

March 2014 NEWS

'Information not shared is forgotten'

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A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since our last News. For some of you the recent flood have been devastating with those in the still stricken areas - Somerset and Thames valley - facing disruptions for months to come. Lack of dredging, building on flood plain and maybe an over zealous regard for wildlife have each contributed to the devastation. Let's hope lessons have been learnt.

BLETCHLEY PARK

Mullard House pensioners visited Bletchly Park last year. Very memorable to learn how much was done during WW2 to reduce the length of the war. A very interesting web site is at <http://www.codesandciphers.co.uk/> which was set up by the late Tony Sale's who was for some time a guide there. You will have read recently that all is not well at Bletchly Park with the ongoing battle between the Trustees and others which is holding up the Lottery funding so necessary to preserve the buildings and equipment.

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MULLARD HOUSE

With dwindling numbers and a membership scattered around London, the Philips House Pensioners Association ceased at a special AGM in June last year. However, the spirit lives on with luncheon meetings arranged by Peter Habmel. Please email me to get his phone number.

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THE WEB is 25

The origins of the web and its inventors are being celebrated this year. Many of you will recall the 1970s 'Text on TV' that UK particularly Mullard pioneered with dedicated ICs, first with Teletext - CEEFAX and ORACLE - followed by PRESTEL and Philips UK's own MOVIES. This coincided with the Philips INNOVATOR boat sailing in the Whitbread Round the World yacht race and the Royal Wedding both utilising these Text on TV technologies.

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EKCO

Although 25 years old and growing fast, Internet web sites do disappear largely because the web host passes on or funding is withdrawn. Thus much of the history of EKCO has gone from the web. However, because of ECHO's historic links with many of the technologies that Mullard was involved with, I preserved copies. Two have been added to our web site under Links, with acknowledgement to the originators. N.B. This web site has been secured until August 2018.

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SOUTHAMPTON

After the sales of the Philips semiconductor business to NXP I learnt that the Southampton site has been flattened. I wonder whether the memorial to the Fighter Pilot at the main entrance has been preserved? And for many of us the exit from Consumer Electronics announced in January 2013 removes the last links with our life's works.

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PHILIPS SHIELD

The Philips shield has been in existence in various forms since 1934. A revised 'digital friendly' version has just been approved. The shield was first 'digitised' for the Philips front page 556 on PRESTEL, created within the limited graphics of 6 sub blocks taking the space and pixels of an alpha or numeric character. Unfortunately the only image is under MEMBERS ONLY, Tony M, 'A Review of the 1980s leading to Retirement' and the PRESTEL paragraph. If you have a better picture please let me know.

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Our PENSION FUND

The final sales of NXP shares was made last year which put the fund as at September 2013 at 108%. Coupled to the new fund's administrators Towers Watson it sound all good news for our fund. You can login to your pension records at <https://epa.towerswatson.com/doc/PHL/login.htm>

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