



The Quill

*A periodic Newsletter for Distribution to the
Members of the Three Rooms Club*

Autumn 2021



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www.3roomsclub.london

Need to Contact the Club?

Our mailing address is: The Three Rooms Club, Room 136, Lloyd's, 1 Lime Street, London EC3M 7HA

Email: Tim Willens

secretary@3roomsclub.london

From the Editor

Welcome to our Autumn 2021 edition of the Quill

Martin Robinson

Editor

In this edition of the Quill.....

Membership Matters

Resumption of our "Get Togethers"

An Update on one of the Lloyd's Fallen in the Great War by Roger Earl

A Wild Goose Chase? by Reg Brown

Requests for assistance:

Who is in the picture?

The James Bond Goldfinger Aston Martin DB5

Keeping in Contact

Our website aims to keep members up to date with club news. However, we have very few email addresses, if you have an email address, please do let Tim Willens know your details.

Email to secretary@3roomsclub.london

Publishing Member Address Information

It has been our practice to include a member change of address in the printed edition of the Quill. The circulation of the printed edition is only to club members, however, once delivered we have no control over any further circulation of the Quill by our members. We also publish the Quill on the 3 Rooms Club website and before doing so we remove changes of address because the website is in the public domain. The publicising of changes of address does enable members to keep in touch, however, we are conscious that we cannot stop the address information being circulated. In order to comply with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) the committee have agreed the following changes to our procedures.

When a member advises us of a change of address, we will request confirmation in writing that the new address may be published in the Quill. If the explicit approval is not provided then we will amend our club records, advise in the Quill that there is a member change of address, but we will not publish the address details.

We face the same GDPR problem with the customary periodic publishing of the members' booklet which identifies member address information. In order to comply with GDPR the booklet will no longer be published. If address information is required, please approach the committee and a committee member will facilitate the necessary contact.

Articles and Pictures for Future Editions

We are in need of stories and pictures from the past please do send any content for the Editor of the Quill:

martinbrob@gmail.com

Membership Matters

New Members

NEVILL, Simon, Philip (Life Member No. 2040)
SAINTY, Brett, Jon, (Annual Member No. 2041)
SNASHALL Paul Garry (Annual Member No. 2042)

Notification of Deceased Members

Mr. J. (John) **McKEIGUE** – Annual Member No. 1214, Died, January 2021
Mr. B.L. (Barry) **PRICE** – Annual Member No. 00866, Died June 2nd, 2019
Mr. W.J. (Wally) **TAYLOR** – Life Member No. 00391, Died January 23rd, 2021
Mr. W.E. (Bill) **TOWNSEND** – Life Member No. 00761, Died, 2020
Mr. J.C. (John) **WHITLEY** – Annual Member No. 00383, Died June 15th, 2020
Mr. A.L. (Tony) **ABRAHAMS** – Life Member No. 00142, Died October 21st, 2020
Mr. J.M. (John) **AUBIN** – Life Member No. 00505
Mr. R.W. (Roger) **BARKLAM** – Member No. 00865, Died November 2017
Mr. J.A. (John) **BRENCHLEY** - Life Member No. 00841, Died, October 2019
Mr. G.L. (Gordon) **BROWN** – Life Member No. 1306, Died August 9th, 2019
Mr. M.C. (Michael) **BUTCHER** – Life Member No. 1707, Died September 18th, 2020
Mr. C.C. (Christopher) **BYRNE** – Annual Member No. 1254, Died April 1st, 2021
Mr. P.R (Peter) **CHANDLER** – Life Member No. 00007, Died November 2020
Mr. J.P. (John) **DANDO** – Life Member No. 00954, Died July 9th, 2017
Mr. M.D. (Michael) **GREY** - Annual Member No. 1371, Died July 6th, 2019
Mr. R.G. **JACKAMAN** – Life Member No. 01052
Mr. D.A. (Dennis) **JOHNSON** – Life Member No. 1201, Died January 27th, 2021
Mr. M. (Maurice) **LESTER** – Annual Member No. 00603, Died June 10th, 2020
Mr. C.K. (Colin) **MURRAY** – Life Member No. 00763, Died March 2020
Mr. K.A. (Keith) **ROBERTSON** – Life Member No. 00701, Died June 17th, 2021
Mr. E. (Gene) **RYAN** – Annual Member No. 00859, Died March 2021
Mr. W.B. (Bill) **ATKINSON** – Life Member No. 00568, Died 2019
Mr. D.F.T. (David) **BAXTER** – Annual Member No. 1722, Died December 29th, 2018
Mr. J.D. (John) **BOYAGIS** – Life Member No. 1652, Died July 22nd, 2021
Mr. P.L.P.(Peter) **CORNISH** – Life Member No. 00546, Died September 2020
Mr. A.A. (Anthony) **CROKER-POOLE** – Annual Member No. 1500, Died July 31st, 2021
Mr. G.E. (Gerard) **DENT** – Life Member No. 1216, Died October 6th, 2019
Mr. P.A. (Paul) **WILLIAMS** – Life Member No. 1232, Died 2018

