

PRISM



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



Good luck Peter

Peter Grunwell has retired as a Director of the Trustees of the Pilkington Family Trust after a long association with the Trust beginning in 1998.

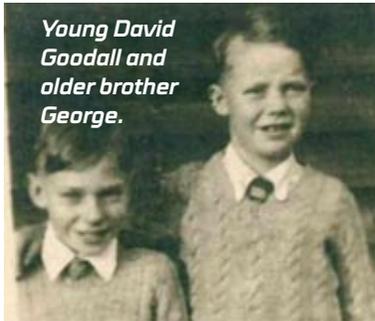
Peter has always ensured that the work of the Trust is directed to help those in need. His wise counsel and support during his 21-year tenure has been invaluable.

Peter started working for Pilkington in June 1961 as a member of the Group Accounting Department from where he went to Pontypool in South Wales in 1964 to install the new information management system (IFM) formed in 1962. Returning to St Helens' Head Office in 1965, he was appointed deputy manager of the IFM department and before long was travelling internationally to help implement IFM around the world.

Peter worked for Sir Harry Pilkington's team when the Company went public. Peter had a five-year spell at Cowley Hill works. Eventually he was appointed as an Accountant and was appointed to the main Pilkington Board in 1985, around the beginning of the attempted take over bid by B.T.R.

In his role as Finance Director he travelled world-wide becoming a Director of various overseas boards. In 1993 he went to Toledo, America, as President of Libby Owens Ford before retiring in 1997 and joining as a Trustee of the Pilkington Family Trust not long after.

The Trust wishes him well in his "second" retirement.



Young David Goodall and older brother George.

David's family summer holiday in 1938 on a farm in North Wales, Pant Glas Isa (near Ruthin) saw a strong bond developing with Mrs Davies, the farm owner and her family, two sons and a daughter. So much so, that an agreement was made; should war be declared David and his brother would go to them as private evacuees rather than being sent to strangers.

When war broke out David, 4½ and George, 7, along with their mother and father drove to the farm without warning – telephones weren't common then! Despite this, a typical warm Welsh hospitality awaited them. Only David's father returned to Liverpool continuing to work at Liverpool docks; dockers, like farmers, were exempt from the forces.

David had left a house in Liverpool built in the 1930s with running water, electric lighting, gas fire and a flush toilet. The farm had no running water, (it had to be brought from a well 150 yards away!); lighting was by paraffin lamp and candles; sanitation was chamber pots under the bed! However, the two families quickly amalgamated into one and the boys soon got immersed into farm life.

Over the years they learned many things including how to feed orphaned lambs, cut corn with a scythe, catch rabbits and tickle trout!

At the end of the war the family

Back in Time

Being an evacuee in WWII was something that will never be forgotten by beneficiary David Goodall, thanks to his recorded memories of all those years ago.

remained in Wales so as not to interrupt the boys' schooling. Their father used to join the family on a regular basis.

Thirteen happy years were spent in Wales. For the last four of those years, David's mum took charge of the housekeeping and the farm accounts after Mrs Davies sadly passed away.

The whole experience of being evacuated changed David's life. It taught him skills and a way of living with nature that he would never have learnt remaining in Liverpool. He became part of a new family.

David is still in contact with his Welsh family and recently organised a get together in Wales, 80 years to the day they were evacuated on 3rd September 2019. David and George and their wives attended with relatives of his original Welsh family.

The farm is still owned by the granddaughter of the original owner, Mrs Davies.



Mr and Mrs Goodall.

'Grandma's week'

On page 3 you will find a poem dedicated to Mrs Davies, written by David, called 'Wythnos Nain' or in English, 'Grandma's week'. The local Welsh language magazine, 'Y Bedol' has also captured David's story and his return get-together.

David retired from Pilkington in 1993 after 25 years' service. He started in the Technical Sales Lab and finished as Technical Manager, Architectural, at Alexander Drive, St Helens.



The families during a recent get-together in Wales.



2 SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS
Winnie Cubbon - 104



4 RUSKIN LODGE
Bake-off!



5 YOUTUBE STAR
Kath Miller, a star at 89



7 DALLAS IS A HIT IN LEEDS
Dallas Rogers takes the stage

EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to *Prism* and to a New Year, which I hope brings you good health and happiness.

New Year is always a time to reflect on the year that has passed and hopefully to make plans for the year ahead. Many of us make resolutions at this time of year but I wonder how many of us have forgotten all about them by the end of January. I am definitely guilty. I think I will just set myself some easy goals this year and then I won't feel too bad if I don't achieve them.

