

## PENSIONER PROFILE – GEORGE CASS

### LIFE AFTER THE TILL FACTORY

#### (Or from Training Schools to Flanneled Fools)

I decided to take early retirement from that wonderful institution, The National Cash Register Company, or as we all now know it as NCR (sometime in the late 1980's), after a long and happy career. It was now important for me, as I was only in my late fifties to find a part time job.

An old friend of mine, who worked for Barnet Council told me that the Council were starting up a new section called the Leisure Department, and were looking to recruit staff on a part time basis for their various Sports Centres.

I thought that a job like this would ideally suit me and he subsequently made the necessary inquiries and arranged for me to have an interview. I was successful and spent a short time looking after Golf Courses, Tennis Courts and other sports facilities. The bonus for me was that as part of my responsibilities, I was provided with a pass that allowed me to participate in free sport within the Borough. I must say that I have never played more rounds of golf or been swimming as often.

During this period I was also an active member of The St. Johns Ambulance organisation and was therefore asked if I would be interested in opening the First Aid Post at the Lords Cricket Ground on match days, on a voluntary basis. My first question was, will I be able to watch any of the cricket? The answer was yes, so to my delight I started straight away.

I managed both jobs for a few months and when Lords asked me if I would take on a more responsible role, as a Steward in the Pavilion, I jumped at the opportunity.

One of my duties would be to cover the First Aid in that lovely old building; this meant that I was now on the Lords payroll. So I said goodbye to the Leisure Department at Barnet Council and happily went to work at the "True Centre of the Universe", namely

#### The Lords Cricket Ground

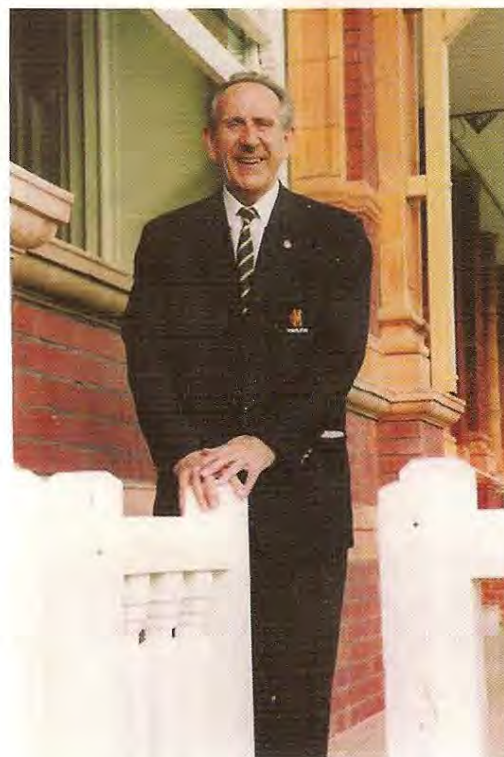
This was like giving a small boy the freedom of a toyshop as I have had a love of cricket since childhood. My father had taken me to Lords in the late 1930's which many consider the golden age of cricket. I was privileged to see great players like Don Bradman, Wally Hammond, Dennis Compton and many other wonderful cricketers of the period.

Now back to the 1990's. The Lords Pavilion is a lovely building to work in with all the beautiful old pictures and cricketing memorabilia on display. It takes a little time to get to know your way around and also to understand what is expected of you. After a year or so, I was invited to be the Pavilion Supervisor, being responsible for stewarding, health and safety and supervising various functions. But most of all making sure that all members and their guests behaved themselves (never an easy task).

I was very lucky to be heading a team of men all in the autumn of their lives. We were all from different backgrounds - teachers, policemen, tax inspectors, postmen, prison guards, ex-servicemen in short a very mixed bunch. They were all very competent and conscientious people but with a common love of cricket which made my job very enjoyable as we all got on so well.

As far as the cricket was concerned, I saw the entire Test playing nations at least twice. The Cricket World Cup was played in this country in 1999, which was definitely the high point for me, as I had been instructed to accompany the match referee and other umpiring officials to ensure that they would not be accosted. It was thought that there were people that might want to influence the results of these matches. I must say this problem never arose, but it was a thrill for me, as I was able to watch all the games, sitting comfortably in the match referees box.

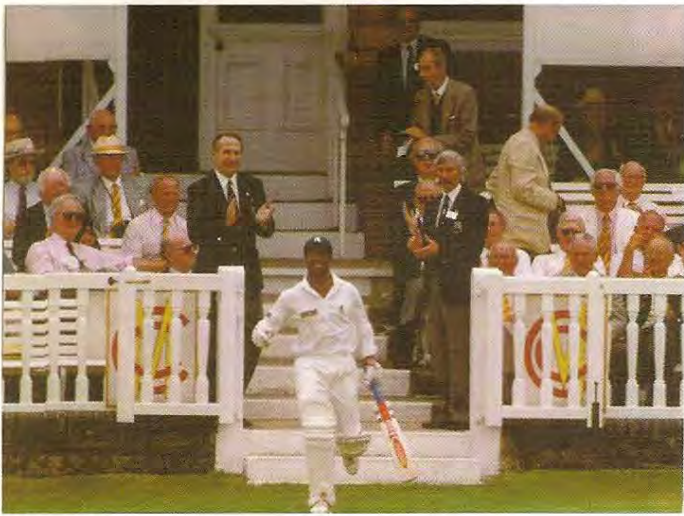
George  
Cass



The most poignant memory was when Princess Diana was killed in a car crash just a few days before a major cup final was due to be played at the ground. The cricketing authorities agonised over whether the match should be played or cancelled. They decided that the game should go ahead on the day after the funeral, with a one minutes silence followed by the pavilion bell being tolled for ten seconds.

I was required to ring the bell at the appropriate time. All the tickets had been sold and it was a full house. When I looked down into the ground I could see that the players of both teams and officials had lined up on the field of play along with the groundsmen, all with their heads bowed. The ground was so quiet and when I started to ring the bell, I felt my eyes filling up; I will never forget the moment, as it will live with me forever.

Those of you may remember Bill Gatting, his wife Vera and their two sporting sons. Well, Vera and Bill came to Lords on most Sundays to see their son Mike playing for Middlesex. Sadly Bill died a couple of years ago, but Vera still comes when she can. It is also very pleasant when some of my old NCR chums visit the ground for the cricket and call in for a chat. It seems to me that we were all very lucky to have worked at the Old Firm when we did – they were truly great years.



**B&H Cup Final – Brian Lara out to bat**

I continued as the pavilion supervisor until a couple of years ago when I relinquished my position. I then stayed on as a steward until the end of the 2004 season as I felt that fifteen and a half years was long enough. So I decided to say cheerio to the Lords Pavilion, but only to next season when I shall return as an M.C.C. member to just enjoy the cricket.

I shall continue working at the ground on non-cricketing days, for one or two days a week as a steward in the Lords Museum. This might give my dear wife Joan at least a couple of day's peace. (I am sure that she will be pleased to hear this).

In closing I must thank John Burchfield and all the Fellowship Committee for their efforts to keep the Fellowship afloat. It is clear to me that the enthusiastic response from the members who attended the lunch held at the London Cricketers Club last October will ensure that the Fellowship will continue as before.

My best wishes to everyone in the Fellowship,

George Cass.

P.S.

"Flanneled Fools is how Rudyard Kipling referred to Cricketers when he wrote about them in the late nineteenth century.

## A STORY TO TELL

Sitting around  
Wasting your time  
No longer the man  
With a mountain to climb

Retirement wasn't  
That long ago  
Gradually boredom's  
Starting to show

Jobs are all finished  
No future plans  
So what can you do  
With time on your hands

Get up early  
Go for a stroll  
Maybe a club  
Why not enroll?

Or better still  
If you're feeling inclined  
Do it right now  
While it's fresh in the mind

Everyone has a story to tell  
We want to read yours  
So come out of your shell

Write it all down  
Don't take too long  
Send it to Geoff  
With a smile and a song

Now your feeling uplifted  
To see it in print  
But don't expect payment  
The Fellowship's skint

George Cass

*(First published in Postscript No. 11 Summer 1992  
and still relevant today.)*



### Region 1 – Wallace Hay

The Scottish Region's only Lunch for 2004 took place on the 6th October 2004 at the Art House Hotel Bath Street in Glasgow.

