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 Trojan Room Coffee Pot.

The trail starts at the Economics Department on the Sidgwick Site with demonstrations of the MONIAC hydaulic 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 walk 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 Waston 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) - 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 1330 to give you time for lunch before Bill Thompson's lecture at 1415.
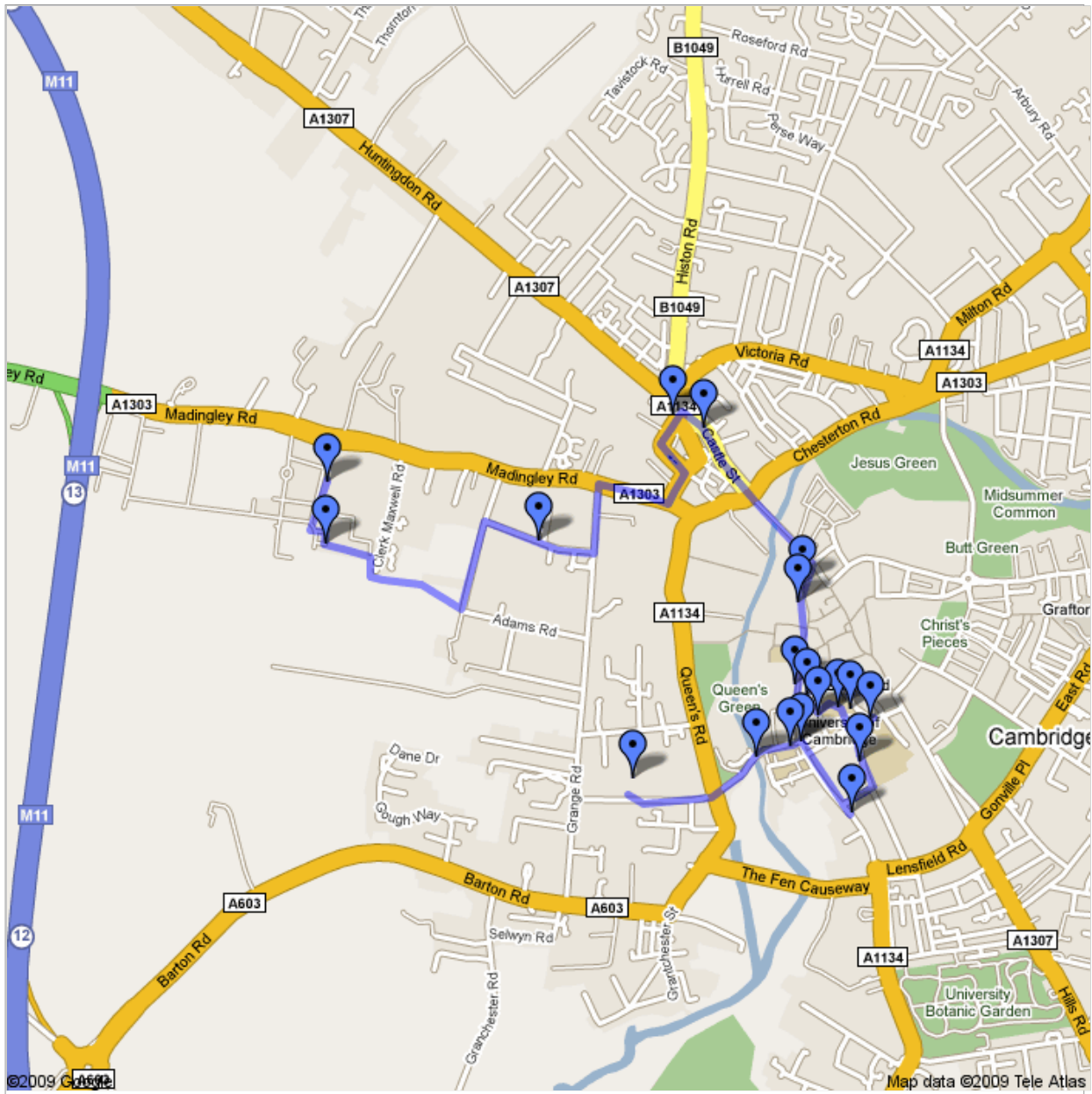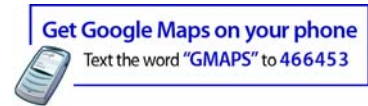
Computing Treasure Trail

The route for the 27th May tour of Cambridge's computing history.

