

PRISM



PILKINGTON RETIREMENT INFORMATION AND SUPPORT MAGAZINE • www.pilkingtonfamilytrust.com

Costa – guide dog in training

More than 230 beneficiaries and their partners met in March at the Tally Ho Conference Centre, in Birmingham, for the Kings Norton reunion luncheon.

Ode to a faithful friend

This morning I met Emily.
How well she played her part,
She seemed to smile as I
touched her coat, with a
glance to melt the heart.
Such calmness shone from
two dark eyes which she
shares with partner Lee.
The confidence that trust
inspires was plain for all to see.
Together they take on all the
world, turn darkness into light,
Warm and true companions
from daybreak until night.
This morning I stroked
Emily a credit to her kind - a
genuine phenomenon
A Guide-Dog for the blind!

Eunice Berry, Billinge

■ See cheque donation on p7

Those of you who attended may have noticed a special guest: five-month old Costa, a Guide Dog in Training. He was attending the event as part of his socialisation along with Alan Beckett and his wife, Sally (pictured right).

Costa, who is sponsored by the Worcester branch of Sainsbury's, is a Labrador/golden retriever cross, the ideal mix apparently as Labradors are intelligent and golden retrievers want to please. Costa has been with Alan and Sally since he was three months old, this being the first time they have been Puppy Walkers. Costa will remain with them for 12 months becoming familiar with living in a household, going out into the community and learning to be socially well behaved. He will then go to Guide Dog Training School, in Leamington Spa, and eventually be matched to a blind or visually impaired person whose life will be changed forever.

Charity website

Alan has become so interested in the Guide Dogs' charity (www.guidedogs.org.uk) that he has trained as a speaker, aiming to raise awareness of the organisation's wonderful work. Did you know that the lifetime cost of each Guide Dog is around £50,000?

If you might be interested in becoming a Puppy Walker yourself, or you are in or near Birmingham and would like Alan to come along to talk to a club/school/church etc, please get in touch with the Welfare Centre and we will put you in touch with him.

Margaret Brown, Regional Welfare Officer



Pilkington brothers supporting the Trust

Keen to ensure that the work of the Pilkington Family Trust is benefiting Pilkington pensioners, Trustees Jeremy Pilkington and David Pilkington, sons of Sir Antony Pilkington, recently spent two days with the Trust out and about in the St Helens community.

Visiting pensioners in their homes, delivering meals and visiting social groups were just a few of the activities Jeremy and David undertook. Both valued the opportunity to see first hand how the Trust can help support Pilkington pensioners in their retirement. Jeremy has been a Trustee since 2001 whilst David joined the Trustee in 2013.

Pictured left: Jeremy Pilkington with one of our retirees and two gardeners who provide a gardening service on behalf of the Trust.



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Site set for TV debut



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Through Pilkington Family Trust



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Memories by Keith Atherton

Editor's Notes

Like many of you, I sat there full of hope and anticipation as the World Cup got underway. Silly me – I should have known what was coming! Back go the flags until next time, when once again I will no doubt let my heart rule my head.

On a slightly more realistic note, I genuinely expect an English winner in the Tour de France in the shape of Chris Froome. I'll be there in Yorkshire in July watching the teams flash by in the blink of an eye. Still on the sporting theme, I hope the Commonwealth games are a massive success up there in Glasgow.

I don't know about you but I got quite emotional at the ceremony to commemorate the D-Day landings. I found it absolutely staggering to hear the tales of such heroism from those young men (as they were then) in the face of such terrifying scenes on the beaches of Normandy. How sad it was to hear the old guys say that this would be their last time together 'as there probably won't be enough of us around in ten years time'. Most may have gone by then, but they will never be forgotten.

By the way wasn't it lovely to see the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge across there in France, displaying a more modern approach by the Royal Family – this coming shortly after their highly successful trip 'Down Under' with the delightful Prince George.

By now some of you may be asking 'where is my copy of MADO?' Unfortunately, copies of the Company magazine will not be sent to pensioners in future. What we intend doing is including some items from their magazine in ours and (fingers crossed) we hope to put a copy of MADO on the Trust Funds web-site for those of you who have access to the internet.

