

# Bits & Bytes

No 23

## Editorial

I was walking past the cricket field in my village one Sunday this summer and saw a list of matches being played by the Goring Sunday team. I was very surprised to see that they were playing ICL Bracknell that very afternoon. I thought that I should go and watch just in case I recognised any of the players. I didn't, which isn't very surprising, as I last worked in BRA01 about 16 years ago! However I introduced myself to the bearded captain who turned out to be a trustee of the ICL Pension Fund and was aware of this newsletter. I hope that this edition contains an article, (that I twisted his arm for), about what goes on in Bracknell now.

I have established contact with the Nortel UK Pensions Manager Louise Hammond and discovered that their newsletter Newslink has undergone a major change in recent months. It will only be published twice a year, will be only four pages and does not carry an obituary list as it used to. Bits & Bytes will continue to carry obits and can be sent to all ex ICT/ICL Nortel pensioners if they want to see who has died..

**Adrian Turner**

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## Fujitsu Services

### Good News

#### Fujitsu Services posts record financial results for 2005/6

Fujitsu Services Holdings PLC announced 26 June its financial results for 2005/06. The company made an operating profit before rationalisation of £153.7 million and a profit before tax of £154.3 million in the year ended 31 March 2006, an increase of 47% from 2004/05. The company's order book has grown to £6.5 billion. These numbers reflect International Financial Reporting Standards and comparisons are on a like for like basis.

David Courtley, CEO commented, "I am delighted with the financial results for 2005/06. It proved an excellent year for Fujitsu Services with total revenues of £2,293.7 million, an increase of 16% from 2004/05. I believe it is our emphasis on continually looking at ways to deliver better services to our customers that has been responsible for the improved

performance and revenue growth in both our government and commercial businesses

He continued: "The year saw many significant contracts come through, including the e-HR programme for the Northern Ireland Civil Service and the Northern Ireland Office, the extension to the HMRC ASPIRE contract and the outsourced desktop service agreement with LloydsTSB. Our business in mainland Europe have also been rewarded, especially in the financial services and retail sectors, with new contracts being signed with the Spanish-based bank La Caixa and Auchan the France-based retail group.

During the previous financial year the Board took the decision that Fujitsu Services would adopt International Financial Reporting Standards and International Accounting

Standards as adopted by the European Union (collectively IFRS) on 1 April 2005. As such 2005/06 are the first results prepared according to IFRS, with 2004/05 results and balances sheets at 31 March 2004 and 31 March 2005 also being restated for IFRS.

The impact of IFRS for Fujitsu Services relates mainly to revenue recognition on long-term contracts and pension fund accounting. Revenues of £191 million and associated margins which would have been recognised in 2005/06 and subsequent years under UK GAAP have been recognised in earlier years under IFRS.

In addition Fujitsu Services liability in respect of the defined benefit pension schemes it operates has been brought on balance sheet under IAS19. Full details of the Group's transition to IFRS can be found in the full financial statements of Fujitsu Services Holdings PLC.

#### Table of financial results (2004/05 results restated for IFRS):

	2005/06 £m	2004/05 £m
Revenue	2,293.7	1,978.7
Group operating profit before rationalisation	153.7	101.9
Group operating profit after rationalisation	140.8	97.3
Profit before tax	154.3	105.2
Total Equity	148.0	38.6
Net cash	107.4	83.4
Order book	6.5bn	6.0bn

## United Co-operatives selects Fujitsu to assist in achieving growth plans

United Co-operatives, one of the largest retail co-operatives in Europe, signed a contract worth £4.2 million with Fujitsu Services for the rollout of a retail software solution across its entire food retail estate of over 500 stores and 1,500 Point of Sale (PoS) systems.

## Northern Ireland's Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) awards e-HR contract to Fujitsu Services

Fujitsu Services has been awarded a central government Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) contract by Northern Ireland's Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP). The project, worth c£185 million over 15 years, is part of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Reform Agenda – a series of programmes designed to meet the growing demands placed upon public services. This particular programme will transform and modernise the structure and delivery of personnel services to 28,000 people across the NICS and the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) through an electronic Human Resource (e-HR) system.

