Editorial

The publishing of No 34, the 2012 Spring edition, has proved my concerns expressed in the Autumn 2011 edition to be correct. Only 80 copies were printed and posted compared with the 6,500 sent out by Fujitsu last autumn. As a result I have had hardly any response! In the past I got many people contacting me almost immediately, prompted by the anecdotes that they had just read. I wonder just how many pensioners know that No 34 is available online.

I would like to publically thank an ICL pensioner who has volunteered to print and stuff envelopes for the 80 people who have indicated that they have no access to the internet. Reg Aldridge who lives in Endon, on the Stoke to Leek road, contacted me offering to provide this service. Unlike Fujitsu Reg and his independent Ford garage recognises that ex-employees want to keep in contact with their friends and colleagues. Unfortunately I never had the good fortune to work with Reg in ICL, but as a result of his offer I stayed with my wife for three nights at his B&B in May this year. If you want to explore this part of the lost ICL empire (Kidsgrove and Newcastle under Lyme are just down the road) I'm sure that everybody would enjoy the same level of hospitality that Chris and Reg extended to us. Book by going to their website
www.westfieldsprivatehotel.co.uk

Those of you with internet access may be unaware of the very entertaining discussions that are taking place on LinkedIn. A number of groups have been set up under ICL Group Reconnect and various sites, departments and people are discussed. LAMIS, Dataskil, Hedsor and Mike Forrest are among recent postings.

I am writing this the week after the Olympics and Paralympics finished and I am suffering withdrawal symptoms. I was amazed at how the country took to the Olympic Spirit, started by the Olympic Torch journey the length and breadth of the UK.

My best quote from the Olympics, which should be written on a wall in every school, is from Samantha Murray, the Woman's Decathlete who got silver.

"Honestly, if you have goals – if there is anything that you want to achieve in life – don't let anybody get in your way. You can do it. If I can do it, and I'm a normal girl, anyone can do what they want to".

Adrian Turner
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Farewell to the ICL Pensioners Website.

Going soon – you can still use it and the members directory before the end of November 2012.

As reported in the last issue a new `Fujitsu Pensions' website for ICL Plan members is being introduced which will replace the current ICL Pensioners' website. ICL pensioners will have received a letter about that and pension communication.

However, the new website will not include the additional member support and people networking facilities currently provided on the ICL Pensioners website. The new website will not have a member's directory listing other members, or facilities to contact them. It will not have an obituaries list either.

The ICL pensioners' website was set up in 2004 to provide more communication and reference material on ICL Pensions and also to provide more to support the ICL pensioner community and enable people to keep in touch and network with former colleagues – by having a members directory. It has succeeded in getting much more information available to ICL pensioners. It is widely used and has over 4750 registered members.

The new Fujitsu Pensions website will have communication from the Pensions Department and the Trustees, but will not have a member's directory, or material from members or former representatives.

Having an independent website for ICL people alongside the Fujitsu Pensions website has been investigated and a request was made in the Spring issue of B&B for practical help and people to get involved. There has been very little response to report – so that website is not likely to move forward.

So do keep in touch with other ICL people by Reunion groups, by informal contacts, and by networking. Apart from anything else you have a common interest in the continued health of the ICL Pension Plan.

Please make use of the current directory and relay message facility before the end of November if you wish to refresh your contacts with other ICL people.
Alan Thomson   alan.thomson@bcs.org

Fujitsu News
LHR Terminal 2 Network Integrator

BAA has selected Fujitsu as network integrator for the new Terminal 2 building at Heathrow Airport, which is currently in development and due to open in 2014. Under the terms of the contract, which is worth

an estimated £20m, Fujitsu will design and implement a network infrastructure to support all the terminal's network operations – from check-in and security to air conditioning systems and retail outlets.

The Terminal 2 project is the latest stage in a five-year, £4.8 billion transformation of Heathrow Airport which began after the opening of Terminal 5 in 2008. The new terminal will cost £2.5bn and is expected to be used by 20 million passengers a year. The aim is to give passengers the best airport experience in Europe and turn Heathrow into the UK's gateway to the world and Europe's hub of choice.

The resilient network will be designed, tested, commissioned and implemented over the next three years and will be integrated with the wider Heathrow Airport network – ensuring it meets the stringent BAA service availability requirements.

The project Design Phase is nearing completion while testing & configuration services have commenced ahead of the planned installation into the terminal starting in November 2012.

Tablet and Notebook in One

Fujitsu has introduced the ultimate device for the mobile business user: the STYLISTIC Q702 hybrid tablet. Combining the effortless usability of a multi-touch and digital pen-enabled tablet with the convenience of an attachable dock featuring full-size notebook keyboard and secondary battery, the versatile Fujitsu STYLISTIC Q702 offers a truly functional mobile solution.

Fujitsu's newest tablet innovation removes the need for users to juggle between multiple workplace devices. Its latest generation Intel® Core™ i3 or i5 ULV processor (model dependent) ensures a powerful multitask-capable standalone tablet experience, while simple conversion into a slimline hybrid notebook is achieved simply by attaching the ergonomic keyboard dock.

