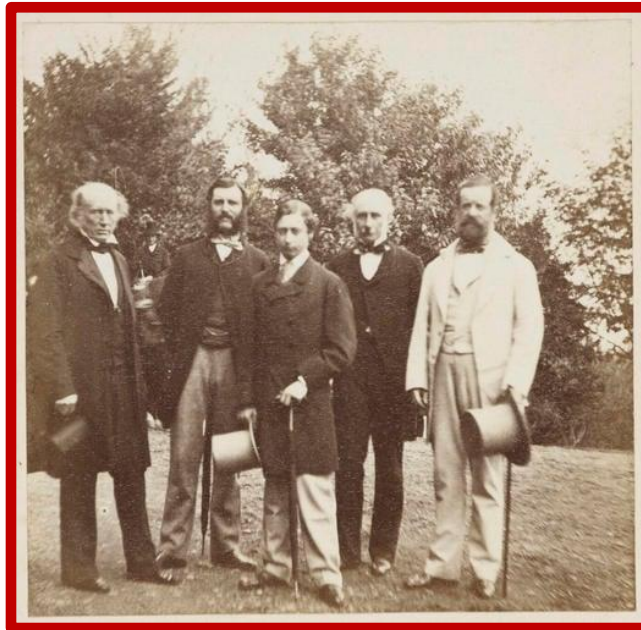


The old Guv'nor,
God bless Him !

The Friends of the Old Paint Company

Newsletter ~ Issue 24

December 2023



*The Reunion Committee, full of laughter and good cheer ~ Bill, Bob, Brian, John and Jim, plus the old Guv'nor, on behalf of all the Friends of the Old Paint Co. wish you and yours a Very Happy Christmas and New Year and a safe journey through 2024
We hope you enjoy reading our slightly different annual newsletter.*

Seasonal Greetings, and we hope you are all staying safe and keeping well. With a two year break in the reunions due to Covid we weren't certain how this years one would go. We'd like to thank all of you that turned up to the reunion in the '**The Crows Nest**' facility room in the Moby Dick Moby Dick on Whalebone Lane.

We had 46 people attending the reunion. One problem, and I apologies for this, was that when we chose the

2023 date, we didn't realise how many of our regulars took your holidays in September. As a result, sixteen of our 'regulars' were on holiday on that date and three couldn't attend due to a nationwide rail strike~ they could probably get to the reunion ~ but could not get back !

Sadly we also had five people coming that didn't turn up ~ **if you cancel at the last minute, can you txt us ?**

We now realised that many take holidays outside the normal school holidays and we put forward the suggestion at the reunion that we hold the next reunion in August 2024.

Based on a show of hands there were only three attendees that might have problems, so 93% thought this was an idea worth exploring.

For some for the London 'Ultra Low Emissions Zone' might add a higher cost to reunions held within the M25. The charge applies to all cars made before 2005 ~ if you're in doubt use the TFL website and enter you Reg No. [<https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission>]

It is an environmental charge not a congestion charge.

What we don't know is: It would be interesting to know how many FOTOPC folk have cars that don't meet ULEZ conditions. *Can you let us know ?*

Are we talking 2-3% or 0% or what ?

Sadly, at the reunion, I had to announce the passing of Ray Stevens who died the previous day, Ray had attended every reunion since we started in 2000 and it was good to see so many of you at his funeral. Also, and sadly, we have to announce the passing of John Frensham and also Ken Arbuckle. Although John was living in Spain and couldn't attend the more recent reunions, he always use to send a €20 Euro note every year to the FOTOPC account. Ken Arbuckle was FOTOPCs for eight years, handing over the role to Bob Davies.

Currently, we have 67 members on data base who support the group. Some of you may also have noticed, we're all getting old ! It's been suggested that we have the next reunion in the Brentwood area as this is outside the M25 ring road and ULEZ Zone. We'll explore that option during the next few months ~ Val and Dave Thomas have agreed to do a bit of research on that suggestion. The needs are fairly basic:- **(a)** a venue that has a facility

area that can hold 30-50 people with **(b)** nearby accommodation for the folk who have a fair distance to travel; i.e.; a Travel Lodge, Premier Inn, Holiday Inn, etc and **(c)** lay on a buffet and **(d)** a decent car park and **(e)** reasonable access to public transport for those who don't drive.

We would like to thank all of you that continue to support the *Friends of The Old Paint Company*.

Note: We ask you to pay the subscription by Standing Order (S.O.) so we don't have to keep chasing people (you can cancel your S.O. at any time). We also know that several of our members will never attend reunions due to age, health or distance ~ but they stay in touch..

Newsletter Photos

Because of various personal problems, I was the only one of the committee at the reunion from the start to end, and also we've lost our regular photo-grapher Clive Simpson. I did aske attendees to take photos and send them to me but in the excitement of meeting old colleagues I didn't realise till the very last minute that I hadn't taken any and only manage to run off 3-4 and many folk had left by that time ! I'm not aware of any else taking photos ?. So to supplement the few I took, I've put in some from the past !! At the next reunion can people help out by taking photos of the evening.

Technical Problem

One reason it has taken us so long to get this newsletter to you is that my copy of Photoshop is very, very old (30 years + and it's been suggested that my current computer systems don't easily support older systems.

If anyone has a more up-to-date version of Photoshop, I'd welcome a copy



BELOW: Blasts from the past

BELOW: Blasts from the past



please note that our e-mail address is:-

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2024 REUNION

Remember we are planning to have the 2024 reunion in August and we think Brentwood may be best to help people whose cars don't meet the ULEZ regulations. That's 'the Plan' !!

OBITUARIES

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

Kevin Power	Jan	2019
Tony Ellis	Feb	2019
Dave Wheatland	Apr	2019
Jack Bravey	Apr	2019
Graham Rainbird	May	2019
Larry Fernandes	Oct	2019
Kathy King	Oct	2019
Chris Neighbour	Mar	2020
John Wilson	Mar	2020
Ron Atkins	Mar	2020
Dick Banwell	July	2020
Colin Seeger	July	2020
Maureen Traveller	Oct	2020
Jack Adler	Jan	2021
Derek Aldis	Jun	2021
Joan Hunt	Jun	2021
Paddy McCrudden	Aug	2021
Ricky Oatham	Aug	2021
Peter Scutt	Sep	2021
Les Walton	Sep	2021
Billy Meader	Sep	2021
Alan Payne	Oct	2021
Marion Roberts	Nov	2021
Steve Clapham	Feb	2022
Denis Bone	May	2022
Pat Shallow	May	2022
Jim Lynn	June	2022
Joyce Porter	Aug	2022
Andy Stanford	Sept	2022
Ernie Clough	Sept	2022
Pat Rugg	Sept	2022
Geoff Johnson-Brett	Nov	2022
Dave Nichols	Nov	2022
Ron McArdle	Nov	2022
Avril Wood	Dec	2022
Dave Smith	Dec	2022
Clive Simpson	July	2023
Ray Stevens	Sept	2023
John Frensham	Sept	2023
Ken Arbuckle	Oct	2023

*and... from the vast team of organisers that make the reunion possible we would all like to wish all our regular readers:
- A really super and peaceful 2024*



The very old Mr Berger [circa 1810]

Hope you have a great 2024 and we'll see you in August