

Perspective – November 2011

The Newsletter of the IBM Hursley Retirees' Club



EX CATHEDRA

First, may I say thanks to all those who took the time to send Merv Quick ideas for our 2012 programme. Lots of input, requests to “old favourites” and suggestions for new venues.

The Committee is due to meet in early December hopefully to make final the list of lucky venues to enjoy our patronage! When the list is published, sadly, it can only be a small selection from the wealth of ideas submitted. So please don't be too disappointed if your suggestion doesn't appear this time.

Even so, there's always space and a willing Committee ear for an event proposal which can be included in the next paper mailing to all members of the Club or for a faster response, the email service can bring your idea to a readership now almost 650.

Arrangements are in hand for the AGM in March and we hope that many retiree members attend the dinner and the AGM itself. David Newman, Pensions Services manager, hopes to be with us and, accepting that pressure of business may require change, we'll also have an update on the work of the Laboratory.

As always, your committee needs to be re-vitalised at the AGM. Sadly, we shall be losing Jenny Nichols when she and her husband move to Buckinghamshire next year.

We are hoping to welcome two new members to the committee. If you want to know about the work we do and the commitment needed, do please speak to an existing member.

May we all have a happy and fulfilling Christmas break in whatever way “floats your boat”.

Best wishes,

Martin Hughes
Chairman

Officers

Chairman	Martin Hughes	01962 868900	Secretary	Harry Helyar	01962 881392
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AGM

The club's AGM will be held in the cafeteria at Hursley Park on Tuesday, 13 March 2012. The meeting will start at 7:30pm, and will be preceded by a dinner for those attending. Entrance is via the main reception from 6:00pm. Make sure you return the form so that we know how many to cater for.

Please note that this is a retiree only event, and is not for spouses.

Nominations for Committee

Jenny Nichols will, sadly, be leaving the committee this year as she is moving to Winslow in Buckinghamshire. Have you considered coming on the club committee, we would welcome some new blood.

What does being on the committee involve? In essence, not a lot really. There are about 3 meetings a year, each primarily focussing on event planning. Each committee member then takes on the organisation of 1 or 2 trips. This is usually easier than it sounds, basically because the places that we choose just love to see us (and our money) and bend over backwards to make life easy. (*Ed: Well now there's a surprise.*) As an example, I am sure many of you will remember the River Dart and Steam Train visit. This was one of mine. The biggest challenge was to get the timings sorted out as 'we had a train to catch', but the staff at Avensis can always help out with such queries. Three calls to the River Dart and Steam Train Co, and the job was done. Look after the coach on the day, and buy the tickets as the treasurer was not on board. Simple really.

I would submit that with the amount IBM spent on organisational courses on us all, we all have the skills necessary!

Interested, please complete the tear-off slip on the AGM reply form. If you would like more information, feel free to contact any committee member.

FAQ's for trips

Cancellation

None of us is getting younger, and the gremlins come and attack us from time to time. If you have booked on a trip and find that you can't go, please phone Harry Helyar. If Harry does not answer the phone, just leave a clear message. What many do not realise is that Harry has a deputy plan in place for when he away from home, so messages do get listened to, and Harry is made aware.

By cancelling, you may help us to save money by reducing the number of coaches we have booked, or allow someone else who is on a waiting list to go in your place. Of course, if you cancel then your cheque is torn up, another benefit.

Even on the day you can help us by cancelling, just call the club's mobile telephone.

Emergency

Should an emergency arise while on a trip you should call the club's mobile telephone **07505-094887** which will be carried, unless you have been otherwise advised, by the trip organiser.

Leaving on time

Please do make sure you arrive at Hursley before the planned departure time, and also be back at the coach at the stated times. The coaches need to depart within minutes of the stated time. If you have a last minute problem, call the club's mobile. They will leave without you if you are not there.

