

H. NOBLE & SON LTD.

EST 1921

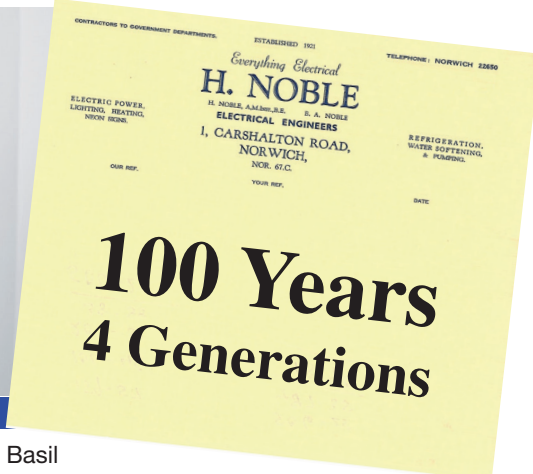


Established June 1921
100 YEARS OF A FAMILY BUSINESS
IN NORWICH & NORFOLK

As written by
Philip Noble



Philip Charles Noble | Birth 12th September 1956



Herbert Noble
Birth 13th April 1895
Death 14th March 1963 (Aged 67)

The family business of H. NOBLE & SON was first established in Norwich in June 1921 by my Grandfather Herbert Noble. Herbert had trained as an electrician at Norwich City Corporation which proceeded the Eastern Electricity Co. He was an apprentice there and we have old photographs of him with his work colleagues at the time. At the same time Herbert was a very good and keen footballer. He turned

out for Norfolk County FA and then in 1910 was asked to play for Norwich City FC as an amateur, we again have a photograph of him in his football kit then also we have his original old NCFC leather boot bag of the time. To protect his employment status with the Norwich Corporation he had to be listed as an A N OTHER which apparently was common then, otherwise he could have been sacked for playing for a professional team.

The next period involved the outbreak of the First World War it was around 1915 when I understand he was keen to be enlisted into the army but the Royal Navy insisted on all Electrical engineers be seconded to the Navy at that time, they did not give them an option, there was much need in the Navy for Electricians, as the new ships were being fitted with new electrical equipment. Grandfather Herbert was attached to The Battleship HMS Benbow which was having a new refit and he was involved with this as she first sailed, a fantastic experience for him. He saw war service on the HMS Battleship Benbow and his ship was involved in action during the Battle of Jutland in 1916.

Herbert made it through the first war and he continued doing electrical work with a local company Mann Egerton Electrical and then his mother lent him £100 in June 1921, which was quite a sum of money at that time, and together with his pension he gained from the war office for being in the battle of Jutland he started the H. NOBLE electrical business. He also was very proud to pay his mother back the £100 within the year.

During those early years and during the second world war years for the business Herbert completed many sizable contracts including work for the MOD which involved providing his electrical expertise as they were setting up masses amount of Aerodromes in Norfolk. We also found out recently when my father Basil's sister Vera visited Castle Howard in Yorkshire that he had been involved with wiring the Hall for its first installation this would have been before the second war. A plaque was found recently there

with H. NOBLE on it as its recently been rewired again. Apparently he had much involvement with the electrical work on the large Halls and Houses in this region too, the old Haveringland Hall being one.



Basil Arthur Noble
Birth 9th February 1927
Death 16th October 2005

After the second world war Herbert was joined in the business by my father Basil, there was an article written by Hugh Bowring in this newspaper about my father in 2005 when he passed away. Vera, Herbert's daughter has informed me recently she used to help him after the war with his paperwork, you will see an attached a yellow copy of the original old H. NOBLE headed paper he used at that time, you will note although my father

B. A. NOBLE is mentioned the business at that time has no mention of & SON.

During the 1960's the business was then known as H. NOBLE & SON and then my father Basil took on the running of the business as my Grandfather Herbert sadly passed away quite suddenly in 1963. My Father was then involved more with doing electrical work for the numerous breweries and public houses in Norfolk during this time, namely Bullards, Steward & Paterson and later on The Norwich Brewery and this continued much into the 1970's. I then, in 1973, joined the business after leaving school and was then trained by the electricians who worked for father at that time, one of those was Brian who we still keep in touch with to this day. My Brother David also worked for father for a short time, later on he moved on and worked with electronics in the then up and coming office equipment businesses.

Through and into the 1980's I predominately did all the work in the various types of the electrical sectors which involved both commercial and domestic areas and also with local builders. I also organised the business to become full members of the trade association the NICEIC during this time which then moved the business into various fields where we able to work for housing associations and councils and other established companies. My father was then 65 and so in 1991 he retired from any involvement and from operating within the business, its was as it happens the same year my youngest son Jonathan was born.

Much of the same type of work continued for the business however the business did grow and a number of employees and contracts were involved with and for us between 1995 and 2005.

My father Basil sadly passed away in 2005 after a long illness, see previous newspaper article, and the business became mine alone. It was in 2007, just as the credit crunch hit the economy and businesses, that my youngest son Jonathan decided he wanted to come with me into the family business after leaving school. As work was extremely difficult in those years we decided to not employ anyone further and Jonathan and I worked through on our own to keep the business operating in one of the most difficult periods. The business then became Limited in 2010 and in the last 10 years we have completed many varied types of electrical work. Of-course this last 12 months has probably been the most difficult of all for most business's because of the pandemic, but we have made it through. Then in the last few months my mother Kathy Noble who helped my father Basil run the business in the 60's and 70's has sadly now also passed away, she was aware before she died that we had planned the celebration of the 100 years, it was a comfort to her and to us all that we were carrying on the good work to keep it going.



Jonathan Stephen Philip Noble
Birth 20th March 1991

Now its time for Jonathan to take the business forward which he has already started to do, with all the incredible technology in the modern business. We are celebrating the 100 years with new logo's which we have shown. Jonathan now completes all operational work which involves mostly domestic electrical work involved with electrical testing of properties for Landlords

certificates, these are known as EICR's and he also completes the rectifications of their issues within the installations. Business is quite busy with the changes in the regulations for the rented properties, also on the horizon is the EV supplies for the domestic charging of the customers electrical vehicles. I see this as the future and it will roll on in the years to come. My involvement as the managing director is to complete all the administration for the business now, this is what I now do predominately.

I shall now be 65 myself this year so I have decided to semi retire by taking a part time job working for Parkside Special School in Norwich driving for the Norse Group.

We pride ourselves on offering a very personnel service to our customers and we are full approved members of the NICEIC which includes UKAS approval and Domestic installer approval for the Part P. Our Roll number is 018575

Our contact details are:-

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PHILIP NOBLE – Managing Director | JONATHAN NOBLE - Director

