

Bits & Bytes

No 29

Editorial

I started to put together this edition in the middle of August having just returned from two week's holiday in Carcassonne and Toulouse. As usual I met some very interesting people. In my part time job doing lawn surveys for Green Thumb Lawn Treatments I met many people who I would never have seen and because of my inquisitive nature I nearly always find some link with the past. It happened again in a pavement restaurant – "Meet the Meat" - in Toulouse. The lone gentleman sitting at the next but one table looked interesting so I asked if he spoke English. He did and we soon realised that we both had worked for that wonderful company - ICL. Jacques Morel had worked for ICL in Pretoria South Africa before returning to work for ICL in France. I'm hoping for a story for the next edition. Does anybody remember Jacques?

Adrian Turner

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Fujitsu News

£27.5m IT contract with Davis Langdon

Fujitsu signed on 10 August 2009 a 5 year, £27.5m IT outsourcing contract with global construction consultancy, Davis Langdon LLP. Fujitsu will manage the IT infrastructure and IT services for over 2000 staff across Europe and the Middle East (EME).

Fujitsu will provide an integrated service that includes a service desk, applications and infrastructure support, desktop managed services, network management and the provision of storage and computer capacity through Fujitsu's utility based Infrastructure-as-a-Service.

Neil Ashton, Head of Procurement and Supplier Management for Davis Langdon said: "The RFI we issued in the spring had a number of challenging requirements and throughout the tender process; Fujitsu showed us that it could meet all of these demands. From being able to reduce the level of fixed costs in the existing service, to offering a flexible support model across the regions to vary the level of support and cost, to aid in cost management as well reducing the volume of calls to the helpdesk."

Chris Robinson, CIO and Head of Technology, Property and Procurement EME at Davis Langdon continued: "Fujitsu was able to demonstrate

numerous examples of where it has the same values towards service and its people as we do. This coupled with the operational model put forward by Fujitsu, showed us that it understood and could align itself with our culture and provide more reliable services, faster implementation and access to proven solutions and cost savings. The keywords here for me are scalability, flexibility and value. This feeds directly into the 'Better, Faster, Cheaper' initiative announced earlier in the year by Rob Smith our Senior Partner."

Anne Stokes, Business Unit Director, Transportation, Manufacturing and Services at Fujitsu UK and Ireland said: "We value the long term relationships we develop with clients and look forward to working with Davis Langdon as part of its business growth agenda. To have similar working practices as our clients is something we strive for and therefore to use continuous improvement as a key part of the contract with Davis Langdon is a really important theme in delivering its growth targets."

Fujitsu redundancy plans in the UK

Fujitsu Services operation in the UK announced on 26 August 2009 a rationalisation programme across its workforce, proposing a reduction of up to 1,200 jobs. This measure is being proposed because of lower than anticipated revenues.

Fujitsu has proposed this measure reluctantly. However action is necessary to ensure that the company remains competitive in the current difficult global economic climate and is in a solid position for future growth when the economy starts to recover.

Fujitsu has a strong history of consultation with employees and is committed to working with elected representatives to consider ways of achieving the necessary reductions.

Fujitsu currently employs 12,500 people in the UK. It is a leading IT systems, services and products company with an annual revenue of £2 billion. To date the company has taken a number of prudent measures to keep its cost base down and avoid job losses, including a companywide pay freeze, a reduction in the number of contractors and temporary workers, a re-training programme and tight control of recruitment. In addition strict controls have been applied to operational and capital expenditure.

The proposed reductions are expected to be complete by the end of 2009. All affected employees will be offered guidance and support. A process of consultation with elected employee representatives is being established.

Life in BTM/ICT/ICL

Reverse Polish Visits

In a recent conversation with the editor, he explained that he needed more copy for Bits & Bytes and that past anecdotes, may make interesting reading.

I go back a bit. Wartime BTM, ICT GmbH, ICL Deutschland etc. and for a few years as a Principal Engineer for OEM in Stevenage dealing with the East Block in Europe, (before computers) supporting our sales of punched card equipment to various countries in the Block.

My first sortie into Poland was in 1962, a very cold winter I recall. Minus 18 on the streets in Warsaw, installing a Castlereagh Reproducer for the Polish Coal Board in Katowice, after having lugged my tool bag up a steep hill in my London shoes through streets thirty centimetres deep in snow.

I had just flown into Warsaw from Budapest, equally cold with the Danube frozen over, in a Malev Illushin 14, (a Russian copy of a DC3), where I had been installing a dozen or so automatic punches for the Hungarian Ministry of Food.

ICT had secured a large contract with the State Office Equipment Importers in East Berlin for a 209 Reproducer that was specially designed by No 3 factory in Letchworth. It had an extra set of 80 reading brushes one position in front of the Die & Stripper as an advanced read station, to be used coupled to their ASM 18 valve powered calculator.

