

FEBRUARY 2017 News

'Information not shared is forgotten'

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MULLARD HISTORY

If you have been to our Archives in the recent days you may have spotted a new item, 'Where it all began'. These few pages from the October 1970 issue of Electronics Today that gives a potted view of Mullard history starting with 'Z' where it all began. It also features the Mullard Rose celebrating 50 years, and pictures of members of the Mullard board at that time.

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JOHN PERRY

John Perry, a colleague from GEC Semiconductors Hazel Grove, dating from 1957, died on Tuesday 17 January. John was able to spend his final days accommodated at the Woking nursing home where his wife Margaret has been since her catastrophic fall some three years ago.

Those of us who knew John will remember him for his love of reel-to-reel audio, after dinner speech recordings, short wave listening, his At-Home with the Magic Circle and 'patter'.

Above all that his detailed attention to customer's needs. Since his early GEC Leeds days John established a life-long relationship with the BBC.

Sir Ivor Cohen recalls *'There was one aspect of John's which I found fascinating. It was his ability to be accepted by the highest levels of customer management even in such hierarchal minded organizations as the BBC who would not normally see sales reps who came to see their juniors. John was accepted by the top engineering staff as an equal and ensured when I became Managing Director that I got to know all the people with authority'.*

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DICK TOVELL

Dick, a true Mullard person died on Friday 3 February. Sally his wife said *"You will be sorry to hear that Dick passed away suddenly last Friday. He had been in Watford hospital for three weeks and then transferred to Hammersmith for a week where he had kidney dialysis. The hospital had planned an MRI and asked a liver specialist to see him on Friday.*

We were called at 2.15 am as he had a heart attack and his major organs were shutting down".

Thanks to you John Hanson and Geoff Morris for this keeping us all informed.

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VALVE MUSEUM

Many of us have associations with thermionic valves, either as 'supplier' like Mullard or as 'users' such as the TV and other factories which made up Philips UK.

Your nostalgia can be fed by visiting the Valve Museum at <http://www.r-type.org/> run by Allan Wyatt.

There are two parts of this on-line museum, the public free access and much more on the friends page, which describes the contents of the subscription database.

As well as specifications, Allan has a collection of boxes and pictures of most types. There are also links to many other valve web site around the world.

For those of us longing to see something about valves made at Blackburn view:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDvF89Bh27Y>

New colleagues in TEO Blackburn in 1962 were trying to impress me with a tour like this. I had seen the GEC lamp factory at Wembley in 1948 making 1200 lamps an hour on multi-head Westlake machines. Even so Blackburn impressed!

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BREXIT

It would be remiss not to mention one of the topic of the day - Brexit a new word introduced

into our language. As Philips People we all experienced the international nature of the businesses in which we were employed. However, the June 2016 vote was clear and suggests that many views have changed.

It is interesting to observe the courts vying with parliament and the voters to establish which

is most powerful.

Failure to achieve Brexit will result in a major change to the political landscape of England if not UK.

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DONALD TRUMP

It is interesting to see the parallels between the election of Donald Trump and the Brexit vote.

It has been said many times that these votes illustrate the mistrust many have of the 'chattering classes'.

The question we are asking 'where will it all end'? For many regaining our sovereignty from

the EU unelected leaders will be sufficient. For the US the possibilities are wide open and may well impact us all.

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