CCS Chair's Report
Doron Swade
09-10-2021

I am pleased to report that the Society is in robust good health and has continued to adapt effectively and creatively to the challenges of Covid-19 restrictions.

Issues of *Resurrection*, the Society's quarterly bulletin, have been uninterrupted thanks to efforts of its editor, Dik Leatherdale, and tireless contributors to whom we are all grateful.

As an historical record *Resurrection* is unique in the annals of British computer history. It is a chronicle by practitioners, programmers, engineers and designers with participant accounts that contain a level of detail for which there is no comparable repository. The technical, anecdotal, contextual, political, commercial, and design detail, down to the physical location of machines, is priceless information much of which would pass under the radar of conventional broad-sweep histories. It is, and will continue be, a remarkable contemporary source for future historians

The Autumn 2021 issue of *Resurrection* is Number 95. All being well the Winter 2022 issue will be the 100th in the series. With just over a year to the milestone of 100 we are running short of time to prepare appropriate celebrations.

Our lecture/seminar programme continues to thrive. For years I have marvelled at how Roger Johnson, our London Meetings Secretary, so effectively, secures such a rich variety of speakers, year in year out.

When Covid-19 restrictions precluded live audiences, we successfully migrated, as did many others, from live audiences in BCS headquarters in London, to virtual attendees via Zoom. The first of these was in September 2020. A notable highlight, and test of the system, was the January 2021 lecture by Barbara Ainsworth who spoke from Australia on early Australian computer developments and CSIRAC. Moving to Zoom has doubled attendance figures and given an already popular series international outreach.

With restrictions largely lifted and live attendance again possible for those so disposed, hybrid events with a mix of real and virtual attendees have just been introduced.

The first hybrid Committee meeting was on 16 September 2021 followed by a lecture on Percy Ludgate by Brian Randell. Both Chair and speaker were remote. The AV facilities for hybrid events are not trivial. Thanks and credit to Roger Johnson, Delwyn Holroyd, Bill Barksfield, and Dan Hayton for the thought, organisational and technical effort and expertise that went into devising the system, thoroughly trialling it on-site at BCS HQ, and running it so successfully.

We were delighted to welcome Adam Bradley, the IBM 360/20 project representative, to the Society and Committee. With the recent affiliation of the IBM 360/20 restoration project there are some twelve active restoration projects. Adam has set up a CCS Facebook page. Progress is inexorable.

Looking Ahead Backwards

The Society was founded in 1989. This September the CCS will be 32 years old. There are several initiatives in the Committee's work for the coming year to maintain records of the Society's history. These include collocating, indexing, digitising and archiving the library of taped video recordings of early CCS lectures, compiling a record of publications authored by members, and working towards a central web presence as an access point to CCS resources, archives, activities and historical content. Included in the content will be a home for 'Our Computer Heritage' (OCH), a unique and authoritative database of early British computers, conceived and nursed into being by Simon Lavington over many years.

We have also initiated a promising and constructive dialogue with the BCS, our mothership, about improving access to members' records and improving operational efficiency in the service of our members.

I thank the Committee, project leaders, project teams, and members for the Society's accomplishments and its continued vigour. We have much to look forward to in the coming year.