By the time you read this, the general election will be over and maybe we will have more information about Brexit. (Is it just me that dislikes that word?). It's surprising how at first we didn't think Brexit would affect us directly as an organisation, but then we realised we needed to make sure our suppliers would be able to continue to provide goods such as home meals, food supplies for Ruskin Lodge etc. Our suppliers have assured us that they have adequate stock of essential foodstuffs and our supplies will continue.

At this time of year many areas of the country are affected by bad weather conditions. In some areas such as Yorkshire and Sheffield, the South West, the flooding caused major problems as early as November. Through our welfare officers, we have been keeping a watchful eye to ensure our beneficiaries are safe. If you are aware of any beneficiary who has been affected by the flooding, please let us know.

Once again we have said goodbye to staff during the year and whilst it is sad to see colleagues go, it is always exciting for new staff to join us and bring in new ideas. You can meet the new staff on page 4.

In this edition we have more great stories for you including what life was like for one beneficiary as an evacuee in the second world war, our very own YouTube star and the great work carried out by volunteers both at Ruskin Lodge and within other organisations. You can also read about, Managing Director Paul Morgan's visit to beneficiaries in Australia and yes he was there at the time of the bush fires.

Beneficiaries who registered an interest in seeing the old Kings Norton site before it closes in June, please see page 3 regarding permission needed to pass on names and addresses to the Kings Norton site. Without your permission it will not be possible to arrange for you to visit the site. Please call me on 01744 742503 to confirm that I can pass on your details.

Don't forget it's a leap year this year and we also have a bank holiday on Friday 8th May to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE day.

Just a final message from me....
Best Wishes to everyone for 2020.

Diane Swift,
Editor



For details of how to contact us, see page 6



Winnie Cubbon



Margaret Shuker



Jean Hynd



Nancy Darwin



Catherine Barnes



Clarice Tinlin



Mary Burns



Betty Alford

Special Birthdays

Congratulations to those who celebrated extra special birthdays in 2019:



Celebrating her 104th birthday

Miss Winnie Cubbon on 26th October 2019 in St Helens.
Photographed with welfare officer, Austin Griffiths.

Celebrating her 102nd birthday

Mrs Evelyn Cookson on 16th December 2019 in Birmingham.

Celebrating their 101st birthdays

Miss Veronica Fox on 9th November 2019 in St Helens.
Nancy Darwin 1st August 2019 in St Helens.
Mrs Jean Hynd on 27th September 2019 in Lymm, Cheshire.
Mr Harry Jones on 6 November 2019 in St Helens.
Mrs Catherine Barnes on 2 December 2019 in Crewe.

Celebrating their 100th birthdays

Mary Burns on 13th July 2019 in St Helens.
Mrs Clarice Tinlin on 30th August 2019 in Southport.
Mrs Margaret Shuker on 19th September 2019 in Barnsley.
Betty Alford on 22nd November 2019 in Saltash, Cornwall.
Mrs Prescott on 8th December 2019 in Bourne.

Anniversaries

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

Diamond Wedding

John & Angela Dickinson, St Helens — 14/3/19
Roger & Janet Chantler, Kent — 9/5/19
Frederick & Kathleen Bradshaw, Newton-le-Willows — 18/7/19
Catherine & Mike Tuohy, Swindon — 12/8/19
Frank & Beryl Owen, Warrington — 29/8/19
Joseph & Jeanette Mort, St Helens — 29/8/19
David & Sheila Innes, St Helens — 10/9/19
Michael & Ann Davies, Knutsford — 12/9/19
James & Dolores Walker, Nailsea, Somerset — 24/9/19
Alan & Jean Forshaw, St Helens — 3/10/19
Nancy & Thomas Whittingham, Skelmersdale — 3/10/19
James & Rita Hill, St Helens — 3/10/19
Keith & Joan Winstanley, Doncaster — 10/10/19
Lawrence Roy & Mary Woodward, St Helens — 19/12/19
Alan & May Kinder, St Helens — 24/12/19
Thomas & Ann Roughley, St Helens — 9/1/20



Michael & Violet Powell.

Golden Wedding

Lawrence & Valerie Brown, St Helens — 12/7/19
Donald & Vivienne Skinner, Eastbourne — 25/7/19
Michael & Violet Powell, St Helens — 23/8/19
Donald & Patricia Harcombe, Wigan — 6/9/19
Gordon & Lynne Sayers, Solihull — 6/9/19
William & Barbara Goulden, Wigan — 4/10/19
William & Yvonne Hughes, Birmingham — 31/1/20

Kings Norton Site Visit - Update

In the last issue of *PRISM*, following a request from retirees, we invited readers to ring in and register their interest in visiting the Kings Norton works before its closure in June 2020. We now have more news about the visit.

