

Newsletter



**BUSINESS
ARCHIVES
COUNCIL**

Butlins Celebrates Its 75th Birthday in Style

What links the show-business personalities Des O'Connor, Jimmy Tarbuck, Cliff Richard and Michael Barrymore? All once entertained holidaymakers while employed as Butlins Redcoats.

Founded by William Heygate Edmund Colborne Butlin, 'Billy' Butlin's first holiday camp opened at Ingoldmells, near Skegness, in 1936. From very early on, the idea of providing frontline staff with a distinctive uniform helped make Butlins a success. To mark the 75th year of operation, the company has introduced a new-look uniform based on the 1936 original, to be worn during the birthday year only. All the Redcoats in Britain converged on the Ocean Hotel in Bognor Regis for the official launch of the tunic.

Another introduction is that of a celebratory premium pale ale. Winner of a competition to

name the new real ale was Andy Parsons with *True Delight*, originating from Billy Butlin's slogan 'Our true intent is all for your delight'.

With a strength of 5% abv, the beer is described by brewers Marston's plc as 'golden, zesty and hoppy'. It will be available on draught at Butlins in Bognor Regis, Minehead and Skegness.

Butlins is owned by Bourne Leisure, which also owns Haven Holidays and Warner Leisure Hotels. As of 2010, the group employed over 5000 staff.

The photos shown here are from a small archive held by Butlins at Bognor Regis (courtesy of Charlotte Brooks of Launch Group).

For more information, visit www.butlins75.com



The Redcoat uniform 2011



The Redcoat uniform 1936

Brewery History Society Archive in Danger

Mike Brown, Archivist, Brewery History Society.

The BHS archive is currently held at Birmingham Central Library. However, the library is being moved to new premises and the holdings policy has been reviewed. Sadly, it seems that the BHS material does not fit in with a renewed emphasis on local history at BCL. As a result, the BHS is looking for a new home for its archive, preferably to be established by the end of 2011.

The archive material is based on the original Brewers' Society donation of surplus items, to which have been added items from individual BHS members and records saved after brewery closures. Hence, it is unique in that its coverage of the brewing industry embraces not just the national journals and magazines, but also items specific to individual businesses, with their ephemera such as beer

labels. There is also a good selection of books on the history of brewing and breweries, including some of a more technical nature.



The photographs in the collection include some from the 1940s, mainly of pubs, together with a wide range showing brewery sites, taken by members. Others pictures include items of brewery equipment and related aspects, such as pub games.

A location in which the collection could be kept intact would be ideal, but if necessary it could be broken down into the main components:

- bound journals, books
- ephemera
- photographs and images.

Please contact the editor for further information.

New Archives Advice to Solicitors and Law Firms

Richard Wiltshire, Senior Archivist – Business and Community Archives, London Metropolitan Archives.

A new practice note for solicitors has been published by The Law Society in conjunction with the Selden Society. The guidance provides advice on caring for and depositing client documents or solicitor firms' own records with the appropriate repositories, such as local authority-run record offices.

The information is summarised succinctly by headings. Key examples of records found in solicitors' business archives are listed to help those managing these records to ensure certain categories are retained for long-term preservation. The distinction between client papers and firms' own records is made clear. The importance of

manorial records and related legal requirements is given. Requirements for semi current records are highlighted together with advice on the depositing of archives and likely expectations of archivists at the appropriate repositories. Lastly, useful weblinks are given to ARCHON directory of archive repositories, the British Records Association, managingbusinessarchives.co.uk website and the Selden Society, the learned society and publisher devoted to English legal history.

The practice note is available on The Law Society's website: www.lawsociety.org.uk/productsandservices/practicenotes/archives

Tim Baker-Jones (1933 – 2010)

Edwin Green, Hon Treasurer, BAC.

We are very sorry to report the death of Thomas William (Tim) Baker-Jones at the age of 77 on 17 December 2010. Tim was archivist at W.H. Smith from 1973 to 1996 and after his retirement in 1996 he continued to oversee the W.H. Smith archives as a consultant. He also played an important role in the

preparation of Charles Wilson's history of the company, *First with the News: The History of W.H. Smith, 1792-1972* (1985). Many members of the Council will remember Tim from his regular attendance at BAC conferences and general meetings over many years. He was a loyal supporter of the Council and will be greatly missed.

