



NEWSLETTER

**RETIRED CHARTERED
ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
WORTHING**

Hon. Secretary: S. Oliver. Elphin, North Drive, Angmering, BN16 4JJ ☎ 01903 787116

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

31st Oct	Thursday	Coffee - with Partners at Beach Hotel, Worthing
6th Nov	Wednesday	Coffee - at Albion Inn, 110 Church Road, Hove
13th Nov	Wednesday	Visit - Edwards High Vacuum, Shoreham see page 4 for information and application form
21st Nov	Thursday	Coffee - at Three Crowns, East Preston
28th Nov	Thursday	Coffee - with Partners at Beach Hotel, Worthing
29th Nov	Friday	Cooch Memorial Lecture 2.30 p.m. Worthing Library "Untrodden Snow" by Prof. E. Laithwaite
4th Dec	Wednesday	Coffee - at Albion Inn, 110 Church Road, Hove
11th Dec	Wednesday	Talk - "Bridges 1999" by A.S. Whitaker, member 2.30 p.m. Durrington C.C.
17th Dec	Monday	Copy date for next Newsletter
19th Dec	Thursday	Coffee - at Three Crowns, East Preston
26th Dec	Thursday	No coffee morning at Beach Hotel
Every	Monday	Coffee at Laing's Arcade Cafe, Montague Street, Worthing

Coffee mornings commence at 10.30 a.m., except at The Beach, which is from 10.45 a.m.

Annual Subscriptions

These are now due. Please send your cheques for £8 to the Hon. Treasurer, D.R. Collard, 9 Meadway, Rustington, Littlehampton, BN16 2DD. If you are not sure whether you have already paid, and to save sending out reminders, please contact the Hon. Treasurer on 01903 785580.

We welcome the following new members to the Association:

<p>1996 LEAK, M.S. B.Sc., Dip. F.I.E.E., F.S.Ct.E., <i>22 Broomfield Rd, Henfield, BN5 9UB (01273 493269)</i> Marconi Co. 1954-73, Development of Radio Transmitters. Preece Cardew & Rider/Ewbank Preece 1973-90, Project Manager Radio Systems. Dor Al-Hardasch Consultant 1991-1996, Project Manager, Telecommunication Systems. <i>Interests: Travel, Photography, Gardening, Swimming</i></p>	<p>1996 THOMPSON, B. B.A., F.I.Mech.E. <i>"Wayside" Hampers Lane, Storrington, Pulborough, RH20 3HU (01903 740696)</i> 1948-57 Apprentice & draughtsman, Newton Chambers & Co Ltd. 1957-60 Draughtsman, Nat. Coal Board NE Div. 1960-64 Asst Design Eng., Atomic Energy Auth. 1964-92 posts in MOD R&D of weapons systems, pyros, QA policy; eventually Chief Eng. Royal Armament R&D Establishments 1986-92. 1992 consultant. <i>Interests: Travel, Photography, Gardening, Swimming</i></p>
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45th Annual General Meeting - 11th September 1996

The retiring President, B.R. Knight opened the 45th Annual General Meeting in the presence of 39 members, with apologies for absence being received from 9 members. The minutes of the 44th A.G.M. were read and approved. The Treasurer, D.R. Collard, presented his report. The Secretary's Report was presented and accepted. The following officers and committee were elected for the year 1996/97:

Vice President	D.M. Lewis	
Hon Secretary	S. Oliver	
Asst. Hon. Sec	R.G. Bailey	
Hon. Treasurer	D.R. Collard	
Asst. Hon. Treasurer	J.L. Wigley	
Committee members	B.R. Knight	Hove
	R.P. Marshall	Worthing
	E.T. Besley	East Preston
Auditor	A.G. Standbridge	
President	K.J. Wheeler	

Retiring President's address

The retiring President B.R. Knight reviewed the years activities and noted that it had been a time of consolidation with stable expenditure. He thanked the Treasurer, Secretary and Committee Members for their contributions during the year and also Ted Laird for his organ playing at the Dinner.

