

British Amstrad PCW Club NEWSLETTER

Issue No 82

Public Domain Library Changes

Daniel French has resigned as Public Domain Librarian for the club because of his educational commitments. Please send any requests for PD library material to the Chairman, Mike Elliston, until further notice.

Please also contact Mike if you have recently requested discs from the PD Library and these have not yet arrived. It will be necessary for you to provide details of the discs ordered but you will not be expected to send any money or blank discs again. There may be a delay in supplying these as we have yet to get the Library and catalogues back from Daniel.

Welcome to new Club members

396 Mr J G Whitlow from Bristol,
397 Mr G McAreavey, Culcheth, Cheshire,
398 Mr F Pendley, Chigwell, Essex,
399 Mr R Ball, Forest Hill, London,
400 Miss P Poulter, Tilford, Surrey.

The response to the renewal reminders was good and we are gaining new members from the advertisement in *PcwToday* and from various websites on the Internet. This is the largest PCW club in the country.

British Amstrad PCW Club Committee

Chairman and *Newsletter* editor:

Mike Elliston, 96 Sparrows Herne,
Basildon, Essex SS16 5EX.
mikell@cableinet.co.uk

General Secretary:

Peter A Clark, 8 Wiltshire Avenue,
Hornchurch, Essex RM11 3DX
01708 450596.
padint4u@aol.com

Disc Drive editor:

Steve Massam, 27 St Marks Road,
Benfleet, Essex SS7 2PY
01702 555398.
steve@lentil.org

Treasurer:

Nick Chaundy, 2 Clickett Hill,
Basildon, Essex SS14 1NP
01268 454917.
chaundy.n@cableinet.co.uk

Ordinary Member:

Peter Hathaway, 52 Woodbrooke Way,
Stanford-le-Hope, Essex SS17 9DP
01375 672759.
peter@hatha.freemove.co.uk

Please note that not all committee members can access their e-mail on a daily basis.

PcwToday

Adrian Braddy is back on course with his excellent PCW magazine *PcwToday* which arrived on the doormat a few days ago. The emphasis in this issue is **Get e-mailing** (although I refuse to use the *at* symbol @ for the lowercase letter 'a' as appears too frequently nowadays and is used on the front cover). Adrian has acquired the new Amstrad e-mailer and is well pleased with this latest product from the Alan Sugar stable.

News items include mention of David Lander's Instant Recall 3 spreadsheet for use within LocoMail and LocoFile. Steve has a pre-production copy of this and will be reviewing it shortly in the *Disc Drive*.

The new address details of Three Inch Software given here appeared in the *Newsletter 79* a few months ago.

The News page also gives early details of a *PCW Explorer* package from the brilliant programmer John Elliot of *Joyce* fame (the PCW emulator for the PC). The program 'enables the PC to read PCW graphics'. There is a free download of the package (version 0.01) on John's website: www.seasip.demon.co.uk (and not as printed in *PcwToday*).

Instant Recall 3

There is a full page review of Instant Recall 3, but only the prototype version. For those who prefer to use the LocoScript family for everything they do, this adds a spreadsheet to the suite, albeit limited in size and capability.

The PCW is featured on a number of sites on the Internet and, in a guide to the 'top web sites', *PcwToday* heads the list followed by 16 Storm (for the PcW16),

Joyce (from Germany), Amstrad and Locomotive Software. I would also have included John King's *PcwKing* and John Elliot's *Seasip* site (mentioned earlier) among others.

The Club Scene listing now includes more computer clubs than PCW clubs (and a number that no longer exist) but that, unfortunately, is the way things are heading nowadays. The moment that anyone suggests that this club should cater for PCs too is the day I shall be out of the door.

For those who dread the day that their PCW drive starts to falter, Ron King provides a run-down on how to replace the drive band on a 3" drive. This could be the only thing that will prevent your PCW from going on for a lot, lot longer. Perhaps you should get a spare band now?

Amstrad e-mailer

A double page spread reviews the new Amstrad e-mailer at length; for those who want no more than simple e-mailing capabilities this may be just the answer. You *can* print out your e-mails but, as yet, there is no way to save them to disc or other medium. Adrian is delighted with his new toy and so are a number of readers.

Mike Saunders reviews a new product from Don Moody for the PcW16, a tutorial on desktop publishing, some extra borders, etc, which retails for £10 but omits to say from where this may be obtained. I failed to find an advertisement for the product elsewhere in the magazine either.

