



The old Guv'nor,
God bless Him !

The Friends of the Old Paint Company

Newsletter ~ Issue 25

December 2024



*The Reunion Committee, full of laughter and good cheer ~ Bill, Bob, Brian, John and Jim, plus the old Guv'nor, on behalf of all the Friends of the Old Paint Co. wish you and yours a Very Happy Christmas and New Year and a safe journey through 2025
We hope you enjoy reading our slightly different annual newsletter.*

Belated 'Seasonal Greetings', and apologies from me because I've got this newsletter out so late. Delay was due to a couple of health/family issues in Nov/Dec and a couple of stays in hospital A&E. and I also took on too many projects ! So this is our latest FOTOPC missive. We hope you are all staying safe and keeping well. The 2024 'reunion' in August was a resounding success. With 42 people attending, which considering the company has been closed for 24 years, I thought, was an excellent result. We'd like to thank all of you that turned up to the reunion in the 'Susan O'Malley' facility (aka the Middle Deck) at the Moby Dick Whalebone Lane ~ and also the four that paid and didn't appear.

The big news of the year was the huge fire that destroyed the old admin block, late on 26th August, (sixteen days after the reunion). Thankfully the 100 folk living in the building all

all escaped. The old admin block had, according to London Fire Brigade, a "number of safety issues known to officials" The BBC said that 220 fireman were in attendance.



Another Dagenham landmark gone !

The BBC reported, that building work was being carried out to remove 'non-compliant cladding'. The LFB were in attendance the whole of the next day, as can be seen below. It's another reminder of the dangers of the cladding that was 'sort of approved' for high and not-so-high rise buildings ~ and the dangers of 'deregulation'.



LFB in attendance



And the next day ~ still dampening down



..... and floor after floor collapsed.



Demolition commenced 3/11/2024

On a point of history, Bob Doughty who was the works engineer at the time, was so alarmed that the girder framework was welded instead of riveted, he took a number of photos of the structure and welds each evening after the contractors had gone home. So as he feared, the unorthodox girder fabrication was questionable.

Because of our presence we're often contacted by contractors about the old site. We have learned that the current owners of the old site, who seem to own a lot of industrial properties in Freshwater Road intend to re-develop all their properties as a free down as Whalebone Lane.

Warning // Be Aware // No Joke

Sadly, we are getting emails from some of our old colleagues who have passed away !! [i.e. Ray Usher, Larry Fernandes, etc.]. This has been going on for some time. There's a lot of nasty people out there after your money ! **Please be careful !**

The Reunion Evening:







Memories are made of these





OBITUARIES

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

| | | |
|---------------------|------|------|
| Kevin Power | Jan | 2019 |
| Tony Ellis | Feb | 2019 |
| Dave Wheatland | Apr | 2019 |
| Jack Bravey | Apr | 2019 |
| Graham Rainbird | May | 2019 |
| Larry Fernandes | Oct | 2019 |
| Kathy King | Oct | 2019 |
| Chris Neighbour | Mar | 2020 |
| John Wilson | Mar | 2020 |
| Ron Atkins | Mar | 2020 |
| Dick Banwell | July | 2020 |
| Colin Seeger | July | 2020 |
| Maureen Traveller | Oct | 2020 |
| Jack Adler | Jan | 2021 |
| Derek Aldis | Jun | 2021 |
| Joan Hunt | Jun | 2021 |
| Peter Blake | June | 2021 |
| Paddy McCrudden | Aug | 2021 |
| Ricky Oatham | Aug | 2021 |
| Peter Scutt | Sep | 2021 |
| Les Walton | Sep | 2021 |
| Billy Meader | Sep | 2021 |
| Alan Payne | Oct | 2021 |
| Marion Roberts | Nov | 2021 |
| Steve Clapham | Feb | 2022 |
| John Wilson | Apr | 2022 |
| Denis Bone | May | 2022 |
| Pat Shallow | May | 2022 |
| Jim Lynn | June | 2022 |
| Joyce Porter | Aug | 2022 |
| Andy Stanford | Sept | 2022 |
| Ernie Clough | Sept | 2022 |
| Geoff Johnson-Brett | Nov | 2022 |
| Dave Nichols | Nov | 2022 |
| Ron McArdle | Nov | 2022 |
| Avril Wood | Dec | 2022 |
| Dave Smith | Dec | 2022 |
| Clive Simpson | July | 2023 |
| Ray Stevens | Sept | 2023 |
| John Frensham | Sept | 2023 |
| Ken Arbuckle | Oct | 2023 |
| Stan Challis | Apr | 2024 |
| Dave Thomas | May | 2024 |
| Mike Ryland | May | 2024 |
| Sandra Stepton | July | 2024 |

please note that our e-mail address is:-

fotopc@btinternet.com or through the website:

www.bjn-paint-reunion.co.uk

*for those of you without e-mail addresses,
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*and ... from the vast team of organisers
that make the reunion possible we would
all like to wish all our regular readers:
- A really super and peaceful 2025*

Mr Berger



[circa 1810]

also hopes you have a great
2025 and we'll see you next August