

**COMPUTER CONSERVATION SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Thursday 20 October 2012**  
**Chair's report for the year from October 2011**

It is sad to have to report the death of Brian Oakley in August, a former Chairman of CCS.

### **Tony Sale Award**

The inaugural Tony Sale Award, to recognise a singular engineering achievement in the area of computer conservation, sponsored by Google, was presented to Dr David Link for his reconstruction of software for text generation, the Ferranti Mark I LoveLetters. Nigel Sale, Tony's son, represented Google as one of the judges, and Margaret Sale, Tony's widow, made the presentation. Brian Oakley had originally been appointed the Chairman of the Judges, and Brian Oakley's widow and daughter attended the ceremony.

### **Publications, publicity and website**

Alan Thomson is retiring from the role of website editor, which he has held since 2007 in co-operation with Kevin Murrell. I would like to thank Alan for all his work. Dik Leatherdale is taking over.

*Turing and his Contemporaries*, the CCS book published this year, has had good reviews and was voted 'best BCS book' in a recent BCS poll of members. We have had to encourage the BCS Publications Department to promote the book more, for example at Turing events and Turing-related venues.

*Our Computer Heritage* website has been implemented and is attracting favourable comment from users.

We have changed printers and distributors since the summer edition of *Resurrection*, edited by Dik Leatherdale, saving costs and improving efficiency.

A photographer, Travis Hodges, has taken portrait photographs of a few of us, with links to relevant computer memorabilia, and has developed a display at [www.travishodges.co.uk/gallery/memory](http://www.travishodges.co.uk/gallery/memory)

### **Events Programme – Roger Johnson in London and Gordon Adshead in Manchester**

Just to mention a few of the varied programme of events held in London and Manchester, always well attended:

- *A Tribute to Sir Maurice Wilkes* - David Hartley and others
- *Misplaced Ingenuity, or Some Dead Ends in Computer History* (about machines towards the end of the punched card era) by Hamish Carmichael, who has retired from the Committee after 16 years, to move to Scotland, or as Hamish put it: Archiving the Archivist. We shall miss Hamish, and we have thanked him for his work

- Two events on Turing

***The Atlas 50th Anniversary event*** is being organised by Simon Lavington for December at the University of Manchester.

## **Museums**

### ***Science Museum***

Tilly Blyth is now Keeper of Technology and Engineering.

The Science Museum has received its Heritage Lottery bid money, which means that *The Making of Modern Communications* Gallery is now assured for opening in 2014.

The Turing Exhibition opened in June, for a year.

### ***The National Museum of Computing***

The TNMoC Trustees have appointed David Hartley as Museum Director.

The first edition of the TNMoC guidebook has been published.

The Colossus gallery has been newly refurbished, to improve viewing arrangements. Static panels have been installed and the next stage of work is on interactive displays.

A scheme of joint ticketing with the Bletchley Park Trust has been introduced for visits to Bletchley Park which include the Tunny & Colossus galleries.

### ***Bletchley Park***

There were 140,000 visitors last year.

Iain Standen has been appointed as CEO. Simon Greenish is to remain as consultant.

The Turing Papers Exhibition opened.

Three-year funding from English Heritage and others has been provided, primarily to repair buildings. C Block is now listed – this was the punched card operation – and work is being carried out there, and repairs are being carried out to Hut 11A.

Bletchley Park has been nominated for an Arts Council grant.

### ***Museum of Science and Industry***

The Museum of Science and Industry is now part of the Science Museum network.

## **Projects**

*Resurrection* reports regularly on the continuing work on the various CCS projects.

Picking out a few highlights:

***Bombe Rebuild – John Harper***

As part of this year's Cheltenham Science Festival, the GCHQ Historical Section challenged the Bombe Rebuild Team at Bletchley Park to intercept messages, and from these intercepts to find the daily Enigma settings (the Key of the Day) in a manner as close as possible to that used during WWII. Once found, the Key of the Day was used to decipher messages from the general public visiting the Science Festival, who had enciphered them on a genuine German Enigma. GCHQ staff wished to emphasise to the visitors their very important and historic successes back to and before WWII. The event went very well. The Rebuilt Bombe had a great deal of work to do and never let itself down.

***ICT 1301 - Rod Brown***

Events for the public have been held over the spring and summer.

The BBC recorded some interviews, which were broadcast on Radio 4.

The website has been developed. However, there is a risk for the long term future of the machine and project, as its location has recently been put up for sale, and consideration is being given as to the further software recovery and how to secure the machine.

***Pegasus – Len Hewitt***

At the beginning of this month, the first 1<sup>st</sup> switch on for over 3 years took place, to allow the Science Museum engineer to prove that the machine is safe to run. Everyone was delighted with the success.

My thanks to all Committee Officers, Committee Members and Project Managers, and to all who attend our meetings in London and in Manchester. I have had a most interesting and enjoyable first year as Chair.