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Shiplake, about three miles upstream from Henley-on-Thames,
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+ LARGER TEXT

Posted: Friday 21 December 2007

Manchester Shop Changes

Plans for the transition to a New Company Shop

As part of the SCA transition plans we need to relocate the P&G Company shop, which will result in some disruption of Company shop service.

The New Company shop will be located next to the Occupational Health medical Centre. We would have needed to close the existing Company shop on January 4th for 2 weeks to enable the work to start on time to develop the new Westgate entrance and road access for the SCA transition.

Building work for the new Company Shop has started in the last few days and will now need to be extended as we have found Low Grade Crysolite asbestos in the area beneath the new Company shop. This poses no health risk to employees but does need to be removed. As a result the Company shop will now need to shut for 2 months from January 4th.

We have looked into several temporary solutions to avoid such a shutdown of the Company shop but we are unable to find a solution that does not lead to a significant shutdown or compromises the SCA transition timings.

We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause and will work hard to get the new Company shop running ASAP.

Q - Why can we not move to a temporary shop and avoid the shutdown?

A - By the time we have found a site and set up the facilities we would be able to open the new Facility

Q - Can we use Skemersdale Company shop ?

A - We will investigate this option with Skelmersdale

Q - Can we increase our shop allowances ?

A - We have increased allowances in the Company shop on some products until the closure and we will look to investigate how to increase allowances on start up as much as possible.

Richard Conroy

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+ LARGER TEXT

Posted: Thursday 20 December 2007

North East Associates Pub Lunches 2007

The Second Six!

Continuity is the key with our monthly pub lunches where we meet up early in every month of the year. Typically over thirty join in with a slight reduction in numbers over holiday periods.

Organiser Keith Stokoe writes:

"It's July, and this time we're in Northumberland visting the Ridley Arms in Stannington, to the south of Morpeth. Once again we had a sunny day amidst the rainy days of July. Food and drink were excellent but the service was slow. Twenty-nine of us enjoyed a thoroughly nice visit.

"Summer finally arrived in the first week of August and we were at The Wellington, in Riding Mill.



"Thirty-one Associates enjoyed a wonderful gathering of like-minded party people. The atmosphere, food, drink and staff made for a memorable day.

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"The Ridley Arms, The Wellington and The Lion and Lamb, visited in June, rate as some of the best pubs we have visited.

"Early September and summer was still with us. A warm sunny day saw the 'lunchers' visiting the sleepy village of Cramlington - venue the **Snowy Owl**. Once again an excellent turnout of thirty-four received good value food and drink. I was unable to attend, the first to be missed since my retirement in 2005. The group were well looked after by my able cohort Colin Lowery. A statement from a certain group of malcontents said the atmosphere was much better than normal - ungrateful lot.

"Time moved on and suddenly it was October. Autumn had started and the temperature had dropped as we visited **Ramside Hall** in Co. Durham. Nineteen people received lunch at this picturesque hotel and golf course although seating had to be quickly rearranged as the restaurant had not been informed by the hotel of our booking. It just goes to show the best laid plans can sometimes flounder.

"In November it was another sunny, warm day. It has been suggested I organise people's vacations as we always seem to have good weather on lunch days. The **Toby Inn** at Kenton Bar, Newcastle, had a 'good value' day. With the relevant voucher (Daily Mail) four people could tuck in to the carvery, followed by ice-cream, at the ridiculous price of £5 each. The bonhomie within the group was at its best, as those without vouchers were invited to share with those who brought extra ones. Thirty-five 'gastronomes' thoroughly enjoyed the excellent food.

December saw a group of hearty eaters at the **Original Masons** in Walbottle, perched high on the north bank of the River Tyne. Yes, the sun was shining brightly on that day too. Some excellent food was consumed, along with a little beer and wine, interrupted by healthy chatter as Christmas preparations were discussed.

Soon it will be January again.

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Posted: Tuesday 18 December 2007

Manchester FPB Demolition Update - 17th December

The Finished Product Building is truly "finished".

A couple of pictures taken on December 11th showing what remains of the seventy-plus year-old landmark.



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No doubt a few thousand folk have climbed those now-gone stairs - many, many, many times.

