

## WINTER 2025 MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Since the last report there have been two Committee changes. Firstly, Tom Elliot has resigned from the organiser role for region 5. I would like to thank him for all his effort and support and we wish him well for the future.

If anyone in region 5 would like to take on this role and to possibly revive the regional lunches please let me know. Otherwise, we will transfer region 5 members to region 4.

Similarly if any region 5 members would like to come to the London lunch (April 22nd 2026) they would be very welcome.

We are also pleased to welcome Danny Callanan who has joined the Committee as Assistant Editor. Pat is doing an excellent job as Editor and has introduced several new features and has therefore created a need for some help with the ongoing organisation of the magazine. Our thanks to Danny for taking on the role.

As always, my thanks to the Committee members and to you all you for helping to keep the Fellowship going, as we move into our 22nd year.

Finally, Stephen Swinbank, our Chairman, enters hospital early 2026 for a serious operation. I'm sure you all join me in passing on our best wishes to Stephen, and we look forward to welcoming him back soon to a return to full health.

Best wishes for 2026

Lin

### Ian Ormerod tells the story of the fire in 1955 which destroyed the NCR Birmingham office



On Friday the 11th of March 1955 the weather was cold with the temperature close to freezing with a chilling easterly wind. Some of the staff in the Halfords building, where NCR had its Offices were required to work on Saturday mornings, so the temperature of the building was kept up for

their comfort. The NCR technicians would also have been doing work covering banking hours there on the Saturday morning.

At 1815 hours on Friday evening, the Commissionaire, Mr J Mewett, made his final check of the building before locking up to go home. The Building was covered in scaffolding, which was due to be removed as the roof refurbishment on the five-storey building had almost been completed.

In one of the lockup shops, a reliable eight-day clock which had been fully wound within the previous 48 hours was later found to have stopped - it showed the time of six o'clock.

At 0605 on the Saturday morning a cleaning lady, on her way to work, knocked on the fire station window and told Tim Taylor, in the watch room, of smoke coming from the underside of the door of Halfords. He asked the woman to wait, looked over at Halfords but there was nothing to be seen; he put the bells on.

"What have we got Tim?" said Station Officer Merrell arriving in the watch room, on being told he paused for a moment then said 'send the lot' to which Taylor operated the Indicator Lights for two pumps, two pump escapes and a turntable ladder. The Central Fire Station was directly opposite the Halfords Building so the crews were there within seconds.

When the first appliance arrived at the NCR office at the Lancaster Street corner there was at first little to be seen, just a wisp, a swirl of smoke from the surrounds of a first-floor window. They mounted the scaffold and could then feel the heat of the building and walls.

It was soon ascertained that the building was heavily smoke logged; two lines of hose were laid out with breathing

*Continues on page 2*

## CONTENTS

Welcome to the Winter 2025 Photo Competition Special Edition of Postscript. I'm writing this pre-Xmas knowing you will be reading the magazine in the splendour of a New Year, with all the fresh hope, and revitalised energy that season brings. Happy New Year!

In addition, we have two specials from Ian (Ormerod) one relating to the Birmingham Fire of 1955 and the second to Carillon Park, Dayton. We also have Part 2 of our Meet the Region feature, this time concentrating on Region 1, and Ron Gammie and Ian Ormerod have combined to provide a full and fascinating story. We also have another Meet the Organisers focussing on Adrian Gallagher, who, along with his wife Louise, have, between cruises, expanded their interests since retiring to cover motorcycling. Adrian gives us a full rundown.

The Photo Competition has yielded some top grade photos and captions. Two Regions, 4 and 5 did not enter. 4's designated snapper, Chrissy Young, injured her hand and could not appear. Likewise, R5 had no snapper. We also had to lose two judges due to health and family bereavement issues, so Danny Callanan stepped in as judge along with Ron Gammie, and myself.

We also have a full quota of Regional Lunches, including Pat Keogh's return from a spell in hospital to host Region 2. Welcome back, Pat.

A welcome too to Danny Callanan, our new Assistant Editor, who writes about a PIC lunch he attended, and about an ex-NCR Financial Controller-turned-author.

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We hope you enjoy the magazine.

### *Continued from front page*

apparatus being brought into use. Pumps were made up to six and then eight additional lines of hose were run out. Two firemen managed to get into the building through a first-floor window, inside it was hot but not smoke logged. Fireman Mann managed to get into the basement from the Corporation Street side; there was very little smoke in that area but there was a fierce draught being drawn past them, feeding the fire via the open lift shaft. 'We then tried to get through to the second floor', said fireman Mann – 'opening a door we were confronted with a furnace like wall of white heat and flame - even though we had a substantial jet we failed to make any impression and were forced to make a retreat'.

The Assistant Divisional Officer ADO Field, stated that it was as if the building was vibrating with the heat. Divisional Officer James 'Bull' Roach shouted "get em out, get the BA men out, it's going to blow."

Windows were starting to shatter on the upper floors and pumps were made up to ten. A Turn Table Ladder was at work covering the roof where there had been a small breakthrough of fire in the north-west corner. Then the flashover occurred with an awe-inspiring roar of fire, heat and debris. Soon the building became a raging inferno.

Fireman Neil Perrins, from the Moseley Road station, saw firemen clambering along the scaffold – then, he said, "the whole of the building went 'whoossh' and flames and smoke went upwards almost a hundred feet. I heard the man at the top of the Turntable ladder screaming 'get me down, get me down' - the operator must have been on the ball, quickly training him away from the building.'

At 9:10 the fire was contained with 20 appliances on scene and 26 jets in use including two Turn Table Ladders. Shortly afterwards the scaffolding began to peel away from the building.

Fm Tim Bartlett 'I was in the appliance bay doorway when a shout went up to run. We all saw why and yelled at the firemen on the tram tracks and on the far side. The scaffolding had begun to peel away from the top right hand corner of the building - as it leaned away it gathered more weight and speed - there was an increasing threat to the firemen trying to get rid of live writhing branches - we screamed encouragement but those by the left hand corner [NCR office] were the last to realise what was happening - the scaffolding encased a few and some fell to the ground. It was over in seconds, and white planks were still bouncing on the road before the scaffolding had settled, the firemen were running back towards the tangled mess to assist their mates crawling about burning their hands and necks on the red-hot pipes.'



On the Corporation Street side, it was decided that firefighting would have to be done from a distance, and the decision was made to bring into operation Radial Branches. This equipment had been designed principally for wartime use, capable of discharging large quantities of water with a great throw, impossible with handheld branches.

Each branch was supplied by one pump with a discharge of 500 gallons per minute, these had been set up in the fire station yard and were sending mighty jets over the station roof straight into the heart of the fire.

Once the fire had been contained it still took fire crews another 12 days before they could leave the site as the building continued smouldering.

At the time of the call 31 pumps and 15 special appliances were available in Birmingham; every pump in the Brigade was on the fireground by 0700 hours with appliances provided by the Brigades of West Bromwich and Smethwick; Warwickshire; Worcestershire; Staffordshire and Walsall.

In the official report on the fire, it was admitted that little was known on the origin of the fire. It was established that the fire had started in the basement but how or precisely when was not known. It had undoubtably been burning undetected for some time, probably all night.

The NCR premises - part of the ground floor and basement - were heavily damaged by water.

Fighting the giant blaze, which engulfed the large five-storey "island" of offices and warehouse accommodation belonging to the Halford Cycle Company, were 250 firemen and 60 fire appliances. Shoulder to shoulder, for many hours they pumped a blanket of water at the rate of 15,000 gallons a minute. Braving the threat of flames and falling masonry, firemen and members of the city police force fought their way into the NCR premises. Soon, in the forecourt of the building among the tangle of hoses and in the rain of burning embers which fell sizzling into the pools of water, there formed rows of NCR machines from the showrooms.

In the basement, however, the Service Depot's equipment and stripped-down machines were immobile. These, with



office and technical equipment, were quickly covered with protective tarpaulins.

The first intimation NCR had of the fire was when Office Manager John Keeble was phoned by the police and asked for the key to the premises as there was a fire at Halfords.

It was not, however, until 11 o'clock on Sunday morning that NCR men were allowed to approach their office. It was then that District Manager Bill Starkey, Depot Manager Jack Dellar and John Keeble were the first "civilians" allowed into the building.

The scene was chaotic. The ceilings seemed to bulge from the weight of the water, which ran down the walls in a solid sheet. The basement was flooded but a quick-thinking

#### Salvaging what remains



*N.C.R.*  
Another shovel-load on the heap—and G.R.D. Mechanic J. S. DAVIES looks very satisfied about it.



*Birmingham Gazette*



N.C.R

**Retail Mechanic S. Morton and Depot Manager A. E. Dellar instal a rusty- but usable--'Vice.**

fireman had removed a manhole cover and saved the water from reaching un-negotiable depths.

There was no light of course. "You'll have to take responsibility if you do," said the police to Mr. Starkey when he asked if he and his men could go in. Only a little earlier, firemen and salvage workers had scattered and run for their lives as a section of the wall, further down the block, buckled, creaked and crashed to the ground.

The NCR team clicked into action. Transport was arranged and the stock machines which had been removed in the early hours of the fire were shipped to a building in Broad Street – premises which had been acquired some time earlier for conversion to house the Cash Register and Accounting and Adding Machine Divisions under one roof.

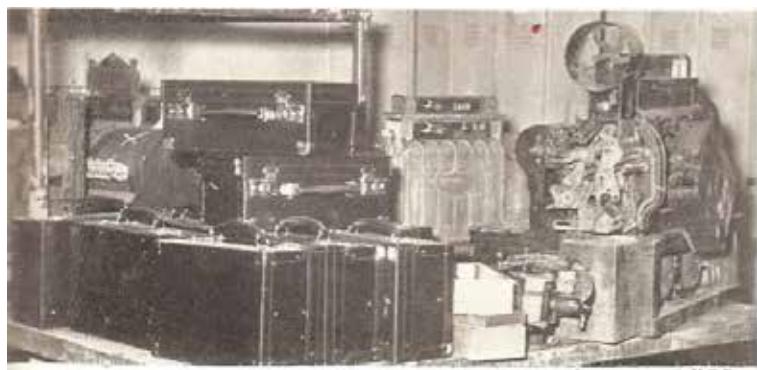
"What can we do to help?" asked members of the staff. The burly, square cut form of Bill Starkey was seemingly everywhere. There were very few instructions to give. The job was obvious: salvage everything possible and transfer it to Broad Street. Mechanics Joe Smith, Tom Dowd, Tom Fox and Len Langley were one hard-working team. They spent Sunday, Monday and Tuesday in the flooded basement, with water streaming on to them, salvaging fittings and equipment. Throughout that time their only light was provided by two small emergency arc-lights loaned to them by the Fire Service.