I exhibited this machine amongst others on our stand at the Leipzig Fair and the East German company Soemtron sold a lot of these calculator/reproducer machines throughout the whole of the East Block. They earned hard currency this way from their Socialist Block neighbours that enabled them to buy more urgently required Western goods for their other industries. It was also good business for ICT.

Another success story was with the sale of a No.3 Factory special, this time a Card to Tape machine designed by Doug Tate's team using discrete solid state electronics on a printed circuit board, then the "latest state of the art" technology, which tickled the East Germans so much they bought dozens of these machines. This enabled them to convert punched cards into paper tape to feed data into their early computer system.

All this "Special" business required a great deal of liaison between the groups involved on an engineering level and as I was living in West Germany at the time, I was kept busy backwards and forwards escorting and translating for my "specialist" colleagues in both directions and holding their hands in Berlin and crossing Checkpoint Charlie with them daily.

Part of these deals was to "invite" teams of Germans for two or three weeks to visit No. 3 to test the prototypes at ICL's expense, (accommodation and subsistence) and their positive reports and cost projections when they returned home eventually resulted in substantial orders for ICL.

We also agreed to place a stock of spares for these machines, in East Berlin, which remained ICL's property until they were used up and replenished, A number of my colleagues from the Accounts Dept. of Production Division who carried out the annual inventories needed looking after in Berlin particularly

as we had to live in West Berlin and go through "Checkpoint Charlie", the border between East and West every day to do the work, returning to our West Berlin Hotel overnight.

One nameless senior accountant, his first trip abroad, was rushed from the West Berlin Airport by taxi, through the Checkpoint at top speed and was in front of the customer within the hour of landing. It frightened him witless. The next day at breakfast he expressed his appreciation of the hotel and the chocolate on his bedside table that he consumed readily. I hadn't the heart to tell him it was German Exlax.

One of Geoff Cross's team of bold Americans, who will remain nameless, wished to see ICL's operation in East Germany This involved crossing through Checkpoint Charlie. It was "arranged" for him to have the full treatment, a strip search by the Border Guards, so that he could experience what we had to go through for himself.

Meanwhile, in Poland, on one of my many visits in the sixties I was asked to look at a potential site for a "turnkey" factory to be built by ICT near Wroclaw where the Poles wanted to make computers. The site was an old Hitler Panzer tank factory, miles out in the country, with dirt floors covered in old oil to compact the floors and absolutely no infrastructure to speak of. My written report stated that there was no way that this site would be suitable and nothing came of it. Only recently I learned that in fact Odra Computers have now got a factory in the area. I wonder if it's the same place.

Later on in the seventies ICL struck a Licence Deal with the State Importers on behalf of Odra Computers the Polish manufacturers to make the 1900 Series main frames in their factories and purchase the peripherals direct from ICL.

At the time I was with OEM at Stevenage and visits to and from their factory in Zelazowa Wola (birthplace of Chopin) for technical liaison was required. The Polish engineers both male and pretty females who came to England were very clever. During their time in Letchworth they saw everything we were doing in development. At the time we were trying to perfect a small "hit in the fly" line printer using a "miniature front stop hammer" which unfortunately never saw the light of day in the labs., but they managed to produce a version in Poland which sold well. One impressive thing was that the Poles also copied the smell of our factory. As you walked in you could easily believe you were in No.3 Icknield Way.

I left ICL in 1977 and some of you know I had a small business designing and installing kitchens and bathrooms for unsuspecting families in the Southwest London area for about twenty years until I was found out. Being widowed in 1993, I met and married a Polish beauty by the name of Joanna who has had a home in England for many years.

We have decided to renew our connections with Poland by buying a brand new apartment in a posh part of Warsaw and have spent the whole of last summer fitting it out with bathrooms, kitchen, oak parquet flooring throughout and many other refinements. We plan to live there in the summer months and spend the winter in our London home, it's a bit parky in Warsaw in the winter as you have read and I am eighty this year. We drive from London to Warsaw stopping over in Hanover on the way, much easier now with no border controls and we take things

for the apartment that we have bought in England in the car with us. We have just driven back, this time nonstop in 26 hours faultlessly, something over 1158 road miles.

Warsaw has changed dramatically in the last twenty years. It's now a super city and well worth a visit should you feel inclined. Lots to do and see, lovely churches and palaces to enjoy and the restoration of the old town that was totally destroyed by the Nazis is a delight to visit. With first class hotels and café's in abundance, Warsaw is a cracking town to add to your itinerary.

We spent last Christmas in Warsaw, the first one in our new home with lots of carp and vodka to eat and drink in front of our log burning fire and NO British television or relatives to enjoy. It was bliss.