The STYLISTIC Q702 offers the perfect balance between mobility and productivity, having been designed to enable all-day working from any location thanks to full suite of wireless and wired connectivity plus maximum nine-hour battery runtime. Housing an 11.6" anti-glare widescreen display in a lightweight but durable magnesium shell, the 850g STYLISTIC Q702 is protected from the knocks and scratches of daily use.

The hybrid tablet also ensures peace of mind in the event of loss or theft, featuring iron-clad security provisions including fingerprint sensor, Mobile Device Management support, embedded Trusted Platform Module (TPM) and Intel® Anti-Theft Technology. Optional Intel® vPro™ technology makes management easier for the IT administrator.

Fujitsu chosen to provide services on new PSN connectivity framework

London, April 18, 2012

Fujitsu today confirmed that it has been selected as one of 12 organisations to deliver services within the Government Procurement Service's Public Services Network (PSN) connectivity framework. The framework is set to run for an initial twenty-four-month term and expected to deliver significant savings to government by removing duplicate network connections, simplifying procurement processes,

enabling the uptake of mobile working and encouraging the use of shared services.

Under the agreement, Fujitsu will be able to deliver communications, integration, encryption and LAN services, amongst others, to central government departments, non-departmental public bodies, the NHS, local authorities and voluntary sector charities.

The company will draw on four decades' worth of experience in delivering secure services to the public sector to produce the desired agility and efficiencies required by government organisations.

Establishing seven PhD studentships in computational science in Welsh universities

Tokyo and London, April 16, 2012

Fujitsu and HPC Wales today jointly announced the first stages of new supercomputing-based research collaboration, with the establishment of seven PhD studentships in computational science to be undertaken in Welsh universities. The studentships form part of a wider strategic collaboration between HPC Wales and Fujitsu, designed to promote the uptake of high-performance computing (HPC) in Welsh industries in areas of priority to the Welsh Government. The successful projects will utilise the HPC infrastructure of HPC Wales, powered by Fujitsu PRIMERGY clusters. Studentship projects will also have access to collaboration with researchers and HPC specialists from Fujitsu Laboratories of Europe and the Technical Computing Solutions Unit of Fujitsu Limited. This announcement follows Fujitsu's recent re-entry into the UK HPC market after a ten-year absence, winning a four-year £15m project in 2011 to provide HPC Wales' distributed computing grid, and reflects its extensive activity in the field of HPC simulation.

The topic areas for the PhD studentships under the research collaboration align with three of the Welsh Government's priority areas – Energy and Environment, Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, and Life Sciences. Three studentships focus specifically on the marine energy industry, reflecting the tremendous potential for Wales to produce a high proportion of its future energy needs from low-carbon wave- and tidal-based sources and the accompanying economic impact that will come from developing marine energy. Under the environment banner, one project will study the consequences of any future climate change on the stability of the polar ice sheets and on global sea level. Another project will focus on simulations to predict the topography and heat flow contributions from the Earth's mantle, which will be of value to the oil and gas industry. The area of genomics also features strongly, reflecting the rapid expansion of this subject through the development of the second generation of DNA sequencing devices that can produce fully sequenced genomes extremely rapidly and at low cost. A further 13 studentships are expected to be announced in July 2012 and July 2013.

To see the latest Press releases go to:
www.fujitsu.com/uk/news/pr/

Letters & e-mails

Thanks for B&B

Thank you for sending me the latest edition of Bits & Bytes which I read with great pleasure. Dennis Goodwin continues to entertain!

A word of thanks for all the time and effort you put into producing "Bits & Bytes" – you are to be commended!

Fujitsu should be ashamed of their penny pinching directed at pensioners who gave their all for ICL and the companies that are the bedrock of FJ in the UK.

I will endeavour to put a few words together for a future issue. I have so many fantastic memories of my days in ICL in Europe and Dataskil.
Gerry Clements ex Dataskil and Paris

Retirement

Retirement came as a bit of a surprise. Yes, I knew it would happen sooner or later but the plan was to work for a few more years. That all went out of the window when a redundancy offer came along that was too good to refuse.

So there I was, just turned 58 and no longer compelled to go out to work. As luck would have it, my first children's book had just been published so I decided to call myself a writer rather than a pensioner. I never envisaged making any significant money out of what was, if I'm honest, just a hobby, but I had this romantic notion of barmy summer evenings sitting in the summer house penning the next grand oeuvre. Of course, things never turn out how you plan.

There were two things about retirement that scared me. One was that I might not find enough things to fill my days. The other was a more deep seated paranoia. My mother-in-law had often said she never knew what day of the week it was because all days were the same to her. That was a notion that filled me with dread. My retirement, I decided, had to be busy and, even more importantly, had to have structure.

