



June  
2002

the newsletter

## Conference 2002

### Tools of the trade



**It's on!** This year's conference, *Tools of the Trade*, is going ahead but both the date and venue have changed. It is now on the weekend of 20, 21 & 22 September (a week earlier than originally planned) and is being held at Bosworth Hall Hotel (situated mid-way between Leicester and Coventry). Bosworth Hall is a

magnificent Grade II Listed William and Mary Mansion, set in a beautiful expanse of landscaped gardens and private parkland. Its excellent facilities make it the ideal location for mixing business with a relaxing weekend break – the perfect venue for the ISTC Annual Conference.

This year we have teamed up with a professional event organiser, *A Little Creation*, which is already making a telling contribution to this year's event. The formula for the weekend will be the usual mix of talks, networking and meeting friends and colleagues.

As usual, we would welcome 50-minute presentations that adhere to the theme of the conference (*Tools of the Trade*) or partaking in the open forum. Please send short abstracts (by 20 July) to:

Dr Martin Block  
Accelrys Limited  
334 Cambridge Science Park  
Cambridge CB4 0WN  
United Kingdom  
Email: mblock@accelrys.com

If you are interested in attending, exhibiting or sponsoring any part of the conference, then please contact:

Ann Little  
A Little Creation  
67 Carlyon Avenue  
South Harrow  
Middlesex HA2 8ST  
United Kingdom

Email: little-ann@talk21.com  
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)20 8422 4689

It really is a conference not to be missed. Numbers will be limited, so make a note of the dates in your diary and contact Ann to book your place now. Do come along for an informative and enjoyable weekend – you won't regret it!

### Delegate rates

#### Weekend delegate rate (inclusive)

Members £295  
Non-members £350  
Partners rate £140 or £165  
Facilities include: hair and beauty salon, heated swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna, steam room and solarium.

#### Day rate

Members £70  
Non-members £100

The Gala Dinner would be an additional £60 for members and £90 for non-members.

\*All prices exclude VAT

## **We were there! European On-line Help Conference 2002**

**Gavin Ireland**

On 10 - 11 June, we attended the European On-line Help Conference in London as exhibitors. Despite the traffic in London being an absolute nightmare, overall the two days were a success and very enjoyable. Digitext were very good hosts, always on hand to help and advise.

On Monday I was caught completely by surprise. I hadn't expected to be very busy, being the only non-commercial representative there, I'd even thought about sneaking away to watch some of the presentations. I didn't manage to see any of the presentations that day because I was too busy talking to people who were interested in what we do.

The biggest audience I had by far were people who'd either never heard of us or heard of us a long time ago and didn't get around to joining.

If any single part of what we do went down better than the others, it was *Communicator*. Every copy I took with me went! Comments such as 'Excellent quality' and 'I've been looking for information on this subject for ages' were commonplace.

During the 'quiet' periods I took the time to chat to the other exhibitors (including Mekon, Adobe, eHelp and ITR). The general consensus appeared to be that we were most welcome and the companies present were very keen to hear about the events that we put on.

I believe that from the responses we received and the information we gained it was well worth attending and hopefully we can look forward to many more in the future.

## **Technical Communication — A Guide to Courses**

**Les Best**

The ISTC's guide to courses has been updated and is now available free and online (Adobe Acrobat Reader required) from the ISTC web site, at [www.istc.org.uk/site/edu.htm](http://www.istc.org.uk/site/edu.htm)

If an organisation wishes to submit details of new courses please contact Les Best at [lpbest@clara.net](mailto:lpbest@clara.net).

### ***Authors wanted at CKL Technical Services***

We are a Technical Publications Company and have been in business 21 years. We are currently looking for freelance authors as we have a number of jobs coming in the near future. We currently produce our work on paper as well as HTML files for web sites. The authors we require need knowledge of automobiles, aircraft systems, comms systems.

Please send CVs by email to  
[ckltech@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:ckltech@globalnet.co.uk)

### ***Technical author vacancies***

Technical authors are required by vehicle manufacturers in the Midlands. These are contract positions, initially for 6 months but will probably be ongoing. Automotive background and FrameMaker+SGML are an advantage, author experience is essential. Salary negotiable and is competitive for the Midlands.

Contact  
[brian@highaward.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:brian@highaward.fsnet.co.uk)

or  
**Highaward Limited**  
149 Albany Road  
Coventry  
CV5 6ND  
Tel: 024 7667 0899

## Sad news about Ron Brown

Martin Block

Ron Brown, a long-standing member of the ISTC, died of cancer on Sunday 23 June 2002, in Weybridge, UK. His wife, June, and son, Andrew, were by his side.

Ron was a technical author for many years, was heavily involved in the ISTC and did much for the profession. Those who knew Ron will attest that he was a lovely man, a real gentleman in this increasingly frantic world. He was also a damn good writer.

Ron will be sorely missed by a lot of people in the ISTC, not least myself.

### Join the Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators

If this newsletter has appealed to you, then you may like to consider joining the ISTC. Both individual and business affiliate memberships are available. ISTC is the professional association for technical and scientific communicators in the UK. Benefits include a quarterly journal, monthly newsletter, annual conference and several active member-only discussion lists. Interested? Please call the ISTC office on +44 (0) 1733 390141 or e-mail [membership@istc.org.uk](mailto:membership@istc.org.uk) . . . or just sign up for further editions of this e-newsletter.

We'll be happy to keep sending you the free PDF version of our newsletter each month. Please send an e-mail to [newsletter@istc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@istc.org.uk) or sign up on the homepage of our website at [www.istc.org.uk](http://www.istc.org.uk).

**ISTC - the natural home for all technical communicators**

### Contract/Permanent Author Positions

We have a number of permanent and contract positions for clients based in the UK.

Please apply in writing, outlining your suitability and enclosing a CV and daytime telephone number to:

Adrian Barry  
IMPRIMATUR Limited  
62 Chertsey Street  
Guildford, Surrey GU1 4HL  
Tel 01483 453500  
Email [adrian.barry@imprimatur.co.uk](mailto:adrian.barry@imprimatur.co.uk)  
[www.imprimatur.co.uk](http://www.imprimatur.co.uk)



### Publications

The ISTC's journal, *Communicator*, is published quarterly and the newsletter is distributed by email to both ISTC members and interested non-members. Newsletters will be available on our web site.

### Advertising

Reach a clearly defined target audience of professional technical communicators through *Communicator* and the newsletter. Call the Office on 01733 390141 for rates, dates and other details.



The Institute of  
Scientific &  
Technical  
Communicators

PO Box 522,  
PETERBOROUGH,  
PE2 5WX  
England

Tel:  
+44 (0)1733 390141

Fax:  
+44 (0)1733 390126

email  
[istc@istc.org.uk](mailto:istc@istc.org.uk)

Web site:  
[www.istc.org.uk](http://www.istc.org.uk)

the newsletter