Conditions were almost impossible. The scaffolding had been ripped down.

Birmingham Nacarecans were full in their praise for the work of the Fire Service in saving equipment and documents. They were, in fact, as full of praise for the Fire Service as Mr. Starkey was for his Birmingham team: "I have never been so proud to be associated with people as I have with these – everyone has done a magnificent job," he said.

When the C.R.D. and Service Division moved into Broad Street they were faced with the prospect of preparing for use, a building which had been completely unoccupied for eighteen months. It had no heating or lighting, no showroom or telephone.

At nine o'clock on Monday morning the contractors were there. They were not just survey men - but executives. with their engineers to instal sources of heat and light. The telephone was on within 24 hours.



N.C.R.



**Left:**  
**New tool-cases and salvaged registers.**

**Right:**  
**Mechanics Basil Floyd, L. Langley.**

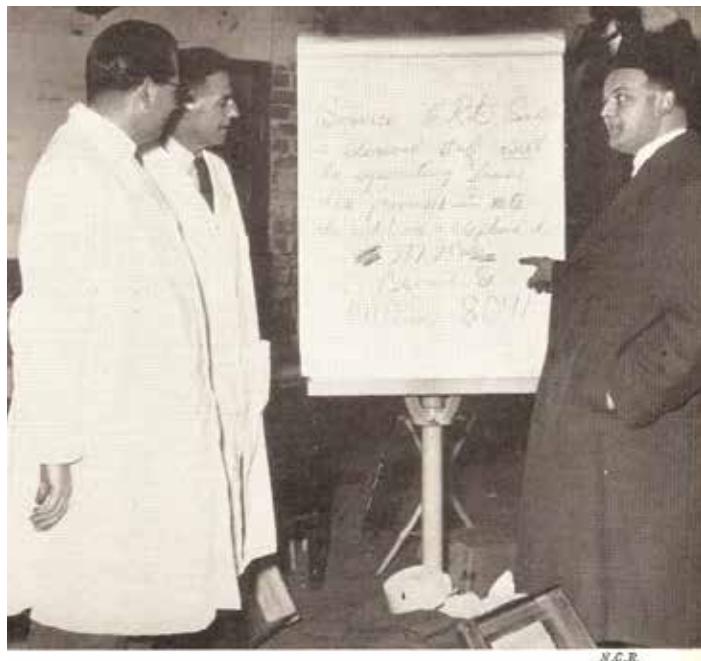


N.C.R.



**Left:**  
**Mechanics Frank White, J. Daniels and Tom Dowd.**

**Right:**  
**Repair work and installation goes on side by side at Broad Street.**



By Tuesday morning the Showroom was being re-painted, partitions had been torn down window displays were being installed, and a Class 51 Cash Register had been sold to an office caller who decided that his machine which was in for repair would be better replaced by a new one.

Depot Manager Dellar smiled a little ruefully as he ran a tired hand through his hair. "The machines in the Depot -there were 400 of them - are my worry.

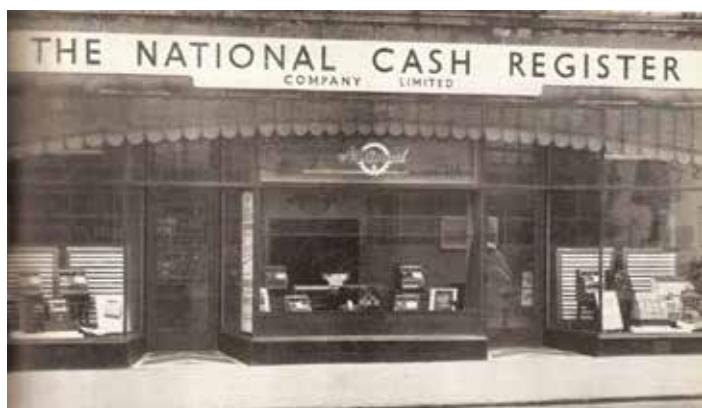
Those that were intact are OK. - they'll go through paraffin-spraying, greasing and oiling and will not cause undue complications. But, "he looked around at his staff installing water-soaked benches and rust-stained equipment, "the difficulty will be the stripped-down machines. We don't know yet which parts belong to which."

By Thursday- we moved in the previous Monday morning- The building presented a very attractive frontage to Broad Street.

And inside too, there was a transformation, the Showroom was newly-decorated and literature racks installed. Elegant window displays had been arranged and fitted.

*Bill Starkey, who led the NCR team, was born and lived in Wolverhampton.*

*He Joined Wolverhampton Police as a clerk 1938 and in 1941 was appointed Detective Constable.*



*No sooner had we arrived in Broad Street than we wanted the world to know it. As damaged equipment streamed into the new premises, a smart fascia was being erected outside.*

*He subsequently joined the Army, being commissioned in November 1944. After demobilisation he rejoined the Police, and later, due to injury sustained on active service applied to NCR where he received sales training and appointed to Birmingham territory in 1947 successfully achieving CPC by August of 1948.*

*On October 27th of 1948, Bill Starkey, along with Mr E. Johnson, Laird sailed for America on the Nieuw Amsterdam ship to study Modern Merchandising Methods. Bill Starkey was appointed to train the entire Salesforce on all aspects of this new method of merchandising, and to assist them in planning self-service shops on his return.*

*He left NCR on March 1st 1959 to join Sweda as Sales Director in the UK becoming Managing Director of Litton Business Systems Ltd., and head of Sweda 's UK and Eire operations.*

### Sources

#### NCR Post

*Divisional Officer (Retired) John B. Agar: Firepower issue 47*  
*Birmingham Fire and Ambulance Service*

*W.T. Starkey. Meeting with NCR Isle of Man staff*

*Birmingham Evening Despatch: Sat 12th March*

*Birmingham Daily Post*

*Birmingham Daily Gazette*



## OBITUARIES

PIC have advised us of the passing of the following Pension Plan members.

### Fellowship Members:

Terrence ATKINS	22.08.25	Region 8
Peter CASEMORE	29.04.25	" 4
Dave HUBBARD	18.05.25	" 4
Paul LIVESEY	04.09.25	" 4
Andy MANSI	12.05.25	" 4
Bob ROBINSON	20.10.25	" 4

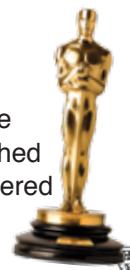
### Non Fellowship Members:

Buchanan L	28.04.25	Burns S J	17.06.25
Davies Ms JM	14.09.25	Dillon MP	08.09.25
Ferris GA	11.07.25	Field Ms M	25.05.25
Fryer RG	19.09.25	Grove MD	25.10.25
Harrison Ms SC	13.05.25	Howard Ms W	11.10.25
Lynch JJ	19.09.25	Mason HM	23.04.25
McAlister MG	26.04.25	Mincher Ms S	09.06.25
Moore KH	16.06.25	Nash Ms CM	30.05.25
Passingham BW	050625	Patel H	13.05.25
Rees DT	12.08.25	Steventon AD	19.07.25
Tomlinson D	15.06.25	Treanor FJ	11.09.25
Vigurs RJ	22.07.25	Walters Ms DJ	03.10.25
Wheelhouse D	30.06.25		

(The list is kindly provided to us by PIC. We do not have any further information unless the person was a Fellowship member)

## REGIONAL LUNCH REPORTS & WINTER 2025 PHOTO COMP

As you know, we are running the Photo Competition using the photos taken at the Winter 2025 lunches. Every photo published in the Lunch Reports is automatically entered in the competition, except for those from R4 which were taken by hotel staff.



Each photo in the lunch report may contain additional information on what happened to that photo in the competition, with the exception of the top three photos. All individual category winners are identified in the reports, and moved to the next round where they were voted on to find the top 3. Those three photos feature separately in the magazine. We hope you enjoy the reports and photos as usual, with that extra edge this time of the photos under separate focus.



## REGIONAL REPORTS

### Region 1 - Ron Gammie

The Retirement Fellowship lunch for 2025 was a little earlier on the 23rd September. After some correspondence with the members it was decided to change from our usual venue of the Italian Kitchen to one of our regular "apre dinner" haunts; The Piper Whiskey Bar located on the corner of George Square, Glasgow. The move was largely based around the feeling that we weren't getting such good value for money and prices just seemed to rise each year.

Unfortunately, the weather wasn't at its best and most members had to dodge the rain showers while arriving.

Fourteen attendees meant a strong turnout even after quite a few unable to attend due to last minute changes. Apologies came from Barry Harrison (on holiday in Greece), Jim Sharp (looking after his wife who has had a fall), Iain McLauchlin (on holiday in Europe), John and Christine Nairn (last minute cruising opportunity with friends), Bob Knox (attending funeral), George Benson, Don McFadyen, Fred Wiweorka, Jim Harrower, Graeme and Christine Edwards (on holiday in Wales), Wallace Hay (struggling at 88), John McIlroy (ill health after returning from holiday) and Bob Stewart (attending funeral).

In attendance were:

**Jack Whyte** (Software Engineer & Project Manager in SSD from 1978 until retirement in 2006, just coming up for 20 years retired).

**Ian Fairbairn** (Service Engineer, Team Leader, Service Manager Lothian Borders Fife, Regional Service Manager Scotland Ireland North England (NESI), Customer Support and Development Manager Barclays Bank).

**Hamish McKenzie** (Engineer, Regional Support Specialist based out of Glasgow). **Jim Tucker, Neil Bathe, Peter Kemp, Mike Neilan, Ginger Grey**. It was also great to see **Roger Green** attend.

**George Brown** (36 years with NCR Computer Programmer, Chief Programmer, Manager Scottish Data Centre 1964 - 1988. FSD Manager, Area Sales Director 1988-1996).

**Brian Behr** (Engineer, Network Support Specialist and Team Leader, Dundee based).

**Ron Gammie** (37.5 Years as an Engineer, Team Leader, Regional Support Specialist, Service Account Manager, Bid Manager and Executive Service Manager. Retired 2018. Also served as Pension Trustee on both DB and DC schemes).

**Peter Hardern** (37.5 Years with NCR as a Computer Service Engineer from 1968, and retired in 2006).

**John MacKay** (25 Years service as an engineer)

**John W McKay** (22 Years service as an engineer)

Overall we had an excellent lunch peppered by the usual banter, stories and jokes. The venue was a success and will remain our preferred choice for the near future.