BAC Wadsworth Prize in Business History

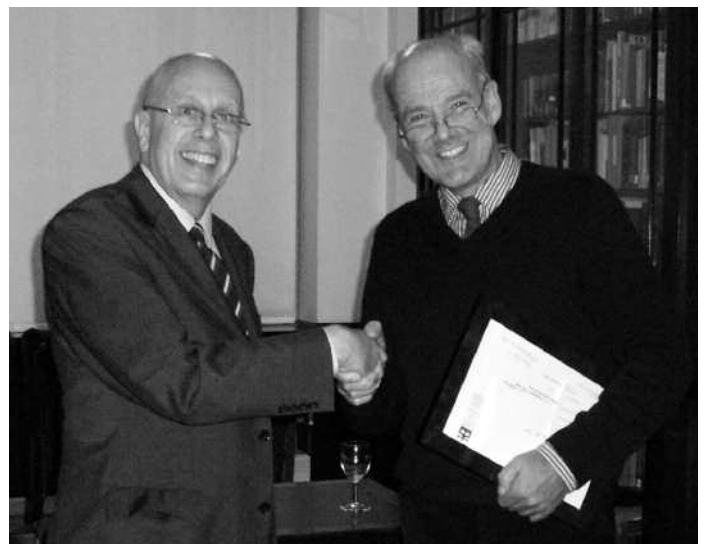
The Business Archives Council awarded the BAC Wadsworth Prize in Business History for 2009 at a reception held at the Freemasons Hall, London on Wednesday 11th November 2010. The winner was Professor Peter Jones for *Industrial Enlightenment: Science, Technology and Culture in Birmingham and the West Midlands* (Manchester University Press).

The BAC Wadsworth Prize, which is awarded annually for the best book on British business history from the preceding year, was presented to Professor Jones by Sir Geoffrey Owen, President of the BAC. The three judges for last year's prize were Martin Vander Weyer, Dr Michael Moss and Dr Geoffrey Tweedale.

The judges commented that Professor Jones's book breathes new life into debates on the origins of British industrialisation by exploring the role of knowledge in shaping technological development. Using the records of the Soho Archive held by Birmingham City Council, containing the papers of Matthew Bolton and James Watt, Professor Jones examines the role of practical experience and scientific theory in the production of engineering products in Birmingham and the West Midlands.



Left to right: BAC Chairman Terry Gourvish, BAC President Sir Geoffrey Owen, Peter Jones, Michael Moss



Terry Gourvish (left) congratulating Peter Jones

BAC Cataloguing Grant

In support of the National Strategy for Business Archives, the BAC is delighted to announce that it is once again offering a cataloguing grant for business collections. The aim of the grant, in funding the cataloguing of a business collection in either the private or public sector, is to:

- provide financial support for institutions/businesses that manage business archives
- reach collections that have not yet been prioritised but have potential academic or socio-historical value
- create opportunities for archivists or para-professionals/volunteers to gain experience in listing business collections
- make more business collections accessible.

We envisage that the £2000 grant will be used over the equivalent of a 4-week period to fund an archive intern or temporary staff member (under professional supervision) to catalogue a discrete collection of business records. This can either be a detailed catalogue of a small collection or a top-level catalogue of a more substantial collection. Grant recipients should provide the BAC with an article for its newsletter, and the catalogue should be made available to the National Register of Archives (published by The National Archives). Any questions about the grant should be addressed to Karen Sampson, Honorary Secretary of the Business Archives Council.

Contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

For more information including deadlines, please visit www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk

Cataloguing Grant for Sunderland Shipbuilding Archives

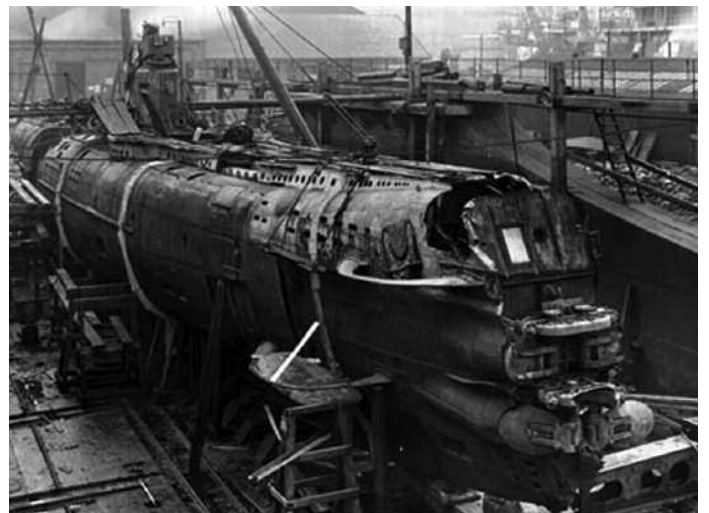
Liz Rees, Chief Archivist, Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums.

Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums has been awarded a grant of £38,000 from the National Cataloguing Grants Programme for Archives to catalogue Sunderland's shipbuilding archives for the first time since the Archives rescued the records by the truckload from the closing shipyards in the 1980s.

The project, entitled *We Mak'em* from the popular name for Sunderland people, will allow the records of 8 separate shipyards to be made fully accessible for the first time, something which has not previously been possible due to lack of resources. Records including ship plans, administrative records, accounts and photographs dating from the 1800s to 1988 will all be catalogued over a period of 15 months.

