

WINTER 2018

Retired Employees' News

In business 170 years from 1848 - 2018



John laing
making infrastructure happen

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RETIRED EMPLOYEES' NEWS

Alex Finkenrath, C/O 33 Bunns Lane,
Mill Hill, London, NW7 2DX.

Tel: 0207 901 3429 Mob: 07921 831780

Email: alex.finkenrath@laing.com

Other correspondence:

John Laing Charitable Trust, 33 Bunns
Lane, London, NW7 2DX

Tel: 020 8959 9683

Pensions Department:

Mr Phil Wilson, Pensions and Payroll
Manager, John Laing Group Plc, 1 Kingsway,
London, WC2B 6AN.

Email: phil.a.wilson@laing.com

Tel: 020 7901 3200

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COVER SHOT: A classic shot of work on the Berkeley Nuclear Power Station discovered as part of the research being carried out by Tony Presland - see page 10. Different crop page 15.

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Looking back at a legacy spanning 170 years...

SOME say that nostalgia is not what it used to be - but I beg to differ!

We are lucky to be connected with a Company with such a rich and diverse history. The feature on pages 11-14 only touches on some key elements of the past 170 years. Bear in mind that in the same year Caldew House was built, Waterloo Station was opened; Chopin was on tour in the UK; The Plymouth Brethren split into the Exclusive and the Open Brethren; WH Smith opened their first bookstall and Cambridge rules for Association Football were drawn up.

The John Laing Charitable Trust (JLCT), has seen a recent increase in requests for information from the archives. These have ranged from individuals looking for information about their ancestors and relatives to Government departments, industry, academics and media companies.

The Trust is keen to put its archives to good use in the fields of research, education and historical record, so there are plenty of opportunities for readers to add their stories to the collections. More news about our partnership with Historic England in the next issue, but some records are already available to hear (see page 15) or you might want to help the gentleman who is embarking upon a PhD based on the John Laing photographic archive (page 10).

On page 19 you can read details of how the Trust is extending its Make a Difference scheme to help smaller local charities with which retirement club members have any kind of connection.

This is very much in keeping with Sir John Laing's dedication to communities. He was a man sure of his foundations and directions, so rarely spoke of disappointments, but you might be surprised by what he revealed in an interview with Team Spirit in 1968 (see page 7).

Much has happened in the world since the seed of the Company was sown in 1848 - including two world wars. This reminds me of the story about an old man who went to confession and told the priest that during the war he had hidden a refugee in his attic. The priest said: "I do not see anything wrong with that, you helped a poor soul survive the war." The man added: "Well, every month I took rent from him." The priest replied: "That is not a good thing you did, but you helped him survive still." The man thought for a moment and then asked the priest: "Should I tell him the war is over?"

As we approach another new year, just remember the pessimist and his friend the optimist. The pessimist was raging one day and said: "I am at the end of my tether. I can't take any more; everything is just terrible - it just can't get any worse." The optimist replied cheerily: "Yes it can."

Alex Finkenrath



Artist's impression of the massive Sunraysia Solar Farm in New South Wales

First Australian solar investment made...

JOHN LAING Group plc is investing in its first solar project in Australia - the Sunraysia Solar Farm.

When fully commissioned, the New South Wales site will be one of the largest solar farms in the country.

The investment in this 255MWp project forms part of an APAC renewable energy portfolio that includes investments in the Kiata Wind Farm (VIC) and all three stages of the Hornsdale Wind Farm (SA). John Laing will invest AUD\$108.6 million (£59 million) in the Sunraysia project, taking a 90.1% stake.

Sunraysia is located 17km south of Balranald and approximately 140km south east of Mildura. The project is scheduled to start later this year and will be fully operational in 2019. By investing at the pre-construction stage, John Laing is able to add value as the contractual arrangements, which will determine the solar farm's future revenue and costs, are finalised.

Justin Bailey, John Laing, Regional Managing Director - Asia Pacific, said: "We are very pleased to secure our first solar investment in Australia, further enhancing our renewable energy portfolio in the APAC region. After carefully evaluating a number of solar opportunities in the market over the last two years, we have invested in Sunraysia Solar Farm, an asset that supports our model to create value through the successful delivery of greenfield infrastructure.

The Maoneng Group will retain a 9.9% interest in the Sunraysia Solar Farm and provide construction management and asset management services to the project.

Qiao Nan Han, Maoneng, Vice President - Australia, said that: "The investment from John Laing is testament to the quality of the assets which we develop, together with the trust that's required in delivering and operating the solar farm over a long term. Our strategies and objectives align."

...plus a second just announced!

AS we went to press, John Laing announced the financial close of a second Australian solar farm investment with the 174.9MWp Finley Solar Farm in New South Wales.

These two investments add to the two wind farm projects already in John Laing's growing, Asia Pacific renewable energy portfolio, representing over 750MW of generating capacity for the region.

John Laing, which owns 100% of the Finley project, and developer Esco Pacific, expect the project to reach commercial operations in late 2019. Located 6 km west of Finley, this project will further support Australia's ambition to meet its targets for increased use of renewables.

Justin Bailey, John Laing, Regional Managing Director - Asia Pacific, said: "With two solar investments secured in Australia in as many months, we are underlining our commitment to the region and to socially responsible projects that support in-country ambitions.

Esco Pacific will provide asset management services to the asset during construction and operations.



Justin Bailey - John Laing, Regional Managing Director - Asia Pacific

Still going Dutch!

In October the Company celebrated the 10-year anniversary of John Laing in The Netherlands in the stylish Conservatorium hotel in Amsterdam. Chief Executive Officer Olivier Brousse joined staff together with key partners, clients and advisors to celebrate all achievements during the last decade as well as future opportunities. The Laing team are pictured here enjoying their celebration dinner.



Bright future for solar in US

John Laing Group plc has continued its commitment to the USA renewable energy sector by partnering with Cypress Creek Renewables to invest £27m in two utility-scale solar projects in North Carolina.

This commitment adds to John Laing's existing portfolio of renewable energy assets in North America which now comprises four solar farms in North Carolina and three wind farms in Texas and New Mexico.

John Laing's dedicated renewable energy team identifies, delivers and operates projects in both onshore and offshore wind, solar and biomass, with a particular focus on pre-construction stage projects in North America, Europe and Asia Pacific.

Anthony Phillips, Regional Managing Director, North America, said: "2.9 gigawatts of renewable energy projects were started in the US last year, including solar and wind, as demand for clean energy increases and as equipment costs have fallen dramatically.

"We continue to see the commitment that State governments are making to promote the use of clean energy and this investment demonstrates our success in partnering with leading developers to develop greenfield infrastructure."

New MD role focuses on long-term strategy

JOHN LAING has strengthened its strategic focus with the appointment of a new Group MD for Strategy & Partnerships.

Salim Bensmail, (pictured right) has over two decades of experience working as a senior civil servant in France and has been directly involved in infrastructure policy and projects for 12 years. He will also join the Group's Executive Committee.

Over the last four years, he was the Managing Director of the French Treasury's Infrastructure Finance and PPP Unit, responsible for advising French public sector entities on the structuring of infrastructure projects.

Prior to that, Salim held various positions at the City of Paris and has been involved in a wide range of infrastructure projects, across energy, transport, urban public services and social infrastructure.

Salim brings to John Laing a deep understanding of the dynamics of infrastructure public policy, both in Europe and at an international level.

Olivier Brousse, Chief Executive Officer of John Laing Group, said: "Salim's arrival illustrates our increasingly global footprint, and demonstrates our determination as an infrastructure investor to proactively engage with the key stakeholders in the infrastructure market, including public decision



makers. Salim will focus on identifying and prioritising the Group's medium and long-term growth opportunities across geographies, bringing new ideas and relationships and contributing to our innovative edge and added value as a private investor in new infrastructure projects."

Salim said: "John Laing is one of the few active investors in the greenfield infrastructure space, with the resources, experience and expertise to structure and lead major projects around the world.

"There aren't many opportunities to work in such a demanding and rewarding environment. I greatly look forward to working with the Group's teams around the world, and helping to develop our relationships with existing and new partners."

DAVID RUSHTON is celebrating 35 years with the Company having joined straight from school as a trainee quantity surveyor. Since those early days at Luton Airport, he has gone on to work on five continents and seen the business evolve from a construction firm employing thousands into a global leader in infrastructure investment. He was the second generation of his family to join the Company - and now he is on his way to an unexpected family milestone.



