



Treasure Trail

The History of Cambridge Computer Science

27 May, Cambridge, UK

Celebrating Computer Science At Cambridge

Computer science has had an enormous impact on modern life, and there is a great deal of interest in the early days of computing. Over the centuries Cambridge has been responsible for many significant advances, including the work of Charles Babbage, the creation of the world's first practical stored program computer, EDSAC, and the introduction of the Computer Science Diploma, the world's first taught course in computing.

In this, the University's 800th anniversary year and the 60th anniversary of the EDSAC, we are holding a series of events to celebrate computer science in Cambridge and to reflect upon and draw attention to the contributions of the graduates and faculty of the Cambridge Computer Laboratory. All events will be suitable for a general audience and will consist of a combination of lectures, historical films from the Computer Laboratory archives, and interactive computing-related demonstrations.

A Treasure Trail

On May 27th you can find out more about the history of computing at Cambridge by following a trail which links sites of interest and a series of special demonstrations of old and new technologies. You can see a rare hydraulic computer in action, explore the latest breakthroughs in quantum computing and see the building that housed the famous TrojanRoom Coffee Pot.

The trail starts at the Economics Department on the Sidgwick Site with demonstrations of the MONIAC hydraulic computer at 1000, 1100 and 1130, and then winds through the centre of Cambridge before heading to the Cavendish Laboratory, where there will be demonstrations of the Qubit quantum computer (taking place at 1130, 1200 and 1230), finishing nearby at the Computing Laboratory. The route is around two and a half miles.

There will also be a guided tour, setting off from the Sidgwick Site at 1045. The guided tour will arrive at the Computer Lab at 1330. At 1415 journalist and writer Bill Thompson will be giving a lecture in our anniversary series, which you are also invited to attend. The lecture, titled 'The 10 Cultures Problem', will take place in Lecture Theatre 1 of the Computer Laboratory from 1415-1515.

ROUTE

There will be further information at each site mentioned.

The talk is taking place during the University's examination period, so colleges will be closed to non-members.

1	Faculty of Economics, Sidgwick Site, Sidgwick Avenue	Demonstration of the MONIAC Analogue Hydraulic Computer Demo by Dr. Allan McRobie, Economics Department at 10:00, 11:00 and 11:30
2	The Mathematical Bridge, visible from Silver Street	A famous Cam landmark, which was neither designed nor built by Isaac Newton.
3	Former home of DAMTP, visible through alley off Silver Street	Formerly the workplace of Professor Stephen Hawking
4	St Botolph's Church, corner of Silver Street and Trumpington Street	An unusual double sundial
5	Olivetti/AT&T Research Labs, old Addenbrooke's Site, Trumpington Street	Site of a great deal of important research, including the active badge and other work in pervasive computing.
6	Foundress Court Sundial, Pembroke College, visible from Tennis Court Road	A modern sundial
7	Site of the Bun Shop pub, corner of Downing Street and Corn Exchange Street (now part of Grand Arcade)	A favourite with computer scientists, including Roger Needham, former head of department and founding director of Microsoft Research, Cambridge
8	New Museums Site	The site of the old Mathematical Laboratory and the EDSAC, commemorated with a plaque near the Babbage Lecture Theatre
9	The old Computer Lab tower,	Site of the Trojan Room and the Cambridge Coffee Pot, in the New Museums Site
10	The old Cavendish Laboratory, visible from Free School Lane	The research laboratory where the electron and neutron were discovered

11	The Eagle, Bene't Street	Another favourite pub with computer scientist, also notable as a regular haunt for Francis Crick and James Watson when they were working on the structure of DNA/
12	King's College, King's Parade	Alan Turing was one of the notable computer scientists to have been a Fellow at King's
13	6a King's Parade (now the meditation centre)	Formerly offices for Sinclair Research and Acorn Computers, among others.
14	Trinity College, Trinity Street,	Where Isaac Newton worked.
15	St John's College, St John's Street,	Where Roger Needham and Maurice Wilkes were fellows
16	The Castle, Castle Street	Another haunt of computer scientists – there may be a theme emerging – and notable as the place where the 'xen hypervisor' was named
17	Mount Pleasant House	Home of many startups especially those associated with Hermann Hauser and Andy Hopper.
This is a good point to take a taxi or bus to the Cavendish Laboratory		
18	Centre for Mathematical Sciences, Wilberforce Road	Where Andrew Wylie presented his solution to Fermat's Last Theorem
19	Cavendish Laboratory	Qubit Quantum Computing Demo by Dr. David Williams in the Hitachi Cambridge Laboratory at 11:30, 12:00, and 12:30 Dasher Demo and Exhibition in the Physics Dept. lobby
20	Computer Laboratory	A number of exhibitions and displays will be taking place during the day: History of Computer Laboratory The Door: display of the original door of Mathematical Department (the common room on 1st floor)

The Trojan Room Coffee Pot (the world's first webcam): BBC News in 1994
EDSAC Demo (Video: Martin Richards - EDSAC Simulation in BCPL)
EDSAC papers by David Wheeler (Initial Orders for EDSAC)
Exhibition of archived research papers (Computer Laboratory Library)
Relics Project - Virtual Exhibition
CAP project (at the entrance hall)

Refreshments are available in the Cafe

Lecture: The 10 Cultures Problem (1415, Lecture Theatre 1)

Map: online at <http://bit.ly/comptrail>

Guided Tour

Please meet at the Sidgwick Site at 1045. The tour arrives at the Cavendish Laboratory at 1230 and finishes at the Computer Laboratory at 1430 to give you time for lunch before Bill Thompson's lecture at 1415.

