

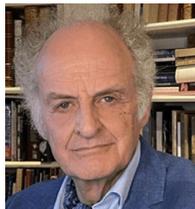
Winter 2025

DC Thomson Company Update



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Dear former colleagues,

I hope this latest edition of our newsletter finds you and your family in good health and spirits.

Following the success of earlier DCTea gatherings, we're pleased to be hosting more events in the coming months. Invitations will arrive separately - we do hope you can join one.

After many of you requested it, we began listing the names of former colleagues who have sadly passed away in the last edition, and have continued to include these details in this newsletter.

Company Update

This edition also shares some recent business highlights. Despite a challenging economic climate, our teams continue to show great resilience and ambition, strengthening relationships with customers and communities and driving innovation across the business.

Inside, you'll find stories celebrating award wins across our teams, a look at the power of trusted local journalism from The Courier and Press & Journal's impactful campaign supporting homeowners affected by RAAC, and a feature on Findmypast's 2025 Remembrance Campaign. Our Archives team also shares a fascinating find: photos from the late 1950s showing the construction of the ten-storey extension to our Meadowside headquarters.

Pension Update

There continues to be a lot of focus on pension schemes in the news as the volatility in the investment markets continues due to ongoing geo-political issues and as the Government considers the pensions industry and their long-term pension strategy. The Thomson-Leng Provident Fund continues to be in good health, and your pension payments are not affected by this recent volatility. The Trustee Directors continue to meet regularly and work closely with their advisors and investment managers to monitor how the Fund's assets are performing.

Every year the Trustee Board carries out a health check of the Fund and its ability to pay the benefits that have been promised to its members. The highlights of this health check are that despite the turbulence in the economy the Fund continues to have a healthy surplus – which means that the value of the Fund's assets exceeds the value placed on the liabilities. The last formal actuarial valuation, which the Trustee Directors carry out every three years, was as at 31 March 2023 and the actuary reported there was a surplus of £298 million at that date. The most up to date position available is at 31 March 2025 and this showed the surplus was around £286.5 million. This small reduction over the last two years was mainly due to a decrease in the Fund's asset values combined with a similar reduction in the anticipated long-term cost of providing Fund benefits, which when combined, resulted in a small reduction in the overall level of surplus assets. However, there remains a healthy surplus in the Fund to support future pension provisions.

This year, our Pension Trustees have introduced a festive prize draw, with two luxury Christmas hampers to be gifted over the coming weeks. More information can be found inside the newsletter. Wishing you all a lovely festive time with your families.

If you have any questions about your pension benefits, please do not hesitate to contact the Pensions Team with any queries at pensions@dcthomson.co.uk or by calling 01382 575738.

Christopher H.W. Thomson
Chairman

Award Wins

Teams across DC Thomson have enjoyed a remarkable year across the media industry's leading awards, with recognition for outstanding journalism, creativity, innovation and business performance.

May brought success at the Scottish Press Awards where DC Thomson titles and journalists were widely recognised. The Sunday Post won Campaign of the Year for its Saving Mothers and Babies investigation, which led to Scottish Government funding for life-saving pre-eclampsia testing. The Press and Journal was highly commended in the same category for its Community Fund campaign and went on to win Front Page of the Year for a Traitors-inspired cover that sparked national debate on oil and gas jobs. Sean Wallace was named Sports Journalist of the Year while Bryan Rutherford received three awards including Journalist of the Year. The Courier was highly commended for its coverage of the Aberfeldy shooting, with further commendations for Andrew Robson, Lindsay Bruce, Keith Findlay and Dale Haslam.



The same month, DC Thomson celebrated at the Newspaper and Magazine Awards in London. The company was named Newsstand Team of the Year, recognised for collaboration across newspaper, sales and marketing teams. The Press and Journal received Newspaper of the Year for its community engagement and circulation success, while Puzzler secured Newsstand Magazine of the Year – Children's for Junior Puzzles.