Above, the Millennium Dome (now the O2 Arena). Below, Jon Rushton who signed the Second Severn Crossing concession agreement for the Company in 1990.



Global milestones during 35-year John Laing career

WHEN David started his John Laing career straight from finishing his 'A' levels in 1983 - he had no idea that he would still be here and that it would take him all over the world.

He began as an articled pupil quantity surveyor, in the Building Region, out of the Collingdon Street office, Luton. He was based at Luton Airport project with Les Knowler as the Project Manager and Dave Joyner the Project Surveyor. David reported to Gary Lucas - with whom he subsequently worked at John Laing Investments.

"I remember those days with great fondness," said David.

"There was a great spirit on site, a real camaraderie. It was the old days when John Laing as a contractor still employed craftsmen 'on the tools'."

David's career then took him to the Eastern Region reporting to the Bury St Edmunds office; working on a variety of projects from Safeway Supermarket at Felixstowe, Redland Aggregates HQ at St Neots and Colchester Leisure Centre.

In 1994 he transferred to John Laing International and relocated to the 'New Residence at Giza' Project on the Nile.

David said: "This was a real eye opener for me; a new country, a new culture and working with a local Egyptian JV partner! The staff worked very hard, long days and we played hard. I sometimes used to run to work along the banks of the River Nile. I carried a length of plastic conduit to use with the wild dogs. Fortunately, I didn't actually ever need to use it.

"Business and family visitors were often treated to 'felucca' boat trips on the Nile, involving local beer and pizza. There are so many stories to tell from that time."

In 1997, David returned to the UK and joined Laing Management Contracting where he took up a role as John Laing Senior Commercial Manager on the Millennium Dome (now the O2 Arena).

He said: "Although this project was largely panned by the press, it was a superb project to be involved in. All parties were co-located on site - client, architect, engineers, construction managers and contractors. We all worked very effectively together."

In 1999, David responded to a job advertisement in the Times Newspaper placed by John Laing Investments - transferring there in January 2000 where he has been ever since.



David in Egypt

Based in Toronto, Canada he led the Company's business in North America between 2010 and 2014 and oversaw expansion in to the USA. David and his wife Ingrid returned to the UK with an enlarged family which included new Canadian-born Alice (then aged 3) - a younger sister to Hannah (then aged 6).

David is now an Asset Director and a member of the Investment Committee which approves project investments globally. David also supports the Company's entry in to new geographies and new technologies/ asset classes.

He added: "We have recently received Board approval to invest in Chile and Colombia and I have visited both countries multiple times over the last 18 months carrying out due diligence and to work with our Primary Investment teams."

David has achieved many milestones already, but is only three years away from a family one as he closes in on his father's 38 years' service for the Group. Jon Rushton retired as a Group Board Director in 1994.



David pictured with his dad Jon earlier this year.

The Canadian business was growing with Laing Construction and Equipment Limited, opening an office in Toronto. It was a first step toward expanding the construction and mechanical installation activities of the Group into Eastern Canada. JD Bibby, President of Laing Construction and Equipment, continued to be responsible for operations in the whole of Canada, with DW Orgill representing the Company as manager for Ontario. DE Robertson continued as Manager for British Columbia and operations in Alberta were being handled by TS Megan in Edmonton and B Hawkeswood in Calgary.

THE CONTRACT for the second stage of the rebuilding of St Thomas' Hospital, London — a contract valued at over £12.5 million — was awarded to the Construction Company. Standing opposite the Houses of Parliament, the Construction Company's contract included a 612-bed ward block on the Thames front. Behind the ward block would be a treatment block with eight operating theatres, the outpatients' department, diagnostic facilities and a large research institute financed by a gift from the Max Rayne Foundation. There would also be a residential block for nurses and the Nightingale Training School for nurses. Work on the 5.5-year North London Region project was due to start in February. The



TOPPING out of the new 12-storey Manchester Head Post Office Building in Spring Gardens . It was the first stage of Phase 2 of the Market Centre and would be the CPO and headquarters of the Head Postmaster for Manchester and included a modern Post Office on the ground-floor.

hospital rebuilding programme had been planned in three stages. This part was sandwiched between the first phase completed by Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons in 1966 and stage three due to begin in 1975.

R & D had a worldwide circulation for their old journals which were in demand. Through the British National Book Centre Scheme they sent out old issues to other countries and in return they received donations — mainly from other British libraries of various journals to make up their record sets. On one morning R and D librarian CW Mathew received 49 international reply coupons from a Japanese University Library, for the postage on some old journals which had been sent out to them. They had also had demand for

publications in Africa, the United States, Russia and Hungary.

DECEMBER saw the telephone system at Mill Hill going STD (Subscriber Trunk Dialling). A front page article warned that whilst long distance calls should be much cheaper, local ones may start costing more. Long distance calls had previously been charged in units of three minutes — however brief the conversation, but were now timed. "All long distance calls should be cheaper — providing the dialogue is kept brief and to the point." Local calls would still be cheaper if kept to under four minutes. However, valuable seconds would be saved as under STD staff would have to dial their own long distance telephone instead of going through the operator.



EVERYTHING stopped for the sugar beet harvest in East Anglia between September and February - including work on the new sugar factory for the British Sugar Corporation at Wissington. Thankfully the project was so big that there was plenty to be getting on with on the outskirts away from the main factory and conveyor belts.

It also meant that a lot of work had to be carried out in the early hours of the morning and that always seemed to be the time when the equipment broke down. Pictured left are Foreman Joiner Ian Kerr, Sub Agent Oster Bayne (on the phone) and Hoist Operator Flack.

WALSGRAVE Hospital completion was celebrated with a dinner and dance held in Meriden (venue for the this year's REALM Christmas lunch - see page 18). The £7 million Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital was well received. Most of the Construction Company staff involved in the contract attended the dinner and among the guests welcomed by A. Greenhow, the Regional Manager.

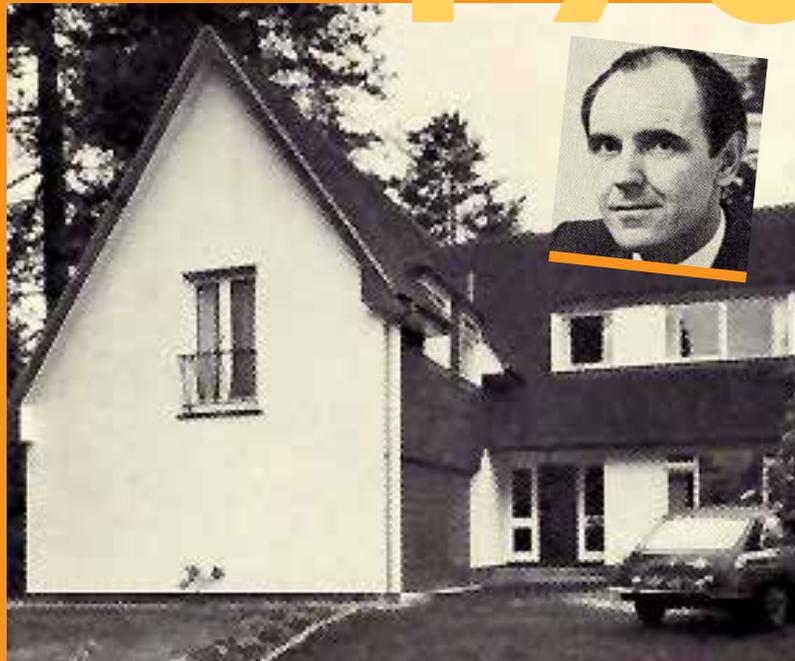
ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) adapted this poster designed by Eric Halliday of Laing Public Relations from an RC Gloster idea and circulated to Laing sites a year earlier by the Safety Dept.



A TEAM SPIRIT interview with Sir John Laing revealed that the Company's London HQ was very nearly a copy of the Palais Royal built on the former Westminster Hospital site. Sir John bought the site for £400,000 when the hospital decided to move out of the area and engaged architect Thomas Tait (who had designed Woodcroft Hall). Sir John admired the Paris Palais Royal more than any other building and was determined to bring it to Westminster. They got planning permission and even had a painting of the new building hung in the House of Lords, so both houses could see what was planned. However, politics intervened when 'someone' felt it was wrong that a site considered so important should be developed privately, so the Government bought it back. Sir John said: "I remember what a disappointment that was to me."

