

PRISM



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

What an honour!

Two of Pilkington Family Trust's beneficiaries have recently been awarded the Legion d'Honneur medal, the highest honour in France. The honour originally established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, was awarded as a way of thanking those who fought and risked their lives to secure France's liberation during WWII.



Kenneth Bird.



Legion d'Honneur medal.

Kenneth Bird was awarded this honour for his part in the Normandy Landings. He served in the Navy and was, at this time, on a motor launch carrying mine and submarine detecting equipment in order to protect the troops landing on the Normandy beach head. This was not Kenneth's first taste of action. He also protected the Russian Convoys on board the Ulster Queen.

Following the D-Day Landings Ken went on to see action in the Mediterranean, the Far East and the Pacific.

After the war Ken returned to work for Pilkington and worked in the transport department for 30 years at Watson Street and Washway Lane. Unfortunately Ken

sadly passed away on 30th November and our deepest sympathies go to his family.

Thomas McFarlane also received the Legion d'Honneur. Thomas served in the Navy on an LAC (Landing Assault Craft), landing troops on the beach at Normandy, a very dangerous manoeuvre. Thomas served in the Royal Navy for five years and visited many parts of the world including Malta, Port Said and Singapore to name but a few. When he left the Navy he worked for 27 years as a joiner for Pilkington at Fibreglass.

It's been a wonderful year for Thomas for not only did he receive this well deserved honour he also celebrated his



Thomas McFarlane and his wife Bess.

69th wedding anniversary with his lovely wife Bess on 6th December.

Our heartfelt thanks go to both Ken and Thomas and all their fellow servicemen and servicewomen for their dedication and bravery during World War II.

MD's visit to Australia and New Zealand



Photo taken during Paul Morgan's visit to Whangarei in New Zealand.

Pilkington first became involved in shipping glass to Australia as early as 1858 to South Geelong (where later Pilkington would establish an automotive plant).

The trade with New Zealand started around 1900. The first factories producing glass were built in the 1930s as the company extended its activities across the world. Pilkington acquired many companies across Australasia and the plants they established over the years determine the places I visit on my travels. The long journey to Melbourne started on Friday 11 November and finished on Sunday the 13th, so I was ready for my bed on arrival. As is now the custom I was greeted with a cold wet Melbourne

day to begin my odyssey.

I met our national co-ordinator and after a day to acclimatise we set off to Geelong to meet the retirees from the long closed automotive plant. We welcomed more than 120 people to dine with us and a good time was had by all. One of our volunteers, Shirley Holman, was presented with a long-service certificate for 25 years. From there we travelled some 70 miles to Dandenong to spend time with the people that had worked on the float line, which was the biggest operation in Australia and is the only factory still producing glass under the current owners CSR, but trading as Viridian.

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2 BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES
Jack and Dorothy celebrate 65 years of marriage



4/5 HOBBIES & MEMORIES
Abseiling, Rambling, Memory Lane and more!



7 THE REAR WINDOW
Screened at former head office

EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to 2017. As you read this, in the month of January, daylight in theory is getting longer (try telling yourself that if the rain is lashing down, the wind is howling and dark nights still seem to be with us!)

Following 21st December, we add at best, a mere minute of daylight to each day at sunset. By 7th January though we're adding a full two minutes each day to the daylight hours – one at sunrise and one at sunset. Yes, heading towards the longest day in June.

Can you recall when Britain has twice in the past adopted double summer time? The first time was during WWII when it was used to help boost productivity and ensure that munition workers got home safely rather than having to travel in the dark. The change was then tried again between 1968 and 1971. Ah memories! Memories are a theme in this edition of *PRISM* with the Memory Walk organised by the National Alzheimers Society that sees thousands of people raising money for a world without dementia. And there are trips down Memory Lane. Why not take a look at some of the old photos to see if you can recognise anyone. Not to be missed is the diamond memory story where diamonds were once used to cut glass.

And if the thought of warmer and longer days encourages you to think about new activities take a peek at what some of our beneficiaries have achieved in life and in retirement. Their stories continue to amaze – from being awarded France's highest honour to segway riding, sailing, rambling, model making, running, football supporting... And the What's On activities carries on the theme showing the activities that beneficiaries all around the country can take part in. For anyone looking to perhaps volunteer their time to a worthy cause the Pilkington Family Trust would be delighted to hear from anyone willing to help at the Trust's respite care home Ruskin Lodge in Swinburne Road, St Helens – we particularly need mini bus chaperones to help our guests on day trips.

