

THE
JAMES D ROBINSON
TIME CAPSULE PROJECT
TAKING OUR HISTORY TO
2317 AD

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THE OPENING MESSAGE

It seems appropriate for a time capsule to include a message of goodwill to the people who will inherit it at some distant point in the future. The James D Robinson Time Capsule therefore supports such cordiality with a short salutation, as written by the capsule's creator, which reads as follows :-

Greetings and felicitations to the people of the year 2317, from the people of the year 2017

We hope that your world is now blessed with both peace and harmony and that the sorrows faced by humanity here in the early 21st century, have at last been overcome for the betterment of all.

May you find the contents of this capsule to be of interest and of value and may it furnish you with new knowledge of how the world once was for those of us who lived some 300 years before your present era.

"FOR SAN MISEROS MELIORA SEQUUNTUR"
Virgil

Although it makes the assumption that the English Language that we use in 2017 will still be in general use some 3 hundred years from now, it seems reasonable to believe that such will indeed be the case, given the fact that modern English has been around since at least the 17th century and has now become the principal language used in international and scientific communications. In any event, even if our so called 'modern English' does evolve into something new, there is every chance that the sentiments expressed in the message to our future descendants will still be appreciated by some, as scholarly studies of historical texts have been undertaken throughout history and human curiosity will likely continue such endeavours.

For an explanation of the phrase at the end of the message see 'end notes' on page : 18

OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

The James D Robinson Time Capsule Project is a self initiated venture designed to conserve in a sealed container, written data and physical artefact, in the hope that such items will survive for the next 300 years.

The project was started by Robinson, an Independent photographer, pencil artist and sometimes writer based in County Durham, England, in early 2016, after reading an internet article about the Westinghouse Time Capsules, the first of two being buried 50 feet below ground at Flushing Meadows, in New York, USA, in 1938, with the second buried 10 feet to the north of the first in 1965.

Although understandably, the James D Robinson Time Capsule Project is a smaller venture when compared to the Westinghouse capsules, it serves the same general purpose, viz to conserve elements from the present world for the people of the future, whilst at the same time acting as an experiment to assess the long term survivability of various materials through real time, which may provide beneficial data for the conservationists of the future.

As illustrated by the image below, the time capsule was sealed on the 21st of March, 2017 and it's intended opening date is set for the 21st of March, 2317, that day being chosen for its symbolic association with the first day of spring and the rebirth of life in the natural world, which equates with the new lease of life for the data contained within the time capsule once opened.

At the time of this writing, the time capsule is housed in the Archive Department of The Durham Record Office, in a temperature and humidity controlled environment which thus provides the project with the best possible chance of success.

THE JAMES D ROBINSON TIME CAPSULE

SEALED : 21 / 03 / 2017
TO BE OPENED : 21 / 03 / 2317

MADE AS A 'BOX WITH A BOX' OF ALUMINUM
KEEP 'THIS SIDE' FACING 'UP'

TO OPEN
CUT ALONG SCORED LINE JUST BELOW THE LID
(BUT NOT WITH A HEAT SOURCE)
THEN FOLLOW ADVICE WITHIN

IF MOVED 'UNOPENED' TO A NEW LOCATION
PLEASE INFORM
THE INTERNATIONAL TIME CAPSULE SOCIETY
OF THE CHANGE

THANK YOU

INFORMATION ABOUT : JAMES D ROBINSON

James D Robinson, (the D stands for Douglas) was born on the 24th of September, 1949, in Darlington, Co Durham, England. After leaving school at the age of 16, he served a 4 years apprenticeship with The North Eastern Electricity Board, where he trained to be a 'cable joiner', a kind of electrical technician who splices together the power cables which supplies the electrical energy to residential and business properties and also to street lighting.

As it turned out, it was not an occupation that gave him much satisfaction and so shortly after completing his apprenticeship he obtained alternative employment with the grounds maintenance staff of a local council, viz, The Great Aycliffe Town Council, where he remained for more than 30 years until he took voluntary retirement in 2005, initially living on his own savings until a works pension came into force on his 60th birthday. This was supplemented further with a state pension when he reached the age 65.

