Bits & Bytes

Editorial

The Spring 2004 issue of Bits & Bytes – No 18 appears to have caused the Post Office a great deal of trouble, as I have received many complaints that it had not been delivered. The people responsible for the printing and distribution informed the ICL Pensions Department that it had gone out on 15 April, but I have been told that many copies were not received until 20 May. I know that they went out 2nd class but in Victorian times I'm sure that they would have been delivered in less than 5 days not 5 weeks! Apologies to all concerned.

Phase 1 of the ICL Pensioners' website went live on 15 July 2004. Phase 2 which will offer a members area to ICL Group Pensioners only is expected to go live at the end of October 2004.

You will be pleased to know that the Internet can deliver in minutes not weeks and that all back editions of B&B will be available online at http://uk.fujitsu.com/pensioner.

I had a very interesting reunion in Munich in early June when I met an ex Siemens engineer who I last saw in RCA's plant in Palm Beach Gardens in 1964 when ICT were selling the RCA 301 (ICT1500) and Siemens were about to market the RCA Spectra 70. It again proved to me that memories of 40 years ago are fresher than those of yesterday!

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Fujitsu Services

New Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Fujitsu Services, announced that on 1 April 2004 its current chief executive Richard Christou will become its executive chairman and current chief operating officer, David Courtley, will be appointed as chief executive officer. Prior to this announcement the chairman of Fujitsu Services was Hiroaki Kurokawa, president of the Fujitsu group.

The appointments follow a very successful period for Fujitsu, which has seen the company win over £3.5 billion in infrastructure management contracts being awarded from such customers as the NHS, Post Office, bmi British Midland and DVLA.

Richard Christou said, "Fujitsu Services has come through a difficult period, reflecting the tough market conditions. However the company has now been transformed and we are now seeing some real success, which I look forward to building on in my new role as executive chairman. The time is now right for me to focus on the future direction and strategy of the company and for David Courtley to take over the running of the company"

Commenting on his appointment David Courtley said, "The company has come a long way in the last few years. We have succeeded in our plan to get the services we deliver to our customers right and then we moved onto making the business profitable. Now we are focusing on growing the company"

Richard Christou has a law degree form Trinity Colleague Cambridge and is a qualified solicitor. After working in the City and Cyprus he joined ITT, in 1975, as legal adviser and later became legal adviser and company secretary to ITT's UK telecommunications operation STC Telecommunications. He later moved up to director, commercial and legal affairs within STC, which at that time owned ICL. Following the acquisition by Fujitsu of 80% of ICL in 1990, Richard relinquished his STC responsibilities, and moved over to ICL. In 2000 Richard was appointed CEO of ICL and managed its re-branding to Fujitsu Services in 2002.

David Courtley joined Fujitsu Services in July 2001 as chief operating officer. He has been in the IT industry for over 25 years and has held senior management roles, including being the managing director of EDS UK. Immediately before joining Fujitsu was chief executive officer for e-people-serve – a BT/Accenture joint venture.

Fujitsu Services' increased profits and order book of £5.5bn

Preliminary unaudited results

Fujitsu Services Holdings PLC, announced 24 May 2004 its financial results for 2004, following its return to profitability in 2003. The company made an operating profit before exceptional items of £54.3 million and a profit before tax of £50.4 million in the year ending 31 March 2004. Operating profit including exceptional items was £36.6 million. Operating cash flow of £126.4 million was generated, together with an order book of £5.5 billion

Since 2001 the new management team has transformed the company bringing with it notable successes. It has seen the company follow significant wins with new customers like DVLA with, in 2003/4, over £4 billion in infrastructure management contracts from customers which include the NHS, bmi

British Midland, Reuters and, in partnership with Capgemini, the Inland Revenue.

David Courtley, CEO, commented: "I am delighted to be able to report, yet again, another good performance. I am particularly pleased to see an exceptionally strong order book at £5.5 billion, which gives us an excellent start to the next financial year. The continuing growth and profitability was achieved as a result of the performance of our underlying business. Contract performance and productivity have both continued to improve significantly."

He continued: "The figures reflect the commitment of everyone across the organisation to achieve our goal to deliver the right services to our customers and, to continue to make the business profitable. Our business is now more adaptive to future market dynamics and based on this we will now focus on the continuing growth of Fujitsu Services in the commercial sector."

Fujitsu Polar Challenge

The Fujitsu Polar Challenge is a competitive team race to the Magnetic North Pole, which aims to inspire the participating individuals to push their limits and achieve the extraordinary. Six teams of three, comprising of experienced arctic explorers and one lucky 'man off the street', set off from Resolute Island in North Canada on 6 April 2004 and will cover 280 nautical miles of the most extreme polar conditions.