New Trips

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

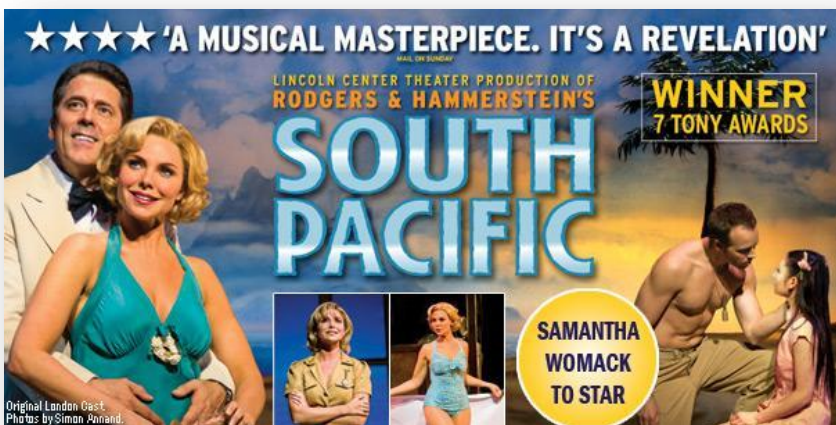
Legally Blonde – Savoy, London – 8 December

Our London theatre visit this year is to the Savoy Theatre to see the matinee performance which starts at 2:30pm of Legally Blonde.



The coaches will leave Hursley at 9:30am, and we expect to return around 8:00pm. In the review by Judith Woods, The Daily Telegraph, she said 'MUSICAL THEATRE AT ITS BEST – GREAT SONGS, WITTY LINES. SMART, SASSY, SPECTACULAR'. A show not to be missed.

South Pacific – 25 January 2012



Our local theatre visit is to the Mayflower on 25 January to see the fabulous Rodger and Hammerstein's musical, South Pacific.

The show starts at 7:30pm, and tickets may be collected from Harry Helyar or Jim Woodland who will be in front of the theatre from 6:45pm – 7:15pm. If you arrive after 7:15pm, you will find that your tickets have been given away, and Jim and Harry have gone to find their seats in the theatre!

Waterperry Gardens and Oxford – 21 February



A new venture for the club, a trip in February. Why not abandon cabin fever and come and see the snowdrops at the fantastic gardens at Waterperry. Obviously, being the middle of winter, the weather could be a blue sky, sunny, crisp, day or it could be icy with snow and slush all over the ground. Fret not, says he, the organizer of this trip has all the bases covered.

If the weather is acceptable, we will leave Hursley at 9:30am and travel directly to Waterperry. One half of the group will have a hot lunch (included in the ticket price) at Noon, and see the snowdrops from 1:00pm to 2:00pm, while the other half will do the snowdrops first and have lunch at 1:00pm. Around 2:15pm we will head off to Oxford for a couple of hours free time and return to Hursley around 6:30pm.

Weather not suitable for Waterperry, the trip will just be free time in Oxford, with an early return to Hursley around 4:15pm. Those on the trip will receive a small refund as there will be no hot lunch provided with this option.

Worst case scenario is that the weather is too bad, and the trip is cancelled. Assume that the trip is going ahead in one form or the other unless you have been contacted to inform you that it has been cancelled.

In order that you may be contacted, please make sure you print all your details carefully on the booking form.

I, for one, will certainly take this opportunity to escape the winter blues; just need to dig out the appropriate winter clothing.

Mini-break – Floriade 2012 and Keukenhof

4 – 7 May 2012

This mini-break will leave Hursley on Friday 4th May and head for Holland to visit two spectacular locations.

One day will be spent at the world famous park/gardens at Keukenhof. The park is only open for 2 months each year, during the spring. According to their website, the park covers 80 acres and is filled with tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and other spring flowers. To get a flavour of what's on offer take a look at this

[promotional video](#) or visit the Keukenhof website at <http://www.keukenhof.nl/en/>

Floriade 2012 is a World Horticultural Expo, held in Holland once every decade. The Floriade Park covers 66 hectares and encompasses 5 unique themed worlds separated by wooded



areas. Each world has its own decor, programme and activities. Worlds in which you'll see, feel and experience nature in a totally different way each time. The photographs are from my own visit in 2002. You can find more at <http://www.floriade.com/>

Travel will be by coach with a ferry crossing. Accommodation is on a half-board basis: dinner and breakfast included in the price. Book early, we only have hotel rooms reserved for 42 people.