1968

JOHN PURVIS, Technical Manager and Director of Thermalite was so enthusiastic about his job that he built his house with a complete Thermalite structure and even allowed holes to be bored into the walls for tests to be carried out. When he joined the company nine years earlier, only the Reading factory was producing Thermalite for the market. However, he had seen the expansion of the Company which by 1968 had factories in Monmouthshire, Reading, Manchester area, Birmingham area, Newcastle area, London area and Scotland. He came to Thermalite in charge of reinforced products—at that time mainly the slabs — and soon found that his responsibilities had increased. As technical manager, he was now in charge of the



research and technical development of new advances in the use or potential use of Thermalite; of the testing and quality control of current production; of the building of factories and even the impact of impending metrication on the company.

Not only was the house is 'proving very pleasant to live in' but the tests showed that the material was living up to the claims of the technical brochures. Pictured above are John Purvis and his home which was made entirely using Thermalite processes.

Team spirit - 1968



SCENES from the Laing Lego Challenge in aid of Barnardos. Nine local architectural practises had gathered in Manchester for this regional heat. When the start was called, they scrambled to grab a share of the 16,000 Lego bricks in the centre of the room to build something. Interestingly there was a large number of bees being constructed, although some teams reflected the Olympic Games - which was current at the time. However, it was a remarkably lifelike bee which won the day and saw Building Design Partnership (BDP) advance to the final which was due to be held at the Chartered Institute of Building Headquarters in March 1994.

JLC had landed a joint venture contract for the £68 million Tallaght Regional Hospital in Dublin. Work was scheduled for completion in early 1997. The hospital was located nine miles from the city centre in south west Dublin and said to be the largest single building contract in the Republic of Ireland. It would cater for 513 patients and had a gross floor area of 58,000 sq m. It involved construction of wards and paramedical departments involving treatment, diagnostic and medical services departments. Also included was an energy centre, workshops and school of nursing plus full catering facilities and ancillary works. Laing Scotland and Ireland chairman, Brian Fitzgerald said: "Laing is one of Europe's top hospital builders and this joint venture with John Paul, a premier Irish contractor, provides much in terms of quality, experience and local knowledge."

STAFF at Britain's biggest non-teaching hospital at Plymouth had to put up with antiquated conditions while they waited for politicians to give the go-ahead for the new building. It was planned in the 1960s, Phase I was built in the '70s, and Phase II is now complete. After waiting so long, the health authority wanted the best possible hospital in the shortest space of time, and Laing South West completed the £24m Phase II contract in under four years. With the benefit of hindsight, they were able to add a number of energy-saving and environmental improvements during construction.

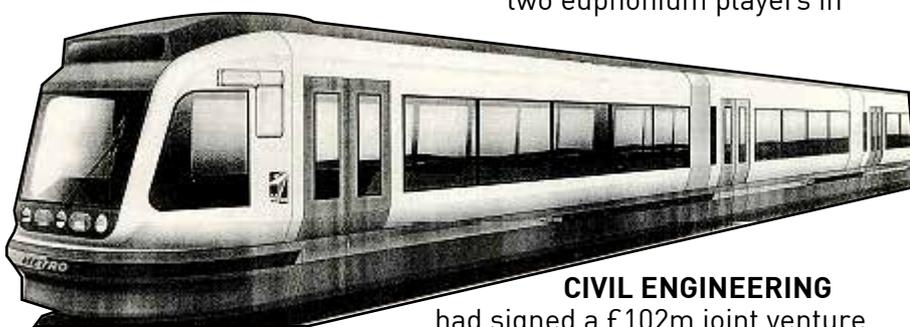
GROUP Chief Accountant David Wilson was featured in Team Spirit for having played the euphonium in the Salvation Army Hendon Band for 20 years. He moved to the larger instrument having first started with the French Horn, and was then one of two euphonium players in

the 42-piece band. Although he mostly played locally, his musicianship had taken him abroad on two trips to America.



THE PEN-Y-CLIP section of the A55 was officially a winner. In the Concrete Society's Awards, the west retaining wall of the Pen-y-Clip tunnel was announced as winner of the Civil Engineering category. Also, the project which featured the UK's longest tunnel (930m long) was highly commended in the prestigious British Construction Industry Awards.

THE proud team who completed the prestigious £39million fit out of the London Underwriting Centre at Minster Court. The City of London building featured the largest suspended escalator system in Europe and a giant atrium. There were 16 escalators suspended from the top of the building. The project took a total of three years and pictured below are the proud team on the day the keys were officially handed over to the client.



CIVIL ENGINEERING

had signed a £102m joint venture agreement with Ansaldo Transport completing a consortium to build and operate line 1 of the Midland Metro light rail project. The consortium would invest up to £10m of its own money into a three-year construction and 20-year operating contract. The 21-mile route would run between Birmingham Snowhill and Wolverhampton. Once the Government funding was secured, it would be ready to start in the new year and was expected to carry 50,000 passengers every day.



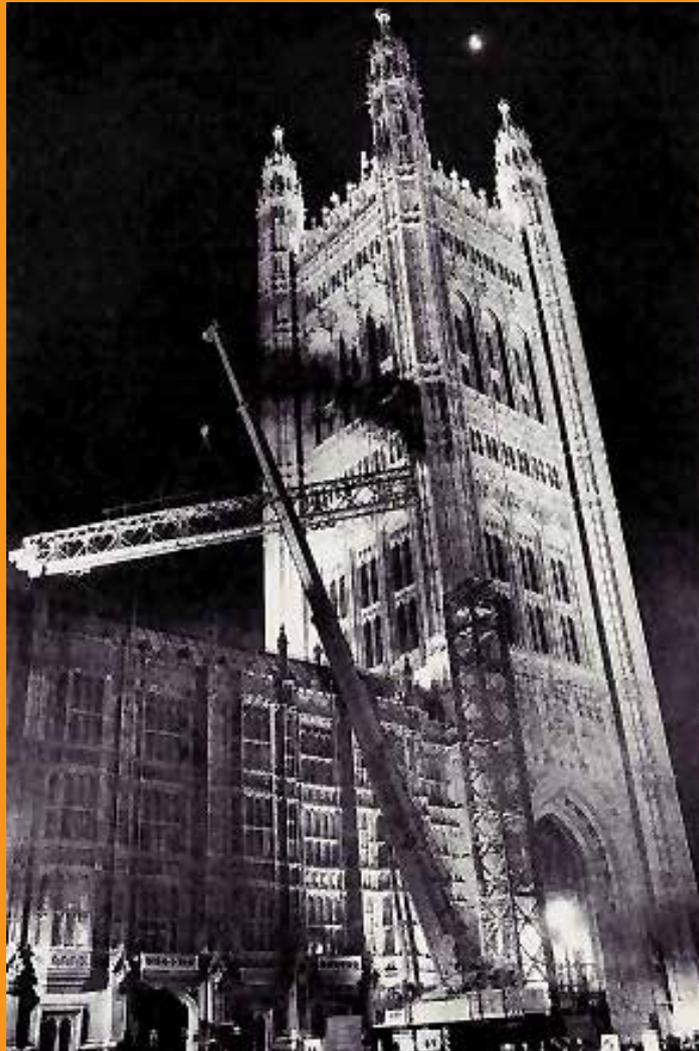
THE QUEEN'S Award for Export Achievement was received by John Laing International MD Bruce Boys from Lord Lt Hertfordshire Simon Bowes-Lyon.

LAING HOMES EAST and OC SUMMERS both came in for praise in the press. Construction News carried out regular investigations into the industry's most prompt payers. Laing Homes East was nominated by four separate companies as being among the best. Meanwhile, the Croydon Advertiser published a letter from Peter Evans, Vicar of the Parish of St Luke Woodside. In it he heaped praise upon OC Summers which had been working on local gas supplies. The Company had gone to great lengths to find out when the church was being used so that the loud machinery was not used and so did not disturb those inside.

LAKWOODS LIMITED - the short break holiday village development company in which Laing held a 50% share - had received planning permission for its site at Whinfell Forest near Penrith in Cumbria. The Secretary of State for the Environment granted permission after the local council voted overwhelmingly in favour of granting outline planning permission. Following exhaustive research into the suitability of the site - including a report on the impact of a new holiday village on the local environment and people; the third holiday village was due to be built in the lake district. It was due to fit in with the local environment and create up to 500 local jobs when fully operational.