Gone maybe, but will not be forgotten for some time.

A record of the building remains in [Google Maps](#) - until they update their picture.

Fin.

ph
pictures by alan gordon via herb booth

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Posted: Monday 17 December 2007

South East Associates go Bowling at Bracknell - 21st November

We took in Frankie & Benny's as well . . .

A new experience for the South East group.

Lots of chat (well nothing new there) over a bowl of pasta etc. at Frankie & Benny's New York Italian Restaurant and Bar, followed by a couple of hours of Ten Pin Bowling at the nearby Hollywood Bowl.



Rather bravely we declined the offer to "raise the guide rails", normally only suggested for children under five, but this meant that rather a lot of balls ended in the gullies along each side of the lanes.

The lane surfaces suffered a bit of a hammering but standards generally improved in the second game and there were some pretty impressive performances, both from individuals and teams.

Indeed there were requests for a repeat event in a few months.

Maybe we should eat less pasta before the next match.

Ian Stoner

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+ LARGER TEXT

Posted: Sunday 16 December 2007

South East Hambledon, Hascombe & the Hurtwood Walk - 15th November

A new record has been created!

. and then there were three!

The last walk I organised dwindled from 21 to 9 during the 48 hours prior to the walk.

Well, I have set a new record - seventeen starters reduced to just three (Kevin, Phil & myself) - and all because I happened to mention that the conditions were a little tougher than I recalled having tested the walk earlier in the year.

Next time I might just go myself!!! Those that decided against walking were probably wise because the heavy fall of leaves made it difficult underfoot.

However, you missed a delightful walk through rolling hills, varied woodland and rural areas. Highlights included a large granite seat by way of a memorial to Octavia Hill, a founder of the National Trust.



We also visited the lovely Hascombe church and, last but not least, the White Horse

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Inn for lunch. The sandwiches were to "die for". In fact, just writing this report is making me salivate - oh for some chicken, avocado & crispy bacon on brown bread!

Ian Stoner

Hambledon is about four miles south of Godalming, in Surrey.

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Posted: Thursday 13 December 2007

Manchester Christmas Lunch - 12th December

The Cresta Court Hotel in Altrincham was our venue.

About two hundred Associates met up for this now annual event which is hosted by Manchester Plant.

Eight and a half years between meetings was the longest interval identified.



A traditional Christmas Lunch of roast turkey with all the trimmings, followed by Christmas Pudding, was preceded by an hour-long get-together over cups of coffee. Nothing stronger!

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During the mealtime a picture show of the year's events was presented.



Kevin Mitchell starting the proceedings

After the feeding and feasting the Manchester Associates Volunteer Group Chairman, Kevin Mitchell, welcomed the guests from Manchester Plant. He then announced the presentation of gifts to the oldest lady and gent at the event.

Bert Kelly, retiring Chairman of the Social Committee, was thanked for his work over the last seven years and presented with a gift from the volunteer group.



Another retirement, Bert?

Bert, in his reply, thanked people for their support - event participants and committee - and said that he would not stand down until a new candidate was found, and would then continue as a member of the Social Committee after the hand-over.

Chris Horner, Manchester Factory's new Plant Manager gave an overview of the business there, commenting proudly on the outstanding results achieved by the production departments.

He announced major new investment in the plant and spoke of changes in the site businesses over the coming period.



Chris Horner, with some encouraging information

A raffle draw and distribution of gifts to ladies attending the event ended the lunch proceedings.



Lots of lovely prizes to be claimed



Is this a winner?

More conversation followed, this time around the bar and going on until after dusk.

To see more pictures of the event [click here](#).

ph 14/12/2007

pictures: ann rogers & herb booth

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Posted: Thursday 29 November 2007

Important News About Seaton Delaval Staff Shop

There are significant changes in policy and procedure that will be implemented from 4th February 2008.

Seaton Delaval Staff Shop

Notice to All Employees and Associates

Staff Shop will close on Thursday, 20th December 2007 and reopen on Monday, 4th February 2008

During January 2008 we are replacing the counters and upgrading the computer system.

