

links

the bulletin of the **newcomen** society

Meet ...



the president - elect and ...



... the editor of *Transactions*

The 2005-06 season starts on 1 October for which the president will be Miss Julia Elton. She catalogued her father's magnificent collection of engineering drawings, books and commemoratives, joining the Newcomen Society in early 1976. She was first elected to Council in 1983/4 and set up Elton Engineering Books.

Roger Cline is taking over the editorship of *Transactions* from Bob Otter. Roger has been a member of the Newcomen Society since 1970 and has been a Council member. He is a Londoner born and bred and is a member of many London-interest societies.

Newcomen Society leads Brunel bicentennial celebrations

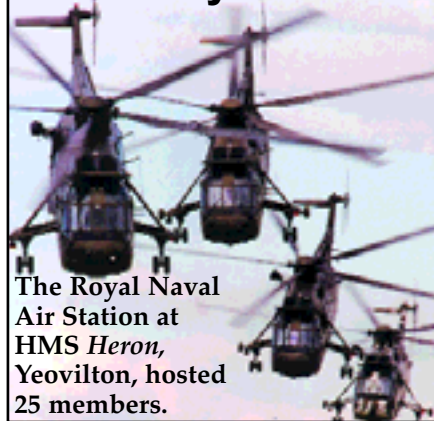
The bicentenary of I K Brunel's birth falls in 2006 and the Newcomen Society has initiated a major international conference to celebrate both Brunel and British engineering achievement over the past 200 years. It will take place from 6-7 July 2006 in Brunel's historic trainshed at Bristol Temple Meads.

Distinguished engineers and historians will show how railways and

transportation transformed every aspect of life. Partners in this event are the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Association for Industrial Archaeology, English Heritage, the National Railway Museum and the Institutions of Mechanical and Structural Engineers.

Details of the conference and other events during the Brunel Bicentenary Week (3-9 July 2006) continually updated on the web-site (www.newcomen.com).

Society events



The Royal Naval Air Station at HMS Heron, Yeovilton, hosted 25 members.

They heard about the organisation there and attended a lecture on aircraft production at Westland from the earliest days.

Another visit was to the offices of *Railway Magazine* where members watched pages of the magazine being made up and inspected the archives.

Links also reported the award of a PhD to Jan Verbruggen for his work called by some, 'A milestone in the history of steam technology.' It recorded correspondence between Boulton & Watt and van Liender.

Branch activities

The North Eastern branch heard Dr Kevin Greene on Roman technology which has been minimised but which was essential for the functioning of the huge Roman Empire. He listed examples of pottery, forts, mills, pumps and deep mining.

Another meeting heard about historic floods in the North East and how records supplement data from gauging stations.

The Midland Branch listened to Roger Cragg on the history of the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway and how a volunteer-run narrow gauge railway is operated in the 21st century.

Another meeting heard the history of colliery ventilation from the fire basket, at the beginning of coal mining, to today's electric fans.

Links also had the sad duty to report the death of Peter Neaverson, Newcomen Society member and AIA editor and Council member. He is remembered for his extensive writings.



Former Society president, E F Clark, discussed the contribution Matthew Murray made to the development of Trevithick's experimental locomotives into machines which could do useful work for the colliery. The problem of locomotive weight, which broke the rails, was eventually

overcome by rack drive which gave satisfactory service for specialised duty on the Middleton Railway, more or less straight from delivery, for over 20 years. Not until the advent of stronger wrought iron rails could locomotive weight restrictions be eased.