## Working for ICL/Fujitsu Was it so Great?

In some ways I am sorry to say I do not yet qualify for submitting to your excellent news letter, but having had my attention drawn to an article in the Spring offering (No 22) I feel I must take issue with Mr Pickett. Like Peter, I joined ICL as a slotted hole punch engineer, although slightly later in September 1970. I cannot understand how he can make such assertions having worked in the punch room environment of the early 70s. I have never worked for any other company and I can honestly say that those years spent as a DP engineer through to working on 1900, 2900, CAFS 800 and Series 39 systems, could not have been happier. I'm sure the good times must have been interspersed with the less than good, but I can't readily draw them to mind. I have been privileged to work with characters that made the working day an enjoyable, fulfilling experience and I am pleased to say that I look forward to the company of some of them now when we meet of a Friday to chat over the odd half of fine ale

Chris Finn WAK01

## Was it so Great?

Peter Pickett's letter (Spring Edition 2006) brought a lot of memories flooding back. ICL was a most exasperating organisation to work for. For me there were some interesting, challenging and exciting times. But no, it wasn't all great, and some of it was unbelievably bad.

I worked in Support, Sales and Training for a total of 29 years in two periods with ICL – 1960 to 1973, and 1986 to 2002. In the interim I worked for Control Data (remember them?), the NHS and various other bodies. I found all organisations suffered from much the same tensions.

In my view ICL lost its way and sense of identity following the departure of Peter Bonfield and the selling off of the manufacturing crown jewels in

Manchester. Peter B delivered eight consecutive years of profit (remember British Gas £400m mainframe order?) and ICL was a company to which I was proud to contribute. After PB's departure there were years of thundering losses. And there was nothing to be proud of any more. Some good names went soon after him. Richard Livesey-Howorth springs to mind as the only Sales Director worth the title.

I am reminded of the long standing truism from the novel UHURU, about the 1950s Mau Mau uprising in Kenya... **"When we take away the customs, culture and religion of a people, we better replace it with Something of Value."**

Sadly ICL did not find anything of value. Instead there was a series of measures aimed at trying to convince the outside world, but mainly itself, that ICL was at the forefront of whatever was most fashionable at the time. Perception became the byword, and style took precedence over substance.

A £1m project in which I was once involved was canned because in the words of my then manager "it's no longer fashionable" He eventually got the push but far too late. The damage was done.

Various re-organisations came and went with increasing desperation as did Corporate Strategies. Reorganisation fatigue set in among confused staff.

One year we were "Systems Integration Providers" When, not unsurprisingly, that didn't work we became "Service Providers"; after that something else.

ICL retreated into navel gazing by becoming "Process Driven"; inventing a "Process" for everything. That however did not solve the real problem of not generating enough revenue. Generating revenue is difficult when the product portfolio keeps changing and people are not too sure what they are trying to sell, or to whom. It was easier to cut costs.

A big mistake was to dismantle the Personnel Grading System. Once that went nobody knew where they fitted and had nothing to aim for. It took away incentive for Career Progression because there were no careers. Just jobs.

Appraisals led to the "Tick-in-a-Box" culture where you may survive if you got enough Ticks even though the Boxes were no longer relevant.

Then came the big flotation disaster.

There were undoubtedly some exceptional leaders in ICL. But there were too few and many never stayed long enough to make a difference. Some were fired. And there was always a level of management whose competence was inversely proportional to their egos. Some aspired to mediocrity but never quite got there.

Yes there were some great times in ICL, and some memorable successes; but my last few years were tinged with increasing sadness that My Company had lost its way. Leadership was uninspiring and direction indecisive.

So I agree with Peter Pickett – not everything was So Great. It could have been so much better. But ICL was probably no different from most other confused organisations struggling to manage change.

Things appear to be different now and Fujitsu seems to be growing the business and flourishing, with a more long term vision and pragmatic common sense.

But I am now however very happily retired and living a satisfyingly active and fulfilling life. Like

many others Pensioners I pursue many rewarding interests because I value them. And I rely on my own judgement – not someone else's.

That freedom really is Something of Value!

**Bob Millar**

## **The Early Days were Great**

What a shame that Peter Pickett has such negative memories of his career at ICL (B & B Spring 2006). I joined ICT in Manchester at about the same time as he did but as a PLAN programmer (1900 Series) and seem to have had a much happier time.

I am the sort of person who cannot resist a cryptic crossword or a brainteaser so I was in my element. The atmosphere in our office was easygoing and friendly; we helped each other when necessary but otherwise worked independently. As the programs were for customers (free of charge in those days!), there were many customer visits which often involved driving around in our beautiful northwest scenery. I frequently thought, "fancy being paid for doing this!" I consider I was born at just the right time to benefit from the rapidly developing computer era. There were always new products coming along, from discs in the late 60s, and then VDUs, networking etc to get to grips with, so life was never boring. How satisfying it was to solve a customer's problem. There were good promotion opportunities if you were prepared to face a "panel". I even overcame my fear of flying by having to take frequent shuttles to London or Edinburgh.