Member Resignations

Mr. Keith A. **CHAPLIN** – Life Member No. 00452
Mr. S.D.A. (Sheridan) **EDWARDS** – Annual Member No. 1565
Mr. K. **MACNAMARA** – Annual Member No. 1799
Mr. D. **THORNTON** – Annual Member No. 1273

Notification of Changes of Address

(Note: Where a member address is shown it is with approval of the member)

Mr. Michael J.N. **LEATHERS** – Annual Member No. 00928
New Address: held by the Membership Secretary
Mr. Brian J. **WILLIAMS** – Life Member No. 730
New Address: held by the Membership Secretary
Mr. Paul **WOODHOUSE** – Annual Member No. 1432
New Address: held by the Membership Secretary
Mr. Mark **PAYNE** – Annual Member No. 1541
New Address:

Mr. R. (Richard) **HARDINGHAM** – Annual Member No. 1739
New Address: held by the Membership Secretary
Mr. D. (Daniel) **NAYLOR** – Life Member No. 1143
New Address: held by the Membership Secretary
Mr. B.D. (Eric) **PIERI** – Annual Member No. 00724
New Address: held by the Membership Secretary
Mr. J.H.A. (John) **PROCTER** – Life Member No. 1337
New Address: held by the Membership Secretary
Mr. Derek **FORD** – Life Member No. 00312
New Address:

Mr. Robin J. **KERSHAW** – Life Member No. 01001
New Address:

Mr. Dick. A. **GREEN** – Life Member No. 00367
New Address:

Sir Alexander **GRAHAM** – Life Member No. 00438
New Address:

Mr. John **LOBEK** – Annual Member No. 1667
New Address:

Mr. Richard B. **OWLES** – Life Member No. 1431
New Address: held by the Membership Secretary
Mr. C.C. Clive **TACKLING** – Life Member No. 1367
New Address: held by the Membership Secretary
Mr. A.C. (Adrian) **TANNER** – Life Member No. 01070
New Address: held by the Membership Secretary
Peter **MILLS** - Life member No. 1303
New Address: held by the Membership Secretary

Officers and Committee

Bruce Carnegie-Brown

Don H Coombe

Brian Wilkin

Martin Robinson

Vernon Ashford

Tim Willens

Paul Coombes

Bob Hunt ~ Mobile: 07976 805535

Peter Cave ~ Mobile: 07563 544581

Cliff Hutchinson

Danny Wild ~ Mobile: 07946 330946

Michael Cobb

President

Hon. Life President ~ Mobile: 07980 009758

Chairman ~ Mobile: 07775 734197

Deputy Chairman ~ Mobile: 07717 487953

Treasurer

Secretary ~ Mobile: 0772 4856752

Membership Secretary & Web Master

Editor of the Quill Martin Robinson ~ martinbrob@gmail.com Mobile 07717 487953

Resumption of Our Get Togethers

On recent visits to the city, I'm pleased to report that there are certainly more people around both city workers and visitors. On my last trip, Lloyd's was busy, not back to pre-pandemic numbers but nevertheless good to see. Lloyd's and London Market clubs and societies are beginning to meet again, recent events include a Lloyd's Yacht Club gathering in the West End, A Lloyd's Motor Club Forum in the Old Library at Lloyd's and a motor club quiz at the Paris Grill, all events were well attended.

It's time for us to meet.

On Tuesday 16th November we will be holding a Three Rooms Club Get Together in the Old Library at Lloyd's. A good chance to re-connect with market friends and colleagues and this time with no entry charge. However, you still need to apply for a ticket.

The Three Rooms Committee look forward to seeing you at the event.

The new directory of clubs and societies in the Lloyd's and London Insurance Market has just been released, if you are keen to see the range of clubs and societies, please visit the link below.

