

Perspective – August 2012

The Newsletter of the IBM Hursley Retirees' Club



EX CATHEDRA

Since I last wrote a few words in March of this year, there have been some significant changes in the way the IBM UK Club is funded and operated. For the second half of 2012, the Grant from IBM has been reduced by 10%. Your Committee will continue to work to provide worthwhile events which make good use of the support which IBM makes available for our Membership.

Also, from this year, in common with every IBM Club around the world, our contact with IBM is through a newly-appointed Oversight Manager. In the case of the IBM Retired Employee Club (Hursley Branch) to use our “official” name, your committee has completed the first pass of a “Self Audit” which addresses every aspect of a Club’s administration. I believe the relationship with our OM is important and we are keen to work with her in the service of members.

There will continue to be changes in the way in which we conduct ourselves. For example, the Company is keen to ensure there is an appropriate exclusion of the Company’s liability arising from any Club activity. It is for this reason that we are discussing with the Company changes in the conditions affecting trip applications such that Members accept a “waiver provision”.

Indeed, there are aspects of these processes which are, sadly, beyond my intellectual “pay grade” at this stage of life!

Consequently, any Member with knowledge of and/or an interest in the Self Audit process who would be willing to assist in the liaison with the OM and in developing the Hursley Retiree Club’s responses will be a most welcome addition to the Committee. Please get in touch. We need a “process manager”, unpaid, of course!

Notwithstanding the arduous nature of the work which these changes will entail for the Committee and to whom I believe we should all express our thanks, we are committed to the continued success of the Hursley Retirees Club and to the delivery of interesting and attractive events that ensure a good attendance. Long may that continue.

Martin Hughes - Chairman

Officers

CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER	e BUSINESS	WEB Coord
Martin Hughes	Harry Helyar	John Jones	Merv Quick	Ron Wilks
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FAQ's for trips

Notification

For those trips that you 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 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.

Remaining 2012 Trips

September

Highclere Castle

9:30am, 11th September



Leaving at 9:30am, the coaches will first travel to Newbury for some free-time and lunch break. We will then travel the short distance to Highclere Castle. The home of Earl and Countess of Carnarvon, the castle also features as Downton Abbey in the renowned TV series that was watched by 11 million viewers.

Goodwood Revival

8:00am, 15th September

Our second outing, by popular demand, is a visit to the Goodwood Revival festival. This trip provides a unique chance to revel in the glamour and allure of motor racing of the 40's, 50's, and 60's; the period that Goodwood racetrack was in its glory.



October



London Walks

8:00am, 3rd or 9th October

The ever popular London Walk trip will be held on 2 days, 3rd October and 9th October, with 2 coaches going to London on each day. Having the trip held on 2 separate days allows us to get the Guides of our choice. This year the walk will be in the Kings Cross and St Pancras area. Make sure that you specify which date you wish to travel on your booking form, or if you have the flexibility indicate that you can travel on either day. The latter option allows us to more opportunity to accommodate those that have commitments and can only choose a specific date.

Cambridge

8:00am, 30th October



Cambridge, a city of spectacular buildings, beauty in its open spaces with the river Cam winding through its centre, and culture, is our location for our October trip. Enjoy free-time and do your own thing, there is so much of interest to appeal to everyone. Alternatively, you could join our optional guided walking tour which lasts about 2 hours, and have an expert ensure that you see the highlights. If you wish to take the guided tour be sure to include an additional £5pp to cover the costs with your booking form.

November

London Free Time

9:30am, 28th November

Must be time to do the Christmas shopping. If not shopping, then a visit to one of the many museums may be the order of the day. Maybe the photographers among us will be looking out for those special pictures of London that are only available when the Christmas lights are on and bringing joy and happiness. By leaving Hursley at 9:30am we hopefully will miss a lot of the traffic congestion. Similarly, we plan to leave London at 6:00pm, which should ease our travel out of London on the return journey.



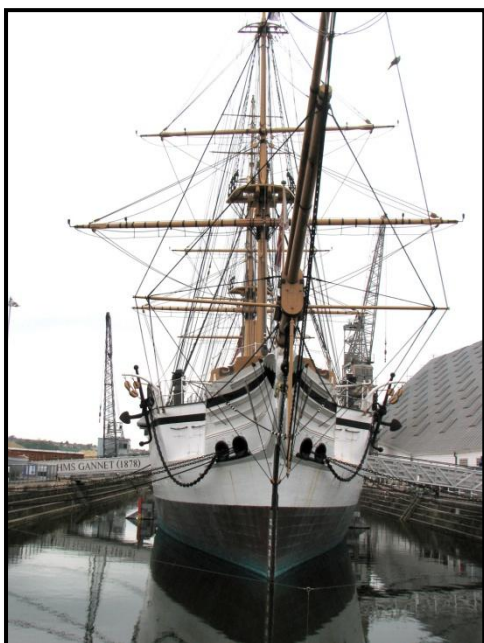
2013 Outings

Where would you like to go next year. The committee will be meeting in the autumn to plan our events for 2013. As always, we are always looking for new ideas. Standard trip venues should ideally be able to accommodate at least 150 people (3 coach loads), but there is always room for the niche market trips where there may be only demand to fill one coach; Goodwood Revival trip is a example. The only challenges are organisation and finance. If you know of such an event that you would like to see organised, and are willing to help with the organisation, the committee will welcome you with open arms!

