

Wedding Bells

Rebecca Baker, Answerline Shift Co-ordinator - Sheffield, married Wayne Foster (after years of twisting his arm!) on Monday 25th August at Gretna Green. Their 6 year old daughter, Megan was very proud to be bridesmaid.

Kelly Wainwright from the Quality Team along with her husband Wayne were witnesses for the happy couple. Congratulations to you both from all your friends! xxx



Our Otto Today designer Lucy tied the knot on 15th November. I think you'll all agree that Lucy looks absolutely stunning. Judging by her new husband Steve's face, he was chuffed to bits to be marrying Lucy. The couple honey-mooned in Disneyland!

David Woodd, Marketing Manager at Clapham Road

married childhood sweetheart Esther Giles on 27th September at St. Mary's Church in Hemel Hempstead. The happy couple headed for the southern hemisphere for a dream honeymoon in New Zealand. David said "It was wonderful".



Ooh baby, baby!

Congratulations to the proud parents and Grandparents of Lydia Abbey Katherine Hodgson. Born on Sunday 19th October weighing 8lb 11oz - she's adorable!

Proud Mum Fiona works on Lindsey Marsden's Orderline Team in Sheffield.

Your Grandma Heather (who works on Answerline at Sheffield) sends you this following wish: "May you have good health and a long and happy life Lady Lydia"



Baby Scarlett Liberty made her debut in spectacular fashion on 30 August. It was in an ambulance beside Thornton Heath Ponds, Croydon! And she weighed in at a very healthy...10lb 13ozs! Proud dad John Boyle, from B&M Clapham couldn't wait to tell us how pleased he and his wife Claire are with the birth of their lovely daughter.



Our other little Virgo star is the granddaughter of our very own Jean Wragg. Baby Mollie was born on 26th August, weighing 7lb 15ozs. Jean's son Jon and delighted mum Emma are just as over-joyed with their new bundle of happiness as nana Jean!

ATTENTION TO ALL EMPLOYEES!

Did you know?

There are over 7000 employees within Otto UK and the majority are not aware of the Retail side of the business! So when Judith Johnson, Estelle Mawson and David Wyatt (who are Retail Store Managers) did a presentation as part of their Management Development Programme, they decided to shout about this by letting you know where your local store is and the discounts you are entitled to! And when you visit the store you also have a chance to win £100! It's simple. To enter the Prize Draw, to win £100 of vouchers to spend in store, just bring the attached coupon with you when you visit.

You have until 30th January 2004.

So come on... support the Retail side of the Business and make that visit. We think you'll be very pleasantly surprised...

10% OFF
ELECTRICS/TOYS

25% OFF
FASHION/FOOTWEAR
AND HOUSEHOLD

UP TO A WHOPPING
88% OFF
SELECTED SALE PRODUCTS
SEE INSTORE FOR DETAILS



RETAIL STORE
PRIZE DRAW
WIN £100
TO SPEND IN STORE

Cut out and hand in at
your local Retail Store
Draw closes 30th January 2004

Name _____
Location _____
Personal No. _____

TELEPHONE NUMBERS		CATALOGUE DISCOUNT STORES		YOU & YOURS	
Armsley	0113 263 1825	Levenshulme	01612 573515	Crownpoint	01132 341924
Brownhills	01543 372933	Kirkby	0151 545 0226	Huddersfield	01484 543301
Bolton	01204 398906	Middleton	0161 653 5435	Runcom	01928 795792
Blackpool	01253 624681	Oldham	0161 682 5684	Westfield	01274 624611
Brierley Hill	01384 262537	Openshaw	0161 371 8243	STAGE 2	
Cheetham Hill	0161 795 9312	Rhyl	01745 353947	Peterborough	01733 263308
Derby	01332 345882	Skelmersdale	0169 550965	Lincoln	01522 560303
Enterprise 5	01274 622300	Smethwick	0121 434 3086	Coventry	02476 681520
Hillsborough	01142 345726	South Elmsall	01977 642256		
Hull 1 & 2	01482 224354	Wigan 1 & 2	01942 829782		
Hull 3	01482 338461		01942 239651		

Grattan & Freemans STORES

OTTO TODAY

THE OTTO UK NEWSLETTER

Winter 2003

Winter 2003

It's kicking on
Route 66

Pg 3

Charity News
Find out how well we're
doing with our efforts

Pg 6

Notice Board

Pg 7



Check out page 5
for the results of our
Christmas Card
Competition

DOROTHY IS ALL SHOOK UP WITH HER £70,000 WIN!

