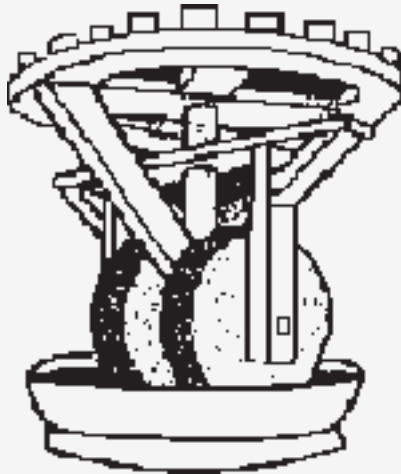


# Touchpaper

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The Newsletter of the  
**WALTHAM ABBEY ROYAL GUNPOWDER MILLS  
FRIENDS ASSOCIATION**

[a registered charity No. 1115237]



**DECEMBER**  
**2008**

## OFFICERS OF THE FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

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PLEASE NOTE: Deadline date for submissions to the  
next issue is 15th February 2009



## Editorial

*As we are reaching the end of 2008, I am pleased to report that visitor numbers are up on previous years with an anticipated overall increase of 2,000 visitors by the end of the year. This is especially pleasing as we did not have the best of summer weather, with some decidedly dodgy weekends.*

*I am afraid that there will not be a report of my trip to Florida to watch a space shuttle launch, as promised in the last issue. The trip was cancelled at the last minute, due to a certain holiday company going broke. But on the other hand, the launch did not take place either due to technical problems, I hope for better luck next year.*

*My apologies once more to anyone who sent in a contribution not used, but it is appreciated and please keep sending them in as they will be used in the future.*

*So it just remains for me to say a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to everybody and please renew your membership so that we can carry on next year.*

*Malcolm Bergh*



## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

As I write, Gunpowder Treason and Plot is occupying the Education Staff full time. Some of the Volunteers are assisting by shepherding children and their teachers between different parts of the site for the different activities of the day. All the children have been having an enjoyable and interesting day. This year's programme is fully booked and bookings are being taken for next year.

Following this will be the Victorian Christmas for children which starts on 25th November.

We have been given an old Pyrene 'portable' fire extinguisher by Harlow Museum which had been languishing outside for some time. It is thought to have belonged to RGPM originally so 'Welcome Home'. Refurbishment and repainting has started but other more urgent tasks will probably intervene. The extinguisher stands about 6 feet tall and only its 5 foot diameter wheels make it 'portable'.

Next year's Rocket and Space weekend will be on 4th-5th July and planning of revised exhibits has already started. This should be another good weekend both for the general visitor and for those with a more specialised interest. Any exhibits or assistance for this would be gratefully received.

Also for next season there will be more event weekends which it is hoped will bring a larger number of visitors.

Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and a more financially settled New Year.

John Wright

## WARGMFA 2009

It is that time of year again and you should find enclosed your membership renewal form for 2009. The annual membership fees remain the same as 2008.

With so many renewal forms to process over the Christmas period I would very much appreciate a prompt response, it will help me spread the load. No cheques will be banked before January 2009.

In 2008 I was able to obtain £393.01 from HMRC in a Gift Aid Tax Refund which was a welcome credit to our balance sheet. Any one who pays tax, but has not yet signed a Gift Aid form, please contact me and I will be happy to send you one.

Best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Daphne Clements

Treasurer/Membership Secretary

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### Obituary

Leonard Frederick Patten

14th March 1919 - 15th October 2008

Many of you will not know the name Len Patten although all who have visited the main exhibition downstairs in A203 will have seen and maybe operated a significant item of his work. He made the working model of the gunpowder edge runner mill in the exhibition which has worked perfectly from the beginning.

Len had a wide range of interests including model making (mostly radio controlled model boats), rose growing, bee keeping, kite making and flying, bird watching, classical music and hat making!

The Royal Corps of Signals had the benefit of his skills during the war, where he served in Egypt and the Netherlands. After the war he worked in London as a telephone systems designer.

His few remaining family and his many friends, myself included, will miss him greatly. He was a remarkable man.

John Wright

# The Bailey Bridge

The Bailey Bridge was designed by Donald Coleman Bailey, but who was he?

Born in Rotherham in 1901, he was the only child of Joseph Henry Bailey (commercial Cashier) and Caroline Bailey nee Coleman.