Send an email with your suggestions to news@hurrec.org.uk

Some of the highlights of 2012

Chatham Dockyards

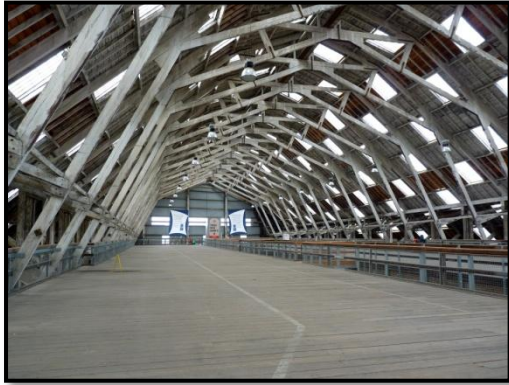


Floods across Hampshire, hose pipe bans in most of South East England, it is now pouring with rain, and tomorrow we are off to Chatham Dockyards. A quick look at the BBC Weather site and it looks like Chatham will have the same weather tomorrow as we are having today. It has been said: there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing. Better go sort out the quick dry trousers, umbrella and waterproof jacket.

Get up and it looks like showers. Arrive at Hursley and join the other 80 plus folk on one of the two coaches that would take us across to Kent. A journey with little traffic problems, we made good time getting to Chatham. Arrive to light rain which soon petered out to leave us with a largely overcast day with the occasional light shower which really didn't inhibit our ability to get around the dockyard to see the fascinating exhibits.

First port of call was the rope walk. At over a quarter of a mile long, one needs binoculars to see the action at the far end of the building. Soon the master rope-maker came, and jumping on his trolley proceeded down the length of the building spinning hemp rope, all 720 feet (140 fathoms) of it which is the length that was stipulated by the Admiralty.

It was then free time to wander this way and that to try to see all. Into the Steam shed to take a look at the shunting locals that used to run around the dockyard moving all the heavy loads, delivering the raw materials to build the boats. A quick bite of lunch, and a very nice Cornish pasty it was too, and then into the



lifeboat museum. I still marvel at the bravery of those who head out in the roughest of weathers to assist



those in distress on the sea. Numerous lifeboats on display, the largest lifeboat museum in the country apparently, from those that had to be rowed to the more modern types that we all see on the TV today.

The Big Space building is the museum store, from midget subs to giant tools and machinery. When built in 1838, the building was Europe's largest wide span timber structure. The roof is incredible.



Then on to the 3 ships/boats which were open to visitors; HMS Gannet, a Victorian naval sloop, HMS Cavalier, a WWII destroyer, and HMS Ocelot, an 'O' class diesel electric submarine. This submarine was built at Chatham in 1962, and stayed in active service all through the cold war, finally being decommissioned in 1991.

It was soon time to head back to the coaches, with no time left to do real justice to the quality of some of the exhibits.

Another interesting day out.

The Gadget Show

Nearly 40 retirees and guests joined the coach for the trip to the Gadget Show Live at the NEC. Having been brought up on a diet of technology, all were keen to see how the technological world is moving forward. And they weren't disappointed.

Joining the throngs of people, we were surrounded with all the new TV and audio gadgets; 3D TV's as big as a house, or so they seemed when one donned the special glasses. For those that must text or tweet even outside on the freezing cold days there are special gloves available that one could wear and still operate a smart phone, and only £3 a pair. And then there were the electronic games, both PC/internet based and stand-alone simulators. The realism has to be seen to be believed.



The highlight of our visit must be the 75 minute show with the presenters of The Gadget Show, in the large 5500 seater theatre, with not a spare seat to be seen. Full of fun, audience participation, pyrotechnics, lasers and



technology, the time just flew by. I had never seen a remote control helicopter 'dance', flying upside down inches from the floor, looping the loop, you name it and that helicopter did it, nether had I seen a remote control seagull with a wing span of at least 3 feet, powered by flapping its wings. Totally amazing.

