

BICC Wood Lane News and gossip - 2021

We had a reunion..... on Friday 8th October 2021at The Bull43 people came along! After such a long wait, and given that a few people had reservations about travelling and being together, and any chance of seeing our long-distance colleagues from the likes of Canada, Australia and New Zealand was impossible, this was a magnificent turn-out.

As always on these occasions we remembered those no longer with us. As well as **Dr Wordsworth (Wordy) Price**, who died immediately after the 2020 virtual reunion and is recalled in last year's Newsletter, we raised our glasses to **Derry Moore, Alan Rogers and Albert Pinching**.

Derry Moore was one of the great characters of Wood Lane. Apart from his work on the engineering side, especially at Alperton, he will always be remembered for the way he persuaded the company to invest in a hot-air balloon. It acquired the registration G-BREL and was fondly known as Gabrielle.



A full appreciation of Derry's involvement in ballooning appeared in Aerostat, and can be found on the Wood Lane website at:

http://woodlanebicc.co.uk/docs/Aerostat_Dec_20_32-33.pdf

By contrast only a few people recalled **Alan Rogers**, who worked in the Physics Department in the 1950s. During that time he was a co-founder of the Film Society, which became one of the bedrocks of the Social Club. Its history can also be found on the Wood Lane website at:

<http://woodlanebicc.co.uk/docs/Bicchist.pdf>

Albert Pinching was a stalwart of the Rubber and Plastics, later Polymers, Department from the late 1950s until closure in 1987, after which he worked for BT. He was for some while Chairman of the Film Society, including at the time of its 100th show.



Away from work Albert was a lifelong member of the scouts, for whom he was a senior officer in Islington for many years, and his efforts and commitment won him the Silver Wolf award, being one of the movement's highest honours. In later years he became a noted local historian working with the Hornsey Local History Society, with whom he published a number of books.

An enduring feature of the reunions has been the way that, so far, each event has had at least one "newcomer". This time it was **Daniel Tan** who had worked in Computer Aided Manufacturing. Here he is with **B and Bob Girkin**.



The impact of the pandemic has been heavily felt by places such as The Bull, where events such as ours have been slow to recover. Fernando, the Events Manager, was certainly very enthusiastic in his welcome, and he and his staff provided a buffet that was widely acclaimed. Happily the photo was taken before the vultures had finished!



It is always good to be reminded of our former colleagues. From Mathematics, **Chris Willson** and **Brian McCarthy** attended, and they also had a photo showing the members of their department from the later years of the laboratories.



Front is Dr Helena Walters (Head of Maths)
Second Step from left to right: Bob Harnor, Dr Gordon Thackray, Paul Heyda, Chris Willson
Third step: Mike Gilmore, Chris Booth, Brian McCarthy
Top Step: Malcolm Lester, Roger Shtaklef, Mike Franklin, Tony Warwick

Janet Walters kindly provided a number of photos of the day. The general atmosphere is shown in the next two photos. Many others can be found on the website, which is still kindly maintained by **Peter Walton**. <http://woodlanebicc.co.uk/>



Peter Walton was unable to join the gathering as he was supporting his brother in a hospital appointment. Others had family commitments, which must come first. **Janet Matheve's** daughter had a nasty accident on her bike, and **Barry Lambert** had a family illness to cover. In addition **Bill Dawson** is nursing a broken arm and **John Reeves** had a medical appointment. Apologies from **Monica and David Goff** came via **Maria and John Vernon**, who maintain good contact. Sadly David's stroke was severe, but Monica cares for him at home despite her own health not being the best. To all of these, and others either helping to care for loved ones, or battling their own problems, we are thinking of you.

There was plenty of news from overseas. **David Green** is in Greece looking after their various animals and doing his turtle conservation work. He and his wife still have a house in Sussex, but are likely to sell up soon. He does however hope to join us in the future. From New Zealand came reports from **Alan Arnold** and **Rob Corne**. Both spoke of the frustrations of the local lockdown, which affects internal as well as external travel. **Guy Secrett** had much the same to say from Australia. He hopes to come to UK in 2022, which would be two years since his previous visit. His best wishes are sent to us all.

From Lindenberg in Lower Saxony **George Bielstein**, now 94, also sent his best wishes to all. He uses the fitness centre at a local therapy clinic twice a week, and says that that he just about copes with all that arises.

From Canada **Ena Prendergast** was thwarted in her attempt to come over, but **Alan Fenwick** did manage to get to UK. In his case it was an event to celebrate the life of his late brother. Alan missed the funeral in 2020, but managed to gain a passage for 2021. Sadly it was not possible to combine the visit with the reunion, but he hopes to get over another time.

Happily **Valerie and Roger Carroll** did come from overseas – Belgium in their case.

The general consensus from those present – and my thanks to you all – was to keep the reunions going. A strong feeling was to have one in Spring next year if at all possible. I will canvass some dates. In the meantime please keep safe and well, and stay in contact.

Mike Hagger
22 October 2021

Attached: List of attendees and apologies

2021 Reunion

Andrew Ainger
Jon Ballard
Clive Carroll
Valerie & Roger Carroll
Diwakar Choudhari
Steve Frost
B & Bob Girkin
Richard Grigsby
Barbara and Denis Groombridge
Mike Hagger
Shirley and Richard Hammond
Mark Hamlin
Roger Hazelden
Peter Jennings
Mike Kendle
Lesley Kiss
Charles Largie
Brian McCarthy
Barry Mitchell
Sasha O'Bow Hove
Valerie and Ray Pinner
Bob Price
Alex Ranicar
Peter Revell
David Sevant
Daniel Tan
Carol and Brian Tilbury
Maria and John Vernon
Jan and Peter Walters
Malcolm Ward
Terry Watkins
Helen and Chris White
Charles Williams
Chris Willson

Attendees

Apologies

Alan Arnold
George Bielstein
Anne Buchanan
Tony Blythe
Tess and Stuart Castle
John Childs
Diana Connolly
Dennis Cooper
Rob Corne
Sarah Cowper
Bill Dawson
Alan Fenwick
Yvonne Ferrier
John Flegg
Marion and Ian Fordham
Derek Glockner
Monica and David Goff
Dave Green

Alan Hopkins
Sue Hurst
Ann Huybrechts
Mike Key
Barry Lambert
Geoffrey Layzell-Ward
Janet Matheve
Les Miles
Elizabeth Ness
Andy Platt
Bryan and Pam Pledger
Michael Poole
Ena Prendergast
Peter Raw
John Reeves
Annette Robinson (née Mattock)
Guy Secrett
Viv Semmens
Rod Seville
Roy Spencer
Eleanor Tarbox
Graham Taylor
John Taylor
Nick Thearle
Peter Walton
Rob Weller