

R. S. R. S.

Newsletter

No. 78

October 1967

Hafod Yn Aberystwyth

Several members of R.S.R.S. found that the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, was indeed a very comfortable summer residence ("hafod") from the 2nd-16th September. The occasion was an Advanced Study Institute, sponsored by N.A.T.O. and organized by R.S.R.S. personnel, on "Structure of the Lower Atmosphere and Electromagnetic Wave Propagation". The purpose of the Institute was to provide a comprehensive survey of topics ranging from scattering theories and studies of fine structure to absorption, refraction and optical propagation. About 55 visitors from overseas attended, with 23 participants from the United Kingdom. In addition to those from Western Europe the company included 16 visitors from the U.S.A., 2 from Australia and 1 from Nigeria.

The introductory talk was given by Director, R.S.R.S., who opened the scientific programme with a survey paper, presented after dinner on the first Sunday evening. Subsequent sessions consisted of lectures and discussions, on a variety of subjects; and several points of controversy soon provided suitable material for further informal sessions in the common room, in the bar, or on the beach. The college facilities and academic atmosphere proved admirable in promoting an enthusiastic approach and small groups were sometimes observed in the lounge at 1 a.m. or later, still arguing about topics of the day. Several useful points emerged in these sessions relevant to future work in the R.S.R.S. programme. This was particularly evident in relation to fine structure of the atmosphere and studies of amplitude and phase fluctuations.

To balance these energetic discussions, however, there were several enjoyable social events: a reception by the Mayor, a cocktail party, a visit from a local choir, and excursions to Snowdonia, the Elan Valley, Cader Idris, and the Rheidol valley. There were also rumours of occasional midnight swimming parties. Such antics seemed to enhance rather than inhibit the enthusiasm for the next day's toil. In fact, the experience of participating in an Advanced Study Institute in Wales can be thoroughly recommended. For the information of anyone interested in promoting such a venture all you need is a vacant college (with bar), a few mountains and narrow-gauge railways nearby, and 60-70 colleagues; and \$15,000.

J. A. Lane

The R.S.G.B. Exhibition

This year the exhibition was officially opened by Dr. Saxton, and R.S.R.S. had a fine display, mounted by Slough Displays, Ltd., in the place of honour on the raised platform at the end of the Horticultural Hall. It featured the Chilbolton Aerial, and the digital data-processing gear built to go on the end of it, the Topside Sounder, and the Airborne Refractometers, - one working on the stand and one suspended from the roof in a more inaccessible position. There were times when we wished that some of the other equipment were also in a similarly inaccessible position, since, as might have been foreseen, an amateur radio society is bound to contain at least as high a percentage of compulsive knob-twiddlers as is normally found at Slough. Multiply the Slough staff by a thousand or so, and you will get some idea of what we were up against. All the manufacturers, we noticed, had their gear lined up on the stands in such a position that people could twiddle to their hearts content, and they did. We were, however, inclined to wonder whether the placing of expensive gear in such a vulnerable position was quite such a good idea as far as we were concerned.

The exhibition was well attended, and pretty well filled the available space. As one would expect, most of the exhibits were of receiving, transmitting and test gear suitable for amateur use (and pockets), together with the usual journals such as Short Wave Magazine and Wireless World, one or two aerial manufacturers, and the excellent display of home made equipment made by members, much of which would put to shame some of the things we have seen at Slough! In addition the G.P.O. put on a show which included transistor amplifiers and varactor multipliers, (the latter with an almost frightening spectrum-analyser display shewing the harmonic content at the output terminal), there were the three Services amateur radio societies on stands partially slanted towards the encouragement of recruiting, a transportable satellite terminal station from Christchurch, a Bush colour T.V. set complete with circuit diagram and a very bad attack of the Blues, and one or two educational exhibits shewing, for example, some of the properties of microwave transmission and reflection. There were also the usual R.S.G.B. information and education services, and one could have a swift look round the whole thing at the amateur T.V. society stand, by means of a closed-circuit system in the hall.

We enjoyed ourselves quite well, although the majority of visitors had no knowledge of the work done here, and one had to talk quite a good deal to get the stuff across. In a society of this kind one gets quite a cross-section of the population, of course, and there was a sprinkling of professionals and university people who were already familiar with some of the work. Although there was bound to be some good-humoured chaffing of the professionals by the amateurs, we had little or no trouble, in spite of occasional visits from the "yobo" section. We did, however, have a little trouble with the exhibits. The model of the Chilbolton Aerial decided that it was not quite an accurate

copy of the original, and developed a failure in azimuth on the second day. The recorder pen-amplifier conked out early on the Saturday, and the rather pleasant trickle of satellite noises provided by Mr. Newman ceased when the endless tape broke and we had no means of repair at hand. There were an unprecedented number of small boys (aged from six to sixty) wishing to operate the oscilloscope and tape-recorders, and the digitising gear. All these exhibits, if one turned one's back for more than two minutes, required setting-up all over again, usually with helpful comment from the audience. (One duffle-coated gent came back to twiddle the oscilloscope so many times that I became quite convinced that he had designs upon it, but it was still there when I left.) We were a little dismayed by the number of apple-cores which seemed to collect in the stand ash-trays; we feel that this must mean something or other.

