

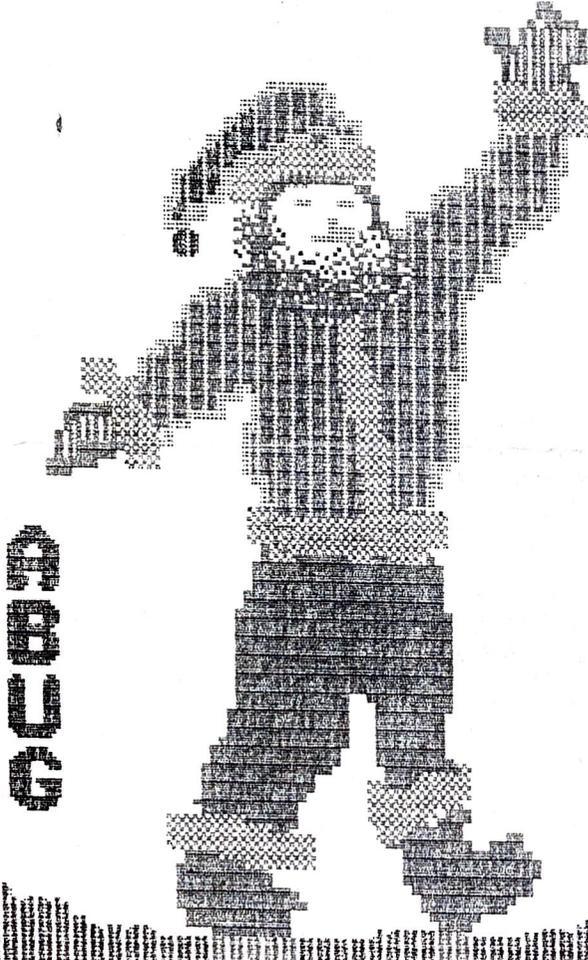
Pete Frith 389 165

ABUG



ACORN & BBC
microcomputers
USER GROUP
Sheffield

December 1985 NEWSLETTER NO. 31



ABUG

A MESSAGE
CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR
MEMBERS

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DIARY

December 4	Shakespeare	Social
December 18	Shakespeare	Grand Christmas Party
January 8	Shakespeare	Social
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Please note that the January meetings will be held on the second and fourth Wednesdays.

If you have any enquiries about club matters, meeting times, venues, etc, please ring the Secretary, Mike Cattel, on Dronfield 417413 after 6:30pm.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The catering for the Christmas Party is being done by the Shakespeare, and will consist of buffet-type food - sandwiches, mince pies, etc. The actual cost is £1.50 per head, but if members pay a 50p deposit at the 4 December meeting, the club will pay the remaining £1. Further more, your receipt will be numbered and the lucky ticket pulled out of the hat on the 18th will win a small prize. This concession is available to FULLY PAID UP MEMBERS ONLY. Non-members, wives, husbands and other guests are welcome, but they will have to pay the full price of £1.50.

Will you please put your names down (and pay your 50p/£1.50) during the 4 December meeting, so that we can give the catering people a fairly accurate estimate of the numbers attending. If you do not attend the 4 December meeting (but still read this), you CAN turn up on the night, but if too many members do this, the food may run out!

1986 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due mainly to the increased cost of hiring a room (it costs us £192 per year at present), we have been forced to increase the cost of membership. The new rates are:

Adult Membership	£10
Junior (under 16)	£3
Family Membership	£12

However, if you pay your subscription before 31 January, the old rates will apply:

Adult Membership	£8
Junior (under 16)	£2
Family Membership	£10

Alternatively, you can pay 50p (25p under 16) per meeting attended.

We will be stricter next year in checking membership, so please pay promptly, although any member who is financial difficulties will receive a sympathetic and confidential hearing from any member of the committee.

LIBRARY

We have decided to change the library charges from 1 January; now all books and commercial software borrowed will attract a £1 charge (books were 50p). In the past we have lent some published software on tape or disc for a deposit only, but this is now becoming a serious drain on our resources due to the cost of media, and, in some cases, of the software itself, so we intend to charge 50p a time for this. This should enable us to continue to keep the library stocked with new books and software.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Books

BASIC ROM User Guide - Plumbley
Guide to the BBC ROM - Thomasson
Using Wordwise Plus - Beverley + disc
Wordwise Plus Programming Ideas - Beverley + disc

Discs

Solidisk Pack 2 - 5 discs

THE ACORN USER CHRISTMAS SHOW

Acorn User held their second show of the year in London on 22 and 23 November. The venue was the Central Hall in Westminster, and the show was on two floors. The upper floor, which housed such popular exhibitors as Solidisk and Watford, was very congested, but things were rather more relaxed on the lower floor.

Acorn themselves were not present, and one or two other regular exhibitors were also absent, probably because the Electron and Micro User Show had been held only the weekend before. The usual range of cheap hardware was available; Solidisk were selling modems for around £40, light pens were on offer for £10, and cut price discs were everywhere. The cheapest double sided 80 track I found were 74p each in 25s! Those selling higher priced versions were issuing dire warnings about the possible dangers of their cheaper brethren. One firm was selling second hand Model Bs, indicating that these were becoming rare, as they were no longer being made. The 64K B+ was available, although not at cut-price, but I didn't see any 128K versions on sale.

Although there was no queue to get in when I arrived on the Saturday morning, there seemed to be plenty of people present, which showed that the degree of interest in the Beeb is still high.

Dave Brown

NEW MEMBERS

The Club always welcomes new members, so if you know anyone who has a Beeb, and who is not already a member, try and recruit him or her into the club. If you can advertise the Club at you place of work, etc, please approach any member of the committee, and we will do our best to help with posters and other publicity material.

COVER

The seasonal cover was designed by Ian Brown, using a CAD written by Chris Bramwell.