Autumn 2026

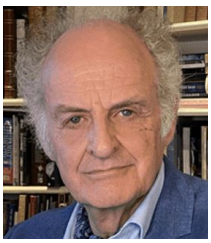
DC THOMSON

Company Update



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Dear former colleagues,

Welcome to the latest edition of our Company Update. We hope you and your family are in good health.

We are pleased to stay in touch and share important updates, helpful information and news that may be of interest to you. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about the company, your pension and provide details of any key changes or reminders that you may need to be aware of.

We plan to send more updates like this newsletter by email, if you would like to receive future communications electronically, please email **pensions@dcthomson.co.uk** with your email address.

Following the success of earlier DCTea gatherings, we're pleased to be hosting more events in the coming months. Invitations will be sent separately, and we do hope you'll be able to join us.

Company Update

One of the strengths of DC Thomson is the impact our brands have on people's lives. They do more than entertain and inform audiences; they bring communities together and provide a platform for the issues that matter most to them.

In this edition, you will read about Beano reaching new audiences through innovative partnerships and returning to print at Kingsway, as well as the continued success of our news brands and their work to support communities across Scotland by championing the issues that matter to local people. You will also see how colleagues across the business have been celebrating the National Year of Reading, of which DC Thomson is a Foundational Partner.

Together, these stories demonstrate the positive impact our brands have and the dedication of colleagues across DC Thomson.

Pension Update

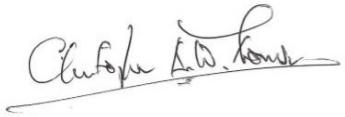
Pension schemes and retirement savings continue to feature prominently in the news as investment markets respond to ongoing global events. While market conditions can fluctuate, your monthly pension from the Thomson-Leng Provident Fund continues to be paid as normal and is not affected by recent volatility.

The Trustee Board continues to oversee the Fund and works closely with its advisers to ensure members' benefits remain secure.

Every year, the Trustee Board reviews the Fund's financial position, and every three years a formal valuation is carried out and shared with The Pensions Regulator. As 2026 is a valuation year, this work is currently underway, and the results will be shared with members next year.

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**.

Thank you for being part of our pension community. We hope you find this edition helpful and informative.



Christopher H.W. Thomson
Chairman

It’s been a busy summer for Beano!

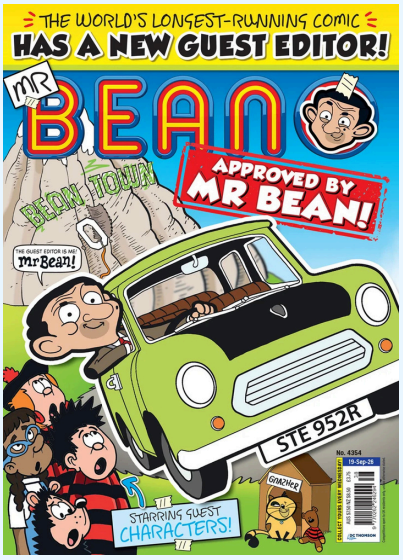
As Dennis the Menace celebrates his 75th anniversary, Beano's Year of Mischief campaign continues to grow the brand through a series of high-profile partnerships and distribution deals.

Recent activity has expanded Beano's reach across broadcast, streaming and connected TV platforms, including renewed and new agreements with CBBC, BBC iPlayer, ITVX and Samsung TV+.

Beano has also collaborated with Mr Bean on a special four-issue comic partnership, bringing together two of Britain's best-known comedy brands.

Beyond publishing and entertainment, Beano has extended its presence into fashion, lifestyle and collectables through partnerships with brands including Paul Smith, Weird Fish, Skinnydip, Mr Jones Watches and The Royal Mint.

Alongside events at major UK landmarks, these collaborations demonstrate the enduring appeal of Beano and its ability to connect with audiences of all ages while creating new commercial opportunities.





Beano Brain’s Coolest Brands 2026 research

Social media brands are continuing to play a key role in children’s lives despite increasing debate around restricting under-16s’ access to online platforms, according to new research from Beano Brain, our Insight Agency.