1993

A MAJOR round-the-clock lifting operation by Laing London and South East ensured that all the scaffolding at The Victoria Tower was removed during one weekend. Between 8pm on Friday October and 4am on October 11, three 25m high towers, two trusses each weighing more than 21 tonnes and two smaller towers were being lifted out at the Palace of Westminster. A 200m crane reaching to over 70m was used for the operation which involved lifting structures over the historic roofs and adjoining buildings. A 21.5 tonne truss from the side of the tower had to be placed in the Old Palace Yard car park for dismantling. Then the crane moved into Black Rod's Garden to lift out a second truss weighing 26.6 tonnes and a 25m high tower. These had all been used to support a complex scaffolding system which had entirely encased the 300ft Victoria Tower at one stage. It had been made up of some 68 miles of tubing and 125,000 fittings. This operation left the way clear for Laing London to finish up the £4.9m contract awarded by the Parliamentary Works Directorate to carefully repair, restore and conserve the ancient stonework.



Team spirit - 1993



Gems already found by Tony include an album of photos from the 1954 Homes Exhibition. John Laing actually built these homes inside in double quick time.

'Power and Glory' of Tony's Company PhD

MATURE student Tony Presland is embarking on a doctorate based upon John Laing photo archives.

The actual title of the PhD at University College, London (UCL) is Architectural History. However, it will feature John Laing & Son Limited through an investigation into the archive of the 230,000 photographs held by Historic England.

The doctorate will also feature two major deals won by the Company in 1955 which were famously referred to as 'The Power and the Glory'.

These were the building of the first commercial nuclear power station at Berkeley and Coventry Cathedral.

Tony, who has also completed a Masters degree at Oxford University, enjoyed researching the detail of a single company for his Masters dissertation on Pan American Airways and how they created the brand. John Laing will enable him to do the same thing again for his PhD.

He said: "I also have an interest in photography and in particular reportage - the John Laing Collection tells a great story that has not been fully explored by the Company and individual biographies and so offers an opportunity to do some original research, a key part of a PhD. It also gave me an excuse to look at the amazing collection of photographs. Finally, John Laing's work on everything from nuclear power stations to motorways and shopping centres provides an



Tony Presland - about to take on PhD

important insight into how 'modern Britain' was constructed after the Second World War."

The PhD is expected to take five-six years as Tony will continue working at Historic England.

He added: "I am interested in all aspects of the business but especially anything related to the photography and how the archive was built over time. I am keen to hear from anyone involved in taking, using or appearing in the photographs."

You can email Tony on the following address: tony.presland.18@ucl.ac.uk

■ Tony has been invited to speak at the Construction History Society conference on 5th April 2019 about his studies and the Power and Glory contracts.

YOUR CLASSIC ANECDOTES

THIS is a new item which has come about by popular demand. It is a chance to share your favourite stories about the Company and your time there - without necessarily revealing your identity. We will need to know who you are and may have to check some of the details, however, we need not publish your name if you do not wish. Our first anecdote dates back to the early 50s...

A DRY COMPANY OUTING

It is well known that Sir John was tee total. A former employee who attended the staff outings in the early 50s explained how Sir John was keen that these Company events should be enjoyed without alcohol - by everyone. The southern staff enjoyed a boat trip to Margate. The hordes set sail from Tower Bridge at 10.30am - just as the pubs were opening. On board, the John Laing staff discovered that all the bars were only selling soft drinks. Our source believes that the Company had to pay extra for this. They landed at Margate at 2pm - just as all the pubs were shutting and left Margate just as the pubs were all opening again for the evening. Our source added: "With masterful timing, we got back to London at 10.30pm when the pubs were shutting - having been on the dry boat for all the time the pubs were open. "However, some of us were well aware that pubs in the City of London stayed open until 11pm and managed to get there just in time for a quick one before last orders!"



Family was a strong part of the John Laing ethos and the Company would organise annual trips for staff and their families. This involved chartering whole boats, trains and fleets of coaches.

HAVING started with just one house, 170 years later the John Laing Group is an international investor in infrastructure helping to deliver state of the art projects around the world. Throughout its history the Company has relied on the belief in its ability to innovate. Over the next few pages we look at the journey made by John Laing and highlight a few of the stories and projects during this journey.

A brief 170-year history

SIR JOHN LAING'S biography marks out a point in the Company's history which put it on course to change from a mid-sized construction firm to a global concern.

In 1906, the Company won the contract for construction of new surface water outfall sewers by the docks at Barrow in Furness. The stipulations were onerous and everything which might have gone wrong with the contract did so.

The 28-year-old John Laing found himself struggling against weather, changes to the plans, unexpected ground conditions and lawsuits from the client and businesses on land surrounding the project.

He stuck to his guns and made his own demands of the client and all those against him. However, John Laing knew that the family business was on the brink of collapse.

In the midst of this chaos and near despair, John Laing drove to a beautiful spot by Furness Abbey, to seek his God.



Sir John at Coventry Cathedral

There he made a pact and vowed that if He would show John a way through the troubles, John Laing would make God a participating partner in the business.

He wrote a promissory note: "If income £400 per annum, give £50, live on £150, save £200... Once savings bring in £500 per annum, live on £500, give away half remainder of income, save rest."

Continued overleaf...

Belief and innovation are



The Barbican in London built against a backdrop of strike action within the construction industry.



Laing North Home Counties built a replica of its Internet House inside the 2000 Ideal Homes Exhibition. It attracted much publicity and tens of thousands of visitors, but was ahead of its time. However, features like the doorbell security camera and household controls linked to a mobile phone, intelligent fridge and solar panels are popular today.

Within months, all outstanding issues were sorted and the Company managed to break even on the project. Sir John took this as God's agreement and never looked back. It was a turning point from which John Laing would become an international concern.

World War I saw a massive boost for the whole construction industry as the country readied itself for war including building munitions factories and the towns needed to support the people working in them.

At Gretna, John Laing was among the contractors building a whole new town from scratch for the 10,000 staff who would be making ordnance at the nearby factory.

The Company constructed the police house, cinema and water works among other things. It also built two churches, All Saints in Gretna and St John The Baptist, four miles up the road at East Riggs.

Representatives from the Laing family and the John Laing Charitable Trust were present at services to mark their centenaries during 2017.

John Laing did not believe it was right to stand still in business and that the Company should move forward.

Always keen to embrace innovation in solving problems, John Laing invented the Easiform system for building much needed new housing after the war. Concrete houses were literally poured into moulds and shuttering.

Housing played a large part in the Company's success over the years and in the 1950s, a separate housing division was formed.



Laing Offshore won the contract to build Graythorp 1 - one of the first two production platforms for BP's Forties oilfield in the North Sea

With increased profits, staff and reputation the Company moved its HQ to Mill Hill in 1926 to attract bigger contracts.

Despite the slump of the 1930s, the Easiform projects kept the Company busy.

The business grew steadily in the run up to World War II and found itself in the frontline of construction projects for the Ministry of Defence. This included building 54 airfields and the Mulberry Harbours.

John Laing's two sons - Maurice and Kirby - had joined the business. Many Laing employees were not allowed to go to war since their services were considered so important to the war effort.

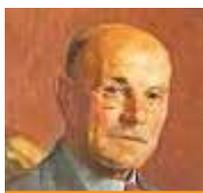
In fact, it was well documented that Maurice Laing defied his father's wishes and - not having good enough eyesight to become a pilot - joined the glider corps for a daring mission over enemy lines. His was the second glider to fly into enemy territory.



Sir John was born. Later became apprentice and sole proprietor of the Company in 1908.

1848

Sir John's grandfather James built Caldew House. Now leased to the Gateshead Carers' Association.



1879 & 1908



1914 & 1926

Company saw major growth from contracts connected with war effort. Company moves HQ from Carlisle to Mill Hill (where the Trust is still based).

Major WWII works included building 54 airfields. Trucks and other plant were often requisitioned.

1939-1944



1957

Sir John's sons Kirby (left) and Maurice already worked in the Company. Kirby became Chairman in 1957 and the brothers alternated between roles of Chairman and CEO.

still at Company's core

The Company always maintained close links with the forces - many individuals serving as reserves and Royal Engineers. There was even a so-called Laing Regiment organised by the Royal Engineers (General Construction Company No. 683), as many as 75% of whom were thought to be Laing men.

After World War II, the Company was an even larger concern involved in open cast mining and with significant operations overseas.

