan O'Boyle with their full name, date of birth, email address and National Insurance number so that central Trust records can be updated first. The information will then be passed to the rewards team on the first of each month for loading live on the system.

We remind you to advise us of any change of address or circumstances so that you can continue to receive invitations to events and copies of KierLink magazine.

If you require help or information with any matters relating to the Kier Group Fellowship Trust, please contact Brendan O'Boyle by email as shown below.

E-mail: brendan.o'boyle.ext@kier.co.uk

Regards Neil & Brendan

Editor's note

Welcome to issue 37. It's wonderful to see how many events have been attended and enjoyed by you all. There have been some amazing adventures this year! See the centre spread for 'Memories of India' and page 14 for Mark Starling's massive achievement...

Did you know? There's just no escaping 'Kier'! On holiday last year in Tenerife, Geoff Clark saw a cocktail menu with a 'Kier Royal'! In 1998 my husband, Justin and I, were honeymooning in Barbados. One of the first things we saw leaving the airport was a construction site with a huge Kier sign and branded dumper trucks!

I have to mention Jeff Taylor's talent of painting which I'm sure you will agree is impressive (see back page).

I would like to thank you all for your contributions and look forward to reading what you've all been participating in for the next edition.

Best wishes, Andrea



Andrea McDaid



Contents

Chairman's, administrator's and editor's reports.....	2-3	Carol's 100k continuous Thames Path Challenge 2018	24
Message from the Group Chief Executive	4	Obituaries	25
New members	5	Places to visit... ..	26-27
Roger Forbes	6	The Shuttleworth Collection	28-29
A member's story by Jim O'Connor	7	Where are they now?	30
Memories of India	8-9	Forest of Dean Batman!	31
Area reports.....	10-24	The Trust's got talent	32

**COVER PHOTO:
AN HISTORIC AIRCRAFT AT
THE SHUTTLEWORTH
COLLECTION, OLD WARDEN,
NEAR BIGGLESWADE
TAKEN ON 9 MAY 2018**



Copy deadline for Autumn/Winter 2019 issue:

**MONDAY
28 JANUARY 2019**

Email kierlinkmag@gmail.com

Message from the Group Chief Executive



"I hope you had a good summer.."

In July, we issued our latest trading update in advance of the release of our 2018 full year results in September. We were able to report that our profit and earnings forecast is in line with our expectations for the period. Our solid financial performance and our consistent delivery in our three key markets – Infrastructure Services, Buildings, and Developments & Housing – reflect the strength and stability of our business model. Our diverse

portfolio of businesses and growing order book provide us with the balance and resilience to keep delivering for our clients and customers.

However, given recent market developments, including the collapse of Carillion and the challenges faced by some of our competitors, there is market reticence and indifference from investors about buying into our sectors, and this is having an impact on our own share price. Whilst the share price is a subject for the markets to dictate, we can influence its direction of travel by delivering on what we say we will do and delivering our products & services efficiently and effectively.

To help us further improve our business and operational performance, we launched in June a new efficiency and streamlining programme entitled 'Future Proofing Kier'. This programme which will run over the next two years, will improve our ability to respond to the needs of our customers, build a culture of empowerment & accountability, and simplify & streamline our business thereby improving our operating margins and cash generation. I will share further details with you in the months to come.

"As always, thank you for your continual support and interest in Kier."

Hayden Mursell

A warm welcome to the following **new members**

Name	City/town	Area	Worked for	Years of service
Ian Allen	Wellingborough, Northants	Rushden	Kier Construction Eastern	44
Andrew Bell	Towcester, Northants	Tempsford	Kier Infrastructure UK	23
Stephanie Betts	Gamlingay, Cambs	Tempsford	Kier Ltd	19
Susan Chapman	Aylsham, Norfolk	Waterbeach	Kier Construction Eastern	18
David Coleman	Rushden, Northants	Rushden	Marriott/Kier Eastern	41
Adrian Cooper	Brundall, Norwich	Waterbeach	Kier Construction Eastern	10
Lesley Currell	Biggleswade, Beds	Tempsford	Kier Managed Services	13
Chris Doughty	Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh	Solent	Kier Build & Kier Southern	10
Peter Drew	Kings Lynn, Norfolk	Waterbeach	Kier Plant	42
Michael Hailstones	Farnborough, Hants	Loughton & Solent	Kier Wallis & Kier London	10
Steph Haines	Godmanchester, Cambs	Tempsford	Kier Group Services	12
Teresa Higgins	Moggerhanger, Beds	Tempsford	Kier Ltd	12
Clare Hill	Bushey, Herts	Maple Cross	Kier Construction Southern	10
Andrew Homer	Salisbury, Wilts	Solent	Kier Construction Southern	21
Jeffrey Kercher	Southampton, Hants	Solent	Kier Construction Southern	41
David Lambert	Bedford, Beds	Maple Cross	Kier Southern/Kier Limited	44
Christopher Lax	Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorks	Leeds	Kier Construction Northern	14
Alison Lucas	Northampton, Northants	Rushden	Kier Highways	15
Bhavesh Patel	Uxbridge, Middx	Maple Cross	Kier London and Kier Southern	11
Dominic Primmer	Mutley, Plymouth	Plymouth	Kier Infrastructure & Overseas	7
David Pritchard	Romsey, Hants	Solent	Kier Construction Southern	16
Nicholas Roberts	Gloucester, Glos	Central	Kier Construction Central	8
Mark Robertson	Salisbury, Wilts	Solent	Kier Build, Braziers, Kier Southern	13
Philip Scotchbrook	Whitehaven, Cumbria	Liverpool/Manchester	Kier Infrastructure, Cumbria/NW	38
Dorothy Spedding	Egremont, Cumbria	Liverpool/Manchester	Kier Infrastructure	33
Christopher Tosen	Hedge End, Southampton	Solent	Kier Construction Southern	8
Glyn Walton	Bacup, Lancs	Liverpool/Manchester	Moss Construction & Kier Northern	32
Sonia Webb	Downham Market, Norfolk	Waterbeach	French Kier, Beazer, Kier Eastern	35
Nigel Weeks	Tavistock, Devon	Plymouth	Kier Construction/Infrastructure UK	21
Linda Wells	St. Neots, Cambs	Tempsford	Kier Limited	16
Geoffrey Wilson	Thatcham, Berkshire	Central	Kier Construction Central	39

Roger Forbes...



Roger Forbes, who used to be based at Kier Southern, Maple Cross, as a site manager and systems manager (quality manager) travelled to Mexico in July 2018 for pioneering treatment for his Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

Forty-seven-year-old Roger is undergoing 'Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation' (HSCT) Stem Cell Treatment – an extreme procedure which has an 80 per cent chance of halting the progression of his MS.

Roger has lived with the condition since being diagnosed in December 1994, but after being recommended the treatment by a private consultant flew out to Clínica Ruiz in July.

What is HSCT? It's a chemotherapy (chemo) based medical procedure that obliterates your immune system and reboots it using your own stem cells harvested from your blood or bone marrow. It's the only medical procedure currently available that has halted the progression of most patients undertaking it. It's not 100% guaranteed but the odds are in Roger's favour and what is the alternative?

The treatment started on 23 July and will take approximately 28 days. Full recovery will take anything from two months to two years and can be a bit of a roller-coaster.

The treatment, which costs approximately £50,000, involves harvesting stem cells from patients and giving them doses of chemo, then replacing the stem cells in the patient's body.

"They are leaders in the treatment," Roger says. "They have performed hundreds of procedures and are getting very good results."