I therefore went berserk taking on commitments. I had already been helping in a local primary school as part of Fujitsu's Community Involvement programme. I reasoned that working with the kids who constituted my target audience would help my writing and might even lead to sales opportunities during school book week. I expanded my hours with the existing school and started running short story writing courses at another.

I also threw myself whole heartedly into the marketing side of the book business. It's a common misconception that once you have been published you have made it as a writer. Not true. Publishers generally don't have much in the way of resources for publicising new and unknown authors. If I was going to achieve any recognition at all, it would have to be through my own efforts. I managed to get "gigs" at the local bookshop, wrangled a guest appearance in Blackwell's during Oxford Alice Week, agreed to run comic verse workshops in a couple of local libraries and even secured a guest spot on the Anne Diamond show on BBC Radio Berkshire. This was all wonderful fuel for my voracious ego but whether it actually sold any additional books is debatable.

Meanwhile I was expanding my other hobbies. I was already on the committees of both my bridge club and the local bridge league, and I was maintaining web sites and scoring software for both. The bridge club had recently purchased a computer-driven card dealing machine so I agreed to be the official dealer each week. At the same time, I was maintaining my bridge scoring computer program, and an application for making digital maps for hikers, both of which I was distributing on the internet.

On the home front, I had always enjoyed being let loose in the kitchen so I fell naturally and comfortably into the role of house husband to my still working wife, vowing that never again would we need to buy bread, cakes or biscuits, as I could bake everything we could possibly need, and that every dinner would be a gourmet delight.

To combat the extra pounds resulting from my cooking exploits I needed to be careful not to overlook the physical side of my wellbeing. For many years I had played something approximating to tennis with the Fujitsu TVC tennis section so I decided to join an additional tennis club where I could play in the afternoons. Then, in a moment of madness, I enrolled on a course of figure skating lessons at Bracknell Ice Rink.

The realisation that I had taken on too much only dawned gradually. The grass and weeds were growing uncontrollably in the garden as I'd not found time to venture out there for many weeks. In the house, dust precipitated in ever deepening layers on carpets and surfaces. Grime and lime-scale built up on baths and basins whilst complex ecosystems evolved on the kitchen floor.

Even more alarmingly, in six months I'd not added one single word to the book I was writing. Something had to be done or, more accurately, some things had to stop being done. My life no longer fitted into the time available.

I soon found out that de-committing wasn't an easy task. I had grown rather fond of my new hedonistic life style, so ditching any of my entertainments to make room for the more mundane routines of family life - all those things you need to do to keep your head above water and your home in a habitable state was a painful exercise. I rationed tennis to one afternoon a week and stopped going to one of my two schools. I tried, not entirely successfully, to be more organised and schedule as much as possible into the limited time available.

Most things have had to stay. The skating has proved not quite such a mad idea as some might have thought and I am now thoroughly addicted. My weekly sessions down at the rink, - trying to perfect my spins and waltz jumps, remain an essential highlight of my week – at least until I break something.

The book has progressed a little, but it's still developing painfully slowly, having to take a back seat to various other activities. I have just had a second title from my back-catalogue published, so any "writer time" I get has to be devoted to pushing the latest publication rather than working on new material.

I'm not complaining. Retirement is proving to be one of the best times of my life. I only wish there were more hours in the day in which to enjoy it. For those just embarking on retirement my advice would be this. "Whatever it is you always wanted to do, go for it. You're never too old for anything". Beware, though, of starting too many projects at once. Take it one step at a time to see if you've got enough time left over for the next priority, otherwise retirement isn't going to be that relaxing slow-down you might have been

expecting. There are worse things than being rushed off your feet but if you take on too much you won't be able to devote enough time to do justice to any of your chosen activities.

Nearly every retired person I know says that, once retired, it's hard to figure out how they ever had time to go to work. How true. Just make sure you've got time for your retirement!

Keith Sheppard's "Wonderland Revisited and the Games Alice Played There" and "Welcome to the Crazyverse" are available from Amazon, all good bookshops and also, presumably, from several bad bookshops too.

Keith Sheppard

CONVERSATION PIECE

The bi-annual meeting of the Central London lot comes round with frightening regularity. I was concerned about the numbers we'd get. Since the demise of the printed "Bits& Bytes" attendance has slipped. Whether it's due to members forgetting the date of the "do" without the printed word or old age, I don't know. I was also bothered with the word "bi-annual" not being sure if it meant twice yearly or every two years. Chambers didn't help, announcing it can mean either!

I set out, it was raining and the Underground had a technical fault. In the run up to the Olympics, one would hope it wasn't because it was raining. They assured "customers" the rest of the network was running well, which was little comfort. Why was I a "customer"? I'd always been a "passenger". I feel customers are the wired up ones playing games, phoning, tweeting, spread-sheeting or Kindling. Why can't the Underground tweet them and apologise for the service and let the passengers sit there sulking in peace?

