

# **Pipe Club of Norfolk Newsletter - July 2012**

## **Keith Garrard 1949 – 2012**

The club is very sad to report that Keith Garrard passed away on 23rd March 2012.

Keith was a member of the club for many years, serving as secretary and organising the annual PCN Championship. We remember him for the hard work and effort that he put into club activities.

Keith had many friends up and down the country amongst the fraternity known as 'Brothers of the Briar'.

Keith worked for many years as a bus conductor before being employed at Churchills tobacconists in Norwich, an establishment that he later took over.

We shall all miss him greatly and we all send our sincerest condolences to Keith's family.

Keith's funeral and celebration of his life was held at St Faiths crematorium on Friday 20th April at 3.30pm, and afterwards at the Jubilee pub, Norwich.

Keith was given an excellent send-off with over 100 people attending the funeral and many going to the drinks afterwards.

We were particularly pleased to see Richard Neville and PCN member David Polhill, both of whom had travelled a long way to attend the funeral.

There is a full obituary at the end of this newsletter.

## **In The News**

Pipe smoking has been banned in outdoor parks on the island of Sipan, just off the Dubrovnik coast of Croatia.

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International Pipe Smoking Day - February 20th

### **MISSION**

To foster links across the globe in honor of friendship, benevolence, and tranquility; and to celebrate the fraternity of pipe-smokers across all borders.

### **PURPOSE**

On this day we will take a breather and celebrate the noble art of pipe-smoking and the noble spirit which pervades the brother/sisterhood of the briar. We will put into practice the time-honored and ancestral traditions of raising our pipes in toast to each other in the evening in unison and, thus, share a bowl together.

### **PHILOSOPHY**

Today's hectic environment almost dictates that we run on full efficiency, have total involvement in our work, our families and in every aspect of what we do to survive and achieve in a world set at high speed. • With ever-changing values it is the intent that The International Pipe-Smoking Day will allow us, the Brothers and Sisters of the Briar to step back and appreciate our rich historical value. • For pipe-smokers and pipe-smoking everywhere the day will be emblematic of our shared values, history, traditions, and aspirations.

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A Lowestoft landlady has been fined after health and safety officers caught a person smoking inside her pub.

Paula Fox was questioned by health and safety officers on August 25 2011 when they were passing The Bank Stores pub, Lowestoft, and saw a person smoking in the lobby.

Mrs Fox, 47, of Banks Store, Commercial Road, Lowestoft, claimed she tried to stop people smoking inside the lobby entrance to the pub, but people did not always listen.

Mrs Fox pleaded guilty to failing to prevent smoking in a smoke-free premises. She was fined £80 and ordered to pay £165 costs.

## **2012 Meetings**

**January:** One of the most interesting AGMs for years.

Sadly the secretary resigned for personal reasons. Everyone at the club would like to thank Keith Garrard for his many years of hard work and service to the PCN. Keith used to organise the Norfolk Open Championships for us, a task that involved a lot of work. Thank you, Keith.

The new officers are:

Chairman: Len Ellis

Secretary: John Walker

Treasurer: Keith Coleman

Auditor: Tony Larner

**February:** Well done to David for winning this year's 3 grams competition.

**March:** A sampling evening with three mixtures and three flakes available to test.

**April:** David won the cigar competition.

**May:** Well done to David, who has done well in recent competitions, for winning this year's 4 grams competition, retiring at the 56 minutes mark.

**June:** Len won this year's outdoor competition which took place at the Fat Cat and Canary on Thorpe Road. This newly-refurbished pub (formerly the Mustard Pot) has excellent outdoor seating areas and a superb choice of beer. Well worth a visit.

**British Pipe Smoking Championships 2012:** Three PCN members attended the BPSC on 15<sup>th</sup> July.

Overall, times were slow. David Wollard-Kingston did exceptionally well, coming second with a time of 50 minutes. Tony Larner was sixth with 30 minutes and Keith Coleman smoked for 15 minutes.

There were approximately 27 contestants and everyone won a prize. Which is nice.

We would like to thank Brian Mills and the Hollingsworth club for organising the event and hope that they will put on another one next year.