Peter Walker

Permanent Change

Someone once said when I joined ICL in the 70's "If you don't like change you are in deep sh**!" Since then I averaged 2 ½ years per job, spent approx 1 ½ years per office (or office space) and worked (?) in 21 countries. As with most of us, many incidents ranging from what seemed at the time serious or important, to downright farce, stir the memory. Here are 3 of mine.

Shortly after joining I had the pleasure of working with Dave Dace and Geoff Cross, my title – G.D.I man, job objective to save money, now I believe called 'Working Smarter'. I planned a visit to Carlton Gardens (ICL's facility for entertaining V.I.P customers). Being unable to secure an appointment I turned up one lunch time unannounced, after waiting 20 minutes or so I was joined by a slightly coloured and breathless Cedric Dickens who invited the Butler to show us around. Faced with a locked door (for which the key had been misplaced) we discussed the issue of security and fire precautions, the key was found, and we were able to enter the wine cellar, needless to say well stocked with fine wines. From that day until Cedric retired, I was to receive periodic well crafted and beautifully hand scribed memos. A wonderful character.

Some 10 years later (and of course in a completely different job) I was invited to take over management of ICL Eastern Caribbean based in Barbados. On arriving I discovered all the engineers had either left or were in the final stages of doing so to join the ex manager who had joined a competitor (N.C.R). Further bad news revealed there were no Salesmen. With the help of colleagues and contacts I was able to secure engineers on secondment from the US, UK and Canada, not hard to do when the location is Barbados! Sales was somewhat different, so I became the Salesman. Fortunately we had two highly regarded software engineers so I devised a bonus scheme which rewarded the two Mikes with courses in the UK, Canada or US. The scheme for obvious reasons was known only to the three of us, and, to my knowledge, still is! We trebled sales in two years.

I returned to the UK (after a further year in Canada) to find my sponsoring division had been disbanded, I had no job. I was invited to sit a psychometric test which I failed, other than that there were no formal procedures for job seekers. So I conducted my own job search. On an informal encounter, Alan Rousell remarked that the people who earned more than him in the UK were Account

Managers. So I became one, enjoying, and ending my working life earning many an honest penny.

Yes, change in ICL was permanent, causing excitement, uncertainty, and opportunity, but what made ICL tick? I shall leave that to others better qualified to decide. For me it was colleagues & friends who made the company and it is to all those that I send my thanks and best wishes.

Bob Crooks

Life after ICL

Laterlife after ICL

A chance meeting with Adrian Turner (*Green Thumb ed.*) recently saw my arm quickly being twisted to write an article. I have some great memories of my 30 years with ICL (working in the City, Paris, Slough, Reading, and Bracknell as well as various secondments) but rather than looking back, I thought I'd do a bit of 'after ICL' because I hope it has some relevance to everyone.

I retired early from ICL in 2002. Those who know me and were around at the time may remember I left ICL (or FJ Services as it then was) to fulfil my ambition of running my own business – a web site called www.laterlife.com aimed at making the most of life over 50 and particularly in retirement, something which I very much aspired to do myself.

These days the web site gets 50,000-60,000 unique visitors every month and we have a network of writers (mostly retired or semi-retired) who provide a regular flow of feature articles as well as reference guides such as our guide to Concessions and Discounts. There are about 2500 pages of information on the site, everything from health to dating in later life, as well as details of products and services of interest. Plus monthly email newsletters that keep everyone up to date. As you've guessed there is a bit of self interest in encouraging you to visit the site but I hope you will find it of genuine value if you do.

Back on the ICL theme I've had help from a number of colleagues over the years, in particular two who are significantly involved. Geoff Osborne who has acted as a business advisor for some 6 years now and Dave Kelley who spends part of his 'retirement life' as one of our Laterlife Retirement Trainers – we expanded off the web some 5 years ago to run Pre-retirement courses and now run around 150 a year all round the UK. The courses are in fact now the major part of our business.

The other thing that I hope will be of interest to you is *The Laterlife Challenge*. This is something we run each year and recognises people who are doing great things in their retirement. You can nominate yourself or someone you know and as well as sharing ideas, there are prizes, such as Theatre breaks and Experience days. It would be really good to see some ICL entries as I'm sure there are some great stories out there.

The other thing that may be of interest is our new Retirement Social Networking site! Everyone has to have one these days! But to coincide with this article we will set up an ICL Group on the site, so do register on the site and hopefully link up and exchange information on what you are doing with some old colleagues. Geoff, Dave and I will register to start with, complete with mug shots, so if you want to contact us just visit

www.laterlifestyle.co.uk/retirement-network

We would love to hear from old friends.

Tony Clack

Letters & e-mails

Powers Machine Room 1920

In the Computer Gallery of the Science Museum there is a small glass-walled box containing a perfectly-preserved little Powers machine room of the late 1920s. There's a U.A.K.P., a Sorter, and a Tabulator, and all the relevant office equipment. Real time-warp stuff. Well, a few months ago the Curator asked me if I could explain to her and her assistant what all the bits meant. We unlocked the long-shut door and tentatively entered.

