

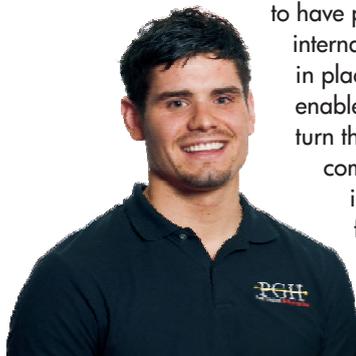
Peter on stage

Peter Higgs, founder of Surrey-based PGH Pest Control & Prevention, delivered the keynote address 'From Unemployed to Award-winning Employer' at the Growing Your Own Business Conference within The National Franchise Exhibition at the NEC, Birmingham on 15 February.

Peter won the Enterprise Award as part of the Prince's Trust and Samsung Celebrate Success in early 2013. Since then he has undertaken an intensive business course providing him with the knowledge and confidence he needed to succeed.

PGH Pest Control & Prevention now has three full-time members of staff and Peter is planning to take on more employees this year. Within the next five years Peter hopes

to have put more internal systems in place to enable him to turn the company into a franchise.



Goodnight and goodbye

You realise you are getting old – but hopefully not passed it! – when those around you, those you have known all your professional life in the pest control industry retire. This is very much the case with these two individuals who have been part of the fabric of the UK market for many a year.

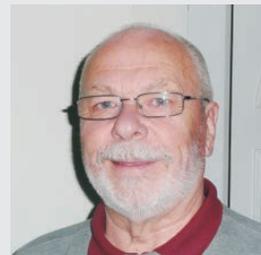
Richard Bevan – a faithful Bristol servant

Many within the industry will have shared a beer and a natter with Richard Bevan who retired from Bristol City Council at the end of March. But reading the details of Richard's career, in his own words, you realise just how much things have changed.

As Richard says: "I joined Bristol City Council in February 1970 as a rat catcher. I was made assistant manager in 1976 and manager in 1984. Back in the 70's & 80's Bristol operated a Disinfecting Station and verminous baths section complete with steam sterilisation. A member of the public suffering from lice, or other vermin, could call at the station and have a free bath to rid them of their companions. For the client this was a big bonus as they got a certificate to say they had been cleansed, allowing them to go the Salvation Army, or other hostels, for a free meal and possibly a bed for the night.

"I worked for Bristol City Council for almost 43 years and during that time thoroughly enjoying all of the roles that I have held. Pest control for 39 years and then in 2010 switching to managing the six large heritage estates, eight cemeteries and two crematoria. The latter role was due to a previous restructuring.

"I would like to add that pest control is my first love, I have been very fortunate to have served the Bristol public and have worked with some fantastic people. Although I am very much looking forward to spending more time with my wife and grandchildren, I know for a while at least I will miss the camaraderie and daily contact with colleagues, but I am sure I will readjust. I will, however, still be an active member of the National Pest Advisory Panel."



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Killgerm's Raymond Harrop

After 47 years at Killgerm, Raymond Harrop, has decided it is time to retire gracefully on 30 June 2014.

Raymond joined what was the forerunner of Killgerm Chemicals straight from school at the tender age of 17 so was already in post when Jonathan Peck arrived in 1971. Over the years, Raymond worked closely with Jonathan, regularly being promoted to first commercial director in the 1980s and then to joint managing director. In November 2011, he was inducted into the *Pest Control News* Hall of Fame.



Describing his contribution, Rupert Broome, group managing director said: "This is a momentous day for Raymond and for Killgerm. Over the decades, Raymond has been at the heart of the business, through bad times and good and has made an immeasurable contribution. He will be deeply missed."

Raymond is however to become a non-executive director of Killgerm Group Ltd. Stepping into Raymond's shoes for the commercial side of the business is current commercial manager, Paul Wood. Letting Raymond have the last word he said: "I am afraid age waits for no-one and I want to spend some time, whilst I am still relatively fit, with Christine (my wife) doing things that we don't have time to do now." Have fun Raymond!

Rokill top award

18 February was the date for this year's annual Rokill service meeting held in Bournemouth. Following a fascinating presentation on flies by Prof Moray Anderson from Killgerm, director Chris Turner accompanied by managing director, Alec McQuinn, discussed achievements and plans.

The meeting finished with the annual awards for the teams with prizes and trophies presented for efficiency won by Sean Makepeace, individual sales by Kevin Moore, the team sales Paul Mallett, Kevin Moore, Mark Huntley and the most sought after award for outstanding performance won by Dave Shilling.



Alec McQuinn (left) with Dave Shilling

New appointment at Bower

Bower Products of Wembley, the manufacturer of EFks, has appointed Mike Brooks as their new business development manager. He will be working alongside Phil Huggins, looking after both established and new customers. Mike has a wealth of experience in pest control, having begun his career in 1980 and has worked his way from a technician, to servicing, sales and to regional management – most recently with Green Compliance.



Congratulations Graham

Graham Jukes, chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, collected the OBE he was awarded in the New Year's Honours list at Buckingham Palace on 14 March. The award presented to him in the throne room by Prince Charles was in recognition of his services to environmental health in the UK and overseas.



Accompanied at the two-hour ceremony by his brother David, his wife Barbara and their son Harry, Graham

said: "It was a fantastic day and it was lovely to share it with the rest of my family. I have to say I was more nervous about collecting the honour than I have been speaking in front of more than a thousand people."

Each of the 50 recipients on the day waited in line for their few minutes with the heir to the throne. Graham explained: "When my name was called I stepped forward the two paces as instructed, turned to face Prince Charles, bowed and walked to the dias. He congratulated me and we spoke for a few moments about the CIEH position on fracking. He was extremely interested. He then shook my hand and wished me well."

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