

Perspective – July 2011

The Newsletter of the IBM Hursley Retirees' Club



EX CATHEDRA

When this edition of Perspective reaches you, more retiree trips will have taken place and reports appeared in Perspective. Every comment I hear recognises the dedicated work by committee members in conceiving and planning these days out.

There are still events to look forward to with the Steam Fair on 31st and places on September's London Guided tours together with Polesden Lacey in October and Birmingham in November.

However, the one strategic aspect of our planning concerns the growth in the number of retirees who join the Hursley Retirees Club. As long as the trips we arrange are supported that's great. But there is a limit to which places can accommodate our growing numbers.

The Committee always welcomes your suggestions for locations you think would merit a trip, attract around 100 to 200 members and be able to interest, entertain and feed that number. The ideal time to send us your ideas is in the next three months before the committee decides the programme for 2012.

Also, there's space still for you to bring an event proposal to the Committee, 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.

Finally, have you considered signing up with the Pensions Trust paperless initiative?

More details about how to reduce the amount of paper arriving through your letterbox are available at the IBM Pensions Trust website - www.smarterpensions.co.uk

[Ed: See *Going Paperless* below]

It's entirely voluntary. Are you up for it?

Let's hope we all have more Summer to come.

Best wishes,

Martin Hughes

Chairman

The Committee

For your information, the full committee of the Hursley Retirees Club is:

CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER	e BUSINESS	WEB Coor
Martin Hughes	Harry Helyar	John Jones	Merv Quick	Ron Wilks
01962 868 900	01962 881 392	02380 265 316	01794 390 678	02380 766 213
Tony Compton	John Faller	Jenny Nichols	Harry Keeling	Jim Woodland
02380 265 432	02380 462 822	02380 254 244	01962 712 914	02380 323 204
Richard Walker	Roger Clark			
01983 531967	02380 253 600			

Photographic Competition

Are you going to enter this year's IBM Hursley Retiree Photographer of the Year competition? Each member may submit up to 3 entries, and the only rule is that each photograph must have been taken on an IBM Hursley Retiree Club trip. All entries must be sent to news@hurrec.org.uk by 2 January 2012.

The winner will receive a free trip for them self and guest on the summer 'seaside' outing.

This year we are privileged to have a professional photographer assessing the photographs. Brynja Maughan, who many will remember as one of IBM Hursley's photographers, has agreed to be our judge. Watch out, I understand that there are also some committee members who will be entering this year now that they are not required to judge the entries!

Going Paperless

An article from IBM UK Pensions

In 2010, we issued over 200,900 letters and documents to our retired and deferred members. When we spoke to members recently, they told us that some documents are only read once and they don't like the waste. So, we want to do something about it.

With more people having access to the internet and using email, and following a change in the law in 2010 allowing us to do so, we want to "go paperless" and make general documents available online for members to view and download.

There are three reasons why we want to go paperless:

- 1. To reduce the amount of paper wasted;**
- 2. To be able to issue documents and notices to members faster; and**
- 3. To reduce our printing and postage costs.**

We think you'll benefit as well, because:

You'll reduce the number of paper documents you have to store, recycle or shred; and it will be easier for us to stay in touch with you, as people don't often change their email address, but they do move house and forget to tell us!

What documents would be available electronically?

Only general documents will be available electronically, such as Members' Reports, Summary Funding Statements and ad-hoc announcements. *We will not issue documents that contain personal information (such as benefit statements or payslips) electronically.*

What happens next?

To go paperless, you need to sign up on our website. All you need is access to the internet and an email address, and then follow these three easy steps:

- 1. Go to our website, www.smartpensionsuk.co.uk**
- 2. Click on the 'Time to go paperless' button.**
- 3. Follow the instructions to submit your details.**

That's it! Next time we issue a booklet or make an announcement, we will send an email to the address you've provided.

If you can't or don't want to sign up now, you don't need to do anything; we will continue to send you paper documents. If you want to sign up at any time in the future, visit our website.