The treatment is quite extreme – a small dose of chemo to mobilise his stem cells so a few million can be harvested, followed by a large dose of chemo to kill off his immune system before having his stem cells replaced to reboot his system – hopefully without MS.

In addition to halting the progression of his MS, it is also hoped that the treatment will help walking and other symptoms i.e. fatigue, heat tolerance, pain etc.

Roger has a good support network and goes once a week to the West of England MS Therapy Centre in Bristol, for hyperbaric oxygen therapy and physio.

He has the support of his family and friends who are funding the treatment. His wife, two brothers and sister-in-law travelled out to Mexico to support him and are acting as carers during his recovery.

While he has chosen not to establish a fundraising page, Roger would be enthusiastic to help anyone suffering from MS who may be considering the treatment. He has created a Facebook page which he is updating as he goes through the treatment process.

To follow his journey, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/436341450120201/>

"We wish Roger a swift recovery and send our best wishes to you and your family."

Brendan O'Boyle

A member's story...

It was Spring 1958. I was 16 and in my final year as a student at Willesden Technical College (Building). To get there from Wealdstone, where I lived, I took the bus to Cannons Park Station (just outside Edgware) followed by the Bakerloo line train to Neasden, and then walked the rest of the way to the college.

However, for about six weeks from the beginning of May there was a London bus strike. So I had to ride my bike to the station, leaving it at a local petrol station/garage with the kind consent of the garage owner, and then take the train.

This was not too much of a problem, but it came at a time when we were all getting lined up for interviews at various building companies etc. The college had arranged two or three interviews for me, one being with William Moss and Sons Limited at Staples Corner, Cricklewood.

There were relatively few car owners in those days and we'd never had one in our family. The normal way for me to get to Staples Corner for the interview, would be to catch a bus to Edgware and then a trolley-bus down the Edgware Road to Staples Corner.

Because of the bus strike I only had two options to get there – cycle or hitch-hike! As I would be dressed in my best clothes and carrying a large folder of the drawings I'd produced at the college, I decided to take the chance and hitch-hike.

So, with clean shirt, newest jacket & trousers and polished shoes, I optimistically set out on my journey.



Willesden Technical College
(now College of North East London)

There was very much more a feeling of 'community spirit' in those days, and, dare I say, a much less threatening atmosphere than there appears to be now. So I don't recall having any trepidation in making the journey.

Somehow, with the kindness of several motorists, I not only got to Staples Corner, but arrived in time for my interview. I was interviewed by the lovely Miss K Rayner, and a little while



Jim Connor

later I received the job offer of an apprenticeship as a junior surveyor at the princely sum of four pounds ten shillings (£4.50) a week.

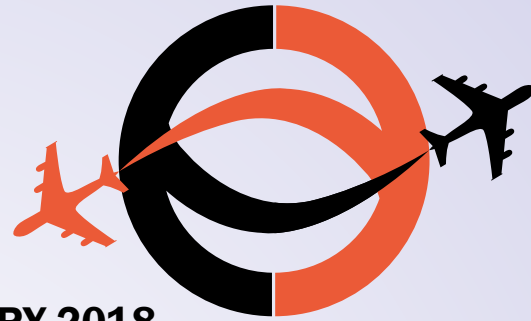
I joined William Moss and Sons Limited on 18 August 1958. By that time the bus strike was over, so I was able to catch the bus from Wealdstone to Edgware and the trolleybus to Staples Corner. The rest, as they say, is history. How the world has changed since those innocent and optimistic days.

Jim Connor



William Moss & Sons
Staples Corner office

Memories of India...



TWENTY-TWO DAYS IN INDIA: JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018



The highlights of the trip for us were Jaisalmer, the best example of an inhabited fort, which was charming and atmospheric and of course the Taj Mahal which is magical. If you're going to the Golden Triangle these two are a must.

Also amazing the fort at Gwalior was a revelation as it was the only one we saw with just Hindu architectural influences and was so well preserved.

The ancient sites and temples are fantastic but as a word of caution, we tried to cram in just a few too many. We glazed over after the umpteenth!

The trains were 'interesting' and cheap, a few rupees to travel hundreds of miles albeit quite slowly even by Network Rail



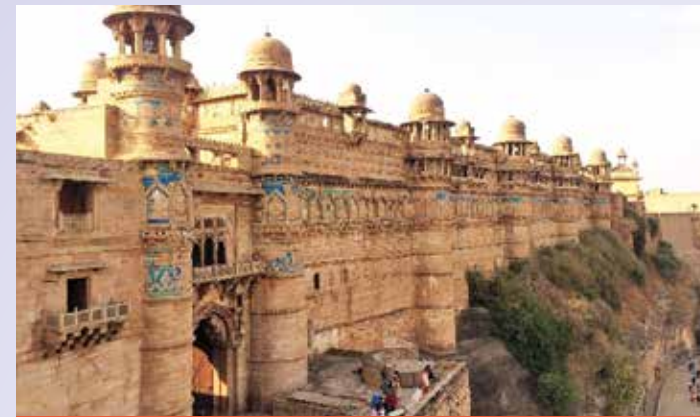
Taj Mahal

standards and the toilets were not quite as bad as feared! As long as you closed your eyes!

"It is impossible to condense our experience into a few words but I will try to tease out some impressions."



Jaisalmer



Gwalior Fort

Driving and the traffic are appalling. You do actually get used to crossing the road and anticipating the vehicle at a junction starting in the left lane of four or five and turning right! No-one seems to think it unusual.

Rubbish is a blight on the cities and the countryside alike. Plastic everywhere! Cows, bulls and dogs but also birds are fed by the people as part of their religious beliefs which results in used and decaying vegetable, breads and rice all over the streets. You must be on your toes at all times to avoid the cow and dog mess.

India has by common consent changed vastly over the last few years mainly as cheap loans means that everyone has bought a motorbike or scooter. The towns particularly are choked. In India they say:

"The government may make laws but the people decide if they'll abide by them."

If tipping were an Olympic sport, then the Indians would win Gold, Silver and Bronze and you can never get any small change. I'm sure they're all in it together... there's a conspiracy theory!

We always felt safe even in the dark back streets.

It is still really cheap to eat and stay in India, but you have to be selective. A vegetarian meal is £4 whilst a single beer is £5. We were quite careful, always using bottled water and we avoided outwardly dodgy looking eateries, and I am delighted to say neither of us suffered from the dreaded 'Delhi Belly'.

There was a lot less begging than we expected.

The temperature was just perfect for us; 28°C as a high most days with wall to wall sunshine

(except two and a half days) and 12-18°C at night, so great for sleeping. There were few occasions when there were really bad smells although the air had an 'aroma' most of the time. I wonder how different it would be in the summer at 48°C!



Ok, so we succumbed to the tourist sunset camel trip. Actually, great fun!

We covered 2,615 miles (whilst in India) in our three weeks 1,450 by road, 670 by overnight train and 490 by internal

flight (Air India was excellent). We got a good feel for this area and we couldn't have done more in the time.

"So many amazing places and so much more to see! Maybe we'll go back..."

Neil and Chris Meixner

Around the regions

Bristol and Newport

During the early Spring we had a visit to Oakham Treasures, at Portbury, south of Bristol. Most of us had never heard of this museum. It has a private collection of items, mostly dating from the last century. The range and quantity of the exhibits, which were all housed in several large barns, was truly staggering. With 1,000's of enamel signs, 10,000's of household items, collections of tractors, tools, post boxes, a whole chemist and sweet shop, the sub post office from Bletchley, and a Draper's shop. A most enjoyable and surprising day which was followed by a pub meal.



