

DIARY



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Fancy a *Ramble*?

If you enjoy a stroll or a more serious walk in the country and sometimes find a restriction on where you can go, you may want to join up with groups of people who want to make a difference.

In 1935, rambling groups across Britain united to form the Ramblers Association (RA) a national association to speak with one voice on behalf of 1,200 individual members and 300 affiliated clubs. As time has passed, walking has become

recognised as one of the healthiest and certainly the most accessible forms of exercise for people of all ages. As it has increased in popularity the role of the RA has become more important.

One of the aims of the RA is to bring a love and understanding of the countryside to the minority of the population who never walk there, either because their mobility is impaired by disablement, or simply because they have not yet had the opportunity to discover the sense of liberation and enjoyment that walking for pleasure in the outdoors can bring.

The benefits of RA membership

On joining the RA, members are sent: a membership card, a copy of the latest Yearbook, *Rambling Today* (a quarterly 60 page colour magazine) and the appropriate area newsletter when available. These are then sent free of charge throughout the year. Most groups will also automatically supply



their members with their programme of walks.

The RA's achievements

Since its foundation in 1935, the RA has achieved a great deal for Britain's walkers.

✿ In the 1940s, the Ramblers spearheaded a campaign which led to the creation of national parks and long-distance paths and recording of rights of way.

✿ In the 1960s, the Ramblers persuaded

Ordnance Survey to show rights of way on OS maps.

✿ From the 1960s on, the Ramblers' detailed plans for the designation of long-distance paths such as the Pennine Way and, in 1996, the Thames Path have been turned into reality.

✿ From the 1970s, the Ramblers was the first to criticise tax concessions for conifer afforestation which damages wildlife and scenery. These concessions were abolished in 1988.

✿ In 1981, during the passage of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, the Ramblers' lobbying protected objectors' right of appeal against proposals to close rights of way.

✿ The Ramblers played a leading role in securing the Rights of Way Act 1990, which at least provides legislation to deal effectively with illegal ploughing and cropping of footpaths.

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Dear Diary readers,

Welcome to our new editorial comment section which will draw your attention to some of the key features of this and future issues. I

also hope to encourage you to contribute to our Helpful Hints feature, which you will find on page 12

In this issue we have some useful advice on how your pension increases have been calculated. We need two pensioners willing to stand as representatives for the Consultative Committee and there is a feature on those who have been nominated to stand. Please take the time to vote – you will find a form and postage paid envelope enclosed.

There is an article by my colleague, Mike Cater, which will hopefully put your minds at rest over the potential problems with computer systems as we enter the new millennium. Mike explains what Nortel and, more importantly, the Pensions Department are doing about it.

Finally I would welcome small articles on the subject of ‘strange but true’ or just an amusing tale. It would be nice if it contained some reference to the Company (past or present) although this is not compulsory. The important thing is to make everyone smile. To start this feature we have a short article written by Pat Masterson from Monkstown.

I do hope that you will contribute or make some suggestions of your own for future editions. It is your magazine and we always welcome your feedback.

Laura

Laura Newbury - Editor

Fancy a Ramble?

(continued from page 1)

✿ In 1994, the Ramblers led a successful national campaign to persuade the Government not to jeopardise freedom to roam on Forestry Commission land.

Key Current Activities:

‘Free Your Paths’ campaign which aims to get all public paths in England and Wales in good order by the year 2000.

RA is lobbying Parliament for a legal freedom to roam over open uncultivated country to be established no later than the end of the century.

RA groups organise tens of thousands of walks at all levels every year. Our annual Family Rambling Day in 1998 is on 28 June and the Festival of Winter Walks runs from Boxing Day to New Year’s Day. For all local group walks please telephone the Ramblers Association on 0171 339 8500.

Membership Subscription

As a special offer, The RA has allowed Diary readers a reduction of 20% in the cost of their first year’s membership. Please see the coupon below.



To: The Ramblers’ Association,
1/5 Wandsworth Road, LONDON SW8 2XX.

20% OFF

I wish to join the Ramblers’ Association at the special Leisure price (Retired £6.80/Couple £8.40) and enclose remittance of £
(Please make cheque/p.o payable to ‘The Ramblers Association’).

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (initials)

Surname

Address

Postcode

Registered Charity No. 306089

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FURTHER INFORMATION

The Ramblers Association
1-5 Wandsworth Road
London SW8 2XX
Tel: 0171 339 8500
Fax: 0171 339 8501

PENSION INCREASES

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

THE PENSION INCREASE IN APRIL 1998 IS 3.0% (3.6% FOR PENSIONS IN RESPECT OF SERVICE AFTER 5 APRIL 1997). THIS APPLIES TO THAT PART OF THE PLAN'S PENSION SUBJECT TO INCREASE.

Q How did the Plan come up with the 3.0% pension increase?

A The guaranteed pension increase under the Pension Plan Rules is 3.0%, or the rise in the Retail Prices Index (RPI) if lower. The RPI figure used is the rate applicable three months prior to the pension increase date, ie December. This year the pension increase will be 3%. Following the Pensions Act, pension calculated on service from April 1997 increases by 5.0%, or the rise in the RPI if lower. This year the pension increase on this part of any pension will be 3.6%.

Q How does the State work out what percentage increases are to be awarded on GMPs?

A The Government also uses the lower of 3% or the rise in RPI in September. The RPI figure for September 1997 was 3.6%, therefore 3% applies. The State Pension and increases on any Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMPs not increased by the Plan) will be at 3.6%. (Due to the printing date of this issue of Diary the DSS has not confirmed this figure).

Q What does GMP stand for and what is it?

A GMP stands for Guaranteed Minimum Pensions. It is broadly equal to what would be paid under the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme (SERPS). Plan members are contracted out of SERPS, which means that they and the Company pay lower National Insurance contributions and in return the GMP (remember it is equivalent to SERPS) has to be paid as part of the Plan Pension. In practice the Government guarantees that the GMP will never be less than the pension SERPS would have provided.

