

CCS Chairman's report 2023-2024

I am pleased to report another active and energetic year for the Society, my first as Chairman.

There have been eight hybrid **London Meetings** held at the BCS London headquarters and online, and the Tony Sale Award presentation held at The National Museum of Computing and online. Topics ranged from Alan Turing's ACE engine to Early Soviet Computing. Wholehearted thanks are due to Roger Johnson for his efficient organisation of a really interesting series of talks.

North West branch have held four hybrid meetings this year, thanks to the efforts of Bob Geatrell and Alan Pickwick.

Access to members' personal data. We continue discussions with BCS on our access to CCS members' records for effective communication and administration. We are hopeful that a database of CCS member data hosted by The National Museum of Computing (TNMoC), managed by the Committee will provide the way forward.

There were three most interesting editions of *Resurrection*. Many thanks to Dik Leatherdale for encouraging, assembling and editing the articles for each edition, and for managing the Society's website.

Thanks to Dan Hayton, Dik Leatherdale and Martin Campbell-Kelly for continuing the collection and preservation of the Society's **digital and video archives**, including photographs, and thus recording the Society's history.

A number of us visited the **Musée Bolo in Lausanne** at the end of April. It was a splendid visit, with a tour of the museum given by Cédric Gaudin, the Director, a convivial dinner with our hosts and then a visit to their computer store in central Lausanne. We saw several Cray supercomputers, and an IBM BlueGene/Q computer, prototype mice, invented by Prof. Jean-Daniel Nicoud at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, and made by the Swiss company Logitech, before they emigrated to Silicon Valley, and a number of Swiss Smaky minicomputers, which Prof. Nicoud also developed.

For the first time since 2018 **the Tony Sale Award** "to recognise a singular achievement in the area of computer conservation and restoration" was held, in conjunction with and at TNMoC in May. The Award attracted an international range of entries. It was judged by a distinguished international panel of judges enabled and chaired by Martin Campbell-Kelly. The winner was France's Association MO5 for the hardware and software reconstruction of the Micral N microcomputer of 1972. Fabien Wernli accepted the award on behalf of Association MO5.

Hearty congratulations to **Roger Johnson**, our indefatigable Meetings Secretary, on the award of an Honorary BCS Fellowship for his many years of service to the BCS in many roles, including with the CCS. We are proud too that **Simon Lavington** was deservedly awarded The National Museum of Computing's Honorary Fellowship 2024. The presentation took place at TNMoC. Simon gave a splendid talk about Dina St Johnston, one of the first female programmers, and the first female founder of an independent software house.

Sadly, I have to report the sudden death of **Aneesa Riffat**, first professional Senior Curator of TNMoC, at the early age of 46, and of **Peter Short**, long serving curator of the IBM Hursley Museum, both representatives on the Committee of the CCS.

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Rachel Burnett, a trustee of TNMoC, is its temporary representative; Peter Coghlan has taken over from Peter Short as IBM representative. Also, Hattie Lloyd has left the Science Museum. We await a new representative for the Science Museum Group.

In my first year I have had a steep but most enjoyable learning curve. I would like to record my gratitude to the members of the Committee and the leaders of the various projects which report to the committee, for all their support and hard work. I could not have led the Society without their generous support.

Chris Rees