It was thanks to **Scott Caldwell** and his wife Margaret for not only securing the booking, but also through a voucher scheme Margaret spotted in a Sunday Tabloid we got some discount as well on the meals, well done folks!

Seventeen Members present altogether including **John Gray** and **Ian Lamb** from Edinburgh who came over to join us; it was Ian's first Lunch since becoming a Fellowship Member.

He must have enjoyed the day out as he telephoned me next day to say he was going to try and drum up support for a Spring Lunch in the Edinburgh Area, so here's hoping that will be successful.

Unfortunately I have to end this Report on a sad note yet again.

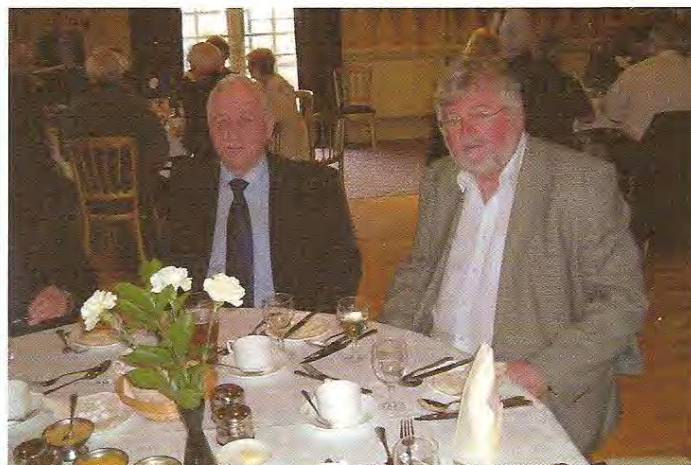
It is with deepest regret I have to inform you of the passing of Ms **Jean Allen**; Jean collapsed and died suddenly on 4th January 2005 whilst helping at her local Church making up emergency parcels for victims of the Tsunami Disaster.

She will be sadly missed as Jean was a faithful member of the Fellowship attending all of the Glasgow Lunches.

Scott and I hope to organize a 2005 Glasgow Lunch again in the Autumn.

As always keep well and warm.

Wallace Hay.



Leeds to see quite a number of their former colleagues from Liverpool. Pat has only been retired for a very short time and he informed us that he is looking forward very much to organising Region 2E Fellowship members in place of **Maureen Burdis** who has decided to stand down due to other pressing commitments.

### Region 2E - Pat Keogh

**John Burchfield** contacted me at the end of last year to ask if I would step into **Maureen Burdis'** shoes and take responsibility for Region 2E now that I have retired. (After 36 years in FED/WCS I retired last June). For the last 25 years I have been a Member Elected Trustee on the NCR Pension Plan. I was very sad to have to step down from that role upon retirement, but I still attend the Trustee Board Meetings as a Consultant.

I am pleased to take over this role in Region 2E and am happy to be able to help the Fellowship. I have already spoken to Maureen and we will be meeting in a couple of weeks time. It is our intention to jointly organize a lunch early in October as a re-launch of the Region's get togethers. We will probably hold this in the usual venue; The Buckles Inn near York and we will discuss further events at that time.

If anyone has ideas they would like me to consider please contact me at 01943-863050 or, by email at pat@keogh1.co.uk.

I am looking forward to enjoying my retirement and rekindling some old friendships.

Pat.



Other guests included (for the first time) **Mr & Mrs Cooke**. **Peter & Ellen**. They came with **Rex & Brenda Keating** and joined quite a number of ex Manchester FED personnel. Rex commented particularly that it must be five or six years since he had seen **Derek Hill**. **Harold Willey** who worked as an Engineer at Chester throughout the whole of his career took the photographs. He has always been interested in photography and I remember in the past

### Region 2W – Charles Southall

I am writing today to report our most recent meeting and lunch, which was held at "The Grange Country Club" Hesswell on the Wirral on the 5th April.

I wouldn't say that I was disappointed with the turnout, but we have had a lot more than the 44 who attended on this occasion. I can say though that numbers had absolutely nothing to do with the success of the occasion. There were at least two completely new faces and two guests from Yorkshire who we have not seen for quite a while. **Pat Keogh** and **Sandy Macmillan** came over from



*Region 2W (continued)*

how he used to edit his own cine camera film shows. He does digital pictures now with his PC. The CD he produced here for these pictures was very impressive I thought. He is pictured here with his wife Margaret enjoying a very fine lunch, which we always enjoy at "The Grange".

Other photographs include **George Laurence**, who is our oldest member, with **Eileen Hull**. **Ian Ormerod** ex Birmingham and **Daz O'Byrne** from Liverpool. **Brian Latham** and **Terry O'Garr**.



Everyone was very positive about the continuing progress of the new Fellowship organisation and most interested in how we are planning the second year.



There were quite a number of members who died during last year and although we mentioned each of them in our after lunch address, I think a separate mention elsewhere will probably be more suitable.

Our next meeting at Heswall has been arranged on the 27th September, which is a Tuesday as usual. I hope that you can all make it.

Charles Southall

Fellowship Organiser 2W

**Region 3 – Eric Grace**

The first of the new Fellowship Lunches was held at The George Hotel in Litchfield on 28th October 2004.

At that time there were 40 members subscribing to the new Fellowship out of the original 90, which is nearly 50% and hopefully more will join us now that it can be seen to be worthwhile.

35 Members responded to the invitation to lunch with five not responding, these were **G. Carter** of Wigston. **J. Cook** of Ashover. **R. Fanaken** of Solihull. **W. Lawley** of Northampton and **Mrs Smith Redditch**; after discussion nobody present seemed to have any information as to their whereabouts or health, I would appreciate any news from our readers.

There were 28 Members and guests who enjoyed a three course Carvery meal (Due to the postal services we had two more than ordered, which was 26, but the hotel squeezed them in).

We were sorry to hear that **Sid Anderson** had passed away and that I had had a note from **Pam Webb** to say that **Mike Webb** had also just passed away.

There were messages from the following members who were unable to attend but they all sent regards:-

**M Alliband**, **A Thomas**, **J. Waggett** had previous engagements. **Brian Cadman** was unwell, as was Mrs Owen's husband. **Jon Page** had just had major surgery, **Shirley Williams** was also unwell and as a consequence **Jill Macphail** was also unable to attend, **Noel Shaw** was on holiday, **Joy Wright** had a hospital appointment, and finally **Nation-Tellery** and his wife had to cancel at the last minute due to illness.

It was obvious from the chatter and general noise that the group were thoroughly enjoying catching up with old friends and having a good lunch. Thanks to **J. Burchfield** I was able to update the gathering with the latest news regarding the pension fund and NCR.

**Regions 4, 5 and 8b– John Burchfield**

Due to the reduction in catering facilities at Head Office they are now unable to provide the quality of menu that we experienced in the past. This decision necessitated us finding an alternative venue that was in close proximity to Head Office and was able to accommodate our numbers and at a price that would be acceptable to the members. We were indebted to Hilda Perryman who suggested that we try the London Cricketers Club in Blandford Street, which is a road just off of Baker Street. A visit was arranged and as their facilities were suitable for our requirements we booked two of their restaurants for Wednesday October 27th October 2004.

Ironically, the Company's inability to cater for our requirements worked in our favour as for the first time we were able to hold a London lunch where all three Regions were able to come together on the same day. Previously we held three or four separate lunches at Head Office and many old friends and colleagues missed meeting up because of the geographical break down of the London regions, they attended different functions. Consequently 120 members attended the London Cricketers Club and met up in the bar prior to the lunches. The noise and activity was a testament to many members not having met old friends and colleagues for many many years. The actual lunches were held in two separate restaurants but after the meals many of the guests stayed on to have a final drink, still catching up with old acquaintances.