In addition to sponsoring the event, Fujitsu Services has provided a wide range of mobile communication devices for the challenge, from satellite phones to wireless laptops - an essential technology infrastructure enabling the teams to keep in touch with race organisers, friends, families and work colleagues back home. Fujitsu also has its own team, Team Fujitsu, racing to be the first to reach the pole.

Traditionally, participants on these events use voice over a satellite telephone link to stay in touch, but relying on this communication can be problematic – reception can be patchy due to power or signal loss. To combat this problem, Team Fujitsu is testing a more sophisticated method - communication by simplified text-only email on mobile PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants), which are not effected by patchy reception due to their ability to communicate during the short bursts of connectivity. The PDAs are equipped with a compact high speed serial flash card, which enables communication with satellite phones and SDRAM (Synchronous Dynamic Random Access Memory), allowing teams to recover their data if the PDA broke or froze in the arctic climate.

"We've never done this kind of thing before," said Fujitsu's Tony Gale, technical solution lead: "We will learn, whatever happens. Team Fujitsu is the only team in the race using data communications while everyone else is using voice."

A further concern is that in these extreme conditions of minus 40 degrees celsius it is possible the PDAs will freeze if exposed for too long. Team members have to keep the devices close to their body to keep them warm and cannot bring them out until night when their tents have warmed up.

To send an email, the team will place a call to the Iridium satellite, which contacts the Iridium station where an access call to the ISP is made. This is similar to dialling up a hotmail account but much slower (speeds of 2.4 kbs per second i.e. 1/20th of normal dial up speed). Emails have to be short and sweet because of bandwidth issues and battery life. In addition, a special report of arctic conditions including details of the current weather outlook is generated at the arctic and emailed daily to the UK.

Back in the Fujitsu lab in Manchester the emails are received on servers, which have OpenHand mailserver installed. This product is used because it is exceptionally good at receiving emails over low bandwidth.

John Bamber, Fujitsu's technical project manager at the Arctic, said: "The main technical issues the team have encountered are temperature and time-related. It takes 45 seconds to access email and 10 seconds to send but if the PDAs are left in the cold for any longer than this they freeze. Because solar power is the only source of charge for batteries we have developed a 'hot box' solution for the batteries, made up of tea lights, following a burst of inspiration whilst eating at my local Chinese restaurant!"

The Fujitsu Polar Challenge technology solution is made up of standard components but with the technical knowledge, understanding and a little imagination of how they will work in extreme conditions.

Good News
Fujitsu awarded £896m NHS contract

Fujitsu Services announced in January that it has been appointed the Local Service Provider (LSP) for the Southern cluster; including Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire Somerset and Dorset, Avon Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall, in an £896 million contract. The contract will help the National Health Service (NHS) in its drive to improve healthcare for patients in the South of England. The contract runs to 2013.

Fujitsu will introduce electronic patient records throughout the region, integrating existing electronic records where possible, and implementing new systems when appropriate. Training will be provided to ensure the full benefits of the system are realised.

The changes will benefit 13 million patients and some 256,000 NHS staff across 7 Strategic Health Authorities, 81 Primary Care Trusts, 48 Hospital Trusts, 18 Mental Health Trusts, 12 Ambulance Trusts and 1,938 GP practices.

Another contract with NHS

Fujitsu Services, chosen as Local Service Provider (LSP) for the NHS' southern cluster, announced 21 May 2004 that it has been awarded a £220 million contract to provide Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS) for the same region. The contract will further the NHS drive to improve healthcare for patients in the south of England.

The PACS system will achieve reductions in the time taken to diagnose illness and injury. It stores the results of all scans, such as X-rays, in a digital format, making them accessible to authorised personnel using web-based technology. It will improve the NHS' efficiency and ability to deliver care to patients by making these records available instantly to medical experts globally and by making diagnoses available more quickly than previously, reducing hospital stays. The system will also reduce the cost of

storage and remove the high cost of developing and administering physical film.

The new contract follows the existing agreement Fujitsu signed with the NHS in January 2004 to implement the National Programme for IT in the NHS in the southern cluster of England. The award was made at the end of a highly competitive bidding process which has seen the cost of PACS to the NHS greatly reduced. Fujitsu aims to deliver PACS across the whole southern region within three years. Fujitsu will provide full technical support until 2013. This contract is part of a programme being rolled out nationwide.

bmi gets Fujitsu on board

bmi, the UK's second largest scheduled airline, announced 28 May 2004 a ten-year IT managed service contract with Fujitsu Services, one of Europe's leading IT infrastructure management services companies, to manage and modernise its IT services. The contract is worth £60 million, and will see Fujitsu run bmi's business applications, servers, voice & data networks, desktops and websites.

