

MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2021

Welcome to our 2021 newsletter

We wanted to start the newsletter by saying a massive thank you to all our wonderful members for supporting us during another very difficult year.

We had hoped that 2021 would be different and we would see things open, and up and running again. While some subsections have managed to get started we realise it has been another difficult year, so thank you. We hope you enjoy reading our 2021 newsletter and entering the competitions

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all!



This newsletter:

Letter from the Clubhouse
chairman, Neil Simpson

Colouring competition

Information from the
Clubhouse subsections

Christmas Emoji Quiz

The traditional crossword
challenge from Meles

Details of Clubhouse
opening times



A letter from our Chairman

BY NEIL SIMPSON

Well, another challenging year for the IBM Hursley Club, with the COVID-19 virus having had a profound impact on the club and its members.

We did manage some activities, including the open-air theatre performance of Henry V, but unfortunately, many of our usual activities: the Easter Egg Hunt, Hurfest, Halloween, Fireworks and the Christmas Grotto & Draw have all had to be cancelled. Hopefully, though, we will be back next year with an even bigger bang – for the fireworks event that is...

Between Dec 9 and Dec 14, there will be a Winter Trail to explore - a magical short walk around the site with puzzles to solve and wonderful Christmas decorative displays to look at. Club members can enjoy a free mince pie and mulled wine on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th December from 4pm - 6pm – a big thank you to Sarah Cope for organising this, and all the other entertainment events; we have the Chinese New Year lunch planned for 1 February 2022 and the Trivia Quiz evenings will hopefully recommence in the new year.

The club would not be in such good shape without the efforts of the committee members, in particular, Colin Boulain who chairs the Finance committee. In addition to the management committee, I am grateful to all our volunteers and supporters who work so hard to make sure that the facilities of the club are maintained in good order. Further refurbishment work has been carried out – we are working closely with Apleona and IBM to continue the renovation and improvements around and within the clubhouse.





Many of the subsections have been getting back some level of normality and have adapted well to changing circumstances. From a financial perspective, the clubhouse has weathered the storm as best it could. We have taken advantage of the Govt. support schemes, reduced our costs and were fortunate to have made a surplus in the 2020-2021 financial year. We are in a good and stable position moving forward into 2022. I'm grateful to our members for their patience and forbearance, especially when so much of our usual services and facilities have been reduced or shut.

I'm grateful also, to the clubhouse staff for their tireless efforts and continued good humour in such challenging and uncertain times: Krissie and Mandy for all the work they do to keep the office operation running smoothly and efficiently; they together with Nick, Stewart, Debbie and rest of the fantastic bar & catering team have coped very well with the changing and challenging circumstances.

Hopefully, things will get better in 2022, and we can get back to doing all the things we enjoy at the IBM Hursley Club. On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to wish all our members, staff and supporters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy(er) New Year!

Stay safe, be well and keep healthy.

Festive Regards, Neil



Children's colouring competition (0-12 year olds)

Please send entries via email to office@ibmhursleyclub.org.uk, by Tuesday 4 January
Add details of sponsoring parent/guardian, club membership number, child's name and age

News from the subsections

Hursley Cycling Club

Season's greetings to one and all. Here is a brief summary of the activities of the Hursley Cycling Club for 2021.

During what has been another challenging year for the club, many of us have stepped up again this past year and "hit the road and trails", so to speak, despite Covid's best efforts to keep us apart from family, friends, loved ones, and the great outdoors. Of course, we don't need to remind you all of the wonderful variety of countryside that many of us have right on our doorstep. Club members have again met up with friends, colleagues, and like-minded enthusiasts to take part in numerous road trips, MTB trails, and some touring, both in the UK and further afield (including some serious hill-climbing on La Palma in the shadow of a very active volcano). Some of these adventures have been chronicled on WhatsApp, Facebook, and Slack (see #hursley-cyclists). The weather has naturally played its part in our activities and we're sure that many of you made the most of what has been one of the warmest and driest Autumns on record. With the end of another difficult year nearly behind us, it only remains for the club to wish you all a safe and successful end to 2021. Roll on 2022. See you out on the roads and trails.