## Region 1 continued



*Ian Fairbairn explains to Peter Harden how he was a "Hands On" manager at NCR*

## PHOTO COMP: !WINNER MOST APT CAPTION



*While Jim Tucker checks the head on his pint, Brian Behr checks the wife's instructions on what he is allowed to drink!*

## !WINNER FUNNIEST CAPTION



*The John's (Mc and Mac) "two engineers from the same clan with 47 years service"*



*Ron Gammie finds out what happens when you return from the Bar with the Bill!!!!*

\*Nominated Funniest Caption & Photo From Strangest Angle



*Left to Right – Jack Whyte, Hamish McKenzie, Peter Kemp, "Ginger" Grey and George Brown*

\*Nominated: Best Group (5+) Photo



*Left to Right – Jack Whyte, Neil Bathe, Brian Behr and Peter Hardern*

\*Nominated Best Group (4) Photo



*John McNicol and John W McKay await food*

\*Nominated Best Group (5+) Photo



*Neil Bathe, Jack Whyte and Hamish McKenzie await pud after cleaning their plates*

\*Nominated Most Amusing Whilst Eating Photo

## Region 1 continued



**Peter Kemp informs Ian and Peter "It's the way I tell them"**

\*Nominated Most Happy Photo



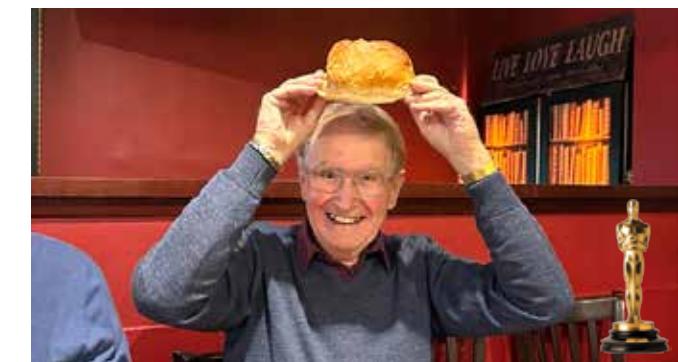
**Peter Kemp and George Brown warm their vocals before launch of the new Boy Band!**

\*Nominated Funniest Caption & \*Nominated Most Happy Photo



**Coming to Pantomime season..... "He's behind you"**

WINNER BEST GROUP PHOTO (5+)



**As it had been raining outside Peter Kemp tries out solution to get home dry**

!WINNER MOST AMUSING WHILST EATING PHOTO



**Neil Bathe swears he ordered the soup**

\*Nominated Funniest Caption



**Brian Behr and Ron Gammie test the drinking by Telepathy routine**

\*Nominated Funniest Caption or

**Two beautiful specimens.....of Cider**



**The Group**

WINNER PHOTO FROM STRANGEST ANGLE & \*Nominated Best Group Photo (5+)



**John asks Brian if he's having a bad hair day while Jim and Ron just wish**

\*Nominated Funniest Caption

## Region 2E – Pat Keogh

### Lunch report

This lunch is normally held in October but was postponed this year due to my bad health. I went into hospital in February with an infection in my right foot which spread into the bone, and eventually led to having my right leg amputated above the knee. I got home in early October. In mid-November the council built a ramp from the back door, so that I could leave the house.

We then held this lunch on Wednesday 26th November which I attended with the help of my wife Dot and a specially adapted taxi which will take a wheelchair.

We had twenty attendees, but among those who couldn't attend were **John Evanson**, who lost his wife since the last lunch, and **Mike and Mary Wood** who were down with 'flu. Also **David** and **Susan Dawson**, who were on childcare duties, and **Geoff Smith's** wife, **Jill**, who is not too well.

We had a very enjoyable day at our new venue at Hawthorne Farm, where the attendees order and pay for their own meals from a cup of tea to a full three course meal. This makes it easy to run and we had a reserved area where our group can talk all day about NCR, good and bad. After all this time the conversations are still about their times with the company.

That's all for now. My brain isn't working at full tilt since my operation.



**Sandy and Alan Dixon**



**Frank Pouesy and Jim Hart**



**Pete Scavlon & Andrew Hill** \*Nominated Best Group 4



**Dave Torrance & Ian Beveridge**



**“Zero” Guiness** \*Nominated Funniest Caption



**Two Happy Attendees** \*Nominated Most Happy Photo



**Pete Ramsden** WINNER BEST GROUP TAKING SELFIES

## Region 2E continued



Jacqui Sale &amp; Steve Gates



Pat Keogh &amp; Wife Dot

## Region 3 – Keith Templeman

## Lunch Report 16th October 2025

There were 20 members and guests with us today. Unfortunately several others were unable to attend, but sent their apologies and wished me to convey their best wishes to those that did enjoy the convivial atmosphere here once again at the Bowling Green Inn in Lichfield.

Apologies were received from:

**Peter Heywood** who was on grandparent duties, but will try and make it next time, **Brian Briggs** sends his best wishes to everyone, as does **Marylyn Almond/Zeilski**. **Kevin Rixson's** wife, **Marion**, was not well, but he will try to attend the next lunch. **Jim McHugh** is still recovering after having three stents put in, then finding out he has some form of cancer so has had treatment for that. He says he is recovering well and becoming stronger and will try to attend next time too.

Members today were:

**Ian Ormerod, Doreen Butterfield, Ian Davidson, Phil Rock, John Latty, Dave Beattie, Yatish Ranch, Keith**

**Templeman, Graham Carter, Joe Teeling, Yatish Ranch, Gert Bakker, Pete Selwyn, Jim Elliott and Barry Skelding.**

Guests: **David Cooksey, Tony Barnett and Hamish Foxley.**

**A Diary Note was provided for our next Lunch date which will be Thursday 16th April 2026.**

**Ian Ormerod** had been recently given a curious looking item that several folk were trying to identify. Further investigation and the assistance of Google's Artificial Intelligence robot on the web suggested the item could possibly be a Line Output Transformer from a CRT computer monitor, but not necessarily an NCR device. It was interesting that, by only having to take a picture of the component with a smartphone, within a few seconds the following text was displayed.



"The object in the image is a flyback transformer, also known as a line output transformer (LOPT).

Flyback transformers are a type of electrical transformer that are designed to operate with a discontinuous current. They are commonly used in switching power supplies and in the horizontal deflection circuits of older cathode-ray tube (CRT) displays, such as televisions and computer monitors. The component shown has a ferrite core, a primary winding (the coiled red wires), and multiple pins for connection to a circuit board."

It seems to me super high speed AI chips, when fully developed, will be able to swiftly search all available data for correct answers but only if all data supplied is validated to be correct. The old computer adage "Rubbish in, Rubbish out" comes to mind."

Was Google AI correct in this instance? You tell me!

And now for our customary 'Mug-shots' of today's group:



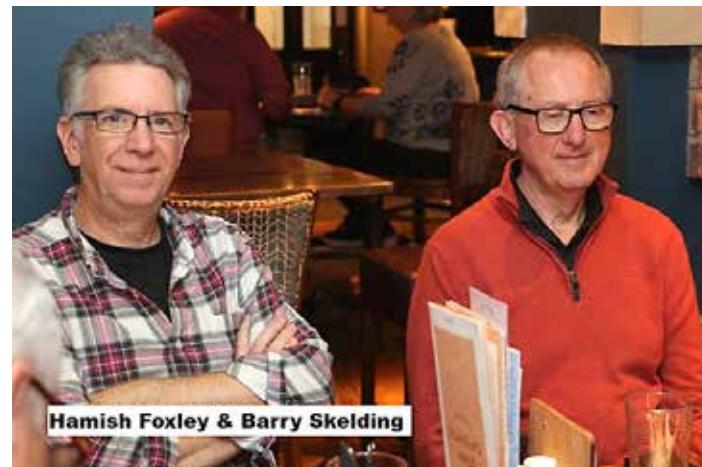
Phil Rock &amp; John Latty

\*Nominated Most Happy Photo

Region 3 continued



\*Nominated Funniest Caption



!WINNER GRUMPIEST PHOTO



\*Nominated Funniest Caption



!WINNER MOST HAPPY PHOTO



\*Nominated Most Happy Photo

## Region 4 – Lin Sandell

### Lunch report October 22nd 2025

After all the uncertainty regarding our spring lunch due to the Corus hotel being indecisive about their planned renovations, we were unable to fix a date with them for October. We had requested October 1st but they told us we would have to wait until August to confirm. Unfortunately, in September, they informed us that the hotel would be closing immediately for the next year.

Determined to find a replacement I then started a review of other possible venues who could offer us a similar lunch at a reasonable price. The main difficulty I had trying to find a new venue was the price. I had tried several different hotels and initially the Hilton in Paddington looked a possibility, but they only offered their standard lunch menu which would have been too expensive. However after several discussions about what we had at the Corus etc they offered to create a special menu just for us at a cost of £45. Whilst this is a £5 increase in what we have paid previously, I thought this was acceptable in the current climate. I suspect that the size of our group impacted on their decision making.

Although we had very little time to get invitations etc sent out we were able to organise lunch for October 22nd and we had 20 attendees. My thanks to John Atkins for all his help with the administration of the menu choices and paying the hotel bill.

On the day the hotel staff were very efficient and did everything they could to make us welcome. At the end of the meal everyone was very complementary about the food and were very happy to have the next lunch at the Hilton. I have therefore made a reservation for APRIL 22nd 2026 and all are welcome to join us just let me know.

The following guests attended-

**Alan Chard, John Davies, John Fenner, Trevor Friend, Chris Gillespie, Robert Gray, Bernard Harris, Nigel Hensman, Melville Hill, Chris James, Marles Chris, Mathews Steve, Eric Page, John Smith, Mike Sumner, Cath Sunderland, Terry Walters, John Atkins, Lin Sandell**



Apologies received from – **Wallace Avery, Brian Briggs, Danny Callanan, Adrian Gallagher, Kevin O'Connor, Ian Ormerod, Vince Parry, Steve Swinbank, Keith Templeman, Paul Williams, Chrissey Young, Andrew Robinson, Niall Anderson, Jayesh Valera**

*(Editor's note: The photos included in this report were taken by the hotel staff, so cannot be included in the Photo Competition. However, congratulations to the staff member taking the photos who managed to show over 16 faces in each photo!)*

## Region 9 –Adrian Gallagher

### Annual Winter Dinner Report

On Monday 27th October 2025, Region 9 held our winter luncheon at the Twisted Oak, Exeter. Attending were **Graham Storer, Julie Mair, Cris Mackie, Pete Frost, Louise Gallagher** and myself.

Apologies were received from **Jessie Wallace & Martin Prosser, Geoff Jackson, Derek and Pam Knibb, Geoff & Ang Cooper, Keith Rogers, Wendy Mackie, John & Margaret Stevenson**.

