Post Script

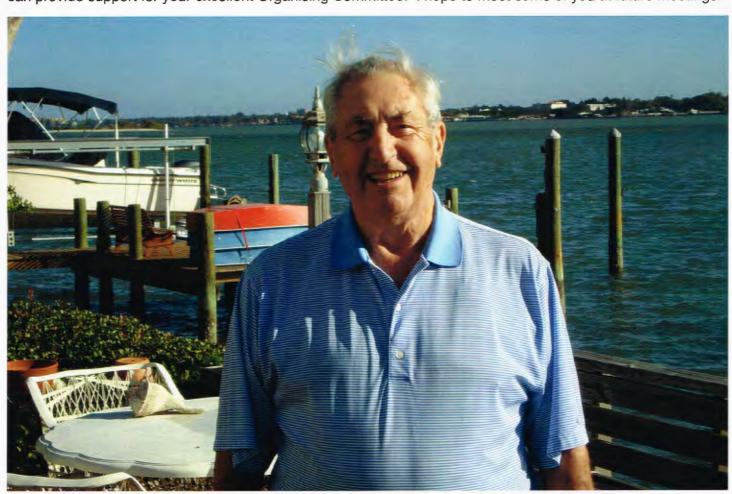
NEWSLETTER OF THE NCR RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

No 45 Winter 2011/12



REX FLEET TO BE OUR NEW PRESIDENT

"It gives me great pleasure to accept the role of President of the NCR Retirement Fellowship and I hope that I can provide support for your excellent Organising Committee. I hope to meet some of you at future meetings."



From our new President's past:

R. M. Fleet Appointed in Trinidad

The appointment of R. M. Fleet as General Manager for R. J. Shannon & Company (Trinidad) Ltd., NCR General Sales Agent in Trinidad, has been announced.

Mr. Fleet joined NCR Great Britain in 1951 and served in London and in Leeds until 1956. In April, 1956, Mr. Fleet moved to Jamaica as an NCR Accounting Machine Sales Representative. He was appointed Accounting Machine Manager for NCR Jamaica in 1961. In 1963 he became a Director of NCR Jamaica.

Mr. Fleet has ten CPC memberships to his credit.



R. M. Fleet



Launch of the 60ft trimaran 'NCR' by the Duchess of Kent and Chay Blythe at the Royal Southern Yacht Club Hamble on May 23rd 1988.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Region 6 - Alan Hutchins

Region 6 held its annual lunch on 5th October at the Tudorclose, Ferring, West Sussex. This is the same venue as was used last year and, despite the fact that the restaurant has changed hands twice since our last visit, an excellent meal was still to be had at a reasonable price.

Eighteen sat down to enjoy a three course lunch combined with lots of chat with old friends. Frank Stirner and his wife Angela came, the first time we have seen them since the forming of the new fellowship. It was good to see them again. Unfortunately they left before we had a group picture. Frank Robinson and Jim Lawton were unable to attend due to illness, we wish them a speedy recovery and hope to see them both next year.







Region 7 - John Jones

The Report on this year's June get together for Region 7 has been written twice. The first report was written before the actual event so as to beat the Postscript deadline, but it missed that, so all the future tense has had to be replaced. It is now October we are looking forward to our next gettogether and I'm writing this partly from memory and correcting what was written in the future tense. Our June meeting was not as successful as the one last November, but was definitely better than the one last June.

Of the 29 invitations sent out only 3 failed to reply by some means or other and of a further 6 sent out by email only two failed to respond.

But for various reasons only 17 people were able to attend. Holidays, health and travel problems coupled with family commitments are the main reasons for being unable to attend.

Bob Kirkham, Vasso Nicolaides, Ian Ormerod and Peter Roderick failed to reply although there may be problems with my Email..

Keith Ponting, Bill Hudson, Graham Watt, Annie Cunningham (Weekes) were holidaying. Maurice Chivers was returning from the Le Mans 24 Hour (a sort of Holiday). Alan Wall, Geoff Batcup, Maurice Davis and Dorothy Davies had transport problems that we were unable to resolve.

Paul Bryant had to <u>work</u> as did Mary Leader, something that is a distant memory to most of us.

Of the Welsh contingent Wayne Edmond, Ken and Molly Bloxham and Dickie and Rita Keitch charged over the Bridge, But Johnny Watts, Dave Calford failed to make it at the last moment and unfortunately Elwyn Davies had to take his wife to a hospital appointment.

The regulars Dave and Jean Jones, Maurice and Pat Keene, Roy Back, Jim Kembery and Fred Macey, were joined by joined by Lin Sandell and Jessie Wallace both tasting the delights of a Region Seven Get-Together for the first time.

Peter Bodley, Betty Vickery, Geoff Jackson and Dave and Janice Robinson all had other appointments and Keith Middleton was in Wimbledon watching his Grandchildren not the Tennis.

Chris Mumford promised to join us and actually found the place this time (Well done Chris) with myself this would have brought the total to 16.but a surprise visit by none other than **Bill Park**, who doesn't usually feel well enough to attend brought the total up to a respectable 17.



Standing – Ken Bloxham, Dickie Keitch, Wayne Edmond. Roy Back, Lin Sandel, Maurice Keene, Chris Mumford, Fred Macey, John Jones

Seated – Bill Park, Jessie Wallace, Molly Bloxham, Rita Keitch, Jim Kembery, Jean Jones , Pat Keene. Photographer David Jones

As usual we all had a good time, a good natter and we were able to organise a group photo without it looking like a herd of stampeding buffalo.

In conclusion I'd like to thank all who attend and in future I will try to arrange the "Spring" meeting a little earlier in the year.

Region 8 - Richard Craigie

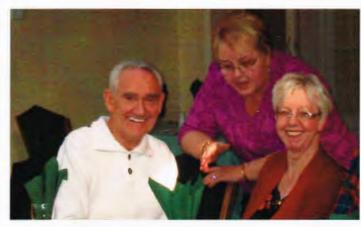
Region 8 joined together again at The Rosery for the October lunch, there were 27 of us and we enjoyed a nice meal. Several of our regulars were missing due to other commitments or family reasons including **Brian Bourdon** but that was my fault. We welcomed **Lin Sandell** and **John Atkins** and it was good to see **Dennis** and **Hazel Gill** back courtesy of a close friend. We had a small Christmas raffle just for a bit of fun.

Lin gave us a talk on the state of the Fellowship and told us about the new Vice President NCR Western Europe based at HO UK, **Ben Gale. Dennis Peace** also gave us an update regarding the Pension Fund.

Our next lunch will again be held at The Rosery on Thursday 19th April 2012.







Region 8



Region 9 - Jessie Wallace

Our annual lunch was held on Monday 7th November at The Swan's Nest, Exminster, a new venue for us. 21 members chose from a varied menu and the fare was enjoyed by all. Unfortunately 7 of our members were unable to come due to a variety of reasons but, in the case of those who were poorly we wish a speedy recovery.