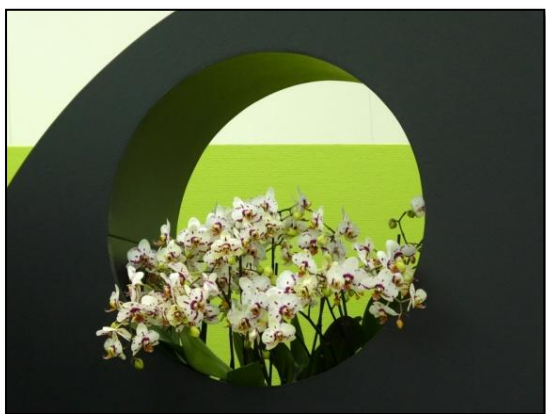
Back to the main exhibition halls for another look at the exhibits/stalls, and soon it was time to return to the coach for our journey home. Great fun!

Floriade and Keukenhof Gardens of Europe

At 7:45 prompt the coach with 36 people heading off to Holland left the car park at Hursley. First stop would be Clacket Lane services for a quick rest stop. Surprisingly, for a Friday morning we made excellent time. Refreshed and with Coffee cups in hand, we were soon off to Dover arriving in plenty of time for our ferry. Indeed we were early enough to board an earlier ferry, but it was a busy day and while there was room for the coach, the number of extra passengers we would have added put the ferry over the passenger limit so we had to sit quiet and wait an hour to board our booked ferry. Never mind, there is always something of interest to see. With a schoolboy's international rugby tour in France that week-end, there were 3 coaches in front of us loaded with teenage boys and their dads all in fancy dress gear to keep us amused.



From Calais to Antwerp was a great run, but then we hit the Friday night traffic. Just like the M25, the ring road was a parking lot. As a consequence, it was just after 8:00pm when we arrived at the hotel; our driver's taco graph had minutes to spare before we would have, for legal reasons, had to make a mandatory stop!



Saturday morning saw us wake up to light rain and dark clouds. Just not what we wanted to visit the Floriade. And that is the way the weather stayed all day. For most of the time you could get around quite comfortably provided you either had the hood of the Gortex up or a brolly to hand. But the weather didn't deter us from the beauty of the exhibits within the park. Along with thousands of others we went from themed area to themed area. The orchids and Villa Flora were really spectacular. Even though it was raining, the gondola ride across the top of the site was well worth the trip.

Sunday, and we awoke to much better weather. We were soon off in the other direction towards the coast to visit the famous Keukenhof Gardens, often billed as the gardens of Europe. The further we went, the better the weather became. After an hour we arrived at the venue in sunshine. Into the gardens and for the next 5 hours one had a riot of floral colour whichever way one looked. With the cold spring, the tulips were still in all their glory – all 7,000,000 of them. Yes, every year, according to one of the growers we spoke to, 7 million bulbs are planted, and after the 2 month window when the gardens are open, they are all dug up and destroyed! It was the sort display that used to make

Kodak their millions. Thankfully, with digital technology, we no longer have to count the pennies when we click that shutter.

After 2 days of walking around large exhibition sites, we sank back into our seats for the journey back to the hotel. As the accommodation was on a half-board basis, we were all soon gathered for dinner and a few glasses of one's favourite tipple.

Monday arrived, and we were all down to breakfast early ready to board the coach at 8:15 for an 8:30 start. Why so early, well that way we could have a 3 hour lunch break in the beautiful town of Bruges.



Leaving the restaurant around 8 to go and get the cases ready I saw our driver looking rather worried. We are going nowhere, the coach has broken down. With the modern coaches that Avenis has, this not an expected occurrence, but things do break. It transpired that a power steering hydraulic hose had split. The hotel was very kind and laid on extra coffee, etc until they had their own challenge –more of that later. The fix man came, made intelligent noises, and disappeared to get new parts. He soon returned, and the repair started. By 10:30 we were able to load up the cases, and we were underway before 11:00. Needless to say, the lunch stop at Bruges was a non-starter, and we high-tailed it as fast as legal to Calais

where we arrived right on the due check-in time. And the hotel. They were having some refurbishment work undertaken between the reception and lounge area. Just after 10:00 the workers broke through a soil pipe, and the effluent and smell went into the lounge area – just as we going out to get our cases!

Bit of a pity about the weather on our trip to the Floriade, but it was still an enjoyable day and the visit to the Keukenhof Gardens was magical.

Isle of Wight and Beaulieu River Cruise



With Southampton being home to Cunard and P&O, the IBM Retirees could not be left out and just had to have their own cruise. Not perhaps to some far off exotic place, but a little closer but full of history and beauty.

In glorious sunshine, and some hazy mist, we set off from Southampton for a crossing to Cowes, past the large tankers bringing their cargo to Fawley. The journey made all the more enjoyable by the running commentary given by the captain during this crossing, and for the rest of trip.