A lovely meal was had by the 6 of us, and the pub was highly decorated with Halloween regalia. Graham also brought along his new 11 month old rotweiler puppy, Martha. We all made a lot of fuss of her before, during and after our meal.

We discussed the summer and the next winter luncheons. I suggested that we move the venue away from central Exeter, and pick a venue nearer each of the regular attendees, in turn, and on a date that doesn't clash with school holidays.

Therefore I suggested that the next summer luncheon will be on Tuesday 19th May 2026 and hopefully held at Belluno, Newton St Cyres. This will be confirmed by email nearer the time.

The next winter luncheon will be held on Monday 12th October 2026 at a venue to be decided at the summer luncheon. I will confirm more details by email nearer the time.

Thank you all for your continued support and have a enjoyable and safe Christmas and New Year.

Happy 2026!!

## Region 9 continued



L to R: Cris Mackie, Julie Mair, Graham Storer.



L to R: Graham Storer, Julie Mair, Cris Mackie, Pete Frost, Louise Gallagher.

\*Nominated Best Group Photo (5+)



L to R: Louise Gallagher, Pete Frost, Cris Mackie.

## The Twisted Oak



Martha

WINNER BEST PHOTO OF GUEST WITH MORE THAN TWO LEGS & WINNER OF SPECIAL "AAAH" AWARD

## MEET THE REGION – REGION 1

*This is the second of our new series Meet the Region.*

*This time we meet Region 1, with Ron Gammie as Regional Organiser*

Region 1 now comprises Scotland (Including the Islands of Orkney and Shetland), Ireland and Northern England and was subsequently named NESI.

There were WCS Service Centres in Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Stirling, Ayr, Edinburgh and Glasgow as well as Dublin and Belfast. Inverness was amalgamated with Aberdeen and then subsequently Dundee and Stirling before that. Ayr closed to be managed from Glasgow. Belfast and Dublin were eventually merged to one Centre.

## Centre Managers of past:

Percy Davis, Tom Galloway – Dundee  
 Henry Christie – Stirling  
 Jimmy Dick - Ayr  
 Syd Eden, Don McFadyen - Inverness  
 Bobby Frost, Bobby Graham – Aberdeen  
 Don McFadyen, Sandy Wallace, Lynn Hamilton – Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness  
 Allan Imrie – Clydesdale Bank Centre  
 John Meal, Gordon Patterson - Edinburgh  
 Mike Clancy, Scott Caldow - Glasgow

Dennis Kamff - Dublin

Ron McGowan – Belfast

Jerry Whiston - Ireland

## Keeping them in Line as Regional Managers:

Mike Clancy, Barry Harrison, Ian Fairbairn, Ken Boyle.

Glasgow, Edinburgh, Belfast and Dublin also had FSG and RSD sales teams as well as SSD and some Systemedia. Later on a WCS sales team was formed that concentrated on selling OEM (Other Equipment Manufacturers) maintenance which was pioneered in NESI under Barry Harrison and subsequently managed by Cyril Scott. His sales Team comprised of Duncan MacLeod and Michael Printer in NESI.

## FSG

Key clients for FSD in Region 1 were:

Local Councils, Royal Bank of Scotland, Clydesdale Bank (including Ulster Bank, Northern Bank, National Irish Bank and Yorkshire Bank as part of NAG), National Bank of Ireland, Bank of Scotland and General Accident.

These were managed by Gerry Cowie and his sales manager including Fred Wiewiorka, Jim O'Hagan, James Hancock, Jim Harrower, Frank Kidd, Zennan Green, Ken Carson, Jim Dwyer and Sean Maloney.

#### RSD

Key Clients for RSD in Region 1 were:

House of Fraser, COOP, Switzer (Ireland), Debenhams, W H Smith and Littlewoods

These were managed by: Bill Thompson, George Wallace and Jim Holmes, Jim Dwyer, James Robertson.

#### SSD

There was an SSD group managed from Scotland with supporting staff in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee as well as in Dublin and Belfast covering all aspects of NCR activity from FSD through RSD and C&G.

The key Clients for SSD included Royal Bank, Bank of Scotland and Clydesdale Bank and a wide range of applications in a dozen or more local governments in Scotland and several in England. On the retail side the major clients using NCR POS systems included Debenhams, House of Fraser, Compass, Sainsburys and Littlewoods.

Latterly SSD focussed on project work initially from the Cumbernauld office before joining our WCS colleagues in Eurocentral.

#### Data Centres

The Scottish Data Centre in Dundee was created in 1964 along with one in London one in Birmingham and later one in Manchester.

The Data Centre Manager at that time was Paul Livesey responsible for sales and the development of computer applications to be processed for businesses throughout Scotland, Northern England, Northern Ireland and The Republic of Ireland.

Working closely with AMD (accounting machine division)

were sales teams in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Leeds, Belfast and Dublin. They sold the accounting machines and we would sell the computer applications to be processed in our Data Centre.

#### AMD Managers:

Glasgow: Bill Ferguson

Edinburgh: David Miller

Newcastle: Andrew Berry

The Scottish Data Centre also had at that time the task of developing computer applications for the Dundee Factory. We started with three applications Payroll, Order processing and Stock processing. George Brown joined The National Cash Register Company in November 1964 as a computer programmer and in early 1965 was appointed Team Leader to develop the Payroll system for the factory employees. We completed the task ahead of time and went live with the first Dundee factory application in 1965 for nearly at that time 6000 employees.

George was appointed Data Centre Manager in 1968 and in late 1969 moved to Glasgow to set up a new Data Centre with one of the first Century Computer systems in Europe.

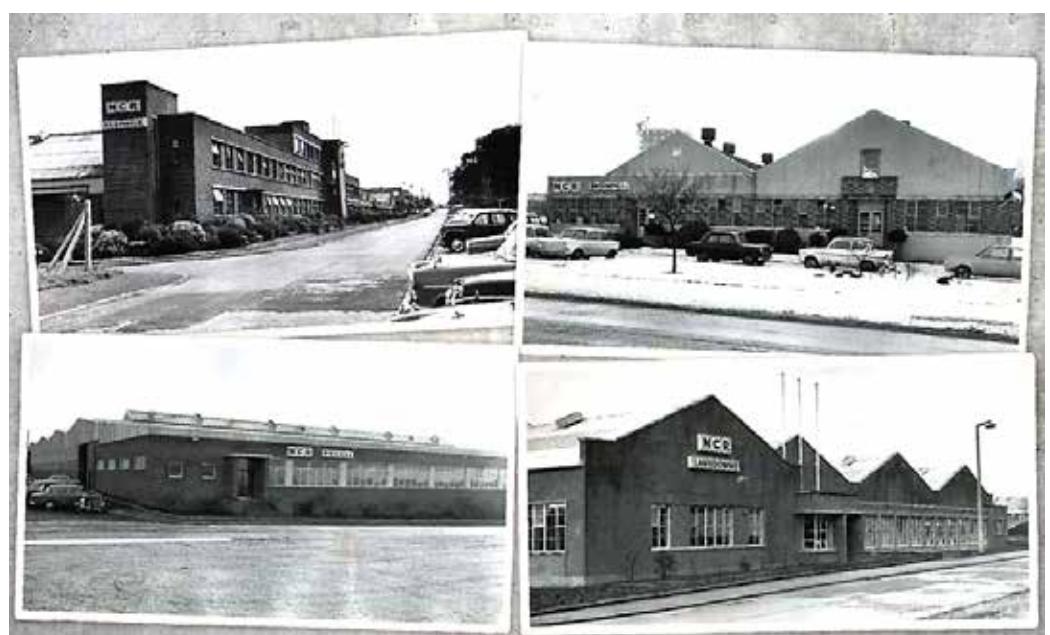
The new offices in West George Street had not long opened and we were closer to the

AMD sales and support staff as well as CRD (Cash Register Division) managed by District Manager Bobby Devlin.

The 1970's was a busy time with plenty of good business which by the mid 70's we had three shifts working processing customers applications. At the end of the 70's and early 80's the market was changing dramatically for NCR forcing major changes.

Both AMD and CRD were lost as we focused on major accounts in the expanding computer age.

The data centre business was changing as well now processing cassettes from retail customers. We were also seeing major changes in computer processing with even small businesses able to run their own applications on PC's which led to the eventual closure of our data centres in 1988.



**Some of the NCR factories in Dundee. Clockwise from top left: Kilspindie, Broomhill, Lansdowne and Birkhill.**

## Wardpark & Eurocentral

After Closing the Glasgow Centre in the 1990's (The 6 story building was unsafe and needed to be demolished) a move to a bespoke unit in Wardpark Cumbernauld was enacted and served (albeit lacking in space) as the Glasgow Centre until a large Investment was done to create Eurocentral in 2003.

Located just off the M8 outside Glasgow. This became a European Centre of Excellence housing call Centres, WCS Centres, Worldpay Centre and Help Desks and Cisco Training/Support.

## Manufacturing

The Region contained at one point 9 factories in Dundee which grew out of the redundancy of over 15,000 employees in Dayton US and the relocation of manufacturing to Scotland in 1946.



*NCR Eurocentral*

September, 1900.

THE BRITISH N. C. R.

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### Our Edinburgh Office.

**W**E are giving an interior and exterior view of our Edinburgh Office. It is nicely situated in Hanover Street, a street which branches out of Princes Street, and Princes Street is, as we all know, the leading street in either Old or New Edinburgh. Edinburgh is not only the

In the outside view of the office we see Mr. Gray standing in the doorway. When Mr. Gray was in America he got a buggy, and here it is horsed outside, with Registers in it. Mr. Gray is starting to call on his P.P.'s, and he finds it most effective always to take his Registers with him. The interior view gives us only the office and show-



capital of Scotland, but is without a doubt the finest and best situated of the cities of the British Isles. What interests us in Edinburgh just now is the fact that not only is it a pretty and historical city, but that it is likewise a good city for the use of National Cash Registers. It is a city from which we expect much in the future.

room, but further through is a nicely equipped demonstration room, and below, a roomy and dry basement. Altogether, we have got in Edinburgh an office which is a credit to the National Cash Register Co.

Mr. Gray is a typical Scotchman — shrewd, chary, intelligent, enthusiastic, and a hard worker. He is no man to

NCR transformed how factories were operated when it came to the city in 1946 and at its peak employed more than 6,000 in the early 1970s.

But by the end of the 1970s NCR was ready to pull out of Dundee altogether before the determined workforce created a revolutionary ATM. Jim Anderson then led the revolution of creating a world beating ATM starting with the 5070 that saved the factory till its demise in May 2009 when ATM manufacture moved to Hungary.

Its success created NCR Dundee's reputation for innovation which lasts to this day.

