

# Bits & Bytes

No 30

## Editorial

I started writing this in the middle of December after an amazing two weeks of nostalgia. It all started when a flyer came through the door offering free insulation of my loft by npower (who is not my energy supplier) as I have exceeded three score years and ten. This meant that we had to empty the loft of all its accumulated contents which have been stored there "in case it might be useful" over the past 32 years. It turned out to be an archaeological dig! One particular box that my mother had given to me some years ago contained artefacts from my grammar school days, photographs from when I was in the RAF, training manuals from FETS at Letchworth and very surprisingly diaries that I had forgotten that I had ever kept. To cut a long story short I have now made contact with somebody in Huddersfield who I was with on "square bashing" at RAF Hednesford in 1958, and two RCA engineers who I last saw 43 years ago at Palm Beach Gardens in Florida. I am now a user of Facebook and have regular chats with Bruce Smith, Leigh Steves and Tom Chernetsky in Palm Beach Gardens FL, Black Hawk CO, and Atlanta GA.

I would recommend clearing your loft and keeping a bit warmer, but mainly for the history that is likely to be uncovered. Do not throw out manuals or spare parts; they will be welcomed by those people recording our computer heritage.

I'm sure the name Strazza will be remembered by all people who worked at Stevenage and especially in New Products Engineering. The name made the national news on television and in the newspapers on 22 December 2009 when the manager of the John Lewis store at High Wycombe was praised for looking after customers trapped in the car park by the snow and ice, by offering them beds and sustenance for the night. Her name is Debora Strazza and Mary, her mother in law, confirms that she is married to Andrew, Louis Strazza's son. The high standards that he set for all who worked for him in ICT/ICL must have rubbed off on his son and then to his wife!

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## Fujitsu News

### Biggest desktop outsource deal

Fujitsu signed a contract with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on 15 February 2010 to

manage and transform desktop computing for its entire staff in locations across the UK. This six year contract involving c.140, 000 desktop devices, is the single biggest desktop and thin client outsource deal in the UK and is expected to significantly reduce the Department's total cost of ownership of its desktop estate.

The significant savings will come from the innovative approach Fujitsu has taken to managing the Department's desktop environment. Primarily this will come from adopting more efficient and flexible thin client solutions to meet the Department's needs. This will enable the Department to realise significant savings in desk-side support and hardware costs, to benefit from higher availability and productivity, as well as reduced electricity consumption which will bring the Department's carbon footprint down significantly. The energy savings alone from the thin client model are expected to be many tens of millions of pounds.

### Fujitsu agrees IT services with HMT

Fujitsu has agreed a five-year contract with Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT) to provide information and communication technology (ICT) services. The range of services include, provision for desktop, laptop and multi-functional devices, secure service desk and data storage and disaster recovery facilities.

The project will be delivered as part of public sector Flex, a framework which allows Fujitsu - in conjunction with the Cabinet Office - to provide ICT as a shared service across the public sector.

Fujitsu will raise support and service standards by implementing strict service level agreements and will help to improve productivity within HMT personnel by delivering a secure remote working solution.

As part of the contract some staff are expected to transfer across from HMT to Fujitsu under the Transfer of Undertakings (TUPE) arrangement.

HMT is the latest government organisation to form part of Flex and joins The Cabinet Office, The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), Crossrail and The Office for National Statistics (ONS).

### The Commons & Lords rugby team

Fujitsu has signed a sponsorship deal with the Commons & Lords Rugby Union Football Club (RUFU) for the 2009/10 season.

The Commons and Lords RUFU exists "to foster international relations, development and friendship through parliamentary rugby". Internationally, it is

one of ten national teams playing parliamentary rugby under the control of the Council for Inter Parliamentary Rugby.

The Club – formed in 1983 – has played against all of the major rugby playing nations in the world. It raises significant amounts for charity and during the last 10 years the club has raised substantial sums for a number of charitable causes such as, the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Wooden Spoon, Dyslexia Association and Child Victims of Crime – last season the club raised £10,000. Lord Addington is Club Captain & Hon Secretary, Andy Reed MP is Club Treasurer and one of the regular players is the new Minister at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office Chris Bryant MP.

Fujitsu is among the largest IT companies in the world, and is responsible for systems that affect 99% of the population every day – from driving licences to lottery tickets, tax returns to point of sale tills in retail outlets. It is a supplier to HM Revenue and Customs, DVLA, Department of Work and Pensions, the Home Office and the Ministry of Defence. In the private sector it also supports customers as broad as the Post Office, Vodafone, Centrica and Lloyds Banking Group.

Simon Carter, marketing director, UK Government, Fujitsu UK & Ireland said “The sponsorship of the House of Commons & Lords team helps Fujitsu strengthen its 40 year relationship working with Government. We see it as an important opportunity to increase the visibility of the Fujitsu brand with members of both Houses.”