Oakham treasures



Tortworth Court

Our main March meal was again held at Tortworth Court, just north of Bristol in very grand surroundings. The hotel stopped their 'pensioners lunch' so the meal was a lot less crowded and more relaxed this year, although complicated to book.



Tredegar House

Our Summer programme continued with a visit to the National Trust's Tredegar House near Newport, famous

for appearing on the opening of the Antiques Roadshow. We all enjoyed the visit in good weather, although it was a pity our group became rather split up when going around this interesting house and extensive grounds.



River Severn boat trip



In June we had a lovely boat trip on the River Severn from Upton-on-Severn to the ancient town of Tewkesbury where we had time for lunch, and explore the Abbey & half-timbered buildings. The warm sunshine left many of us 'glowing' and looking for shade in the cabin on the return trip!

David Priddis

Central

The Tunnel Inn, Coates: 17 March 2018



A walk in the countryside near Cirencester was planned starting and ending at an intriguing pub beside a disused canal. We were all looking forward to it and had prepared our wet weather gear including wellies. Sadly, the weather got the better of us with snow and ice! We reluctantly postponed the event until 17 April when it was hoped for a day of blue skies and sunshine.

Well, it wasn't quite blue sky and sunshine so 23 of us dressed up in our wet weather gear again. We had an enjoyable walk from the entrance of the Sapperton canal tunnel near Coates to the marker stone for the start of the River Thames. We returned to the tunnel along the canal and had an enjoyable lunch at The Tunnel House Inn.

Devon and Cornwall

The Devon and Cornwall group met on 24 April at the Marsh Mill Beefeater where we once again enjoyed good food and conversation. We were joined by new member Nigel Weeks who was welcomed by all.

Tewkesbury Abbey: 12 June 2018



Fourteen members gathered in Tewkesbury on a cloudy but pleasant day. We were met by our guide, John, who led us through beautiful gardens, alleyways of medieval cottages, streets of shops and finally, but sadly, a redundant flour mill. We then walked along the banks of the River Avon to our destination – Tewkesbury Abbey. We did, of course, stop off along the way for lunch at The Bell Inn – an attractive timbered hotel in the main street.

We were very grateful to John for leading us. He has an amazing knowledge of the history of Tewkesbury and its Abbey, giving us vivid accounts of battles, murders, marriages and intrigues all the way.

Sheila Heath

Our next lunch will be held during week commencing 17 September – definitive date yet to be agreed but hopefully many of our members will be able to attend.

Shirley Riddle

Leeds



Since the last KierLink issue we have had two lunches. The first being Christmas lunch in December held at the Milford Lodge Hotel attended by 27, and the second was at Milford Lodge Hotel on 25 March 2018 (pictured here).

Katherine Leadley

Liverpool

A lunch was held on Friday 22 June 2018 at Fairways Restaurant, Houghwood Golf Club, which is a popular venue for all. Twenty-eight members attended and the food was once again exceptional.

The weather was absolutely beautiful and therefore the views over the Welsh hills, Liverpool and Cumbria were stunning. Everyone agreed it was once again a great afternoon with lovely company.

Sharon Jenkins

Loughton and Witham

42nd Street: 7 March 2018

Thirty-five members assembled at the theatre for the 2.30pm matinee performance. The seats were fantastic with everyone having a good view from the central stall area near the front. The audience as a whole enjoyed the show immensely and their enthusiasm was rewarded by the cast who responded with an amazing performance full of energy, vitality, stamina and no shortage of entertainment. Among the well-known songs featured are: Keep Young and Beautiful, I Only Have Eyes for You, We're in The Money and Lullaby of Broadway.

This latest production featured Sheena Easton in the starring role of Emily Brock, Tom Lister as Julian Marsh and Clare Halse as Peggy Sawyer. They were supported by an enormous cast of singers, dancers, musicians and other assorted entertainers. If this show does not excite you to get your tap shoes on then nothing will! All members were very impressed and enjoyed an excellent day.

Theresa Walstow



Spring buffet: 19 April 2018

Our Spring buffet was held at the usual Metropolitan Police Chigwell Sports Club and was enjoyed by 103 members and guests. John Abbott informed all those members present what we have planned for 2018.



Lynn and Alan Cope

During the afternoon a raffle was held raising £200 which we have put towards the cost of producing our half-yearly magazine.

Geoff Brown

Ascot race day: 2 May 2018

It was a rather damp Wednesday morning when 33 of us assembled at Chigwell for the coach ride to Ascot. Our tickets took us to the King Edward VII enclosure, an impressive facility in the new stand. One side overlooks the parade ring and the other the final furlong and finishing line. With lots of places to eat and drink most of us started with some coffee and then went to find somewhere to eat, study the race card and discuss the prospects for the day.

In the first race there were only four runners and the odds-on favourite (a horse called 'The Irish Rover') were so short it seemed that it was definitely a one-horse race. Sadly, nobody had told this to the horse who got off to a bad start, never caught up with the field and finished last!

As the racing progressed through the afternoon, the weather improved. Some of us were brave enough to sit outside on the balcony or watch from the rails but it was still rather chilly. Some members' fortunes warmed up however, whilst others remained decidedly cool as all but one of the remaining races were won by the bookies favourites.



Chris, Yvonne and Pearl at the races

All in all, a good afternoon was had, and we returned home on the coach with good spirits and lots of banter.

John Abbott

Golf day: 3 May 2018

Fourteen members attended the golf day at West Essex Golf Club. For us oldies buggies were allowed. The course has an excellent halfway house, and

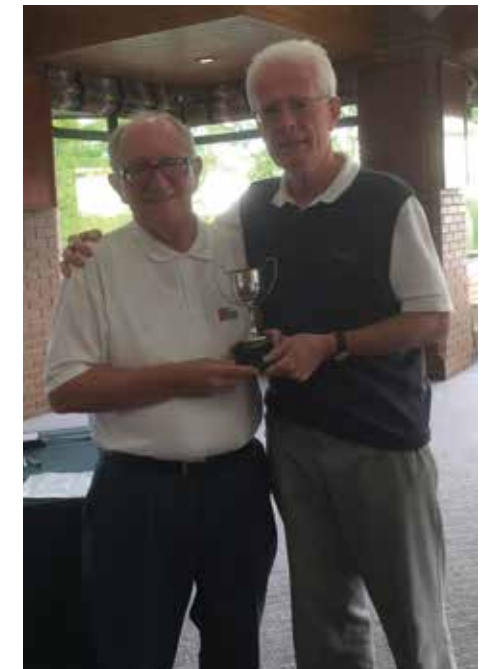
many enjoyed bacon rolls and tea for a second time as we had already had the same before starting!

The course is high up, providing excellent views over London, and quite hilly so challenging our golf skills.

The overall winner was Neil Meixner, with John Simson for the front nine and Dennis Charlton for the back nine. The longest drive was from Paul Goddard, however, there were no prizes for Nearest the Pin as no one qualified!

The meal afterwards was well received, and all enjoyed the day.

John Spray



John Spray presents the cup to the overall winner Neil Meixner

Mulberry House: lunch and talk with Mark Starling

Following an excellent lunch at the Mulberry Hotel in High Ongar, 67 of our members listened with great interest as Mark Starling, safety, health and environmental manager at Kier Construction London, related the story of his adventure to climb Mount Everest.



Mark Starling on Everest

On 16 May 2017 Mark realised his life's ambition and stood on top of the highest place on earth – the summit of Mount Everest at 8,848 metres above sea level.