Q How do I know if a GMP is applicable to me?

A It will show on the make-up of your State Pension as code K, contracted-out deduction. This will also show how much should be provided by the Company Pension Scheme and any other pension schemes in respect of contracted out employment.

Q How does the Plan calculate my GMP element

A It is calculated by the DSS who advise Nortel.

Q Is my 'Q' Scheme pension increased?

A No, the 'Q' Scheme pension does not increase nor is there a spouse's pension on that element of pension.

EXAMPLES OF A PENSION INCREASE CALCULATION

Mr Smith is 67 years old. He receives a pension amounting to £3000.00 per year. His pension includes a Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) amount of £1000.00 of which £400.00 per year is Pre-1988 GMP and £600.00 per year is Post-1988 GMP.

| His pension is calculated as follows: | | | Rate of increase (%) | | Amount of increase awarded by Plan (£) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--|----------------------|-------------|--|
| | | | State | NT(UK) Plan | |
| Pre-88 GMP | £400 | Not increased by the Plan. Increased by the State and added to State Pension. | 3.6 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| Post-88 GMP | £600 | Increased by the Plan using the same increase as given by the State up to a maximum of 3.0%. Any additional increase is given by the State and added to the State Pension. | 0.6 | 3.0 | 18.00 |
| Excess over GMP (Pre-1997 service) | £1900 | Increased under the Pension Plan rules | 0.0 | 3.0 | 57.00 |
| Excess over GMP (Post-1997 service) | Nil | Increased under the Pension Plan rules | 0.0 | 3.6 | 0.00 |
| 'Q' Scheme | £100 | Not subject to increase | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| Total of Current Pension | £3000 | | | | Total Increase £75.00 |

Total of new pension amount is £3075.00 per year (£256.25 per month).

Elements that are **not increased** are as follows: •ERET SUPP• QADD • N AUG • HOURLY • EPB • AVC (element shown as 'AVC PEN' does receive increases).

Consultative Committee Pensioner

You may remember that in the last issue of Diary we mentioned the Nortel (UK) Pension Plan Consultative Committee elections. Here is your chance to vote for two pensioner representatives on the Consultative Committee. The chosen candidates' roles will be to attend two meetings a year and write a précis from the minutes highlighting those items of specific interest to pensioners.

Below are details supplied by the candidates about themselves. Please read about all the candidates and use the voting form enclosed in Diary to vote for up to two candidates you think would be suitable.

All the candidates will be informed of the results by letter and the winners' names will be published in the next issue of Diary.

Please complete and return your voting forms in the enclosed pre-paid envelope.

If a voting form and an envelope have not been enclosed, please contact Laura Newbury on 0181 945 3472. She will arrange for you to be sent a form. All voting forms must be returned by Friday 10 April 1998. Votes received after this date will not be counted.



WILLIAM ARTHUR GUNN
Location last worked: ICL West Gorton
Length of service: 30 years
 Over the last 22 years I have

served on many of the Fund's committees as well as being a Trustee. During this time I have acted on behalf of many members, chasing problems and making sure that their points of view were properly considered.

My 30 years' service in the computer industry has kept me in touch with many pensioners across the country and I am well placed to understand and help whoever needs assistance. With the coming of LPI and new AVC opportunities, current contributors can look forward to improved pension prospects. Existing pensioners cannot take advantage of these so it is necessary that we keep our needs to the forefront to ensure we are not left behind.



SIDNEY TIES
Location last worked: Putney Lon 11
Length of service: 23 years

I joined ICT in 1965, Research & Development until 1968, Engineering Manager LET 1/3 until 1976, Health & Safety Group Advisor Putney until 1976, Real Estate Project Manager London 11 until retirement. I am a volunteer at a local Hospital and a committee member for a local organisation.

My objective in applying to be a member of the Committee is to represent all the retirees of the Pension Plan. However, I have a special interest in ICL pensioners and it is my wish to ensure that the

views and problems of the ICL members are fully discussed and where necessary, acted on.



OWEN LOCHRIN
Location last worked: East Kilbride
Length of service: 15 years
 Pensioners of the Nortel (UK)

Pension Plan are fortunate in belonging to a sound, well administered Scheme. However excellent the Scheme may be, there will arise anxieties concerning certain aspects of it. These anxieties need to be addressed as quickly as possible, since pensions play a major role in our retirement.

Pensioner representatives are responsible for communicating, on behalf of the scheme's pensioners, their view on such topics as legislation, benefit improvements and how the Scheme runs etc. My previous career experience in representing colleagues at all grades gives me the confidence in my ability to represent pensioners competently.



ERIC LIONEL BIRD
Location last worked: Paighton
Length of service: 39 years
 The Nortel (UK) Pension

Plan ranks amongst the top 100 occupational pension plans. It is a mature Fund and the assets are

Candidates

Representatives Election

invested on behalf of the Trustees by a number of well-respected fund managers. I have no qualms regarding the stability and long-term future of the Fund. It should be noted that the Plan already incorporated the major requirements of the 1995 Pensions Act. Integration of the various associated company plans that made up the 'old' STC Pension Plan has been progressed over the last 18 months and is nearly complete. This rationalisation will help to minimise administration costs.

Over the last three years I have had the opportunity to observe the operation of the Pensions Department and I have been most impressed with the professionalism displayed by all members of staff. I am confident that those of you who have had reason to make contact have been treated with civility, tact and concern. I feel privileged to have been your representative and hope that I am worthy of your support for a further term. If elected, I will continue to do my utmost to ensure that the pensioners' point of view is given a fair hearing.



RONALD FOSTER
Location last worked: Paignton
Length of service: 27 years

During my service I was pleased to take part in the development and change process of the Pension Plan. Paignton employees who knew me are aware of my detailed knowledge of the Plan over

27 years. Now I am retired I would like to add my contribution in representing pensioners' views and needs on the Committee. I believe I can offer a knowledgeable, down-to-earth view of both company and State pensions and remain committed to maintaining an up-to-date interest in current and future developments in this field.