In June, Stylist achieved a standout performance at the PPA Awards with three major wins and a Highly Commended. Jessica Lockett was named Designer of the Year, the Adam Brody issue won Cover of the Year and the brand was crowned Consumer Media Brand of the Year. The Pandora ME Stones campaign was Highly Commended for its insight-driven execution.

No Story Left Behind: Findmypast's 2025 Remembrance Campaign

Each November, Remembrance marks one of the most significant moments in the Findmypast calendar, as people paused to reflect on the sacrifices made by past generations.

This year Findmypast continued its mission to honour those who served with the theme No Story Left Behind, a campaign designed to help families rediscover the lives of relatives whose stories risked being forgotten.

The campaign built on Findmypast's long-standing commitment to preserving history.

In June, the company renewed its partnership with the British Library to continue developing the world's largest online collection of historical newspapers. Since 2011 more than 90 million pages have been digitised, with a further 70 million to follow over the next five years. These newspapers are digitised at the British Library's Yorkshire facility and Findmypast's Dundee centre using Optical Character Recognition technology, making them searchable by name, date, location or keyword.

This vast archive formed the foundation of the Faces of the Fallen 1914–1918 collection, a key part of the Remembrance campaign. Featuring more than 3,500 portrait photographs of soldiers killed, wounded or missing during the Great War, it enabled people to connect with lost relatives and uncover new details about their family history.



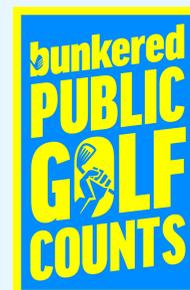
Public Golf Counts

The team at bunkered launched their editorial campaign, Public Golf Counts, in September – a new campaign designed to support, protect and champion Scotland’s municipal golf courses.

With golfers, communities and partners pulling together, the bunkered team are working to safeguard the public courses in Scotland, the ‘Home of Golf’.

Currently, there are around 50 municipal courses in Scotland. There used to be a lot more. Earlier this year, Dundee city council closed the two courses at Caird Park, leaving Scotland’s fourth largest city – DC Thomson’s historic home and the city closest geographically to St Andrews, golf’s internationally-acknowledged hometown – without any public golf provision.

The message is – Play more golf on public courses – every round helps secure their future. If a course is under threat, contact your local councillor, MSP, MP or community leader to voice your support.



Brightsolid and Synergi acquisition

Cloud services company Brightsolid completed the acquisition of Gateshead-based IT solutions provider Synergi in April.

Synergi, founded in 2013, delivers services across automation, modern intranet and teamwork solutions, cyber security, data and AI, business applications and devices.

With minimal overlap between the two businesses, the focus is now on making the most of their complementary strengths and expanding their combined presence in the UK IT services market.

There are strong early examples of the cross-selling potential between the two businesses, with one being completed and 17 opportunities currently being explored.

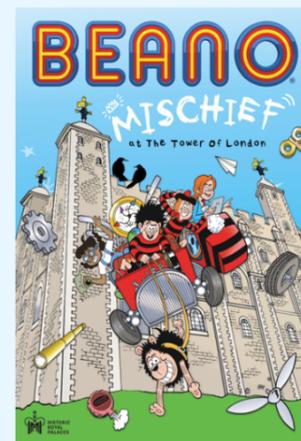


Beano teams up with Historic Royal Palaces

Beano has partnered with Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) to bring comic chaos to the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace and Hillsborough Castle & Gardens.

Due to launch at the Tower during February half term 2026, before reaching the other sites in summer, the £75,000 collaboration will feature Dennis, Minnie, Gnasher and friends in a Time Traveller Mission – a comic strip-inspired trail where families can help recover missing pieces of a time machine.

Blending Beano’s humour with HRP’s heritage, the partnership offers families a fun way to explore history.



Campaign delivers landmark win for local homeowners trapped by RAAC

Over the past year, The Press and Journal and The Courier have worked together to expose the housing crisis caused by reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC).

Their Trapped by RAAC campaign has amplified residents' voices and held decision-makers to account through in-depth reporting, public meetings and a shared front page.

