

ITP Midland Region BT Tower Event, London

ITP members and their families enjoyed a fantastic day out visiting the BT Tower. The tour started with everyone trying to fit the whole building into the viewfinder of one's camera, while invariably standing rigid against a lamppost and trying not to move. Then in the lift, hearing the conversations of how many people's ears have popped as the car whizzes towards the 34th floor. Then we exited onto the viewing platform with breathtaking views of London as you look down on the Millennium Wheel and other landmarks far, far below.



Brian Storer's talk was most informative and really made a point of why we were there; not just to look out of the window, but also to marvel at the pace of technological change that has taken place since the Tower was first opened in 1965. Brian also discussed how the new developments have been integrated into the building, both socially and practically. Indeed, the Tower is a strange mix of very old, e.g. the MDF blocks and very new, e.g. the orange fibre links. The original fabric of the building hides twisting passageways and staircases in a vast complex maze of lower floors, which lead off the stick. The transition from old to new is striking as the

corporate areas are so lavish by comparison, albeit crammed into the limited space of what still is, very much, a working building which in many aspects has been made obsolescent by the pace of change in the last 40 years!



Brian led us along many of the twisting staircases more than once!! It was slightly tiring, but really was a rare and privileged opportunity to see sections, which aren't normally seen by corporate visitors. Watching the children run round and round the 34th floor, made me wonder if they understood just how lucky they were to be invited and if they would remember, 40 years on...

The TV Control was a showcase by itself, but the scale of the operation was perhaps diminished. The programmes displayed on the multiple screens were being fed from

all over the world. It's no wonder that a visit to the Tower is simply out of this world.

I would have loved to stay longer and seen more behind the scenes, but it was all credit to Brian that he was able to have taken so many people on such an extended tour. It really was exceptional.



A big thank you to all who made this visit possible.

John Chenery

Members Comments:

I would like to thank you and everybody involved in setting up the London trip last Saturday. It was an excellent day out, and even the weather was on our side. Forty one years since I went to the top of the Birmingham tower and then it was misty.

*I hope to attend more ITP events.
Thanks again.....Pete Owens*

These are just 2 of the many reports back from the people who visited the BT Tower, London, last Saturday.