Following a chance to step ashore and a walk into the old part of Cowes – some heading for a coffee shop, others heading for the ice cream parlour – we again set sail in a westerly direction towards the Beaulieu River. One of the reasons for going on a cruise is to sample the delights of their on-board culinary expertise, and the retirees were not to be outdone by P&O as they settled into a lunch of 'Chicken in a basket'. Delightful it was, washed down with a pint of the brown nectar.



Cruising up the Beaulieu River is a delight. It is so peaceful, yet full of interest and beauty. The cruise ship travels all the way from the mouth of the river up to Bucklers Hard before turning and retracing her steps. For those that have won the euromillions, you could not go far wrong investigating the purchase of one of the houses that have river frontage. Absolutely charming they are, and not that remote if you have your own helicopter; I spotted at least one house with a helipad.

From the Beaulieu River we then headed east, and concluded our cruise with a sea-based tour of Portsmouth Harbour. Fascinating to see the parts of the naval dockyard that cannot be seen from land or from one of the ferries.



A very different day out, but excellent. Those that stayed out on the decks at times found the sea breeze a little chilly, but the sun sure made up for that discomfort; some might have regretted staying in the sun all day!

Brighton

"It's 8:00am, here is the traffic report. The A27 is closed due to severe flooding". It was just 24 hours before the coaches were supposed to leave Hursley for the SEASIDE trip to Brighton! Emails started to fly around the Retiree Committee. We have over 120 people booked on the trip. As the day wore on, the A27 stayed closed. More rain was forecast. Telephone wires to Avensis, our coach company, were getting red hot. Alternate routes were being planned. Such are the traumas a retiree club committee member has to endure!

All's well that ends well, the A27 was open, and 2 coaches made their way across country. Everyone onboard had come fully prepared for a typical summer's day, rain, rain and more rain. In reality, the weather made a bit of an effort to brighten up and the day was reasonable, overcast, with a few showers to dodge. With these free time trips,



people moved quickly away from the coach drop-off point in different directions. Some headed straight for the coffee shop; what better way to start the day when the weather isn't that good. Others headed for the attractions, the Royal Pavilion being one of the most famous places in Brighton. The £8 entrance fee is definitely worth every penny, it is stunning. Highly recommended if you haven't been. (I'm sure the retirees will be returning to Brighton in a couple of years or so for another seaside outing.)

If you are into shopping, there is always the Lanes, which many visited. The Lanes are crammed with quaint and wondrous shops and funky restaurants and cafes.

It was soon time to board the coaches for our return journey. Perhaps not the lazy sit on the beach trip that many had thought when they made their booking, but, as ever, a very enjoyable day out. After all, we could have stayed at home and looked at the water-logged garden!

Hampton Court Flower Show



One of THE flower shows, some say a good rival to Chelsea, the Hampton Court Flower Show is a must for gardeners, and even for those like me who have not a green finger or toe in their body but can appreciate the beauty of nature.

It had been raining – well did it do anything else this summer – all week, and here we were on Thursday morning heading off to London in pretty reasonable weather. Good job too, for the coach park is about 20 minutes

walk from the entrance to the show. Had it been the day before, we would have all been soaked to the skin before we had a chance to show our tickets at the gate. But it does say that the sun shines on the righteous, so thanks to those for whom the cap fits for allowing me to enjoy some good weather.

For those of you who have not been to Hampton Court Flower Show, it is very large with separate areas for set garden displays, several marquees, various food areas, and lots of other stalls and exhibitors. Indeed, ones feet are very tired long before you have seen all that is on offer.



It was hard to judge which area was the most interesting.

The marquees were magnificent, full of colour, beauty and that wonderful aroma that is hard to describe, but oh so nice. The large set displays were a marvel of creativity and beauty. One could go on and on, just a marvellous day out in the sunshine. Indeed, I was told only last week that the Thursday when the IBM Retirees attended was the only day without rain at the show!



Farnborough Air Show

It was a wet day again when 2 coaches set off from Hursley heading for Farnborough and the International Air Show. The coaches arrived at the coach park and retirees headed for the entrance. Unfortunately, it had been so wet all week that one of the main car parking areas had become totally waterlogged, and a decision was taken to tell all the coach drivers to leave and park elsewhere so that the coach park could be used as a car park. Who says that the coach drivers that look after us so well have an easy job. The coaches headed off to find alternate off-site parking.



Notwithstanding the initial downpour of rain in the morning, the weather thankfully brightened up a little, and the afternoon was mainly cloudy with just a few showers. While this did not stop the fantastic air display from taking place, the low cloud ceiling did have an impact on some of the formation displays who could not complete all of their manoeuvres. The flying display which lasted

some 5 hours included, to name but a few, a Vulcan, Spitfire, Lancaster and, of course, the Red Arrows. There were also Wingwalkers to thrill the crowd-packed display area.