Outside of working hours and especially after his retirement, James D Robinson has pursued endeavours as an independent photographer, pencil artist and sometimes writer; claims he feels able to justify by virtue of having staged exhibitions of his drawings and photographs in public galleries in the north east of England, and by having a number of articles published in various magazines, a list of which is given opposite. He has also released a number of self published books (also listed opposite) copies of which are now to be found in the archives of The British Library, The National Libraries of Scotland and Wales, The Bodleian Library in Oxford, The Library of Cambridge University and The Library of Trinity College, Dublin. In addition, examples of his photo works are also to be found in the permanent photo collections of The National Portrait Gallery and The Photo Library of The Royal Society, which, in retrospect, is not a bad achievement since he has never sort to be become a professional photographer, artist or writer, although he did study traditional black and white photographic printing and photo portraiture at The Darlington College of Technology in the late 1980's which earned him a City and Guilds qualification in those disciplines.

Other subjects (and there are many) which also interest him include cosmology, palaeontology and designing posters. His own musings on the cosmos are included in the time capsule along with his own predications of what advancements might be achieved during the next 300 years. At the time of this writing he is a member of The Royal Photographic Society which he joined in 2013.



Photo of James D Robinson at the age of 65, as taken by his brother Stephen in 2014,

LIST OF ARTICLES AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES D ROBINSON PUBLISHED IN MAGAZINES

NORTH EAST LIFE magazine : issue for January 2009 : article about HMS Solebay, the first warship to be launched on the River Tyne : circa 1763.

POPULAR ASTRONOMY magazine : issue for January / February 2011 : article about the Middlesbrough meteorite which fell on the 14th of March 1881.

POPULAR ASTRONOMY magazine : issue for May / June 2012 : article about Thomas Wright (1711 - 1786) a notable academic born in Co Durham, England.

SKERMISH magazine : issue for March / April 2012 : article with photos about Roma Antiqua, an historical re - enactment group.

BEST OF BRITISH magazine : issue for November 2011 : article plus photo about Newport Bridge.

JOURNAL of the ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY : issue for July 2014 page 344 : photo portrait of Dr Lucy Worsley, a writer, historian, television presenter and the chief Curator of Britain's Royal Palaces, upon the occasion of it being accepted by the National Portrait Gallery for it's permanent photo collection.

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER magazine : issue for 3rd January 2015 : a two page photo spread featuring various images.

WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA magazine : issue for July 2015, page 14 : a full page image of a still life composition.

LIST OF SELF PUBLISHED BOOKS BY JAMES D ROBINSON

- 1) The Authenticated Meteoric Falls of the British Isles : published 2009
- 2) The Pseudo Meteoric Events of the British Isles : published 2010
- 3) This & That - A Photographic Album : published 2012
- 4) The Day the Bridges Fell - being an account of the great flood which devastated the North of England and it's surrounding counties in 1771 AD : published 2013
- 5) Historica Personica - Photographic Portraits captured at Living History Events : published 2013
- 6) Photoworks - A Multiverse of Images : published 2014

*(copies of all the above except book 3 have been included in the time capsule)
see also : books or booklets by other authors : page 10*

THE DESIGN OF THE TIME CAPSULE

As shown in the images opposite, the James D Robinson Time Capsule is comprised of two aluminum boxes of differing sizes - with the smaller box being designed to carry the contents of the time capsule.

Once packed, the smaller box was sealed by means of a metal lid which was secured by a nut and bolt assembly, with the bolts passing through a broad flange smeared with a bonding paste. The bonding paste thus acted to further seal the lid to the flange.

After sealing the lid to the flange, the air within the smaller box was replaced with Argon Gas, (which helps to better preserve the contents of the time capsule than air). The Argon was fed into the smaller box via one of two small openings in the lid, which in consequence, pushed the normal air out of the other small opening.

When the gas exchange was complete, both openings in the lid were sealed and the smaller box was then carefully placed inside the larger box, which in turn was then sealed with its own two independent lids. The time capsule therefore has three lines of defence against anything gaining access to the contents of the time capsule from external sources.

The two aluminum boxes which make up the time capsule were fabricated by the company : Aycliffe Fabrications Ltd, based in Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, England, and the Argon Gas was kindly supplied by Fox Gas Supplies Ltd, also based in Newton Aycliffe.