A herd of elderly gentlemen were bunched into a pen in the corner of the vast pub, seated at a couple of tables. A few years ago we'd have been standing, an animated chattering high-testosterone group discussing investments. Now they stared into their beer swapping NHS delays. The grey head-count was around sixteen, down from twenty-five last autumn. I was greeted warmly, though some of the handshakes were unhealthily cold. There was a face new to me, Dave Clark. For a moment I was confused, but it turned out he wasn't the raconteur Dave Clark. I chatted with another old colleague and mentioned having seen Derek Heath. Confusion again as he knew of a different Derek Heath! Realising I knew two Eddie Georges, Brian Parkers and remembering Pat Holohan reading his obituary, unaware of another Pat Holohan, I decided to start drinking as it could get complicated.

Sipping my lemonade, I consoled myself in the thought there was only one Dennis Goodwin. I must have muttered it, as I think I heard a chorus of "Thank God"

The mood was sober, as were we, mindful of the shabby dumping of "Bits & Bytes" by Fujitsu.

Some were resigned to the loss, some optimistic the company would have a change of heart and support us again and a few ready to strike or man the barricades. Ideas were considered; why didn't those on line print a copy and post to a computer-less member or widow? If we paid for a printed issue, who'd organise it? In the end we agreed to spread the word of the on-line version to those who could get to a computer and hoped the membership would hold.

As the beer flowed, the atmosphere warmed with the usual bonhomie, we polished up the telling of old anecdotes and remembered the recent pals who'd gone to the great Wetherspoon's in the sky. I left, the sun was shining and I felt a little better as I always do after our reunions.

Dennis Goodwin
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A view of engineering 1967-1990

When joined in 1967 as a student apprentice I spent a few weeks in many locations in Letchworth, Hitchin,Stevenage, Croydon, etc. Like most people I spent a fair time at the Letchworth Engineering Training School (ETS). No posh hotel in those days. My digs were in a council house in Archers Way. Letchworth where I shared a bedroom, but not a bed I hasten to add, with another engineer. The landlady was paid £4/week for that, which included breakfast & evening meals. (I guess today this would fall foul of the proposed outlawing of council house sublets !)

My first training course at ETS Letchworth was in the machine shop where I was given a lump of metal the file into a cube as accurately as possible. However it gradually improved such that after a couple of months I was the proud owner of a toolmakers vice I'd made, something I have to this day. I looks really useful but so far 40yrs later its still unused! I remember one lunchtime noticing a large number of Morris Travellers at the far end of the ETS car park and was told those were engineers cars. Wow I thought, you get a car as well! Can't wait.

Eventually I finished my 4 year sandwich course and was put on some lengthy courses at ETS learning about System 4 processors with Geoff Haydock, John Davies, Cliff Bugden as instructors. After spending 12months at Winsford and Kidsgrove training on System 4 my first site was RAF Hendon. There were 10 engineers per shift, many doing maintenance tasks on the 108 CDC disk drives, each 30Mb in capacity. Biggest database in Europe at the time but today Microsoft Windows would fill all of the 108 drives and I have 1000 times that on the PC that I'm using. However they did make a good football pitch on night shift, something my PC cant manage.

Being a processor engineer the night shifts on various sites were often spent getting up to mischief. I well remember a group of us hiding in a small room just off the main computer hall watching an engineer trying to trace a warning siren (indicating a hardware fault) that kept going off. Of course it only went off went I joined 2 wires together that were in my hand and leading all the way back to the hardware but hidden under the false floor. We nearly split our sides laughing as the alarm only went of when he scratched his head or other parts.

However, when the processor did break and they called for me, it was quite scary trying to fix it knowing the RAF supply system was down and the Ops Manager was hovering and continually asking " is it fixed yet?" To deal with the Ops Manager we often had a 'minder' that would intercept him. That way we wouldn't upset the customer by saying "it would be fixed now if you didn't keep asking me how long it will be."

One central London site in the mid 70's was very hush hush. There was an important acceptance trial that has to run before the customer would part with his money. It was a lot of money too, as a 2980 system started at £2m a throw and they had two. It failed the first time through but only just. It got 9 hrs between fails which was thought not to be reliable enough. A rerun was required and the pressure was on. If I couldn't fix it in the time allowed higher levels of support were called and God arrived in the form of Mike Swain, Geoff Scullard and others. I was then logic page turner, oscilloscope knob twiddler and tea maker to these guys whilst they sorted it for me..

In general though, night shift in the 70's was a time when site based engineers could indulge in hobbies (or simply sleep) and being a radio amateur I built many bits of gear during the night.

By the early '80's I was on support in Jack Robson's group and saw quite a few countries at ICL's expense. Jumping Jack as we called him , or John Doo would ring and ask us to go somewhere at short notice. Being so expensive, systems like the 2980 tended to go to Arab Oil producing countries or big corporations. Travel to the Kuwait Oil Company to diagnose a fault, spending the next 3 weeks learning to water ski in the Gulf until all parties were happy the fault was fixed and then flying home was nothing unusual. However, one site where I got quite a surprise was the European Space Centre in Darmstadt, Germany.. I was really excited to see a space centre with all the bearded technicians avidly watching their monitors. Hence it was a shock when I walked in that evening and the room was full of people eating takeaways and reading newspapers, feet on desks. Unfortunately it turned out that this was just where the data from space was downloaded and not where satellites were launched from. Bit of a let-down.