However, by the late 80s when the management seemed to be getting younger and younger and their "new" organisational ideas appeared to be the same as those we had seen decades earlier, I suppose we old stagers were getting a little jaded. Shuttle flights were replaced by 400 mile round trips in the company car; the electronic office speeded up the pace of life; beepers and mobile phones could find you anywhere. Definitely time to go, aided by a redundancy/early retirement package!

Now I can reflect on an excellent career. I am also able to exploit the many business and personal skills I acquired at ICL enabling me to enjoy a fulfilling and busy retirement.

**Julia Dickinson 1966 – 1992 John Dalton St;  
Alberton House; Arndale  
dickinsonj@aol.com**

## **Problem Solving**

Reading a recent article in Bits & Bytes "View of Problem Solving in the 1980's" which related tales of a field engineer scratching his head and tackling malfunctions I was reminded of an exercise in which I was involved (as a guinea pig).

To give a bit of background: it was "known" – folklore or fact I can't say, in any case it was believed – that some field engineers had the knack of looking in the right place for a fault by some undefined inspirational method whereas others had to apply a more lengthy diagnosis process to achieve success. Maybe some engineers were, like Napoleon's preferred generals, just lucky. Whatever, it was decided to mount an exercise to do some profiling of engineers to see what characteristic(s) distinguished the "lucky" ones from the others – with a view to then designing a selection test that could be applied at recruitment time. And why not extend the exercise to other disciplines?

This is where I come in. I and a group of fellow Project Managers were subjected to a number of tests and observations to try to identify what personal traits were prevalent in such a group in excess of the general population. (pause here for ribald asides about capacity to consume beer, and other calumnies). Until this time the only test I had undergone was the Aptitude Test, taken in 1962, after which I was recruited as a Programmer.

Anyway, back to the recollection. We PMs were partnered with a group of sales people who were also being assessed under the same programme and one of the exercises involved throwing balls into a bucket, very similar to the fairground sideshow game that I'm sure we've all played. Each participant was asked first to forecast how many balls they would get in the bucket out of ten attempts – the forecast to be made without knowing what others were forecasting or achieving. Sales people forecast on average about 7 or 8; PMs forecast about 5. We then had a go at the game and the average achievement was three! There was no difference in achievement between Sales people and PMs. Some conclusions on attitude to goal setting, risk and aspiration can probably be drawn from this, but there's more: Armed with this knowledge we then played a second round of the game, for which the rules were:

To take part would cost 50p, but one could decline to play

Each player could make a fresh forecast, which must be for at least 5

If the player achieved his forecast he won £1 for each ball in the forecast.

The outcome was that few PMs but most of the sales people took part. Forecasts in general were a little lower in this second round than the first – based on the knowledge of what had already happened of course but also believing that one's technique would have developed. The programme facilitators finished with a profit.

I guess we can see the stereotypes often attached to sales people and PMs showing through but I don't know to what extent any insights gained may have found their way into recruitment practices. And if any people played the bucket game at a recruitment day I doubt they are yet pensioners, but maybe a retired HR-er might know?

**David Richardson Ex Dataskil**

## **Working for Fujitsu**

It was a rather cloudy afternoon, I was sitting outside the pavilion watching the ensuing game, Fujitsu were batting and Goring were fielding, when Adrian approached and introduced himself as an ex ICL employee. Being a long time employee (a lifer of 36 years) our paths had not crossed but we found we had a lot in common as I am currently working in Bracknell BRA01 which was one of Adrian's previous office locations. Adrian asked me to write an article for the Bits & Bytes periodical, which goes to the Pensioners community just to give an update of what currently is happening with Fujitsu.

My name is Mike Stewart and I am a SDM (Service Delivery Manager) working on the POA Post Office Account. For those who may not be aware that Fujitsu won the POA back in 1996, developed the system & the software and implemented the service across the whole Post Office Network which was 19,000 Post Offices back in 1996 taking 18 months to

complete. So every time you go into a Post Office the computer system behind the counter with all the Hardware, Software, Network connections, On-line services (Debit Cards, Credit Cards, Payments etc) are all covered and support by Fujitsu. This contract is currently set to run to 2010, but we are in the process of re-negotiating the contract to assist the Post Office to make savings but also to get a contract extension to 2015.

Fujitsu - the overall company- is going from strength to strength achieving the best yearly results for some time and over achieving its budget with a £122m profit before tax. There has been some significant large business wins recently with Fujitsu picking up 2 of the Regional Health contracts for the on-line patients records systems. A large business win the Ireland Banking arena, the winning of the Aspire contract the Inland Revenue system knocking out the existing supplier EDS, this is a 10 year contract.

