

OBITUARY

Michael Bell 1928 to 2020

Mick, who died on the 25th October 2020 following a stroke, had been a member of the society for many years.

Mick had been a supportive and very active member of the society. Between 2001 and 2003 a comprehensive journal of his working life was published in the Gazette culminating in the production of a booklet published in 2003. He was a trained engineer starting his apprenticeship with Percival Aircraft Ltd at Luton Airport in September 1945. Mick completed his apprenticeship and after a few job changes ended up at Vauxhall in 1963. At Vauxhall Mick was involved, amongst other projects, in the development of welding robots. Mick eventually moved on, joining Chrysler UK based at Linwood in Scotland to establish a new plant and the production line for the Hillman Imp. Mick worked for Chrysler for 13 years which included visits to Iran establishing a production line for the Hillman Hunter. In 1976 Mick joined Hunting Engineering in Bedfordshire working on various engineering based projects eventually hanging up his slide rule in December 1992.

Obviously Mick was a very competent engineer and after retirement used these skills for model engineering. He was an active modeller making a number of models including 5" gauge locos. His Marie E loco is a good example of the quality of the models he built.



Mick always supported our exhibition and was passionate about promoting engineering. At several exhibitions, before health and safety became too onerous, Mick brought a lathe and gave demonstrations which always attracted the attention from many visitors.

He was a regular speaker at our club nights and when Mick was speaking a good turnout could be guaranteed. His talks were informative and stimulated the audience to perfect their engineering skills. What Mick didn't know was not worth knowing; you could not ask for a better teacher. Mick spent a spell as the society librarian and kept members on their toes.

All members of the society appreciated Mick's character. He was approachable and would always help where he could. He was forthcoming with ideas to improve the society which were always respected. He will be sorely missed by all.