President's address

The President commenced by saying that in his view there had been two periods in history when it had been good to be a professional engineer and these were circa 1840 to 1870 and 1940 to 1970. These were the days of analogue calculation, of proportionality, approximation and slide rules far removed from today's digital precision. After National Service he started as a draughtsman at Redifon Flight Simulators (now Thompson) just prior to the company's move to Crawley in 1954 ending up as Chief Mechanical Designer in 1959 and is particularly proud of his design of the world's first large moving fuselage simulator which was the Comet 4 for BOAC. Two Comet simulators were built and the second resides in the Science Museum's new site at Wroughton near Swindon but in a non-working state. In 1962 he joined Norris Brothers Ltd, a firm of consulting engineers based in Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill which ultimately became the Norris Group of companies where he stayed until retirement in 1994 having been a Director for some 20 years of Norcon (Norris) Ltd, based in Burgess Hill. He was the designer of the principal range of the companies products in the field of certified equipment for use in flammable atmospheres such as offshore platforms and marine tanker decks. Also, being qualified in accountancy and finance he was responsible for such activities in the company. He recounted briefly on some of the many projects he was involved in during the progression from consulting to control of manufacturing companies and finished by going back to 1966 when he was General Manager and Chief Engineer of Norris Brothers (Research & Development) Ltd and the task of putting the higher powered Orpheus engine in the Norris designed Campbell BLUEBIRD water speed record boat, its novel water brake and the situation leading to the loss of the boat and with it the death of Campbell. He concluded saying that he was still active in a voluntary way being a visiting Fellow of the University of Brighton, a member of the Industrial Advisory Board at the University, in addition giving lectures on engineering design, production and management topics at Brighton and in 1994 presented papers at the Loughborough and York international conferences on advanced production technology and management strategy.

Cooch Memorial Lecture - "Untrodden Snow" by Professor Laithwaite
at the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre on Friday, 29th November, 1966 2.30 p.m.

Humans have always had the urge to explore, whether it be geographically or scientifically. The author has been lucky enough to be associated with a number of "firsts" in engineering, including the world's first commercially produced computer, the Tracked Hovercraft in 1973 and the development of linear induction motors, in a career that began at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough in 1943/45. "Going into the Unknown" invariably produces problems of a very special kind.

After the lecture the R.C.E.A.prize will be presented to Mr Conrad Coome, who is studying for an M.Eng. at the University of Brighton.

Recordings of Meetings

An audio tape cassette is made of all talks and addresses at each of our General Meetings, thanks to the good services of Eric Roubaud. These tapes are available from the Hon. Sec., but they only go back about two years as the cassettes are reused.

Visit to Edwards High Vacuum International, Shoreham on Wednesday 13th November 1996.

This should prove to be a very interesting site visit suitable for Members of all disciplines and is concerned with various aspects of high vacuum technology. Edwards is a long established Crawley company although now part of BOC Ltd who many years ago acquired Edwards to prevent its sale to an American Group who wanted Edwards advanced technical know how at that time. The visit which is to UNIT 1 commences promptly at 2.30 pm and we are being greeted on arrival by Neil Hodge, Senior Manufacturing Engineer and Kevin Ransom, Project Leader and these gentlemen will conduct the site tour. There is the possibility that Dr. Alan Troup who is the Director of Technology will join us. Access to the site is from Dolphin Road in Shoreham and we are required to use the CARPARK in UNIT 8, but be warned, spaces are limited and Members are requested to share vehicles where possible. Attached is a map showing the site location in Shoreham and the respective positions of Unit 1 and Unit 8. We need to advise them in advance the numbers attending so please send your return sheet to Ken Wheeler to reach me by Friday 8th November.

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To: K.J. Wheeler, 14 Musgrave Avenue, East Grinstead RH19 4BSTel: 01342 321291
I wish to participate in the visit to **Edwards High Vacuum** on Wednesday, 13th November 1996 at 2.30 p.m.

Full Name(Block capitals)

Address

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Phone No.....