There have been some other major account wins across all sectors of the business and Fujitsu is pursuing many more large business contracts to expand its portfolio and growth, to this end it looking to grow more in Central Europe and to help it do this it is currently looking to purchase a large European company operation.

On the social side there is of course the TVC ,Thames Valley Club, which I am sure you know is at the Bracknell location BRA01, and I know several Pension Meetings have been held there at the TVC premises. Staff of Fujitsu can join the TVC and the cost is £1 per month to which the company puts an equivalent amount into the TVC. The TVC sponsors several sections, mainly sport but some social. It arranges theatre trips, overseas trips to events, vineyards or shopping trips. It has an exceptional and enthusiastic Wine section. I am the chairman of the Cricket Club, also a keen Squash member and captain, and we also get a personal trainer attend the TVC on a Monday (Aerobics) and Wednesday (Circuits) which enables some members to get off their bums and PC's and get fit.

So back to the afternoons' cricket match, which although the weather did its best to improve and I managed to add 23 runs to the overall total of 196, we were doing exceptionally well in dismissing the Goring batsmen, taking their first 6 wickets for 110, but then they managed to halt the wicket loss and their batsmen dug in to see the game peter out to a tame draw, still the Goring social club is always a welcoming site after the game (well the prices are).

On the Pension front I am also a Trustee Board member and this year 2006 is the 3 year period that the plan has its official audit. This is currently taking place and as with all major large company pension plans there will be an on-going deficit as there was in the previous audit period. Although our assets have done exceptionally well and the plan has grown to £1.85b, the liabilities continue to grow as people live longer and the government keeps changing the accountancy rules. Still the good news for you pensioners who have pensions in payment which are guaranteed, there is also the PPF Pension Protection Fund that the government has put in place to which the company now has to pay an annual levy fee to is there to support the active members.

I hope you are all keeping active and if wish to be come more active I am sure that if you are near

Bracknell a TVC section is looking for more members.

**Mike Stewart BRA01**

## Letters

### Derek Windsor & Frank Townsend

I was sad to read of the deaths of Derek Windsor and Frank Townsend.

Derek and I joined the Navy together in 1948 and after our initial training and technical courses we met up again as part of the 17th Carrier Air Group.

We joined HMS Ocean at Rosyth in June 1951 and sailed to Malta where we spent some time ashore at Hal far. We subsequently rejoined Ocean and sailed out to Korea for the final phases of the war out there, returning to Plymouth December 1953.

I have photos of Del and me during that time.

He joined BTM/ICT some time after me I think and we met occasionally.

Frank Townsend, Peter Bradley, Alan Ray and I were part of the FEHQ team at Luton for a while and I am sorry Frank has joined the Great BTM in the Sky.

Nice to know Pete is still about, also John Sherlock whom I phoned recently.

John was my "Inspector" in those days and we went to Wakefield together for me to trouble-shoot a 1201 fault at Wakefield County Council. He introduced me to Hot Rum Toddy's which cost 2/6p (Half a Crown) at the time.

**Norman & Pat Wood**

### The Great OPD Debate

You mention in the recent Bits and Bytes that you had had a good response to the article about OPD's.

Did any of your correspondents say that they would like one?

I have a B&W OPD complete with box, full accessories and manuals in my loft. It's free to a good home. It probably needs a bit of attention but as it's years since I used it I can't remember why.

At one stage in my life with ICL I was working at REA08 and other miscellaneous REA offices as I was with Dataskil and then the Manufacturing Business Unit. This was despite living in Macclesfield, Cheshire.

I found the OPD very useful as I was able to have either a Friday or a Monday at home occasionally and write Service Planning Guides etc on the OPD and then send them over the phone lines to an ICL mainframe. I would then develop them further and publish them whilst in Reading.

Little did I know I was pioneering a way of life that is now normal for many people. The OPD was great and would have been even greater if it had been marketed better.

**Mike H Wootton**

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# Life after ICL

## THREE SCORE AND QUITE A BIT

**“It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive”  
Robert Louis Stevenson.**

I first read this quotation as a child. Eventually I understood it, but I was already building up hopes and expecting things to come up to expectations.

Looking forward to something was part of the fun. I couldn't wait for school holidays, Bonfire night or Christmas and I never realised that the event was never as good as it was cracked up to be!

At the pictures the lurid trailer promised the ultimate in entertainment next week. After one of those long weeks that dragged on in childhood, the promised film came round, it was all right, and then it was the trailer for the following week's epic, which really was going to be brilliant, they promised!