## THE LONDON LUNCH 27th OCTOBER 2004



*Region 4, 5 & 8B (continued)*

The power of the grapevine never ceases to amaze, as we received requests to attend the lunch from pensioners who worked in and around London, but who have subsequently moved to other parts of the country. Consequently some guests traveled long distances to attend, amongst whom were **Geoff Jackson**, editor of Postscript from Devon and **Peter Bodley** from Somerset. However we did not expect a guest to travel from South Africa, but **Paul Kilmartin** (who was in the country for his daughter's wedding) heard about the function and we were delighted to be able to accommodate him.

We also invited **Stephen Swinbank**, Chairman of the Trustees, as a fully paid up guest, who gave us an update on the current position on the Pension Fund and also on current activities within the Company.

Those attending agreed that in future we hold the London lunch once a year in October at the same venue as this new venture had proved to be an outstanding success. As a consequence of this triumph we have booked the London Cricketers Club for this years event, which will be held on Wednesday 5th. October 2005.

John Burchfield.

**Region 5 (Kent) – Peter Bodley**

We again held our lunch at The George & Dragon Inn, Headcorn, Kent on 22nd September 2004. This was our third visit to this delightful Inn, in the Garden of England. We had 20 booked, including our Secretary, **John Nash**. Unfortunately our Regional Organiser, **Ted Young**, could not make it due to a bad back, we can all sympathise with this problem. Everyone said how much they enjoyed the lunch and venue and it is planned to repeat it again this coming September. Since the Fellowship Lunch last Octpber in London I now have a further 4 members who are keen to join us which is good news – the more the merrier!

**Region 6 - Alan Hutchins**

Region 6 has held two lunches since the new Fellowship came into being. The first was held at The Royal Coach, Shoreham by Sea, Sussex on 27th October 2004. A total of nine members and three of their partners were present, all from FED. It was good to get together again but sad when one remembered that normal turnouts were in the region of 50 members in the days before we went it alone.

The second lunch was at the St Leonards Hotel Ferndown Dorset. This was arranged by **Alan Bartlett** and was attended by 21 members and their partners. Again, a good time was had by all.

We are hoping to arrange more lunches in these areas later this year. If there are other members who would like to attend these lunches but who did not receive an invitation please let me know. There may even be past members who have not got round to joining the new Fellowship yet; come along to a lunch and fill in your application form on the spot ( details of this appear elsewhere in PostScript)

As we now have to pay for our own stationery and stamps we do not send out invitations to those who did not tick the form – nothing to stop you ringing me to reverse this decision! The next lunches may not be at the same venues but will be in the same areas.

Hoping to see you at the next lunch

Alan.

**Region 7 – John Jones**

I was going to arrange a get together in September but unfortunately a trip to Cirencester Hospital for a hernia op put paid to that. (Always did say those tool bags were too heavy). So well on the mend again, able to drive and following prompts from a couple of members I decided to call a get together for Tuesday 19th October 2004 at the Toby Carvery, Woodlands Lane, Bradley Stoke, Bristol. This now seems to be our preferred watering hole.

The cost of the meal suits our budgets and the management provides a closed off area for us so we don't disturb the regular clients.

There are officially 19 members of the New NCR Fellowship in Region 7, but I felt that this get together should be open to anyone associated with NCR.

So members were told that if they wanted to invite an ex-colleague, they could do so, all I needed to know was how many.

It also seemed like a good chance to tout for membership.



**Thelma Ostime, Jean Cheek, Elwyn Davies, John Watts, Alan Wall, Roy Back, Geoff Batcup, Dave Calford, Ken Bloxham and Don Pengilley.**

Members who attended were Roy Back, Geoff Batcup, Ken Bloxham, Dave Calford, Elwyn Davies, Mr and Mrs. Dave Jones, John Jones, Jim Kembery, Don Pengilley, Mr and Mrs. Dave Robinson, Alan Wall and John Watts.

Maurice Chivers, Pete Lacey and John Cooper all had previous engagements, Dorothy Davies and Bill Garbutt feel that they can't do the travelling these days but send their best wishes. Maurice



**Bill Park, Dave Robinson, Mrs. Robinson, Mary Bird, Mrs Park, Mrs Jones, Dave Jones, Jim Kembery.**

Keene and his wife had to cancel at the last minute due to a family bereavement and Eric Thrush was unfortunately in hospital.

Our "Guests" were Mary Bird, Thelma Ostime, Jean Cheek and Mr. And Mrs Bill Park. Chris Mumford was also due to make an appearance but somehow managed to go to a totally different pub.

I was unable to find a speaker so I cheated and passed around a preview copy of Postscript as I had been helping Geoff Jackson produce the last edition.

All the above was some six months ago, thoughts are turning now to the next get together which I will organise as soon as the AGM is finished. Hopefully this will be in Weston Super Mare in June but I need to get the consent of my Welsh contingent as this will be a little bit further for them to travel.

### Regions 8 & 8A

Since the Autumn 2004 issue of Postscript, Region 8a, as forecast, held a lunch on 6th October, the first since the new Fellowship was started, at The Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck, near Newmarket. 14 attended, and everyone agreed that the venue, food and company, were excellent. We decided, in fact, that we would meet at the same pub in 2005, and another booking was made immediately. It was so gratifying to once again meet a large number of my Region 8a friends – a high proportion of the original Region joined the newly formed Fellowship.

On 27th October, Region 8 joined with Regions 4a, 4b and 5 in what was surely the largest number of NCR pensioners ever gathered together in one place. I will not go into details, as I expect the event will be reported elsewhere in this issue, other than to say it was enjoyed by everyone present.

I expect that the organisers will be holding the Fellowship's annual meeting in May, as required by the Constitution, when our first year will be examined. Personally, I am delighted that things seem to have gone very well, and since I am the only remaining organiser who was appointed by **Basil Garsed** right at the beginning, it has been such a pleasure to see the Fellowship grow from strength to strength, and now enter a new phase

And something to (maybe) chuckle over, entitled 'Small voice on the phone'

Man – "is that 4753?"

Small voice – "Yes"

"Is your father there?" – "Yes"

"Could I speak to him?" – "No"

"Is your mother there?" – "Yes"

"Could I speak to her?" – "No"

"Who else is there?" – "A policeman"

"Could I speak to him?" – "No"

"Is there anyone else there?" – "Yes"

"Who?" – "A fireman"

"Could I speak to the fireman?" – "No"

"Why can't I speak to any of these people?"

– "Because they are all looking for me".

### To all members of Region 8

You will have read elsewhere in this issue of Postscript that Region 8 will now be included in the newly formed London Region, comprising what used to be Regions 4a, 4b, 8 and part of 5.

This means that I will no longer be your Regional Organiser, and I feel that I must put on record my great appreciation to you all for the support you have given me over the years since I was

appointed by **Basil Garsed**, when the original NCR Fellowship started.

I shall, of course, remain as a member of Region 8, and look forward to our usual happy get-togethers. Unfortunately, I shall not be at the October lunch, as, (Murphy's Law!), Region 8a is holding its lunch on the same day.

My warmest best wishes to you all.

Des Woodall

### Region 9 – George Wallace

The usual convivial crowd met for lunch on 6th. December at the Great Western Hotel in Exeter. 25 turned up prepared to pay for their food and drink while putting NCR and the rest of the world to rights as usual! **Steve Swinbank**, who had intended to join us, was unfortunately called away on business denying us the annual pleasure of 'torturing a trustee'!

While our first venture of the new regime proved very enjoyable we decided that for the 2005 lunch we would seek a new venue providing better value, and change the timing to October. Disguised as Egon Ronay inspectors we have now begun the search for a suitable establishment in and around Exeter. At the time of writing there is a clear favourite but a few lunches still to be eaten before putting a proposal to the full membership.



Region 9 Lunch at the Great Western Hotel in December



NCR Finchley Office bites the dust!!!!

## TEXAS TRAVELS

Hello Geoff Jackson. Our mutual friend Charles Southall suggested I contact you regarding my emails to him about our travels in Texas over the last 6 months. My wife Jean & I bought a large motor-home (RV) behind which we tow a car in Jan 2000 to realise our dream of travelling the USA. Over the last 5 years we have visited 39 states, driving more than 30k miles around this incredible and so diverse country.