However in the mid '80's something called Teleservice arrived ruining the night shift hobbies & the overseas travel. Teleservice reduced the need for an engineer to be on site. Instead I sat at a Centre of Excellence as it was called and dialled in to whatever customer had a problem, worked out which part needed replacing and passed the call to the engineering teams FRC. I was no longer an "engineer" but went under the grand title of "diagnostician."

I moved onto Office Systems at STE04 in 1989 and although we had Teleservice it was often hard to be sure which part the engineer should take to fix a problem as the diagnostics were nowhere near as good as the mainframe ones. Diagnostics had been costed out at the design stage. So in out Centre of Excellence we often had a group guess although I know of one diagnostian that flicked a coin as there were two boards that often failed. Heads meant change the CPU board and tails it was change the CSM board in a DRS6000. I sometimes got the feeling that engineers in the field thought we did that for every call.

I often think of the huge contrast between teams of engineers sitting on a site in case a fault arose and now, where one engineer will cover a huge area and scores of customers. If a system fails once a year then the customer would be upset. Computers costing £2m each allowed for lots of staff costs but today far more powerful systems can be bought for a few hundred pounds and one fault could wipe out the profit on that hardware sale.

I, like many my age, feel I had the good times in engineering.
Vince Celano

Surfer in Seattle finds Bits & Bytes

I cyber surfed into the Bits and Bytes site a few weeks ago by accident. It was really nostalgic. I only spent a few years at ICL, from 1969 until 1976, but they were mostly great fun. I started off as an apprentice in Croydon, then Stevenage, Letchworth and finally Central London working 2903s.

I have some great memories. Central London was a constant Mecca for action at that time. You'd always see news cameras around covering some political event or international fiasco. Mayfair was my final "patch". Dignitaries from Vidal Sassoon to Henry Kissinger would be sharing booths in crowded coffee bars. They were fascinating days. The only real threat back then was the Irish bombs. Once I had been nagged to death by John Doo for un-submitted expenses. I spent a day doing them only for an IRA bomb in Mayfair to take out the post. Well, that was my story anyway.

Back in 72, the service office worked out of Greville Street off Hatton Garden. The crews were split by computer type. So, we went all over the city. Then shortly after, the office was split into two, finance customers and non-finance. Also, the office was moved from exciting Chancery Lane, to dour Clifton Street near Moorgate.

There are two events that stick in my mind that I can safely talk about. One was late in the evening being sent to the Guildhall. It was a creepy place late at night. After being granted entry from a rooftop gargoyle (security), I opened the big entry door and could only make out a corridor of old armour clad figures and paintings of Charles I being executed. I was always getting in trouble for inappropriate dress code from the big boss (Bert Hook). I saw a light at the end of the corridor, rushed for it, broke through only to be jumped on by two Beefeeater type guards who were protecting a dinner event being hosted by Prince Phillip. The "I feel sexy" gorilla on my tee shirt never saw the light of day again.

The other was a Saturday in Clifton Street. I was parked out behind the office. I went on a service call and was backing up when I saw the purple crowned head and humps of Nessie over top of the brick wall. I crashed into the wall smashing the rear end of my Viva. Seems a decked out camel was being stabled down the street for the Lord Mayor's Parade.

I hope all are well and have as many good memories of the old firm as I do. Alzheimer's has removed the bad ones! Still hit the Fryers Delight chippie in Holborn whenever I get sent over there (a popular hangout for evening shift engineers in the 70s, particularly a prominent guy who always signed his name in work logs as BBB).
Dave Churchman Seattle, WA
dchurchman@earthlink.net

MORE FORMULA 1 ACTIVITY

Neil McPhail's article on project WIND in the spring 2012 newsletter prompted me to write about a more recent F1 activity for the company.

By way of introduction I should say that I am a lifelong motor racing fan. This is also true of my

manager at the time (and also a good friend), Paul (Jez) Stow.

The time period was the end of 1999 and the beginning of 2000. It was an unusual working situation - at that time Fujitsu-ICL was merging with Siemens. I was managing the Server Hardware Development in Bracknell. All of the development activities were transferring to Germany. (I resisted the offer to transfer to Germany; I had made the quantum leap from Kidsgrove to Bracknell only a few years previously. Germany was definitely a step too far!).

Through the Siemens connection the company already had strong links with Formula 1 as a whole and especially the McLaren F1 team. McLaren needed a number of high end PC's to use in their garages at the race circuits. They were for a number of applications, one of the main ones being the acquisition of the telemetry data transmitted from the F1 cars. It was decided to use a new model of Intel based server as a high end PC for McLaren's application. This server was still in the product introduction stage.