Based on responses from 10,000 UK children aged 7-14, YouTube was named the UK’s coolest brand for the third consecutive year, while TikTok also remained firmly within the top 10. Gaming, technology and social media brands remain among the strongest-performing sectors.

The research also points to changing opportunities for brands. Alongside established digital leaders, ChatGPT entered the rankings for the first time. At the same time, brands such as LEGO, Pokémon and Smyths Toys performed strongly, suggesting that successful brands are increasingly finding ways to connect with children across both digital and physical experiences.

Beano returns to our Kingsway print plant after more than 16 years

For the first time in more than 16 years, Beano is being produced entirely in-house, with editorial, production and print operations brought together at DC Thomson’s Kingsway site in Dundee.



To support the change, DC Thomson has invested in new printing technology, including a sheetfed press.

Bringing production back to Dundee reconnects one of our most iconic brands with its home city, while creating greater flexibility to innovate and respond to audience needs as Beano continues to evolve across print and other platforms.

Celebrating the National Year of Reading across DC Thomson

As a partner of the National Year of Reading, we've spent the year encouraging people across the UK to enjoy reading in whatever way works for them, whether that's books, comics, newspapers, audiobooks or podcasts.



It's not just been the outside world we've been encouraging to read more though. Across the business, our colleagues have taken part in activities designed to celebrate stories and the many ways people engage with them.

Here are some of the ways we've marked the National Year of Reading so far...

- Colleagues took part in book swaps, reading activities and a chance to meet some authors throughout the year
- Our Archives team helped bring DC Thomson's storytelling heritage to life through classic comics and archive content.
- School visits, author events and Dennis the Menace appearances encouraged more children to discover reading.
- Pupils from Tayview Primary visited our Dundee offices to meet author Michelle Sloan and create characters of their own.
- Across the business, our brands supported reading through author coverage, free comics and book donation campaigns helping more children access stories.



With a couple of months of the National Year of Reading still to come, our teams are continuing to support reading initiatives and helping more children and families discover the enjoyment that reading can bring.

The Sunday Post launches campaign to end violence against women

The Sunday Post launched It's Time, a new Scotland-wide campaign to tackle violence against women and girls.



Bringing together businesses, charities, public bodies and high-profile supporters, the initiative aims to drive practical action and raise awareness of the challenges faced by women and girls across Scotland.

Building on the newspaper's reporting earlier this year, the campaign demonstrates the power of trusted media brands to spark national conversations and bring organisations together around important social issues. It is another example of how DC Thomson uses its platforms to champion issues that matter to our communities, amplify underrepresented voices and help drive positive change.

Planned activity includes support for families affected by abuse, a workplace charter for employers, and national awareness campaigns aimed at challenging harmful attitudes and behaviours.

The Courier named Scottish Newsbrand of the Year

The Courier has been named Scottish Newsbrand of the Year at the 2026 Scottish Press Awards, for the strength of its journalism, audience engagement and innovation.



The title also picked up awards for Podcast of the Year, Regional Journalist of the Year and Journalism Team of the Year.

The wider DC Thomson news portfolio was also recognised, with The Press and Journal and Evening Express securing awards and commendations for their journalism and campaigning work.

Fresh Start campaign tackles high street decline

The Press and Journal, The Courier and The Sunday Post have launched Fresh Start, a joint campaign examining the future of Scotland's town and city centres.



More than 2,200 readers and business owners took part in research that found people are visiting high streets less often, spending more online and becoming increasingly concerned about the number of empty shops.

The findings provide a valuable snapshot of the pressures facing local economies, with many respondents calling for greater investment, more support for businesses and action to bring vacant properties back into use. The campaign is using this insight to inform discussions with policymakers and key stakeholders.

The Scots Magazine expands into podcasting

The Scots Magazine has expanded into audio with the launch of This Is Scotland, a weekly podcast hosted by Ally Heather and Coinneach MacLeod exploring Scottish culture, history and modern life.



The podcast and accompanying Q&A show are helping grow audience engagement and extend the brand's reach across digital platforms.

Why not listen to the podcast?
Scan the QR code.

