

# the Bulletin



Discovery Museum has a spectacular new outdoor exhibit. Located at the front of the museum building on a purpose built ramp is a Challenger 2 tank. The tank is one of a number of prototypes built by Vickers Defence Systems (now B.A.E) in the 1990s. The tank which was previously displayed outside the BAE Scotswood plant was gifted to the City of Newcastle upon Tyne by B.A.E when the factory sadly closed in 2014. FODMs member John Chaney (pictured above) worked for BAE at Birtley and was involved in designing the armaments system used in the Challenger 2. John has recently been helping the Discovery staff with information about armament manufacturing in the North East.

The wooden enclosure around the tank is a temporary measure whilst TWAM seeks funds for further display and interpretation work.



Hi all, this year the quarterly management committee meetings will be open to all. These meetings will be held at 12-30pm at Discovery on ;3rd March,9th June(also an AGM), 8th September and 8th December.

This year the Discovery Museum really needs our help to get things done and to raise funds so I hope you will be able to attend the quarterly meetings.

Ian Burdon

Chairman

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## Message from the Manager



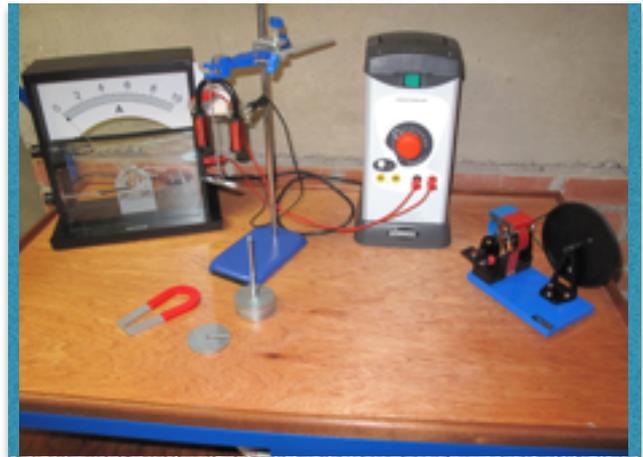
The 2015 programme will bring exciting new exhibitions and activities to Discovery Museum. We will continue our remembrance of WW1 into 2015. Our main exhibitions for the year will be Great North - Greats - ordinary people -extra ordinary lives in August and a history of Fenwicks Christmas window in November.

Carolyn Ball -- Discovery Museum Manager.

## ARCS &amp; SPARKS — Ian Burdon

Last November FODMs helped the Discovery Science and Industry team to buy some new demonstration equipment for the Arcs & Sparks project, see photograph. The equipment is being used by the Discovery team and FODMs members Ed Dinning & Bob Heslop to explain basic electrical principles as part of the public tours around the new electrical collection store facility.

I was able to see the new equipment in action when I visited the store. The electrical collection store is a treasure trove of Tyneside electrical engineering history. The tour rekindled my enthusiasm for all things electrical and reminded me of why I joined the electrical engineering profession. When I started as a Technical Apprentice at the Reyrolle works in Hebburn in the early 1960s a good number of the objects now held in the new store were still in use in the electrical generation and supply industry. Most of the equipment in those days was electro-mechanical but we were just starting to see the application of electronic control. It is likely that some of the cabling examples on display are still giving good service today. To a modern electrical engineer used to working with computer and chip controlled equipment the items in the Arcs & Sparks



store will seem like something from a distant age.

The TWAM Keeper of Science and Industry John Clayson reports that the Arcs & Sparks project store tours are very popular “With the help of the FODMs equipment we have been able to show visitors of all ages how the discovery of electro magnetism helped to change electricity from a laboratory novelty into a useful power and energy source.”

The Arcs & Sparks tours take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 11-00 am and are free of charge but booking is essential. To book onto a tour please phone 01912326789 or e-mail [discoveryevents@twmuseums.org.uk](mailto:discoveryevents@twmuseums.org.uk) and put Arcs & Sparks in the subject box.

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### New office for 2015

Our new office at the far end of the Story of the Tyne gallery on the first floor is now up and running. It will not be staffed all the time but if you need to contact us please leave a message on the telephone voice mail or send an e-mail . The telephone number is 0191 277 2330 and e-mail [friendsofdiscovery@twmuseums.org.uk](mailto:friendsofdiscovery@twmuseums.org.uk)

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### CHRISTMAS GATHERING

A good time was had by all and it was useful to hear the Director Iain Watson & Discovery Manager Carolyn Ball tell us about the challenges that TWAM faces in the coming year. We are hoping to repeat the event in 2015.