After discussion with Kings Norton staff we have been informed that the site visits are open only to ex-employees (no spouse/partners or people who did not work at the site).

In order to verify that someone worked at the Kings Norton site, we have been asked to pass on

names and addresses to the Human Resources Dept to enable them to carry out checks.

If you do not want your name and address to be passed on, you must notify the Trust Funds by Friday 7th February 2020.

The site visits will take place at the end of April or

early May 2020. There will be approximately five separate visits and we will have to allocate names to each of those dates when we receive them.

Once dates are allocated they cannot be changed as there is a maximum number who can visit at one time.

Please note that the Trust

Fund is not involved in the site visits but simply passing on names of those interested. Transport will not be provided to the site.

If you have any questions about the visits or do not want your name and address passed on, please contact Diane Swift on 07144 742503.

Charlton family's 135 year service



Gary's sister Jan and Gary with father Trevor at his 83rd Birthday.

The gentlemen pictured left are two members of the Charlton family who recently celebrated a momentous occasion - achieving three generations, spanning 135 years of continuous employment within Cowley Hill, Architectural and Automotive.

When the "baby" of the dynasty retired at the end of December, Architectural Strategic Program Director Gary had completed 41 years of service bringing the Charlton family's Pilkington career to a close.

First up in 1916, was Gary's grandfather, George, who joined the company during WWI at the tender age of 13 as an office boy at Cowley Hill.

During WWII, he was in the Home Guard in St Helens protecting the Cowley Hill site from damage caused by stray bombs, during the Blitz on Liverpool. He was also responsible for order execution when all the glass was cut manually and was at Cowley Hill during the early days of Float Glass. George completed his career in 1968 after 52 years' service.

In 1952, George's son Trevor started as a Mechanical Engineering apprentice at Cowley Hill, moving on to work at

Pilkington Ravenhead, manufacturing television tubes. This was followed by Triplex Automotive and finally, Pilkington Fibreglass Insulation, where he completed his long career as the Divisional Chief Engineer. Trevor retired in 1994 after 42 years of service, leaving his son Gary to carry on with the tradition.

Gary also started his career with Pilkington as a Mechanical Engineering apprentice in 1978 at Lakeside Training in St Helens. During his career he held senior positions in both Architectural and Automotive divisions both in Europe & North America.

"As a family we are very proud of our careers within Pilkington," said Gary. "It is the people that you work with over the years that make it such a great organisation, and long may that continue."

George Charlton as a 21 year-old in 1924.



Wythnos Nain: Grandma's week

MONDAY the boiler was fired to heat the water taken from the nearby stream, the week's clothes were boiled, scrubbed, rinsed and mangled till the whites did gleam.

TUESDAY the flat irons were heated in front of the fire all standing in a row, the shirt collars starched and all the clothes smoothed and ironed, to the ladies last bow.

WEDNESDAY to town she went with friends for lunch for a small fee, then the long haul up the lane with two heavy baskets to make our tea.

THURSDAY the cream was prepared before churning carefully and without haste, the butter then moulded into golden delicious pats after adding salt to taste.

FRIDAY the brick oven was fired to a high temperature to bake the bread, the dough was kneaded and cut into seven loaves to ensure we would be well fed.

SATURDAY the steel fire irons and fenders were polished bright, the kettle given a coat of black lead, the floors scrubbed, the clocks wound and the lamp wicks trimmed to give us light before bed.

SUNDAY the roast and veg were cooked before a quick change into her Sunday best, then the long trek through woods and fields to Chapel, to worship, sit and rest.

After the walk back home in the moonlight and cool night air, to a supper of 'lash up' and at long last a sit in her favourite arm chair.

Thank you Nain for finding the time to love, cherish and please, two little Liverpool boy evacuees.

David Goodall
for full story see page 1

Paper £20 Notes - information

Paper £20 Notes are being removed from circulation. The new polymer £20 note is due to be released in February 2020.

Notice will be given six months ahead of the tender status of the paper £20 note and you will be able to exchange them in the bank for the new notes.

Independent Age - advice available

Independent Age charitable organisation offers clear, free impartial advice on care and support, money and benefits, health and mobility.

Further information is available on the website <https://www.independentage.org/> or by telephoning the Freephone helpline on 0800 319 6789. You can also organise a visit by their volunteers to come to speak to you personally.

Welcome to new staff

A warm welcome to the following new members of the team:



Sarah Landers, St Helens, Welfare Officer.



Sam Desmond, St Helens, Welfare Officer.



Chelsea Greenall, Team Leader.