With something on the horizon, I could withstand the boredom of the present. Eventually, it dawned on me that grown-ups didn't keep promises. In 1939, when I was about 13, my weekly comic, The Hotspur was offering for free, “A fabulous library of books on the fighting forces, if you order now” Just to make sure there wasn't a catch, I read the small print. It appeared you got one of the fabulous books, but if you purchased the sister publications namely; Adventure, Rover, Wizard and Skipper the entire library was yours! It took a lot of persuading Mum to come up with the additional 8d. but with Dad away in the army, I was good at “pining for my father” The long wait for the week of publication ended with the Adventure on the Monday. It contained a 3”x3” stapled booklet totalling eight pages, equivalent to a couple of sheets of the comic. I hurried round to the paper shop and explained that I'd not received my first book. The man behind the counter assured me, “That was the book and didn't I know there's a war on and paper is rationed?” I didn't enjoy the other four bumper books after that.

Setting my sights on a certainty, I dwelt on when the war would be over. Even then it was an anti-climax, as the peace didn't live up to what was promised and I was still hungry!

Through the years, most long awaited events disappoint, but the terms serendipity and happenstance spring to mind, even though I'm not too sure about them!

Recently I've been offered the ultimate in promises. British Gas has given me a free survey of the heating efficiency of my house. If I install about £1000 of improvements, I'll save around £100 in previously wasted energy. I hesitated, but the clincher was a guarantee that my investment would eventually be paid back. The item I liked best was thermostatic valves to each radiator. For a layout of £250 I would get my money back in TWENTY-THREE YEARS. With a guarantee like that, it means I'll be around to write even more whingeing articles until I'm 103, Adrian!

This coming birthday, my Eightieth, is the first I'm not getting excited about. Up till now, old age was always a decade ahead. Could it be I'm on the verge of being old?

Still, when one thinks of the only alternative to making 80, it doesn't seem so bad after all!

**Dennis Goodwin**

**dennis@dennisgoodwin.wanadoo.co.uk**

## Saving the Children

I took early retirement in April 1991 having worked for ICL for 29 years in various parts of the company and at 14 different locations. Since then I have worked as a volunteer for Save the Children resulting in the following press release being made by Save the Children in January 2006. I hope former friends and colleagues might be interested in how I have used my time in retirement.

Save the Children volunteer, Les Hodges was rewarded for his exceptional contribution to improving the lives of children around the world. Earlier this week he received an MBE in the Queens New Year honours for his work within the community.

Les Hodges has been involved with Save the Children for 23 years. He's been Chair and Treasurer of Hitchin Save the Children branch and has devoted an enormous amount of time raising much-needed funds. The branch has been outstandingly successful and Les has run record-breaking house-to-house collections for many years.

Les has also been involved in developing fundraising activity regionally and nationally and received a Save the Children award from Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal in 2000. He continues to give his time to Save the Children and a number of other organizations in Hitchin.

Les Hodges said that

“I have enjoyed being involved with Save the Children and have made many good friends through helping to raise money for such a worthwhile cause. I decided when I took early retirement to devote even more of my time to Save the Children as I wanted to make a difference. I would like to thank everyone for the help they have so willingly given me in making that difference, especially my wife Helen who has worked so hard with me for the same cause.”

Ian McKay, Head of Fundraising, Save the Children, ‘Les’ extraordinary achievements have undoubtedly led to huge benefits for the hundreds of thousands of vulnerable children around the world that we work with. On behalf of those children I would like to thank him for his on-going commitment to Save the Children.’

**Les Hodges, Hitchin,**

**l.r.hodges@ntlworld.com**

## Bathrooms & Kitchens

I have been inspired to write by Dennis Goodwin's very apt and amusing letter in B&B no. 22 where he gave a view of his Life after ICL and the loss of one's technical faculties that occur as we approach an advanced age. I have the same problem Dennis.

I used to consider myself to be an average technician – especially around the house, so much so that when redundancy finally caught up with me I cheekily started up a small limited company designing and building bathrooms and kitchens for other people, (always practice on other people's property before your own.)

The business took off and before long I had 3 teams out covering all trades and my wife and myself as directors. She managed the finances; VAT, wages paying suppliers etc. and I got the business and controlled the work and materials.

I still kept my hands on the tools. Incidentally I still have my old ICL tool bag and a lot of the tools too - particularly my test meter, over 45 years old

and still accurate, purchased in **Düsseldorf** and powered by a no. 8 battery. (Hard to get these days.) When I was widowed I slowed down a bit and finally **RETIRED** in 1999 for a rest.

Having said that I am really chuffed to tell you that I have just finished a brand new kitchen for my new wife - single handed - except I can no longer lift a 3 meter length of 40mm worktop on my own any more. I think my knees are trying to tell me something. There were more than 20 cupboards and wall units from flat pack, together with washing machine, cooker, hob, extractor, sink, electrics, halogen lighting and over 1000 tiles.

