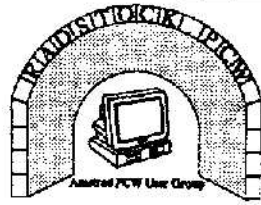


NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 August 1996



Welcome!

Welcome once again to the Newsletter. It has been a good month for me because I have eventually had a contribution from one of the club members - thanks to Gwen Hoskins - it really isn't hard, so I hope to see some from the rest of you. I can accept LocoScript, ASCII or MicroDesign text files stored on 3½" discs, or even a paper (hard) copy, as this text, entitled *The PCW and the Morris Minor* was. As this example shows, what you write does not have to be technical, it doesn't matter how long it is, anything (well, almost!) will do - especially if I don't have to carry on for so long. Thanks again to Gwen!

I am an Amstrad PCW User and proud of it. For we are a unique breed. Some may say 'dying breed', but that I dispute. We are, however, as different from other computer users as the Morris Minor Car Owners are from the rest of the motoring fraternity. And what have these car owners got to do with it, I hear you ask. Well, in actual fact, there are many similarities between us.

To begin with, we both form our own clubs. Throughout the length and breadth of the country other PCW users are meeting for the sole purpose of talking about our machines. Then of course there are open days, when members travel for miles to discuss their problems and learn

about any new additions they can buy for their treasures.

Like the Morris Minor, our machines are not discarded when they get old or go wrong. Certainly not. No gleaming modern computer will ever replace this machine. Instead we carefully, and painstakingly, nurture it back to health. Then we spend a fortune adding a thousand and one extras just to improve its performance.

No Morris Minor can be found in car show rooms nowadays. We have the same problem. If you peruse the shelves of the most gigantic Computer Superstore, you will not find a single Amstrad PCW. Not even the smallest spare part for the humble Amstrad will be displayed. To find what we require we have to scour the magazines and newsletters. Our telephone bills swell as we frantically phone for parts. Then we must wait on tenterhooks for the postman to deliver the all important piece - only to find it won't fit!

So why do we bother? Is it madness? Or maybe nostalgia? Most of us still have a soft spot for the car in which we learnt to drive. Maybe it's the same with the PCW. Who knows what magic holds us in its spell. What ever it is, everyone involved will agree that Amstrad PCW Users, like Morris Minor Owners, will be around for a long time yet.

Club News

I do not have very much Club News this month. I can confirm that the club has been offered a discount with Silicon City, so if you are thinking of buying a new drive for your PCW/PeW now would be a good time. I am also pleased to be able to welcome at least one new member to the club - if anybody knows of anybody else that may like to join please let me know. If anybody is able to take some posters advertising the club I would also be very grateful (I have found that stationers/office suppliers/computer shops are probably the best places - Libraries remove them too quickly to be of any use!).

Software News

I have not heard of any new releases this month, so instead I am going to recommend the MicroDisplay program available from Creative Technology (I mentioned it last month if you remember). I have recently purchased this program and have already found it to be immensely useful in both my MicroDesigning and LocoScripting. In the housekeeping section it easily lets you browse through the files of any disc, allowing you to view the files (whether they be graphics images such as .MDA's or LocoScript text files) quickly and easily - it also gives you the chance to copy, rename, delete, etc. as you go (in much the same way as Maxisweep and Newsweep do). In the slideshow section (although I have not had time to try this yet) you can produce stunning graphics presentations using the screen - if anybody would like to see the demo of this at a meeting, please let me know!

Diary Dates

A full list of the dates and topics for the meetings for the next six months is printed below. Meetings are held in the Radstock Methodist church (maps and directions available on request), starting at 7:30pm, everyone welcome. I am still looking for ideas for future meetings, so if anybody has any I would welcome them. I am also able to produce a list of probable dates for next year - if anyone is interested please let me know.

9th August

13th September

11th October

8th November

13th December

Shareware/PD

LocoSpell & File

LocoMail

Return to CP/M

General

