

Going out of their way to talk shop

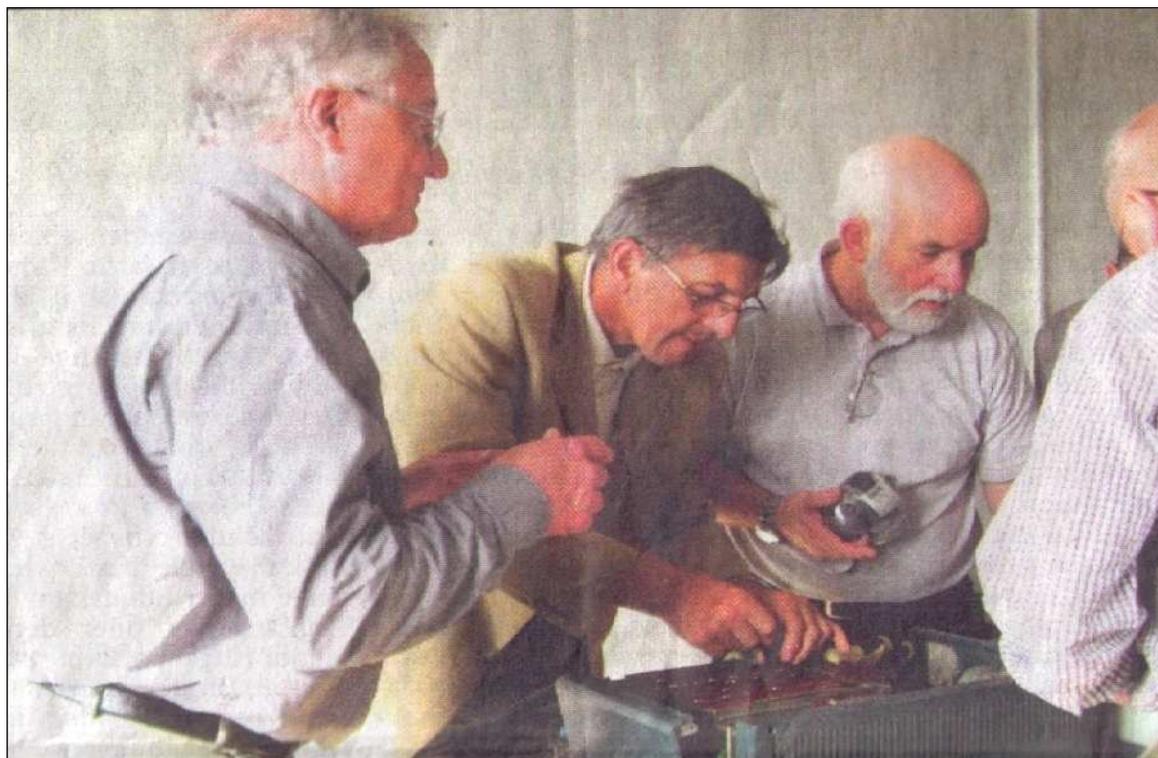
Two technical enthusiasts from England receive support in Sömmerda for their project.

An interest in an electronic calculator has led two English technical enthusiasts to Sömmerda. Here in the museum they met like minded people and received support.

Sömmerda.

It was the electronic calculator ETR 220 which led Bernard Green to go to Sömmerda from Sharnbrook. His most recent visit in April is his third to this town. This time he will be able to personally thank Helmut Augst and Ingolf Friedrich for their help. Barbara Speiser who works in the museum explained that they are two engineers from the former BWS who had helped them with a very important connector which had already been installed in the ETR in Sharnbrook.

In the past year Bernard Green and the former engineers have been in contact through the museum. The two engineers are connected due their involvement in the development and production of the ETR 220 and 224. Barbara Speiser explained the back story of the correspondence; “at the end of 2008 Bernhard Green contacted the museum by email. In German he explained that in 1967 he came to Sömmerda for



VIEW: During the recent visit to the Sömmerda museum Bernard Green (left) is interested in this stripped down computer.

Photo: private

training on the ETR 220. His previous employer had been an importer of electronic equipment. 40 years later Mr Green still has a fascination for such equipment. Along with like minded hobby enthusiasts on the English website www.soemtron.org, he wants to make the ETR 220 useable again. They were missing a circuit diagram for the calculator. By contacting the

museum in Sömmerda they were hoping for the opportunity to obtain one.”

In September of last year Bernard Green and his friend Mike Hatch visited Sömmerda. The meeting between the former office machinery factory engineers was organised through the museum. “The two Englishmen introduced themselves, explained what they

required and asked questions. There were hardly any language problems because Mr Green can still speak very good German,” Barbara Speiser reported of their visit. Then they went to the viewing area in the museum. “The ETR was inspected professionally from all angles, photographed externally and internally and discussed in detail.”

In the end there was also another ETR 224 in existence which could be taken back to Sharnbrook, explained Barbara Speiser. Our two guests from England were overjoyed by this souvenir. It has been fascinating to experience, “that people from England are so enthusiastic about technology from Sömmerda that they have created a detailed website and cultivated worldwide contacts.”

With the founding of this museum five years ago, Sömmerda is publically demonstrating that it doesn't want the next generation to forget about its history of manufacturing computers and typewriters. The aim is to show people about the impact of the construction of electric and electronic products.

In the English town of Sharnbrook they are working arduously to get the calculator working again. The accompanying test apparatus is the next project of the fan group Barbara Speiser informed us. We will continue to have our connection to our partners in Sharnbrook. “Sömmerda will certainly once more become a holiday destination.”