Applications by 8th November, 1996

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Spring Break to Monschau 19th to 23rd May, 1997

For our 1997 Spring Break, John Fowler has negotiated with Woods Travel Ltd. for a 5-day (4 night) holiday in the Ardennes, based at the three star Hotel CARAT, in the medieval town of Monschau in Germany, near to the Belgian border.

The Eifel and Ardennes consist of dense forests and hills rising to over 2,000 feet, with two international game reserves, shared by Germany, Belgium, France and Luxemburg.

The Hotel Carat is a modern hotel conveniently located in Monschau with its half-timbered buildings and picture book setting (at least, that is what the Tourist Board says). Accommodation will be in rooms all with private facilities, with half-board, i.e. dinner, bed and breakfast. The hotel does not have a separate lounge, but a spacious reception/lounge/bar area. It has a lift to all floors, indoor pool, keep-fit centre, sauna, solarium and 9-pin bowling alley. All rooms have private facilities, telephone, colour TV, radio and mini-bar. Courtesy trays and kettles are **not** provided.

We will travel as usual throughout the tour in a 49 seater coach with toilet facilities. Pick-up and return from home will be by taxi, which is included in the cost. The channel crossing will be by the shuttle both ways, which will significantly reduce our travel time. As usual with Woods Tours, the driver will also act as courier.

The cost of the tour (excluding insurance) will be £249 per person, based on 40 fare-paying passengers travelling. If this number is not reached, a surcharge will apply. There will be no single supplements payable up to a maximum of four single members travelling. Insurance is charged extra and is payable at the time of booking at £7.50 per person, irrespective of age.

All excursions, as shown on the attached itinerary, will be included in the cost, but entrance fees are extra.

Itinerary

Day 1 Woods' door-to-door service will collect you from your front door and take you to the coach, travelling to Folkestone, where we board the shuttle. On arrival in Calais, we continue to our hotel in Monschau, stopping en route for refreshments and lunch.

Day 2 An included guided morning walking tour of the delightful town of Monschau, with its half-timbered houses, narrow alleys, spires and castle. The rest of the day is free for your own exploring.

Day 3 A day out to the beautiful Moselle Valley and the historic town of Cochem, set in the midst of terraced vineyards and overlooked by its castle.

Day 4 A leisurely day through the Ardennes and the picturesque town of Valkenburg and Maastricht.

Day 5 We leave after breakfast and travel to Ostend, where there will be time for lunch and stocking up on Belgian chocolates, before continuing to Calais for our late afternoon shuttle and the last part of our homeward journey.

Wakehurst Place - "Kew in the Country"

Sixteen members including wives made an enjoyable afternoon visit to Wakehurst Place Gardens near Ardingly on 15th August 1996.

The flower display was colourful in all areas of the gardens covering near 10 acres, out of 170 acres.

The name Wakehurst first became associated with the present area in the High Weald of Sussex in 1205 when William de Wakehurst bought 40 acres of land from Phillip de Craule (Crawley). The location is on the warm western slope of a sandstone ridge with fresh water springs adjacent. A Roman road from Aldrington to Croyden passed nearby, part of the road is under the area that is now the car park.

The original Wakehurst dwelling was rebuilt and finished in 1590 by Edward Culpeper son of Thomas, from local sandstone. Originally the property was square with four wings surrounding a central courtyard.

In 1684 the Estate was purchased by Dennis Lydell, Commissioner of the Navy and friend of Samuel Pepys, and remained occupied for the next 200 years. In 1869 the was modified and the chapel built. In 1903 Gerald Loder bought the property and began development of the gardens introducing fine trees and shrubs and restored the roof and decaying stonework.

In 1963 the estate was bequeathed to the National Trust who leased it to the Ministry of Agriculture in 1965. It is now entirely managed and funded by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

The seed conservation section of the Royal Botanical Gardens Kew is now located in the Mansion. Seeds from the UK and from distant arid lands are stored at sub-zero temperatures in the Seed Bank and are predicted to survive for many years

The gardens are unique, because for each month of the year there is a display of colour for that particular time and thus can be judged a colourful period to visit at intervals.

Bernard Knight

