

Bits & Bytes

No 27

Editorial

The last edition of Bits & Bytes which went to ICL/Nortel Pensioners included a letter asking them whether or not they wanted the printed version, or that they were happy to look at it on the ICL Pensioners' website. As a result I received many interesting letters from ex-employees. Maybe each edition should contain something to encourage people to write or email the editor, as I still want copy. I would prefer to include stories and anecdotes from the past rather than fill each magazine with news of the present Fujitsu Services.

When were first names used in the work place? I have had handwritten letters addressed to Dear Sir, or in one case Dear Sir/Madam, Dear Mr Turner and, thank goodness, most were Dear Adrian. Old habits must die hard but I would like somebody to tell me when in ICT/ICL it was accepted that you could address the boss by their first name. I think that the arrival of Rob Wilmot in 1981 may have been the spur.

My part time job doing lawn surveys for Green Thumb brings me into contact with many people who I would never have normally met. Recently I did a lawn survey for a house near Pangbourne. The very next day I went into CafeVIK to look at the Press Releases and discovered that the house owner, Martin Provoost, is the Head of Data Centres in Fujitsu Services who had just opened STE10! As I had worked in the Dataskil System Centre in Cardiff Road Reading from 1978 I was quite interested in the new facility. (See below)

I have a simple puzzle for readers. What is the link between Arthur Humphreys and Dave Plummer who both worked in Putney? Answer on back page.

Adrian Turner

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Fujitsu Services News

Fujitsu unveils new £60 million campus in Stevenage

Fujitsu Services officially opened its new campus in Stevenage located in Cavendish Road on 27 June 2008. The £60 million development represents a significant long-term investment in the local Stevenage economy and will house 1000 existing employees.

Stevenage is an ideal location for the campus due to the availability of the existing skilled local workforce, the town's connections to the motorway network, including the A1 and M25, and its proximity to London.

Fujitsu has built the campus on a brownfield site utilising existing buildings and a surplus warehouse. This avoided any development on greenfield land and resulted in minimal impact on the local environment. Employees who previously worked at Six Hills House on London Road will now be located on the new campus. A range of IT services activities and HQ administrative functions will be carried out at the campus.

The development itself has been built to include high level environmental specifications to ensure it is energy efficient; recycling friendly and that it produces reduced carbon emissions.

Fujitsu opens £44 million data centre

Fujitsu Services, one of Europe's leading IT services companies, has today opened its newest secure data centre at STE10. The £44 million data centre has proven environmental and sustainability credentials at its core – not only is it the first in Europe to be independently certified to the Uptime Institute's international Tier III standard, but it will nearly halve the energy used by previous data centres.

Based within 35 miles of London it will serve the data centre needs for public and private organisations across both the UK and Europe, helping customers to overcome their data centre capacity problems, saving them from the lengthy delays and local planning restrictions involved in building or extending their own data centre facilities.

The new data centre is a brown field development utilising a refurbished warehouse, to further reduce the environmental impact compared to a new building on green fields.

When fully loaded the data centre will achieve a power usage efficiency (PUE) rating of 1.6 (62% DCiE) compared to previous data centres at PUE 3.0. (33% DCiE) - This is nearly double the efficiency of previous data centres.

The data centre has been equipped with high efficiency mechanical and electrical infrastructure that offers the best return on investment for Fujitsu's customers. The data centre's new features will save enough electricity to power 2,000 households a year. These features include:

Evaporation towers and heat exchangers more efficiently remove heat from the data centre systems than traditional air conditioning systems.

Heat pumps pre-heat incoming fresh air up to operational temperatures as it enters the data centre, reusing heat extracted from the technical halls.

Spray humidification - the technical hall air uses low energy spray humidifiers in the air inlets to the technical halls, instead of traditional steam humidification.

Variable fans and pumps in the cooling system make a significant energy saving even when the data centre is at full capacity, by matching the cooling provided to the actual cooling needs of the data halls.

Diesel Rotary UPS (DRUPS) maintain the electricity supply to the whole data centre when a GRID blackout occurs. DRUPS consume less electricity than current UPS systems – providing a constant saving in energy usage every year.

Additionally, Fujitsu will reduce the power consumption of the customer IT systems housed in the new data centre through an IT Optimisation Programme. By consolidating the IT systems within the data centre power consumption and cost savings of up to 50% can be achieved. When complete the IT optimisation programmes will save enough power for up to 4,000 homes each year.

In total Fujitsu's new data centre facility and IT optimisation programmes will each year save enough electricity to power up to 6,000 homes, equivalent to 10,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide and significantly reduce the cost of IT for business.