From February 2008 we are implementing the following changes. These changes are being made because of the increasing number of Seaton & Cobalt employees and Associates now using this Shop. We now have more than 700 Employees and Associates using the shop on a weekly basis.

As we have to restrict the number of people in the shop at any one time, the Staff shop will be for use of employees and associates only spouses/partners will no longer be able to accompany you. This decision has been made in the best interests of those employees and associates using the shop and with safety as a priority.

Opening Times are also changing:

Monday;	2.00-5.30	Seaton Employees
	3.30-4.30	Associates with mobility difficulties
	4.30-5.30	Cobalt Employees
Tuesday	10.00-11.30	Associates
	11.30-1.00	Cobalt Employees
	2.00-5.30	Seaton Employees

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	3.30-5.30	Cobalt Employees
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	10.00-11.30	Associates
	11.30-1.00	Cobalt Employees
	2.00-5.30	Seaton Employees
	3.30-5.30	Cobalt Employees
Friday	Closed	

SIGN -IN

The sign in process for non-Seaton personnel will remain the same. i.e. drive into Security car park. Sign in at Security before visiting the shop / sign out before leaving the car park/site. Don't stop on the road in front of Security.

The sign in process for those with mobility difficulties will be slightly different. Drive into main car park via Visitor entrance. Sign in at Security, then drive car down to parking space beside staff shop. Sign out at Security before leaving site.

Please Note: parking beside Staff Shop will only be available after 3.30.

Entrance to the car park and shop will not be allowed before this time (due to shift changeovers).

ID

Employees must show their ID badge when visiting the shop. Associates will be issued with a new ID card which will be renewed annually. Associates with mobility difficulties, using the shop on Mondays, will be issued with a special ID on production of a disability badge.

VISITORS

Non P&G Visitors are not allowed to use the Staff Shop. P&G Visitors must have their P&G ID Badge and SAP ID number and should be accompanied by their P&G host/ sponsor who may be required to facilitate payment in the event the visitor's card is not an accepted method of payment.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

We want to encourage everyone to reuse carrier bags. **From February 08, therefore, we will charge for carrier bags, at cost, which is 8p per bag.**

CONDITIONS OF USE:

- The Company Shop is a benefit for Permanent employees and Associates only. **Spouses / partners / children are not allowed.**
- You can only make purchases for yourself. You cannot make purchases on behalf of other employees/associates.
- Payment is by Solo/Electron/Visa Debit/UK Maestro only. Payment must be made by the employee or associate using a card registered to them. One transaction per visit only.
- Only one visit per week

- There are purchasing limits in place which are published in the Staff Shop. The limits on Fragrances are 2 boxed and 4 unboxed. Limits on all other products are usually 2, but is dependent on availability.
 - Pricing is in alignment with P&G Seaton Delaval policy, therefore may differ from prices charged at other P&G locations.
 - Car parking / Security: Enter the site via the roundabout entrance. Park behind Security Gatehouse. Sign in. Sign out before leaving Site. Do not stop on road beside Security.
 - As we are an aerosol/alcohol producing site, mobile phones must be switched off at all times. Smoking is prohibited other than in the designated smoking shelter. Disregard of these rules may lead to removal from site and result in a ban from using the shop.
 - Product bought in the Company shop that is NOT produced at Seaton Delaval may be brought back on site for personal use e.g. shampoo / shower gel.
- **GOODS PURCHASED ARE FOR OWN/FAMILY USE ONLY AS PER POLICY 493;**
"These products are offered to employees and associates on the understanding that they are for personal family use, and that the purchaser will buy only such quantities as are required for this purpose. Purchase of product for any third party is contrary to the purpose of this policy".

If you have any queries, please contact:

Barbara Ellis 0191 255 6208

Caroline Wills 0191 255 6279

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+ LARGER TEXT

Posted: Tuesday 20 November 2007

North East Associates Kibblesworth Walk - 20th November

Our last walk of the year - thanks go to our organisers and walk leaders for the 2007 programme.

Facing a forecast of heavy showers and a cool day, and after over a day of continuous rain, thirty-two Associates met up in the once-upon-a-time colliery village of [Kibblesworth](#) to the south-west of Gateshead.