Fond farewell to:

- **Lynne Carney**
St Helens Welfare Officer
- **Elizabeth Andrews**
St Helens Welfare Officer
- **Peter Greulich**
North Wales Regional Welfare Officer
- **Marie Gibson**
Wrexham Regional Welfare Officer

RUSKIN LODGE



Cake making skills were put to the test at Ruskin Lodge's very own Summer Bake Off competition.

The manager, staff and volunteers all went head-to-head to win with 14 beautiful cakes the result in an attempt to gain glory!

Who needed Mary Berry or Paul Hollywood as judges when the Lodge guests ably judged and selected the winning cake made by volunteer Tony Fairclough.

Also casting an expert eye over the beautiful bakery, was judge volunteer Carole Ball, who chose volunteer Jackie Stafford as a winner too.

Already plans are being "cooked up" for next year's Bake Off !

Congratulations to John Dickinson who was recently inducted into the Saints Rugby Heritage Society and was awarded heritage number 698; he is also a member of Saints' Past Players Association.

A former St Helens RLFC player, John is affectionately known to everyone as "Todder" and signed for

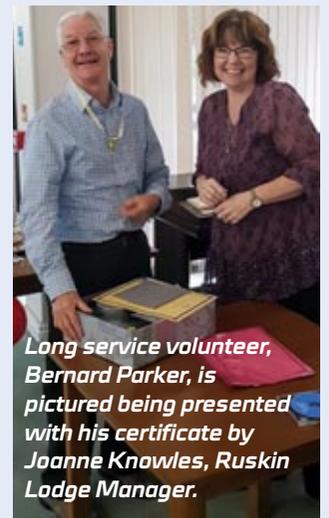
Rugby League LEGEND

Saints after captaining the Parr High School team and representing Lancashire Schoolboys. Although he played in many positions for Saints his best position was stand-off. He made a total of 160 appearances for his home town club scoring 42 tries.

He later continued his career at Leigh and Rochdale and played for England against France in 1956. When he finished

playing he became coach at Pilkington Recs amateur team and was instrumental in triggering a boom era for the "Recs" at City Road.

John, a Trust Fund's beneficiary, served in the RAF during his national service and spent his working life with Pilkington and was based for most of his career at Cowley Hill. He has been married to Angela for more than 60 years.



Long service volunteer, Bernard Parker, is pictured being presented with his certificate by Joanne Knowles, Ruskin Lodge Manager.

A gift and certificate has been presented to volunteers at Ruskin Lodge to commemorate service achievements.

Massive congratulations to all the volunteers for their time given to help and support all our guests. It is an achievement of their kindness and thought for others that makes our volunteers special in what they do.

Our congratulations go to our volunteers:

- **Cath Jones**
20 years' service.
- **Bernard Parker**
15 years' service.
- **Cath Fenney**
10 years' service.
- **Brian Swift**
5 years' service.



John in his playing days.

John Dickinson (pictured on the left) being presented with his certificate.



Kath's a YouTube Star!

Kath Miller, a Trust Fund's beneficiary from St Helens, found herself an unlikely You Tube star at 89 years of age after a bad fall. Kath wondered how she was going to cope at home after falling and fracturing her pelvis.

Following a 48-hour stay in hospital, Kath was transferred to Brookfields in St Helens for rehabilitation where she stayed for a month. Her physiotherapy team were so impressed at how she had recovered that they asked her to make a video explaining about her fall and how the

help she got from all the staff concerned has helped her get back on her feet and back to her art group. At first she wasn't too sure about making the video, but when the care staff explained that it would help other people who have had falls and were struggling with their recovery, she agreed and the video can be viewed on You Tube. Kath advises that if you ever find yourself in the same situation, listen to the staff and work with them, they are there to help you. After celebrating her 90th birthday in December, we think you will agree that Kath's willingness to help others is an inspiration to us all.

Kath is now back at the art group in Ruskin Drive, St Helens, where she has been going for over 20 years. Kath mainly likes to paint flowers as can be seen by the beautiful pictures shown above and right.

For anyone interested in joining the art group they

meet every Tuesday 9.30am to 12 noon. They use mainly water colour and acrylics. They would welcome any new members. For the last two years the group has been run by Brian Gormley. He advises they are a great bunch of people, they work as a team and everyone helps each other. For further information please contact the Welfare Office on 01744 742520.

Kath's video can be viewed on YouTube, under 'St Helens, Contact Cares, Kath's Story'.



Children in Need 1988

John Davies has contacted us regarding a Pilkington Glass float from 1988, built as a galleon for Children in Need.

