



## 2002 / 2003 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Every Monday	10.30 am.	Coffee at the Denton Lounge, Worthing Pier.
20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Wednesday	<b>51<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner</b> , Beach Hotel
21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Thursday	Coffee - at Spotted Cow, Angmering
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Thursday	Coffee - with Partners at Beach Hotel, Worthing
29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Friday	<b>Cooch Memorial Lecture</b> "No new things under the Sun" by J. Narborough, 2.30pm lecture theatre, Worthing Library.
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Tuesday	<b>Talk</b> - "Production of oil from the North Sea – The Early Years" by Rob. Williams, member.
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Thursday	Coffee - at Spotted Cow, Angmering
<b>2003</b>		
Every Monday	10.30 am.	Coffee at the Denton Lounge, Worthing Pier.
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	Tuesday	<b>Talk:</b> Nuclear Power by Stuart Crooks, Operations Manager, Dungeness B Power Station.
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Tuesday	<b>Visit:</b> H + S Aviation, Portsmouth
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Thursday	Coffee - at Spotted Cow, Angmering
30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Thursday	Coffee - with Partners at Beach Hotel, Worthing
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Tuesday	<b>Talk:</b> Volks railway by Ian. Gledhill, chairman of Volks Electric Railway Association ( <b>2.30 pm Theatre Building, Field Place</b> )
18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Tuesday	<b>Outing:</b> Royal Pavilion, Brighton
20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Thursday	Coffee - at Spotted Cow, Angmering
27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Thursday	Coffee - with Partners at Beach Hotel, Worthing

11 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Tuesday	<b>Talk:</b> Mauritius – “Your holiday island power supply” by Ray Wort, member.
13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Thursday	<b>Lunch</b> - Northbrook College (Still to be confirmed)
18 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Tuesday	<b>Visit:</b> Shoreham Power Station
20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Thursday	Coffee - at Spotted Cow, Angmering
27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Thursday	Coffee - with Partners at Beach Hotel, Worthing
9 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	Wednesday	<b>Outing:</b> Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Gosport
17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Thursday	Coffee - at Spotted Cow, Angmering
24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Thursday	Coffee - with Partners at Beach Hotel, Worthing
14 <sup>th</sup> May.	Wednesday	<b>Outing:</b> Brighton's Victorian Sewers
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Thursday	Coffee - at Spotted Cow, Angmering
29 <sup>th</sup> May	Thursday	Coffee - with Partners at Beach Hotel, Worthing
18 <sup>th</sup> Jun.	Wednesday	<b>Outing:</b> Chichester Harbour
19 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Thursday	Coffee - at Spotted Cow, Angmering
26 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Thursday	Coffee - with Partners at Highdown Towers, Worthing (Highdown Towers – venue to be confirmed later)
16 <sup>th</sup> Jul.	Wednesday	<b>Garden party</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> Jul.	Thursday	Coffee - at Spotted Cow, Angmering
31 <sup>st</sup> Jul.	Thursday	Coffee - with Partners at Highdown Towers, Worthing
21 <sup>st</sup> Aug.	Thursday	Coffee - at Spotted Cow, Angmering
28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Thursday	Coffee - with Partners at Highdown Towers, Worthing
9 <sup>th</sup> Sep.	Tuesday	<b>Annual General Meeting.</b>

All Talks and Meetings will be commence at 2.30 pm and be held in the Chichester Room, Field Place, Worthing unless another venue or time is indicate.

Timings for visits and outings will be as printed in the detailed description of the activity and on the appropriate reply slips.

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

## Subscriptions 2002 / 2003

These were due on 1<sup>st</sup> October. A small number of members have not paid their 2002/2003 subscriptions yet. Could anyone who has overlooked paying this years subscription now forward payment for £12, as soon as possible, to: -

**Hon. Treasurer, B. Buckroyd, 6 Fosters Close, East Preston, BN16 2TL**

## New Members

We welcome the following new member:

**2002 ROBINS, D.W. BSc(Mech Eng), MBA, CEng, MIMechE.**  
*Coach House, Ryecroft Rd., Bolney, Haywards Heath, RH17 5PS (01444 881415)*  
**David and Barbara**  
1962-1969 B F Goodrich USA - Design Engineer - Aircraft Wheels and Brakes  
1969-1973 Maremont Corp USA – Product Manager – Brake systems  
1974-1981 KSB Ltd – Joint MD – Pump manufacturer  
1981-1992 Hamon Sobelco Ltd - MD of UK Subsidiery – Design and Supply of Cooling Towers, Condensate and Feedheating Plant for Power Stations.  
*Interests: Walking, Gardening*

New members are requested to check the above data and inform the Secretary of any errors or omissions so that the information can be incorporated correctly into next session's handbook.

