



Tim Bateman's Programming Talk Challenges Members



David Carpenter, Theresa Keith and Michael Cass at Riverside

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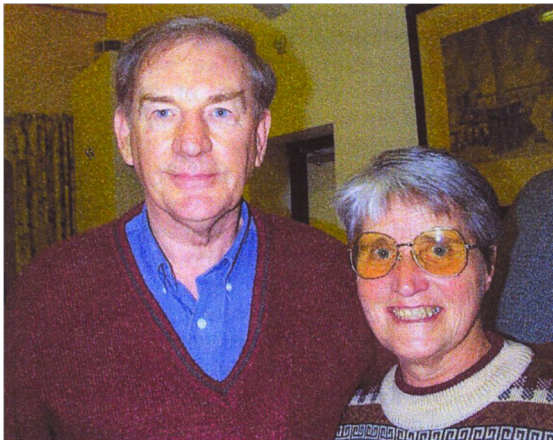
Tim Bateman was his usual coherent self as he explained and demonstrated, with the aid of the big monitor, what computer programming entails. Whilst many of the members present were baffled at times with Tim's artistry, as mentioned by Maggz Butler (see page 4), Tim's talk clearly illustrated the amount of hard work that programmers invest in their labours. They obviously earn their well paid remuneration and are the backbone of all computer software. It is no surprise therefore why software is generally expensive, particularly items such as Microsoft Office 2000, Adobe PhotoShop and Windows 2000 etc. Like many IWPCUG members, I tend to take the software research and preparation for granted and although unable to understand programming and its technical aspects, I do appreciate what goes on in the background. Tim must be congratulated for another fine talk and presentation.

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FUTURE MEETINGS

3rd May	Web Page Design	David Broughton
17th May	Clinic Meeting Question & Answer Session	IWPCUG Teams
7th June	Linux - Questions & Answers	Richard Morrell
21st June	EGM followed by Q & A - Windows Tutorial	Dennis Linzmaier
5th July	Email Editing/Club Newsgroups	David Broughton
19th July	Windows Tutorial Questions & Answers	Dennis Linzmaier
2nd August	Digital Pictures	Bob Groom
16th August	Computer Programs - Family History Meeting with Family History Society	David Hawgood
23rd August	Barbecue at Denny's Place ##, ***** Road, Sandown	Dennis Linzmaier
6th September	"Lego in the 21st Century"	Tim Bateman
20th September	Microsoft Outlook	Doug Rankine



Brian Sexton (Editor) and Ingrid Grice pictured at Riverside

ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP- COMMITTEE MEMBERS**Honorary President:**

Sir Norman Echlin,

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Dennis Linzmaier,

Vice Chairman:

David Broughton,

Treasurer:

Bob Groom,

Secretary:

Peter Wreford

Assistant Secretary:**Christine Jenkins****Membership Secretary/Marketing Manager:**

Douglas Rankin

Hot Key Distribution & Refreshments:

Peter & Dorothy Wolletron:

Hot Key Editor:

Brian Sexton

New Members Co-ordinator:

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Disability Resources Co-ordinator

Helen Edom

Riverside Centre Liason:

Ian Capon

Meetings Reception Assistant:

John Atkin

Assistant Show Organiser:

Marilyn Barrett

Committee Member:

Cliff Maidment

FOCUS



From: "bun0219981" <maggz@*****.com>
To: The Editor

Re: Tim Bateman's 'Objects of Desire'

I was amazed that there were so many commands for 'Objects of Desire' (not being brought up with DOS) but I did take in some of it..... especially '**Alt with underlined letter on the menu**' which now I shall find very useful, especially saving letters.

At least Tim.....I did take in some of your talk!!!

Thank you for all your hard work and preparation.

Maggz

From: tim@junglehouse.freemove.co.uk
To: The Editor Subject: Sound Bytes

I am trying to organise an evening of "sound bytes" for one of our meetings in the autumn. It will consist of members giving short talks about any subject they like connected to computers. You do not have to be an expert - you can talk about anything that you are interested in. This could be software or hardware you like using, a new use for software or just a tip you want to pass on to other members. The evening could be split into 3 x 20 mins and 3 x 10 mins or 4 x 20 mins and 1 x 10 mins or something else. There is also the added difficulty that if someone cancels on the night then the sections may have to be extended. This will only work if people are willing to take part, so please contact me if you are interested.