F. V. B.

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Mensch und Übermensch

(Die Zeitgeist)

The history of Man is essentially that of domination, first of the environment, and then of Man.

There are those that say that Man's highest ideal is to conquer Man, but who are these people?

Are they not those that would have the world accept their own particular set of abstract ideals? Are they not those that torture themselves and rejoice in their self-inflicted pain, who revel in their agony, calling upon some higher Being to lift them from their swamp? Are they not those that revel in their self-pity and call it pity for mankind?

So often are poor minds subject to illusions concerning the nature of existence. Does existence need to be justified? Does that which is natural, objectively existing, need to be justified from outside?

Each must decide as an individual.

The past, or the land of the living and its hope for the future? Hope that is rooted in the action of the present, for this is the only time for action.

Do not ponder my words, for they are not for building ponderous edifices in which to imprison minds, but a corrective, to be used very sparingly, otherwise they may prove highly narcotic.

I have been down into dark valleys and now I quit them for the sunny plains.

Zarathustra

Staff News

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs Ooi Poh Loh on the birth of their daughter Huay Mey on 15th September at Singapore.

Jock and Kathy Gourlay on the birth of their daughter Lynne Rachel on 11th October.

Miss E. S. Barnes who has recently passed her Audio Typing Class I (Higher) examination.

Welcome to:

S. J. Hammond	Non-Perm. A.E.O.
Miss M. D. Evans	Perm. S.O.
S. K. Bhattacharyya	Perm. E.O.
M. A. Johnson	Perm. A.E.O.
J. R. Smeathers	Perm. S.O.
J. S. Winchester	Non-Perm. S.A.
C. Murphy	Non-Perm. Tech. III
J. Arnold	Non-Perm. S.A.
Mrs J. Selway	Non-Perm. Clerk Typist Part time (Falklands)
P. Morrison	Non-Perm. Driver Mech. (ESRO) Falklands
Mrs F. V. Stanley	Non-Perm. Canteen Assistant
Mrs M. E. Richards	Non-Perm. Canteen Assistant
K. McLeod	Handyman Non-Perm. (Falklands) (ESRO)

Resignations

D. G. Collyer	Est. E.O. (Winkfield)
Mrs J. M. Gillard	Non-Perm. C.A.
R. R. Lucas	Temp. S.A.
R. D. Marshall	Non-Perm. A.E.O.
J. M. Gailer	Temp. A.E.O. (Winkfield)
P. Fulcher	College Based Sandwich Course Student
Mrs C. J. Greene	Non-Perm. S.O.
B. E. Leadlay	Temp. S.A. (Winkfield)
T. A. Booth	Temp. A.E.O. (Winkfield)
L. N. Chaudhary	Perm. A.E.O.
P. J. Harrison	College Based Sandwich Course Student
J. E. T. Shorrocks	Non-Perm. A.E.O.
S. M. Morrissey	Perm. A.E.O.
Mrs J. E. Jennings	Non-Perm. Clerk Typist (Falklands)
Mrs M. E. Richards	Non-Perm. Canteen Assistant
Mrs D. E. M. Blay	Non-Perm. Canteen Assistant
K. McLeod	Handyman (Falklands) (ESRO)

Turkish Delights

The following are genuine quotations from tourist brochures collected by R.S.R.S. staff who attended a recent AGARD symposium in Ankara, Turkey.

(a) "The author of this article on Islamic Art teaches Philosophy at Oxford University in Cambridge, England."

In the latest comprehensive, perhaps?

(b) "You may take home 500 cigarettes, two litres of wine, and two Turkish carpets."

All in a handy pack for the brief-case.

(c) "The University admits students through competitive entrance examinations. Its tuition is extremely low."

Come and take your Finals first!

(d) "Shopping bargains include Turkish sleepers (ladies) with their noses turned up at the ends."

Export models, retroussé style, straight from the harem?

Sports and Social Club News

SULTAN

Tramps Ball

There is probably nobody at R.S.R.S. who has not heard by this time of the enormous success of the first Tramps Ball, held in the Old Buildings on September 23rd.