One final word, to remind you that the Cycling Club owns an extensive set of tools and can offer advice on doing your own cycle maintenance. For club members, tools are available free of charge. For more information about the club and its activities, membership, and the range of tools available, please contact one of the following members: David Nice/UK/IBM, Paul N Taylor/UK/IBM, or Phil Wakelin/UK/IBM.





Iyengar yoga class

It's been another challenging year, but we have continued to run our classes when the law and the Clubhouse allows. We restarted classes in May, initially in the Sports Hall in the afternoons, and then moved back to our regular slot in the Jim Hayes Hall in the evenings. We are a small group, and typically have about 10 attendees (both male and female) at each class.

If you'd be interested in attending, the details are below.

Wednesdays (term time only)

IBM Hursley Clubhouse

5.30-7.00 pm

Teacher: Iris Lee



2021/2022 price: £28 subscription for every set of 4 weeks

If you want to come along and try a set of four classes, you'd be very welcome.

Please wear loose clothing, bring along a mat, blocks, bricks, belt, and blanket. Current COVID restrictions prevent us from lending out club equipment. You must wear a mask in the building, but you can remove it for the class. Please take a Lateral Flow Test before you attend.

Please contact Sue Graham (sue_graham@uk.ibm.com) if you want to find out more.

Hursley International Folk Dancers (HIFD)

Like most groups, we had to suspend our dancing activities due to COVID 19. We are slowly getting back to some form of normality and have met a couple of times in the autumn with a good number of attendees.

Depending on clubhouse availability, we plan to meet on the first and third Thursday evenings each month from 6.00 to 8.00 pm. Please come along and give it a try! Partners are not needed but soft shoes are recommended.

Watch our web site:

<http://hifd.ibmhursleyclub.org.uk/diary.html>

for any last-minute changes.





Keep Fit rising to the challenge of Covid with socially distanced and safe circuit training

As soon as the Sports Hall reopened in 2021 the Hursley Club Keep Fit group restarted their circuit training sessions. We are really fortunate to have these sessions led by a professional fitness trainer, Viki Sarkes from Studio Twenty 3 of Chandlers Ford. Each week Viki produces a well-structured and varied session to meet our range of capabilities which she delivers with remarkable enthusiasm.

Our sessions are suitable for all abilities with exercises to improve cardiovascular fitness and muscle strength and flexibility. Since we're a mixed ability group, our instructor ensures that everyone works to their personal limits. We keep safe by maintaining a minimum separation of 2m between participants and we don't share equipment. If you'd like to try out safe and distanced circuit training with us the first session is a FREE taster. New and old members are always welcome.

We meet on Wednesday evenings in the Sports Hall in the Hursley Clubhouse, from 5:30pm until 6:30pm.

Also a big 'Thank You' to all those at the IBM Hursley Club who have worked so hard to keep the Club going during these difficult times.



Contact Alan Gordon (acgordon.acg@gmail.com) or
Graham Rawson (graham_rawson@uk.ibm.com)
for more information or take a look at <http://keepfit.ibmhursleyclub.org.uk/>



Hursley Amateur Ballroom and Latin American Dancing (HABLAD)

Over the last few months, we have gone from having no meetings since 2019 to a plan for regular practise sessions on Thursdays. Because we have had to move from evenings to afternoons, a few of the former members have decided to stop dancing, so we are struggling to get more dancers. This means that until we get more interest, we cannot afford to pay a professional dance teacher; however, we can still share our own dance knowledge, and our company (afternoon tea in the bar...).

We are always looking for more dancers, so if you would like to brush up your waltz, quickstep, or cha-cha, please contact me for more details. We really need people to join in couples, particularly with the threat of COVID still around. The extra cost for Hursley Club members is only £5 a year at present, and we meet on Thursday afternoons in the Clubhouse.



Badminton

The Badminton club reopened at the beginning of September and is now playing from 7.00 pm until 10.00 pm every Friday in the sports hall. We would love to see new faces along so if anyone is interested in playing feel free to come along to a club night or if you have any questions contact carl.kambites@uk.ibm.com.





