

CCS Chairman's report 2024-2025

I am pleased to report another active and energetic year for the Society.

There have been eight hybrid London Meetings held at the BCS London headquarters and online as well as the traditional December film show organised by Dan Hayton. Topics ranged from Leonardo Torres Quevedo, pioneer of computing, automatics and artificial intelligence, an amazing Spanish polymath working in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, to Lore Harp and her company Vector Graphics, Silicon Valley's forgotten female microcomputer pioneers. Thanks are due to Roger Johnson for his continuing organisation of a most interesting series of talks.

North West branch have held one hybrid meeting this year. Kevin Hughes spoke on '50 Years of the ICL New Range', organised by Bob Geatrell and Alan Pickwick.

Members continue to work on a substantial number of projects relating to historic computers, including the Manchester Baby, the Harwell Dekatron, aka The Witch computer, ICL 1900 and 2966, a replica of the EDSAC and many more. There is also a software conservation project, and IBM Hursley Museum has a large collection of IBM artefacts, many of them under restoration.

Communication with and between members. The CCS was originally set up not only to investigate and record the history of computers and software, but also to facilitate communication between members who have particular interests within the broad scope of the Society's remit, such as individual brands or ranges of computer. Until the advent of GDPR, that is what we did. However since the BCS implemented GDPR in a very strict way, we have been able to communicate to all members but not to individual members and members could not communicate with other members through the CCS.

We have been pressing BCS management for several years to enable us to fulfil our mission. In the past year we have at last made significant progress and are in the process of building our own database of members' email addresses, using Mailchimp, and to store in it any information members choose to share, such as machines they are interested in or have expertise in, CCS projects they are engaged in, their physical address (so that they can link up with others in their area), etc. It will be entirely up to the individual member what they share. Initially the database will hold email addresses of non-BCS members of the CCS. Members of the CCS who are also members of the BCS will have the option to have the CCS database hold their information too. As soon as the BCS releases the lists to us, we will populate the database and then we can begin to use the database for regular emails and developing more interaction between members who share interests. We expect it to be

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available shortly. Huge thanks to Bill Barksfield who has worked with BCS Management, educated them in Mailchimp, convinced them that it is safe and reliable and conforms to GDPR, and is setting the system up.

There were three most interesting editions of *Resurrection*. Many thanks to Dik Leatherdale for encouraging, assembling and editing the articles for each edition, and for managing the Society's website.

Dan Hayton, Dik Leatherdale and Martin Campbell-Kelly continued the collection and preservation of the Society's digital and video archives, including photographs, and thus recording the Society's history.

This summer the annual visit to a computer museum took a party of 28 to the National Museum of Scotland Collections Centre in Granton, Edinburgh. The collection included parts of a Ferranti Atlas as well as a section of a Ferranti Mark 1, including a Williams Tube storage device. Other specially built machines for Scottish educational institutes were on display along with machines from Elliott, ICL, Burroughs and other manufacturers. We are grateful to Tayce Phillipson and her colleagues for guiding us round the centre.

Rachel Boon has been appointed the Science Museum's representative to the Committee.

I would like to record my gratitude to the members of the Committee including the leaders of the various projects referred to above, which report to the Committee, for all their support and hard work. I could not have led the Society without their generous support.

Chris Rees