The Energy Institute – a century of professionalism and achievement

The Energy Institute is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the organisation and its predecessors this year. To introduce a monthly series of articles covering energy history over the last century and challenges for the future, EIP President Ian Marchant looks back to the 1914 beginnings of the organisation and its subsequent achievements, and to the future within its current New Cavendish Street home.

I have always been a keen student of history, following the advice of Winston Churchill who said: ‘The longer you can look back, the further forward you can see.’ As someone who has spent twenty-five years in the energy industry I am particularly keen on its history and the 100th anniversary of the Energy Institute is an excellent opportunity to celebrate our industry’s past, its achievements and its heroes. This is the first of a series of articles to be published this year that seek to do that.

These last one hundred years have seen dramatic change in the energy landscape in the UK. We have witnessed two major shifts; the displacement of coal with oil and gas and, second, the emergence of an electricity age. Let me give you a couple of examples of this great transformation.

In 1914 there were only a couple of hundred thousand vehicles on our roads, these are now over 35m and our way of life and entire country has been shaped by the availability of personal and public transport. Second, one hundred years ago mains electricity was still a luxury. We now have a national grid connecting hundreds of power stations fuelled by oil, gas, coal, nuclear, water, wind, solar and biomass material to every home, office and factory in the UK. Any threat to our energy supplies, be it to deliveries of petrol and diesel to our local filling stations or adverse weather bringing down power lines, shows how dependent we have become on reliable sources of energy.

Throughout the last hundred years the industry has continued to evolve with the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presidents of the Institute of Petroleum (the Institution of Petroleum Technologists until 1938)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1914–1916 Sir Boverton Redwood, Bart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916–1917 Prof John Cadman CMG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917–1919 The Rt Hon Lord Greenway of Stanbridge Earls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919–1921 Sir Frederick William Black KCB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921–1923 Prof John Samuel Strafford Brame, CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923–1925 Herbert Barringer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925–1927 Sir Thomas Henry Holland KCSI Kcie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927–1929 Alfred Courthorpe Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929–1931 Albert Ernest Dunstan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931–1933 James Kewley MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933–1935 Thomas Dewhurst ARCS FGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935–1937 The Rt Hon Lord Cadman of Silverdale GCMG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937–1939 Lt Col Samuel James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939–1942 Manson Auld OBE MC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942–1944 Prof Alfred William Nash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944–1946 Frederic Horace Garner OBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946–1948 Sir Andrew Agnew CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948–1950 Elliott A Evans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950–1952 C A Philip Southwell CBE MC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952–1954 Sir H Stephen Gibson CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954–1956 Lt Col Samuel James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956–1958 The Rt Hon Lord Geddes CBE DL MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958–1960 Charles Malcolm Vignoles CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960–1962 Julian M Leonard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962–1964 John Cranlon Gridley CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964–1966 GH Herridge, CMG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968–1970 Dr. AW Pearce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970–1972 CM Dalley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972–1974 Geoffrey Chandler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974–1976 JD Dewhurst ARSM BSc FGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976–1978 HB Greenborough CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978–1980 Denys Milne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980–1982 Sir Nevil Macready</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982–1984 Alan Gregory, CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984–1986 Dr Jack Birks CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988–1990 Sir Archibald Forster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990–1992 Basil Butler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994–1996 David Varney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996–1998 David Setchell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998–2000 Chris Moorhouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000–2002 Charles Henderson, CB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During our energy century the organisation has changed and evolved and expanded its remit to cover the whole of the energy industry. But, throughout that period, the development of the ‘proficiency’ of everyone in the industry has had central place in everything we have done. We need to celebrate, not only because the Institute is one hundred years old, but also because the energy industry's history is full of heroes, both well-known inventors, engineers and business leaders, and thousands of unsung heroes.

Every day a whole range of people do amazing things in our industry, ranging from fitters on a North Sea oil rig and linesmen out in all weathers keeping the lights on, to engineers solving today’s problems and scientists working on tomorrow’s. Organisations such as the EI have a key role in helping, encouraging and recognising these energy heroes, as well as developing the next generation.