Have a lovely summer everyone.

Mike

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Over the past couple of years, there have been quite a few changes to the St Helens-based Welfare Officers team. If you live in or around St Helens and need a visit, it's going to be one of these people who comes out to see you.

In the next edition of *PRISM*, we'll include a photo of the Regional Welfare Officers team who cover the rest of the country.

Back row: Elizabeth Andrews, Christine Barrow (Office Supervisor) and Austin Griffiths.
Front row: Leanne Jones, Lynne Carney, Catherine Donoghue and Christine Wright.

Male voice choir

Retirees from North Wales along with Chris Connor, Regional Welfare Office, had a very enjoyable choir day out in June at the Wynnstay Arms Hotel, where Brymbo Male Voice Choir performed two sets for the appreciative audience.

Two beneficiaries, Harold Williams and Allen Morris, who used to be members of Brymbo Choir were in attendance.

All agreed that it was a lovely afternoon, enjoyed by all.



SURPRISING CONNECTIONS... ...between the town of St Helens and the world of aviation.

If you fancy an interesting read then please look at the website below and you'll probably learn a few things about St Helens and aviation that you didn't know!
www.surprisingconnections.co.uk



Happy Birthday Mary

Mary Eccles of Reeve Court Retirement Village, St Helens, celebrated her 103rd Birthday on 21 June 2014.

Mrs Eccles joined her family for a special meal to mark the occasion.

FOYLE'S WAR AT WATSON STREET

Part of Watson Street Works was turned into a film set for a weekend in February – complete with fake snow, World War II trucks and suspicious-looking cargo!

The area behind the plant's waste heat boiler and in front of the loco sheds became part of Foyle's War, a British detective drama television series set during and shortly after World War II.

The TV crew's aim was to recreate views of a Concentration Camp and disused chemical plant.

"The crew worked all day on the Saturday (in the pouring rain) building a guard tower and gates for the concentration camp as well as laying down the false snow late on the Saturday evening," explained EHS Manager Paul Williams.

"The next morning around 60 crew members

turned up at the site to carry out their part. Galvanised roller shutter doors were covered in camouflage sheeting. Russian signage replaced our normal signs, green screens were erected and the filming took place, without any hitches. By six o'clock on the Sunday evening the site was back to normal except for remnants of false snow around the waste heat boiler."

As part of three two-hour episodes filmed in and around Watson Street and the Liverpool area, the weekend transformation will account for just 1.5 minutes of footage.



Michael Kitchen – leading man in Foyle's War shooting a scene outside the Boiler House.



Pictures courtesy of Watson Street EHS Manager Paul Williams



The Foyle's War production crew setting up scenes outside the Boiler House.



Watson St. Production team members Colin Carpenter (left), and Martyn Bradshaw pose with two 'Russian Soldiers' beside the Waste Heat Boiler.

2015 broadcast

Foyle's War stars Michael Kitchen as Christopher Foyle, who attempts to catch criminals trying to take advantage of the confusion the war has created.

The new three two-hour episodes began filming in and around Liverpool in January for a likely 2015 broadcast. The episodes will see Kitchen's scrupulous widower Christopher Foyle continue his role as a Senior Intelligence Officer for the secret service, MI5.



Liverpool Street Station saw more than 57 million passenger entries and exits in 2011-12. One of the busiest railway stations in the UK, Liverpool Street is the third busiest in London after Waterloo and Victoria.

Senior railcard

A senior rail card costs just £30 per year (or £70 for three years) and will save travellers aged 60+ a third on fares. To qualify you must have a valid passport or UK driving licence.

You can use your Senior Railcard for long and short trips at almost any time during the week and at weekends. The only restriction is for travel during the morning peak period, Monday to Friday (not including Public Holidays). The times of morning off-peak services do vary by route, so it's best to check with ticket office staff before buying your tickets.

The railcard can be brought online (www.senior-railcard.co.uk) or over the telephone (0844 871 4036 - 7am - 10pm every day, except Christmas Day. Calls are charged at the national rate).