The Directory of Lloyd's and London Market Clubs and Societies

CLUBSONAR

www.clubsonar.london

An Update on one of the Lloyd's Fallen in the Great War by Roger Earl

Many thanks to Roger Earl for providing an update on 2nd Lt. Peter Norris Wood one of the Lloyd's Fallen in the Great War.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery at Al Amarah, near Basra, Iraq.

Lloyd's Fallen of the Great War

2nd Lt. Peter Norris Wood



The Basra Memorial to the Fallen, Iraq

In 2018, the Centenary of the end of the conflict of 1914-1918, Lloyd's Motor Club initiated a program to place crosses or wreaths on the graves or memorials of the **Lloyd's Fallen of the Great War**, of whom there were 214, and which could be accessed. These were mainly situated in France and Belgium (with a few in the UK) but there was at least one we knew of in Mesopotamia (now Iraq).

Thanks to the help of long-time friend and supporter of the Lloyd's Motor Club, **Brigadier Adam McRae**, formerly Colonel of the 11 EOD Regiment RLC and now British Military Attaché in Bagdad, an LMC poppy wreath and metal Lloyd's badge has finally been placed on the panel memorialising the death of ex. Bland Welch employee, **2nd Lieutenant Peter Wood**, who died on 19th January 1917 in Mesopotamia at the age of 36. Peter

had been seriously wounded in the legs on 15th January but died of his wounds 4 days later and was buried at Al Amarah to the northwest of Basra in southern Iraq.

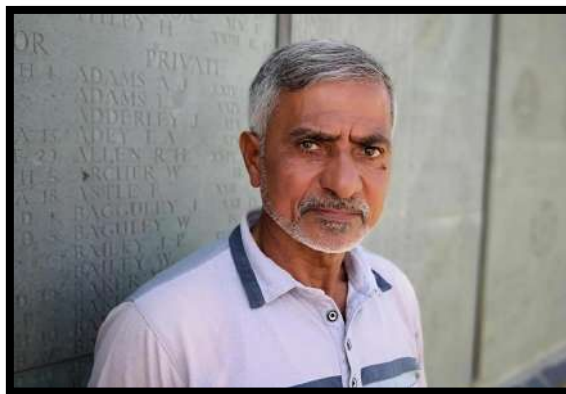
Although originally Peter Wood had a headstoned grave in the cemetery (Plot XXVII, Row G, Grave 6), these had been ravaged over the years, particularly during the Iraqi civil war, and Saddam Hussein's subsequent "expulsion" of the CWGC from Iraq in 1992 meant that, whilst marked and still identifiable, it was not considered practical to leave the wreath on the grave site itself, so Adam placed it in the protected area where the matching memorial panels are now located along the main wall of the cemetery.

But there is a poignant note to add to the successful conclusion of the LMC's project.

Since the CWGC's expulsion in 1992, the cemetery has been safeguarded by its long-term keeper, 58-year-old father of seven **Hassan Houteif Mawsa**, and as had been the case previously, the commission had allowed him to live in the cemetery buildings rent free and this has continued. A good thing because Hassan has not been paid for those 30 years since 1991, although he has continued to loyally look after the site as his father had done before him. He had taken over in 1977 (aged 15!) and since then has kept all the documents relating to the graveyard, a commitment and thoughtfulness that could enable thousands of British families to trace the final resting place of their loved ones.

"Some years ago my neighbours and friends and people who knew I worked here told me it was forbidden to look after these foreign [Christian] graves. They said this over and over to me. I became very worried, so I went to see an ayatollah and explained the situation and sought his advice. And he said: 'My son, you must continue to respect the dead – and look after them for their families who may one day come here'."

So the blessing of a Shia divine lies upon the 4,000 dead of Amara, most of them from the disastrous Battle of Kut in 1916, along with Lieutenant Wood.



Hassan Houteif Mawsa, keeper of Al Amarah cemetery today.

