Noel studied metallurgy at the University of Newcastle, gaining his PhD in 1967. With the Imperial Smelting Corporation in Avonmouth he worked on the development and fabrication of superplastic zinc alloys. Moving back into the academic environment at University of Newcastle on Tyne he did research in silicon nitride ceramics and nitrogen steels. Emigrating to South Africa, Noel spent 27 years with the De Beers Diamond Research laboratory on the synthesis of diamond and related products.

Since the discovery that natural diamonds were formed deep within the earth’s surface, the drive to emulate nature has focused on the design and construction of systems that can generate the ultra-high pressure and temperature conditions, under which diamond can be nucleated and grown. This presentation covers a brief history from the initial discovery of the source of natural diamonds to the development of the HP/HT systems currently used to convert graphitic carbon into diamond and diamond related products.

Refreshments will be served after the proceedings. For the purposes of catering, please ring Gill, Berice or Isabel at 011 804-3710 or e-mail secretary@sait.org.za or admin@sait.org.za to let us know how many plan to attend.