

HISTELEEC NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH WESTERN ELECTRICITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - BIG CHANGES ON THE COMMITTEE

The 20th AGM of the Society was held on 22nd March at the WPD Training Centre in Taunton in the morning and was attended by some 40 members and friends. Chairman David Hole opened the meeting and gave his report on the activities over the last year. Chris Buck presented the Annual Accounts on behalf of the Treasurer, which showed that the Society was in a healthy state with £5,784.82 net balance.

The big news of the election this year is that we have some new officers and some new committee members, including a new webmaster in Paul Hulbert for which we are especially grateful. These are healthy developments for the future of the Society. David Hutton has assumed the Chairmanship, having served as such for two years in 2007/08. Peter Lamb has left the committee for a "breather" after a 20 year stint as also has John Gale. Chris Buck has stepped into Peter's shoes and David Hole having completed four years as Chairman has agreed to cover the Vice-Chairman's role. We welcome three new members onto the committee Paul Hulbert, Roger Neck and Brian Denham as below :-

Chairman : David Hutton
Vice-Chairman : David Hole
Treasurer : Clive Goodman
Secretary : Chris Buck
Committee : Roger Hughes, Keith Morgan,
John Ferrier, David Peacock, David Cousins,
John Dike, Roger Neck, Brian Denham
& Paul Hulbert (Webmaster).
Memb. Secretary : Paul Hulbert
Hon. Accounts Certifier : David Legg

Chris Buck thanked David Hole for his four years as Chairman with flowers for his lady supporters, Chrissie and Sue. Roger Neck thanked Peter Lamb for his major contribution to the Society over the last 20 years.

See report on page 2 for the after lunch talks.

UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION

Whatever is that, you may ask? Well Algy Cluff believes that it is possible to obtain gas from a system of burning coal underground to release the gas. He believes that there is a large untapped resource under the North Sea and wishes to extract it. His firm Cluff Natural Resources has won licences to explore off the coast of Cumbria, Fife, Firth of Forth and in South Wales. Mr Cluff has a vision of North Sea Oil becoming North Sea Coal. "The coal is still there" he says.

PLYMOUTH BOOK

At the AGM the Society published its second publication "Plymouth's Electrical Revolution" by Ted Luscombe and Chris Buck. It details the development of electricity in Plymouth from inception in 1899, revealing the initial jealousies between the then three towns of Plymouth, Stonehouse and Devonport. Then it follows a complex tram story, with three tram companies playing off the two generation undertakings against each other. This results in two different electricity distribution systems – a.c. and d.c., so that when amalgamation eventually comes a nightmare scenario is presented for the engineers involved. The authors also include information about the Hoe Illuminations, the Dockyard Power Station and how that helped to maintain supplies during the wartime period 1939-1945. The story continues with a new master under nationalisation – SWEB, up to the present day, with privatisation returning once more, and concludes with Plymouth's latest Power Station at Langage.

GET YOUR COPY NOW:-

The cost is £6.00 plus post and packing £1.50 available from Chris Buck, Walnut Tree Cottage, Alveston Road, Old Down, Bristol BS32 4PH

FREE ELECTRICITY!!

Having spent 44 years in the electricity supply industry, I never thought that I would ever see this headline "British Gas is to begin giving away free electricity on Saturdays". When electric lighting started to compete with gas lighting in those early days, the cost of electricity was always higher, initially at least double. Now after all those years fighting the Gas Industry on the commercial front, they have the cheek to offer electricity free – the world has turned topsy-turvy indeed!!!

Did you know that there are at least 10 other electricity suppliers than the Big Six? This was featured on the BBC2 Jeremy Vine show interviewing two of the smaller "players". Spark Energy admitted to having only a staff of three and Jeremy asked how could they possibly give a service at all? It's a crazy world! *Peter Lamb*

RECENT HIGH WINDS

Members with an interest in renewables energy might like to know that the high winds of recent months have been good for wind power with half hour max of 6,215 MW generated on 31st January. During February 2,750,086 MWh or 11% of UK electricity came from wind, with a 17% contribution on 23rd. **Barrie Phillips**

That's the good news now read the bad news on page 3.

WINTER LUNCH - TAUNTON 2014

This year our society will have been in existence for 20 years and, to celebrate the fact, it was decided to do something a little bit different for our winter lunch. So we must thank Peter Lamb for arranging a super “day with a difference” in Taunton, which 49 of us really enjoyed.

