



UPA Colworth

Editorial



Vostok 6; in the background is Voskhod 1

© Science Museum

Perhaps some of the most interesting are the battered descent modules Vostok 6 (piloted by Valentina Tereshkova in 1963) and Voskhod 1 (which, in 1964, was the first to carry more than one cosmonaut; the three crew were squeezed together in incredibly cramped positions). Unlike US astronauts, cosmonauts are returned to dry land in central Asia.

Although this sounds a tougher proposition the difference between landing on hard ground and on water is probably insignificant. Also exhibited is the module used for the Russian space dogs and the Lunar Lander which would have carried a cosmonaut to the moon's surface had the project not been cancelled after the US success in 1969 with Apollo 11. The exhibition runs until March 13th 2016. Photography is not allowed.

Being so close, I had to nip next door to see if Dippy was still dominating the central hall of the Natural History Museum. All hell broke loose when the NHM announced that the diplodocus was to be replaced with a blue whale skeleton. It seems Dippy is going on tour but this hasn't yet happened so you've still got time. Sophie is worth seeing too. The young-adult stegosaurus skeleton from Wyoming is 85% complete and is real – Dippy is only a plaster-cast (albeit a big one). Sophie is named after the daughter of the hedge fund manager whose donation made NHM's acquisition possible.

Now, I haven't nagged you about newsletter articles for some time but I can reveal that my stocks are running a bit low. I'm most grateful to Gina and Colin for their report on the Olympic Legacy trip and to Olwyn for the croquet season summary. My wife put some text to photos of our Pearl Harbor visit which I hope might be interesting. But I cannot believe that members have nothing worth reporting and sharing with the readership. Anything goes: holiday reports, hobbies, reminiscences of the old days, cars I have owned, cats I have owned. If you have an idea but not sure whether it's appropriate ask me or one of the committee. Photographs are also welcome.

Finally, to whet your appetite, some of you may have seen Cham on TV supporting her son David at recent cricket events such as the Twenty20 quarter finals and Twenty20 England v. Australia. After a lifetime supporting Peter through his sporting career, Cham is now doing it all again with David. Watch this space for an exclusive inside story.

I was in London a few days ago and went to see the *Cosmonauts: Birth of the Space Age* exhibition at the Science Museum. This tells the story of the Russian space programme from Tsiolkovsky in 1903 to the Soyuz vehicle, which since 2011 when the US space shuttle was retired has been the only means of launching cosmonauts / astronauts to the International Space Station. It's literally a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity as most of the exhibits are in private collections in Russia.



Dog spacesuit and ejector seat

© Science Museum



David Willey on the day he received his England cap in Ireland

Olympic Legacy – a visit to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, August 4th



A lovely sunny morning made up for the fact that we had to leave Rushden at 7.45am to ensure that we were in London by 10.30am. After the usual pick-ups in Sharnbrook and Bedford we made good time down the A1 and arrived in Stratford to meet our Blue badge guide Sean, as arranged.



Sean and (background) the Velodrome roof

After some nifty manoeuvring by our driver, Dave, we made the short journey to the Lea Valley Velopark for a visit to the Velodrome, an impressive and very pleasing bit of architecture, where morning coffee and biscuits were a welcome start to our tour. It was great to wander round the site of some of our great 2012 triumphs and you could imagine how electric the atmosphere must have been. Some future Olympic hopefuls were being put through their paces and had graduated to the bottom of the banking by the time we left. The Velodrome is now part of an area which has incorporated road, BMX and mountain bike tracks and it was great to see a variety of bikes using the

2

facilities. We then took a short walk around the immediate area to see how the natural parkland has developed. Sean gave us many of the facts and figures regarding the development of the 560 acre former industrial site, which needed extensive work to remove pollutants but now has 13,000 trees, 100,000 perennial plants, 26 works of art and is the largest urban space opened in Europe in the last 150 years. He also added the first of his amusing anecdotes about a lady who was adamant that the Velodrome was a ridiculous building and after further discussion it transpired that she was worried about the cyclists falling from what she thought was the track – Sean was able to reassure her that that was the roof.