To most of us, climbing Mount Everest would consist of starting at the bottom and climbing as far as you can each day until you reach the summit, stopping on the way for food, and sleeping in a small tent. Actually, the truth is somewhat different, and as Mark explained, you do in fact climb the mountain more than once before you finally get the opportunity to make the push for the summit. Mark explained:

“Setting off from the Base Camp (BC), your small team head up to the first stage known as Advanced Base Camp (ABC) before returning to BC. The next step is to climb from ABC to the North Camp 1 at 7,100 metres before again returning to BC. During this acclimatisation period, you are preparing the body for the final climb from BC all the way to Camp 3 at 8,300 metres which takes around five days – all before you start the ultimate leg from Camp 3 to the summit.”

Mark proudly flew the Kier Flag at 04.21 hours before his rapid descent to safety at BC.

A big thank you was given to Mark by our chairman John Abbott for a most interesting and informative talk, very much enjoyed by all.

Trevor Franklin

Audley End: 13 June 2018

Our group visited what can best be described as a ‘silent jewel in the county

of Essex’s crown’. Some 30 members enjoyed what was a beautiful summer’s day at Audley End House and gardens.

Lived in until 1948, this Jacobean mansion and gardens show the work of both Robert Adam (interior decoration) and ‘Capability’ Brown (the gardens).

Audley End takes its name from Sir Thomas Audley, Lord Chancellor to Henry VIII, who acquired the then Benedictine Abbey following the dissolution of the monasteries. Sir Thomas’s grandson, Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk, rebuilt the house on a huge scale between 1603 and 1614. It then became the ‘Palace’ of Audley End and passed through many owners and uses including housing Polish soldiers during the WWII. In 1948 the house was purchased for the nation from the 9th Lord Braybrooke. It was operated at first by the Ministry of Works and subsequently, from 1984, by English Heritage.

Theresa Walstow



Members arrive at Audley End

Maple Cross

Valentine’s Day luncheon: 15 February 2018

On a sunny Thursday we headed off to Denham aerodrome for a meal at a new venue, Biggles Restaurant, as Freddie’s (the usual venue) has now closed for the owners well-earned retirement.

A few people took the scenic route to Biggles. I was amazed to find that the Denham Golf Club had its own railway station!



Members at Biggles restaurant



There was a warm welcome for the 30 plus attendees in a cosy but light room which also had a bar. ‘Homework’ was provided in the shape of a questionnaire

about the newsletter and a second chance to enter the prize quiz. Thank you for all the replies!

The three-course meal provided plenty of choice and wine was topped up as required by the attentive staff, which no doubt contributed to the relaxed and friendly occasion!



Members at the Shendish Manor



St. Georges Day lunch: 26 April 2018

Twenty-two members met at Shendish Manor for a lunchtime meal. It was reported that many considered it to be the best meal they’d had at a Fellowship event. Hosted wonderfully by Terry Delany, he brought the organisation flair back after a break of four years.



Windsor horse racing

Windsor horse racing: 11 June 2018

On a lovely warm afternoon in June, 16 members met at the Windsor racecourse and we made our way to the Club Paddock. Despite the lack of tables (all had been taken) we took charge of five benches and formed a defensive circle. Settling down with drinks we placed our bets – some betting on individual races while others using the tote.

After watching the first we had lunch which provided a good selection i.e. fish n chips, curry, burgers, sausages and more. Wandering around we had access to the parade ring, winner’s enclosure and the finish line – all giving great views of the horses and riders.

At the end of a satisfying evening, winners were thin on the ground! However, we had lots of time to chat with moments of excitement watching the horses charging to the finish line.

Norman Elliott

Rushden

Although group numbers have diminished slightly since our last report we have endeavoured to be as busy as ever.

The first venture of the New Year was to the Royal Albert Hall in London on Saturday 10 March 2018 for the Mountbatten Festival of Music by the Massed Bands of HM Royal Marines – an annual event which was enjoyed by 41 members.

A week later on Monday 19 March 2018, 29 members left Rushden for a four-day visit to Monschau in Germany (see right for a full report).

On Tuesday 17 April 2018 a limited number of 25 members met locally at The Warner Edwards Distillery for a gin tasting. What a fun evening which will have to be repeated! Following the gin, we adjourned to The Tollemache Arms for supper and plenty of banter.

Saturday 12 May 2018 saw a small group of 32 members visit the Malvern Spring Flower Show incorporating a ‘food and drink spectacular’ enjoyed by all.

Sunday 24 June 2018 the Tempsford Hall garden party was attended by 62 members and enjoyed by everyone. The organisation, food and drink was well received and appreciated by all present.

On Friday 13 July 2018 a small group of eight members visited Maastricht in Holland for an amazing musical concert by Andre’ Rieu and his orchestra in the town square – this was a trial run for a full group visit.

Wednesday 18 July 2018 saw 32 members attend Kneller Hall at Twickenham for a picnic and concert in the park. With perfect warm weather the evening and music was enjoyed by all.

Forthcoming events 2018/2019:

Date	Event
Saturday 11 August 2018	Shrewsbury Flower Show (40 booked to attend)
Friday 31 August to Sunday 2 September 2018	Woburn Golf Club European Senior Golf Tournament (to spectate only)
Thursday 7 September 2018	Group golf day at Pavenham Golf Club (at present struggling for numbers)
Sunday 16 September	Bowood House and Gardens, Wiltshire
Friday 5 to Monday 8 October 2018	Four days, three nights, Bristol, Bath and Wells (visiting Concorde Museum, SS Great Britain, Wells Cathedral and The Cotswolds)
Friday 23 to Sunday 25 November	Three days, two nights, Christmas Spectacular at Potters Leisure Resort
Thursday 29 November 2018	Christmas lunch at John White Golf Club
Sunday 9 December	Annual visit to the carol service at The Guards Chapel, London
Sunday 30 December to Wednesday 2 January 2019	New Year break to Breda in Holland (40 booked to attend)

Provisional booking:

Date	Event
Monday 25 February 2019	Five days, four nights, city break to Seville (minimum number of 30 required)

With recent deaths our numbers have dropped to 148.

Brian Hill

Monschau memories

On a very frosty Monday morning in March, 29 members left Rushden for a four-day visit to Germany. Having arrived at Euro Tunnel at 8.45am, we were greeted with the news that we were three minutes late to check in for the 9.20am train. In hindsight this was very fortunate as due to a power failure in France our scheduled train was stuck in the tunnel!

We were eventually put onto a train and told not to be alarmed if we went backwards – which we did! This was in order to get into the tunnel which was being used. It was about 1.45pm when we actually arrived in Calais. We were still in good spirits however, both inside and out due to Brian’s hospitality!

The weather improved for our journey through France and Belgium, and our driver Paul was most careful and attentive.

We arrived at Monschau where Paul unloaded the coach and parked it having ten minutes to spare on his ‘Tacho’.

On Tuesday we woke to snow which, although we did not realise at the time, was to be the norm for the rest of our stay. However, with true German efficiency it was cleared immediately.

Medieval Monschau, with its charming half timber, well preserved houses, was delightful, but on this day we visited Bad Munstereifel which was more vibrant and still retained its medieval charm. It was alive with pleasant shops, cafés and obliging staff. On our return to Monschau we had a guided tour by a very knowledgeable retired German schoolteacher, and had tastings at the local mustard shop and the brewery museum.

Wednesday was a day trip to Cologne – the cathedral city on the Rhine. To the drivers credit, in spite of the SatNav and instructions, he took us on a frustrating (for him) circular tour

of the city before reaching the cathedral which was in sight for the whole time!