Lunch orders under the umbrella, please

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We continued the south-west theme as our two groups headed off through farmland in the general direction of the [North of England Open Air Museum](#) at Beamish. On reaching the natural barrier of Beamish Burn, a steep sided valley here, we turned to follow the flow through Ousbrough Wood.



Conditions were a little damp!

Both groups, about twenty minutes apart and slowed by the frequent stiles, took a refreshment break near the turn, to be joined from over a fence by some horses. Not content with titbits one animal took a liking to the cork handles of a set of walking poles which were hurriedly retrieved!



Then came the parting of the ways.

Our more energetic walkers, who had signed up for 7½ miles continued along the burn, soon crossing it before encountering a steep climb to reach the trackbed of a disused railway.



Over Beamish Burn

The larger group, no less enthusiastic at just over 5½ miles, turned to follow a more direct route home, crossing the burn also along their way.

Apparently they could be spotted from the air as one of the party was sporting a bright orange umbrella! Sounds sensible! First time needed (or possible) this year.

Paths met where both groups had to re-cross the watercourse, each not seeing the other. Beamish Burn had somehow become the River Team. (Didn't look any different!)

Back to Kibblesworth then, through farmland and retracing our steps for the last quarter mile after crossing the line of an old colliery railway system. Later reference to the area 'AtoZ' shows that the final ¾ mile was along "Clarty Lane" - how appropriate. (Locals will understand!)

Damp and a little weary maybe, an excellent lunch in the warmth of the Plough Inn revived the spirits. A possible future venue for our pub lunch programme? Thanks go to the people there for their support and hospitality.



No, you don't have cataracts -



condensation was the problem!

Despite the weather this was an enjoyable and interesting walk. It is surprising what is just off the beaten track in your own locality.

Many years ago

The colliery at Kibblesworth was one of a large number in this area, part of the extensive NW Durham Coalfield.

A network of mineral railways, separate from the national system, linked the pits in the vicinity to various coal staithes on the south bank of the Tyne.

Coal from Kibblesworth was carried on the Bowes Railway --
"standard gauge" and designed about 180 years ago by George Stephenson, being
rope-hauled for the first stage up an incline.

From the top the wagons were then allowed, under restraint, to descend most of the
six miles towards Jarrow by gravity, the full wagons drawing up empties attached to
the other end of the rope. A little loco help was also provided.

Its history, together with details of the operation can be found on the [Bowes Railway](#)
web site.

ph 11/07

pictures ph & cs

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Posted: Sunday 18 November 2007

South East Associates visit Hampton Court Palace - 25th October

A warming scene greeted us.

Some twenty plus Associates assembled near the palace car park entrance to be greeted and given entrance tickets to the palace and grounds.

Maps were given to everyone, the day to be given over to personal preferences. These included guided tours of the staterooms, and an exhibition featuring the life and times of the young Henry VIII.

Visiting the kitchens we found a large wood-burning fire in one of the original cooking areas. A number of visitors availed themselves of its heat as the wind was by now becoming easterly.

Live cooking takes place on at least 56 days of each year, full particulars being available on the [palace web site](#).

Despite the threat of rain, the vine was visited only to find it had been pruned. The three formal gardens were being replanted mainly with pansies.



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For a final outing some of us joined the land train for a tour round the perimeter of the palace grounds to see the last of the autumn colours before the beds were cleared.

By now the weather was going from dull to wet so, following a quick meal in the crowded café, we and other participants headed homeward.

Chris Pooley

(ph 11/07)

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Posted: Saturday 17 November 2007

South East Associates Shiplake Walk - 17th October

Shiplake, about three miles upstream from Henley-on-Thames, was our focus.

We had a beautiful autumn day for the walk, starting by using the wooden bridge then following the Thames past houses that we could only guess the value of, and then passing through the pretty village of Shiplake onto equestrian land.



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A big surprise was finding a field of bison, which are not what one expects in the Thames Valley!

The walk ended at the '[River and Rowing Museum](#)' in Henley, which has a permanent "Wind in the Willows" gallery, and also an excellent cafeteria.

Jack Scott

(ph 11/07)

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