

Pensionnews

PEARL GROUP STAFF PENSION SCHEME DECEMBER 08

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Welcome

Welcome to your December issue of Pension News, the magazine for Pearl pensioners.

This issue sees some interesting contributions – not least the story of John Jones, who took part in a charity race, which he then completed with a broken ankle! We also have more of your photographs and reports on your gatherings to keep you informed of each other's news.

Contributions have been plentiful this time, I'm pleased to report. As always, keep them coming, it's your magazine – and we hope you're pleased with it! Have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Contributions should be sent to:

Pension News, First Actuarial plc, Pearl Group Staff Pension Scheme, 38 Tyndall Court, Commerce Road, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6LR

Editor

Readers of Pension News will be delighted to learn that former Pearl Assurance Company Chairman, Einoin Holland, married Maifrona on 6 September 2008. Congratulations from all at Pearl.

No match for the Pearl!

Brian Trinder, former Pearl Assurance (1967-1994) has sent the photo below of the Pearl team when they played against the Co-op at Reading in 1975, which Pearl won.



Back row, from left: P Savin (goalkeeper), L Trendall, G Exton, T Bazeley, D Higgins, D Hollister, P Cheyne.
Front row, from left: UNKNOWN, B Trinder, T Harvey, T Blythe, N Mutter.

Pearl Group News

It has once again been an eventful year in Pearl's history. The biggest change to the business took place on 1 May 2008 when Pearl Group acquired Resolution plc, a FTSE100 company.

Pearl is now a top 10 UK life company and the UK's largest specialist manager of closed life and pension funds. Today Pearl Group has £73.1 billion of assets under management and 7.7 million policyholders. Companies in the group include: Pearl, London Life, NPI, Phoenix, Scottish Provident and Scottish Mutual. Pearl Group remains privately owned by two large investment organisations, Sun Capital and TDR Capital.

With the acquisition of Resolution came new offices in Wythall, near Birmingham, Glasgow, London and Dublin and as part of the long term business strategy, Pearl announced in September that it will be transferring almost

all business activities from Glasgow and Peterborough, into Wythall over the next two and a half years.

The decision to leave Peterborough and Glasgow was reached only after a great deal of careful thought and consideration and is a necessary, though difficult decision to enable the business to continue to be more sustainable in the long term. The move will enable Pearl to consolidate knowledge and experience, in order to achieve the aim of creating an integrated and sustainable business model which offers value for customers and shareholders.

A major relocation programme has been launched and all staff will be offered the chance to apply for vacant Group roles in Wythall. A comprehensive programme of outplacement support is also in place to assist employees for whom relocation is not an option in achieving re-employment as soon as possible.

Holborn race, 1951

Harry Prier thought this photograph may be of interest to those who worked at Holborn in the 1950s.

It was taken on a murky October evening in 1951 (in the days of London smogs) and includes the runners and race officials before a three mile inter-departmental race around Hyde Park. In those days the Pearl cross-country team trained regularly in the park each Tuesday evening during the winter months.

Harry can recall some of the names, which are shown below (with query marks where not known).

Standing left to right: Bobby Beard, David Bacon, Harry Prier, Peter Moss, Ron Grove, Joe Feltgen, Peter Gunn, (?), (?), Leo Nagel, (?), Jasper Andrews, (?), John Scutt, John Mayfield, (?) Norman Roberts, Alan French, Les Davis, Mike Morrison, (?), Len Malyan.

Front row: Les Waddington, Frank Dyter, (? Rigby?) Peter Tomkin, Norman Davies, Derek Hartland, John Hatton, (?), Geoff Ballisat, (?), Dennis Tooley, Don Matthews, Brian Black.

Harry Prier



Peterborough Club news

It has been a golden summer for the club but tinged with sadness at the loss of Arthur Reddick who had been a keen member of the club along with his wife, Joan, for many years.

Golden wedding anniversaries were celebrated by Bernard and Mildred Holyoake (September) and Peter and Marian Tomkin (August) and the club presented both couples with a bouquet of flowers.



Above: Bernard and Mildred Holyoake on a golden day.



