

BBC Mailbox Visit

Date: Tuesday 6th December 2005
Tour Time: 1900hrs- 2030hrs
Venue: BBC Birmingham
The Mailbox
Birmingham
B1 1RF

Written by: Ashley Jordan

On Tuesday 6th December 2005, 10 members of the IEE met at the BBC Mailbox recording studios Birmingham, to look at the latest in cutting edge broadcasting technology. We arrived at the Mailbox and were given an introduction to the new “Public Space interactive area” by Sue Beardsmore, who some of you will remember from BBC Midlands Today.

Being split into two groups we set off to look at what we engineers call the “real hardcore electronics”. Our first port of call was the BBC Radio studios where we were able to see Tony Butlers live Radio WM evening show, being broadcast. It was then off to the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) where all of the UK’s TV and radio links are monitored and controlled. Inside the MIC a team of engineers monitor all transmitter sites and remotely access base stations to identify any faults.

We then headed for the Midlands Today news gallery, having all stopped and said hello to Nick Owen who had just finished the live broadcast of Tuesday evenings Midlands Today programme! Within the news gallery we saw the vision mixing, sound and graphics editing suites where Midlands Today is put together. It was then into the Midlands Today studio, which looks a lot smaller than appears on TV, for a quick look at the camera technology before retiring to the public space for light refreshments.

The tour was certainly very interesting and from a technical point of view it provided us with a great insight into the process of broadcasting in a highly technological environment.

Contact Details: **Ashley Jordan**

Email: Ashley.Jordan@carillionplc.com

BBC Mailbox, Birmingham



BBC Radio Broadcasting Facility

