



UPA Colworth

UPA Colworth Annual General Meeting

As last year the Unilever Pensioners' Association Annual General Meeting was held at John White's Golf Club, Rushden, on March 25th 2015. Fifty five members attended. The minutes are enclosed.

Karen Abbott from Unilever UK Pensions Department provided an update on the business. 2014 was a tough year for Unilever with weakening consumer demand but the company managed competitive growth and is still ahead of its markets. All four categories (Home Care, Personal Care, Food and Refreshment) contributed to its performance. This year's pension increase will be 1.1%.



Events continue to be key to UPA Colworth's existence and 2014 saw the association hold a wide range of activities. These include Quiz & Chips and Wine Tasting evenings at the Colworth clubhouse and four visits to the Sharnbrook Mill Theatre. Day trips to Bletchley Park, Kensington Palace (including a guided tour round Old Kensington), Oxford (cruising from Abingdon) and Denbies Vineyard (near Dorking) were also very successful as was the Christmas lunch trip to Waddesdon Manor. The mini holiday to Dublin went ahead although numbers were less than hoped.

The rambling group held 17 local walks plus days out to the Cotswolds and two trips by train to London (a Thames River walk and a visit to the Imperial War Museum). There was also a bird watching outing. The Lake District walking holiday was attended by 40 veterans of the fells and was blessed with good weather. ►



Sue thanks Wilma for auditing the accounts



Secretary Sally



Chairman Cham



Retiring from the committee: Terry, Thiru and Toni

- ▶ In terms of committee membership Toni Smith, Thiru and Terry Horsman are retiring. Mike Quickendon was elected onto the communications team and Janet Westcott was elected as Minute Secretary and to support the communications team. Other members were re-elected. Thanks also to Mike and Janet for reinstating the UPA website.

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Quiz & Chips Night, February 18th 2015

Colworth Clubhouse was again the venue for the night's entertainment and 50 keen participants arrived ready to have a chat and a pint with old pals and give their brains a mental workout. The places had been hotly contested and after a few having to pull out at the last minute we had to use the substitute bench.

Thanks to Sue Needham and Patrich Drage for liaising with the fish shop and collecting the fish and chips.

There were five categories of questions: Pot Luck, History, Geography, Science and Sport, plus a table-top quiz of 25 Latin sayings in common use. This year we introduced the concept of a JOKER. At the start of the round after announcing what the category was, the teams had to decide whether or not to play their JOKER. It could only be played once per team but it would double their score for that category.

The scores being added up we found we had two teams vying for 3rd and 4th position, so we had to have a tie breaker. The four clear top positions were:

- 1st Sue's Company
- 2nd Blue's Encore
- 3rd 754 Rises from the Ashes
- 4th Six of the Best

Thanks to you all from coming and making it such an enjoyable and successful event. We will stop doing it when you stop coming.

Olwyn Wishart



Rerouting the river

December 31st 2014 marked exactly 20 years since I left Colworth House on an early retirement. These years have been not so much retirement as “now for something different”. I have spent an average three days a week in two voluntary roles. One is with CPRE, a national and local organisation, which exists to try and protect the countryside from excessive or ill-judged development. Much of the activity centres on land use planning, in a quasi-legal process. We seek to influence policy at all levels, and locally comment on major planning applications in depth. The second is the River Glaven Conservation Group. This focusses on practical restoration measures to put right past errors, not just on the river but in its whole catchment area.



The tunnel built in the 1890s

As well as carrying out small scale hand-labour measures, through local knowledge and contacts we also aim to attract the funding and multi-disciplinary expertise to initiate and support some major restoration works; for this of course it is necessary to have the active support and confidence of the landowner, otherwise nothing can proceed. The most recent and largest project on the Glaven was carried out on the Bayfield estate last summer. Most of the problems on the river derive from over-widening and over-deepening for land drainage purposes in the 1960s and 1970s, one aspect of the wider push to more intensive farming. This one went back to the 1890s. Some 100 years prior to this the river had been widened to form a lake in what was being made into parkland setting for Bayfield Hall. The estate passed into the hands of Sir Alfred Jodrell in 1892. Jodrell set about removing the deep silt which had accumulated in the lake, which took a year to do.