Left: A youthful Peter and Marian Tomkin pictured in the Thorpe Wood clubhouse in 1983

P Division's grand day out

On 18 July 2008, 48 Pearl pensioners enjoyed a full day out in London. We had a guided tour around the Houses of Parliament and then we all had a choice of how we wanted to spend the rest of the day. Some had a ride on the London Eye, followed by a stroll along the embankment, whilst others had a boat trip down the Thames or visited Westminster Abbey, the Imperial War Museum, or went shopping in Oxford Street.

Gerald Horseman

The summer season has been an active period for the club with record attendances at the monthly meetings. The main focus has been on all the outings organised by program secretary, Terry Moon.

Trips have included a tour of the new Wembley Stadium followed by a guided walk around a very quiet city square mile led by blue badge guide and Pearl Pensioner, John Garrod and a day at the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre and the Battle of Britain Memorial flight based at RAF Coningsby.

In July we visited the National Trust site of Anglesey Abbey after spending a morning wandering the town of Ely and its beautiful Cathedral. One of the main staff at the Abbey is none other than our own Irene Robjent and she was delighted to ensure that our visit was worthwhile from viewing the house to admiring the beautifully manicured gardens, and enjoying a refreshing cup of tea in the very new visitor centre.

August saw an evening visit to Rockingham Castle, now home of the Seymour Watson family. Our own private tour of the house and grounds was followed by a much enjoyed candlelit dinner.

Our September outing to the national coal mining museum at Wakefield included a 90 minute lamps and helmet trip underground and a tour of the extensive museum.

The walkers have clocked up many miles on their monthly expeditions; the attraction of a good pub lunch after each walk has compensated for some of the poor weather the summer has imposed!

The Snooker section was able to renew its pilgrimage to the Crucible for a day out at the World Championships and the section continues to meet regularly on a Monday morning at the local Snooker club.

On Friday 27 February 2009 the club will be holding its 22nd annual luncheon at the Marriott Hotel, Lynch Wood. Although the event is promoted by the Peterborough Club, members of other Pearl related Pensioner Groups would always be welcome. The cost will be around £20 per person.

The club welcomes new members at any time and with Bowls and Recorded Music also regular activities the club are never lacking for something to do. Please contact the secretary Tony King (01733 265589) for further details.



A wheel big challenge!

John Jones, retired District Manager D3 (Liskeard) wrote the following letter to Pension News – it's a tale we thought you might enjoy!

"There is no fool like an old fool, and this old fool at age 78 volunteered to run a mile for Sports Relief 2008 this year. All was going well until I changed my venue for training from the nice tarmac path through Plym woods, to Roborough Down on Dartmoor.

One wet Sunday afternoon, I was going great guns over Roborough Down, when I slipped on some mud and broke my ankle. At that point, well-wishers had backed me to well over £500, and I felt totally depressed as I was rushed to the A&E department at Derriford hospital. There I met a great guy, a German doctor, Doctor Derek Aldtag. Pardon the pun, but he spoke to me like a 'Dutch uncle' and said, "Now come on, cheer up. I'll make you as comfortable as possible, so why don't you go on television and appeal for a wheelchair to complete the mile?" He then organised a whip round on the ward for me.

I took his advice and went on Spotlight Southwest and appealed for a wheelchair. The first person to answer that appeal was a man suffering from multiple sclerosis. Can you believe it! I was choked, and gladly accepted his offer.

I turned up on the day on Plymouth Hoe, and a young student from the C.F.E who was also running in the race asked if I would like him to push me round the course. I readily agreed – and my young friend promptly overtook everyone in sight and completed the course in an astonishing twelve minutes. It was the most exhilarating wheelchair ride I could ever wish for; in fact it had all the excitement of a Roman Chariot race!

But the kindness of folk didn't end there. I moved to this area only last July, but my next-door neighbour took on board some of my problems immediately and assisted my wife and I in so many ways.

I have no wish to break my ankle again, but so many positive things came out of my experience; and to cap it all I raised £625 for Sports Relief.

I don't know if you would describe this as the 'sting in the tale', but the Sports Relief H.Q expressed their deep appreciation for all I had done and sent me a pair of RUNNING SHOES as a 'thank you' present!! Someone has a good sense of humour...and I love it.