Our day started with a tour of the “Museum of Somerset” in Taunton Castle where, after coffee, we were greeted by an enthusiastic young lady who introduced us to the recently refurbished museum. Approximately £7.9 million was spent on the project and it certainly shows. There is a lot to see, including a temporary photographic exhibition at the moment, and the Somerset Military Museum but, in spite of all that, entrance is still free. I daresay that the most memorable exhibit for most people was the “Low Ham Mosaic” which depicts a complete story, the tragic tale of Dido and Aeneas, via 5 distinct panels. The mosaic, a legacy from the Romans, was found in Low Ham, a place “in the middle of nowhere” near Langport, and was brought to Taunton with the aid of Italian prisoners of war.

However, for me, the exhibit I will never forget is a painting in the Military Museum. It is “Remnants of An Army” by Elizabeth Thompson, Lady Butler and depicts William Brydon, assistant surgeon in The Bengal Army, the last survivor of 16,000 soldiers from the retreat from Kabul in 1842. He is toiling the last few miles to safety on his exhausted and dying horse. The stupidity of war, the sacrifice of animals, the bond between man and horse - it is all there and very moving it is too.

After our visit we enjoyed an excellent lunch in the adjacent Castle Hotel followed by a most interesting presentation given by Tom Mayberry, our guest of honour. Tom manages the Somerset Heritage Centre as well as the Museum of Somerset and was the man responsible for the Museum's recent refurbishment. He gave us a “potted history” of Taunton, aided by slides and he was an excellent, knowledgeable speaker. It is a pity that a few more were unable to attend but those of us who did had a very worthwhile day. *David Hole*

AGM TALKS REVIEW

Following Lunch the proceedings commenced with the cutting of a cake made by Anne Buck to celebrate 20 years of the Society and we all enjoyed a piece. Then we were given entertaining talks and slide shows (from a very new and efficient digital projector) by members Peter Lamb and David Cousins on "Household Electrical Appliances of a Bygone Age" and "Electricity Museum Showcase".

Peter started explaining how Electricity in its now many forms began, starting with 'Alessandro Volta' the Italian Physicist, who invented the battery back in 1800, and how Humphry Davy went on eight years later to develop the World's first Arc Lamp . Peter explained that Davy did not 'Patent' his product, which in fact was further developed by others. David told us about Faraday's discovery in 1831 leading to the motor and dynamo. Then Joseph Swan, once vacuum pumps had been

perfected, created the Carbon Filament Incandescent Lamp in 1878. Edison was also experimenting at the time and together they formed 'The Edison and Swan United Electric Light Company' in 1883. Peter continued with a variety of fires including the Dowsing Sausage Fire with a heat output of only 400 watts, however, 20 years later in 1910 Belling introduced his electric Fire whereby the Nickel/Chrome wire on Porcelain was then used and continued to be used in households up to the 1960's. We were treated to other inventions such as early irons and GEC, with the first production line of electric cookers in the UK, their 'Magnet' range. This was followed by slides showing the 'Belling 34 Cooker'. These early 'Cookers' were made of 'Cast Iron' so were extremely heavy. The thermostat controlling temperature was introduced much later, leading to the sophisticated appliances of today. Peter finished up showing us pictures of a variety of small appliances including vacuum cleaners, electric fans, Teasmade, etc., all of which are displayed at the Museum of Electricity, Cairns Road, Bristol. Peter showed us one final slide which stated: 'Don't let hard work kill your wife - Let Electricity do it!

David was then showed pictures of the various types of cables that were used from the 1890's explaining that joints back then were made mechanically. Cables were made of copper and of only 20 foot length, meaning that joints were many, in fact a 10kV cable between Ferranti's Deptford Power Station and Grosvenor Gallery a distant of 7 miles had around 8000 joints on the four cables that were laid. Over the many years of service only a handful of the joints failed. David went on to explain that greater use has been made of aluminium replacing copper. Various electric meters were shown in use at the early part of the Twentieth Century up until today,. We were also shown a variety of 'Test Equipment', 'Fault Location Equipment' 'Voltmeters', etc. that have been developed during the last Century. It was interesting to see the changes that have taken place over time from wooden plug tops to what we have today.

Finally, Peter and David had on display some Medical Equipment : a 'Shock Generator' 'Violator' and 'Massage Machine', all of which claimed to cure a series of ailments, including deafness, headaches, constipation and piles. This later item appeared to be of particular interest to the audience!! *Keith Morgan.*

HINKLEY POINT JUDICIAL REVIEW

An Taisce, the equivalent national trust of Ireland, asked for a judicial review of the decision to go-ahead for the Hinkley Power Nuclear Power Station, suggesting that the UK had an obligation to consult Ireland as a close neighbouring country as demanded by EU regulations. It was thrown out in January and the Irish are appealing.