He went to Rotherham Grammar school and Leys School Cambridge and from there to Sheffield University where he took several degrees, culminating in a Doctorate of Engineering.

He was employed by Rowntree & Co, The London, Midlands & Scottish Railway and Sheffield City Engineering Department, before joining the War Office in 1928.

Bailey was responsible for the design of military bridging equipment, pontoons, cranes, pile driving rigs and trailers to transport them.

He first started to design a military bridging system as early as 1936, but at a conference in 1940 was asked to come up with a design which would be easily erected. His answer was the Bailey Bridge capable of carrying a load of 40 tons, with no single component to weigh more than could be handled by a team of 6 men (600lbs).

Production started in July 1941 and by spreading the manufacture of the various components around 65 small companies such as window, bedstead and greenhouse manufacturers; by November 1941 bridges were starting to reach the troops.

The largest span of Bailey bridge during the war was the 4,000 feet (1,200m) Bailey Pontoon bridge over the Maas river in The Netherlands. And by the end of WWII some 700,000 Panels equating to 350 miles of bridging had been produced, with Field Marshal Montgomery writing in 1947 “Bailey bridges made an immense contribution towards ending World War 2”.

Bailey was made an OBE in 1944 and Knighted in 1946 when he was made Senior Principal Scientific Officer and became Assistant Director of the Military Engineering Experimental Establishment at Christchurch and later became its Director.

In 1948 he was awarded £12,000 for his work on the Bailey bridge. He became Deputy Chief Scientific Officer, Ministry of Supply in 1952 and in 1962 was appointed Dean of the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, just east of Swindon, where he remained until his retirement in 1966.

He died on the 5th May 1985 aged 83.

The Royal Gunpowder Mills has one Bailey bridges on the site. This is to the right of the Spinks Gallery and from its condition, has probably been there since WWII.



Bailey Bridge next to Spinks Gallery



There are two other Bailey type bridges on the site which were made by Mabey & Johnson and are described as Panel Bridges.

The first is next to our Café and carries the road over the canal to the Power House and from its condition and design, I suspect that it was installed (along with its partner) when the site was being decontaminated.

The second spans the Old River Lea and carries the road across onto New Hill.

Again this is a new bridge and was probable installed during decontamination of the site.



Bailey Bridge next to Powerhouse

One final foot note. Our very own William Congreve (of Rocket Fame) designed a bridging system around 1814 for crossing small streams or in conjunction with boats for larger rivers, which used two troughs of 14 feet in length and probably made of cast iron.

For those that want to know more, I recommend :-

[www.rotherhamweb.co.uk/h/dcbailey.htm](http://www.rotherhamweb.co.uk/h/dcbailey.htm) or

[www.remuseum.org.uk/articles/rem\\_article\\_bridges.htm](http://www.remuseum.org.uk/articles/rem_article_bridges.htm)

Or just enter Sir Donald Bailey or Bailey Bridges into any search engine and you will get more info than you know what to do with.

John Wilson 23rd August 08.



# William Congreve Jnr. 1772 – 1828

## Part 2

### Beyond the Rocket

In the June 2008 edition of Touchpaper the pioneering work of William Congreve Jnr. in rocketry was examined in Part 1 of a commentary on his life. Part 2 now outlines Congreve's wide ranging activity beyond rocketry and comes to a conclusion on his career.

Having studied the law for a time at Gray's Inn, Congreve established his academic credentials with a BA in mathematics from Trinity College Cambridge in 1793 followed by an MA in 1796.

#### 1. Publishing and the Move to Invention

By 1803 he was publishing a polemical newspaper – The Royal Standard and Political Register, Tory and pro-Government. In 1804 Congreve went too far in personal comment and was successfully sued for libel by George Berkeley. This seems to have scared him off publishing and motivated him to become an inventor, particularly in relation to development of the military rocket. In a world dominated by patronage and doubtless via the contacts made by his father Lt. Gen Sir William Congreve the young inventor succeeded in attracting the support of the then Prince of Wales, who became Prince Regent and finally King George IV.

#### 2. Politics and Court Politics

These two aspects are covered in the same section as the two were interlinked. In 1811 the support of the Prince of Wales was reflected in the appointment of Congreve as Equerry to the Prince. In 1814 following his father's death Congreve succeeded to the Baronetcy of Walton, first held by his father. When the Prince Regent acceded to the throne in 1814, becoming George IV, Congreve was appointed King's Equerry.

