Computer Conservation Society
Chair's Report
Doron Swade
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The Society, I am pleased to report, continues to thrive and is in rude good health.

The London Meetings Programme has featured and hosted nine events since our last AGM, one a month excluding the months of the summer recess. The hybrid format of lectures and presentations, introduced during the pandemic lockdowns, allows virtual as well as live attendance, something we now take for granted but was quite novel a year ago. This has continued with great success.

The sustained high attendances are a tribute to Roger Johnson, our London Meetings Secretary, who magically attracts and prevails on eminent, expert and lively speakers to participate. The technical aspects of the hybrid platform are non-trivial and that it functions in the near-seamless way it does is in no small measure due to the enabling team - Bill Barksfield, Delwyn Holroyd, and ready support from Dik Leatherdale, Rod Brown and Dan Hayton together with BCS technical staff.

The Society's quarterly publication, *Resurrection*, guided and crafted by Dik Leatherdale, its editor, has not missed a beat despite the turbulence and disruption to domestic and world events. The first issue, Volume 1 No. 1 appeared in May 1990. The landmark 100th issue is scheduled for Winter 2022. *Resurrection* is a unique chronicle of computing history, especially British computer history, and a century not-out is deserved of more than a ripple of polite applause from the stands.

The Society provides the reporting structure for seventeen projects and related restoration initiatives. The Society is an information hub for regular progress reports on the challenges, progress and successes of a rich variety of restoration activity, as well as being a source of expertise, and material support for these programmes. To the seventeen projects in the suite, we have recently added another. The recreation of the Delilah voice encryption device for advanced speech security proposed by Alan Turing in his report of 6 June 1944. John Harper, who led the Bombe rebuild project, has led the Delilah project for some years, and Delilah has been added to the Society's project portfolio. Delilah is not a computer and its inclusion in the Society's project portfolio has stimulated ongoing discussion about the scope of the Society's remit as well as historical connections between cryptanalysis and computing. We welcome this project into the fold.

A highlight during the summer recess was the IEEE Milestone event in Manchester in June. Two landmark awards were made for major developments in computer history that took place in Manchester: the Manchester 'Baby', and the Atlas Computer. The plaques were unveiled on 21st June, the 74th anniversary of the first program run by the 'Baby' — acknowledged as the first successfully run stored program. The Society is pleased to have

been amongst the bodies that sponsored the event. All credit and thanks to Simon Lavington, Roland Ibbett, Jim Miles, and Rod Muttram for the substantial work involved in articulating the merits of the Manchester achievements, their cogent advocacy for appropriate recognition, and for the organisational effort in staging so successful an event. Thanks to their efforts the plaques are a permanent testament to a seminal piece of history.

The Society is approaching its 33rd year since its founding and we have turned attention to preserving records of the Society's early history. Under Martin Campbell-Kelly's guidance we are archiving core documents including publications, operational records of proceedings and of the Society's governance. Video recordings of the lecture series going back to the Society's founding have been located, brought together, and are now part of a programme of digitisation for archiving. Huge thanks to Kevin Murrell, Dan Hayton, Dik Leatherdale, and others who have been active in this time-critical programme.

We have made substantial progress in proposals to restructure the management of the membership of the Society. A subcommittee has conferred and devised a structure that will allow us to better service the membership by providing improved access to members records in full compliance with Data Protection regulation. The draft proposals have received initial approval from BCS and we will be taking this forward in this year's programme. Special thanks to Rachel Burnett, our unfailingly industrious committee Secretary, for being the source of invaluable legal advice and guidance, and to Arthur Dransfield, our Treasurer, for the total command of our financial affairs that informs his sure counsel.

My predecessor as Chair was David Morriss. Before taking up the Chair I shared with David my concern about the burdens of so active a programme that lay in store. He said that the Committee's office bearers were so capable, qualified, willing, and creative, that I had no need for concern. After a year working more closely with the Committee, I see the wisdom of David's reassurances. Thank you to the Committee, one and all. I look forward to what we will do together this coming year.