

Perspective – Summer 2014

The Newsletter of the IBM Hursley Retirees' Club



EX CATHEDRA

What is it about Weymouth? We had a great time this year and there was plenty of sunshine. Maybe it's those childhood memories of sea and sand a long time ago!

In the last Newsletter, I referenced a number of changes to the way the Club is managed and the amendments that flow from our new Constitution.

I'm happy to record that, as the saying goes, no news is good news! The Committee's operations continue almost seamlessly towards the setting of the winter events schedule and the trips are being selected for the delight and enjoyment of the Membership. IBM Hursley has again generously offered to host the AGM next March - details will be emailed to you with applications for the winter and 2015 Spring events.

It's worth remembering that for Members of the Retiree Club, events organised by every IBM Club across the UK are open to colleagues provided there's space. Each Club's website usually has details of events being planned.

We have a process for checking that event applications from other IBM UK Clubs are bona fide and it surprises me that there are very few, especially from the nearby Basingstoke, North Harbour and South Hants Clubs.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it" is still very much the slogan that guides us but that doesn't preclude a well-argued case for stepping aside to fund other ideas from Members. For example, how about a trip to one of the specialist shows at Olympia or the National Exhibition Centre. Please do email me chairman@hurrec.org.uk if you have any other suggestions for trips or comments that will help us run the Club for all our Members.

Best wishes to all Members.

Martin

Martin Hughes
Chairman

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Officers

CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER	e BUSINESS	WEB Co-Ord
Martin Hughes 01962 868 900	Harry Helyar 01962 889276	John Jones 02380 265 316	Merv Quick 01794 390 678	Ron Wilks 02380 766 213
Pauline Bell 02380 261659	John Faller 02380 462 822	Ingrid Bond 01962 883861	Harry Keeling 01962 712 914	Jim Woodland 02380 323 204
Richard Walker 01983 531967				

FAQ's for trips

Notification

For those trips that you are requested to supply a stamped addressed envelope, you will receive notification of whether you have been successful in your application for that trip. For all others, just turn up to Hursley, follow the signs to Retiree Parking, park, join a coach, and enjoy the day.

Cancellation

None of us are getting younger, and the gremlins come and attack us all 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.

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.

Trips so far...

Royal Bath & West Show



Will it rain, won't it rain? That was the question on the minds of the 50 travellers who decided to enjoy a day out at the Bath and West Show. They needn't have had concern, for with true fashion of the majority of IBM Hursley Retiree Club trips, it stayed dry with some sunny intervals.

As always, the Show was full of things to satisfy all interests, from the food hall, the major show rings, the numerous stalls, to the specialist displays such as the AA stand with an original 1905 Renault VB



which the AA purchased in 1965. This car also starred in *Those Magnificent Men and Their Flying Machines!* Hampshire CC apparently gave the AA the AA1 number plate when the AA purchased the car.



Needless to say, the ring displays and show jumping were as spectacular as ever.

With everyone back on board at 4:25pm ready for a 4:30pm departure, the weather decided it was time for *Déjà Vu*. Those that were on our trip in 2011 will remember the downpour as we started to travel home. It did the same this year!

SS Shieldhall



June (and repeated in July) was a time for some engineering nostalgia, when the club made tickets available to visit the SS Shieldhall which is based at Southampton Docks. It was around 2:00pm that I turned through the entrance to Dock Gate 4, and drove past the magnificent P&O liner *Oreana*, in all its splendid glory with flags flying, boarding lucky travellers for their 2 week vacation on this floating hotel. On down to the end of the dock (I was

told that if I went into the sea I had done 20 yards too far!) to park the car in the Shieldhall car park, all very civilized.



With a bit of a breeze, but otherwise super weather, we boarded the boat. SS Shieldhall was built in 1955 and spent a lot of her life in Scotland. She is steam driven, but fired by diesel not coal. Apparently, it takes 3 days to fire up her boilers from cold!



For those of us with an interest in engineering and its history, it was time to explore. With few exceptions, passengers were allowed to explore/see all the machinery that made the boat tick. We even had the chance to climb down three decks into the bowels of the engine room, full of interest, noise, and smells. The crew, volunteers, came from all walks of life and were only too willing to tell you all they could about their 'baby'.

On top, it was time to see the world of the Solent drift by as we headed out almost to the IOW. With pint in hand, the music of a 4 piece jazz band entertaining us, and the sights of the ships,

and the sights of the coastline, what better way to spend a sunny afternoon.

