

Like many of us here today I got to know Denis through work and am extremely honoured today to add to the family's reflections.

Denis as we have already heard, started with Manweb in 1955.

When I joined the company in 1985, Denis was the Asst Chief Engineer Technical, John Powell was Asst Chief Engineer System Management and Stan Roberts was the Asst Chief Engineer Plant and Circuits.

Denis' reputation for ensuring team members had a good grasp of the key aspects of the electrical network was renowned, specifically understanding of Stowell's paper which documented the fundamentals behind the design and operation of the Manweb electrical system.

I remember, personally on several occasions being put on the spot and accepting positively his eagerness to develop my understanding further, in other words being grilled.

Someone recently asked me what my legacy will be when I retire, from Manweb's perspective some systems sponsored by Denis are still in use every day.

Legacies also are not just systems, a significant number of colleagues here today have benefited, as I have, from his coaching, mentoring and words of wisdom over many years.

It would be rather remiss of me if I didn't mention his work with the Institution of Electrical Engineers, both in terms of chairing committees and encouraging involvement from many others.

His and Anne's support for charities, especially the annual barbecues were also special events and raised much needed funds for the IEE Benevolent Fund and St John's Hospice.

When Denis came to retire, he visited all the 10 Manweb Districts offices.

At his leaving 'bash' in Liverpool he was presented with a pair of brass meters, which he'd spotted on a previous site visit, mounted on a piece of polished mahogany.

Of course, an inscription was also added, and certain individual stood before you today, made an unforgivable mistake and spelt 'Denis' – with two N's just like the red fire engine's we see driving round.

As ever Denis, one N nor 2, acknowledged all his gifts, but later had a quiet word in my ear about having the inscription corrected before it was installed within 'The Crest'.

I'm not sure if Jim Powell, John Powell's son, is here today, but in conversation last week, Jim told me that at his father's funeral, Denis commented that he hoped that his funeral would be as well attended.

Well I'm pleased to see it is and only emphasises again how much everybody thought of Denis.

I never discussed religion with Denis, but as Christian and knowing how Denis conducted himself, I hope to meet him again at some point in the future, when know doubt we will again discuss network management.

Thanks, and God Bless