Fujitsu’s branding will include the company logo on team shirts, advertising at games and the presentation of the Fujitsu Trophy for home matches.

The sponsorship was announced before the first match of the season, played on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September against the Congreso XV – a Parliamentary Argentina touring team. Mike Hayle, director, Fujitsu UK & Ireland presented ‘The Fujitsu Trophy’ jointly to, Lord Addington, Captain Commons & Lords and Carlos Rossi Capitán de Congreso XV after the 5-5 draw.

Andy Reed MP, captain of the Commons & Lords RUFVC said “We are extremely pleased that Fujitsu have agreed to sponsor the team this season, cementing what is a long-standing relationship between Government and the company. We are looking forward to a long, but enjoyable season.”

Forthcoming Commons and Lords matches include:

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February vs. National Assembly for Wales

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February vs. Dail & Seanad, Ireland

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February vs. Scottish Parliament, Scotland

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March vs. French Assembly, France

## Home Office IT contract

Current contracts between the Home Office and two of its major IT suppliers have been extended – saving the taxpayer more than £100 million over six years.

Atos Origin and Fujitsu will provide IT services to 24,000 users across the Home Office and UK Border Agency.

The £430 million agreements will reshape current services to deliver significant improvements between now and the end of the contracts in 2016 – cutting IT costs by around a quarter.

Other improvements include delivering a more efficient service to staff, enabling greater mobility and

flexibility; making systems more reliable and responsive; and helping to bring the Home Office in line with the Government’s wider strategy for information systems and technology.

## The Highland Council £66m contract

Fujitsu was awarded preferred bidder status by The Highland Council on 30 October 2009 for a new Information Communication and Technology (ICT) services contract of five years (with an option to extend for a further two years). Under the new £66m contract Fujitsu will manage the entire ICT estate for The Highland Council, including additional scope for curriculum ICT to all schools across the Highlands.

This new partnership will invest in a complete transformation and modernisation of the Council’s entire ICT infrastructure, systems and services, including major projects for new customer relationship management and the provision of unified communications solutions across the Council. This transformation programme will support and enable improvements in Council services and better flexible and mobile working. The new ICT systems and infrastructure will also be very energy-efficient resulting in major energy cost savings, a lower carbon footprint, and even higher ICT service levels for the Council and its ICT users. In addition the new contract will achieve annual efficiency savings for The Highland Council of 2.5% per annum.

Fujitsu has developed an innovative solution for the Council that will deliver more reliable and scalable infrastructure services, applications portfolio management, thick and thin client desktop technology based on Windows 7, a modern telephony solution based on Cisco IPT and an improved service management environment based on Fujitsu’s TRIOLE for Services platform and Sense & Respond methodology.

## Fujitsu donates a PlayPump

Expanding the scope of its social investment commitment, and its reputation, Fujitsu has donated a PlayPump water pumping system to the Uitschot Primary School in Vermaas, North West province, South Africa. This was a joint project involving Fujitsu in UK, Germany and South Africa.

According to the Water Affairs and Forestry Minister, South Africa’s water demand will exceed resource supply by 2013. Add to that the issues surrounding the purity of available water and the problem is even more serious.

PlayPump water systems, from award-winning company Roundabout Outdoor, are merry-go-rounds that entertain, educate and pump water. They feature a merry-go-round pump head with high-capacity, sealed water storage tank and four billboard spaces for both advertising and powerful public education messages. This advertising revenue is used to fund maintenance and guarantee sustainability.

“Transforming the lives of the less fortunate does not happen by accident,” said Dave Birch, Fujitsu consultant. “It’s only through the efforts of local businesses and their employees that those trapped in poverty will have a chance at improving their lives.”

“By funding a PlayPump, Fujitsu is offering a school a healthy source of water and the means to maintain the system in the long term. It also offers our

employees a tangible way in which to get involved in uplifting communities.”

Since 2008, as part of Fujitsu's Corporate Responsibility programme, employees have been buying bottled water from The One Foundation, the charitable division of Global Ethics. Fujitsu raised £10,000 which included money from the sales of One Water and donations from employees from the UK, Germany and South Africa. Global Ethics sells and markets One branded products in order to generate funds for humanitarian projects in developing countries.

A Fujitsu-sponsored team of cycling fanatics, led by Dave Birch rode 500 kilometre course through the Western Cape of South Africa to complete the fund raising for this first PlayPump.

The school previously found itself in a precarious position, desperate for clean water for its 500 students and 18 staff members. With the PlayPump, Fujitsu has supplied the school with the means to secure more clean drinking water for many years to come.

## Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS)

**London, 23 November 2009** – Fujitsu is launching the first cloud based infrastructure service designed for organisations in the UK and Ireland. No longer will customers need to purchase servers, software, data centre space or network equipment individually; rather they can now buy those resources as a service charged on a pay per use basis. The new service, called 'Infrastructure as a Service' (IaaS), is immediately available and completes the four layers of Fujitsu's Dynamic Infrastructures portfolio.

Fujitsu IaaS has been designed for medium and large enterprises who want to rapidly drive out costs from the IT infrastructure. This is achieved by reducing the need for capital expenditure and reducing operational costs by up to 40%. This is done without compromising either the resilience of the IT system or the security of their organisation.

## Life before ICL Switches On

Reading Frank Tilley's article in B&B No 28 of his wartime exploits reminded me of his prowess in restoring old company equipment to working order in the Company Museum at Stevenage and prompted me to write of one of my experiences in the RAF.

My father Ernest Collinson, known to all as Colly, spent 41 years with the company. After starting in 1921 he spent time as a mechanical services engineer before I was even a glimmer in his eye. Years later he told me about those early days with his colleagues and the time spent seeking faults often through switching problems. All this was to come back to me when serving with the RAF on 202 Squadron flying Catalina flying boats. *(There is a very good example of this wonderful aircraft at RAF Duxford. Ed)*

Based at Castle Archdale, north of Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, our operations were to provide convoy escort and seek and destroy U-boats in the North Atlantic. We had a crew of nine, two pilots, a navigator, a flight engineer, a wireless operator/air gunner and four air gunners. We carried depth charges and had machine guns for attack and defence.

On most operations, which could last for 24 hours, we saw only ships fish and square miles of sea which

we searched with radar and binoculars. At night we had the radar and a searchlight for use if we made radar contact. Boredom was a big problem but on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 1945 things got a bit different.

It was a beautiful afternoon when there was a cry from the rear turret "Periscope aft". Action stations and we make a turn of 360 degrees to get into an attack position at 50 feet. The pilots are controlling height, air speed and direction, the navigator is in the nose of the aircraft, flat on his tummy manning the low level bomb sight, the front gunner, body in the open, straddles the navigator standing on two steps. A perfect attack, "Bombs gone" cried the navigator – but they hadn't! We swept across the target which sailed on and submerged, giving us no chance of a second attack. The navigator quickly found the problem. The gunner's left boot had knocked back the cover of the panel which covered the circuitry controlling the bomb release mechanism. A projecting screw had tripped a vital switch in the bomb release mechanism causing it to fail. For the skipper of the aircraft, John Baldry it was a dreadful moment. He was on his third flying boat tour and it was the first time that his crew had ever made a sighting. "I could weep" was all he could say.

It was a serious offence to sight a U-boat and not drop depth charges. There was a court of enquiry. The crew were exonerated and somebody in the armament section got a rocket for a botched modification to the cover. It was no consolation to the crew. Frank Tilley's operation on the 12 November 1944 resulted in the sinking of the Tirpitz. Our Operation on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 1945 did not disturb the whales.

Since the war 202 Squadron has become the oldest Search and Rescue helicopter squadron of the Royal Air Force. Based in the North of England it rescues many people in difficulties in the mountains and at sea. Its activities are often featured on television. Luckily no switching problems have been reported!

**Gordon Collinson**

## Life in BTM/ICT/ICL OfficePower

There are many readers who will recall the long-lived ICL software product called OfficePower. This product was used in its time by a large number of customers in the UK, US, Australia and Malaysia, and even in Africa in countries such as Zimbabwe. I believe there were over a million users at one time. It had a number of other language variants and used in parts of Europe. There was even a version produced in Kanji. Recall it was an integrated office product providing the likes of email, calendar, word processing, spreadsheet, database, file management and other applications based on UNIX servers. It was used as the standard office product internally by ICL for many years. Most people will remember the so called 'Green screens' on dumb terminals. However many customers also bought the windows client and lots of users only ever used OfficePower with their PCs never realising its past life with attached terminals. The later versions of OfficePower also worked with a web browser when OfficePower became 'web enabled'.

OfficePower was started up in the US by a small company called RLG in 1981 and the name persisted. It proved very successful with US legal firms using

special features of the word processor. It was then acquired and developed by a US company called CCI who also produced Unix servers. ICL acquired worldwide rights in 1985 via STC when STC acquired ICL. ICL launched OfficePower on the UNIX servers called CLAN from about 1986.

After 1985 both ICL and CCI developed OfficePower until ICL took over CCI and the developments merged. ICL spun off a company in 1998 called Teamware which continued to develop both OfficePower and a similar product called Teamware Office.