The LocoScript tutorial delves into the use of the *Template.Std* file to simplify the production of routine letters. I am amazed how many people *still* set up the page, margins, fonts and layout for a letter every time they start a new document. Kathleen Thorpe demystifies the subject.

File Compression

The centre spread of the magazine is a very interesting article from David Landers on the history and use of file compression techniques, first developed by Richard Greenlaw in the CPM environment some twenty years ago. I am not going to attempt to precis the article save to say that if you are interested in the subject the magazine is worth a subscription for this essay alone. I would agree with those who say that, with the diminishing costs of discs, file compression is no longer so important but if you come across a file with a Q or a Z in the extension this may well help you solve the puzzle *and* extract the content.

Kathleen Thorpe goes down Memory Lane to take a nostalgic look at some of the earlier programs which used to be available for the PCW. Kathleen also translates a number of the terms used in the printing and publishing trade. However 'set' is the width of the individual characters in a font,

or an average of all the types in one font, not the gap between the characters which is the 'letter-spacing'.

A selection of readers' letters, an inside view of the PcW16 by Lee Jackson and some small ads fill the next few pages. Steve Denson expounds his views on the so-called 'dot.com' hysteria sweeping the financial markets, whilst Fred Manders continues his series on Logo, the oft forgotten programming language which comes free with your PCW. Dave Langford occupies the final page as was his wont in the days of *PcwPlus*

If you are really interested in the PCW then *PcwToday* should be on your shopping list. The subscription is £8.00 for four magazines, or £13.50 including a 3½" cover disc of public domain or shareware software. Contacts are:

PcwToday Subs Dept, 150 Oxford Rd,
Middlesbrough, Teesside TS5 5EL.
Answer phone 01642 823117.
editorial@pcwtoday.co.uk

Wishing all our readers a
Happy Christmas and a
a prosperous New Year

Creative Technology (MicroDesign) Ltd

Dave's Disk Doctor Service Ltd

Creative Technology can still supply MicroDesign 3 Master discs and manuals, together with the related products, The Network, Font and Shade Designer, Tweak 3, MicroDisplay, all the extra fonts, etc, on both 3" and 3½" discs. You may need to upgrade your version of CP/M to use The Network and CT can supply copies of the correct CP/M upgrades for your PCW also.

ViewPoint (for the PC) lets you copy your MDAs from MD3 onto your PC and convert them into PCX or other Windows compatible graphics files.

(The company unfortunately no longer stocks memory expansion packs, the KeyMouse or the MD3 Scanner.)

Contact Creative Technology at 10 Park Street, Uttoxeter, Staffs ST14 7AG or phone 01889 567160, fax 01889 563548 or ctsales@net-shopper.co.uk.

PCW Offers

Caring new owner required for Amstrad PCW 8512 with printer, manual and all original discs, plus Computer Scrabble, Tomahawk Flight Simulator, Cyrus II Chess and a quantity of 3" discs. Also a Mannesman Tally MT81 dot matrix printer. Free, you collect from Horsham in West Sussex!

Contact Mr M Heeley on 01403 252750 or mrheelley@onet.co.uk

PCW 9256 complete with printer. Price by negotiation. John Moon, 25 Crawford Gardens, Horsham, West Sussex. Phone 01403 253819, fax 01403 249315. john.e.moon@talk21.com

This company, which has rescued many thousands of discs over the past dozen years or so, and which donates *all* the proceeds to charity (some £175,000 to date!), is winding down because of the decline in the use of the PCW. It will not be operating after the end of 2000. The website will remain active for a year or so to give assistance where possible.

Dave is selling off a number of PCW related items, some of which are listed below, of which members may wish to take advantage while they are still on sale. These include new and/or used high quality Japanese 3" floppy discs, dust covers for PCWs, replacement drive bands and 9512 printer armatures.

The software list includes the LocoScript family, Money Manager, Sage Accounts, Sage Retrieve, NewWord, Mini Office Pro, Flipper 3, Arnor C compiler, Maxam II, Indexer, etc, etc. There is also a large collection of books for both PCW and PC users at nominal sums.

Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Dave Smith, 41 Tutsham Way, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6UA for a current list of what is available. A list will also appear on Dave's website at: www.diskdoctor.co.uk/sale.html



The *Newsletter* is published by
the British Amstrad PCW Club and
edited by Mike Elliston, 96 Sparrows Herne,
Basildon, Essex SS16 5EX.
Entire contents © copyright BAPCWC 2000