He remembers four of the payroll staff in Watson Street Works, Janet Makin, Jill Huyton, Margaret Gartside and Doreen Barrow asking Transport Department if they could 'borrow' one of their lorries and a driver (John), to raise money for Children in Need. They asked if the Wagon Shop Dept could construct a galleon on the back of the lorry. They then contacted other Pilkington sites and asked them to join them in raising money for the charity. They raised money by raffles, race nights and donations from suppliers, etc. During the Children in Need week they took the float to every Pilkington site in St Helens, shaking their buckets! On the Friday of Children in Need they sited the galleon in Church Square, St Helens and collected donations from the general public. On the Friday night the galleon was taken to Manchester Airport and the huge cheque for £15,000 was presented, live on TV.

Thirty-one years ago £15,000 was a magnificent sum to have collected and congratulations should go to all the staff who took part.

If you did anything unusual for Children in Need this year please send us a photograph.

Our question to you now however is, does anyone remember being on the float and does anyone have an original colour photograph of the galleon in question (as you can see the photo is taken from a newspaper article and is not clear enough to identify anyone!)

What did you do when you retired?

Trevor Adams and his wife Stephanie had a 17 year old autistic daughter and they soon found that whilst there appeared to be a lot of help for autistic children, adult social groups were few and far between. When Trevor retired they decided they would revitalise a small autism group that existed in St Helens to help their daughter and other autistic adults.

They found new premises and set about forming the Autism and Asperger Society. They provide a social drop in group for Autistic and Asperger adults, aged 18+, living in St Helens and the surrounding areas. They encourage autistic adults in socialisation, making like-minded friends and in gaining confidence by taking part in group activities, such as arts and crafts, games and computing. They have group days out, including meals and theatre trips. Trevor finds himself these days being the 'fix it' man for any odd jobs on the building and Stephanie is the Treasurer. They are always looking for volunteers, both young and old, so if you feel you could help please contact the group on 01744 362260, or visit them at 34 Hall Street, St Helens. They open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10am-2pm. Their website is www.theautismark.org.

Trevor retired in 2007 after working at Cowley Hill and Greengate for 33 years.

So let us know if you did anything as inspiring and worthwhile as Trevor and Stephanie when you retired.



Deaths

Below is a list of deaths since the last issue

It is with regret that we report the deaths of the following pensioners:

ANDREWARTHA

Norman Richards

AUTOMOTIVE ECCLESTON

John Liptrot
James Glover
Steven White

BUILDING PRODUCTS UK

Austin Taylor

CHANCE BROTHERS

Hazel Gladwin
Clive Temple

CITY ROAD

John Kitto
Elizabeth Williams

COSYWORLD

Peter Wood

COWLEY HILL

Anne Rogerson
Kathleen Porter
John Balmer
Geoffrey Urch
John Craven
Stephen Taplin
Harold Thompson
Joseph Hull
Constance Fletcher
John Gartside
Brian Grimshaw
Annie Mees
William Spencer
Thomas Preston
James Edward O'Neale
Robert Hughes
David Edwin Baxter
Herbert Holland

Mervyn Lucas
Michael Mather
Terence Marsh
Gordon Winder

CP ST ASAPH

Kenneth B Scoffield

DISTRIBUTION

Edward Caroll

DONCASTER

Dora Wattam

FIBREGLASS RAVENHEAD

Pauline Arkwright

FIBREGLASS WREXHAM

Reginald Jones

FLAT GLASS

Kenneth Kendrick

GREENGATE

George Ernest Culley

Geoffrey Taylor

John Eden

James Benyon

Brian Peers

Paul Brown

GROVE STREET

Margaret Pennington

HEAD OFFICE

Frances Stott
Mary L Wilding
Edna Sandford
Anthony Chaplin
Peter Jones
Jack Rowlands
Joseph Jones
Arthur Orme
Arthur Webber
Edwin Lee
Winifrid Liptrot
Maureen Knapper

HO & CMS

Diane Shirley Cooper

LATHOM

John Marr
Brian Russ
Clarence Schofield
Brian Taylor
Thomas Towey
Neville Eastment

MACKENZIE GLASS

Anthony Abraham

P.O.P. LIMITED

Gladys Bridger

PB FLAT (MICRO)

Alan Jeffrey Williams

PIL PONTYFELIN

Wyndham Morris
Alan Sherrington

PILKINGTON GROUP LIMITED

John Bodley
Arthur Garner
John Curley
Pargash Singh
Francis Ferguson
John Briody
Mildred Daybell
John McEwan
Irene Winstanley
Vernon Greenough
Arthur Stubbs
Barry David Procter