OfficePower 2001 was the last version of the product to be released. What is interesting is the longevity of many such applications that are now a mere footnote in the history of IT. OfficePower proved to be a very robust and reliable system. With many hundreds of man years' development over two decades it grew into a very large and feature rich system. And thousands and thousands of people across the world will vaguely remember the name OfficePower as something they used daily - way back in the twentieth century.

Many ICL staff worked on OfficePower development over the years - many for a good part of their careers. I can recall senior managers like Jim Brice, Alun Roberts, Gill Ringland, and key marketing people such as Paul Kingston and John Robinson, and of course great design people such as Brian Matthews, Rex Dixon, Tony Sever and Peter Stoye. I often wonder what they are doing now. There are some great stories associated with OfficePower that may be of interest another time - as when after trouble free working for almost a decade the windows client stopped working in February 2003 because an unspotted Millennium type bug that unfortunately affected customers as far away as the US and Australia.

**Ken Chilton**

## Letters & e-mails

### Recruitment

Bob Crooks' recollections reminded me of a story of his recruitment to the GDI job told by Dave Dace.

Dave was actioned to find a GDI man by Geoff Cross and thought Bob would be good for the job. Not long after this Dave found himself in the Putney lift with Geoff who asked if he had got his GDI man. Dave, not wishing to look a slouch, said yes. 'Good' says Geoff 'what's his name?' 'Bob Crooks' says Dave. Unfortunately Dave had not had a chance to talk to Bob, so he had to quickly contact him and convince him to take the job.

**John Williamson**

### Donald Arthur Austin (born 1926)

The recent article in Resurrection regarding Power-Samas (complete with pictures!) reminded me that my father, Donald Arthur Austin, once worked for them, probably during the 1950s, but maybe earlier.

During most of my childhood (late 1950s onwards) he worked for GEC in Erith, Kent. He later worked for Redifon Astrodatab in Rustington, West Sussex, and Membrain.

Unfortunately he died a number of years ago before I was able to document his involvement in early computing.

If any of your readers have any information about Don I would be very pleased to hear from them.

**Trevor Austin**

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## OLD BORE'S ALMANAC

2025 is not twenty-five past eight, but predicted as the tipping point. I thought the tipping point was the saucer by the café till where one left any small change, but it's apparently the year of Armageddon. I'll avoid the pun, "Arm a gedden outa here", for I'll be 99 then and it might be relevant!

I accept global warming is a fact, but hearing conflicting advice about the rate. Today's estimate is, it'll peak in around 15 years. Don't worry about Bits & Bytes, as our editor will be secure up river. When they close the Thames Barrier, we in Essex, beyond the pale, will be sacrificed to save the essential people. A different expert calculates Eastern England will be a desert by then. At least I'll have a choice, death by drowning or heatstroke!

In the first scenario, when the Thames estuary floods, the wind farm off Southend-under-Sea will be beneath the water, so bang goes that power source. Bradwell nuclear plant, like most of them on the coast, could blow a fuse or two. I ought to start worrying, but at 83 I'm past listening to experts.

In 1939 at 14, I had my first worry when my birthday present was a gas mask. We'd already been assured "The bomber would never get through" and they spoiled it with the comforting postscript that "Even if they did, they'd never get back!"

By 1940, after the Express assured us there'd be no war, I was collecting shrapnel in my gas mask case and ignoring experts. After the war, rationing was essential we were told and the Belgians, for example, were doomed, as they'd cancelled all rationing. As late as 1953 we still had coupons for bread and our wedding cake had a layer of cardboard. Perhaps we should have married in Belgium!

By the 50's, we were promised that nuclear fuel from the ZETA project would be so cheap it wouldn't be worth metering the electricity, according to the experts. In the 60's, nuclear destruction was imminent, said one Cassandra and after that it was AIDS that'd do for us.

My mother used to get her predictions from Old Moore's Almanac, a pocket edition of all the alarming predictions the tabloids hawk today. By the time she reached 92, surviving two World Wars, even she felt the prognostications of experts were suspect. I'm sure some of these experts are right, but which ones! Taking a size 11, maybe my carbon footprint is in credit, so despite the threat of flooding/ freezing/ sunstroke/ famine and swine flu I'll carry on, despite my melting pension, confident my "copy" will get to Adrian come rain, shine or worse.

**Dennis Goodwin**

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## Time Management

Being a relative youngster I do not yet qualify to receive, and maybe even not read, Bits & Bytes. However that will all change on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2009. Like many others I will still be relatively young but will become a pension liability. I should perhaps delay writing this letter until after that date but having spoken with many hard core pensioners in the North I

am lead to believe that life beyond Fujitsu (ICL) is so hectic that I will probably not be able to find the time to put pen to paper (fingers to keyboard just doesn't have the same ring does it?). So far I have only considered my life outside Fujitsu for a few brief minutes but have compiled a list of tasks/activities which will take me to 2015 (the year, not supper time!). Throughout our careers we have all probably had some level of time management training but I ask if your readers can recommend anything at a more advanced level as I enter this busiest period of my "working" life? The only advice I have received so far from the Northern hard core is to do what 'er-in-doors asks **when** she asks. Fujitsu pressures can no longer be cited and will not be accepted as a delaying tactic. Surely there must be something better than this?