In order to insure that the Argon Gas had removed at least some of the normal air from the time capsule's smaller box, an oxygen depletion monitor was used to gauge the amount of oxygen remaining in the smaller box after the Argon gas infusion.

Starting with a depletion monitor reading of 20.94, (the oxygen value in air) the figure fell to around 1.5, which would seem to confirm that an exchange of gases had in fact taken place, although a small amount of oxygen may have filtered back into the smaller box during the short time it took to seal the openings in the lid. If such indeed be the case, it would not be too detrimental as a small amount of oxygen could be helpful in preventing the paper content of the time capsule from turning brittle over time.

THIS BOX IS FILLED WITH 'ARGON GAS' AT
NORMAL AIR PRESSURE

TO OPEN
CUT ALONG SCORED LINE NEAR BOLTS
(BUT NOT WITH A HEAT SOURCE)
THEN PRISE OFF LID

ONCE OPENED
LET CONTENTS ADJUST TO FRESH AIR
BEFORE REMOVING

The inner box plaque



*Image of the time capsule - unsealed - showing it's two box onstruction
The small openings on either side of the handle are the access points that allow the
air within the time capsule to be replaced with Argon Gas.
After the gas exchange the holes are sealed with threaded rods*



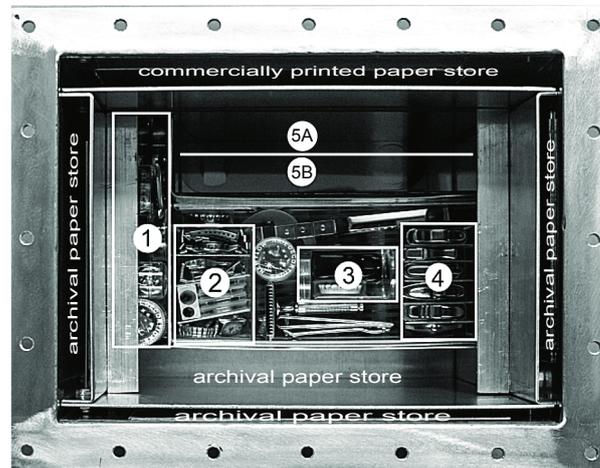
HOW THE CONTENTS OF THE TIME CAPSULE ARE STORED

Inside the smaller box there are a number of partitions. Some are made of aluminum and some are made of acrylic, but the purpose of both is to separate the different types of artefacts that are stored in the time capsule in order to minimise potential problems that could develop over time as the various artefacts age. For the same reason, the choice of artefacts has been restricted to objects made of metal, which is not known to give off contaminating gases, except possibly when they corrode, and to paper based records, which allows a large quantity of data to be stored whilst minimizing weight. The specific placements for the various artefacts within the time capsule are detailed on the opposite page, as shown in the photo image.

The bulk of the paper stored in the time capsule is of archival quality, meaning it is acid free, Lignin free and buffered, (the buffer being simply a substance which has been added to the paper to prevent Lignin turning acidic over time.) This type of paper has been used to record information and photo images via 1) the use of an Epson Inkjet printer using Epson Claria Inks, and 2) via hand, using a pencil. The two options have been used as a safety measure so that if one method fails to endure for the full 300 years, all may not be lost. The paper sheets themselves have then been stacked both vertically, supported by thin acrylic sheets to prevent sagging, and laid flat on a horizontal shelf.

In addition to the archival paper (which has a lifetime expectancy rating of at least 300 years, hence the choice of 300 years for the time-span of the project) there is some commercially printed material on non-archival quality paper which thus contains a higher proportion of acid than the archival paper. If the two different sorts of paper were in contact with each other, the acid in the non-archival paper would migrate to the archival paper, reducing it's life span, however, this situation has been avoided by keeping the two types of paper well separated by storing them on opposite sides of the time capsule.

The other artefacts in the time capsule, viz the metal objects, have also been separated from each other by the use of acrylic sheets to eliminate the potential for galvanic corrosion between different types of metal should the interior of the time capsule ever succumb to moisture infiltration. The arrangement of all the artefacts has also taken into account the need to allow the Argon Gas to suffuse throughout the interior of the time capsule in order for it to help prevent the normal degrading processes that occur in normal air. Hopefully, all these precautions will help to ensure that the bulk of the contents within the time capsule will survive intact as they are carried through the centuries and will thereby provide our descendents with a direct link to their past.



