In October Group Member Gary Bennett kindly organised a visit to the Titanic Quarter, Belfast, Northern Ireland for Members of the Heritage Group to attend a presentation held in the Titanic Hotel. The talk was given by Gary Bennett of BR Design to the CIBSE Regional Group, about the Great Light.

Committee Members held one of their regular Committee Meetings during the Belfast visit. They were also able to include visits to the Titanic Museum and HMS Caroline.

**THE GREAT LIGHT**

The Great Light was recovered from the Mew Island lighthouse guarding the entrance to Belfast Lough, but was originally housed in the lighthouse at Tory Island off the North Coast of Ireland, the lighthouse having first come into operation in 1832. The Tory Island lantern was then upgraded to a rotating 3 storey (tri-form) hyper-radial Fresnel optic (the largest lighthouse optic ever made) in 1887 and which was powered by coal gas generated on site.

The Mew Island Lighthouse was first established in 1884 to replace a smaller lighthouse on an adjacent island. Originally the Mew Island lighthouse operated a coal gas fired burner with a First Order tri-form optic but in 1929 the Great Light's Fresnel Lens was installed. To achieve this, the Tory Island tri-form hyper-radial Fresnel optic was converted to two bi-form optics to be shared between the two lighthouses.
The complete Great Light optic with its dual Fresnel lens is 7m high (including the base) and weighs 10 tonnes in total. The light source and lens revolved in a bath of mercury that acted as a very smooth and near frictionless bearing. A clockwork mechanism, which required almost constant rewinding, drove the system.

This new Mew Island Optic was lit by vaporized paraffin having a greater light output than coal gas and the light source was only replaced with electrical lighting in 1969. In recent years an automatic system involving non-revolving LED lamps has replaced the Great Light in the Mew Island lighthouse. Gary Bennett was directly involved in the renovation of the Great Light as well as the design of its new enclosure.

The new location is alongside the Belfast Docks on the mouth of the River Lagan, close to the Titanic Museum.
In 1912, the RMS Titanic, built by Harland & Wolff in Belfast, was the largest and most modern passenger liner in the world. Titanic was 882 feet 9 inches long with a maximum breadth of 92 feet 6 inches, 104 feet from base of keel to top of bridge, displacing 52,310 tons. Titanic was equipped with two reciprocating steam engines (total 30,000hp), a steam turbine (16,000hp), powered by 29 steam boilers and a sophisticated electrical system.
The Harland & Wolff factory Gates

Titanic launching slipway

The 29 boilers of the triple furnace steam type lined up at Harland & Wolff Belfast

The 4 – 400kW generators in situ

The Heritage Group pauses for a photograph
In front of the model of the Titanic
HMS Caroline a Destroyer is the only surviving warship that took part in the World War I ‘Battle of Jutland’. It was used as a fixed training ship before being restored.

Heating was provided for the Captain only, in his Quarters. This very ornate warm air stove must have been supplied by Musgrave’s of Belfast.

The Captain’s toilet has this wash hand basin with the most unusual waste trap.

Bow view of HMS Caroline with L-r Neil, Andrew, Martijn, Mike
The CIBSE Heritage Group Archive & Library has been donated to Cardiff University

The Bute Building at Cardiff University now houses the Heritage Group Archive & Library

Book library

Book library

Archive collection

Tweet
CU Libraries | Llyfrgelloedd PC @CardiffUniLib

The Architecture Library, serving the @WSofArchi, has acquired the @CIBSEHeritage Archive Collection and Library.

Thanks to former CIBSE Heritage Group Archivist, Mr Brian Roberts, for the donation. It will be added to our collection in the Bute Building (cc/atório @CUSpecialColls).
Heritage Group member Chris Sugg visited Prague in the Czech Republic in September to meet Jan Žákovec, the Director of the Czech Gas Museum and self-proclaimed “tallest lamplighter in the world” to tour and record the variety of gas street lighting around the city and its environs.
Another two Photographs of Gas Street Lighting but spanning 140 years

Five Sugg Globe Lamps, Bristol (1880's?) Junction of Bridge Street and High Street (photo Chris Sugg in Historic Gas Times)

Chris Sugg of the Heritage Group lighting the gas lamps in a Prague square under the watchful eye of Jan Zakovec the world’s tallest lamplighter (6ft 8in)

Thank you Mike and thank you Geraldine

Michael Barber a Founder Member of the original Group has retired. As Honorary Secretary he has served in that capacity from 1973 for the past 46 years, a record that will surely never be equalled. A warm welcome is given to Geraldine O’Farrell of Historic England, the new Heritage Group Secretary, who was the former Vice-Chair and joined the Heritage Group in 1999

Mike receiving his CIBSE Silver Medal in 2014

Geraldine receiving her CIBSE Silver Medal in 2018

This newsletter is sponsored by Historic England