

# The Friends of the Old Paint Company Newsletter

Issue 8 ~

December 2008



1760  
The old Guv'nor,  
God Bless him !

Another year has come and almost gone and another brilliant reunion with 110 people attending including our Far Eastern correspondent ~ John Griffin who came over from Thailand and one of our regular European correspondents ~ John Frensham who came over from Spain. The full number was a wee bit down on last year but we had a number of 'apologies for absence' from fifteen of our regulars ~ who to date haven't missed a reunion, so I thought it was a good result. The success from last year of having name badges [*most of us seem to be developing memory difficulties*] was continued.

We actually sent out more invites this year[291]. We had the same problem as last year with a very slow response. Based on the uncertainty of the post and not knowing if all the addresses we had were up to date, we decided to send out 80 reminders. Whether that did the trick or not we will never know but the final tally was a good result.

We had responses from 44 people saying they couldn't make it this year, due to a variety of reasons. We also followed the tradition of putting up letters & emails on the 'notice boards' ~ our grateful thanks to the inventor of Blue Tack.

In keeping the tradition of the old QCC, the Reunion is always the first Friday in October in 2008 ~

**We have booked the venue for next year ~**

**Friday 2nd October 2009**

**Please mark the date in your diary now.**

The other resounding success was that Ray Cattermole organised a mini-coach for the goodly number of people in the Southend/Leigh area, Ray said he would do the same next year and maybe we can extend the experiment where we have 'a cluster of people' living in a particular area. It does seem daft to have several people using their own transport when the all come from the same area.

## Lost Souls.

Since we started the reunions we have had two 'culls' of the members list ~ cutting out the non-responders. We currently have nearly 300 people on our database and they all get an invite to the reunion. We know many can't make it due to age, travelling distance, etc and we are not worried on

that issue as the important thing about the reunion and the news-letter is 'keeping in touch' ~ it's people that made the company what it was ~ not the organisation. Usually it's the people that live a fair distance away that always respond and we are very grateful for that. But keeping the *The Friends of the Old Paint Company* going is expensive with the invites, newsletter, reminders, etc, works out at over £3,00 a head and with no response, often we don't know if we even have the right address. We are writing to about 80 of the lost souls and if there is no response, we will remove them from the database.

There are also a lot of people out there that we can't contact ~ if you meet anyone that wants to join us next year, please get them to contact us [an address would help !].

## The Reunion Website

Our website *The Friends of the Old Paint Company* can be viewed at:

[www.bjn-paint-reunion.co.uk](http://www.bjn-paint-reunion.co.uk)

The site has an overview plus separate sections on Berger, John Hall, Jenson & Nicholson, British Paints, Cuprinol and RCL. The site does contain some of the history of the companies that formed the old group. We have received some new information from John Crookes regarding the Cuprinol site at Frome which has now been added. Please take time to look at our website and if you have anything you want to add, please let us know.

**We would really like any photos or memorabilia the many other companies that formed part of the group such as Spelthorne Metals, Keystone Paint and Varnish, etc. Any we don't keep will go to Hackney Archives who still maintain archives for the BJN group of Companies**

Through the website, we received an interesting e-mail from a person doing his family tree. From the census returns in the late 1800's he had learnt his great, great grandfather J. Blindell had worked for a paint company and lived in Homerton.

He wanted to know if the J. Blindell we had on our website (in the picture overleaf dated about 1890) was related. We were able to confirm that it was the same person and J Blindell actually worked for Lewis Berger for 70 years which is an amazingly



the same person and J Blindell actually worked for Lewis Berger for 70 years which is an amazingly long time ~ but the record for long service was held by Frederick Gain who worked for the company for close to 75 years.



That was in the days when our main products were based on things like lead, mercury and arsenic. They were tough in those days.

### The Old Stratford Site

Archaeological excavations following the clearing of the site and prior to the building of the Olympic venues continues to throw up a wealth of pre-history ~ from Neolithic to late Iron Age and into the Roman occupation. We don't have a report from this years finds but the Museum of London evaluation does make a regular report to the London Archaeologist magazine. The latest report wasn't to hand when we went to press.

### The Old Chadwell Heath Site

Only the admin and old cricket pavilion are still unaltered. The old cricket pavilion, which someone thoughtfully had scheduled as a Grade II listed building, still doesn't seem to have had any takers to date ~ possibly due to the absence of a cricket pitch.