The campaign reached a major milestone recently as Aberdeen City Council confirmed compensation for Torry homeowners based on pre-RAAC property valuations. The decision brings long-awaited relief to residents whose homes had lost value and shows the power of regional journalism to deliver real change.



Journalists will continue to monitor the rollout of the valuation scheme and keep pushing for support for those still affected elsewhere.

The collaboration between The Press and Journal and The Courier demonstrates the impact of trusted local journalism in uniting communities and influencing positive outcomes.

Women in New Energy: Growing a Movement



In June, Energy Voice hosted the third Women in New Energy (WINE) conference, which is now a key part of DC Thomson's energy brands portfolio.

What began as a free 200-capacity gathering has grown into a ticketed event at Aberdeen's P&J Live, drawing more than 300 attendees and 14 sponsors this year, including headline supporter Fugro. The sold-out event highlights the growing appetite for inclusive spaces in the energy industry.

The day featured main-stage discussions, breakout workshops and sponsor-led sessions covering everything from leadership and resilience to carbon capture, floating offshore wind and intersectionality in the workplace. Alongside industry insight, the programme showcased the depth of talent and innovation driving the energy transition.

Women in New Energy is now firmly established as a flagship event for Energy Voice and DC Thomson, shining a spotlight on the people and ideas driving the sector's future.

DC Thomson and The Northwood Charitable Trust Support The Multibank's Coalition of Compassion

The Thomson's family trust, The Northwood Charitable Trust, is a proud founding supporter of The Multibank and, along with DC Thomson's trusted media brands, are part of its Coalition of Compassion, united in tackling poverty and sustaining families in need across the UK.

The Multibank, founded in 2022 by the Rt Hon Gordon Brown, distributes surplus essential goods including clothes, household goods, hygiene and baby products to families in need, growing from its original base in Fife and has expanded nationwide.

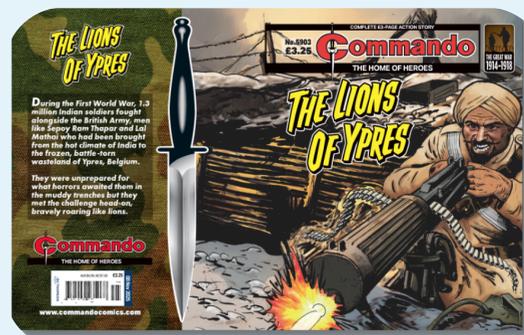


To celebrate the launch of the initiative's Big Give campaign, friends and partners of the Trust came together for an event in London in September to recognise the 2nd year of the coalition, and unveil a new film from The Multibank Ambassador, David Tennant.

Comics Laureate Writes First Story for Commando's Armistice Issue

Bobby Joseph, the UK's Comics Laureate, has written his first story for Commando as part of this year's Armistice Commemoration set.

Appointed in 2023, Bobby is a leading advocate for greater diversity and representation in comics, and his new tale, *The Lions of Ypres*, highlights an often-overlooked chapter of the First World War.



Released on 6 November, the issue follows Indian soldiers who fought in Ypres, Belgium, one of the conflict's most fiercely contested battlegrounds. Around 1.3 million Indian troops served with the British Indian Army during the war, yet their contribution is too rarely acknowledged.

The comic features cover art and illustrations by veteran artist Mike Dorey, with design and lettering by Grant Wood. It appears alongside two classic reprints and a story by Dr Hailey Austin exploring the origins of the Goat Major of the Royal Welsh Regiment.

First published in 1961, Commando has spent more than 60 years telling stories of heroism and adventure, continuing to champion new voices while honouring those who served.

The Village by Stylist

Stylist, in partnership with Next Kids, launched *The Village* earlier this year. A new quarterly digital magazine dedicated to parenting, *The Village* is a place for honesty, shared experiences, expert advice and candid conversations about the realities of parenthood.