The Ball started "swinging" almost as soon as the first odd assortment of tramps arrived and continued to do so until midnight. Probably the most gratifying point about the Ball was the spirit, (not alcoholic), in which everybody attended. An outsider describing the appearance of the evening revellers would have used adjectives like bizarre, extraordinary and Bohemian, in seeing the unshaven chins, blackened teeth, tattered raincoats, sackcloth footwear and hole-ridden vests. Some tramps even wore their "best" shirt collars and cuffs for the occasion.

The prizes for the best dressed male and female tramps were deservedly awarded to non-R.S.R.S. personnel, both of whom would have made real vagrants look quite respectable.

Music was admirably provided by the Merrydown Jump Trad Jazz Band. Keg bitter was on sale together with the usual selection of drinks. An excellent buffet was provided halfway through the evening.

The Tramps Ball was enjoyed tremendously by all, its success was mainly due to the conscientious work done by the Social Committee, especially Maureen Stacey, Clare Seabrook and Bob Butler. On the strength of this dance it has been proposed that another be held soon in the New Year - perhaps it will be even more of a success than the last one.

A. Dagnall

Motor Club

The weekend of 14 October 1967 saw a major step forward in the affairs of the Motor Club. After many weeks of preparation on the building site, we were ready for the first delivery of concrete. On Saturday morning one of the large churn-carrying readymix lorries duly arrived and deposited its unruly load, on roadway and into barrows, as our dedicated few hurriedly ferried some of it to the more inaccessible areas. In all some seven tons were shifted in half an hour. More is yet to come and we aim to complete the framework of the workshop building before the winter.

It has been suggested that this occasion is a suitable one to formally open membership of the motor club section, and so all those wishing to join are asked to contact Tony Gibson or myself.

The club oil scheme is flourishing, and once we have our building we hope to reduce oil prices by buying in larger units.

Antifreeze will be available through the winter, but motorists are asked to take their requirements now to avoid a rush in bad weather.

E. Golton

Bonfire

The Sports and Social Club's annual Guy Fawkes celebration will take place this year on Saturday, 4th November, commencing at 6 p.m. After the enormous bonfire and a firework display, hot refreshments will be served. The bar will be open later in the evening.

Please sign one of the lists as soon as possible if you are coming.

Children from local homes have been invited - volunteer drivers to chauffeur them will be welcomed (see Veronica Lovell).

Clothes for the guy, old engine oil, the loan of saws and best of all HELP with the WOODING would be much appreciated: contact Paul Dickinson, Eric Dunford, Veronica Lovell.

N.B. The more help we get at lunchtimes the bigger bonfire we can build.

Veronica Lovell

Any Old Iron?

Perhaps some of you will have noticed the appearance of a small notebook hanging on the notice board opposite Spur A. This tome is entitled "Articles Wanted and for Sale", and it is hoped that you find this a useful means of buying and selling articles from houses to hamsters. The idea originated at the Pest Infestation Laboratory, where it has been very successfully used for some time. We hope it will be as much of a boon to us. So why not take a peep? - there may be something you have always wanted going cheap. Or perhaps you have something you don't want, but the rest of us need badly!

Margo Clarke

Tennis

Twelve players turned up for our internal match on October 7th and as North outnumbered South by 10 to 2, we agreed to a contest between married couples - with Clare Seabrook deputising for Deirdre Fitchew - and the 'unattacheds'. After some really close games, which lasted for longer than predicted, the 'marrieds' were victorious by 7 matches to 2.

R. W. Smith

LETTER TO THE OUTSTATIONS

Dear Colleagues,

Awesome indeed are the forces which uphold and guide our working destinies; levelling enough to satisfy the fiercest Jacobin. These powers were glimpsed the other day in a London Office notice. There, amid a gaggle of resigned C.O.'s., E.O.'s., Typists etc., was one well-known name whose rank and station was laconically described as 'Chairman'. So to this last establishment return come all who stay the course, be they F.R.S. or Cleaner, part-time. It seems that there is no provision in Estacode for the trumpets to sound on this side.

For those who wish it, we now have a peg to indicate an historical demarcation line. Henceforth it will be very meet and very right to describe all events prior to about two weeks ago as antediluvian. The end of an epoch was heralded by a bulging, dripping ceiling at the junction of D spur and the main corridor, then a crash of falling plaster and the noise of rushing waters. Fluid logic had applied Occam's razor to the woolly arguments of imperfect plumbing and gone by the simplest route to the lowest level, our corridors.

For some half hour or so it continued very wet, but by next day dryness had broken out again. Years ago the Station was burnt down, now we have undergone trial by water. Wisdom and reason have triumphed even if there is a lot of ceiling to be replaced. All that remains as token of the powers held in check is the occasional drip falling upon the heads of those beneath, at the coffee trolley. Silent now is the roar of the water and, flowing gently as Afton, it disturbs not the dreams, creative or post-prandial, of nearby staff, including,

Yours sincerely,

The Editor