Thank you!

Hursley Swing Band (HSB)



All members of the IBM Hursley Retirees Club are welcome to attend free concerts by the Hursley Swing Band. To get on the band's mailing list, please send an email to Sally Russell on sally@grapevyne.com

DANCING – Ballroom and Latin (HABLAD)

We are looking for newcomers to join our dancing classes on Monday evenings. We usually have 10 classes each term. If we have sufficient interest our plan will be to cater for separate sessions for Beginners, Improvers and Advanced starting at 7.30 allocating 50 minutes to each group.

Currently we start at 8pm with Beginners who are then joined by Improvers at 8.30, the Beginners leave at 9pm when the Advanced group join the Improvers. The Improvers leave at 9.30 and the Advanced group continue until 10pm.

We still have a few classes that you are invited to view, perhaps, to assess your level or just to confirm that this is social dancing, great fun and excellent exercise for mind and body.

If you wish to have any further information just give me a ring, Ingrid Bond 01962 883861.

HABLAD (Hursley Amateur Ballroom and Latin Dance)

Winchester Arts Club

The Winchester Art Club Annual Exhibition runs from 10th September until 2nd October in the City Space Gallery at the Discovery Centre, Jewry Street, Winchester. Free admission

With its origins dating back to 1888, Winchester Art Club exhibits work selected by an independent panel of judges from entries submitted by its members covering a diverse range of artistic endeavour taking inspiration from Winchester and beyond.

The work on display includes sculptures, watercolours, drawings, oil paintings and sketchbooks, offering a stunning and eclectic exhibition with something for everyone whether you come to admire the artwork or to buy a work to hang on your own wall, you won't be disappointed.

Associated with the exhibition, Douglas Skeggs (well-known art historian and broadcaster) will deliver a lecture called "A Terrible Lucidity" the story of Van Gogh and Gauguin. It will be in the Discovery Centre Performance Hall at 7.30 on 2nd September. Ticket holders will also be able to visit the Art Club Exhibition Private Viewing which opens at 6.00 pm on the same evening. Tickets cost £5 and can be obtained from the Discovery Centre during August or reserved by phone 01962 862790

Romsey Male Voice Concerts

The following concerts are scheduled for the Romsey Male Voice Choir:

- Sat, 15 Oct, 7.30pm, at Chandler's Ford Methodist Church. Wyvern Jazz Band is also taking part. Concert in aid of Brendon Care.
- Fri, 4 Nov, 7.30pm, at Crosfield Hall, Romsey
- Mon, 24 Nov, 7.30pm, at Thornden Concert Hall, Chandler's Ford, by invitation of the Chandler' Ford Community Choir.
- Advance notice. Jan 2012, at the Anvil Theatre, Basingstoke, an invitation to perform with the world renowned Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band.

Further details of all concerts as they become available, will be published on their website - www.romseymvc.co.uk.

Family Adventure Challenge

The Extreme Energy New Forest Family Adventure Challenge 2011
17th September 2011

What a great way of spending a September Saturday afternoon. Cycling and running / walking with your family in the New Forest.

Imagine if you add in a bit of fun competition searching round the woods for orienteering checkpoints. That is the basic idea of a family adventure challenge.

In addition to orienteering on bike and on foot around the forest in 2011 we will be adding in some additional challenges for all the family. So doing well will not just be about fitness, speed and map reading. Come and find out what the surprise challenges are!

Bolderwood is the perfect location for this Challenge. Bolderwood sits near Lyndhurst in the heart of the New Forest just south of the A31. It is a well known location because of the numerous tracks / paths and the deer sanctuary.

It is ideal for this event because it offers something for every competitor however big or small. The terrain is fairly flat with some small hills and there will be checkpoints that are easy and challenging. What makes it such a great spot is the beauty of the New Forest.

For more information and booking go to: http://www.xnrg.co.uk/events_fac_newforest2011.htm

Pilates

Interested in trying Pilates? <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilates>

It's great for increasing strength and flexibility.

