

Perspective – November 2010

The Newsletter of the IBM Hursley Retirees' Club



EX CATHEDRA

Summer has almost been rained off this year, so it seems, and it's time for a new Perspective on life!

Under Merv Quick's editorial guidance (and hard work) this issue has more new features which we hope will be of interest and value to our readers. One I haven't been able to get into the mix is a register of volunteer mentors for retirees as we learn to use Android mobile phones! Whatever happened to the prefix "tele", I wonder. If a mobile phone needs a 185 page manual maybe I should have realised it would be a challenge too far! Who was it who said write the manual before you develop the product?

October sees your committee get down to planning next year's trips. Details will be available first at the AGM on 8th March 2011. Please make a note in your diary and reply to the invitation. Thanks to all those who submitted suggestions.

The Hursley Retirees Club, unlike some of the other IBM Clubs in the UK, has no sections. The events your committee organises are chosen to appeal across the board to all members. However, if any group of Hursley retiree members wishes to establish and run a "special interest group" on a topic such as, for example, photography, steam engines, knitting or whatever, please don't hesitate to bring a funding proposal to the Committee. There are just some commonsense rules: activities must be open to all IBM Club Members and subsidy must not exceed 50% of cost.

It's disappointing to have to report there is still no progress in making information about events planned by the IBM Club Basingstoke available to members of other IBM Clubs. The South Hants Club has a great programme of outings and, just as Hursley Retiree trips are open to IBM Club members, other Clubs' activities are open to Hursley Retiree Members.

Hope to see you at the AGM and the meal beforehand.

So, please, when you receive the application form, make your choices and apply promptly.

Martin Hughes

Chairman

Officers

The following is a list of the club's committee members. Please feel free to contact any member if you have any queries relating to club activities.

The full committee is:

Chairman	Martin Hughes	01962 868900	Secretary	Harry Helyar	01962 881392
Treasurer	John Jones	02380 265316	eBusiness	Merv Quick	01794 390678
Webmaster	Ron Wilks	02380 766213	Newsletter	news@hurrec.org.uk	
	Roger Clark	02380 253600	Tony Compton	02380 265432	
Committee	John Faller	02380 462822	Harry Keeling	01962 712914	
	Jenny Nichols	02380 254244	Jim Woodland	02380 323204	
	Richard Walker	01983 531967			

Volunteering

Do you find yourself at home some days thinking "what can I do to enrich my life", or need more social interactions, or just would like something different to do. Mike Hedger sent in the following. Makes for an interesting read on finding ways that retirement can offer even more than you thought.

...If you or people like you didn't volunteer your time to help us, we wouldn't be able to get to, or home from, the Multiple Sclerosis Centre for our therapy sessions or to meet and talk to other people. Many of us would be virtual prisoners in our own homes, so never let anyone tell you the time you give up as a volunteer isn't appreciated. Thank you so much.....

This was one of the first responses I received during my first day as a volunteer driver for the Bournemouth and District Branch of The Multiple Sclerosis Society and is fairly typical of the comments I've heard regularly from both the MS sufferers and others working at the MS centre since I got involved with the Multiple Sclerosis Society back in mid-May. The fact is, I've felt more personal satisfaction in this short period of time than I believe I ever did whilst working for IBM.

I initially committed to provide the MSS 3 full days a week as a volunteer driver, responsible for collecting up to 5 or 6 MS sufferers from their homes and bringing them to the local MSS Centre in the morning and returning them home later in the afternoon in the specially wheelchair adapted Ford Transit or Iveco buses (which can be driven on a regular car driving licence - although each organisation will usually provide training in securing wheelchair passengers and covering any other specialist requirements). The rest of the day provides plenty of time to sit and chat with everyone at the Centre and to handle other tasks that arise such as minor repairs around the centre or trips to the garage or shops as necessary.