This year we welcomed as our guest, **Ian Ormerod.** Ian is our Fellowship Historian and, after lunch gave us an insight into his work with many examples to illustrate it. He also told us about his recent trip to Dayton to attend a Homecoming Reception organised by the parent company's Retirement Association. Many thanks to Ian for making the journey South West and for giving us such an interesting talk.

After lunch I gave a brief update on Pension Matters and other Fellowship news.

May I wish all members and their families a happy Christmas and best wishes for 2012. - Jessie.



Region 9







Region 10 - Ken Carson

In this issue of Postscript, Region 10 has two functions upon which to report. The first being our maiden summer gathering on Friday 10th June, at the Dirty Duck Ale House and Restaurant, situated on the Esplanade at Holywood Co. Down (Rory McIlroy's patch). The upstairs restaurant has panoramic windows with a captivating view right up Belfast Lough outward toward the Irish Sea and we had claimed the long table with prime scenic positioning. We were all delighted in being part of one of our best attended events for a number of years, which encouraged many trains of reminiscence over lunch and beyond, into the later afternoon.

On this occasion we were pleased to be joined for the first time and hopefully not the last by **Alex Hogg** and **Hilary Fraser** who, although ex-NCR employees in their own right, were treated respectively to lunch by David and Bob, in acts of dutiful husbandry.



View from the Dirty Duck Alehouse

Having set the standard in terms of venue and the numbers attending this get-together, it was decided that we should fix the day for future summer events for the second Friday in June each year, (8th June 2012), although as usual, reminders with precise details will be issued closer to the time.

Friday 21st October was the date of our main annual lunch at the Ginger Bistro in Hope Street Belfast, where we were once again treated to the very best of local cuisine. Indeed one participant, who was in full flight of conversation when he should have been reading, almost missed his favourite Strangford Lough Mussels starter, but recovered the situation by ordering them as desert instead!



Due to illness, impairment and other family commitments our numbers on this occasion were down a little, but the same spirit of NCR camaraderie pervaded the afternoon, with tales and anecdotes of joint experiences making the time spent together vanish imperceptibly, setting us up nicely for the next time around. With this in mind Region 10 colleagues should once more diary the third Friday each October (19th Oct 2012), for our autumn main annual lunch.

Finally through Postscript, on behalf of everyone in Region 10, I would like to send **Bob** and **Hilary Fraser** our sincerest best wishes, as they relocate to Scotland to be closer to their family and hope that you will keep the above timing of our lunches in mind when planning your visits back home.

"Cliff' 1925 - 2011 Culmer Leslie Cockrill Obituary to a Gentleman

On leaving school in 1942 Cliff wanted to fly but was deferred due to his age. Later after filling time working for a bank, he achieved his aim and joined the Fleet Air Arm. Initial training on Tiger Moths in the UK, Harvards in the 'States led to operational flying of Swordfish off converted Banana boats, fast but small, hunting U-boats in the North Atlantic. Aircrews were lost at the rate of some 70%, literally just disappearing.

Postwar it was back into banking whilst deciding what career to follow. During this time he married Joan who had been a cine-gun assessor on the same shore base. Over time a son and daughter arnived. Cliff was an avid sports fan playing football for Royston, golf and tennis. Cliff trained as a tennis coach and later he and Joan became a formidable tennis doubles duo. They captained several tennis clubs including Brookmans Park and Potters Bar. Cliff had a fine voice and sang in several church choirs.

I first met Cliff in 1960 when he and I joined John Shermans Local Govt and Public Utilities district. I was a humble district assistant ("gofer") whilst Cliff was a highly successful salesperson. His best year saw Cliff winning the Chairmans Award with 600plus % of quota.

Cliff moved into computer sales selling the 803. Remember – MAGNETIC FILM reel to reel storage and a staggering 4k of 24 bit memory! Later Cliff moved into sales training at Sheldon where he and I first started playing tennis.

Jack Dunkley (internal Organisation and Methods AND an Ace programmer) joined forces with Cliff when they both left NCR to set up a consultancy company. Between them they computerized The Ancient Order of Foresters with some 45 sites spread all over the UK.



Picture shows Cliff and Leon Vincent (right) former head of the International Office with Cliff obviously making a serious point!

The last 2 or 3 years Cliff suffered from a creeping Alzheimers' like illness which slowly sapped his ability to sing or play tennis. Cliff however continued to act as Umpire or Line Judge at the Lawn Tennis Associations satellite site of Queenswood which hosts many international events.

Cliff died some four months short of his 87th birthday. He leaves a wife, 2 children, 3 grand children and 1 great grandchild. I can't help feeling that "the man upstairs" will be hearing Cliff's strongly held opinions. R.I.P.

John Munday

OBITUARIES

We extend our sympathy to the families of the following employees:

Mr	RRO	Crapper	22/07/11	Region 5
Mr	JR	Moody	09/10/11	Region 2E
Mr	CE	Payne	16/07/11	Region 4
Mrs	L	Welham	18/11/11	Region 4
Also:				
Mr	CL	Cockrill	03/10/11	
Mr	T	Courtney	21/07/11	
Mrs	MM	Frost	02/10/11	
Mrs	AA	Heelas	27/04/11	
Mr	LH	Hill	07/05/11	
Mrs	JR	Hunter	11/04/11	
Mr	RFR	Jarman	25/10/11	
Mr	SBA	Kadiri	24/06/11	
Mr	Α	Knagg	04/09/11	
Mr	JR	Lockett	02/05/11	
Mr	MAE	Lovering	10/10/11	
Mrs	E	Pritchard	15/05/11	
Mr	MD	Turner	10/08/11	
Mr	RG	Wadsworth	31/07/11	
Mrs	DM	Wakelin	10/09/11	
Mr	L	Walsh	27/10/11	
Mrs	CV	Wells	10/06/11	
Mr	EW	Withey	05/08/11	
Mr	E	Wright	21/04/11	

Note: Several members have, not unreasonably, requested that the names appearing in this column should be preceded by a first name. Whilst in total agreement with this request, it must be pointed out that Personal Resources no longer hold these records. The only source is Mercers who would supply this information for a fee. The amount demanded is such that PostScript is unable to justify spending our limited budget on it. Sorry!

A STRANGE TALE OF AN NCR BRASS CASH REGISTER

My name is David Evans, I worked for N.C.R. from 1962 to 1980 mainly from Brent Service Depot on Cash Registers. In 1980 I went into partnership with another ex member of N.C.R. Glenn Carter, we called ourselves "Cash Register Services London".

In 1983 we had a phone call from the West End in Hallam Street, just behind the BBC in Portland Place, from a Land Agents asking if we could renovate a large brass NCR cash register.