**Stewart Bartram, ex Project Manager WAK01**

## **ICL 1904S Emulator, including a plea for information**

Bill Gallagher and myself have been working on a 1904S emulator for approaching 3 years, the first year being discussions about practicality, method, final aims etc. We are both users of the GEORGE 3 Executive Emulator (by David Holdsworth and Delwyn Holroyd) and have been running the system for several years, but we wanted to go further than it allowed (and was likely to - discussions with Delwyn).

Our system is still at 'development' status, we were hoping for an 'alpha' test release mid to late 2009, but have been side-tracked from the main project. There have been several of these diversions, every one of which has improved our knowledge and will add to the final 'product'.

The aim is to emulate a 1904S (also 4A/3T) processor at hardware level, running as near as we can determine at the speed of the original, with the processor code being separate from each peripheral and connecting via a 'standard interface' using TCP/IP. The peripheral timing is also being set to match that of the originals.

The system has been running reliably for some considerable time, the processor passes the #FLIT processor test and we can run both E6RM and EWG3 executives, with G3, G2 and Maximop as appropriate.

The peripheral code is currently 'built in' as per G3EE as part of the initial development process. We have had fun and games with the SI, mainly due to a lack of information - any further information welcome. The 'alpha' release is on hold until the peripherals are separated out.

One of our side tracks was to create a 1901A (hand-switch only) processor. More work is required to finalise it, but it will run programs loaded from standard binary card images under E1HS executive. This processor will be able to share the same SI peripherals (as appropriate) that are being developed for the 1904S.

Work is proceeding on the separation of peripherals, ready for an 'alpha' test release, for which the 1901A with the simple E1HS executive as a useful test bed.

The current side-track is a PF56 (GPC) emulator, which with the appropriate DCP (we have a selection), will either act as a 2812 disc controller (EDS30/EDS60/EDS200) or 7903 communications processor

During the course of the project, we have so far accumulated a collection of manuals and software, far

from a full set so any additions welcome, the majority of which we have made available on my web site '<http://www.icl1900.co.uk/preserve/index.html>'.

Without G3EE we couldn't have got anywhere with this project. In our opinion for a quick flavour of G3, G3EE is far simpler to load and run - we are trying to give an 'authentic' feel to the emulator, as such it will not be as user friendly to set up (or run). Thanks again to David and Delwyn.

### **Now the plea for help**

While looking at diagrams and perusing technical manuals, we have come across some (new to us) features of the 1900 hardware that have surprised us and we are looking for further information on them from anybody who might have any memories, documents or knowledge.

In addition to the normal User and Executive modes, we have found details of a 'Priority Mode' that can interrupt Executive and can run for a limited time. This appears to be entered via a 'Real Time' interrupt via fast task switching (no saving of accumulators as per normal executive entry) and can run for a limited time before a 'time-out' interrupt. The exit seems to be via a F=164P/X=4 hardware order which is only valid in Priority Mode, there also appears to be a F=174P hardware instruction available, which we assume is to be used instead of the F=157 (PERI) extracode. This appears to be range compatible, in that we have found similar features in the 1902A/1903A hardware description.

What we have found appears to match the description of the priority member 5 in sub-programming in TP 4095 Central Processors, April 1968, a feature subsequently withdrawn in the description of sub-programming in Publication Notice 11 of TP 4322 Plan Reference, April 1976.

Does anybody know:-

Why the feature was withdrawn?

What peripheral(s) required it?

How/why it was needed/used?

Could any SI be linked to the Real Time Interrupt? Or was this the use (on a 1904AS) for the unused SI channels 22 and 23.

There is also a set of hardware monitor modes which allow tracing and trapping of user mode events, and also appears to provide an executive trace facility. For the user mode, it seems that a program can be 'single-shotted' by Executive, with a monitor event after each user mode instruction. There are other levels, including a modified NULL instruction (F=123/X=7) which causes a monitor event if the appropriate mode is set.

The executives we have do not support these facilities, does anybody know where/how, or why they were used?

We have also come across Executive Mode instructions F=152/F=153/F=154 which appear to be unused in normal executives. They provide a hardware pattern search facility (again seem to be range compatible). Where they ever used? If so what for?

The drawings show that many hundreds of signals were made visible via a large number of lights (many hundreds) - are there any pictures, copies of light-maps or other relevant information out there?