In southern Africa, the Company built 50,000 homes during a five-year period. The workforce was made up of the indigenous population who were trained in all areas of construction work - not least how to make their own bricks from local raw materials in specially constructed kilns.

There were major projects in Canada too during the 50s including Annacis Island Industrial Estate and the BC Electric Building in Toronto - then the country's tallest building.

Meanwhile John kept to his pact with God and refused to take profit when



Beginning of the Investments business was the 65km Spanish auto route won in 1969.

constructing places of religious worship - building them all at cost.

Backed by his two sons, John Laing continued to strive for innovation - not just in building processes, but in the conditions for staff.

The Company treated the workforce like a giant family and profits were put aside for the welfare of staff and their dependents. When the Company celebrated its 100th anniversary, every member of staff and their families were taken on a massive day out with coaches and trains being chartered to get everyone to the venues. These annual outings continued.

The Company made great strides in introducing safety equipment and procedures on building sites (crane technicians tested prototype hard hats) and also in providing holiday entitlements for sub-contracted construction staff.

As the industry moved towards industrialisation and less labour intensive construction systems, Kirby Laing stepped up to the fore.

He had researched some Scandinavian building materials and invented a new Thermalite breeze block which the Company could make in its own factories.

No job was too big to bid for the Company and while the M1 was not officially Britain's first motorway (a small multi-lane bypass around Preston, now the M43, has that distinction) the whole country saw its construction as the dawning of a new age.

The Company was getting quite a reputation having taken on construction of massive and sometimes untried projects such as the world's first full scale commercial nuclear power station



The moment the M1 was officially opened by Transport Minister Ernest Marples. Cars full of families were queueing at the slip roads near Dunstable to try it out. The Company had not expected to win the contract for four sections - and completed it despite many challenges including the weather and the fact it was all a new experience.



Demolition of Rowan court in the 1990s as Laing Partnership Housing regenerated Holly Street Estate in Hackney replacing tower blocks with two-storey flats and gardens. Figures from 1998 showed the number of residents mugged or burgled on the new estate was down from 40% to 1%.

John Laing had pulled out of Canada and Africa after lower returns and political change. The Company still delivered ground breaking UK projects: Berkeley Nuclear Power Station, M1 and Coventry Cathedral.



Sir Martin Laing became Chairman having joined Group in 1965.



CEO Olivier Brousse in charge for relaunch on Stock Exchange.

1960s

1970s

1980s

2000-2014

2014 - now



Company's first infrastructure investments Europistas toll road in Spain and Birmingham Airport Eurohub.



Construction, Property and Homes divisions sold under CEO Adrian Ewer to focus on infrastructure investments. Group acquired by Hendersons Private Equity.





The Second Severn Crossing investment project was handed back in 2018 following a 33-year concession period.



Thousands lived and worked in the Falklands as part of the joint venture to build Mount Pleasant Airport in just 80 weeks. The project featured the world's longest corridor.



Celebrated artist Sir Terence Cuneo painted many images of John Laing projects including Pen-y-Clip. He often hid a mouse in his paintings.

Below the Perth Stadium in Australia has also received worldwide acclaim.

at Berkeley and the new Coventry Cathedral. These two projects were popularly referred to as 'The Power and The Glory'.

Keen to capitalise on its quality offering, the Group purchased the distinguished construction firm Holloway's. A company of long standing with a reputation for fine work, Holloway Bros had constructed the Bank of England building and had been famed for a number of sea forts. Their artistry in high end renovation, plasterwork and joinery was virtually unrivaled. Some of the oldest images in the Company archives are from Holloways.

By the early 70s, John Laing had a workforce of around 18,000 plus nearly the same again as sub-contractors. At that time, it also boasted the second largest fleet of vehicles on the road in the UK after Hertz.

The Company sought innovative ways to apply its core construction business and began to lay the foundations for the template of the business today.

With the Europistas Toll Road in Spain, the Company made its first infrastructure investment, closely followed by the Birmingham Airport Eurohub.

These would prove successful and the Group set up a four divisions: Construction, Property, Homes and Investment - each successful in their own right.

By the early 2000s however, margins in Construction - still the largest section of the Group - were suffering.

A few disastrous returns on projects left the Board with no choice but to sell off the Property and Construction divisions to Kier and O'Rourke respectively in 2001.

In 2002, The Homes Division was sold to Taylor Wimpey and the Company began to focus solely on the Investments business.

The affordable housing company (Laing Partnership) and Holloway White Allom



A Nordergründe turbine in the North Sea.

both organised management buyouts.

John Laing built on its investments experience getting in early on key Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Public Private Partnership (PPP) opportunities at home and abroad. Aside from one of Britain's first PFI schools - Highlands in Enfield, the Company still held an investment in the Second Severn Crossing and various top infrastructure projects across Europe.

As the business continued to grow, it was bought in early 2007 by Hendersons Private Equity for £1billion following a brief bidding war with Allianz.

The Company continued to show its prowess with investments and established the John Laing Infrastructure Fund (JLIF) in 2010 in a £270 million public launch. That too was bought up by another private equity company for £1.45billion earlier this year. JLIF was followed by JLEN in 2014.

In February 2015, John Laing Group Plc relisted on the London Stock Exchange, where it sits today. It has offices in London, Canada, North America, Australia, Spain and the Netherlands.

It continues to apply its innovative approach and experience to infrastructure projects such as the Grafton Prison and Perth Stadium in Australia. The portfolio includes roads projects such as the massive 1-4 Ultimate in USA, plus many wind and solar projects.

The world and John Laing Group Plc may have changed a great deal in the past 170 years, but the founding principles of belief and innovation remain.

Christmas parties still take place for staff and their children and Sir John's direct descendants work with current Company staff to agree the distribution of millions of pounds to good causes through the Trust set up in his name to honour the agreement with his God.



Hear voices from past telling it how it was on construction sites

RECORDINGS of John Laing site staff on the M1 and Barbican projects are available to hear at a free archive in London.

'Constructing Post War Britain - Building Workers' Stories 1950-1970' is an archive of oral histories.

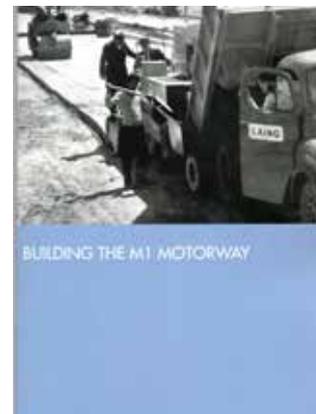
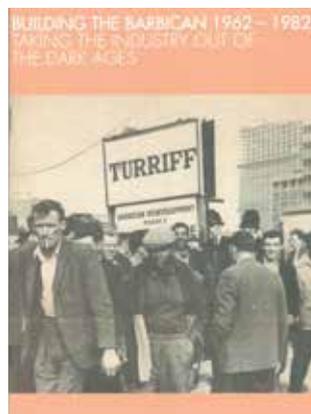
It features recordings from five projects in total, which aimed to hear firsthand from the individuals working on the frontline of major construction sites.

The epic story of how the M1 was completed provides a lot of detail about everything from wages and overtime to formwork, steelfixing and living conditions.

The Barbican stories focus more on the rise of the unions and strike action faced by contractors Turriff and also Myton. However, there are a few oral histories from Laing men involved in the project.

Members of the public are welcome to listen to the stories between 10am and 5.30pm at the library in the Bishopsgate Centre, near Liverpool Street Station in London. There is no need to make an appointment, however since the launch in October, the oral histories are only available on one computer.

The library manager has suggested that it might be possible to organise a tour if enough Laing



Flyer and accompanying booklets from the research carried out by individuals working on behalf of the University of Westminster.

retirees would be interested in such a visit.

The histories are to be kept there indefinitely and provide a unique historical perspective on an important period of change within UK society.

Alongside the aforementioned projects, the archives feature oral histories from three other projects:

- Stevenage new town
- Sizewell A Nuclear Power Station
- Southbank Arts Centre

The oral histories are accompanied by booklets covering the research which was carried out by researchers working for ProBE (Centre for the Study of the Production of

the Built Environment), which is a joint research centre between the Westminster Business School (WBS) and the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment (FABE), committed to the development of a rich programme of research and related activities, including projects, oral history, film, exhibitions, and seminars.

Find out more information at: www.westminster.ac.uk/news/2017/constructing-post-war-britain-building-workers-stories-1950-70.