This is the total number of days a week the local centre is currently open and since making this commitment, I've not only extended the time I'm willing to give the MSS to include several additional hours a week for a variety of tasks such as general DIY task around the Centre which can only be carried out when it's unoccupied as well as helping on organised street collections outside major stores and supermarkets in the local area, I've enjoyed these activities so much that I've also offered another day of my time as a driver for another local charity, Leonard Cheshire Disability, who have a couple of residential homes in my local area.

In both cases, each organisation requires an extended CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) check against you which usually take a few weeks to come back. Until this is completed, you are unable to work directly with the Service

Users (who are classified as vulnerable adults). I'm currently waiting for my CRB for Leonard Cheshire before I can commence helping out there.

I've never felt more convinced that I made the right decision when I opted to take the early retirement package thrust upon me by IBM back in January.

For sure, I miss many of the people I met and knew whilst working for IBM over more than 30 years, but if the truth be known, I consider the work I did whilst with IBM frequently lacked any real purpose when compared to what I see achieved by the ever-willing band of dedicated volunteer workers in the charity social care sector, many of whom are in their mid to late 60's and some even well into their 80's and it's so refreshing and enjoyable meeting the many new people whom I'd otherwise never have known.

If you've finished all those home DIY jobs you'd put off as long as possible, played golf so often that the club secretary is offering you residential rates and if you're now regularly beginning to climb the walls out of boredom or sheer frustration and are looking for a more rewarding future albeit without pay (although charities will normally reimburse you for travel mileage), I heartily recommend you seek out local charities in your immediate area and ask if they require volunteers. The forthcoming cuts in the Local Community Services and National Health Services will undoubtedly place increased pressure on registered charities to absorb additional support requirements such as therapy and counselling sessions. This in turn will drive an increasing need for volunteers as more affected individuals turn to the charities for help, so I anticipate volunteer opportunities will exist for quite some time yet.

No matter what tasks the charities are looking for help with, I'm convinced you will each find as much if not more personal satisfaction than I in helping others who find their disabilities prevent them living a life such as that which we take for granted each day.

Mike Hedger

Websites of Interest

IBM Retiree Club (Hursley Branch)

Visit <http://www.hurrec.org.uk/> for the latest information on retiree trips, links to various relevant websites, IBM Hursley Club news, and notification of Deaths as advised by IBM Pensions Services. If you can't remember the URL, or forgot to bookmark it, just Google 'Hursley retiree' and it pops up as the first website – it's that simple 😊.

Employee Discount Programme

For discounts and/or cash back with a large number of companies visit <https://ibm.rewardgateway.co.uk/> The benefits are available to IBM employees and IBM retirees.

IBM Hursley Club

The IBM club at Hursley has a website at the following address: <http://www.ibmhursleyclub.org.uk/>

IBM South Hants Retirees Club

The IBM South Hants Retirees Club has the following website: www.shrets.co.uk/index.html

Photographic Competition

Can you be the Hursley Retiree Club photographer of the year?

Every time I go on a trip I notice a number of our group wielding their cameras of all shapes and sizes recording the events of the day or the glorious sights that surround us.

To find out who takes the best photographs we have decided to run a photographic competition. The rules are very simple:

- The photograph must have been taken by a member of the IBM Hursley Retirees Club
- The photograph must have been taken on an organised trip during 2010
- Any subject may be included (provided it's legal)
- The judges, whose decision will be final, will decide which photograph in their opinion is the best of the collection – there are no specific topic categories
- The winner will be announced at the 2011 AGM
- Entries must be submitted by 31 December 2010
- A member may submit up to 3 entries

The PRIZE – free tickets on the summer 2011 seaside coach outing for the winner and his/her guest; regrettably no other prize option is available.

New Trips

If you wish to go on any of these trips complete the appropriate booking form which has been sent separately.

Oliver

On 15 December coaches will leave Hursley for a day in London to see Oliver at the Drury Lane Theatre.

Now in its 2nd record-breaking year, **Oliver!** is one of the most beloved British musicals, vividly bringing to life Dickens' timeless characters with its ever-popular story of the boy who asked for more. Watch Griff Rhys Jones role of 'Fagin' in the spectacular production of Lionel Bart's smash hit musical.

