

RSC North West Region Analytical Division Long Service Members Lunch

Some 70 members and their guests from across the region attended the 2014 Long Service Members Lunch held at Vicars Cross Golf Club, Chester on 12th June. This was the 29th consecutive year of this highly successful annual event which enables members to renew acquaintances, make new contacts, catch-up on news and share reminiscences from their careers in analytical chemistry. Despite a reduced income stream resulting from the withdrawal of the annual grant to our region from the Analytical Division in recent years, we are able to maintain the lunch as a free event for our Long Service Members, mainly because of income generated from our highly successful biennial chromatography meeting organised in conjunction with the Chromatographic Society.



Following a very enjoyable three-course meal served in the golf club's spacious dining room, Peter Bolt, assisted by his wife Gillian, presented an illustrated talk on Thomas Brassey, a local and highly successful civil engineering contractor and building material manufacturer who was responsible for building much of the world's railways during the 19th century. Prior to his talk, Peter conducted a quick poll to see how many members knew of Brassey and it was clear that, in contrast to other very successful contemporary engineers such as Telford, Brunel and the Stephensons, very few of those present had ever heard of him. This is even more surprising given that Brassey was educated in Chester, set-up his business on the Wirral, and built around one-third of the railways in Britain and a significant proportion of those in France, Canada, Australia, South America and India. Moreover, Brassey was also active in the development of steamships, mines, locomotive factories, marine telegraphy, and water supply and sewage systems. All members left the meeting with a much better understanding of Brassey's major contribution to the industrial revolution, and several were planning to find out more about this remarkable but rather unknown man.



Many thanks are due to Ted Adlard and Alan Handley for organising the lunch, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The 30th Long Service Members Lunch will be held in the summer of 2015 and further information will appear on our website (www.nwad.org) in due course. Invitations will be sent automatically to our long serving members when the date and venue have been confirmed, but any member who would like to participate and does not receive an invitation should contact the Hon. Secretary, Stuart Forbes (stuart@sfanalyticon.com), for further information.

Stuart Forbes
RSC N.W. Region Analytical Division