John J Jones

NPI Division news

Despite a somewhat gloomy future outlined at the AGM, it hasn't been such a bad year after all. There were a number of pub lunches organised by various members of the group which were enjoyed by all who attended them. My wife and I would have enjoyed one of them if we had got there, but we had a disagreement with a deer; fortunately we didn't do ourselves or the car much damage but the deer came off very second best! We went out for a lunch the next day and top of the menu was venison!

A 'pub lunch' with a difference was a self drive visit to Sheffield Park with a bring-your-own picnic.

In April we had a trip to Essex with one of the London Blue Badge Guides, visiting Maldon where we had lunch before taking a drive through the Essex marshes until we finished up at the Tiptree jam factory where we had tea.

In June we went to Gosport and enjoyed a beautifully sunny day - can anyone remember what they were like?! In the afternoon, Geoff took us to Portsmouth where we had a trip around the harbour followed by tea in the famous Dockyards. Unfortunately the sunny day seemed to have brought out all the traffic and the journey home was very slow no matter which route Geoff took.

The last trip of the year was called 'All the King's Horses,' and was in London. According to Stan, 'the guide was an ex-guardsman who knew his stuff and although he made the day leisurely, we saw and learned a fair bit as well.'

We have the Christmas lunch to look forward to on 11 December.

Paul Marsh

Changing times for PCOPA

The Annual General Meeting of the Pearl Chief Office Pensioners Association saw an historic change as Joan Graham had decided to stand down after almost 20 years as the Birthday Girl! Joan has been sending cards to PCOPA members who have reached age 80 and beyond. The AGM was anxious to pass on its thanks to her for all this work over the years. These cards have brightened the day for many long-retired colleagues.

The elections saw Margaret Dunster appointed to take on this important role and she was welcomed along with new Committee members Pam Holland and Neil Hoffmann. Colin Jeffries was returned as Chairman as were Ken McAleer (secretary) and Jim Rawden (treasurer).

The long established venue for Holborn pensioners has been the Bonnington Hotel that was the Pearl hotel in days

of yore. However, time marches on and it has changed its name and management. Now called the Park Inn, it has a greatly increased room hire tariff. It has therefore been agreed to move our meetings to the Victory Services Club at Marble Arch for a trial period and the PCOPA Committee feel sure that members will like the new surroundings. Details can be found on the back page.

A successful reunion was held on 6 October when 67 members present bade farewell to the Bonnington, a Pearl hotel for as long as anyone could remember. Field staff were accommodated there and many Chief Office people will remember being housed within its walls during weather and transport difficulties.

Ken McAleer



Pictured left to right:

Margaret Dunster, Neil Hoffman, Pam Holland.

NPI retired managers get together

Since 1993, on an annual basis, a group of retired NPI managers and their wives have met for a weekend to socialise and reminisce. Each year one manager is responsible for arranging the following year's event at a hotel in his area.

On 3 October 17 of us met at the Riber Hall Hotel near Matlock, Derbyshire and next year the venue will be in the Norwich area.

The members of the group would all like to congratulate Eileen and Dennis on their Emerald Wedding (their 55th I am told) on 17 October 2008 and wish them all the best for the future.

Don Robson (Nottingham)



N Division take a trip to Bodelwyddan Castle

N Division enjoyed a trip to Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales, on 20 August 2008.

Peter Norris



Not one diamond, but three!



Congratulations to the following three couples, who all celebrate their diamond wedding anniversaries this year...



Walter and Doris Swindenbank celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 24 July 2008, having married at the English Baptist Chapel in Cwmfelinfach in 1948. They have a son and daughter, five grandchildren and one great grandson, and celebrated with family and friends. Walter was a Pearl District Agent at Cross Keys and Blackwood offices for 25 years and retired in 1990.

Arthur and Katy Alexander of Buckinghamshire celebrated their diamond anniversary on 20 November 2008 having married at St John's Church in Hillingdon, Middlesex.

Arthur joined Pearl on 1 October 1949 and worked as an agent at Uxbridge office for 20 years.