DAVID NIMMO
Location last worked: New Southgate
Length of service: 7 years 3 months

I have no personal concerns

about the Nortel (UK) Pension Plan, but would need to ascertain whether those whom I represented could identify areas that needed looking at.

Having three other pensions myself, as well as the 'OAP', I am able to make comparisons between them and Nortel's. Also having introduced a pre-retirement education package on the New Southgate site, created the STC New Southgate Pensioner Club and Pensioner Newsletter and had the privilege of serving as a Trustee of the STC Plan, I feel I have experience which I can contribute as a representative.



MICHAEL JOHN GRUNBERG
Location last worked: Hoofddorp
Length of service: 22 years

I am standing in

this election because of my interest in pensions. The main aspect of my interest is to ensure that we continue to enjoy the benefits we have paid for.

I joined the company in 1974 in the Personnel Function, retiring 12 months ago having worked in Paignton, Harlow, Footscray, Africa and Europe, firstly ITT then STC and latterly Nortel. My job involved me in pension matters through the day-to-day issues working for staff and pensioners plus the divestment and closures of subsidiaries. Also through working in Europe I have knowledge of the European view of pensions.



FREDERICK WILLIAMS
Location last worked: UK – General Manager, STC Northern Ireland Overseas –

Director of Telecommunications, STC South Africa

Length of service: 10 1/2 years

I was, for 13 years, Managing Director of one of the major foreign-owned telecommunications companies in South Africa: consequently I was the most senior management member of the pension fund Board of Trustees.

This background uniquely qualifies me as a candidate for the Consultative Committee. I feel I will develop a very good understanding of the problems faced by the management Committee in administering

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Consultative Committee Candidates

Pensioner Representatives Election

continued

the Plan. My present status as a pensioner gives me an excellent understating of pensioners' problems.

As a representative, I would ensure that the views of both sides are clearly communicated to the appropriate people.



**JOHN MILNER
TOLSON**

**Location last
worked: New
Southgate**

**Length of service:
13 years**

In my view the Pension Plan is

well structured and broadly based, providing a good and competitive level of benefit, for its members. This needs to be maintained and, where appropriate, improved. To achieve this in the light of increasing erosion of fund income by governmental action, coupled with an increasing number of pensioners and a smaller contributory base will be no mean task. As I have had wide management experience with responsibility for all levels of staff coupled with previous experience as a management representative on a pension consultative committee, I feel I can make a sensible and worthwhile contribution as a pensioner representative on the Nortel

Consultative
Committee.



**(IRVIN) BRIAN
HANKS**

**Location last
worked:
Nortel/STC HQ**

Length of Service: 23 years

In essence, members expect the operation of the Plan to be transparent by reason of clear accountability, easily accessible information and data about those operations and about investment objectives and decisions, responsive to members' needs and criticisms, conformity to the spirit of the law and adherence to best practices. I would seek to ensure the channels of communication with members are geared to these principles.

I am well known to many members, having served in various corporate roles from 1970 to 1992 and Served on consultative bodies of STC Plan in early '80s. I take close interest in financial/investment affairs and follow developments in pensions law and practices. Colleagues know I would safeguard their interests with vigour.



JOHN EWAN

**Location last
worked: Harlow,
Essex (Electromechanical Division)
Length of service:
4 years**

Having just been 'discovered' as a pensioner, I do not yet feel able to express personal views on the Plan.

A chartered accountant, with a career in the roles of Company Secretary/Financial Director, I have considerable in-depth experience of both 'final salary' and 'money purchase' schemes (setting-up,

restructuring, dividing-and-transferring, and general administration), of investment portfolio management and liaising with stockbrokers and of being the communicator between members, directors and professional advisers.

With both a personal and professional interest, I do try to stay abreast of thinking and changes in the pension world (government policies and company practices).



**GERALD VERNON
PEARSON**

**Location last
worked: Crystal
Division Harlow
Length of service:
30 years**

I have always taken an active

interest in pensions both personally and as a union representative. I was elected to the Consultative Committee in 1990 and remained on the committee until the Crystal Division was sold to C-MAC in the autumn of 1992. I have been a Trustee of the C-MAC Pension Scheme since its formation in November 1992.

Having taken a course in pension basics with the MSF Trade Union and attended several TUC seminars, I feel that I have a fair grounding in pension matters and would be well able to support the views of pensioners on the Consultative Committee.

Diary COMPETITION *for everyone.*

In the last issue of Diary we put forward a Pet Animal Competition. There are four categories which you have a choice of entering. We would really like to encourage readers to submit an entry. Please note that this will be the last chance to enter as the judging will take place on Tuesday 7 April 1998 by Laura Newbury and members of the Nortel (Harlow) Tuesday Pensioners Club.

We shall be awarding £10 first prize and £5 consolation Prize in each of the following:

Class 1
A story of no more than 500 words

Class 2
A poem

Class 3
A photograph that you have taken yourself.

This must be a happy snap, which will be judged for content and not perfection, by David Taylor L.R.P.S.

Class 4
If you are shy of using a pen or camera why not try our fourth class which is for any type of handicraft – knitting, tapestry, embroidery, woodcarving etc – as long as it depicts a domestic animal.

Handicraft items may be donated to charity if you wish. The charities currently being supported are Arthritis and Rheumatism Research, Leukaemia Research and the Parkinson's Society.

All entries will be acknowledged and the results will be printed in Diary.



The next reunion will be held in Stevenage (STE04) on Tuesday 6 October 1998 at 11.00am. It is hoped that two speakers will talk about the early days of computers in the British Tab. Tickets for the event can be obtained by sending a cheque for £7.00, with a stamped self-addressed envelope to the address below. The maximum number that can be accommodated is 120, so tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis.