Coaches will depart at 9:30am, for us to see the matinee performance which starts at 2:30pm. We expect to be back at Hursley around 8:00pm. Please note that tickets are limited, and booking requests must be returned to Harry Helyar by 26 November.



ENERGIA Ice Show

"Just when you thought Holiday on Ice couldn't get any bigger - along comes ENERGIA.

A production that no one thought possible!

More extravagant, more exhilarating, more spectacular than anything ever before staged on ice!

With its revolutionary three-dimensional setting, you will be whisked into the great universe where planets spin around you in glorious colours and spectrums of light. On the ice, the skating elite perform breathtaking feats that will have you on the edge of your seat!"



In the cold depths of January why not come and join us to see this musical ice skating show. We shall be leaving Hursley at 8:00am on 18 January, returning around 8:00pm after watching the matinee performance which commences at 2:30pm. This is a limited number event, booking slips must be returned to Harry Helyar by 26 November.

Edinburgh Tattoo

This mini-break will depart on Friday, 19 August 2011, and return Monday, 22 August 2011.

We will be staying at the 4 star Menzies hotel in Glasgow for our 4 day, 3 night, visit.

The price includes:

- 2 nights Dinner, Bed and full Scottish Breakfast
- 1 night Bed and full Scottish Breakfast (no dinner provided the day of the Tattoo)
- A guided tour of Edinburgh
- Entrance to the Tattoo
- Excursion to the Trossachs

The price will be £279 per person; there is a single room supplement of £55. See the booking form for payment details. Travel insurance is recommended as there will be charges for cancellation as we get closer to the event.



Trip Blog: The Story Continues....

Visit to Weymouth

Tomorrow was a planned day at the seaside; coaches were to take us all to Weymouth. Packed my little rucksack with everything to make the day a success: small bucket, little plastic spade, large white handkerchief (needed to keep the sun from my head, just tie a knot in each corner), and a plastic pac-a-mac just in case.



After a fitful night's sleep due to the excitement, I awoke early to hear that terrible noise that I have dreaded on planned days at the seaside for 60+ years, RAIN. No decent rain for weeks, and it had to come on the day we were going to Weymouth.

Undaunted, up, washed, dressed, breakfasted, and into the car to drive to Hursley. Looked for the patch of blue cloud large enough to make a sailor's uniform – mum always said that was a good sign. Everything was grey. Never mind, if the weather is too bad I'm sure that the trip will be cancelled. Arrived at Hursley to find nearly 200 people boarding coaches, that's 12000 years of experience. They must know that the weather is going to get better!



Just after 11:00am the coaches disgorged the 200 brave souls onto the seafront beside the empty beach. Brollies opened everywhere like daffodils on a fine spring day as people disappeared quickly to their chosen havens. I chose to walk across to the Brewer's Quay area in time to watch, protected by a large umbrella, the Harbour Bridge rise to let the boats with their tall masts through. Onto a good pub for a pint and a prawn wrap, accompanied by the daily paper. Trying to find something of interest that was undercover I headed for the Tudor House, a Tudor cottage that is furnished as the home of an early 17th century middle class family. The guided tour was excellent, explaining aspects of life in that period.



A walk in the drizzle along the harbour front brought a major concern: Weymouth is home to some creatures that apparently can do a lot of serious damage to us humans (see picture). And I thought it was such a tranquil place. I must raise the question of risk assessments at the next Retiree Club committee meeting.



Back to the shops, and a cream tea. Around 4:00pm, the cafe's and bars emptied as the somewhat wet retirees assembled at the coach pick-up point.

Not the best of trips, but we can't fix the weather. As someone was heard to say: at least it is a day out, and sure beats staying at home watching the TV.

Visit to the V&A and Kensington

"Not open yet, need the loos, NEED coffee." So went up the cry as the coaches disgorged their living – well mostly – contents on the pavements outside the entrance to the Victoria and Albert Museum. Through the excellent navigation of the coach drivers we seemingly avoided all the traffic holdups and arrived some 15 to 30 minutes earlier than expected.