It was clearly decided that becoming an MP would enhance Congreve's status. He was first elected in 1812 to the pocket borough of Gatton in Surrey. He vacated the seat in 1816, finally being elected MP for Plymouth in 1818, continuing until his death in 1828.

### 3. Quasi Military

The term quasi is used as Congreve never held a commission in the regular British Army. In 1811 with influence of the Prince of Wales Congreve was appointed an Honorary Lt. Colonel in the artillery of the Hanoverian Army and in 1818 promoted to Lt. General, thus achieving the same rank as his father.

This did nothing to endear him to the Royal Artillery establishment, who continued to view him as something of an upstart and who never accepted his rocket system as a total alternative to the gun.

### 4. Military Science and Scientific Appointments

Congreve was undoubtedly a man of high scientific ability. The Royal Society was accustomed to consulting him on various matters and reflecting this and his general scientific activity he was elected FRS in 1812.

In 1814 he succeeded to his father's post as Comptroller of the Royal Laboratory at Woolwich. This included the superintendency of the Royal Gunpowder Mills and of the Royal Military Repository, including an important collection of rocketry artefacts at the Rotunda at Woolwich, later to become the Royal Artillery Institution, then recently the Royal Artillery Museum.. Pyrotechnics were then regarded as an important medium for demonstrating the technical abilities of the nation and royal status and responsibility for the design and administration of two very significant displays fell on Congreve, doubtless reinforced by his rocket activities – the celebration of the Peace of Amiens in 1814, ending it was thought the Napoleonic Wars and the coronation of George IV in 1821.

### 5. Inventions

One writer called Congreve ‘ the ingenious Mr. Congreve ‘ . He had an impressive list of 18 patents to his credit, reflecting an astonishing range of interests. Space constraints permit only the barest of comments on the following:

#### 1815 Machine for the Manufacture of Gunpowder

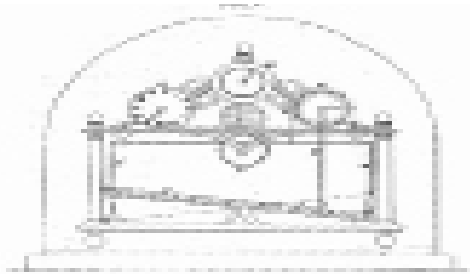
See later section

### 1813 Hydro-Pneumatic Lock

This was built on an experimental basis on the Regents Canal at Hampstead Road with machinery manufactured by the prominent London mechanical engineers H. Maudslay. The object was water saving involving a pair of duplicate locks with an inverted caisson fitted into each lock chamber.

### 1808 Rolling Ball Clock

The ball is rolled in a zigzag path across a tilted table. When the ball reaches the lower side of the table the table tilts, raising the low side. The ball rolls back and the cycle continues.



Rolling Ball Clock

### 1821 Compound Plate Colour Printing

Interlocking blocks separately linked. This enjoyed considerable success, particularly in Germany, a European centre for printing and the manufacture of printing machinery.

#### Forgery Proof Banknote Paper

#### A Perpetual Motion Machine

#### A New Form of Steam Engine and Method of Consuming Smoke

Used at the Royal Laboratory

#### A System for Protecting Buildings against Fire

#### A Rocket propelled Whaling Harpoon

A commercial failure

#### Adaptation of Military Rocket to Ship-to-Shore Lifesaving

Perfectured by others

#### Naval Gun Mounting for Merchant Vessels

Not much used

#### Lighter 24Pdr. Gun

Adopted by Navy

## Gunsight

Adopted by Navy

## Parachute Attachment for Rockets

## Precursor of Battlefield Flare Illumination

## A Method of Inlaying Metals

## A Fuze

## Gas Meter

## Patent No. 3937 Machine for the Manufacture of Gunpowder 1815

### Congreve's greatest Patent ?

When he took over his father's post as Superintendent of the Royal Gunpowder Mills Waltham Abbey Congreve lost no time in developing his ideas for machinery improvement. In 1815 he took out the above Patent.

