Computer Conservation Society
Chair's Report
Doron Swade
12 October 2023

I am pleased to report an energetic and successful year for the Society with active programmes on several fronts.

Following new constraints in BCS budgetary allocations we successfully weathered financial belt-tightening under the expert stewardship of our Treasurer, Arthur Dransfield, who navigated the rapids and mitigated the worst.

Significant efforts were directed to explore how we could better serve our wider membership by reviewing the Committee's access to members' data in full compliance with Data Protection regulation. Discussions are ongoing with the BCS. Huge thanks to the sub-committee that worked, at times under some pressure, to craft a proposal before the summer recess.

At the end of 2022, *Resurrection*, the flagship journal of the Society, reached its 100th issue. This was a milestone in an unbroken run since the founding of the Society in 1989. The event received a deserved round of applause for Dik Leatherdale, *Resurrection's* editor for the last 58 issues since 2008, and for the countless contributors of articles, features and reports, who generously shared their knowledge and expertise with us.

The London Meetings Programme, our lecture/seminar series, is undiminished in the variety, quality, and popularity of its speakers. Live attendances at BCS's London offices continue to recover post-pandemic and the hybrid platform, allowing remote attendance, continues to substantially widen domestic and international outreach. All thanks to Roger Johnson, our London Meetings Secretary who so effectively attracts expert, lively and thought-provoking speakers.

The Society is 33 years old this year and the initiatives to recover and maintain records of the Society's history have made excellent progress. The programme to identify, locate, audit, and digitise the early video records of the Society's lecture series, and archive these for public access, is now well under way thanks to Kevin Murrell, Dik Leatherdale and Dan Hayton. The collection is a priceless resource of contemporary thought and practice including presentations by many distinguished pioneers. The Committee has also initiated a programme to harvest still photographs, in private possession, of CCS events, restorations, Working Parties, and personages as part of the Society's digital archive. In addition, the first of several video interviews of founding members of the Society has been completed, transcribed, edited and archived. This first is an interview with Chris Burton whose contribution to the Society's activities and programmes is inestimable, and this initiative,

under the guidance of Martin Campbell-Kelly, has provided a template for future interviews of this kind.

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the Manchester 'Baby' rebuild led by Chris Burton. Congratulations to Chris and the team of volunteers at the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester, where the 'Baby' has been demonstrated since 1998.

I am delighted to report the resumption of the Tony Sale Award after it was intermitted in 2019. The 2024 Award is in collaboration with The National Museum of Computing (TNMoC) which has secured sponsorship and will be hosting the award ceremony. Entrants will be assessed by an independent judging panel chaired by Martin Campbell-Kelly.

This is my last meeting as Chair. I wish to heartily thank the Committee for their efforts over the past year. They are as committed and conscientious a team as I have anywhere encountered, and their efforts are much appreciated. It but remains to wish all the very best to my successor, Chris Rees, our elected Chair, whom we look forward to ratifying today. I am confident about what the future holds under his distinguished stewardship.

Doron Swade