As our trip came to an end, we were treated to the view of 3 liners going in the opposite direction as they headed off to start their cruises, with each ship acknowledging their superior, the SS Shieldhall, in the time honoured way by sounding their horns.

Blenheim Palace and Blenheim Palace Flower Show



Our visit to Blenheim Palace and its flower show was offered on 2 days over the weekend of the show. In all, almost 180 members took advantage of this trip, making it probably the most popular trip of the year.

Those that attended had the delight of the flower show in all its usual glory. How do they grow such blooms? It is always a feast to the eyes to see such beauty.

In addition to the flower show, members had access to the Palace, and if time was at a premium they could

always return since their entrance tickets were valid for a year. And *(yes, I know that you don't start a sentence with a conjunction)* the catering staff did us proud with the excellent 2 course meal that was provided.





Those that attended on the Saturday had an additional treat, they were able to see the main hall decorated and prepared for a society wedding that evening; rumour has it that a 'Royal' attended, as well as VIPs from Spain, and America. Of course, for the Sunday set there was the traditional 'sell-off' of plants at bargain prices in the late afternoon.

The weather, well committee member Ingrid arranged this trip, and, as always, the weather is perfect when Ingrid does the organising! (*That's blown it for next year.*)

Weymouth



2013 was the fateful trip to Weymouth when, due to a terrible accident, the coach was stuck in traffic and eventually a decision was taken to divert Bournemouth. If you don't succeed, try try again, and so the 2014 seaside trip was to Weymouth. Not only was the journey without problems, the weather – not withstanding an early outlook that did not look promising – turned out to be great.

Almost 100 retirees and guests descended onto the seafront and made their different ways to enjoy the delights of an unspoilt seaside resort. It appears that Weymouth has one of the few remaining

beach Punch and Judy shows; no one was prepared to admit that they had sat on the front to watch the show, but several men seemed to be rubbing their heads as though they had been attacked by Punch – perhaps thinking of the rolling pin at home.

It is also understood that a few tried to take donkey rides, but with an upper age limit coupled with a 7 stone weight limit none were successful.

Overall, with kind weather, a very enjoyable day at the seaside



Remaining 2014 Trips

Clarence House and Buckingham Palace

12th & 28th August



This trip was so popular last year that the waiting list on each day was greater than the number that were able to go on the trip, so we have decided to have a re-run. Those that were on last year's waiting list will get priority on this year's trips.

We will leave Hursley at 8:00am, and travel directly to Clarence House. The coach party will be divided into 3 groups as the maximum number of people that are allowed on the guided tour of Clarence House is 18; timed entry tickets will be distributed on the coach, the tours will start at 15 minute intervals commencing at 11:30am and will last one hour.

After the tour, the group has time for lunch and the short 10 minute walk to Buckingham Palace, where everyone will enter at 2:30pm and will have just over 2 hours to enjoy the self-guided audio tour.



West Somerset Railway

4th September



This is a trip for the steam enthusiasts and also for those that love looking at the rural British countryside. Our coaches will leave Hursley at **7:45am sharp** since we have a train to catch. Travelling to Bishops Lydeard, we will catch the 11:05am steam train for the 90 minute journey across the north of Somerset to the seaside village of Minehead. Coffee and biscuits will be served on this journey.

Arriving around 12:30pm, you will have around 2 ½ hours to take lunch and enjoy the sights of Minehead before catching the 3:05pm train back to Bishops

Lydeard. We then will join our coaches for the journey back to Hursley arriving between 7:00pm-8:00pm

London Free Time
11th October
(Notting Hill/Portobello Market)



Portobello Market is probably one of the best known markets in London. Almost 150 years old, the market is famed for all its antiques stalls. However, there is much more to the market than antiques, it's also a haven for lovers of fashion, food, books and music. Indeed, there is probably something for everyone in this vast market.

We will be visiting the market on a Saturday, Saturdays being the biggest market day. Our coaches

will leave Hursley at **9:00am** (N.B. the departure time), and will arrive in Notting Hill around 11:00am. We plan to return to Hursley between 6:30pm-7:30pm.

For more information about Portobello Market, check out the web. One website I found interesting was www.shopportobello.co.uk

Notting Hill is between 30 – 45 minutes away from Harrods's and the other areas of interest in central London, so if the market is not your scene, you could always enjoy free time in London.