Alternatively, you can purchase your railcard from a staffed station ticket office and some National Rail-licensed Travel Agents.

ExtraCare at hand

ExtraCare is a service for water customers who need support or reassurance when it comes to everyday tasks - from reading a bill to answering the door to officials. The scheme could help your life flow that bit more smoothly.

Call United Utilities on 0845 746 1100 and they'll get you registered right away. They provide large print, Braille and 'talking' water bills. A password scheme to give you peace of mind if one of their team needs to call at your home and extra help during water shut-offs or bursts.

If you have difficulty reading your water bill they can provide the bill in Braille or large print, talk you through your bill over the phone, and even send it to a relative, friend or guardian instead - with your permission of course. If you have hearing or speech difficulties and use a textphone, dial 18001 followed by 0845 746 1100.



If you have a water meter in your home, and you find it difficult to get to it or read it, they may be able to help by moving it to a more accessible place, as long as your plumbing arrangements allow. If you are blind or partially sighted, it could be arranged for the meter to be read on a quarterly basis. If ever a visit is necessary by United Utilities to your home, they have a special password scheme for customers who want extra reassurance. Let them know the password you would like them to use. When an employee or contractor visits your home, ask them for the password before you let them in.

All employees carry identification cards with their photos on. It has a contact number in Braille on the back. They'll know your password if you have registered for the scheme. If still in doubt you can ring them on 0845 746 2200.

If you're struggling to pay your bill, get in touch on 0845 746 2222 if you have a water meter or 0845 746 1100 if you don't.

TIAs are not just "funny turns"



Those who ignore symptoms of a TIA (transient ischaemic attack) or mini-stroke, are running the risk of having a major stroke, the Stroke Association warns.

TIA causes similar symptoms to a stroke, such as speech problems, but may last only a few minutes. A survey of TIA patients found more than one in three had dismissed their symptoms as just a 'funny turn'.

About 10,000 strokes could be prevented if TIAs were treated, said the charity.

GP changes to help the elderly

Doctors will receive £50 million of funding so they can see patients seven days a week, under proposed plans launched on 14 April 2014.

GPs would be able to spend longer with frail, elderly patients and people older than 75 will be allocated a GP who will take charge of their treatment. More elderly patients will also be treated at home and be able to see their family doctors in the evenings and at weekends and email them for advice under plans for a radical expansion of surgery opening hours.

GPs in areas across England will receive £50 million of Government funding to reorganise their services so that surgeries will be open from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week. The reforms are expected to see patient consultations over video-link, secure email and telephone. Online booking services will be developed.

Ministers believe that the proposals will end the 'nightmare' that millions of workers face trying to book an appointment with a doctor.



MD'S VISIT TO CANADA



Toronto



Montreal

The visit to Canada as ever was enjoyable.

The starting point was Montreal, which happened to coincide with the Formula One race being in town. This led to hotels being hard to come by and being very crowded. Montreal is in the province of Quebec and the most spoken language is French. Beneficiaries made an effort to speak to me in English, equally I made an



Winnipeg

effort to speak to them in French, which was much appreciated by both parties.

The business in Montreal historically was part owned and resold many times, therefore the

people I met with had worked for several different companies. The consensus around the table was that Pilkington was by far the best employer they had worked for. We spent an enjoyable few hours together discussing the past and the present and then the future, with people already asking when I would next visit.

From Montreal we made the short flight to Toronto in the province of Ontario. Toronto was home to the Scarborough glass plant, which opened in 1951 producing sheet glass and then later float glass. Ultimately the business was sold and after changing ownership several times the site was demolished and now is a housing estate, for posterity one of the roads is named Pilkington Drive.

The gathering was attended by 150 ex-employees and their spouses, some of them expatriates from the UK who transferred to Canada and never returned to the UK. The accents were from Liverpool, St Helens, Yorkshire and Scotland so I felt very much at home. Equally a lot of European people worked for the company from Greece, Portugal and Italy and of course local Canadians. There was, therefore, a very cosmopolitan flavour in the room. The feedback from everyone was how much they had enjoyed the opportunity to meet with old friends and share the memories of years working together. Some had interesting stories of events at

the plant, Sir Harry Pilkington visiting, the float lines opening and sadly the eventual closure. Once again I came away with the distinct impression that the days spent with "Pils" were the happiest days.