Elvis fan Dorothy Jackson couldn't believe she'd scooped £70,000 in our prize draw, however she's no stranger to hitting the jackpot...

Having claimed four numbers on the lottery on no less than three separate occasions, agent and Elvis enthusiast Dorothy Jackson from Tarleton, near Preston, already knows what it feels like to be a winner. However, with the largest sum of her previous winnings standing at a modest £133, this latest stroke of luck is guaranteed to fulfil her lifelong ambition of visiting Graceland, the home of the King.

ONLY THE BEST FOR DOROTHY...

Dorothy, 56, collected her cheque personally from our Bradford office accompanied by her trusty husband Bill and son Steven, a Royal Navy Marine Engineer. Dorothy was treated like a celebrity for the day from the moment the chauffeur-driven Jaguar collected her from her Lancashire home to the moment it escorted the happy party back to their doorstep.

THE ALL IMPORTANT PRESENTATION...

On arrival, Dorothy was greeted with flowers, a presentation of the all-important cheque, and a toast to her good luck over a celebratory champagne lunch. Dorothy found the day to be an eye-opening experience as well as a profitable one as the star treatment continued with a tour of the Bradford site. In the warehouse the group marvelled at the scale of

A smiling Dorothy receives her cheque



the operation that sends out tens of thousands of parcels to customers every year, and then it was onto the on-site call centre where they were all amazed at its size.

WHAT WILL DOROTHY SPEND IT ALL ON?

When it comes to spending her newly found fortune, Dorothy may have to visit Graceland without her other half. Bill, who is now retired, visited China among many other exotic locations for his engineering job, and having now seen the world he's quite happy to stay at home and not accompany his wife on any jet-setting jaunts! However, that might just suit Dorothy down to the ground since it means Bill can supervise the fitting of the dream kitchen she's always wanted whilst she's away! He has other ideas though, and refers to her recent windfall as "the beer fund", so no guesses about how he'd prefer to splash out!

Christmas Message



2003 has been a tough year and your efforts and continued commitment are much appreciated. Thank You.

I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mike Hawker

Mike Hawker
Chief Executive



Warehouse to the Rescue

We received a call from David Barnes from 'Animal Amnesty International' based in Peterborough for some help in packaging a 'Zoo Ball' for him to take to Greece. The ball, which cost £150 and weighed 33lbs was donated as a present for two tigers that David had rescued from an Italian circus. Debbie Gioia and Lynne Kennedy from our QA department kindly agreed to box up the ball. David then took the ball to Greece where the British Ambassador, Sir David Maddern, presented it to the zoo. We had a lovely note from the tigers on receipt of the ball - "just to say thanks for helping to get our ball to Greece - we love it! From Athena and Puevos".



From the Editor

Mail Angela at:
angela.grant@freemans.com
Call Angela on: x(771) 2630



That's it folks, yet another year has flown by even more quickly than the last. And what a year it's been!

Earlier this year, we saw the merger of all three of our main Agency titles to form one great catalogue. And on the charitable front, we've crossed-dressed, leaped from tall buildings, run for miles and miles and even taken penalty shoot outs to raise funds for lots of worthy causes! Check out pg 6 of this issue for the latest news! While on pg 4 - (back by popular demand) is a chance to win cash with a special Christmas Crossword Speaking of Christmas, the results of our Children's Christmas Card competition are revealed on pg 5 - thank you to everyone who encouraged children to enter. It's also congratulations to our latest Otto UK Prize Draw winner, Dorothy Jackson. Dorothy from Lancashire scooped the £70,000 jackpot - lucky thing.

