

The Friends of the Old Paint Company Newsletter

Issue 10~

December 2009



The old Guv'nor,
God Bless him !

Another year has come and almost gone and another brilliant reunion with over 114 people attending including regular European correspondent ~ John Frensham who came over from Spain. John McGowan and Bill Tweedale made trip from Ireland. The general consensus was that there were actually more than the recorded 114 people signing in and on top of that we had a number of 'apologies for absence' from twenty of our regulars ~ who to date haven't missed a reunion ~ overall it was a good result. The success from last year of having name badges [*most of us seem to be developing memory difficulties*] was continued.

We sent out more invites this year[319]. We had the same problem as last year with a very slow response. Based on the uncertainty of the post and not knowing if all the addresses we had were up to date, we decided to send out 80 reminders. Whether that did the trick or not we will never know but the final tally was a good result.

We had responses from 42 people saying they couldn't make it this year, due to a variety of reasons. We also followed the tradition of putting up letters & emails on the 'notice boards' ~ our grateful thanks to the inventor of Blue Tack.

We have booked the venue for next year ~

Friday 1st October 2010

Please mark the date in your diary now.

(to avoid disappointment)

The other resounding success was that Alf Woods/Ray Cattermole organised a mini-coach for the goodly number of people in the Southend/Leigh area, Alf and Ray have said this arrangement would be ongoing. What we are trying to do is to get someone to organise a mini coach for other areas ~ where we have 'a cluster of people' living in a particular area. Places like Colchester, Chelmsford, Bishops

Stortford & Sawbridgeworth, seem likely starting points. **ANY VOLUNTEERS FOR ORGANISING A MINI-COACH FOR THESE SUGGESTED AREAS?**

LOST SOULS

Since we started the reunions we have had two 'culls' of the members list ~ cutting out the non-responders. We currently have nearly 319 people on our database and they all get an invite to the reunion. We know many can't make it due to age, travelling distance, etc and we are not worried on that issue as the important thing about the reunion and the news-letter is 'keeping in touch' ~ it's people that made the company what it was ~ not the shareholders or 'the organisation'. Usually it's the people that live a fair distance away that always respond and we are very grateful for that. But keeping the *The Friends of the Old Paint Company* going is expensive with the invites, newsletter, reminders, etc, works out at over £3 a head and with no response, often we don't know if we even have the right address. We have written to 86 of the lost souls and eight have responded so we will be removing the non-responders from the database.

There are also a lot of people out there that we can't contact ~ if you meet anyone that wants to join us next year, please get them to contact us [*an address would help so we can put them on the data base !*]. Tell them they can always get in touch with us through the *The Friends of the Old Paint Company* website. There are a lot of people from the SpiesHecker/StanDox sales area where we do not have a contact details on the data base.

The Reunion Website

Our website *The Friends of the Old Paint Company* can be viewed at:

www.bjn-paint-reunion.co.uk

The site has an overview plus separate sections on Berger, John Hall, Jenson & Nicholson, British Paints, Cuprinol and RCL. The site does contain

some of the history of the companies that formed the old group. We have received some new information from John Crookes regarding the Cuprinol site at Frome which has now been added. Please take time to look at our website and if you have anything you want to add, please let us know.

We would really like any photos of memorabilia relating to the many other companies that formed part of the group such as Spelthorne Metals, Keystone Paint and Varnish, etc.

Through the website, we keep getting people contacting us who are investigating their family trees and on some occasions have been able to help.

Photos from the Evening



The reunion's traditional photo used in our 2009 Christmas Card with the picture of the 'Old Guv'nor' in the background. The painting was rescued from the old factory by Dave Howard-Willis



Part of the gathering ~ the nearest thing we could get to a group photo



A rose between two thorns



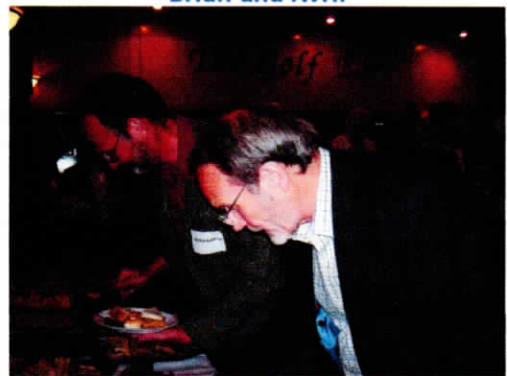
Men with Glasses !!



Susan with Quasimodo (aka Francis)



Brian and Avril



Keith and Bill sampling the buffet



Jenny, Len and Flo



Avril with part of the contingent from Éire



Bill and Barbara



Stuart and Bryn



Alf and Billy



One the original there were numbers under this photo but we didn't have room to include them



Bill and Colin sharing a joke



Ron, Abu and Ted



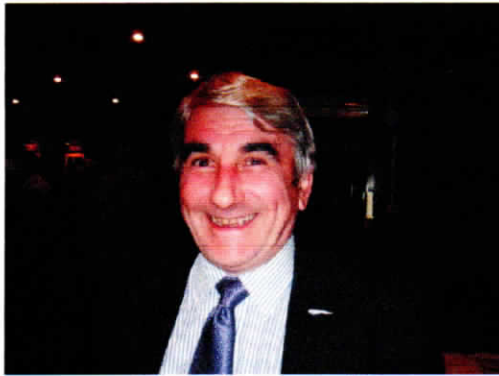
Re-counting Accounts



The Beverley Sisters Tribute Band/Cabaret



Talking about the old times !



What a happy Soul !



Bill and Jim



John and Bill at the Buffet

Many thanks to all the people that contributed photos of the evening to this newsletter

The Old Stratford Site

Archaeological excavations prior to the building of the Olympic venues continues to throw up a wealth of pre-history ~ from Neolithic to late Iron Age and into the Roman occupation We don't have a report from this years finds but the Museum of London evaluation does make a regular report to the London Archaeologist magazine.

The Old Chadwell Heath Site

Only the admin and old cricket pavilion are still unaltered. The old cricket pavilion, which someone thoughtfully had scheduled as a Grade II listed building, still doesn't seem to have had any takers to date ~ possibly due to the absence of a cricket pitch.

Photos from the Evening

All the photos in the newsletter plus about 40 more photos from the evening are available on a CD for £1..00 plus £1..50 post and packing

The collection at the reunion for the St Francis Hospice raised £262 ~ a brilliant effort

Donations

A lot of people made a donation to the *The Friends of the Old Paint Company* and we would like to give a personal **Thank You** to all for your generosity.

Next year is the reunions 10th anniversary and we are going to make it an even better evening than this year ~ watch this space

OBITUARIES

We are sorry to advise you that several of our old friends have passed on

Terry(T.B.) Collins	Feb	2009
Reg Duckett	Sept	2009
Ernie Eldridge	Sept	2009



please note that our new e-mail address is:-

fotopc@btinternet.com

or through the website:

www.bjn-paint-reunion.co.uk

for those of you without e-mail, please send info to: **FOTPC c/o Reunion, 44 Northwood Gardens, Ilford, Essex, IG5 0AJ**

✉ If you want to advise of any changes of address or if you have anything to add to the newsletter please let us know.

and ... from the vast team of organisers that made the reunion possible, plus the backroom staff and distribution department, who together produced the newsletter, we would all like to wish all our regular readers: - A really super Christmas and a good and peaceful New Year



The old Mr Berger [circa 1810] also wishes you a Merry Christmas