## Resignations

A Dadds-	August 2002
A W Crook-	September 2002
K H Lambert-	September 2002
A G Standbridge –	September 2002
E C Wright-	September 2002

## Deaths

S G Hulbert-September 2002

## 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2002

The full minutes for the meeting will be issued at the next AGM, but the following notes record the main decisions taken: -

1. Election of Officers and Committee for the Year 2002/03.

### Office

President	D. Matthews
Vice President	G. D. Mathias
Hon Secretary / Membership Secretary	C. Pilling
Asst. Hon. Sec	R. W. V.Norton
Hon. Treasurer	B. Buckroyd
Asst. Hon. Treasurer	H. A. Rummeli
Committee member (Newsletter editor)	R. P. Wort
Committee member (Programme co-coordinator)	C. Harrison
Committee member	S. R. Renew
Committee member	Vacancy
Committee member	Vacancy
Auditor	E. T. Besley

2. Proposal for changes to the rules to enable professionally qualified engineers to join the RCEA. (Proposed changes detailed in August Newsletter).

The changes were not approved and therefore membership criteria continue as per existing rules. However, membership criteria will have to be considered carefully over the next year or so as more and more Institutions alter their own requirements for Full Membership (not those for becoming Chartered) as per the recent changes to the criteria for membership now required by the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

Unfortunately for a small organisation such as the RCEA many Engineers have never bothered for a variety of reasons to apply for full membership of one of the Engineering Institutions to become Chartered Engineers. Now many may become full members because of rule changes for individual Institutions but they will not necessarily be qualified or wish to become Chartered. As a consequence there are already a number of Engineers who have retired in this area who are now automatically excluded from the RCEA because they do not fulfill our full membership criteria. We need therefore to seriously consider whether we should change our entry requirements to allow specific individuals entry.

## Resignation of President

It is with regret that we have to report that the President, David Matthews, has announced his wish to step down as President and resign from the Association.

He had been considering his position for some time but the outcome of the AGM has meant that he feels unable, at present, to be a part of the Association.

The reasons he gives are that the organisation is not moving forward and seems unable to embrace the concept of "Professional Engineers." He is also concerned about the lack of support for the work of the Committee.

A letter has been sent to him thanking him for the work he has done in preparing for and presiding over the last Association year.

## **Election of a New President**

Glyn Mathias will take over the role of President for the remainder of this session. This will leave a vacancy for a Vice President. Volunteers / nominations for this post would be appreciated by the committee. For anyone interested in the post, it is important to realise that the post holder's duties have been significantly reduced compared to those in the past. Responsibility for the next years' programme, for instance, is now that of the Programme Coordinator and all visits and talks will be organised by individual committee members.

## **Newsletter**

The newsletter content; notification of forthcoming events, notification of new membership, reports relating to talks and visits, reply slips for events, etc.: will continue, more or less, as at present but some difficulty is experienced in obtaining Reports on the various talks we hold at Field Place, the visits and outings. Most speakers now give their talks with the aid of computerized slides and often-unscripted dialogue. As a result, few if any, of our speakers provide a synopsis of the talk so that it can eventually be incorporated into the newsletter. We therefore need volunteers to take notes and prepare a short write up for each of the talks not presented by a member. If it is felt appropriate, tape-recording talks could be re-instituted. **(Comments and names to any committee member please.)**

If you have any suggestion for any change to the content of the newsletter to improve the communication to members, especially those who find difficulty in attending meetings, visits or outings, these would be appreciated. **(Comments to any committee member please.)**