Martin Provoost, Fujitsu Services head of data centres said: "Fujitsu's new data centre combines high resilience and high efficiency, which is difficult to achieve as these two factors often oppose each other. Attaining high resilience requires more redundant infrastructure, which in turn consumes more energy. However, through new proven technology, Fujitsu's London North data centre achieves both the optimum resilience level and a leading efficiency rating."

First ERP Service Shared across County Councils

Fujitsu Services, announced 27 March 2008 a groundbreaking shared services partnership with Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire County Councils. The shared service will be the first Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution in local government shared and common between county councils and will underpin the Councils' delivery of back office services including HR, finance and procurement. The shared service also supports the Councils' and Fujitsu's wider aspirations to share further, delivering scalable capacity for further authorities of all types (counties, unitaries, districts, etc) to join the service in the future.

Fujitsu has engineered this service by combining its own ERP hosting requirements to invest in an infrastructure that provides service to the councils' on an entirely managed service basis whilst offering savings over the cost of traditional stand-alone ERP solutions.

Cambridgeshire County Council cabinet member for corporate services, councillor John Reynolds, said: "This new shared service makes good business sense and fits in with the national requirement for the modernisation of local government, to develop ways to improve the performance and further reduce the cost of our back office processes by sharing appropriate services with likeminded councils with the support

and expertise available from the private sector. The income and savings we ultimately expect to be generated by this shared service solution will be re-invested in front line services such as caring for older people, the disabled and families, or providing improved schools, public transport and community facilities such as libraries."

Councillor Bill Parker, Northamptonshire County Council cabinet member for finance and business support said: "By working in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council and together with Fujitsu, we have already begun to take advantage of the opportunities for increased operational efficiencies and cost savings created through a shared service platform. Through this partnership, we will be transforming the way we operate our systems for back office services such as finance, HR, or procurement, offering better value for money and ensuring these support services run as efficiently as possible. This in turn should enable to us improve the services we offer to local residents, with the aim of passing the savings we will be making directly on to frontline services."

Geoff Neville, local and regional government director at Fujitsu Services commented: "This new shared service is a major step forward in the local government sector for two county councils to share a common ERP solution. In addition, developing a sharable ERP solution (both application configuration and infrastructure platform) that is scalable for future authorities to join and benefits from best practice business processes has been a major undertaking, demonstrating innovation and requiring new ways of working to facilitate sharing. To see it coming successfully to fruition is a source of much satisfaction for Fujitsu."

Life in ICL

Parking Story

While receiving training in the Engineering Training School in Letchworth, not only were we taught how the equipment worked but we also learnt about the instructors past life and other details of their day to day life.

I will always remember George Powell's story of walking into Burma and out again during the Second World War. He was responsible for the radios carried by mule in an Indian Army regiment.

Other memories were revived when I received an email from Mike Leith in April. It is amazing that a name can conjure up an immediate picture and story, especially when it was an event that took place in the early sixties. Our lecturer went into Letchworth to shop and the car parks were full. He wasn't going to be long so he stopped at the end of the car park where he blocked in a number of cars. In those days car door locks and ignition keys were from a common source and if you lost a key you went to Halfords and bought another one. When Mike appeared a number of irate drivers were round his car trying their keys in the door to see if they could move it. He approached and offered to try his key. Not surprisingly it fitted! He then moved the car and went away not returning until the annoyed motorists had gone.

Adrian Turner

Letters & e-mails

Hi Adrian, thanks for all the work you put into B&B, I enjoy reading about the ICL of old.

However, I think it is time you heard from an ex Singer/ICL/Fujitsu man and hope you can publish this article and attachment in the next B&B.

As readers will know, Singer Business Machines (SBM) engineers were brought into ICL in the spring of 1976 with their visible record systems, intelligent terminal systems and very interactive computers which required little general maintenance and few technical staff. It took a long time for ICL to understand the ways of a young highly motivated small company and vice versa. I recall how I used to repair about 4-5 systems per day in Singer, but under the ICL way I only managed 2-3, largely down to the spares policy. Under Singer we carried spares with us, under ICL we had to return to base/store to collect spares/PCBs. It was at the time when ICL had dumb terminals and mainframes and Singer had mainly office based systems, a whole different approach. However that's all history.