Findmypast Podcast Climbs the Charts

Also in podcasts, Findmypast's A Family History Of... podcast reached a major milestone, climbing to number four in the UK history podcast charts and into the top 30 podcasts overall.



The achievement was driven by a special series hosted by David Olusoga and Jen Baldwin exploring the story of Peterloo Massacre survivor William Cheatham.

Why not listen to the podcast?
Scan the QR code.

Who’s who on the Trustee Board

In this edition of our newsletter, we'd like to introduce the Trustee Board. You'll find a short biography and photo of each Trustee Director, making it easier to put a face to the name.



Christopher Thomson

Christopher is Chairman of both DC Thomson and the Trustee Board. Having trained as a lawyer before joining the business in 1976, he has spent over 50 years with DC Thomson and remains closely involved in its investment, media and charitable activities. Outside work, he is passionate about opera and classical music and has previously served as a Director of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.



Paul Daly

After studying law and qualifying as a Chartered Accountant, Paul joined DC Thomson in 2006 and has been a Trustee for a number of years, helping shape the Fund's strategy. Now retired, he continues to support the business as a consultant. A keen golfer and volunteer at golf events, Paul is also proud to have appeared as two different characters in the Commando comic.



Michael Thomson

Michael joined DC Thomson in 2009 after qualifying as a Chartered Accountant with PwC. Having held a number of senior finance roles, he became a Trustee in 2023. Married with three young boys, he enjoys a range of sports, particularly golf, and once played cricket in Australia.



Watson Mutch

Watson joined Aberdeen Journals in 1999 and became a Trustee following its acquisition by DC Thomson in 2006. A member of the Fund's DB Investment Committee, he is passionate about helping members understand their pensions and plan for retirement. Away from work, he enjoys golf, musical theatre and spending time with his grandchildren in Australia.



Struan Nimmo

Struan has been with DC Thomson for more than 30 years and is Group Head of Production for the Newspaper Division. A member nominated Trustee since 2013, he has played a key role in improving how pension information is communicated to members. Outside work, he enjoys farming, rugby and cricket, and firmly believes Star Trek is better than Star Wars.



Erikka Askeland

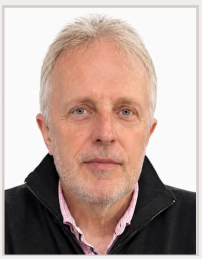
Originally from Canada, Erikka has lived in Scotland for many years and is News Editor at Energy Voice. A member nominated Trustee for almost five years, she enjoys helping colleagues build towards a secure retirement. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, yoga, social media and the occasional dip in the sea.



Emily Tsang

Emily is a Business Developer focused on identifying growth opportunities and building strong relationships across DC Thomson. Having previously worked in the call centre team, she became a member nominated Trustee in 2025 after seeing firsthand the importance of financial wellbeing. She is passionate about improving pension awareness and outcomes for members.

David's Next Adventure Begins



After 30 years with DC Thomson, our Pensions Manager, David Armstrong, has announced his plans to retire in spring 2027.

Since joining the pensions team in October 1996, David has helped thousands of colleagues make the transition into retirement and has personally calculated the retirement benefits for 1,956 of the pensions currently in payment today. For many of our pensioners, David will have been a familiar name and trusted point of contact over the years.

Outside work, David has spent 50 years playing league cricket, completed the London Marathon, earning a mention in the Argus, and made more than 300 blood, plasma and platelet donations.



ARGUS

A Marathon Run Against The Teletubbies!

by David Armstrong, Meadowside Pensions Department

AFTER three and a half months of intensive running, the day of the 1999 London Marathon in April has arrived. Everything has gone well, apart from a slight cold during the last week.

My wife has checked the Insurance policies, and has no worries if I don't make it! The training programme was to bring me to peak fitness — but 26 miles suddenly seems an awfully long way.

I take up my allotted position among the masses and wait with anticipation for the starting gun. I don't hear it go off, but the excited buzz which spreads back through the ranks tells me that the race is on. Ten minutes later I still haven't moved, and not for another ten minutes do I cross the starting line. Every camera is welcomed with a wave and a cheery smile just in case I'm appearing on television.