A further note should be added to this fascinating story. The cemetery, built for those on the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force of 1914, had been rediscovered by the banks of the Tigris river by the Royal Irish Regiment during the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Royal Irish Commanding Officer Lt Colonel Tim Collins had led a team of officers in search of the cemetery after hearing about it from local people. When they located it, they were told that its Iraqi keeper had received death threats from Baath officials. He told the Royal Irish Regiment soldiers *"The old regime, they threatened my life and my job but I never gave up. I could not permit the graveyard to be ruined - local people have tried to break in here to drink late at night and also to steal the carvings. I always believed that one day the British would return."*

Jeremy Lillies, the head of public affairs for the Royal British Legion at the time, said: "*This was very good news. It is extremely good to hear that this chap has stuck to his guns in the face of a great deal of intimidation to keep the place in as good an order as he could do. He has shown great respect to the British and courage in the face of the Baath regime by carrying this burden of the empire.*"

In closing, there are two Victoria Cross recipients in the Al Amarah. They are Royal Naval Lt Commander Edgar Cookson and Lt Colonel Edward Henderson of the North Staffordshire Regiment

A Wild Goose Chase? By Reg Brown

I will return to the Lloyd's theme in the next article but here is a conundrum I thought members of the Three Rooms Club might be able to help me with. I bought this card some years ago as I was intrigued by the description on the back of the card. Where, I wondered, was the Visitors' Book now? Containing "a unique record of insurance personalities from all parts of the world" it must be a fascinating read.

I began my search a couple of years ago by sneaking up the stairs on the last occasion I ate in the George and Vulture to take a look at the "Pickwick Room." I suspect many of our members will have eaten there but I regret to say the room is nothing like the one portrayed in the picture. It was dark, dirty, with chairs strewn all over the place and cobwebs everywhere.

Asking a few of my broker mates where they thought the book was, I was first directed to the Library of the Chartered Insurance Institute. They were very helpful showing me all they had on the George and Vulture but, sadly, no Visitors' Book. The CII suggested it might be in the Guildhall Library so round there I trotted.

"Not here" they said after a diligent search of the records. "Try the Metropolitan Archives." Coincidentally, a few weeks later I was at a function at the Guildhall where I met a lady from the Metropolitan Archives and she agreed to help if I sent her the information.

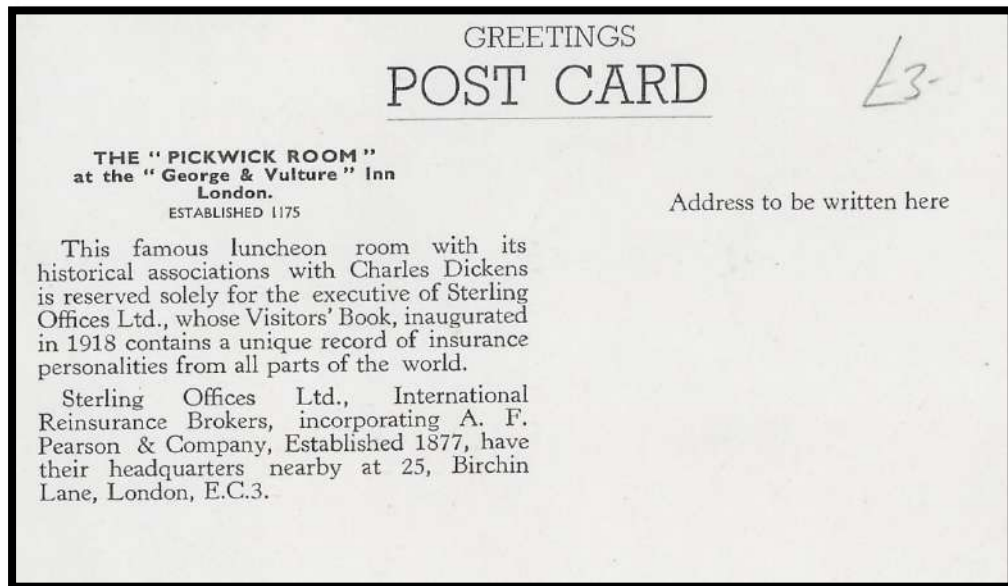
I duly sent a copy of the card only to receive a negative response.



Subsequent enquiries of my broker mates revealed that there must be several books. According to the postcard the Visitors' Book was "inaugurated in 1918." Those alive today who remember lunching there suggest "the books went back to the early 1940s so we are talking about a very large number of books, they were all bound, about the size of the old Lloyd's Desk diaries."

As many of you will know the CII has sold the Insurance Hall in Aldermanbury to the City Corporation. With that in mind I'm in touch with the person responsible for organising the move. If they do indeed still have the books they will be just some of the items (books, past presidents' medals, museum pieces) they will have to decide what to do with. So watch this space!