I spent many of my latter years in ICL outside engineering, in system, product, application development and support, but still kept in touch with many engineers, I knew Derek Windsor and ran a 5800 training course in the old Walthamstow High Street building. I was also a frequent visitor to the Putney Systems Centre LON14 during the grand days of the Local Government business, mostly based in Euston LON24. Later, I was moved around quite a bit by management and business needs to Elstree ELS01, Reading REA21, Stevenage STE04, amongst other locations including HOM99. I visited many other locations including numerous sales/support offices around the UK, I was also a frequent visitor to Keith Crook's Letchworth LDC and I recall visiting Kidsgrove KID01 when the highly hush-hush One Per Desk OPD was in development.

I hope many of the engineers I knew remember what I will call "the good old days", when we actually repaired/fixd machines on site.

Many engineers and sales persons may recall the local government CRIS cash receipting products based originally on MDTS retail tills, 1500, DRS20, 7502 CTS, DRS3000 & DRS6000 Unix and then on PCs; no doubt the CRIS product is remembered by engineers for the poor quality of some of the specialised passbook printers we had to utilise.

For those who knew me (Ron W-M), you might be interested to know that I finished up as a lead systems engineer (it's only a title) and was third through the door at HMCE Customs & Excise (now HMRC) at Southend in Essex STH04 when the outsourcing deal was won. After a very interesting 2.5 years there, I pulled out and retired early at 55 on Friday 12th April 2002, six years ago.

By the way, has anyone noticed that Virtual Machine Environment is all the rage again, something that ICLs VME operating system was a leader and probably the best.

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I thought it was time I dropped you a line!

So we do have a few more career path steps in common! I was also an RAF Air Radar Fitter (1949-1954). So you could have been my replacement. However I was never seriously employed on Air Radar gear (Aircraft) as the RAF in their wisdom on completion of my Yatesbury training posted me to St Athan (32MU) in the Synthetic Trainers Repair Section which offered SUPPORT to your station amongst many others. We were presented with the AP from some bright spark at Malvern and then sent out tool kit in hand to a flying Station to fix the Link Trainers and all it's attachments. If we came back within a reasonable period we were considered satisfactory. I had numerous encounters with Snow drops at Kings Cross and Euston railway stations for travelling in battle dress with scruffy overalls sticking out of my tool bag(s), till I could 'pull rank' on them. Happy days. Failure to fix was a posting to Iraq so nothing changes, (remind me of the name of our ex ICL engineering manager in Baghdad?).

My comments on Dennis Goodwin's article are that he is not alone (as long as Harry Dass in India does not get to read this) IMHO Indian support desks are a complete waste of space. They use scripts and are completely clueless. I do wonder if the ISP's 'pool' their support channels and then 'farm it out' to India as a 'Cash Cow'. BT is just as bad. A tip is to get the 'Directors special office' phone number by complaining to the Ombudsman. They then will MOVE and if you are in luck provide financial compensation with an apology. My line rental is with Tiscali as a result of the fracas I had with BT. I guess that they change the number regularly so will not repeat it here.

The Average Age of Death discrepancy between the Nortel and ICL Pension fund maybe can be explained by the fact that the Nortel Fund seems to be a 'closed fund' from an ICL viewpoint longer. The ICL Fund has many who are still contributing and could / do 'fall of their perches'. It would be interesting to know the figures for ALL the Nortel Pensioners rather than those who were 'roped in' from ICL which I believe you report.

I trust your health problems are not too serious. I have had various treatments for my problem (PC) However I still here after 5+ years from diagnosis. At 77 it seems I am well passed the ICL Fund 'Sell by date'!

Dave Sedgley

Company Car Mister?

It was the 2nd January 1967 that I joined English Electric at Kidsgrove after having spent the previous 25 years in the motor industry, including a few years working on aircraft. I became part of the Spares Division of English Electric Computers Ltd with high hopes that my experience in the motor industry would enable me to make a contribution towards the development of the spares and repair activity of the computer industry.

The first hurdle I was confronted with was the jargon; at times I thought I had to learn another language; for example if a part was not available in the motor industry it was known as a 'shortage'; in the computer industry it was referred to as 'exhaust'. Then there were all those words and phrases that

never came up in the motor industry like 'bits and bytes' and many others.

The following year 1968 saw a number of mergers until the final merger between ICT and English Electric Computers. Prior to this merger I had been appointed Manager, Field Support Group, responsible for providing a repair and parts service to English Electric Computers.

ICL was setting up a separate transport company when their Managing Director invited me to become their Fleet Engineer. It was a very different activity to working with computers and much more like the motor industry.