**If anyone would like to have the newsletter sent by e-mail this can be arranged. Please give your name and e-mail address to the Secretary so that he can modify the mailing lists.**

## **Programme of events 2003/04**

The committee is currently considering a number of options for the talks, visits and outings for the 2003 /2004 programme. These will eventually be distilled to form a varied and hopefully, interesting programme for the next year. The committee would appreciate, however, any suggestions members might have for events they would like to see included in any future programme. **(Comments to any committee member please.)**

## **Talk Programmes for Future Years**

In years past, with the exception of the Cooch Lecture, almost every talk has been given by a member of the Association. A direct approach to members, or members volunteering, has produced a continuous flow of very interesting talks. Unfortunately, in recent years, member presentations have been in the minority. The committee has therefore decided to initiate this request, to ascertain the availability of talks from the current membership. Such information will be invaluable in arranging programmes for the future years and therefore this data will be updated on a regular basis and members who can offer their services will be approached to prepare a talk.

Presentations are not required to have great technical depth and need not have any connection with one's career. In the past we have had talks based on a member's hobby, but in all cases they have had some connection with engineering.

In a similar manner, it would be appreciated if you have any suggestions for a speaker who could present a paper at our prestigious Cooch Lecture.

(Names and titles of papers for presentation or Cooch lecturer to C Harrison please)

## Association Tie

We have been approached by the Bristol RCEA to establish whether we as an Association would like to have a necktie that is specific to RCEA membership. The Bristol group already has one for their own members, but they only have a limited number left and now need to replenish their stock. Before doing so however, they are prepared to contact similar groups throughout the UK to establish whether a single redesigned tie could be purchased for members everywhere to buy. They believe a common tie would cost in the region of £8.00.

Would you like to support such an idea?

(Comments to any committee member please.)

## Events November 2002 - February 2003

### ▪ Annual Dinner –

#### Reminder: -

The Annual Dinner will be held at the Beach Hotel, Worthing on Wednesday, 20th November, 7.00 p.m for 7.30 p.m. Dress - dinner jacket or lounge suit. Subsidised cost, £25 each, including wine with the meal and Bucks fizz or orange juice on arrival to welcome members and their partners.

Reply slips were printed in the August newsletter for return by the 6<sup>th</sup> November. However, late bookings may still be possible if you wish to come. Please contact B Buckroyd (Treasurer) on **01903 784926** to see if he can arrange to fit you in.

The following list of Members and Guests have confirmed places for the dinner (as of the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2002): -

E W Ayling (2); L Bannister (2); B Buckroyd (1); R A Carey (2); J L Fowler (2); P Harvey (2); E Laird (2); D M Lewis (2); R P Marshall (2); G E Mathias (4); P Mills (1); A R Mole (2); S J Morley (2); R Norton (1); R A Parsons (2); G H Picken (3); C Pilling (2); S Renew (2); H Rummeli (2); B Slater (1); R D Sheffield (2); N L Warr (2); K Wheeler (2); R K Williams (2); R P Wort (2).

▪ **Cooch Memorial Lecture** “No New Thing Under The Sun”  
by John Narborough, at the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre, on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> November,  
at 2.30 p.m. Tea and biscuits will be served in the interval prior to “Any questions?”

**Theme** “Are all our present day engineering achievements as original or as socially useful as we would like to think? Modern technology meets the preacher from Ecclesiastes!”

▪ **Talk** –“Production of oil from the North Sea”  
by Rob. Williams, member, 2.30p.m.10<sup>th</sup> December, in the Chichester Room, Field Place.

**Theme** “The talk will describe some of the problems that confronted design engineers during the rush to achieve oil production from the northern North Sea in the early 70’s. In particular the speaker will give an overview of the design of production facilities and their installation on fixed platforms.”

▪ **Talk:** “Nuclear Power”,  
a talk by Stuart Crooks, Operations Manager, Dungeness B Power Station, British Energy,  
at 2.30p.m 7<sup>th</sup> January, in the Chichester Room, Field Place.

**Theme** “Stuart will talk about the future of nuclear electricity generation including new build technologies and the U.K.'s situation.”

*Comment from his secretary* “Stuart is an excellent and entertaining speaker who tends to be a little controversial”. So come along and expect a lively debate.

