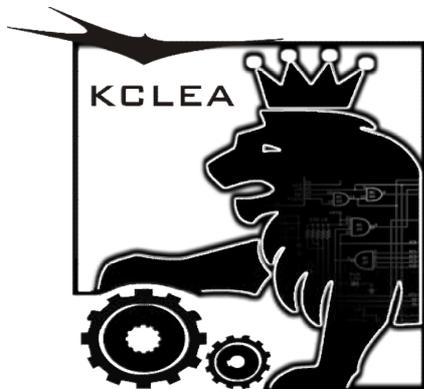


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# THE KING'S ENGINEER BULLETIN

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Autumn 2016



## AGM 2016

KCLEA  
Annual General Meeting  
Formal Notification

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 – 6pm



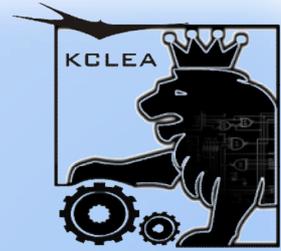
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# AGM 2016

KCLEA  
Annual General Meeting  
Formal Notification



Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 – 6pm

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May I take this opportunity to remind all Engineering alumni that they are automatically members of the KCLEA and are most welcome to attend the AGM. The meeting will be held in room K2.31 (*Strand*). If necessary enquire at the Strand Reception desk upon arrival.

## **Agenda**

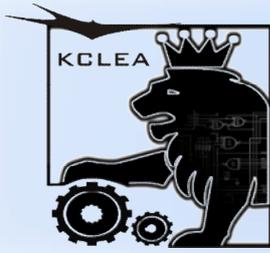
- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Minutes of the 2015 AGM
- 3) Matters arising
- 4) Officers' reports
- 5) Accounts
- 6) Election of Officers and Committee members
- 7) Update on engineering related courses
- 8) The future of the KLCEA, KCLES and Bursaries
- 9) The 13 Club Trophy
- 10) AOB

- Chris Bowden, Hon. Secretary KCLEA

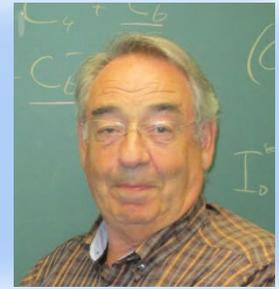


After the formal meeting we will adjourn to the 'Savoy Tup' for drinks, an informal buffet and general discussion and socialising.

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## A message from the Past-President by Graham Raven



This has been a challenging year for KCLEA as our President Peter Weitzel has had a lengthy spell of illness meaning I have been standing in since the spring. We send him our best wishes. Unfortunately the hiatus meant we lost momentum in doing more to attract younger members.

We are pleased to be able to report that the decision to end undergraduate teaching of Engineering, other than bio-medical disciplines, has been reversed and as is reported elsewhere we are looking forward to welcoming many more engineers in the next few years. I am delighted that the Biomedical Engineering students have continued to keep the KCLES thriving. Thank you to all involved.

The Engineers' Lecture is now a well established annual event and the lecture by Mark Whitby on 24 February 2016 in the Kevin Nash theatre attracted a capacity audience with the title "Fukushima, the story of a nuclear disaster" Mark held the room with a well informed and fascinating talk on the time line of the melt down of the Fukushima nuclear reactors following the Tokyo earthquake and tsunami, revealing how close the accident came to becoming a disaster on an unprecedented scale. Particularly of note was the role played by the senior manager on site. The Annual Lecture was instituted to emphasise the importance of Engineering to society and exceeded our expectations in this regard. The 2017 lecture will be held on 9 March, to be given by Graham Anthony, the title is '*Titanic, from Engineering Triumph to Human Tragedy*'.

For the Annual Lunch, which is held as part of the Alumni Weekend in June, we set our sights high and booked the Great Hall. We were delighted that the Principal, Professor Ed Byrne accepted our invitation to join us along with Professors Michael Luck and Simon Parsons who are responsible for the development of Engineering. It was a very enjoyable event with Professor Byrne giving a short talk about his aspirations for King's and the three professors taking part in a question and answer session.

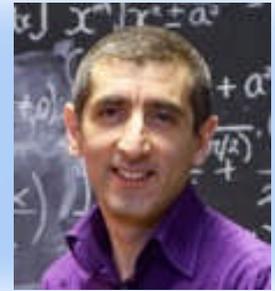
Our AGM will be held on Friday 25 November in College and we hope to see as many as possible there. The meeting will be kept brief. We will be repeating last years successful venture of a post meeting free social buffet in the upper room in the Savoy Tup. Come and enjoy a nostalgic chat with Beers young and old.

My thanks go to our committee members who again have supported KCLEA, in particular Ted Willis for our events, Chris Bowden as Secretary and John Thompson as Treasurer for keeping us in order and solvent.