The beginning of 1979 saw the ICL car fleet expanding with each department doing the best it could to provide company cars for those who were entitled to them or needed them to do their job. The car fleet was growing fast and already stood at about 1800 cars; the policy in those days was to purchase only BL cars.

At this time, it was decided to set up a Vehicle Fleet Department reporting to the Company Secretariat under the control of David Marwood. Mainly because of my motor industry background I was selected to be Vehicle Fleet Manager and was relocated to Putney. I was joined in 1980 by Sue Shearman who had previously worked for Corporate Personnel. Her knowledge of the personnel function proved invaluable.

A new Company Car Policy was established which gave those employees, entitled to a car, the choice of any British 'badged' car, no longer restricted to only one manufacturer. The next step was to get the pricing structure on a firm footing. The discount being obtained was only 5%. This was raised to 15% without any problem. Car manufactures were in real competition with one another and at one stage it would have been possible to purchase a car and sell it again within 12 months for the purchase price, with the manufacturer being prepared to wait for the payment.

The ICL Car Fleet grew quickly to over 3000 Cars. Then came the merger with STC and we were responsible for their car fleet which resulted in an over-all fleet of some 9000 vehicles. Selling cars at the end of their useful life in the company (usually 3 years) was a problem because what could be obtained considerably affected the cost of running the car fleet. Part exchange deals, auction houses, second hand car dealers were all used.

For a long time the back street second hand car dealer offered the best price and these folk dealt only in cash. Many times Sue Shearman and I have spent time with car dealers locked away in the office counting out £5 notes; and then rushing it across to the cash office before anyone had a chance to snatch it!

With a fleet of 9000 cars all registered in the name of the company, there are many stories that could be told. There was the manager who drove his car into the centre of a duck pond near Wokefield where it sank up to and the top of the bonnet. He declined to explain how it happened and how he swam to the bank!

Of course there were the drivers who forgot to (or didn't) pay their parking fines. The cars being registered in the name of the company meant that the fines eventually arrived on my desk. Before I could deal with them it often happened that the local bailiff

would arrive at my office demanding immediate payment and if not paid within 24 hours they would take company property to that value. As they kept looking at my desk I had to find ways of paying them. I found them to be unpleasant people!

There was the driver who had been on holiday in Italy and had been caught on camera for exceeding the speed limit. The photo taken from the front clearly showed his face and that of the lady sitting in the passenger seat. When asked if I should send the photo to his home address, he said definitely no! (I never found out why but I know the fine was paid).

That, of course, is all in the past. But one does need to ask the question how much longer we can keep putting new cars on the road. The UK is the only country where 60% of all new cars sold are to companies as fleet cars. The rest of Europe (and the USA) has less than 10% company cars. With rising fuel costs and shortages it is going to become more difficult, so let's all enjoy our motor cars whilst we can!

Reg Shore

The Career of an Ancient Round Hole

Some of you who trouble to read this may wonder why a 91 year old has booted up his computer to record details of his 48 years with ICL.

Well it was the Obituary column that was recording some of my old colleagues and former great friends in the category of "unknown".

Of course there may be a good excuse for this but I hope that when I "fall off the branch" the entry will be at least a bit more explicit.

It was February 1931 at the ripe old age of 14 years when I was offered a job at The Accounting and Tabulating Corporation of Great Britain at Aurelia Road Croydon Surrey at the princely starting sum of 14 shillings and one penny per week.

Incidentally the extra penny was for my contribution to the Saturday Hospital Fund to which I still belong. It's not a penny now of course!!

These were the days when the then Works Manager, a Mr Hunter, used to walk round the factory every morning making sure that all was in good working order, resplendent in his suit with his gold hunter across his waistcoat and puffing a big cigar,

After five years at Croydon, which would make a story in itself, I was offered a job as a Customer Service Engineer in Birmingham at the then amazing sum of £3.15s.0d, plus all expenses of course.

So began a very exciting but arduous life in punched cards, where like many others, I played my part in building what finally became ICL.

My manager at Birmingham was Mr Nicholson "Old Nick" as we used to call him behind his back and he was a real character. After a short period training under very experienced engineers like Charlie Symes and George Stupples at very large installations such as Joseph Lucas, English Electric and Gas Board etc., I moved to the Leicester Area to set up a separate office owing to the rapid increase in customers.

After the war of course things began to move very rapidly and I took on many staff from the Forces most of them partially trained and it was a very exciting time.

However you can only go so far with mechanical machines and so the inevitable happened and we "amalgamated" with our competitors Hollerith.

This of course was a testing time for staff in both Companies but eventually I was offered a job as manager of B'Ham West by "Dusty" Miller who did a great job in the "amalgamation" period.