We called to inspect it and found it was a six drawer 400 series as shown on the photo. We agreed on an estimate and then had to remove this very large cash register from the second floor. The lift was very small and could only take the till and one person standing astride it to work the lift.

You see the photos of before and after and will notice that one of the drawer fronts is missing, plus another drawer will not shut, also there are mechanical problems with the cash register.

The biggest headache was replacing the missing drawer front and some damage to the wooden casing of the drawers. We knew a very good carpenter who took the drawer base away and matched up a suitable likeness and dovetailed the joint. The 5 remaining drawers all had a brass letter of the alphabet to correspond to the clerk using the till. This meant I had to find a piece of brass sheeting of the same thickness to cut the letter "A"from. If you look carefully at the clerks key bank on the photo the 6 clerk initial keys read A B D E H K. NCR never used C. F. I. or J, the reason being the print wheels on the ticket and detail rolls could clog up and not show the right I.D. of the clerk.

We then returned the cash register in pristine condition with all features working, but had the same trouble getting up to the second floor, as they wanted to have it in the office as a piece of furniture for a conversation piece!

You may say so what! What's all this to do with the price of tea! (It was an old Liptons till).

Chapter Two. About 12 years later the owners decided to



Before

close the business and approached N.C.R. and asked if they would like to buy the cash register for their museum. N.C.R. declined. However, 'Eagle Eye or Ear' Ian Ormerod (more below) stepped in and purchased it to add to his collection, which at this moment in time is on show in a welsh museum, as he can't get it under his bed!

Chapter Three Early in 2009 I was speaking to Norman Bowen my ex boss from Brent who told me that Ian had a collection of old tills. So I contacted Ian who I had never met before to ask him if he could spare some time for me to film part of his collection of cash registers as I was making a film about various trades and I wanted to do a short film on cash registers ." How long? "asked Ian. "About 15 minutes." I replied. "Oh no" he said" you would not cover the subject in that time, and you are just the man I want to make a film about cash registers and N.C.R". Having met up with him a couple of times and filmed some of his historic tills, and talked about old times at N.C.R. and decimalization. I just happened to mention this particular 6 drawer brass till that I had renovated, and showed him the picture.

"Well I am the now the proud owner of that" said Ian

The reason for me telling this tale is because I am an amateur film maker of over 50 years and had some of my clips on BBC 2. last year. Over the years I have made about 100 films. mainly, historic social history events, interesting shops closing down,' Traditions in the City of London,' A Birds eye View of The City Livery Companies, and various other trades including cash registers.

With lan's aid we hope to make a film next year all about the beginning of cash registers and how they progressed. My phone number is 01392 204734 for more information.

David Evans



After

THE LONDON LUNCH 2011



UP, UP and AWAY!

Having taken early retirement, and having time on my hands, I was asked by my son in law if I could help him with hot air balloon recovery for his friend Paul when he was unable to do so. With the promise of free trips I agreed, so I thought I would write down a few facts for anybody who is contemplating a flight.

Paul, was the owner and pilot, they are called pilots as they have to obtain their private balloon pilots licence and then a commercial pilots licence, as the sport is governed by the Civil Aviation Authority. He has a 2 person balloon for those special occasion trips like anniversary and engagements, a 6 person balloon and had just purchased a large balloon with a 12 person basket. This large balloon is 110 feet high, holds 240.000 cu feet of hot air and has 2 burners that put out 20 million BTUs. that could get it up to about 20,000 feet, (you would probably freeze to death though).



Canterbury Launch site



When you book a flight, you cannot ask for a certain day as flights depend on the weather and wind, but you can opt for a morning or evening flight as that is when the weather is calmer and cooler, as it means that the air in the balloon does not need to be heated as much to give the same lift as it would in the middle of the day. The pilot checks with the local weather stations daily in advance and will then phone you up to ask you to get to a certain location and time. As he is based on Romney marsh in Kent, Paul has several take off points around the county to use, such as a vineyard, sports fields, private aerodrome and car parks depending on the wind direction and expected air temperature. At the take off ground the pilot will release a helium balloon to check the wind speed and direction at height, wind speed at ground level needs to be below 8 knots. You may be asked to help pull the balloon envelope out from the trailer and along the ground, and help



Inflating large envelope

lift the burner on to the basket. The envelope is made of flameproof Ripstop nylon and fairly tough, but even so the balloon has to have an MOT Certificate of Airworthiness done every 12 months. A petrol driven fan is used to blow air into the envelope which enable us to get inside to reconnect the "parachute" that is attached by velcro to cover the large hot air release hole in the top of the envelope. All the guys and ropes are then brought back and connected to the basket, it is called a basket because it is a woven wickerwork basket which has been found to be best as it absorbs the shocks and bumps when landing and will not break. The basket will be tethered to the recovery vehicle and laid on its side and a couple of passengers may be asked to lay in it to help stop it moving as the burners are fired up to heat the air in the envelope. As the air heats up the envelope will rise up and stand the basket up when the rest of the passengers will climb into the basket which is partitioned like a milk crate, as the air is heated further the tether is released and the balloon will rise steadily like a lift although there is no sensation of movement, the ground just drops away from underneath you.

Once airborne the pilot has to find an air current to move sideways, I remember once seeing a balloon rise up to a couple of thousand feet into a temperature inversion and then just remain stationary for about 15 minutes , we released a helium balloon and Paul could then see that there was a moving current of air below him so turned off the burner to sink and found the air current and started moving again.

A flight lasts about an hour, and you could travel 2 to 10 miles so the pilot has a large O/S map board with all the banned or sensitive areas marked off where it is forbidden to land, or go below a certain height, usually 500 feet. Pigs for instance can hear the burners but cannot look up, and tend to panic as do racehorses, and cows. Turkey and our local Ostrich farms also have to be avoided. The larger Basket has two burners one of which is called a "cow" burner as it does not make so much noise but obviously does not give as much heat and lift. The height over towns should be at least 5500 feet, so you have then to be aware of light aircraft flight paths.

The digital age has really helped with ballooning as Paul has an altimeter and compass and a GPS system so he can tell the recovery team exactly where he is, he also has a digital

camera hanging from the rigging so that he can take remote photos of the passengers, and after landing he can type up and print out flight certificates on his laptop and printer with an accompanying photograph straight away.

As the pilot looks for a suitable landing place, he has to be aware of power and railway lines, he may have places to aim for where he has landed before, as it is possible to steer the balloon to a certain extent by releasing air from a side flap.

As the balloon descends the last few feet he will ask his passengers to brace themselves and bend their knees. If you are lucky and it is calm you will land upright, but he will keep the balloon inflated in case the recovery vehicle cannot reach him and it is necessary to take off again. If access is ok he will turn off the burner and pull away the parachute to release the hot air and deflate the envelope.