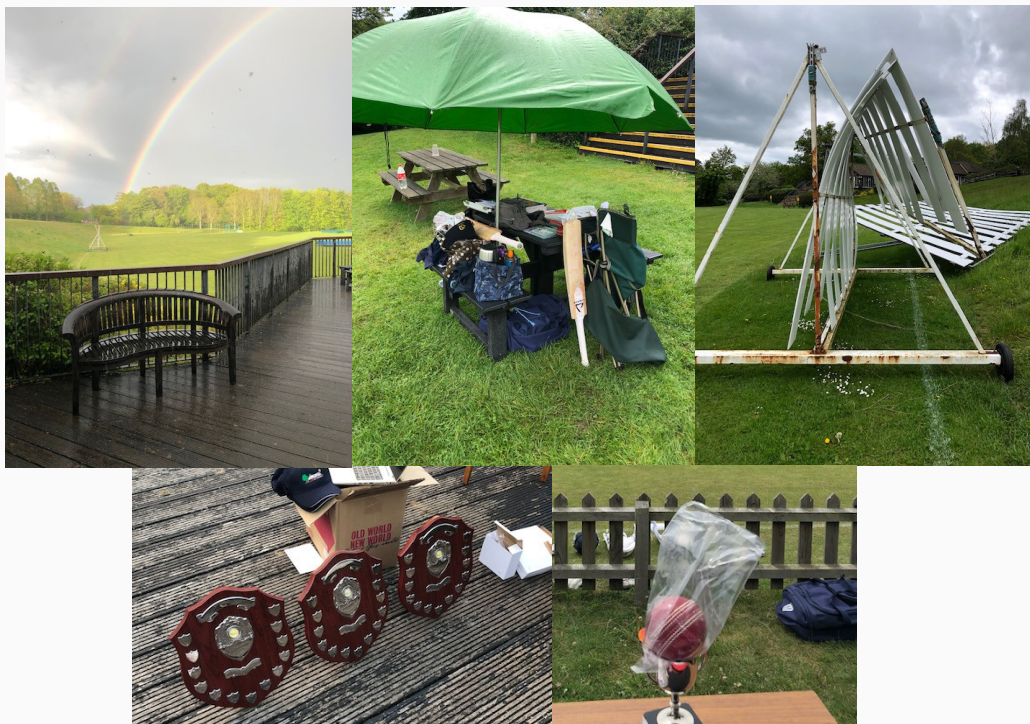
IBM Hursley Cricket Club

With lockdowns in early 2021, we were not able to train indoors at all over winter this year so it was great to finally get out to do some training in the summer and play an (almost) full season of matches. With great excitement, we set about the season, only for the great British summer to cause us further issues with some matches being cancelled due to waterlogged pitches and a storm that broke some of our equipment. Never to be defeated, we marched ever onwards...

Our juniors had an exceptional year with lots of new silverware brought back to the IBM Clubhouse although our adult teams had more mixed success. With a new second Astro pitch installed on the lower field, we continue to invest in the facilities at IBM to be able to offer cricket to more people.

We are an inclusive cricket club, open to players of all abilities, with junior age groups covering boys and girls from age 6 to 16 years. We have 3 adult teams playing in the Hampshire Cricket League on Saturdays, a midweek team in the Winchester Evening League, some Sunday Friendlies and a ladies/girls W10 team. We are delighted to be extending our cricket offering in 2022 to include our first ever girls team.




On behalf of everyone at IBM Hursley Cricket Club, we wish you all a peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year. And if the Ashes tour from down under this winter inspires you and you'd like to hear more about our Club, please contact our Secretary at secretary@cricket.ibmhursleyclub.org.uk.












Christmas Emoji Quiz


Guess the Christmas movie by the emojis





1.    _____



2.    _____



3.   _____



4.   _____




5.    _____

6.     _____

7.   _____

8.   _____

9.   _____

10.    _____

Crosswords

BY MELES

This year we haven't got one crossword but we are treating you to two! To enter the competition you must complete both crosswords.

