

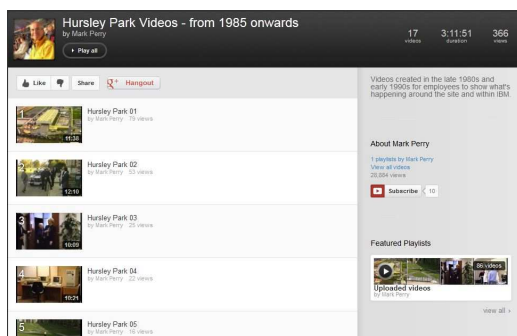
## Hursley Museum Services – February 2013 Update

The museum has had a busy time since the last newsletter. We've had more interesting and useful donations from retirees, for which many thanks! We are also finding out when you come in with your donations that many of you have artefacts stashed away that you didn't bring because you weren't sure if we could use them. If it's old and IBM, we're interested!

The 3174 and 3268 mentioned last time have now been moved to the museum. We are now trying to get the 3174 to talk to a PC-XT with a 3270 emulator card.



### Hursley Park Videos on YouTube



Sixteen of the eighteen Hursley Park videos can now be viewed on YouTube. There is a link on the museum web site under Videos, or you can access the YouTube page directly:

[http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLq28Gylq95eLr4OYH2tg9gyC8edOKiaF\\_&feature=view all](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLq28Gylq95eLr4OYH2tg9gyC8edOKiaF_&feature=view_all)

We haven't found numbers 13 and 16 yet!

### Museum Expansion

In February the museum has taken over yet more rooms on the lower ground floor. Three rooms behind the current room HLG19, formerly the Human Factors Lab., will allow us to expand the range of artefacts that we can put on display. One of these rooms is a video editing suite, which we plan to preserve.

As part of the expansion and reorganisation plans, we held a strategy meeting with lab management and the EBC to explore what themes the museum should try to create. The Executive Briefing Centre often shows customers around the museum, and is trying to come up with suggestions for better ways of showing off our collection.

In addition, we have started to receive redundant 'racking' from the DP room. The first one has been erected in the archive / workshop area, and provides twice the surface area for the same floor space. As we reorganise the museum's displays to use the new rooms and the racking, we hope to be able to show some hardware both in working order on the lower level and opened up to show the innards on the top level.

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### Other Museum Goings-on

#### XT System Boards

In our quest to get more hardware back into working order, we have encountered quite a few exploding tantalum capacitors on PC-XT system boards. These boards are also used in the PC Portable (Luggable!). Often after the bang they create a dead short circuit causing the power supply to shut itself down. Removing the guilty remnants usually bring the boards back to life, so we now have a couple more working XTs and three more working Portables.

#### PC Software

One of these Portables is fitted with a hard disk (not a standard configuration) which we plan to use as our repository of early PC software. One major difficulty has been obtaining software from the Web and getting it onto 5.1/4" diskettes. A donation last year of an enclosure with two 3.1/2" diskette drives attaches to the external diskette adapter card connector. This has been successfully connected to this machine so we can now read 3.1/2" diskettes onto the Portable's hard disk and from there create 5.1/4" as needed, although the solution looks a bit Heath-Robinson with an extra diskette drive hanging out of the unit.

#### 1052 Selectric Keyboard-less Printer

The 1052 was the operator console for S/360. It is a cut-down Selectric, with no keyboard (there was a separate electro-mechanical keyboard) and no backspace or tab functions. Without covers, we felt it would be ideal to show the basic Selectric working. To that end it has been fitted out with a home-grown Perspex case and a small control panel, from which the printer can be made to perform print, space, shift and carriage return functions. The printer itself has been overhauled in-house, and is now ready to be demonstrated fully. See it working here: <http://youtu.be/YfYTC0YWwZk>

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### Computer Conservation Society / Bletchley NMoC Visit

In January, the museum hosted six visitors from the CCS and the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park. [The Computer Conservation Society](#) was founded in 1989 as a joint venture between the British Computer Society, the Science Museum in London, and the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester.

Our aim was to raise the profile of the museum and to look for ways of fostering cooperation with each other. Apart from exchanging links on our web sites, we agreed we would send a copy of this and subsequent newsletters for inclusion in the CCS newsletter, Resurrection. Resurrection will also be happy to publicise searches for donations of IBM artefacts, and our details will be added to their list of Working Groups and Museums. Links on the museum web site are under 'Other Organisations.'

The National Museum offered to donate a PC-AT, a gap in our collection that we have been hoping to fill for some time. They have also suggested that they have other IBM hardware surplus to requirements that we can also add, including possibly an AS/400, a System/36 and System/38.

It was proposed that the CCS could hold a meeting at Hursley for their members and the Hampshire branch of the BCS, perhaps in September, to include a talk and a museum visit.

### Hursley Products

One task we have set ourselves is to try and create a comprehensive list of all the products developed at Hursley. We thought there'd be a record somewhere, but if there is it's well hidden! We've made a start on what we can remember, and have received some excellent additional input from Brian Middleton and Mike Cowlshaw.



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The list so far is on the web site under Documentation --> Hursley Products (<http://hursley.slx-online.biz/hursley-products.asp>).

We would be extremely grateful if you could help us to complete this list. We have lots of missing dates, missing code names or product names / machine types and missing department names. There must be lots more products and activities that aren't there yet. Please send any input to Peter Short - [mailto:peters@slx-online.biz?subject=Hursley Products Information](mailto:peters@slx-online.biz?subject=Hursley+Products+Information).

Obviously we can't include recent 'IBM Confidential' internal project names in the public database.

### LinkedIn

The professional networking site [LinkedIn](#) has an IBM Historic Computing Group of 355 members and presently has an ongoing discussion about Hursley's historic role. We've joined the group and have placed our request for help there too.

We also joined the Yahoo Selectric group whilst we tried to procure some parts for the 1052 and other Selectrics in the museum. That appeal led to a donation from a company in Switzerland for a small quantity of the one part we urgently needed at no charge.

### Help Needed

We have a couple of requests this time around.



The Centre of Computing History has offered us a couple of PS/2 system units. They are based in Haverhill, Suffolk. As we are not funded, we can't pay to have them delivered. If any of you is heading out that way, and could perhaps pick them up, could you please let us know. Their museum is not generally open to the public, but like our museum, visits can be arranged. They tend to be available Tuesdays through Thursdays.

Does anyone happen to have any left hand American thread taps and dies? Unlikely, but you never know! The Selectric hand cycle wheel has a left hand thread. We do have a couple of the short version of the wheel, but we need longer ones or an extension shaft. Alternatively, if you have a hand cycle wheel you don't need, we can lengthen the shaft ourselves by cutting it in half and turning up an extension.

Peter Short. <mailto:peters@slx-online.biz>

General correspondence to Hursley Events:  
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