My wife is very pleased with her new kitchen and thanked me profusely in the way that only she knows how. I enjoyed it so much that I am anxious to start the next job for her as soon as possible.

I digress. The real reason for this article is not to discuss Life after ICL so much as to too worry about the dramatic changes in attitudes that we suffer these days.

No one says thank you for a job well done anymore. We tend to accept things without regard to the thought and effort that goes into the things we all now take so much for granted.

We were always encouraged to be polite to our customers from the machine room supervisor to the youngest punch operator and always be properly dressed with collar and tie even though our hands were covered with oil and ribbon ink.

That was expected by our management and we were frequently thanked and respected by them for it.

What happened? Where did it go wrong?

To help redress the situation I would like to thank the one person who has been polite, hard working, helpful and enthusiastic on our behalf over the years and has kept all of us informed and amused and more importantly in contact with each other.

There cannot be many groups of retired colleagues around that share the unique sprit that exists with us especially as the company we once worked for no longer exists, has kept us old ICL types together through the pages of his fine newsletter **Bits & Bytes** and the frequent get-togethers at Stevenage and elsewhere, has kept us informed and enlightened about the old firm.

**Peter Walker**

## Reunions

### Helsinki Reunion

On 24 June 06 I travelled to Helsinki, for the first time in 41 years, for a holiday with my wife.

The internet helped me locate Timo Mannerma the Kesko DP manager and he met us at the airport. We actually recognised each other despite having no contact over 40 years.

I worked there in 1964 and 65, with support engineers from FEHQ on the six ICT 1500 / RCA 301 systems that Kesko bought to control the deliveries to all their depots up and down the length of Finland.

Orders were placed by telex and 5 channel paper tapes were input to the 1500s, when they then produced the invoices and delivery notes in Helsinki. The boxes of paper were then sent by road rail and air to the depots so that they could make the deliveries next day. I can remember being asked by the customer whether ICT could connect a remote printer to the Helsinki systems so that the

documents could be produced in the depots. Forty years ago Data Communications were not available let alone Networking! Things have come a long way in 40 years.

Helsinki city centre has not changed over the ensuing period but the general feel of the place certainly has. There is a definite feeling of well being which was not evident in the mid 60s. Travelling to work on the tram was quite dismal with very few smiling faces. People were very dour, and we never heard English spoken other than in Kesko. Now everybody in the shops and restaurants appears to be happy and the standard and cost of living very similar to the UK. There are even Russian tour buses which at the height of the Cold War would have seemed impossible.

**Adrian Turner**

### ICL Central London Group

The next reunion will be on Wednesday 18 Oct 2006 at **The Flying Horse** at **52 Wilson Street**, from 12 noon. The pub is east of Finsbury Square.

**John Doo 01245 465830**

### Oxford Engineers

Nineteen attended the Oxford Reunion on Friday 24 March 06 and enjoyed a very pleasant 3 hours chat and lunch; I hope to arrange the next get together at the Chequers Burcot on Friday 27th October 2006. Please come along and share memories with your old friends.

**Ken Jones 01865 340388**

**kenwynjones@aol.com**

### Surrey Engineers

We had our meeting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Nineteen attended for a sit down meal at the Shepherd & Flock pub at Farnham and another four turned up later for drinks and chat. A very good evening was enjoyed, with good food, service and company. Dick Godden organised the event in the absence of Trevor Harding who was away.

Another meeting has been suggested for late October/November. Let's see how many are interested.

**Trevor Harding 01483 565144**

**trevor.harding@iclway.co.uk**

## OBITUARIES

### Cedric Dickens

In the early 1950's we had the great good fortune to join the company, which eventually became ICL, and come under the wing of Cedric Dickens. He was heading up the Government Region and had recognised that to obtain the big orders we needed to be dealing with management at the highest level, for us a daunting prospect, but not for Cedric. He was at ease in dealing with the most senior mandarin as he was with the nationalised industry manager who had worked his way up from the shop floor.

Cedric never interfered with the technical side. His management style was to show, by example, how to deal with people. At the end of the 50's our career paths took different directions. But we never lost touch, 3 or 4 times a year we would exchange hand written cards and we got our last ones just a month before he died. So far as we know there are only 5 members of the original team Cedric set up in the

1950's surviving. In addition to ourselves they are Len Gross, Dennis Paul, Frank Worsfold and Rosemary Gales. Together with Cedric the 7 of us accumulated 264 years of service in the company!

Working for Cedric was deeply satisfying and good fun and we owe him an enormous debt.