It has already become a key part of Stylist's strategy, following strong interest in parenting content and growing subscriber numbers. *The Village* gives readers more ways to engage through the magazine, monthly emails, a new Instagram account and live events.



DCTea events

Our DCTea sessions continue to prove popular and are a lovely way of celebrating our former colleagues and giving them the chance to reminisce with familiar faces, while looking over some of our archive materials and enjoying a cup of tea and cake.

It's a great opportunity to hear some wonderful memories and stories from years gone by, and for people to meet others who they perhaps haven't seen for decades.

Look out for your invitation to our sessions in December, January and February in our Meadowside and Marischal Square offices.



If you would be interested in attending at another location please let us know by contacting the Pensions team on **01382 575738** or email pensions@dcthomson.co.uk.

Archive team uncover images of Meadowside's extension being built

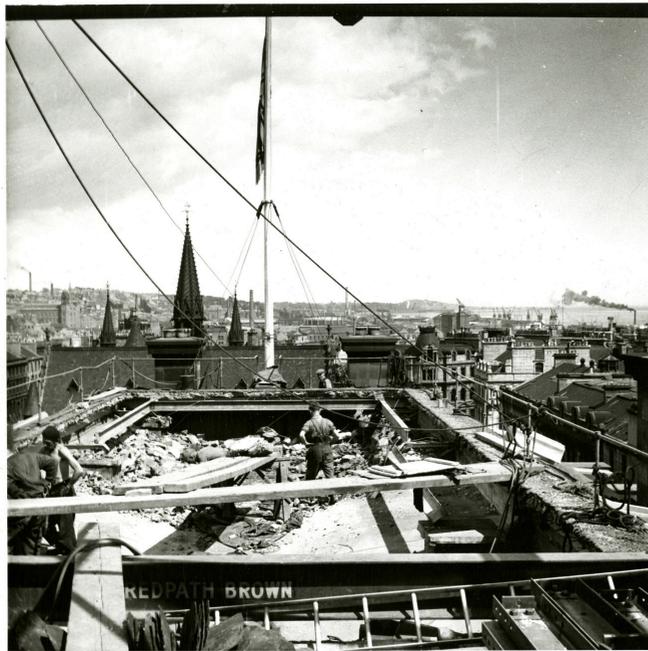
Our Archives team has uncovered a remarkable set of photographs from 1957, capturing the Meadowside tower extension as it rose from the ground. The images offer a striking glimpse into the construction process and the scale of the project at the time.

The ten-storey addition was built using the same sandstone as the original building, specially sourced from the reopened Dumfries quarry to ensure a perfect match.

This expansion marked an exciting new chapter for the business - the extra space made room for an ever-growing family of titles.

Alongside favourites such as My Weekly and The People's Friend, new teenage magazines including Jackie and Romeo found their home at Meadowside, soon joined by newcomers Mandy, Debbie, Victor, Hornet and Warlord.

These newly rediscovered photos offer a fascinating glimpse into that period of growth and creativity at the heart of our publishing history.



A look back in time

Our Archives team are always grateful for any additional information you are able to provide about our images which can then be added into our catalogue. Can you help them with the names, places, dates and stories behind these wonderful images of our bygone years?

Please send your responses to archives@dcthompson.co.uk, or get in touch on **01382 575915**.



Aberdeen Journals - date unknown



Manchester editorial - date unknown



London, possibly Cathcart Street - 1967



Aberdeen Journals - 1981

Christmas Hamper Prize Draw!

This year the Pension Trustees have introduced a festive prize draw, with two luxury Christmas hampers to be gifted in a draw on 8th December and delivered in time for Christmas!

Each luxury hamper is filled with wines and seasonal treats - a little something special to enjoy in the run-up to the holidays!



The DC Thomson Pension team will be drawing two of our pensioners names out the hat on the 8th December and will be in touch if you're one of the lucky winners!

Good luck!

In Memory

Many colleagues have expressed a wish to be kept informed about those we've recently lost. We'll include a list of former staff who have sadly passed away since our last update. The list below covers up to the 31st October.