Regards, Couch Potato

LINUXCARE

red hat

SUSE

Linux EXPO 2000

Exhibition & Conference

Olympia, London 1st - 2nd June

If you are interested in knowing more about Linux, there is an opportunity to visit the UK's largest exhibition, where over 80 exhibitors will be on show including the major players. To register for a ticket to the Olympia and save £15, go to:-

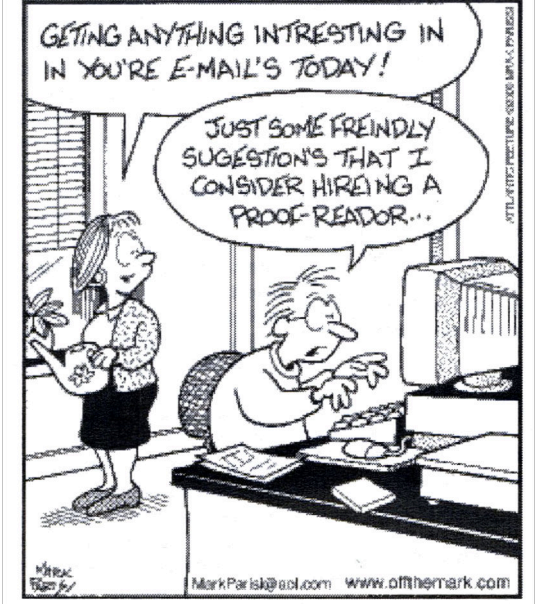
<http://www.itevents.co.uk/exhibitions/linux/LinuxVisitor/VisitorHome.htm>

HUMOUR



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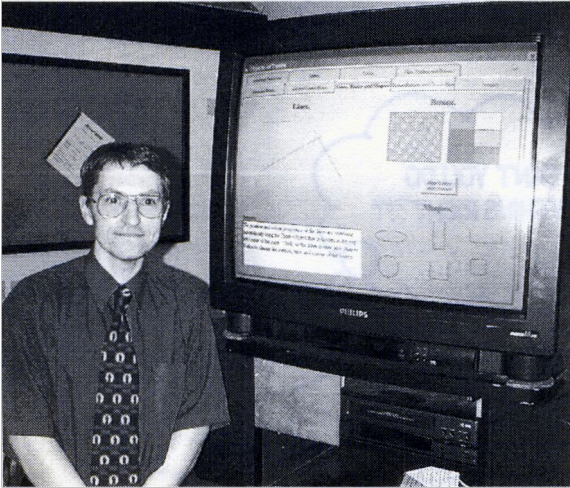
off the mark by Mark Parisi
www.offthemark.com



MarkParisi@aol.com www.offthemark.com

OBJECTS OF DESIRE

by Tim Bateman



It was not until I started designing databases that I realised how much we take Objects within Windows for granted. An object can be almost any item that appears within Windows but it is usually a combination of elements that include a visual part as well as data and programming code. Some objects are single objects in their own right, such as the Command Button, and other objects are created through combining several different objects. This would be like saying that an Egyptian pyramid is an object but it is made from thousands of blocks that are each objects in their own right. For instance the humble Shut Down Dialog Box is created using 3 Command Buttons, up to 4 Option Buttons, a Close Button, an Image and a Group Box.

DOS has been described as a Text User Interface because you have to type text to move about or run programs. Windows has been described as a Graphic User Interface but I prefer to call it an Object Orientated Interface. This is because from the humble Label to the mighty Dialog Box, objects are everywhere.

Although objects are typically thought of as just what the user sees on the screen, their appearance and behaviour are controlled by three basic elements: properties, methods and events.

Properties

Properties can be thought of as the characteristics of an object. In the real world, if a car was a Windows object, the properties of a car would be

characteristics such as colour, how many doors it has or whether it runs on petrol. When a user looks at a window on the monitor, they just see a rectangle window on screen. But in reality this window is defined by a series of properties. For example, the position of the window on the screen is controlled by the Left and Top properties and the window's size is controlled by the Height and Width properties. The Title in the Title Bar is displayed using the Caption property. It is even possible to decide which Control Buttons appear within the Title Bar. Many objects have the same properties such as Height, Left, Name, Top, Visible and Width.