Mayflower Theatre Trip – Coppélia
16th October – 7:30pm

An evening at the ballet to see an enchanting family ballet about the toymaker who makes a doll, Coppélia, and wants to bring her to life. Performed by the English National Ballet, with the score being performed by English National Ballet's full orchestra.

This is a limited numbers event, if oversubscribed selection will be by ballot.

Oxford
20th November



Nearly time to start thinking about Christmas, and so our final outing of the year heads off to a city, one renowned for its architecture, but with plenty of opportunities for retail therapy. Our coaches will leave Hursley for Oxford at 9:30am, returning between 6:00pm-7:00pm.

As an optional extra, we are also offering those travelling on this trip the opportunity to have a guided tour of the world famous Ashmolean Museum. See the booking sheet for full details of the additional charges.

Geeks Guide

You might find the article at [Geeks Guide to Hursley](#) of interest. Not sure I agree with the last sentence though. Thanks to Doug Gladding for unearthing this.

Thomas Watson Jnr

Staying with published articles, the following is a link to Time 1998 and a feature about Thomas Watson Jnr. [Thomas Watson Jnr Time Article](#)

IBM ATM

Submitted by Dave Thomas

Back in 1967 I was working for IBM as a pre-university trainee working on the Lloyd's Bank sales team in the Lloyd's offices above Cannon Street Station. At that time Lloyd's had just taken delivery of three new IBM 360/40s to run their banking systems, with three 360/65s on order. They still used IBM 1401s to process their cheque clearing systems and an IBM 1410 for BACS. The 360/40s looked very smart, being one blue, one red and one yellow; the only yellow machine I ever saw!

I spent a lot of time with the Lloyd's technical support team, writing odd utility programs for them, one of which I understand is still running, and acting as a general factotum both for them and for the IBM sales team. During the nine months between school and university I learned a lot about IBM and computers, and it was this experience that led me to join IBM after graduating and staying with the company for 39 years!

The recent comments in the retiree news about the IBM ATMs used at Lloyd's reminds me of an amusing day I had during my time with Lloyd's. One morning, the salesman took me aside and asked me to go to Hursley to pick up some photographs of a top secret IBM product – the 2978 cash issuing terminal – as he was hoping to sell a lot of them to Lloyds. I had no idea where Hursley was or how to get there, but was soon on my way to Winchester with a Hursley car arranged to pick me up at the station. Bear in mind that at this time I was an 18-year old schoolboy and looked every bit of 16! The chauffeur was a bit taken aback when I turned up for the ride to Hursley but took it in his stride. We arrived at Hursley and I introduced myself at reception which at that time was still in the house. I explained what I was there for and after quite a wait was met by a security guard who I assumed was escorting me to pick up the photos. After some time, I was beginning to wonder just where we were going, because it did seem to be taking an inordinate amount of time to reach our destination. Surely Hursley wasn't that big? After a while, our walk was interrupted whilst the security man took a phone call, after which we soon reached our destination and I was then given a sealed envelope containing the photographs. The trip back to reception took no time at all and I was soon back in the train heading for Waterloo. I was very puzzled as I just couldn't understand why it took so long to reach the office in Hursley and yet took no time at all to get back to reception.

Later that afternoon, I returned to Cannon Street and passed the envelope to the salesman who had a broad grin on his face. It appears that when I arrived in Hursley, the receptionist and the owner of the photographs could not believe that someone so young, albeit looking smart and with an IBM id card, could really have been sent to pick up photographs of an unannounced IBM product. So, they decided to send me on a route march around the lab escorted by the security guard whilst checking my credentials. During the time we were ambling aimlessly around the lab, frantic attempts were being made to contact the salesman to confirm my identity. Eventually they succeeded at which point the receptionist contacted my escort to confirm that I was indeed genuine; this being the phone call taken by the security man shortly before we reached our destination. The route back to reception was clearly the quickest route! The rest is history!

Continuing on the Banking/ATM theme, many years later – 1985 – I was promoted to become the FSEM (Field Systems Engineering Manager) in Edinburgh with responsibility for IBM’s technical marketing support to the Scottish Banks. The primary customers were the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Bank of Scotland. At that time all the UK banks (bar one) used IMS (Information Management System) to drive their ATMs. The exception to the rule was the Royal Bank who used CICS. I had many meetings with their technical support manager who was always adamant that he was right and all the other banks were wrong! As an aside, initially Lloyd’s used a home grown system called BATS to drive their ATMs, eventually moving to IMS some years later.