The telemetry application required two A to D converter PCI cards in each server. These are normally used to continuously receive the telemetry data being sent by radio from the cars. This data is then analysed by McLaren engineers. For some circuits, continuous radio reception is unreliable due to difficult terrain (such as the forests in the Ardennes at Spa) or very built up areas (such as Monaco). In these cases the data is transmitted in burst mode as the cars go down the pit straight. There were also other third party additions to the servers to provide back-up for all this data, for post-race analysis.

The first Grand Prix of the season was (as now) at Albert Park in Melbourne, Australia. Due to various problems, particularly around the integration of the third party products, the computer project was running late. We did manage to deliver the kit to McLaren in Woking in time for them to do their UK testing before everything got packed up and sent to Australia. However, McLaren felt that there had not been time to establish the reliability of the new servers, so they insisted that someone went out to Australia with them. I know Jez himself would have loved to have gone, but he was very fair and as I had been running the project he told me that I had got to go! He did have difficulty getting the words out though, his mouth moved but nothing came out!

With less than a week to go, I applied online for an Australian Visa, only to have it rejected. I wasn't going to let this stop me. I was first in the queue at 08:30 the next morning outside the Australian Embassy in London. Actually they were very helpful. They even had a special visa category for the F1 community.

McLaren produced a manifest of everybody and everything going to Australia. It was quite impressive to be on the same list as the likes of David Coulthard, Mika Hakkinen and Ron Dennis, even if they were at the beginning and I was at the end.

I flew out with some of the other McLaren F1 support staff a week before the Grand Prix. I had a day off to recover from the jet lag while the McLaren guys "built" the actual garage. I then helped out in the garage while we installed the kit and got it all working. Later in the week, with more and more McLaren people arriving and the servers all working

OK, I was kicked out of the garage into McLaren corporate hospitality for the rest of the week and the race weekend (It's a hard life!). I was on standby in case anything went wrong with the servers so I didn't take advantage of the "liquid refreshment" side of the hospitality. This worked quite well to my advantage during qualifying and the race as I had almost exclusive use of the (open) viewing windows immediately above the McLaren pits - anybody holding a glass in their hand was not allowed within 1 metre of the open windows.

Whilst at the racetrack, I soon learned to say that I was from "Siemens". Siemens were major players in sponsoring the whole of F1. Sorry to say, but if I said "ICL" or "Fujitsu" it meant nothing, but "Siemens" got the response of "Yes Sir, straightaway Sir".

I had good offers of help from the local Fujitsu-ICL Customer Services staff in Melbourne and, by chance, met up with some of them as they were holding a meeting at my hotel.

In the event, the servers worked perfectly. The McLaren cars were first and second in qualifying. Unfortunately both cars had engine problems in the race and retired, although they did go on to later successes that year, gaining second and third in the drivers' championship. Michael Schumacher was the winner of the 2000 world championship, his first of five consecutive victories for Ferrari.

This had all been an amazing opportunity for me. Working in an F1 garage with the McLaren team is an experience that money cannot buy.

By coincidence, three years later my daughter decided to set up home in Melbourne. I have made a few return visits to the F1 Grand Prix at Albert Park, now just as an ordinary spectator and enthusiast.
Brian Morris

Bombe mystery

I wonder if I could possibly use your newsletter to see if anyone can shed any light on a family mystery. My father, John George Fraser Armstrong, worked for British Tab and its subsequent incarnations for his whole life (Letchworth, Moor Hall, Beaumont and Putney Bridge). During WW2 he worked for Bletchley Park but lived in Dorridge (West Midlands) and Bletchley Park has no record. I would love to know why he was in Dorridge and what he was doing.
jacqui.jackson1@mail.com

Letter to The Times 11 September 2012

Sir, The Last Night of the Proms and the Paralympics Closing Ceremony – did they really happen in the same country?
Hamish Carmichael Kippen Stirlingshire

Mike Forrest

It was said that, in Bracknell, the reason there were 9 levels of management in some places was to protect the workers from Mike. He was a double edged sword, and often caused one step forward and two steps backwards. I recall him admonishing us for not having more Double Firsts from Cambridge, which would have made us more effective??! The late Taff Jones told me once about a meeting where he struggled to keep his cool during one of Mike's tirades, which he manfully managed on this occasion. At the end of the meeting, Mike asked him to stay behind, and when everyone had departed, gave

him a dressing down, saying he had planned on Taff losing his cool as usual, to get the effect he wanted. Mike was a strange guy, but I must admit, very charismatic. Unlike most bosses, he would pay you to succeed, not say, "if you prove yourself you might get a promotion".

Allen Davis (LinkedIn post)

Reunions

LEO (New contact)
John Andrews
GlobalLeoSociety@gmail.com

ICL Central London
The next reunion will be on Wednesday **17 Oct 2012** at **The Shakespeare's Head, 64 Kingsway** from 12 noon. The pub is on the eastern side of Kingsway just south of Holborn tube station.
Bill Williams 020 7607 9408
256meteorahlhorn@gmail.com

Stevenage & Letchworth Old Boys (renamed Punch Card Reunion)
The annual reunion will take place on **Tuesday 2 October 2012** at Stevenage Labs STE04.