We then moved on to Winnipeg where Pilkington had interests as early as 1906.

There is still a small business operating in Winnipeg but under different ownership.

The group I met had a vast amount of service with the company and many had dealings with colleagues at Scarborough and Montreal and therefore the loop was completed with questions about who had attended the previous lunches. We spent a very pleasant evening with our guests and I then prepared for the journey home starting the next morning.

On previous visits I have met with people in Vancouver and some years ago Calgary, unfortunately numbers have dwindled to such a point where it is no longer feasible for me to travel that far west to meet people. We still keep in touch with these people via Christine Clinton our co-ordinator in Canada. I thank Christine and her group of volunteers who maintain contact across this vast country to alert us when support is required thus fulfilling our mission statement "There to Care When Care is Needed".

Paul Morgan, MD

Linking up Rural Communities

Do you live in a rural area and experience problems accessing services?

Age UK are currently running a 'Rural Ageing Campaign'. This highlights the problems facing elderly people who live in more rural or isolated areas.

The campaign covers a variety of subjects including transport, health and social care, loneliness and fuel poverty.

If you would like to access the information, please look on the website; there is some very good information:

www.ageuk.org.uk/health-wellbeing/rural/



New Trust Fund service

No doubt many people will have heard of Esther Rantzen's 'Silverline' service, introduced to help combat loneliness. Well the Trust Fund now has its very own version called 'Link Up'.

Loneliness can be a very real issue for older people resulting in emotional distress and a significant reduction in quality of life. Being isolated from family, friends and neighbours for whatever reason and maybe not seeing another person day after day can be soul destroying. 'Link Up' was introduced to maintain regular contact with folk experiencing these feelings. Janet Hayes (pictured left) now spends her day in the office chatting to people on the phone, offering advice and information and just 'being there' when needed.

If you would like to know more about 'Link Up' please give Janet a call on 01744 457938 or speak to one of our Welfare Officers.

Below are lists of retirements, deaths and anniversaries for the months of December 2013 to June 2014 inclusive.

Deaths

We have been notified of the following deaths since the last issue of Prism. The number of years' service are as shown.

It is with regret that we report the death of the following employee. The number of years' service is as shown.

KINGS NORTON
Raymond J Astley 6

AUTOMOTIVE KINGS NORTON

William McFetridge 25
Richard Kendall 11

BIRCH STIGMAT
Rose Hudgell 8
Donald R Hodge 14

CHANCE BROTHERS
Arthur Norman Smith 2
Geoffrey H Logan 12
Kenneth Evans 24

Cynthia Gordon 15
CHANCE PILKINGTON
Voldemar Sprogis 19
CHANCE PROPPER
Caradoc Owen Morris 26
CITY ROAD
Patrick Connaughton 33
Leslie Sumner 30
Arthur Denton 28
Kenneth Bickerstaffe 32
Alan McKinnon 39
Eveline Symes 29

CP ST ASAPH
Islywn Lloyd Parry 24
DIRECTOR
David Pilkington 38

DONCASTER
John Gerrard 16
Alan Case 25
John Smith 18
Horace Travis 14
Peter Winstanley 39
Simon Edmundson 6
Peter Thelwell 27
Ronald Pickering 18
Kenneth R Lockhart 11

COWLEY HILL
Joseph Metcalfe 33
Peter Daley 22
William Talbot 44
William Noel Beattie 32

REGINALD LEADALL
Reginald Leadall 7
Clement Perry 34
Bernard Thompson 41
Colin Whittaker 47
Arthur Howells 25
Alan Freeman 39
Leslie Farmery 37
FIBREGLASS
Gladys Roberts 20
William Measures 11
James H. Ogston 12

Ronald Holmes 31
Kenneth Dale 31
Henry Blackmore 33
Fisher Malcolm 38
Melvyn Smith 35
Leonard Shaw-Binns 37
Raymond Bushell 21
Luke Corrigan 24
FLAT GLASS
Stanley Cresswell 41
Stanley Aird 22
GREENGATE
John Nelson 26
Kenneth Halsall 37

