

# SGT NEWS



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## EVOLUTION OF THE SPRING MEETING

**May 13 to 15, 1992 are the dates for the next SGT annual spring meeting in Grange-over-Sands. Here, the origins of these important events are reviewed.**

One of the most important functions of the Society has always been the holding of meetings to read papers and deliver lectures for the advancement of glass technology. In earlier days, main Society meetings were normally held in Sheffield at the Department of Glass Technology. They consisted of short programmes, often lasting only one day but containing a wide range of subjects, from the most erudite scientific papers to the most down-to-earth problems of glass manufacturing.

In 1957, a decision was taken to arrange meetings on related subjects and the era of the symposium began. This had a profound effect because it led to the separation of papers into scientific, glass technological and industrial management topics and a consequent grouping of the people attending. Maybe this was a factor in the separation of the journal in 1960 into two publications: *Physics and Chemistry of Glasses* and *Glass Technology*.

Before 1959, the Society held an annual dinner, often in London. Later, it became associated with the annual general meeting and was held in various locations. Increasingly

technical and industrial management papers were included until symposia were incorporated in the meetings from 1963 to 1965.

Due to the presence of ladies associated with the annual dinner, a limited ladies' programme was also included. As these annual meetings were held in the autumn, often in November, a satisfactory ladies' programme was difficult to achieve due to poor weather and the many organisations which closed down during the winter months. Following the Golden Jubilee Celebrations in 1966, the meeting was moved to April/May and thus the spring meeting was born.

Many changes have taken place in the glass manufacturing industry in the UK, with many smaller firms being absorbed into larger groups. Whereas at one time, the factory owner would have responsibilities for all areas of plant activity, we now saw the development of separate managers for technical, engineering, financial and personnel tasks. It was decided to take this change into account when planning the spring meetings. A symposium was thus included which, although it had a strong technical content, also included papers of interest to a wider area of management.

Another innovation was to hold the meetings in rotation in the area of

each of the six local sections and also to get the local members to take an active part in arranging the meeting venue and organising a reception for delegates.

Thus the spring meeting evolved and has been held successfully for years. It is linked to a local section and includes a symposium of general interest. The annual general meeting and the annual dinner are held on the final day. Keynote lecturers are often invited and have provided some outstanding contributions. Also there is a presidential address every two years. Ladies may attend and there is always a varied and enjoyable programme. Thus the meeting is not only an occasion for the exchange of views on important technical and managerial matters but an opportunity for all members of the Society to join together socially.

In recent years, even the scientists have been involved, attending their own specialised meeting but joining in with the social functions. This makes it an occasion for cross fertilisation of ideas, much as it must have been envisaged by Professor Turner with his one-day mixed subject meetings in Sheffield so many years ago.

*T S BUSBY*



*President:*  
*Mr N M McDonnell,*  
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*FSGT.*

*Honorary Secretary:*  
*Mr W Simpson,*  
*FSGT, FICeram,*  
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*Honorary Treasurer:*  
*Mr M D Thew.*

# WHERE IT'S AT!

The Society of Glass Technology has been headquartered in Sheffield throughout its 76 year history. A move to the present 'Thornton' premises was conducted in 1953.

From its inception in 1916, the Society used accommodation and facilities within the Department of Glass Technology, Sheffield University, first at Badger Lane, then at Darnall Rd and finally, in 'Elmfield' on Northumberland Rd. As the Society's scale of operations and number of staff increased, it became necessary to find accommodation for its own headquarters and a fund was therefore set up for this purpose, with contributions from members and the glass industry.

'Thornton', the home of the late Dr W M Gibbons, former Registrar of Sheffield University, was purchased in 1952 for £5100. A further £2500 was spent on converting the ground floor into office accommodation; the top two floors have been rented out to a series of private tenants, which offers a measure of security for the premises. The transfer of staff and equipment from 'Elmfield' to 'Thornton' took place on 2 January 1953 and the



building was formally opened on 29 April that year by Mrs I Whittaker, wife of the Vice Chancellor of Sheffield University. A display of Society publications had been arranged in the entrance hall and the President, Dr A Cousen (a life-long abstainer), had laid on cocktails which gave the opportunity for some humour in the inevitable speeches!

As can be seen from the accompanying photograph, 'Thornton' is an attractive stone-built detached house, situated in a pleasant suburb about a mile from the University campus. It houses four members of staff - Derek Hawksworth (editor), Miss J M Costello, (administration manager), Mrs J Lawless (journals assistant) and Mrs C Brown (accounts assistant). The fifth member of staff, Mrs M Parker (the Society's librarian) works in the Frank Wood Joint Library, which is housed in the University.



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## LOW PRESSURE AIR

The Engineering Committee held a clinic meeting about low pressure air at Keresforth Hall, Barnsley on 27 November 1991. The meeting was chaired by Gavin Steward of The Steward Organisation and was attended by 10 members.

Mr Steward is well known to the glass industry and has wide experience of all types of installations where low pressure air is used. Discussion covered the full range of operation within the glassworks and topics included energy considerations, heat recovery, ducting systems, noise transmission and

reduction, fan types and siting, fume extraction, furnace cooling and machine cooling. Whilst all the topics mentioned were covered, much of the time was spent considering furnace cooling and its related problems. The value of the clinic meeting format, with its inherent flexibility, was demonstrated well, with all the topics being introduced to allow coverage of minority interests, yet devoting most of the time by common consent, to one particular aspect of the subject. The meeting proved the value of sharing practical information on a working level - both in formal discussion and in private conversation - once again. However, the level of support from member companies was disappointing.

G B MOORE

## AWARD FOR SERVICE

At the Yorkshire Section's annual dinner and dance (Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield, 6 December 1991), the President presented Mr D J A Haley with his award for service.

A well known character in the glass industry, Derek began his career with Jackson Brothers in Knottingley and then moved to the Midlands to join Price-Pearson Refractories, later to become Dyson Refractories. Since joining the Society in 1964, he has served on the Furnace, Refractories, and Hand-Made Glass Technical Committees and the Yorkshire Local Section Committee. He has also been active in organising a number of symposia. He was elected a fellow (No 228) in 1979.

The award for service was inaugurated in 1978 and is intended for fellows and members who 'have made particular efforts or served beyond that normally expected'. Presentation of the awards is by the President. It has become a tradition that this is performed at the annual dinner of the recipient's local section.

## JOIN THE SMART SET!

SGT member's and fellow's ties are now available in blue, green, grey and maroon colours. One tie costs £7.86 and the full set of four, £25.

Gold coloured cuff links can also be purchased priced £7.86 and bearing the Society's crest.