I went through the basics of the U.A.K.P., and to our astonishment the motor started when we tried the switch. The mechanism was horribly stiff, but still did what it was supposed to.

Then we tried the sorter. Again, power came on OK, but then no operation.

Looking a bit closer we found a wreck in the card track! They reckoned it must have been there for at least thirty years, because that was when the last known expert on the Museum staff retired. We fished it out, giving the current Museum staff a useful lesson in the wreck procedure. Then we tried again, and this time the dear machine ran the carefully-preserved demonstration pack perfectly.

On to the Tabulator, but this time we were defeated. No electrical power came on, and we couldn't turn the machine over by hand because the hand wheel had been deliberately removed some time in the dim and distant past.

So if anyone is, or knows of, a (presumably 100-year-old) Powers engineer prepared to have a crack at mending an 80-year old Tabulator, the Science Museum would be delighted to know.

And does anyone know when 45-column was superseded by 65-column? I think it was about 1932.

Hamish Carmichael

My thoughts on the Space Time Continuum

Last week I thought I'd visit the National Portrait Gallery prior to our reunion in the City. I stood admiring a picture in one of the galleries. A fellow visitor turned to me and it was our esteemed editor, Adrian Turner! We remarked on the coincidence of our meeting. Was he a fellow aesthete or was it the fact that the strip clubs were shut and it was raining? We spoke of the future for our respective pensions. It set me thinking about timing and chance, as I had elected for retirement in the period before Fujitsu took over and ended up a Nortel loser, rather than a Fujitsu winner.

For instance, I'd volunteered at 17 for aircrew. In this case my timing was prescient; it was 1944. If I'd have been born earlier, I'd have been lucky to survive, as Frank Tilley's hair-raising exploits show.

Timing again, by joining Powers in 1948 after military service and probably had the best years of the punched card/computer business.

"Being in the right place at the right time" sounds like an excuse for failure by the disgruntled who didn't make the effort.

Not long ago I tried to get it right and ended up in "the right place at the wrong time" Late one Saturday night I altered all the clocks and timers before the 2am change. In the morning I got up at 9am to listen to Alistair Cooke and "The Archers" was on! It was 11am and I'd taken all 17 clocks backwards instead of forwards.

I've also been in "the wrong place at the right time" One Christmas Eve after we'd "worked" till 1pm; I headed blearily for the train at Liverpool St. I awoke on the way to Southend Victoria, with a hangover and a vague idea I should be at a sale of bargain turkeys in Leadenhall St. Market!

I'd like to think we have free will and life is a kind of PERT network. We encounter decision boxes; make a choice modifying the route we take, so in the end we have only ourselves to blame and not fate or some GREAT OMNISCIENT PROGRAMMER!

Or perhaps it's like a train and we're on a chronological journey on fixed lines till we reach the inevitable terminus and whatever choices we make have no effect, as our lives are predestined?

I'd like to blame my namesake Sir Fred Goodwin for my fate, but I'm not of his ilk and it isn't likely he'll see me right, as he's not even planning to recompense his shareholders!

Perhaps the Fujitsu pensioners will take pity and redistribute their pensions before my train hits the buffers? Maybe, but I'm not holding my breath!

Dennis Goodwin

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ICL flag still flies

When ICL turned into Fujitsu Services the ICL flag that used to fly outside BRA01 was replaced with a spanking new Fujitsu Services one. I managed to negotiate getting the old ICL flag which I then donated to my old boss Richard Gatfield whom I worked with in the 60s in Carlton Drive in Putney. He is fortunate to have some land and a lake on his Surrey property at Mayes Green, and each year a small number of us from Carlton Drive times meet up for a reunion with him. He welcomes us with the ICL flag proudly flying for the day on his flag pole. One of our number visiting my old boss is the famous Tony Russell who seems to be known by all the ex ICLers and some ex customers I meet. These days of retirement people often manage to drag out of me reluctantly that I used to work for ICL - I'm not one who likes giving out information about me. But if they themselves have been involved in IT (as so many retirees seem to have been) they say invariably "You will know Tony Russell then" which fortunately I do. Most of us ICL software types were not allowed out much if at all but clearly Tony was trusted to talk to others and also customers in his long ICL career.

Ken Chilton

Apprentice Football

I with a few others sat the BT Apprentice exam, back in 1958. Being successfully chosen, I started at the Apprentice Training School in Icknield Way, on Jan.1st 1959. This was not a Bank holiday in those days.