By outsourcing its IT, bmi will gain direct cost savings and increase revenue and internal productivity, at a time when the airline industry is working to combat both falling revenues and customer insecurity within a difficult operating climate.

The contract encompasses bmi facilities at airports in the UK and its flight destinations across mainland Europe. Fujitsu's outsourcing and integration expertise will provide bmi with improved systems resilience and improved capability for over 2,500 staff. bmi will now have more time to focus on running its core business, and ensure that the measurement of quality of service is aligned to business success.

The contract is thought to be a first for the airline industry, as the contract costs will be transaction-based. Fujitsu will receive payment per seat booked online on flybmi.com and bmibaby.com. This represents a shift from a fixed cost base, to a variable cost base aligned to the number of flights booked with bmi.

Customer Relationship Management technologies will enable bmi to deliver new, high quality services, improving customer attraction and retention. Examples of such benefits include:

More efficient ticketing, through initiatives such as ticketless travel, e-ticketing and the introduction of web enabled call centres

Multi-channel access, enabling travel information to be delivered to customers' desktops, mobile phones, PDAs or digital TVs at any time, in any location

Reduced check-in time through remote and self-service check-in

CRM technologies will generate a single, integrated view of individuals' journeys, profiles and behavioural trends, so that bmi can offer additional, personalised revenue generating services such as facilities for business meetings at airports and special offers for groups of business travellers

Fujitsu to provide IT support services to Reuters customers

Fujitsu Services and Reuters, the global information provider, have agreed a three year deal which will see Fujitsu's IT services business provide support for Reuters customers in England and Wales, using its range of tailored information services. Fujitsu will manage first-line on-site software and hardware support for Reuter's customers. Fujitsu will also manage installations of a number of Reuters products on its behalf.

Fujitsu was chosen following its success in managing Reuters UK-based global internal IT helpdesk, together with desk side support for Reuters UK-based staff, two areas which were outsourced by Reuters in 2003.

The contract sees 4,000 Reuters customers benefit from Fujitsu's dedicated IT support which includes fault diagnosis, provision of advice and, where necessary, reinstallation or reconfiguration of software or repair or replacement of hardware equipment. Fujitsu will provide a seamless transition from the Reuters-run first line support service.

Fujitsu assist Visa in saving £1.2m

Leading payment brand, Visa EU, has chosen Fujitsu Services, to run its corporate desktop support across Europe in a five year contract worth £5 million. Visa can expect to save up to £1.2 million per annum by improving the organisation of its IT assets, infrastructure and re-allocation of resources. The contract allows Visa to concentrate on core business functions, whilst improving the management of corporate IT infrastructure and software in its London head office and other European regional offices, including those in Athens, Brussels, Istanbul, and Madrid.

Fujitsu will support over 800 Visa employees, using remote management tools to solve technical problems, whether they occur in the marketing department of the London head office, or the account team in Milan. Calls regarding technical difficulties will be handled at a helpdesk in the UK using Fujitsu's award winning management methodology 'sense and respond', which reduces current call volumes by tracking recurring problems and implementing a lasting solution.

The contract also provides Visa with improved management of its IT applications, providing further cost efficiencies and ensuring desktops run efficiently. Software used within the business will be delivered electronically to users desktops as per their user profile. For example, the specialised software used by the accountancy department will only be supplied to those who work within that department, reducing the number of application licenses and allowing Visa to better track its IT assets.

Planes, trains and automobiles

Passenger experiences at Manchester Airport will be made more convenient, fast and easy thanks to the launch of a new kiosk-based transport information system provided by Fujitsu Services. MAISY (Manchester Airport Information System) is the first interactive passenger information system linking air, rail and bus journeys, giving passengers free information and advice on travelling to the airport and assistance when they get there.

MAISY kiosks are designed to encourage passengers to use public transport more and provide a less stressful, planned travelling experience. They are located throughout the airport and at key public transport hubs at Manchester Piccadilly and Wigan

railway stations, giving passengers access to flight and travel information around the region. Users are guided around the kiosk services by an avatar, an animated personal assistant also called MAISY.

Fujitsu Services designed and built the hardware and software in conjunction with Manchester Airport's product team, in a multi-million pound contract. It uses touch-screen multimedia kiosks that allow passengers to search real-time information and print step-by-step directions for flights, passenger services and retail outlets in the airport, as well as public transport information for travel into Manchester city centre and around the UK. MAISY is partly funded by the EU under a directive designed to encourage greater use of public transport.

