



# DECconnection

A professional association representing organizations and former Digital Equipment Corporation employees

## September-October 2023

### UK DEC Group and partners win government funding to create museum commemorating the 60th anniversary of Digital in Reading UK



We are in contact with the ex-DEC club of the United Kingdom -- DEXODUS -- who are active and working on an incredible project!

They are creating a *Digital Revolution* museum to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Reading, England UK facility, which will occur in 2025. In 1964, John Leng opened Digital's office, which was the first of ultimately many corporations that established a technology-focused center in Reading and fueled their economy; cumulatively, 5000 employees worked there.

[Here is a press release issued 26 Sept 2023](#) announcing their UK Lottery funding grant and seeking background info from former employees. Former DEC/DIGITAL UK employees are invited to complete the questionnaire by 30 November 2023. [Link to Reading Museum DEC employee questionnaire.](#)

They have recruited partners in this effort, including DECUS (UK), two national UK museums, the British Computer Society, and the Reading University Computer department.

With this government assistance, they are planning to create a permanent museum space. We have sent materials for their museum to Sandy MacKenzie, formerly in sales at Digital, who has graciously agreed to give us a Zoom presentation on their progress. That will be announced shortly.

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## Events

See the recap of our August Get-Together at Kimball Farms in Westford MA on our [website here](#).



The South Central Area held a reunion on Sept 15 in Dallas TX. 3 dozen folks attended and enjoyed a terrific party. To get on their interest list email [kcpuckett@verizon.net](mailto:kcpuckett@verizon.net).

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### **Tech Talks becomes DEC Connection Zooms**

We're rebranding this program as "DEC Connection Zooms" to more clearly indicate that we will feature both our original Tech Talks and other talks of non-technical but interesting Digital corporate-related topics - the Reading U.K. museum will be next. We've so enjoyed the nostalgic discussions and re-connecting with former co-workers that we'd like to extend this fun to a wider audience. So, non-tech volunteers and suggestions as well to [info@deconnection.org](mailto:info@deconnection.org)!

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### **Digital & The Industry**

Thanks to Bjorn Thornqvist for sending us *The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to Digital*, by Roger Caffin, a publication of Australian DECUS (or Digital) from 1991. It's pretty good! [Download it here from our website](#).

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Lost & Found: Does anyone know how to reach Dick Best? Tom Stockebrand would like to contact him. Pls. send info/address to [info@deconnection.org](mailto:info@deconnection.org) and we will forward to Tom.

Lost & Found: We'd like to locate John Leng as well for our British friends. Any info to [info@deconnection.org](mailto:info@deconnection.org) please.

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### **DEC Connection Member News**

Welcome to our new and renewing members during August and September:

Tony Bento (MA), Mary Cole (MA), Marion Dancy Cullen (RI), Harold Cullison (FL), Jim Davis (VA), Allan Demers (FL), Carol Ehrlich (MA), Kim Foster (CA), Vanessa Fox (MA), Doug Garber (MA), Tim Gleason (MA), Andrea Hauser (MA), Gay Choate Keilty (NH), Lois Levick (MA), Kevin Liston (FL), Glenn Lupton (NH), Jack McCord (GA), Joe Micali (GA), Maria Navedo (MA), Bob Pimentel (MA), Caleb Paul Stewart (MA), Jan van Dongen (Noord Holland, The Netherlands), Pam Verrill (NH), Bob Walsh (MA), and Alan Williamson (Victoria, Australia).



Please RENEW your membership if you're due - members check the Member Service Center (instructions below). Other readers, if you are enjoying our e-newsletters please consider joining and sending in a brief update on your activities for our newsletter. Here is how to join

or renew:

### **Membership Renewal Procedure**

\* Click link to see if your membership is current in our [Member Service Center](#) and pay online with a credit card. If you have paid dues since 2010 you will be there - use the email address we have on file - no leading or trailing spaces - email [ava@deconnection.org](mailto:ava@deconnection.org) for help.

\* You can also join us (or renew) at [Join the DEC Connection online!](#)

\* You can send personal checks made out to DEC Connection to Nancy Kilty, 33 Forest St. Unit 416, Lexington MA 02421.