As a fundamental building block of modern society, energy continues to attract the attention of politicians the world over. Debates are frequently fierce, whether they are about resource nationalism or the price of our domestic bills. That has, however, been a constant feature of the last hundred years and although the intensity of the debates has ebbed and flowed, it has remained of national and international importance. As members of the industry, our job has to be to continue to try to bring economic and engineering rationality to these debates.

The EI has a role to play here too and, in our 100th year, we are engaged in developing thinking around the energy system as a whole. We are uniquely placed to look at the inter-connectedness of everything energy and, to paraphrase Superman’s dad, with that unique place comes great responsibility.

61 New Cavendish street
As well as looking back 100 years, I have also gone back a little further. The year 1776 was a remarkable one. Four things happened that continue to shape our lives today. The Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia and this is still a major influence on our principles of democratic government. For example, the modern focus on well being is really the same as ‘life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.’ Adam Smith’s landmark book: ‘The Wealth of Nations’ was published in 1776. He also made a key point on the importance of free trade and that economic growth leads to improvements in living standards. These ideas had a major influence on the development of capitalism in the 19th century. Keynes later adapted the model to our modern, democratic, capitalistic economy.

Energy has always been a key driver of economic development and that is still true today. Our continued progress requires safe, affordable, reliable and sustainable sources of energy. Whilst we tend to think of energy as a natural resource, it requires considerable human ingenuity to find, extract, distribute and to deploy all forms of energy. It is that human ingenuity that the Energy Institute has developed over its 100 years. The EI can trace its origins back to 5 March 1914, when one of our predecessor organisations, the Institution of Petroleum Technologists, was formed to promote the ‘proficiency in connection with our profession.’

**Presidents of the Energy Institute**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004–2005</td>
<td>Euan Baird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005–2007</td>
<td>Sir John Collins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007–2009</td>
<td>Sir Roy Gardner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td>James Smith CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–2013</td>
<td>Joan MacNaughton CB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013–2015</td>
<td>Ian Marchant FEI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Presidents of the Institute of Energy (the Institute of Fuel until 1978)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1927–1928</td>
<td>The Rt Hon Sir Alfred Mond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928–1931</td>
<td>Sir David Milne-Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931–1933</td>
<td>Sir Hugo Hirst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933–1934</td>
<td>Sir James Larke KBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934–1935</td>
<td>Sir Harry Duncan KBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935–1936</td>
<td>Sir John Cadman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936–1938</td>
<td>Sir Philip Dawson MP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938–1941</td>
<td>Lt-Col J Greenly CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941–1943</td>
<td>W Morrish Selvey (Acting President, 1939-40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943–1946</td>
<td>E Woodhouse Smith CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946–1948</td>
<td>Professor C H Lander CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949–1950</td>
<td>Dr D T A Townend CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950–1951</td>
<td>J F Ronca OBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951–1953</td>
<td>G E Foxwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953–1955</td>
<td>Dr W Idris Jones CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955–1956</td>
<td>R H Gummer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956–1957</td>
<td>J R Rylands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957–1958</td>
<td>H McNeil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958–1959</td>
<td>T C Bailey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959–1960</td>
<td>Dr A C Monkhouse CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960–1961</td>
<td>Dr W A Macfarlane CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961–1962</td>
<td>J Burns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962–1963</td>
<td>Professor M W Thring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963–1964</td>
<td>J C Duckworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964–1965</td>
<td>Dr H E Crossley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965–1966</td>
<td>G J Gollin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966–1967</td>
<td>G N Critchley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967–1968</td>
<td>R F Hayman MBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968–1970</td>
<td>C A Roast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970–1971</td>
<td>Dr N M Potter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971–1972</td>
<td>Dr J E Garside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972–1973</td>
<td>Dr J H Chesters OBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973–1974</td>
<td>Dr G Whittingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974–1975</td>
<td>F E Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975–1976</td>
<td>Dr J Gibson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977–1978</td>
<td>J H Flux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978–1979</td>
<td>Professor I Fells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979–1980</td>
<td>Dr W A Simmonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980–1981</td>
<td>D F Rosborough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982–1983</td>
<td>Professor A Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983–1984</td>
<td>Professor G F I Roberts CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984–1985</td>
<td>Dr G G Thurlow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986–1987</td>
<td>Professor J Swithenbank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987–1988</td>
<td>Dr E G Masdin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988–1989</td>
<td>C E Pugh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989–1990</td>
<td>Professor B J Brinkworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990–1991</td>
<td>D M Willis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992–1993</td>
<td>M C Roberts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993–1994</td>
<td>Professor J S Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994–1996</td>
<td>D G Jefferies CBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996–1997</td>
<td>P H Johnson CEng FinstE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997–1998</td>
<td>Professor J H Cheshire FinstE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999–2000</td>
<td>R E D Coldwell FinstE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000–2001</td>
<td>B Chamberlain CEng FinstE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001–2002</td>
<td>J E Ingham CEng FinstE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002–2003</td>
<td>J Blackhall CEng FinstE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
100th anniversary