## Competition Results

Annual 3 grams	
Smoky Shed	
15 February 2012	
Old Gowrie	
Contestant's choice of pipe	
1 David Wollard-Kingston	65:00
2 John Walker	50:44
3 Len Ellis	46:45
4 Tony Larner	42:30
5 Keith Coleman	39:40
6 John Eason	32:30
7 Frank Gurney-Smith	23:13

Annual 4 grams	
Smoky Shed	
16 May 2012	
Balkan Mixture	
Contestant's choice of pipe	
1 David Wollard-Kingston	56:00
2 Tony Larner	49:10
3 John Betts	38:30
4 Keith Coleman	24:00
5 Len Ellis	16:45
6 John Walker	10:54

Annual 3 grams outdoor	
Fat Cat and Canary	
20 June 2012	
Dunhill Navy Rolls	
Contestant's choice of pipe	
1 Len Ellis	50:20
2 David Wollard-Kingston	47:50
3 Tony Larner	38:40
4 John Walker	15:50
5 Frank Gurney-Smith	15:10
6 John Eason	06:40

## **A Former Smoker Submits**

### **The Falcon 'Smoking Machine'**

The Falcon Pipe with its aluminium stem and inter-changeable briar bowl was invented by Kenley Bugg, an engineer at Fort Wayne, Indiana and was based on the same principle that causes rain to drop from a cloud when met by cool air. First sold in the USA in 1940, the sale was much restricted owing to the main industries turning to the production of more essential materials.

In 1949 George Hunt of Chicago took over the marketing, and eventually by 1954 reached the amazing sales of 6,000,000 in America alone. Acknowledged (by whom?) the greatest revolution in smoking since Sir Walter Raleigh introduced tobacco to Europe, the Falcon was brought to England by Dave Morris and in 1958 the first 30,000 Falcon pipes were ready for distribution. By 1963 the Brentford factory was managing 20,000 a week.

Whilst the Falcon is sold in most countries of the world, it enjoyed particular success in Australia. 70,000,000 British made Falcons alone have been sold to 70 countries.....to which must be added the millions produced by the USA.

Where are they all now, I wonder? When did you last see one being smoked?

## **This And That**

### **PCN Records**

Briar 3grs. Len Ellis 95.45 mins set 2004-10-10  
Clay 3grs. James Oxley-Brennan 82.47 mins set 1995-09-20  
Outdoor 3grs. Frank King Jnr. 51.10 mins set 2007-07-19  
Briar 4grs. David Woollard-Kingston 113 mins set 2010-05-19

### **Anniversary**

The club celebrates its 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

### **Forthcoming events**

15 August — Secretary's Quiz at the Nelson  
19 August — Bowls  
19 September — Clay Competition  
17 October — Quiz  
07 November — Darts  
21 November — Cheese and Pickles  
19 December — Xmas Draw

## **Keith Garrard 1949 – 2012**

Keith was born in the old N&N hospital and lived at Chapel Farm in Marlingford until he was 1 year old (his family was from a farming background). He then moved to Shotesham St Mary near Saxlingham until he was 5 years old and then moved with his mother, father and sister to Bowthorpe cottages, which was then rather more rural than the developed urbanisation we know today, until he was 10. He then moved to East Hills Road in Costessey. He had family connections with the Suffolk hamlet of Wickham Skeith, which when a lad, clearly made an impression upon him (a most interesting and amusing piece by Keith on the annual village fete can be found in the club's Summer 2004 news letter). He attended the local Secondary school at Costessey and left there at the tender age of 14 in July 1964 (becoming 15 that month). He loved the City and regarded himself a Norwich man.

Keith's first job was in the then vibrant Norwich shoe trade as a clicker, first with the shoe trade in Wensum Street and then at the Co-op shoe factory. Following a relatively short time in the shoe trade he became a bus conductor. A job he said he really liked, remaining in the job until 1981 when the profession was consigned to British history following the introduction of pay as you enter buses. It was during his daily bus routine that his eye alighted upon a young woman, then only 15. Coral was to become the love of his life. They married on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1973 and moved to Florence Road, where they happily raised two boys, Steven and Kelvin. Coral remains in the family home.

Following his time on the buses Keith took over the running of the Thorpe St Andrew Hospital Social Club, close to the Griffin pub. Having established himself in the licensed trade he then took on the management of the Canary Social Club on the corner of Rosary Road, where Coral joined him to add her support until 1991. Keith went on to work behind the bar of the Kett's Tavern on Kett's Hill.

It was in 1990 that Keith joined the august company of the Pipe Club of Norfolk at the Coach and Horses pub in Thorpe. His friendly disposition, contribution to activities and easy going nature made him instantly popular with members. Within a very short time it seemed he had always been a fixture of the club. He was to rise very quickly to become the Club's secretary and then secretary/treasurer. A double position that no-one has occupied before, or is likely to occupy again. He had an eye for detail and good organisational skills which carried the club through many changes of his 22 years as a member.

Keith was instrumental in organising the club's move to the meeting room in the Rosary pub in November 1990, and not long after the smoking ban came in it was Keith who found for us our current location in 2009. Like all of us, he was gutted by the implementation of the smoking ban which undoubtedly caused the demise of the Rosary pub which was Keith's local. Although never a heavy drinker, he could be seen in there at some time every day of the year, apart from holidays. On one occasion he won a bottle of wine in the 'meat' raffle at the pub. When asked by Coral why there was a bottle of wine in a meat raffle – Keith said it was a prize for the

vegetarians!? When the Rosary closed Keith moved to the Jubilee pub on St Leonards Road (literally a stone's throw from his house), which he enjoyed as a second home from home until his hospitalisation. Keith was never particularly keen on our current club location – finding it cold and uncomfortable, particularly in winter (despite our best attempts at contemporary electric heating) – a sign perhaps of his impending illness.