The significance was that although the title includes the word Machine in the singular in fact he made it plain in the wording of his introduction ' A new Mode of manufacturing Gunpowder ' that he was proposing a fundamental development of the machinery of gunpowder manufacture, including a new design of material mixing machine, a new breaking down machine and crucially a new corning or what he called granulating machine, to replace the shaking frames and corning sieves which had been used for many years. Congreve's granulating machine design materially improved the quality of corning and was a fundamental factor in establishing Waltham Abbey gunpowder as the finest in the world.

## 6. Financial Commentaries

Not content with displaying scientific virtuosity, Congreve wrote erudite papers on cash and currency. In 1797 during the war with France the Bank of England had suspended cash payments and in 1819 he wrote a paper ' Resumption of Cash Payments ' and a further on ' Systems of Currency '.

## 7. Commercial Ventures

Congreve was attracted by commercial activities which contained an element of speculation. The first was the nascent gas industry. In the early 19th. century the manufacture and sale of town gas was regarded as an area in which a quick fortune could be made and Congreve was the director of several gas ventures. None of these fulfilled the hopes held out for them.



A.D. 1845 . . . . . N° 3937.

Machine for the Manufacture of Gunpowder.

CONGREVE'S SPECIFICATION.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, Colonel Sir William Congreve, Baronet, of Parliament Street, in the City of Westminster and County of Middlesex, send greeting.

5 WHEREAS His most Excellent Majesty King George the Third did, by His Letters Patent under the Great Seal of His United Kingdom, bearing date at Westminster, the Third day of July, in the fifth year of His said Majesty's said Majesty, do give and grant unto me, the said Sir William Congreve, my heirs, assigns, and assigns, His especial licence, full  
10 power, sole privilege and authority, that I, the said Sir William Congreve, my heirs, assigns, and assigns, during the term of years therein expressed, should and lawfully might make, use, exercise, and vend, within England, Wales, and the Town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, my Invention of "A New Manner of Manufacturing Gunpowder;" in  
15 which said Letters Patent there is contained a proviso, that if I, the said Sir William Congreve, shall not particularly describe and ascertain the nature of my said Invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, by an instrument in writing under my hand and seal, and cause the same to be enrolled in His Majesty's High Court of  
20 Chancery within six calendar months next and immediately after the date of the said Letters Patent, then and there the said Letters Patent, and all Privileges and advantages whatsoever thereby granted, shall utterly

Congreve's Patent No. 3937      WASC 382

The second was overseas mining. He was director of the Arigna Iron and Coal Company and of the Peruvian Mining Company. Unfortunately the first seemed to have come close to Mark Twain's definition of a mining company – 'a hole in the ground with a liar in it' and Congreve was among the directors accused of fraud. As was usual with fraud cases, the case dragged on for years causing much stress to the accused. Sadly in 1828 the Lord Chancellor ruled that the transaction involved was 'clearly fraudulent' and was intended to profit Congreve and the others.

## 8. Domestic

Congreve married Isabella Carvalho, of Portuguese descent. They had two sons and a daughter. He had also found time to maintain a mistress and they had two sons. This process involved the lady transferring her affections from an old school friend of Congreve, Thomas Creevey. Whether Creevey remained a friend is not clear.

## The End

Suffering from the effects of a stroke, possibly brought on by the fraud case, in 1828 Congreve journeyed to France in an endeavour to raise funds for his gas companies, coming finally to Toulouse, scene of his rocket triumph in 1814. The effort was too much and he died on 15th. May 1828. Setting aside past events, the French buried him with military honours. So rather sadly ended the life of the youth who had dreamed of ballooning to the moon.

## Congreve's Career

Congreve's career was a prime example, years ahead of its time, of the building of what would now be called celebrity status.

He was a man of undoubted high scientific ability, demonstrated in the astonishing range of his inventions and his development of the war rocket. He showed great vision in his concept of the rocket as a complete military system.

Many of his inventions met with 'indifferent success' and his rocket designs were superseded. His idea of a complete system was never taken up. He showed a lack of judgment in commercial matters.

Overall however in the final analysis he took rocket design as far as available technology would permit and his place in scientific history is assured as one of the great pioneers of modern rocketry. In terms of solid and enduring technology and contribution to national security his improvements in gunpowder manufacture deserve far greater recognition.