Methods

Properties primarily determine how an object looks. But objects are not just idle components that sit and look pretty. Objects can have methods that define tasks that it can perform. The tasks can be simple, such as moving the object to another location or they can be more complex, such as updating information in a database. Methods are built into an object so that it knows how to perform a task. For example, forms have a PrintForm method that prints them to the current printer. Many objects also have the same methods such as Drag, Move and Set Focus.

Events

Objects can respond to actions that are performed by the user. These actions are handled using Events. For example, when users click a Command Button, they cause a Click Event to occur. The type of object determines which events it can use. For instance, a List Box has the Scroll Event and a Command Button does not, an Image Box has a Paint Event and both the List Box and Command Button do not. Forms have their own events that occur when a user opens, exits or switches to another form. When an event happens to an object, the object only executes those events that are appropriate. For example, when clicking a Command Button the following events occur: MouseDown, Click, MouseUp. If the user clicked the Command Button after using another object then the LostFocus Event occurs on the previous object and the GotFocus Event occurs on the Command Button as well as the other three events that were previously mentioned. To respond to an Event, the programmer places code in the Object's event procedure. All Objects are of little use without the code inside an Event procedure. For instance if you click on a Command Button that does not have code in its Event procedure then nothing will happen.

Also, there are occasions when changing a property can trigger an event rather than the other way round. For example, using code to change the Height or Width property of a form triggers the form's Resize Event. Many events come in pairs such as the Load and Unload events for a Form, the MouseDown and MouseUp and the GotFocus and LostFocus events for almost any object.

I have placed a Command Button within my Objects of Desire program to illustrate how events work. When you click the button the Text Box shows which events have been triggered. It also shows other events being triggered when you click on the Text Box itself.

It might appear at first glance that Properties, Methods and Events are totally independent of each other. But this is not always the case. Sometimes, the properties, methods and events of an object are related. This happens when a method is used to change an object's property. Also, when you use the methods of an object it is usually done in response to an Event. For example, within my Objects of Desire program there is a Command Button that, when clicked, triggers the Click Event. Code in the Click Event procedure then changes the FillColor property of the Shape object. This is also a good example of how the use of one object is linked to the use of another object.

Some of the main objects are:

FORM
MENU BAR
TAB PAGES
COMMAND BUTTON
LABELS
TEXT BOX
LIST BOX
COMBO BOX
CHECK BOX
OPTION BUTTON
GROUP FRAMES
SCROLL BARS
IMAGES
LINES AND SHAPES
PROGRESS BAR
SLIDER
TIMER
DRIVELISTBOX
DIRLISTBOX
FILELISTBOX

You may be wondering why the Minimise, Maximise and Close buttons are not included in this list. This is because they are actually properties of a Form object and can be turned on or off by setting



the MaxButton, MinButton and ControlBox properties to either True or False. This high-lights two interesting points. Firstly, no object property name includes a space and secondly, many use Logical data types. This means they can only have two values - True or False. Although these values can also be interpreted as On or Off or Yes or No.

Throughout my notes you will hear me refer to design time and run time. Design time is when the programmer is designing the user interface and writing the code while the program is not running. Run time is when the program starts running and the user interface appears.

FORM

In Visual Basic the windows that are designed are called Forms. The Form is a bit like an artist's canvas because the user interface is created over the top of a Form. Forms provide the foundation of a program and act like containers for the various objects that the user interacts with. Forms are the basis for programs, Dialog Boxes and wizards. However, each type has its own set of properties that distinguish it from the others. For instance, a Dialog Box's size cannot be altered at run time and you have to close the Dialog Box before you can return to the main program. This is why Dialog Boxes do not have minimise and restore buttons. Also, the border around the Dialog Box is thinner and cannot normally be resized. Although all of these properties are totally customisable, most programmers try to keep a consistent feel.

To be continued



HOT KEY-e

For some time now some members have felt that, as we are a computer club, our magazine Hot Key should be available in an electronic format. Although as our editor makes such a good job of the printed version one might wonder why this would be necessary? However, an electronic version would be useful for distribution amongst non-members, as this would reduce the cost to the club. To take this one stage further, if Hot Key was available via the Internet, then we could have a world-wide readership at very little expense to the club.

What are the practicalities?

