

**BICC Wood Lane
Reunion news and gossip - Summer 2011**

A total of 53 people attended the 2011 reunion at The Bull in the Westfield Centre at Shepherds Bush on Friday 20th May. A full listing, including the recorded apologies, is attached.

As in 2010 everyone agreed that the venue was excellent and Katherine, the events manager, and her staff looked after us splendidly. The food, the facilities and the ambience gave just the right blend for the occasion. We have already made a booking for next year – **Friday 18th May 2012.**

It's always a pleasure to see those who attend for the first time. This year the major honours go to those from PED Alperton. **Don Fry**, after his first visit in 2010, managed to round up a strong representation from those down the A 40, and was joined by his brother **Andy Fry**, together with **Jerry Turner and Dick Weeks**. Many of us never went down to Alperton, except if repairs were needed to cars or boats or other bits of personal property!! Unlike 2010, **Peter Harvey** managed to sort out his diary and was thus re-acquainted with his PED colleagues.

Although our records, especially from the early reunions, are probably not 100% complete, three other newcomers this time were **Ian Wilson, Pat Andrews and Bob Girkin**. In **Nick Thearle's** 1960s-style black and white photo below, Bob engages with **Malcolm Ward** in some serious catching-up.



Bryan Pledger (1960s – Chemistry) was another first-timer. As a keen photographer Bryan had with him records of many events at Wood Lane from that era, especially from social activities such as hockey and badminton. A sample of these can be found on the Wood Lane website. See how many people you can identify by going to:

<http://www.woodlanebicc.co.uk/pictures7.htm>

Many people had updates from our overseas colleagues, especially from New Zealand following the earthquakes in Christchurch. Both **Stuart Castle** and **Paul Naylor** live there and happily escaped serious injury or damage to property. Speaking with Stuart via Skype a few days before the reunion he explained that the infrastructure services are largely restored, including thankfully the sewerage, but he also said that only very recently had people been allowed back into the so-called “Red zone” in the historic centre of the city where the devastation was greatest. Some idea of the situation just a few weeks ago can be seen via:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/RossBeckerNZ/2011April27IntoTheChristchurchRedZone#slide/5602376597050171794>

It is especially good that many people travel considerable distances to join us. Another of Nick Thearle’s photos shows **Maureen Ayres** grouped with three of the out-of-town brigade, left to right **Peter Walters** (Wirral), **Alan Bangay** (Honiton) and **Michael Poole** (Barnstable). Thanks for making the effort guys.



There was the usual crop of apologies, some on health grounds but others because of various events. **Tony Martin** wrote from Gloucestershire to say that the weekend was devoted to his 80th birthday celebrations. Congratulations Tony, hope it all went well. **Carol and Brian Tilbury** were officiating at a local parks event, and **Eve Taylor** preparing for a family wedding. We hope that the sun shone.

We were distressed to learn that **David Margolis's** apology was because a recent stroke has confined him to bed. He wished everyone well. We certainly hope for better news of David in the near future, and send him best wishes.

For **John and Maria Vernon** it was more a case of cursing their luck because, after waiting for many months for a date, John's hernia operation was scheduled for reunion day – we wish John a very successful op and a speedy recovery. **Roger and Valerie Carroll** were also thwarted at the last minute as were **Denis and Barbara Groombridge**. In both cases the chaps were suffering various afflictions and couldn't travel. We look forward to seeing them in 2012.

At the other end of the spectrum, **Steve Frost** was able to join us at the last-minute thanks to his Friday afternoon meeting being cancelled. He told us of his children's exploits in a mini rugby competition, and how the adults also played a game. Steve found himself playing alongside England rugby legend Lawrence Dallaglio, and now expects an early call from Martin Johnson! Also on a rugby theme, **Alex Ranicar** explained a little more about the way in which his uncle, Alexander Obolensky, overturned his Hurricane fighter in 1940 and was sadly killed. For those unfamiliar with the name, Obolensky was the hero of England's first ever rugby victory over the New Zealand All Blacks back in 1936.

An innovation this year was the teatime treat of home-made scones with strawberry jam and clotted cream. It would be grossly unfair to suggest that only our ladies enjoyed them, but they certainly found favour with **Doreen Greenbury** and **Sandra West**, captured here by the camera of **Pedro Perez**.