The recovery team will try and find the owner of the land to get permission to drive on it to recover the balloon . In the earlier days a bottle of whisky was usually enough to thank the farmer or landowner but they have now learnt to ask for a higher fee.



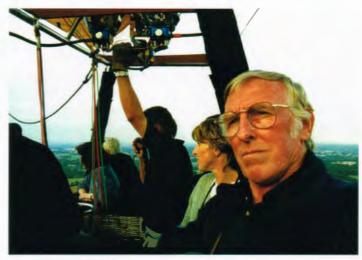
Canterbury Cathedral

I remember a wooded valley near Bodiam where Paul had landed the smaller balloon and kept it inflated. After enquiring I found that the owners of the land were in Spain and as the gate was padlocked, just by keeping the balloon airborne we were able to walk the basket up the side of the valley as near to the gate and tree line as we could get, after deflating and unloading the basket of the gas bottles we were able to manhandle the basket over the gate and on to the trailer.

After loading the balloon back on to the trailer, and the passengers have had their complementary drinks we would drive the passengers back to their cars at the launch site. You can get a good idea of what a flight will look like by using Google Earth, but it is just not the same, you can't believe the quietness when you can hear dogs barking and children way below you, and have the warmth from the burners above, the long shadows accentuate the bumps and hollows in the land below you.

If you ever do get a chance for a balloon flight I don't think you will regret it, and don't forget to take a camera.

Unfortunately all the above article took place before the outbreak of Foot and Mouth 10 years ago, that put paid



Myself in balloon

to any ballooning for a couple of years and Paul sold his business on to one of his pilots Matt who now has his own retrieval team.

This year Matt took part in a cross channel race to France.

Derek Seamon



See the front page



Even the local Mafia attended the London Lunch!

A MILITARY MISCELLANY

During the again very successful Region 4 October Lunch at the Corus Hotel, Lancaster Gate, our hard working PostScript editor Geoff asked if I could do a piece for the forthcoming edition of our magazine. I thought very carefully about this having agreed, and decided to put together something a bit different - so here we go!

Here in Colchester we have enjoyed a military presence since the 1st Century BC, we lay in what was then territory of the Trinovantes tribe.



During that period in Britain's history the Island was settled by the Belgae, Celts from the continent, and Colchester, situated as it is on a steep plateau overlooking the navigable part of the river Colne, proved to be a strategic position, and the town was fortified with earthworks and anti-chariot dykes.

During the various inter-tribal conflicts a certain Manubracius fled to Gaul and appeared to have persuaded Julius Csesar to return to the Islands again in 54BC (he was here for a look the previous year you will recall) whereupon he defeated the local tribes and then retired to Gaul again. Following this, the Catuvellaunian King Cunobelin took the opportunity to occupy the town and re-fortified it for defence.



For something like 90 years the Romans took little interest in our islands although our trade with the continent blossomed. Until in 43AD the Roman General Aulus Plautius led a full invasion of the country and by AD 49 this town in Britannia, then known as Camulodunum, became the base for the XXth Legion. During this period the Roman Emperor himself accompanied the army to Britain and visited the town. In his honour a remarkable Temple was constructed, because as you know, Claudius was a god.

Everyone of course knows about Queen Boudicca, she wasn't an 'Essex girl' being from the Iceni tribe located in what is now Norfolk. However she appears to have formed a coalition of the local tribes, including the Catuvellauni from the Kent and South Essex areas, and in 60AD rampaged around the local country attacked Colchester and London, burnt them down, and in so doing destroyed the aforesaid Claudian Temple and routed the IXth Legion then in residence.

After this defeat an extensive wall was built to surround the town, much of which still stands today, and a new port developed down river. Boudicca and her tribal confederation was eventually defeated in battle around what is now the Essex/Herts border area. The Roman occupation of the town cemented it's position as a major military garrison.

Little is recorded of the Saxon occupation which replaced that of Rome when the Roman military and administrative presence withdrew in the 4th/5th Century AD, except that the name Colcaester appears. However, following the conquest of the country by the Normans, a large Keep was constructed in around 1080 on the site of the Temple, using materials from both it and the wall. Leap forward a bit and in the 14th century the castle as we now know it was used to house French prisoners of war.

During the English civil war, in 1648, the town had been further fortified and when Royalist forces occupied the town it was besieged by Fairfax and his Parliamentarian army. It surrendered after 11 weeks from starvation and the bombardment by Parliament's artillery which was located on the high ground - where the University now stands.

The town as a military centre really took off in 1740 George II period, when a large force was in camp - bivouacked in the surrounding countryside - prior to service on the Continent. However, the building of permanent barracks specifically for infantry and cavalry was not started until later and the 11th Regiment of Foot arrived in 1796, and the 20th Foot in 1799.

Since that time many regiments including the Royal Artillery have been stationed here and the extensive Garrison was expanded throughout the 19th and 20th century.

Today new barrack accommodation houses 16 Air Assault Brigade with it's HQ and battalions of the Parachute Regiment, Royal Logistics Corps and Royal Artillery elements. The Brigade enjoys the Freedom of the Town and exercises it on regular occasions between extensive overseas commitments.





Indeed, when the Brigade is 'in house' the Garrison organises an annual Military Festival, a pageant of formal and informal displays on the extensive Abbey Fields, the Colchester equivalent of the 'Campus Martius' or 'Champ de Mars'- an area historically used for manoeuvres and parade purposes, since Victorian times.



The festival comprises many Arena activity and musical events but also re-enactment groups set-up camp viz. the American Civil War, the English Civil War, the Roman and even ancient Greek periods, you can roam around their encampments , view their daily routines, and watch them practice their martial skills. The public response to this regular 2-day event is very enthusiastic as it is to having the large formation of 16 Air Assault in the town. The festival includes the Army Air Corps from nearby Wattisham Airfield, who bring along their Longbow Apache and Lynx helicopters, the Royal Artillery with their various guns and the heavy transport of the Royal Logistics Corps.



They say that 'once a Para, always a Para' and this is evident by the many past 'Red Berets' of the Regiment's Association who turn-out to support their young successors currently based here. Their Colonel-in-Chief, the Prince of Wales, was here in their new barracks again this Summer to present campaign medals to the Regiment who returned from another of their many tours of Afghanistan. The photo of this event shown here is re-produced by kind permission of Media Ops RLC, 16 Air Assault Brigade, Merville Barracks. Colchester, and appeared in the Sept issue of 'Soldier' magazine.



I hope that you have found this contribution to PostScript interesting and will I trust see all of the Region 4 members again for Lunch next year.

With Best Wishes. Keep Well! Bryan Turner October 2011.

Mike Hughes, who regularly regales us with his very readable fiction has supplied us this time with a tale from the past which he is offering in two parts, the finale to be reached in the next issue of Postscript. Now read on ...