We hope you enjoy this edition of *Prism*. As always we welcome your comments, suggestions and contributions.

Must go – there is another two minutes of daylight to enjoy !

Mike Horton
Editor



For details of how to contact us see page 6

SAPPHIRE 65th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

A St Helens couple received a special card from the Queen as they celebrated an incredible 65 years of marriage.

Jack and Dorothy Hilton marked their blue sapphire anniversary with family and friends, with the whole occasion made more special by the card from Buckingham Palace, which arrived by special delivery.

The couple married at St Nicholas' Church in Sutton in August 1951, two years after they met. Jack and Dorothy were brought together by their love of dancing while they were both serving in the Royal Navy and their youngest daughter Alison Armitt said tying the knot was a fairly rapid affair.

She said: "They used to jive away at the local dances. Apparently my father's mum said to my mum one Tuesday on a shopping trip in Liverpool that Jack wanted to marry her. She got them a special licence the next day and they were married on the Saturday at St Nicholas's." The couple have



been together ever since and now have three children, David, Margaret and Alison, as well as seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

After leaving the armed forces Jack worked down the mines before joining the Triplex works at Eccleston. Dorothy also started working there once she went back into employment after bringing up the children.



Miss W Cubbon

Birthday wishes go to Miss W Cubbon who celebrated her 101st birthday in Parr Nursing Home, St Helens on 26th October 2016.



Lilian Smee

Congratulations to Lilian Smee, who is pictured with her family in St Helens, celebrating her 100th birthday.



Ethel May Rosser

On 10th August 2016, Ethel Rosser affectionately known as Effie, celebrated her 104th birthday in Torquay with family and friends.



Lena Chester

Many Happy Returns go to Lena Chester who celebrated her 102nd birthday on 4th October 2016 in Shevington Court, St Helens.



Mrs Ivy D Greenall

Mrs Ivy D Greenall celebrated her 101st birthday on 1st September 2016. Unfortunately within a few weeks of her birthday she had sadly passed away.

Anniversaries

Congratulations are sent to the following couples who have celebrated their special anniversaries.

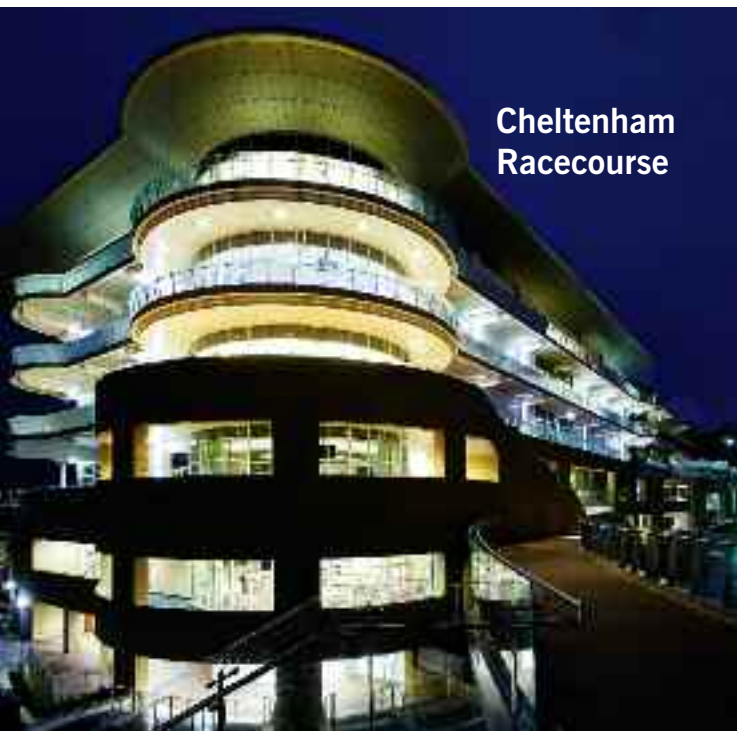
DIAMOND WEDDING

Mr H & Mrs C Charlton, Chance Smethwick – 15/9/2016
Mr Ronald & Mrs Ann Bevan, Triplex – 17/3/2016
Mr Roy & Mrs Dorothy Caudwell, Blackpool – 7/7/2016
Mr Heddwyn & Mrs Margaret Davies, St Asaph – 14/7/2016
Mr Harold and Mrs Joan Swift, Lathom, Lancs – 26/12/2016

GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr Michael and Mrs Christine Shryan, St Helens – 12/3/2016
Mr Frederick & Mrs Patricia Dean, Wigan – 3/12/2016
Mr Reginald R and Mrs Hazel Cuthbert, Doncaster – 1/10/2016
Mr Douglas and Mrs Jean Atherton, St Helens – 26/6/2016
Mr David and Mrs Helene Simpson, St Helens – 24/9/2016
Mr and Mrs Ian Ward, Doncaster – 1/10/2016

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.



Cheltenham Racecourse

Look at how Pilkington glass is being used now...

Housing works of art dating back 5,000 years, The Egyptian Museum in Turin holds one the world's largest collections of Egyptian artefacts.

Keeping these treasures safe for generations is Pilkington Optiview™ Protect OW an anti-reflective, anti-vandal glass.

The new Egyptian Museum houses 70 cabinets and 103 display cases, using 2,200 square metres of this unique glass. The exhibition spaces, which provide a clear, unobstructed view of artefacts, have improved the viewing experience of visitors and have created a must visit attraction for lovers of archaeology. To find out more visit www.pilkington.co.uk



The Egyptian Museum in Turin

When Cheltenham Racecourse needed additional race-viewing and hospitality space, the course's owner, The Jockey Club, decided to build a new five-storey, 6,500 capacity grandstand offering views over the track, the winners' enclosure and the spectacular Malvern Hills to the rear.

To maximise these views, allow natural light to flood the interior and maintain a comfortable climate, full height glazing was specified for every floor of the grandstand.

The architect was also keen to retain recognisable and original features in the new grandstand that included green bodytinted Pilkington glass, housed within white aluminium frames.

A total of 1,900 square metres of glass was used, including some areas of opaque white glazing, for which white Pilkington Spandrel Glass screen-printed glazing was used. The new grandstand is the final part of a £45 million redevelopment of the course, which has now opened to the public and saw its first Cheltenham Festival in March.

...and in the beginning

Glass making and its uses have advanced significantly since Pilkington first began its glass making story, which began in 1826 as the St Helens Crown Glass Company, founded with the technical knowledge and ability of John William Bell and capital from three of the most influential local families, the Bromilows, the Greenalls and the Pilkingtons. In the glass making story there have been many processes that have changed or discontinued as glass making methods and inventions have been developed. Contrasting the very modern use of Pilkington Glass today beneficiary, John Bacon, shared with *PRISM* an article first published in *Cullet News* in October 1965 about the diamonds in the cutting tools used at Ravenhead.

“Diamonds for hire, one shilling and ninepence for six months! That was the price for industrial diamonds on a contract between Pilkingtons and Sharrat and Newth dated 1897 and in 1965 the Company still had on loan 1,600 diamonds from the Firm ! The article recalled how one of his colleagues, Arthur Balmer, had been asked to buy some diamonds from Pontypool Works and remembered the 60 year old contract that said diamonds should be hired from Sharrat and Newth. The Company started buying its own stock, setting its own and sending some to Sharrat and Newth or Star Industrial Tools for re-setting.

With the rising demand for glass it meant the need for more glass-cutters and, therefore, more diamonds were required. The diamonds, about

the size of a pin-head, cost between 15 shillings and one pound. The stones were the finest quality South African yellow and South African coloured and Brazilian Browns which were harder to obtain. One diamond did not suit all cutters and the quality of the stone, strength of glass and the person cutting it were factors.

John Bacon joined Pilkington as an errand boy becoming an apprentice setter in the Diamond Room so beginning his career in this skilled aspect of the glass industry. The Diamond Room was situated on the second floor of the old Jubilee Warehouse at Sheet Works – for security measures the room was not labelled ! Here the diamonds were expertly selected and the rest returned. Practised eyes peered through a magnifying glass at the tiny stones. The quality

stood out right away. The shape of the stone was important for the shape governed its degree of hardness. It could not be too bull nosed or too pointed. If it was too round the glass could not be easily cut. A diamond had 24 cutting edges and one edge could cut about 2,000-3,000 feet of glass. When one edge became inadequate it was returned to the Diamond Room for re-setting and about 18 diamonds a day were reset by one man.

The article recalled that David Pilkington once spent about three days in the Diamond Room, in his early days with the Firm, and set a diamond correctly – “quite an achievement”.

With the decline in the diamond setting cutting technique, the Diamond Room began to give up space to wheel grinding and wheels began to replace the individual cutters. ”



Pilkington ramblers' Llanrwst walk - September 2016



Never too old to try something new!

Mrs Sylvia Jarvis of Portland, is pictured on a local Segway course in her home county of Dorset. Mrs Jarvis attended with her husband and really enjoyed the experience.

Our beneficiaries always appear to be adventurous, so if you have a photograph and story of doing anything similar, please let us know for the next issue of *PRISM*.



Lady Pensioners Quilters Group

Ladies from the Quilters Group at Ruskin Drive Pensioners Leisure Centre, St Helens are shown handing over 'dementia blankets' and 'twiddly muffs' to dementia nurse, Lauren, for patients at Whiston Hospital. (Mrs Fairhurst one of the regular quilters recently lost her husband to dementia).

Another member of the group, Mrs Glynn, also organised for the group to make quilted cot blankets, which were donated to Alder Hey hospital. Anyone interested in joining the quilting group should contact Activity Co-ordinator Kath Shaw on 01744 457909.

Jim's charity abseil

Spurred on by a desire to raise money for a good cause, Ruskin Lodge Mini Bus Driver, Jim Mouldsdale, recently completed a charity abseil off Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. Money raised went to support St. Joseph's Hospice in Thornton Liverpool.



Jim was totally unfazed by the abseil, which for many is a daunting challenge. As soon as he got to the bottom Jim said: "Can I do it again?"!

The Hospice need to raise £6,500 every day to keep the hospice's services running and volunteers taking part in the abseiling event helped to raise a total of £1,000. Jim would like to thank everyone who supported him and helped him to raise over £300.



Reg Crabtree.

Reg Crabtree

Coincidentally, pictured left is Pilkington Family Trust beneficiary Reg Crabtree who, in 1994, restored the intricate model of the Cathedral that is housed inside the building. Reg advises the model was in a terrible state when he was asked to restore it as over a period of time the windows were broken and bits were missing. It hadn't been protected by a cover, which it is now.

Mr Crabtree was a Glass Designer for Pilkington. He has also built models from scratch of Northwich Salt Museum, a Spinning Jenny and Chester Cathedral, though was unable to finish the latter due to failing eyesight.

Mr Crabtree now lives in Essex, but visits St Helens on a regular basis to stay in Ruskin Lodge and still likes to visit the Cathedral when he has the chance.

Memory Walks 2016

The National Alzheimer's Memory Walks took place between August and October 2016. Annually, the Memory Walks see thousands of people raising money for a world without dementia across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

People of all ages and abilities join in, from grandparents to grandchildren, and even furry, four-legged friends. They all walk together to celebrate loved ones affected by dementia, and raise money to reclaim the future.

Every year, 225,000 people are diagnosed with dementia. That's much-loved mums, dads, grandparents and partners who need support.

This year's Memory Walk was the biggest ever, 100,000 people at over 30 locations joined together to walk for a world without dementia.

Pilkington Family Trust is very committed to living well with dementia and to show our support staff at Chalon Way and Ruskin Lodge joined together on 16th September at Taylor Park, St Helens and were sponsored to walk five times around the lake. It was a nice sunny evening and family and friends turned up to cheer them on.

The staff, who raised a fantastic £590, would like to thank everyone who provided donations and sponsorship.

"It was enjoyable to take part and it felt good to complete the walk knowing that all the money raised is going to such an important cause," said Maralyn Devlin, Dementia Support Worker.





1,387 years between them

1,387 years collective service!

During World War II, when a big part of the Pilkington workforce was called up, the gentlemen pictured above, who were coming up to retirement age, stayed on while the younger work force went away to war.