Then came the wonderful 1900's and new skills were required and so here am I in my little bungalow with many happy memories of wonderful friends both Round and Square unfortunately many now listed under "unknown"

Although I had left by the time computers proper were commonplace in the home, I wouldn't be without my computer and I use it every day.

By the way I went gliding this week and am going sailing next after my 4th Cruise on Saga Ruby!

So age is no excuse, as long as you have good health.

Eddie Thompson Staff No. 5060

Let's be grateful

In 1953 I became employed in the radio and television service department of Ferranti Ltd and in 1954 joined the new Ferranti/Prudential Pension Scheme.

1956 saw the sale of the radio and television branch of the company to Ekco Ltd and the transfer together with many colleagues to the computer department, which by this time had moved to West Gorton.

Many happy and interesting years passed until in 1963, the Ferranti computer department became part of International Computers and Tabulators. At this time many of us expressed an interest in our subscriptions to the Ferranti/Prudential scheme and as I recall the answer was to the effect that as we had now become members of the ICT scheme the matter would be dealt with by the management thereof. We should have no worries!

The years passed by, ICT became ICL, many changes came about and eventually part of the West Gorton staff were moved to Ashton-under-Lyne.

In 1981 many of us were made redundant and found employment elsewhere. In my case I worked until 1990 when I became the recipient of the Old Age Pension.

Life carried on serenely until 2005/6 when I received a letter from the Prudential to say that the old Ferranti Pension Scheme was to be wound up and in the process it had been discovered that as a contributor in the pre-ICT I was entitled to a pension. What excitement!

Forms were filled in, much correspondence was exchanged and I waited with mounting anticipation for the good news. Then the day arrived, the letter dropped through the letter box and all was revealed. I was to receive £15 per year

For small mercies.....

Jim Boardman

NHS On-Line Booking System

1 I received a letter reminding me that I hadn't booked my appointment at the eye hospital, and saying that I should have received an offer letter, which I never got.

2 Asked the surgery for password: could not supply because secretary not in till next day.

3 Got the password: rang Healthspace who would not deal with me until I had received offer letter, which they promised to send.

4 When no letter arrived, rang again. They then sent offer for wrong hospital.

5 Rang again. I was told that GP could add the right hospital to system.

6 Rang GP, who gave me new appointment number, and phone number of the (right) hospital booking centre.

7 Rang hospital booking centre: permanently engaged.

8 Rang hospital main switchboard, who told me booking centre were installing new telephone system, and could not be reached.

9 Next day got through to booking centre, who promised to send an appointment through the post.

10 Received letter offering appointment on the one afternoon of the month that I absolutely could not make. (I thought the whole point of the system was to negotiate a mutually agreeable date.)

11 Phoned the hospital, who agreed to change it.

12 Received an appointment for 2 weeks later.

13 Went to hospital, spoke to appointments guy, asked if this was the best they could do. He took my letter away, came back a few minutes later offering the original unacceptable date.

14 Explained that this was no good, asked him to have another go.

15 Received a letter offering appointment two weeks earlier than original one, at my local (Maidenhead) hospital!

16 Puzzled by the time - 15:02; didn't know they worked to such precise timescales, so popped in to confirm. Girl at reception could find no record of appointment, said it must be at Windsor.

17 Not allowed to drive after eye drops, so persuaded wife to come with me to Windsor.

18 Attempted to book in. After much to-ing and fro-ing, was told that the appointment was indeed at Maidenhead: if I could get there by 4 o'clock I might be seen (it was then 3:20).

19 Despite road works, arrived at Maidenhead in time to be seen, and told that I needed laser treatment and would be put on the waiting list

20 A happy conclusion to my tale. Two months later I attended the Prince Charles Eye unit at the King Edward VII hospital in Windsor where in a five minute operation my sight was restored to "fighter pilot vision"

Tim Goldingham

Pension Increases – Moral Issues

With the advent of high inflation, can I make my point of view known?

Firstly, I know that Rod Scott has made representations about the need for above minimum rises.

I would like to hear that FJ - when they come to consider the rises for next year, consider the following 'moral' issues:

1. Whilst acknowledging their commitment to add over the minimum amounts to the fund, they have what amounts to a huge interest free loan on the books with no rigorous demand for short-term repayment. Dare one ask if they would be able to get any sort of loan from the banks at the moment, and at what rate of interest?

