

**BICC Wood Lane
Reunion news and gossip
Summer 2009**

A total of 50 people attended the 2009 reunion at The Antelope on Friday 12th June, including five newcomers to the event.

There was understandable sadness that a somewhat larger number of colleagues were no longer with us. We remembered especially **Ron Dicker, Maurice Rothman, Harry Charman, Bob Maidlow, Ron Hall, Ted Ross-Gower, Tom Ruben and Keith Elder.**

Mike Denton (Patents and Licensing) has worked and lived in France for 10-12 years now, but was able to attend for the first time. He recalled that his early training was under the guidance of **Ron Tarbox**, and it was therefore delightful to see **Eleanor Tarbox** who also was a first time attendee. She said that both her father and her mother, now in their 90s need her time and care, but Ron still enjoys reading, especially poetry.

The greatest distance travelled was by **Guy Secrett**, all the way from Australia. Guy, seen here with **Nick Thearle**, had experienced a flight over in an Airbus A380, with a capacity of some 600 people. Recent news is that the "stretched" version will hold nearer to 1000.



Derry Moore was another first-timer, and he regaled us with his ballooning exploits. Amongst his five balloons is “Gabrielle” the Wood Lane balloon that many of us flew in or saw tethered on site from time-to-time. Although, for obvious reasons, lacking its BICC logo, it still retains the registration G-BREL. It is not currently licensed to fly, but can be seen at events in the inflated and tethered state.

As always there was a strong representation from the ladies. **Eileen King** and **Eve Taylor** took time out to pose for **Richard Grigsby’s** camera.



Geoffrey Layzell-Ward came down from North Wales where he and Patricia have lived since they returned from Australia some years ago. It is conveniently close to Geoffrey’s beloved Festiniog Railway. Like many people he has been the beneficiary of the great advances in medical and surgical science in recent times, but regretted that the noise generated by the enthusiastic gathering drowned out any audible demonstration the pulsation of his carbon fibre heart mechanism.

Nearly 45 years separate **Gordon Couch’s** short period at Wood Lane working in Resins and Enamels, under Derek Toop, and today, but thanks to a chance remark at a totally unrelated event, contact was re-established. It was good to see him again and to learn something of his current work on the gasification of coal.

Inevitably there are some of our number languishing in hospital. **Roy Fraser** has been in the Royal Marsden for about 8 months. **Shirley and Richard Hammond**, together with **Frank Walker**, went after the reunion to see Roy and they report that he may now have turned the corner, following an operation to prevent fluids filling his lungs. Happily he is cancer-free. We wish him all the best.

Peter Harvey retains his professional skills alongside his enthusiasm for golf. He brought with him a small flexible transparent piece of tubing that had resulted from his engineering efforts. The tubing is precisely bent for incorporation into a hearing aid and, small though it is, the orders are around one million – and one million times a few pence soon adds up! Here Peter has a laugh with **Alan Hopkins** and **Peter Raw**.



Amongst the apologies was one from **Ian Fordham**. He and his partner moved a few years back to the Isle of Lewis and took over a guest house. It now has 5 stars and a well respected local menu. Ian would be pleased to see any Wood Laner who ventures near to Stornaway – see www.broadbayhouse.co.uk

Brian McCarthy was happily back with us after his heart scare at the time of the 2008 reunion. He still maintains contact with **Bob Harnor**, who sadly remains under long-term hospitalisation.

A lovely letter was received from **Olive Drage** giving her apologies. She admits that the scope of her activity is somewhat reduced these days, but nevertheless has recently taken a course in Roman history which has resulted in much stimulating reading.

Joe Lou came with his wife Naomi, and reported on his work in the construction industry at Heathrow Terminal 3. Those of us who are regular travellers through Heathrow suspect that Joe has a job for life.

A few memories were being exchanged in the photo below. From left to right: **Chris White** and **Shirley Hammond**; **Eleanor Tarbox** and **Peter Revell**; **George Bielstein** flanked by **Lesley Irwine** and **Vivien Shepherd**; and **Albert Pinching** and **Eve Taylor**.



Gene and Molly Nalon were also amongst those to apologise. Gene recently had the disappointment of a cancelled operation for his back troubles, but is hopeful that a new date can be arranged quickly. Molly awaits a minor cataract operation, but that has not stopped her attending courses on computing and use of e-mail and internet. They will very shortly be “on-line” and hope to catch up with people accordingly.

Sasha O’Bow-Hove managed to get along later in the proceedings. The world of sub-sea communications is thriving, and Sasha reported on projects off both the East and West coasts of Africa, and on regular trips to other far-flung destinations.

Sue Hurst and **Dennis Cooper** both told of their determination to remain fit, with a little help from skiing and tennis respectively. Sue found a recent 7-day skiing holiday rather challenging, when a high-speed tumble on the first day resulted in a recommendation not to ski for twenty one days. She reluctantly accepted the one day, but forgot that there was a two in front!!

Peter Walton (seen below with **Graham Taylor** and **Trevor Carter**) continues to maintain the Wood Lane website at:

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

Please send him anything that you think is relevant.



A full list of attendees and apologies is attached.

2009 Reunion – Attendees

George Bielstein
Anne Buchanan
Clive Carroll
Trevor Carter
Gordon Couch
Sarah Cowper
Dennis Cooper
Mike Dennis
Mike Denton
Michael Fox
Richard Grigsby
Denis and Barbara Groombridge
Mike Hagger
Shirley and Richard Hammond
Peter Harvey
Alan Hopkins
Sue Hurst
Ann Huybrechts (née Kirby)
Lesley Irwine
Peter Jennings
Eileen King
Geoffrey Layzell-Ward
Naomi and Joe Lou
Brian McCarthy
Derry Moore
Sasha O’Bow Hove
Michael Pater
Albert Pinching
Chris Pugh (née Haylock)
Guy Secrett
Viv Shepherd
Peter Raw
Peter Revell
David Sevant
Eleanor Tarbox
Eve Taylor
Graham Taylor
Nick Thearle
Brian Tilbury
Christine and Stefan Verne
John and Maria Vernon
Frank Walker
Peter Walton
Malcolm Ward
Chris White

2009 Reunion - Apologies

Alan Bangay
Tony Blythe
Arthur Boardman
Roger and Valerie Carroll
Stuart Castle
Rob Corne
Bill Dawson
Olive Drage
Derek Edwards
Yvonne Ferrier
Ian Fordham
Betty Howell
Murray Irvine
Barry Lambert
Patricia Layzell-Ward
Betty Lisi
Molly and Gene Nalon
Tony Martin
Annette Mattock
Les Miles
Elizabeth Ness
Michael Poole
Bob Puckowski
Roger Seebold
Viv Semmens
Mike Squelch
Glynn Stainthorpe
Gerry Tan
Carol Tilbury
Tony Town
Jan and Peter Walters
Norman Waterhouse.
Terry Watkins
Graham Wills