20 views - Public

Created on May 24 - Updated 17 hours ago

By Bill Thompson

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Faculty of Economics

 MONIAC Demonstration

The Mathematical Bridge

 The bridge was built in 1749 by James Essex the Younger (1722-1784) to the design of William Etheridge

(1709-1776). It has subsequently been rebuilt to the same design in 1866 and 1905.

The red-brick building on the right is the President's Lodge (ca 1460, the oldest building on the river at Cambridge). On the extreme right is the Essex Building (1756-60). Behind the trees on the left is Cripps Court (1974).

For those who have fallen prey to the baseless stories told by unscrupulous guides to gullible tourists, it is necessary to point out that Isaac Newton died in 1727 (biography), and therefore cannot possibly have had anything to do with this bridge. Anyone who believes that students or Fellows could have disassembled the bridge (and then failed to re-assemble it, as the myth runs) cannot have a serious grasp on reality, given the size and weight of the wooden members of the bridge. The joints of the present bridge are fastened by nuts and bolts. Earlier versions of the bridge used iron pins or screws at the joints, driven in from the outer elevation. Only a pedant could claim that the bridge was originally built without nails. Other baseless stories are that Etheridge had been a student, and/or had visited China.

Old DAMTP

The former home of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics

St Botolph's Church

High on the SW buttress of this tower is a pair of vertical sundials, one facing due south, the other southwest. Its clear numerals and well cut hour lines, with half-hours and quarters marked, make it easy to read from street level. The date of this dial is unknown. It replaces a much earlier dial on St. Botolph's Church which was designed by a Mr. Butterfield and repainted in 1614 at a cost of 18 pence, but the precise position of this earlier dial is unknown

Olivetti/AT&T Research Lab

When Olivetti acquired Acorn Computers in 1985, Hauser, who was Acorn's co-founder, became vice-president for research at Olivetti where he was in charge of laboratories in the US and Europe. In 1986, Hauser co-founded the Olivetti Research Laboratory (ORL) in Cambridge, England, along with Professor Andy Hopper. Hopper became the laboratory's Director.

In 1988, Hauser left Olivetti. In 1997 the lab became the Olivetti & Oracle Research Lab. In January 1999 it was acquired by AT&T and became AT&T Laboratories Cambridge.

AT&T Laboratories Cambridge was for many years Europe's leading communications engineering research laboratory. The laboratory was internationally recognised as a centre of excellence, undertaking advanced research into communications, multimedia and mobile technologies.

As a result of heavy losses, AT&T restructured its worldwide research efforts and the Cambridge labs closed on 24 April 2002.

Foundress Court Sundial

Site of the Bun Shop

A favourite pub with mathematicians and computer scientists, including Roger Needham

EDSAC

Plaque marking old Mathematical Laboratory and site of EDSAC

Old Computer Laboratory

Home of the Trojan Room and the Cambridge Coffee Pot, famous on the internet.

Free School Lane

Site of the old Cavendish Laboratory, the place where the electron and neutron were discovered and where Rutherford split the atom.

The Eagle

Renowned Cambridge pub, popular with many computer scientists over the decades. Also the place where Watson and Crick announced their breakthrough in understanding the structure of DNA

King's College

Alan Turing was a Fellow of King's College

Trinity College

Isaac Newton

St John's College

where Roger Needham and Maurice Wilkes were fellows

The Castle, Castle Street

Popular pub with computer scientists, and the place where the 'xen hypervisor' was named

Mount Pleasant House

Home to many Cambridge computing companies, many set up by Hermann Hauser

Centre for Mathematical Sciences

Centre for Mathematical Sciences
Wilberforce Road
Cambridge CB3 0WA

The Cavendish Laboratory

Qubit Quantum Computing Demonstration

Dasher Demo and Exhibition

The Computer Laboratory

The 'door' of the old Mathematical Laboratory
EDSCA video and artefacts
Archived research papers

lecture, 1415-1515

Treasure Trail