2. Given that inflation is going to be above 4% this year (here in France as well as in the UK), I am sure that pensioners are very concerned about the impact

on their ability to survive if there was a below inflation rise. (Without going into what the government will or will not do next year with state pensions)

3. Over many years in the 80s and 90s, the pension fund was, in its publicity, 'selling' membership of the fund to non-members and members, boasting the excellent and often above-inflation rises in pensions, encouraging people to join one of the best funds around.

As I said above, these are moral issues, but with a real impact on people, often with low pensions even after giving 40 years or more to the company which is now part of a very profitable FJ group

Regards to all
Martin Tobias

Recycled Bits & Bytes

Thank you my "Spring Edition". I would like to keep receiving the paper copies if at all possible.

I joined ICT, to become ICL, in 1964, and finished with redundancy in 1989. I was based in Letchworth at factories 1/3, 1/1, 5/7, and No3. I was so sad to see the old 1/1 pulled down. I wonder what happened to the wonderful "Majority Board" that hung in the main canteen.

I pass my copy of Bits & Bytes to a former work friend who in turn passes it to another former ICL employee. Last time I enquired no less than six former colleagues have a read. We always find something of interest and it seems to form a bond. Keep up the good work.

Ray Rogers Baldock

HELP THE AGED

I've recently reached my 81st Birthday. "Celebrate" isn't appropriate. I'm extremely grateful to have made it, of course, but "celebrating" didn't seem to sum it up, as I've lost so many friends and relations recently and it seemed "celebrating" suggests being insensitive in outliving them.

As one of the rapidly diminishing survivors of the wartime generation, I'm increasingly aware of being a minority. Not a deserving minority, like "ethnic" or single mums or gays, more of a nuisance for taking up housing space and clogging up public transport. We're responsible for the shortfall in pension funds, because our wartime diet means we'll live longer. This only applies to the Nortel lot who selfishly outlive the ICL pensioners!

"New" comedians, these social observers who aren't funny, get cheap laughs from gags about old fogies who go on about "saving up" or "manners". I felt the senior citizens queuing patiently for their savings at Northern Rock, were somehow made to look ridiculous, as if they were speculators. As far as the media is concerned, we aren't newsworthy and with advertisers we don't count, for we don't spend enough! Even if we wished to, it isn't easy, for one has to go on-line to buy anything economically. I did splash out with my £10 Christmas bonus, even though since it began in 1972 it has lost value and is now worth £1.10.

Within my age group, I constantly hear the same old whinges regarding youth, their education, scruffiness, lack of respect, etc. I think it was always thus. I can recall my Dad going on about "making our own fun" whilst I just read comics and went to the pictures. Our

national character, supposedly threatened by TV, immigrants, Europe or computers was always evolving. The social hierarchy before the 1st. World War is as remote today as serfdom.

The doffing of one's cap to one's superiors vanished before the 2nd. World War and my tie-wearing generation is an anachronism. Any attempt to return to what was imagined as a golden age is doomed.

It takes time to accept one is an anachronism. The world we go on about can never return. A generation on, today's post-modernist "Chavs" will be harking back to the good old days of "pensions" and "savings". The only certain is change. To say "things were better in my day" is debatable. Things were different, as we were different and that's all.

Dennis Goodwin
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Reunions

ICL Central London

The next reunion will be on Wednesday 15 October 2008 at **The Flying Horse** at **52 Wilson Street**, from 12 noon. The pub is east of Finsbury Square.

Bill Williams 020 7607 9408

Stevenage & Letchworth Old Boys (renamed Punch Card Reunion)