However after cleaning the lake it soon started to gather silt again. There were some robust arguments between the Bayfield Estate and Letheringsett Estate, just upstream. These were about the operation of Letheringsett Mill, and how the silt which accumulated in the mill pond and river upstream was physically removed, but was periodically washed out in large batches. This moved downstream, and deposited again in Bayfield Lake. All the fish in the lake were killed, including the trout stock placed in the lake by Jodrell. Jodrell decided to divert the river, so it did not flow through the lake. The first attempt was through making a deep parallel cut to the lake, but the earth banks kept collapsing. So he turned to building a brick underground tunnel which for 1km would carry the river. ▶▶



The heavy gang



The new channel looking towards the Lake and Bayfield Hall

- ▶ The aim of the project was to take the river out of the tunnel, sterile as a wildlife habitat, and bring it to the surface on the meadow between tunnel and Lake. This would also aid the free passage of migratory fish such as brown/sea trout and eel. The design alignment and river bed profile channel was such that it would give 1.2km of a new, sinuous and naturally functioning river.



The new river channel looking upstream

The Bayfield estate has a network of permissive paths. Near the house is a wildlife site, Natural Surroundings, with a good café in the woodland area. The site is much used for field trips by schools near and far, including an annual one from Sharnbrook Upper School.

The RGCG has two newsletters a year, which since we started in 2004, are all on the website www.riverglaven.co.uk. The Autumn 2014 edition has a text and pictorial description of the “new river” project. For those who would like more information on the background to the project and its implementation, check it out.

Ian Shepherd (Welwyn 1965-1975; Colworth 1975-1994).

Patterdale Walking Holiday, March 29th – April 4th 2015



In the week leading up to our departure the weather forecast was not good and to be frank in reality it didn't disappoint. Three out of the four walking days were very mixed and the weather kept all the walk organisers on their toes swapping and changing walks to accommodate the changing conditions. Everyone managed admirably and nobody got a thorough soaking. The final day turned out to be just perfect with bright sun, blue sky, light breeze to keep us cool and some even came back sunburned.

The winners of the annual Lakes quiz were The Untouchables (Pat & Mike Quickenden, Chris & Mike Lawry & Helen Minter). The Brian Fletcher Perseverance Trophy was awarded to Terry Ferguson for his continued support of the Lakes walking holiday over his eight years of holidaying with us. He has clocked up in excess of 300 miles over 30 walks, quite an impressive accomplishment we think. Well done Terry.

Olwyn Wishart

Colworth House Football Team

Following our request for help in indentifying the players in the photo provided by Tom Williams, Geoff Hulatt has identified all but one of the footballers.

From left, back row: Alec Rees (coach driver), Arthur Green (fitter), Jack Adams, Fred Tysoe (painter), Sid Williams (carpenter), Sid Hart; front row: Clive Brown (electrician), Keith Newall, David Rice, Ken Marsh, unknown.

Thanks, Geoff, for your help on this. If anyone else has any information please get in touch.



Colworth Museum Open Week

Sixty six Colworth pensioners visited the museum at Colworth, opened for four days in late February at lunchtime. It was great to see familiar faces from Colworth's past and hear their fascinating and personal stories of life at Colworth since the early 1950s.



Harry Charie and mug

On the Thursday we also arranged tours of Colworth House (currently empty) where we could reflect on the comings and goings in the various rooms from the 1700s through the Unilever Years. The tour through the cellars brought to life the food storage facilities for the domestic staff working several centuries ago.

Many of the Colworth Pensioners kindly donated artefacts of interest to the museum including Harry Charie's QED mug to add to our growing collection. The museum contents are growing steadily and we aim to preserve "Colworth specific" material particularly from the Unilever Years for current and future Colworth staff. We managed to put many names to faces in the huge collection of photographs of staff from the early 1950s for which we are very grateful.

