

I can make no claim to being involved in the design and / or build of the above Icon, but can offer you my memories of a day in the life of a Southern Gas Meter Reader.

My round for the day was in Southampton, and I was reaching the close of the days work in April 1965, you could say one day too many, I was invited in to read the Meter by a very despondent Gentleman, so depressed was he, that I expressed my sympathy for him in whatever troubles he was in.

He said he was the Test Pilot for the TSR2, and had just received news of the cancellation of the project, he asked me to join him in a drink from a vast collection of Single Malts, it being the last call of my day I accepted, and he opened up his collection and we had a tasting session, he was I claim a little happier when I left to get my lift home.

We had an exchange of views on the decisions made by Politicians, for in 1963 I made a decision to abandon my beloved job on the Railways in the light of the closures to be made by Dr Beeching, and this after 25 years dedicated service.

We did not include Harold Wilson in the many toasts we made during that session.

I did get into Aircraft Manufacture in a small way, helping to produce BAC 1-11 aircraft for the Philippines at Hurn, and later to Plessey and Siemens at Poole in Dorset, where I did another 20 years stint.

Jack Lewis