New committee members and nominations for our officers are always welcome, wine is free, and if you would like to know more please contact me on [g.raven@sky.com](mailto:g.raven@sky.com) or 01608 645134



## A message from the Dean Faculty NMS by Professor Michael Luck



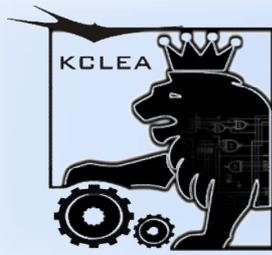
While the Division of Engineering at King's closed a couple of years back, Engineering at King's has continued, in both the Department of Informatics (in the Faculty of Natural and Mathematical Sciences) where two Engineering groups (Robotics and Telecommunications) were relocated when the Department was formed, and in the Division of Imaging Sciences and Biomedical Engineering in the Faculty of Life Sciences and Medicine. Indeed, despite the recent changes, in the Research Excellence Framework of 2014, for the category of General Engineering, King's was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the country.

THE FACULTY OF  
**NATURAL &  
MATHEMATICAL  
SCIENCES**



Since then, there have been several further developments, and King's is working hard to bring back major additional Engineering activity. In 2015-16, the Department of Informatics started new undergraduate degree programmes in Electronic Engineering, with student numbers being admitted rising to around 50 expected for 2016/18. Building on this, there has been work for two years now on making plans for a wider range of Engineering degree programmes fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, a large expansion in students, staff and research activity, and major building works to accommodate this. There is still much to do, but we have embarked on a course that will bring Engineering back into the spotlight at King's.

We will continue our close collaboration with KCLEA, and as our plans develop and we are able to say more, we will make sure to update everyone.



KCLEA Annual Lecture  
*Titanic, from Engineering  
Triumph to Human Tragedy*  
by Graham Anthony



**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in the Nash Theatre, Strand Campus**

Graham Anthony, a King's Civil Engineer from 1959 to 1953, will present the KCLEA Annual Lecture on the topic 'Titanic, from Engineering Triumph to Human Tragedy - how a splendid ship was sunk by the Obstinacy and Perversity of Man'.

Titanic was a Triumph of American Finance and British Engineering. The Designers in Belfast used the latest Design Features and the Materials used were the best available in Britain at the time. Nonetheless there still exist lurid and inaccurate stories of failings by the Engineers and the use of sub-standard materials. Graham Anthony explains the background to many of the Technical issues. He then shows how the Design features of Titanic and her two Sister Ships prove what splendid Technical Triumphs they were.

Titanic did not hit that Iceberg by her own accord but by the failings of her Captain and Officers. The tragic loss of life was because Regulations permitted 16 lifeboats to be taken off Titanic the day before she left Southampton. These human failings were the reasons that Titanic has become the World's most famous Maritime Tragedy.



Graham's maritime lectures entertain, challenge, and amuse. They are lavishly illustrated, and accompanied with music. Sailing and the Sea have been a life-long passion. Graham has a fascination for how individual events fit into the continuum of history, and describes himself as a story-teller. He lectures extensively on the Cruise Ships, and lives in Cambridge with his wife Thelma





Did you Know ?  
*King's Engineers*  
by Keith Newton



2016 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the introduction of the armoured tank in to warfare. Tanks were developed out of a programme for tracked vehicles to move heavy naval guns. This programme was carried out by the firm of William Foster & Company in Lincoln. The managing director of the company was William Ashbee Tritton (later Sir William Ashbee Tritton) who was closely involved with the development of the tank, together with Major Gordon Wilson. Sir William Ashbee Tritton was a KING'S ENGINEER.



2016 is also the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment by the BBC of the world's first regular high-definition television service. The man behind this development was the BBC's Chief Engineer, Sir Noel Ashbridge. Sir Noel was a KING'S ENGINEER.



The Macadam Building at King's was named after Sir Ivison Stevenson Macadam. Sir Ivison Macadam was a President of KCLSU, the founder President of the National Union of Students, first Secretary and Director-General of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) from 1929-1955, Chairman and Editor of the Annual Register of World Events, Fellow of King's College, MIMechE, among many other appointments and honours. Sir Ivison was a KING'S ENGINEER.

The model locomotive 'Pearl' in the old entrance hall at King's Strand campus was constructed by the Peter Brotherhood Co. Ltd., a major engineering company founded in 1867. The founder, Peter Brotherhood was a KING'S ENGINEER.





## KCLEA Activities *Engineers' Lunch Report* by Ted Willis



The Annual Engineers' Lunch was held as part of the Alumni Weekend in June. We were very pleased that the Principal, Professor Ed Byrne accepted our invitation to join us along with Professors Michael Luck and Simon Parsons from the Faculty of Natural and Mathematical Sciences who are responsible for the development of new Engineering programmes.

The attendance at the Engineers' lunch was very good, numbering some 80 members and guests, which comfortably filled the Great Hall. Beers from 1950 to 2013 attended along with student representative from the KCLES currently studying for their BEng/MEng in Biomedical Engineering



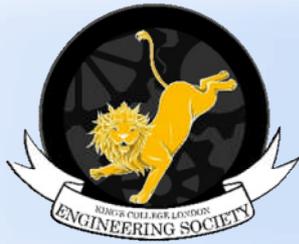
Chris Sladden (*a Beer from the class of 1970*) said Grace before the meal. Chris's rendition drew an aside from the Principal that "it was as well that the College Chaplain was not present". The KCLEA committee would like to thank Chris who flew in from South Africa to join us.