Les Tucker

## A Rare Ballistic Artifact

Very little remains of what was a flourishing gunpowder industry in the middle of Dartmoor. While on holiday I visited the site to find that only a row of houses and the school chapel building, now being used as a pottery, and nearby a chimney with the same dilapidated processing buildings, as shown on page 29 of Glenys Crocker's monograph (i) 'The Gunpowder Industry, survive.

The front cover of the booklet shows a ballistic mortar used to check the quality of the gunpowder batches.



This mortar still exists, but appears to have been re-sited since Glenys Crocker's photograph was taken showing the mortar located on a granite plinth in flat open moorland.. The mortar is now mounted on wooden bearers against a rising background. It is possible that this is a different mortar to the one shown on the front of the gunpowder booklet, but I do not think it likely.



I'm concerned that this valuable, and quite possibly unique, artefact is unprotected from the weather leaving the barrel full of water ! Moving the mortar to a more benign environment is a daunting prospect but an alternative might be to erect a shelter around it.



A locally available booklet (ii) by Alan Brunton, first published in 1994, concludes with the hope that the site will be renovated by the joint co-operation of the Duchy of Cornwall, English Heritage and the National Park Authority. Now, some 14 years later, it is not obvious that much has been achieved towards this end.

#### References:

- (i) ‘ The Gunpowder Industry ‘ by Glenys Crocker.  
Shire Publications 1999
- (ii) ‘ The Gunpowder Mills, Dartmoor ‘ by Alan Brunton  
Orchard Publications, 2 Orchard Close, Chudleigh

B. C. Howard  
August 2008

# A History of H10 Part 2

1971 - 1988 Malcolm Bergh

I first arrived in H10 in the summer of 1971 as mathematics student on a one year industrial placement. Gordon Adams was still in charge of H10 and I was working for Mike Harper, using the Elliot 903 computer. The office where I worked had 2 computer programmers, Wendy Day and Daphne Snazell, whom I found quite intimidating. So I decided to stick to the advice given to me at university. Sit in the corner, keep quiet and don't spoil it for anyone else, we might want to put more students there in the future.

As it turned out I spent a very enjoyable year, working with Mike, Reg Powell, Frank Baker, Wendy and Daphne. The work I did ( on the Laplace equation, if anyone is really interested) provided me with a lot of material for my final year project at university.

While I was back at university I received a letter from ERDE informing me that Mike Harper was leaving and would I like to apply for a job. This seemed eminently suitable to me as it would save me the trouble of looking for a real job. The reason Mike was leaving was that he was going to France with his French wife to work in his father-in-law's wine business. This was obviously the ideal job for Mike as he was the only man I know to have sent back the wine in a Berni Inn for being at the wrong temperature and demanding that they let it breathe !

When I arrived back at H10 in 1973, things had changed. It was now GC (General Chemistry) and Tony Osborn was the superintendent. I started out working with Tony Osborn on a new computer system to replace the Elliot 903.

After I had been there a couple of months, Gordon Adams called me into his office. Although he was no longer in charge, he still worked in H10. He started explaining to me his theory of detonation equations. After about 20 minutes and with his white board covered in equations, he looked at me and said " You don't know what I'm talking about, do you ? " To which I replied "No, not a clue..". He simply shrugged and said "No one ever does " and dismissed me back to my computers.

To be continued in March Touchpaper



## Profiles

Dave Manners

1955                      2005  
See what working for  
the government does  
for you !



I started work one foggy day in March 1951 (St. David's day), joining a liquid propellant section, in building H.10, led by Pat Verschoyle.

I calculated the specific impulses for the mono-propellant experiments carried out by Ron Smith. Bi-propellant research was carried out by Franz (Frank) Neuzig, a German rocket scientist who used to work at Peenemunde, according to Jim Jeacock who worked on the section. Len Heath calculated the experimental S I's for Frank.

I left for National Service on Dec. 2nd 1952 and, after training as a wireless mechanic, was posted to Singapore to the same RAF station on which Ron Smith had served at the end of the war.

On my return to ERDE at the end of 1954, I was assigned to Dr Bruin (acting SPR II) to the Plastic Propellant section, in L153, run by Phil Freeman, and helped Ron Treadgold with his experiments. Other people on the section were Charlie Peers, who seemed to spend most of his time ogling the female staff, David Rounce, who wouldn't stop for tea breaks (he said the correct time for tea was 5pm !), and a chap called Hills, who spent all his spare time travelling the railways and was a mine of information about them.