In addition to the flying displays, there was also a vast range of ground activities and displays including a full scale replica of Virgin Galactic's SpaceShip Two to entertain everyone.

Notwithstanding the weather, the general opinion was that of a great day out. Thanks to mobile phone technology – what did we do without those things – the coaches which had returned from their enforced eviction and retirees were united and made a relatively swift journey back to Hursley, unlike some who had travelled by car and had to suffer over an hour's delay just to get out of the car parks.

Leeds Castle



In true form for this year's summer, we left home just after 7am to drive to Hursley in the rain. The weather forecast does say that the weather will get better as we go through the day. Pack Gortex coats and pack-a-mac's to be on the safe side, can always leave what is not required on the coach.

The 3 coaches leave Hursley in a good British heavy drizzle for the ride to Kent. By the time we reached Clacket Lane services for a creature comfort stop, the drizzle had stopped, just dark clouds remained. Soon we reach Leeds Castle, decision time: Gortex or no Gortex. We were brave and left the Gortex coats in the coach, and what a wise decision. For once the

weather forecast was correct, and the weather turned out perfect for such a visit.

As we got off the coach, we were given a voucher for either Morning coffee and Cake or Afternoon Tea. Morning Coffee and Cake voucher in hand and we headed off through the beautiful grounds leading up to the castle. Fifteen



minutes later and we reached the restaurant. Ah, I can smell the coffee – but you can't have any said the staff. We can only take 20 maximum at a time. But there are 150 of us, say I, and the restaurant is empty. Master plan comes into the head. 'Can I buy coffee now', says I. Oh yes, of course. Not a happy bunny at this stupidity and manager relents. Why-o-why anyone should think of putting the coffee and cakes on a mezzanine level way up a flight of steps for a Retiree Group is beyond me. There was some talk of the left hand not telling the right hand what was happening. Methinks more of a

question of the 2 brain cells not talking to each other!

That little hiccup aside, what a great day out. The Castle was a wealth of modern history, with tales of what the Lords and Ladies got up to in the 30's, and totally fascinating. The flower gardens were wonderful, and the grounds magnificent especially after the sun came out to play. Certainly, it was well worth the journey; the sort of place that was it closer you would go again and again.



Photographic Competition 2012

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 2012.

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 2012.

HURSLEY SWING BAND



IBM club members and guests filled the hall on Tuesday 19th June, when the Hursley Swing Band played at the annual summer concert.

The next concert will be in a few months time in December. For information or to be added to the mailing list, please contact Sally Russell at sally@grapevyne.com

Volunteering/Charities

Graham Mackenzie's Sponsored cycle ride for the Alzheimer's Society, Coast to Coast, 6th to 8th July 2012.

The reasons for taking on this challenge were:

- a) to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society after seeing my Aunt Beth and good friend John Stanley, being taken down by this terrible disease.
- b) To see if I could complete a ride of this nature in my 65th year.

My goal was to reach a minimum of £1,000 in sponsorship and at the time of writing, the amount given has reached £2,210. A great result that makes everything worthwhile. A big "Thank-you" to all who sponsored me. Your generosity kept me going.

When I arrived in Workington on the 5th July, I was a little apprehensive about the task in front of me, as we would be starting at sea level, at the entrance to Workington Harbour and finishing off at sea level at Sandsend, close to Whitby and from Workington Harbour, the hills of the Lake District can be seen looming in the distance. Although the 5th was a good, clear and sunny day, the forecast for the next few days was not good. Of more anon.

Staying overnight in an hotel in Workington, I met a few of the other riders and found out that they too, were just as apprehensive, but somewhat younger than me, but had also experienced problems with the June weather interfering with training rides leading up to the event.

However, the ride proper started on Friday 6th July and we met the organisers at 8:15 to deposit our luggage and then follow them to the start point for registration. This was in the car park at the harbour mouth. The weather was cool, with a threat of rain and the wind from the EAST (not fair and not from the prevailing direction). All 32 riders reported in and were briefed regarding safety, water stops, teamwork, lunch breaks and contact phone numbers and

then we found out that one rider had gone to Whitehaven, not Workington! This caused a certain amount of grumbling, as many were getting cold, so the organisers arranged that Mr Whitehaven should meet up with one of the support vehicles en route. The rest of us were encouraged to dip our wheels in the sea to mark the start. I declined this kind offer, as the tide was out and it was just starting to spit with rain. So at 9:30, I set off against the wind to the eventual destination at Whitby.