Peter Walker will talk about "**The Hollerith Heroes of WW2**"

Please send £10 to Adrian Turner, 5, Nun's Acre, Goring-on-Thames, RG8 9BE. Cheques should be made payable to **Punch Card Reunion** and accompanied by a **SAE**.
Adrian Turner 01491 872012

Kidsgrove-Drawing-Office-&-Engineering Staff.
The Annual reunion is held at the Bleeding Wolf, Scholar Green on the first Monday in December. It's organised by Jeff Parker, but people can contact me by email.
brian@morrismail.co.uk

Watford-Harrow- Feltham
Mike Ray 01895 230194

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
John Hall leosoc@freenetname.co.uk

Liverpool Engineers
We now meet about midday on the second Wednesday of every month at Wetherspoons, Great Charlotte Street near Lime Street Station.
George Lynn 01744 29984

Surrey Engineers
Trevor Harding 01483 565144

trevor@harding14.plus.com

Tin Hut Reunion
Olaf Chedzoy 01278 741 269

West Gorton Reunion
Eric W Watts 01457 875080

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

Glynis Williams
I was saddened to see that Glynis died on the 8 May 2012 aged 62. This wonderful lady joined ICL in 1984 and for many years has greeted visitors to the Stevenage "Labs" site (STE04) always smartly dressed always with a cheery disposition. This year's SLOBs/Punch Card Reunion on 2nd October will not be the same without her.

Nortel Fund

BRS06	Peter H	Hoskings	07/05/12	86
	John	Sykes	24/03/12	78
FEL01	Geoffrey R	Oxlade	22/05/12	88
	Richard P	Tierney	17/04/12	75
HOM99	Douglas	Faithful	08/05/12	80
	Geoffrey	Manuel	01/07/12	86
KID01	Graham	Beresford	02/04/12	77
	Fred	Buffey	07/06/12	86
	Anne	Hardy	12/04/12	81
	Alan	Leadbetter	14/07/12	76
	Edgar T	Parker	15/03/12	84
	H F	Wardell	18/06/12	78
LET01	Doreen I	McBain	05/07/12	86
LET04	William D	Lewis	28/05/12	82
	Clifford J	Peters	31/05/12	87
LET05	M	Doughty	20/03/12	80
	Donald J	Luya	16/08/12	87
	William G	Marston	22/05/12	89
	Iris V	Metters	20/07/12	87
	Douglas C	Roberts	01/08/12	81
	John W	Whelan	18/03/12	90
LET06	Harry A	Bullard	01/07/12	90
LON11	W A	Downing	06/08/12	83
	J M	Evans	27/07/12	76
	Sidney	Ties	11/06/12	89
LON30	Derek F	Wortham	09/04/12	84
LON31	Leslie	Mabbs	06/09/12	92
MAN01	Wilfred	Priest	12/04/12	91
MAN05	Irene	Hayes	25/04/12	91
	Olive J	Robinson	05/07/12	81
	Vernon	Robinson	14/06/12	84
MAN12	Harold W	Hayes	30/04/12	85
	Alan	McIlwraith	09/08/12	85
REA06	M H	Burnside	24/04/12	73
REA08	Graham W	Hurst	18/05/12	69
STE04	Walter R	Smith	09/05/12	83
	Derek S	Wootton	05/04/12	80
STE10	Judith	McGarry	11/07/12	53

Location	First	Surname	Date	Age
WSR01 Unknown Location	Kenneth E	**Courtney**	25/06/12	87
	Leslie A	**Abel**	31/08/12	82
	John W	**Baxter**	18/06/12	82
	Harry	**Birkenhead**	14/08/12	92
	C	**Bott**	14/08/12	75
	B	**Buckingham**	10/06/12	83
	L	**Buckingham**	29/04/12	93
	Josephine	**Chowles**	31/03/12	79
	J M	**Christie**	19/06/12	90
	Anthony M	**Cooper**	25/08/12	91
	Margery	**Currall**	21/04/12	88
	Peter	**Dean**	05/05/12	89
	Stanley W	**Dobson**	02/08/12	71
	Clifford F	**Hackett**	15/05/12	88
	Lionel V	**Harris**	26/03/12	73
	Francis H	**Hawker**	04/04/12	95
	Jan	**Heis**	24/04/12	77
	N	**Howe**	19/04/12	81
	E	**Humby**	30/06/12	91
	John R	**Jones**	11/04/12	69
	Brynmor C	**Llewellyn**	17/08/12	70
	Francis D	**Mailley**	31/05/12	80
	Hilda	**Matthews**	04/04/12	88
	Edith M	**McMahon**	26/07/12	77
	Doris F	**Medcalf**	24/05/12	92
	William	**Mills**	13/04/12	88
	George F	**Moore**	25/04/12	78
	Sylvia J	**Munford**	18/03/12	88
	G	**Osborne**	04/04/12	81
	Raymond J	**Parker**	24/04/12	82
	Dennis G	**Purnell**	05/09/12	87
	Narasim'ari	**Sampath**	05/06/12	74
	Roy	**Selman**	23/03/12	82
	A E	**Sharp**	01/09/12	98
	Robert E	**Shelley**	22/07/12	75
	Charles W	**Sherratt**	06/08/12	95
	Marjorie	**Tasker**	01/05/12	85
	Joyce H	**Templeman**	20/07/12	81
	Ronald J	**Thurgood**	10/08/12	95
	Kenneth G	**Turner**	08/05/12	77
	Clarence	**Wilcox**	06/06/12	83
	William F	**Wood**	28/12/11	80