The Crown

June 1135 in Buxton

William le Gros leaned back in his chair. He had taken over the inn at Buxton for him and his court, so he could bathe in the healing waters of the spa before going to York to face the Scottish invaders.

"Damn these Scots. Why do they have to try and invade us? I'd just got my life settled and was about to enjoy it."

On the other side of the table, Henry de Bruinne, William's friend and confidante stirred.

"If the King hadn't asked you to send them back to Scotland, you could have relaxed. Anyway, with the army you have, the fight with the Scots won't take too much of your time" William shook the wine jug, it was empty. "More wine", he shouted. A pretty serving maid came into the room bearing a new jug and put it down on the table. William reached behind her and caressed her bottom. She moved closer to him and seemed to enjoy his touch.

"She's a nice bit. She helped me to enjoy the water at the spa this morning." He turned to the girl, "I'm going to bed soon so you can warm my bed for me." and she went out of the room, smiling in anticipation.

"Henry, you could do me a great favour if you would. I can't wear my crown under my helm when I'm fighting, so I want you to take it to Scarborough and give it to my wife for safekeeping. I've got a dozen ancient gold coins for you to take as well and some messages to go with them. Will you do that?"

"Certainly, I will, but don't you want my sword to help you to defeat the Scots?"

"No, it is much more important for you to do this for me. I'd like you to go early tomorrow and take your son, Richard with you. He's going to be a great soldier when he grows some more. You can take one of the men to go with you as an escort."

With that, William tossed a leather bag of gold coins onto the table, and reaching down, produced a wooden box containing his golden Earl's crown and a bundle of papers.

The next morning, there was no sign of William. Henry imagined that he was still having his bed warmed by the serving maid. He knew that the Earl had to be in York within a week in order to organise his army for the forthcoming battle with the Scots invaders. If his army defeated the Scots and they lost enough kilted men, they would be forced to withdraw and even retire to the other side of Hadrian's Wall.

Henry and the escort strapped on their swords, and with Richard, his son, mounted their horses and set off aiming to be in Danvm, called Doncaster by the Roman invaders, by afternoon. In order to make the journey easier on the horses, they carried no armour or chain mail but had their defensive weapons with them. The crown, the papers and the gold

coins were in place in his saddlebag together covered with his clothing and a spare dagger.

They took the Roman road as far as Navio, sometimes called Brough, and then followed the path as far as Templeborough. For safety's sake they gave Conisborough Castle a wide berth and then arrived at an inn near to Doncaster. They rested their horses and went inside for a meal. Refreshed, they collected the horses and moved on past Doncaster. They followed a path through a forest and came to three shepherds bothies. The way ahead seemed to be blocked by a Scots raiding party in search of loot. They realised that they would come face-to-face with the Scots and they had no option but to fight their way out of danger. They were outnumbered by at least four to one and the future seemed dim.

Henry's son at twelve had no sword, was not able to fight, so Henry took the crown in its box together with the papers and the bag of coins out of his saddlebag and gave them to Richard. He also gave him a bag of his own coin so he could pay his way.

"Hide the Earls things in one of the cottages and go as fast as you can. We'll fight them off."

"I can't leave you."

"Yes you can, you must. Someone has to know where the crown is and you hid them so only you can find them. Go now and tell your mother I love her. Go as far as the Humber ford at Whitton and wait for me there. If I don't appear, go on without me, cross on the ford and carry on to Scarborough." He hugged his son and kissed his cheek. Then told him to go and turned to fight the Scots.

Richard took the crown and couins and hid them in the thatched roof of the third cottage. Then he rode his horse away with tears streaming down his face. He knew that it was unlikely that he would ever see his father again.

Henry and his escort drew their swords and prepared to do battle with the marauders. They managed to kill three of the Scots before the escort was stabbed through the heart. One of the Scots crept behind Henry and stabbed him in the side. He fell and was killed by the Scots leader.

Their bodies were tipped into the first cottage with the Scots dead. The thatched roof was set on fire and swiftly consumed the bodies. The fire spread to the second roof but as it did so, the heavens opened up and the sudden downpour put the fire out, leaving it smouldering. The Scots picked up Henry's sword and their belongings and went on their way north of Doncaster, to find more spoil.

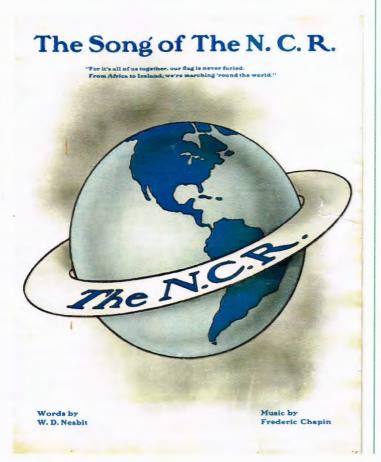
After a few days journey, Richard arrived at Whitton and settled down to await his father. After two days, he knew that Henry had probably been killed in the fight with the Scots. His father was an expert swordsman but with so many Scots, he had little chance.

Once in the wood on the bank of the River Humber, he gathered as much dry wood and kindling as he could and lit a fire with his tinder box to warm himself and attempt to dry his clothes. The rain had been falling steadily all day and he was soaked to the skin and the ride had tired him. Fortunately, it was not particularly cold but both he and his horse were shivering. He found a less wet place in the woods and attempted to sleep. At dawn, he woke and packed his saddlebag and was about to cross the Humber on his way to Scarborough. He found the papers that the Earl had given his father. They had got wet and the ink had started to run. He should have hidden them in the thatch with the other things but was in too much of a hurry. He put them safely in his saddlebag and set off to find the ford to take him to Boothferry on the other bank. The clouds had all blown away in the night and the sun was going to shine. There was no sign of either his father or the escort so he decided to cross the ford. The river was high because of all the rain and he realised that it was deeper than he could walk. He slipped off the horse and clutching the reins, started to walk the animal into the water. After a little way, the water became too deep for him to walk so he had to swim.

They had gone a few yards more when the force of the current swept them off their feet. The horse whinnied in fright as they were carried out to sea.

His last thoughts were of the crown he had hidden and the papers in his saddlebag.

(To be continued in our next edition)



The N.C.R. Song

Words by W. D. Nesbit
Music by Frederic Chapin
Copyright 1906 by The National Cash Register Co.
Tempo di Marcia

All round and round and round the world there sounds a silver bell Wherever on the land or sea the folks have things to sell; It rings on the equator and its echoes rise and roll Across the silent plains of snow that lie about the pole. It rings beneath the Southern Cross, beneath the polar star Does the jingle, jingle of the N.C.R.

Chorus

For it's all of us together, our flag is never furled. From Africa to Iceland, we're marching 'round the world. Success is on our banner, we're heard both near and far, With the jingle, jingle, jingle of the N.C.R.