There's an IBM Club Pilates section which meets weekly in term-times, at IBM Club House, Hursley, with classes at 4:45 pm and 5:55 pm, costing around £6 per session, but paid for in advance for a term. Exact prices are based on the number of members.

We will probably have vacancies for the autumn term, for both beginners and those who've attended classes previously. For beginners, there would be an introductory session before the start of the main classes.

If you're interested, please contact our Secretary: mike_charlton@uk.ibm.com

WYKEHAM PROBUS CLUB

The Wykeham Probus Club of Winchester meets on the first Wednesday of the month.

We enjoy a three course lunch with an after lunch speaker.

A club for retired professional and business man.

Contact A J Naylor 01962 621003 for more details

The Big Picnic

It was such a shame that the weather let us down for The Big Picnic which was considered, all the same, a very successful and enjoyable open day.



The general consensus is that attendees were wholly impressed with the entire Campus and that it made employees extremely proud to showcase what we've all achieved in Hursley over the years. It had also provided a great opportunity to catch up with retirees they hadn't seen for many years.

The volunteer team, who had relatively little time for planning, offered significant give back over and above the 'day job'. So it was good to see all that hard work come together to make for a very successful event, which was well attended despite the unseasonable weather.

All the volunteers on the day showed great



commitment and professionalism to ensure the event ran smoothly and that the many last minute changes were handled seamlessly with minimum fuss.

A decent day would have provided the charities with the opportunity to generate funds, raise their profile and to network to the full. Exhibitors have said that they may not have seen many visitors but that the event had provided ample opportunity to strike up worthwhile relationships. So, that alone makes the event a success.



Location Management too were very pleased with the attendance on such an unpredictable day. The House was busy throughout. Afternoon teas and the clubhouse both saw significant trade, and the historic talks and re-located musical entertainment were all very well received.

We would regard it as a successful event, despite everything, and hope you enjoyed it too.

Rick Kellaway

Volunteering

“Use of Computers”

Age Concern Tutors at Winnall

The following was sent in by Paul Blythin

With all the applications we now take for granted on PCs it would be difficult to imagine how we'd cope without them. But how frequently does your computer do something that wasn't quite what you expected or you struggled to find the “option” or “preference” that allowed you to make a change that you thought should have been obvious? Only yesterday the audio output from my music composer program just ceased. It took me more than an hour to find, through “control panel” that the SW Synth “slider” on the mixer in “advanced” Audio volume had *set itself* to zero. Nothing I had done, honest!

If that happens to you or me, someone with years of IBM experience, you can imagine what the non-technical 70 yr old might encounter. Often this experience is enough to put them off using PCs for good.

It was through my frequent visits to my older neighbours to “fix” their computer problems that I realised what a minefield it is for them. On one occasion they were working on the (very reasonable) assumption that the “BT Account” referred to on the email screen was the paper bill that came through the door. The jargon and the protocols we have assimilated over years of exposure are easy to take for granted.

One evening I picked up a slip of paper in the clubhouse which was a request for “tutors” from Age Concern, Hampshire. Having taught sixth form maths for the last ten years of my working life, I thought it would be a doddle and in a moment of weakness phoned to offer my services. I have been doing half a day a week since Christmas and find it very rewarding. It is nothing like classroom teaching, as they operate a one to one tutorial system tuned to the needs of the student. The people get 12 sessions for a voluntary payment of £4 a lesson, which Age Concern use to pay for the facilities. Mostly they are very grateful and they have to write a short summary of their progress so you

get direct feedback. You can get a very warm feeling from seeing the excitement a person gets on receiving a reply to their first email and reading such comments as...