### Photos from the Evening

Many thanks to Lynn Cottage, Clive Simpson and Dave Seeger for supplying photos from the evening



Mike, Larry & John

The reunion's traditional photo with the picture of the 'Old Guv'nor' which was rescued from the old factory by Dave Howard-Willis

### Photos from the Evening

All the photos in the newsletter plus a lot more from the evening are available on a CD for £1.00 plus £1.50 post and packing



Sandra, Brian and Sue



Alex and Sandra



Frank and Peter



Avril and Lynn



Colin, Bill and Patrick





The Four Tops



Ron, Malcolm, Mike and the other Mike [Can and Coil Reunion]



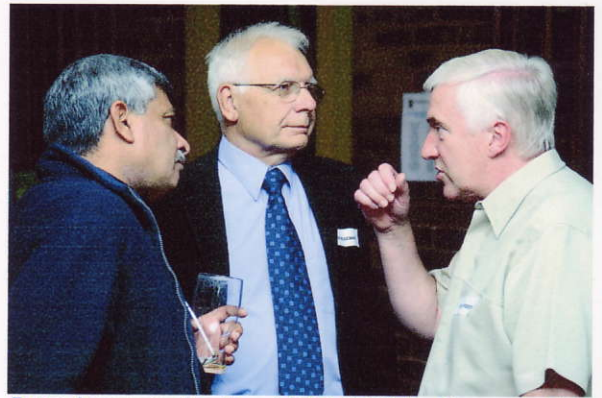
Francis and Mike accepting a betting slip



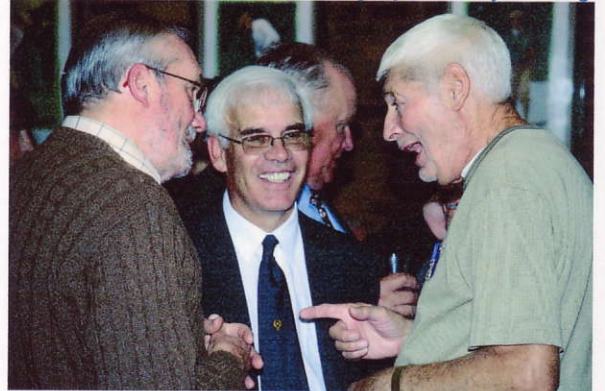
Jim and Ray reminiscing



Marvellous Marcia and Great George



Peter demonstrating the old QC right jab ~ Larry ducking



John directing Bill to the bar



Brian, Dee and Malcolm sharing a joke



The old "I can get you into pictures" routine.  
Unfortunately he meant the FOTOPC newsletter



Getting ready for 'Pass the Parcel'





Sandra reading a Book at Bedtime



Milly taking the floor



WED quick repair to stop the bar-counter moving



Alan and Keith being amazed by Jim



Dave's reaction to winning 1st prize in the raffle  
[ picking up the bar bill tab ]

## Donations

A lot of people made a donation to the *The Friends of the Old Paint Company* and we would like to give a personal **Thank You** to all for your generosity. Last year Bill Noad found a local school that had the right equipment to produce our newsletter cheaper printer and hopefully they will do the same this years. This all to keep the costs at its current level. For those of you who couldn't make it ~ you missed a good evening ~ but hopefully we will see you next year.

and ... from the vast team of organisers that made the reunion possible, plus the backroom staff and distribution department, who together produced the newsletter, we would all like to wish all our regular readers: - A really super Christmas and a good and peaceful New Year

## OBITUARIES

We are sorry to advise you that several of our old friends have passed on

Alan Lock	July 2007
George Key	May 2007
Keith Abinieri	May 2007
John Goodsell	April 2008
John Muskin	May ? 2008
John Southan	July 2008
Ron Negus	Oct 2008



please note that our new e-mail address is:-

[fotopc@btinternet.com](mailto:fotopc@btinternet.com)

or through the website:

[www.bjn-paint-reunion.co.uk](http://www.bjn-paint-reunion.co.uk)

for those of you without e-mail, please send info to: FOTPC c/o Reunion, 44 Northwood Gardens, Ilford, Essex, IG5 0AJ

✉ If you want to advise of any changes of address or if you have anything to add to the newsletter please let us know.

The old Mr Berger [circa 1810 ]  
also wishes you a Merry Christmas