It rings where northern breezes toss the branches of the pine, It sounds throughout the golden west in mill and mart and mine; It jingles in the sunny south of cotton, cane and palm, It gives unto the cultured east a more contented calm There's never any discord, any sounds that harshly jar In the jingle, jingle, jingle of the N.C.R.

The Russian hails with joyous voice the great machine that thinks, The Frenchman sings the praises of the wheel that counts the clinks.

The Hindu at the temple gates, the Arab on the sands, The Eskimo and Hottentot greet it with eager hands, On camel back, in burro pack, in stately ship, and car, We are going, going, going with the N.C.R.

Our President! Here's to him! He is with us hand and heart, No matter what the task may be he always does his part. His welfare plans have flowered in a thousand varied ways, May his good deeds come back to him through all the coming

So, here's to him! He always rates a whole lot over par, The man behind the men behind the N.C.R.

So whether we go far and wide across the briny foam,
No matter when or where or how we find that we must roam.
We learn that each depends on each, that one must work for all,
And all in turn must work for one, together stand or fall.
And that is why in all the world, in countries near and far
Sounds the jingle, jingle, jingle of the N.C.R.

And here's a health to (+......) he's the man who boosts the sales.

The man who shows the laggards it's no use to hide their trails; He talks the N.C.R. wherever he may chance to be And all the other fellows soon are talking in his key. The clock that every morning from his dreams gives him a jar Has the jingle, jingle, jingle of the N.C.R.

+ Here insert name of any N.C.R. official desired.

WORKAID

When I look around the tables at the Fellowship Lunches I realise that I am in the company of a lot of practical people. Over a lifetime, many of you will have accumulated a considerable collection of tools to perform the multitude of everyday tasks. Let me pose a question: What happens to these tools when the inevitable occurs? You can't take them with you! Your children will have built up their own sets. Only too frequently, they will be left to rust and rot in a garage or garden shed until they are only fit for landfill.

There is a way of avoiding this waste. A charity, Workaid, collects unwanted tools, sewing machines, typewriters and knitting machines, refurbishes them and ships them out to East Africa to help the poor back to self sufficiency. With the help of partners in the country, the emphasis is on supplying equipment to training schemes so that the needy are taught a skill and then given the tools to be able to use that skill to support themselves and their families.

Workaid has its roots in an ecumenical house group in Amersham that wanted to do something positive and practical to help the 3rd World. The original workshop was a shed on the site of an engineering works. It then progressed to a bigger shed next to a local church before moving to a modern industrial unit kindly lent, rent free, by Amersham International. After a number of years. Amersham International was absorbed into GE Healthcare. GE Healthcare continued the arrangement. All good things come to an end eventually and, after 18 years of occupation, GE decided not to renew the leases on the block of units and Workaid was in grave danger of being homeless. After much searching, a disused boot factory was found in Chesham. An appeal was made and finance arranged to purchase the site. There was then the mammoth task of clearing the undergrowth and sorting up the building. December 2008, after 3 months of effort by volunteers and contractors, shifts started on the new site.



Frank Cunningham is one of the longest serving volunteers. He joined Workaid on his retirement from NCR in 1988 and started the Thursday morning shift in the shed at Amersham Free Church. These days Frank looks after the socket sets and has his own corner in the new workshop. I have been involved with Workaid for a similar length of time. I was a friend of the then chairman so I knew about Workaid and, when I mentioned it to my mother, she took it upon herself to organise the collection of tools in the Swanage area.

When I retired and returned from France, I was able to take a more active part. Originally I helped in servicing sewing machines but when the treasurer became ill, I took over the book-keeping on the computer which I still do.

Workaid has around 170 volunteers working in shifts in the workshop and the office. There is a network of 90 Area Organisers around the country who co-ordinate the local collection of tools. A team of drivers use the Workaid vans to bring these donations back to Chesham. In a year, we would expect to ship in the region of six 20 foot containers to East Africa, namely to Kenya, Uganda and Zambia.



Rodger Main and Frank Cunningham

If reading this you consider Workaid to be a worthy cause there are a number of ways in which you can help.

- Give us your unwanted tools We make up tool kits for carpentry, construction, horticulture, vehicle maintenance, welding, electrical, leather work and plumbing. We also ship electric sewing machines, Singer hand sewing machines, typewriters and knitting machines.
- Attach a note to your will requesting your executors to send your tools to Workaid after friends and family have had first refusal. This does not need to be a formal part of the will, just a request so your executors are aware of your wishes.
- If you live within easy reach of Chesham, volunteer to do a morning or afternoon shift in the workshop or office.
- Workaid is a charity with no endowed income so, especially in the current climate, is always in need of funds. It costs in the region of £8000 to ship a 20 foot container to East Africa at present. Also, now Workaid has a permanent home at the Old Boot Factory, there is a mortgage that needs to be paid off. The most efficient method of donation is to make a Gift Aid declaration which enables us to recover the tax you have already paid.
- Finally, there is a lot more information on the website: www.workaid.org The contact details are:-

Workaid, The Old Boot Factory, 71 Townsend Road Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 2AA Tel:01494 775220 E-mail: admin@workaid.org

Rodger Main

Note: I have attached a copy of this article to my will. Ed

AROUND THE PROVINCES

By ALAN BOWLEY

My last visits in 1950 were to Cambridge, Maidstone and Nottingham. The year had proved to be another milestone in NCR's progress. The British Company clocked up sales of over £5 million (a vast amount in today's money). Dundee factory's production had leapt from just over 19,000 in 1949 to 26,000 with a total value of over £3 million. Eleven thousand machines had been exported including, for the first time, a big order for 100 Class registers from the USA.

CAMBRIDGE



King's College Chapel, seen from the Backs

My first visit to Cambridge was published in June. Having had a brief visit to the great and glorious Kings College Chapel, I found the NCR office where I was greeted by TED SOUTAR, the local Retail Sales Representative who also covered Peterborough. Ted had joined the Company in Dundee in 1933 as an assistant salesman. His earlier ambition of going into the jute industry (in those days Dundee was known as the city of jam, jute and journalism) didn't materialise and instead he had worked in a bank in Montreal. In 1940 he went into the RAF and after war service rejoined NCR in 1945 when he went on to achieve CPC Honours each year in the north and Midlands before coming to Cambridge where he repeated his success.



Representative Edward Sotar - Model-aircarft maker and angler

The Cambridge Service Depot was managed by BERT 'SCUTT' Cole, the brother of Bristol's Depot Manager, NORMAN COLE. Bert joined the RAF in 1928 and trained as an air-gunner. In 1936 he became an 'Outside Mechanic' for NCR but rejoined the RAF at the outbreak of war. He remained grounded, however, owing to a skull fracture and spent the war in one of the Cambridge University Colleges.



Mechanic Dennis Cash – an active member of the R.A.F.V.R.