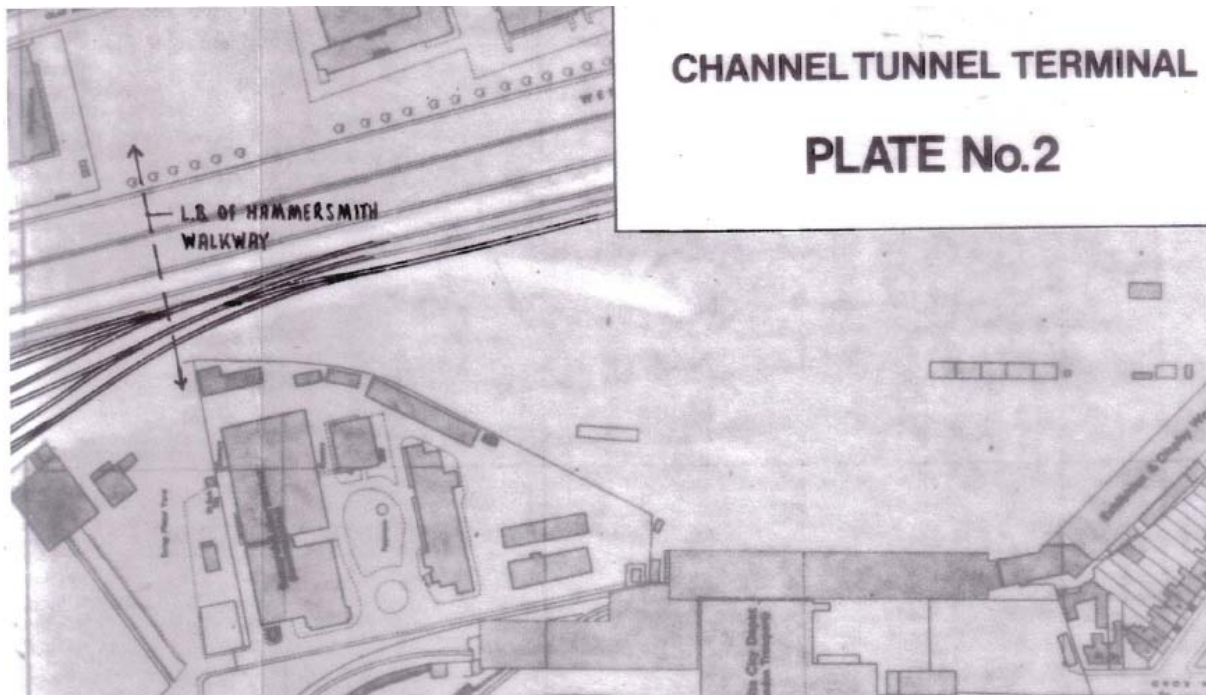


By contrast **Chris White** and **Alan Hopkins** seem disinterested – unless they had got there first!!

Albert Pinching had reinforced his reputation as a local historian with a recent appearance on The Robert Elms Show (BBC Radio London), and was delighted to learn from **Anne Buchanan** that she had heard it live. Anyone else? Albert was also responsible for the photo below, taken about 3 weeks earlier, showing the sad state of our former reunion watering-hole (C)ROCKERS FOLLY in St John's Wood.



Another historical note was struck by **Michael Fox**, who had found a piece of the 1974 plan to have a terminal for the channel tunnel just to the north of our site. The abstracted piece below shows the site and the railway lines, with new lines in a heavier ink veering away at the left-hand side towards the proposed terminal.



The work was abandoned in 1975 when the government started to make cutbacks in the face of economic pressures, but much of the overall planning, including the tunnel borings that had started, found use in the eventual successful scheme. The railway line by our site was eventually used as an access line from the depot at North Pole Junction to and from Waterloo.

Peter Walton continues to maintain our Wood Lane website. If you haven't visited it yet please do.

<http://www.woodlanebiccc.co.uk/>

You will find photos, previous Newsletters, the history of the film society, remembrances of former colleagues and much more. A recent addition is the 1963 "Holiday" edition of the Bush Telegraph. We are still looking for a volunteer, or volunteers, with access to a fast scanner to help us load as many old BTs as possible on to the site. If you are that person, please contact **Mike Hagger**.

We try our best to keep in touch with as many former colleagues as possible, but there are surely more out there. If you are a member of a social networking site, please see who you can trace and encourage them to get in contact so that they can be included in all general messages.

2012 will mark the 25th anniversary of the closure of Wood Lane. We think that it is an excellent reason to assemble again, so that we can celebrate the fact that life goes on.....even if we will be a year older!!

Please keep the date free. It is:

Friday 18th May 2012

2011 Reunion – Attendees

Pat Andrews
Maureen Ayres
Alan Bangay
George Bielstein
Anne Buchanan
Clive Carroll
Trevor Carter
Sarah Cowper
Dennis Cooper
Bill Dawson
Mike Dennis
Mike Denton
Michael Fox
Steve Frost
Andy Fry
Don Fry
Bob Girkin
Doreen Greenbury
Richard Grigsby
Mike Hagger
Jim Hamments
Shirley and Richard Hammond
Peter Harvey
Alan Hopkins
Sue Hurst
Peter Jennings
Eileen King
Barry Lambert
Brian McCarthy
Sasha O'Bow Hove
Michael Pater
Pedro Perez
Albert Pinching
Bryan and Pam Pledger
Michael Poole
Wordy Price
Alex Ranicar
Peter Revell
Roger Seebold
David Sevant
Graham Taylor
Nick Thearle
Jerry Turner
Frank Walker
Peter Walters
Peter Walton
Malcolm Ward
Dick Weeks
Sandra West
Chris White
Ian Wilson

2011 Reunion - Apologies

Arthur Boardman
Stuart Castle
Rob Corne
Roger and Valerie Carroll
Olive Drage
Norman Fairey
Yvonne Ferrier
Chris Finney
Barbara and Denis Groombridge
Allan Halliday
Roger Hazelden
Ann Huybrechts
Vivien Irish
Lesley Irwine
Maureen Jackson
Brian Keable
Geoffrey Layzell-Ward
David Margolis
Tony Martin
Les Miles
Derry Moore
Gene and Molly Nalon
Dennis Nash
Elizabeth Ness
Bob Puckowski
Peter Raw
Alf Reading
Viv Semmens
Vivienne Shepherd
Glynn Stainthorpe
Gerry Tan
Eve Taylor
Eleanor Tarbox
Brian Tilbury
Carol Tilbury
Tony Town
John and Maria Vernon
Jan Walters
Terry Watkins
Chris Wilson