

Obituary for Prospero for Dai Thomas

Earlier this year the funeral of Mr. David Thomas, known to all as Dai Thomas, took place in Cardiff. He was almost 90 years old.

Dai was Engineer in Charge at Wenvoe Transmitting station from 1969 to his retirement in 1984.

His career in the BBC started off with a Youth in Training post at the Aberdare H Group Transmitter in South Wales. His parents kept the White Lion Pub (which still exists) in the town. This was followed by service abroad in Royal Navy signals. On post-war re-instatement into the BBC he was posted to the high power Ottringham Transmitter in Yorkshire, which is where he met his future wife Nancy who was the 'Confidential Secretary' to the EiC - a post which she had to relinquish on her marriage. Posts at Tacolneston (Norfolk) and Sandale (Carlisle) followed and then he was appointed EiC at Wenvoe near Cardiff in 1969.

Due to its location on the South Wales coast Wenvoe served a large population in South Wales and the West Country, and a separate High Power TV service on Ch.13 was introduced for BBC Wales in 1964, in addition to the Ch.5, previously shared, High Power TV service. This made Wenvoe the biggest TV/FM station in Europe for a time. In addition to the shift staff there was also a rigging team, a Transmitter Maintenance team and various other staff who covered a large area.

Mr Thomas was an understanding, sympathetic and 'old BBC style' EiC who always had the best interests of his staff at heart. Over the years he saw many technical innovations being introduced and staff from Head Office visited site often and they all spoke very highly of him. During his time at Wenvoe there was a flourishing BBC Wenvoe Club and we all remember the marvellous Christmas parties for children. Outside work he was an enthusiastic golfer who [was on the driving range only a few days before his death](#). His wife Nancy pre-deceased him in 2005 and they had three sons, two of which live in America. There was a large attendance at the funeral, including many ex Wenvoe and BBC Tx HQ staff to pay their last respects to a fine man and colleague.

Peter Condron BBC WV 1962 to 1988.