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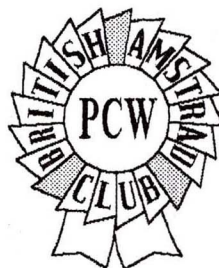
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BRITISH AMSTRAD PCW CLUB

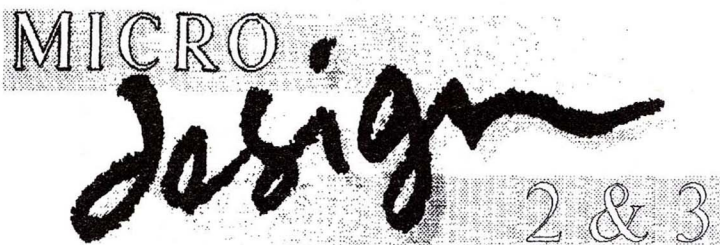
NEWSLETTER

Issue No: 74

July 1999



Thursday July 1st Desktop Publishing for Beginners



This evening will be a tutorial about desktop publishing. The emphasis will be on MicroDesign 3 but we will touch on other software particularly MicroDesign 2. For members with Desktop Publisher, Fleet Street Editor or any other desktop publishing software, if you have queries bring them along. I am sure we will be able to put you on the right track.

Unless you feel there is an advantage to you, it is not necessary to bring along your machines. The Vidi Rombo Digitiser worked very well at the last club night and I am sure you will agree it allows us to present demonstrations in a very much better way than we have in the past.

For members without any experience of being able to work with graphics and manipulate your text this is an essential evening. I know if you said to Steve "you can only have one piece of software" he would choose MicroDesign. Me too!

If you have not got any software for desktop publishing, look around. There is plenty of secondhand versions about at better than dealer's prices. This newsletter and the club's magazine are produced exclusively with MD3. I know Mike will correct me when he reads this and remind me he used LocoScript 4 when he was editor recently, but the members who have churned out our publications for several years will tell you MicroDesign 3 is the greatest!

David Lalieu

The Government has recently issued a booklet concerning the so-called "Millennium Bug" regarding domestic electrical and electronic equipment which may or may not cease to function properly at the end of this year. One item mentioned which has worried a number of our members is the suggestion that "older" computers may fail to work because of this "bug". *This comment does not apply to your PCW!* None of the classic PCW machines

contains a date-sensitive chip and the PCW16 has been designed to ensure that the change from 1999 to the year 2000 does not cause a problem.

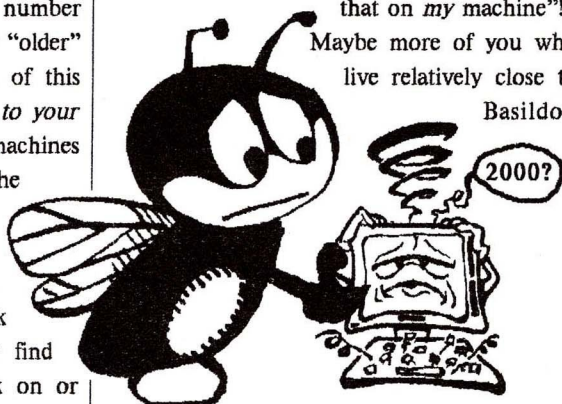
If you have an add-on memory pack containing a clock module you may find that you will have to reset the clock on or after 1st January 2000 and again after 1st March 2000; however, your PCW will not stop working. Unless you have purchased recent updates to some of the accountancy packages you may find that calculations involving dates do not give the correct answers next year. Again, I stress that this will in no way damage your PCW - you'll just get the wrong answers unless you check your calculations properly. Isn't it great to know that your humble little PCW will continue to work well into the next century and the next millennium (both of which are some eighteen months away!) while all about us turmoil reigns?

The recently acquired Rombo Vidi system seemed to pass its trial run at the last meeting with flying colours. This add-on enables up to four monitors to be driven from one PCW via a local network of cables. Thus, visitors can watch a program being run on the one master PCW on several slave monitors dotted about the room. No longer does everyone

have to crowd around the one machine to see what is going on. Alternatively visitors do not have to hike their machines into the boot of the car each club night. Tutorials can be followed by everyone simultaneously (without the dreaded cry from the back: "It doesn't do that on *my* machine"!).

Maybe more of you who live relatively close to

Basildon



should turn up for the occasional meeting (usually on the first Thursday of the month) and see for yourselves how the various programs for the PCW can be run to your advantage. Please let one of the committee members know what *you* would like to see demonstrated.