Adrian Turner 01491 872012

Oxford Engineers

Ken Jones 01865 340388

kenwynjones@aol.com

ICL Australia

ian.pearson5@bigpond.com

Copthall House Newcastle Staffs

Bob Green 01782 615290

East Grinstead 81 Club

Gordon Franklin 01342 328479

East Midlands UB40s

Brian Skeldon 0115 9725119

ICL Double Majority Association

Joseph Gardner 01438 362806

ICL Midlands

Brian Trow 01785 257317

Leo Computers Society

Geoff Parry 01628 770129

Letchworth

Dennis Evans 01462 811273

Liverpool Engineers

George Lynn 01744 29984

Surrey Engineers

Trevor Harding 01483 565144

trevor.harding@iclway.co.uk

Tin Hut Reunion

Olaf Chedzoy 01278 741 269

West Gorton Reunion

Eric W Watts 01457 875080

Watford-Harrow- Feltham

Mike Ray 01895 230194

West Branch Engineers

Eric Reynolds 01452 712047

West Kent Reunion

Ron Harding 01732 761076

ICL Old Buggas

Les Mowbray www.cuin.co.uk/oldbuggas/

ExICL Kidsgrove

Nick Edmonds 01270 585953

nick.edmonds@yahoo.co.uk

OBITUARIES

ICL/Nortel Fund

BIR03	Buck	A G	07/07/08	83
	Ward	Herbert A	30/03/08	82
Birmingham	Long	G E	06/06/08	88
BRA01	Brown	David W J	27/07/08	75
BRA06	Craig	Samuel E	03/05/08	73
Bracknell	Bennett	K M	23/03/08	82
Dukinfield	Wilkinson	J R	02/04/08	83
ELS01	Callow	T E	27/08/08	70
FEL01	Tindall	S H	09/06/08	83
H Chapel	Turner	E	05/04/08	85
Kidsgrove	Turner	John H	14/03/08	87
	Chadwick	Ethel	27/06/08	94
	Stonehewer	Harriet E	14/04/08	85
LET03	Barber	William C	29/03/08	90
LET04	Goodman	Thomas M	02/04/08	80
	Hills	Samuel C	22/04/08	88
	Persichillo	A L	23/03/08	80
LET05	Green	Stanley R	04/05/08	85
LET14	Vaughan	Rosalyn G	12/05/08	59
Letchworth	Brown	V M	15/04/08	88
	Burrows	Alfred J	16/03/08	84
	Knight	A	02/07/08	94
	Nicoll	Leslie	24/04/08	76
	Wood	John O	02/06/08	91
Liverpool	Connell	Joseph	03/05/08	79
LON03	Pantou	Glady's	24/03/08	78
LON11	Moody	R F	25/07/08	81
LON15	Dunleavy	Victor J	09/04/08	79
LON22	Rowlands	Donald L	08/04/08	86
LON24	Bilton	Edwin D	21/04/08	82
LON30	Bourne	Thomas E	08/04/08	82
	Wilson	Stephen J	28/04/08	81
London	Caminer	David T	19/06/08	93
	Couchman	Kenneth R	22/05/08	89
	Fothering'm	J A	13/05/08	76
MAN04	Walsh	Robert	27/07/08	78
MAN05	Frost	Arthur	16/07/08	79
	Saunders	S C	18/03/08	78
	Spencer	Christopher	29/3/08	84
MAN08	Oakley	N	11/04/08	78
MAN12	Malpas	J G	11/04/08	85
Manchester	Plant	K	26/07/08	88
Midlands	Roach	Colin E	18/07/08	71
Newcastle	Crinson	Constance	14/03/08	87
Putney	Gould	Anthony V	22/04/08	78
REA01	Gregory	William N	06/07/08	63
Reading	Bowsher	A E	31/08/08	91
STE04	Bayle	R B	25/08/08	79
	Coyne	John H	03/05/08	83
	Hill	T R	23/04/08	71
	Thurston	F	23/05/08	85
Stevenage	Jackson	V W	07/04/08	88
Sydenham	Wheeler	T B	19/03/08	93
TAP01	Parker	Ian E R	31/07/08	72
West Gorton	Edwards	James E	20/08/08	81
	Neill	Neville	30/07/08	77
	Nurney	N	03/07/08	82
WIN01	Holmes	W	09/08/08	93

WSR02	Tweats	Eric	31/08/08	83
Unknown	Price	Valerie I	25/05/08	68
Location	Chadwick	Eric G	07/04/08	60
	Gratty	W	08/08/08	88
	Hopley	Barbara V	08/06/08	80
	Larder	Parlane M	03/06/08	84
	Needham	N	06/07/08	77
	Newton	William A	03/04/08	87
	Stevens	Arthur E	27/03/08	86
	Waddle	R	18/08/08	83
	Wilde	M	10/08/08	83