▪ **Visit:** H & S Aviation, Portsmouth, 2.00 pm.Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> January

H&S Aviation is a holder of UK CAA and US FAA certification.

The tour will include the Engine Workshops, Accessory Workshop and the Engine Test Beds. Please support this visit; it is becoming more and more difficult to find companies willing to host visits such as this.

*Please return reply slip on last page*

▪ **Talk:** TheVolks Railway, Brighton  
by Ian. Gledhill, Chairman of Volks Electric Railway Association, at 2.30p.m 11<sup>th</sup> February,  
in the Theatre Building, Field Place.

**Theme** A talk on The Volks Electric Railway, which was built in 1882 running along the sea front at Brighton. It is now the oldest surviving electric railway.

- **Outing: Royal Pavilion, Brighton** 2pm. Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> February.

The Royal Pavilion has undergone a £10m restoration programme over the last few years. Built for King George IV the Pavilion was also used by William IV and Queen Victoria. The visit will provide an opportunity for members, wives and guests to visit this very interesting building. We will have the benefit of a guide on our tour of the Pavilion, which will be followed by a cup of tea and a biscuit in their tearoom.

The cost will be **£6:50**. We are looking for a group size, minimum of 20 and a maximum of 30, for a single guide. Should numbers exceed this we will be split into two groups.

*Please return reply slip on last page*

## REPORT

**“The Story of the Worthing Wurlitzer”**, presentation given 8<sup>th</sup> October 2002, in the Richmond Room of the Assembly Hall, Worthing, by E. C. N. Buckland, member.

Jim Buckland has for some 25 years been the guiding light behind the Worthing Wurlitzer Theatre Organ, regarded now as the finest example of a preserved theatre organ in Europe. In his talk, he covered the history of the theatre organ with particular reference to the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company, the Worthing Wurlitzer, the technicalities of the theatre organ and the afternoon concluded with a short concert by Iain Flitcroft and tour of the organ lofts and under stage areas

The Wurlitzer Company was the largest and pre-eminent theatre organ builder in the world, in fact there were only a very small number of other builders, perhaps notably Christie, in this country. The Wurlitzer Company was founded in Saxony in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century as musical instrument makers and a branch of the family emigrated to the USA in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and established a factory at Tonawanda, a small town near Buffalo in upper New York State, carrying on a similar business.

The difference between a conventional organ of the day – mainly in churches – and the theatre organ was that admission of air to the pipes was by electro-magnetic valves instead of mechanical valves. The idea of electro magnetically operated valves was that of Robert Hope-Jones, an English telephone engineer born in 1851. His first installation was in St Stephen’s Church, Birkenhead in 1886. A number of others followed including Worcester Cathedral. He tried several times to promote his ideas himself, even emigrating to the USA in 1903 and setting up in Ocean Grove NJ in 1907, but for all his efforts, all he achieved business-wise was a string of bankruptcies. The Wurlitzer Company acquired his patents and he himself as a consultant in 1909.

The first Wurlitzer was installed in the USA in 1912 and the last in Buffalo in 1943. A total of 96 were exported to the UK.

The advent of the cinema was the driving force behind the development of the theatre organ, the organ replacing the full orchestras common in many cinemas to provide dramatic emphasis to silent films. Initially the organs were known as uni-orchestras.



The peak production by Wurlitzer was 300 per year in 1926 made mainly by cheap immigrant Polish labour.

The difference in the sounds produced by a “classical” organ and a “theatre” organ is the use of tremulants giving the characteristic theatre organ sound together with the introduction of other “non-organ” sounds e.g. piano, xylophone, drums and sound effects such as horses hooves. The true organ side of a theatre organ is exactly the same as a classical organ comprising of pipes of various forms and of course, lengths. Pipes in the Worthing Wurlitzer range from 32 feet to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch. Theatre organs can be played as classical organs; the writer has heard concerts at the Assembly Hall played by pre-eminent classical organists such as Thomas Trotter, the City of Birmingham organist.