US security concerns post 9/11 strictly limit our stay in their country to 6 months and they are not happy if we return within 6 months (a bit daft as all we do is spend money there), so we decided to use this time to spend our winters in a warmer clime. This of course limits our travelling, winters in the northern 2/3rds of the US are VERY HARSH, so we stay south in our favourite state Texas. Once the largest state in the Union (Alaska admitted in 1959 is 5 times larger) Texas is VAST, the whole of the UK & Eire, plus Germany will fit in it, with enough space left over to accommodate Belgium, Netherlands and Denmark as well. The weather this year was not good and instead of roaming around we decided to stay at Fort Clark Springs, just 17 miles from the Mexican border out in the SW desert area. (see [www.fortclark.com](http://www.fortclark.com) <<http://www.fortclark.com>> ) The Fort was established in 1852 to command a vital source of water in this harsh arid place and played a very important part in the suppression of the Commanche, Apache and Kickapoo Indians. It was home to many famous commanders of the Confederate Army, including Generals Lee, Longstreet, Bell-Hood etc when they were just junior officers. General Patton was its commander before WWII. The Los Moras Spring pumps out 9 million gals every day and has created a lush green oasis in an otherwise very barren area, as it flows over 10 miles through the Fort on its way to the Rio Grande. This constant source of water attracts large numbers and a great variety of wildlife and is a wonderland for birdwatchers, of which I am one. A very special and unique place. My wanderlust got the better of me on Jan 3rd, so we set off west to the Big Bend National Park (visit [www.nps.gov/bibe](http://www.nps.gov/bibe) <<http://www.nps.gov/bibe>> for more info) the largest and least visited of all US National Parks. It is the size of Wales with a population of less than 400, a real remote and endless wilderness. We stayed on a campground at Stillwell Ranch, made famous by an incredible Texan pioneer lady called Hallie Stillwell who died in 1997 just weeks short of her 100th birthday. Now run by her 2 granddaughters we heard incredible tales of how Grandma fought off raiding Commanches, Pancho Villa and many other bandits, eventually becoming the Circuit Judge for this huge dangerous and empty land. We also visited Langtry where Judge Roy Bean "The only law west of the Pecos" held court in the 1890's. During our stay in Big Bend we were visited by numerous species of animals, especially Javelinas which are like small wild boar, but are really Collared Peccaries and amongst our favourites. Javelinas cannot see well, but have great hearing and sense of smell. They can be dangerous and will attack you if you get close, but not as scary as the Mountain Lion I saw crossing the campground one night or the 2 Black Bears that had been raiding the rubbish bins. Visit the above website at /photogallery/wildlife for excellent photos of these animals Well Geoff this email has become much longer than I intended, Charles asked me to add some more details to my original emails and I seem to have gone on a bit. However I hope it gives you a better picture of what we have been doing and may be of interest and perhaps inspiration to other former NCR colleagues to "go west young man".

### The Emails:-

#### 'Allo from Alpine deep in the south of Texas

Good Morning All We are camped in a pecan tree grove (Pecan nuts) in the VERY remote little town of Alpine, 250 miles SE of El Paso, 85 miles from the Rio Grande & Mexico. Alpine is in Brewster county, the largest county in Texas, with a land area

greater than the states of Connecticut & Rhode Island combined, the vast Big Bend National Park is south of us, this Park has a land area almost the size of Wales!!! Texas is a VAST state, and this part is mainly arid desert with ranges of mountains rising stark & dark from the desert floor. We were very lucky to have chosen last Wednesday to travel the 326 miles to get here, as on Thursday it was extremely windy, raising huge dust storms that reduced visibility on Interstate 10 to just 20ft and causing MANY crashes and sadly some deaths. Last night we drove 16 miles along lonely Route 90 to see the Mystery Ghost Lights of Marfa. Joining a small group at the viewing station at 7-30pm in inky blackness, with a bitterly cold wind blowing across the flat desert, we looked out about 9 miles using a more distant red signal tower on Chinati Peak Mountain as our beacon, and waited. Shortly after we all gasped, out in front of us 8-9 miles away a very bright greenish blue light had suddenly appeared, it moved up & down, side to side then disappeared, minutes later 2 MORE LIGHTS appeared side by side but much further to the right and more orange in colour, they moved apart then came together, dancing about for over a minute then just went out. Using binoculars we watched this unique and fascinating show of lights for 30 minutes, they were still showing as we drove away, both of us very cold and quiet, quite amazed and slightly shaken by what we had just seen. These lights can be seen most nights in ALL weather, they were first reported by a cattle driver named Robert Ellison (Jean's maiden name remember) in 1883, but the Apache and Commanche Indians have known about them for centuries. There have been MANY international scientific investigations of this incredible phenomenon, MANY theories have been put forward to explain them, but to date there is NO RECOGNISED EXPLANATION WHATSOEVER. We did not think they were anything to do with Aliens or UFO's, but in this remote, lonely and desolate desert, in the black of night with a cold wind howling through the mesquite thornbushes, the ghost spirits of long dead warriors still travelling the Great Commanche War Trail, that passes through this area, did not seem such an incredulous explanation.

#### Judge Roy Bean, Law West of the Pecos

Good Morning All. We have moved west and are now camped in Seminole Canyon State Park, a VERY, VERY remote place near to Langtry, home of Judge Roy Bean, the infamous "Only Law West of the Pecos" here he had his saloon/Court Room, "The Jersey Lily" named after Lily Langtry, a early 1900's British music-hall star with whom he was besotted. There are no phones or computer connection on the State Park and I am hoping to send this from a Texas Visitor Centre. We are both OK, getting over a nasty allergy brought on by pollen from Mesquite trees, have had cold, cloudy weather for a week but today is bright & sunny so we are off to see the Pecos River canyon over which runs the Southern Pacific railway across a high level trestle bridge featured in many films. No computer connection at the Langtry Visitor Centre, but we were fascinated by the story of Judge Roy Bean, he was quite a character. We have moved on almost 100 miles west through VERY remote areas to this little western town called Sanderson where we have found a hook-up, when we arrived at this campsite Jean said I should park at the far end to be away from the road. As we were setting up a huge Union Pacific 5 engine train pulling over 1 mile of wagons came to a stop on the Southern Pacific railway that runs along the bottom of the site to wait for an equally big train travelling in the opposite direction along the single track. There are approx 6-8 trains every 24 hours so sleeping tonight should be interesting!!! We are on our way to the Big Bend National Park, the largest in the US, an area about the size of Wales populated by approx 500 hardy residents plus hundreds of intrepid tourists, gets its name from the bend of the Rio Grande river, the US/Mexico border. We were lucky to get a camping space on the famous Stillwell ranch, here lived a renowned pioneer lady Hallie Stillwell who coined a phrase that says all about this VAST empty area, I quote "We live under the

tyranny of distance" which applies even today with modern cars, so what it must have been like with just horses & carts I cannot imagine. This is NOT a place to run out of petrol

### Hello from Stiliwell Ranch at The Big Bend

Hello again, we are STILL camped at Stillwell Ranch at The Big Bend, have been here nearly 2 weeks now, we have fallen in love with this wild remote place. 2 days ago a pack of 12-15 Javelinas (small wild boar) came through the park causing quite a stir as it is unusual to see a group that big. That same night I looked out just as we were going to bed to see the rear end of a mountain lion passing the RV parked next to us, when I told our neighbours about this the next day they said they had seen a black bear nearby. Have made friends with a couple who live near Niagara Falls but who spend their winters in a cabin on Stillwell Ranch, he has taken me on some great trips to see parts of Big Bend not many visitors get to see (covering from 200 to nearly 400 miles!! on a day out) I have met some fascinating people, "Miss Shirley" who is about 73 & still getting up at 3am to operate her little bakery wants to marry me 'cos she likes the way I talk when we stop to pick up our coffee & doughnuts, Joe a former chemistry professor with his Mexican friend Mario threatened to shoot me because I paid for their lunches without telling them. They spend their days "Rock-hounding" across the desert looking for semi-precious stones. We did a 130 mile round trip last week to have dinner in a cave in Terlingua Ghost Town, here they used to mine cinabar ore which is refined into mercury by a VERY DANGEROUS distillation process that killed MANY Mexican miners. The food was excellent and very cheap and we were entertained by various country singers including an 83 year old cowboy who was still good. Whilst I have been out wandering, Jean has had a wonderful time with 4 or 5 other ladies off the RV Park "stitchin' 'n bitchin'" and learning lots of other craft ideas as well. We shall be VERY SORRY to leave Stillwell Ranch, but return 260 miles to Fort Clark on Monday to clean out our motorhome ready to take it up to San Antonio to put it up for sale, this too will make us very sad. However we shall have much better communications at Fort Clark, here we have to use the Ranch phone located in their "Gift Shop???" which is inside the "Store" (shop) at the side of their kitchen!!! We shall then rent a cottage at Fort Clark until we return home on March 13.