Maybe a Diary Date



Interested in the latest technology? Do you watch The Gadget Show on TV? By popular demand we have applied for and been granted 98 tickets for Gadget Show Live at the NEC on **Thursday 12th April 2012**.

The tickets include entrance and the show. Make a date in your diary, and look out for the booking form that will be sent next March.

This will be a limited numbers event, so get your booking in early.

For more information on Gadget Show Live check out www.gadgetshowlive.net

Photographic Competition

Are you going to enter this year's club photographic competition?

The rules are very simple, it is open to retiree club members, no more than three entries may be submitted, and the photographs must have been taken on a club trip during 2011.

This year we have the privilege of a professional photographer judging the entries. I am sure many will remember the two lady photographers who used to work in the basement of Hursley House. One of them, Brynja Maughn has kindly agreed to be our judge this year.

The prize? In addition to being recognised as the IBM Hursley Retiree Club Photographer of the Year, you will also be able to travel on the summer seaside outing for free. How could you turn down the opportunity of winning such prizes! The winner will be announced at the AGM.

Please ensure that all entries are sent to news@hurrec.org.uk by 31 December 2011.

Volunteering

REMAP



Were you an engineer, did you work in the model shop, perhaps you were a programmer. Whatever you were, if you are good at making things REMAP needs you. REMAP, or to give it another name **R**etired **E**ngineers that **M**ake **A**nthing **P**ossible, is a national charity that works with the NHS, particularly the occupational therapists, design/make devices/gadgets that do not exist for the disabled. The photos show some of the gadgets that have been made to help people do things that those without disabilities take for granted.

Take a look at the REMAP website, and in particular the Remapedia tab to see more of the devices that have been created.

Interested, then why not contact either *Richard Bavister* richard.bavister@btinternet.com - Chairman (Southampton and West Hants REMAP) or *Russell Chaplin* chaparral@talk21.com I am sure that either will only be delighted to tell you more about the scheme and the areas that you could be of assistance. If you have the skills, it sounds to me that this could be a very rewarding way of spending a few hours.



Events

LightCatchers - Photography Exhibition



Sir Harold Hillier Gardens – Jermyns Lane, Romsey
10am to 5pm - Saturday 3rd December to Tuesday 31st January – (Closed 25th/26th Dec)

"An inspiring exhibition of images by LightCatchers, a group of accomplished professional and amateur photographers. Landscapes, candid portraits, wildlife, flora and more will be displayed to brighten your winter visit to Sir Harold Hillier Gardens"

LightCatchers includes Paul Sansome, an ex-IBM Hursley employee turned professional photographer who has been commended in both the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of

the Year, and Landscape Photographer of the Year competitions, two Fellows of the Royal Photographic Society, and two retired IBM Hursley employees, Roy Brophy and John Simmons!

Free admission to the exhibitions at the Visitor Pavilion

Disabled access.

Hursley Swing Band Christmas Concert

Hursley Clubhouse

8:00pm, Tuesday 6 December



Don't miss a great evening of Jazz, Swing and Dancing with The Hursley Swing Band!

The concert starts at 8:00pm on Tuesday 6th December for IBM Hursley club members and guests. It will be held in the IBM Clubhouse, Hursley SO21 2JN. Admission FREE.

For information or to be added to the mailing list, please contact Sally Russell at sally@grapevyne.com

ArtSeen – Paint Let Loose

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens – Jermyns Lane, Romsey

10am to 5pm – Thursday 2nd February to Friday 2nd March



“ArtSeen, a collective of local artists, are delighted to welcome spring with their exhibition ‘Paint Let Loose’, where the group let rip with an open canvas of styles and media. Framed originals and a wide selection of unframed paintings, prints and cards will celebrate a kaleidoscope of colour.”