Adrian Turner,
5 Nun's Acre,
Goring-on-Thames,
Reading RG8 9BE.
Tel: 01491 872012

Dear diary Dear diary



Dear Diary

I have just read with great interest your article, 'When the Lord Mayor's away' and wondered if you would be interested in my story.

My great grandfather Sir Polydore Dekeyser, was the only foreign R.C. Lord Mayor of London after the Reformation from 1887-1888. He was also a governor of Barts and Guys Hospital and the East End Hospital 'Little Sisters of Bethlehem'.

He built Unilever House which was then Dekeyser's Hotel, the largest and most sumptuous hotel in the world which was opened by 'King Leopold 1st' of the Belgians – a close friend and who my father was named after.

Dekeyser's Hotel was sold to Lord Leverholme in 1933 by which time my grandfather, Leon, had built the Strand Palace in London. In recent years, when restoration work was being done in Unilever House, a bust and several portraits and other items were found belonging to my great grandfather. These are now in

a museum in Dendermonde, Belgium, his birthplace. The museum was built and dedicated to their most famous citizen.

The family home was 'Friday Grave' later renamed 'Chatham House' where they used to entertain the then Prince and Princess of Wales. It was a story of rags to riches and then back to rags when my father gambled the entire family fortune away. I have a book here with some lovely pictures of the Guildhall Banquet and many more. Unfortunately it is all in Flemish. I would gladly pay to have a translation done as I have nine grandchildren who are fascinated by the story but as yet have had no luck. Two of my grandchildren have done projects on the subject with as much information as I have been able to give them.

*Mrs Janice Holda Stewart
nee. Dekeyser - Essex*



Dear Diary

I was very interested to read Mr Watts letter in the last Diary. My memory is not what it was; I should remember him but I can't! We were together in those exciting days of Pegasus through to Atlas. There is, however, a vehicle in place through which his idea of a get-together can be implemented. Indeed, a lot of us already do so!

A few years ago some of us formed the North West section of the Computer Conservation Society. We meet regularly in Manchester for the presentation of papers pertaining to old machines (hardware and software) and sometimes reports from early customers. Lively discussion ensues followed for those inclined by a pint and sometimes a meal. Of course we cover all sorts of machines: English Electric in particular (Kingsgrove being not far away) but we are even thinking of a paper from IBM. The main interest, however, is in those machines developed in the North West. It is very interesting to compare the experiences of competing teams.

We also collect and preserve old computers. Chris Burton and his team have refurbished and recommissioned a Pegasus which is now working in the Science Museum in London and another Pegasus is preserved in the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester. Chris and his team (mostly from retired development and commissioning engineers from West Gorton) are just completing the building of a replica of the first ever program computer in the world to work! It will run the first ever program 50 years from that historic event – 21 June 1998. That machine was, of course, the forerunner of the Ferranti Mk. 1.

Why not join us? The secretary of the Society is Ben Gunn (tel: 01663 764997). Ben wrote that frightening article on his climb in the last issue and is, of course, your current representative on the Pension Plan Consultative Committee.

Peter Hall - Macclesfield

ry Dear diary Dear dia



Dear Diary

Those were the days

When STC offered me the opportunity to become one of its apprentices at New Southgate back in '34 I jumped at it. What with the talkies and the advent of 'swing', teeners were becoming much Americanised and to work for ITT would be a big deal. It was the year when Crosby was warbling his version of 'Please', the fashions were two-tone shoes in summer, 'Big shot' trilbys and pepper-and-salt overcoats with tie-over belts in the winter.

The entrance examinations in the canteen were held under the vigilance of Mr Palmer of Personnel.

The questions were mainly general but three still stand out in my memory – “What do you think of Signor Mussolini?” Answer – “Not much but at least he has got the trains running on time”!

“What is the square root of two?” I had to think about that one and settled for “1.4142” and breathed a sigh of relief when I later checked it with pencil and paper.

I was notified that my application had been successful and provided with a list of approved 'Digs' in the area. I comfortably settled in with an STC family at the bottom of Russell Lane with never a regret.

The trade for which one would best be suited was determined by a succession of six-month periods covering the first two years in the 'Iron', 'Model' and 'Radio' shops and finally the Tool Room (known as the Mecca of all apprentices).

On my first day I presented myself to Ernie Loveday, foreman of the model shop. He wasted little time in outlining what he expected of me and then told me to write a requisition for 'Twenty-four 1/4 inch diameter steel holes and then collect them from Raw Materials Stores'.

I enlisted the aid of Frank Yeomans, the chargehand, to write my first requisition. Frank didn't turn a hair except to say “I wonder what the old man is doing with them all”; with my wicked sense of humour I felt like answering – “well if they are going where I think they are going, they won't do him any harm”!

I asked the storekeeper if they had any mild-steel plate perforated with 1/4 inch diameter holes and if so would he cut me a piece having at least twenty-four such holes? He toddled off with a smile and returned with a piece of the

plate measuring approximately three by six inches. Thanking him for having altered the requisition I returned to the model shop hiding the piece of plate hidden in my warehouse jacket pocket.

My return brought forth ill-suppressed sniggers which magically ceased as I trimmed the piece of plate on the treadle-guillotine so that it incorporated 'twenty-four 1/4 inch diameter holes only' precisely bordered by four perfectly straight edges.

I presented the piece to Ernie who measured the diameter of each hole with a 'Vernier' and followed this by an inspection of each hole with a Watchmaker's glass.

Finally he leaned back in his chair and said “thanks lad, you'll do but next time take the burrs off the edges, they are too sharp”.

From that moment Ernie proved to be a good friend and mentor over the ensuing years and I owe much to him and his encouragement to succeed.

GTW Hall - The Netherlands



Dear Diary

I read a letter from Monty Smith in the Diary issue Autumn 1997 in which he talks about KB Radios.

I have a KB set called Gaiety Model QP 21 No. 12009 and it is still in good working order. This belonged to my good friend and next door neighbour who unfortunately died five years ago and her relatives wanted to throw it away so I asked for it. It still works well and is very handy when there are power cuts.