(Ed: This article certainly brought back memories for me. Off to lunch in C block, and a quick drop in to the back area where one was given a ‘debit’ card and told how much to withdraw. Seem to remember the machine was full of brand new crisp fivers! As for yellow machines, there was a yellow IBM 1130 that spent most of its life in B Block supporting chip design, but I’m sure we’ll all agree machines with yellow panels were few and far between.)

Volunteering/Charities/Clubs

Stroke Association Voluntary Group

Chandler's Ford Stroke Support Group
Supported by the Rotary Club of Chandlers Ford and Itchen Valley



Meet others who've been affected by stroke.

If you or someone you know has had a stroke, you'll understand the impact it can have on daily life. You're not alone.

Come along to your local stroke group and meet others who've been affected by stroke.

Our meetings:

The last Thursday of every month 2pm - 4pm
Velmore Community Centre
Falkland Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 3GY

Contact us

Mike Scrivener
Phone: 07976 630764
Email: ChandlersFordSSG@stroke.org.uk



Stroke Helpline 0303 303 3100
stroke.org.uk

Stroke
association

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Friends of PICU (Paediatric Intensive Care Unit)

A volunteer's story

I'm Anita Shaw, a Senior Patent Attorney in the Intellectual Property Department at IBM Hursley. I volunteer for Friends of PICU (Paediatric Intensive Care Unit) – my reasons for volunteering are personal as both of my young children had to receive intensive care at the Unit. An extremely traumatising time but because of the highly professional care provided by the Unit, our story ends happily - both are now flourishing toddlers and are keeping me busy!



I'm struck by a couple of points. Firstly, the charity is making a tangible difference. For example, the charity has provided: dedicated paediatric retrieval ambulances resulting in quicker response times and the provision of specialist treatment en route to hospital; specialist equipment such as an oscillator ventilator meaning that fewer children have to undertake the often complicated process of transfer to another hospital in order to have access to such equipment; and support services for families of patients such as the funding of a psychologist and maintenance of parents' accommodation. Secondly, I'm amazed by the small but dedicated team of volunteers (which includes members of staff and parents of children treated at the Unit) who have helped the charity to raise £1 million within eight years.

The charity's aim is to continue to grow and a fundamental part of this vision is to increase its volunteer base. The charity is looking for both "micro" volunteers, who only have a spare hour or two and longer term volunteers to help with fundraising, events and provision of skills, such as, arts, legal, IT, book-keeping and marketing.

If you are interested in volunteering, I'm happy to be a first point of contact at anita.shaw@outlook.com.

(Ed: Sounds a wonderful use of a few spare hours if you have them. Why not consider contacting Anita.)

The PICU at Southampton General Hospital is the regional lead centre of excellence for children's intensive care with more than 900 children (0 - 17yrs) each year being retrieved and admitted from hospitals across the South of England and the Channel Islands.

Friends of PICU (Paediatric Intensive Care Unit) is a registered charity that supports patients of the PICU at Southampton General Hospital, and their families, by raising funds to provide vital equipment & services that are not normally provided by statutory authorities.

For some more information check out: [Friends of PICU](#)

Hursley Bowls Club

The Hursley Bowls group is looking for new members. The group meet on Tuesday morning at 9:30 and play a very casual and friendly game in the Hursley Sports Hall. We have Woods you can borrow, we take coffee at 10:30 and finish at 11:30

If you would like to come along and try please do. Wives or partners are welcome. Contact Harry Helyar 01962 889276 harryhelyar@btinternet.com

Yoga Classes

Improve flexibility with stretching exercises that promote better breathing, deeper relaxation, and overall well being - in a non-competitive, friendly atmosphere.

Yoga is recognised as one of the most powerful ways of combating stress. Learn how to use body awareness to relax and refresh yourself.

Beneficial for:

- Anxiety
- Hypertension
- Low energy levels
- Avoid anxiety and panic
- Improve breathing patterns

Yoga is not just for the fit and supple. The gentle exercises benefit everybody, young and old.

It helps to:

- Increase mobility
- Retard osteoporosis
- Strengthen muscles
- Improve circulation
- Prevent back problems
- Improve long-term health

YOGA 2014/15: Beginners are welcome. We are running beginners classes in September.

The classes are held on a Wednesday evening, in the Jim Hayes Hall, Hursley Club House.

