

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 14 June 2007

Amberley Working Museum, West Sussex was the chosen venue for the Branch's Annual General Meeting. Boasting some 43 individual attractions the museum has something of interest to appeal to 'children' of all ages, from seeing the spot where Grace Jones met her end in the Bond film 'A View to a Kill' to a Southern Railway ticket office built originally in 1894 at Hove Station and reconstructed at the museum in 2006.

Twenty three members and guests enjoyed an excellent and filling buffet luncheon prior to the start of the meeting when outgoing Chairman, Billy Gooch highlighted the 11 events organised during the past year at which more than 425 delegates were in attendance. Unusually we had organised two high profile seminars (due to a postponement of the 2006 event from May to September) which was no mean feat. The 2007 event was a complete success with over 90 delegates attending at the radically reduced price of just £50 per person without reduction in the quality event for which Southern Branch jealously guards its reputation. Ryan Air, Easyjet, eat your heart out – what you can do, southern can do better!

IHIE Vice President, Steve Spender provided a and illustrated presentation outlining the achievements and objectives of the Institute and revealing that there was a dearth of both younger and older members



Alison Coffey, New Branch Chairman (centre) with colleagues in the Paviors Exhibition

.It was a sobering revelation for some present who were shown as 'fallen off the higher age band!



Peter receiving his Honorary Fellowship certificate from Vice President, Steve Spender

A highlight of the meeting was the surprise award (to him anyway) to Peter Etheridge of an Honorary Fellowship to the Institute in recognition of the long support he has given to the Branch and its events as a 'co-opted' committee member. Peter, a former Secretary to and still an active member of the IHT Southern Branch works at Ringway Limited Headquarters in Horsham and has been a Chartered Engineer for longer than most would care to remember. He has brought to the Branch a wealth of experience and useful contacts whenever topics came up for discussion backed up with practical action. In making the presentation, Steve Spender thanked Peter both on behalf of the Branch and National Committee for his valuable contribution and congratulated him on the award. The downside for Peter was that he was unanimously elected to the Branch Committee as a full, rather than co-opted member!

Another friend of the Branch, Ian Dussek OBE who with a colleague, Robin Wilson followed the AGM with a brief talk on the history and work of the Honourable Company of Paviers with particular reference to the Pavior's Museum of Roadmaking that is maintained at the Museum.



After the 'formal' but informal and pleasant meeting members adjourned to tour the facility and enjoy the brilliant surroundings, albeit in not such good weather as we have enjoyed over the past few years.

Go the Useful Links Page for more information about the Amberley Museum and The Honourable Company of Paviers

Pictured left – Peter buffing up the name badge on the road roller in the Pavior's Exhibition that was named after him (believe that and you will believe anything!)