1 This area holds a hip flask, a miniature music box, a replica of a metropolitan police whistle, a crown cap bottle opener, a selection of pin badges, a small selection of coins and a small selection of crown cap bottle tops plus three Laryngeal mirrors (which are similar to dentist's mirrors).

2 This area holds three vintage watches, a double barrelled pencil sharpener and a small selection of coins.

3 This area holds two crown cap bottle tops, a coin and one diecast metal model of a road vehicle.

4 This area holds five de-commissioned lighters and a vintage watch minus it's leather strap.

5A This area holds a flat bar bottle opener on top of which is a paper store of commercially printed material (not shown in the image)

5B This area holds a Laryngeal Mirror Holder, some crown cap bottle tops, a pair of vintage surgical scissors and a small number of postage stamps some wrapped in archival paper & some not, all placed inside acrylic capsules as an experiment to see if any survive the long time span, when normally they would not.

Beneath areas 2, 3 and 4, are around 100 coins (mainly foreign),and between areas 2, 3 and 4, are stored a vintage razor minus it's blade, a claw type tin opener, a nail clipper, a small selection of pin badges and crown cap bottle tops. A selection of 50 crown cap bottle tops in acrylic capsule (not shown in the above image) are also stored above 2, 3 and 4.

OTHER DATA STORED IN THE TIME CAPSULE

As mentioned earlier, in addition to the physical metallic artefacts there is a paper based archive, which is presented both as a written data store and as a photo image data store. These data stores actually form the bulk of the contents within the time capsule and cover a wide diversity of subjects, the specifics of which are now listed below.

A selection of data sheets relating to the Pin Badges which cover the following subjects : The 1980 Moscow Olympic Games. Early Russian space missions. Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday. The Royal Society for the prevention of Cruelty to Children. The Royal British Legion. West Mercia Police. The Isle of Man TT races. Jack Daniel's Whisky. The British Red Cross. Hinckley & Rugby Building Society. Norton Motorcycles. Kawasaki Motorcycles. BSA Motorcycles and Triumph Motorcycles.

A list of coins giving value, date and country of origin.

Data relating to the breweries linked to the Crown Cap bottle tops.

Individual data sheets for each of the other metallic objects, including a copy of the musical score and lyrics for the song "Edelwiess" which is the chosen tune played by the mini music box.

A copy of the UK's 2016 Euro Referendum including the results of the vote.

A list of current food prices and other cost of living necessities.

A copy of The Newton News, a weekly local community newspaper, distributed free to residents of the town of Newton Aycliffe and nearby villages.

A copy of a vintage American Superhero comic featuring The Flash, plus a data sheet on the published history of the fictional character.

A copy of Sir Patrick Moore's Moon Map, as issued with The Sky at Night Magazine.

A copy of the cover of a model railways catalogue by 'Hattons' issued 2015.

Data sheet about Britain's Biggest ancient meteorite impact.

Data sheet about the Norwegian singer/ songwriter Aurora Aksnes.

Data sheets relating to crime statistics in England & Wales for 2015.

Copy of a vehicle parking ticket circa 2016.

Data sheets relating to collecting matchbox labels.

A copy of a Local Government brochure issued by Great Aycliffe Town Council relating to a proposed Neighbourhood Plan for the town of Newton Aycliffe.

Data sheet on the town of Newton Aycliffe and the Parish of Great Aycliffe.

Data sheets on Aycliffe Fabrications Ltd and Fox Gas Supplies Ltd.

Data sheet : 'A Citizen Remembers - My Time in the Funeral Care Business' by Christine Thompson.

Data sheet on the charity shop 'Allsort' established by Mr Godfrey Bennett of Newton Aycliffe.

A selection of press clippings on diverse topics

A copy of a vintage Triang / Hornby model railway track plans catalogue, as issued in 1963.

A selection of images featuring travel poster and other subjects covered by advertising.

A selection of prints featuring poster designs etc by James D Robinson - several of which relate to his favourite singer : Aurora Aksnes : a native of Norway, plus photo images of Aurora Aksnes.

A selection of prints featuring drawings by James D Robinson.