Fifteen local artists will be presenting their work in the beautiful surroundings of Sir Harold Hillier Gardens. The group includes two former IBM Hursley employees - Gill Brophy and Tom Heywood.

Free admission to the exhibitions at the Visitor Pavilion

Disabled access.

LATIN AND BALLROOM DANCING (HABLAB)



Sorry we were not able to run a real 'Beginners' group this term, however, the good news is that there seems to be a nibble of interest which may mean we can start next term. This would be from 7 until 8pm on Monday evenings in Hursley Club House. The costs are: Annual sub-section membership £10 non-members and £5 for members. The charge for the ten week term is £50 non-members and £45 for members which is really good value. Instruction is from Phyllis an expert in dance. The charge may be less if we have more participants, our minimum number to start this group is 4 couples. If there is a lone man who would like to come along it is likely that we will have a lone lady in the new Beginners Group. Similarly for the 8 to 9pm class.

The ten week term starts on Monday 9th January 2012 (no class 6th February) so term will end on 19th March. The Club House is available for practice for members on Mondays between terms.

So far this term the first class have been introduced to waltz, foxtrot and quickstep moves with a little light relief at the end, a few steps of Argentine Tango! The second class was introduced to further steps in the waltz, rumba and our light relief was the Argentine Tango too.

If you are interested but would like to see the 'action' before you commit please feel free to give me a ring to arrange an evening for you to come and view. I will then arrange for one of us to welcome/chat with you. Alternatively just give me a ring if you have any queries.

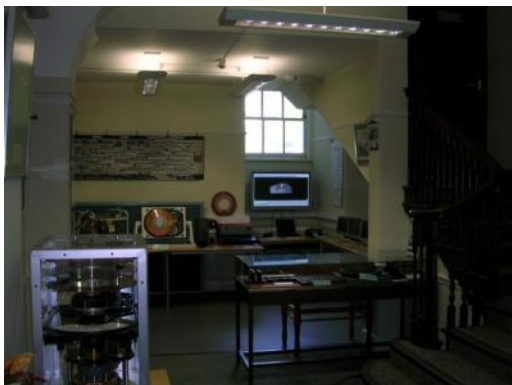
Ingrid Bond

Tel: 01962 883861

For Hursley Amateur Ballroom and Latin Dance

Hursley Museum Services – Autumn 2011 update

Earlier this year we asked for volunteers to help with the Museum in Hursley House and for any artefacts that you may like to donate. We received a really good response but our search for more items continues.



Two of the museum's rooms

Volunteers

Terry Muldoon took up the reins a year ago as volunteer IBM Hursley curator alongside Len Peach, one day per week. Following the appeal in the April issue, two more volunteers, Peter Short and Mark Perry, have joined the team. In the meantime, Len “retired” in August. His vast knowledge is still available to us, at the end of the telephone line, should we need his expert advice.

The Collection

The collection comprises hardware and software, publications, documentation, thousands of photographs, hundreds of video tapes, trophies and miscellaneous promotional items.

Many of the hardware items are on show in the Museum, as well as in other less formal displays in the House. At the moment most exhibits are static, although we aim to bring to life as many as possible in the longer term.

If you have any practicable ideas of how we could demonstrate software, then please let us know!



Wanted: A Betamax Player

One item that the museum would love to have is a working Betamax player. Is there one still hidden in the far corner of your loft? Is so, why not donate it to the Hursley Museum.

Golden Anniversary: IBM Hursley Cricket Club

In 2012 The IBM Hursley Cricket Club will be 50 years old. Bob Elliott is their archivist and memorabilia collector. Anyone remember the IBM Open Day in 1977, I do. The weather was great, and I recall enjoying the cricket match that was one of the major attractions. It was the day that the IBM Hursley Cricket Club played the Lords Taverners.

Bob is desperate to locate a signed copy of the scorecard/programme for his collection. If you can help him out with this, or if you have any other IBM Hursley Cricket Club memorabilia, I am sure that Bob would only be too pleased to take them off your hands. You can contact Bob on 023 80254611 or via email: captainbob@btopenworld.com

Trips: The Story Continues.....