If you wish to try it out to see if you like it, the charge is only £5 for the first three sessions.

Why not give Yoga a try? All you need is clothing that doesn't restrict your movements, bare feet and a blanket.

Dates of the Yoga Classes :

2014 Yoga Year

SEPT: 10, 17, 24

OCT: 1, 8, 15, 22,

NOV: 5, 12, 19, 26

DEC: ZERO

2015 Yoga Year

JAN: 14, 21, 28

FEB: 4, 11, 25

MAR: 4, 11, 18

Contacts: Toni Martin, Antoinette.Martin@uk.ibm.com 01962 816390 and Sarah Stevens, sarah.stevens@uk.ibm.com 01962 818044

Hursley Amateur Ballroom & Latin Dance



We meet on Monday evenings in the Club House for tuition by a professional dance teacher.

We are looking for new members to join either as beginners or if you already have some dancing knowledge.

Typically the dances we have covered or are engaged on at present are: Waltz, Rumba, Cha Cha, Foxtrot, Tango and Quickstep. The choice of dance is very democratic, it is up to the group to express an interest in a particular dance to our teacher or she will lead.

Dancing is a fun way of keeping fit both of mind and body and is incredibly useful when it comes to those special occasions and holidays. Why not be up dancing on that cruise rather than watching ?

We have three terms usually 10 weeks each. Outside of terms we use Monday evenings as our practice nights. These are evenings when we try to help each other and be sociable.

You are welcome to come along to see us in action or to join us for an evening as a taster session.

This is not an IBM only club and encourage members to invite guests to join and become one of the gang.

Currently we have two classes, one from 7 'til 8pm and the second 8 'til 9pm.

Ideally we would like to have another class of beginners and would encourage anybody who thinks they would like to give it a try to contact one of the following people who will advise on how to get started.

Dave Watson :- dave.watson1@gmail.com

Helen Pinchin :- helenpinchin@gmail.com

Keith Taylor :- kgtaylor@bcs.org.uk

Winchester Art Club Annual Exhibition

Winchester Art Club will hold its Annual Exhibition this year in the City Space in the Discovery Centre, Jewry Street, Winchester from 13th September until 5th October. There will be about 180 original paintings and sculptures on show representing a selection of our best work. The Club has about 280 members including a couple of IBM retirees. We are mostly amateurs, but there are also some professional painters including our president, Tony



Hunt VPRI and Richard Plincke RI, so you can expect to see some works of a very high standard. Since each member is entitled to submit up to three works for consideration, it is essential to have an independent selection panel made up of art professionals to whittle down the entry to fit the space available. It is interesting to note that the selection process serves to maintain a high standard and also that the overall 'feel' of the exhibition changes each year with the changes in the judging panel.

Associated with the exhibition, the Club sponsors a lecture by Douglas Skeggs. Douglas is an honorary member of the club and is a renowned art historian, author and TV presenter. This year the lecture will be on Thursday 11th September in the Performance Hall in the Winchester Discovery Centre at 7:30pm. Ticket holders will also be able to drop in to the Exhibition Private View which starts at 6pm on the same evening. Details of the lecture and tickets will be available on our web site www.winart.org.uk.

Littleton and Harestock Show – 6 September



Men and Magnificent Music – 15 November



WINCHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Saturday 15th November
At 7.30 pm

**Men
and
Magnificent Music**
Hosted by
David Gower OBE *

**In Aid of
Prostate Cancer UK**

Male Voice Choirs
of
Croydon, Hart, Pontnewydd,
Romsey and Swindon

Over 240 Powerful Voices



Regd Charity 1134368
Concert Organisers



* Subject to Professional Engagements

Prostate Cancer UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1005541) and in Scotland (SC039332). Registered company 2653887

Tickets reservations £18, £15, £12 from the Cathedral Box Office
www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk Tel 01962 857275 or in person

Superhome Open Day Sunday 14th September

- Concerned about rising fuel and motoring bills?
- Carbon emissions - want to reduce your footprint ?
- Want to get a 5% return on investment?

Rob & Sue Veck have converted their property to eliminate their fuel bills, reduce their water consumption and motoring costs (310 mpg equivalent). And in doing so, they have reduced their carbon footprint emissions from the property by 80%.