ICL Fund

Includes people who died in service

Location	First	Surname	Date	Age
BRA01	Martin C	**Andrews**	10/08/12	64
	Gerard	**Gibbons**	29/07/12	85
	Martin H	**Hudson**	29/04/12	69
BRA05	Keith A	**Harvey**	25/08/12	80
BRS06	Claude W	**Davey**	09/08/12	77
BTN01	Robert W	**Neish**	08/05/12	60
DIMA97	Alan	**Fairfoul**	08/03/12	53
EDI04	Douglas G	**Edmond**	20/04/12	74
ELS01	Brian L	**Parker**	04/05/12	74
EXE04	Richard A	**Gatehouse**	03/06/12	72
FEL01	Diana H	**Nash**	16/07/12	77
	Roy E	**Gale**	24/03/12	78
GAT01	Donald D	**Gow**	10/05/12	78
	David J	**Bushnell**	26/03/12	71
HAM02	David J	**Beach**	31/05/12	71
HOM99	William	**Ashcroft**	26/03/12	82
	Charlotte	**Barnard**	06/07/12	45
	Suzann L	**Chesser**	05/05/12	60
	Fiona L	**Flower**	09/04/12	57
	John P	**Watson**	20/03/12	76
IRE02	Ian	**Forbes**	18/03/12	41
	David A	**Scott**	22/07/12	70
KID01	David N	**Frost**	26/08/12	76
	David	**Hirst**	29/06/12	68
	Raymond	**Felton**	11/04/12	75
	Henry B	**Lloyd**	15/03/12	73
	Brian P	**Wainwright**	22/05/12	69
	Clarence	**Wilcox**	06/06/12	83
LSA01	Stephen P	**Bayliffe**	22/07/12	51
MAN01	Ghulam M	**Brohi**	15/04/12	78
	Kenneth	**Fidler**	21/05/12	72
	Muriel	**Wharmby**	04/03/12	75
MAN05	Joan	**Brookes**	19/03/12	79
	Stephen C	**Phillips**	11/03/12	64
	Lorraine L	**Waddington**	08/07/12	53
MID01	John A	**Ford**	01/04/12	76
REA08	Thomas Q	**Orr**	22/03/12	73
STE04	Richard C	**Friend**	27/06/12	77
	Margaret	**Rudge**	19/06/12	65
	Glynis L	**Williams**	09/05/12	62
STE09	Andrew J	**Donnelly**	27/06/12	47
	Josephine A	**Matthews**	15/12/11	70
STH04	Paul M	**Mellor**	18/04/12	53
TEL01	Lesley	**Moore**	22/05/12	74
TOP07	Patricia	**Simkin**	31/03/12	57
WIN01	Ann K	**Smith**	27/07/12	64
WSR01	Alexander R	**Bird**	06/03/12	80
	Dennis B	**Blandford**	27/02/12	57
	Christopher	**Karney**	24/04/12	62
	Gillian A	**Lidbetter**	29/05/12	76
	Susan	**Okukenu**	17/01/12	51

PENSIONERS' WEBSITES

The current website for ICL Plan pensioners is at **http://uk.fujitsu.com/pensioner**

It has the current and previous issues of B&B, along with a member's area.

This website is due to be replaced in late 2012 by a new website for Fujitsu Pensions. **The proposed independent ICL People website referred to in the previous issue of B&B is not going ahead.**

Rod Brown has set up a backup repository for B&B at his website **www.bitsandbytes.shedlandz.co.uk**. The Spring and Autumn editions of B&B will be available in the last week of March and September each year. Please make a note in your diaries to access the website on a regular basis.

Rod also has other interesting information about historic ICL computers on that website – to view click on the links on the left hand column. The two ICL Anthologies produced by Hamish Carmichael are also on this site.

ICL Fund Member Nominated Trustees

Nick Cullen and John Lillywhite have been appointed. Their details can be viewed on the ICL Pensioners' website in the section on Representation in the members' area.

NEXT ISSUE

Copy for the **Spring 2013** issue must be submitted by **1 February 2013**, but would be appreciated earlier.