The photograph kindly supplied by Mrs M Randles shows her grandfather on the front row, far right, J McManus. The picture was taken outside Ruskin Cricket Pavilion, St Helens. Mr McManus was originally a Manager for Sheet Works,

but when they were asked to stay on, they were all given different jobs and his new job was to examine Pilkington's Works fire hydrants!

If anyone knows any more about the photo we would love to hear about it.



DOWN MEMORY LANE

Do you recognise anyone from the photo taken in the 1960s at Triplex Annual Dance in Birmingham City Centre?

Can anyone help ?

A family Bible, associated with the name of Maybury, has been at the Pilkington Family Trust for a number of years.

Has anyone any information as to who it may belong? The Bible is dated 1863 and we believe was left to us by a beneficiary, but we do not know if there are any surviving relatives. We would like, if possible, to reunite it with the family.



Fraud alert

PLEASE NOTE AND PASS ON TO FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

A card is posted through your door or an email sent from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number).

If you call the number and start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655. For more information, see the Crime Stoppers website:

<http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/crime-prevention/helping-prevent-crime/scams/postal-delivery-scam>

Please be aware that the premium rate number may change, but nevertheless please do not call any number stated on a card from PDS.

MD's visit to Australia and New Zealand

Continued from page 1.

The venue was Dandenong Working Men's Club and was absolutely full to the gills, in fact we had to set up spare tables as we were over subscribed. The room was abuzz with old friends sharing memories and stories of days gone by. The next day, after the large gathering at Dandenong, we ventured to Adelaide to meet with a smaller group who had worked at Seraphic and Mount Gambier. Although small in number the group was almost doubled when we accidentally tried to invite another group of people from Mount Gambier to join us. They looked bemused as they were meeting to celebrate a friend's birthday, talk about hands across the ocean!

The journey continued when we flew to Sydney to meet the retirees from three sites - Alexandria, Ingleburn and Villawood. This luncheon took place in the city centre and was well attended, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves until the manager of the venue invited me to form an impromptu duet on the microphone - this was enough to send most people home.

After recovering from my karaoke ordeal we were quickly on our way to New Zealand and arrived on North Island to glorious weather and travelled to Whangerei. This site originally produced drawn sheet glass and the float line closed some years ago. We dined at the local working men's club and enjoyed a traditional Christmas roast with the addition of local oysters, prawns and mussels. We left immediately after the meal to travel to the capital Wellington to meet colleagues from the Lower Hutt automotive plant.

Prior to and during our visit, there had been volcanic activity on South Island, which had quite significantly affected the North Island, in particular Wellington, so it was no surprise when we arrived to see a lot of damage to road surfaces and sidewalks. Also some major buildings had been closed whilst engineers' reports were being considered to assess damage. Later that evening we received a phone call from our coordinator in Wellington to inform us that the owners of the restaurant where we were holding the gathering the next day had rung him. He was informed that the building had been condemned by engineers that evening and needed to be demolished due to earthquake damage. Unfortunately, at such a late stage we were unable to find another suitable venue and had to cancel the meal. I retired to bed hugely disappointed, but that did not last long as I was rudely awakened at 3.25am by a tremor which shook our hotel, another first in my list of life experiences.

The end of my trip was now in sight and we flew to Brisbane to meet with the retirees from the Tingalpa site, which still operates under Viridian. We had a wonderful time with the Queensland sun beating down on a glorious day. As I awaited for the taxi to the airport the next day we had a tropical storm of biblical proportions just to remind me of what I had been missing at home.

Paul Morgan, Managing Director

Legacies and donations

In the past few years the Pilkington Family Trust has received several legacies and donations from Pilkington pensioners and their families in recognition of the benefits and services provided by the Welfare Programme.

Donations and legacies are an important and invaluable source of income, in order to continue providing our services and to help plan for the future.

A number of Pilkington pensioners have enquired recently as to how to leave a donation or legacy to the Trust Funds.

If you would like any further information on this matter, please write to: Mrs Barbara Northover, Pilkington Family Trust, 16-20 Chalons Way East, St Helens, Merseyside WA10 1AU.

All correspondence will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Below are lists of retirements and deaths for the period June 2016 to December 2016 inclusive

Deaths

It is with regret that we have been notified of the deaths of the following pensioners since the last issue of *Prism*.