\* If you prefer to use your PayPal account directly (not via our website), use our payment address: [registrations@deconnection.org](mailto:registrations@deconnection.org) - do NOT use any Board member's personal email address.

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## **DEC Connection Member NewsBytes**

▪ **Marion Dancy Cullen** writes: Marion Dancy and husband Terry Cullen split their time among Fort Lauderdale, FL, Tiverton, RI and a power catamaran for cruising, currently in Boston for the summer. Terry sold his business in 2022 so now both are "retired" but very busy. Marion rows regularly on the Charles River. [mjdancy@gmail.com](mailto:mjdancy@gmail.com)

▪ **Tony Bento** writes: Started in the Model Shop in the Mill. Then Power Supply Engineering. 32-Bit Advanced Development Group, Mid-Range Advanced Development, Mid-range Engineering, Alphaservers and Storage Essentials Engineering Support. Outside of a brief stint in the Engineering Model Shop at the Mill on 5-3, I've been in various Engineering Groups all 42 years until retirement. [antonym@duck.com](mailto:antonym@duck.com)

▪ **Robert Pimentel** writes: I joined DEC in 1972 in Stockroom 17 as a material planner. Over my time at DEC I obtained my Associates Degree in law enforcement at Dean College and worked in security for a while in HL2. I then transferred back into a material Planner position in stockroom 290 where I worked until I took the first retirement package that was offered in 1990. After leaving DEC I worked as a campus police officer at Babson College for 8 years. After that I joined the Sherborn Police Department as a dispatcher/Special Police Officer where I worked until I retired in 2008. Currently I am working part-time as a school bus driver to keep busy. [rbpimentel@verizon.net](mailto:rbpimentel@verizon.net)

▪ Our CXO group forwarded a human interest article about "Skee" Hipszky, a former DEC employee in the Customer Support Center. He has served on a search and rescue team in El Paso County, CO for 50 years. [Link to article in Colorado Springs Gazette.](#)

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## Sad News Department

Sadly, we were informed of these deaths of former Digital employees since last newsletter. Our condolences go out to friends and families of:

\* Tony Corbin, 72, Reading UK, 31 August 2023

\* Ray Lindsay, Sonoma CA, 31 August 2023

\* Deena Segal, Hudson NH, 20 July 2023

\* David N. Rasmussen, 82, Exeter NH, 12 July 2023

\* Vin Mullarkey, 75, Stow MA, 6 June 2023

[Details are on our Memorial Page.](#)

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## Website Features and Updates

▪ **MAJOR UPGRADE OF WEBSITE unveiled in July 2023 uses a convenient drop-down menu.** Send your suggestions to [info@deconnection.org](mailto:info@deconnection.org), and any content to [ava@deconnection.org](mailto:ava@deconnection.org).

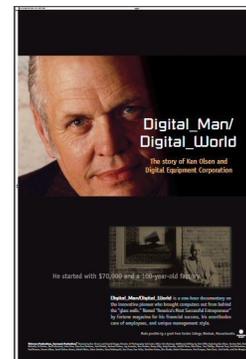
▪ **Use your MEMBER SERVICE CENTER!** Use the Member Login menu under About Us if you have paid dues since 2010. There are queries to find members in your area, and forms to submit to update your profile, send your news, DEC stories, etc. You can check your dues status and renew your membership online. You can email a small photo for your profile, and contribute articles to Our DEC Stories, Member Publicity, or Members In Print.

▪ The PBS video of the documentary about Ken and the history of DEC, **Digital\_Man/Digital\_World**, is available online at

[Digital Man/Digital World](#)

It's a wonderful hour-long nostalgia trip. Enjoy!

▪ Another URL to watch same documentary on your computer is: <http://video.wfyi.org/video/2282149336/>



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## HELP WITH RETIREE BENEFITS

- If you need info about your **Digital defined benefit plan/retirement**, start by calling the HP Retirement Services Center at Fidelity: 1- 800-457-4015.
- You can contact the Prudential Pension Dept. at 1-877-778-2100 if your pension has been transferred there.
- For **Stock plan** info, try Morgan Stanley: 1-210-677-3652 or [this website](#)
- [Go to the HPAA website DEC page!](#) Don't miss all this useful information.

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