I worked at STC in Connaught House, straight from school aged 14, for three years, then to Denny, Mott and Dickson, timber merchants for a few years. In 1943 I went to Siemens, we then became Siemens Ediswan, then AEI, then GEC and I was then transferred to Submarine Cables with the Transmission Lab. Then STC took over so I ended my working life in 1981 back at STC in Greenwich and completed 38 years' service in all as all my previous service with Siemens etc was counted. That is how I know about KB radios. Perhaps you could pass it on to Monty Smith (Footscray Pensioner) that I have a KB radio.

Annie Cockburn (Miss) ex Submarine Cables - Kent

Paignton Pensioner Visiting Scheme

The 19th Annual Meeting and Lunch for the Visitors of the Paignton Scheme was held at the Place Hotel Paignton on Wednesday, 10 December 1997.

The Scheme was first begun here at Paignton and spread to a maximum of ten locations across the Country; the other nine have since dropped out, and at our meeting it was decided to 'call it a day' here too – officially. Several visitors kindly expressed their intentions to carry on – unofficially! All the visitors were thanked heartily for their service, some of whom had

served since the Scheme began.

Madeline Parker is taking early retirement from the Company, and the meeting expressed their warmest thanks for her great assistance as Visiting Scheme Secretary for many years.

I have been privileged (and proud) to have been Chairman of the Paignton Group since its inception and was given my first 'Action Assignment' – to send this report!

Dr George Roberts

Amusing Article

We thought you might want to share with your readers a rather amusing story that we heard during December 1997 involving the employee pensioner representative, Frankie Bellingham, who himself retired from the company at the end of 1997.



ie, in fulfilment of the role of the grandfather, ensuring that no grandchildren visited Santa at one of the local shopping centres.

Once they made their way through to Santa's grotto, the children were eagerly anticipating questions from Santa, but did not quite know the answer to the first one.

Santa, looking to Frankie, asked "What is this about the 'Q' Scheme *integration* connection with pensions - what does this mean to me?"

The kids will probably remember that day as particularly eventful with the discovery that their grandfather had a role in representing Santa, who is also a recipient of a Nortel pension!

Pat Masterston – Monkstown

STAMPS



Thank You for printing my letter. I would also like to thank the readers of Diary for their kind and generous response to my request for used stamps for 'Breast Cancer Appeal'. I believe one or two readers have had difficulty, because of arthritis in taking stamps off envelopes. May I say, please don't try too hard. Better to leave a little of the envelope round the stamps they only need to be torn off. I will do the rest. Please continue the good work everyone is needed. My sincere good wishes to the Editor, Staff of Diary and all its readers for 1998.

Mrs D Stott – Blackpool

May I through the pages of Diary say a very sincere thank you to all readers who have sent used postage stamps to me over the Christmas and New Year period. Owing to the amounts received it is just impossible for me to reply to individuals.

However, the work of the RNLI is on-going, so may I please ask all of you to continue to collect stamps and forward these to me in the future. It does not matter if the collections are large or small, all of them will be put to good use. Thanking you all once again.

Mrs Elsie Wareing – Letchworth

The Millennium Time Bomb

You may have read some articles in the press regarding the 'Year 2000 Millennium Bomb', sometimes called a 'Bug'.

What is it?

It is all to do with dates and how computers will be able to deal with certain dates leading up to and beyond the year 2000, in particular the effect on computers as in-built date changing software moves the machine date from 31st December 1999 to 1st January 2000. Much computer software was written many years ago when the year 2000 was a long way off and, to save space on disks, date formats were expressed without the century i.e. 31/12/99. The 1st January 2000 would then be expressed as 01/01/00.

What is the effect?

Because the century is changing and the year will become 00 computers will read the date as 1900. An earlier date is then assumed than all the previous dates in the last 99 years and system failures will occur. Calculations will result in negative numbers in date fields. Systems will not know what to do with these dates and either ignore them or crash. The severity of this problem, if not understood and corrected early, will cause massive disruption to all industries across the world and will touch every aspect of modern life. There is great awareness in the computer world of the problem and it has been estimated that the overall cost

to put the system right. It has also been estimated that the year 2000 problem could affect the operation of all software applications.

What is Nortel doing about it?

Nortel has established teams in each business area at the pension computer register, covering applications, databases, operating systems and hardware. This, of course, included CPX Pensions Administration and Payroll, which is the system that runs the Pensions Department's monthly payroll and makes your pension payments. CPX currently uses the century in date manipulations and has always done. This is not to say that our system is in all respects millennium compliant and we will not have a problem in 2000. Therefore as part of Nortel systems a strategy has been developed to test all the functionality of our system. This will involve duplicating the system on another computer and running the payroll as if the year 2000 had already passed. A full set of tests will be carried out to ensure that CPX is compliant for the year 2000. This will not affect the normal payroll operation in any

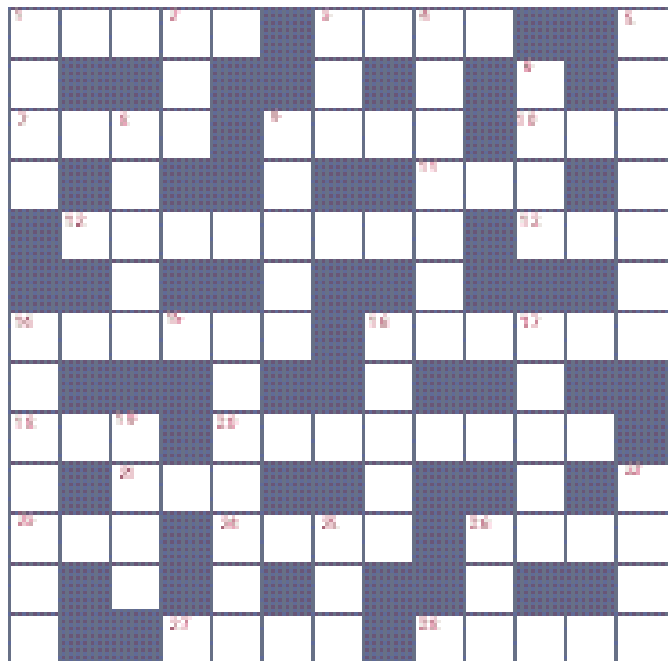


way. Nortel's target is for all software applications and hardware to be fully compliant by October 1998.