Alexander Boland	<i>Childrens Pub - Meadowside</i>	James Kerr	<i>Despatch - Glasgow</i>
Alexander Simpson	<i>Production - Kingsway</i>	Janette Coutts	<i>Bindery - West Ward</i>
Alistair McHugh	<i>Transport - Meadowside</i>	John Church	<i>Pressroom - Glasgow</i>
Andrew Reid	<i>AJL Aberdeen</i>	John Ireland	<i>W Mag - Meadowside</i>
Arthur Allen	<i>Messenger - London</i>	John Smart	<i>Grav Pressroom-Kingsway</i>
Beverly Nuttall	<i>Def Comm - Manchester</i>	John Thornton	<i>Def Pressroom Manchester</i>
Brian McCartney	<i>Editorial - Dundee</i>	Joseph Fitzpatrick	<i>Off Engineer - Kingsway</i>
Brian Murray	<i>Douglas St Process Department</i>	Keir Gordon	<i>Photosetting - Meadowside</i>
Charles Haggart	<i>Grav Engineer - Kingsway</i>	Lilian Gray	<i>Grav Casual - Kingsway</i>
Charles Lowden	<i>Transport - Kingsway</i>	Margaret Dunlop	<i>Commercial - Glasgow</i>
Charlotte Jones	<i>Ex Gravure Cleaner</i>	Maureen Hill	<i>W Mag - Meadowside</i>
David Betts	<i>Pressroom - Manchester</i>	Peter Jeffels	<i>Kingsway Offset - Engineer</i>
Derek Armstrong	<i>Transport - Kingsway</i>	Robert Cummings	<i>Courier Edit - Kingsway</i>
Donald Cheape	<i>Engineer - Meadowside</i>	Rona Anderson	<i>Artist - Meadowside</i>
Elizabeth Bankhead	<i>Tele Ads - Kingsway</i>	Ronald Grandidge	<i>Pressroom - Manchester</i>
Eric Lees	<i>Def Despatch - Manchester</i>	Ronald Ross	<i>Private Room etc</i>
Francis White	<i>Machine Room West Ward Works</i>	Sheila MacDonald	<i>T & Post Type - Kingsway</i>
Frederick Hendry	<i>Kingsway Gravure Engineer</i>	Sylvia Hill	<i>D Artist</i>
George Middleton	<i>Litho - Douglas Street</i>	Teresa MacCallum	<i>Courier Editorial - Meadowside</i>
Gordon Griffin	<i>Grav helio - Kingsway</i>	Thomas Curr	<i>Pressroom - Bank Street</i>
Harry Rodger	<i>Process - Meadowside</i>	Thomas Marshall	<i>Engineer - Glasgow</i>
Ian Wardrop	<i>Circulation - Meadowside</i>	William J Morris	<i>Photosetting - Glasgow</i>
Ian Watson	<i>Despatch - Kingsway</i>	William Shewan	<i>K Offset - Process</i>

Helpful contacts



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Department for Work and Pensions - The DWP website outlines government initiatives and information about retirement and pension benefits, including the State pension scheme - www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions or call 0800 882 200.



Money Helper - a government-run free and impartial pension guidance service - <https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/> or call 0800 011 3797.



Money and Pensions Service - sponsored by the DWP and offering impartial money and pensions guidance. Visit <https://moneyandpensionservice.org.uk/> or call 01159 659570.



Unbiased - To find a regulated financial adviser, visit www.unbiased.co.uk or call 0800 011 967. You should always check the charges and specialist areas of an adviser before appointing them.



AgeUK - provides information and advice to help you plan for retirement and better understand pensions. Visit www.ageuk.org.uk or call 0800 678 1602.

Do we have your email address?

We're planning to increase the number of updates we send electronically and would like to record email addresses for any pensioners who use email. If you'd like to receive future communications by email, or if you would prefer not to receive this newsletter in future, please let us know by emailing pensions@dcthomson.co.uk.