

**BICC Wood Lane
Reunion news and gossip
Summer 2010**

A total of 47 people attended the 2010 reunion at The Bull in the Westfield centre at Shepherds Bush on Friday 14th May. The Bull is the only pub in the complex that has been built on our old site and the adjacent land, and everyone agreed that it made an excellent venue for our event. A full listing, including the recorded apologies, is attached.

Sadly we again had to recall our friends and former colleagues who had passed away since we last met. We remembered especially **Roger Millward, Paul Dungate, Derek Edwards and Roy Fraser.**

Once again it was good to see so many of our ladies (14 in all out of the 47), though **Lesley Irwine and Vivienne Shepherd** had to withstand scurrilous accusations of “been shopping” when they arrived a little later than expected! In the candid shot below, Lesley explains to **Sandra West, Doreen Greenbury and Eve Taylor** exactly what she and Vivienne didn’t buy.



More of us are now grandparents, and **Chris White** was delighted to be present having become the grandfather of twins about 4 days earlier. Congratulations to all concerned.

Malcolm Ward on the other hand had to send apologies as he was up in Saltaire in Yorkshire where his son and daughter-in-law were expecting a new arrival. A real family gathering was in prospect, with his first two grandchildren coming over with their parents from Colorado. We hope to hear that all went well.

Seeking out relics of the old site was a hard job, though **Alan Bangay** (up from Exeter) reported that the north wall beyond where the HV labs stood does remain, together with the stone plaque on its outer face that says:

THE PROPERTY OF
THE KENSINGTON
AND NOTTING HILL
ELECTRIC LIGHTING
EXTENDS 8 INCHES NORTH
OF THIS WALL

This is shown reasonably clearly on page 6 of “The History of Wood Lane”, but is barely decipherable today.

Alan also showed the photo below (originally taken by Daphne Cotton who was secretary to Peter Gregory). It shows the north end of the site, with the HV labs, Faraday and McFadzean clearly visible. Exact date is unknown, but maybe some motor enthusiasts can pinpoint it from the models bottom left that were “on delivery”



Others who came significant distances were **Jan and Peter Walters** from Cheshire and **Vivien Irish** from York. All of them managed to combine family and other events with their trip and it was good to see them.

Jan and Peter kindly made their photos of the day available to us. Here **Anne Buchanan** tells Peter that he has had enough beer for the afternoon!



Peter Jennings was, for the first time in 21 years, an absentee, but he had a pretty good excuse. He and Jude went to the USA to watch one of the last Shuttle launches. They managed to get tickets to view it from the NASA causeway which, at 6 miles, is the closest the general public are allowed during a launch. They promised nevertheless to raise a glass to Wood Lane in the evening.

By contrast we were delighted to welcome **Don Fry** for the first time. Don was with the organisation from September 1967 to July 1980. He had joined straight from school and, after some gaining an insight to the business via Prescot, St Helens, Wrexham, Runcorn, Erith and so on, and then being sponsored through a sandwich course, he joined Alex Taylor's PED group at Alperton, working for Peter Harvey and Derry Moore. He now lives in Bedfordshire. **Peter Harvey** had hoped to be present, but confessed later that he went to last year's venue on last year's date!!

Don, whose brother Andy was also a Wood Laner, found out about the reunion via the Wood Lane website.

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

Peter Walton continues to maintain this. Please send him anything that you think is relevant.

Denis Groombridge ventured up from Bedfordshire, having left Barbara at home.....to prepare for Denis's 70th birthday, and a large family gathering the next day. Congratulations Denis, hope the event went well.

Peter Huddart joined us for the first time for a few years and is seen here with **Graham Taylor**.



Clive Carroll happily remains fully employed, but he escaped for the afternoon and is seen in the next photo exchanging views with **George Bielstein**.



A long message came from **Roger Hazelden** (Optical fibres – 1979-1984) in which he recalls the fascination of being part of the early development of the technology. He moved from Wood Lane to the Lucas Research Centre in Solihull and is still there today as Sensors & Optoelectronics Technology Leader. Lucas has in the period undergone several changes and takeovers, and the site is now TRW Conekt, a technology and engineering consultancy business.

Shirley and Richard Hammond continue to spread joy and happiness as the next photo demonstrates. Lurking in the background are **Frank Walker, George Kitchie and Jim Hamments**.

George Kitchie reminded those who are BICC pensioners that this year's lunch will be on 6th October 2010. For many years George has managed to gain financial support for this event through the company and the pension fund, but he believes that 2010 may be the last time this will happen. Please support George and the event if you can and are eligible.



No reunion would be complete without **Eileen King**, and happily she joined us again. Here she reminisces with **George Hamilton**, whilst **Peter Raw** seems more interested in the excellent buffet.



Some apologies were because, inevitably as the years go by, the care of doctors is needed. Amongst those to whom we send best wishes on that count are **Mike Squelch** (operations on his legs) and **Valerie Carroll** (infection from a ruptured abscess on the appendix). **Stefan Verne** sadly phoned a few hours before the event to apologise as **Christine** was unwell and unable to leave the house. We hope to see all of these friends in the near future.

Talking of the future we propose, by way of an experiment, to select provisional dates for the next two years so that plans can be made well ahead. This may be especially helpful for our overseas former colleagues in case they have long-term plans to visit UK. If we could suggest especially that 2012 will mark the 25th anniversary of the closure, there could be a strong incentive to try to attend. Proposed dates are:

Friday 20th May 2011
Friday 18th May 2012

2010 Reunion – Attendees

Maureen Ayres
Alan Bangay
George Bielstein
Arthur Boardman
Anne Buchanan
Clive Carroll
Trevor Carter
Sarah Cowper
Dennis Cooper
Bill Dawson
Mike Dennis
Mike Denton
Michael Fox
Don Fry
Doreen Greenbury
Denis Groombridge
Mike Hagger
Jim Hamments
Shirley and Richard Hammond
George Hamilton
Alan Hopkins
Peter Huddart
Sue Hurst
Vivien Irish
Lesley Irwine
Eileen King
George Kitchie
Barry Lambert
Michael Pater
Albert Pinching
Peter Raw
Peter Revell
Vivienne Shepherd
Eve Taylor
Graham Taylor
Brian Tilbury
Tony Town
John and Maria Vernon
Frank Walker
Jan and Peter Walters
Bob Puckowski
Peter Walton
Sandra West
Chris White

2010 Reunion - Apologies

Vic Banks
Annette Burgess
Roger and Valerie Carroll
Stuart Castle
Rob Corne
Gordon Couch
Norman Fairey
Ian Fordham
Steve Frost
David Goff
Barbara Groombridge
Peter Harvey
Roger Hazelden
Ann Huybrechts (née Kirby)
Peter Jennings
Mike Key
Geoffrey Layzell-Ward
Brian McCarthy
Dennis Nash
Elizabeth Ness
Sasha O'Bow Hove
Pedro Perez
Michael Poole
Alex Ranicar
John Reeves
Guy Secrett
Roger Seebold
Mike Squelch
Glynn Stainthorpe
Gerry Tan
Eleanor Tarbox
Carol Tilbury
Nick Thearle
Christine and Stefan Verne
Malcolm Ward