The company is still a major employer in Dundee, where it has its research and development centre of excellence for ATM's.

One of the Factories was subsequently changed to become the main Training school for the UK before moving to



*The completed Camperdown NCR factory, designed by J. Stanley Beard of Bennett & Partners. The canteen had views over Camperdown Park.*

London. Many Engineers from all over Europe came to stay in Dundee while training on equipment for sometimes up to 6 months at a time.

In Terms of Service, sales etc. NCR had a presence in Scotland since the early 1900's.

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### THE BRITISH N. C. R.

September, 1900.

let the grass grow beneath his feet. He sets about his work with a will and resoluteness of purpose that always—and always will—bring success. The fact that he gets orders regularly, month by month, is sufficient evidence that he is a worker. Whenever we go round the territory with Mr. Gray we can't help feeling we have the right man in the right place.

territory. His finest recreation is to get an order—his unhappy moments when he can't get one. But he gets them, and as a consequence he goes about his territory with a buoyancy that is no small aid to success.

Most heartily do we wish Mr. Gray a continuance of success. He deserves it and we believe he will get it. There are some men who :—



His enthusiasm in the business is unquestionable. He loves his work if ever man did. He knows too what he is talking about. He calls not only on the big people in his territory, but also on the small, and has pulled many an order off for a high-grade machine where it didn't look possible. He believes in systematically working his

"Deserve the fate their fretting lips foretell." The man who grumbles instead of working merits failure. The grumbler has no time for anything else but grumbling — such a man as this can't get on. He is a prophet foretelling his own doom. The National Cash Register Company needs workers.

## History of the Piper Whisky Bar, Glasgow

The Piper Whisky Bar in Glasgow, located on George Square, has a history that includes being renamed multiple times before its current identity. It was formerly known as "The Queen's Bar" and then the Chambers in a failed attempt by Glasgow Council to acquire it before coming "The Edge" before changing again to "The Piper on the Square" around 2010 and being shortened to "The Piper" shortly after. It transformed into a dedicated whisky bar approximately eight years before 2024, according to current owner Gillian Kirkland.

### The Queen's Bar



**Queens Bar 1960s.**

There's been a pub on this site since 1845.

There has been licensed premises here since 1845, Mr James Penden was licensee and stayed in the family until the 1860s.

Wine and Spirit Merchant Alexander Gillon acquired the premises in 1872, business prospered.

Robert Bowes a well-known and respected wine and spirit



**Queen's Bar near the corner of George Square.**

merchant and a Director of the Scottish wine and spirit merchants Benevolent Institution, took over the pub in 1884.

In 1899 Robert paid an annual rent of £115,00 for the premises in North Frederick Street.

### In the News 1971...

Pub price veto delays property development.

The development of a site in the centre of Glasgow may be threatened because the Scottish Office is against the price negotiation for part of the property involved, a public house at North Frederick Street.

After discussions going back several years, Glasgow Corporation planning committee, which owns the rest of the block covering North Hanover Street, George Street and North Frederick Street, offering £65,000 to Mr A. W. Sinclair for the Queen's Bar, at 27-29 North Frederick Street, where his wife, Mrs. M. V. Sinclair, is licensee.

"They wanted to buy and asked my price," Mr Sinclair said at the weekend. "I asked £70,000 but we settled on their offer of £65,000. "On the strength of that I bought other property at South Frederick Street and got a licence for it, conditional on handing over the licence for the Queen's Bar."

### Deal Off

Mr Sinclair considered that all that was needed was the final sanction of the corporation, which he thought would be a formality. The corporation, however sent him a letter stating that the deal was off as the Scottish Development Department would not allow them to offer £65,000. The Department said the figure of £45,000 put up by the district valuator was sufficient

"We are in a cleft stick," Mr. Sinclair said, "We can take the £45,000, or sit tight and hope something else turns up. We cannot extend the Queen's Bar because the corporation keep saying it has a short life."

"If I don't get into the new premises by March, when the licensing court sit, I may well lose the new licence."

"If I sit here, it is holding up any possible corporation development. I do not want to be the man in the middle but I think I have had a raw deal. "The corporation want to buy. I want to sell. Their own estates department agreed on the figure. Why should the Development Department step in like this?"



**Chamber's. 1991. Formerly known as the Queen's Bar.**

**Update...2008.**

A new name has appeared above the door and is called "The Edge."



*The Edge. 2008.*

**Update...2010.**

The Edge did not live for long and the place had a facelift and another new name has appeared above the door "The Piper on the Square."

Shortly afterwards it was shortened to just "The Piper."



*The Piper sign. 2010.*



*The Piper. 2008.*

Gillian Kirkland, whisky judge and owner of the multi-award-winning business, The Piper Whisky Bar in Glasgow's George Square.

Not content with a running a successful Whisky Bar, the eternally busy and motivated Gillian Kirkland is looking to start bottling her very own malt as part of a brand new venture. There's nothing bottled up about Gillian, though – her bubbly personality fuels her enthusiasm and focus, all of which shone through when I met her on a Monday morning at The Piper – an Iona Pub Partnership premises.

Six years into running her business independently following her husband's death from a brain tumour, Gillian has made several changes to the operation.



*Another view of The Piper. 2012.*

She explained, "I turned the pub to a Whisky Bar four years ago and the malt count currently stands at 200. It was doing fine as it was but I felt it didn't have a strong enough identity, so I thought 'I know I'll turn it into a whisky bar.' With absolutely no experience/knowledge of whisky, I set about learning all I could about Whisky and I now love and understand it. I've never looked back. I am all guns blazing...it's a real labour of love"

Gillian is very good at accentuating the positive and The Piper, she is always keen to stress, is more than just a Whisky Bar. It boasts a function suite overlooking George Square and live entertainment every day from Glasgow's emerging music scene. Queues out the door on a Saturday night are a common sight.

As for her newest foray into bottling her very own malt, she said, "I have already bought a cask from Speyside which I have aged in a sherry cask and then bottled. I am tasting seven other casks tomorrow and I am also sourcing a Chateauneuf-du-Pape barrel in which to finish another whisky in. Each bottling will be approximately 300 and they will all be completely different. And before you ask, no, I have not yet selected a name – that is still a work in progress. I will get the branding just right."

Gillian's favourite tipple is a Glenfarclas 25 its lovely sherry and smooth tones, hinting at the fact that this may well influence her own choice of branding in the future.

Since its transformation, The Piper has continued to go from strength to strength, which Gillian puts down to a successful formula that is certainly working for her and her hardworking team. She said, "Why are we successful? The offering doesn't change. Good food, good entertainment, good service seven days a week. We don't show football. We don't need to."

"I also host a monthly whisky club in my function suite. Although it started small three years ago, it now boasts 50 members who I count as my friends."



*A plaque on the outside of the Piper.*

## MEET THE ORGANISERS – Adrian Gallagher



*PS: Welcome to PostScript, and the fifth in a series of discussions with fellow regional organisers.*

*Adrian, you're in charge of Region 9. Tell us about how you became a regional organiser, and what is involved in running the region, and your regular regional meals/get togethers*

**AG:** I was a service engineer working for NCR when one day I bumped into Geoff Jackson in Nationwide Exeter. We had a long chat about the fellowship and he

convinced me to join the group, even though I was not retired. After retiring in 2018, I then started attending the annual luncheons. Jessie Wallace said she wanted to pass on the baton to someone new, so after a couple of years, I took on the role as regional co-ordinator from her in January 2020.

Region 9 is a quiet region, with many members ageing gracefully. Previously, only an annual meal had been organised shortly before Christmas each year, but due to the deadline for PS, I moved it to late October, so that the report can be put in to the Winter edition. We trialled our 1st summer meal this year (2025) and had 5 attendees. Hopefully more will come next time.

*PS: When did engineering start to interest you? At school? How did that interest develop?*

**AG:** I am the youngest of 5 children, with 2 brothers and 2 sisters. After school I went to Technical College in Torquay. Sadly no longer there as it's now housing.. I had an aptitude for maths and physics at school. My father was an electrician for a local engineering firm and decided it was best for me to sort of follow in his footsteps, engineering. After school, I completed a 2 year full time course in electronics/electromechanics at Torquay Technical College, then was selected for an apprenticeship at a local technology firm Standard Telephones & Cables, in Paignton. With no car, I commuted by train and bus every day. Eventually I managed to find a daily lift off someone who lived nearby. After completing my apprenticeship, I moved onto the production line working in lasers, but felt I could do more. A friend who worked there, showed me an advert for a service engineer which I applied for. And the rest is now history.

*PS: When did you start with the company, and in what capacity? Did the job and the company match your expectations?*

There were interviews with Wally Crump and also tests at the Newton Abbot depot. Amazingly, considering the competition, I was offered 1 of 2 places, the other being accepted by Paul Grant, who was a few years older and more experienced than myself. I started on 6th May 1986 as a trainee field service engineer in the Newton Abbot depot, under Wally Crump.

A couple of years later, the Newton Abbot depot closed and our call handling was moved to Sheldon, Birmingham, under Doreen Butterfield. We also had a change of manager, Our manager also changed, Dave Evans took over. Call

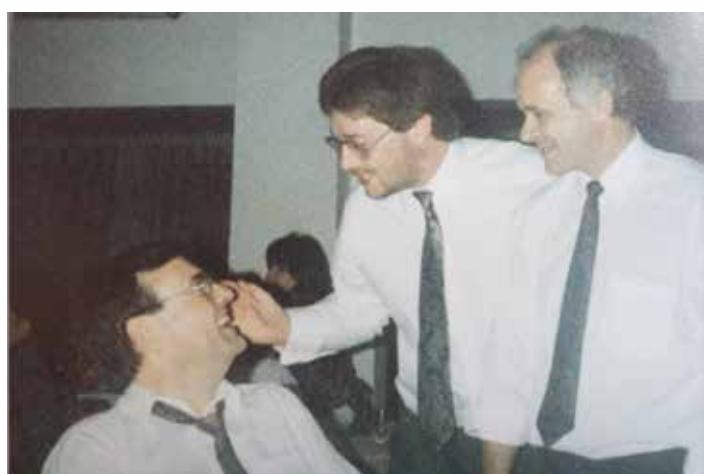


***Myself and my siblings, taken 50 years apart. Sadly, my sister Frances passed away last year.***

handling and training (following the closure of Brent Cross, London) remained at Sheldon for a number of years before once again being moved to firstly Cumbernauld, then Motherwell, Scotland, to India and finally to Serbia.

In about 2013 I became a local support engineer and then moved to being a Territory Manager in 2015, for South Wales.

