

**BICC Wood Lane
News and gossip
June 2006**

Website

Peter Walton has kindly volunteered to set up a website for us. He has registered the site as:

www.BICCwoodlane.co.uk.

This is valid initially for two years.

Don't all rush to look – there's nothing available yet. If you have some ideas for content, or can assist Peter, please contact him at:

walton@blaxill.net

or

walton.peter@btinternet.com

People news

Richard and Shirley Hammond apologise for missing the reunion and hope to do better next year. Towards the end of 2005 they and others visited **Graham Wills** and his wife, for a pub lunch, then continued to meet **Fred Palmer**. They normally visit them once a year. All are now 80+, remain in good health, and remember the good times at Wood Lane.

From further afield **Tony Blythe** (now living in Edinburgh) and **Roger Carroll**, with Borealis in Belgium, both hope to attend in 2007 and send good wishes.

Ian Fordham writes to say that he is leaving MK at the end of June to indulge in a change of lifestyle. His partner has a job on the Isle of Lewis in the Western Isles, so they are moving north to live on the islands. They are in the process of building a large house there in a fantastic coastal location which they will be developing as a luxury guest house. Perhaps a venue for a future reunion !!

Less good is the news that **Albert Pinching** had a mild stroke whilst away in France. He is back in UK, and in the University College Hospital. More details when known. In the meantime we send him our very best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

“Johnnie” Walker, who also is sorry not to have made the reunion this year, is doing better after a recent recurrence of his blood troubles. The blood level is now back to normal but “Doctor’s orders” are to avoid too much in the evening or late at night. Hopefully a lunchtime start in 2007 will help.

Fred Irish (he and **Vivien** now live in York) is another making progress after an illness. Whilst pleased that his treatment is due to finish in July he notes, with his well-known sense of mischief, that at the moment he has to go to hospital every three weeks:

“where a nurse holds my hand for about two hours while they pump stuff into me and she keeps asking “are you alright love or darling”. I am trying to think of a way of continuing the treatment even when I have recovered.”

Prescot

There can be few from Wood Lane who, at some time or other, did not come into contact with the heart of the BICC Empire at Prescot. Depending on which old-timer you talk to, it had 10 or 12 or 15,000 employees on the site at its peak.

After the demise of BICC the remaining activities there were acquired by Pirelli. In 2005 Pirelli sold their cable-making activities to Goldman Sachs. One of the conditions of the sale was that the Pirelli name could no longer be associated with cables – only Tyres and Formula 1. The name is now Prysmian Cables and Systems Ltd.

Three activities remain at Prescot:

- Accessories and components;
- Wire drawing;
- Rod rolling.

Prysmian announced on 2nd June 2006 that the all activity on the Prescot site would cease by end-2006, with rod rolling being abandoned, and the other activities transferred elsewhere.

2007

We are still aiming for Friday 11th May 2007 (Lunchtime) as the 2007 reunion date.