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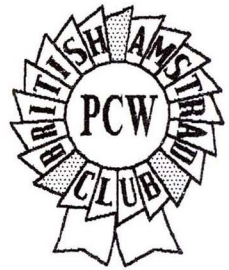
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NEWSLETTER



Issue No: 67

November 1998

Next Club Night 3M's Modify it, Mend it & Maintain it.



This month we are going to attempt to demonstrate simple changes that can be made to your PCW machines, and maintenance routines that will ensure you minimise problems.

Refilling ink cartridges for printers is certainly cheaper than replacing them when they run out, the clean way will be demonstrated by a member.

Is that drive beginning to falter?. A replacement belt may give it a new lease of life.

Your keyboard sits there collecting all manner of items from coffee drips to sandwich crumbs and should have a regular spring clean, the best way to tackle this job will be shown.

If you have a particular problem with your hardware why not bring it along for some advice?. We may not be able to fix everything but we will have a very good shot at it and at the very least point you in the right direction.

The Crawley PCW club is planning to run a **PCW Day** on Saturday 15th May 1999. We are being invited to participate. It has been suggested, as we produce the best quality magazine about, perhaps we would like to demonstrate our methods for this item and the newsletter. I will keep you informed as things develop. At the very least you should perhaps keep this day free for a visit. The last occasion that Crawley organised a similar event, on the subject of MicroDesign, I did not go and lived to regret it. It was according to many PCW users, an outstanding success.

To members unaware of scanning, the last month was a bit of an eye opener; screens that they normally see full of text were suddenly full of pictures.

David Lalleu

Chairman's Chatterings

I hope that the fact that club night falls on November 5th will not put too many people off from attending what is intended to be a self help evening: cleaning and repairing keyboards and built-in printers, adding memory, fixing drives, refilling cartridges - whatever queries you bring along we will try and guide you on how to fix it yourself. It's most likely that the bigger fireworks displays will be held over until Saturday night anyway so I hope to see you there if possible.

Not so much a Chairman's Chatterings this month, more like a miscellany of mutterings - a number of short paragraphs on a variety of items rather than a specific topic.

Firstly: will the postal member who visited the club for the first time at the October meeting and who gave me the screen dump from a PCW 9512+ with a BJ printer please drop me a line with his name and address (and any more information he thinks fit). I think that his method deserves a fuller explanation as an article in the *Disc Drive* and should like to acknowledge the author for his novel approach. [No, he did not use one of the SD29 utilities!]

I have no qualms about repeating this excellent tip lifted from the pages of the Crawley PCW Club *Newsletter* for I think it is well worth passing on to all those who still use the 8000 machines with the built-in dot matrix printer, the machine this is being typed into now. I've heard before about spraying the print-head with WD40 when one of the pins starts to stick and leave a white line through the printed matter but the suggestion put forward at their recent self-help meeting was to remove the ribbon from the machine, feed in a sheet of paper which had been sprayed with parallel stripes with WD40 from side to side and to then "print" a large text file over as much of the moist paper as possible. This gets the WD40 fluid right

onto the matrix head pins and both cleans and lubricates them, helping to lengthen the life of the print-head. A worthy occasional maintenance tip.

I've heard of a number of cases where the owner of a PCW 16 has left their machine idle for maybe a month or so while they've gone away on holiday and the machine has been dead when they've tried to use it after this lengthy delay. It has been suggested to me that the reason may be that the internal battery which holds all the data, programs and settings has gone flat and the machine has therefore died. If the machine has not been used for some time, particularly a newly purchased machine which has spent some time in a warehouse or on a cargo ship from who knows where, the battery may already be quite low. It could be worth your while plugging the PcW16 into the mains every ten days for an hour or so just to keep it topped up.

I am not quite sure precisely what type of battery Amstrad has used, though it is supposed to last about five years before problems occur. If anyone out there has more information on this particular topic please write in and let us all know. What can one do if the internal battery fails? Is it a standard part from a CPC or Maplin catalogue? Several members report buying PCW16s off market stalls or from small ads *As New* for an average of about £55 with varying levels of satisfaction. Please ensure that, if you use this method of purchasing a PcW16 (or any other similar piece of equipment), you get a *written* guarantee that you can exchange it for a replacement or get your money back if it fails within, say, three months. If you can't get that assurance you may find how many pigs fit into a poke.

If you are a subscriber to *PCWToday* (and if not, you really are missing out) with the cover disc option too, then take a look at user group 8 of the disc which came with Issue 10 [Aug-Oct 98]. The instructions for use are all tucked away as text in the file; use NewSweep or something similar to

view it. Now you know why you should never use LocoScript as a file manager. (It doesn't *delete* unwanted files.)

And finally: the new rolls of stamps from the Post Office, 26p for First Class or 20p for Second Class, are marvellous. We have just on 200 members and

a roll of 200 at £40 each month saves me a lot of licking and sticking. They come as *self adhesive* stamps, individually separated on a long continuous roll of waxy paper, about 1/8" (3mm) apart and peel and stick just fine. So can anyone please tell me why they are *perforated* round the sides?!