Monkey World and Bovington Tank Museum

August 3 dawned bright and sunny for our trip to Monkeyworld and the Tank Museum.

The journey through the countryside was a treat in itself, and unbelievably, the traffic was so light that we arrived at Monkeyworld well before opening time. However, the kindly staff took pity on two coaches of retirees, gasping for coffee, and let us in early.



Monkeyworld, the Ape Rescue Centre, is a sanctuary for abused primates that have been rescued from miserable, unnatural lives around the world. Here they are nursed, nourished and cherished by dedicated keepers. They have cosy dens and huge enclosures, equipped with climbing frames and trapezes, to emulate their habitat in the wild, with plenty of observation points for the visitors. Taking a leisurely stroll round the huge park in the sun, chatting to the keepers, and watching the interaction of the family groups and the mischievous antics of the monkeys, was very enjoyable. How cute are those babies?

Then it was time to take the short trip to our second venue of the day, The Tank Museum. Over the past few years £16m has been spent on renovations, making this site a most impressive visitor centre. On arrival, we made straight for the arena, where a tank 'battle' was to take place.

After the 'goodies' had scored an overwhelming victory, with explosions still ringing in our ears, we made our way into the main museum, which consists of six halls illustrating the history of the tank. There are storyboards and films showing tanks, from their first use in World War I up until the present day. With over 200 examples from throughout the world each with its own storyboard, a simulated World War I trench and numerous examples of ammunition and military artefacts, it is an interesting and absorbing exhibition, especially nostalgic for ex-servicemen. However, if you've had a 'tankful' of these menacing machines there is always the new airy cafeteria for a cuppa.



It was impossible to take everything in on these two short visits, but many people commented that they would be coming back under their own steam - a sure sign that it had been a good day out.

(Ed: Thanks to Jenny Nichols for this article)

The Edinburgh Tattoo and Trossachs



It's Thursday, tomorrow we head off for Edinburgh, and the main item of the news is the major flooding in the south, Bournemouth in particular. The Tattoo could be a challenge.

Friday morning, and 49 people meet up at Hursley in glorious sunshine to join the coach for the 4 day mini-break to Scotland. With one small exception, the route through to Glasgow and our hotel was without any significant hold-ups, and the sunshine helped to make the journey quite pleasant. Fortunately, we weren't travelling south, since there was a pop festival close to the M6 and there was a 10 mile stationary queue of traffic leading up to the motorway exit, with drivers and passengers getting out of their vehicles to stretch their legs.

We arrived in time for a quick shower, and then down to dinner – all part of the deal.

A fairly late start the next day for our trip into Edinburgh. The skies were blue with a few clouds, and it was warm. What could be better for some site-seeing. A couple of hour's free-time, very enjoyable with all the activity associated with fringe happening wherever one went.

Back to the coach, to be joined by our blue-guide in full highland dress for our

2 hour tour of the city. What a delightful city Edinburgh is, and one really does need the help of a quality guide to get the most out of any visit.



An hour and a half to get a bite to eat before the highlight of the tour, our visit to the Edinburgh Tattoo. While I have seen this event on the TV on several occasions, nothing can match the enjoyment, and atmosphere, of seeing it live. We were promised no rain by the weather forecast and by the commentator who was making some announcements about 15 minutes before the start of the show. As the bands

started, and the show began, so did the drizzle. So we did get some rain, but fortunately not enough to spoil the evening's entertainment.

Back pretty late, but in time for many of us to 'hit the bar'!

Sunday saw the sun shining again as we headed out for a leisurely trip through the glorious Trossachs, taking in Clallandar and Aberfoyle. The route was deliberately planned so that travel time was kept down, and plenty of free time was available to 'smell the roses' as they say. By special request we even stopped to see Hamish, the famous Highland Bull. You can see him on uTube, mind you some of the short films say Hamish the Scottish COW (*Ed: I thought someone told me a long time ago how to tell the difference between a bull and a cow*).

Sunday evening was spent back at the hotel, and having a good-ole natter with friends before we all went away to pack.

