Colworth Announces New Site Leader

Stella Peace, who several of our Beverages team remember recruiting, has been appointed Site Leader Colworth – formerly known as Head of Lab to us. This is alongside her roles as VP R&D Discover Refreshment (Beverages & Ice Cream) and VP R&D Discover (Corporate Research & Life Science) at Colworth. Stella takes over from Jim Crilly who will be concentrating on his Global role as SVP R&D Discover in 100VE (Head Office London). We wish them both well in their new challenges and would like to take the opportunity to thank Colworth for the continued support of UPA.

London Marathon Charity Appeal – Don Darling’s latest challenge

With the major barn conversion behind him, Don wanted to do something for a national cause and thought he’d give The Marathon another go. His chosen children’s charity is called CLIMB - Children Living with Inherited MetaBolic diseases such as Muscular Dystrophy and Cystic Fibrosis. Any donation would be much appreciated to help Don reach his £1500 goal. Funds help children who start life at a severe disadvantage, have little or no chance of a cure and need constant care and attention as they come to terms with their illness. The website gives further information and it is also possible to make a donation on-line.

http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Don_Darling

Alternatively, cheque to D.Darling, c/o 72, Abington Park Cresc, Northampton, NN3 3AL and Don will do the internet finance. Thank you if you can support Don’s challenge.

Welcome to new members
Cynthia & David Elliot, Paul Knight, Vicky Knight & Sue Larbey
UPA Colworth Lunch Club spreads its wings

We looked forward to having a speaker before lunch when we visited the Horse and Groom in Clapham in late February. What we had not expected was that Mrs. Jo Pratchett was a born storyteller who held our group spellbound. We thought we would hear some details about the sinking of the Laconia, but we had not foreseen the clear picture she painted, through the eyes of herself at 14, of the events leading to the tragedy and the extraordinary and varied aftermath, even to the present day.

Jo was in Singapore with her family, her father was in the services, when the Second World War began. She, her brother and mother were eventually evacuated, first to Sri Lanka and then on to Durban to await her father. It was there in September 1942 that they all boarded the Laconia bound for Liverpool with no escort, and carrying hundreds of Italian prisoners of war, British and Polish servicemen and 80 civilians. Off the west coast of Africa, hundreds of miles from land, the Laconia was struck by torpedoes from a German U-boat hunting for Allied ships. Jo told us the horror of that night, with the ship listing badly, many of the lifeboats unable to launch, and hundreds falling or jumping to their death in shark infested waters.

Jo and her family made it into a lifeboat. Amazingly, Captain Hartenstein of the U-boat, realised there were Italian voices and women and children in the water, and against orders to shoot lifeboats, returned to pick up survivors. 193 people went onto the submarine and lifeboats with another 200 were towed behind. Hartenstein radioed for help in the rescue, but the Americans thought this was a trick and despite a red cross on the hull, bombed the submarine. Hartenstein had to save his ship and abandoned the survivors to the remaining lifeboats so he could dive. Hours later French ships arrived and rescued them from the lifeboats, taking them to Dakar, West Africa, from where she went to an internment camp near Casablanca, with dysentery rife and food appalling. Weeks later they were liberated by Allied forces and, unlike most, all of her family survived.

There is much, much more to the story, and in the past couple of years survivors have been found and reunited and a documentary made of the tragedy. Jo has been to a number of events including one in Germany, and her story has been told, as she has now told us.

Jo could not stay for lunch, although many would have loved to chat for longer. The waiters later cleared away our empty plates, testimony to food much enjoyed. In all it was a very pleasant and successful “Lecture and Lunch”.

Thank you Geoff and Garry.
Whatever Happened to George Sanderson?

Many of you may remember with great nostalgia, George Sanderson playing his 'squeeze box' in the pub at Christmas - a symbol of all that was good at Colworth!

Well we were in touch with George before Christmas this year and he sent us a photo hot off the press from his wife Sylvia. It was taken at home in Carlsbad, on the north side of San Diego! As you can see he still plays the squeeze box, usually at the tennis club, but recently at a couple of homes for old people. (He’ll have to come and play for us next!) George worked with Alginate Industries and still keeps in touch with some of the folks who were at Colworth through Ian Challen, Paul Baker, and Tom Kelly and he hears from Ian Shepherd via a Christmas card.

George has included a photo of their son, Alan, who is a recording engineer (currently in Rio). Alan won a Grammy last year for his recording contributions to the 'Best Rock or Rap Gospel Album', titled "Hello Hurricane", which won a Grammy for the group 'Switchfoot' in 2010.

If you have any news of friends we see less often, or you have moved away, please send us a brief summary and photo and we will include them as soon as we can.

Cham Willey

Need cheering up? Fed up with TV? Want to see & hear the most humourous & detailed history of the Tower of London? Then go to:

http://millmore.posterous.com/yeoman-warden-at-tower-of-london

If that clip amuses, try more at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5G6VVxqCOCc&feature=related
WANT TO RENT 150 FEET OF GRADE 2 LISTED CHIMNEY STACK?

On recent Crawlers walk around the Marston Vale Forest Park we passed the remains of the brick works at Stewartby. In its prime the Fletton Brick industry belched out smoke and sulphur dioxide across the Marston Vale from 140 chimneys. All bar four of these are now gone, along with the brick industry they served. The ‘final four’ are Grade 2 listed.

I was intrigued to see the notice at the entrance to the now defunct Stewartby brick yard. What on earth would anybody do with a rented chimney? I think Messrs Brown & Lee, & the Hansen Trust have a challenge on their hands.  

Fred Trussell

UPAC Quiz and Chips Night 5th January 2012

69 Brainy UPAC’ers sat down in the Colworth Clubhouse to enjoy delicious Fish and Chips (ordered and collected by Derek Favell). Once the eating was done with everyone settled down to the Quiz. 13 teams participated: 7 teams of 6, 1 team of 5 and 5 teams of 4. After a tough but close battle we finished with 1 winner with 52 points, 2 teams with 51 points and 2 teams with 50 points. After a couple of tie breakers the winners were:

1st Six of the Best (Tony Ward’s Team)
2nd Not the Eggheads Ann Frost’s Team)
3rd Derek’s Dynamo’s (Derek Favell’s Team)
4th C’mon u Blues (John Woplin’s Team)

Well done everyone: it was a tough quiz, but you ALL did yourselves proud. Thanks very much for making the evening such a success. Olwyn Wishart

Obituaries

Condolences to family & friends of Josephine Collins, Arthur Evans, Sid Hart, Trevor Hughes & Christine Foulger. Christine led our first ever walk; she and husband Mike were active members of UPA. She worked in Applied Physics, and was a founder member of the Colworth Gardening Club which enabled the UPA Membership of the RHS and thus our free entry to Wisley. Christine will also be sadly missed in her local community and our thoughts are with Michael at this difficult time.

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