Mike Elliston

Club Helpline

CARDIFF 6:00pm/10:30pm
Anthony Hill. Tele. 01222 618012
General PCW advice, CP/M, PD.

MOTHERWELL 9-10am/5-7pm
David Williams. Tele. 01689 732403
Analysing faults/suggesting repairs, Mini office (spreadsheet/database), CP/M, LocoScript, Gem hard disc, PD.

BATH After 6:00pm
Adrian Hooper Tele: 01761 43627
Fax by arrangement
E-mail py7amL@bath.ac.uk
9256, 9512, 8512, Inkjet printers, LocoScript 1-4, Microdesign, Scanning, LocoFile, PCW - PC conversion.

FARNBOROUGH After 6:00pm
Dorothy Featherstone Tele. 01689 858105
Fax 01689 855302
Emergency Mobile 0802 601984
LocoScript 2-4, Rocket, Supercalc 2, LocoFile with LocoMail, Desktop Publisher.

HUDDERSFIELD 8:30am - 9:30pm
Graham Swepson Tele. 01484 682988
Mallard Basic, LocoScript 2 pre v 2.50, Fitting Silicone City internal drives.

HARROW
Mike Ray Answer Phone 0181 863 5010
Mallard Basic, PSION organiser connection, RS232 COMMS interface.

HEREFORD After 6:00pm
Maurice Knight Tele. 01981 250886
Most PCW matters.

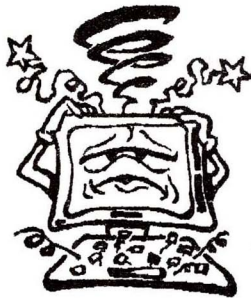
NOTTINGHAM 6:30 - 9:30pm
Tom Wright Tele. 01773 713613
8512, LocoScript 3, LocoSpell, Protext, MD2 & MD3, Network, Tweak 3, Roots (family history software), Brainstorm.
Note:

All helpers should carefully check these details and advise me of any faults or modifications they want for the next issue. As you can see there is still an urgent requirement for additional helpers, particularly in the West Country, the North East and Anglia.



After several months and countless appeals we are able to commence the *Helpline*. Our thanks to those members who have agreed to participate. You will notice we have opted for a geographical mode, the idea being to reduce the cost of communication. It is possible this idea will lead to community associations within the club. We are all agreed the best form of communication is in a face to face situation.

David Lalicu.



SMALL ADS.

PCW Machines Complete

8256 Standard Machine £40:00

8256 Modified 3½" Drive £75:00

9512 Modified 3½" Drive £90:00

Packing and Carriage Extra

BOOKS & MANUALS

LocoScript 2 Manual with 3.0" Disc £8:00

Using Dr Logo on the Amstrad

Martin Sims £5:00

PCW Plus Tips Robert Ainsley £4:00

8000 Plus Tips Robert Ainsley £4:00

LocoFile Manual ring bound £6:00

LocoScript 2 with Mail/File &

Spell Ian Sinclair £5:00

Step by Step CP/M John Campbell £5:00

LocoScript 1 & 2 Martin Poidevin £5:00

Newsdesk International Manual £4:00

The Desktop Publisher Manual £4:00

Micro Design 2 Manual £6:00

Contact:-

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10, Sheridan Avenue

Thundersley, Essex, SS7 1RD

Tele. (01702) 551618

Fax same number by arrangement

MICROLIN PACE

Microlin Pace pocket fax modem, (for PCW), unused and as new, with PCW fax and COMM software. Complete with cable, power pack, manuals and 3½" disc.

Price: £25:00 Plus Carriage.

Maureen Jenner

01267 267345

(Carmarthen)

For Sale

MicroDesign Scanner with interface & 3" software. £40:00.

MicroDesign User Manual. £4:00

LocoScript Power Pack (LPP512). £20:00

Flipper 3. 3" disc & Manual (for 8512) £7:00

AMX Mouse with interface £15:00

Using the Amstrad 9512 (book) £3:00

SCA RS232 Interface £8:00

Postage Extra

Contact John King. Tele. 01708 630477

Amstrad CPC 6128 Keyboard Monitor (minor adjustment required) Printer, Manuals Box of many Games £20:00 ono

CPC 4464 two Keyboards, Monitor, Manual many Games £15:00

Spectrum Equipment ZX 81 also Plus 2 & 3 Great deal of Extras. Many games & Manuals £20:00 ono

Amstrad colour monitor 640 £10:00

Contact: P. Phelps (01708) 477017) evenings

Wanted and for Sale

Can anybody local service or supply a replacement Dot Matrix Printer; mine is slowly losing its grip, like me and prints on the skew.

Also I would like to purchase, at mutually advantageous prices, an SCA 1.5Mb Mini-Ram and a clean, complete Margin Maker. Prices to include delivery.

These are wanted for my reserve PcW 9256, I have a Creative Technology 1.5M RamPak surplus to requirements. This is the version which does not have a through port - I am upgrading my system to use an Epson 600C although I have never used the RamPak as the connection/location is too ridiculous for words on a PcW9256 (untested but assured it does work) - any sensible offers?.

Contact Keith Bull

Tele. 01702 339894 before 9pm