On Monday, the weather was again superb. We made it to Gretna Green in time for a lunch break. I did ask my better-half whether we should do the marriage ceremony again. I think the response was along the lines of 'I learn by my mistakes, and I learnt that one 42 years ago!'





And so on to the long journey home.

Personally I felt, and from the comments made I believe others felt the same, it was a long way but a really worthwhile and enjoyable trip.



Dorset Steam Fair



After hearing a number of horror stories about days at the Dorset Steam Fair: stories involving rain, mud, and toilets, it was a pleasure to arrive on a clear day after a dry period with the promise of fair weather.

The first thing which strikes a new-comer is the sheer scale of the site – 600 acres!

The variety of sights quite takes the breath away – not just steam engines; familiar fairground machinery, music, shire horses, ploughing – steam and horse, any food you could desire - healthy or not, a wide variety of drinking opportunities, old private

cars, commercial vehicles and military machinery. If I've left anything out it is probably that I simply didn't have time to see it.



Occasionally we would see, among the crowds someone we knew. As Roger Clark said “We go to the Steam Fair and who do we see - John Bayes - a Hursley retiree seen here with a couple of loves of his life”

There was much to see and enjoy - far too much too appreciate in a single day but we tried and came out tired, smelling the old smell I remember from the railway journeys of my youth.

(Ed: Thanks to John Jones for this article)



Legal London



Our September trip was an ever popular London Guided Walk, this time visiting Legal London.

Leaving at 8:00am sharp the coaches headed for London, and around 2 ½ hours later, having fought the London traffic, we arrived outside the Royal Courts of Justice where we were met by our guides for the day.

A short walk and we were soon into a local watering hole for coffee, the weather very overcast but at least it wasn't raining.

For the rest of the morning, our guide took us for a

walk around the area of Inner Temple and Middle Temple, two of the four Inns of Court. The history was fascinating dating back to the 13th century, and once again I was appalled by my ignorance – too much of a science background during my academic years. We were just in time to enter the Middle Temple to see the building in all its splendour. It was hard to realise that the building was severely damaged during the bombing of London in WWII, and has now been restored to its former glory. I also didn't realise that one can book to have



lunch in Middle Temple; the main courses were around £10. An impressive place to dine, but I can't vouch for the quality.



In the afternoon, it was time for our guided tour around the Royal Courts of Justice. This magnificent building is home to the Court of Appeal of England and Wales and the High Court of Justice of England and Wales. The autumn session was not yet in full swing, so the number of robed barristers and judges walking the corridors was very limited, although there were some courts in session.

Following the tour of the courts, we headed north to the area around Lincoln Inn to complete our tour of Legal London, a very interesting day out.

Guildford and Polesdon Lacey



Over 140 retirees and guests arrived to join the October trip to Guildford, and an afternoon visit to the National Trust property Polesdon Lacey. The day after the October silly season weather left us, it was hard to judge what clothes to wear, would it be coat and scarf or just a light sweater.

All three coaches arrived at Guildford in convoy, which was a good job really as only the driver of my coach knew how to get to the best dropping off spot! A couple of hours of free time, and all 140 headed off in different directions. Some took the opportunity –well we did – to get some early Christmas shopping out of the way, others enjoyed walking round the old town. Unfortunately, we were rather too far away to head off for a visit to the cathedral.



In order to smooth the entrance procedure at Polesdon Lacey, the coaches left Guildford at 15 minute intervals for the 30 minute journey. Met by a NT guide, we were given a warm welcome and timed entry to the house. And what a fascinating house to visit. The epitome of Edwardian elegance, and views over the Surrey countryside that are second to none. The 30 acre Edwardian garden includes 10 acres of lawns and a large walled garden. Even on this October day,

the flowers were magnificent, especially the dahlias and the roses.

After over 2 hours of viewing all there was to see in the house, and another 30 minutes or so enjoying the gardens



in the late afternoon sun, it was time for afternoon tea and cake before boarding the coaches for our journey down the narrow roads before we got back onto the A31.