The rain set in before leaving Workington and came on very heavy within a few miles and as the first water stop was planned for the summit of Winlatter Pass at an altitude of over 200 metres, it was 22 miles of steady climbing. The rain caused me a particular problem, as it ran into my eyes and caused a lot of irritation, so much so that I missed one of the direction arrows set up by the support team and cycled about 2 miles further than expected. I did catch up with other riders and they were experiencing similar problems, but clever old me had a solution. Why not wear the swimming goggles? All I can say is that they worked well enough, but soon fogged up and I had to take them off! I also put my specs in my handlebar bag to avoid looking through patterned (raindrops) glasses. The last mile or so up Whinlatter has a gradient of approx 1 in 5 but my arrival at 11:25 was considered (by me) to be good going. At the water stop there were bananas, cereal bars and other energy giving foods beneath the support team's gazebo and this set the standard for the 3 days.

We were all asked to delay our departure as one of the riders was quite a way behind and it was important for us all be together before setting off again. At 11:50, we were given the OK and went off down the Pass, which had some exciting gradients and bends. Through Keswick and down the road alongside Thirlmere. Unfortunately, we were routed on the main road and not the minor road side of Thirlmere, but at least the rain had eased to occasional showers, but the wind remained head on.

Lunch was just outside of Grasmere and the run in to Grasmere featured a long, downhill slope and the wind was behind us (for once) and although many recorded a top speed in the 40's, mine was exciting enough at 38mph.

Lunch was a major surprise as outside caterers provided hot and cold food, mainly pasta based with some very nice cheeses, but also a chocolate cake! This set the standard too, for the next 3 days. I didn't think that cake was a good thing as there were another 30 miles to cover, so declined the temptation.

From Grasmere, we passed through Ambleside and Windermere (horrible road, very busy and poor surface) to Kendal where the wind played another trick. At an important junction in Kendal, the direction arrow gave a false indication and sent us up the A6 towards Shap. Not the direction I had expected to go, but a group of us did as we were told and after nearly 2 miles came across the support team in a very apologetic mood and advising that we should have gone out on the Sedbergh road (I thought so!). So back we went to Kendal and went out on the right road, climbing out towards Sedbergh. The climbing didn't finish at the hotel drive though, as that had a short, sharp climb too. My arrival there at 16:20 marked a days recorded mileage of 57.75 miles, with a cycling time of 4.52 hours and an average speed of 11.82 mph. Very respectable.

Hotel accommodation was very good and taking up previous advice, I was able to soak in a cold bath for 10 minutes to relax my leg muscles. Getting in is the worst part! I dried my cycling trainers out with the hair dryer and my shorts and gloves dried on the heated towel rail!

Day 2 Kendal to Richmond. Departed at 09:30, down the drive and then turned on to the road to Sebergh. A stiff climb for 5 miles to the M6 junction. Not fair on muscles that had not had chance to warm up. The bonus was the weather. A glorious day with bright sunshine and occasional cloud, offset by the easterly wind again! Once past the



M6, the run into Sedbergh was mainly downhill and my maximum of the day was recorded here at 36mph. At the junction leading us into Garsdale were some supporters making sure we took the right road, off to the right. Strange how one or two ignored that and carried on for a mile or two. The water stop was at the top of Garsdale. After the mandatory check in by everyone, the slow riders were released first, followed by the main pack 10 minutes later and the racers, 10 minutes after that. I was firmly in the main pack.

Lunch was at Bainbridge, a lovely spot and I arrived there at 13:25 to enjoy the delightful catering once again. Today's cake was Carrot Cake that looked delicious but once again, I put temptation to one side, unlike my friend Andy who then regretted it for the rest of the ride.

At 14:40, we were allowed out to play again and it was real pleasure to cycle in good weather, with easy gradients and the next water stop was an hour and a half away at Leyburn and from Leyburn, just an hour's ride for our overnight stop at Richmond in an old hotel, right in the main square. Arrival was at 17:20 and the tally for the day was 54.59 miles with a cycling time of 4.48 hours, making an average speed for the day of 11.35 mph. Unfortunately, the hotel did not have a bath in my room, so I could not subject my legs to the cold therapy.



Graham followed by Andy. Each provided mutual support to the other over the three days.

That east wind did not let up!

Day 3 Richmond to Whitby. The last day.

A slightly earlier departure at 08:50 and at the briefing for today, the gradient profile showed over half the ride in rolling countryside and then the gradient steepened exponentially with a 1 in 3 or 4, to get onto the Yorkshire Moors.