Dr Christine Wall hosted an evening at Bishopsgate Library as it added the oral histories to their archive.

And you could add your story too

WHY not add your voice and stories to the John Laing archive. As we mark 170 years and look forward to a 175th anniversary, the John Laing Charitable Trust is working with organisations including Historic England to help provide a reliable historic record of construction during the 20th century for generations to come.

Some individuals have already signed up to give share their

stories on a couple of major projects through the Breaking New Ground project. The team is being put together for this major undertaking as we speak and there will be a full update in the next issue of REN.

However, if you have a story to share, from any aspect of any project, please get in touch with us using the contact details on the inside front cover of this magazine.



Photo of Berkeley Power Station - unearthed for PhD project (page 10)

A cathedral images plea

Dear Sir,

Did any of the readers work on the original construction of Clifton Cathedral in 1970-73. I was there as a young Resident Engineer working alongside Bill Barnes, Len Wilsher, Evan Evans, Ted Aplin, Ken Pollard, Ken Murray, Felix Kaszabowski, Amelio Nelson and others. There was a special dedication of all the workers associated with this special building and I am trying to write the story of the construction to be sure that it is placed on record. If anyone has any particular stories, or photos, from that time I would love to know about them.

I am now 73 and retired, but the records and archive material available from that time is proving to be rather scarce.

I look forward to hearing from anyone who can help my project.

**Yours sincerely,
Phil Smith. (Resident Engineer
for Felix Samuely and
Partners 1970-73)**

Laing greats

THANK YOU to everyone who contacted us to say what they considered to be Laing's Greatest Project.

It was close between the top two, but Coventry Cathedral came in just ahead of the Second Severn Crossing. Both were way ahead of any other suggestions.

Other nominations included: Mountpleasant Airfield in the Falklands (for the size, scale and deadline of the job thousands of miles away) and the Bilbao-Behobia Autopista for its innovation both in the way it was financed and built.



Ken Avery (second from right) and the Gibraltar or Bust team with their Toyota Corolla

Charity Morocco trip in an old £500 banger

GOING on an adventure in a clapped out car and raising loads of money for charity - what's not to like?

This was the decision taken by retiree Ken Avery and three friends who took part in the 2018 Gibraltar or Bust Banger Rally.

The four of them had to acquire an old banger (costing no more than £500) and drive through four countries over five days ending up in Morocco to raise money for their nominated charities.

They obtained a Toyota Corolla Automatic for the rally which started on September 30 in St Austell and finished in Morocco on Friday 5th October.

Ken and his team (Harvey Jones, Ken Kincaid and Andy Snelson) have so far raised more than £3,500 for two main charities: Leukaemia UK and CCAA (chronic children's arthritis Association).

Ken said: "We returned from our Gib or Bust Banger Rally intact, our little Toyota Corolla performed well with no major problems. Many thanks to all those people who have donated. We received letters from our charities we were supporting."

You can still donate through the team's Just Giving Page <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SLRDG>.

Also, read more detail about the team's exploits online at: www.giborbust.blogspot.com

Your views on the old staff numbers

Neil Kitchener believes they must have reallocated numbers when people left the Company because his was 00075 when he joined in 1969 'in the good old days before computers'.

Dave Scott (10819) still has the letter offering him work as a Pupil Production Controller in 1971 signed by David Best. After working in various

building divisions, he joined Laing Management Contracting and moved to O'Rourke with Stansted Airport until 2003. He returned to John Laing and worked another 11 years mainly on PFI projects from 2005 - 2016.

Tony Edwardes joined the Company in 1958 and recalls that his number was 03432.

Laing landmarks are due to be demolished

TWO civic centres built by John Laing in the North East have both been scheduled for demolition.

Durham County Hall and Sunderland Civic Centre are due to be demolished.

Durham's 'new' civic centre was opened by HRH Prince Phillip on October 14, 1963 and was a T-shaped building which incorporated a hexagonal meeting chamber, timber panelling and accommodation for 1,150 staff. The recreation area included a cafe, games room, hairdresser, general shop and a bank. On site there was a library for 250,000 books and a purpose built area especially for the inspector of weights and measures.

Sunderland Civic Centre was opened in 1970. In a year when the Civic Trust Awards criticised local authorities for a lack of civic pride in their post war developments - it

was one of only two civic buildings to receive a positive commendation.

Former Laing man Les Scott remembers the building, having served there as Mayor of Sunderland.

He said: "It is sad that one of Laing's civic buildings has to be demolished, but for two in the same area to be scheduled for demolition at the same time is quite a blow.

"There must be so many happy memories connected with both these jobs and I certainly have many happy memories from the time I spent in Sunderland as Mayor. However, both buildings are no longer fit for purpose with a lot fewer staff employed in local government these days."

It has not yet been confirmed when the demolitions will take place - or what will replace the two Laing buildings.



Retiree and former Group Treasurer who ran Spanish business makes contact with new Spanish team

Old and new meet in Spain

Two generations of the John Laing business are hoping to meet up in Spain.

After reading about a new Spanish office in our last issue, retired Group Treasurer Adrian McGrath - who also ran the Group's Spanish businesses some years ago - contacted the new team and has been invited to see the new Madrid Office.

Adrian, who still lives in Spain, was delighted to receive details of the Group's latest Spanish business.

He said: "The corporate presentation is impressive.

"The photo of the building of the embassy of Madrid brought back memories. I had the (questionable) honour of meeting Franco there at an event in the 70s. I will follow the business's progress with great interest and hope to meet them in 2019."

Snap for £50

ENTRIES are now being accepted for the 2019 photo competition - £50 top prize.

It does not have to be a recent image, any snap, as long as it is clear and interesting is eligible. Post or send by email making sure not to damage the image and to include your own details.



Team flying high after project

THIS is the team on the 'final day' after completing a plush new head office in Cheltenham for Eagle Star Insurance in the very early 90s. It is from the collection of Keith Smith and bears a note on the back from Project Manager Owen McNamara saying: "A good job which we can all look back on with pride." Always happy to receive your photographic and written memories of Company projects.

Club events

CUMBRIA

Monthly meetings at Wigton Road Methodist Hall in Carlisle CA2 7ES.

December 12

Christmas Luncheon at the Greenhill Hotel, Wigton CA7 8LS.

February 6

AGM at Wigton Road Methodist Hall, Carlisle, CA2 7ES.

ELSTREE

Weekly meetings St Michael and All Angels Church Hall, Tuesday 2.30pm.

January 8

Festive Luncheon at the Toby Carvery, Borehamwood, WD6 5JY.

LNER

December 3

Christmas Lunch at Assembly Rooms in Newcastle NE1 5XU.

NORTH WEST

December 4

Christmas Luncheon at Mytton Fold. Blackburn BB6 8AB.

REAL

Monthly meetings at Allum Hall, Borehamwood.

December 12

Christmas Lunch at Mill Hill Golf Club NW7 3AL.

January 2019

No Meeting



Display of 9000 knitted or crocheted poppies at Carmunnock village church. Picture - Andy Waring

February 6

AGM plus Musical Entertainment by Chris Day

March 6

Fish and Chip Lunch.

April 3

Cheese and wine event.

REALM

December 10

Christmas lunch at The Manor Hotel, Meriden CV7 7NH.

March 13

AGM at Solihull Methodist Church Hall, B91 1LD. Details to follow, but it will be an afternoon meeting.

SALTIRE

Monthly meetings at St. Stephen's Church, Glasgow.

December 6

Matinee outing to see The Bodyguard - Theatre Royal, Glasgow starring Alexandra Burke.

January 8

New Year Lunch at La Bonne Auberge, West Nile Street, Glasgow, G1 2RL.

SOLARE

December 5

Christmas Lunch at the Reigate Manor Hotel, RH2 9PF.

March 13

Spring meeting with speaker.

SOUTH WEST

December 6

Skittles/lunch at Woodborough Inn, Winscombe, BS25 1HD.

January 10

New year luncheon at Brent House, Brent Knoll, TA9 4HL.

January 31

Skittles/lunch at Woodborough Inn, Winscombe, BS25 1HD.

February 28

South Coast lunch (TBC).

March 28

Spring lunch (TBC).



The chips will be down at REAL on March 6.