After the meal, The Principal said a few words about his vision for the future of Engineering activity at King's. This was followed by a Q&A session.

The questions from the floor reflected the passion of the Engineering Alumni.

Hope to see you there next year



## KCLES Activities *President's Report* by Annemarie Heijna



The Engineering Society was relaunched in the Department of Biomedical Engineering being led by Amber Shafi. At last year's Freshers Fair, the Society attracted the attention of around 500 students. A 'Welcome and Relaunch' event was held with an exhibition by iMakr (*UK's biggest 3D printing company*) and talks by Dr Kawal Rhode, iMakr and Peter Weitzel. The turnout was great, and was very well received.

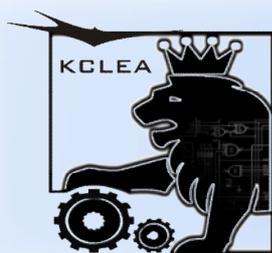
As the year carried on, the KCLES were successful in hosting and running more events. Collaborations with other societies (Maxwell (Physics) Soc, Math Soc, Chem Soc, Gaming Soc, Tech Soc) were a success. One example of a collaboration event that really deserves a shout-out was the Escape Event. This was a great event, in which people were split into groups and had to get hands on and solve problems that were all oriented around engineering, maths, chemistry and physics to escape the room!

To end the year on a high, Engineering Society and the other societies managed to organize and run a Boat party which was sold out! This was extremely well received, and has already got a ripple of interest and excitement for the next one! Academic talks were also hosted from both the department, doctorate students and UNESCO.



This year, the committee are keen to bring more activity to the society. One event we are particularly excited about is a CAD and Modelling Workshop which is currently under planning. We also hope to hold an Society Vs Society paint-balling event. We are also planning a 4 day trip to Munich to visit Engineering and Science Museums & Events.

I am writing this right in the middle of the Fresher's season - and so far interest has been high (120+ signups at our first fair, which was aimed only at new NMS students)! I am fairly confident we will have a good turnout with active members and activity this year.



## Obituaries

*Engineers who have  
sadly died in the past year*



The KCLEA has been notified of the following deaths

<i>Name</i>	<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Class of:</i>
Lewis Shaw	Mechanical	1942
Maurice Kenn	Civil	1962
Hefydd Lewis	Mechanical	1989
William Conacher	Civil	1951
Cecil French*	Mechanical	1949
Victor Seruya	Engineering	1936
Bernard Stonehouse	Electronics	1948
Robert 'Bob' Hawken	Electrical	1958

\* Cecil French was born on 16 April 1926. He was educated at East Ham Grammar School and at Newport Free Grammar School, near Saffron Walden in Essex. In 1944 he was awarded a State Bursary in Science to study Mechanical Engineering at King's College London from 1944 to 1948, getting a First Class Honours BSc(Eng) degree in 1947. He went on to obtain an MSc (Eng) in 1949 for research into photometric methods of particle size analysis.

After a graduate apprenticeship at Lucas CAV Ltd, Acton from 1948 – 1950, he was awarded a Marshall Aid Scholarship to study at Columbia University, New York from February to June 1950. From June 1950 to February 1952 he was on the staff of the Division of Industrial Cooperation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), carrying out research into combustion in the spark ignition engine. Originally this employed a rapid compression machine but later a two-cycle machine was converted to give optical access. During the summer of 1951, three months was spent studying production methods at the John Deere tractor plant at Waterloo, Iowa, which at that time was the largest tractor factory in the world.

Returning to the UK in 1952, he joined Ricardo Consulting Engineers as personal assistant to the Chief Scientist where he worked on a wide range of engine projects. These included, in particular, the study of diesel engine thermal loading and the development of advanced propulsion systems for submarines and torpedoes.

In 1958 he was appointed as head of the Admiralty Research Department at Ricardo. This responsibility was subsequently widened to cover all diesel research at Ricardo and eventually all spark ignition research as well.



## Editor's Oddment by Mike Clode



In a similar fashion to James Corden, our Editor of the King's Engineer, Nigel Sharp, has moved on to a big new venture in America. Nigel did a fabulous job in producing the King's Engineer magazine and I would like to thank him for this and wish him the very best in the future.

Consequently, and due to the loss of funding to produce a paper version of the King's Engineer I offer this electronic version which I will call a 'Bulletin'. I would like to produce this twice a year but this will depend on contributions and articles from YOU !! If you have any items of interest to the Engineering Alumni of King's please e-mail me at [kclea@clode.net](mailto:kclea@clode.net). I am happy to consider contributions of all types, including self indulgent ones.

I hope to see some of you at the AGM in November and/or at the Engineers' Lunch next year. I wish you all the very best and look forward to hearing from you.

I leave you with a thought. To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half-empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.



*Boat Party to mark the closure of the Division of Engineering (2013)*