Any further information welcome.

**Brian W Spoor MBCS CITP**  
**brian@fridaycs.co.uk**

## 96 and still going strong

I congratulate you on the Bits and Bytes news letter and thank you for always sending me a copy.

I particularly enjoy reading the letters that you publish, but, at the age of almost 96, (with no thought of falling of the perch yet). and having left the company in 1975, few of the names register with me. Those that did, in this last edition, were that of Mr Ray Kilroy who was, for a time, the General Manager in Sydney and who probably does not remember me, although I was present when he donned his long service tie, Mr Cedric Dickens, who, when giving a talk in Sydney asked if everyone knew what he was talking about, and I had the temerity to say that I did not, as he had made so many references with abbreviations that I did not understand, and Mr Arthur Humphreys I met while I was the engineer in Ireland, and again at one of the Double Majority dinners, when on a visit to the auld country, since retirement

As you may know I am not a company pensioner, but at the age of sixty with 44 years plus, of service to the company I was engineering supervisor in N.S.W and as computers had become the norm, and I was considered too old to send on courses, I was given what I have since concluded, the bad advice by our then general manager, Mr Cliff Oldham, to take early retirement. This I did, and always regretted, as it was not my wish, and I was duly paid up in full by the company, without a pension

I was very interested to read, under the heading of "Letters and Emails, that a set of the old Powers equipment still exists. Until a few years ago I also had a set of 40 col. Tab, Sorter and UAkP's at my home, but needing the space, I disposed of them. Another regret.

As it was my proud boast that during the whole of my career on the outside staff I never at any time called for help, I am pretty sure I could get the machines he speaks of, into running order, especially as I have just had cataracts removed from my eyes and I can see well again, but it would be a long way to travel on a service call at my age. He is about right the time of the change from 45 to 65 col. There was also an 80 col., not very well known, version later and the advent of the 40 col. 4-5 machines from 36 col.

My life since may be of some interest. For the next five years after leaving the company, and until I became eligible for the Australian age pension, I had several jobs, one as a Car Salesman, another as a Instructor Driver, Daily driving of disabled children at a local school and anything else that came up. Mostly voluntary no pay jobs

We, my wife and I, had bought a small house which backed on to Caroline Bay, in the Brisbane Waters, in Gosford, 50 miles north of Sydney, with a fairly large garden, and we enjoyed a happy life with all the usual household jobs and a bit of fishing etc. I then bought a small caravan and decided to see the real Australia, and we set off on a series of trips, the first being north along the east coast as far as Cook which included the Barrier Reef on which I had my first experience of skin diving, 48 minutes and 28 feet down (wonderful) The whole trip was highly successful and was followed by many trips to Victoria and South Australia, Then it was across the Nullarbour Plain to West Australia and finally a trip right round Australia, up the east coast, across the top, down the west and back to

Sydney via the Barossa Valley (eighty days) and 25,000 miles of wonderful, beautiful, wild country Other than these trips we also toured New Zealand, Tasmania and the Norfolk Island

A favourite place to us was South West Rocks, 400 miles north of Gosford, where my wife and I spent many happy holidays, long weekends and any time we could get away, as our time in Gosford was often fairly busy

I am a Masonic member, Probus Club member of which I am still the editor of a four page monthly news letter, and the hon. Secretary of The Court of Amaranth, enjoy a game of golf, and play the organ for four different charity organisations (All voluntary) Gwen my wife was a member, and always an officer of the Amaranth, secretary of a ladies church group, and keen player and watcher of tennis who when the tournaments were on, would wake me at ? A.M, to tell me who had won

Gwen passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1994 with Motor Neurone disease, in her own home, and I was able to demonstrate my thanks and love to her, with care, but my life changed. I sold the caravan and lost interest in travel, but, as she would have wished, continued with all other activities and, as my seven lovely girls – (My daughter, two Granddaughters each of whom has two daughters, eldest 5 years, and live in Canberra,) 300 miles away, life without my wonderful wife is somewhat lonely, but fortunately, with many friends, and continued activities, is still interesting and fulfilling

**Albert Orsborn**

## Reunions

### Ferranti Pegasus 50th anniversary

A Pegasus computer is exhibited in the London Science Museum – the oldest working extant electronic computer in the world. This computer was restored by members of the Computer Conservation Society, and went on display in the Computing Gallery in 1999.

You are welcome to attend an afternoon seminar to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this machine – particularly if you worked on the Pegasus as an engineer or a programmer.

