

# Life after the Labs – John Irvén

## STL 1970-1986

Initially in Materials Chemistry lab (Eric Bush) then predominantly Optical Fibres (Phil Black) where I completed an industrial based PhD on fibre fabrication technology.

## Since STL

### Air Products 1986-2009

Industrial Gases R&D, Product Development & Innovation.

- Commercial Development Manager – new step out ventures
- Manager Electronics R&D
- Director Technology for the \$2billion global Packaged Gases business – new gases based product and application innovations brought to market of several \$100 millions
- 2 UK Queens Awards for Enterprise: Innovation in 2004 & 2007
- Dow Corning Inaugural Award for innovation in the Chemical Industry in 2005
- Royal Society of Chemistry, Lifetime achievement award for enterprise in innovation in the chemical industry in 2007
- Air Products Chairman's Award for Excellence in Innovation in 2008
- Retired in 2009



## Since Retirement from Air Products

### Watchet Town Council

- Elected 2011. Currently Vice Chair & Deputy Mayor



- Established *Watchet Summertime* – week long annual summer festival event from 2011
- Founded Friends of Watchet & Somerset Libraries. Led campaign to secure successful high court judicial review stopping library closures in Somerset in 2012

- Led campaign to achieve disabled compliant pedestrian crossing on West Somerset Railway in Watchet. Awarded Institute of Civil Engineers Community Project of the Year Award Commendation in 2013

### West Somerset Railway PLC

Longest Heritage Steam Railway in the country.

- Joined board 2012, Chairman 2014 – 2017
- Led successful defence of freehold



- Brought Flying Scotsman to the West Somerset Railway 2017
- Retired 2017

### Watchet Coastal Communities CIC

- A founder director of the Community Interest Company aiming to improve local facilities and amenities for tourism

### Queen Mary University of London

- Visiting Professor in Chemistry 1998 – current
- Academic-Industry liaison and Lecturing

### TWI (The Welding Institute), Cambridge

The world's premier Materials & Technology Organisation operated for membership across welding, cutting, joining and materials technologies.

- On governing boards and Council since 1995. Chairman of Research Board since 2008
- Awarded Bevan Braithwaite Award 2012 for Enterprise & Innovation for contribution to the welding industry
- Helped establish the Structural Integrity Research Foundation (SIRF) at TWI, the UK's first industrially based university training Eng Doc and MSc level students in structural integrity.
- Awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Welding Institute for services to TWI and Welding in 2016

### Personal

- Successfully underwent open heart surgery in 2015