Congratulations also to Jack and Joan Scott who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 18 September 2008.

Jack joined Pearl as a District Agent in I/2 York at the age of 32, before being promoted to A.D.M in I/3 Leeds. He also spent time in I/1 Leeds and was District Manager at I/11 Halifax for 16 years before taking early retirement in 1982.

Jack and Joan have one daughter, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Retirements

DECEMBER 2008

Pearl Group Staff Pension Scheme

Best wishes to those members who have recently retired from the Pearl Group Staff Pension Scheme.

Pearl			
Mrs ST Beard	Oswestry, Shropshire	Mrs E Milne	Peterborough, Cambs
Mr C Bethencourt Yanes	London	Mr MD Mohan	Peterborough, Cambs
Mr T Birtwistle	Nelson, Lancs	Mrs MA Morton	Millport, Isle Of Cumbrae
Mr JW Bridges	Banbury, Oxfordshire	Mr IG Nunn	Braintree, Essex
Mr W Buchanan	Chapelhall, Airdrie	Mrs P O'Flaherty	Ipplepen, Devon
Mr MJ Bull	Grenitote, Isle Of North Uist	Mr B Ord	South Shields, Tyne & Wear
Mrs RM Carlin	Peterborough, Cambs	Mr G Peet	Washington, Tyne And Wear
Mr SJ Chamberlain	Colchester, Essex	Miss MD Penny	Swindon
Mr AW Chambers	Wokingham, Berks	Mr RE Pettit	Kingsley, Staffordshire
Mr W Chesnick	Edgware, Middlesex	Mr MA Price	Bradford, West Yorkshire
Mr A Collier	Stone, Staffs	Mr WCV Reeve	Hull, N Humberside
Mr RJ Coplin	Camborne, Cornwall	Mr A Robinson	Ryton, Tyne And Wear
Mr P Daniels	Aston, Oxon	Mr RJ Scotter	Bakewell, Derbyshire
Mr J Devine	Dundee	Mr SC Skeet	Loughton, Essex
Mr TW Dunkley	Duston, Northampton	Mr MEJ Smith	Peterborough, Cambs
Mr WE Eccleston	Liverpool, Merseyside	Mrs J Smith	Forest Hill, London
Mrs PMK Eglin	Peterborough, Cambs	Mr C Spencer	Slough, Bucks
Mrs DM Fenn	Selsdon, Surrey	Mr HJ Staples	Wakefield, West Yorkshire
Mr RJ Forsythe	Craigavon, Co. Armagh	Mr A Steele	Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
Mr M Garson	Edgware, Middlesex	Mrs LB Swift	Dwelly Lane, Edenbridge Kent
Mr CJ Goodlad	Exeter, Devon	Mrs CA Thomas	Dartford, Kent
Mrs JH Gregory	Bilton, Rugby	Mr W Todd	East Ord, Berwick-on-tweed
Mr TJ Griffiths	Birkenhead, Cheshire	Mr MJ Tonkinson	Barkingside, Essex
Mr DM Habberfield	Cardiff, Glamorgan	Mr C Wallen	Portugal
Mr DM Habberfield	Cardiff, Glamorgan	Miss DA Wallis	Portsmouth, Hants
Mr WJ Higgins	Belfast, Co Antrim	Mrs CM Ward	Werrington, Peterborough
Mr JA Holmes	Great Bromley, Colchester	Mrs PM Warrenner	Peterborough, Cambs
Mr P Hornby	Darlington, County Durham	Mr S Whitwam	Norland, Halifax
Mr CFJ Huntley	Southdown, Bath	Mr P Williams	Stone, Staffs
Mr DJ Hutchinson	Coates, Peterborough	Mr JN Williamson	Houghton Le Spring, Tyne & Wear
Mrs PA Hutchinson	Kings Heath, Birmingham	Mr J Wilson	Milton Keynes, Bucks
Mrs RE Jealous	Spalding, Lincs		
Mrs P Johnson	Underwood, Kettering	London Life	
Mrs PA Keen	Croydon, Surrey	Mrs EA Avery	West Harptree, Bristol
Mr S Kipping	Chingford, London	Mrs P Billingham	Irlam, Manchester
Mr TE Laws	Iver, Bucks	Mr SB Lyons	Benfleet, Essex
Mr DA Lewis	Mottingham, London		
Mr JT Logue	Carrickfergus, County Antrim	NPI	
Mrs S MacDonald	Sleat, Isle Of Skye	Mrs MG Brookes	Tunbridge Wells, Kent
Mr AI MacDonald	Hetton Le Hole, Tyne & Wear	Mr TJ Larkin	New Eltham
Mr J Madden	Ardgay, Sutherland	Mr P Littlewood	Bexleyheath, Kent
Mr P Manns	Brownsover, Rugby	Mrs JG MacFarlane	Rutherglen, Glasgow
Mr R Maskell	Bognor Regis, West Sussex	Mr L Parry	Great Barr, Birmingham
Mr AA Millard	Peterborough, Cambs	Mrs E Tucker	Dungeness, Romney Marsh
		Mr JJH Wormell	Wotton Underwood, Aylesbury