The job met all my expectations in every capacity I served, right until the end. I feel that my ability to improve my territory became my downfall in the end as I was given given 2 more



***An NCR Photo with Mike Jonckheere (left), Adrian in the middle and Trevor Davies (right), taken about 1988***

areas with nearly 110 engineers to look after. It became too much for me to cope with as the new areas needed a lot of work that they wanted results immediately, and although they reduced some of my workload, I had already decided to retire.

*PS: What territory did you cover in those days?*

AG: In 1986, I worked for Devon & Cornwall FED until they closed the Newton Abbot office in about 1988 and moved operations to Sheldon. They then changed the areas to include Somerset and Wiltshire.

Due to downsizing the number of engineers, travelling longer distances became the norm, with regular daily trips to Swindon and Bath.

*PS: Did you have outside interests and hobbies? Do you still partake in those activities?*



***Myself, my wife Louise, and my 2 brothers, Paul and Duncan after a sponsored charity walk this year for our local Hospice, Rowcroft.***

AG: I served on a social club committee in my 20's but that club closed. The hours I worked prevented any real hobbies and having a young family back then, meant what little time I had not working, was spent with the family. I enjoy watching snooker and Formula 1 and have made 2 trips to Silverstone.

After retiring, I have new hobbies of motorcycling, walking and helping others less fortunate around where I live, so I'm making up for lost time.

*PS: Tell us more...*

AG: Yes there was a sort of light bulb moment for us. We realised, after retiring, that there are fewer years ahead of us than behind, so decided to try something neither of us has done before, especially after covid. Hence, motorcycling.

Plus, one of our favourite films is "Wild Hogs" although we are not really that keen on Harleys, but it's a funny film. Maybe one day we'll try a trip across the States, but we have to start with shorter journeys and build up, now we are older.

*PS: To what extent do you need a sense of humour to survive as an engineer?*

AG: Having a good sense of humour is a must. When I first started, being the green eyed young 'un meant I was the

butt of many jokes but as my career developed I realised that this is normal and you end up passing it on to other new recruits, good banter. Also as a support engineer you need a great sense of humour working with some of the numpties (worse than me, if you can believe it!), that were employed. Some of the silly things they said and did leaves a lot to be desired.

*PS: What do you enjoy about retirement? Does your enjoyment increase as time goes by?*

AG: Since retiring, I have taken up motorcycle riding as I just mentioned. I gained my full licence nearly 3 years ago and currently ride a Kawasaki 1000SX. I also have a part time very adhoc job working for a funeral director as a pallbearer.

My enjoyment has increased as time goes by, especially being a motorcyclist. Both my wife and I have full licenses now and we have also passed our Institute of Advanced Motorcyclists Roadsmart course, both passing with a F1RST. It is the best thing I have ever done, and never rode before 3.5 years ago. I can highly recommend it :-)

Since retiring, we've also had a few holidays (which were difficult before, getting the same time off) and have even been away on a cruise ship, which I thought I would not enjoy, but now, can highly recommend. As previously mentioned, we have also taken up motorcycling in October 2021, after covid. Seeing the devastation the virus caused,



***Louise and Adrian about to travel wherever they want***


**U-Pass Motorcycle Training.**

13 Oct 2021

My wife and I are in our mid 50's with no previous experience. We took the 2 day CBT course. Mark was our instructor and he was both knowledgeable, informative and patient with us. He was brilliant. I found everyone in U-Pass both helpful and friendly and I would recommend them very highly. Thank you to Mark and U-Pass for setting us on our next 2 wheeled journey in life. 


**U-Pass Motorcycle Training**

Great to see you guys enjoying your own bikes. I remember you both from your taster day, what can be achieved inside two days with a bit of courage and a lot of determination, well done to you both, we are all thrilled to have been involved.

gave us a nudge to start to live life to the full. I passed my big bike test in October 2022 and Louise in June 2023. We each ride our own bikes, myself, a Kawasaki Ninja 1000 and Louise a Honda 750X. Since then we have joined our local Advanced Motorcyclists group in Devon (DAM), and have completed our Roadsmart course, both with the top score of a F1RST.

We go out a lot in all winds and weathers and usually find time to stop off at a cafe somewhere for coffee and cake, or an occasional fried breakfast. We visit a few local bike nights, our local being Jollies bike shop. If anyone is in to



motorbikes, it's a must see place if you are ever in Bovey Tracey, Devon.

I became a Fellowship member whilst I was working but found it difficult to get time off for the region 9 get-togethers. Once retired, I started attending them more often, and Jessie Wallace asked if I could take over from her, which I did and now try and organise get together for the South West England region.

*PS: Tell us more about your family*

AG: I decided to leave/retire at the end of 2018 along with my wife in early 2019.

My wife Louise and I have been together nearly 37 years, although only married for 7 years (I don't like to rush things; had to make sure). We have a daughter, Stephanie, who will be 36 years old on Christmas Day this year. She works for the NHS as a doctor's surgery practice manager. She lives with her boyfriend Greg, about 5 miles from us.

*PS: Do you have any funny stories about your job?*

AG: When I first started I was sent out with an older engineer. Whilst working in Exmouth, some 24 miles from where I lived, he suggested that I would never be expected to travel that far. How little Gordon Newberry knew at the time and how much the company would change over the years.

*PS. Thank you, Adrian.*



## PIC EVENT OUTING

Inertia is a powerful force. It glues you to your armchair and stops you taking the smallest of risks that might just lead to something pleasurable. When I first saw an invite to the PIC event I nearly treated it as I had all previous invites. The waste paper basket looked a sound bet. But no. This time I decided to do something different.

Long after agreeing to attend I spoke to Roy Constantine, dear colleague from my days in Marylebone Road, who claimed to have attended a PIC event and to have enjoyed it.

I now live in the north of England and decided to go to the northern PIC meeting which this year was held close to

Manchester airport in the Concorde Conference Centre. Since I had only worked in the London area with NCR I did not expect to meet anyone familiar from my NCR days. In fact, I didn't expect to meet anyone I recognised (apart from my better half who came with me).

The venue for old plane buffs like me is extraordinary. On driving into the place (after a journey from home of about





five minutes) I was met by an angry Nimrod early warning aircraft and a forlorn looking old Trident dressed in BEA livery. Of course, as the name of the venue suggests, the real delight was waiting inside a vast custom built hangar in which it has lived in all its glory since 2009. I refer of course to Concorde!

This splendid thing has the registration G-BOAC. It retired from service in 2003 following some 70,000 landings. It is the plane flown by Phil Collins across the Atlantic during the legendary Live Aid concert. Incredible to think that a collection of more than 400 people would be having lunch beneath it.

Lining the edges of the hangar were a series of trestle tables from which drinks were being served. Not just the tea and coffee I was hoping for, but prosecco and other wines too. (It was a little early in the day but I felt an exception was called for). Towards the centre and under the huge delta wing of Concorde tables had been prepared as if for a large wedding. Waiters and waitresses hovered to answer questions and start the service.

I reacted with a jolt when someone I knew but could not name tapped me on the shoulder and said "I thought it was you"! This was someone I had worked with more than ten years ago (post NCR) and he gracefully reminded me of the when and where. With my wife we navigated to a vacant table in the centre of the hangar which just happened to be, as luck would have it, alongside a collection of NCR retirees. Wonders never cease. It was about this time that my wife pointed out there was a free bar. What other extraordinary things were going to happen?

The food was excellent. The servers were charming. The bar was free (did I already mention that)? On our table the ratio of wine bottle to the number of people was one to one. I tried without success to negotiate with my wife that she really ought to drive us home after all this.

The highlight of the event was without doubt chatting to Peter Scanlon and Andrew Hill of NCR. I hadn't met these gentlemen before. We had a fascinating discussion about the world of NCR: one I had once inhabited a long time ago. Andrew sent me a photograph of the current NCR Atleos Head Office. (I believe NCR Atleos is the ATM side of what had been NCR Corporation prior to its split in 2023). The office is in Rotherham and, I hope I'm not sounding snobbish but, it's not exactly Marylebone Road!



We had a guest speaker following lunch in Paul Lewis - a financial journalist with a history of numerous appearances on Radio 4's Money Box. Despite Paul talking about 'free money from the Chancellor', the magic of tax transfers and the availability of attendance allowance and married couple's allowance; I was wilting under the effects of the table wine.

My wife and I alas had to make a dash for the exit before the serving of coffee so I may well have missed further treats!



Some of the delightful folk from NCR. I wish I had spoken to everyone! My list of names (and apologies for any I have missed):

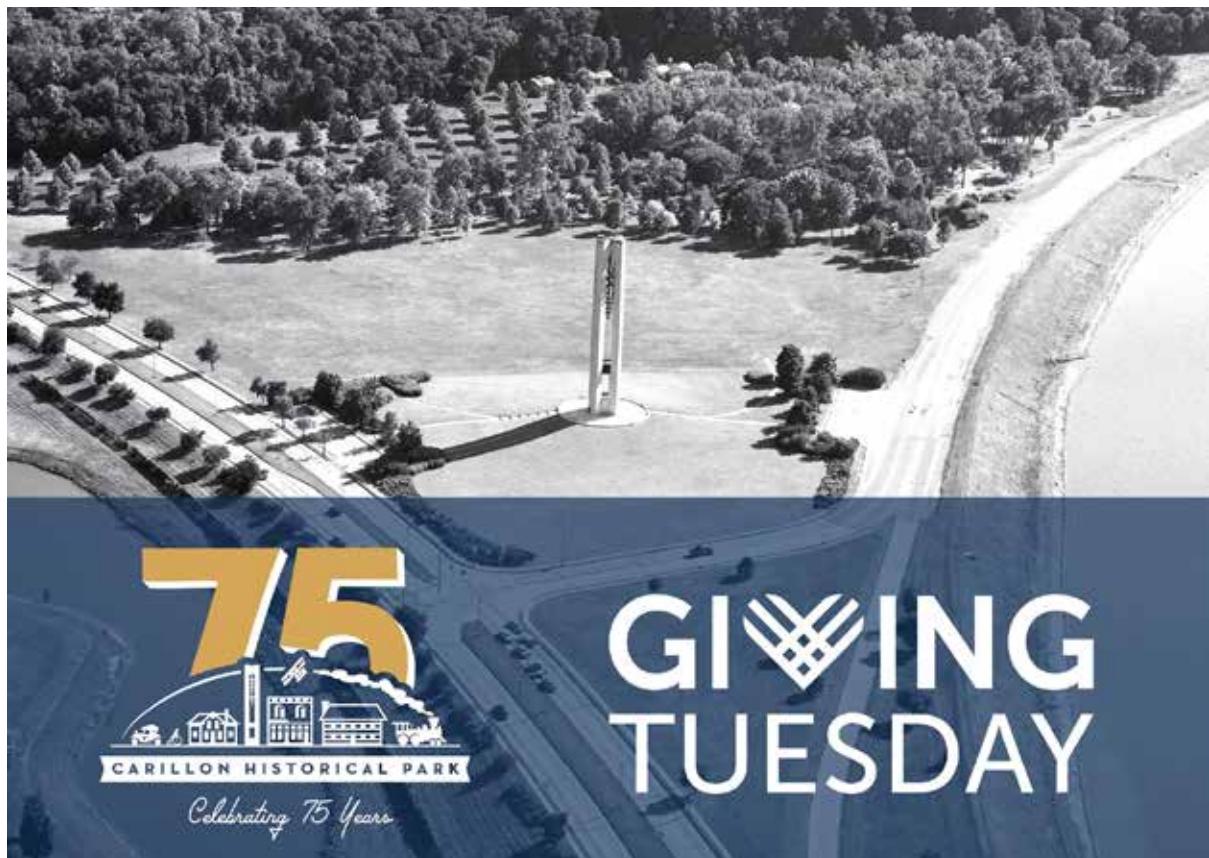
- Andrew Hill
- Bob Radcliffe
- Clare Farley
- Derek Williams
- Jacqueline Sale
- Michael Gibbons
- Nick Frederiksen
- Peter Scanlon

The event was an unexpected joy. I find it hard to explain my initial reluctance to going. Perhaps it's because the literature hadn't mentioned the free bar. In any case, I am definitely signed up for next year!