It turned out to be a great move, as I enjoyed a highly enjoyable working life. Recently reminiscing, as you tend to do, with a bit more time on your hands, the subject of football was being animatedly being

discussed. (Folks have strong, varying views on the subject). I was asked if I remembered the Apprentice side. We were lucky to have Wednesday afternoons to play sport. The football being played under the control of Bert Lawson. He, I believe worked in Special Order Dept., in 1/1 factory and was an ex Arsenal professional, having played prior to the 2nd W/War. So we were in good hands. We played friendlies against a number of local schools having a pretty useful team.

The games we were trying to recall were against Power Samas, just after the two companies were amalgamated to create ICT, probably played during 1962. (*ICT was formed on 1 January 1959: Editor*) The first game was played at Croydon and from memory, after a really close game it ended 2-2. I'm sure I scored the goals!

So, Mr Bob Garrard, Letchworth Training School Manager, arranged the return fixture at Whitethorn Lane. The Letchworth apprentices won 4-2, I'm sure I scored 2 more!

The problem is I can only recall a few of the team. Terry Elliott, Terry Rigby, Dick Talbot come to mind but I cannot remember any others. Did any of your readers play in the game, including the Power players? Do they remember the names?

I did have a team photo of the Letchworth team, but is now totally misplaced after several house moves.

I do believe we all had a good time, whether at that age we discussed anything other than the game I doubt very much but did make many friends over the years who came up from Croydon to work at Stevenage & many of the other ICL sites.

Look forward to hearing from someone with a better memory than mine.

Ken Barrett

An old friend re-visited

I was first introduced to Beaumont almost 25 years ago when I was interviewed for my first job in Defence Systems. Over the years she became a rather good friend to me with courses that advanced my career and a swimming pool that my daughter and I could indulge in at the weekend. At that first interview in 1986 I was given a tour of Beaumont and I saw from the outside a lovely rose window which didn't relate to anything I was shown inside. Since that moment, I have had a desire to see the window from the inside and also the Chapel which I knew must accompany it. To my family's amusement, my obsession to find it grew over the years. As I explored the building through attending different courses and even when I worked there for over a year I just could not figure out exactly where it lay or more importantly its entrance. Of course I didn't have long enough, nor was it permissible, to do a detailed search but as I went to classes it was always at the back of my mind that there had to be a door somewhere. I never did find it before I retired, but now I know I have been in that Chapel several times and you have probably been there too!

The original mansion was built in 1790 and in the 1880s it was enlarged to be used as a Jesuit school, St Stanislaus Beaumont. The Chapel built at that time was designed by Joseph Hansom (of Hansom cab fame) and the ceiling was decorated by William Henry Romaine-Walker. He is also credited with designing a town house for the Duke of Marlborough, some

galleries for Chatsworth House and building Danesfield House at Marlow and enlarging Medmenham Abbey. However, in the 1960s the Chapel was deconsecrated and the estate was bought by ICL as their principal training establishment. Some modifications were made! Among them the Chapel was boarded up and divided into 2 floors with false ceilings. In 2007 Fujitsu sold Beaumont to the Principal Hayley Group who set about restoring and developing the site into a luxury hotel and conference centre. The main thrust of their restoration programme has been the Grade I Chapel which was revealed when the false ceilings were removed. They consulted with English Heritage who brought in researchers and experts in conservation and it took 11 artists 14 weeks up tiers of scaffolding to painstakingly repaint the ceiling alone.

Today it is finished and I was lucky enough to be invited on a tour of the building by the day's Duty Manager, Lawrence. As I drove up the drive to the first car park to park in my usual spot, the appearance of the building was largely unchanged. However the grand entrance is now to the left around behind the Dairy and other ancillary buildings in what used to be our main car park. You now enter the 'old' reception area from the left (instead of coming past the now very grand swimming pool). In fact the whole of that left side of the building behind the swimming pool has been redeveloped and is totally new and very modern. From the totally modern and quite impressive reception area there are still stairs up to the main corridor but they are re-positioned so that when you reach the top you then have to turn right into the corridor.

The refectory where we collected our food has been totally redeveloped into a large function area with brand new kitchens beyond and a huge restaurant seating 500. The L-shaped area where we ate is now a plush bar area with doors onto a patio.

As we proceeded along the very luxurious rose carpeted, white painted corridor, the old coffee bar was closed due to a function but the grand staircase to the right was still the same although it now leads to bedrooms (I wasn't invited to see those). The lounge beyond still has the minstrel gallery (now with a baby grand installed) and the bar is still in place but not used as such these days.

Up again we went (were there always so many stairs?) to the new hotel reception area. Apart from the sheer luxury in furnishings everywhere, this looked very familiar and nothing much has changed. I believe this now hosts 10 luxury suites.

We then turned back down the main corridor and through a small door on the left into a passageway. I remember it as a dark brown backstairs-type corridor. We turned left and then right, Lawrence stopped and dramatically threw open some double doors and there it was – the JEWEL that I had been looking for.