To get the best of our time there, a few of us took an enjoyable sightseeing bus tour in order to appreciate a city which has been virtually rebuilt since the war.

Unfortunately, the planned bowling evening could not take place as the alley was broken, so the hotel provided music to which a number of the guests enjoyed dancing.

Thursday, our final day, we were awoken to a blizzard! In order to reach the motorway we drove through countryside which was heavily wooded with fir trees. In the snow these looked so picturesque. Christmas in Spring! We also passed remains of the Siegfried Line. Very impressive concrete remains of a 1,000km barricade. This is now being preserved as a Belgian national monument.

In view of the terrible weather, our planned visit to Ostend was cancelled. We decided to attempt arriving at Calais and hopefully board an earlier train home. This we did and were all quite elated. We arrived in England and guess what? An announcement to inform us that they had an ‘unexpected problem’. After a delay of about 30 minutes we discovered that a fire extinguisher had gone off underneath a bus at the front of the train and the tunnel fire precautions had immediately come into force. This was very reassuring but when we left the train we had to drive through foam!

In spite of all the trauma, this trip was enjoyed by everyone. Thank you very much to Brian Hill for all of the work he put into organising this event.

Barbara Fell and Ann Whittington

Solent

Annual lunch: 22 March 2018

Fifty-three members and partners met for the annual Fellowship lunch at the Lyssees Hotel. Set in the heart of the old Hampshire market town of Fareham, the hotel was built as a private residence in the height of the Georgian period. The lunch was enjoyed by all who attended with good food which was well served by the hotel staff. Director, Trevor White updated the members on current and future work.

Gary Mackie

Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery: 27 March 2018

The message went out and there was an almost immediate response from 23 members. Who knew a visit to a gin distillery would be so popular? We convened at the Bombay Sapphire Distillery at Laverstoke near Whitchurch, Hampshire on a wet Thursday morning.



There's been a mill on the site of the distillery since 903AD with the first official record in the Domesday Book in 1086 where it was described as a corn mill. The mill was leased in the early 18th century by Huguenot Henry Portal who converted it to produce high quality paper. The rent was set at £5 per annum plus one ream of foolscap paper. In 1724 the Bank of

England commissioned the mill to produce bank notes with the contract for Indian Rupees following Victoria's reign in 1860.

Paper making continued until the early 1960s then changed hands a number of times over the following 40 years surviving a proposal to convert to 72 dwellings. The Bombay Sapphire Spirit company purchased the site in 2010 and opened the distillery to the public in 2014.

The mill is situated within a conservation area and Site of Special Scientific Interest with the River Test flowing through the site to create a unique wetland habitat throughout the distillery.

In parallel, a boom in the popularity of the Gin & Tonic throughout the British Empire meant that gin was enjoyed throughout Queen Victoria's reign. Bombay Sapphire's heritage began in 1761 when distiller Thomas Dakin purchased a site in Warrington, England, with the intention of distilling gin. In 1831, the Dakin family purchased a still and adapted it to separate the exotic botanicals from the neutral grain spirit, capturing flavours of the botanicals in the vapour – an artisanal distillation process now known as Vapour Infusion, and still faithfully used by Bombay Sapphire today.

The visit started with the issue of interactive maps of the distillery giving access to commentaries around the site. We were directed to Glasshouses

where the botanicals are grown to be infused into the gin, then on to the Dry Room where we were given the chance of selecting our preferred mix of botanicals which guides towards the perfect gin cocktail.



Next stop was the Dakin Still House where we were accompanied by a knowledgeable staff member explaining the equipment and the distilling process. Who knew that making gin could be so dangerous that it could cause an explosion in the Still House?!

The distillery makes somewhere near 50 million bottles of

Bombay Sapphire gin each year which is then shipped to their other sites in Warrington and Glasgow for bottling. The bulk gin is stored in large vertical storage tanks at the west of the site – amazing to think there is so much gin in one place at one time.

The tour concluded with a visit to the Mill Bar for our free cocktail using the guidance from the Dry Room and very nice they were too! Of course, you can't leave the complex without passing through the shop to purchase the ingredients for your favourite gin.

Derek Ward

The Submarine Museum, Gosport: 17 April 2018

Nine of us attended on an overcast day with a cold wind. We wandered through the museum which tells the history of how

submarines (subs) came into being. From fabled tales of King Canute submerging in a glass barrel as he tried to stop the sea (may be a bit of a tall story!) to the nuclear subs of today, the ultimate stealth craft.

At 11.10am we joined with others to have a guided tour of HMS Alliance, the last surviving WWII sub. At times it was a tight squeeze, the group size is limited to 20. When you consider that a full compliment of crew was 65 all I can say is they must have been relatively short and slight.

The submariner, who was our guide, told us tales of his life as a chef on board, and how he catered for 65 in a galley that was snug to say the least! However, the sub wasn't designed for storing provisions so he would store them in any space he could find.

Due to the large ballast tanks each side of the sub it looks bigger from the outside. The guide has considerable knowledge of the workings of the sub, its dual power and armaments, and explained what it's like under sail and during a dive.

He told us many anecdotes and recited memories to which we considered the dangers of being a submariner and the memorial to all the lost subs since 1904. On our visit it was the anniversary of



HMS Alliance l-r: Peter, Nigel and wife Catherine, Susan and husband John, John and wife Carol, and Pat



Sardines? Well not really the full compliment would be 65 submariners



Pat learning the technique of escape

two lost subs – the HMS Affray and the HMS Tarpon.

The buildings housing the museum and HMS Holland (the first British Naval sub), a mini sub, a reconstruction of the Turtle and many other exhibits, shows that the museum has come a long way over the last 20 years.

Kier Southern built the reception area. It has a very large domed roof clad in zinc. Access was difficult as on the first floor is a working periscope so the mini sub had to be lifted in during construction. The Spinnaker tower, under construction at the same time, has excellent views of the site. The museum remained open to the public throughout the contract.

The opportunity to use the ‘waterbus’ to travel to other attractions is brilliant, and brings together all the naval historical venues.

We grabbed a snack lunch from the kiosk and sat in the sun overlooking the marina, watching the IOW ferry and the waterbus sailing in/out of the harbour.

Five of us had the opportunity of going on to ‘Explosions’, the museum of naval fire power. Big guns, an assortment

of bombs (from black powder to atomic), flint locks, remote controlled machine guns, bayonets, hand guns, grenades and mortars, mines, torpedoes and guided missiles, all displayed to see.

The size of some of them, with rifled bores up to 15” in diameter, and that of the breaches to support them, were truly amazing. We then entered the ‘Grand Magazine (GM)’ which was used to store explosives. The width of the walls and high vaulted ceilings displayed fantastic brickwork! The GM also houses 12 mice of which we found 10.

Run Silent Run Deep was a book and a film, as was On The Beach and 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. Then of course there is The Hunt for Red October, Crimson Tide, The Abyss, Das Boot, K19, Down and Up Periscope. Who can forget Operation Petticoat (with the pink sub) and the Beatles Yellow Submarine!

We have an obsession with this fantastic stealth craft which has brought about science submersibles, giving us the opportunity to investigate two thirds below our planet’s surface where life began.

This museum is worth a visit. It’s only taken me since its opening in 1982 to do so. Nigel said it all: “You never know what is on your own doorstep.”

Susan Bridger

Butlin’s Splash Resort: May 2018

On a sunny May day a group of members enjoyed an interesting visit to the Kier Southern project at the Butlin’s Splash Resort, Bognor Regis, West Sussex.