MAISY is integrated with Manchester Airport's real-time flight information systems and their journey planners system (JPS), which contains national rail, coach and bus schedules. As well as detailed maps of the airport, the system shows graphically how to get to your destination anywhere in the UK.

Whitbread sign five-year network contract with Fujitsu

Fujitsu Services, , signed a contract 8 June 2004 to modernise and manage the voice and data networks at Whitbread Group PLC, the UK's leading leisure retailer, including brands such as Brewers Fayre, Marriott Hotels, David Lloyd Leisure, Travel Inn and Costa Coffee. The five-year outsourcing contract will see Fujitsu take over all of Whitbread's voice and data services.

The contract will provide technological and commercial advantages through the aggregation of Whitbread's divisional requirements. Whitbread will make use of Fujitsu's high security MPLS core data network, alongside the introduction of VoIP (Voice over IP telephony) in their corporate sites. The outsourced solution includes management of network links, from ISDN to Megastream Ethernet, to over 1100 locations within the UK. In addition, this fully managed network service offers minimal integration issues as network requirements change to match Whitbread's aggressive growth plans.

By outsourcing its network management to a single supplier, Whitbread will gain savings of up to 20% per year in overall network costs.

Capgemini Takes Over IT at Inland Revenue

Capgemini UK plc took over the running of the IT systems at the Inland Revenue Thursday, 1st July 2004 following a six-month transition from EDS that has been completed on schedule.

Under a £3 billion outsourcing contract announced last December, Capgemini UK plc, in partnership with its main subcontractors Fujitsu Services and BT Global Services, will run the Inland Revenue's IT systems for the next ten years. The company is also tasked with introducing new technology to transform the Inland Revenue's efficiency, to enable it to provide a better service to the public, and to meet specific challenges such as welfare reform, modernisation of government and expanded e-services for taxpayers.

As part of the contract over 2,800 employees have transferred employers, to either Capgemini UK plc or one of its partners. This represents about 96% of those offered the chance to transfer, with over 2000 joining Capgemini UK plc. The employees are based at several Inland Revenue locations around the UK including Telford, Cumbernauld, Netherton, Shiply, Newcastle, Worthing, Basingstoke and London.

The transition involved the transfer of some 600 IT applications running on 1500 network servers and used by 80,000 staff at 600 Inland Revenue offices across the UK, handling 60 million customers.

The £3 billion contract is one of the largest IT contracts ever awarded in the UK and puts Capgemini in the world premier league in IT and outsourcing.

Life in ICL
1900 History

Thank you for mentioning the 1900 History Website (in B&B No18), that I have started in order to make visible the 1900 information I am collecting for the CCS "Our Computer Heritage" project.

The Website URL is: **www.pasquali.org.uk** and I have just uploaded today, 16 April 2004, in section **4.3.2 -Some customer Details,** the first issue of the 1900 customer list, containing about 100 names.

Regards
Virgilio Pasquali
virgilio@pasquali.org.uk

I would urge everybody to look at this website, especially the list of customers, as I'm sure that it could reflect the true numbers that were sold, given input from all those involved.
Send information to v.pasquali@ntlworld.com
Editor

FERRANTI SIRIUS SURVIVORS

In the late 1950's the Ferranti Computer Department in Manchester were in the initial design phase of ORION, a large, transistor based, commercial computer with many advanced facilities. At the same time, a new logic element called a "Neuron", which used current balloting logic, was being developed to implement ORION.

As a test bed to prove the neuron logic, a small computer was designed and built, and known as "Newt". The story goes that one of the salesmen saw "Newt" in operation, and said he could sell such a machine. The "Newt" was tidied up a bit, and in 1960 became Ferranti's first transistorised machine, the SIRIUS. The full story has been told elsewhere. Suffice to say that around 20 Sirius were sold in the early 60s.

I joined Ferranti in 1960 as a trainee Customer Service Engineer, and was put to work on Sirius. Writing some sections of the Technical Manual formed part of my "training".

As appeared to be the norm in the UK Computer industry at the time, most of the early production systems were sold abroad – the further away, the better, so it seemed! The first system was sent to Italy as part of the British exhibit at the Italian Centenary Exhibition in Turin. It was there for six months during 1961, and looking after it was my first assignment for Ferranti.

