

**COMPUTER CONSERVATION SOCIETY (CCS)**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Thursday 15 October 2015**  
**Chair's report for the year from October 2014**

We have been steadily active this year, with the progress of our projects, our programme of presentations and other events, our publications, and other activities. Our membership continues to increase, currently at over 1,400 members.

### **Projects**

We have 14 ongoing projects, mainly for restoration and reconstruction. They are listed at the back of *Resurrection*, where the continuing achievements made by CCS expert volunteers are regularly reported.

Sadly, work on the Hartree Differential Analyser project and the Pegasus Peripherals project has had to cease, because the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry has closed the Computing Gallery as part of its planning for future galleries. Thanks to Charles Lindsey, Brian Russell, Dave Wade and other team members for their consistent work over many years utilising their considerable and unique experience.

### **Events**

We have had interesting presentations by experts on a variety of topics of relevance to our members from speakers experienced in their subject, who can bring it to life: whether on machines, software, systems or an aspect of their social, corporate or historic context.

As part of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations a year ago, Doron Swade MBE, co-founder of our Society, an eminent historian of computing, formerly Assistant Director & Head of Collections at the Science Museum, gave a deliberately thought-provoking presentation entitled *Computer Conservation and Museums: Fight or Flight?* This was an opportunity for us to review the value of restoration and reconstructions of early computers in relation to history, to society and to museums. We are completely convinced of the social and historical value of these activities. We must keep promulgating this philosophy and practice, to ensure that we provide convincing arguments to those who, unfortunately, do not share our view.

Outside our regular programme of presentations, we enjoyed a guided tour of the wonderful Heinz-Nixdorf Museum in Paderborn (we are arranging another museum tour abroad next year), and a second visit to IBM's Development Centre at Hursley and a tour of its museum.

Thanks to our speakers, to Roger Johnson and Gordon Adshead for organising the programmes in London and Manchester respectively; to our audiences for attending and for participating in the lively discussions following the presentations, or who visited Hursley or Paderborn with us; and to our hosts at Paderborn and Hursley.

### **Publications and Website**

*Resurrection*, edited by Dik Leatherdale, records CCS activities, events and project progress. It publishes news, articles and other features in relation to historic computers and software. The magazine is funded by BCS. This year, with costs of production and circulation constantly increasing, distribution arrangements have changed. The magazine remains available online to all. Both current and past issues can be downloaded. Print copies are sent to all CCS members who are also BCS members or former members of 5 years standing. Others may choose to receive the printed version by paying £10 a year.

Our CCS website, [www.computerconservationsociety.org](http://www.computerconservationsociety.org), also Dik's responsibility, gives information about the Society, news and our programme of events. We have an FTP site at [www.cs.man.ac.uk/CCS/Archive/](http://www.cs.man.ac.uk/CCS/Archive/), with other materials for downloading. Simon Lavington is the Digital Archivist of *Our Computer Heritage* website, which provides technical information on the majority of British-designed old computers. It now supports original mainframe systems, new mini systems, and information sets collected by volunteers. These websites have been integrated in similar CCS style.

Thank you Dik and Simon, and all who have worked on these sites, for all your terrific work on *Resurrection* and the websites.

### **The Tony Sale Award**

The purpose of the CCS Tony Sale Award is to recognise outstanding achievements in computer conservation. It was made last autumn to two outstanding and equally deserving winners. The winners were *Z1 Architecture and Algorithms*, a virtual reconstruction of the 1930's Konrad Zuse mechanical computer, by the Free University of Berlin, and the *IBM 1401 Demo Lab*, a restoration of one of the most significant machines in computer history by the Computer History Museum in California.

Thank you to the judging panel, the organising committee and to our TSA co-ordinator, Peta Walmisley.

### **Museums**

Over the last twelve months the museums with which we are associated have had successful activities and exhibitions relevant to the CCS. The Science Museum has opened a new gallery, *Information Age*, based round 'Six Networks Which Changed The World', representing 200 years of information and communications technologies. Work has started on a new Mathematics Gallery, scheduled to open in late 2016. A dedicated team of volunteers at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester continues to run successful and popular interpretations and demonstrations of the replica Small-scale Experimental Machine. At Bletchley Park Trust, Hut 11A, which housed Bombe machines during WW2, has been fully restored. The National Museum of Computing has opened a new gallery including the West Drayton ATC system. It is attracting more and more visitors.

This year we are very pleased to have developed an informal association with the extensive Jim Austin Computer Collection of over 1,500 computers in Yorkshire.

### **Committee**

Our Committee members who put in so much work for the CCS, including Museum representatives and Project Leaders, and Tom Hinchliffe, Chairman of the North West group. In particular, I thank Roger Johnson, Secretary; Kevin Murrell, Meetings Secretary; David Hartley, Treasurer and Projects Co-ordinator; Dave Goodwin, Membership Secretary; Dan Hayton, Media Officer; and Martin Campbell-Kelly, Archives Adviser. Thank you to all and to all other volunteer workers. We welcome assistance on organising and administration; do please contact myself or any Officer if you would be willing and able to help!

Many thanks to all of you who support the CCS, and for your generous support for our general Donations Fund, which enables the CCS to provide the ongoing support needed for our computer restoration projects and working groups.

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