Our Love & Best Wishes to All Jean & Brian Gresty  
(Former cash register salesman District 121 Liverpool)

### Go Git Yo Momma

A redneck family from the hills was visiting the city and they were in a shopping mall for the first time in their life. The father and son were strolling around while the wife shopped. They were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny, silver walls that could move apart and then slide back together again.

The boy asked, "Paw, What's 'at?"

The father (never having seen a lift) responded, "Son, I dunno. I ain't never seen anything like that in my entire life, I ain't got no idea'r what it is."

While the boy and his father were watching with amazement, a fat old lady in a wheel chair rolled up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened and the lady rolled between them into a small room. The walls closed and the boy and his father watched the small circular numbers above the walls light up sequentially. They continued to watch until it reached the last number and then the numbers began to light in the reverse order. Then the walls opened up again and a gorgeous, voluptuous 24-year-old blonde woman stepped out.

The father, not taking his eyes off the young woman, said quietly to his Son,

"Boy, go git yo Momma...."

## FRIENDLY DUXFORD – Brian Turner

During my 24 years with the Company, I and many of my friends and colleagues shared the hobby generally known as "plane spotting".

This meant that in the main we were into what's known as "heavy metal" aircraft ie the supersonic etc. military stuff – F15's, F16's, Tornado, Jaguars, Viggens, and in the early days the Phantom, Lightning, (Hunter, Javelin – and that dates me!) and so on.

We went to all of the shows like the three F's – Farnborough, Finningley, Fairford. Then there were Biggin Hill, Wattisham, Lakenheath, and of course Mildenhall, at least these last 3 were for us East Anglians anyway. I'm sure that where possible we still go to them, I certainly do, although Finningley is now a civil airport and these days we go to the RAF show at Waddington instead.



British Aircraft Corporation TSR2 XR222 Prototype undergoing restoration

But, on retirement in 1993, I was introduced by other enthusiasts of our 'hobby' to more historic aircraft as portrayed by North Weald and Duxford. The latter (which is the subject of the piece) is situated at Junction 10 of the M11 at the intersection of the A505 south of Cambridge.

Duxford became an exciting addition to my hobby because not only is it a museum and a popular Airshow site, it is also a working aerodrome and workshops site – they build planes, maintain them, as well as fly them. Indeed if you have an appropriate licence they can even teach you to fly the Harvard and Spitfire. At Duxford you get to see the engineering side of aviation as well.



A Tornado F3 of No 56 (R) Squadron

In February 1999 I became a FOD – when the Imperial War Museum/Duxford Aviation Society introduced 'The Friends of Duxford' programme - and have been a FOD ever since. There are now 3100 of us FOD's at the last count.

At the 4 annual airshow events we have our own flightline enclosure shared with the Flypast Club (needless to say I am also a member of the latter) where we are able to enjoy a seated view of the flying display and taxiing aircraft with other like-minded friends, but also a continuous supply of free coffee and biscuits, and our own 'executive' loo on site. What more could you ask for!

FODs have unlimited access to the airfield (except airside of course) and all of the hangars for 364 days a year, 20% off show entry prices, and 15% discount on all purchases from either of the 2 shops on site.

This year I am also pleased to say, the Friends organisation donated £45,000 toward the new Air Space museum hall. But perhaps before I go right up-to-date with Friendly Duxford today, a little bit of the history of the site would be in order.

Although built to a WW1 layout with General Purpose hangars and a grass landing field, Duxford was in fact not opened until 1919, and then as a training school. It was not until the 1920's that the airfield became a fighter station and between then and the late 1930's many well known squadrons served there, such as 19, 29 and 111, with such as Siskins, Snipes, and Grebes, all biplane fighters of course.

A big change came in 1938 with the arrival there of the RAF's first Spitfires for 19 squadron, and Douglas Bader was there with 222 and 242 sqns in 1940 - Duxford you will remember was the home of 12 Group's Big Wing of Spitfires and Hurricanes.

The Americans took over the airfield in 1943 in the form of the 78th Fighter Group. They stayed with their Thunderbolts and Mustangs until August 1945. A metal runway had been laid in 1944, and that year also saw the arrival of Duxford's first jets – Meteor III's of 92 and 56 sqns. A concrete runway was eventually laid and by 1951 Meteor 8's came with 64 and 65 sqns. These squadrons received Hunters and Javelins in 1957/58 and an additional T2 hangar had by then been built.

But changes were afoot - Duxford was not suitable for the new aircraft coming along, the station was closed in July 1961, and the airfield fell into a state of decay.

This is where the Duxford as we know it today begins because in 1968 the airfield was used for the making of the film "Battle of Britain" – they blew up one of the hangars you will remember! At about this time or just after is where the East Anglian Aviation Society stepped-in and persuaded the Imperial War Museum and Cambridgeshire County Council to take an interest in the site, and historic aircraft were thereafter encouraged to roost at Duxford. And many started to do just that.

The IWM eventually set up their own Duxford Aviation Society and so it has evolved from there. The Britannia airliner flew in to join the collection, by then established, in 1975, The Viscount arrived "by road" in 1976, Concorde in 1977, the VC10 in 1980, Trident in 1982. And things continued apace in establishing the site as a major museum.

The next leap forward for the site was the opening of the American Air Museum (AAM) by HM The Queen in August 1997 and this was upgraded and re-dedicated by President Bush Senior and HRH Prince of Wales in September 2002.

Hanger 1 (we all knew it as the super-hanger) is currently being re-built to house the museum's collection of British aircraft like

Concorde, Vulcan, Lancaster, Sunderland and many others. When complete it will be known as Air Space and will have aircraft suspended like the AAM, with viewing galleries and its own Conservation Area. Hanger 2, the T2 hanger, houses the Fighter Collection's cat's lair – Wildcat, Hellcat, Tigercat and Bearcat, plus repair, maintenance and re-building facilities. Then there is the Old Flying Machine Company and ARC, the Aircraft Restoration Co, the latter seem to be turning out a 'new' Spitfire a year at their 'factory' near the M11 end of the airfield. The IWM aircraft also occupy hangars 3 and 4.



*Supermarine Spitfire MV268. This is a RR Griffon engined Mark 14. It is painted up as the aircraft of the late Johnnie Johnson (hence it's code J-EJ) During WW2 JJ was the highest scoring RAF ace and actually flew a Merlin engined Spitfire Mark 9.*

Hanger 5 near to the AAM is the IWM's Conservation hanger, including the extensive re-paint shop which has recently turned out sparkling examples of the F15, Anson, CF100, and most recently – Buccaneer. Under current conservation are Jaguar, TSR2 and Harrier, all to be seen "semi-deshabile".

Finally, the Land Warfare Hall – commonly known as the Tank Museum, a super collection of British, American, German, and Russian armour and artillery – they have their own show day each year.

You can understand why Duxford is a mecca for many groups of excited local school children during the Summer – with their packed lunches, clipboards and pens at the ready, and that's only the teachers!..

In addition to the 4 airshows each year (don't miss Flying Legends in June) and the Military Vehicle show, there are numerous other Duxford events to complete the annual programme, including the Bus Show, Flying Proms, Large Models etc. They all have their enthusiastic followers.

Apart from these show events, we Friends can enjoy our own group 'days-out' to RAF stations ie Coningsby, and other museums ie Cosford, photo sessions, lectures and film shows in the Astra cinema. A 'Friends' membership is a hobby in itself, and for £28 a year for us Seniors it is super value indeed.

