



PLEASE NOTE:

It is the club AGM on Friday 11th
September, at the Radstock
Methodist Church
STARTING AT 7:30PM!!!!

All full members should attend if
at all possible as there are a
number of changes to the
constitution that I would like to
make - this cannot be done unless
there is a sufficient number
present to vote.

Adrian's Ramblings - page 4

Data Protection Act Changes - page 5

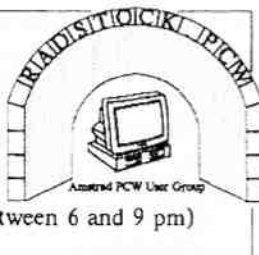
Constitution Changes - page 6

Diary Dates - page 9

**MicroDesign Tutorial 4, Designing a
Poster - page 10**

BASIC Listing - 15

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Adrian's Ramblings!

Hello again! It doesn't seem five minutes since I sat down to write the last Newsletter yet apparently it was before Easter - which means that I had better hurry with this one will apologise for any "typing errors" at this stage, for the last few months I have had use my PC for an increasing number of things (for speed and university compatibility now use it for over 90% of everything I do) and so I have become used to the PC keyboard - which differs to the 9512 keyboard I use (even though it is attached to a 9256 - I find more comfortable to use) in many subtle ways, which means I have to check which key I am pressing if it is anything other than a letter or number.

I am again sorry that this Newsletter is not very long (at least probably won't be very long - as this is the first article I have written for it I don't have much to base that on suppose) but I have (well, will have to!) write all of the articles myself as nobody has come to my assistance.

I would like to thank member Mr Philip Jackson for so kindly taking over the J club meeting for me. I am very sorry that I had to miss this evening (the first I had missed - having led the previous 29) but I felt my Grandad's 90th birthday was more important - particularly as he had just spent six weeks in hospital following a fall. Thank you Philip.

Now, this isn't related to PCWs in any way, but is just to fill space. If you happen to be in the area on Monday 20th July, at 7:30pm, you are invited along to a concert being held at Writhlington School, by the bands of Writhlington School and a visiting band from Roselands school in Cornwall. The concert will cost £2.00 per person, with proceeds for the night being split jointly between the Writhlington Music Association and the Rads Methodist Church Re-Wiring fund - two very worthwhile causes (though I may be a bit biased, as I am secretary for the music association, and one of the members of the wiring committee). Club members should be aware that the Methodist Church (where club meetings are held) has recently been re-wired, this has cost the church over £22,000 which now has to be raised. If you can come along you would be more than welcome!

Please take particular note of the following information about the data protection legislation. I have spoken about this before but legislation is changing. I think everybody should take particular note of this. Also please look through my suggestions for changes to the constitution - they are included here so everybody had a chance to see them before the AGM in September (the next Newsletter will be out in October).

I think that's it for now. I hope you enjoy the rest of the Newsletter.

Data Protection Act

Frequent readers, and those that come to club meetings, will have heard me talk about the data protection act before. I am afraid I do not have enough room here to go into all of the various rules and regulations (they take up 128 A4 pages) basically I (currently) covers the holding of *personal* data about other people on your computers. This is the time to get worried! Personal data can be something as simple as a persons name and address, plus something to tell you why that person has been recorded. If this list is being kept without the knowledge and consent of the people on it you start runn9ing into problems. At the moment this club is able to get by without registering because on joining everybody fills in a membership form - the most important question on the form asks whether I can store the data on a computer, and then asks you to sign it. As everybody has said that I can hold their data on a computer we are okay because the records do not hold information of anybody who isn't a member (I said it was complicated). If any information does break "the data protection act" you must register with the data protection registrar - in fact it is probably safer to do this in the first place. Registration costs £75.00 for three years (if you would like any information about the act please let me know - I have recently had to go through it very carefully so have piles of information about it lying around here.

However, up until now the act has only applied to information stored on computer. By the 24th October this year the UK must implement directive 95/46/EC - this directive will change laws considerably, and will mean that, and I quote, "manual records, in so far as they are a part of a 'relevant filing system' containing a set of information structured, either directly or indirectly, by reference to individuals "in such a way that specific information relating to a particular individual is readily accessible"" may also require registering. Obviously there will be a period to allow people to come into line with this directive (possibly until 2007!) but the implications of the quoted sentence is incredible - simply think of an address book (I expect you have one), this contains a list of people names and addresses, and probably telephone numbers as well, and by looking up under a certain letter you are able to find the address, or telephone number that you want - to my mind that would then require registering (if you take the directive literally). It might be worth bearing this in mind next time you write someone's name/address/telephone number down - it may be a good idea to get them to sign a waiver, just in case!

People being found in breach of the act can find themselves facing a fine of up to £5000 in the civil courts, or an unlimited fine in the high court. A prison sentence is also possible. That should make you think!

Changes to Constitution

The Club constitution currently reads as follows:

Club Constitution

The Club shall be known as "RADSTOCK.PCW" and hereinafter be referred to as "Club"

OBJECTS

The objects of the Club shall be:-

1. To arrange meetings of interest to the Club members
2. To promote awareness and appreciation of computing between the Club members.
3. To obtain discounts for the Club members.
4. To promote good communications with Amstrad PCW users, possibly on an international scale.

MEMBERSHIP

Full membership of the Club is open to all Amstrad PCW users. Amstrad PCW users may apply for Postal Membership which will entitle them to receive by post copies of the club magazine "Newsletter" and other information. Postal members are non-voting members.

Rates of subscriptions for all classes of membership will be decided by the Club. The membership year runs from the time a registration form is filled in, until the same date a year later.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The AGM will be held at the September meeting of the Club each year. A quorum will be a majority of the membership (rounded down to the nearest whole number) will represent a quorum.

COMMITTEE

The Committee members will be proposed and seconded and elected by a simple majority at the AGM. If there is more than one candidate a vote will be necessary and this will be a show of hands or a paper vote. The Committee will consist of the following:-

Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer

The Committee will be allowed to co-opt any member who may be of use to the Committee. The Committee may appoint sub-committees of Club members as and when required. All Committee members will have one vote. The Chairman will also have a casting vote if necessary. Co-opted members will not have a vote at Committee meetings. Committee members will be elected annually by simple majority vote at AGM.

PRESIDENT

The Honorary appointment of life President can be conferred on a member in recognition of meritorious work for the Club.

MEETINGS

At each meeting each member shall pay the meeting attendance fee as set by the Committee. Prospective members are welcome to attend their first night free of charge. Club meetings will usually be held on the second Friday of each month.

FINANCE

Accounts are to be presented each year at the AGM. Bank account to be opened with signatories the Treasurer and one other elected member. A payment for running expenses and small sums for known useful hardware, software etc may be authorised by the Committee, but any expenditure larger than £150.00 needs the consent of the Club members by simple majority vote at any ordinary meeting. All remaining monies must be paid into the Club's account. Any hardware, software and property of the Club is to be put in the care of two specified Committee members. All property of the Club should be recorded. An up to date inventory of all Club property should be maintained by the Treasurer and be made available for inspection at all meetings.

CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION

Changes in constitution of the Club may only be made by two thirds majority vote at a General Meeting of the Club, all members having been duly notified. Any member wishing a change in the constitution must submit the proposal in writing to the Secretary at least two weeks before any General meeting may be called. A General Meeting may be called at

