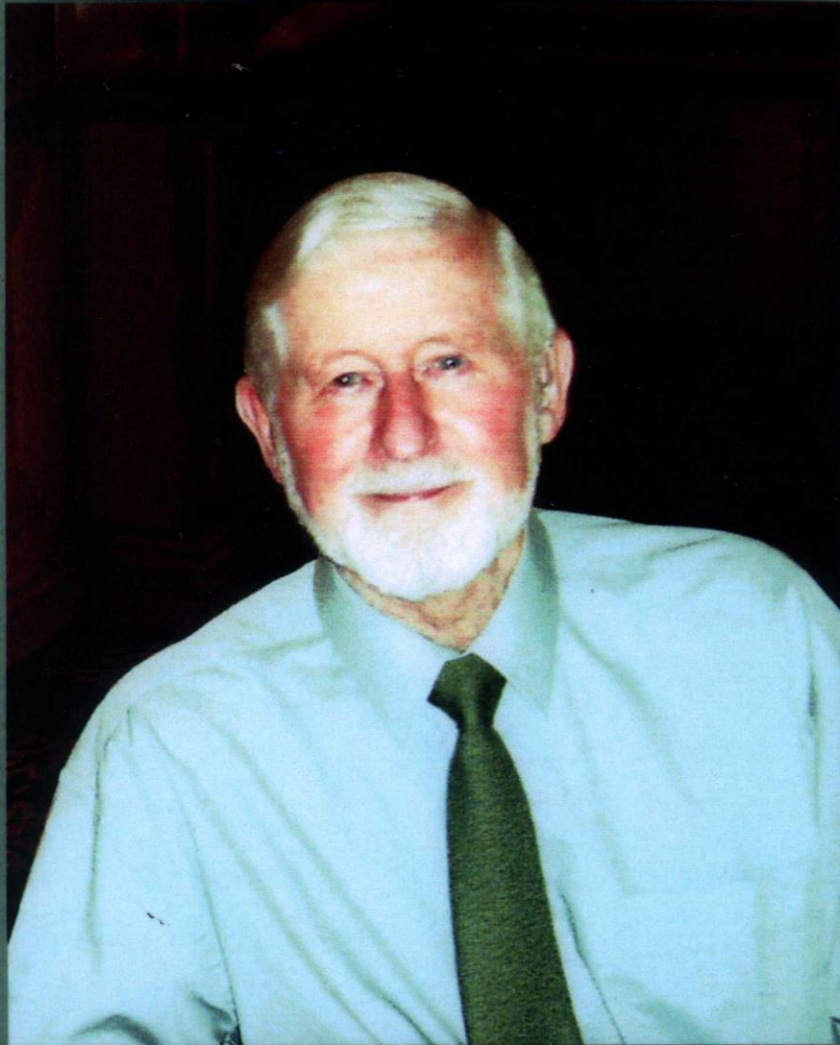


# Bob Henson



My Life  
in a  
World of Physics

# **My Life** **in a** **World of Physics**

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## Preface

“History is a combination of reality and lies.  
The reality of History becomes the lie,  
and the unreality of the fable becomes the truth.”

Jean Cocteau.

History is, at its best biography, and at its worst autobiography. As such, much is distorted by personal recollection, and the truth often obscured or even lost. Here I will do my best to tell the truth, and hope that my only weakness is to exaggerate my own importance.

When I started this project in 1996 it was just intended to be a collection of stories about my early days at Harwell. I was encouraged to do this after writing a few snippets about my calamitous time in the Royal Air Force. Since then I have expanded the scope to include all my working life, with a few additions about my personal life. The structure of the Contents page looks good, but hides the undisciplined manner in which the chapters have been written. Because of my grasshopper mind, the chapters have been written in a muddled sequence, jumping from place to place as the memories come flooding back. For this reason the chapters may overlap and some events may be repeated. This does have the advantage that the chapters are largely independent, and can be read in any order, without too much confusion.

The events which are described are generally in chronological order, but in the fine detail I often cannot be sure of the precise timing. It will be obvious that for some periods of time, I have very strong and detailed memories, and there is much to be written. However, there are long periods about which I remember very little.

I wish to thank Alison, for her guidance and encouragement, and for correcting my many errors.

R. W. Henson. September 2019

The Moving Finger writes; and having writ,  
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit  
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,  
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.

Omar Khayyâm



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