It is breathtakingly beautiful – just awe inspiring - with its decorated barrel-vaulted ceiling towering three storeys high, six clerestory window bays and a triumphal arch leading to the chancel area. The altar reredos has been retained with mirrors carefully placed between the columns giving a feeling of even more depth. Above this towers the magnificent stained glass rose window in rich blues and reds with a central medallion depicting a white dove. The arches of the side aisle at ground floor level and the walls are mostly painted in muted beiges and browns

with some cobalt blue in parts accentuating the rich decoration of the higher arches and ceiling. This decoration is an artistic masterpiece with images of saints, flowers and Gothic Revival motifs in gold, red, blue and green on a light yellow background. The whole explosion of colour is jewel-like and to study its imagery is a deeply spiritual experience. The religious imagery sadly precludes the Chapel from being used for civil marriage ceremonies (it is only used for receptions).

As I turned to leave, the lower arches and doorway suddenly seemed very familiar to me. I realised I HAD indeed been here before; I had stood at this spot in my quest to find the Chapel and tantalisingly, although it had been all around me, I couldn't see it for the plaster board. I am so relieved this little gem survived virtually unscathed beneath.

It was a lovely experience revisiting my old friend. She seems to have taken on a new lease of life and is being so very proudly cared for. Visit if you can.

Christine Bell (ex WIN01 and BSN01 Defence)

Arthur Quayle

When I read the recent Bits and Bytes to my mother I was reminded that you asked for notice of web based delivery or mail. On behalf of my mother, Mrs Vera Quayle, I would like you to continue to use mail. My mother is 98, her sight is not good and it gives her some pleasure to try to read some of it and see if she recognises any names.

My father, Arthur Quayle, would now be 94 but he died 22 years ago. He joined BTM on 2nd April 1934. I know this as the date of his double majority is engraved on his presentation silverware which now sits on my television. He worked, perhaps amongst other places, in Letchworth, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle (1947 to 1952), Victoria House ('52 to mid 60s), Beckenham and Putney (until retirement in 1977). He knew Arthur Humphries well, a name I do see in your pages occasionally. My mother worked for BTM for a few years in Birmingham during the war.

Robert Quayle

Derek Ellis & Ricky Carden

In the spring 2009 issue of B&B there are two references on which, as an old BTM man, I would like to comment.

The first is the Dave Plummer story recalling his visit to Univac in Pennsylvania as a member of the team involved in the introduction of the 1004 into the ICT product range. Dave recalls that the leader of the team was Derek Ellis, "an all round nice guy". I can endorse that opinion for in December 1947, on completion of my training at Hollerith House in Letchworth, I was posted to the recently opened demonstration rooms at 17 Park Lane. In my position as a technical serviceman and demonstrator I was to report to Derek who was manager in the HQ Technical Services Department. In the four years that I worked for him he never once interfered with what I was doing but was always there when I needed help and advice.

Readers may like to know that a member of the team of demonstrators was Kath Ellis (nee Keen) whom Derek had married in 1948. Kath was of course the daughter of "Doc" Keen, head of BTM R&D and very much involved in the design and development of

the Bombes used at Bletchley Park to decode the Enigma codes

The other item that caught my eye was the letter from Roy Chandler wherein Roy asks if anyone remembers Ricky Carden. I did not know Ricky well but in 1955 he would have been a member of BTMs Publicity Department and responsible for giving promotional talks to the likes of school sixth forms and professional bodies. He did, I believe, move to the Education Department, then based at Moor Hall in Cookham. As it happens I think of him most weeks because I'm pretty certain he bought a house in the area. For the past 37 years I have lived in School Lane, close by Moor Hall. A near neighbour of mine is Ben Aston, who keeps well, and was a one-time manager, circa 1962-65, of the Education Department.

Ray Kilroy Cookham

Reunions

Ferranti Pegasus 50th anniversary

A Pegasus computer is exhibited in the London Science Museum – the oldest working extant electronic computer in the world. This computer was restored by members of the Computer Conservation Society, and went on display in the Computing Gallery in 1999.

You are welcome to attend an afternoon seminar to mark the 50th anniversary of this machine – particularly if you worked on the Pegasus as an engineer or a programmer.

The event being organised by the CCS is planned for **20 May 2010..**

For confirmation and more details follow the links from the news item on the ICL pensioner website, or contact alan.thomson@bcs.org , or **phone him at 01344 422993.**

ICL Central London

The next reunion will be on Wednesday 21 Oct 2009 at **The Flying Horse at 52 Wilson Street**, from 12 noon. The pub is east of Finsbury Square.