AGR REDDITCH
Jillian Smith

ARCHITECTURAL
Alexander Crockett

AUTOMOTIVE KINGS NORTON
David Giddings

BIRCH STIGMAT
Elizabeth O'Halloran
Marie Marshall-Groom

CHANCE
Robert McDonald Prinn
John William Walker
Dorothy Rimmer

CHANCE BROTHERS
William E Bennett
Herbert James Davis
Walter Harvey

Edward Caine
Irene Browning
Elma Ellena Morris
Brenda Stanton

CHANCE PROPPER
Margaret Morley

CITY ROAD
John Gornall
Fred Unsworth
Harry Edwards
Mary Morrow
George Heaton

COWLEY HILL
Ethel Proudlove
Gordon Fleetwood
William Molyneux
Gerald Grimes
Thomas Cowell
Richard Evans
Roland Swift
Jack Unsworth
Harold White
John Charles Sheward
William Mulcrow
Joan Ross
Arthur Harrison
William Houston
William Collins

DONCASTER
Suzanne Asher

FIBREGLASS
Eric Fowler

GREENGATE
Anthony Sarsfield

GROVE STREET
John George Freeman
Sarah Hull

HEAD OFFICE
Robert Atherton
Robert Seymour Aitken
John Dowd
Frances Georgina Tattum
Teresa Rigby
Frank Moon
Peter Atherton
Dorothy Lanchin
Albert Joseph Nevitt
Annie Shaw

KINGS NORTON
Norman Harrison

LATHOM
Christopher Simm
Albert Lowe
Jane Duckworth
Alan Cleaver
David William Sheel
Donald Stanley
John Cadwell

PIL PONTYFELIN
Lloyd Miles

PIL RAVENHEAD
Barry Dean
Brian Seddon

PILKINGTON GROUP LTD
Leonard Beatty
Terence Joseph Gartland
Robert Thompson
Leslie Baker
Henry Thomas Wright
William Bebbington
Kathleen Allen
John Duffy
Michael Henry

PILKINGTON SPECIAL GLASS
Nigel Owen

PPE ST ASAPH
Leonard Jones
Ronald Kelly
Eunice Smith
Gerald Frank Rowley

PRL WREXHAM
Alan William Rose

PUKL
William Goddard
Harry Parkin
Kenneth Pring
Jack Walker

PUKL BASILDON
Terrence Twyford

PUKL MANCHESTER
Anthony Ellis

**PUKL P&M
DOWNSTREAM SITES**
Alan Leslie Holman

PUKL SALFORD
John Taylor

RAVENHEAD
David Rudd
John Loftus
Elizabeth Barr
Carol Preston

ST ASAPH
Hugh Hughes

STIRLING
Donal Bain McDiarmid

**TRIPLEX AIRCRAFT &
SPECIAL PRODUCTS**
Melvyn Charles Docker
Maurice Roebuck

TRIPLEX ECCLESTON
John Birch Duckworth
James Anders
Thomas Melling
John Horton
Graham Leslie Pearl
Todd Alan
Kevin Lester

TRIPLEX KINGS NORTON
Doris Lloyd
Benjamin Clay
David Mobley
Barrie R Bartlett
Stephen Adrian Watson
Alfred Harrison
Gabor Csepregi
Vincent Carroll

WATSON STREET
Anthony Powell
Thomas Barry Woods
Norman Hemmings
Clifford Allen
Richard Reynolds
Doreen Appleton
James Garbage
Derek Joshia Potter
Catherine Gibbons
Brian Diamond
Stephen Waine
Kenneth Vincent Bird
Lawrence Christopher Casey

WELDALL
Robert Price
Kathleen Pratt

Retirements

List of retirements for the months of June 2016 to December 2016 inclusive. The number of years' service are as shown.

ARCHITECTURAL			
Karen Marsh	42	Paul Brown	35
		Mal Thacker	43
GREENGATE		LATHOM	
Iain Brown	41	Stephen Harris	42
John Travis	39	WATSON STREET	
Andrew Ashcroft	34	David McCormack	46

Contact us...