The Wealth of Nations was published. We continue to debate the role of markets and whether the ‘invisible hand’ really does work. Third, the first two of James Watt’s steam engines were commissioned, marking the effective beginning of the use of mechanical, carbon-intensive power that is still with us today. And finally, the building at 61 New Cavendish Street, the current and well-used home of your Institute was built.

I admit that this last one is not of the same global proportions as the first three but it has got us thinking. The building is in need of a refurbishment and so we have decided that, as a one hundredth birthday present, we should give it a makeover. We would like try to make it an exemplar project, showing what can be done to improve the energy efficiency of an old building. That is in keeping with our values as an Institute and would, I believe, make a fitting link between our energy history and our energy future.

As this year progresses we therefore intend to both celebrate the last one hundred years and prepare for the next stage of our Institute’s life. I hope you all feel part of this.

Ian Marchant is the current President of the Energy Institute.

Knowledge, professional development, good practice

In March 1914, Sir Boverton Redwood opened the inaugural meeting of the Institution of Petroleum Technologists as its newly-elected President, declaring that the aim of the institute was to determine ‘the hallmark of proficiency in connection with our profession.’ This was the momentous event that, a few mergers later, would lead to the birth of the Energy Institute.

A century later, we continue to fly the flag for professionalism, this time across the whole of the energy industry, supporting its people and companies to achieve excellence in their field for the benefit of society.

A gateway to a vast bank of energy knowledge and a key partner for professional development and the promotion of good practice, the EI is a unique community to which all energy professionals, industry leaders, academics, policy makers and all other stakeholders can belong. It is where they can develop and contribute their expertise towards meeting today’s energy challenges – which are considerable.

We will celebrate our members’ contribution, the essential role of the energy industry in society and the ingenuity of its people throughout our centenary year. We hope you’ll join in and enjoy the party.

Louise Kingham OBE FEI
Chief Executive, Energy Institute

Demonstrate your expertise

Gain the recognition you deserve

Professional qualifications from the Energy Institute

Our wide range of Chartered and Incorporated titles, relevant for today’s energy professionals, include:

• Chartered Petroleum Engineer
• Chartered Energy Engineer
• Chartered Environmentalist
• Chartered Energy Manager
• Chartered Scientist

Find out more:
– email membership@energyinst.org with a CV
– visit www.energyinst.org/membership
– attend a free London workshop

We can also come to you!
We can hold a membership workshop in your workplace. Please contact Andy Lewis at: alewis@energyinst.org

‘In a fast-moving sector like sustainability, continued professional development is crucial in helping me provide the best service to our clients. Becoming an EI Member and Chartered Environmentalist has supported me in being promoted to Associate within the company.’

Donald Sinclair CEnv MEI, Energy Specialist, Richard Hodkinson Consultancy