Lunch overlooking the marina



l-r: Roger Osgood, Tony & Carolyn Wager, Roger Miller, Peter Wallbank, Peter Barker, Jonathan James and Ian Burrell

Our group was shown around the project by senior contracts manager Jonathan James, and senior site manager Ian Charman.

This negotiated £35m project will include a new leisure complex within the existing Butlin’s Holiday Centre. Kier Southern have previously successfully worked with their client, Bourne Leisure, at this location constructing the £8m Shoreline Hotel and £18m Ocean Hotel.

Demolition of the existing chalets has been completed. The groundworks and steel frame were well advanced at the time of our visit.

The building will include a new swimming pool with external slides plus a river ride and associated external landscaping.

The contract is scheduled for completion in February 2019 which will be a huge addition to the Butlin’s complex.

We would like to thank the Kier management for their interesting tour and hospitality, and are looking forward to a tour once the project is completed.

Peter Wallbank

BBQ: 13 June 2018

Twenty-two members and partners attended the Royal Victoria Country Park for the annual BBQ. The numbers were down on last year due to several members being away on holiday.

The event was blessed with wonderful weather, as in previous years. The meal consisting of sausages, burgers, lamb koftas and an accompanying salad was well received. All the food was consumed with no waste whatsoever!

A careful eye had to be kept on the prepared food on the serving tables as half a dozen determined magpies, supported by a few squirrels, made a continual attempt throughout the proceedings to get their share of the spoils – mainly rolls and salad with limited success.

All in all, a very enjoyable afternoon spent in lovely surroundings with convivial company.

Gary Mackie

Golf day

Members meet once a month to play a round of golf at different courses in Hampshire. The majority of the players have only taken up golf since retiring, hence the enthusiasm is greater than the ability which makes for interesting games. The 19th hole is always popular where the round is discussed in great detail, and we often put the world to its rights. A great day out open to anyone who plays.

Ian Burrell

Hilliers Gardens

At the start of the Summer, a visit was made to Sir Harold Hilliers Gardens in Romsey. This arboretum comprises of 180 acres of trees and shrubs collected over the last 60 years by the nurseryman Harold Hillier. It is renowned for its collection



of rhododendrons, camellias, magnolias and oaks.

Dotted around the gardens are sculptures of natural forms, from recycled material (often from car parts) with other 'wind' sculptures hidden among the plants.

Members enjoyed a cup of tea and a piece of cake whilst discussing what additions they would like to make to their own gardens before leaving for the day.

Ian Burrell

**Nine-hole pitch n putt:
17 July 2018**



The yearly PAR3 pitch and putt (PAP) on Hayling Island was well supported with lunch afterwards at the Inn on the Beach. The course being a 'links' course with far reaching views of the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth in the distance.

There were seven playing with five others joining us for the social side. We all met at 11.00am where some of the wives arranged a walk along the beach-front while those who were highly skilled in PAP limbered up for the occasion. We also had one person that normally played golf who attended, but due to ailments was unable to play on the day and was unable to stay for lunch due to other commitments. Well done for turning up!

As you will see from the photo below, the ground was hard and dry with grass like hay, but the greens were still green. The balls were bouncing and travelling fast even on a light stroke. The temperature on the day was luckily in the early 20°C so we were very pleased to have a cooler day to play on.

Having paid our senior citizen dues (not to be missed!) we had a three and four-ball group which included two lady golfers giving us a well-balanced game. The winning score was by David Pritchard at 33 strokes for the nine holes, so well done David! (He did tell me after that he plays 'proper' golf three times a week!).



l-r: Linda Anderson, David Pritchard, Gary Mackie, Sue Draper, Ian Burrell and Laurence Draper

After, we discussed the merits of the course and arranged to meet the girls from their walk. Unfortunately one of our golfers, Laurence, put his clubs away in the boot together with his keys... oh no! After shutting the boot he declared he was locked out of his car! Luckily one of us lives nearby to Laurence so a lift home was arranged to collect the spare key.

We then ambled over to the Inn on the Beach for lunch. There we met John Gains and his wife Anne, giving us a group of 11. The Inn has been taken over since last year. The food was excellent with tremendous views over the Solent, and we all enjoyed watching the wind surfers and boats.

Graham Baker

Tempsford

Attendance at our monthly lunches has fallen slightly – 8-12 being the numbers in February to July. The most popular venue in this period being the Wheatsheaf at Tempsford. The falling numbers appear not to be lack of interest so much as illness and clashing appointments. Recent newer members have been under retirement age and are therefore not free at lunchtime. In view of this we are trying to introduce some evening or weekend events.

On 29 March, 17 members had a very successful evening visit to the Observatory and Planetarium at Bedford School. The school provides the visits free of charge, but we made a small charge to donate to the school's charity. Unfortunately, it was a very wet and cloudy day/evening, so the star-gazing was entirely 'virtual', courtesy of some very clever in-house engineering & technology, and engaging presentation.

On 9 May we had a wonderful day in Old Warden, near Biggleswade, at The Shuttleworth Collection and Swiss Garden. See pages 28/29 for a full report and more photographs can be viewed on the Fellowship website.

This year's garden party was another great event taking place on 24 June. Forty-five attended from our area, 34 from Loughton/Witham, 34 from Maple Cross and 62 from Rushden. I was delighted to receive an award for the most improved area.



Tempsford garden party



Carol and John Abbott

Haydn Mursell enlightened us as to the current situation of the company, share price and possible effects of Brexit. It was good to hear that the Pension Fund is 98% fully paid and forecast to be fully funded within the next two years.

Neil Meixner gave a review of the year. A special thanks was given to Dick Side for his 21 years as director of the company and his six and a half years as chairman.

There are lots of photos to view on the Fellowship website, and a link in John Stamford's report to a video of the dance demonstration by Carol and John Abbott – the video must be downloaded to view it.

We are looking forward to 'a cruise on the Ouse' on 22 August. Twenty-eight are booked on 'The John Bunyan' to travel by river from Bedford to Great Barford (through at least one lock) where we will have lunch at The Anchor before travelling by coach back to Bedford.

On 4 September, one of the committees is to lead a four and a half mile walk (optional) before lunch at Jordan's Mill – maker of breakfast cereals and cereal bars – followed by a guided tour of the mill.

It will be a challenge for the committee to keep up the area's improvement, as we have had to cancel a planned visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire owing to lack of take-up – but we will do our best!

Harold Thompson

Waterbeach

Sonia retires

On 20 April 2018, Sonia Webb retired and, after a great deal of thought, took the opportunity to also step down from her role with the Kier Fellowship.



Sonia Webb

Sonia was a 'founder member' of the Kier Fellowship and worked exceptionally hard for the Eastern region for 25 years. We all recognised her enthusiasm and professional approach to organising events – and people!

Her knowledge, memory for names of partners and children & their history is second to none. We will miss her as local organiser, but she will remain an active member of Waterbeach. We wish her well in her retirement.

Lunch at Hare Arms



On 20 March 2018, 18 members enjoyed a casual lunch at the Hare Arms Pub in Stow Bardolph (between King's Lynn and Downham Market). It was a good opportunity for all to have a good chat and catch-up.

Mark Jude

Carol's 100k Continuous Thames Path Challenge 2018



**Fundraising for
British Heart Foundation
8/9 September 2018**

Carol's Just Giving page

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/carolaabbott>

Please visit my page – I'm raising money for the British Heart Foundation's (BHF) research and I'd be so grateful for your support. The BHF has helped halve the number of people dying from heart and circulatory disease in the UK but sadly every day hundreds of people lose their lives. John's father passed away at the age of 45 and my father passed at the age of 47. The BHF are working hard to create new treatments and discover new cures. £24 could pay for two hours of research by an early career scientist, but every pound helps so please give what you can to help me hit my target. Thank you so much.