The mile markers come and go but the solid mass of runners shows no sign of thinning out. Am I going too fast? Or too slowly? The Wombles bear, Uncle Bulgaria, overtakes me, closely followed by a herd of rhinos. Not to worry though, I'm still ahead of the Teletubbies.

Two hours gone, and I spot my wife at the halfway point on Tower Bridge. She doesn't see me at first, but I manage to attract her attention. "What kept you?" are her words of encouragement! Five miles on and I'm into unknown territory — 18 miles is as far as I ran in training.

My legs are tired but still moving, and I know at this stage that I can finish. I'd heard about "the wall" from well-meaning friends and that I would probably hit it and this was a constant worry over the last few miles.

At last I'm on the home stretch and someone shouts — "Only 800 metres to go" — which doesn't sound far, but wait, isn't that half a mile? The finishing line is ahead — and I raise my arms for the cameras, as I cross the line. Then I stop running and my legs immediately turn to jelly as the medal is placed around my neck.

It's taken me four hours 28 minutes to complete the course and I vow never again. I get caught in a throng of finishers and start to feel faint. I manage to fight my way clear and slump against a fence. Maybe that chocolate bar I was handed at the finish will get me going again. Unfortunately it tastes like flavoured cardboard and proves difficult to swallow.

Now it's time to return to our hotel, a journey far more painful than the actual race. After a relaxing hot bath and a bite to eat, it's time for bed. I don't need any sleeping pills.

I would like to thank everyone who supported me in my run for little Liam McKelvie, who is severely disabled after contracting meningitis. The response to my request for sponsors was truly overwhelming, and a sum in excess of £7000 was raised. I'm very grateful to staff colleagues and the people of Invergowrie for all their support, including one particular lady who helped raise £1000.

Final note:— And I finished ahead of the Teletubbies.

David waves to the crowd in mid-marathon.

David with his medal.

While there is still some time before he officially retires, we wanted to share the news and thank David for his dedication, expertise and support over the past three decades.

And, after years of helping others settle into retirement, David is particularly looking forward to attending his first DCTea event as a pensioner himself, and hopes to see many familiar faces to catch up over a cup of tea from the other side of the table!

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 and, new for this year, in Glasgow Central Hotel.

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

Christmas Hamper Prize Draw!



Last year the Pension Trustees introduced a festive prize draw, with two luxury Christmas hampers gifted in a random draw 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 and will be in touch if you're one of the lucky winners! Good luck!

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 any names, places, dates and stories behind the images below?

Please send any information to **archives@dcthomson.co.uk**.



Kingsway - date unknown



Glasgow office construction - 1974



AJL staff - 1984



AJL staff - 1982



Glasgow Caseroom - 1938



Editorial dept, Manchester - 1966

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 30th September.

Andrew Dempster	*Off Despatch - Kingsway*
Robert McGregor	*Juveniles - Meadowside*
John Demspter	*Grav Process - Kingsway*
Shirley Beattie	*Def Boys Paper - Meadowside*
Archibald Darroch	*Caseroom- Bankstreet*
Eric McCormick	*Weekly News - Meadowside*
Roderick McKenzie	*Engineers - Glasgow*
James MacDonald	*Pressroom - Glasgow*
David Kidd	*Off Despatch - Kingsway*
Bryan Thompson	*Artists - Meadowside*
William Richmond	*Glasgow Engineers*
Jack Robertson	*Kingsway Offset Pressroom*
Elizabeth Mullaney	*Kingsway Facilities*
Murray Brown	*Gravure Pressroom - Kingsway*
Jeffrey Higham	*Def Despatch - Manchester*
Mary Forsyth	*Cleaner - West Ward Works*
Murdo Wilson	*Of Photoset - Kingsway*
Peter Mutch	*Circulation - Glasgow*
James Dickson	*Grav Pressroom - Kingsway*
Marlyn Jeffery	*Children Entertainment - Meadowside*
Henry Crawford	*Glasgow Transport*
Katie Munn	*Kingsway Cleaner*
Hamish Robertson	*Kingsway Offset Engineer*
David L. Smith	*Kingsway Gravure Despatch*

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

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

Money & Pensions Service

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

unbiased

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.

age UK

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, 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.**