At present, our Editor, Brian, uses Microsoft Publisher 2000 and includes colour photos in the publications. This generates “pub” files in excess of 20MB. Even using good compression techniques we could only reduce them to around 12-15MB. This size would be useless for both transmission via Internet or disk regardless of the fact the recipient would also need to have Publisher 2000. So we decided that distributing “pub” files was a non-starter.

We then looked at “pdf” files (Portable Document Format); these type of files are used extensively as a way of publishing manuals, technical information and books. They need a program called Adobe Acrobat Reader (freely available) to open them but then they are almost exactly the same as reading the printed copy. Many other clubs offer this facility for their newsletters etc. Although Acrobat Reader is freely available, to convert a “pub” file into a “pdf” file you

would need the full Adobe Acrobat program. A small expense but not enough to make it viable. The major problem is the use of colour in Hot Key. The “pdf” files generated were still around 10-12MB and compression could reduce them to around 5MB but even this is still too large to download from the Internet (around 15-20mins). A black and white version would be around 200k but then Hot Key wouldn’t be so inviting to read and if we had kept on this track I feel sure it could have reflected badly on the club. So, unfortunately “pdf” files were also consigned to the waste basket.

The next move.

We then looked at many different programs that we thought may offer a solution; all to no avail as most meant recompiling Hot Key each time. Then David Broughton mentioned that HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) might be an ideal medium for Hot Key. This set me thinking, although I knew I didn’t want to retype or program Hot Key, as I had hoped it would be as close to the printed edition as possible. Publisher 2000 has the option to create Web Sites (html pages) and as Hot Key is already in “pub” format this seemed the ideal solution.

First problem; how to get the “pub” files to me, bearing in mind they were around 200MB. A visit to the editor’s office was needed to see how he was producing Hot Key. Typical “pub” files are around 200k, so what was different about our Hot Key? It soon became apparent that the photographs used caused the huge increase in file size and simply by removing them the “pub” file was reduced to around 250k. The photos were stored in “jpg” format at around 20-40k. This meant the editor could e-mail the Hot Key (minus the photos) and the photos separately at around 300-400k; very manageable. All I have to do now is use Publisher 2000 to re-insert the photos and the Hot Key is restored. Now all that is needed is to save it as a Web Site but that too is not quite as simple as it seems.

To use Publisher to create Web Sites you have to tell Publisher from the outset you are designing web pages not after it has created a publication. So Publisher cannot convert a file into a web page. The way around this problem was to create a new blank web page, customise the page size to 14.85cm x 21cm (A5) then insert another 15 blank pages. Then by copying each Hot Key page and pasting them into the appropriate web page, within a matter of minutes I had 16 “web” pages almost exactly as printed in Hot Key (the text is slightly different). I could then save this to a separate folder. Publisher creates a multitude of small files from this publication but all together they come to around 450k.

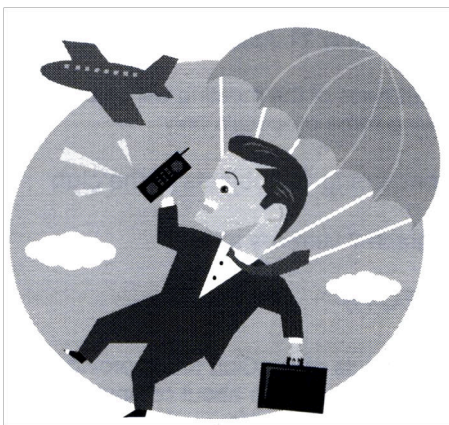
Amongst these files are “page1.htm”, “page2.htm”, etc. up to “page16.htm”, which are files that contain the HTML your browser converts, so that you see a “web page”. However, to view them you would have to open each in turn. This would be tedious, especially as the pages would not necessarily be listed in order. To overcome this I decided to divide the screen into 3 frames, a large frame from the left side covering approx. 65% of the screen and split the remaining part into 2 halves, one over the other. In the large frame I loaded the first page, then in the top right frame I put the Hot Key logo with the issue number and date. While in the bottom right frame I put a 4x4 table. As the table contains 16 cells, I put a small button graphic in each with the numbers I through

to 16 and created a link to whichever page number was selected. Thus by opening this frame page it is possible to read each page in turn (or in any order) just by clicking the page number in the table.