Water was taken at Crathorne, after negotiating the major junction at Scotch Corner. And we then proceeded to Stokesley for lunch. So far, so good. Weather was overcast, but dry with the threat of heavy showers later, but we were told that Whitby was in sunshine. After an hours stop for lunch we left Stokesley at 12:40 to face the inclines and we were not disappointed. At one stage, we could see the hills like a wall in front of us with the mist obscuring the top and as we got nearer, I could see a road going up the escarpment diagonally, off to the right and looking at it, assumed that this would be our track and it looked quite manageable. How wrong I was. At some stage, the view in front became clear and after a short sharp downhill, across the bridge at the bottom, up and up went the road. Unashamedly, I managed about 150 yards of the climb and then dismounted and pushed the bike up until the gradient eased from 1 in 3 to about 1 in 5! I was not alone. Many others with very fancy bikes walked, too. However, this was the first of three that I decided to walk, rather than cycle. Discretion being the better part of valour. The final water stop was just east of Danby, at the top of the hill and very exposed. Here we experienced the cold, mist laden, east wind at it's full force and it stayed with us all the way to the finish.

Once all had registered at the stop, we were allowed to make our way to Sandsend on the coast for a ceremonial dipping of wheels in the North Sea and it was a real fight across the moors and how glad was I to turn off onto the B1266 and start the steady descent to the Coast. The last part was downhill at 1 in 4, but due to cars proceeding cautiously, my speed did not exceed 22 mph on that stretch.

Not last by any stretch of the imagination, I arrived at 15:20 to be greeted by the other riders and then welcomed by Jen, Anne, Kaitlin and Richard. Kaitlin presented Grandpa with a Winners medal! After welcoming everybody in, we all cycled the final stretch to the Finish line for photo sessions, champagne, wheel dipping and receipt of finishers medals. After the celebrations, we cycled en masse to the hotel in Whitby for our final night's stay and celebratory dinner. Unfortunately, the hotel was very poor and did not reflect the standard of catering and support for the previous days.

For the final day, I recorded 60.53 miles, that included the distance from the finish to Whitby and took 5.02 hours giving a very respectable average for the day of 11.99 mph with a maximum speed of 36 mph. Would have been more if the wind had been from the west!

Overall, someone had calculated that we had climbed a total of over 10,000 feet over the 3 days. The total distance recorded on my speedo was 172.8 miles and the duration in the saddle of 14 hours giving an overall average speed of 12.33 mph.

Was it worth it? Most certainly. Not only did I achieve the goals that I had set myself, but also met a good crowd of people that all had the same objective in mind – to finish. The organisation by Discover Adventure was second to



Grandpa's Winners Medal

none and Kathryn the Alzheimer's rep who rode the course with us, was great at keeping everyone going and making sure the team worked as a team.

The challenge next year is Land's End to John O'Groats over 12 days. Will I be there? Probably not!! Average 83 miles per day is too much for little, old me.

Biggest disappointment was losing the 14 photographs taken over the three days when they were being transferred from the camera to disc. Had to rely on shots that others have taken.



Arrival at Sandsend, near Whitby, Sunday 8th July 2012. This is the team. All who started, finished, a great effort. We are all wearing our finisher's medals and toasting with sparkling wine. North Sea behind

The total collected by us all may now exceed £40,000 and many thanks to you all who helped to achieve this total.

Graham

Latin and Ballroom Dancing



A new term of Ballroom and Latin dance starts at 7pm on Monday 17th September. The term is for ten classes (excluding Monday 8th October).

We have vacancies for all abilities but would especially welcome new beginners in the 7 'til 8pm class. We are a friendly mixed bunch who enjoy the exercise both mental and physical. Our professional dance teacher is Phyllis.

The lessons usually cost under £5 per person per class and the fee for the term

is payable at the beginning of term.

If you would like further details then give me a ring on Winchester 883861.

Hope to see you soon.

Ingrid Bond

Pilates

DO YOU:

- SUFFER FROM BACK PAIN?
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- WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR FLEXIBILITY?
- WANT TO ADD VARIATION TO YOUR FITNESS ROUTINE?

If the answer is YES to any of the above then PILATES could be for you!

Tuesday evenings at 16.45 and 17.55 at IBM Hursley

Run by a qualified Body Control Pilates instructor

For more information contact: Martin Hitchman, 01962-816984, martin_hitchman@uk.ibm.com

Mike Charlton, 01962-819665, mike_charlton@uk.ibm.com



Stamp and Postal History Fair

October 20 2012 - HAMPEX 2012

Hampshire Philatelic Federation, Stamp and Postal History Fair. Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, PO17 5AL.