All was soon sorted and divided into four groups, each with their own guide, we entered the V&A. Our group was to spend the morning in the V&A and the afternoon on a guided tour of Kensington.



Following our coffee break, we gathered with our guide and were taken on a tour of the V&A. Such a vast place, with so many wonderful artefacts to admire, that we were only able to scratch the surface and make mental notes of where to head for on our next visit to the museum. The highlight of the tour was the area containing the Raphael Cartoons. With the Pope visiting, he had given permission for 4 tapestries from the Sistine Chapel to be loaned to the V&A from 8 September to 17 October. I felt privileged to be able to view the magnificent Cartoons and compare them with the equally

magnificent tapestries.

Another area that captured my interest was the Plaster Hall, a section where plaster casts of famous sculptures and even the front of a building were on display. It appears that in the days of yester-year, when only the lucky few travelled, it was common for plaster casts to be made and shipped back to the home country for the lesser mortals to observe the wonders that were on display in far off lands. Our guide informed us that most of the casts in other major cities had been destroyed when travel had become common place.



Lunch, and then we all reconvened with our guide for a 2 hour walk around Kensington. Fascinating, I did not realise there was so much to see in the back streets to the side of Cromwell Road. Past the Old Trinity Church, Brompton, famous for those who are close to the church for initiating the Alpha Course now undertaken by millions around the world. A view of the mews, very quiet, very small, and, personally, a waste of money at

£5million each. But if that is the way some wish to spend, best of luck. And, of course, Harrods. Did spot a couple jump ship at that point for some retail therapy. As the drizzle started, we returned to the starting point.

An excellent day and it made me think how lucky we are to have such heritage.

Visit to Bletchley Park

113 Cottage Pies and 34 Lasagne please, was the order placed at Bletchley Park for our visit in October. Around 140 retirees eagerly awaited the day when 3 coaches would whisk them from Hursley to Bletchley Park to visit the home of modern computing.

Our group was split into 3, each with a guide and, after a civilised morning coffee, we set off for the first part of the tour. With perfect weather, we sauntered after the guide as we went from the main mansion house past the historic buildings to end up in the room that contained a replica of the 'Bombe', an electro-mechanical device that was used to decode the original Enigma coded ciphers. Apparently 11 were made and all but two were destroyed. The remaining one was bought by none other than Mick Jagger. This one, apparently, is still in his house! While the best brains in the country were deployed at Bletchley, it was the stupidity of a German, who sent an encoded message twice that aided our ability to break the code and allow us to change the course of the war in many ways. One example was to learn where u-boats were located and hence protect our convoys bringing in supplies.



Back for lunch of a tasty cottage pie, or equally tasty – I'm assured – Lasagne.

Out again after lunch for another hour's tour, with the highlight being the Colossus machine, the first really programmable computer. Not the original, as all the originals were broken up after the war since we didn't want our allies to know how clever we were, but a rebuild using, where possible, the same parts. Some of the valves that were in this working machine were dated 1943 and still going strong.



Our tour came to an end at the museum, a chance to spend an hour exploring all the old machines and memorabilia.

As the rain started, it was time for tea and muffins before embarking our coaches for the journey home.

The comment of the day rests with a lady in our group who asked, "When I was ferrying bombs [at the age of 18] out to the Lancasters during the war, we sometimes had missions cancelled. Could that have been due to information gathered at Bletchley?" The work at Bletchley had quietly left its mark in many arenas of the war.

Clubs

The following clubs may be of interest:

Winchester "Health & Fun Club"

Winchester "Health & Fun Club" has most of the facilities of the Winchester Leisure Centre on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, between 10am and 2pm.

"The Health & Fun Club is for over 50's with an emphasis on keeping healthy by playing sport for fun."

Activities include: Tennis, Short Tennis, Racket Ball, Swimming, Yoga, Short Mat Bowls, Badminton, Table Tennis, Keep Fit, Aquacise, Pilates, TaiChi, Bowls, outings and social events.