Bill Williams 020 7607 9408

Stevenage & Letchworth Old Boys (renamed Punch Card Reunion)

The annual reunion will take place on Tuesday 6 October 2009 at Stevenage Labs STE04 when the speaker will be George Rowley, who was a designer at LDC No3 Factory Letchworth. Please send £10 to **Adrian Turner, 5 Nun's Acre, Goring-on-Thames, RG8 9BE.** Cheques should be made payable to **Punch Card Reunion** and accompanied by a **SAE.**

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OBITUARIES

Michio Naruto

Michio Naruto, the former Chairman of ICL and Vice-Chairman of Fujitsu, passed away on July 14th 2009, surrounded by his family.

He was born March 19th 1935, in Shizuoka, Japan. He read Law at the University of Tokyo, before he joined the Corporate Planning Department, Fujitsu Limited in 1962.

Mr. Naruto served as an Executive Vice President in charge of Fujitsu's Legal and Industry Relations, External Affairs, and Export Control Groups for more than 15 years. Under his leadership, Fujitsu successfully negotiated the agreement with IBM, to use the IBM mainframe software Intellectual property rights, on Fujitsu designed and built Mainframe Systems.

Mr. Naruto was appointed to the Board of Fujitsu Limited in 1985, in charge of International Operations. In this capacity, he attended various international conferences as special representative of Fujitsu and also took on the role as the Chairman of Fujitsu Research Institute. He was actively involved in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry. He also was active in a number of national and international industry associations, such as the chairman of the Sub-Committee of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (KEIDANREN).

From early 1980's, Naruto san was involved in the mainframe technology collaboration project between Fujitsu and ICL. This eventually led to both companies successfully merging in 1991.

He became Chairman of the Board of the main ICL company (ICL PLC which subsequently became Fujitsu Services Holdings Ltd) in 1996, a position he

held until 2002. During his days in ICL, he was active in supporting ICL businesses, not only in the UK but also across the EMEA countries, such as Finland, Egypt, South Africa and Russia.

He was appointed Vice Chairman of Fujitsu from 1998 until April 2000. From June 2000 till July 2004 he was a special representative of Fujitsu then he held the position as the advisor till June 2005.

In 1997, he received an award from Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry in Japan for his work in promoting an information-oriented society. In June 2001 he was made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE), in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. In 2004, he received an award from Minister of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications in Japan for contribution to promoting IT business.

In 2001 Mr. Naruto was appointed Chairman of the Toyota Info Technology Centre, a position he held until his untimely death.

Tom Hinchliffe writes

I first met Naruto-san in 1981 and he was a huge help with ICL/Fujitsu technology collaborations. He recognised that Manchester was the birthplace of the electronic computer and in June 1998, he made a one-day round-trip from Tokyo to attend the 50th anniversary celebration of the 'Baby' (the world's first stored programme computer). He respected the ICL West Gorton engineering pioneers and in November 1998 he hosted a special Mainframe Achievement dinner in Manchester and personally designed and presented the medals and certificates. He also hosted many dinners over the years in Japan, to make the ICL engineers visiting Tokyo feel welcome.

But his greatest contribution was behind the scenes where he was a really worthwhile friend of ICL inside both Fujitsu and ICL. Michio-san was the main Fujitsu driving force behind the overall collaboration, and this eventually resulted in Fujitsu acquiring ICL from STC in 1991. He soon became Chairman of the Board of Fujitsu Services Holdings (formerly ICL PLC), and was a stabilising influence in times of business change.

Michio Naruto enjoyed an outstanding career both in Japan and Internationally. He was a truly remarkable leader, totally clear in his objectives, tough in negotiation but always constructive and completely fair. He was a good man and a very good personal friend.

ICL/Nortel Fund

BIR03	Douglas	Slater	01/09/09	82
BRA03	Keith S	Baker	14/06/09	86
BRA04	Timothy	Goldingham	07/08/09	79
EDI04	James B	Wotherspoon	02/09/09	81
ELS01	Alan	Jacobs	03/04/09	75
	John A	Nunn	22/07/09	80
FEL01	Edward	Kavanagh	23/04/09	86
HOC01	George	Cooper	30/04/09	79
KID01	Robert	Beard	22/07/09	70
	James	Gorman	19/08/09	51
	Maurice	Hulse	11/07/09	78
	Violet G	Landon	17/04/09	75
	Peter	Mounsey	19/03/09	79
	Mervyn	Thomas	23/08/09	77
KID02	Dennis	Frith	10/03/09	82
LON11	Joy C	Crocker	29/04/09	73
LON13	Peter D	Hall	09/04/09	89