After the boat trip

Dodging the many determined cyclists we returned to our coach which then took us on a tour of the park, past the athletes' village (now smart flats) and the many new housing developments, together with a health centre and an academy school which will concentrate on developing the arts and sport, although I wonder how many local people can afford to live here? There were also a number of new and very popular children's play areas and lovely garden areas. We passed the Copper Box Arena the International Media centre from where BT Sport now operates, and on to the Aquatics Centre. The two Olympic size pools and the diving pool were all being put to good use mainly by children, either taking swimming or diving lessons or having fun on the giant inflatables. We then took the short walk to the lunch stop at the Westfield Shopping Centre past the developing International Quarter which will eventually provide a further 4 million square feet of office space. Most of us resisted the retail opportunity of the Westfield Centre and just enjoyed the rest and refreshment before re-assembling to walk to the boat dock for a trip on the River Lea. The wildlife was very elusive but the young canoeists were making good use of the facilities.

After a very restful and informative 45-minute boat trip, our final walk along the river path took us past the fountain park which was being enjoyed by a great many very wet children despite the cooling weather, and on to our final stop the ArcelorMittal Orbit. Sean gave us all the information regarding this impressive 114.5 metre sculpture designed by Anish Kapoor, which resembling a red helter skelter will be able to offer that facility sometime in the future. Until then you can try an abseiling experience for £85. His little anecdote about Boris's supposed part in securing this addition to the park caused a real smile and a few comments. A lift took us in groups to the top where the views of the park and the London skyline were amazing. Interactive display boards allow you to identify the many buildings and from the top we could see some of the ongoing athletics stadium development, soon to be the home of West Ham United football club and UK Athletics. If you're thinking of going to an event there, only disabled parking will be provided and everyone else will be expected to use public transport as Stratford is now the second biggest transport hub in London. After exploring the two observation floors, the more energetic among us decided to take the 455 steps, which spiral down outside to ground level, from where we headed for the café and a well earned cup of tea before joining Dave and the coach nearby. We said our goodbyes and thanks to Sean who was a truly professional and very amusing Blue Badge guide, then Dave very ably coped with the tea-time traffic and returned us to our starting points safely and in good time.



ArcelorMittal Orbit



The Aquatics Centre from the Orbit



West Ham's new ground

Having known this area as a child when grandparents and other relatives lived nearby, and visiting the site during the Paralympics, it's great to see the ongoing development and the numbers of people enjoying this wonderful park and all its amenities. Thank you to the events team for a great day out and special thanks to Jean for all her hard work in the organisation of this trip.

Gina & Colin Crouch

3



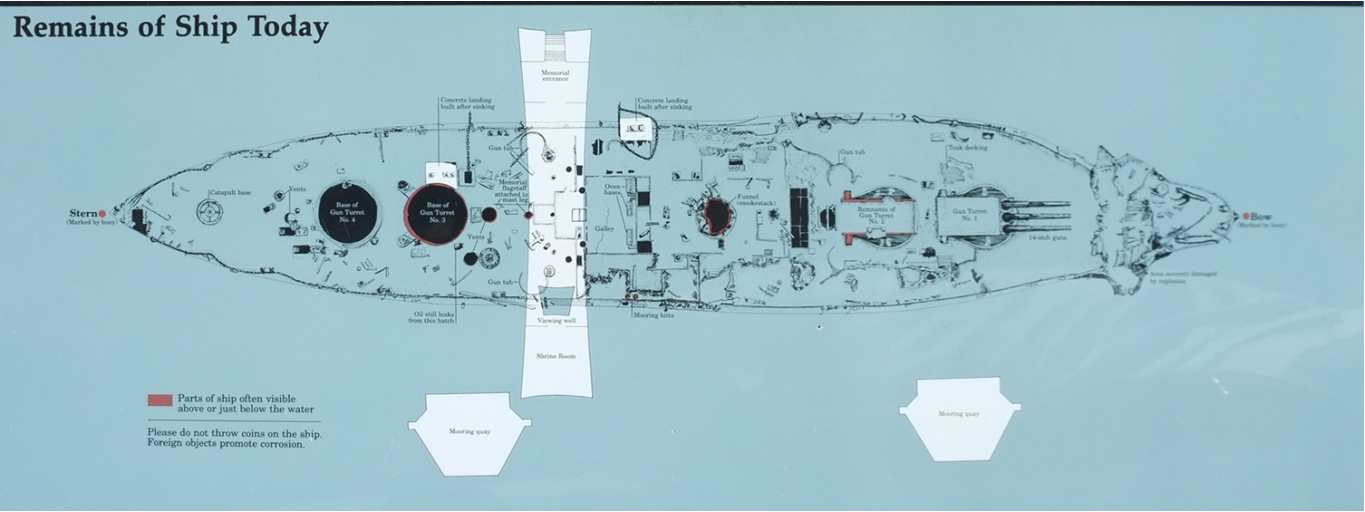
Would anyone want to?