- Membership includes many IBM retirees, spouses, and widows
- Annual subscription to the club (currently £10) plus daily fee to the Centre (currently £2.50)
- Application forms from reception at the recreation centre

Winchester & District Local Group of the RSPB

Winchester & District Local Group of the RSPB meets on the first Wednesday of each month (not January or August) at 7.45pm at Shawford Parish Hall near Winchester.

The meeting usually consists of a slide presentation by a professional speaker on a wide range of natural history subjects, with a break for coffee, conversation and a raffle. Speakers are often happy to answer questions about photography.

We also arrange two bird watching walks a month. All levels of expertise are welcome.

For more information see www.rspb.org.uk/groups/winchester or contact Pam Symes at psymes033@gmail.com or 01962 851821

The following were advertised in previous editions of Perspective. See www.hurrec.org.uk/links.html or contact the organisation for more detail.

Limesdowne Pétanque Club

For more information see www.catisfield.com/petanque or email petanque@catisfield.com or call 01489 576 138

Glass Engraving

If you are interested, please contact either Pat Lund [patricia.lund@o2.co.uk] or Ernie Pullen [ernie@epullen.fsnet.co.uk].

Winchester Art Club

See www.winart.hampshire.org.uk for details

Romsey Ramblers

Refer to web site for contact information: www.romseynet.org.uk/ramblers/ramblers.htm

Badminton

Contact John Roskell on 01794-514357

Events

13 November	Hiltingbury Community Centre, Chandlers Ford	The Baddest Blues Band (Ever!) They have an excellent pedigree and perform a mixture of blues, rock and mellow jazz. Tickets are £10 each, available from Jennie via hbookings@talktalk.net or 02380 269886. The gig starts at 8.00pm. with a licensed bar available.
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A Plea for Help

"I sell picture postcards on eBay to raise funds for MAF, a charitable airline using light aircraft to provide life saving transport for aid workers, medical staff, teachers, vital supplies and sick villagers in remote parts of the developing world. MAF provides transport where no other transport exists. Please search your cupboards, drawers, old boxes, attic, cellar, etc for any unwanted postcards, and ask your family and friends to do the same. They can be old or modern, used or unused, colour or B&W, everything has value. I recently sold one for £103. When you have some, email me (cards4aid@hillnet.org.uk) and I will arrange for them to be collected. Thanks. Allan Hill"

Crossword

Thanks go to ANALOG for supplying this crossword. The solution will be posted on the Hursley Retiree Club website, www.hurrec.org.uk on 7th December 2010