NEW TUNGSTEN MINE

Wolf Minerals has raised £99 million to fund a new tungsten mine in Devon at Hemerdon. If it is proceeded with it will be the first metal mine to be constructed in Britain for 45 years. The last such mine closed in Cornwall in 1998. If built it would be one of the largest tungsten mines in the World, which is an amazing statement, but it could be operative by 2016.

EXETER'S OLD POWER STATION TODAY

Power stations, once their lives are over, are usually decommissioned, demolished and disappear. It would be difficult to find any trace at all of the 3 that I worked in. However some take on a new life and a few, like Bankside and Battersea become national icons. So what, I wondered, did Exeter's Haven Road Power Station become, did it have a new role? I live in Exeter so I decided to find out.

Haven Road Power Station still stands on Exeter Quay, adjacent to the terminal basin of the Exeter Ship Canal and, considering it's age, it looks in remarkably good condition. It replaced a smaller plant in New North Road at about 1904 and was closed by the CEGB in 1960. At that time there were 3 buildings, one behind the other, the engine room, the boiler house and the coal bunkers but the latter have gone making way for a car park. The 150ft chimney was removed and has been replaced by a cafe and a block of apartments although their appearance, regrettably, does not match the appearance of the engine room which they abut.

Following closure the station became a depot and store for SWEB until the building at Sowton was built. Next it housed the popular Exeter Maritime Museum until that closed through financial problems in 1997. From then on the station remained derelict until, in 2007, plans were made and permission was granted for it's conversion into an art gallery, plus a small hotel and cafe alongside some residential development next door.

As it turned out the apartments were built but the rest of the project was abandoned and once again the station fell derelict even, at one stage, suffering a damaging fire.

Then, in 2011, planning consent was given to convert the engine room into an indoor climbing centre, providing architectural features were retained where possible, and that is where we are today. We can hardly claim that Haven Road has become a "Tate Modern", like Bankside but, apparently it is the largest indoor facility for this sort of thing in the South West. Fortunately for us, members of the public may go into the centre and observe the climbing even though they have no intention of taking part. Chris and I decided not to have a go, but only due to lack of time you understand!! However we were most interested in what is left of the old engine room.



Haven Road Exterior now

Upon entry one can see the original stone plaque, laid on January 1st 1903 by Edward J Domville, Chairman of the "City Electrical Lighting Committee" for 7 years. There is also a most interesting collection of photographs of the original plant to look at before climbing the stone stairs with their cast iron balustrades, to the mezzanine floor.



Haven Road Interior showing the ceramic tiles and balustrade

It is at this point that one can see that this space was once an engine room. The walls are still tiled with white glazed tiles, for light, broken up with brown glazed bricks and archways. One stands on a raised walkway, with ornate cast iron balustrade, on one side of the engine room with the engine room 25 ton, "Babcock and Wilcox" overhead crane still in position and, at the far end, the crane's guarded access ladder still exists. The roof of the engine room looks original and all along the mezzanine floor there are still ornate cast iron lamp columns with their glass globes which once lit the area. One other nice little touch that I spotted was the old "No Smoking in the Workshop" sign which was found and re erected in the cafe. This historic building is now part of Exeter's Cultural and Tourism Centre and is still lit by (what else) electricity. I'll bet Thomas Edison and Co. would approve.

Dave Hole

IRISH WIND

The British and Irish Governments signed a proposal a year ago to get Irish Wind Power across the Irish Sea via a new undersea cable connection. The idea was to build Wind Farms on sites which are sparsely populated and off-shore in shallow water involving less cost. It was seen as a cheaper alternative to building them in England and Wales, but there has been considerable delays with little prospect of wind power being delivered by 2020. Since an intergovernmental agreement hasn't been signed yet, it is looking increasingly unlikely.

WIND FARM PAY-OUT

Wind Farms are in the news again after all the bad weather we have had involving plenty of strong winds. The Government are still promoting new wind farms and the existing ones were being paid £30 million last year to stand idle because the National Grid can't cope with them at times of low power usage. Of course the problem lies in the fact that we cannot store electricity.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Peter Ireland and Alan & Mavis Blake have joined this year. We wish them well.