(For some of the early history of the airfield I consulted Michael Bowyer's book "Action Stations Revisited" – I highly recommend it!)

Brian Turner



NCR Show "A Little Girl With Big Ideas" 1936.

### From Eric Ward:-

As an employee who spent most of my career in the Middle East/Africa Region how good it was to see that various articles in the most recent edition were from colleagues outside the UK operation.

Is the Bob Medley in the USA article the former CI Vice President for ME/A in Dayton? If so, I remember on trips to Dayton being entertained by Bob and his wife Barbara. Generally on a Sunday so she could explain the rules of American Football whilst the game was on TV. Not quite as exciting as Leeds v. Wigan in their prime.

The inside cover also carried a picture of 'Geordie' Bill Gibson, a former field engineer based in Nairobi, Kenya. The dulcet tones of his wife Margaret still ring clear in my mind particularly after the Nairobi sales team and service people got together on a Friday evening in the Tavern at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Bill was fastidious in his work but caused mayhem in our biggest NCR 400 installation when after regular breakdowns were occurring it was discovered that the office cleaners were literally swilling the tiled floor with water and water getting into the electric plugs was the cause of the problem.

I don't think the clients fully understood what Bill said when he found the problem. Probably because of his Geordie accent. I apologised to their general manager on a Saturday morning.

I also note an article from John Houston whom I met on a number of occasions not least of all at the Hawaii CPC to celebrate 100 years of NCR.

John was the brother of Jim Houston the East African G.M. who was the best I ever worked for and with before his transfer to Iran, Dayton and South Africa.

What a team we had in Nairobi with Jim, Malcolm Halley, Ronnie Middleton, myself and great support staff.

Ronnie did a most fantastic selling job with the 399 that caused the cancellation of a large Burroughs L series order for a multiple 399 order of I think 12 units to Barclays Bank. This became their standard unit for overseas countries as a result.

The 399 and 499 became absolute winners in our part of the world with approximately a hundred and fifty units being installed.

Malcolm went on to be manager in Korea and Singapore, Ronnie returned to S.Africa. I went to be M.D. in Harare, Zimbabwe and recently met the former G.M. of Kenya, Jamil 'Jimmy' Chaudhri whilst he was visiting Cape Town.

I'm writing this in Somerset West, whilst overlooking False Bay in a pleasant 27° C.

Congratulations on your magazine's content.

Eric Ward.

### A REMOTE REGISTER

I know that you are often looking for items for Postscript and I thought that you may find the attached pictures of interest. My wife Barbara and I were cruising around South America in January. One of the stops was at the port of Ushuaia (pronounced Ooshwire) on Tierra del Fuego, the most southerly city in the World. So we went for a ride on the most southerly railway in the World, where, in the booking office was the old National in the photograph. On another point of interest, with 1800 passengers on The Oriana, who should I bump into but Peter Clewlow who worked out of the Manchester and Birmingham offices and whom I had not seen for about 14 years. You can imagine what fun we had discussing old times over a few (dozen) beers. Anyway, I trust that you are all well and hope that you can make use of the pictures. Regards,

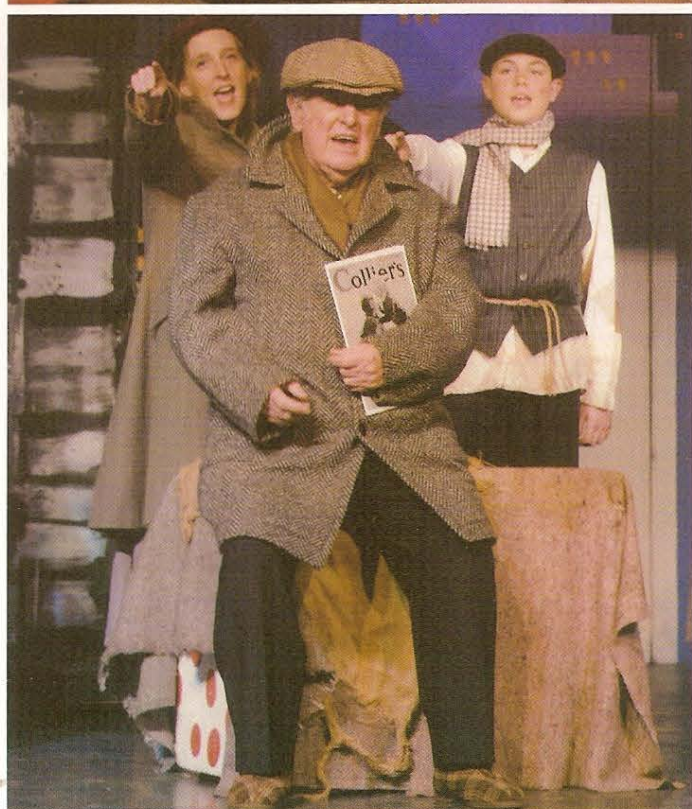
Brian Briggs.



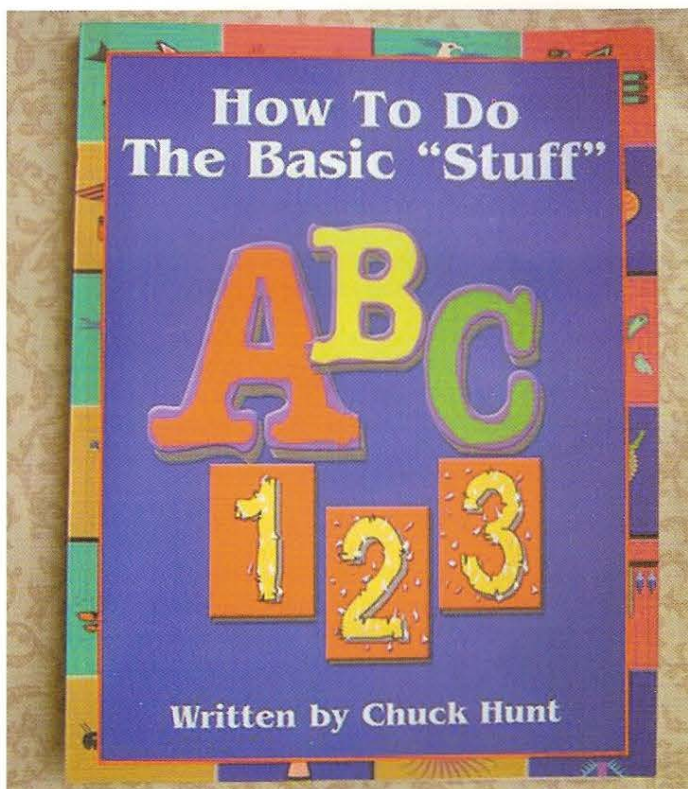
## TED YOUNG

Ted, still on the boards in his 77th year, enjoyed being in two shows during 2004. He was invited, after auditions, to take the part of the Rabbi in "Fiddler on the Roof" and as President Roosevelt in "Annie". He also became a "down and out" in the same show.

This year he is going to try for a character part in "Me and My Girl" to be performed in November, once again at the Secombe Theatre in Sutton, Surrey.



NOTE: As part of Ted's old Region 5 has been merged with London and the remainder – Kent – is now organised by Peter Bodley, Ted has agreed to remain on the organising committee as a consultant.



## HOW TO DO THE BASIC STUFF

This is the title of a book written by an ex-instructor based at the Sugar Camp Education Facility in Dayton, Chuck Hunt. Chuck spent 25 years as an instructor and then a period in Information Systems at Cincinnati University. If you know very little about computers then this is the book for you. Chuck has been able to keep the whole thing very simple, assuming that you know nothing. At the end of his 146 page well illustrated book you will be able to carry out all the tasks necessary for day-to-day operation of a PC.

Cost of the book is \$24.00 including postage (Chuck has waived part cost of postage) and can be obtained from him at:

Chuck Hunt PO Box 1052 Wilmington OH45177 USA.

