

# NEWSLETTER

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CHAIRMAN &  
TEMPORARY  
DISC DRIVE  
EDITOR

Mike Ellison  
96 Sparrows Herne  
Basildon  
Essex  
SS16 5EX

SECRETARY  
LIBRARIAN  
&  
TEMPORARY  
NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR

David Lallieu  
10, Sheridan Avenue  
Thundersley  
Essex  
SS7 1RD  
Tel:(01702)551618

TREASURER

Martin Blackman  
13, Fulcher Avenue  
Chelmsford  
Essex  
CM2 6QN  
Tel:(01245)280781

MEMBERSHIP

SECRETARY

John Harvey  
25, Stuart Road  
Wealdstone  
Harrow  
Middlesex  
HA3 7RB  
Tel:(0181)8632449

PD LIBRARIAN

Nick Chaundy  
2, Clickett Hill  
Basildon  
Essex  
SS14 1NP  
Tel:(01268)454917

## From the Secretary's Desk

Printer problems and hung PCWs; I hope the remainder of this year doesn't follow a similar pattern to the start.

As to the problems I am having with (hung) frozen programs on my 9512, there is a suggestion that this may be resolved by checking the voltage on the 5 volt rail and adjusting this upward, particularly if it is found to be under 5 volts. This has to be done with all of your normal attachments connected. (Memory, Scanners, Mouse etc)

The voltage meter needs to be a digital type rather than an analogue to ensure accuracy of readings. The adjustment is made via a small preset variable resistor (potentiometer) somewhere on the printed circuit board.

Further, I am informed the improvement this may give is likely be only a temporary respite; the problem is indicative of tired components on the PCB that will need replacing to give a lasting solution.

I suppose like us, the PCW has a limited life, and the club has to accept these type of problems are likely to become more and more frequent with our Classic machines.

The printer however is not so aged it

is a two year old Canon BJ10 sx. My close examination does not reveal any obvious faults. I may have to resort to the manufacturer's service facility.

The fault manifests itself as a rather loud clattering sound at the start of printing. After printing a couple of lines the error indicator blinks continuously and the machine has to be switched off and requires resetting.

If you need to use Canon's service you can contact them on 0181 6809191. There is a standard charge for repairing the BJ10 range of £52:88. This amount covers the cost of repair, parts, V.A.T and the return carriage. Their address is:-

Canon Business Centre  
59, Imperial Way.

Croydon Airport Industrial Estate,  
Croydon,

Surrey,  
CR9 4RL

Attention Workshop.

You may think the price is excessive and decide to opt for another printer; the prices seem to be coming down all of the time. For me this printer has given me good service for the two years I have had it and I think a professional repair might be the answer.

David Lallieu.

## Chairman's Chatterings

There have been a few changes at South Essex in the past month or so. As you may have noticed from the last Newsletter Steve Massam has had to fulfil a contract to undertake work north of the border which may well keep him there through until late summer or early autumn of this year. Now, Steve had been our Membership Secretary and the Editor of both the Disc Drive and the Newsletter until last September. We managed to reduce that load by getting John Harvey to take over the duties of Membership Secretary from October.

With Steve being off for so long, David Lalieu has assumed responsibility for producing the Newsletter and I have been volunteered to keep The Disc Drive going. Although Steve remains a member of the Committee for the time being, and we hope to have his words of wisdom in either the Newsletter and/or The Disc Drive from time to time, can I please stress that he is not available at his previously published phone number. Any mail sent to his home address which is related to the running of the Club will be passed onto David but there may well be a delay and you should not attempt to contact Steve until you hear from us further.

We would welcome articles and letters from members and readers for inclusion in either publication but, please, can you supply a copy of any material intended for publication on disc. Both David and I can accept LocoScript 1, 2 or 3, Protex, MicroDesign Text or plain ASCII, and even Mini Office or NewWord if you rely on these. For the time being I would prefer not to have material in LocoScript 4 because I am finding that some

of the letters typed in early issues of LocoScript 4 do not import into the most recent versions as cleanly as I would like. In particular the first few lines of the document seem to be skipped (the first 256 bytes??) or the document ends abruptly without the last part of the document arriving. This latter occurs where I am importing the document into LocoScript 4 where my template has the two simple LX Roman and LX Sans fonts only but the incoming letter has been typed in one of the Decorative, Display or Business fonts in large sizes using multiples of standard sizes, for example 36 pt Stymie which is really twice the 18 pt size.