“I’m so pleased as I feel I’ve made enormous progress and most times remembered things I have already done. Can’t wait to progress as I already see the world could be my oyster”

“It’s been amazing for me. I never believed I would be excited and not afraid to touch (the keyboard) now I see the world is at my fingertips and can’t wait to surf and experiment” *

In Winchester it happens in the Winnall community centre and there are similar centres in Basingstoke and the Havant area. At a meeting of tutors recently we were looking at the waiting list and trying to find a way of reducing it. More tutors would be one way, hence this request through the newsletter. I know we are all more busy in this retirement caper than ever we were at work and you probably already help out somewhere else but if you have half a day a week you can spare, then please consider volunteering with Age Concern.

* This lady is waiting to afford her own PC – so if you're chucking one out ...

If you’re interested please contact: Malcolm.roberts73@ntlworld.com tel Age Concern Hampshire 01962 868545 or alex.clark@lineone.net

Cycling for the Kids



In February, there was an article about Frank Nawn, and his plan to cycle from Lands End to John O’Groats to raise funds for his local school. Here is a short report from Frank.

I set off from Lands End on the 8th July and completed 15 days later on the 23rd July at John O’Groats. I actually travelled a total of 1076 miles and my target was to raise £1076 to buy a PA system for my local primary school so that all the children would be heard performing their various activities. Today there is no sound system whatsoever.

Look at my website at www.virginmoneygiving.com/franknawn to see how well we are doing. The site will remain active until the end of September so if you know me and would like to donate the kids would be very grateful.

In the words of a famous Olympic rower 'if you ever see me go near a bike (boat) again you have my permission to shoot me'. My bum is still recovering!

Frank Nawn

Well done Frank. BTW, I presume that you also cycled home!



Historic Artefacts required

Our previous plea for artefacts for the museum in Hursley proved very successful but we still need more.

The collection still has some gaps, in terms of artefacts, relevant to the history of IBM and IBM UK. The company's centennial year seems the appropriate time to fill some of those gaps.

If you have anything tucked away in your loft or garage, we would be very pleased to hear from you at hurseve@uk.ibm.com.

Rick Kellaway

Future Trips

Suggestions for 2012

The committee will be meeting in October to plan out our range of trips for 2012. Why not put your thinking caps on and send an email to news@hurrec.org.uk with any suggestions you may have. As you will have seen from this year's selection, our trips have been to venues that can cope with 200 people, to trips that appeal to a certain set of interests, e.g. the Edinburgh Tattoo trip and the Festival of Speed at Goodwood.

With the increased number of trips being offered, the committee would also appreciate any help that can be given in organising an event. Have no fear, you would not be left alone to do the 'whole thing' as a committee member would work with you. Do let me know if you can help out, most IBMers have the organizational skills – remember all those courses IBM sent you on.

Monet's Garden Trip

Regrettably, this trip which was scheduled for May 2012 has been cancelled. Insufficient numbers signed up to make this excursion viable.

A Tale From Some of the Trips

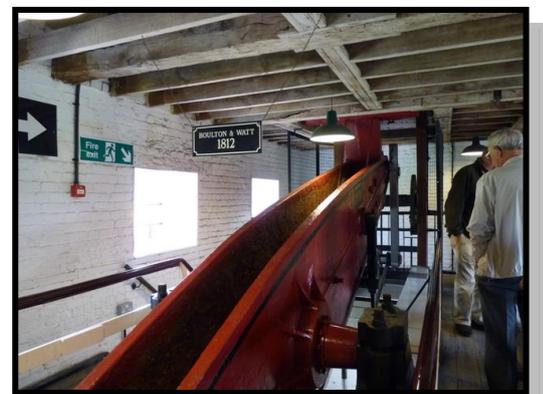
Crofton Beam Engine & The Kennett & Avon Canal



The weather was wonderful, warm with just a few clouds in sight and no sign of rain as Coach #1 left the pound at Hursley to wind its way to the Crofton Beam Engine museum. Only one coach on this route today, with the second coach making its own way to take in the sites of the day in 'the reverse order' to ourselves.