By telephone: 01744 457929

In writing: The Pilkington Family Trust
Units 16-20
Chalons Way Business Park
Chalons Way East
St Helens, Merseyside, WA10 1AU

e-mail: enquiries@pilkingtonfamilytrust.com

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

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Name, address and telephone number of sender:

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Nature of enquiry:

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



Picture courtesy of Stephen King.

Screening at former head office

The Heart of Glass is an art project set up in St Helens, funded through the Arts Council, and the aim is to engage more people in the arts across St Helens.

As part of this, they arranged for a unique cinema event at Pilkington's old head office at Alexandra

Park during November 2016. They transformed the site into a home for sonic and cinematic espionage featuring the granddaddy of surveillance films Alfred Hitchcock's "The Rear Window". The event included a unique artist led tour of the former Pilkington's Head Office.

The tours gave groups a behind the scene insight into the history, architecture and memories of the site. There were also special film screenings in the former Pilkington's Glass Board Room. People enjoyed a choice of viewing options including "drive in" and viewing gallery.

Volunteering opportunities

The Pilkington Family Trust provides a wide range of services and benefits to retired Pilkington employees.

The overall purpose of the Trust Funds Welfare Programme is to encourage Pilkington pensioners to lead an enjoyable retirement. Help and support can also be offered in a number of ways to those pensioners who, for one reason or another, experience difficulties in their retirement.

In order to continue providing the service in the way we do, we call upon the support of a committed team of volunteers, many of whom are retired Pilkington employees themselves. These people carry out a range of activities on our behalf, including: Chaperones on the coaches and Day Centre Assistants.

To learn more about volunteering write or telephone The Pilkington Family Trust, Ruskin Lodge, Swinburne Road, St Helens, Merseyside, WA10 6AW. Tel: 01744 20010. Alternatively email pauline.middlehurst@pilkingtonfamilytrust.com

Residential care in Wales: news

The Welsh Government announced in October 2016 that from next year people will be able to keep more of their money when in residential care.

The Welsh Government's five year plan, "Taking Wales Forward", committed to more than doubling the capital limit used in charging for residential social care, from £24,000 to £50,000. The new limit will be implemented in phases, starting with an increase to £30,000 from April 2017.

Also from next April a full disregard of the War Disablement Pension (WDP) will be introduced in all local authority financial assessments for charging for social care.

For more information visit:
<http://gov.wales/newsroom/health-and-social-services/2016/161017residential/?lang=en>

What's 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: 10.00am-3.00pm, Wednesdays every week at Pilkington Recreation Club, Kirk Sandall. Fee applies. Friday theatre once every two months.

NORTH WALES

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.

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.

ST HELENS WELFARE LEISURE CENTRE

Monday
Sewing Group: 9.30am - 12.30pm (Patchwork quilting etc).

Ladies dominoes, 6.00pm-9pm.
Men's snooker group, Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

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

50+ Ladies Keep Fit: 2.00pm-3.00pm.
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.

Snooker and dominoes, 1pm.

Ladies Crown Green Bowling Practice Night: 6.30pm.

Thursday

Chi Kung: 10.30am-11.30am. Tai Chi: 11.45am-12.45pm.

Indoor Bowling – winter months: 1.00pm - 6.30pm.

Fridays

Alternate Fridays
Companions: 2.00pm. TV Lounge and Games Room for darts, dominoes, cards (always available), and bingo.

Women's Bowling: 6:00pm-9.00pm. Indoor bowling - winter months.

SELF-HELP GROUPS

There are eight 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.

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 10.30am-12 noon.

Moss Bank Social Group

Moss Bank Mission, Moss Bank Road, St Helens. Last Tuesday of the month 10.30am-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. approximately every six weeks, Fridays 1.30pm-3.30pm. Please ring Kath Shaw on 01744 457909 for details.

Ron runs 7 times around the world!

Over 150,000 miles has been run by Ron Jones of Worthenbury, Wrexham! That roughly equates to at least 7 times around the world!



Only hanging up his running shoes at age 77 Ron, now aged 87, has been a keen sportsman and runner throughout his life. He played his first game of football as a child in 1937 in a local village cup. He was a natural, but did not play officially again until 1946, when at the age of 16 he joined Ellesmere Football Club and played for them until 1948 when he began his RAF service. However, the football did not stop there. He was quickly

identified as an excellent player and joined his fellow servicemen representing his station. They toured Austria, Holland and Germany.