The event being organised by the CCS is planned for **20 May 2010.**

For confirmation of the event and details please check on the CCS website at <http://ccs.bcs.org> nearer the time, or contact [alan.thomson@bcs.org](mailto:alan.thomson@bcs.org) (or phone 01344 422993)

### Watford-Harrow- Feltham

A few of ex-B.T.M/I.C.T/I.C.L engineers from the Harrow/Watford/Feltham group met up for lunch at the Leefe Robinson restaurant in Stanmore Harrow in October 2009. We hope to repeat the gathering sometime in the spring next year, when everyone has recovered from Christmas and the weather is more clement.

**Mike Ray 01895 230194**

## ICL Central London

### Changed venue

The next reunion will be on Wednesday 21 April 2010 at **The Shakespear'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**  
aberglaubig@yahoo.co.uk

### Stevenage & Letchworth Old Boys (renamed Punch Card Reunion)

The annual reunion will take place on **Tuesday 5 October 2010** at Stevenage Labs STE04. 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**

### Oxford Engineers

**Ken Jones 01865 340388**  
kenwynjones@aol.com

### ICL Australia

ian.pearson5@bigpond.com

### Cophall 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**

### 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**

### **Les Cole**

Les Cole joined Power Samas soon after being demobbed after the Second World war where he had served as one of the brave glider pilots who took part

in the battle of Arnhem. (His Red Beret was one his treasured possessions).

Les passed away earlier this year after a very brave fight against cancer to such an extent that he just carried on his life in as normal a way that you wouldn't believe that he had such a serious illness. He hired a villa in Italy and took his family and some close friends on a holiday they will never forget.

Les joined International Computers and Tabulators when Power Samas merged with the British Tabulating Co. in 1959.

In the newly formed combined sales force he was appointed an Area Mngr. and soon became a Regional Mngr. then promotion took him to Sector Mngr. and then Divisional Mngr. before being appointed UK Sales Mngr. and finally elevated to the ICL Main Board as Director, Worldwide Marketing Group.

### **Tom Hudson**

Tom Hudson who died 19 October 2009 aged 94 joined ICL when it was formed in 1968 having been Plessey's finance director and prior to that he was managing director of IBM UK. He was appointed to be chairman of ICL in 1972. He remained in that position until his retirement in 1980.

Tom was born in Sidcup in Kent and his family emigrated to Nova Scotia where his father developed a small holding. He studied accountancy until the start of the Second World War when he served as a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Navy. He qualified as a chartered accountant in 1946 and joined IBM in Montreal. In 1951 he was asked to go to England as manager of a small sales team that was the foundation of IBM UK. He became chairman in 1954 and continued in that position until 1965 when he moved to Plessey.

## **ICL/Nortel Fund**

<b>BIR03</b>	B J	<b>Howe</b>	14/10/09	83
<b>BIR04</b>	Elam	<b>Sansom</b>	01/10/09	77
<b>Croydon</b>	Harold G	<b>Hunt</b>	13/01/10	100
<b>DAL01</b>	W	<b>Grainger</b>	11/01/10	86
<b>EDI04</b>	A S	<b>McCready</b>	12/01/10	81
<b>FEL01</b>	Alan J	<b>Geden</b>	03/10/09	81
<b>GLA01</b>	J A	<b>Savage</b>	10/11/09	75
<b>HOM99</b>	M P	<b>Scott</b>	05/02/10	78
<b>IRE01</b>	John	<b>Carroll</b>	27/01/10	78
<b>KID01</b>	Harold	<b>Groom</b>	07/02/10	87
	A	<b>Lovatt</b>	27/01/10	85
	Norman	<b>Lycett</b>	07/11/09	83
	Ronald	<b>Parkinson</b>	20/10/09	79
<b>KID02</b>	Ronald F	<b>Bailey</b>	04/01/10	87
<b>LET04</b>	Arthur E	<b>Talbot</b>	23/11/09	82
<b>LET05</b>	Betteria	<b>Gower</b>	25/09/09	73
	Reginald	<b>Howard</b>	07/12/09	76
	P	<b>Seymour</b>	04/01/10	87
	J	<b>Swan</b>	02/12/09	82
	Eric W	<b>Thornhill</b>	05/10/09	76
<b>Letchworth</b>	Donald F	<b>Richardson</b>	05/10/09	81
<b>Liverpool</b>	Robert	<b>Caffrey</b>	09/12/09	85
<b>LON22</b>	D M	<b>Agger</b>	17/10/09	82
<b>LON30</b>	Charles	<b>Abbs</b>	14/11/09	83
	Kenneth	<b>Taylor</b>	23/11/09	82
<b>LON31</b>	H	<b>Griffin</b>	11/01/10	77
<b>MAN01</b>	R	<b>Jones</b>	20/01/10	84