After an hour or so, we left the main A roads, and wound our way along country lanes towards Crofton. The

highlight of that part of the trip was watching the single-decker service bus reversing a couple of hundred yards to a farm gate where we could pass, since there was not even room for two cars to pass leave alone two buses. With such dexterity shown by the bus driver, reckon it must



be almost a daily occurrence that he gets the chance to show off his reversing skills!

We were greeted and treated like kings at the Crofton museum. Steam was full on, and the beam engine was in full working order pumping 2,640 gallons of water every minute. When the beam engine is working, British Waterways have to switch off their electric pumps so that there is no flooding. The oldest of the 2 working engines was installed in 1812, the other a mere 150 years old. Apparently, the modern electric engines last around 5 years. When they fail, the beam engine comes to the rescue to continue topping up the head of the canal! The staff, all volunteers, went out of their way to explain the workings to anyone who was interested.



Following a very welcome ploughman's lunch in the Museum we headed off to Hungerford to join 'The Rose of Hungerford', a canal barge fitted out to take 50 passengers, for a trip up the Kennett & Avon Canal. After the obligatory H&S info on fire safety (*Ed: why not just lean out the window!*) and what to do if the boat sinks (*Ed: Sit tight, and lift your feet off the ground so they don't get wet. But don't worry the canal is only around 2 to 3 foot deep!*), we set off for a very enjoyable, picturesque, and restful 90 minute cruise along the canal.

Being only 2 – 3 foot deep does not, it appears, stop the fish growing. All eyes turned to watch an angler land a 30lb carp.

The locks were, as expected, also a source of interest and many disembarked to watch the barge climb the locks; we encountered a total of 4. In order that we didn't need to retrace our route, our coach met us at a pre-arranged point, and we completed the day with a quick visit to the Canal Museum in Devizes.

An excellent day, made all the better by excellent weather.

Dartmouth Stream Railway & River Dart Cruise



Fire Alarms and Grey Seals, just two of the many highlights of the day.

It all started as my wife and I arrived early, well early for us, at the Hursley retirees' car parking compound. A line of cars was starting to form in IBM's drive; the gates to the compound were locked. Another committee member was already on his mobile to security, "They're on their way he shouted." Another 5 or more minutes passed, cars starting to park in Poles Lane, lining up the road as though it was 8am on the M25,.

Another call to security, "Getting a little concerned", say I, "we've got a parking lot down here". "Ah, but we have a fire alarm, and the guard has had to go and ensure there is no danger to anyone", came the reply.

And so started our long, but enjoyable day, on a trip with the Dartmouth Steam Railway and River Boat Company.

Leaving late and driving through the rain – well we were off to Devon and being an Exonian I only know too well that in Devon it rains 6 days out of seven – we made haste to Paignton. Fortunately we made good time until the last few miles. 11:45am we have to be there said the coach driver, sure do said I. As the waiting got longer, alternative plans

were being hatched. We agreed that the coach driver and I could shout “Choo Choo” and whistle as the coach instead of the train took us to Dartmouth!

Worries over, the traffic cleared and we arrived dead on time. A quick purchase of the ticket – have you ever bought a single ticket for 89 people, first time for me – and we were shown onto our reserved coach on the wonderful steam train that runs from Paignton to Kingswear.

“Welcome, who’s got the ticket”, said the train guard. “See the short bald bloke”, came the reply. (*I know who said that! No more trips for you, my boy*).

Talking to the train guard, he informed me that the ferry captain would announce on his tannoy from where the river boat cruise would start.

Having enjoyed the nostalgia of the train ride, we headed for the ferry. I found a line of people waiting, all held back by the ticket collector/seller until the ‘short bald bloke’ arrived with THE TICKET. “How many”. “89”, said I. “Can you count them through”, said he (Honest, he did). Me thinks, you got to be joking. A quick look at the line of people and said, “1, 10, 89, yep we’re all here”, and so the merry band jumped on the ferry.

Very quick crossing this, and as we docked I thought I would confirm from where the cruise boat departed. I asked the guy in the wheelhouse as we passed. As I said early, I was born in Exeter and can still do the dialect. The response from the wheel house in true Devonian was “Bugger, I forgot to read the message!”



