

September 2006 News Archive

- Beating the launch of this web site, Philips wrote to some pensioners (19 June) about the purchase on-line of refurbished products. Already several have made purchases and we would like you to tell us about it. More recently in July, Philips UK has opened up an employee store for on-line purchases. Both these advances have been expected for some time since the demise of Staff Shops. Not every person on the pepnet list lives in the UK. There are people in Spain, Australia and Canada. It is not clear whether they may make purchases.
- Shopping at the on-line Philips shop, Gavin G writes:
'I have just tried out the new Philips on-line store, a new shaver. Worked well, and arrived within 4 working days, but my attempts to tell them the delivery address they had generated had truncated my post code (last character missing) although the invoice address was correct was not successful. Having got through on the phone the fellow said he would inform admin and they would get in touch. They didn't! My e-mail was ignored despite an auto response saying will be in touch within 4 working days! Another e-mail on another subject was also ignored. The image must be terrible with third parties!'
- One issue that will have impact on some of us, small print in the last budget classified any company **PPP benefits** as taxable. Reading between the lines it is suggested that one could get your Tax Code changed to reflect this newly classified benefit. Well, I noted the suggested values given in the April Family Health Plan letter from Ms Halstead and decided to get my Tax Code to include this 'benefit'. I now am sure I will not get any Tax re Coding shocks in 2007/8 from PPP, I've got them now. I feel cheated - again - on taxation. The various benefits that were introduced during my 40 odd years employment as part of my emolument, each was allowed for in the then tax regime. So on retirement, just as my pension was determined by time served and contributions made by me and final emolument, the continuation of health care into retirement was already part of that package. But then the many stealth taxes introduced over the past decade are aimed at converting our assets and savings into pay or negative income tax for those unwilling to take care of the future themselves. This levelling down process means we are all being forced into state dependency.
- As you explore this your web site you will note that there are no articles about the core product divisions still within the group.
Now that Components has been sold I look forward to the Mullard story, much of which remains unrecorded. Early days has been written about by Frederick A Sowen in his 'Mullard the Master Valve', which was available to Philips House Pensioners Association members in 2000. I wonder if copies are still available?
- Mitcham as many will know was the only site owned by the company. Its sale and subsequent change of use to housing signalled the end of over 60 years of Mullard and Philips activities there. To record some of the early days PEPA chairman John Pawling inspired the production of a video 'Mitcham Remembered'.
Under PICTURES is one taken during the destruction of the first wing at Mitcham, as it was in October 1994. I am sure that somewhere there will be similar writings and pictures, maybe video of the other UK sites. Please let us know so we can record and share these memories.