If you are thinking of moving to another property or thinking of upgrading your own, or simply interested in how its done, then drop into Rob & Sue's house :-

8 Piping Close
Colden Common
Winchester
SO211UP

Sunday 14th September
10am - 12 noon
1pm - 4pm

Website for [Superhome](#)

Hursley Museum Services – Summer 2014 update

Current Activities & Acquisitions

We have received the following donations since the last newsletter:

- Two Selectric Electronic Typewriters, one with a 5.1/4" external diskette drive (ET95), together with a large selection of golf balls.
- PC-XT
- IBM-PC & PC-XT
- Telephone handset from Amberley Museum for display with our acoustic coupler.
- 1052 keyboardless printer

A warehouse has been discovered in the US containing a large collection of S/360 and S/370 hardware, including a Model 40. We are attempting to acquire this for Hursley. The S/360-40 was developed in Hursley, was the first System/360 to be powered up and also the first to be shipped to a customer.

We believe the 082 card sorter from Buchan House has been moved to Greenock, and we are awaiting confirmation. A Selectric Composer was purchased on eBay for 99p and collected from the seller in Weymouth.

Work continues on our AS/400s, and we are trying to obtain a copy of CICS/400 in the hope of putting together a meaningful demonstration. We have also succeeded in installing a copy of MQSeries on one of our older machines, and plan a second installation to demonstrate this software's capabilities.

Our initial attempts at restoring the recently acquired ET95 Selectric have stalled - mechanically the machine is in good condition, but we have a fault in the electronics. A benefactor who runs a typewriter business in Switzerland kindly sent us a complete set of boards, unfortunately there is a fault in them too. We suspect faulty capacitors on one of the power supply lines and have ordered replacements.

Computer Conservation Society / Bletchley Park

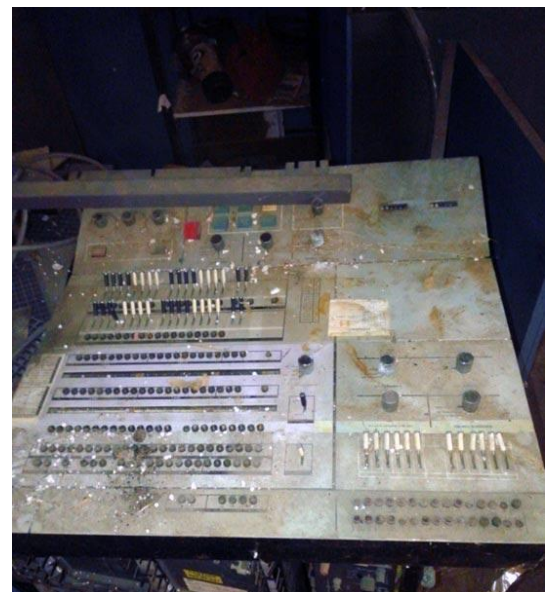
Following the successful visit to Hursley last year by 50 members of the Computer Conservation Society, a second visit is planned this coming September, both for the many members who were disappointed last year, as the event sold out within days, and a number who are keen for a second visit.

Mainframe 50

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the mainframe, the museum has put together a small display of artefacts in the "History of Hursley" room. These are the only items we have from S/360, and we were able to loan them to Barclays for a few days in May for their Mainframe 50 celebrations. We have also added a new page to the museum web site at <http://hursley.slx-online.biz/mainframe.asp>.



Mainframe 50 Display



S/360 Model 40 Find

Visitors

Rob Lamb, the new Lab Director, and Scott Couper, the new Lab Manager, visited the museum in June.

We also had a visit from an employee of NATS, who was involved in the discontinuing of the old air traffic control system at West Drayton. Back then he rescued a S/360 model 65, which he intends to get working again when he retires! Another visit was from 4 employees of a local company iMeta.

Appeal

The Bloodhound Missile Preservation Group of the CCS is looking for some hard disk associated help in relation to their Argus 700. Can anyone from Storage Products help please? Here is the request:

We are now looking to secure the future of our A700 as a working system but our Achilles heel is the old CDC Wren I (FINCH) Winchester. What we are considering is the design of an adaptor to connect a FINCH controller (a CDC disk interface based on the original FDI) to an ST506 disk. If anyone has experience of disk adaptors and/or disk emulations in the 'non intelligent' world of ST506 then I would appreciate any advice. Finally, does anyone have an MFM ST506 Winchester we can use for the project?

Web Site: <http://hursley.slx-online.biz/>

IBM Contact: [Julian Gerry](#)

CCS Project Group Lead: [Peter Short](#)