Meanwhile, Ferranti had decided to set up an operation in Australia, with Sirius as the base hardware. A Bureau was established in Melbourne,

and a basic Sirius with 1000 words of memory was installed. It is believed that this system was the one returned to Manchester from Turin after the closure of the Italian Exhibition, and was replaced later with a standard 4000 word production machine. Two staff members emigrated from the UK to set up the operation. Such were the times, that they were flown out, but their wives travelled out by sea.

Two further Sirius systems were sold, both in Melbourne, one to ICI, the other to Monash University (as it is now). The technology of the time was far from reliable, and both the Bureau and the ICI systems had reliability problems. One user remembers trying to run jobs which took 2 hours, on a system with a mean time between breaks of 1 hour! This is where I became involved. On arriving at London (Heathrow) after a contractual service visit to a system installed in Prague, I looked on the message board (yes, Heathrow was like that in 1962!) and found a message asking me to contact the office a.s.a.p. as I was booked to fly to Melbourne at the weekend. My task was to try to help improve the reliability of the existing systems, and to oversee the installation of the new system at Monash. From my point of view all went well, the backplane was completely resoldered at ICI, and the Monash system installed without any major problems. In all I was in Melbourne for a very enjoyable six weeks.

On return to the UK I continued to work on Sirius, but with the ICT takeover of the Ferranti Computer interests, and the emerging 1900 series resulting from the merger, I found myself seconded to the Labs at West Gorton to help with the development of the 1904/5 "Standard Interface". My Sirius customers were taken over by another engineer, and my interest in Sirius was replaced by the new 1900 Series. With new systems replacing the 1900 series, that is how it remained for the next 40 years. Even being based in Sydney for three years in the early 70's didn't reawaken the interest.

After I retired I became a member of the Computer Conservation Society (associated with, but not part of the British Computer Society). In one CCS newsletter there was mention of a Sirius having survived at Monash University. This triggered the "Nostalgia Mode" as preservation was the "in" activity, and no survivors were known in the UK (note: The Science Museum list of stored items has a Sirius listed, though never seen). So contact was established with various people to obtain more information. It turns out that there are in fact two surviving Sirius in Melbourne, one at Monash, the other in the Museum of Victoria.. Further investigation suggests that one of them is the original Monash system, which I helped to install during my visit in 1962. The other one is thought to be the machine originally sold to ICI, and later possibly donated to Monash. The basic, ex Turin Machine from the Ferranti Melbourne Bureau went to Monash when the Bureau received it's standard production machine. Its eventual fate is not known. The second survivor has not been positively identified yet, but the surviving parts suggest that it could be the machine from ICI. In the past, I have had a close association with three of the four systems sent to Australia, probably both surviving systems. Real nostalgia!

Parts of the Monash system have already be displayed in a "History of Computing" exhibition at Monash, and there are plans to incorporate at least one system in a more permanent exhibition. Some Sirius documentation is available, but program tapes are in short supply. We do have the processor logics (all on one sheet of paper about 8 feet long!), and a supply of neuron logic boards. Also, a Sirius emulator has been written to run on a PC. One wonders just what it would take, and whether it would be possible to get one of the systems working again. After all, they have a Pegasus working in the Science Museum in London, and that must have been a task of much greater magnitude.

The Sirius survivors are very much part of an on-going activity. If you have had previous involvement with Sirius, or are otherwise interested, I can be contacted by e-mail.

Brian Parker Royston UK
magicboxman@tesco.net

Letters

ME AND THE SERVANT: IT'S ALL LIES
Prince Charles.

Assuming the Prince speaks his mum's English, it must be Charles Prince of The Mirror.

If the reporter used MSWORD, he might not have made such a basic grammatical error, as it would have underlined such a solecism in green ink. I admit, quite often the green ink warning baffles me. The examples MSWORD uses to explain my bad English, frequently confuse me even more. Referring to Partridge's "English Uses and Abuses" doesn't help, as his account usually explains with "past participles", "preterite" or "gerunds". By the time I've looked those words up; I've forgotten the original query!

It'll come as no surprise, admitting to not having had a grammar school education, but I read a lot and "bells ring" when I come across a blatant error in English. I suppose the Editor of the "MIRROR" would advocate the impact of the headline is all that matters.

If communicating is an end in itself, grammar maybe unimportant and we could end up conversing in Neanderthal grunts like teenagers and write in TXT shorthand.

Alternatively, a writer like Anthony Burgess has an irritating style with his use of obscure words. I was going to use "recondite" for "obscure", which is typical Burgess! If something can only be described by a certain word, then its fine to use it, but sticking in a four-syllable word is pointless if it means I need to use a dictionary for an explanation.