FROM GENERATION TO REGENERATION

The Old Tramways Power Station in Bristol is being converted into 30 top-of-the-range studio flats, so the Bristol Post tells us. This is particularly interesting since the late Marcus Palmen and I completed an article on the “Bristol Tramways Generating Stations” just a week before he died. The article is to be published in the Annual Journal of the Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society in April, which will publicise pictures we found in an old album in the Bristol Record Office, for which they have given their permission. *Peter Lamb*



The building looks just as good now minus the chimney

SOLAR FARM BLIGHT

It is reported in the press that the number of solar farms in the UK will double this year despite a Government pledge to stop them blighting the countryside. There are currently 120 large solar farms of 10 acres or more, and PricewaterhouseCoopers have found out that there are another 150 to 200 in the pipeline to be operational by the end of 2014. It would appear that it is much cheaper to install the panels in open countryside than on factory roofs.

LAGOON POWER

Tidal Lagoon Power have submitted plans to build a six mile lagoon around Swansea Bay. The Chief Executive says that there are plenty of places to build such a scheme such as Bridgwater Bay, Colwyn Bay and Liverpool Bay and surprising, he doesn't mention the Severn Estuary. May be the firms involved have given up on that latter venture? He admitted that the first lagoons to be built would need a considerable subsidy to make them viable, similar to the recently negotiated price for nuclear electricity.

TONY BENN

The recent death of Tony Benn, long standing Labour Member of Parliament for one of the Bristol constituencies, brought forth many eulogies from both sides of the House. However, when Tony Benn was Secretary of State for Energy the then Chairman of the Electricity Council, Sir Francis Tombs, paints a different picture in his book “Power Politics”. He recounts that when Benn was faced with the implementation of the Plowden Report on the reorganisation of the ESI he procrastinated and delayed taking any action. In fact Tombs even went so far as to suggest that Benn had done his best to sabotage the proposals put forward by Plowden. In the event, with a subsequent change of government, the proposals were shelved. If Benn had been more supportive the industry might well have been reorganised along the lines suggested by Plowden, i.e. with a number of Regional All-purpose Power Boards replacing the CEGB/Area Board structure. The story was that Benn did not want to relinquish the centralised control exercised by government. If Plowden had been implemented the future for the ESI could well have been very different, even if privatisation had eventually resulted. *Chris Buck*

HORIZON NUCLEAR POWER

The Retired Professional Engineer's Club of Bristol had an interesting talk by John Gilbert of Horizon Nuclear Power in March. He explained that they were now solely owned by Hitachi and had offices in Gloucester with two potential sites for nuclear power stations at Wilfa, Anglesey and Oldbury in Gloucestershire. We were surprised to hear that they employed 150 people in the UK with the prospects of not earning any revenue until Wilfa was likely to be commissioned in 2020 and Oldbury in 2025. They haven't got a full licence yet but are working on that. There was not much technical information given other than the reactors would be Boiling Water Reactors (BWR). It would appear that the proposed Reactors are those designed by GE of America using Hitachi development techniques.

BIOMASS FUEL

Feeding generating stations with Biomass Fuel seems to be getting very controversial these days. There has always been an anti lobby against the cutting down of trees elsewhere on the Planet in order to feed our generating stations. However Biomass Fuel is designated as a renewable resource and is dubbed “Carbon- neutral” by the EU rules; as such it is able to gain considerable subsidies. A spokesman from Drax, our largest generating station, which is in the process of converting to Biomass Fuel, has admitted that the CO2 emissions are 3.0% more than from burning coal. What an admission!! I doubt whether we have heard the last of this argument.

JOHN DIKE IN THE NEWS

Member John managed to get quite a big article in the local Devon newspapers with a striking headline “Don't expect Dartmoor water power to save the planet”. He was highlighting the Torquay Book published by the Society and written by John and Peter Lamb in 2011. He gave details from the book regarding the previous failed attempts at building dams on the Moor by Dr Purves.

ANAEROBIC DIGESTERS

Electricity generation from Anaerobic Digesters has been so successful with over 100 in operation to date and many more planned, that the Government are reducing the subsidies paid for the electricity so generated. Farmers in some areas are complaining that it is changing the farm landscape with many fields being sown with crops solely to feed the digesters and not the public stomachs. However over half the digesters built so far are “community” digesters where waste food is collected from food processing plants, brewery effluent, supermarkets, hotels and household waste. The topic was aired recently on the BBC programme “Countryfile”.