PILKINGTON RETIREMENT

SERVICES
Martin Colin Griffin

PLYGLASS

Brian Simms

PONTYFELIN

Vernon Bowker
John King
Hester Gamblin

PPE ST ASAPH

Leonard Vaughan
Henry Thompson
Hillary Duckworth
Leonard Hitchman

PRL STIRLING

John Smeaton

PRL WREXHAM

Ronald Jones

PUKL

Kenneth Sidney Lewis
Bryan McGinity
George K Jackson

PUKL HUYTON

Brian E Bayley

QUEENBOROUGH

Brian Reginald Goodsell
Thomas E Gower

QUEENSFERRY

William Philip Beattie

RAVENHEAD

Raymond Ramsey
Cyril Conroy
Nina Whittle
Edward Irving
Richard Beith
William Picton
Elizabeth Birch
Norman Fisher

SHEETWORKS

Mary Fitzgerald

ST ASAPH

Eric Jones

Gordon Boag
Thomas Jones
Mary Taylor
Richard H Jones

STIRLING

David Kerr

TRIPLEX ECCLESTON

Monica Traverse
John Ashton
Richard Marsh
John Frank Jones
Derek Holden
John Firth

Kenneth Spottiswood
Wilfred Matthews
Olwen Smith
David Hughes
Ellen Lyon
Stanley Whitehouse

TRIPLEX KINGS NORTON

Jeremy Atkins
Walter Cashmore
John Adey
William Gallagher

WATSON STREET

Geoffrey Woods
Bernard Holden
John Fuller
Vincent Gaskell
Joseph McLoughlin
James Boylan
James Appleton
Peter Brooke
John O'Brien
David B Davies
William Taylor

WELDALL

James Sykes

Retirements

Below is a list of retirements since the last issue

BP UK

George Davis

GREENGATE

Stephen Price
Francis Cartwright
Kevin Parr

GROUP FUNCTIONS

Michael Fairclough

KINGS NORTON

Julie Grace

LATHOM

Alison Cawsey
Ian Beech

WATSON STREET

Neil Kirkham

Corrections to last issue

Denis Crehan was incorrectly included under Andrewartha instead of Cowley Hill.

Peter Brooke was incorrectly included under Lathom instead of Watson Street.

Contact us...

By telephone: 01744 742 516

In writing: Pilkington Family Trust
The Enterprise Centre
Salisbury Street
ST HELENS, WA10 1FY

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.



Name, address and telephone number of sender:

.....

Nature of enquiry:

.....

.....

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

Have you got a neighbour like Richard?

Richard Blackwell, retired beneficiary from Rhôs-on-Sea has recently been awarded a 'Best Neighbour 2019' award from Conwy Council. Richard received the award for helping his neighbours in the complex where he lives.

He helps his neighbours in as many ways as he can, including sitting with them when they are unwell or visiting when they just need a bit of company.

He was nominated, unbeknown to him, by the

other residents of the complex where he lives. He attended the theatre in Llandudno for the awards ceremony, but was totally unaware that he was one of the recipients of an award so it was a lovely surprise for him to be called onto the

stage. Even though Richard suffers badly from arthritis he likes to help people as it keeps him moving.

Richard retired in 1991 from St Asaph Optical Division after 23 years' service, and would love to

hear from anyone who remembers him. If you would like to contact Richard, please ring the office in St Helens on 01744 742520, and we will pass on your contact details to him.



Richard Blackwell with his "Best Neighbour 2019" Award.

Dallas is a hit in Leeds!

Speaking at a Loneliness Conference in Leeds was not something Doncaster beneficiary, Dallas Rogers, was expecting at the age of 82!



Mike, Dallas and Susan.

Dallas (pictured right) had been selected to speak at the conference in November 2019 through the Charity "b:Friend" set up by Mike Niles in Doncaster. Mike took Dallas and her befriender, Susan Hargadon, to the Cloth Hall Court Conference Centre. Dallas was worried as she hadn't prepared anything. Walking up to the lectern she really didn't know what she was going to say. Taking a deep breath she decided to start at the beginning; when she was born, through the war years and how she met her husband at Pilkington where they both worked.

Dallas explained how her GP had told her about the befriending service which is how she met Mike. He matched her up with befriender Susan.

Amazingly, Dallas spoke for almost 15 minutes in front of 100 people, without notes! Mike reported back that Dallas and Susan, who also spoke, were considered to be the highlight of the day.

Well done Dallas – an incredible achievement!

If anyone would like details of the befriending service in Doncaster, or indeed feel they could volunteer an hour of their day being a befriender, please contact Mike on 'letsbfriend.org.uk' or call him on 07523698530.



Feedback...

...from July 19 PRISM article "Summer in the Sixties".