BERT had been joined by DENNIS CASH who had flown for the RAF in the Middle and Far East during the war. He had joined NCR in Cambridge as the Office Clerk in 1940 and after RAF service had trained on cash registers and 3000 Class machines in London. (See letter at end of this article).

Office Clerk Joyce Keen – shorthand teacher and table tennis expert.



The Cambridge staff was completed by the Office clerk JOYCE KEENE who had previously been working in the University Zoological Library. Joyce was an active member of the YWCA and represented her county in amateur table tennis.

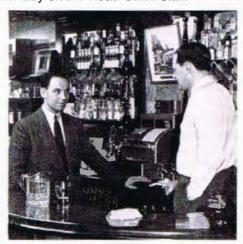
MAIDSTONE



River Medway, Maidstone.

I don't know whether there is still a market in Maidstone but when I went there in late 1950, I wrote: "This market is a town within a town with a maze of 'streets' through the stalls and cattle pens where the country folk buy and sell their produce — from bullocks to a second hand car or a broody hen to a fine piece of pottery!"

The small NCR office was in Mill Street, with a very effective Class 100 display in the windows. Its staff had a host of stories to be told. The Retail Sales Representative was BERT BROCKINGTON who was as handy with a mechanic's screwdriver as with his sales portfolio. From 1940 he had been employed on a variety of jobs in the Harrow Road factory and was a maintenance engineer there before going into the Retail Sales School in May 1948. Only a few weeks later he was out on territory in Maidstone and in that year he achieved his first honorary CPC membership at the age of 23, the youngest salesman in the country. When I met him he had been married only a few months to JOYCE GARDNER a well-known lady on the Head Office staff.



Sales Representative A. Brockington talks to a user

Managing the Service Depot was JOHN LANE who had joined the NCR training school for Accounting Machine Mechanics in 1933. Before that he had been a moulder in an iron foundry and was very fortunate in not losing a foot when some 300 pounds of molten manganese bronze went over it! After 15 months in hospital he was employed as a coach-painter, a radio salesman, ships steward and finally in an off-license business in East London where he heard of NCR and applied for a job.



Self-portrait of Service Depot Manager J. Lane taken with a Rolliecord

His mechanics were DENNIS CONELLY, ROGER DREW and BILL CAMPBELL. Dennis, 14 years with NCR, had served in the RAF, operating a mobile oxygen plant in several war zones; Roger, a Class 3000 mechanic, joined NCR in 1938 and later serve d as a rigger in the Fleet Air Arm; and Bill served his National Service in the RAF. Last of all but not least, the office clerk was 24 year old AUDREY LINDSEY who out of business hours was studying fashion design.



Retail Mechanic Dennis Conelly, a radio enthusiast

Retail Mechanics Bill Campbell (foreground) and Roger Drew

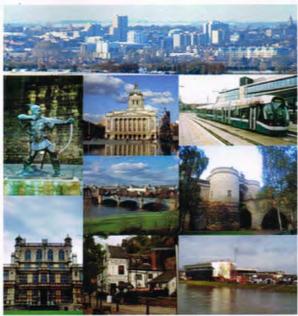




Office Clerk Audrey Lindsey, works at home on art design

NOTTINGHAM

By steam train I travelled up to Nottingham in November of that year - a much larger office than the other two, with staff of 25, including six women. They were all settling into their brand new centrally heated offices in Lower Parliament Street which were on two floors with a connecting lift. It was, in fact, the official opening day and their 21 year old Receptionist VERONA SHIPMAN was busy greeting guests in the ground floor showroom, which was exhibiting the latest NCR cash registers and adding and accounting machines. In a side office I was introduced to FRANK WILKINSON, the Retail Sales Representative, who began his career in the leather industry, became the branch manager in a shoe manufacturing company and joined NCR in 1928. Because of his special knowledge he was called away to join the Board of Leather Control in 1941, and rejoined NCR after the war. The retail office clerk was EUNICE COY who had worked in the office for eight years.



Nottingham skyline, plus landmarks clockwise from top left: Robin Hood, Council House, NET Tram, (middle) Trent Bridge, the Castle Gate House, Wollaton Hall, Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem and Nottingham Forest City Ground



Smiling a greeting is Receptionist Verona Shipman

The Nottingham office not only covered its own county but parts of Leicestershire and Derbyshire as well. It was the District Office for the Accounting Machine Division with its Manager, ALLAN GASPAR. Allan, whose father was Spanish, spent his early business years with Westminster Bank and then the Ellis Book-keeping Machine Company. He then left conunercial life to form a partnership to design and build a racing car for the professional circuits. When that folded he joined NCR and was appointed to Special Fields in Edinburgh. A territorial he was called up in August 1939, with a commission in the Royal Engineers he spent the war instructing at the School of Military Engineering. He was involved with the famous and astonishing Mulberry Harbour project.

There were two Accounting Machine representatives — 'TITCH' HITCHEN and GEOFFREY FOWLE who was, I thought, must have been one of the tallest salesmen in the



F. Wilkinson, Nottingham C.R.D. Representative, with Office Clerk Eunice Coy

country. He had recently arrived from London's Accounting Machine Division. Nottingham also had a large Accounting Machine school with six demonstrators under CAROL JAYES and PEGGY SMITH.



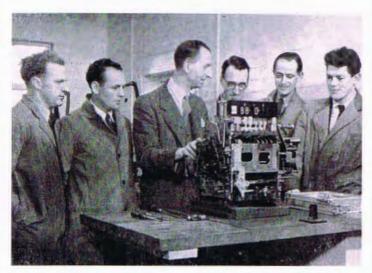
A.D.D. Reprsentative F. Good demonstrates the 16-EB to an interested customer

Looking after Adding Machine Sales was FREDDY GOOD who started with NCR in the London Order and Shipping Department before moving up to Nottingham in 1947 to sell adding machines very successfully, gaining CPC membership each year. His wife, BERYL, had also been in the Adding Machine Division.



Assistant C.R.D. Representative John Allen

The big Service Depot was staffed by eight with BILL WARREN as Manager. A toolmaker by trade Bill was in 1930, one of the first accounting machine mechanics servicing Bank machines. His Senior Mechanic was BILL CHANIN from London who had spent five years in the wartime Armaments Section. The other members of the Depot were 34 year old CHARLES LEDGER of Nottingham who came there in 1948 after service in RAF and Royal Navy; ARTHUR STEVENSON, a 32year old who had also served in the RAF; Retail Mechanics GEORGE SMITH and DENNIS COMERY, ALAN RENSHAW, 28, and DEREK TOPPS (21). With such a big staff, I couldn't, unfortunately, interview all of them, especially on their 'big' day. Hopefully, however, you will be able to appreciate the impressive range of skills and experience in a large NCR office such as Nottingham.