Whilst on a "Letter Writing course" at ICL, I was introduced to the Fog Index, a method of highlighting the grandiloquence of one's writing. By counting the number of multi-syllabic words in a sentence, measured over a number of sentences shows the point when the reader loses interest. Using a word like grandiloquence is typical of a high Fog Index.

The Mirror knows its readers; they move their lips when they read!

There is beauty in some esoteric words, but the idea is to communicate, so popping the odd one in to keep the reader awake is acceptable. Coming across a new word is exciting to me. If I manage to remember it, I save it for the right occasion and slip it into the conversation. It usually sinks without trace. Either

I've pronounced it wrong, as I've never heard it spoken, or people conveniently ignore it, as I'm showing off. The word evaporates from my brain. Inevitably I come across it again and treat it as a new word and the process is repeated. At least I'm keeping the language alive!

To me, foreign phrases are acceptable if they express uniquely something with a certain "Je ne sais quoi", as it were, but when "The Guardian" shows off with a phrase such as "bien pensant" instead of "orthodox", I get annoyed. Probably like "cul de sac", the French don't even use it! At least we use some Euro words such as "caff", "pizza", "Thierry Henry" and surely "Auf Wiedersehn" has got to be better than "See ya la'er?"

Dennis Goodwin
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Networking reliability for Co-op?

I love receiving Bits & Bytes, and eagerly read it from cover to cover as I did the Spring edition, No 18.

I read with particular interest, the article about the modernisation of the West Midlands Co-op.

It all sounds great with high-tech tills, faster scanning, self-scanning, greater information, Euro and Chip & PIN compatibility, plus automatic stocking.

Sorry to bring us back down to earth, but all this will rely on telecommunications. As I read the article, fresh in my memory was the occurrence of a fire, on the 29th of March, in a BT cable tunnel in Manchester. The result was that all such facilities were instantly rendered unusable. We couldn't even get cash out of cash machines.

The article stated that the system will have a "radio network". Sorry again, but so has my mobile phone and that was affected as well.

I have a sense of humour which sees the funny side of everything. I was really amused when, a few days into the crisis, I received a letter from BT (along with everyone else affected) apologising for the loss of services, and if I wanted an update on the situation, they gave me (guess what!) "A telephone number to ring".

David Brierley. ex West Gorton, Kidsgrove & Ashton.

Content with content of Bits & Bytes

In each of the last two issues of the B & B there has been a letter criticising the inclusion of reminiscences. I would like to make the point that many of us enjoy reading them. Not everyone's' stories are perhaps suitable and we rely on you as the editor to strike a reasonable balance. I very much enjoy reading what the 'B & B membership' (pensioner has too many connotations with decrepit old age) is now doing in 'Life after ICL'.

I understand the holiday snap problem as in Mr. Parry's' letter, as my wife and I were once subjected to looking at the prints from 36 rolls of 35mm film. It never happened again! In the last issue Mr. Parry makes a few points that could be taken up, but not please at the expense of the afore-mentioned.

It is good to see that the 'successor to ICL' is doing well but, from a distance of 12 years now, I find it only of passing interest. Just keep sending my deferred salary (pension).

We all move on and it is interesting to read what old colleagues are doing now and, maybe our memories are best shared with those who were there at the time. Personally, I am having a great time. I direct and play duplicate bridge and also I have continued my hobby of model boat building. I now review and build models for a national magazine. I am secretary of the St. Albans model engineering society and see more of my wife than I used to when work intervened. I had a lovely part time job a few years ago in an infant school supporting I.T and teaching the 5 - 7 year olds and most of the teachers.

I seem to be wearing out my knees due to too much dancing, and have successfully avoided gardening. So what with that and being chief cook and bottle washer (some things don't change) life is really great after, and in spite of, ICL.

Regards to all who might remember me, and thank you for an interesting Newsletter.

Roy Verden

Poem
NEW HIPS FOR OLD

1. I went to Lister hospital, just after Sunday lunch;
Full of expectation, ready for the crunch!
"Nil-by-mouth" they said to me that caused a little sorrow,
But, "Never mind", the doctor said," we'll carve the joint tomorrow!"

2. The surgeon was encouraging, his name is Mr Hope,
And with his team of experts, I knew that he could cope.
Next day came Sharon, physio, with stimulating talk;
You look so well, get out of bed, let's see if you can walk!"

3. The nurses too, on Ward 5B, were helpful, bright and good,
Although they woke me every hour, to take the pressure of my blood.
And very strange it seemed to me, remembering Yesteryear,
They used a modern gadget to take the temperature of my ear!

4. Each day I walked a little more, with frame and then with sticks.
Feeling very confident - this is a splendid fix!
I went in very positive - the secret of success?
Support and prayers of many friends, to boost the NHS.