So started out 2 hour break in Dartmouth, people heading in all directions with the local business and restaurant owners rubbing their hands with glee.

The River Dart cruise was an absolute delight, marred by the drizzle and rain that fell throughout the 75 minute journey. Our guide was full of fun and knowledge and delighted in pointing out the non-regular items on the trip, such as the fox cubs and the seals, as well as those of the standard script.

Soon it was 4:30, and we were docking in Totnes. Our coaches were ready and waiting, and we started on our 3 hour journey home, with Taunton Dean Services providing sustenance and creature comfort opportunities on the way.

A long day but, general consensus of opinion seemed to be, a very worthwhile and enjoyable day.

Bath and West Show



Trafalgar Clumps, or to be more correct ‘Nile Clumps’; it is amazing the things you learn on an IBM trip. As we headed west from Amesbury on our way to Shepton Mallet and the Bath and West show our driver came on the intercom. “Look across to the right and see those clumps of trees, those are the Trafalgar Clumps. The clumps of Beech trees are sighted in the same alignment as the French and British Ships, led by Nelson, at the Battle of the Nile in August 1798. They were planted in memory of Nelson after his death at

the Battle of Trafalgar.” In all the years that I have lived in this area, I am ashamed to admit that I did not know this piece of history.

The Bath and West Show was in its glory as the sun blazed down all day. The animals in the show rings, the children sitting on the grass watching cows being milked, the wonderful exhibits in the Flower Show marquee, the range of foods on display, and the main ring attractions all provided entertainment for a wonderful day out.



For me, not being one that is that interested in equestrian sports, the highlight of the Main Ring display was the Giant Sway pole. As the acrobat started to climb up the final 50 feet of the 190 foot tall pole, I started to get goose pimples where one shouldn't get goose pimples.



Up and up he went until almost out of sight. And not satisfied with climbing that high, he proceeded to perform acrobatic poses: hand stands, supporting himself on one leg, supporting himself on one arm... Did he have a safety harness, not from what I could see.

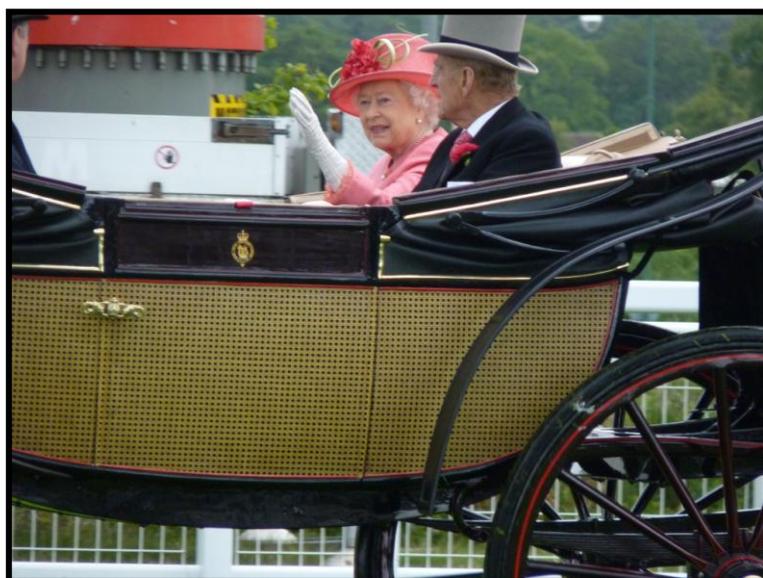
Having walked over most of the 240 acre site, taking time out to enjoy a true beef burger and a pint, looking around all those interesting outlet shops that one only finds at large shows, marvelling at the beauty of the steam traction engines, it was soon time to make our way back to the coach. Like everyone on board, I submit we were all glad to sink into the seat and let the coach driver take the strain for the rest of the day.

