

# Hursley Museum Services - February 2015

## Help Please!

We've had a busy time since the last newsletter, and would like to start with a request for information. Please send any info to [Peter](#).

1. We have found what looks like an engineering mock-up of a disk drive labelled Lilliput. This name has not come up before, we suspect it may be a forerunner of Piccolo. Can anyone throw any light on this please?
2. In conversation with a retiree recently, we were told that many moons ago IBM had an underground storage facility in the Cotswolds. Or was it Dorset? He remembers helping to wheel in obsolete items of hardware, but not where it was. Can anyone provide any more information about this? We are naturally curious as to whether this facility still exists or if it may lie forgotten and full of interesting artefacts! The name 'Blue Mountain' was also mentioned.

## 3D Panoramas

There is now a set of 3D panoramas of all but one display room of the museum. These can be viewed on the web site at <http://hursley.slx-online.biz/views.asp>.

## Current Activities & Acquisitions

There have seen a number of interesting acquisitions for the museum since the last newsletter. The 'big one' is the long-awaited Royal Army Pay Corps IBM 705 console, together with one IBM 727 tape unit, an 024 card punch, 056 card verifier and a 3350 disk drive, the latter from their S/370 model 158. These are on long-term loan from the Adjutant General Corps at Worthy Down.



Sadly we are missing many bits, such as the table tops and card weights for the punch and verifier. The innards of the tape unit were removed at some point and we have an interesting pile of bits and an empty case - mega Meccano! We had an interesting time getting the 3350 indoors, requiring us to remove all the door brackets to just squeeze through the doors, and the Head Disk Assemblies (HDAs) to get the weight down. There are more pictures at [http://hursley.slx-online.biz/705\\_story.asp](http://hursley.slx-online.biz/705_story.asp).



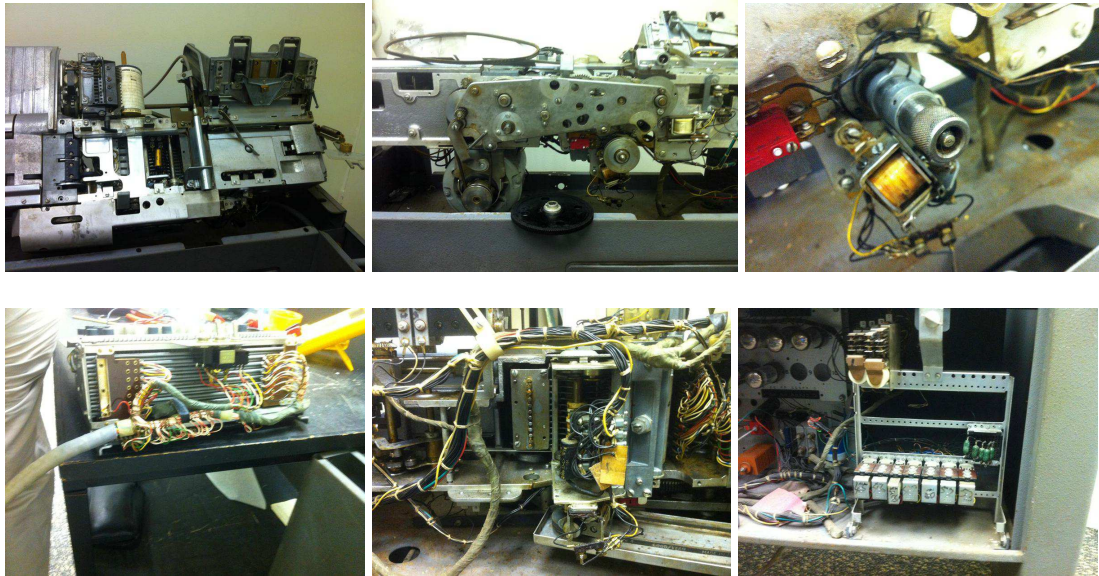
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The 024 card punch has been brought back to life. It was in some places rusty and in many places gummed up solid, but a couple of days' work during November has seen it punching cards again. It and its companion 056 card verifier have received home-made replacement table tops from laminated chipboard - wrong colour but they keep the keyboards off the floor! The 056 has been brought mechanically to the point where we could power up, but unfortunately one of the duo relays is physically damaged - missing armature. A short video of the 024 can be viewed here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N\\_6FoFB0aOw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_6FoFB0aOw).



We have also received the 082 sorter from Buchan House, Edinburgh, via a prolonged stay at Greenock. Our friends in Lyngby, Denmark, have sent us an IBM 091 Hollerith Type III Tabulator from 1921, together with a couple of typewriters.



There have been a few small donations including a PC, a PC-XT, a PS/2 Model 30 with a dot matrix printer, a Proprinter I and a BBC Micro. The PC emitted lots of smoke and now smells bad, the XT is just dead, so static exhibit potential only (once the smell goes!). The Proprinter works well, we can't test the BBC as we don't have an

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old TV. We have also received an American dial telephone from Eric Bodger, a UK dial phone and a Hursley Tea Trolley Bell from John Chapman.

### Other News

In the last newsletter we reported on a warehouse find in the US consisting of a large number of S/360, S/370 and peripherals. Since then the people charged with disposing of this stash have stopped communicating, so we don't know what is happening. We have found reference in a US forum that the collection is being handled by a waste recycling company that has realised they have potentially a higher value as collectors' items. Their last update was last April, where they said they'd 'soon' be contacting collectors, but that has yet to happen. We have appended the forum to make sure they know about us.

Around the time of the last newsletter, the museum loaned a number of artefacts to Barclays Bank for their 50th mainframe celebrations. We also arranged for a number of artefacts to be shipped to an FTT event at Heathrow in September. This Think Foundation event is attended by all IBM graduates and apprentices in the UK. We have now loaned a number of artefacts to the Bristol office, where the Cloudant development group will be housed.

Following the huge success of last year's Computer Conservation Society meeting at Hursley, we hosted a further 42 members of the group on the 26th September. They heard a talk on the site history, an in depth appreciation of some of the museum artefacts and a third talk on the history of CICS. The highlight for attendees was once again the visit to the museum. One of the CCS meeting attendees has borrowed a couple of video reel tapes to see if he can find a facility to view and transfer the collection we have in the museum.

Three of our AS/400s are now working, together with an iSeries, a fourth has an intermittent disk error. Work continues on a fourth one and we now have a copy of CICS/400 for demonstration, installation planned imminently.

### YouTube

We now have the capability of transferring video tapes directly to PC from a combination of different VCR formats. Our YouTube collection is growing! There's a Hursley Park collection at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX00VSgR9UI9pvayqc5loqA>

### Site Model

The model of the Hursley site has been moved from the conservatory at the side of the House into the museum, and can now be viewed in HLG19.

### York Museum

We have made contact with a [computer museum near York](#) and have agreed to donate most of our non-IBM artefacts to them, together with a few IBM machines where we have a number of examples.

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## *Engineering Anniversary*

This year marks the anniversary of the arrival of Vickers Supermarine at Hursley in late 1940 and with it a 75 year period of innovation and excellence in engineering on the site which stretches from Supermarine's Spitfire and post War Jet fighters through to the System/360, the Cashpoint, CICS, and beyond..

There are plans to mark this anniversary but to do so we need your help. What do you think were the landmark innovations that Hursley pioneered or developed? Were you involved in any of them? If you were, would you be prepared to share your memories on both the projects themselves, and what it was like to work here at the time?

If the answer to any of this is yes, then please contact [Dave Key](#).

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