## The NCR Retirement Fellowship—UK

The NCR Retirement Fellowship really started the day that Harry Redington, Personnel Controller (now president of the UK Fellowship) suggested to his boss, Director of Human Resources UK, that we should provide employees with a pre-retirement course. This was agreed in principle and I, at that time involved in Management Training, should set up and run such a course. This I did, taking all employees two years before they retired, to a hotel for a two-day course designed to help them through the difficult period experienced after retirement. Having taught people how to cope after retirement a question posed itself: how do we keep in touch with each other to share our experiences? Once again my name was put forward to organise this and an invitation was issued by UK's Managing Director in 1985 to all retirees to join the proposed organization.

We were very lucky in that we received great support from the company, both financially and in the provision of facilities for our meetings. Each member was able to receive at least one lunch and sometimes two each year, which had been the nucleus around which regional meetings have been run and paid for by the company. In addition, the company bore the production, printing and postage costs of "PostScript" which has grown from a four pager initially into a very comprehensive twenty page magazine today. Throughout the years, the membership has remained at about a thousand, the sad demise of some members being replaced by fresh retirees.

Then, in 2004, the axe fell! A directive from Dayton demanded that costs be cut and singled out was our Retirement Fellowship. With no advance warning, our support from the company was cut off! Despite entreaties that we should have a supported lead into our new situation, this was not granted. We were on our own! Our committee, composed mainly of Regional Organisers, met in London and decided that we would carry on. We circulated all our current members, about a thousand in all, and advised them of

the situation and asked them if they would be prepared to pay their way. The response was excellent and has resulted in about 450 members rejoining the "new" Fellowship. We all pay a small subscription which covers the cost of PostScript and pay for our own lunches. I am pleased to report that we have just published the latest copy of PostScript and that several regions have now held lunches under the new system. The despair we felt early in the year has now been dissipated and we feel that we are a stronger organization for having to stand on our own feet.

Geoff Jackson, Editor PostScript  
NCR Fellowship UK

*Follow up email from Geoff Jackson dated January 12, 2005:*

Friends, Now that the dust has settled I thought that the time has come to bring you an update on the UK Retirement Fellowship. A year on we have picked ourselves up and are looking healthy again. We no longer have any direct contact with NCR Management apart from the Trustees of our Pension Fund which we regard as a separate body anyway. It is sad but that is the way that they want it. Last year we circulated all our old members and

explained the position to them and invited them to join our new organization. I am pleased to report that we had a 50% response and we have continued to publish our magazine "PostScript" to the same standard as previously and our Regions are meeting regularly, the only difference being that all expenses are now borne totally by the members. The three London Regions got together last October and had a joint lunch in a local Cricket club, an added advantage being that all regions could meet together as, previously, the HO facility was not big enough to enable this. Members were present who had not seen each other for many years! Now, a "thank you" to all of you for, at the time of our crisis, providing us with information about how your organisations were run. This helped us to plan the new format of our revived organisation. Finally, wishing you all a very happy New Year and wishing your organisations all success for the future.

Sincere regards from  
Geoff Jackson and his colleagues  
in the UK Fellowship

### THE PHOENIX ARISES

Hi Geoff,

WOW!!!!!! You people are to be congratulated for turning what originally looked like a disaster into something positive. It even looks like your group has come out of this stronger than it was a few months ago since the membership now consists of people that really want to be there and are willing to contribute. It will also be great if you can continue to publish your newsletter which I consider to be of truly professional quality. I don't know who is primarily responsible for the quality of the newsletter, but I suspect it is you.

Anyway, congratulations once again on what you have been able to accomplish. I, for one, am impressed.

Bob Medley – Communications Committee - US NCR Retired Employees Association Inc.

## WE ARE SORRY TO REPORT THE PASSING OF THE FOLLOWING UK NCR EMPLOYEES

Title	Inits	Surname	Date of Death
MR	EJ	ALDERTON	11-Dec-2004
MRS	JWM	ALLEN	05-Jan-2005
MR	FJ	ASHENDEN	21-Jan-2005
MR	J	BURTON	05-Jan-2005
MR	NA	CAIN	22-Dec-2004
MR	P W	CHALLONER	21-Nov-2004
MR	E G	CLUFF	13-Sep-2004
MR	FJ	COCKS	06-Mar-2005
MRS	EM	COLES	14-Nov-2004
MR	DJ	CROWNSHAW	16-Mar-2005
MRS	S	CUTLER	28-Nov-2004
MR	JF	DANIELS	14-Dec-2004
MR	RF	DUNCOMBE	21-Oct-2004
MR	FSC	FOXWELL	18-Oct-2004
MR	C	GAUTERIN	23-Oct-2004
MR	JW	GENT	03-Dec-2004
MR	EJ	GILES	25-Mar-2005
MR	RE	JONES	04-Apr-2005
MR	DK	LISTON-BROWN	08-Mar-2005
MR	K	NUGENT	13-Dec-2004
MR	HE	REINER	02-Nov-2004
MRS	J	RICHARDSON	22-Dec-2004
MR	GJ	SAMUELS	12-Dec-2004
MR	A	SCULLY	25-May-2004
MRS	DJ	SERVICE	25-Sep-2004
MR	CF	SMITH	04-May-2004
MR	PW	STONE	09-Oct-2004
MR	VT	TUCKER	15-Aug-2004
MR	LE	WAY	18-Nov-2004
MR	T K	WEATHERSTONE	15-Nov-2004
MR	RL	WEBBER	26-Sep-2004
MR	DA	WHYTE	29-Dec-2004

## FAREWELL TO TWO FRIENDS

It has just come to my attention that two old friends have recently died. Firstly, Ernie Giles who joined the company in 1949 and retired in 1982. He gained 10 CPC's during his service and, upon retirement became our Regional Organiser for the North West. You will be much missed Ernie!

Secondly, another much younger friend, Gordan Pirie has, I understand, been killed in a snowboarding accident. Gordon was an Instructor at the FED school in Dundee for many years and was well known for his outdoor pursuits. So sorry Gordon. I am sure that you did not have time to do all those things you planned.

Geoff Jackson



Ernie Giles

## NCR RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2004/2005

Although the Fellowship's year runs from 1st May to 30th April as written in the Constitution, it is felt that the decisions made by the Company prior to May 2004 should be included in this report. This information will provide an official record as to reasons behind the Fellowship's decision to become an association that was financially independent of NCR.

In February 2004, I received a request to attend a meeting at Head Office with Brian Sanderson, Director, Human Resources at which he informed me that due to a Company wide initiative to reduce costs, all funding for the Fellowship had been withdrawn with immediate effect. This decision would affect all Regional lunches, the publication of Postscript and the payment of any other miscellaneous expense. I was appalled at what I considered to be a very shortsighted decision, as the cost of the Fellowship to the Company was minimal in the context of a billion-dollar Corporation. Additionally, the perception of the Pensioners, many of whom had given loyal and dedicated service to the Company for much of their lives, was that the Company did not now care about their future.

Any decision regarding the future of the Fellowship would have to be taken by the Committee and we therefore held an extraordinary meeting on March 2nd 2004 where various options were discussed. It was agreed that all existing members would be surveyed to ascertain their responses to two questions:

1. Would they be prepared to pay for their own lunches in the future?
2. Contribute an annual subscription to the Fellowship, primarily for the continued production of Postscript?

Additionally, I would write to Mark Hurd, NCR CEO, Dayton requesting a reconsideration of the decision to cancel the Fellowship's budget? A response was subsequently received, which whilst supportive of the spirit of the Fellowship, confirmed that in the current financial environment funding would no longer be available.

The survey of all existing Fellowship members was conducted during March 2004; the results were collated and discussed at the second special meeting held on 31st March 2004. From the responses received, the results of the survey, in summary, showed that 62% of the membership would be willing to pay for their own lunches and 60% would be willing to pay an annual subscription. Based on these positive results it was decided to form an independent, self-funded organisation, which would continue to organise lunches and provide a regular magazine.

Personnel changes were required under the new Constitution, which was produced by Des Woodall. It was unanimously agreed that Harry Redington would continue as President, I agreed to remain as Chairman, Lin Sandell was elected as Treasurer and John Nash would maintain his current position as Secretary. All other Regional Organisers would continue to serve as members of the Organising Committee and Geoff Jackson would continue as the Editor of Postscript.