Seven months later I was transferred to the Applied Research section (E. G. Lewis), in L148, and became acquainted with the mechanical testing of solid propellants. This involved cutting vast amounts of propellant with power tools to make test pieces for compression, hardness, tensile, and brittleness tests (see Len Stuart's profile, lines 7 to 13, 24 and 25 approx.).

In July 1956 John Vernon replaced E. G. Lewis, who was posted to the USA, and John helped me write my first report, concerning variation of mechanical properties within a charge using test pieces cut from propellant of a Gosling motor.

On the 27 October 1958 I moved back to Phil Freeman's section to help with the development of Polyurethane Propellant for the ill-fated Blue Water project. I was involved with water content measurement (Karl Fischer), measurement of the effect of different catalysts on the cure of rubber, analysis of the finished propellant using soxhlet extraction and theoretical specific impulse calculations (with Dr. G. Herty).

During 1959 Barry Newman replaced Phil Freeman and in 1962 John Scrivener took charge of the section. Other people who were involved with Blue Water were Roy Livermore, Dicky Doe, Ernie Cooke and on an allied section, which invented possible polyurethane rubbers, were Brian Hollingsworth and Frank Carver, among others.

In 1963 I was assigned to work with Bob Bryant (an adhesion expert transferred from the Materials Group) to solve the polyurethane propellant inhibition bonding problem (in L157 and later back in L153 annexe).

Later in 1963 I was transferred to work for Steve Bell, part of Dr. Lawson's section, in P704, which involved investigating new inhibition systems for double base propellants.

In 1966 Steve was replaced by Roy Stenson and he was succeeded by Dr. John Wright in 1971. Other people I can remember in and around P704 were Dave Bullock, Derek Cosgrove, 'Titch' Lermit, John Costen, Bryan Howard and John Holloway.

In 1974 I moved back to the North Site to work for Jim Hawkins, measuring velocities of detonation at New Hill. That did not last long as vulnerability of rocket motors to fragment attack reared its ugly head and I was paired with Peter Hart under Ken Bascombe to carry out this new investigation involving a model scale rocket motor, guns and projectiles. Geoff Hooper joined the team in the early stages to give advice on the measurement of some of the phenomena (blast etc). This work was initially carried out at New Hill where one fine day in 1978 Peter and I managed to set fire to the surrounding countryside with a flaming piece of rubbery propellant which escaped from a rocket motor we had attacked. Due to the dry conditions of that summer the grass and bush fire rapidly spread to 7 acres and fire appliances from Essex, Waltham Abbey, London and Hertfordshire, as well as our own, were needed to put it out. They sprayed the outer fence with water to stop the Crooked Mile and the houses opposite being affected. Cyril Beck, the Explosives Branch superintendent, came up and stood on top of the test facility and chuckled to himself like Nero watching Rome burn !

In 1980 we moved to the South site (R634 test site, converted from the old low temperature rough handling facility). Peter Hart transferred to other work in the 80's and I continued F.A. , with the help of Bill Warren and Dawn Gilbert (now Davies), until the end of 1989 when R.O. claimed the building.

I took refuge in L149 where I finished writing up my work, particularly the LoVuM (low vulnerability motor) project, until I was posted to AWE Foulness on 1st November 1990 (I had to be positively vetted first !).

Life here was easy at first, but as privatisation loomed things got more difficult. However, I left my mark - I wrecked a proof stand twice, carrying out the F. A. test against a new propellant containing HMX.

Two weeks later after Hunting - Brae took over (1/4/93) I left AWE to be reunited with the DRA on New England Island where I developed a new F.A. facility for Dave Mullenger and Dr. Shephard. I retired on 10/6/94 and had a small farewell do in a pub near Fort Halstead.

I was pleased to become a volunteer worker at WARGM and keep my association with former colleagues.

Dave Manners

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## Where are they now?

How often have you said to yourself - I wonder where X is now?

If you have lost touch with a former colleague or friend from ERDE, PERME or RARDE and wish to contact them again, why not let us know and we can print a request for information in Touchpaper. Don't forget to include your contact details. Someone out there may know their whereabouts.