FIBREGLASS WREXHAM
William Flinders 14
John R Taylor 14

HEAD OFFICE
Philip Riley 11
Henry Caunce 42
Alan Guy 31
Dora Duncan 15
Roy Hodgson 40
James Bell 34
Thomas Kay 19
John Hunt 34
Mary E Leivesley 15
Alfred Ronald Dixon 41
Arnold Richmond 28
John Edward Green 29
Alice S McNamara 34
John Grice 40
Gerald Hill 41
Geoffrey Cohen 29
Peter Dawson 24
Horace Martindale 12
Wojciech Stankiewicz 25

LATHOM
Robin McIntosh 32
Mary McNamara 20
Robert Birch 28
Leonard Pilling 20
Alan Johnson 33
James Hynds 28

GROVE STREET
Margaret Webster 12
Robert Ratcliffe 14

FIBREGLASS
Leigh Levi Richardson 26
NEW ZEALAND
Robert A Fowler 27
OPTRONICS
Francis W Urwin 32
PILKINGTON GROUP
Martin Todd 20
Michael Cloke 2
Austin Kilduff 27
Trevor J Brooks 17
John Round 31
Rita Mastromarino 26
Albert Hodgkinson 47
Roy Whitfield 22
Norma Burton 19
Michael Travis 6

PILKINGTON SPECIAL GLASS
Cyril Harrison 30
PIL PONTYFELIN
Alan Prosser 42
George Trevor Robbins 30
PIP QUEENSFERRY
Edward Rawlinson 23

PPE ST ASAPH
William Moneypenny 21
PRL
Frederick Alan Ross 16
Thomas Molyneux 19
PUKL
Alan Austin 20
QUEENBOROUGH
Cyril Hull 5
RAVENHEAD
Brian Leyland 10
David Brian Ratcliffe 32
SHEETWORKS
Frank Lee 34
Elizabeth Sephton 31
Alan Chadwick 44
James Cullen 40
Ethel Fillingham 3

ST ASAPH
Aubron J Hollingworth 22
Ray Jones 25
Philip Jones Owen 16
Alan Toms 29
TRANSPORT
William Appleton 41
TRIPLEX ECCLESTON
Herbert McCulley 12
Paul Cassidy 7
Thomas R Pollitt 16
Robert Mulvanny 17
Harry Turner 12
Jeffrey Kerner 26
TRIPLEX KINGS NORTON
Paul Grayhurst 20
Robert Harold Cross 32
WATERSIDE TRAINING
Christine Wilton 5
WATSON STREET
Veronica Gilroy 15
Dawn Chisnall 5
Charles Gilbert 40
Kenneth Proudfoot 37
Neville Kelsall 41
Marjorie McLaughlan 27
Ronald Stephen Hind 19
Michael Higgins 32
Brian Humphreys 21
Richard Nicholls 41
WELDALL
William Jones 29

Anniversaries

Congratulations are sent to the following couples who have or are about to celebrate their special anniversaries.

DIAMOND WEDDING

Mr & Mrs L Bott, St Helens - 06.03.14
Mr & Mrs L Bullock, Kidderminster - 20.02.14
Mr & Mrs A Christie, Glasgow - 03.09.14
Mr & Mrs R Cullen, Tunbridge Wells - 17.07.14
Mr & Mrs W Ellis, Newton le Willows - 11.09.14
Mr & Mrs F Mercer, St Helens - 24.04.14
Mr & Mrs R Rigby, St Helens - 13.03.14
Mr & Mrs W Stephenson, Dawlish - 06.03.14
Mr & Mrs B Tickle, Newton Ferrers, Near Plymouth - 27.02.14
Mr & Mrs R Williams, Liverpool - 26.07.14

GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr & Mrs J Blackburn, Skelmersdale - 27.06.14
Mr & Mrs J Currie, Doncaster - 04.04.14
Mr & Mrs F Horrocks, Ormskirk - 11.06.14
Mr & Mrs J Ingham, Ashton in Makerfield - 03.10.14
Mr & Mrs A Richmond, St Helens - 26.09.14

RUBY WEDDING

Mr & Mrs K O'Keefe, Birmingham - 17.08.14

Remember, if you would like your Golden or Diamond Wedding Anniversary mentioned in PRISM, please inform your Welfare Officer or telephone the Welfare Centre on 01744 457929.