Now I have created this frame page, it will work for every edition, so all I need to do is change the issue number and date each time. This has worked for both the February and March editions and if you would like to view them on the Web go to:-

<http://www.linzmaier.co.uk/hotkey>. You can either read them online or download the zipfile to read later. The downloadable file is around 400k and should only take a couple of minutes at most. Let me know if you can think of any improvements or amendments.

Dennis Linzmaier



The Isle of Wight PC User Group

welcomes all owners and users of IBM Compatible Personal Computers.

It is a group which seeks to exchange ideas and seek new information.

Our meetings are informal on the **first and third Wednesdays of each month at The Riverside Centre, Newport, 7.30- 9.30 pm.**

The first Wednesday has usually a formal talk whilst the third Wednesday is more informal, geared to the new user and aims to help out members with specific problems.

Membership is £12 per year.

This journal, "HOTKEY", is produced every month.

Visitors are welcome.

If you would like to know more about us, either come along to one of our meetings or contact one of our Committee Members on one of the numbers on page 3.



THE ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP

NOTICE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

There will be an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Isle of Wight PC user Group on Wednesday 21 June 2000 to be held at The Riverside Centre, Newport.

The business of the meeting will be confined to changes of the Constitution in the following three proposals only:

1 Concerning the objects of the club

Paragraph 2 currently says:

OBJECTS

2 The objects of the Club are to provide a social environment for the exchange of ideas and information about computing in general and IBM-Compatible Personal Computers in particular.

The proposal is to replace this paragraph with the following four sub-paragraphs:

- i. To provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and information about computers
- ii. To share knowledge with the wider community through education, exhibitions and other events.
- iii. To provide a service whereby appropriate computer equipment is distributed to Isle of Wight residents with disabilities and support given to enable maximum benefit.
- iv. To provide a social network for people with an interest in computing.

2 Concerning the designation "Chairman"

That the designation "chairman" be changed to "chairperson" in each of three instances; namely, paragraphs 4, 8 & 11.

3 Concerning the number of Committee Members who should sign cheques less than £50

Proposed that paragraph 11 be amended to read as follows:

11 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the funds of the Club, which should be kept in a recognised bank or building society. Cheques of value greater than or equal to £50 must be signed by any two of the Treasurer, Chairman and one other designated Committee Member. For cheques of value less than £50, one of the above three officers of the club shall be sufficient. Records must be maintained of all financial transactions of the Club in a form acceptable to the Auditor.

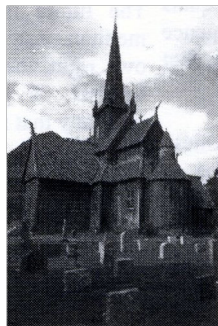
End of formal propositions.

Explanation and reason for the changes

The Committee need to show in our Constitution that the club is more orientated to education, training and helping the disabled in order to be more acceptable to grant-awarding bodies. Extra funds are needed not only for the Computability Section but to help members at ordinary meetings with an improved display device. The more politically acceptable designation of the chairperson may also help in this regard.

The business of the cheque signing is a separate issue for the convenience of our Treasurer.

IN SYMPATHY



MARY JOSEPHINE WREFORD

It is with deep regret that the club has been informed of the death of Mary Wreford, the wife of our Secretary, Peter Wreford. The Committee of the IWPCUG would like to extend their sympathy and condolences to Peter Wreford and his family on this sad occasion.



THE Emperor's NEW CLOTHES

by Dennis Linzmaier

Has the world gone mad? Or should I say Britain in particular? I'm talking about investors falling over themselves to invest in the so-called "Internet Companies". I say so-called as they are not Internet Companies, just companies that use the Internet to trade!

Any business must sell something, a product, a service, an idea. If they can sell that item for more than the cost to themselves, then it could be a good business but if it sells at a loss, then it cannot be a good business. Uriah Heep said "if annual income is sixpence and annual expenditure is sixpence that equals happiness, but if annual income is sixpence and annual expenditure is seven pence that equals misery".

So how many of these "Internet Companies" have made a profit or broken even? None, to my knowledge! So why are so many people rushing to buy shares in them? Is it mass

hysteria? They know the Internet is the future and see people making £millions, so they jump on the bandwagon hoping some will fall their way. The people who made £millions are the very people who set up the company, then sold it. That should tell you the answer. Don't buy into a company, start one up?