A selection of photo images by James D Robinson - which link to some of the written data sheets.

Data sheet about 'Wikipedia' - the digital reference library - also called 'The Free Encyclopedia'.

Data sheets on The Aycliffe Angels

Data sheet on Abbey Pumping Station Museum, Leicester.

Data sheet on The Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway

Data sheet on Aycliffe & District Bus Preservation Society

Leaflet for The North East Film Archive

Data sheets on Phil Townsend (a Sculptor of various materials)

Data sheet on fines imposed on drivers who break motoring laws.

Data sheet on our current knowledge of the Universe from Professor Carlos S Frenk - Director of The Institute for Computational Cosmology, based in Durham City, Co Durham, England.

BOOKS or BOOKLETS BY OTHER AUTHORS

Copies of the following books and booklets are also included in the time capsule along with brief notes on each of the authors.

- 1) Black Holes in Space : Patrick Moore & Ian Nicolson : 1st pub 1974.
- 2) The Little Prince : Antonie de Saint-Exupery : 1st pub : in Great Britain in 1945.
- 3) The Story of a Shipwrecked Sailor : Gabriel Garcia Marquez : 1st pub in 1970 (in Spanish under the title : Realto de un ndufrago)
- 4) Garden DIY (Do it Yourself) : David Steven : 1st pub 1984.
- 5) The Bridges of Northumberland & Durham : Frank Graham : 1st pub 1975.
- 6) Rocks Afoot - Fossils and where to find them : Dr Jill Eyers : 1st pub 1998.
- 7) Old Letter Boxes : Martin Robinson : 1st pub as a Shire Album in 1987.
- 8) The Journal of The Furness Railway Trust (spring / summer) 2014.
- 9) Bishop Auckland Town Hall - what's on brochure : April to August 2016.
- 10) Gala Theatre (Durham City) - what's on brochure : Summer 2016.
- 11) The Worlds Weirdest Newspaper Stories edited by Tim Healey : 1997.
- 12) How to be a Driving Instructor : Noel Bennett : 1986



HOW THE COMPLETE STORAGE SYSTEM WORKS

Working from top to bottom, each item fits within the unit beneath it.

The James D Robinson Time Capsule is officially registered with The International Time Capsule Society which is based in Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The society was founded in 1990 with the aim of keeping a permanent record of all known Time Capsules regardless of what type they may be or their location in the world.

The society's overall philosophy advocates that *"time capsules give individuals, families and organisations an independent voice in the future"* and amongst their committee members they have the accumulated knowledge of some of the world's leading Time Capsule experts.

Further information about the society and about time capsules in general is available on line at : [Oglethorpe.edu / international time capsule society](http://Oglethorpe.edu/international_time_capsule_society)

The full address of the society (at the time of this writing) is :- Oglethorpe University, 4484 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, Georgia, GA 30319, USA.



The smaller box after sealing
with small sign added and seated inside the larger box

The safe storage of any time capsule is critical to its success for it requires protection against theft, vandalism, fire, vermin, environmental attacks such as extremes of temperature and humidity, flooding, (and if buried) ground disturbances. Fortunately, the James D Robinson Time Capsule has found a safe haven for its long term storage, thanks to the goodwill shown by the County Archivist and administration of The Durham County Record Office, who, for a one-off storage fee, have kindly agreed to act as custodian for the Time Capsule for the duration of the project.

All things considered, this is the best possible solution for the storage of any time capsule, for the Durham Archive repository is a state of the art facility with a temperature and humidity controlled environment, plus other incorporated safeguards against fire and theft.

In essence, The Durham County Record Office, which is overseen by Durham County Council, is the official repository for the archives of Durham County and Darlington. It was established in 1961 and the records in its care - housed on around 5 miles of metal shelving - cover almost 900 years of history, dating back to the early 12th Century.

Record Office Staff include professionally qualified archivists and conservators with wide experience in the techniques of conserving written and photographic records having studied with conservators at The National Archives in London and so are competent and knowledgeable on a range of conservation issues.

Although the Record Office does not normally deal with sealed 'Time Capsules' they are able to determine the viability of such capsules (before they are sealed) for safe storage in their repository, so as to insure they pose no danger to the other records in their care.

The James D Robinson Time Capsule was thus so vetted.