Retirements

List of retirements for the months of December 2013 to June 2014 inclusive. The number of years' service are as shown.

COWLEY HILL

Neil Appleton 44
Brian Schofield 40
Eric Leigh 40
Ian Stevenson 26
Geoffrey Stott 39
Geoffrey Smith 43
Mark Francis 38
Rod Marsh 38
Anthony Wakefield 36
John Bennett 40
Steven Robinson 36
Philip Backhouse 39
Neil Burrows 37
Steven Bacon 40
Keith Webster 38
Alan Davies 36
John Roughley 38
John William Muldoon 37
Colin Barton 39
Gary Lally 39
John Taylor 37
Gary Ford 38
Ian Ashurst 12
Paul Hurst 36

CUMBERNAULD

Geoffrey Todd 36
GREENGATE
Gregory Meadows 44
Raymond Hodgkinson 38
Ray Griffiths 42
Neil Conley 41
David Norton 42
John Ratcliffe 40

QUEENBOROUGH

Stephen Hughes

SALFORD

Susan Simmons 30

WATSON STREET

Liam Gilsonan 41
Anthony Murphy 42
Edward Bowden 44
John Ericson 45

What, Where, When?
COMPETITION WINNER

Mr S Parr from Orrell, Wigan was the winner of our competition which appeared in the Winter Edition of PRISM. A £10 voucher is on it way to Mr Parr.

Questions

Answers

What date was No 8 Tank lit? 30/11/46
When was the first glass made in No 8 tank? 13/1/47
When was the big close down? 10/2/47
What date was No 7 tank stopped? 4/10/47
When did the first £5 note appear in wages? 27/5/54
When was the explosion in C Mixing Room? 9/2/56
When was the new painted No 7 tank lit? 5/11/57
When was the first glass made in new painted No 7 tank? 26/11/57
What date was the new Plate Works chimney finished - 234ft high? 23/11/61
When did the Glassmakers' strike start and end? 4/4/70 - 22/5/70

Contact us...

By telephone: 01744 457929
In writing: The Pilkington Family Trust
Chalon Way Industrial Estate
St Helens, Merseyside, WA10 1AU
e-mail: enquiries@pilkingtonfamilytrust.com



If you prefer you may wish to complete the attached slip and return it to the above address, and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Every effort is made to ensure that details and information in the magazine are correct at the time of going to press.

Nature of enquiry:

Name, address and telephone number of sender:

Barton Grange Trip



This was an ALL group trip to Barton Grange Garden Centre with a river cruise to end, we took 49 people.

We had 1.5 hours in the garden centre then two hours on the boat; this incorporated a fish and chip lunch followed by apple pie and cream. A brilliant day, which will definitely be repeated, resulting in some great comments from everyone.

NW Air Ambulance



Stanley Oldfield and his wife Marlene are pictured receiving a donation cheque for £382.00 from the St Ann's Social Group that had been collected across all of the St Helens and Burscough Social Groups.

Stanley did a series of talks for us, and the groups were really impressed with their work, Stanley gave an update on how things are progressing and thanked them and all the other groups for their generosity.

Guide Dogs Association



Lee Hodgson and her working guide dog "Emily" are pictured receiving a cheque for £332.00 on behalf of The Guide Dog Association from members of St James's Social Group.

This donation has been collected across all the St Helens and Burscough groups over the last few months, following a succession of talks delivered by Lee about The Guide Dog Association and the work they do. Lee was overwhelmed with the response and generosity shown to herself and "Emily".



NE Social Group

The North East Social group enjoyed a day out to Otterburn Mill and Kirkharle Courtyard in June this year.