Please submit your entry **by 5 pm on Monday 3 January 2022** to *IBM Hursley Clubhouse, MP 143, IBM UK Labs, Hursley Park, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 2JN.*

This year you may also scan and email your grids to connex@uk.ibm.com if you prefer, with the same deadline. The correct solution will be available from the Clubhouse and online after that date.

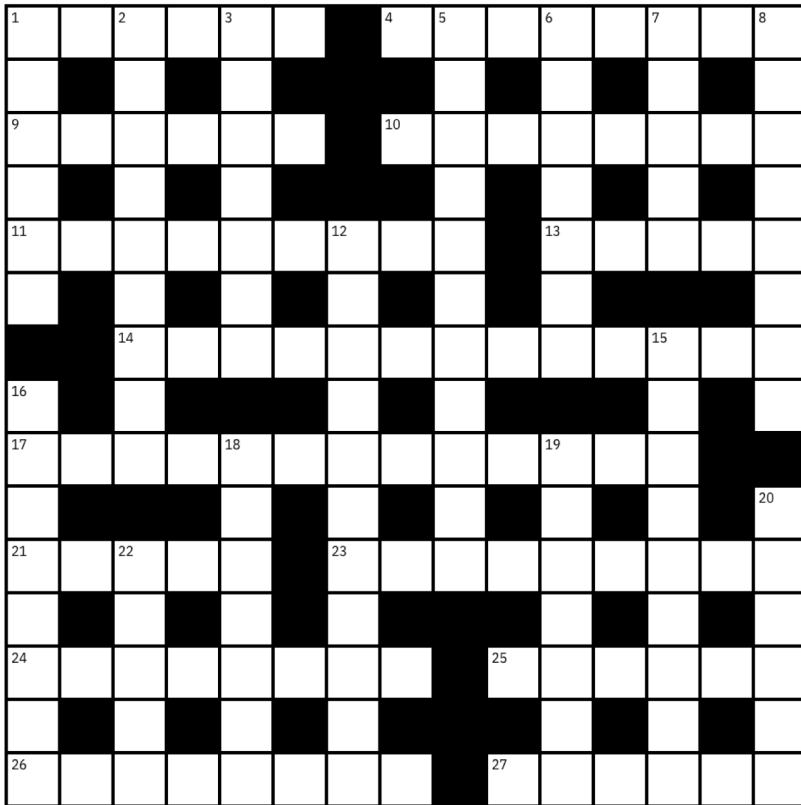
The competition is open to all readers. However, the Club's prize fund of £100 is reserved for solutions from current Club members, and it is distributed at the compiler's discretion. If you believe you are including a dual or obscure answer, you may provide a further reference along with your submission. That will typically be the only correspondence about your solution. The compiler's decision is final.

To be considered for a prize, entrants must include name, club membership number, and return address.