ICL Fund

Includes people who died in service

BIR03	Malek	Anthony F	23/06/08	57
BRA01	Brazil	Michael J	03/07/08	62
	Clark	David J	06/03/08	53
	Clarke	Elizabeth F	12/06/08	61
	Davies	William E	27/04/08	65
	Jarvis	Jeffrey	29/05/08	48
	Parkinson	Robin	18/03/08	45
BRA02	Mackness	Reginald R	27/06/08	77
BRA04	Bengry	Ian G	27/05/08	66
BRI04	Kite	Arthur R	18/06/08	78
BRO02	Saunders	Charles H	19/04/08	69
EDI04	Wright	James F	01/02/08	66
EDI06	Knox	Robert	19/07/08	53
ELS01	Halsey	Terence	12/08/08	71
GLO03	Davies	Eric R	05/06/08	73
HOM99	Howard	John E	15/05/08	53
	Riyat	Meharban	14/02/08	63
	Summerhill	James E	26/06/08	78
KID01	Bays	Patricia A	20/03/08	61
KID02	Lomax	Michael T	14/07/08	65
LSA01	Aldred	Sarah L	17/03/08	42
MAN05	Micklewright	John	03/06/08	60
	Youd	Michael I	23/08/08	71
MAN34	MacDonald	Iain	21/03/08	63
Sorbus	Davies	Samuel H	31/05/08	72
STE04	Tapping	Philip A	14/03/08	80
STE09	Hainsworth	Henry J	01/07/08	76

ICL Pension Fund

Appointment of Pensioner Reps

The term of office for the three pensioner representatives of the ICL Pension Members Committee (IPMC) ends in August 2008. The Company is therefore seeking representatives for the next four years. If you are interested in pension matters and feel able and willing to contribute to the activities of the IPMC then please put yourself forward. The current representatives are eligible to seek re-appointment if they wish.

The IPMC is the forum at which the Company discusses the operation of the Plan with representatives of its members. The Company has no legal obligation to set up such a body but believes it to be a beneficial dialogue to the advantage of both the Company and Plan members – both active members and pensioners.

Alison Dalley Head of Reward

New Pensioner Representatives

As a result of the letter sent to ICL Pensioners by Alison Dalley ten people have responded, stating that they are willing to be considered for these positions. Rod Scott and Andy MacConachie have indicated that they do not want to continue, Colin Marshall has said that he wishes to be considered for re-appointment. The company has started the selection process by contacting those people by telephone with a view to making the appointments before the next IPMC meeting on the 22 October 2008.

Adrian Turner

Abolition of ICL Pension Fund Elections

ICL Pension Fund Management have seen fit to abolish the democratic process of ICL Pensioners electing their choice of pensioners reps who represent pensioners interests on IPMC (See above) unilaterally replacing it with a Company elected Selection Panel.

Importantly, no reason whatsoever was stated in the letter as to why the Company was implementing this decision. Two out of three pensioner reps. Rod Scott and Andy McConachie, have posted their objections to this Company Selection Panel process on the ICL Pensioners web site. There have been a number of e-mails to the Company from pensioners protesting against the discontinuation of pensioners electing their own reps. The replies from the Company have included that they feel that "the identification of pensioner reps is better handled by selection". (By a Management appointed Selection Panel) and that "democracy does not enter into the equation". This could be interpreted that they do not want pensioners to have a say in who represents them. The system of an election of reps by pensioners has worked perfectly well up to now. One must ask why change it? With the lack of information and valid reasons why the Company has elected to abolish pensioner voting and replace it with a Company Selection Panel, ICL Pensioners will inevitably draw their own conclusions.

Bill Williams.

Reply from IPMC

The process for identifying Trustees is one of selection rather than election and after discussion the Company feels that identification of pensioner representatives to the IPMC is better handled by selection. This allows for a dialogue with those interested so that they understand what they are committing to and also allows the Company to understand what people bring to the party in terms of their ability to contribute. This approach also allows flexibility in numbers. Currently there are three pensioner representatives; if a selection process identified, say four then we could go ahead with four - an election would allow only three. There is also a significant cost saving in avoiding a formal election which may not be necessary. Having said that if there are a large number of pensioners expressing interest an election may be the only way to resolve matters anyway!

Dai Waters (Secretary to IPMC)

PENSIONER REPS

Colin Marshall

Grange Villa, Sandy Lane, Longsdon,
Stoke-on-Trent ST9 9QQ
01538 371618
colinmarshall_caldon@yahoo.com

Rod Scott

The Coach House, Mostyn Road,
London SW19 3LH
0208 542 7203
rodscott@hotmail.com

Andy MacConachie

8 Dunvegan Avenue, Portlethen, Aberdeen
AB12 4NE
01224 780 582
marieandy8@talktalk.net

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@europa.com

Pensioners' Website

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

Bits & Bytes is also published on the website and all previous issues are now available.

Arthur Humphreys and Dave Plummer

They both played table tennis for the ICL Putney team.

Nortel Pension Fund

Newslink

The last edition of Newslink went out in September 2007. I am reliably informed that the next edition will be published at the end of September 2008.

Editor B&B

NEXT ISSUE

Copy for the **Spring 2009** issue must be submitted by **1 February 2009**, but would be appreciated earlier.

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