Send requests by email or post to :-

Malcolm - [malcolmbergh@hotmail.com](mailto:malcolmbergh@hotmail.com)

Daphne - [WARGMFA@btinternet.com](mailto:WARGMFA@btinternet.com)

Address on inside cover of Touchpaper

Overseas members - a plea for a short article from you all telling us how you are doing both professionally and personally?

Daphne Clements

Treasurer/Membership Secretary

## Seniors Banking

**Shown below, is an actual letter that was sent to a bank by an 86 year old woman. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in the New York Times.**

Dear Sir: I am writing to thank you for bouncing my check with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between, his presenting the check and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my entire pension, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only eight years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account \$30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank. My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways. I noticed that whereas I personally answer your telephone calls and letters, -- when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become. From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person. My mortgage and loan repayments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by check, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate. Be aware that it is an offence under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope. Please find attached an Application Contact which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative. Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Notary Public, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof. In due course, at MY convenience, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service. As they say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Let me level the playing field even further - when you call me, press buttons as follows:

**IMMEDIATELY AFTER DIALLING PRESS THE STAR (\*) BUT-TON FOR ENGLISH**

- # 1. To make an appointment to see me
- # 2. To query a missing payment.

- # 3. To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
- # 4. To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
- # 5. To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
- # 6. To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.
- # 7. To leave a message on my computer, a password to access my computer is required. Password will be communicated to you at a later date to that Authorized Contact mentioned earlier.
- # 8. To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 7
- # 9. To make a general complaint or inquiry. The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service.
- # 10. This is a second reminder to press\* for English.

While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call. Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement. May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous New Year?

Your Humble Client

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### **The Gates of Heaven**

Three preachers and their wives were killed in a car accident. Upon their arrival at the pearly gates, they were met by St. Peter.

The first preacher walked up and said "Hello St. Peter, I'm ready to come in".

St. Peter checked his list and said "I'm sorry your name is not in the book."

"What!" Exclaimed the preacher, "I have been a preacher for thirty years!"

"Yes" replied St. Peter, "However, you are guilty of gluttony. You loved food and sweets so much you even married a woman named Candy."

The pastor, defeated took his wife's hand and walked away. The next preacher came up to the Saint feeling pretty certain he would be allowed in. "I'm ready to come in St. Peter" he said with a smile. "I'm sorry; your name is not in the book." "How can that be?" Asked the preacher, "I have been a pastor for 20 years!" You are guilty of the sin of greed; you loved money so much that you even married a woman named Penny." Defeated the preacher took his wife's hand and walked away.

The last preacher turned to his wife and said "Come on Fanny, I'm not getting in either."



# The Puzzle Page

## A Fishy Quiz

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. A pair useful in winter.     | 11. A gentle touch.                                  |
| 2. A complainer.                | 12. Do they play in an orchestra ?<br>(Two answers). |
| 3. Rides on a broomstick.       | 13. Cares for dogs.                                  |
| 4. Often asleep.                | 14. A unique one.                                    |
| 5. An aviator.                  | 15. An irritable one.                                |
| 6. A small flat bottomed boat.  | 16. A metal process.                                 |
| 7. Clothmaker.                  | 17. A type of cloud.                                 |
| 8. Ancient weapon.              | 18. Stumble helplessly.                              |
| 9. For the birds.               | 19. Benjamin Britten's Albert.                       |
| 10. Obsolete plimsolle cleaner. | 20. Sounds like a party dance.                       |

All the answers are names of fish.

Contributed by Bryan Howard.

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Answers to the June Touchpaper Quiz.

1. Yo Yo 2. Ro Ro. 3. Duran Duran 4. Never Never  
5. Cha Cha 6. Hush Hush 7. Sing Sing 8. Tu Tu  
9. Dum Dum 10. Can Can 11. Cous Cous 12. Da Da  
13. Beri Beri 14. Mau Mau 15. Tam Tam or Tom Tom  
16. Ba Ba (As in Rum Ba Ba) 17. Ha Ha 18. Pooh Pooh  
19. Pom Pom 20. Yum Yum 21. Do Do 22. Zsa Zsa (Gabor)  
23. Paw Paw 24. Dik Dik 25. Aku Aku 26. Fifty Fifty  
27. Ack Ack 28. Mi - Mi 29. Ber Ber 30. Jub Jub

**R O Y A L**  
**GUNPOWDER**  
**M I L L S**  
WALTHAM ABBEY

‘TOUCHPAPER’

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