

Hursley Museum Services – February 2012 update

Our three curators have been busy since the last newsletter, bringing a number of old machines to life, receiving some useful artefacts including an expanding collection of different ThinkPads, and more CE tools and supplies. We have expanded into new rooms on the lower ground floor of the House, which are now open for visitors (via a standard badge lock) in addition to the existing museum facilities. We have also made a start on the mammoth task of cataloguing the collection. Using web technology we are hoping eventually to make the catalogue available to museum visitors.



Reserve Collection Area



New Room with PCs and S/23

The additional rooms on the lower ground floor house a history of word processing, from the typewriter to the DisplayWriter, and Personal Computing. We already have working models of the IBM-PC, PC-XT, PC Portable (aka Luggable!) and a PS/2 ready for display, with some old PC games to run on them. We also hope to receive in the near future an original data processing installation, consisting principally of an IBM 702, from the Army Pay Corps, Worthy Down.



A small part of the paper archives



Part of the reserve collection area

Artefacts

The appeal continues for any old IBM-related items, whether they be complete machines, spare parts, tools, test equipment, software packages, unused punch cards, diskettes, or souvenir items. We intend to keep a maximum of two of any item, and are already well stocked with the Portable PC for example. We do not as yet have a PC-AT, and would also really like to get a hold of a Redwing hard disk and an 8775 terminal. We also would like any 3270 Control Unit and parts / diskettes / documentation for any PC-RT (6150). A couple of unusual items that we need include a chip tray and stacker card weight for our 026 card punch!

Historical Research

With Len's retirement the role of site Historian has passed to Dave Key who is continuing to research the history of the site and its people. Over the summer this has included hosting visits from the Director of the Getty Institute, ex-"Supermariners" and their relatives and the unearthing of new information on Hursley's role in both World Wars, all of which has substantially added to our knowledge of the pre-IBM House and its occupants. However, in parallel with the changes in the Museum and its collection of artefacts, we are hoping to begin to properly record the history of the last 50 years. To that end Dave would be very grateful if anyone has personal recollections of how the site changed (both physically and culturally), the projects they worked on and the people they worked with. In particular if you were involved in the early days of IBM Hursley, or worked on the Worthy Down/Army Pay Corps project, we'd like to hear from you. Dave's email address is dave_key@uk.ibm.com .



PC-RT, 3101, 3102, PS2s



DisplayWriter

Additional needs

We are looking for a reasonably rated, say 5 amp, Variac (a variable transformer), which will enable us to gently bring old kit back to life. We've had a few clouds of smoke and burning capacitors, easily repaired but best avoided.

If you can help in any way, then please contact Hursley Events and Community Programmes at their hurseve@uk.ibm.com task id.