**Graham Morris & Ray Kilroy.**

## Bernard Russell

After 4 years of remission, Bernard Russell sadly lost his battle with cancer and passed away peacefully at St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger in May 2006.

Bernard was well regarded by his colleagues and was devoted to his wife and family.

*'A keen, conscientious colleague who always seemed to be happy in whatever he was being asked to do'. 'I remember Bernard as one of the more intellectual thinkers I came across in ICL', 'having people like Bernard around certainly contributed greatly to making it a stimulating place to work'. 'A great guy'.*

Bernard joined ICL in 1962, based at Stevenage (now STE04 but known at that time as the 'New Labs'). Bernard spent his early years in George Roberts' Data Systems branch, where he worked on Standards with John Frampton (his 'mentor'). Bernard then moved to Product Line Comms but, when the unit moved to Kidsgrove, Bernard transferred instead to Letchworth Development Centre (LDC) headed by Jack Houldsworth. In the early 80s, Bernard was engaged, amongst other things, in developing the standards for Open System Interconnection (OSI). Showing the lighter side of his nature, Bernard also published a spoof paper under a pseudonym describing the architecture of a 'new concept', the 'Hyperspace Gateway', which could connect virtually anything to anything (perhaps it was the inspiration for the Internet!).

Mindful of the difficulties experienced by others new to Data Communications and in his desire to help others, as was typical of Bernard; he produced a 'Noddy Guide to Data Communications. This became an invaluable guide for field engineers and was copied extensively. Bernard was subsequently involved in a variety of roles within data networking including hardware and software development, customer projects, product management and marketing.

In 1992, Bernard left ICL to work for Nortel Networks as a Product Manager, subsequently as a Product Marketing Manager for multi-vendor optical networks and then Manager, Preside Strategic Marketing (International). Bernard kept in touch with former colleagues via the annual 'Viking Reunion', organised by Keith Crook, now known as the Letchworth Gathering.

After being on sick leave for a year, Bernard finished work in the summer of 2001. During his 4 years of remission from the cancer, Bernard was an active member of St Andrew's Church in Biggleswade, leading the Communications committee, producing the weekly notices sheet, setting up and maintaining a church web site, as well as frequently being called upon to 'sort out' the parish office's ailing computer. He also made the most of these years enjoying short breaks and holidays and spending time with family and friends.

**Roger Chick (with thanks for contributions from former colleagues and Tricia Russell)**

## Brian Parker

In the days I was associated with the early 2900 systems, Brian Parker and his "Logic Analyser" was invaluable in helping identify many nasty intermittent faults.

The 2900 systems were rushed through with most of the error checking logic either unproven or inhibited (tied off). This meant that faults multiplied until the systems ground to a halt.

With his help we were able to list possible logic errors and set the analyzer to trap them and see what sequence they occurred in. The systems I remember using the analysers on were 2970, GPC, DFC, HFC, SAC and SMAC, that is most of the mainframe.

Brian saved us many hours of digging in an almost impossible situation.

Other people were also happy to use Brian Parker and his analysers both in CESO as we were then) and in design and development, both in Manchester and in Stevenage, probably Kidsgrove too (I had a lot less involvement)

Sorry to hear we have lost Brian Parker. I remember him with affection as a clever quiet unassuming man always ready to help. A friend as well as a respected colleague

**Jim Borg- Cardona**

**Read Brian's article in B&B No 21 to see what he did - Editor**

## ICL/Nortel Fund

BRA05	Ollerenshaw	JR	27/03/06	68
	Jackson	Bill	22/08/06	76
BRA	Muhlenstedt	Sheila B	03/03/06	84
BRS01	Minett	KJ	19/03/06	77
CAF02	Vizard	Alfred J	20/03/06	77
Croydon	Masterman	George L	09/05/06	91
FEL01	Rhodes	Ronald	16/03/06	81
	Kemp	James T	31/05/06	79
GAT01	Walton	H A	02/07/06	78
IPS01	Storey	George E	02/04/06	76
KID01	Richie	A	11/05/06	77
	Heath	John R	20/05/06	75
KID02	Clowes	James H	05/03/06	80
	Heraty	Dennis J	22/05/06	71
KID	Jones	Clifford	05/06/06	76
	Shaw	James S	04/06/06	76
	Groom	George	16/06/06	91
	Griffiths	James R	08/07/06	71
LET03	Seager	Anthony R	24/05/06	75
LET04	Moules	Ronald A	08/08/06	88
	Bygrave	Victor R H	18/03/06	88
LET05	Kirk	RG	03/04/06	67
	Dovey	Thomas C	15/08/06	80
	Withers	Arthur W	30/04/06	84
	Green	Thomas M	27/06/06	88
LET06	Foskett	J W	10/06/06	83
LET	Wright	A T	13/04/06	90
	Lloyd	B J	05/08/06	84
	Millard	Douglas R	18/04/06	80
	Griffiths	John W	22/06/06	90
LON13	Moorhouse	Ian E	13/04/06	81
	Driver	Ronald L	28/03/06	80
LON14	Rabbits	B G	28/05/06	86
LON15	Occardi	Valerio D	09/07/06	73