I hope that these few words have helped to explain the problem and what Nortel and Pensions Department is doing about it. As I mentioned, there is increasing press comment almost on a daily basis. This can sometimes be rather dramatic and give the impression that everything is going to fall apart in the New Year 2000. However, with proper recognition of the problem and addressing the issues in a structured way, as Nortel is doing, I am sure we will obtain our certificate of compliancy in due time.

Mike Cater – Pensions Systems Manager

SPRING CROSSWORD



WORD

Across Clues

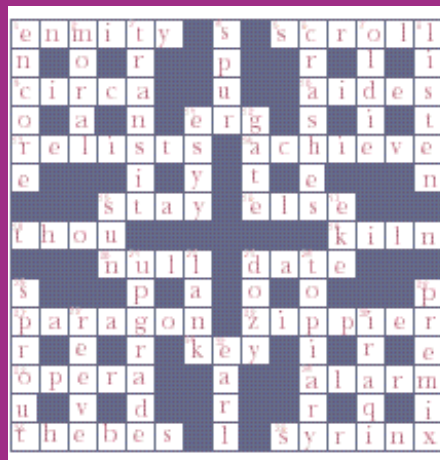
1. Coppers (5)
3. Disorders (4)
7. Pageantry (4)
9. Scorch (4)
10. Unit of resistance (3)
11. Non-circular wheel (3)
12. Belief (8)
13. Exclude (3)
14. Alleviation (6)
16. Former (6)
18. God (3)
20. Dramatic (8)
21. And not (3)
23. Bashful (3)
24. Manipulated (4)
26. Wood (4)
27. Partly (4)
28. Bedding (5)

Down Clues

1. Conduit (4)
2. Beret (3)
3. Wrath (3)
4. Plagiarism (8)
5. Dip (7)
6. Sepulchre (4)
8. Picture (5)
9. Bundle (5)
14. Drastic (7)
15. Thrust out (7)
16. Mark (5)
17. Sheep-like (5)
19. Gemstone (4)
22. Distort (4)
25. Old priest (3)
26. Shabby goods (3)

Answers will appear in the next issue of Diary

Answers from our Christmas crossword which appeared in Issue 52



Congratulations to Mr Kenneth Mason from London who had the first correct crossword to be pulled from the hat. Good luck to all of you entering this issue's crossword competition. We look forward to receiving your entries.

HELPFUL Hints



If you put a few sugar lumps in your biscuit tin, you will never have soft biscuits again.



If you enjoy indoor plants and want them to shine, soak a cotton wool ball in milk and wipe down the leaves of the plant to dry. You will notice the difference straight away.



If you find you have a dried up ball point pen lying around, rather than throwing it away, immerse it in hot water for a few minutes and you will find it will extend the writing life.



If you find you ever have any champagne or sparkling wine left in a bottle, to keep the fizz from completely escaping, place a tablespoon in the neck of the bottle.



If you like lemon or orange in your drinks but can't get through a whole one quick enough then try this: cut up a lemon or orange, put the pieces into the freezer and once frozen place in your drink.

If you have any helpful hints you would like to share with our readers, please send them to: The Editor, NT Diary, PO Box 2291, London W1A 1PG.

SHADES *of* EMPIRE

In 1957 I joined the New Delhi office of Standard Telephones and Cables Limited. The manager, Jack Annable was not the sort of man who told you how to do things, however he did make sure that you were able to find out. Shortly after my arrival I was told that my Power of Attorney to act for the company had to be presented at the Magistrate's Court. I was delivered into the hands of the office driver, Hazra Rampta Singh, who drove me out into the city. We stopped in a street where there were a number of men sitting on the curb with small desks in front of them. Plates on the desks proclaimed them as advocates and their clients were the people summoned to appear before the magistrates.

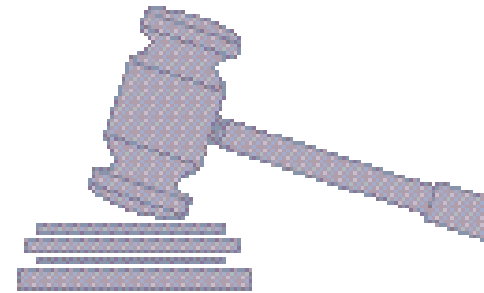
The court house was a large wooden building rather like a shed. I walked across the red earth compound and entered the building. There seemed to be countless people, mostly in white loose fitting shirts with dhotis or trousers. It was very noisy and confusing however I eventually noticed, at the far end of the hall, a long desk set on a dais with three men sitting at it. One of the men was operating a very old typewriter. From time to time people ushered me further forward through the throng and I realised that the man in the middle of the desk was the magistrate. Standing on the floor in front of him was a voluble fellow who was speaking on behalf of a frightened figure, standing head bowed, below the other end of the

desk. The magistrate interrupted the speaker to tell him that he was not helping his client's case at all and that it would be better if the accused put his own account of the matter to the court. By now I had been urged and pushed forward until I was sitting in the front row of the assembly; seated beside me was a police officer in a smartly pressed khaki drill uniform.

At this point the third man at the desk spoke to the magistrate reminding him that it was time to review the habeus corpus cases. A call was passed to the back of the hall and through the crowd six miserable men, shackled and joined by chains, were led towards the desk. They stood in front of the magistrate while their names were called out and then they were taken

back through the crowd. The magistrate resumed the case which the prisoners had interrupted, listening patiently to the long and complicated story which the frightened man was putting in his own words. The police officer turned to me and said, "Do you understand what is going on here – this is British justice."