I'm not reporting this as a bug in LocoScript 4 because I think that it is a bug in an earlier version used by our correspondent who perhaps ought to upgrade their version of LocoScript 4 to the latest, which I understand to be currently 4.10/4.11. The safest option is for you to export your letter to ASCII if you are using LocoScript. This is especially important if you use LocoScript 4 because MicroDesign, which David uses to produce the Newsletter, will not import LocoScript 4 as it will LocoScript 3; if you have one of the later versions of LocoScript 4 there is an option to export your file to a LocoScript 3 version. In particular do not expect MicroDesign 3 to import your LocoScript 4 document if you've typed it up in two or more columns; it makes a right mess of that! If you want to include a print of how you intend your tract to look that's great but do remember that we have to edit articles to fit the space available and, may I say, to remove some of the more blatant spelling mistakes.

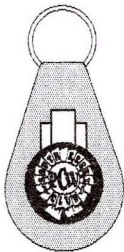
I was rather pleased to receive my copy of PCW Today, albeit a little late due to an addressing error somewhere along the line. This is Issue 7 for Autumn 1997 and it continues to maintain its previous high standard of production and news quality. Interviews with Amstrad (or is it now Betacom?) staff, reviews of new products, news from the PCW world, readers' letters, programming and word processing tutorials and more besides. The magazine is heavily supported by a useful selection of advertisements with a PCW company locator as well. This edition runs to 32 A4 pages and is well worth the cover price of #2.10 for a single copy. A subscription for one year (four editions) is #8.00 or #16.00 for two years (eight issues). Adrian Braddy has a good team of PCW specialists behind him and the team has managed to negotiate a deal with LocoScript Software to

advertise in its 1998 catalogue. Back issues are still available for certain issues at #2.50 each; others are now out of print so they must have been popular.

The PCW Today team is trying hard to get national recognition with distribution over the counter through regular newsstands and newsagents. The magazine is not quite as brash and colourful as PCW Plus nor is it a monthly but then it would be hard pushed to match those criteria in a world where the PCW has become an enthusiasts-only market. I think that they have done extremely well to get this far and urge you all to give them every support. PCW Today has a dedicated phone number for subscription details: 01642 823117. Give them a call and see for yourself how good it is.

Mike Elliston

We are rather puzzled that the badges we have arranged for our members do not seem to be selling. They are very good value for the small cost who knows you may be able to recognise one another if you are wearing one. Excellent Value for Money. D.L.



Key Fob.....£1.30  
 Name Badge £2.50  
 Scarf Clip.....£2.50  
 Lapel Badge £1.30



BOB WOODFORD



## NOW AVAILABLE!

### South Essex PCW Club Badges

Each of these articles shown opposite can be obtained from Mr R. Woodford, 22 Merryfield Approach Leigh-on-Sea Essex SS9 4HJ.

When ordering badges:- Please write your name clearly, using no more than 14 letters. The badges are of good quality metal and your name is engraved on a black aluminium insert in double block.

### Computer Desk

Good home wanted for Rosewood finish computer desk with an adjustable shelf. It can be dismantled very easily if required. Bargain at only £15:00. I'll even deliver it free within a 5 mile radius of Basildon.

Contact Nick 01268 454917

### Amstrad PCW 9512

Standard machine with black and white screen, normal keyboard and daisywheel printer, complete with manual.

Good working order I will even deliver it within a 10 mile radius of Hadleigh.

Price £55:00

Contact David Lalieu Secretary

### NOTICE

Have you surplus PCW or for that matter any item that you want to dispose of?

Advertising on this page is free to club members or bring it along on Club Night and it can be displayed on the *Bring and Buy* table. 5% to the club's funds for a successful sale

Contact the Secretary

### The Independent Eight Bit Association

The fourth edition of the IEBA Directory of Eight Bit Services has just been published. IEBA is a voluntary organisation that promotes the benefits of 8-bit computing and puts users in touch with sources of support. Membership is a once only cost of £5:00 this includes a copy of the latest Directory. Contact Brian Watson.

Tel: 01355 777 006 Fax: 01355 77 77 66

### PCW Plus & 8000 Plus Magazines Index

A database that takes all of the hard work out of searching for that elusive article or tip in your magazine library, available in LocoFile. One or three files, LocoScript, ASCII,dBaseII or Hardcopy. On 3½"discs @ £8:00. The hardcopy @ £10:00. Cheques payable to:- D.C. Lalieu.  
10, Sheridan Avenue, Thundersley, Essex, SS7 1RD.

### Sigma Press Text Books at Remainder Prices

Mini-Office Professional Handbook.

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All at £3:00 each plus £1:50 post and packing. Contact the secretary if you have an interest. Last Orders x 20.02.98



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