Thanks go to Doreen Dixon, Thelma Moran and Sylvia Waite who identified the following people on the photograph taken at Trentham Gardens in 1960.

Dorothy Davies, Joan Brown, Ruth Baldwin, Ruth Bridge, Doreen and Jack Woods, Doreen and Ron Dixon, Betty Cain, Eunice Brown, Tony Potter, Eric Davies and Val Bruce.



What's on

Please ring 01744 742509 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, £10 per annum.
Day Club: 10.00am-3.00pm, Wednesdays every week at Pilkington Recreation Club, Kirk Sandall. £6.00 fee. Contact Angela Shepherd 01302 891212.

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.

SOUTH WALES

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

WEST MIDLANDS

Sourbridge/Weldall Group meet for coffee mornings on Fridays every 3 months.
Contact: Carol Priest 01384 637604
Evesham Self Help group meet approx 3 times a year. Chance people are welcome to come along to this too.
Contact: Carol Priest on 01384 637604 or mobile: 07967 899857.

ST HELENS WELFARE LEISURE CENTRE

Monday
Sewing Group: 9.30am-12.30pm (Patchwork quilting etc).
Men's snooker group, 1.00pm-4.00pm
Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons
Tuesday
Art Group: 9.30-12pm
50+ Ladies Keep Fit: 2.00pm-3.30pm
Pilkington Choir: 7.45pm-9.00pm

Wednesday
Ramblers' Coffee Morning: 9.30am-12.30pm (1st Wednesday in every month).

Thursday
Ladies Crown Green Bowling 1.30pm-5.00pm.
Indoor Bowling – November to March: 1.00pm-5.00pm.

Fridays
Alternate Fridays
Companions: 2.00pm. Bingo

SELF-HELP GROUPS

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

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.

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.
3rd Thursday of the month, 1.30pm-3.00pm.

Australia / New Zealand visit November 2019

Recently flying to Melbourne to meet with Pilkington retirees supported by the Trust Fund, I also met with the National Volunteer Co-ordinator, Arthur Johnson, to discuss the future of the Scheme in Australasia. This involved looking at the demographics and logistics in order to maintain the appropriate level of support going forward.

The long 24-hour journey on various flights to Melbourne began my visit to cities which correspond with the sites that Pilkington had in Australasia. At each location I speak briefly about NSG/Pilkington and its worldwide plans and performance. I then speak at length about our own plans as a Trust Fund and how we have performed since I last visited. This is always received with great interest.

Throughout my visit, the states of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia were in the grip of bushfires and many cities we visited had the acrid smell of smoke as it hung around buildings at high levels. This was in sharp contrast to the floods that were being reported at the same time in the UK. This confirmed to me that climate change is very much an agenda that we all need to take seriously.

One bright note to report from the visit is the resurrection of the Geelong plant just outside Melbourne. The plant has reopened recently as a glass supplier. An entrepreneur from Sydney has invested in the venture which is called Sologlass. It is employing 90 ex Pilkington employees and is now producing Architectural glass as opposed to the previous automotive glass. It was reported that the company is well

placed to expand in the future if orders continue as they are currently.

On the downside CSR the company that bought Pilkington Australia has just announced the sale of the business (rebranded Viridian) to a private equity company. The future of the whole business is unclear at present.