END NOTES

The concern about 'Galvanic Corrosion' (as referred to on page 6) which potentially could be an issue if the time capsule ever succumb to the ingress of moisture, relates to the problem of corrosion when two or more metals of differing sorts are in contact with each other in a moist and salty atmosphere. In such a scenario, the contact between the differing metals and thus their chemical make up, can - over time - cause small electric currents to develop between the metals, which eventually will cause corrosion to the metal which is listed the lower in the Galvanic Series of the Noble Order of Metals.

With respect to the present time capsule, which is made of Aluminum, and houses artefact made of stainless Steel, the Stainless Steel has a higher placement in the galvanic series of noble metals than does Aluminum, so if galvanic corrosion were to occur, it is the aluminum which would become subject to corrosion.

Although such a scenario is highly 'unlikely' given the fact that the present time capsule is stored in an environmentally stable repository, it never hurts to err on the side of caution, especially where the time frame for a project is measured in centuries, hence steps have been taken to avoid galvanic corrosion.

The overall dimensions of the time capsule are : 382 mm in length by 310 mm in width by 316 mm in height, and it's total weight is around 48 lbs.

There are two types of archival paper used to record the data stored within the James D Robinson time capsule. One carries the brand name of PURMA DUR BOND paper and has a minimum pH value of 8.5, with a 3% alkaline buffer, whilst the other paper, simply listed as an Archival Paper by Conservation Resources UK, has a pH value of 9.4 with a 2% buffer of calcium carbonate. Both papers are therefore ideal for the present time capsule project and should last in a non - oxygen environment (at least in theory), well beyond 300 years.

The phrase below the 'opening message' on page 4 is Latin which in English reads : "*For those in misery, perhaps better things will follow*". It is attributed to 'Virgil', (Publius Vergilius Maro) an ancient Roman poet of the Augustan Period, Born : 15th Oct, 70 BC - Died : 21st Sept, 19 BC.

The symbol used on the cover of this booklet and again on the inner title page, is representative of the Ancient Egyptian's concept of time, which unlike our own concept of time as a linear advancement towards a 'future', was more in keeping with the repetitive nature of things, such as the changing seasons and the natural cycle of life.

The word the Ancient Egyptians used to describe their concept of time was *Neheh*, which they associated with the Sun god *Ra*, who traversed the sky by day and the bowels of the Earth by night in a never ending procession. In fact, the Ancient Egyptians had two concepts of time, one as described above and another which saw time in terms of an eternity for which they used the word *Djet*.

These concepts are made visible in their symbol for time by means of the wavy line seen near the top of the symbol, which represents water and hence the ebb and flow of the tides, the upright hieroglyphs on either side, which represent the wicks of oil lamps, (which need to be filled on a regular basis) and the central circle with a dot in the middle which represent *Ra* himself.

The symbol therefore seemed an appropriate choice for use with the time capsule project given that it can represent both closure and rebirth, thus matching the underlying belief of the Ancient Egyptians, that the departing from one life was but a gateway to another.

Below : The time capsule as it looks in it's fully assembled configuration



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Grateful thanks are hereby extended to the following people for their assistance in making this project possible, or for their contributions to the data base of this time capsule :-

Liz Bregazzi and colleagues : Archive Dept : Durham Record Office.
Staff at Aycliffe Fabrications Ltd : Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, England.
Peter Fox at Fox Gas Supplies Ltd : Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, England.
Christine Thompson : a citizen of Newton Aycliffe.
Godfrey Bennett : a citizen of Newton Aycliffe.
Noel Bennett : a citizen of Newton Aycliffe.
Peter Morgan : National Corrosion Service, England
Amanda Zerangue : Willis Library, University of North Texas, USA.
Time Capsules Australia.com
State Library of Florida, USA.
British Library : Collections Care.
Crystal Maitland : Canadian Conservation Group, Canada.
Ella Swindells : Conservation Register, London.
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John Wilson : Time Products (UK) Ltd.
Kevin Sherry : Air Products.com
Ruth Hobbins : Teesside Archives, England.
Inlec (UK) Ltd, Stokesly, North Yorkshire, England.
Nordfrim Global, Denmark.
Professor Carlos S Frenk : Director of the Institute for Computational Cosmology - based in Durham City, Co Durham, England.