Otto People have celebrated retirements, marriages (including our own Lucy) and births! On a personal note, I'd like to say good luck to Sarah Davis as she looks forward to having her baby and for being such a super boss to all of us in Creative Services.

It just leaves for me to wish everyone a fab Christmas and a prosperous New Year from the Otto Today team. Speak to you soon!

Angela

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Newsletter
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Rewarded for their donations

Bradford businesses and organisations which have held blood donation sessions for staff, were presented with awards for their efforts. Grattan received plaques from the National Blood Service as a thank you for their support in encouraging people to give blood at work. Marilyn Noutch and Michelle Broadbent received the awards for Anchor House and the Warehouse respectively.



Harry Potter

Steve Ricks is our IT expert here at Sheffield but we think he is a dead ringer for a very famous wizard! Can you guess who we mean? Steve is a good sport so we hope he doesn't mind us sending this in to share with the rest of Otto UK! Do we have any other lookalikes in our midst? Send in your photos to your Otto Today representative and make someone famous for fifteen minutes!



Ryan 'Karate kid' McDonald

Ryan McDonald, who works in Returns at Listerhills, started learning Karate at the tender age of 9 and he's never looked back. Ryan was selected for the England junior squad when he was just 14 years old and went on to gain international recognition in Portugal at 15 years. Ryan practices Kofukan Shito-ryu Karate and when he got his black belt at 20 years old he was the youngest person in this style! Ryan's ambition is to become an instructor to pass on his knowledge to younger people.



Margaret Matthews, Blue & GMTV

After the weather forecast for Sunday, 7 September 2003 was wind and rain, Margaret Matthews, grandmother of 5, sold her ticket to the Blue concert at Peterborough as she could not face standing for six hours in the wind and rain. On the day in question, the weather was glorious and her daughter and two granddaughters went to the concert and had a wonderful time. Margaret rang GMTV and complained that they got the weather wrong and she missed her concert. Clair Nazir, GMTV's weathergirl, arrived at Margaret's home early the next morning and presented a signed photo from Blue to her granddaughters - live on air and apologised for getting the weather so wrong. The Met Office had got it wrong for the whole country! But to make up for this, Margaret and her family had a fun morning live on air with GMTV.



DAS Counselling

Otto UK have linked up with the independent counselling and advisory service, DAS, to provide counselling assistance on personal issues such as relationships, health, bereavement, stress, anxiety and depression.

To speak with a team of highly experienced and professionally trained counsellors call the Personal Counselling Helpline on 0117 934 2121. This service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to be used by individuals in their own time, with calls charged at local rate. In busy periods you will have the option to leave a message and your call will be returned within half an hour. This is a completely confidential service.

For further information relating to this service please refer to your DAS leaflet which was distributed earlier this year. If you have any queries or require a duplicate leaflet please call your Human Resources representative.

STOP PRESS... OTTO ENERGY COSTS ROCKET!... STOP PRESS...

Can you help?

Unexpected increases in gas and electricity prices means that we face a potential rise in energy costs this winter of around £60,000

We are developing a short-term strategy to minimise the impact but will need your support. Here are some of the ways you can help!

- Keep all doors and windows closed
- Turn lights, PCs, printers and other electrical equipment off wherever possible
- Develop a turn off checklist before you leave at the end of the day
- Report anything which you consider wasteful to either the energy manager on ext. (777) 4558 or the maintenance manager on ext. (777) 4355
- Turn lights off in toilets, corridors, stock rooms and offices that aren't being used

We will use health and safety guidelines to ensure the heating systems are not turned on until absolutely necessary but rest assured we will strive to provide a comfortable environment. Your co-operation is of the utmost importance so please be sensible about your clothing as winter draws near.

Help us to achieve our target by doing your bit!

STOP PRESS... OTTO ENERGY COSTS ROCKET!... STOP PRESS...



By Janet Bell

It all started one winter's day, when my husband, Peter, said he would like to ride Route 66 for his birthday. My thoughts were the A66, the Middlesborough to Workington trunk road, but he decided it had to be **THE Route 66**, Chicago to Santa Monica in the good old US of A.