**Danny Callanan**

## Carillon Historical Park's 75th Anniversary

*(Ian Ormerod tells the story of the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbour, and how it was remembered in Dayton)*



On December 7, National Pearl Harbour Remembrance Day, we reflected on the first Deeds Carillon concert, performed in honour of the brave Americans who lost their lives that solemn day.

On Christmas Eve 1941, Daytonians gathered around the newly built Deeds Carillon, still mourning from the tragic news. Just 17 days earlier, hundreds of Japanese fighter planes had attacked the Pearl Harbour Naval Base in Honolulu, Hawaii, killing more than 2,400 Americans and injuring nearly 1,200 more. President Franklin D. Roosevelt — who, only two decades before, had walked the Gem City's streets as Gov. James M. Cox's vice-presidential running mate during the Dayton Daily News magnate's 1920 Presidential bid — had just declared war on Japan. Dayton's sons were heading to battle. Some would never return home.

So, while the first carillon concert was slated for Easter Sunday 1942, Dayton's newest landmark made a much-needed early debut on Christmas Eve 1941. After the attack on Pearl Harbour, Deeds Carillon premiered, playing Christmas music.

“Peace on earth, goodwill to men” was a reality in Dayton on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as varied groups joined in the Yuletide rejoicing,” the Dayton Daily News reported in its Dec. 25, 1941, edition under the headline “Dayton Hears Carillon In First Program.” “Highlights of the Christmas Eve celebration were the ringing for the first time of the Deeds Carillon in Carillon Park, at 8 p.m., with Robert E. Kline presenting a program of Christmas carols and Yuletide songs.”



*Cars line up at Deeds Carillon on Christmas Eve 1941.*



*Longtime Carillonneur Robert Kline at the Deeds Carillon console on Christmas Eve 1941.*

## Alpen Horne



Who is this chap? Some of you may recognise him as a former heavyweight from NCR Finance. I had left the Marylebone Street office before his arrival so have no personal memory I'm afraid but gather he had a big impact on the working lives and careers of many.

He is David Horne. Canadian born. Former NCR Financial Controller. Author of two business books. Wine connoisseur extraordinaire. David pursued a varied career path, starting in auditing and moving on through writing, consulting and drinking. (Should perhaps re-word that).

Brought up on Canada's west coast David developed an early interest in numbers (and possibly wine). He qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse in 1987 and, as if auditing wasn't exciting enough, decided to move to Zurich in Switzerland. Price Waterhouse, now PWC, had been auditor to NCR for many years (even back when I wielded a calculator) so it was inevitable that David encountered our merry band.

In 1989 he took the fateful plunge and moved from auditing to serious work with the largest of his clients: NCR Switzerland. He joined as Financial Controller when the company's turnover was, he apparently said, some \$300 million. He continued to work amidst the gnomes of that beautiful city until 1993 when the irresistible magnet in Europe that is London pulled him and his family westwards. He joined NCR UK as Financial Controller (I think).

David joined the UK organisation at a tricky time. NCR was now a subsidiary of AT&T and, though financial results for NCR UK are not publicly available, those for NCR as a whole are and tell a sad story. In the year of his joining, the corporation generated turnover of more than \$7 billion from which it lost nearly \$1.3 billion. Losing that amount of money needed real talent. Arguably, a new financial controller was needed too for these cost-cutting times. David had, by all accounts, a tricky time with NCR UK though perhaps not as tricky as those working for him across finance. Difficult days during which I was thankfully elsewhere.

He worked with NCR for a relatively short time: about two years. Moving to AT&T Capital in 1995. He clearly had itchy feet since he moved on to the BBC in 1997 where he became Head of Business Finance at the BBC's Production

Facilities Division. Funnily enough, again for two years. A creature of habit one might say. He later moved to a public relations firm called BSMG.

Since the rules of arithmetic are constant, one joy to working in Finance is that your skills are applicable everywhere. David became CFO for three medium-sized companies. During this time he evidently raised over £100 million in business funding and was involved in the buying or selling of more than 20 companies. These experiences were doubtless crucial to his move into writing and consulting. This was not before indulging his other love: a wine business called Home & Daughters. This has alas morphed into a mere hobby but David's consulting activities are alive and well.

David started his publishing journey with "Add Then Multiply" published in July 2019 aiming to help small businesses achieve the sort of growth he claimed is usually reserved for large corporations. (His experience of the growth of large corporations being somewhat different to mine). Despite producing a great read and winning an award at the "Business Book Awards" of 2020, he disappointed readers by not following up with "Subtract Then Divide". Something of a missed opportunity perhaps.

In "Add Then Multiply" David expounded his FACE methodology. (I'd be keen to know what this brings to mind for those who worked with David in the Marylebone Office). Whatever you might think, FACE stands for

- Fund
- Acquire
- Consolidate
- Exit

David argues persuasively that small business owners can scale quickly and exit lucratively. He encourages the reader to think big and borrow a lot. I tried the opposite by neither thinking nor borrowing which didn't work so he may have had a point. I digress.

Could winning an award in the "Business Self Development Category" at the "Business Book Awards" possibly be beaten? David clearly thought so because he went on to write "Funded Female Founders". This book focussed on the Fund bit of the earlier book but from the viewpoint of would be female entrepreneurs. It's an interesting switch in which David explores the bias against women (and others) leaving them unrepresented in business. (Interesting topic, wonder if he had heard the idea from my daughter)?

By 2010, he had launched his wine business and re-launched a consulting business named after his first book.

David's career path has been immensely varied with different sectors, roles and sizes of enterprise. Who could have thought such a life would be possible after leaving NCR? David demonstrated that adaptability and transferability of skills are crucial talents.

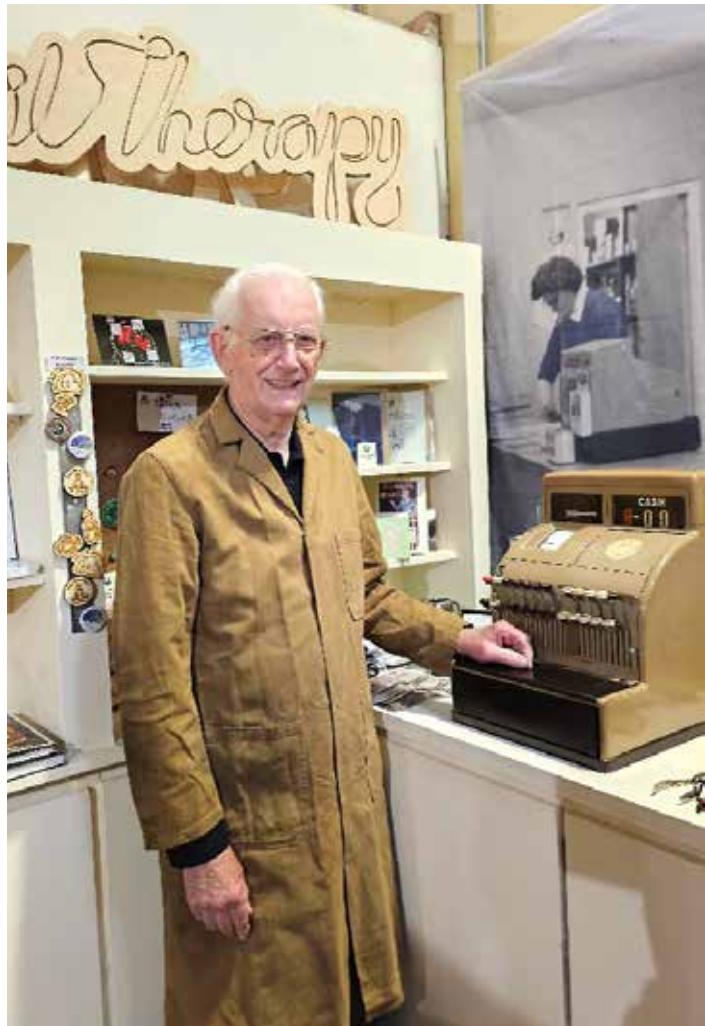
Are there individuals you recall from NCR for whom we should write a brief bio? Feel free to make any suggestions.

**Danny Callanan**

## A visit to a Lunatic Asylum

As the Fellowship historian I get calls almost each week from people wanting help about NCR or our old products.

In January I received a request for a key from the Glenside Hospital Museum which is located within the grounds of the old psychiatric hospital and housed in the 1881 Grade II listed asylum church.



I found a master key and visited the charity in March, ostensibly to open the 100 Class register, which had been found in an old storeroom, and show them how to use it.

What I found was a register which was completely seized and covered in an abundance of orange grease which had solidified on every working part of the machine.

As they were so keen to get it working and on display in their re-enhanced shop display, I agreed to take the register home and work on it there. Once on the workbench I removed the surface grease, which had to be chipped off and then began a long process of spraying each individual bearing surface with degreaser and then penetrating oil, I finally, after two months work managed to get the main shaft to turn enabling the removal of the printer. After another month of intermittent work and replacement of some parts, the register was in working order enabling it to be returned in August and installed in its new display in front of a mural depicting the shop from one of the old hospitals, which has a picture of an NCR Class 3 in use on the counter.