When he returned to Worthenbury in 1950, he did what he could to juggle work and a very successful football career, playing for over 20 years for

numerous teams including, Sarn Rovers, Overton St Mary's, Dudleston Heath, Malpas and Ellesmere. However, a football injury meant the game was no longer possible, but with energy to burn, at age 40, his son persuaded him to give running a try. So he headed out to the meadow and never looked back. From this moment onwards a new passion was born. He soon began with fun runs, which quickly developed into longer distances. He joined Wrexham Athletics Club and this was the start of a very long relationship with the club. Whilst working for Pilkington he trained for his very first marathon, with two work colleagues, John and Gwilym. His next challenge was Birmingham and from then on he has travelled the world, completing the London marathon six times.

Ron has many trophies and medals including several Gold Medals for Welsh, British and European Championships for different distances. At the age of 76 he also won Gold in the World Championship, Cross Country Relay in Portugal. He has run in many

countries, including: Great Britain, France, Austria, Finland, Germany, Poland, Belarus, Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Spain, USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, Cyprus, Cuba, Mexico, Ireland, Isle of Man, Brazil and Belgium.

Ron may not be running these days, but he is a regular face in the crowd at Ellesmere Football matches, showing his support for the team and they always give an excellent welcome to him.

Well done Ron, what fantastic achievements and such amazing memories to cherish. After all that, you definitely deserve a rest now, so enjoy being a spectator and let others put in all the hard work.



Ron pictured here in action and left at his medals' cabinet at home.

Football honours for Elizabeth



Sunderland Football Club recently honoured beneficiary Mrs Elizabeth Irene Twamley at a

special luncheon for the oldest members of their Senior Supporters Club, presenting her with a beautiful glass prism.

Irene, a former Trust volunteer, has been a lifelong Club member attending her first Sunderland match in the 1930s as a small child with her parents. Accompanied by her son, Irene thoroughly enjoyed the luncheon where she met former ex players including Jimmy Montgomery, ex Sunderland goalkeeper. Her favourite player over the last 80 years was Len Shackleton. Her all time favourite match was the 1973 FA Cup Final which Sunderland won 1-0 against Leeds.



Mrs Elizabeth Irene Twamley and left, her SAFC glass prism.

Old Connections envelopes

If anyone has any old Pilkington Family Trust Connections envelopes with the word Connections in a box in the bottom right hand corner could you please destroy them and use the new ones.

This is because penalty fees are now charged for non-conformation to Royal Mail guidelines.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Ray Drury on the joys of sailing

When I was much younger, possibly 50 years ago, six of us, all family, hired a cruiser on the Norfolk Broads. Attached to the back was a 10 ft sailing dinghy. I had to try it out, nobody else was interested. This was the start of my love of sailing.

I later bought a GP14 dinghy from a friend's school (actually rescued it from a bonfire!). It was in a very poor condition, but it was all there. A GP14 sailing dinghy is a 14ft long, two-man boat with three sails. I spent the next six months trying to make it sailable, rubbing it down and varnishing it, and replacing /repairing many of its parts. A fellow engineer from Chance Brothers took me for a sail at Trimpey Sailing Club Worcestershire and I was hooked. After reading many books on the subject I gradually learned what it was all about.

After many years of sailing I ordered a new GP14 all wood boat, and 'Rayver' was built by Paul Amos at Ashby De La Zouch. Paul was a world champion and therefore knew exactly what I required. I am still

sailing the same boat today. I entered many races in the following years in the National and World Championships, mostly with one of my fellow Pilkington colleagues, Steve. On one race day the wind was gale force 8, gusting 10 and I reckon it was more like low flying! We also entered the Bala Long Distance Competition and on the last time out came a creditable 4th. Trimpey is a family friendly club and one of its younger members Alison Young, (I assisted with some of her training), has recently won the Ladies Laser World championship in Mexico and hopefully will be competing in the next Olympic Games. At 83 years of age I still enjoy sailing and every Saturday I am out on my boat at Trimpey. See you on the water!

Ray Drury, Stourbridge.



Ray Drury, seen on the left, captaining 'Rayver' accompanied by fellow sailing enthusiast Peter John.