We decided to ride Route 66 in 2003 in celebration of Peter's retirement. Our holiday of a lifetime was organised through a company called Rebel USA and Route 66 was one of a number of conducted motor biking tours they organise in America.

On 6th June 2003 we flew to Chicago, our 3 tour leaders met us at the airport and took us to our overnight hotel, where we met the 9 other bikers who would be spending our holiday with. The other bikers were from Germany, Italy and Switzerland. The Swiss tour leaders all spoke very good English & a couple of our fellow travellers spoke English too so we didn't feel out on a limb too much!

The next morning we were introduced to our bikes, all Harley Davidson models.

Our 1st day's journey was relatively short to ensure everyone was comfortable &

HOW TO GET YOUR KICKS - TRY ROUTE 66!

able to handle the bikes. We made regular stops along the way for refreshments, all provided for by the tour company. About 15 miles from our hotel in Lincoln, Illinois, tragedy struck, when one of the Italian riders had an accident. Fortunately, the rider only had minor injuries but the bike was a 'write off', so out came the spare bike provided by the tour company.

Over the next 14 days we rode Route 66 to a different town, taking in several states, including Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico and Texas. The reception we received everywhere we went was tremendous, when the locals found out that our group was from Europe they were amazed that we had travelled so far, just to ride 'the mother road'.

...people were amazed we had travelled so far

Route 66 is the only tarmac road which is classed as a national heritage monument; along many sections of the road we saw shops, cafes and garages, which were straight out of a past era.

The sightseeing along the way was varied. We visited a native American village, the caves where the legendary Jesse James had his hideout, the petrified forest and the painted desert but the best sight had to be Grand Canyon, even though officially it

isn't on Route 66. Peter and I rode a helicopter down the canyon; I have never had such a buzz in my life! We had an overnight stay at the Canyon & the sunset was absolutely stunning. Our 2-night stay

the memories & friendships will be in our minds & hearts forever

in Las Vegas was something else. No one can prepare you for the atmosphere and the glitz of the place. Finally, our journey came to an end on the Santa Monica Pier in California; we had travelled 2835 miles in 14 days. Our last evening together was very emotional, the memories of Route 66 and the friendships we made will be in our minds & hearts forever. Thinking of doing it? My recommendation is go for it!



Natasha's our slimming star!

Natasha Bower (née Salmen) from the Banking Department at Sheffield is a real inspiration to everyone here. We thought we'd share her story with you.

Back in January 2003, Natasha was busy planning her August wedding to her fiancé Nick. Natasha's Dad Paul, however was busy worrying about Natasha! **At 21 and a half stone she was suffering from high blood pressure.** So, being cruel to be kind, her Dad told Natasha that he wouldn't walk her down the aisle unless she tried to get healthy. It was the kick start that she needed.



Wearing a black bin liner under her clothes to increase the burn, Natasha set off for long walks through the Derbyshire countryside! Paul called at Natasha and Nick's house every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and spurred her on to lose 5lbs in the first week. Natasha had a 'weigh day' every Monday and her target was to lose 4lbs a week. Not only did she change her lifestyle, but her eating habits too. **Natasha's sister Rebecca helped her devise a healthy eating plan**, which involved a sensible, balanced menu cutting out fatty foods and replacing them with grilled chicken, salad and baked potatoes.

At 5'11" Natasha's target weight was 13 stone. Three days before her wedding on the 21st August she achieved exactly that! **She had managed to lose a fantastic 8st 6lbs and 32 inches of excess!** Husband Nick loves Natasha at any dress size and is extremely proud of her strength of character. In his words, "she is wonderful".

We know you will all agree that Natasha looks absolutely stunning and so happy. The photo shows proud Mum, Dad, and sister Rebecca on her 'perfect day'.

Natasha has a few messages for the people who supported her through all of this.

"Thank you to everyone who has supported me during this challenging year. To all my friends at Freemans, especially the Banking Team - thank you for your daily encouragement. And a very special message to my Dad - I couldn't have done it without you Dad. I love you so much. Thanks for making the sacrifices you have made and for helping my wedding day to be the truly wonderful and perfect day that it was."



