



# NEWSLETTER

## Best Wishes for the New Year

The Centre Committee would like to wish all our members a happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year. Why not make a New Year resolution to attend one Centre event between now and the AGM in May.

## Petition for North Lincs District - Sub Centre Status

Many thanks to all of the members in the NLD who took the time to respond to the request for support for the Sub Centre status petition. The results of the ballot are shown below:

			Total	
	For	Against	Members	For
<b>Fellows</b>	12	0	16	75%
<b>Members</b>	57	0	134	43%
<b>Associate Members</b>	30	0	107	28%
<b>Associates</b>	16	0	51	31%
<b>Students</b>	14	0	54	26%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>36%</b>

To be able to progress an application the IEE rules for creation of Areas and Sub Centres require the following of the petition:

1. The majority of those responding are in favour of the change and
2. Not less than 20 Corporate members of whom not less than 4 shall be Fellows are in favour of the change.

As you can see from the results we clearly meet these rules and the North Lincs committee had agreed to progress the application. The next stage of the procedure requires the submission of a report that details the reasons for the application. This report is currently being prepared and it is hoped it will be ready for the January meeting of the IEE Centres Board.

We will keep you informed of developments.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> UNIVERSITY FOR SHEFFIELD

### **The University for Industry to be based in Sheffield**

The Education and Employment Minister, Baroness Blackstone has announced that the proposed **University for Industry** is to have its headquarters in Sheffield. The UFI will be launched in the year 2000, with £40 million made available for development during the year 1999/2000.

The UFI is a government initiative, which aims to transform the way people learn. Unlike the conventional educational institutions, which are campus based, the UFI will use new technology and a network of learning centres to promote lifelong learning,

ranging from the basic skills of literacy and numeracy to specialised technological skills and business management.

The UFI will also act as a broker, commissioning materials and providing information to a wide range of people interested in furthering their education or training. It is hoped that the UFI will play a key role in improving UK competitiveness by raising skills levels and employability.

The recommendation that Sheffield be chosen to host this key government initiative was made by Lord Sainsbury of Turvill, Chairman of the UFI's

transition board. Commenting on the recommendation after evaluating a number of potential sites, Lord Sainsbury said. "I'm confident that we reached the right conclusion. Sheffield is located in the middle of the country with excellent transport links to all parts. The local labour market has the skills the University will need, and we have a choice of good quality buildings".

The new Chief-Executive of the **University for Industry** will be Dr Anne Wright, currently Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sunderland.

## **SHEFFIELD CENTRE**

## What is EMC?

EMC stands for **E**lectro**M**agnetic **C**ompatib**i**lity, which in English means, the ability of equipment to function correctly in its electromagnetic environment, so that it's operation will not be affected by external electromagnetic sources and neither will it interfere with other electronic or electrical equipment so that they malfunction. To illustrate this various examples of incompatibility have been reported.

Cases reported by the US government include an electronic wheelchair spontaneously moving towards street traffic after its control circuits were interfered with by a local transmitter, a laser beam redirecting itself into the audience of a light show, a defibrillator failing to resuscitate a patient and a patient monitoring system failing to detect a patient's critical condition, (allegedly the patient had been dead for 2 hours with the system showing a current heart rate of 60 beats per minute)

Closer to home the US medical fears are mirrored in most hospitals having a policy of telling visitors to switch off mobile phones whilst on hospital premises, because of the risk of interference to hospital equipment. Many cases are reported of remote central locking systems on cars malfunctioning as they are being jammed by more powerful local transmitters, (Imagine the scene, a frustrated rep locked out of his rep-mobile, unable to get to his car phone to ring for assistance, flags down another rep, who parks next to him gets out of his identical rep-mobile locks the door and goes to offer assistance, only to find that he too can't get to his car phone, so he flags down an identical rep-mobile.....)

Robert Turner of Microvitec Bradford, who has been involved with EMC for the past 15 years, has written this article.

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## Visit Our New Web Site

Those of you who persevered for a few weeks after receiving our last Newsletter will have found our new Centre WEB site. Our initial intention was to host the site on the IEE server at Savoy Place (address <http://www.iee.org.uk/Centres/Sheffield/>). However access problems eventually resulted in the WEB site being hosted on a server in Sheffield (address <http://www/ieesheff.force9.co.uk>). A link is provided from our home page on the IEE server so access should no longer be a problem.

We intend to develop the site over this session and have already made a number of enhancements over the past few weeks. If any of our Internet experts out there have any ideas for improvements they would be much appreciated. The site will be regularly updated and we hope it can become a key vehicle for the notification of last minute programme changes.

Most of the Centre committee officers now have e-mail addresses and so we should be easy enough to contact. A full list of addresses will be posted on the WEB site.

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## Can Anyone HELP?

**We made an appeal in the last Newsletter for a volunteer to be our Benevolent Fund Advisor. Unfortunately we had no response. This is an important role that must be filled and so I repeat the appeal again below.**

Peter Thompson our excellent Benevolent Fund Advisor for many years has decided its time to pass the role onto someone new. The problem is we need to find a volunteer to undertake this important role. Peter has produced an outline of the duties to make the transition 'painless'. We must fill this role early this session to ensure our local members needs are correctly represented. If you are in a position to give a few hours a month to help identify and assess our members in need of help please do consider offering your services.

