

Hursley Museum Services – August 2018

Current Activities

The NHS anniversary exhibition in June was a great success. Alongside the artefacts loaned to the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, the staff showed a number of devices to assist people with disabilities to make better use of computing equipment. There were many other exhibits on display, including a room full of rather gruesome medical instruments used in days gone by.

As mentioned in the last report, Hursley celebrates 60 years of IBM presence on the site during 2018. A week of events in September begins with a Heritage Open Day on Sunday 16th. Other events over the week include a “Festival of Innovation”, a Schools Community project and an IBM Open Day. IBM has also purchased two new glass display cabinets, located in the central hall of the House, with a small selection of artefacts and photographs as a taster for the museum itself.

We curators are working with Hursley staff to provide whatever other support is needed. We are producing some explanatory sheets for each of the rooms, so visitors can read up on the exhibits when no guide is present. There is also a plan to produce some tri-folds based upon themes rather than actual exhibits. The first one is the story of the punch card.

Work continues on bringing hardware back to life, largely in the PS/2 area. Some of our exhibits are showing problems too, although the older PCs (PC, XT, AT) are proving more reliable. Time permitting we are hoping to get some typewriters working so visitors can try their hand.

Donations

We have received three RS/6000 machines from a donor in the Netherlands. He also has a 129 buffered card punch / verifier awaiting space on a future shipment to the U.K. We have also been given a bottle of “Big Blue” wine. Apparently this was produced by a local vineyard in New York State in 1988 for a group of ex-IBMers, but only for a short time. IBM took umbrage at the use of both the words and the font style, so the vineyard withdrew the brand. We probably won't open it!



Web Site: <http://hursley.slx-online.biz/>

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