Win £30 Caption Competition



Last issue's winner Jayne Watson, A/L Sheffield, well done!



Simply jot down what you think is going on or being said, and the funniest wins £30. And try and keep 'em clean! Easy!

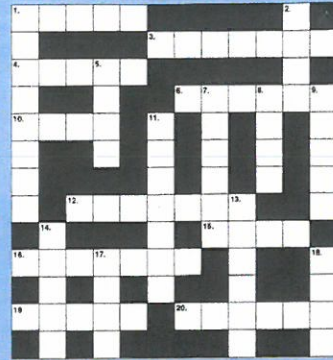
Caption: _____

Name: _____

Dept/Location: _____

Send to: Angela Grant, Otto Today, Clapham Road by 6th February 2004

Christmas Crossword



Win! Enter this fun crossword competition and win yourself some cool cash at the same time. Then send your entry off before the closing date.

Clues

Across

- Jack _____ is freezing (5)
- This deer character has a red nose (7)
- Shop _____ and miss the last-minute Christmas rush (5)
- Blizzards are snow _____ (6)
- Big Christian celebration (4)
- Sounds like Eminem's finished preparing his pressies (7)
- Making a _____ helps you organise your Christmas shopping (4)
- One of 1 Down's sisters? (7)
- An _____ you can't refuse? (5)
- In snow, it's great for getting about! (6)

Down

- Company of complimentary chaps? (8)
- Unwelcome on the web - and not what you'd expect for Christmas dinner (4)
- Miss the _____ posting date, and your cards won't get there by Christmas (4)
- 17 down isn't complete without this! (7)
- He knows if you've been naughty or nice! (5)
- 11 & 8 Where you'll find 1 down (7,4)
- When the turkey's served (5)
- Wind and snow, if you catch my _____ (5)
- It's what you put the presents around! (4)
- You'll find it in your pud, candied (4)

1st £75

2nd £50

3rd £25

Cut out and send your entry to:

Angela Grant, Creative Services, Clapham Road by 6th February 2004

Name _____ Dept _____

Location/Address _____

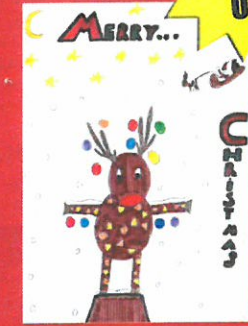
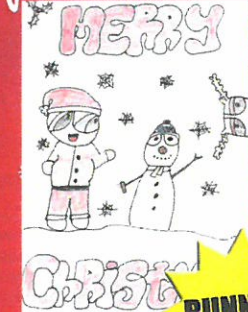
Extension (if applicable) _____

CHRISTMAS Card Competition



WINNER

HAPPY CHRISTMAS



RUNNERS UP

A panel of judges met in Peterborough recently to select the winning card that will be used by Otto UK this Christmas, and I am delighted to announce that this was painted by **Christie Owen**, aged 7. Christie is the granddaughter of Janette Owen who works as a Secretary in Merchandising at Anchor House. Christie wins a well deserved box of her own personalised Christmas Cards to send to all her friends and family, as well as a poster of her winning picture, an art prize, a book token, and £250 will be presented to her school.



Winner: Christie Owen



Our two runners up: Bethany Cocker, aged 10 and Sophie Grimshaw, aged 13



The two runners up were **Bethany Cocker**, aged 10 whose Aunt works on Answerline in Sheffield, and **Sophie Grimshaw**, aged 13 whose father works in Parcelnet. Both Bethany and Sophie each win a book token and a poster of their wonderful designs.

Congratulations to Christie, Bethany and Sophie; and a big thank you to all those who sent in their fantastic pictures. These will be returned along with a Certificate of Merit. In total a staggering 68 pictures were received, and so that you can see the excellent quality of all the entries, displays will be produced of all the pictures and shown at Bradford, Listerhills, Sheffield, Peterborough and Clapham Road.

Many thanks to Anne Vickers for organising this very successful Christmas Card Competition!