Keith was the main organiser of the Norfolk Open Pipe Smoking Championship which the Pipe Club introduced in 1992 at the Lansdowne hotel in Thorpe. This was probably the zenith of the club's 39 year history to date. Coral confirmed that Keith spent many hours behind the scenes organising the 15 annual competitions that were held at the Lansdowne until the introduction of the smoking ban.

In the year 2000 Keith went into Churchill's tobacconists on St Andrews Hill in the City to get his usual supply of tobacco and was asked if he knew, because of his pipe smoking connections, someone who might be suitable to work behind the counter. He instantly said 'me'. Under the experienced eye of fellow Pipe Club member, John Elvin (50 years in the trade), Keith developed his knowledge and expertise. Keith bought the business in 2005 and kept the shop on for another 5 years, when diminishing trading conditions due to the combination of the recession and the smoking ban, coinciding with the renewal of the lease of the premises, made the shop no longer viable. Keith continued mail order trading as Churchills of Norwich and Coral is still running and developing the business. Churchills Christmas Mixture being a specialist blending put together by Keith – the popular recipe for which is now unfortunately lost – unless someone, somewhere, knows the secret ingredients?

Keith's profile in the tobacco world led to international contacts. A Japanese radio station once contacted him to ask him to tell their listeners all about the Norfolk Pipe Smoking Championship. Keith had to choose a piece of introductory music to the broadcast – his choice of Chris Farlowe's 'Out of time' was probably lost on the Japanese audience, if not to our contestants who couldn't quite get to the end of their 3 grams in the contest! Additionally, as a result of getting to know George Kristlik from Jan pipes in the Czech republic, both Keith and Coral ended up on a visit to Prague, where as much as Keith liked his food, a surfeit of Czech dumplings with every meal was **not** preferred to the facility to be able to smoke one's pipe in the comfort of a bar (remember those days?). Keith's other foreign pipe smoking forays (with Coral) included the world championship at St Niklaas in Belgium in 2002 – Keith was the only pipe club member to attend from our club. His time was rather modest at 39 minutes – only 2 hours 10 minutes behind the winner! Other pipe smoking events were attended more than once, in Holland, by Keith and fellow PCN members, Reg Walker, Len Ellis and John Eason. When holidaying, regular visits to the Continent, Ireland and North Africa were among Keith's pleasures.

Back in Blighty, Keith regularly supported the British Pipe Smoking Championships held at Solihull, where he would make a weekend of the annual event, often accompanied by fellow PCN members Reg Walker and Tony Larner. Other club

members would go down for the day and thoroughly enjoy this national, annual get together of fellow pipe smokers. Keith used to regularly attend the annual dinners of the Association of Independent Tobacco Specialists in London. Boris Johnson was the guest speaker.

Keith's other interests included an avid following of the fortunes of Tottenham Hotspur football club, a love he shared equally with his son Steven, each regularly texting the other with news of their progress. Keith also had a passion for pub quizzes where he displayed a fierce competitiveness (accompanied by his best mate Ronnie Bobbin – a formidable duo in this setting). Keith took a keen interest in following all forms of sport and was a very competent bowls player, playing regularly up until the last two years of his life.

Additionally, Keith was an active member of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, first at the Ernest Kidd Lodge in Norwich and then the Canary Lodge. He competed weekly with fellow pipe club member, Frank King, to see who could finish the Times Crossword first on a Sunday lunch time. After this intellectual feat, accompanied by a few pints of bitter, Keith told me that he then retired his mind for the afternoon and said, apart from holidays, he couldn't remember when he last saw a Sunday at that time of day.

He is a sad loss to all who knew his dry sense of humour and friendly disposition, underpinned by an enquiring mind and competitive interest in Trivia. His was a life of daily routine and family that he absolutely loved. Coral said "So many people were very fond of him, which is lovely". Testament to his popularity has been shown by the raising of £784 for the Big C appeal in Keith's memory, an outstanding amount.

Keith is outlived by his mum, leaves a wife, Coral, his two sons Steven and Kelvin and 4 grandchildren (3 boys and a girl).

All of us in the pipe club mourn his untimely passing. Next time you sit back to enjoy a pipe of tobacco, take a glass of beer with your pipe and raise it to the memory of a gentleman and true stalwart of the Pipe Club of Norfolk – Keith Garrard.

John Betts

June 2012