Property prices generally rise because there is a limited supply; new properties take time to build and are controlled by planning laws. However a new Web Site can appear instantly, uncontrolled by any regulations, and start trading world-wide. A similar analogy is Pop Groups. A Boy Band may well be "top of the pops" today but tomorrow a new group could appear and become flavour of the day and yesterday's band just fades away.

Now I am not telling people what or what not to invest in, just to think about it. The value of any business should be assessed by its tangible assets and its goodwill. It was not uncommon for a company to give 30-50% goodwill value but these "Internet Companies" are 95-100% goodwill. Therefore once any goodwill has gone, what value is the company then?

The future is the Internet but only as a medium. Any business must be sound in its own right, then it can take advantage of the Internet. A good rule of thumb is any company that rises quickly, falls quickly.

Happy Investing.....

What is a Cookie?

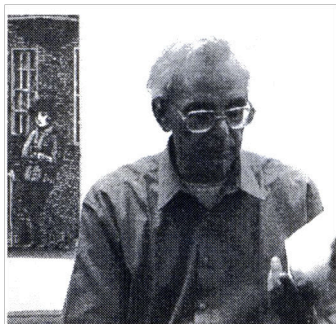
The full cookie specification can be found at:-

<ftp://ds.internic.net/rfe/rfe2109.txt>

To simplify, cookies are small bits of information written to your hard disk by a site you visit. The site that writes the information is basically the only site that can retrieve it (some argue that it is possible to "fake" the request and collect information from cookies saved by other sites; they are possibly correct, but there seems to be little incentive to do so).

For further info go to:- <http://www.cknow.com/ckinfo/cookies.htm>

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VISIT TO VECTIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

17 of our colleagues attended the meeting at Vectis Astronomical Society for a talk on the Sky at Night on Thursday 13th. April 2000. It was a mixed sort of evening, weather wise, with plenty of clouds blown in a gusty wind one minute and clear skies and a waning (waxing) moon, the next, whose moonbeams kept popping out tantalisingly throughout the evening. Ken Clayton and Mick Shotter were on hand to tell us of the history of the founding of the society and what facilities it has on offer to its members and the community. The dome itself was purchased from the University at Winchester for £10,000, who could no longer find a use for it. The Astronomical Society had it installed and fitted it up for their own use.

After an introduction to the formation and background of the society and being shown one of the large telescopes on hand, and how they work we broke up into two groups, one going upstairs to the dome,

the other to look at the facilities in the Control Room. Our group were given a very capable lecture about how the co-ordinates of the sky are related to the longitude and latitude of the earth, the longitude given in hours and minutes rather than degrees, so that astronomers can find out where the various stars, planets and comets are, at any moment in time.

Ken took us through the operation of the large telescope in the dome, how it was set up to follow the stars and planets automatically. Why a parabolic reflector was better than any other kind for picking up a signal and how they fed the signals down to the control room for later analysis. He also said how amateur astronomers played an increasingly valuable role in the discovery of new phenomena in the sky and led to certain areas being watched closely for events such as pulsars or exploding stars or comets.

We had some discussion about the moon and its orbit around the earth, how it affects the tides, how the same side always faces the Earth, and how various cycles affect the weather patterns on our planet. Then we had a look at how the Earth follows an elliptical path around the Sun at an angle of $23 \frac{1}{2}$ degrees, and how this gives us the seasons of the year.

Then Ken told us of some of the various cycles that operate in the Solar System, some of them working over 29,000 years, and how our galaxy, the Milky Way is only a small part of an infinite Universe. Some discussion then followed as to the origins of the universe and a debate on the various theories, such as the big bang and the creation and evolution theories. "Science is the record of dead religions" said Oscar Wilde. It was agreed to differ in our interpretations and that some questions were unanswerable.

We then went into the Control Room where Mick Shotter took us through the various pieces of equipment, computers and programs that they had for monitoring and researching the activities



going on in the sky. The only disappointment was that everyone was so looking forward to seeing the moon through the telescope and we weren't shown it for some reason. When we left the building, there was the moon in all its glory, lighting our way to the car park at the Community Centre.

Douglas Rankine.



Prize Puzzle for MAY 2000

by David Broughton.



If three dongles weigh the same as a dingle and four dangles and six dangles weigh the same as three dingles and a dongle, how many dingles weigh the same as a dongle and a dangle?

Answers to me, David Broughton, please (see page 3 for address).

Closing date: 7th June.

ANSWER TO THE MARCH PUZZLE

This puzzle was to find the ages of Doris and Brenda. Their combined ages are 84 whilst Doris is now twice as old as Brenda was when Doris was as old as Brenda is now.

The key to solving this is to consider the difference in their ages because it was that number of years ago when Doris was the same age as Brenda is now. Brenda was also younger by this age difference which makes Doris's age now twice this age difference older than Brenda's age then. As Doris is now twice Brenda's age then, she must be four times the age difference now, making Brenda's age now three times the age difference. That makes seven age differences in total which is 84. So their age difference is 12 years, making Doris $4 \times 12 = 48$ and Brenda $3 \times 12 = 36$.

Did you follow that? Don't be dismayed if you didn't. Not all minds work the same way and maybe everyone who solved the conundrum has a different way of visualising the situation, and quite different from mine. Can anyone write a more transparently obvious explanation without using algebra?

I received 10 answers of which 8 were correct. The correct answers came from:- Michael Hodges, Rosemary West, John Bownas, Ian Moth, Peter Greenhalgh, Clem Robertson, Bill Maden and Dennis Linzmaier.

John Bownas won the draw and a £5 book token.

We're on the Web:- <http://www.ddina.demon.co.uk/iwpcug/>

File Extensions

File extensions are often used to determine the program that created the file. For a complete list of 3-character file extensions and what the extension means, go to:-

<http://www.cknow.com/ckinfo/acronyms/fileextensions.htm>



It's NOT really MAGIC.
Here's how it works:

First, it has a built in "high speed memory" that will instantly recall where web sites are located so your computer finds what you are looking for INSTANTLY.

Second: when computers leave the factory they are not set up to surf at maximum speed. Turbo Surfer increases the performance of your computer by "opening up the pipeline" so that the information flows FASTER.

You will be amazed at the increase in speed -
GUARANTEED!

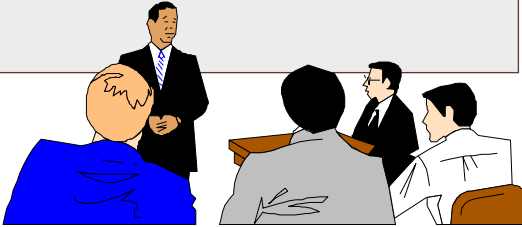
- * Your internet speed increases up to 220%
 - * Web pages will load faster.
 - * You can send and receive email much faster.
 - * You will get quicker downloads of files, graphics, pictures, and more.
 - * You will locate web pages you want almost instantly.
 - * You'll get faster internet speeds without buying costly hardware, or a new computer.
 - * Works with all browsers, including Internet Explorer, Netscape, and AOL, Windows 95 and 98.
 - * With those boring waits and delays eliminated, you'll find your internet surfing experience EASIER, FASTER, AND MUCH MORE FUN!
- <http://www.turbo-surfer.com/?sid=planb>



Christine Jenkins, with other members at a recent meeting

MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD

**This Board is FREE to members
Please use it!**



FOR SALE

Computer - 486SX25
Full System with Windows 3.1
Plus 14" colour monitor and
Microsoft Works 2.0
£30

Contact: Roy Hollis - #####

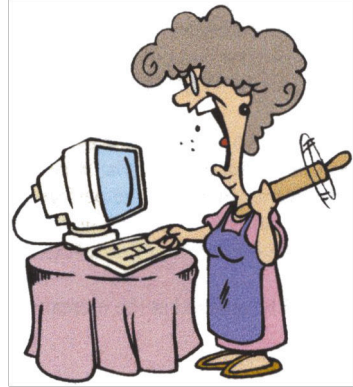
FOR SALE

Computers

Pentium 75 with 16Mb RAM
- 850Mb Harddrive (suitable for Linux) - £60

Pentium 100 with 16Mb RAM
- 1.2Gb Harddrive
£80

Contact: Dennis Parkes - Tel: #####



FOR SALE

Programming in C++ Video
£2

Teach Yourself Java 1.1 Book
(with CD disk)

Windows 9x RAGE 128 enhanced
AGP 8Mb Graphics Card
with drivers on CD
£25 ono

Tel: Editor - #####

FREE

Several hundred 5¼" reusable floppy disks
with plastic storage cases.

If no takers, these will be land-fill fodder.

Phone: David Broughton, #####

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