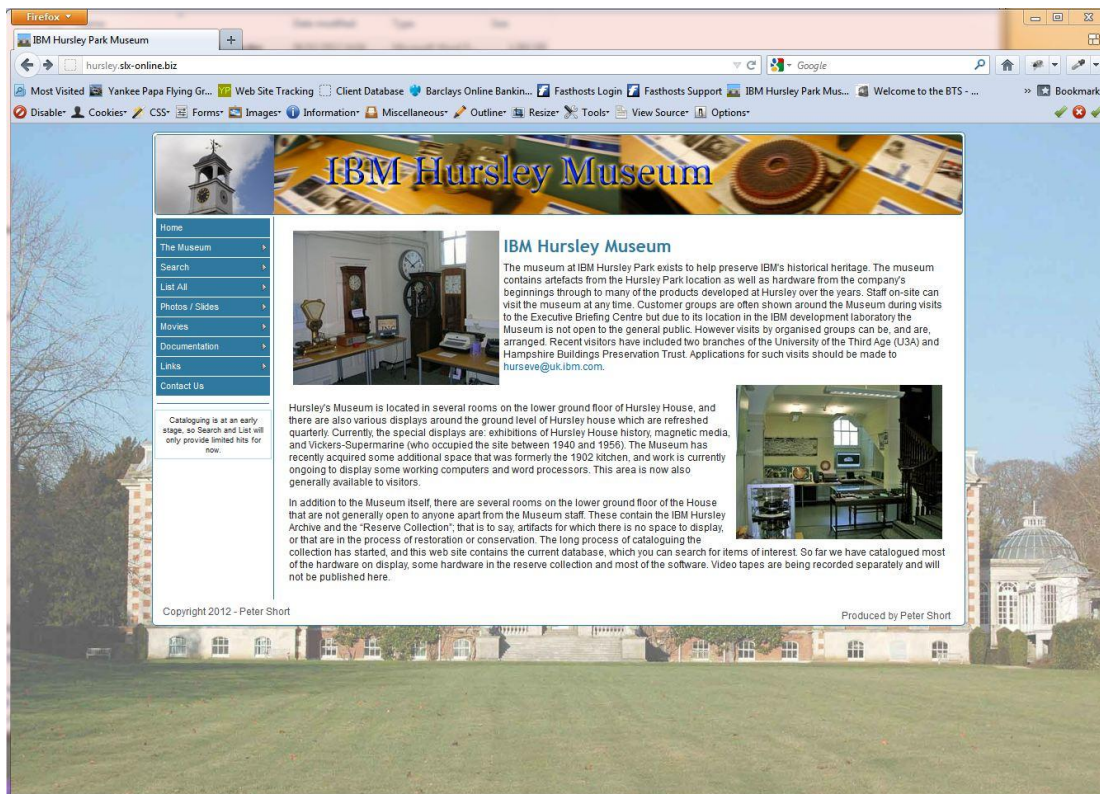
Admission £1 with programme.

<http://www.hpf.hampshire.org.uk/hpfhpx.htm>



Hursley Museum Services – Summer 2012 update

Since the last newsletter the museum has published a web site with lots of information about our activities, displays and archive. The link is: <http://hursley.slx-online.biz> .



The site includes our growing database of unclassified items. Most of the hardware on display is now available to browse or search, with photographs, together with some of our backup collection and a small amount of hard copy such as journals. We are cataloguing all videos and all IUO or Confidential paperwork separately to avoid any confidentiality issues. This database will not be generally available outside of IBM.

With HLG19 now open, we are preparing HLG14, the room opposite, as a new display area. We are hoping to use the displays from the Galileo Centre around the walls, and have populated two cabinets so far, one with PC / PS2 adapter cards, the other with "Trash & Trinkets" - it's amazing how many give-aways and awards IBM has produced over the years. The cabinet is brim full, and we still have lots more!



"Trash & Trinkets"



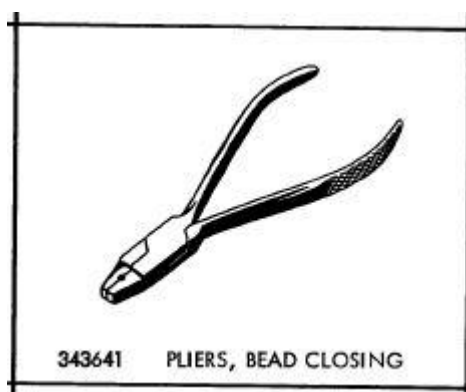
New Donations

We have received a number of excellent donations in the last few weeks, and our thanks to all who have contributed. As always, we continue our appeal for anything IBM that we can add to the collection. We have also received a number of artefacts from Greenock, including ThinkPads, PS/2 laptops, some Tablets and a couple of 'Luggables'. We have also received the stone castings that used to adorn the reception area in Greenock.



Greenock Artefacts

One item we have recently received is a pair of 'bead closing' pliers, part number 343641. None of us has seen one of these before, so we don't know what they were used for. If you have any ideas, please let us know! The following pictures show the actual pliers and a screen shot from the CE Tools Catalogue. Email Rick Kellaway at hurseve@uk.ibm.com.



We have just received the first items from the Royal Army Pay Corps at Worthy Down. The hardware has not yet materialised, but we now have all of the documentation from the 705 installation, together with other paperwork including the original proposals for updating their later S/360 to S/370. They have also included a wooden model of the 705 installation.