Perspective Crossword #3

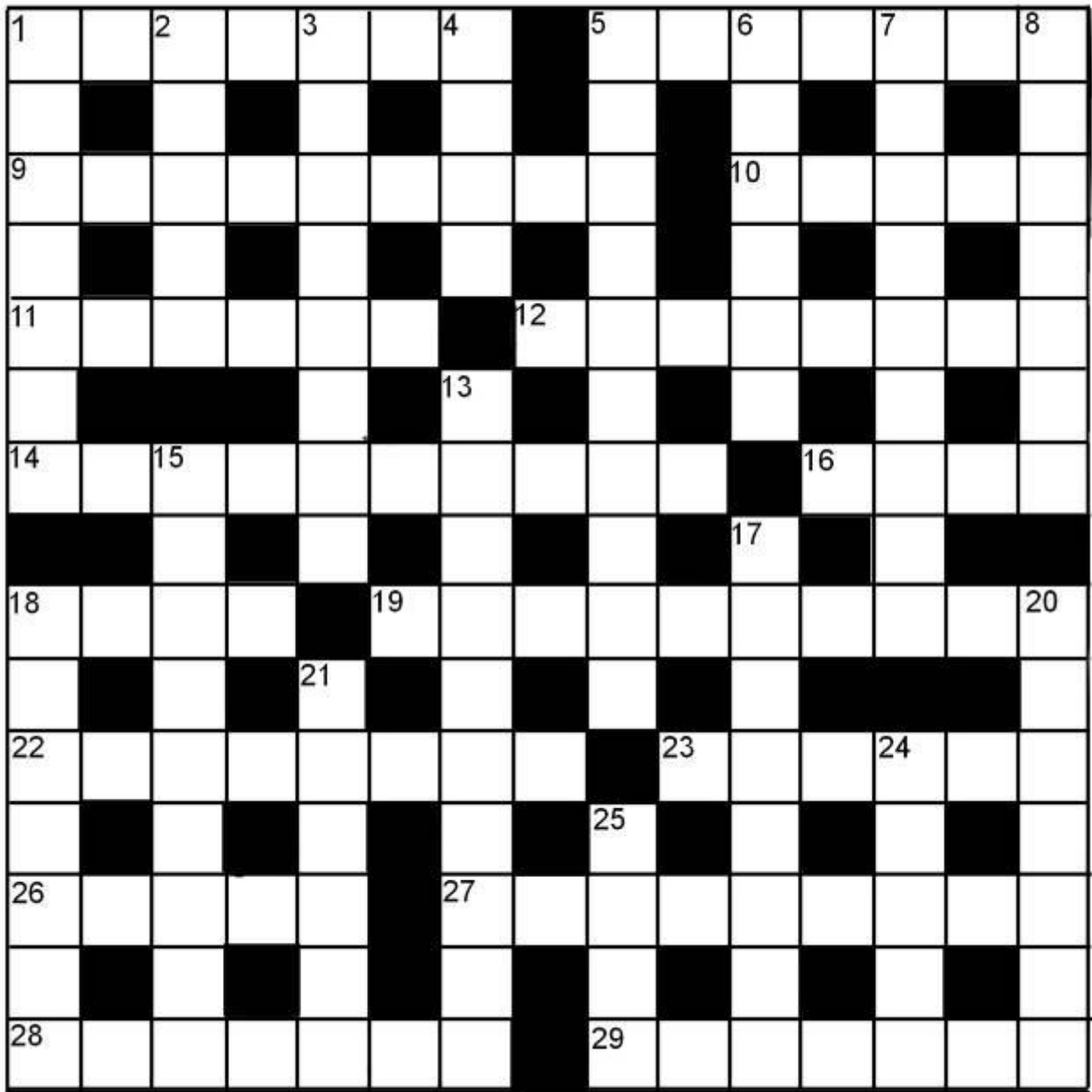
Clues Across:

1. Calm, please! (7)
5. When crops are threshed, I love this sign (7)
9. I. the Naval worry, might be a giant sea-monster (9)
10. Everyone has a year to reduce (5)
11. Christopher missed the bus, being at the top of Nelson' monument (6)
12. Fetching smile conceals what may bring about a girl's downfall? (8)
14. Evanescent electronic component emits sulphur by the yard (10)
16. Purchase includes duck that floats (4)
18. Pole, born to be sick (4)
19. Unwillingness to compose clue in drunken trance (10)
22. The Pasadena football stadium: it'll hold a lot of flowers (4,4)
23. Misuse of rental horn (6)
26. Leave love in Ecuador's capital (5)
27. Justification for helping porter (9)
28. Flags sensing winds (7)
29. Mirror or Express? (7)

Clues Down:

1. Rod with which to lash a stinker (7)
2. Bone found in mexican village (5)
3. Scaremonger describes chemical fog (8)
4. Response from City house (4)
5. Samurai not treated in hospital (10)
6. "Golden Pain": a plant of the goosefoot family (6)

7. Friend has one: one of five born in a litter (9)
8. Famous journey of Darwin (young scientist(sorely embarrassed yesterday's leaders (7)
13. Port Talbot, for example, resolve to operate on Sunday (5,5)
15. Bang in the middle of the morning identification: destroyers? (9)
17. Mortensen has to remove half-back (5-3)
18. There's nothing in the sailing ship to suggest a flamboyant style of architecture (7)
20. Eastern torture: That's serious! (7)
21. There's latitude in bongo dancing. It's not square at all (6)
24. The French welcome Latin holidays (5)
25. One well-known in the performing arts (4)



ANALOG