In addition to those listed, there have been 67 early retirements from Pearl, 9 from NPI and none from London Life.

Obituaries

DECEMBER 2008

Pearl Group Staff Pension Scheme

We regret to announce the death of the following Pearl Group pensioners.

Pearl		
Name	Address	Age
Mrs JR Arnold	Reigate, Surrey	86
Mrs MA Arnold	Honiton, Devon	96
Mr TI Atkinson	Newcastle Upon Tyne	78
Mr GWJ Baker	Chipping Norton, Oxon	94
Mr GJW Barrett	West Drayton, Middlesex	79
Mrs EF Bishop	Tonbridge, Kent	92
Mr EI Blackwell	Llandudno, Gwynnedd	84
Mrs RM Boyd	Glasgow	78
Mr LT Branscombe	Lancing, West Sussex	88
Mr BK Bray	Ashtead, Surrey	65
Mr RH Brookman	Chalfont St Peter, Bucks	84
Mr WH Broom	Plymouth, Devon	88
Mrs BC Bryce	Glasgow	86
Mrs C Burnett	Kinross	85
Mr JA Burrell	Isle of Wight	64
Mr RJ Cameron	Polegate, East Sussex	92
Mrs P Campbell	Littlemore, Oxford	69
Mrs W Churcher	Canton, Cardiff	88
Mr DW Clark	Bognor Regis, W. Sussex	92
Mrs M Clough	Huddersfield, Yorks	91
Mrs EM Colbeck	Dalton, Huddersfield	82
Mrs M Collins	South Shields, Tyne And Wear	89
Mr CA Comben	Romford, Essex	94
Mrs JD Coombes	Eltham, London	90
Mr J Coulter	Ballyclare, Co. Antrim	86
Mr WH Davidson	Newton Grange, Mid Lothian	85
Mr AJW Davidson	Milton Malsor, Northampton	91
Mr PH Davies	Ormskirk, Lancashire	71
Mr AF Dellow	Billericay, Essex	99
Mrs KE Donegan	Middleton Cheney, Banbury	78
Mr G Edmondson	Accrington, Lancashire	70
Mr AD Fillary	St Albans, Hertfordshire	73
Mrs EG Finning	Bournemouth	83
Mr NJD Fisher	Camberle, Surrey	79
Mrs M Fowler	Scarborough, North Yorkshire	93
Mrs DW Fryatt	Muswell Hill, London	92
Mr JG Furber	Welwyn Garden City, Herts	86
Mr A Galustian	London	67
Mrs EA Gillies	Teignmouth, Devon	96
Mr JE Graves	Nottingham	92
Mrs IJ Greenhall	Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire	75
Miss MJ Gregory	Wood Green, London	72
Mr IC Grieve	Upton St Leonards, Gloucester	62
Mrs A Hakner	East Yorkshire	80

Diary of events

Many of the old Pearl 'divisions' have Pensioner Associations. Look below for events coming up in your area and the person to contact for more information.