Alan R Ward – Hertfordshire



DIARY LETTERS AND ARTICLES

Diary is produced especially for our pensioners by Nortel (UK) Pension Plan. We try to fill the pages with interesting and relevant information which applies to you.

It is always helpful to receive letters and articles each quarter but we do have to give a deadline date. The next deadline will be Monday 4 May 1998 for the Diary to be dispatched in June.

**Please write to: The Editor, NT Diary
PO Box 2291, London, W1A 1PG
Tel No: 0171 734 1141**

If you have any queries relating to your pension, please telephone 0181 945 3472.

We look forward to receiving your letters and articles!

“To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is not to die”

Our sincere condolences to the families of the following:

BASILDON

Berkshire John Sidney 88, 2nd November 1997; **Boon** Eric George Thomas 74, 21st November 1997; **Cook** Walter James 74, 19th December 1997; **Farrant** James Alfred Thomas 92, 18th December 1997; **Lamb** Christopher Wilson 81, 16th December 1997; **Mayo** Ernest Edward 87, 26th November 1997; **Munday** Donald Brearley 81, 15th October 1997; **Ross** John 77, 6th October 1997; **Towler** Joy Cynthia 69, 29th September 1997.

BENFLEET

Hilton Doris Lilian 67, 23rd November 1997.

BOLTON

Jones Edward Plenydd 77, 23rd December 1997.

BRIGHTON

Flemming Leonard Basil 84, 7th January 1998; **Helas** Violet Ursula 81, 31st August 1997; **Read** Dennis Lardner 74, 4th January 1998.

COLCHESTER

Buck Ralph 78, 17th January 1998.

COVENTRY

Pilley Edward Fancis 82, 16th October 1997.

CROYDON

Allen John Edwin 73, 14th January 1998; **Arnold** Florence Alice 87, 28th October 1997; **Dell** Henry William 86, 18th September 1997; **Pleasants** Arnold Gordon 86, 6th October 1997.

DUBLIN

Buckley Peter Joseph 76, 29th August 1997.

ENFIELD

Bradbury Stanley Harold 79, 14th October 1997.

EXACTA

Robson William 66, 20th January 1998;

FOOTSCRAY

Beech Rena Rosie 88, 3rd September 1997; **Costin** Dorothy Edith 89, 2nd November 1997; **Cotland** Edith Gladys 85, 5th October 1997; **Cuff** Alfred Neville 78, 23rd August 1997; **Dowse** Alfred Frank 90, 1st September 1997; **Gilbert** James Edgar George 72, 8th January 1998; **Hall** Alan Douglas 66, 13th November 1997; **Needham** Joseph Patrick Kevin 77, 1st November 1997; **Price** Ronald David 71, 29th November 1997; **Redgrave** Michael 72, 22nd August 1997; **Schweitzer** Leo 74, 3rd November 1997; **Tyers** Edward 85, 3rd November 1997;

FOREST HILL

Packer Donald Andrew 65, 7th October 1997.

GREAT YARMOUTH

Frost Elizabeth Mary 71, 17th January 1998; **Randell** Arthur William 80, 5th December 1997.

GREENWICH

Webb Francis John Lewis 80, 16th October 1997.

HARLOW

Atkinson George Edwin 83, 16th December 1997; **Bailes** Margaret Audrey Sadie 68, 21st October 1997; **Houghton** Barbara Ursula 68, 16th September 1997; **Leonard** Hilda 85, 12th December 1997; **Lowe** Ernest Alfred 82, 30th November 1997; **Perry** Albert Ernest 71, 8th November 1997; **Warren** Reginald Walter 75, 23rd January 1998; **Wood** Frederick Herbert 94, 8th December 1997.

HARROW

ICT - Powers Samas / ICL - Harrow INSTALLATION
Truelove George 71, 15th December 1997.

KIDSGROVE

Copeland Cedric Donald 68, 13th November 1997; **Leese** Bernard 66, 3rd January 1998; **Lowe** Harold 80, 22nd January 1998; **Own** James 69, 24th January 1998; **White** Charles 69, 29th December 1997.

LARNE

McCarthy John Jack 77, 6th November 1997.

LETCHWORTH

Balaam Denis Aubrey 59, 30th October 1997; **Howard** Mary 90, 5th November 1997; **Nicols** John Augustus 82, 24th October 1997; **Parsell** Ernest 72, 24th September 1997; **Proffit** Frederick Oliver 73, 23rd January 1998; **Talbot** Hilda 72, 8th December 1997; **Tuson** Edward Sydney 68, 29th November 1997;

LONDON

Gilchrist Edith Robson 57, 16th September 1997; **Murphy** Peter Williams 75, 28th January 1998; **Reverley** Leonard Frederick 70, 29th November 1997; **Rolfe** Henry William 72, 5th December 1997.

MANCHESTER

Webster Richard 71, 30th January 1998.

MILFORD HAVEN

Haskell Frederick George 75, 15th November 1997.

MONKSTOWN

Boyles Norman Hugh 66, 20th December 1997; **McCormick** Cecil 66, 30th November 1997; **Russell** Olivia Dennis 71, 8th December 1997.

NEWCASTLE

Lambert Margaret Eleanor 68, 10th January 1998.

NEWPORT

Bagley David Frederick 76, 9th November 1997; **Jones** John Harold 83, 16th November 1997; **Mathers** James Urquhart 76, 21st October 1997; **Pritchard** Royston 59, 3rd January 1998; **Roderick** William John 72, 24th October 1997; **Rogers** Wilfred 66, 25th October 1997; **Winfield** Esther Gwendoline 87, 3rd December 1997; **Young** Eunice Mary 79, 10th September 1997.