LON30	Manley	P H	31/08/06	75
	Smith	George H	25/07/06	75
LON31	Murdock	Peter F	27/05/06	81
LON	Chapman	E W	10/06/06	80
MAN01	Cadman	Nicholas	30/04/06	80
	Bennett	C	30/06/06	80
MAN05	Baylis	G N	10/04/06	80
	Chadwick	Arthur	23/05/06	84
	Leese	John A	10/05/06	80
	Clayton	Neville R	17/05/06	73
	Haley	Gordon	29/03/06	76
	Howarth	Mary H	04/04/06	81
	Prescott	J	01/09/06	75
	Powell	Madeleine	01/07/06	81
	Hulse	W	01/07/06	80
MAN08	Cooper	Wilfred	29/03/06	85
MAN	Beckett	T	09/06/06	92
	Stone	William	28/07/06	85
MDN04	Boydall	Kenneth B	15/05/06	71
NEL01	Watts	Elsie M	29/04/06	89
Newcastle	Robinson	James H	10/03/06	76
Oxford	Hardman	George A	27/05/06	83
	Hoidge	JH	14/06/06	89
Reading	Mackichan	Brian B	20/03/06	92
STE04	Cooper	J M	11/04/06	74
STE12	Poulter	A E	16/08/06	79
Stevenage	Hay	Brian A	20/05/06	80
	Marshall	R W	18/03/06	92
WAK01	Gutteridge	C A	16/08/06	76
WIN01	Hawkes	Lawrence	03/08/06	82
	Kidd	A R	14/06/06	81
	Smith	William F	21/04/06	91
	Trust	Thomas A	22/05/06	81
WSR01	Tilney	B E	20/04/06	80

## ICL Fund

Includes people who died in service

BIR03	Nevill	Irene June	19/06/06	71
CAF02	Patel	Dinesh	04/09/06	34
GLA01	Davidson	Frederick	13/07/06	65
KID01	Hadley	Joy	31/07/06	67
	Tinsley	Ronald S	28/04/06	73
	Watkins	Geoffrey	25/06/06	61
LON11	Deadman	George E	07/06/06	74
	Higson	Maureen J	26/08/06	73
	Thomas	Maxine A	14/02/06	46
MAN05	Brown	David K	07/05/06	68
	Wells	Brian D	30/04/06	74
MSC09	Rest	Malcolm D	07/06/06	44
NEW06	Goodwin	David	06/04/06	55
	Martin	Kenneth J	04/04/06	57
REA08	Curran	Tony	07/04/06	65
SLH06	Burns	Keith J	19/06/06	53
	Sellers	Roger G	27/07/06	56
SOL02	Gordon	Carman W	19/08/06	65
STE04	Bayley	Marion	14/02/06	59
	Luff	John E	14/05/06	67
	Parker	Brian	22/07/06	71
	Walton	John G	09/04/06	51
	Watson	Derek K	17/03/06	74
STE09	Everrett	Caroline	08/02/06	48
	Russell	Bernard	09/05/06	59
WIN01	Brown	Gordon G	06/07/06	57
WAK01	Harvey	Robert J	31/07/06	58
	Hodgins	Mark	08/07/06	44
WAR06	Thickbroom	Michael J	23/08/06	51

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## Pensioners' Directory

Tony Riley maintains the directory for those pensioners who are on the Internet and want their email address and career details published.

His email address is: [tonyriley@europe.com](mailto:tonyriley@europe.com)

## Pensioners' Website

The website for ICL Group pensioners is  
<http://uk.fujitsu.com/pensioner>

## Saving Money

There are websites that can save you money. These list many items that you could buy on the High Street but can be delivered to your door for much less than even those shops that are "never knowingly undersold"

[www.shopping.com](http://www.shopping.com) lists suppliers of non-food items and [www.ferretfixtures.co.uk](http://www.ferretfixtures.co.uk) compares supermarket prices and informs you where you get two for the price of one and other promotional offers.

## NEXT ISSUE

Copy for the Spring 2007 issue must be submitted by **1 February 2007**, but would be appreciated earlier.

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