A – Bishops Stortford

John McCarthy – 01277 224297

B – Kent and South East

David Hitchcock – 0208 699 3951

C – Southern Area

Stan Lucas – 01747 853806

7 May 2009 – Spring lunch & AGM

15 October 2009 – Autumn lunch

CC Cumbria

Allan Hodgson – 01900 603171

10 December 2008 – Christmas lunch at Trout Hotel, Cockermouth

Contact Allan or George Chare on 01946 691601

D – Devon, Cornwall, Somerset

Mike Wall – 01395 274084

E – South Wales

John Jones – 01267 221113

F – Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire

Ray Fradley – 01787 280043

G – West Midlands

Geoff Barlow – 01922 477018

10 March 2009 – Spring lunch and AGM at The Royal Oak, Dudley

I Division – West Yorkshire

Keith Beanlands – 01943 864742

10 December 2008 – Christmas lunch at Ripon Spa Hotel, Ripon

K Division – Glasgow

Rena Matheson – 0141 339 4629

8 January 2009 – Pantomime (Cinderella) at The Kings Theatre, Glasgow
Followed by meal at Catch 22 restaurant
April 2009 (TBA) – Spring lunch

L Division – Northern Ireland

Ross Hussey – 02882 244368

M & CC

Brian Mann – 01772 495257

17 December 2008 – Christmas lunch at Garstang Golf & Country Club.

N – Nottingham

Peter Norris – 0115 981 4347

22 April 2009 – Spring lunch

P – Bristol

Gerald Horseman – 01179 865922

4 December 2008 – Christmas lunch at Lansdown Golf Club

S – Durham

Rodney Booth – 01325 355813

5 May 2009 – Lunch at The Chilton Country Pub and Hotel, Fencehouses, Co. Durham

1 December 2009 – Christmas lunch at The Chilton County Pub and Hotel, Fencehouses, Co. Durham

T – Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire

Keith Smith – 0113 2812250

4 December 2008 – Christmas lunch at Holiday Inn, Doncaster

8 January 2009 – Pantomime at Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield

12 March 2009 – AGM and lunch at Holiday Inn, Doncaster

V – North & Mid Wales, Shropshire, Chester

Ralph Oddy – 01746 763477

17 December 2008 – Christmas lunch at Plas Hafod Hotel, Gwernymyndd, Mold

29 April 2009 – Spring lunch at Plas Hafod Hotel, Gwernymyndd, Mold

X – Northampton

Ray Ridout - 01582 665346

22 April 2009 – Spring lunch at the Toby Carvery, Wootton, Northampton

NPI

Paul Marsh - 01892 655230

11 December 2008 – Christmas lunch at Dane Hill Golf Club, December 2008

CROYDON

Robert Rose – 01778 394389

27 April 2009 – Annual lunch at Croydon Bowling Club,

South Croydon

Contact Sue Graham on 0208 681 6641

LONDON LIFE

Ian Ferguson – 01780 720793

18 May 2009 – Lunch reunion at Mercure Holland House Hotel & Spa, Redcliffe Hill, Bristol.

If anyone is not currently on the mailing list and would like to attend, please contact Ian on the above number or Chris Essex on 01225 873878
essexes@aol.com

Pearl Pensioners Club – Peterborough

Tony King – 01733 265589

27 February 2009 – Lunch at Marriott Hotel, Lynch Wood

2nd Thursday in each month (2.30 p.m.)

– Meeting at Alwalton Village Hall

Every Monday (10.45 a.m.) – Snooker at North Bretton

Monthly Music Society

Pearl Chief Office

Ken McAleer, 212 Lynmouth Avenue, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4RP

12 May 2009 @ 2 pm

13 October 2009

Lunch Reunions at Victory Services Club, 63-67 Seymour Street (Nr Marble Arch) W2

Your contacts

If you have a general query about your pension then you should contact the Scheme Administrators in Peterborough:

Telephone: 01733 393020 Fax: 0870 8795200

Email: pearl@firstactuarial.co.uk

www.pearlstaffpensionscheme.co.uk

For payslip queries contact the Payroll Department:
Telephone: 01733 393020

For policy queries, contact Pearl Group Helpline:
Telephone: 0870 897 0028