If you think that you will need to write articles or letters referring to the recently introduced European currency you will be pleased to know that there is now a Euro. Mdf in the Club's public domain library. This font, for use with MicroDesign 3 only, allows you to include the Euro symbol in your text in a wide range of sizes from 10 pt to 80 pt (all from the one font). There is only one standard design for the Euro symbol and so this one font will work with any typeface you are using for your text. If you send a formatted, verified and identified disc (3" or 3½") to Nick Chandy, our PD Librarian, together with a pound coin, a copy of the

Euro.Mdf, the accompanying documentation and demonstration files will be returned to you fairly quickly.

Note that I said "formatted, verified and identified". You should always format a disc on the machine you intend to use it on. There is no point in formatting a disc and not verifying it before you use it - how do you

know there's not a hole in it? And how is Nick to know if your disc is a CF2 format (173/180k) or a CF2DD format (713/720k) unless you write it on the label?

(If you only use LocoScript I'm afraid that you will have to resort to typing the word "Euro" - there will not be a Euro symbol for LocoScript.)

Mike Elliston

Extracts from Members Letters.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking you and all of the other committee members of the British Amstrad PCW Club for their work in keeping us in touch with the Amstrad world

Michael Smith (Hastings)

I have had a PCW 9512 since 1987. Several years ago, however, I was given a PC with Windows and all of the state of the art gizmos.

This machine recently broke down, so I dusted off my faithful PCW and continued in business in spite of the broken down PC. In using the PCW 9512 again I was glad the PC was a gift, since the PCW continues to suit my needs perfectly. This situation has resurrected my original interest in the PCW.

Mr. Quinell (Stanford-Le-Hope)

From the Secretary's Desk

It was very sad to hear that the Hastings and Eastbourne PCW Club has discontinued its activities. For many people who have used PCW machines for a length of time this club was considered a tower of strength. I understand although the membership was quite healthy, they had a problem in getting members to take on committee duties. This is a problem with many organisations. There is bound to come a time when the old stalwarts will want to stand down from this continuous work load. Its under these situations you become aware that nobody else is prepared to fill the vacancy. We have sent the club a quantity of our enrolment forms. Perhaps we will see additional mail members from this rather sad state of affairs. During this year there has been a number of clubs that have discontinued. Hereford (running now as a PC club). Cornwall and Devon to name a few. It is important if you want a club to keep you aware of PCW matters, to offer your support in the many ways asked of you. The next newsletter you will receive will be for September. Yes, its that time again - the A.G.M. Election of officers and reviewing the past years activities and costs. Remember according to the constitution, all matters you want to have considered need to be formally advised to the secretary two weeks before the meeting.

The next issue of The Disc Drive is a comms special. We have to thank Daniel French, the bright young member of the club, for his efforts. Many of you will be surprised by this aspect of PCWing and who knows it may open the door to another area you can exploit.

David Lalieu

SMALL ADS.

FOR SALE

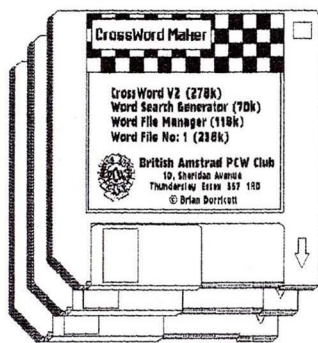
PcW 16 Machine (v1.12 loaded) and Canon Printer BJ-30.

Manuals and original packing available for both together with 6 formatted discs. Buyer to Collect.

Contact: Ken Sinclair. Tele: (0181) 647 6154 (Wallington, Surrey) anytime.

Advertisements

You can advertise your unwanted PCW items on this page for the small sum of £1:00. Why not contact the editor for the next issue.



SALE July Only Brian Dorricotts Great Crossword Maker

Normally sold at £25:00. For this month only a very good buy at only £19:95 plus postage. Treat yourself. 3.5" Discs only, additional word files available @ £4:00. Contact the membership secretary.

PCW Machines

8256 Standard Machine (drive overhauled)	£35:00
8256 Modified Machine (new alternative drive fitted)	£45:00
8512 Standard Machine (drive overhauled)	£40:00
9512 Standard Machine (drive overhauled)	£50:00
9512 Modified Machine (fitted with 3½" drive)	£75:00
9512+ Standard Machine (drive overhauled)	£80:00

A small number of alternative 3.0" new drives for 8000 machines. These new drives will give your machine a new lease of life. The connections are different to the standard but a conversion lead is supplied with each drive. With a small change to the casing of your machine they can be fitted internally and do not detract from the machines appearance. They are a bargain at £30:00 each plus post and packing.

All machines are with standard printers and keyboards.

IDEAL VALUE (Dave Lalieu) Telephone/Fax (01702) 551618
10, Sheridan Avenue, Thundersley, Essex, SS7 1RD.