Carol Abbott

Obituaries

Our thoughts are with the loved ones of those who have passed away.

John Archer	26/02/18	Robert Jobson	28/02/18	Alfred Ringham	29/03/18
Robert Baker	04/05/18	Derek Lamb	26/03/18	Kim Russell	16/04/18
Kenneth Barker	17 May 18	Colin Law	17/04/18	Lynn Simms	16/07/18
Doreen Bird	22/02/18	Margaret Leyland	02/03/18	Joan Smith	10/02/18
David Bull	18/03/18	Ivy Lugg	11/03/18	Pamela Solway	14/05/18
Christopher Burrows	05/05/18	Raymond McLaughlin	28/06/18	Peter Stacey	05/06/18
Pauline Firman	05/05/18	Keith May	28/03/18	William Swan	08/06/18
Virginia Fry	12/05/18	Yvonne Martin	13/04/18	Lewis Tapper	22/03/18
John Gerstmann	21/04/18	Kathleen Moore	02/03/18	Leslie Thompson	26/05/18
Robin Gibson	10/06/18	Margaret Moran	08/06/18	Percy Thompson	18/02/18
Dorothy Gowers	14/04/18	Kevin Moylett	14/04/18	John Treble	15/02/18
Alfred Gudgion	13/06/18	Derek Mulquin	Unknown	Magdalena Young	10/03/18
Samuel Hodge	17/04/18	Anthony Nichols	04/02/18		
Alfred Howland	04/04/18	Ivor Pollington	28/04/18		

PLACES TO VISIT...

THE TITANIC EXPERIENCE AT TITANIC BELFAST

TAKE A JOURNEY THROUGH TITANIC BELFAST'S NINE INTERACTIVE GALLERIES TELLING THE STORY OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS SHIP, RMS TITANIC.

THIS IS A SELF-GUIDED EXPERIENCE, SO USE THIS GALLERY PLAN TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS ANYTHING! DON'T FORGET, OUR TITANIC CREW ARE POSITIONED THROUGHOUT THE GALLERIES TO OFFER ANY ASSISTANCE. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR VISIT.

START

1 BOOMTOWN

- Explore Belfast's booming industries and see why Titanic was built in this thriving city
- Try your hand at communicating with the Marconi device, like the one used on Titanic
- Witness the conversation between James the butler and his colleague
- **ARTEFACTS:** *Original paraphernalia from Gallagher's, Mitchell's and Ross's; declaration of shipyard name change; Deed of Partnership for Queen's Island Shipbuilding & Engineering Company.*

2 THE SHIPYARD

- Explore the blueprints of Titanic and test your skills on the interactive floor
- Look down from the top of the Arrol Gantry and imagine working at those heights
- Feel the heat of the steel and hear the riveters at work on the shipyard ride (possible queues)
- **ARTEFACTS:** *Time clock from Harland & Wolf Drawing Offices; original 19th century Harland & Wolf gates; shipyard electrical salaries notebook detailing Thomas Andrew's salary.*

3 THE LAUNCH

- Transport yourself to 12.13pm on 31 May 1911 to the site where Titanic was built
- Soak up the atmosphere and hear the intake of breath as Titanic launches into the water
- Imagine the historic slipway and dock in a bygone era with the 3D model and floor map
- **ARTEFACTS:** *Original tickets for the official launch of RMS Titanic; shipyard worker's time board; engraved rivet punching; an original rivet from RMS Olympic; Lord Pirrie's gold pocket watch.*

...DON'T MISS OUT!

4 THE FIT-OUT

- Explore the ship from the boiler room, to the staircase and up to the bridge on the 3D tour
- Get to know the passenger quarters of Titanic: discover the cabins, the fabrics, the crockery
- Listen to the music of Wallace Hartley's band as the passengers would have enjoyed it
- **ARTEFACTS:** *White Star Line promotional brochure for Olympic and Titanic; White Star Line china.*

5 THE MAIDEN VOYAGE

- Follow Titanic's route, meet some of the ship's characters and see what life was like on board through Father Browne's images
- Walk on deck and hold the rail to feel the vibrations of the ship as she crosses the Atlantic
- Meet our First Class Steward, preparing for his next service in the elegant Palm Court Café
- **ARTEFACTS:** *Doctor Simpson's letter; Hart family letter; first class menu.*

6 THE SINKING

- Bring yourself to 11.40pm on 14 April 1912 – Titanic has tragically hit the iceberg
- Feel the atmosphere change as the darkness and temperature falls
- Listen to survivors tell their stories and 'read all about it' in the world's media.

7 THE AFTERMATH

- Follow the wall of white lifebelts to the life size replica lifeboat
- Hear witnesses testify at the inquiries into the tragic sinking and see the scale of the ship through the Board of Trade plan, used in the British enquiry
- Investigate if you have any links to the Titanic story through the databases of passengers
- **ARTEFACTS:** *Board of Trade plan.*

7 MYTHS & REALITY

- Walk beneath the H&W cranes and enter modern times
- See how the significance of the Titanic story has captured the world's imagination through film, theatre and literature
- Test your knowledge of Titanic through an interactive quiz.

9 TITANIC BENEATH & OCEAN EXPLORATION

- Discovered in 1985, explore the wreck of Titanic with Dr. Ballard's team and take control of an ROV to explore the debris field yourself
- Stand on the glass floor and see Titanic as she appears today passing beneath you
- Explore domestic and international oceans in the OEC and see what life is beneath the surface on our local coastlines.

The Shuttleworth Collection...



OLD WARDEN, NEAR BIGGLESWADE

On 9 May, 11 members landed at Shuttleworth for a guided tour of the aircraft and cars etc of this historic collection. The weather was sunny and hot after the long cold wet winter, but we were mostly undercover.



The collection was started by Richard Shuttleworth who, as a young man, became interested in all things mechanical starting with cars which he restored and rebuilt before he raced them. He then graduated to aircraft. He had a career



as a motor racing driver and actually won the first Grand Prix which was held at Donnington Park in 1935. He followed this by learning to fly the machines he bought and restored and then racing some of them. Unfortunately, he was killed during WWII in a night training accident.

Several of the aircraft in the exhibition are the actual aircraft he restored and rebuilt – and some of these were really old of the ‘strut and wire’ vintage. He also collected WWI vintage aircraft which again he restored and some of which are very



“The collection of historic aircraft and motor vehicles was most interesting and presented in an entertaining manner.” says Harold



rare examples, if not the only surviving planes. All but one of the exhibits is capable of flying and often does so.

Following his death his mother continued and added to the collection which now includes a Spitfire, a sea Hurricane and a Lysander which may very well have flown from Tempsford on SOE missions to occupied Europe. Included in the collection are various engines and associated items. To give a balanced exhibition there are a few German aircraft, some American and even a Russian fighter which had been flown by fearless women pilots who, we were told, would lean out of the aircraft to drop hand grenades when they ran out of ammunition.

After lunch taken in the on-site cafe we were joined by more Fellowship members for a guided tour of the Swiss garden.



Photographs from our visit can be seen on the Fellowship website at: www.fellowship.kier.co.uk



Richard Lee and Harold Thompson

Where are they now?