The only line of enquiry I haven't followed, which some might say is the obvious one, is to ask the management at the George and Vulture if they still have it. I might try that next time I'm passing.



Can you Help?

A request from Three Rooms member Simon Le Mare.

"I worked for Chester Syndicate 65 from 1981; Chaucer Syndicate 1084 from 1994. Apollo Syndicate 1969 from 2012 to 2020. I am decorating and found a box of old stuff, including some Lloyd's photos.

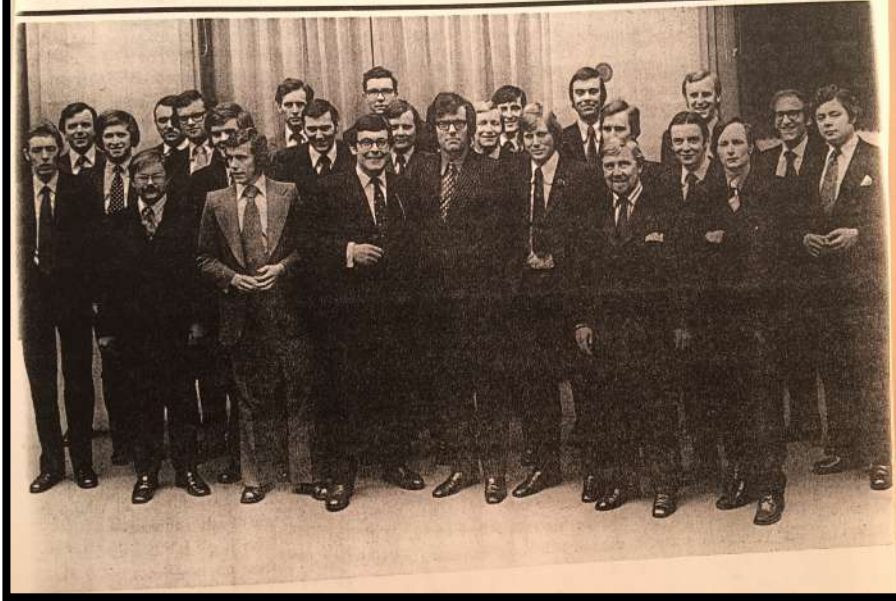
The first picture overleaf is an under 35's photo which includes Ken Hopwood

The second picture, I would like some help with. My gut feeling is it is the Chester Syndicate in the 1950's but I have no idea.

Please can you help me identify the Syndicate and staff".

If you can help, please contact the Editor Martin Robinson martinbrob@gmail.com Mobile: 07717487953

We for our part do accept that European insurance market is and one market. This unity is ability," he said. "There is no doubt that underwriters accept in many of their revenue accounts, underwriting resulting from inflation, rather than inflation itself, that are the greatest dangers to insurance today."



What Syndicate? Who's in the picture?

JAMES BOND

Aston Martin DB5



The Most Famous Car in the World?

The James Bond Aston Martin DB5 from the film Goldfinger was insured by Lloyd's Underwriters during the period 1988 to 1992 with the cover cancelled during 1992 when the car was to be taken on tour. During 1993 a further attempt was made to insure the car at Lloyd's. Lloyd's Underwriter refusal to insure the car was a very smart move as it turned out. The car was subsequently insured with Reeds Exhibition and then National Premium.

Tin June 1997, the car was stolen from the Boca Raton airport in Florida, at the time the car was valued and insured at \$4.2 million, insured with Chubb and the claim was settled. Many in the industry believe that valuation to be well above its market value. The car has never been recovered.

Can you offer any information about the original Lloyd's Underwriter cover, the subsequent Lloyd's refusal to insure or the cover with Reeds Exhibition, National Premium or Chubb?

If you can help, please contact the Editor Martin Robinson martinbrob@gmail.com Mobile: 07717487953

All information will be treated in the strictest confidence. Just to reassure everyone, this has nothing to do with the recent press campaign claiming the car has been seen in Kuwait.

**Please do try to join us at the Get Together
in the Old Lloyd's Library
on Tuesday, 16th November 2021**

Dates For Your Diary

Three Rooms “Club Get Togethers”

Tuesday 16th November 2021

Wednesday 25th May 2022

Tuesday 22nd November 2022

Your committee will be meeting on the following dates

Wednesday 12th January 2022

Wednesday 6th April 2022

Wednesday 1st June 2022

Wednesday 7th September 2022