5. By Friday I was well enough, to be delivered home,
With stainless steel to strengthen me, instead of dodgy bone.
And when they've done the other one, you know what I will say.
"Two new joints, how wonderful,
HIP, HIP, HOORAY!!

Dave Clarke ex ETS Letchworth

Reunions

Punch Card & Stevenage Labs Reunion Group

This annual reunion takes place on the first Tuesday of October in the Stevenage Labs. Details of the speaker at the 2005 event will be given in the Spring 2005 edition.

All pensioners are welcome.

Adrian Turner *01491 872012*

ICL Australia

As a result of a visit to Australia by Brian Parker early in 2003 I have had considerable correspondence with people who emigrated to Oz. Albert Cook has started a newsletter and organises reunions in the Sydney area.(I can also claim credit for reintroducing Dave Musson to Albert. They live about 30 mins from each other. **Editor)**

Albert Cook can be contacted via email at **albertcook@opusnet.com.au**

ICL Central London Group

The next reunion will be on Wednesday 13 Oct 2004 at **The Flying Horse** at **52 Wilson Street**, from 12 noon. The pub is east of Finsbury Square.

John Doo 01245 259862

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 Club
Roy Newbury 01763 852241

ICL Midlands Group
Brian Trow 01785 257317

Leo Computers Society
Geoff Parry 01628 770129

Letchworth Group
Dennis Evans 01462 811273

Liverpool Engineers
George Lynn 01744 29984

Oxford Region
Ken Jones 01865 340388

STE04 Office and Retail Systems
Derek Tourell 020 8386 9465

Surrey Engineers
Trevor Harding 01483 565144

Tin Hut Reunion Group
Olaf Chedzoy 01278 741 269

West Gorton Reunion
Eric W Watts 01457 875080

Watford-Harrow- Feltham Group
Mike Ray 01895 230194

West Branch Engineers
Eric Reynolds 01452 712047

West Kent Reunion Group
Ron Harding 01732 *761076*

The Walthamstow Mob
Derek Windsor 01992 522761

OBITUARIES

ICL/Nortel Fund

Taken from the Spring & Summer 2004 editions of the Nortel "Newslink"

Abingdon	Sparks	Anthony P	12/12/03	74
Bracknell	Wearing	George R	27/04/04	90
Croydon	Cordery	Colin	25/12/03	79
Derby	Sharratt	Lewis	19/12/03	78
Holborn	McLeod	K E L	28/11/03	77
Hollerith	Dunn	John B	24/01/04	76
	Hyde	Robert C	25/01/04	86
	Manning	James R	14/12/03	91
	Wood	George H	15/01/04	89
	Hollingbury	Serna T L	23/01/04	86
Bristol	Funnell	Anthony G	05/03/04	72
Cambridge	Smith	Jack	22/01/04	83
Croydon	Amey	Evelyn I	04/02/04	92
	Jeffery	Joyce L	23/03/04	23
	Taylor	Florence K	13/05/03	91
Dublin	Brennan	James F	29/12/03	78
	McGee	Joseph	09/01/04	85
Ferranti	Hogg	Douglas	26/01/04	80
Harrow	Talbot	Marie L	02/03/04	81
Hollerith	Douglas	Kenneth R	28/02/04	86
	Dunn	John B	24/01/04	76
	Hailey	Algernon G	03/02/04	89
	Hyde	Robert C	25/01/04	86
	Manning	James R	14/12/03	91
	Parrett	Donald H	10/03/04	78
	Rix	Luther G	08/02/04	84
	Wood	George H	15/01/04	89
Kidsgrove	Bradeley	William J	05/04/04	76
	Carr	William A	05/12/04	78
	Griffin	John I	15/02/04	68
	Jones	Samuel	29/04/04	89
	Jones	Terence F	01/04/04	67
	Pointon	Eric	29/01/04	80
Leeds	Simpson	Henry	30/01/04	73
	Jackson	Norman	10/04/04	79
Letchworth	Anthony	Thomas	04/09/03	77
	Burnett	Alan	16/12/03	89
	Dutchman	Thelma B	29/04/04	77
	Caston	Derrick W	01/12/03	79
	Fairburn	Thomas B	28/12/03	88
	Gale	Brian E	10/02/04	80
	Hall	Toby	17/01/04	80
	Hare	John H	11/04/04	87
	Hurt	Horace J	16/03/04	86
	Kirk	Edward	07/11/03	80
	Massey	Ralph G	22/02/04	86
	Minhas	Gurmit S	22/08/03	68
	Morrison	Alaster	15/03/04	88
	Nixon	Robert B	19/02/04	74
	Rix	Ernest	10/03/04	82
	Stanley	George T	12/01/04	80
	Stapleton	Malcolm E	01/04/04	73
	Upton	Kenneth G	27/02/04	75
	Young	George R	05/12/03	78
London	Armstrong	George E	13/11/03	79
	Morgan	Marjorie	10/10/03	84
	Phillips	Noel T	09/11/03	72
	Simmons	Winifred L	01/01/04	87
	Long	Eaton H S	23/12/03	73
	Ronaldson	Patrick M	02/02/04	86
	Simmons	Winifred L	16/11/03	87
Manchester	Critchlow	Raymond	10/03/04	78

