Computer Conservation Society (CCS)
AGM to be held on
Monday 17th October 2016 at 2.00 pm
At **BCS, First Floor, Davidson Buildings,
Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HA**

AGM 2016 – Chair's Report – *Rachel Burnett*

I am very pleased to report that we have enjoyed another successful year of activities including our projects, presentations, and other events and publications.

Our Members and our Finances

Membership now stands at around 1500, including about 10% from abroad, and continues to increase. As a Specialist Group of BCS, we are grateful for BCS support, and do not charge a subscription, but each year we do request voluntary donations for our CCS Donations Fund. Many thanks for your generous contributions, which enable us to provide for exceptional funding needs for our computer restoration projects and working groups (such as arranging the transport of HEC-1 for revival and display at its new home at The National Museum of Computing).

Projects

We have 15 active projects on which CCS volunteers are devoting time, expertise and effort, mainly for restoration, reconstruction and support of various computing systems. Progress and achievements are reported regularly in our journal Resurrection.

Project guidelines have been introduced, for the purpose of clarifying expectations and facilitating relationships between CCS projects and the museum or other institution where project work is being carried out.

Presentations

This year we have had to move our London venue to BCS premises in Covent Garden. This is because the Science Museum has sold the building housing the Fellows' Library where we have held presentations over the years since our foundation thanks to their generous hospitality. We were sad to leave such an historic venue. It was entirely fitting that our final presentation there on Charles Babbage and Ada Lovelace: Two Visions of Computing, or, Ada Lovelace, why the fuss? was by Dr Doron Swade MBE, co-founder of our Society, former curator of computing at the Science Museum, and project leader of the current Analytical Engine project.

Our London presentations are generally in the afternoon, and in Manchester in the early evening, monthly from September through to May. We are now able to upload our London presentations to YouTube.

The Tony Sale Award 2016 for Computer Conservation, which recognises an outstanding engineering achievement of computer conservation and restoration, will be announced at the London CCS meeting in November.

From time to time we are asked to give presentations to other associations on particular aspects of computer conservation, and we are always happy to arrange for a speaker.

Visits

Outside our regular and well-attended London and Manchester presentations on varied subjects, we organised two visits, to which all members and their guests were warmly invited. In April 23 of us attended a presentation at Berlin's Teknikmuseum, hosted by Professor Dr.-Ing. habil. Horst Zuse, son of Konrad Zuse and a distinguished computer scientist himself, who gave us a wonderfully interesting presentation on Konrad Zuse's early machines, and his own work on the replica of the relay-based Zuse Z3.

In September, we were delighted that the Ferranti Argus 700 (Bloodhound) Restoration project team organised a guided visit to the Ferranti Argus 700 at RAF Cosford, near Wolverhampton.

Publications and Website

Our journal Resurrection always has top quality content: articles by experts on their specialist areas, news and reports of CCS activities, events and projects. Both current and past issues are available online at the CCS website. Print copies are sent without charge to all BCS members of CCS by agreement with BCS, and to non-BCS members of CCS who pay £10 a year.

Our website www.computerconservationsociety.org gives information about the Society, news and our programme. We also notify members by email about our events.

Our former FTP site has been restructured and relocated into our main website. The Our Computer Heritage website, providing authoritative technical information on early British computers, at www.ourcomputerheritage.org has also been redesigned in similar CCS style.

Committee

In addition to the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, the Project Leaders, and the Chairman and Secretary of the North West Group, our Committee has long included representatives of the Science Museum and the Museum of Science and Industry, The National Museum of Computing and Bletchley Park Trust, all of whose participation we greatly value. Other long-standing specific formal roles are those of the Meetings Secretary, Resurrection & Website Editor, Digital Archivist and Tony Sale Award Co-ordinator. More recently, we have found it helpful to have members who can focus on specific functions as Media Officer, Archives Adviser, Membership Secretary and Projects Co-ordinator.

My sincere thanks to all the Committee, for your spirited participation and hard work, which has made my involvement with the Society, as indeed that of CCS members, continually entertaining and educational, as we listen, reminisce, consider, theorise, learn, argue and (sometimes) agree.

I would also like to thank others for their assistance, including those responsible for maintaining our emailing lists, and our contacts at BCS, especially Mandy Bauer, the Finance team and the room-booking team.

Thanks to our speakers, to our audiences, organisers, and to all of you who support the CCS. We welcome help on organising and administration; do please contact myself or any Officer if you would be willing and able!

My thanks encompass not only the last twelve months but 5 years, now that my term of office as Chair has come to an end. This is therefore my last report. I have been very happy working with the Committee, as Chair of this association of committed experts and enthusiasts. I look forward to next year's programme and my continuing involvement.