

GUEST EDITORIAL

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As we celebrate the Brewery History Society's 40th birthday it has been fascinating to look back at our roots and the way in which the Society, and the industry, has developed.

According to the earliest document that we have found 'The Society was formed in April 1972, by three breweryologists - Roger Kelley, Tony Page and Robert Burden at a meeting in Maidstone, Kent.' Bob Burden was the driving force of the Society for its first few years and produced the Newsletter. When he sadly died Norman Barber, still a member, took over the editorship as well as the secretarial role. Since then many people have made enormous contributions in shaping the Society.

Our publications have evolved dramatically over the years. For the first few years we had a quarterly A4 newsletter produced by Bob and then Norman. Peter Moynihan then took on the editor's mantle and introduced an A5 style Journal, with card covers. Ken Smith further developed this during his tenure and the Journal expanded, often being perfect bound. Now Tim Holt has introduced an editorial board to broaden our appeal to authors, and a new size to allow for the better reproduction of illustrations. Thus we now have the widely respected volume that we have become accustomed to.

In addition to the Journal we have the more informal and very popular Newsletter, now edited by Mike Brown, allowing the publication of information in a wide variety of formats. The Society has also produced many books, mainly county directories but also the definitive summary, *A Century of British Brewers - Plus*. There is also a substantial web site.

The archive is another area where the B.H.S. has made a significant contribution. This started with a few books on a shelf in Epsom library, looked after by Norman Barber, and evolved into a vast holding, recently relocated with major elements going to the National Brewing Library and the History of Advertising Trust. We have also played a major role in rescuing business archives and placing these in the appropriate repositories.

Over the years we have developed strong links with the industry and other important national bodies. We now have around 90 corporate members and we value these links very highly.

One of the special things about the Society for me is that we are such a broad church. I am neither an academic nor of the industry, but my membership of the B.H.S. has greatly enriched my enjoyment of beer and beer culture - its social history, architecture, advertising styles, archives, people, etc. We now have over 550 members and their interests and connections to the industry couldn't be more varied.

Whilst the term 'breweryologists' didn't seem to catch on the Society certainly did. Thank you for your support and involvement. It's the members that make it what it is. Before we know it, it will be time to start planning for our Golden Jubilee - I wonder what the industry, and the B.H.S., will look like in ten years' time?

I am writing a more comprehensive history of the Society, including many facts and figures, and would welcome any memories of people and events that you may have.