

**BICC Wood Lane
News and gossip
January 2009**

Bush Telegraph

The recent sad news of the deaths of Keith Elder and Tom Ruben, has brought the Bush Telegraph into focus. Keith had a good collection of these, and Tom had been planning to scan them and make them available for the Wood Lane website.

John Vernon has kindly rescued what he can from Keith's house, and Peter Walton is willing to load them on to the site.....once they have been scanned.

So, the first question is, does anybody in the West London area have access to a fast scanner that could be used for the purpose? There is upwards of 1600 pages (quarto, A4 and folded quarto).

The second question will be to fill the gaps in the series. John has itemised what he has rescued, which is in the attached annex. If you still have copies lurking somewhere that could fill the gaps, please look them out. It will be the earlier ones (50s and early 60s) that will be most valued.

Website

The Wood Lane website that is kindly run by Peter Walton can be found at:

<http://www.woodlanebicc.co.uk/>

If you have any material that you wish to share please contact Peter at:

walton@blaxill.net

or

walton.peter@btinternet.com

Peter has recently added the speaking notes from the address given at Keith Elder's funeral.

Where are they now?

The round-robin mailings regularly send back error messages. Some are temporary due to full mailboxes and the like, but others have happened frequently. In particular if anyone has had recent contact with any of the following people could they please advise me:

Walter Mascarenhas
Sylvia Rifkin
Alex Ranicar
Tony Warwick
Tony Bhattacharya

History – Part 1

Many will recall the historic cable samples that were on display in the Library for many years. Amongst them were a number of boxed presentation sets from the early submarine telegraph cables of the 1860s and 1870s.

Dr Black wrote about them in his serialisation in the Bush Telegraph of “The history of electric wires and cables”. These episodes were eventually collected together and published in 1983 by Peter Peregrinus in association with the Science Museum.

Cable samples such as these are held by the Science Museum. For an example go to:

<http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/images/I058/10325122.aspx?keywords=cables>

For a fuller insight into the early pioneers take a trip to Porthcurno in South West Cornwall (a few miles from Lands End), and visit the Porthcurno Telegraph Museum.

<http://www.porthcurno.org.uk/>

This is on the site of the former Cable and Wireless training centre and links by a pathway down to the beach where the original terminal hut for 14 former submarine telegraph cables still exists, complete with cable ends and other pieces of equipment. It is known simply as the Cable House. The two visitors in the September 2008 may be familiar to some of you!



Wood Lane redevelopment

Most of you will know that the Westfield Shopping Centre opened at the end of October 2008.

<http://uk.westfield.com/london>

History – Part 2

The conclusion of the Westfield development has all but obliterated the remains of the 1908 Franco-British Exhibition at the “Great White City”. During the later years of Wood Lane, the most visible remains were the five remaining elevated exhibition halls that originally formed a continuous route from the main entrance by Shepherd’s Bush Central Line station and the old Wood Lane station at the bottom of Ariel Way. This is recalled in a 2008 reprinting and update of Donald R Knight’s book “The Exhibitions – Great White City, Shepherd’s Bush London”, which has been published to mark the centenary of the original exhibition. As well as a full description with maps and photos of the 1908 event, the book chronicles the later exhibitions and trade fairs, as well as having a brief survey of the fate of the site and its contents.

The book is published by the author, and printed by “Print Mania, New Barnet, Herts. EN4 8RQ, and costs £5.50.

2009 reunion

Friday 19th June, from noon, at:

The Antelope
22 Eaton Terrace
Belgravia
SW1W 8EZ

Contact mike@hagger.org if you have not received full details

Details of Bush Telegraphs – The Keith Elder Collection.

<u>Volume</u>	<u>Issues</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Issue No./ Approx. No. of Pages</u>	<u>Total No. of Pages</u>
14	11	1968	1/12, 2/12, 3/14, 4/14, 5/12, 6/10, 7/14, 8/16, 9/16, 10/14, 11/24.	158
15	11 ¹	1969	1/18, 2/18, 3/18, 4/22, 5/12, 6/14. 7/18, 8/20, 9/16, 10/16,(11missing)	172
16	7	1970	1/18, 2/14, 3/14, 4/14, 5/14, 6/14, 7/26.	114
17	10	1971	1/26, 2/24, 3/26, 4/26, 5/20, 6/22, 7/22, 8/16, 9/18, 10/34.	234
18	6	1972	1/13, 2/15+4, 3/11, 4/11, 5/11, 6/21.	86
19	9	1973	1/17, 2/15, 3/20, 4/26, 5/18, 6/25, 7/20, 8/22, 9/40.	203
20	12	Dec '77 to Nov '78	1/33, 2/23, 3/25, 4/31, 5/31, 6/32, 7/21, 8/22, 9/26, 10/28, 11/34, 12/25.	331
21	12	Dec '78 to Nov '79	1/52, 2/27, 3/27, 4/24, 5/25, 6/27, 7/30, 8/22, 9/25, 10/23, 11/23, 12/21	326
<u>Totals:</u>	<u>78</u> ¹			<u>1624</u>

Notes.

1. Excluding the December 1969 issue which is missing, the rest of the collection from Feb 1968 (Vol.14, No.1) to Nov 1979 (Vol,21, No.12) is complete.

2. Bush Telegraph publication stopped after Dec 1973 and resumed in Dec 1977. During this period **9 'bt' newsletters** were published and comprised a total of **22 pages**.

3. Page size: from 1968 to 1971 size is about quarto (28.3cm x 21.8cm), from 1972 it is A4.

Contact mike@hagger.org if you can augment anything