Cryptic crossword #08

By Meles



Across

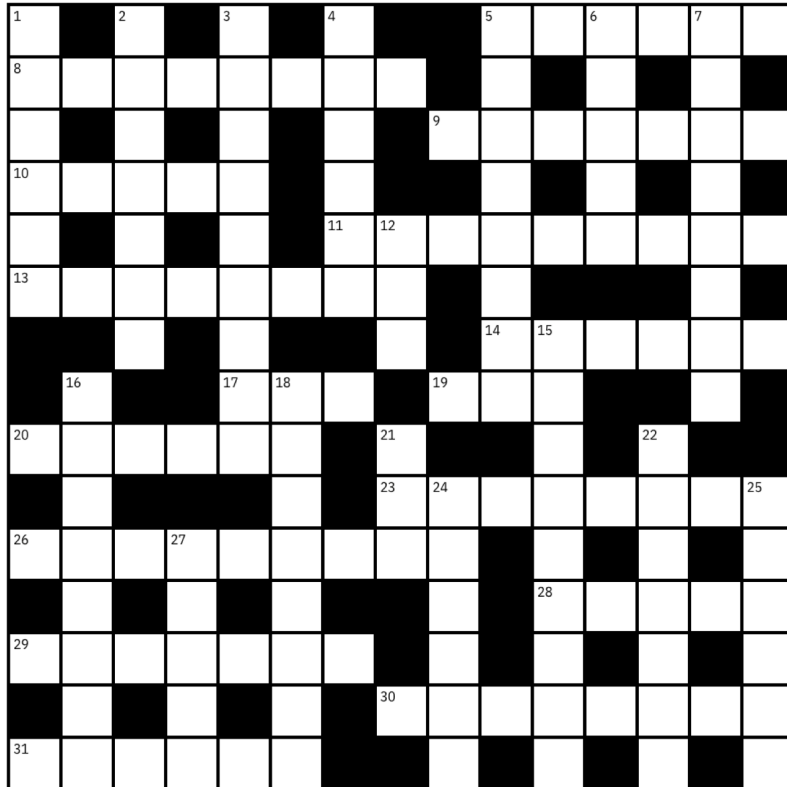
1. Roughly forced animal towards sea (6)
4. Suggesting setter used glued wood to fix broken Chinese vase (8)
9. Soldiers chasing a copper show shrewdness (6)
10. Insurgent alligator is upset (misses lakes) so eats shirt (8)
11. Alert, like some seams on sports equipment (2,3,4)
13. Initially a Himalayan, yak-eating, nocturnal animal (5)
14. Met the required standard when serving condiment? (3,3,7)
17. Excessive planning - like an out-of-control anagram generator! (4,9)
21. Greek character needed: model man volunteers (5)
23. Ten men act abysmally in performance (9)
24. Facing procedure, put forward drug (8)
25. Old chronicles of girl with lad's fringe (6)
26. Breaks a Yankee son to follow one in hold (8)
27. Sleeper missing drug rolls over and sickens (6)

Down

1. Argue about a child (6)
2. Must accept love of dull pain for facial hair (9)
3. Conductor piece (7)
5. Aloe Gin mama drunk led to delusions of power (11)
6. Clasps revolutionary intercepting crushed salt (7)
7. Mexican plant fiber nine let loose (5)
8. Crowns for Judy's family, perhaps? (8)
12. Heinously crashed a Bently into husband's old Rolls Royce (11)
15. Sum total of gravel and stones (9)
16. Check pattern on animal tusk (8)
18. Gathered alpha mothers for home counties penultimate parade (7)
19. Fervent atmosphere under canvas, we hear (7)
20. Feast as island conceals state of inactivity (6)
22. Evict former gym student (5)

Cryptic crossword #07

By Meles



Across

5. One with six legs said to wallop the French (6)
8. Vexed by chaotic scene in Independent North Dakota (8)
9. Commanding Officer of corrupt CIA sought new base narcotic (7)
10. Dig around American school building (5)
11. Take a chance: emulate PC's diversion, avoiding the motorway (9)
13. Get a grip on what you buy (8)
14. Bring about a change (6)
17. Relative – whatever way you look at it (3)
19. Nucleus of radon shows agitation (3)
20. Bases to accommodate engineer mates (6)
23. Spice Girl wears line of ladies' underwear (8)
26. Independent maiden whose morals incorporate model deities (9)
28. One hiding six resembling sheep (5)
29. Misprint of Charlie Alan's degree in yearbook (7)
30. Trapped music paper between end of garage and hut (8)
31. Evaluate English secret service for following fool (6)

Down

1. Cleric who starts out close to monarch? (6)
2. Obtain account before country gentleman is beheaded (7)
3. Type of delivery considered disreputable (9)
4. Break nook (6)
5. Mentioned bug found in bed (8)
6. Note said "woman beheaded" (5)
7. Fools! Student of the United Nations removed summit treaty from lofts (8)
12. Exercise time loved by teacher? (3)
15. Flowers scorned by vegans? (9)
16. Boy walks into blackberry bushes (8)
18. Wood carriers butt in here? (8)
21. Inwardly, Phil laughs at the weak (3)
22. Transport degree certificate to octet (7)
24. Detached kitchen unit a good place for loner? (6)
25. Corrects disease that had entered extremities (6)
27. Speak of the cost of first love (5)



Christmas & New Year opening hours

The Clubhouse & all facilities will be closed from 25th December to 3rd January inclusive, re-opening on Tuesday 4th January.

Please check out the website (www.hursleyclub.org) for opening times and available services up until 24th December.