Lin Sandell opened a unique bank account, with three approved signatories, so that the financial transactions and activities would be transparent to all members the Fellowship. It is recommended that the annual income and expenditure statement as prepared by the Treasurer, along with this report be published in the next available edition of Postscript so that all members are fully acquainted with these specific activities of the Fellowship.

Distribution of an information letter, the Constitution and subscription form was forwarded to all existing members in May 2004, the responses and monies received forming the nucleus of the new Fellowship. I personally wrote to 56 overseas members of

the Fellowship and an encouraging response was received from these ex-patriots.

At the time of compiling this report, the Fellowship has now over 475 active members, which is more than anticipated from the earlier survey. In addition to the existing members, we have also received application forms to join the new Fellowship from pensioners who previously had not indicated any interest in being involved with the Fellowship. This increased interest and membership numbers more than justifies the decision of the Committee to continue with the Fellowship under its new format.

The first edition of *Postscript* under our new arrangement was published in the autumn of 2004 and my personal thanks are due to Geoff Jackson, Editor and others who assisted in completing this exercise. Initially, production difficulties were experienced, due mainly in the attempt to keep the costs to a minimum. These were eventually overcome and the lessons learned will be of benefit in the publication of subsequent editions.

I am aware that various Regional lunches have been held in during 2004 with mixed attendance numbers. This is only to be expected now that the members have to pay for the luncheon themselves and when taking into account the considerable travel costs that are also experienced in attending many of the provincial venues. It is hoped that as the word spreads that these lunches are still worth attending, then interest and attendance are improved in the future. I refrained from attending any of these functions during 2004, as it was unclear at the time, as to the financial viability of the Fellowship; I hope to be able to attend more lunches in the forthcoming year.

In my opinion, we shall have to modify the eligibility conditions for joining the new Fellowship. Previous employees of NCR (irrespective of their length of service) and who receive a pension provided either by the Company Pension Fund or by a private pension plan should be allowed to join the new Fellowship providing that they pay their annual subscription in advance. These conditions should also be applicable to widows/widowers/surviving partners of previous NCR employees. These changes in the existing conditions will be discussed at the forthcoming annual meeting of the Committee for formal approval.

A change in the process in advising the Fellowship of deceased members and newly retired employees was instituted with the assistance of Mr. Keith Pyle, NCR Pensions Consultant and relied on the information being provided by Mercer Human Resource Consulting Limited. It was evident that after six months this process was not working satisfactorily as we were made aware that new retirees had not been advised of the existence of the Fellowship and therefore not given the opportunity to join. We consequently modified the process whereby John Nash visits Keith Pyle at Head Office on a periodic basis to obtain details of newly deceased and potential new members. Letters of condolence are forwarded to the next of kin and advice provided to Lin Sandell so that the database can be amended. Additionally, our Secretary distributes a letter and application/subscription form to new retirees inviting them to join the Fellowship.

A considerable number of potential new Fellowship members (covering most of 2004) were revealed in December, due to the information not being provided to us by Mercers. I took the decision that we should invite these pensioners to join the Fellowship, however, as there was only three or months left of the Fellowship year I did not feel that it was fair to expect them to pay the annual subscription for which they would gain no immediate benefit. (It was not expected that the next edition of *Postscript* would be published until late spring 2005) Consequently they were invited to complete an application form that they would return to Lin Sandell so that their interest would be logged into the database; when the 2005/2006 renewal subscriptions are circulated then their names would be automatically included in the distribution process. This decision would account for the apparent discrepancy between the members logged onto the database and the subscriptions received in the financial year.

During the year Jo Leighton, Regional Organiser for Region 2N decided for personal reasons to relinquish this position. Similarly, Maureen Burdis who had held the responsibility as Regional Organiser for Region 2E felt that it was also time for her to "retire" from this function. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to them both for the dedicated time that they gave to their members over many years. Unfortunately we have been unable to find a replacement for Region 2N, but are pleased to welcome Pat Keogh as the replacement organiser for Region 2E and also to the Committee. Over the last couple of years, a luncheon has been organised in mid Kent to accommodate those members in Region 5 who are not able to travel into London. Despite residing in Somerset, Peter Bodley has undertaken the responsibility of arranging these functions and I therefore will be proposing at the forthcoming Annual Meeting that he become a full member of the Committee. Historically in London we have had to hold the lunches for Regions 4, 5 and 8B on separate days due to the limited number of attendees that can be accommodated in Head Office. With the reduction in the catering facilities within Head Office we were therefore forced to look for an alternative location; we were fortunate to find a suitable venue that enabled us to hold a lunch for the entire Regions' members on the same day.

These changes to our previous way of operating provide an opportunity to consider a realignment of the existing regional boundaries. This suggestion will be discussed at the forthcoming annual meeting of the Committee; any changes that are agreed will be published in the next edition of *Postscript* so that all those affected by these possible alterations are kept fully informed.

In summary I believe that the decision to become an organisation financially independent of NCR was warranted based on the greater than anticipated number of members who joined the Fellowship during the year. This has given us a solid financial foundation on which the Fellowship can build so that we continue to adhere to and provide the principles of the Fellowship that were established many years ago.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who have joined during the year for their continued support of the Fellowship, without whom we would not be able to provide the opportunity for friends and colleagues to continue to keep in touch with each other.

Finally, my thanks must be given to all Committee members who have given freely of their time during the year; without their contribution we would not be in the strong position that we find ourselves today.

John Burchfield, Chairman.  
April 2005



*The New Organising Committee*

**Front Row:** George Wallace (Region 9), Linda Sandell (VC & Treasurer), John Burchfield (Chairman & 4), John Nash (Sec), Des Woodall (8A).

**Back Row:** Peter Bodley (5), Alan Hutchins (6), Pat Keogh (2E), Charles Southall (2W), Ted Young (Reg. Adviser), John Jones (7), Geoff Jackson (Ed PS), Wallace Hay (1), Eric Grace (3).

## NCR Retirement Fellowship May 2004 – April 2005

### Membership summary:

UK members	466
Overseas members	17
05-06 Prepaid members	25
<b>Total membership 04-05</b>	<b>508</b>

Deceased members	10
<b>Starting membership 05-06</b>	<b>498</b>

### Membership by region

Region 1	18
2E	26
2N	12
2W	39
3	48
4A	74
4B	52
5	59
6	30
7	21
8	62
8A	14
9	27
10N	5
11 (overseas)	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>508</b>

### Financial Summary:

#### Income

UK membership fees	4310
Overseas membership fees	239
Donation	35
Income total 04-05	4584
Early payments 05-06	250
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4834</b>

#### Outgoings

Expenses	484.24
Postscript	1478.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>1963.21</b>

**Balance** **2870.79**

NB. Subject to audit planned June 05  
Expenses covers all administrative costs (eg. postage, copying)

### ELIGIBILITY FOR NCR FELLOWSHIP MEMBERSHIP

The eligibility statement in the constitution should be amended to read:

"Membership shall be open to all NCR pensioners, their spouses and surviving partners, and other retired NCR employees."

### NCR Retirement Fellowship

#### Membership Application Form

I would like to join the NCR Retirement Fellowship please:-

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode:..... Region .....

Send details and cheque for £10 (made out to NCR Retirement Fellowship) to: Lin Sandell, 9 Fangrove Park, Lyne Lane, Lyne, Surrey KT16 0BN

## The NCR Retirement Fellowship

**PRESIDENT: Harry Redington**

**ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRMAN: John Burchfield**

**TREASURER: Lin Sandell**

**SECRETARY: John Nash**

**EDITOR "POSTSCRIPT": Geoff Jackson**

**REGIONAL ORGANISERS**



Regional Adviser:  
Ted Young

**Region 1: Wallace Hay**

**Region 6: Alan Hutchins**

**Region 2E: Pat Keogh**

**Region 7: John Jones**

**Region 2W: Charles Southhall**

**Region 8A: Des Woodall**

**Region 3: Eric Grace**

**Region 9: George Wallace**

**Region 4: John Burchfield**

**Region 5 (Kent): Peter Bodley**

**Region 10: Ronnie McGowan**