



Extracts from....
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**A visit to VMARS Member
John Birkett's Lincoln wireless shop**



John Birkett, G8OPP

Being a Monday, John's shop was closed. Yes I had forgotten to do my homework. This was a disappointment for me, so a cursory glance and peer through the windows of the shops was all I could afford at the time. Or so I thought!



While standing outside the premises of No. 25, admiring the contents of the shop window and other items I could see on the back shelves of the shop, I had a feeling I was being watched. On looking round I found, by total coincidence, that Mr John Birkett was standing right next to me, having just popped out from his flat to grab an ice cream, and then wander to the shop. John was just popping over to sit inside the shop and pass an hour. After a quick introduction, John opened the shop and we sat and had a really nice chat for 30 minutes. We talked about events and people from the past, and events coming up in the future.

Since the shop now appeared to be open, a few people dropped in to browse, some wondering as to what this old stuff is used for. John allowed me the opportunity to look around the shop and take photographs. "John, thank you".



Following on from a very pleasant weekend away in York in July of this year on the occasion of the excellent AGM held at the Yorkshire Air Museum, Elvington, I decided to visit Lincoln on my way home. I have never had the opportunity to visit this City. An ulterior motive rang in the back of my mind; our colleague John Birkett has his emporium in the Cathedral and Castle quarter, so off we went to do some sight-seeing and a nice pub lunch.

Having enjoyed a gentle stroll around the old quarter of the City and its grand buildings and architecture, I went on the mission to find the famous location of the Birkett Emporium. John's shop as I know it from pictures seen in the past, is located in 'The Strait'. This is situated down a cobbled walkway at the end of a steep hill, known as 'Steep Hill'. Past some bollards, is the cobbled area of 'The Strait'. Walking down this cobbled pathway, I was surprised to find that J Birkett is not just one small shop, as I had always thought, but three. On the right hand side as you walk down the hill is a smaller shop, and further down 'The Strait' is a much larger double shop unit.



I found some nice items on display ranging from a T1154 destined to a new home (before you ask him how much?). An Eddystone 640 receiver (I think) on a shelf and a ton of other items of interest. A visit to Mr J Birkett's establishment is very worthwhile if you are in the area. If your eyes glaze at the mention of Lisle Street in Soho and Leicester Square and those other emporia from the halcyon years, you will not be disappointed.

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