NEW SOUTHGATE

Ashwell Henry George 89, 16th November 1997; **Beswick** Alfred John 83, 30th May 1997; **Brown** Hilda May 82, 19th September 1997; **Currell** Stanley 87, 13th November 1997; **Dutchess** William Thomas 74, 15th June 1997; **Elliott** Horace Jellicoe 80, 8th November 1997; **Fraser** Ian Hugh 72, 13th November 1997; **Hall** Arthur 94, 19th August 1997; **Harrison** Thomas 86, 10th October 1997; **Hawthorne** Terrence William 64, 29th October 1997; **Hibble** Edmund 86, 9th November 1997; **Humble** Kenneth 72, 1st October 1997; **Hurst** Edith Lilian 83, 9th January 1998; **James** David Walter Barnabus 84, 22nd December 1997; **Jaques** Kenneth Gordon 67, 26th December 1997; **Kent** William Lewis 74, 12th December 1997; **Leonard** Esther 88, 10th November 1997; **Loveday** Alec George 76, 19th November 1997; **Mills** Leslie Alfred 91, 8th December 1997; **Munday** Henry Thomas 77, 18th January 1998; **Niddler** Charles William 82, 31st December 1997; **Paul** Christian Anderson 76, 6th November 1997; **Randell** Percival Edward 81, 4th November 1997; **Rush** James 66, 8th November 1997; **Saunders** Vera Rose 73, 13th November 1997; **Sherwood** Gertrude Agnes 90, 21st November 1997; **Taylor** Arthur George 83, 17th August 1997; **Wenman** Robert William 69, 15th May 1997.

NORTH WOOLWICH

Brewster W J A 70, 28th December 1997; **Brown** Thomas 86, 19th November 1997; **Davies** Jean Ann 66, 23rd August 1997;

Lawrence John Thompson 71 14th October 1997; **Phelan** Michael 86, 16th November 1997.

PAIGNTON

Hayes Frederick William 84, 4th November 1997; **Gillard** Harold Norman 71, 12th August 1997; **Horrocks** Gerald Ivan Edward John 68, 12th January 1998; **Lanyon** Patricia Caroline 73, 12th January 1998; **Simpson** Frederick John 79, 9th October 1997; **Stansfield** Dennis Hugh 67, 8th January 1998.

POTTERS BAR

Earle Eric Robert 83, 21st November 1997; **McGeachy** Edward James 82, 18th November 1997.

PUTNEY

Jeffels Arnold 78, 9th October 1997; **Lambert** Thomas George Alexander 80, 11th November 1997; **Wilding** Josephine 87, 6th November 1997.

SLOUGH

Brown Eric 68, 2nd January 1998; **Pinkerton** John Maurice McLean 78, 22nd December 1997; **Poynter** Betty Elaine 72, 11th October 1997.

STC HOUSE 190 THE STRAND

Harvey Daisy Gwendoline 88, 17th October 1997; **Manuel** William Charles 82 1st November 1997.

STEVENAGE

Bailey Charles Ronald 85, 4th November 1997; **Claxton** Sydney 82, 14th September 1997.

TREFOREST

Mathews Reginald 73, 21st May 1997.

WEST GORTON

Hughes Mary Helen 87, 9th September 1997; **Nightingale** Lilian 84, 21st November 1997.

WINSFORD

Ford Thomas 79, 30th August 1997.

WREXHAM

Austin Bessie 75, 8th November 1997.

OTHER

Bloomfield Jack 68, 27th October 1997; **Fulford** Alice Joyce 68, 6th January 1998; **Jones** Paul Barry, 6th October 1997; **John** A.D. Nicols 83, 24th October 1997.

PAYROLL DATES

| | Last date for amendments | Payroll run | Credited to accounts |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| March | 10th | 11th | 18th |
| April | 9th | 10th | 17th |
| May | 8th | 11th | 18th |
| June | 10th | 11th | 18th |

CHANGE OF DETAILS

You may use this form to notify Pensions Department of any changes to your payment instructions or address. The information you provide will also automatically update the Diary mailing list. Send the completed form to: Pensions Payroll, Nortel (UK) Pension Plan, Oakleigh Road South, New Southgate, London N11 1HB

Name:

Pension No: National Insurance No:

Date of Birth:

New Address:

.....
Post Code:

Bank/Building Society Name & Address:

.....
Post Code:

Account No:

Sort Code:

Signed:

Date:

Please note that changes must be made in writing and cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Connections!

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Specsavers have over 340 locations throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

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Please note that this offer is subject to availability of promotional rooms at participating hotels at the time of booking. All bookings must be taken by 1st July 1998 and this promotion cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Hotels in Central London are not included in this promotion.

**This applies to the normal premier published room tariff at Comfort Inns and the normal standard published room tariff at Quality Hotels in the UK and*



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Strictly 50% off hotel room

Nortel has got together with Comfort Inns & Quality Hotels again in 1998 to offer our readers the opportunity to sample the excellent facilities and delicious food at any one of their 50 locations throughout the UK and Ireland. A weekend away is the perfect way to relax, to unwind from the week's activities and re-charge your batteries. And it won't cost you an arm and a leg either as Comfort Inns & Quality Hotels are offering readers fantastic savings. You can stay for a 1, 2 or 3 night breaks at any one of over 50 two star Comfort Inns or three star Quality hotels, on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday from as little as £ 24.75 per room per night*. With so many hotels across the UK and Ireland, you can be sure that you will always

be spoilt for choice. Comfort Inns & Quality Hotels offer either a hot and cold carvery or a table d'hote menu and boast a delicious a la carte menu. Many locations have excellent health and fitness facilities ranging from fully equipped leisure centres with indoor swimming pools to mini-gyms.

Children are always welcome and those under 14 stay free when sharing a room with two adults, paying only for meals taken. Most of the locations have great value low priced children's menus a offer family rooms. All of at attractive destinations s near to some of the count popular attractions, for ex Alton Towers, Cadbury's V Edinburgh and Cardiff ca Highlands, etc. With so m great facilities and a super why not treat yourself and with Comfort Inns & Qua hotels?