LON16	Peggy B	Thompson	10/06/09	82
LON30	Edmund	Last	13/04/09	80
LON31	Edward	Freeman	28/03/09	85
LON33	Edward	Beaufoy	30/05/09	85
LON40	John M	Tolson	15/07/09	73
MAN01	Vera	Teasdale	22/04/09	81
MAN05	Malcolm	Gill	28/05/09	63
	Jean M	Johnson	01/07/09	79
	Leo	Spillane	03/08/09	88
MAN12	John E	Harley	13/08/09	80
REA06	Shiv K	Sharma	01/08/09	82
STE04	Alfred	Rider	01/05/09	88
STE08	Bruce L	Cook	18/07/09	81
WAK01	Charles	Holloway	27/03/09	84
WIN01	Lionel	Green OBE	31/03/09	76
Unknown	John A	Arnold	19/03/09	86
Location	Francis	Ashwell	20/08/09	89
	Audrey	Balmer	22/03/09	78
	Muriel	Beadle	23/04/09	88
	Marjorie	Botham	26/08/09	91
	Royston	Britton	07/05/09	81
	Peter W	Clowes	23/03/09	81
	Leslie	Cole	23/04/09	86
	Harold	Collins	08/04/09	83
	Richard	Cumming	13/08/09	73
	Alfred	Desmond	16/08/09	87
	Joseph	Fink	05/04/09	93
	Joan	France	22/07/09	82
	Russell	Giles	25/04/09	70
	Herbert	Gill	26/03/09	88
	Albert	Gooch	22/06/09	82
	Alice	Hardy	17/04/09	79
	Sydney	Hatton	21/07/09	80
	Dorothy	Howes	28/05/09	105
	Harold	Kenvig	17/08/09	70
	Jean M	Killin	22/03/09	88
	Gerald	Larsen	07/09/09	88
	Sheila	Longmire	30/06/09	78
	Gladys	Miller	04/04/09	89
	James A	Monahan	13/05/09	67
	John F	Mooney	29/07/09	84
	Leslie D	Moore	21/06/09	89
	Derek	Mottram	02/08/09	70
	Maurice	Newington	16/03/09	92
	Anthony	Obrist	28/06/09	86
	Reginald	Proudfoot	16/06/09	76
	Felix J	Riedtmann	31/03/09	98
	Gordon	Ryan	17/04/09	88
	Harry	Selby	03/06/09	77
	Roma J	Sharp	15/05/09	78
	Kathleen	Smales	26/07/09	87
	Leslie W	Sumner	09/06/09	93
	Desmond	Thorpe Tracey	28/06/09	82
	Michael	Timms	28/08/09	60
	Roderick	Vietch	19/07/09	87
	Victor	Wipp	15/04/09	94

ICL Fund

Includes people who died in service

BRA01	Christopher	Brown	23/08/09	66
	Brian K	Morgan	01/08/09	65
	Raymond F	Tiller	29/03/09	68
BIR03	Arthur T	Adams	19/04/09	71
	Peter J	Sinclair	22/07/0	67
BSN01	Geoffrey	Heath	28/05/09	63
EDI04	Albert D	Wilson	26/06/09	72
EDI06	Pamela	Hunter	30/07/09	50
ELS01	Robert A	Clements	06/04/09	70

	Gordon R	Clift	23/07/09	71
FEL01	Anthony	Akathiotis	22/08/09	51
	Arthur M	Stanley	31/08/09	76
	David G	Thorn	25/07/09	62
FCY01	David J	Estaugh	02/04/09	77
	* Kenneth R	Jarrett	21/08/09	69
GLA15	Irene B	McIntyre	13/05/09	64
HOM99	John K	Emms	28/04/09	55
	Sheila C	Kay	29/06/09	55
	Trevor	Reader	31/01/09	51
	Kenneth C	Westell	09/04/09	77
IRE11	Derek	Walker	30/06/09	43
KID01	Paul	Beardmore	02/12/08	50
	Kenneth	Bourne	20/01/09	60
	Adrian C	Robinson	12/06/09	44
	Bernard	Wright	11/07/09	51
MAN05	Stanley	Kirby	11/05/09	78
	Alan	Yates	26/02/09	62
MAN12	David	Teasdale	13/03/09	77
REA24	Mark S	Graham	28/01/09	43
STE04	Peter E	Perschky	24/08/09	79
USA06	David J	Tamkin	30/05/09	55

* Not in ICL Pension Fund

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Pensioners' Directory

Tony Riley maintains the directory for those pensioners who are on the Internet and want their email address and career details published.

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Pensioners' Website

The website for ICL Group pensioners is <http://uk.fujitsu.com/pensioner>

Bits & Bytes is also published on the website and all previous issues are available.

NEXT ISSUE

Copy for the **Spring 2010** issue must be submitted by **1 February 2010**, but would be appreciated earlier.

The content of Bits & Bytes has been prepared by the Editor to provide a newsletter for ex ICL/Fujitsu staff. By facilitating this newsletter Fujitsu Services does not endorse, edit, or attempt to balance the opinions offered here or accept responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information, nor for any loss or damage occasioned to any person acting or refraining from acting as a result of the information or data contained within.

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