Ladies Day at Ascot Races

“pitter patter, pitter patter”, just the sound one doesn't want to hear when one is arising to head out for a day at the races, Royal Ascot no less. That is the sound that nearly 90 trepid souls heard as they made their way to Hursley.

We sat in our cars until the first coach arrived, a 59 seater. As the second coach did not arrive for another 10 minutes, as many as possible got on board; made counting rather easy for the organiser when we left following a stop. Those in the second coach had the benefit of 2 seats each!

On to Windsor, and a nice solid drizzle, you know the sort of rain. Doesn't come down in stair rods, but you still get very very wet if out in it. The coffee shops did a roaring trade, until we all boarded our coaches to head-off for Ascot.





the ladies in all their finery. The prize must go to the young lady with a feathery hat, a very smart summer dress, and BLACK WELLY BOOTS. Bet Ralph Lauren didn't think of that outfit.

After the excitement of winning and losing money to the bookies, oh and watching the horses gallop past at a vast rate of knots, it was soon all over and time to make our way back to the coaches.

Jumping on board, one could hear the comments of those that had beaten the bookies, and see their smiles. Many were very quiet!

Goodwood's Festival of Speed

On Saturday July 1 a packed coach left for the Festival of Speed in Goodwood Park - reputedly the largest and most diverse celebration of the history of motorsport.



"What's that", said someone, "enough blue sky to make a sailors uniform". And it was true, the sky was lifting, the rain stopping and the sun started to poke its rays through the clouds.

Recognising that the weather would make the ground a little on the damp side, several of us had our picnics and wine by/in the coach before heading off to the races.

At 2:00pm sharp, the Queen's procession started down the course in the sunshine, and so started a glorious day at the races. With the exception of a couple of very heavy thunder-type showers, the rain held off, and we were able to observe



There were many engaging activities of interest around the Park but the centrepiece was a 1.16 mile hill climb which continuously featured over the day runs by old and new racing cars from Le Mans, Indy, Nascar and Formula 1. At the grid, amongst others, Jenson Button thrilled the crowd with the sight and smell of short runs featuring screaming engines and burnt rubber.

The celebration of the centenary of the Indy 500 was particularly impressive with 33 Indianapolis cars lining-up outside of Goodwood House amid the pageantry of a marching band and the singing of the traditional Indy song 'Back Home again in Indiana'.

Incidentally, Goodwood House was dominated by an incredible 150 ton sculpture of Britain's favourite sports car - the Jaguar E-type.

Static displays and racing teams could be found in the various Paddocks. There was one for Rally Cars, one for Supercars, another for American Legends and yet another Paddock for Formula 1 – legendary cars to the latest. The latter paddock also included a stunning array of motorcycles.

Just before midday we were treated to a display by the Red Arrows. Motorsport was forgotten for a time while petrol heads looked skywards and the Reds criss-crossed the sky with their precision aerobatics.

Finally there was the Goodwood Cricket Pitch transformed into an arena featuring top riders performing gravity defying stunts using mountain bikes to motor-cross machines.

All in all a great day out with lots of exercise. With July temperatures it inevitably meant several pit-stops for the excellent organic ale being served there.



Swanage



Three coaches departed for the seaside, two of which transferred the occupants to the local steam train at Nordor station while the third continued on to Swanage.

All went smoothly with first class views of Corfe Castle to keep the snappers happy. The weather was fair, quite windy but dry.

The first objective was to find a suitable place for lunch. This was not easy because for some reason, many eating houses were not open. Our group of four eventually found The White Horse Pub which looked OK.(We found the secretary and his party inside already.) The menu offered a good selection with dish of the day being fish and chips which

looked and smelt good and it enticed three of the group to place their orders. The fourth member espied another selection entitled Steak and Piddle Pie! Being more adventurous than others, he placed his order,(after all, a mans gotta do what a mans gotta do!)

All four meals turned out to be excellent, so the White Horse has become a highly recommended eating house for the future, (especially the pie!). Another excellent day.