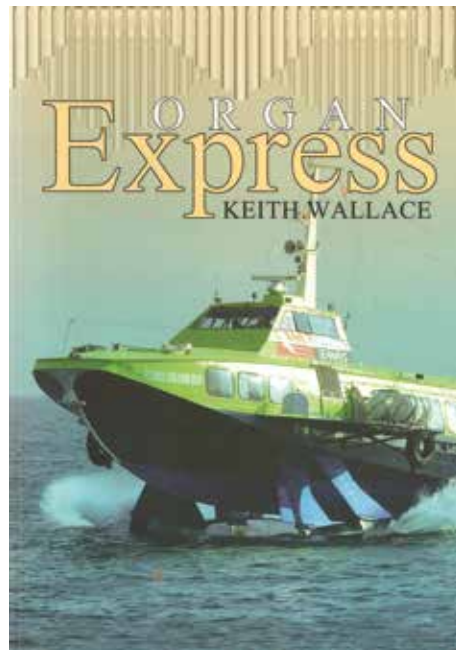
Although he loved his job, Keith embraced his retirement in 2000 as it gave him more time to devote to his love of writing. He's now pleased to report that, after thirty years of attempts, he's finally become a published author – and a very good one too. Having read his latest work 'Organ Express' and found it an absolutely fascinating read, I have no hesitation in recommending it to our readers.

Keith first joined Kier in 1980, first working for a short time with Kier International out of Tempsford. When Alan Arnaud then moved to Kier Plant at Setch Keith followed him there and became a plant hire rep promoting hire both internally and externally. When he retired from full-time employment in the late eighties he was working at the North Woolwich depot.

Keith explained: "My work took me to many major construction sites both nationally and regionally. I retired in 2000 with a home move to Cardiff and as this coincided with Kier Plant opening the Sharpness depot in Gloucestershire, I resumed my old job on a part-time basis until 2003 when a full time rep was appointed.

"My involvement with the marine holding, crawler cranes and tower cranes gave me great job satisfaction as did my responsibility for the plant operators who were employed at that time. One other source of pleasure gained from the

company was as part of the midweek cricket team playing out of Tempsford under the captaincy of Ted Drake. Although I'd say I was without doubt, the worst cricketer to ever don the Tempsford colours, company cricket and at least three away tours created many strong friendships for me within the company."



Keith's knowledge of the construction industry (and other parts of the world) is clearly evident throughout this book (a fictional thriller) and I'm sure any Kier person reading it will feel a connection. But that's just an aside from the compelling story he tells which drew me in more or less straight away. It's



Keith Wallace

definitely worth investing in a copy of this page turner!

Viv Chesterfield

ABOUT ORGAN EXPRESS

A Chinese transplant surgeon is running a widespread people smuggling operation throughout South East Asia, mainly for the purpose of supplying body parts to his ultra-rich clients. The operation falters when the surgeon uses a hydrofoil belonging to Kate Savage in which to ship refugees from Vietnam to China. When Kate investigates anomalies in her recently acquired ferry company, a close colleague is murdered and she narrowly escapes being one of the surgeon's donors. Kate's eventual rescue from the island of Hainan is brought about by a middle-aged civil engineer and three elderly ex Ghurka soldiers. Can these four rugged individuals eventually cause the downfall of the surgeon's corrupt regime?

Organ Express by Keith Wallace is available via Amazon, Waterstones, WH Smith and most modern booksellers. It's also available to download on Kindle and has been highly rated online.

Forest of Dean Batman!

When many members are trying to get to sleep and 'count sheep', Bristol and Newport's area organiser is often out counting bats!

David Priddis, a chartered civil engineer who worked in Bristol's design & build office, started this unusual hobby when working in West Wales and was asked if he could help with a bat count. David said: "I knew virtually nothing about bats and thought one evening could not hurt." Shortly after David moved to the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire – where now 42 years later his conservation and research into the rare lesser and greater horseshoe bats continues – it has been acknowledged that many of the Summer and Winter roosts have been designated 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest'.

"It is a surprise to many..." says David "...that bats are mammals which are more closely related to humans than they are to mice. We have 18 species of British bats which feed only on insects, and we should be pleased that even a tiny common Pipistrelle bat can eat over 2,000 midges every night! Bats are NOT blind – they can 'see' using the echoes from their ultrasonic echolocation calls. They only have a single baby each year, living up to 30 years. The Dean, between the rivers Severn and Wye, is excellent for bats with ancient woodland, small fields, good hedgerows, much pasture land and hundreds of



Brown long-eared



Lesser horseshoe



Common Pipistrelle



Old Greater horseshoe



David right; bats arrowed

abandoned iron ore mines. This is where the bats go for Winter hibernation when their body temperature can drop as low as 7.5°C."

David holds various Natural England licences to enable him to carry out his research and it's a tribute to his long-term data that the Lower Wye Valley and Forest of Dean has been acknowledged as one of the most important wildlife sites in the whole of the UK. Holding over a quarter of the lesser horseshoe bats, it was put forward in the

first group of UK sites as a 'Special Area of Conservation', receiving Europe's highest level of wildlife protection.

David was a founder member of the Gloucestershire Bat Group in 1983 and an early chairman. He gives many talks on bats and other wildlife, and has broadcast on local and national radio, appeared on BBC Autumnwatch* and last Winter on 'Hugh's Wild West' on BBC2. (*Still on a BBC website at: http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Lesser_horseshoe_bat#p00118vg).

Our commiserations go to David's long-suffering 'bat widow' Sheila, who regularly has to make room in the airing cupboard for a cage with an injured bat David is caring for. She has even had to tolerate bat specimens in her freezer!



Filming Autumnwatch: Martin Hughes-Games, the presenter, on the right

The Trust's got talent!

Jeff Taylor

I took up art again in 2008 more than 40 years after winning a Brooke Bond art prize for a picture I drew in primary school. I'd started planning for an early retirement and was trying out different things to see what interested me. First, I did pencil sketches and after a while moved into water colour, both mainly whilst on holiday. This continued until I joined Colourwheel art classes in January 2016 where I have been taught to use many different mediums, some of which you see below.



This watercolour picture was produced in 2010 in Northumberland. I loved the way the light hit the plant & curtains, and I added the wine bottle as a darker counterpoint. However, as the painting progressed each evening the level of wine reduced until, after replacing it with a new bottle twice, I decided it was simpler to paint the picture with the bottle empty.

Whilst on holiday in 2017 I received an email with a picture which was the classwork for the art class I was doing. The object was to use just black and white chalk, charcoal and/or soft pastels to produce a 3D looking image on a coloured paper. I decided to use an orange paper I had as it gave



the best tonal range for the human form. I found it quite challenging to produce all the varying shades and shadows but am pleased with the results.

As part of our end of term project over two weeks, I decided to paint

Saint Paul-de-Mausole, the monastery where Van Gogh stayed for a while in Provence. We had visited here a few years before and I felt that using acrylic paint I could finally do justice to the scene. It took more than the six hours in the lessons to complete, especially all the lavender flowers but I think it was worth the effort.



The last two pictures are produced using soft pastel which is great for shading, though quite messy! We spotted the Hooded Vulture whilst on a birdwatching tour in The Gambia with Chris Packham, who said it was waiting for the abattoir



to open! It didn't move as we walked past and I was able to zoom into its head for a photo. I used this as the basis for the picture.

The Cheetah painting shows the beauty of art over photography. The image was taken from a photo Shirley took on a trip we made to South Africa (suggested by Tony Mingoia - thanks Tony!) The pose of the Cheetah is the same as it was in the photo, but it had a radio collar on, so that the guides could find it, and the background was uninspiring. Using art, I was able to put a suitable background in place and remove the collar which makes a much more interesting portrait.