Pearl Harbor

Last February we visit Honolulu, Hawai'i, and took a trip to the Pacific National Monument at Pearl Harbor. In contrast to our experience with US immigration at Miami the organisation at the monument was flawless and timed to the minute. We were ushered into a cinema, shown a very good film about the attack, then out onto a ferryboat and taken to the memorial. Fifteen minutes at the memorial the next group arrived and we departed.

Details of the surprise Japanese raid are well known. On December 7th 1941 all eight of the US Navy's battleships were moored in a line at Pearl Harbor ("Battleship Row"); all were damaged, four sunk. Amazingly, six were repaired and returned to serve in the war. All but USS Arizona were raised. The ship is the resting place of 1102 crew.

The memorial was built in 1962 and is designed so that it is suspended over – not in contact with – the wreck. The fuel tanks were full on the day of the attack and oil continues to leak from the vessel (the "tears of the Arizona"). The integrity of the hull is monitored by the National Parks Service.



4

USS Arizona – the bow to the right

The concave white bar is the memorial; the two white blocks are the moorings; brown parts are usually above water





Battleship Row: USS Missouri; moorings for USS Tennessee; USS Arizona moorings are out of frame to the right



USS Arizona memorial



Base of gun turret no.3

*Mooring posts, starboard side
looking forward*



Forthcoming Events

November 4th Wine & Cheese with Ian, Colworth Clubhouse – **Now booking**
December 9th Christmas Lunch, Vesuvio, Sharnbrook – **Now booking**
November 14th–18th 2016 Paignton Holiday – **Now booking**

Note that places are still available for the **Knuston Lunch** on November 12th and the **North Wales Caernarfon** holiday on July 3rd–7th 2016. If you are interested please see the booking forms on our website (address below).

Walking Programme

	Crawlers	Boots & Socks
October	5th Steve & Jean Ablett	28th Dick Safford & Ian Kimsey
November	tba Crawlers / Boots & Socks Combo – End of Season Ramble	

UPA Croquet Season

Over the summer the UPA croquet group has played host to Stony Stratford and enjoyed perfect weather and were fortunate to view the Vulcan bomber go over, which really made our day. In previous years we have witnessed Spitfires and a Lancaster fly over which of course we have told our guests were organised in their honour. Stony Stratford reciprocated on September 7th and we enjoyed a good day's play and excellent hospitality.

On Monday September 21st we held our end of season fun day and competition trophy presentation day. The day started at 10am with coffee and biscuits. We played four 30-minute games, broke for lunch, and followed up with a further 30 games. The day ended in the clubhouse with tea and homemade cake. The finale was the presentation of the trophies to the winning pair of the summer's doubles competition. The winners were:

First Hilary Denning & Kath Dixon
Second Olwyn & Doug Wishart
Third Christine Witts & Jan Dunscome



Hilary and Kath also won the Croquet Club fun evening trophy held on July 23rd. Well done to them both for the grand slam win. Thanks also to Hilary for organising the competition and to everyone who competed and all those who brought cake etc. to the events. See you all next year folks.

Olwyn Wishart

New members

A very warm welcome to **Mike** and **Leslie Statham**. **Mike** joined in 1985. His final job was as Mechanical Workshop Manager, Ice Cream Pilot Plant Manager and Control Engineer. He managed Engineering Support Group for most of his Colworth career.

Obituaries

With great sadness we report the deaths of **Peter Deuchar** and **Murray Stewart**. **Peter** worked at Colworth as a Health & Safety Officer during the 1980s and was a keen golfer. **Murray** was with Unilever for 34 years at The Frythe, Welwyn and Colworth, last working in Ice Cream Division.

Our thoughts are with their families.

Alan Wooten

Linda Wooten would like to thank everyone who attended the memorial at the Colworth Clubhouse on August 24th for the donations which raised £300 for the Macmillan Nurses.

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