MAN05	Peter E	Attenborough Oliver	09/12/09	78
MAN07	Bert	Dawson	23/10/09	84
NEL02	K W	Tomkinson	20/01/10	63
Putney	Stanley Hugh P	Chue Kavanagh	20/12/09	73
REA01	B C	Banham	15/10/09	85
STE04	Ronald Peter	Bedwell Mellor	24/09/09	84
STE08	Douglas	Wootton	13/11/09	79
WAK01	Alwyn	Woodall	07/10/09	62
Winsford	V	Maddock	20/01/10	87
Unknown	P L	Bashford	14/01/10	83
Location	M K	Brown	07/01/10	81
	H	Burgess	26/01/10	89
	Thomas	Carter	24/12/09	83
	Cyril	Clare	31/10/09	87
	L	Dodgson	03/01/10	80
	J E	Endersby	02/02/10	84
	D H	Finch	04/11/09	86
	Robert L	Fothergill	01/12/09	89
	Walter C	Friell	27/12/09	73
	Malcolm	Fryer-Kelsey	09/10/09	91
	M J	Furlong	06/12/09	83
	L	Gallagher	25/11/09/	68
	Barry	Gilman	11/12/09	93
	J	Groom	13/11/09	73
	P E	Harper	14/12/09	83
	Albert R	Hayes	06/01/10	79
	Reginald	Jones	22/01/10	70
	Olive	Kidd	03/11/09	85
	John R	Latham	08/10/09	83
	William	Mansfield	03/11/09	86
	Charles	Mason	06/10/09	76
	Dennis	Milner	18/09/09	81
	John J	Mulroy	24/12/09	83
	G	O'Reilly	01/11/09	83
	Frank	Proudlove	28/01/10	70
	Thomas	Pryce	05/02/10	77
	John A	Pyle	10/10/09	71
	P J	Ronnie	18/01/10	85
	Dennis E	Rowland	14/10/09	94
	Dorothy	Silsby	19/11/09	97
	Michael	Southwood	22/10/09	87
	Cyril W	Squires	13/02/10	90
	John T	Taylor	24/10/09	83
			27/01/10	90
			02/11/09	77

	Mary	Hodgkiss	10/01/10	79
	Gordon	Lester	19/10/09	73
LEE01	Stephen	Phillips	02/12/09	61
LON49	Stanley R	Green	01/01/10	71
LON85	Ian W	Haddock	18/09/09	74
MAN01	Fredrick	Daniels	31/10/09	63
	William M	Foster	26/10/09	75
MAN05	Colin A	Roy	08/10/09	42
MAN12	Kenneth J	Roe	08/10/09	59
	Graham N	Walker	15/10/09	76
MAN13	Philip C	Rushton	01/12/09	59
MAN33	David A	Johnson	01/11/09	57
MSC31	Kenneth G	Gracy	19/09/09	66
REA23	Arthur R	Middleton	01/01/10	63
STE04	Margaret	Carter	01/01/10	63
	Vera F	Hayes	21/12/09	72
	Olive M	Pettit	18/12/09	73
	Lindsay M	Powell	16/01/10	77
	John R	Turner	14/11/09	52
STE14	Nelson S	Hills	26/11/09	63
WSR01	Susan	Jesse	21/01/10	79
			03/01/10	72

## PENSIONERS' REPS

The reps can be contacted by phone or by email via the ICL Pensioners' website.

### Colin Marshall

01538 371618

### Dik Leatherdale

020 8977 5893

### Hilary Robinson

01270 882818

### Alan Thomson

01344 422993

### 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>

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

### NEXT ISSUE

Copy for the **Autum 2010** issue must be submitted by **1 September 2010**, but would be appreciated earlier.

*The content of Bits & Bytes has been prepared by the Editor to provide a newsletter for ex ICL/Fujitsu staff. By facilitating this newsletter Fujitsu Services does not endorse, edit, or attempt to balance the opinions offered here or accept responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information, nor for any loss or damage occasioned to any person acting or refraining from acting as a result of the information or data contained within.*

Published and printed by the ICL Group Pension Fund March 2010.

## ICL Fund

Includes people who died in service

ABR01	Harry J	Thomson	03/09/09	76
BIR03	Samuel B	Rhodes	27/12/09	69
BRA01	Janice V	Fortey	10/12/09	63
	Susanne J	McVicker	04/12/09	64
	Alan	Pooley	29/09/09	57
	Derek S	Ready	19/08/09	56
BRS06	George K	Otway	23/11/09	78
BSN01	John W	Hailstone	01/12/09	66
	Graham M	Windibank	29/12/09	70
ELS01	Roger	Pitman	07/10/09	73
HOM99	John	Duggins	07/11/09	76
	Michael D	Keohane	23/12/09	76
IRE11	Robert S	Bailes	03/10/09	61
KID01	David W	Aitken	28/09/09	67
	Ronald	Camm	27/10/09	78