For anyone visiting the Bristol area it is well worth visiting especially for those with an interest in Family History or Mental Health Nursing.

Their website is [Glenside Hospital Museum](http://GlensideHospitalMuseum)

## GEM CITY

The Dayton Daily News article covered by Ian in his report on the Carillion concert referred to Dayton as the 'Gem City'. So I enrolled the might of Google's AI army to find out why Dayton had that nickname, and received the following explanation:

The American city known as the "Gem City" in 1941 was Dayton, Ohio. The nickname originated in the mid-19th century and was widely adopted by the city's Board of Trade in the late 1880s.

Dayton was called the "Gem City" for several reasons:

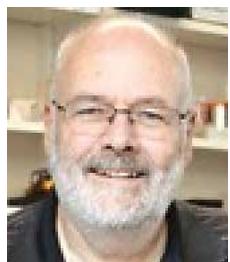
- A well-kept appearance An 1845 article in the Cincinnati Daily Chronicle praised the city's wide, clean streets, noble stores, and beautiful dwellings, calling it "the gem of all our interior towns".
- A shining example In the 19th century, Dayton was considered a model American city, known for its wealth, refinement, and enterprise.
- A famous racehorse One theory links the name to a successful racehorse named "Gem" that was owned and trained in Dayton in the early 1800s.

Other cities that have also been nicknamed "Gem City" include Quincy, Illinois (known as Illinois's "Gem City"), Laramie, Wyoming ("Gem City of the Plains"), and Toronto, Ohio.

## THE FULL COMMITTEE



John Atkins



Ron Gammie



Keith Templeman



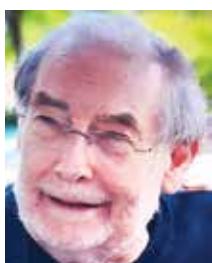
Adrian Gallagher



Lin Sandell



Ian Ormerod



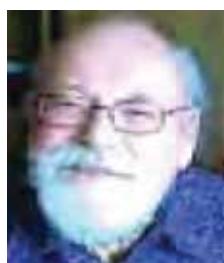
Pat Stroudley



Pat Keogh



Stephen Swinbank



Geoff Jackson



Danny Callanan

IF YOU HAVE AN NCR PENSION QUERY,  
HERE ARE THE CONTACT DETAILS

0800 652 7000  
 +44 (0)1325 271 860 (if abroad)  
 Monday - Friday, 8am - 6pm

[enquiries@picadmin.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@picadmin.co.uk)

[picmemberzone.com](http://picmemberzone.com)

Pension Insurance Corporation  
 PO Box 556, Darlington DL19 YX

Need extra help? Please get in touch,  
we are here to support you.

## ANYTHING YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT?



If you have anything you think may be of interest in a historical context (old machines, parts, manuals, newsletters, newspaper articles), please contact Ian Ormerod on [ian.ormerod@ncr.org.uk](mailto:ian.ormerod@ncr.org.uk) or by post at Jasmine Cottage, Hillersland Lane, Shortstanding, Coleford, Gloucestershire, GL16 7NU. Phone: 07813 046364.

Ian curates the NCR Retrospective website, which is full of UK and US company history, and has a copy of every Postscript (and other NCR magazines) - visit [ncr.org.uk](http://ncr.org.uk)



And the overall winner is . . . . FROM REGION 1  
Also winner of Funniest Caption award



*While Jim Tucker checks the head on his pint, Brian Behr checks the wife's instructions on what he is allowed to drink!*



SECOND  
ALSO FROM REGION 1

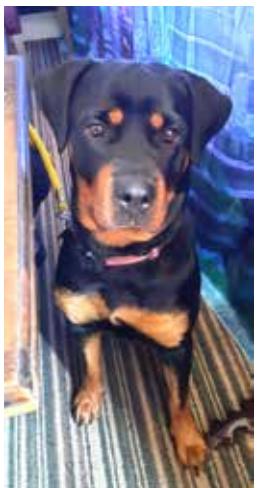
*As it had been raining outside Peter Kemp tries out solution to get home dry*

WINNER MOST AMUSING WHILST EATING PHOTO



AND IN THIRD, FROM REGION 2  
THE WINNER OF THE BEST PHOTO  
OF PEOPLE TAKING SELFIES  
(and it's too late for objections  
by those who claim no selfies  
emerged!)

Region 2 Pete Ramsden



The judges felt that although several other photos deserved an award, there was a stand-out candidate for special recognition in one particular case, so they created a new prize –  
THE PHOTO WITH THE MOST 'AAAH' APPEAL, won by Region 9's dog, Martha.

# The NCR Fellowship

**PRESIDENT:**  
Stephen Swinbank

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

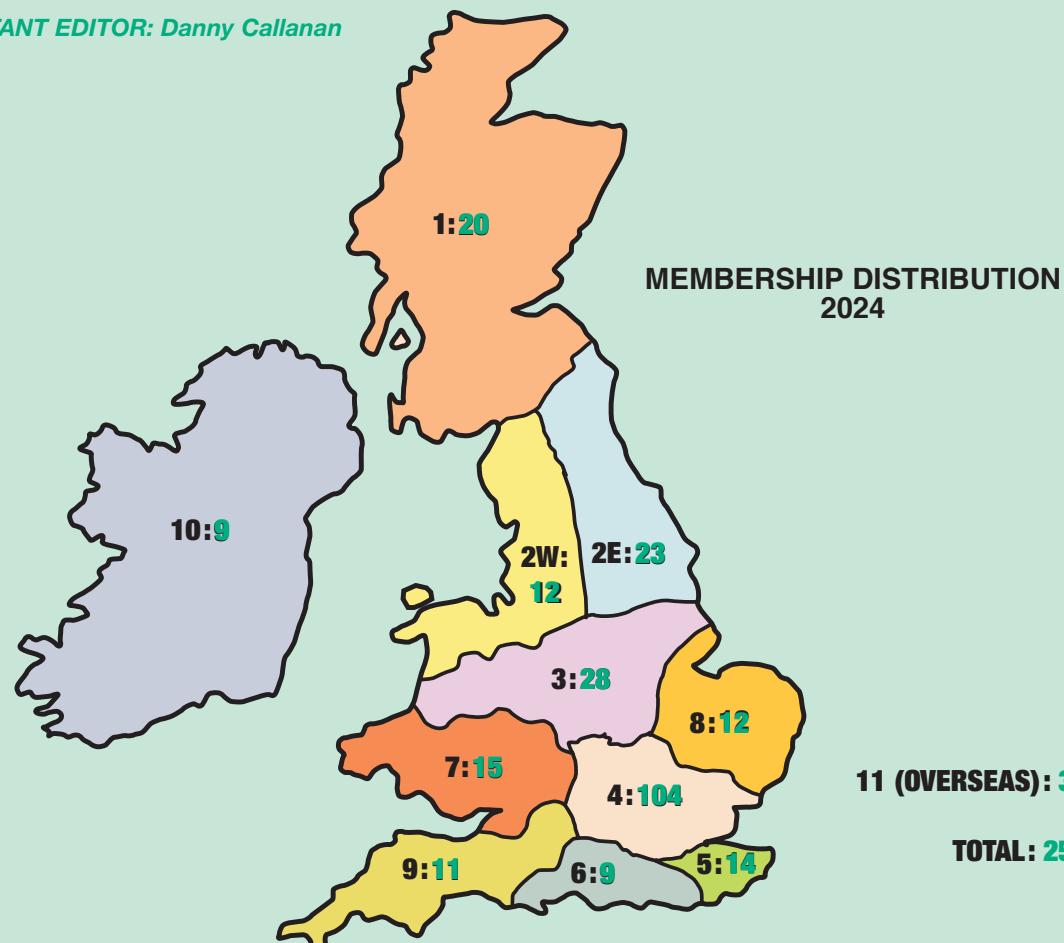
**CHAIRMAN & TREASURER:** *Lin Sandell*  
15 Lancaster Close, Ash Vale, Surrey GU12 5ST  
01252 330949  
email: [linsandell@btinternet.com](mailto:linsandell@btinternet.com)

**EDITOR "POSTSCRIPT":** *Pat Stroudley*  
17 Derby Close, Tattenham Corner, Epsom, KT18 5UK  
01737 373439  
Email: [patrick.stroudley@btinternet.com](mailto:patrick.stroudley@btinternet.com)

**ASSISTANT EDITOR:** *Danny Callanan*

**SECRETARY:** *John Atkins*  
24 Chapel Close, Leavesden, Watford, Herts. WD25 7AR  
01923 675115  
email: [johnatkins37@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnatkins37@hotmail.co.uk)

**EDITOR EMERITUS:** *Geoff Jackson*  
Shaplands Cottage, The Village, Newton St Cyres, Exeter,  
Devon EX5 5BW  
01392 851551 email: [megalops@btinternet.com](mailto:megalops@btinternet.com)



## REGIONAL ORGANISERS

**Region 1:** *Ron Gammie*  
40 Boghall Terrace, Linlithgow, Edinburgh, EH49 7DB  
07803 231734 email: [rg.gammie@btinternet.com](mailto:rg.gammie@btinternet.com)

**Regions 2E and 2W:** *Pat Keogh*  
2 Sandholme Drive, Burley-in-Wharfedale, West Yorks LS29 7RQ  
01943 863050 email: [pat@keogh1.co.uk](mailto:pat@keogh1.co.uk)

**Region 3:** *Keith Templeman*  
1 Briar, Tamworth B77 4DX  
07800 589636 email: [ktempleman@templex.org.uk](mailto:ktempleman@templex.org.uk)

**Region 4:**  
*Lin Sandell* (contact details top of this page)  
*John Atkins* (contact details top of this page)

**Region 5:** Vacant

**Region 6:** Vacant

**Region 7:** *Ian Ormerod*  
Jasmine Cottage, Hillersland Lane, Shortstanding, Coleford,  
Gloucestershire, GL16 7NU.  
07813 046364 email: [ian.ormerod@ncr.org.uk](mailto:ian.ormerod@ncr.org.uk)

**Region 8:** Vacant

**Region 9:** *Adrian Gallagher*  
21 Daymond Drive, Bovey Tracey, Devon TQ13 9SZ  
07770 034600 email: [argallagher37@gmail.com](mailto:argallagher37@gmail.com)

**Region 10:** *Ken Carson*  
23 Moneybroom Road, Lisburn Co. Antrim. BT28 2QP  
028 9264 8568 email: [kenny.carson@hotmail.com](mailto:kenny.carson@hotmail.com)

**NCR RETROSPECTIVE WEBSITE:** [www.ncr.org.uk](http://www.ncr.org.uk)