

Dear all

One month to go. I'm calling this CERN Update 5 to make this and subsequent updates easier to find in *my* outbox and *your* inbox. 5 is guess work at how many have gone before. More will follow.

There is a lot here below, take your time but please read carefully.

The visit is now arranged and the last two places were allocated this very morning to a L6 student at Hampton School where I used to teach and his mother.

This visit has been *far* more difficult, even *stressful*, than I could have ever imagined. Luckily for you - else I would never have started! I have arranged meetings with Visits and the Foyer (hotel) when there to overcome such problems in the future. If I cannot find a better way forward, I shall stop after 10 years and the 2017+ visits will just not be.

The worst moment came when on the way to the funeral in Canterbury of a participant who withdrew from ill-health in the autumn and who I had invited outside REMS, someone I met on a Particle Physics course. Dr Jim Kelly BSc(Hons) MSc PhD CertEd CPhys MInstP AIHort, lecturer at Birkbeck and on the verge of retirement. Very sad and he had spent 6 months of his career at CERN I discovered. I happened to meet one participant at the funeral, one of his many students attending and whose name I recognised in the academic homily given by Jim's supervisor (his sister delivered the personal eulogy). What cost me sleep, literally, was the email I opened from the CERN hotel as the train rolled into Canterbury West saying that our stay would be limited, not to the three nights aforementioned, but to just one night and which night do you want that to be? This followed earlier prying enquiries about our agenda during the rest of our stay. I replied telling them that as I had the agreement in writing and had given my credit card as guarantee of the booking they would be required to find us alternative accommodation or acquaint us of their claims procedure for expenses already entered into. I slept better after that but it was two days later acting on advice from both my sons' partners who deal with hotels. CERN conceded. Not a good day at all. Jim, whose forthright company many of you would have otherwise greatly enjoyed in May.

Anyway, that said, what matters now is the following:

I have managed to fill the day of our visit over and above the standard 3h fair. The ATLAS visit through Dr Andreas Korn (HEP Group UCL) who I met whilst working on a schools' outreach event at UCL last month and the LHCb talk is by a sixth form student I taught in 2000, Dr Mika Vesterinen, and who has been at CERN some 4 or 5 years now working on the LHCb experiment and who will also join us for the evening fondu. I also asked for the specific visits on the afternoon tour and got them, also I am glad to say my favourite and to my mind, their most lucid guide, Mark Tyrell accepted my invitation to guide us. See the visit agenda below. The Control Centre is an obvious choice. SM18 has a great deal of Physics and Engineering involved and that catastrophic weld failure at the start of the LHC's run will be explained once more no doubt. The original visit given was the anti-matter ring and the Computer Centre starting an hour earlier. The former certainly of interest, the latter includes historic items like Tim Berners-Lee's server (but you can see the other one in Kensington...) and enormous banks of computers whose size is limited by air-conditioning demands. We will hear something of anti-matter in Mika's talk.

So:

Sun 1 May Arrive, you can visit the many museums in Geneva which are nearly all open Sundays. Meet informally in evening at CERN restaurant.

Mon 2 May 10h Dep on Lake Geneva boat trip to Lausanne, lunch and visit to Olympic Museum, return by train (optional, should you prefer to stay in Geneva or elsewhere)

Tue 3 May 09:00: Visit to ATLAS
10:30: Talk on LHCb
11:45: Visit Globe and Microcosm exhibitions
13:00: Lunch in CERN restaurant
14:00: Official visit: Presentation
15:00: Visit to SM18 (magnet testing facility)
16:00: Visit the CERN Control Centre
17:00: End of visit

20:00 Celebratory fondue in Geneva

Wed 4 May Further optional visits to Microcosm and Globe exhibitions, depart.

I will provide a 4 page travel pack a week or two in advance giving precise timings and practical advice. Some details still need to be hammered out. The foyer wanted one payment for the accommodation, I am negotiating with them in hope of pay yourselves. The lake tour is optional, you may prefer to do something else, I will ask you to tell me if you wish to join us on the lake tour, I may organise a guided tour at the Olympic Museum perhaps and will enquire if we should book the restaurant or not according to numbers. I indicated Yvoire on the French side is a good alternative place for a fine lunch, taking the returning steamer back to Geneva some 3 or 4h later.

Attached is the up to date list of participants with dates, there have been several changes. Please check and confirm it is correct. T&C require **2 days notice** in the case of late cancellation free of any penalty. Any later and the first night will be charged. Make that 3 days since it will have to go through me. I will check my emails carefully with 3 days to go.

Can you let me know if you wish to join us for the fondue at

Edelweiss: <http://www.hoteledelweissgeneva.com/en/restaurant-1> and which menu you prefer; Chaudron (meat) or Chalet (cheese, currently £1 = £1.36CHF) I will request salad starters all round to simplify accommodating vegetarians. I'd be grateful if you stuck with just those two choices. In the past we have paid for drinks as they are served to simplify matters.

Please hit **Reply**, fill in the below and hit **Send**. Please do this by mid-week - **Wednesday 23:59** to avoid any ambiguity.

Regards
Stewart

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Delete/write as appropriate:

My/Our accommodation requests are correct/need amending:

My/Our fondu choice is/are (just say meat and/or cheese) or state not coming:

I/We would like to visit the Lausanne Olympic Museum with guided tour / Yvoire / will go elsewhere

Any further comments: