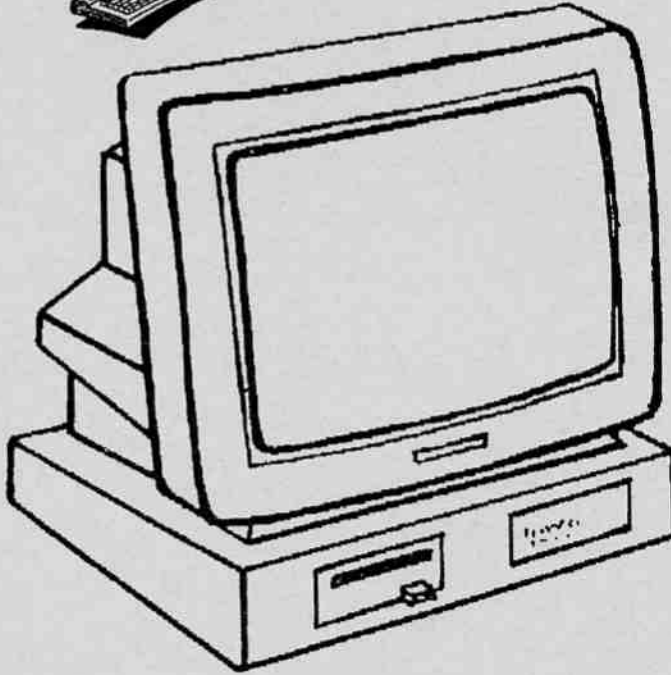


NEWSLETTER

ISSUE:

February
1997

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Putting PCW's first!

8000 Plus & PCW Plus Magazines from issue 1 to final issue 124 INDEX



Recently up-dated, this popular database now covers these magazines from 1986 to 1996. Available as: -
LocoFile (674 K) LocoScript (370 K) dBase II (380 K)
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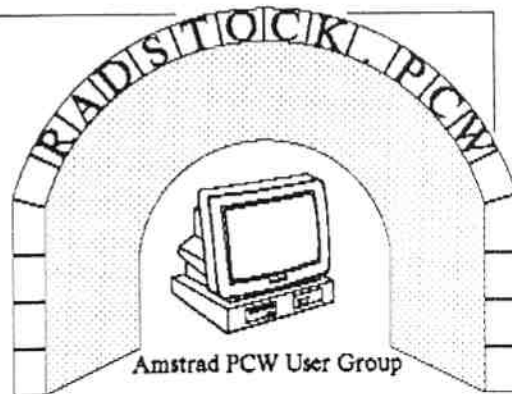
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Adrian Hooper
40 Kilmersdon Rd
Haydon Radstock
Bath
BA3 3QN
(01761) 436276 (between 6 and 9 pm)



Adrian's Ramblings

Welcome once again to the Newsletter, sorry there wasn't an issue last month but I got a little snowed under, first with exam revision and then with the flu. However this month there is a lot to get through so you get a lot more than usual. The main topic of this Newsletter is LocoScript 4, which was mentioned quickly in the last issue, this looks like it will be one of the most exciting programs for the PCW for a while - the ability to print in colour using LocoScript - but more about this later.

I haven't really got a lot to talk about this month, I said almost everything last time, I hope everybody liked the new layout (there are a few changes this month, but nowhere near as many as the last issue). I hope to be able to sort out postal membership soon, I haven't got around to this yet as I have been very busy with my mock exams - but hopefully I will sort this out soon. Before we can offer postal membership there are a few things that we need to sort out, mainly a club bank account, which requires a treasurer - ANY VOLUNTEERS PLEASE SEE ME. In order to open an account we also need to have a few "official" titles for people in the club, ie secretary, chairperson, etc, again let me know what you think.

Newsletter articles. Thanks to Michael Bath for his article this month, how about the rest of you! I do not mind what you write about as long as it is loosely based on the PCW, it can be sent to me on 3.5" discs in any version of LocoScript (if using LocoScript 4 please do not use columns - MicroDesign does not know what to do with these) or as an ASCII file, I am also able to cope with LocoScript 1, 2 and ASCII files on 3" disc. If all else fails just send it to me on paper and I will re-type it - it saves me thinking everything up, which means more variation for the readers.

As I mentioned at the beginning I have upgraded to colour - although you will not be getting colour Newsletters for a long time yet - I may be able to afford to produce the occasional "colour supplement" showing various aspects of LocoScript, like the one with this issue. (I do not only have to be able to afford the ink for this, it takes over three times as long to print in colour as it does in black, so I need plenty of spare time to be able to produce a colour page. I can also confirm now that you can use colour in MicroDesign 3 (if you are at the meeting I may be wearing an example), but you have to set out a separate page for each colour that you wish to print, it cannot (at the moment) print several colours in one pass, but maybe Creative Technology will eventually produce a version of MicroDesign that allows easy colour printing.

You may remember that I was producing a list of members, this should (time permitting) be ready by the time you read this (I am writing this in January for the 14th of

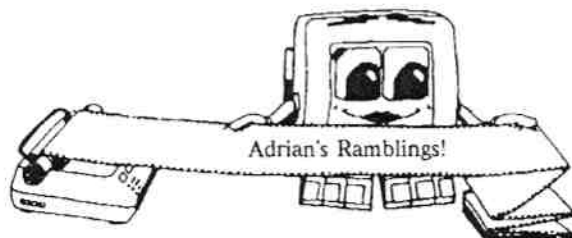
February so there is hope), I had hoped to be able to include a list of software each member owned with this but only two people have managed to give me some idea of what they are using so far so this has not been possible - if the rest of you could manage these lists I would be very grateful as it would also show me the type of articles you would like to see in the Newsletter.

Newsletter in the future. In future issues of the Newsletter there will be more articles of use to those just starting with the PCW/PcW, next month I hope to be able to start a MicroDesign tutorial series (several people have requested one), future topics will include LocoScript, LocoMail, LocoFile, BASIC, CP/M and possibly LOGO - this list will only expand if people suggest more things to me. I also hope to be able to have some more advertising in the Newsletter, there is a little this time, which has been put in at no cost to the advertiser (it makes the Newsletter look a bit more impressive and does not cost very much to include).

Meeting Nights. The meeting dates for this year are printed in this newsletter, on the club calendar (there are about 3 copies left, at £1.50 each, if anybody is interested) and will also be displayed at the meetings - along with a list of probable topics for these nights, though the topics are flexible until about a week before the actual meeting - so let me know if there is anything you particularly want, any suggestions for other aspects of the club are also gratefully received.

I think that is all for now, any other information will be given as and when I think of it, so it could appear almost anywhere in the Newsletter. See you next month!

STOP PRESS: WHILE TYPESETTING THE NEWSLETTER I HAVE DISCOVERED THAT MICRODESIGN 3 IS SELECTIVE IN WHAT IT TRANSFERS FROM LOCOSCRIPT 4 - PLEASE DO NOT USE LOCOSCRIPT 4 FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AS I WILL HAVE TROUBLE CONVERTING THEM TO ASCII AND BACK, STICK TO LOCOSCRIPT 3!



Club News

As you are probably all aware at the December meeting it was decided to allow postal membership of the club, and to introduce an annual membership fee to cover the cost of this Newsletter production, at the meeting a figure of £10 per person per year was agreed. As yet I have not had time to organise either of these things. There is now only one thing standing between us and postal membership, we need a bank account for subscriptions to be paid into, in order to open this account we also have to have some official roles for people, ie Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer etc, so if anybody is willing to volunteer themselves (or others!) for any of these roles please let me know.

Just one more small piece of news this month, I have created a new registration form for the club, so you may well be asked to fill in one of these.

Hardware News

Not a lot of news this month - just a reminder that Cirtech may still have some of their GEM hard disks available at the reduced price of £149, which is quite a reduction from the normal price of £259. If you are interested please contact Cirtech on 01835 823898, I was originally notified of this in December when there were only a limited quantity available so I cannot guarantee that there are any left.

Software News

Just to let you know that PhiloSoft are currently offering the Insight optical character recognition software at only £29.95. Obviously you will require either the ProScan scanner or the appropriate Amstrad FAX machine, or MasterScan. Insight will then take the information stored in a MicroDesign Area file (MD2) and produce an ASCII text file. Insight can read pages scanned either upright or sideways, but can only read normal typeface, so anybody using italic, gothic or other elaborate fonts will be disappointed. PhiloSoft have now also managed to incorporate a small spell checker within the program to check words of up to 4 characters, but will also use the LocoSpell 160k dictionary for longer words. For further information can be obtained from PhiloSoft on 01685 813978.

I had intended to do a review of the Instant Recall software in this spot this month however I feel that LocoScript 4 will be of more interest to the majority so you will have to wait until next month for Instant Recall, sorry.

