

IM 2012

Jerry McCarthy

IM2012 started a day early for us, as we had decided that we should spend at least part of a day at the Milton Keynes Museum in the north of the city. It is worth a visit, with its Strowger (telephone exchange) and tram displays, and there was even one SR to see. More details here: <http://www.mkmuseum.org.uk/> but let us not speak of it again in these hallowed pages. We then descended (literally, straight down one of MK's "V" roads") to our hotel, checked in, had a spot of dinner and met up with some other early birds for the evening.

The next day, Friday, was check-in-for-the-conference day, which went off largely without issue, as far as this author could tell. Displays, including this author's, were set-up and later torn-down in preparation for the evening's programme of talks, which included a talk by Dr Joel Greenburg of Bletchley Park (BP), and a more light-hearted lecture on the subject of Slide Rules for Juggling. No Slide Rules were juggled or otherwise harmed.

Saturday dawned bright and early for most of us, and, breakfast out of the way, we distributed ourselves into various cars (including this author's) for the brief drive to BP. Today was the main lecture day in The Mansion's Ball Room, and we enjoyed talks covering a wide range of subjects such as Flight Navigation Computers, Machine-gun slide rules, Slide Rules for Computer Programmers, Pocket Watch slide rules, and "how to use a Slide Rule to break the ice in remote bars in Sweden" to name just a few (in fact less than a half) of the subjects covered. After dinner, Karl Kleine closed down the day with our evening entertainment as he presented his new and improved "Slide Rules in the Movies" talk.

On Sunday we returned to BP for a full program of tours around the Park itself, and the commercially separate National Museum of Computing (TNMOC) where we were treated to a viewing of the Tunny and Colossus rooms and many of the other treasures which are stored within its maze-like corridors. That complete, we returned to the hotel for our final dinner. Once, that is, the drivers had found their passengers, some of whom had almost to be forcibly extracted from the BP gift shops!

Bis zum nächsten Mal in Berlin!



An attentive audience in the ballroom, Bletchley Park Mansion



Delegates assembled outside Bletchley Park Mansion

Ladie's programme, Saturday, 22nd September
Judith Green

The ladies enjoyed a very nice day out. First, we visited the famous 'Centre MK,' the very large Milton Keynes shopping mall, for a pleasant couple of hours. Then we piled into the bus and headed for Aylesbury, where we went to a beautiful old pub, the King's Head. A sign outside noted that it has been Aylesbury's finest pub since the year 1280 and the excellence of the lunch seemed to confirm the accuracy of this claim.

Afterwards, we proceeded to the nearby Waddesdon Manor, a spectacular stately house once owned by the Rothschild family, now a National Trust property. We were lucky with the weather and, after touring the house, were able to spend time strolling around the beautifully landscaped grounds in the sunshine, before heading back to the hotel.

Many thanks to Sylvia for helping to make the day a success.