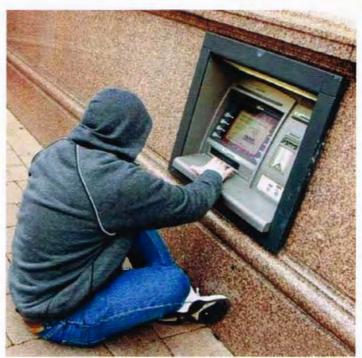


Depot Manager Bill Warren explains a tricky point to his staff. Left to right: A Renshaw, S. Stevenson, W. Warren, W. Chann, C. Ledger and D. Topps

Dennis Cash recently wrote: I note in the recent issue of Postscript that NCR Cambridge is to be "revisited" in the next issue. There is a footnote asking for memories of the original days. I was at Cambridge during the 1950's as the Senior Technician and well remember Alan Bowley making the original visit. If I remember correctly my photograph was taken standing next to the company van. As you can see I am still around and in all spent 54 years with NCR which I believe made me the longest serving employee.

Of Cambridge depot (now a pet shop!) the Sales Agent E C Souter and the Service Manager A E Cole have long since passed on. My good friend and former colleague A J (Dick) Woodcock sadly died in February of this year. AG (Aan) Saville left the company after having served in the army in Korea and contact with him was lost. The Office Clerk Joyce Keene, who was younger than the rest of us, eventually married and went to live in Lichfield which, quite by coinicidence, was where she was born. It is quite possible that she is still alive. As with most NCR depots we all got on well with each other, in the case of Cambridge possibly because we were small in numbers.

Kindest regards Dennis Cash

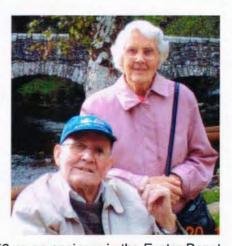


The best three proposed captions for this picture of an oddly placed ATM will be published in the next edition.

Get your thinking caps on!

DIAMOND WEDDING

Wally Crump and wife Cherry celebrated their 60 years of marriage in October having been wed at Exminster Parish Church where Wally was a bell ringer for many years.



He joined NCR in 1952 as an engineer in the Exeter Depot under Depot Manager Claud Byatt in Sidwell Street, moving to new premises in South Street and later, in 1959, taking up the post of Depot Manager in Plymouth. He spent 18 years there until the depot closed when he took over the new Newton Abbot depot as Area Manager where he stayed until it closed in 1988. At this point he took early retirement.

They have one son, Jeremy who lives in New Zealand with his wife and three boys. This has resulted in their having visited both Australia and New Zealand on many occasions. It was on one such visit that Wally suffered a severe stroke and which has confined him to a wheel chair ever since. He has, however continued to maintain an interest in both NCR and world affairs and recently attended the SW Region Lunch with Cherry. He wishes all his past colleagues his best wishes for the future.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

2011 can be considered, from a pension perspective, as a very successful year. The long awaited back dated increases were finally paid in March and the increase for 2010 granted and paid in April. The latter event was achieved due to the agreement reached by the Trustees and the Corporation regarding a new increase review policy. This is based upon quantifiable measures including published company objectives which remove the subjectivity and the opportunity for delay, and which brings the pensioners in line with how employee increases are assessed. Whilst this agreement is not part of the Trust deed but rather a 'gentleman's agreement' there are mutual benefits for both parties by adhering to it. Long may it remain in place. Our thanks to the Trustees for their tenacity over the last few years.

I can also report another piece of excellent news. A couple of months ago Ian Ormerod, our NCR historical guru, was put in touch with a fairly newly appointed member of the NCR



Ben Gale

senior management team. His name is Ben Gale and he is VP for Western Europe based in Head Office. Ben was hoping that Ian could provide input to the setting up of some displays in Head Office and as a part of these discussions Ian had the opportunity to tell Ben about the Fellowship and

what we do. He was very interested to hear that so many exemployees were still interested enough to maintain contact with NCR and we were delighted when he offered to attend the London Fellowship lunch. He gave a very interesting talk about NCR and what it is doing around the world and also agreed to provide a regular article for PostScript which is something we have wanted to include for some time but were never able to source. Most importantly he also made a large financial contribution to the Fellowship in order to support us and which will help us enormously to continue without increasing the annual membership fee. It was a great pleasure to meet Ben and I would like to thank him again on behalf of all the members for his interest and patronage.

2011 has also been a success from a membership point of view with 41 new members joining. I also had the pleasure of attending two of the regional lunches - region 7 in the spring and region 8 in October, the latter accompanied by John Atkins our secretary. Thank you John and Richard for your hospitality. It was great to meet everyone and to be able to put faces to the names which have become quite familiar to me. I hope to be able to attend some of the other lunches during 2012.

Finally, as usual, our thanks to you all for your continued support and friendship and to the Committee members for their time and effort. I hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas and my best wishes for the new year.

Lin

WINTER PENSION UPDATE

Following the update in the Summer edition of POST and the recent presentations at some of the Region lunches, the majority of Pensioners will we hope be aware of the background to the agreement reached between the Trustees and the Company that has allowed the pension increases for three of the last four years to be granted, in particular the promptness of the 2010 Discretionary Increase in April this year.

The Trustees had taken a decision prior to confirmation of the agreement at the end of 2010 that the volatility of the financial markets, particularly equities, represented an unnecessary risk for the fund to bear, particularly as the fund had been closed to future accrual.



Donald MacQueen

Significant efforts during Qi and Q2 of this year were directed at re-investing some of the more volatile assets, typically equities, in order to reduce the overall risk to the fund. The net result has seen a reduction in the funds exposure to equities down to some 12%. Fortuitously the various transactions we had to undertake completed in early July, so we missed the sharp downturn in the markets that occurred later that month, though of course the general volatility and market turmoil in all areas has still affected the overall fund value.

The recent Government confirmation of the September RPI figure at 5.6% will form the basis of our deliberations for the 2011 Statutory Increase due in April 2012. There are however two prerequisites for any increase to be awarded, the first is dependent on the Company's profitability for 2011 upon which all bonuses are based, the second is that the Pension Plan Funding level must remain above 80%.

For the Company's part the 2011 financial year appears to be going well. Unfortunately the market turmoil, lack of growth across Europe and particularly the decision by the Bank of England to undertake a second tranche of Quantitative Easing (QE), will all have a direct impact on the value of all Pension Funds by increasing their deficit value. If the impact of this is to lower the Pension Funds funding level at the end of the year to below 80% then unfortunately there will be no affordable Discretionary Increase for 2011.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the situation and you can be assured that we are committed to supporting all our member's interests. Our Members will receive a pension update in March.

Thank you for your continued support.

Donald MacQueen - Trustee

The NCR Retirement Fellowship

PRESIDENT: Rex Fleet

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