AMERICAN BLACK-OUTS – Book Review

Member Ted Luscombe has donated a new electricity book to our National Library, it is an American book called “When the Lights Went Out” by David E. Nye. It is the story of black-outs in the USA but mainly associated with the East Coast and in particular the worst one in 1965, when most of the territory from Ontario to New York lost their supplies involving 30 million people. The 1977 black-out was equally bad but only involved New York, but because the supply was lost for so long, much looting took place. It is a heavy read since it contains details of so many black-outs, which says a lot for not splitting a grid system into multiple ownerships; but also much data, such as India’s population of 1.1 billion consume only 561 kWh per year per person equivalent to the USA’s per capita consumption in 1935. Interestingly the reasons put forward for the catastrophic black-out in 1977 are given as follows. There was no shortage of generation or inadequate power in the grid. Rather it resulted from many managerial mistakes and delays in maintenance. The Federal Report concluded that the system collapse was triggered by a natural event (lightning), followed by equipment malfunction, questionable design features and operating errors. Those engineers previously involved in our National Grid may be interested in the resulting action which was to break up the Eastern network into six sections to prevent the previous cascading affect.

ELECTRIC TRAINS

Railway enthusiasts will be pleased to hear that work is well ahead of schedule for electrifying the line between Paddington and Bristol. An £80million depot is under construction at Stoke Gifford north of Bristol where Hitachi will be servicing the new intercity express trains. It is due to open in early 2016. Interestingly the Hitachi Class 800 trains will be made in this country in Durham and will have secondary Diesel engines so that when they reach a non-electrified line they will be able to continue.

ELECTRIC CARS LOW TAKE-UP

Dealers are reporting that there is a glut of second-hand electric cars on the market after only one year usage, which is bad news for the Government which is financing new charging points all over the country. The dealers report that the high cost of hybrid and electric cars and the relatively low range of the latter are deterring motorists. Three quarters of the charging points installed in London haven’t been used in the past three months!

TYNTESFIELD CONNECTION

A researcher at Tyntesfield has come across a little known German inventor, who was very much involved in the design of early electrical machines in this country. Some of his non-electrical products acquired by the Gibbs have been found at the National Trust house at Wraxall near Bristol, which begs the question “Was he involved in designing the early electricity generating station at Tyntesfield in 1890?”

The man was called Karl Moritz Immisch. He came to London in the 1860’s marrying an English lady and settling in this country. He invented a clock mechanism, a thermometer and designed batteries and electric motors getting heavily involved with a fellow German Magnus Volk, who built the railway along the front at Brighton. He is reputed to have filed over forty patents between 1881-1890. His most notable contribution was to build a fleet of battery electric motor-boats or launches on the Thames with batteries and motors of his own design. His major efforts into the traction field with a factory at Malden led to his company being wound up in 1890. Probably put out of business by the “big boys” in that field such as Thomson-Houston.

WHAT’S IN A NAME?

In my article on the time that David Peacock, John Ferrier and I spent in the NE back in 1962, I mentioned that we used to go ice skating at Whitley Bay on the Northumberland coast just north of Tynemouth. On a recent trip to visit my family in Newcastle, Pat and I took our youngest grandsons for a day out on the Tyne and Wear Metro. It was good value at £4.40 for adults and this included the Ferry between North and South Shields and the little ones went for free. We stopped off at Whitley Bay that has a coast line as straight as a die before continuing our day out, so where did the “Bay” come from? On the station platform there was an information board that explained it all.

The town was known as Whitley until the 1890s, at which time the confusion of the name with Whitby in North Yorkshire, was often causing mail to be misdirected. The final straw came in September 1901 when an ex-resident died in Edinburgh and his body was to be buried in St Paul’s churchyard in Whitley. By mistake, the body was unfortunately transported to Whitby causing the funeral to be delayed by several hours and much upset to the family. The council asked residents for suggestions for a new name and the most popular choice was Whitley Bay. It has since been known as Whitley Bay, but many residents still refer to the town as ‘Whitley’.

David Hutton

NETWORK STUDIES

WPD are conducting studies of their networks to see how the systems are reacting to many small generation units, wind farms, solar panels etc. Also North West Electricity are conducting trials known as “Capacity to Customers” or (C²C). Two Universities are involved Strathclyde and Manchester, who are conducting a detailed analysis of the data. At Manchester the unit involved is the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, funded by Ofgem’s Low Carbon Network’s Fund.