The Worthing Wurlitzer is an amalgam of several organs but recognised as the organ from the Troxy Cinema in Stepney. In fact, only the console of the Troxy organ was new, shipped to the UK in June 1933. The chests, pipework and regulators came from the Metropole Cinema, Victoria, but even they were not new, having first been installed in the Lorraine Theatre in Cleveland, Ohio and repossessed by the Wurlitzer Company.

The Theatre Organ Preservation Society purchased the organ in 1961 when the Troxy closed as a cinema and moved to Buckingham Town Hall where it was installed and played to enthusiastic audiences. Over time, maintenance was neglected and when the building was condemned the Sussex Theatre Organ Trust acquired it and agreement was reached with Worthing Council that when restored, it would be installed in the Assembly Hall. The Council allowed the Trust to use the disused chapel at Broadwater Cemetery as a workshop and parts were stored all over Worthing. After they lost the use of this workshop, Jim built a large workshop over his garage so that work could continue. The present organ is the result of many thousands of hours of voluntary work by a very dedicated team of enthusiasts headed by Jim. Some £250,000 has been spent on materials alone, in addition to the numerous generous donations of equipment. Perhaps it is worthy of note that in 1933 the Troxy organ cost £15,000. The Trust purchased the organ from Buckingham in 1978 and the first concert in the Assembly Hall was on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 1981. Bobby Pagan was the first organist to play the organ both in Stepney and Worthing.

Whilst much of the original Troxy organ exists, additions have been made by acquisitions from other organs, most notably from a BBC organ previously installed in Manchester. However, there is now a huge difference in the quality and maintainability due to the introduction of modern technology and especially materials. It is as though Wurlitzers were still being made and they had been progressively updated as technologies and materials evolved. Despite these improvements, continuous maintenance is required and the Trust is introducing technical developments. The main development at the moment is registration memory storage. Registration is the term used for the sounds which the organist stores in the organ to achieve his performance by means of the various “stops”. At the moment, the registrations of only four organists can be stored; when completed, the new system will be able to store sixty different sets of registrations.

For his talk, Jim had on display various items of equipment from the organ.

After the talk, members were entertained to a short concert by Iain Flitcroft, (a Blackpool Organist now a resident of Worthing and very much part of the Trust team) to demonstrate the versatility and power of the organ.

The meeting closed with members being given the opportunity of a close up view of the console, when the various control features were described; followed by a visit under the stage to see the lift which elevates the organ and the organist, (such an evocative part of an organ concert); and finally we were shown into one of the two organ lofts to view the pipes, sound effect items, chambers and blowers; quite an amazing piece of “packaging”.

A fitting end to an extremely interesting afternoon.

Richard Norton

## **Comment from Glyn Mathias**

I would like to thank Jim for the Worthing Wurlitzer "Talk, Demonstration and Visit" a truly memorable event. As the first event of the year that I had to organise, I was keen to have a talk by a member (if at all possible) and one that would be a fitting start to this year's programme. I was looking forward very much to the talk and my expectations were more than exceeded by Jim's presentation. Jim obviously spent a lot of time and effort in preparing for his talk and you could tell how enthusiastic and committed he is to Theatre Organs in general and the Worthing Wurlitzer in particular.

My thanks also go to his band of helpers.

To those members who, for whatever reason were not able to attend the talk, I have to say that you missed one, if not the most, interesting and informative talks delivered by a true enthusiast.

(Glyn Mathias)

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To: G.E. Mathias, 16 Tamarisk Way, East Preston, BN16 2TF  
Alternatively reply to Glyn.Mathias@btinternet.com

Tel: 01903 859191

I wish to participate in the visit to **H&S Aviation, Portsmouth on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2003**  
**commencing 2.00 p.m.**

Full Name .....(Block capitals)

Address .....  
.....  
.....

Phone No..... **Applications by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2003**

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To: G.E. Mathias, 16 Tamarisk Way, East Preston, BN16 2TF

Tel: 01903 859191

I wish to participate in the visit to **The Royal Pavillion, Brighton on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**February 2003 meeting at 2.00 p.m.**

Full Name .....(Block capitals)

Address .....  
.....  
.....

Phone No..... **Applications by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2003**

I enclose a cheque payable to RCEA for.....( **£6.50 per person**)

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