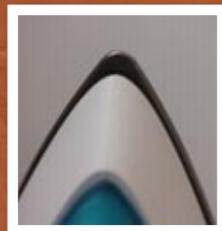
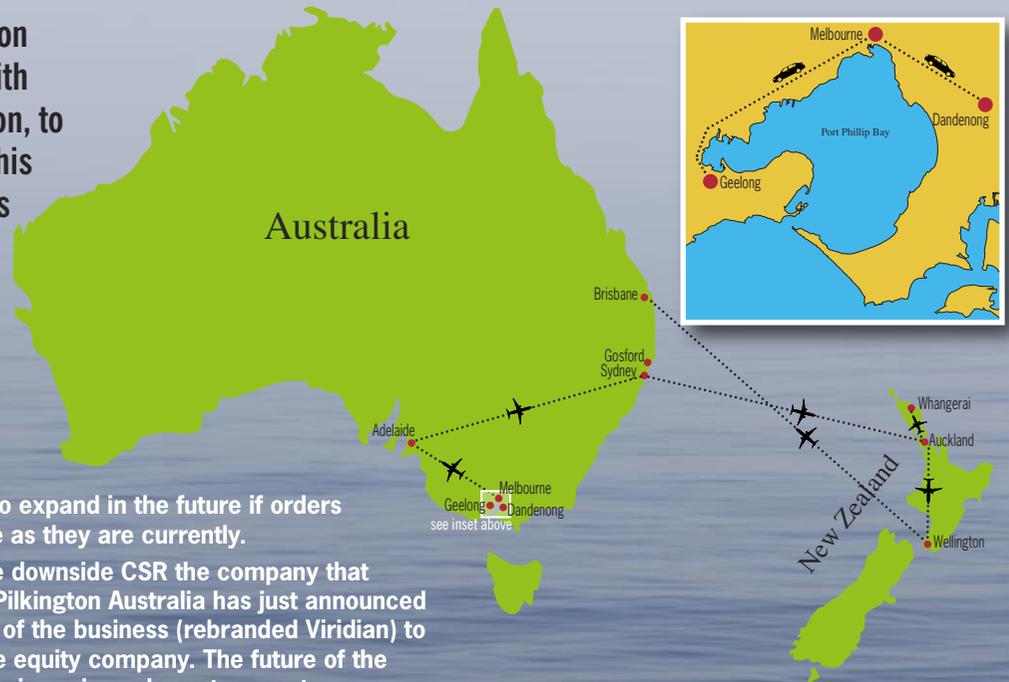
My busy visit involved meeting some 450 retirees across Geelong, Dandenong, Adelaide, Sydney, Whangerai, Wellington and Brisbane. I am sure some of those locations will evoke memories for many people who will have visited them in their working life. I met with many people who had made the opposite journey to attend training in the UK, many had fond memories of the Fleece Hotel in St Helens.

Whangerai near Auckland was the site of a drawn sheet plant which closed many years ago. On the day of our gathering one of our volunteers ran an archive film that was made in the 1970s, it showed how sheet glass was made at the works. Some of our attending retirees were the stars of the show. The footage

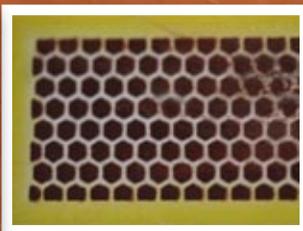
gave a great insight into the extreme hard and hot work that was involved in producing sheet glass, thank goodness for the float process. Interestingly enough, an aerial picture of the plant is now permanently on display in the local Town Hall as an acknowledgement of the huge contribution Pilkington made to the town.

The one consistent thing that I bring back from my overseas trips is that there is still a huge affinity felt for the company in these distant locations. One thing which is shared by all I speak to is that Pilkington was the best company they ever worked for.

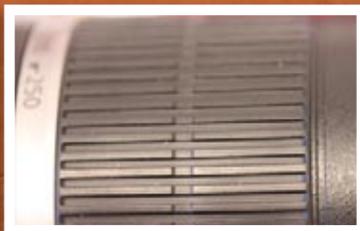
Paul Morgan
Managing Director



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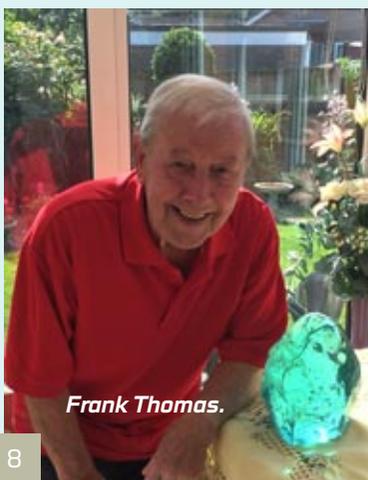


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Competition time

For the chance to win a £20 Marks and Spencer voucher can anyone identify the items in the photographs?

Please send your entries to Janet Hayes at the Trust address and the winner will be drawn after 1st March 2020.



Frank Thomas.

In the *PRISM* summer 2019 edition we printed an article from Ray Drury who had the last piece of amber glass from Chance Brothers. We thought our readers might like to see a larger piece of South African cullet!

Frank Thomas and his wife Joan emigrated to South Africa in September 1955 whilst employed by Pilkington. Frank worked in the Johannesburg Sales Office and travelled widely in his job, visiting merchants and architects in Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, to name but a few.

When a 'cold repair' was undertaken to a tank in the works at Springs, which is in the Gauteng Province, 50 kilometers east of Johannesburg, Frank was offered this beautiful piece

And finally!

of cullet which had come out of the bottom of the tank.

Frank and Joan had two children whilst living in South Africa, Phillip and Diane. They all (including the cullet!) eventually returned home in December 1966 and Frank continued working for Pilkington in Nottingham until he retired in December 1986.

Frank and his family still live in Nottingham and the cullet has pride of place in his living room. Glass is still manufactured in Springs, though now it is owned by PFG Building Glass.