Contacts

CLUB CONTACTS

CUMBRIA
Alan Crowther
t: 01228-528887
e: alancrowther41@hotmail.com

ELSTREE
Doreen Butterfield
t: 020 8959 8324
e: c/o smithannev@aol.com

LNER (North East)
Brian Coppen
t: 01670 717488
e: brianbcop@aol.com

NORTH WEST
Dave Markall
t: 0161 498 0600
e: david.markall@sky.com

REAL (North London)
Jennifer Israel
t: 0208 440 4505
e: jenvic@tiscali.co.uk

REALM (Midlands)
Roy Gill
t: 0121 711 1802
e: gillrt48@gmail.com

SALTIRE (Scotland)
Andy Waring
t: 01698 427504
e: waring_a@sky.com

SOLARE (South West London)
Bill Blamire
t: 01737 553174
(Email c/o Chairman Les Hillman)
e: lesliejhillman@gmail.com

SOUTH WEST
Richard Shorey
t: 01454 412666
e: shoreys@blueyonder.co.uk

JLCT Contacts

Welfare: Mrs Heather Cunningham

T: 020 8959 9683 / M: 07920 020024

Clubs & REN: Mr Alex Finkenrath

T- 020 7901 3429 / M: 07921 831780

Funding: Mrs Teresa Pettican

T - 020 7901 3231

JLCT Office: 33 Bunns Lane,
Mill Hill, London, NW7 2DX.

Funds for choir and 'knocking on a bit'!

THE John Laing Charitable Trust is inviting Retirement Club members to recommend local charities they are connected with for small donations.

The Trust is keen to support smaller local charities and clubs which retirement club members are involved with and so is extending the Make a Difference scheme to include their applications.

These will typically be a few hundred pounds, but up to £1,000, and will be decided on an individual basis by the Trust.

In Hanham, Hazel Tatton attends a group called KOB - short for Knocking on a Bit. It provides a chance for older people to get together for a wide range of activities, chat and 'fantastic food'.

New REAL members Alan and Gill Wingham made a successful application for the London Pro Arte Choir where they have been members since 2007.

It is a registered charity set up over 60 years ago in Mill Hill and puts on three main concerts a year - striving to set a high standard. The costs soon mount up - as with their latest production of Handel's Messiah.

Trust Director Mrs Jenny Impey said: "Trustees are keen

London Pro
Arte Choir

Saturday 24 November 2018 at 7.30pm
St Michael's Church, Flower Lane, Mill Hill NW7 2JA

Handel
Messiah



Orchestra Nova



'Knocking on a Bit' at Hanham Baptist Church

to support smaller charities with which retirement club members have a connection. They could just attend the club, or help run it. The only requirements are that the club or group is a registered charity or not for profit. They must also provide charitable benefit. Donations will be up to a maximum of £1,000 to help with some costs of running these valuable community assets. Regrettably the Trust does not support animal welfare charities."

Club plans trip for the whole country

SOLARE retirement club is opening its doors to other club members with a summer boat trip in 2019.

Members of other clubs can come along and enjoy the same member discount for the cruise and lunch on the Solent booked for July 16.

Members from other clubs will have to make their own way to and from Southampton.

The boat will leave from Southampton Town Quay and take in the Port of Southampton and Portsmouth Dockyard among other points of interest. Lunch will be served on board and the boat can hold 100 people.

If you are interested in coming along, please contact Alex Finkenrath for further information.

Platinum - 70

October 9

Eryk & Olive Koziel

Sapphire - 65

August 22

Leslie & Marian Horton

October 17

Stan & Janet Utting

Diamond - 60

August 30

Len & Mary Davies

Robert & Pam Thomas

September 6

Kathleen & Nick Maule

September 8

Charles & Nora Coll

September 20

Illtyd & June Hughes

Golden - 50

August 10

Tony & Betty Heys

August 17

Michael & Lesley Kennedy

August 24

Owen & Pat McNamara

September 2

Phil & Sheila Nunn

September 7

Thomas & Sheila Carr

Michael & Hazel Kirk

Nigel & Lois Pitcher

Tony & Ann Felmingham

September 21

John & Gail Hall

September 28

Martin & Margaret Farragher

October 5

David & Catherine Margetts

Clive & Anne Freestone

Reminder of how to request a card from HM the Queen

IN response to a few inquiries we have received, here are the details for those of you - or your family members - who wish to arrange for a card from the Queen to mark your special occasions.

All British nationals (or their friends and family) can apply for a birthday message from Her Majesty the Queen on certain anniversaries and birthdays.

Anniversaries covered are: 60th, 65th, 70th and every anniversary after 70th. Birthday messages are for 100th, 105th and each year following the 105th.

You can apply up to three weeks ahead of the date (or five weeks if you apply on-line).

You will need to provide



documentary proof of your anniversary or birthday.

Full details are available at www.gov.uk/get-birthday-anniversary-message-from-queen. You can also call the Anniversaries Office on: 020 7930 4832 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Readers living in Australia, Canada or New Zealand must apply directly to the Governor General.

Anniversary year of happy travels

**CHRIS & ANDREA KEMMER
GOLDEN WEDDING
OCTOBER 5, 2018**

THE couple first met at a youth club run by St Mary's Church, Cheadle, Cheshire where they were later married.

After spending many years in the insurance industry, Chris joined Laing in 1987 as an assistant to Tony Fitzgibbon - Group Insurance Manager who retired in 1998.

At that time, the Insurance Department began the process of being gradually outsourced to insurance brokers - which was completed in 2002 when Chris took early retirement.

He regards his 15 years with Laing as the most interesting and happiest of his working life.



Aside from family gettogethers, the couple spent their Golden Wedding Anniversary year travelling including visits to West Sussex, Isle of Wight, Italy and Spain - where they met up with friends and celebrated their actual anniversary date.

They have two sons but no grandchildren yet.

Council jobs led to 50-year partnership

DAVID & JANE BARNES
GOLDEN WEDDING
OCTOBER 19, 2018

THEY met working for Long Eaton Council as Junior Clerks in their respective departments.

They saw each other daily doing the 'Post Round' between council buildings. Their first date (arranged by a friend) was to a Valentine's dance, so there can be no excuses for forgetting the date.

David joined Laing as a cashier/checker at the Gracechurch Centre in Sutton Coldfield spending several months doing holiday relief for various projects around the Midlands.

This resulted in an offer to transfer into the regional office at Smallbrook Queensway Birmingham.

After years within Administration, David changed career moving into IT in 1985 when Laing was investing heavily



in brand new computer systems.

He occupied various positions within IT until 2002 when he was made redundant having become an IT Projects Manager. He then spent seven years hands on IT support at an independent school in Market Bosworth and finally retired early in 2010.

David and Jane both served for a number of years on Club Realm committee.

They have a son and daughter, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

They celebrated their Golden Wedding with a 14-day cruise to the Azores and Canary Islands.

No shortage of Golden stories

DAVID & JANET CONSTABLE
GOLDEN WEDDING
AUGUST 10, 2018

THE couple met at a party and haven't looked back since.

There has been plenty of excitement in their lives and through David's job as a QS and finally Finance Manager at Holloway White Allom.

He joined the Company in 1971, the same year as their twin sons were born and worked on a host of top class projects.

Among them the Queen Mother's Gates at Hyde Park, Harrods Food Hall, an ambassadors' residence, Credit Suisse Bank and the booking Office for Buckingham Palace, which earned the couple an invitation to a Royal Garden Party.



Less favourable excitement came when he turned up to work on a Civil Service Building he was managing in the Strand to find that it had burned down in 'the biggest London fire since the Blitz'. It wasn't HWA's fault, but quite a shock!

He retired in 2001 finishing on the Bank of England.

The couple have three sons and three grandchildren. They celebrated their anniversary by taking them all to Disney World in Florida for a memorable holiday.

READERS' BIRTHDAYS

101st

10 October
Bill Malcom

95th

9 July
Evelyn Love

28 October
Jack Stokes

90th

12 September
Jim Barker

29 September
Michael LeMonnier

22 October
James Kelly

26 October
Don Hillier

If you would like us to include a picture and write-up, please let us have the details in good time.

The closing date for details to appear in Spring issue is January 31, 2019.



2018 Budget highlights

THE Budget was brought forward this year to keep the way clear for Brexit negotiations. Here are key updates affecting retirees:

- Basic state pension to rise in April by 2.6%, as guaranteed by the triple lock, based on the July 2018 earnings' figure. This will mean a full basic state pension (pre-April 2016) will rise by £3.25 a week to £129.20 for a single person and by £5.20 a week to £206.65 for a couple (where a wife relies on her husband's contribution record).