In 1850 the Sunderland Herald described Sunderland as the 'the greatest shipbuilding port in the world'. The Sunderland yards Austin & Pickersgill Ltd, Bartram & Sons Ltd, John Crown & Sons Ltd, William Doxford & Sons Ltd, Joseph L Thompson & Sons Ltd, Short Bros Ltd, Sir James Laing & Sons Ltd and North East Shipbuilders Ltd, whose records are all included in the project, provided the infrastructure for a huge proportion of the British Empire's trading activity, building primarily cargo ships including types such as turret ships, Liberty ships and SD14s, one of the success stories of the British post-war shipbuilding industry.

Tyne & Wear Archives has previously completed a project under the same programme to catalogue the records of Swan Hunter, the most important and longest-surviving of the Tyne shipyards, which uncovered over 11,000 records relating to that company. The Sunderland project will provide the same level of access to the Wear shipyards' records.



A German submarine from World War One at Swan Hunter Shipyard

Kodak PhD

De Montfort University, Leicester, is offering a PhD full bursary research studentship within the Photographic History Research Centre (PHRC), an international leading multi-disciplinary research institute, to suitably qualified UK or EU students.

The researcher will investigate an aspect of his or her own choosing that will address 'The Nature of Kodak Research'. The researcher will have access to our partner institutions with substantial Kodak holdings: the British Library, the University of Rochester, the Victorian Museum,

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Melbourne, the National Media Museum, Bradford, and the George Eastman House, Rochester.

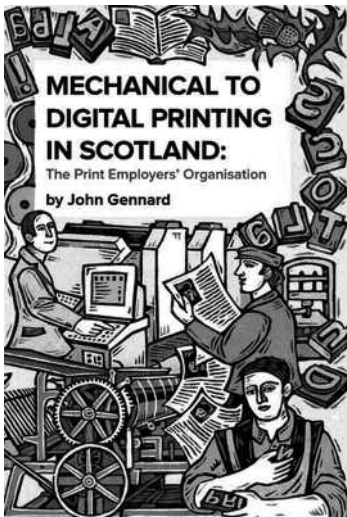
This research opportunity is funded by DMU in 2011/12 to build on our excellent achievements in the Research Assessment Exercise 2008 and looking forward to the

Research Excellence Framework 2014. It will develop the University's research capacity into new and evolving areas of study, enhancing DMU's national and international research partnerships.

Full details can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/6kmm8s2>
or: <http://tinyurl.com/6l4spbd>

Snippets

- The Centre for Maritime Historical Studies at the University of Exeter is organizing a one day conference called 'Seas, Seamen and Shipping' to be held on 4 June at the SS Great Britain. Further information available from Dr Laura Rowe (l.rowe@exeter.ac.uk).



- Based on a unique archive of the official records of the local and national Scottish print employers' bodies, *Mechanical to digital printing in Scotland: the employers' organisation*, by Professor John Gennard, is now available for sale through the Scottish Printing Archival Trust. The price is £20 including postage and packing (UK). Softback, 229 x 152mm, 512 pp, ISBN-13: 978-09563043-1-5. See: www.scottishprintarchive.org/files/GES_History_Order_form.pdf

- *Beecham's 1848-2000: From Pills to Pharmaceuticals*, by T.A.B. Corley of Henley Business School, Reading, has just been published. This is the story of a remarkable British firm, which began life in Wigan selling recuperative pills that became famous around the world. Although in narrative form, it is essentially a case study of innovation, promoted by a succession of very gifted entrepreneurs. Once the US became a leading world source of pharmaceuticals, from 1989 onwards it transformed itself into an Anglo-American company, with its head office in London



and its operational headquarters in the US. This structure remains now that Beecham's has (since 2000) been part of GlaxoSmithKline. The book, priced at £14.99, is fully referenced and illustrated. Softback, 234 x 158mm, 376 pp, ISBN: 978-1-905472-14-7. See www.carnegiepublishing.com

- In 2007 the serving Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, announced a review of the '30 year rule' under which most government records are transferred to The National Archives. The rule has now been reduced to 20 years and from 2013 two years' worth of records will be sent each year to the National Archives, over a ten year period.
- Archive microfiche from Companies House is no longer available. In its place, company records are now supplied on DVD. These records include the incorporation documents, accounts, annual returns, director's details and sometimes other business documents. The cost will be £20 compared to the previous charge of £9 for the microfiche version.

Save the Date!

The 2011 BAC Annual Conference & AGM will be held on Thursday 10th November at Unilever's headquarters in London. The title this year is 'Business Archives Sans Frontières'; discussions and

sessions for the day will focus on international archives. Following on from the conference will be the reception for The BAC Wadsworth Prize for Business History.

The editor of this newsletter is Alan Gall. The next issue will appear in Summer 2011. Prospective copy should be sent to Alan Gall, Tel: 0161 745 7029 (daytime) 01706 344429 (evening) Fax: 0161 745 9649 email: alangall@hotmail.com
Post: c/o SDA Electronics Ltd, Unit 30, Willan Industrial Estate, Eccles New Road, Salford M50 2GR.

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