	Dale	Teresa R	22/12/03	63
	Eade	Graham A	13/12/03	70
	Richards	Arthur	12/04/04	83
	Thompson	Colin	13/01/04	66
	Williams	John W	19/02/04	76
Market Drayton	Hooker	Denise	27/11/03	64
Norwich	Cuff	Ryland L	09/01/04	76
	Drake	Robert W	14/12/03	81
Powers	Griffiths	William L	24/02/04	81
	Melling	Harold G	09/01/04	89
	Bannerman	Robert E	04/02/04	81
	Poulton	Peter	19/04/04	78
Putney	Nelson	Denys W H	28/11/03	89
Reading	Matson	Charles W	28/02/04	86
	Moulton	Margaret J	26/06/03	79
Richmond	Roberts	Joan	15/11/03	82
Slough	King	John G	30/11/03	68
S'hampton	Anderson	Wilfred J	09/01/04	81
	Houghton	Joseph F	23/01/04	81
	Jones	William H	20/11/03	81
	Nowell	Eric	01/01/04	77
Stevenage	Cook	Edward W	23/04/04	88
	Dyer	Howard G	06/01/04	83
	Jones	Francis G	31/01/04	99
	Ratcliffe	Henry E	04/11/03	81
	Trowbridge	Robert G	02/03/04	85
	Wilson	George A	15/01/04	76
Stoke	Hague	Ronald	01/11/03	82
Wakefield	Balding	Michael	18/11/03	69
W. Gorton	Fitzgerald	Winifred	15/12/03	73
	Freeman	George	28/12/03	78
	Higgins	John T	02/03/04	81
	Monks	Frances G	17/01/04	70
	Wilson	Norman	12/08/03	67
Winsford	Barrow	Geoffrey A	24/04/04	64
	Bradley	Herbert	12/01/04	84
	Erskine	Marion	08/01/04	70
	Longdon	William	24/11/03	84
	Marsden	Robert C	17/04/04	80
	Morrey	Marshall	09/04/04	81
	Pollard	Henry	30/04/04	78
	Stirk	Alfred	27/03/04	75
	Strong	Kenneth R	23/03/04	75

ICL Fund

Includes people who died in service

BRA01	Lonsdale	Catherine	19/08/04	61
BRA06	Wren	David J	18/08/04	69
HOM99	Barkes	Alfred E	02/05/04	67
KID01	Romano	Mavis	25/06/04	65
LON49	Whitcombe	Patricia W	15/05/04	65
MAN05	Cannon	Graham A	20/07/04	55
MAN05	Marsland	Sharon P	25/07/04	38
	Rhodes	Michael B	19/05/04	70
	Turner	Raymond	28/03/04	70
SLH06	Ryall	Rodney	09/07/04	62
STE04	Haston	Colin T	16/05/04	65
STE09	Bramble	Henry B	06/07/04	69
WIN01	Wicker	Anthony C	09/08/04	62

Erratum: Derrick Bird died 25/12/03 not 25/11/03 as stated in the last edition.

PENSIONER REPS

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Change of Address

I have been contacted by a number of ICL Pensioners informing me of their new address. I am **not** responsible for the database used for distribution of Bits & Bytes to ICL Pensioners.

ICL Pensioners should inform the Pensions Department at Fujitsu Services, Swan House, The Causeway, Staines TW18 3BF, of change of address (and when they die!)

The Nortel pensioners, who have contacted me to request the newsletter, are on a database that I do maintain (approx 500) and they should let me know if they move as the Nortel Fund does not know who receives B&B.

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**

Pensioners' Website

The ICL Pensioners' website is now live at

http://uk.fujitsu.com/pensioner

Please look at it, offer constructive comments and contribute something of interest to the ICL community.

NEXT ISSUE

Copy for the Spring 2005 issue must be submitted by 1 February 2005, but would be appreciated earlier.