Our aim will be to open the museum for Colworth Pensioners approximately twice a year. We intend to change some of the themes of the exhibits each time (science, buildings, people, computing, social events etc). Please let us know if you have anything you think may be of interest that you would be prepared to donate or lend.

The museum was opened by Stella Peace (Colworth Site Leader) in November 2014 and is upstairs in the old Food Technology (FTD) building. The name, "Skyward End Museum", may seem odd but when Unilever purchased the Colworth Estate in 1947 building restrictions were still in place after WWII. Existing buildings were modified wherever possible, the new foods pilot plant building being converted from the old riding stables. Over the main entrance to the courtyard stood a clock tower – people would look up at the clock to check the time. Hence the local builder referred to this part of the building as Skyward End. The museum is situated where the clock tower once stood.



Tom Anderson and Ian Kimsey

We look forward to further expanding this initiative and would welcome any information or thoughts from you via colworthmuseum@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing you again soon.

Dudley Ferdinando, Harjit Lall & Andy Dyks



Alan Flook and John Best



Bridget Burns

A big thank you to Dudley, Harjit and Andy for arranging and hosting the museum visits for us. Attendees thoroughly enjoyed a nostalgic wander down memory lane. Cham Willey.

Forthcoming Events

May 20th	Lunch Club, Queen's Head, Milton Ernest – Now booking
June 3rd	Colworth Supper – Now booking
June 9th	"Merrily We Roll Along", Mill Theatre, Sharnbrook – Now booking
August 4th	Olympic Legacy Tour – Now booking

2016 Events

July 11th–15th WW1 & Belgium Delights Holiday – **Now booking**

By popular request we have secured a provisional booking for the **Palace Hotel, Paignton**, for November 14th–18th 2016. If you are interested please let Cham know. The flyer will follow later this year. A deposit will be required in January 2016.

Walking Programme

	Crawlers	Boots & Socks
May	31st London by train (the Wisharts)	21st Mike & Pat Quickenden
June	8th Alex & Maureen Mathie	26th Geoff & Robina Gilpin

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New members

A very warm welcome to **Ed Baginski, Deryk Cebula, Dilip & Mala Parmar** and **Marian & Steven Blyth**. **Ed** joined Colworth in 1986. After a spell working with ICI he returned to a position in Biosensors Section, transferring to Vlaardingen in Foods Processing Group before joining Discover Refreshment (within Innovative Manufacturing) at Colworth. **Deryk** was R&D Director, Discover. **Dilip** started in Statistics before joining Information Services. **Marian** worked in Oils & Fats then Lipton Ice Tea development.

In addition, the following have joined the UPA as a result of changes in the Sensory Assessment organisation: **Priscilla (Cilla) & Philip Brown, Kathleen & Peter Butler, Helena & Brian Walker, Sonia Warby, Pauline & Andrew Turner, Janet & Peter Creswell, Janet & Dave Nicholson, Geoff Heuser, Linda Ansell, Valerie & Noel Horrell, Linda Finning** and **Dee & David Cole**.

Obituaries

With great sadness we report the deaths of **Les Ormerod, Ronald Sharp, Kay Turnbull, Anne Osborne, Brenda King, Di Stephenson, Judy Muscutt** and **Nora Moxam**. **Les** joined in 1963 at Welwyn and was Chief Accountant when he retired in 1987. **Ronald** was the widower of Jean Sharp who retired from ESL (as was) in 1989 and died in 2013. **Kay** was wife of Rodney Turnbull, a scientist in Process Engineering. **Anne** was wife of David who was a member of Colworth Executive, retiring in 1993. **Brenda** worked in Accounts with Bob Draper and was married to Walter who worked in Bacteriology. **Di** was married to Pete who retired, as Project Facilitator, in 2001. **Judy** was widow of Bob who retired from ESL (as was) in 1990. **Nora** was widow of John who also worked in ESL.

Our thoughts are with their families.

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