- The new State Pension introduced after April 2016 will also rise in April in line with the July earnings' figure of 2.6%. This will take the £164.35 a week to £168.60 – a rise of £4.25.

- No detail was made available in the Budget documents, but if the Pension Credit Guarantee continues to rise next April by the same cash amount as that given to the basic state pension (under the triple lock arrangements), a single pensioner will see an increase of £3.25 from £163 to £166.25 a week.

- The basic personal allowance for Income Tax will rise from 6 April 2019 from £11,850 to £12,500. The allowance will then be frozen until 5 April 2021.

An elderly campaigner

A 93-YEAR-OLD Mrs Anne Puckridge arrived in the UK in the Autumn to campaign about frozen pensions. Currently pensioners who have retired to some countries overseas; notably Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand do not receive increases to their state pensions. Having emigrated to Calgary in Canada in 2001 Anne currently receives a weekly state pension of £72.50 instead of the £125.95 she would be entitled to if she had stayed in the UK. Whilst in the UK campaigning Mrs Puckridge received the higher rate.

Index of change - latest updates

- TECHNOLOGY may be encouraging children today to have worse manners according to a report by specialist children research agency Childwise. Their survey of 2,000 children found that most children as young as 4 were using voice assistants attached to tablets, phones and computers (such as Siri and Alexa) to access nursery rhymes and TV programmes. The issue is that the youngsters do not have to say please or thank you in order for this to happen. A spokesman for Childwise said we are on the tipping point with this technology and it is likely to have implications around how children will learn to communicate.

- There is evidence that children are becoming accustomed to saying and doing whatever they want to a digital assistant and talking aggressively or rudely without any consequences.

- YEARS of following dietary advice might be partly responsible for a growth in malnutrition among the over 65s. Alongside poverty and medical conditions, it is thought that one in ten over 65s are malnourished. Speaking on the Jeremy Vine Radio Show Dr Simon

Gabe of malnutrition charity BAPEN said that in cases where people's body mass index has dropped to 16-18, they should bulk up by eating calorific foods including cake - although a balanced approach is best. The BAPEN charity (www.bapen.org.uk) has a self-assessment calculator on its site which enables people to assess their own risk.

- SOME 20 years after the first DVD player went on sale - they are history. John Lewis announced that it will not stock them any more since fewer households use them. Sales of the devices have dived by 40% as households are becoming more likely to 'stream' their films and TV series. Items for which demand is growing include: robotic lawn mowers (up by 75%), thongs (72%), sustainable water bottles (37%) and vegan beauty products (12%).

- THE SHETLANDS can no longer be shown on maps in a scaled box by public bodies. The Islands (Scotland) Bill states that the Shetlands must now be 'displayed in a manner that accurately and proportionately represents their geographical location in relation to the rest of Scotland'.

Final Christmas posting dates

THE last recommended dates for Christmas posting Royal Mail are as follows:

Tuesday December 18:

- Second class
- Royal Mail Signed For 2nd class

Thursday December 20:

- First class
- Royal Mail Signed-For First class
- Royal Mail Tracked 48

Friday December 21:

- Royal Mail Tracked 24



Saturday December 22:

- Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed
- Other courier services may offer later delivery for packages.**

In Memoriam

David Ballingall, formerly Superintendent QS Building Division, died October 8. He was 86 and retired in 1991 after 42 years' service.

Krys Benham, formerly Typist/Receptionist Civil Engineering, died October 22. She was 89 and retired in 1994 after 20 years' service.

George Beasley, formerly Crane Inspector P&T Elstree, died August 12. He was 96 and retired in 1981 after 16 years' service.

Graham Bell, formerly Leading Architect Technician LTG, died August 31. He was 81 and retired in 2001 after 40 years' service.

Audrey Burckitt, formerly Senior Secretary JLC, died August 22. She was 91 and retired in 1986 after 24 years' service.

Tom Charlesworth, formerly Bricklayer Laing Northern, died October 13. He was 79 and retired in 1997 after 23 years' service.

John Crosby, formerly General Manager John Laing International, died August 6. He was 89 and retired in 1986 after 37 years' service.

John Callaghan, formerly General Manager LTG, died September 4. He was 80 and retired in 1995 after 27 years' service.

John Cload, formerly Operations Manager ITGS, died August 14. He was 82 and retired in 2000 after 35 years' service.

Frank Cammidge, formerly Assistant QS Laing Yorkshire, died September 10. He was 93 and retired in 1989 after 23 years' service.

Tony (Anthony) Dixon, formerly Plant Operator EPL Carlisle, died September 10. He was 86 and retired in 1991 after 20 years' service.

Stan Gibbons, formerly Contractual Services Manager JLC, died August 7. He was 96 and retired in 1984 after 43 years' service.

James Harrison, formerly F/M Foreman Laing NW, died September 18. He was 86 and retired in 1995 after 37 years' service.

Harry Haughan, formerly Joiner Laing Northern, died October 16. He was 81 and retired in 1996 after 44 years' service.

Danny Lynch, formerly Foreman Steel fixer Laing NW, died September 24. He was 87 and retired in 1990 after 19 years' service.

William McNeil, formerly Senior Scientist R&D, died September 2. He was 94 and retired in 1989 after 34 years' service.

Stanley Palmer, formerly Investment Assistant Group Pensions, died October 5. He was 86 and retired in 1992 after 13 years' service.

Bill Sketchley, formerly Cost Planner Laing Ltd, died August 28. He was 82 and retired in 2001 after 12 years' service.

Gerry Warner, formerly Managing Director LM Interior, died October 4. He was 86 and retired in 1991 after 12 years' service.

Dick Wedlake, formerly Carpenter SW Region, died September 19. He was 85 and retired in 1994 after 26 years' service.

Max Whitlock, formerly Construction Manager, LIE&C, died September 30. He was 82 and retired in 1998 after 10 years' service.

RETIREMENT CONTACTS LIST

FINANCIAL:



The Money Advice Service is an organisation established with cross-Government party support, that provides free and impartial advice on money and financial decisions to people in the United Kingdom.

Contact:

Tel: 0800 138 7777

www.moneyadvice.org.uk



Tax vol:

Tax Help for Older People is a service from the charity Tax Volunteers providing free, independent and expert help and advice for older people on lower incomes who cannot afford to pay for professional tax advice.

Contact:

Tel: 0845 6013321 / 01308 488066

www.taxvol.org.uk

TRAVEL INSURANCE



Various companies offer services tailored to older

travellers with pre-existing medical conditions. This issue we highlight Mia which has been successful for some readers.

Contact:

Tel: 0800 999 3333

www.miatravelinsurance.co.uk

Your guide to free help and services available - updated every issue.

GENERAL HELP



Advice and support, reading material

and walk in shops covering all aspects of elderly issues.

Contact:

Tel: 0800 055 6112

Web: www.ageuk.org.uk



advice and support for older age
Independent Age

Another national charity focused on helping older people to enjoy independent living. Wide number of clear and free help advice publications.

Contact:

Tel: 0800 055 6112

www.independentage.org

ABUSE / LEGAL



Protecting and preventing the abuse

of vulnerable older adults. First charity to address these problems and the only one in the UK acting exclusively on this issue today.

Contact:

Helpline: 0808 808 8141

General: 020 8835 9280

www.elderabuse.org.uk

HOME / LIVING



HousingCare.org

A charity run site providing free advice on elderly care, including specialist directories & information on nursing homes and residential care homes, as well as sheltered housing, extra care housing and retirement villages, across the UK. Also providing over 2,000 sales and lettings vacancies every week.

Contact: Only through website:

www.housingcare.org



Care Quality Commission

Inspects and regulates health and social care services. They publish findings, including ratings, to help choose care.

Contact:

Tel: 03000 616161

www.cqc.org.uk

LONELINESS

The Silver Line operates a free confidential helpline for older people

24 hours a day

- seven days per week. They also offer telephone and letter friendship schemes.

Contact:

Helpline: 0800 4 70 80 90

www.thesilverline.org.uk



The Government advice website (www.gov.uk) has all the information you will ever need about benefits; TV licenses; passports; tax and all State-run services.

WWW.GOV.UK

If you are not online you will have to contact individual departments.

Commonly called numbers:

HMRC (tax /income / pensions)
- 0300 200 3300

Dept of health and Social Care:
- 020 7210 4850