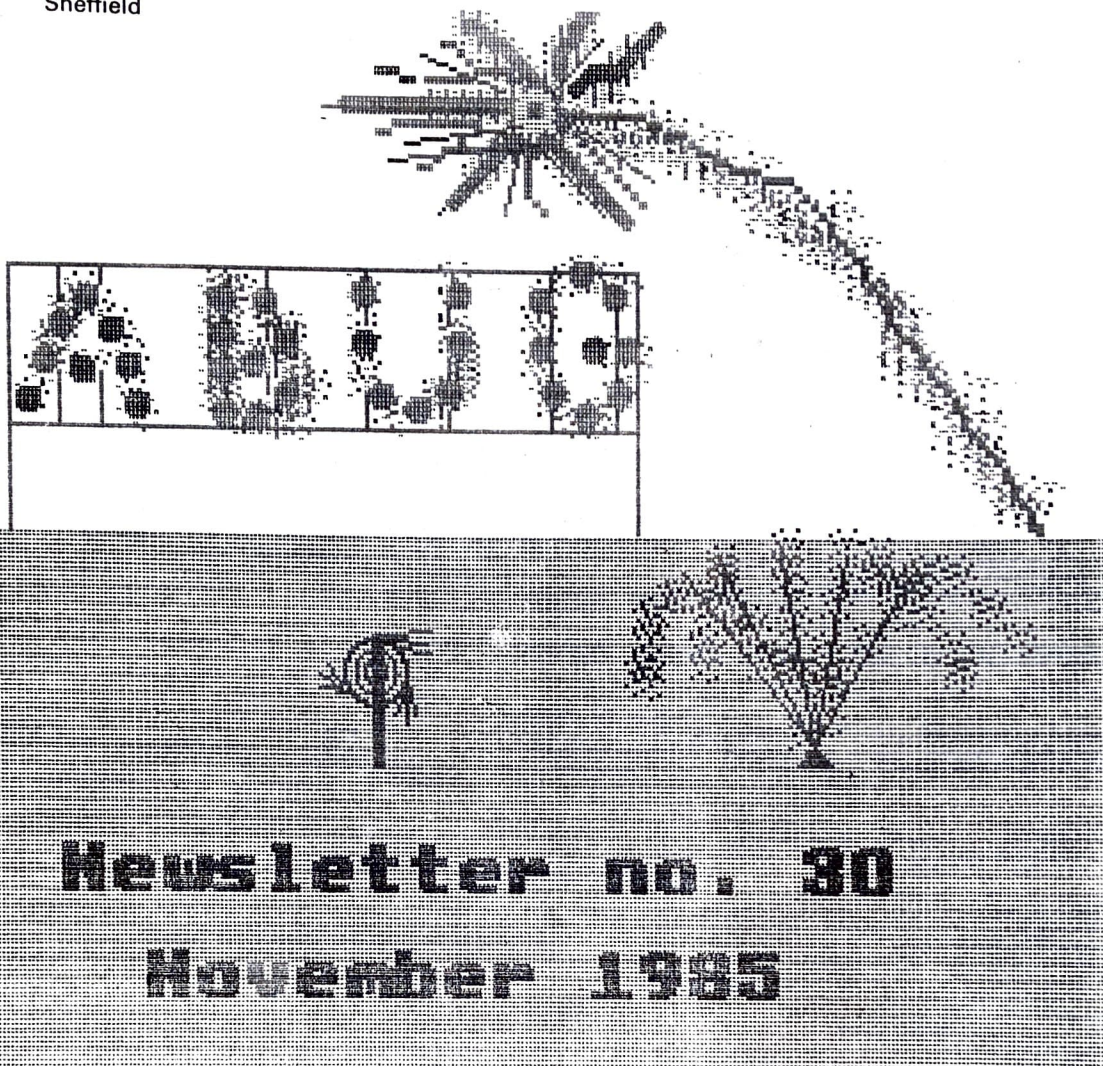# ABUG

ACORN & BBC
microcomputers
USER GROUP
Sheffield

Newsletter no. 30

November 1985

Sheffield Acorn & BBC Micro User Group

Contents

DIARY

November 20	Shakespeare	Details to be announced
December 4	Shakespeare	Social
December 18	Shakespeare	Grand Christmas Party

As most members are probably now aware, we have decided to adopt th
Shakespeare Hotel on Gibralter Street as our home for both social a
formal evenings. The change was made initially for the social
evenings when R & B's put the charge for their room up to £8. Althou
this included the services of a bar-person, we felt that the roo
offered by the nearby Shakespeare at the same price was better for o
purposes. After a 'straw poll' was taken of members present o
October 2, it was decided to try holding the formal meetings at th
same venue. The Shakespeare is nearer the centre of town, and it h
the advantage that membes can at least get a drink if the guest
speaker, etc, fails to materialise, as was the case on October 16.

If any member has any strong feelings about the choice of venue
please contact any member of the committee.

There will be a Christmas buffet at the December 18th meeting. An
members wishing to come must put their names down on the list that on
of the committee members has.

Any enquirys about meetings, visits e.t.c. contact Mike Cattel o
Dronfield 417413 between 6 pm and 10 pm.

Anybody wanting to place adverts in the newsletter should contact Pet
Frith on Sheffield 389165 between 6.30 pm and 9 pm (Weekdays expt
Tuesday)

PROBLEMS

Are you having any problems with your Beeb? If so, why not publis
details in the Newsletter? Contact the editors (Pete Frith and Dav
Brown), and we will arrage it for you; some of our members may have
had the same problem, and, more importantly, may have even solved it
For instance, one of our members is having problems with Mode 7
Although Modes 0 to 6 work perfectly, Mode 7 puts garbage on th
screen. The Beeb handles Mode 7 in a different way to that of th
other seven modes, so presumably it is this 'dedicated' circuitry tha
is suspect, possibly IC 10 or 11 (81LS95). Has anyone else had thi
problem?

EXHIBITIONS

A number of members visited the recent Electron and Micro User
Exhibition in Manchester. My impression was that there was not
great deal of new hardware or software on show, although there wer
the usual bargains available. Acorn themselves were not exhibiting
so the new 128K B Plus was not n show, and neither were the new
Acornsoft editor and graphics chips. There were certainly plenty c
people there, demonstrating the high level of continuing interest i
the Beeb.

There are two more exhibitions planned before Christmas, both i
Westminster, London. The next Electron and Micro User Show is bein
held from November 14 to 17 in the new Horticultural Hall, and Th
Acorn User's Christmas Show starts five days later, on November 22 an
23 in the Central Hall.

ACORN'S ADFS

We are including a copy of the specification of Acorn's Advanced Dis
Filing System in this Newsletter. This should be available as a
upgrade for existing BBC Bs for around £50, although I haven't see
any advertised for sale yet. Perhaps there will be some at th
exhibitions mentioned above.

SOLIDISK'S 64K RAM (WR64)

A number of members now have this (see details in the las
Newsletter), and, in general it works very well. We have noticed
however, that using Solidisk's fast back-up program, it appears to us
only 32K, rather than the 64K actually available. I also found tha
when I tried to use the two sideways ROM sockets on the Solidis
board, only one of them was operational! However, resoldering all th
legs on the inoperative socket solved the problem. Incidentally, th
priority of the two sockets are the reverse of what was stated i
Solidisk's instruction sheet; the L socket has HIGHER priority tha
the R socket.

Solidisk seem to have improved their ordering procedure. I sent in a
order to them recently, and received an acknowledgement, together wit
an estimated delivery time (14 days) within five days f sending the
order!

FOR SALE

EPSOM FX80 PRINTER, approximately 2 years old, good condition (most of the Newsletters up to and including '25 were prepared on it), £275 ono Apply to John Bramwell, Dronfield 416715.

2 x Shugart Single Sided, 40 track disk drives, Cased with power and data connectors to suit BBC Micro with 70 disks full of software. £135.00
Contact Richard Alderton, 24 Pinner Road, Sheffield S11. Tel. 669170

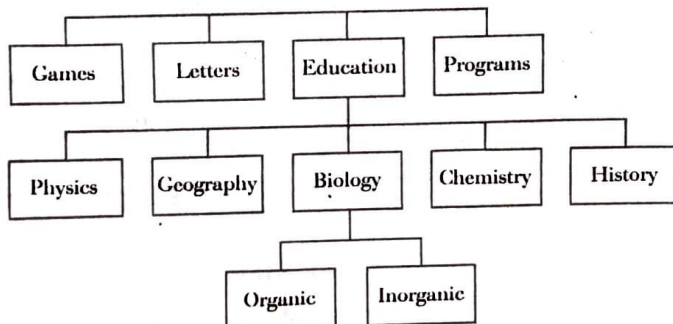# ADFS upgrade

The BBC Microcomputer System

Advanced Disc Filing System (ADFS)

The Advanced Disc Filing System may be fitted to the British Broadcasting Corporation Model B+ or to the BBC B that has the 1770 Disc Interface fitted.

✳ dramatically increased storage capacity disc drives

✳ storage of an unlimited number of files in structured format

✳ full filename descriptions

The ADFS uses double data density reading and writing to the disc, this increases dramatically the storage capacity of the disc drives. Using ADFS a twin double sided 80-track floppy disc drive increases capacity from 800k to 1.28Mbytes. These increases in disc capacity have been structured to give the user maximum reliability with the range of disc drives available on the market.

ADFS uses a hierarchical directory structure, that is where each directory can have new directories listed for the next level down. Each directory can hold a mixture of files, programs or new directory names... 47 in total. As there are 128 directory levels, the number of files are unlimited. Programs may have the same names if they are in different directories.

With ADFS file names can be up to 10 characters in length. Also, using the directory structure files can be defined more clearly e.g. EDUCATION. CHEMISTRY. INORGANIC. filename (see diagram). ADFS treats both sides of a floppy disc as one continuous surface. This doubles the file size for programs using large quantities of disc data storage.

The ADFS pack consists of:

ADFS ROM

User Guide (including fitting instructions)

Utilities Disc

Acorn Computers Ltd.,
Fulbourn Road, Cherry Hinton,
Cambridge CB1 4JN.

Hierarchial Directory Structure

ACORN COMPUTER

1770
Disc Interface

The BBC Microcomputer System

1770 Disc Interface Kit British Broadcasting Corporation Model B microcomputer

* as fitted in the BBC Model B+

* enables the ADFS, the Advanced Disc Filing System, to be fitted

* extra disc utilities on ROM

This 1770 Disc Interface kit enables the standard cassette version of the BBC Model B microcomputer to be upgraded to use disc drives. The interface kit is easy to fit. The parts of the kit are placed into sockets on the computer board, full instructions are provided. You may wish an Acorn Dealer to carry out the upgrade for which there may be a small fitting charge. Existing owners of BBC Model B computers which have 8271 disc interfaces fitted may also wish to upgrade their machines to utilise the advantages of the 1770 disc controller chip.

The new disc filing system provided with the kit gives new and enhanced disc utilities on ROM, as available with the new BBC Model B+. These include:

* FORM for formating one or more disc sides, either 40-track or 80-track, with one command

* VERIFY for verifying the disc formatting

* ROMS gives the title, version number, type and socket number of ROMs installed in the computer

* DRIVE not only allows access to different drives and surfaces but enables 40-track discs to be read in an 80-track disc drive.

As well as these four disc utilities there is * CLOSE, * EXamine, * FREE and * MAP.

Installing the 1770 disc controller chip enables the computer to be fitted with ADFS, the Advanced Disc Filing System. ADFS is the most sophisticated disc filing system available for the BBC computer. ADFS increases the storage capacity of discs as well as allowing unlimited numbers of files in structured groups. The ADFS can only be fitted to computers with a 1770 disc interface.

Acorn Computers Ltd.,
Fulbourn Road, Cherry Hinton,
Cambridge CB1 4JN.

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