The Group meet four times a year in March, June, September and have a re-union lunch in October. If you are interested in joining us please contact Pilkington Welfare on 01744 457915 and you will be added to the invitation letters.

Whats on

Please ring 01744 457909 for further details

DONCASTER

Silver Leaf Club: 2.00pm-4.00pm. 2nd Thursday in the month at Pilkington Recreation Club, Kirk Sandall. All Pensioners and Non-Pilkington Friends. Membership fee applies.

Day Club: 11.00am-3.30pm fortnightly (Wednesdays) at Pilkington Recreation Club, Kirk Sandall. Housebound and elderly only. Fee applies.

NORTH WALES

Wrexham Self-Help Group: Meets the last Wednesday each month at the Railway Club Wrexham at 2.00pm. For further information contact Mr J Binington on 01978 359289.

St Asaph Self-Help Group: Meets 1st Tuesday every month at Rhuddlan Community Centre at 2.00pm. More information: Mr G Jones on 01745 332517.

Monday Club: 11.00am-2.00pm. First and third Monday each month. Community Hall, Rhuddlan. Contact: Peter Greulich 01745 814341

SOUTH WALES

Self-Help Group: Fortnightly (Wednesdays) between 2.00pm-4.00pm PILCS Social Club, New Road, New Inn, Pontypool. More information:

Day Club: Meets monthly on a Friday 11.00am-3.00pm at 'Widdershins' East Avenue, off Greenhill Road, Sebastopol. Contact: Sally Lewis on 07788 956439.

KINGS NORTON TRIPLEX SOCIAL CLUB

Bingo: Every Monday 1.15pm

Kings Norton Pensioners' Friendship Club: First Thursday of every month

Bowling: Each weekday from 13.30

One Coach Trip per month from May to September

ST HELENS WELFARE LEISURE CENTRE

Monday
Sewing Group: 9.30am (Patchwork quilting etc).

Chi Kung: 2.00pm - 3.00pm.

Monday
Ladies dominoes, 6.00pm-9pm

Tuesday
Art Group: 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month.

50+ Ladies Keep Fit: 2.00pm-4.00pm
Pilkington Choir: 7.45pm

Wednesday

Rambler's Coffee Morning: 10.30am (1st Wednesday in every month).

Water Colour Painting: (2nd & 4th Wednesday in every month) 9.30am inc. Beginners Section.

Bingo Sessions: 2.00pm

Ladies Crown Green Bowling Practice

Night: 6.30pm

Thursday

Chi Kung: 10.30 am-11.30 pm. Tai Chi:

11.45am-12.45pm.

Indoor Bowling - winter months:

1.00pm.

Fridays

Women's Indoor Bowling - winter months: 6:00pm-9:00pm.

Alternative Fridays

Companions: 2.00pm. TV Lounge and Games Room for darts, dominoes and cards and mobile library service (always available).

Women's Bowling: 6:00pm-9:00pm.

Indoor bowling - winter

RUSKIN LODGE

Creative Living in Retirement: 10.00am-12.00pm. Swinburne Road, Dentons Green Meeting date: 3rd Wednesday of each month

Men's snooker group, Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons

SELF-HELP GROUPS

There are ten geographically dedicated groups in and around St Helens. Each group meets once a month and participates in a varied programme of events.

Sutton

The Blue Room, Shining Light, Sutton Manor Primary School, Forest Road, Sutton.

1st Wednesday of each month

10.30am-12 noon.

Eccleston

St Luke's Church, Knowsley Road, Eccleston. 1st Thursday of each month

10.30am-12 noon.

Haydock

St James Church, Church Road, Haydock. 2nd Wednesday of each month 10.30am-12 noon.

Billinge

Rainford Road Sheltered Housing Complex, Billinge. 3rd Monday of each month 10.30am- 12 noon.