HORSLEY TOWERS

How many members remember Horsley Towers? Recently we were asked to provide information to the De Vere hotel chain of details and pictures when Horsley Towers was the main Training School for the BEA, the CEA and later the Electricity Council. We found an interesting article in 1950 BEA Journal and provided two pictures of that time including students in lecture. You might enjoy this picture and an extract from the article by John Grealy, Resident Tutor at the time :-

“Visitors to the British Electricity Authority Training Establishment at Horsley Towers interested in the link-up between past and present will find the chapel of historic and topical interest.

Horsley Towers was originally the home of the First Earl of Lovelace, who married Ada Augusta, the only daughter of Lord Byron, the famous poet. When she died in 1852 a tablet to her memory was erected in the chapel. Lady Lovelace, unusual though it may seem, was a brilliant mathematician, probably the greatest woman mathematician the world has ever known or ever will know. She was an admirer and pupil of Charles Babbage, the then Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, and was so deeply interested in his researches into the possibilities of a mathematical computing machine. She translated from the Italian an article on this subject by L. F. Vfenebraea and added considerably to the original theories put forward by Babbage, who for lack of financial support, was unable to put his ideas into practice. Lady Lovelace described an "analytical engine" which, on the punched card system, "wove algebraic patterns as a Jacquard loom weaves flowers," but Lady Lovelace admitted that she did not know how this machine would be powered.”



EBAC WASHING MACHINES

Never heard of them, but let's hope you soon will! A British Family firm run by John Elliott in Durham near Darlington is taking on the international washing machine manufacturers. Four million foreign machines are imported each year into this country, many of which are made in either Italy or Turkey. The new machine they are planning to launch uses polymer beads to wash the clothes instead of water. It sounds crazy but the technology developed at Leeds University uses less energy and detergent than conventional models and has been tested in hotels in Belgravia and in the United States. Each bead has a dirt stick which can be used a hundred times before replacement.

LIGHTHOUSE LAMP

Following the picture in the newsletter of a recently acquired Lighthouse Lamp for the Museum, member Bill Tincknell wrote : “ I believe that there is a good chance that the Lighthouse Lamp is from Christy's reception office in Chelmsford, the offices of which were demolished in 1985”.He went on to draw attention to an extract from a book “**History of the Christy Group**”.

Extract : “Another unusual and very rarely written about war time contract was the wiring for about 10 Lighthouse lamps in Essex. These were large circular glass houses similar to a circular collar of toughened glass about 2 metres wide with a total diameter of about 25 metres. Positioned at regular intervals inside these glass collars were specially designed lamps, whose purpose was to light up the sky to illuminate the German bombers as they came over, so that the Ack-Ack gunners could shoot them down. Unfortunately, not only did these lamp houses light up the sky, they lit up the whole countryside and were more beneficial to the bombers than the gunners. It was so light in fact that practically everyone in Essex could read their newspapers out in the open at midnight, after several nights the scheme was abandoned. For many years one of the lamps was in Christy's reception area in Broomfield Road mounted on a mahogany wall bracket.”

A matter of interest the lamp was manufactured by Mazda, which was the lamp range of GE of America until 1945, so it is likely Christys as local contractors, had the lamps made in the USA during the War.

MEMBERS NEWS

BRIAN CHINN - Brian has not been very well for some time, still being in hospital, but is expected to be home shortly. We wish him a full recovery as soon as possible.
CHARLES FARR - Charles has resigned due to ill-health and we wish him all the best for the future.

DEREK WATSON

You will be sorry to hear that Derek has sadly died. It is a shame that we haven't seen much of him lately due to him moving near to his relatives in Lancashire.

FOR YOUR DIARIES – COMING EVENTS

Sat. 17th May MEETING IN DEVON – A talk by member John Dike on “Shackleton” at the Highwayman's Haunt.

Thur. 19th June VISIT YEOVILTON FLEET

AIRARM MUSEUM – Meet at 10.30am for coffee & talk at 11.00am with lunch at 12.00noon in the Museum restaurant. Tour of museum in afternoon.

Thur. 18th Sept. BRISTOL'S “M” SHED MUSEUM

– (Another name for the museum of Bristol). Meet 10.30am for coffee with tour of the reserve collection 11.00am. Lunch at a local hostelry with tour of Museum in the afternoon.

NEXT EDITION - This newsletter is produced every four months. Please send articles, photographs etc to :- Peter Lamb 35 Station Rd, Backwell, Bristol BS48 3NH or telephone on 01275 463160 or e-mail him on lambpandv@btinternet.com.