**If you would like further details of the duties involved or would like to offer your services please contact Richard Lee (Tel: 0114 2745844 or e-mail [richard@homelee.force9.co.uk](mailto:richard@homelee.force9.co.uk))**

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## Yorkshire Centre - Faraday Lecture

The Sheffield Centre has not been allocated this year's Faraday Lecture. The nearest venue will be at the Royal Hall in Harrogate on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March with presentations at 10.30 a.m., 2.00 p.m., and 7.00 p.m. For 'free' tickets send a SAE to Mr. M. D. Barber, MA C.Eng, F.I.E.E, c/o IEE, PO Box 137, Trafford Park, Manchester, M60 1AW.

## John Leeson Retires after 45 Years Service to Centre



(Photograph shows John receiving his retirement gift from the Centre Committee)

John Leeson retired from his role as Schools Liaison at the end of the last session after 45 years of service to the Centre. John joined the IEE as a student in November 1944, some six months after joining the Royal Air Force.

He transferred to Associate Membership in 1950 and commenced his long association with the Centre when he agreed to serve as a member of the North Midland Student Section in March 1951, becoming its Chairman in 1954. He gained full membership in 1960 and served as Assistant Honorary Secretary to the Sheffield sub-Centre until 1963.

In February 1965 he became a committee member of the North Midland Power Section, serving as its Chairman for the 1970/71 session. John returned in 1997 to serve on the committee of the newly formed Sheffield Centre.

In January 1979 he took on the role of Assistant Schools Liaison Officer to Charles Cooksley, taking on the full responsibilities in May of that year. John transferred to the status of Fellow in October 1980 and received his IEE 50-Year Award in October 1993.

Between September 1976 and 1997 John served as a member of the 'Yorkshire and Humberside CEI', the 'Yorkshire Region of the Engineering Council' and the 'Yorkshire and Humberside PEI'.

It is evident that John has had a varied and productive involvement with the IEE, however his 20 years service as Schools Liaison Officer (making him the longest serving SLO within the IEE) must be his finest achievement. The Centre Committee wishes John well in his well-deserved "retirement", although his services might still be required from time to time!

### Forthcoming Events

#### *January*

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>** A joint NLD event with the InstMC titled '**Combined Heat and Power Units**'. Details have still to be confirmed so contact the NLD Programme Secretary, Gary Lambert for details.

#### *February*

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** we are holding a membership event at the Sheffield Holiday Inn titled '**How to become a Chartered Engineer**' starting at 7.30 p.m. The event will be run by our Membership Department from Savoy Place and is a must for all our AMIEE's. Please make full use of this opportunity to speak to the people who know all about membership issues.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>** A NLD event titled '**Automation of the Rival Electrical Distribution Systems**' will be held at

the Wortley Hotel, Rowland Road, Scunthorpe. Details from the NLD Programme Secretary, Gary Lambert.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>** at 7.30 p.m. in the Sheffield Holiday Inn is your chance to see a cancelled event from last year's programme. The lecture '**Aircraft Accident Investigation**' will be presented by Ken Smart the Chief Investigator of air Accidents for the Department of Transport.

#### *March*

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 7.30 p.m. in lecture room LT2 at Sheffield University we will be holding a lecture primarily aimed at the younger engineer and those taking their first steps into project management. The lecture titled '**Project Management - The Basics**' will be presented by Dr Miles Redfern from the University of Bath.

**RETIRED MEMBERS SECTION?**

As reported in the September Newsletter, your Centre is proposing to establish a Retired Members Section if we can show it would receive your support. The purpose of the section would be to arrange events, primarily visits, to places of interest at times when members in full employment would be unable to attend.

If you are interested please fill in and return the attached slip. Any lectures or visits you feel would be popular and any contacts you have for arranging such events please include details with your return.

**SHEFFIELD CENTRE****RETIRED MEMBERS SECTION**

Please return to: Mr. T. W. Holmes  
15 Birch Grove  
Oughtibridge  
SHEFFIELD, S35 0FG

I wish to register as a member of the Sheffield Centre Retired Members Section.

I am in: part time employment/fully retired

Name: .....

Address: .....  
.....

Tel No. ....

I would be interested in a lecture by: .....

Visit to: .....

Person to contact: .....

**NEW: FAMILY EVENTS**

As part of the Sheffield Centre Action Plan we wish to run some family events aimed at engineers with young or youngish families (or members that *want* to re-capture their childhood). However don't let not having kids stop you from attending - we can always lend you one or two! We also want to let kids see what engineering is all about so that they can decide for themselves whether they too want to follow in their parent's footsteps (or safety boots, as the case may be). Some of the events will have an engineering basis (electrical or otherwise) and some will be just for fun! We aim to run approximately one event a month, usually at weekends, although during school holidays we might have a few more daytime events to relieve parents of the school holiday hysteria of kids at home all day every day!

One event is already planned for Easter: this will be a social event including a short walk, Easter egg hunt and picnic (bring your own sandwiches) - full details in the Centre programme or on the Website. Other events that have been suggested include a trip to the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, the Energy Centre at Elsecar Heritage, Kelham Island and Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet. We are also looking at running a number of evening lectures based around family themes, such as construction toys. There has been a good deal of interest in the steam train visits from the committee but it's really the kids that count (the ones under 18, not the ones that just wish they were!). Before these visits can be arranged I need some idea of the numbers that might be interested in going. If there is sufficient interest I will try to arrange the first event for sometime in February (watch the website for latest events). Please let me know if you are interested and which event you would prefer, by January 16th if possible - those that contact me will receive advance notice of the first event by e-mail or post. I can be contacted by e-mail on [beckifinch@iee.org](mailto:beckifinch@iee.org) or by mobile phone on 07771 671255, which has a voicemail facility when the phone is turned off.