Creative Living in Retirement

Ruskin Lodge, Swinburne Road, Dentons Green. Meeting Date: 3rd Wednesday of each month 10.00-noon

Burscough Ormskirk Social Group

Older People's Club, Lord Street. 3rd Tuesday of the month 2.00pm-4.00pm

St Ann's Social Group

St Ann's Millennium Centre View Road, Rainhill. 2nd Monday of the month 10.30 am-12 noon

Clinkham Wood Social Group

Moss Bank Mission, Moss Bank Road, St Helens. Last Tuesday of the month 10.30 am-12 noon

Thatto Heath

St John's Church, Crossley Road, Thatto Heath. Third Thursday of the month, 1.30pm-3.00pm

Reflections Group

Leisure Centre, Ruskin Drive, St Helens. Meets approximately every six weeks, 1.30pm-3.30pm

Shunters at steel works

Keith Atherton recalls his first encounter with Windle

Arriving at Grove Street lodge just before the eight o'clock buzzer blew on day one of 40 plus years at Pilkington, I was taken along the winding passage between the Blacksmiths and electrical shops to the fitting shop at the side of the Canal Street entrance to the works, to begin my working life first as an Apprentice Fitter.

Here I was handed over to Arthur Wright, foreman Fitter. He made out a clock card for me, putting it in the rack next to the clocking on and off clock and showed me how to clock on, telling me that being a minute late clocking on would cost me by being 'quartered': having a quarter of an hour taken from my pay.

He then led me out of the shop, across the yard, past, what I later learned were, the Clay Sheds and Masons' Shop, along the side of Rolled Plate, under the arch of the St Helens to Liverpool railway line, past the discharging bays of Rolled Plate mixing room into the dim, sooty Loco Shed at the far end of the yard next to the Company's and British Rail's Marshalling Yard. Here, he left me under the wing of Bob Fowles, the loco fitter, with whom I was to spend the first few weeks of my working life.

It was also here that I came across 'Windle' and the rest of Internal Transport Department's small fleet of shunting engines that were all steamers: diesels were not introduced until later. Some of the engines at that time were, like Windle, built by 'Borrows' a local company. The others were 'Hunslet' saddle tank engines.

I will recall on one occasion, one of the Borrows, having had a major refit, Bob giving me the pleasure, under his eagle eye, of driving her from the back of the shed, out into the daylight, when she was handed back into the hands of one of the loco drivers.

When I first arrived to work with Bob, his Fitter's mate, Fred Swift, from Crawford village, was off work sick. During that major refit, he had been helping Bob to drive a three inch or so pin out of one of the wheels. The wheels and axle were upended: Bob was holding a large drift with a long handle, onto the pin, while Fred was clouting it with his sledge hammer. After a few clouts, Fred lifted his hammer and brought it down. Unfortunately, this time his aim was out. He hit the upper wheel and then his ankle! After getting up off the floor, Fred duly walked, with his ankle numb from the blow, to the Works Surgery, where he was put in plaster and sent home in the company ambulance to recover.

That lot, is of course, a slight distraction. During the 16 years I spent at Sheet Works, including working at the Sandwash, when I was in the Drawing Office, I have no recollection of 'Windle' being at the Sandwash. I cannot see her being used at Washway Lane. She would have been pensioned off by then, I'm sure.

I imagine that her name was derived from either Windle, the family name, or from Windle, one of the parishes of the town. Of course I cannot be positive about that, but, to me, it seems to be the most likely explanation.

Keeping in touch

James Fitzhenry would be interested to hear from any of his former colleagues who worked in the Export Department in Head Office, St Helens, between 1948 and 1951.

Please contact Janet Hayes at Chalon Way on 01744 457938 and she will gladly pass on your details to Mr Fitzhenry.

(If anyone else is interested in contacting former colleagues, please email or phone Janet on janet.hayes@pilkingtonfamilytrust.com or 01744 457938 and your request will appear in future issues of *PRISM*).



The 1958 St Helens mixed apprentice cricket team.

Do you know?

Mr Alan Forshaw from St Helens has sent in this photograph of a mixed apprentice cricket team that went to Doncaster in 1958 to play a team of apprentices there.

This was a regular event. The photograph is taken outside the Glassblowers pub in Doncaster.

Front row left to right: Alan is second, Kevin Whittle is third and Brian Sweetlove is fourth.

Does anyone recognise anyone else on the photograph? If you do, please contact Carole Lowe on 10744 457904.