Marie Curie Volunteers

Last year we featured the new Marie Curie Centre in Bradford and how much they needed more volunteers to help in this rewarding work. So Bob Spriggs, who is a Technologist in Buying at Anchor House, decided he would 'lend a hand' and now works on Thursday evenings at the Centre. He covers Reception greeting visitors, answers the phone and anything else they ask him to do. Bob also raises money each year by doing the Great North Run.

Keep up the good work Bob and thanks for all your efforts for a very worthwhile cause! If anyone is interested give the Centre a call... they'd be happy to hear from you!



Silence is Golden!

Adam Hartley of Next Day Delivery at Listerhills is known by his colleagues to be quite noisy. So he volunteered to be sponsored to keep quiet for a whole day on 8th October! He did incredibly well...for 4 hours... until the conversation around him turned to food! Anyway Adam's colleagues coughed up £68 in sponsorship and Adam has also pledged to match that sum! A huge thank you and 'Well Done' to Adam!



All proceeds will go to the Bradford MacMillan Appeal.

Silver Wedding Surprise

When David Fryer from Parcelnet and his wife Liz celebrated their silver wedding in September, they asked friends and family to make donations to Bradford MacMillan Appeal in lieu of gifts. The total raised for the charity was £500. Many congratulations to David and Liz on their big day and a huge thank you for being so generous!



SHEFFIELD HIT THEIR CHARITY TARGET FOR 2003

Sheffield Call Centre nominated Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice as their chosen charity for 2003. A target of £8000 was set which was met in September! A big thank you goes out to everyone at Sheffield who has helped us to achieve this target.

Thanks to all the girls who donated their time to sell the weekly raffle tickets.

Any money raised throughout the last quarter of 2003 will be split between the three runner up nominations:

CAVENDISH CANCER CARE

ENABLE

THE STROKE UNIT TRUST FUND

Nominated by Pat Smith, Maureen Daly and Kathleen Eaton.

Auction with a difference!

Keith Burkinshaw, a Work Study Analyst at Listerhills, went to a very interesting charity auction in August. On sale were pop, film and sport memorabilia - signed CDs, clothing, film scripts, pictures etc. Nell McAndrew made an appearance along with models Jakkie Degg and Ebony. Boxer Herol 'Bomber' Graham was also there. Keith managed to get his hands on a signed photo of 'James Bond' aka Pierce Brosnan, a signed photo of Westlife for daughter Natalie... and a signed Oasis 'Heathen Chemistry' album cover!

Over £2000 was raised, all proceeds going to the Robyn Brooks Fund. Robyn is a girl suffering from a rare form of cancer and is currently having treatment in America.

A link to Robyn's website can be found on Boyzuk-online.co.uk



THE BRADFORD MACMILLAN APPEAL



So far this year we've raised £40,000 and we're well on our way to our target of £100,000! Special thanks must go to the Call Centre who have raised almost £11,000 in various ways. Any unwanted Xmas presents will be gratefully received for our tombolas and books for the second hand book stall. The Call Centre has also produced fundraisers for the Shipley Stride and Abseiling. We have 5 people from around the business who have completed The Great North Run and raised around £3,800. Well done and a very big thank you to: Tracey Bower, Ian Preston and Jayne Winnard from the Buying Departments, Jackie Wardman from Customer Services, and Manjit Curtis from Marketing. Regular fundraising events have also taken place at Listerhills and we raised a huge £1,190.84 for the Macmillan Worlds largest coffee morning.

And now it's farewell from me after almost 8 years with the Company (6 years as Charity Chairman). I have thoroughly enjoyed it and will miss being part of it all. We have raised an unbelievable £440,500 to date!

Thank you to everyone who has given their support and help, my best wishes to you all and to the new chairman, Linda Marshall.

Paula Atkinson Sawdon - Grattan Co. Charity Chairman

Jersey's New House

Pam Chalack placed a bid for a Dolls House which was donated to the Sheffield Call Centre by our nominated charity Bluebell Wood. Pam's bid was the highest placed and she was over the moon to win the house for her gorgeous Granddaughter Jersey. Jersey is pictured on her christening day with the Dolls House. Isn't she a little princess?!! We hope you have many hours of fun with your new house.



THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

Sheffield Call Centre joined in with the International Macmillan Coffee Morning on the 26th September. Lee Norman and Mick White from Springs Restaurant helped out by contacting their suppliers for donated cakes and buns.

Many teams in and around the Call Centre baked lovely offerings and everyone went home with chocolate covered faces!



Thanks to everyone for joining in the fun. Sarah Teale - Community Fundraising Manager from Macmillan Cancer Care popped in to say hello and offer support on the day (picture shows: Sarah Teale, Mick White and Chris Quinn).

NOTICEBOARD

Great knowing you Pat!

Pat Greenwood first started at Grattan in 1957! Over the years Pat worked in various departments and for lots of different managers. Some of her friends and colleagues said "she always liked to 'mother' everyone... make sure they were OK and if you gave her something to do she'd do an excellent job." And by the way... we're told that Pat certainly knows how to party and is coming back for the Christmas bash! It'll be great to see her!



CEOs Eric Thomas - Jean Hardwick - Pat Greenwood - Mike Sorby - Carol Woodhead - Sharon Moulson - Michelle Stewart

Tony Rampton Trust Awards

The most recent Trustees meeting was held on 30 July and there were 2 applications put forward by Grattan staff with accompanying recommendations for awards by the Anchor House Committee.

John Watmough from Finance made an application on behalf of Christian Aid for which he was awarded £510. Kate Lowe, who has now left the Company, made an application on behalf of the Marsden Support Group who raises money for Kirkwood Hospice. She was awarded £1340.

USDAW man gets his reward

Chris Briggs, who works in Non-Collates Anchor House, has been a shop steward for 25 years and a member of USDAW for 30 years. In recognition of this Chris was presented with a badge and certificate at an event which was held in October at the Jarvis Hotel in Wetherby.



L to R: Val Pugh (USDAW National Officer for Homeshopping) - Chris Briggs - Mike Brewer (North Eastern Divisional Officer)

Retiring time at Peterborough

Joan Griffen from Cash and Carry

In September, having completed 30 years service at Freemans, Joan reluctantly retired from the Company. She started as an evening shift worker, as a punch operator in Data Processing. The last 20 years saw her working with various managers in Cash and Carry.

Joan says "I can honestly say that the last twenty years have been the most enjoyable years of my working life. During this time, I have made many good friends, far too numerous to mention. I also enjoyed my association with my many customers, some of who travelled long distances to see me on my last day." Her boss from Bradford there - in fact some of those present travelled from as far afield as Bournemouth, Norfolk and Yorkshire to celebrate her 65th birthday and her retirement.



Joan would like to take the opportunity to express her thanks to the girls of the Cash and Carry and many others for the wonderful presents and the unexpected party!

Chris Coe Retirement



Chris Coe retired from Peterborough Stock Control after nearly 30 years in the same department.

Chris was well known throughout the company for the despatch of QA and PR samples. She will be missed by all her colleagues, especially by the absence of her scones and cream cakes! Our best wishes go with Chris.

Ida Peck Retirement

Ida has been a valuable member of staff working in the Rework department for 30 years.

Ida received a CD cassette player, a gold locket and a birthday cake from her friends and colleagues, who will all greatly miss her. Hopefully Ida will now have more time to spend with her grandchildren who live in London and France.



Maureen Reynolds retirement

Maureen Reynolds, from Carton Pick in Peterborough, retired in October after more than 16 years with the company, with very mixed feelings about leaving us all behind. (She will miss the people - not the work!) She is not one for a lot of fuss and found it a little embarrassing to be accepting her gifts in front of a great many of her friends. She was presented with a bird table and bird bath - given in the hopes that she will now be able to find a little time to enjoy her garden. She will be missed by all of us.



Neville Adamson Retirement

Neville Adamson decided to take early retirement after 20 years with the Company. We wish him all the best for the future and hope the sun continues to shine on him while he is indulging his favourite pastime of golf. Neville was presented with a leather overnighter, travel document case, a watch, book vouchers and a bottle of Bucks Fizz from his friends and colleagues.

