



ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP

www.iwpcug.org

MONTHLY JOURNAL

HOT KEY

Issue 139 – June 2003



Len Jones recovering in St. Mary's Hospital with the aid of Shirley Pritchard

Our last two meetings at the Riverside Centre have produced firstly an interesting session on Backing Up, where three of our Committee Members introduced their own versions of backing up their work. A detailed account can be read on pages 6 and 7 of how backing up can be done in various ways.

The second meeting in May was a meeting with a difference where two of our members, namely Michael Hodge and John Bownas talked about their life and use of their computers. Two different aspects of computing, where Michael is involved in programming and John is involved with the alternative operating system to Microsoft, which is Linux. John is using SuSe 8.0 and demonstrated briefly how this operating system works. It is hoped that John would be able to return to give a more detailed explanation and demonstration of the SuSe Linux. After Michael gave his talk on his speciality, our Editor gave a demonstration of how MailWasher works, which is able to download the relevant emails on the service provider's server, where you can delete, bounce back and blacklist all the spam that accumulates.

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FUTURE MEETINGS

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------|
| 4th June | Networking | Mike Collins |
| 18th June | What DOS Can Do For Windows Users | David Broughton |
| 2nd July | Motherboards and Hardware | Dennis Parkes |
| 16th July | School Teachers to talk about computers in the Education environment | To be arranged |
| 6th August | DVD & Wireless Internet | Dennis Linzmaier |
| 20th August | Annual Barbecue | Bob & David Groom |
| 3rd September | Digital Photography | Roger Brown |
| 17th September | Dynamic Web Pages | David Groom |

We also have two e-group discussion areas:-
 Yahoo iwpcusers: iwpcusers@yahoogroups.com
 and for web designers:
IWPCUG-Web-group@yahoogroups.com

Contributory Managers

Museum Curator:

John Austin,

E-mail Discussion Group "iwpcusers":

Owners: Roger Skidmore and David Broughton

Moderator: Rob Webb

E-mail Discussion Group "IWPCUG-Web-group":

Owner: Rob Webb,

Moderator: David Broughton



Michael Hodge and John Bownas at the "Biography Talk"

ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP - COMMITTEE MEMBERS

3

Chairman/Riverside Liaison:

Sylvia Farley,

Secretary:

Christine Jenkins,

Treasurer:

Bob Groom,

Membership Secretary/Database Manager/Hot Key Distribution:

Ray Boote,

Vice Chairman/Webmaster:

David Broughton,

Journal Editor/Cover Disk Producer/Librarian:

Brian Sexton,

Computer Custodian:

Dennis Linzmaier,

Marketing:

Derek Cox,

Show Organiser:

Cliff Maidment,

Committee Member:

George Wilson,

Committee Member:

David Groom,

Chairman - Computability Section

Roger Skidmore,

Disability Resources Co-ordinator:

Helen Edom,



The latest episode in my traumas with my computer is that after a process of elimination it was found that my Abit KD7 motherboard was faulty and so I decided to replace it. I have subsequently purchased a much better one in the form of a Gigabyte GA7VA with the Via KT400 chipset. I purchased the new motherboard from Dennis Parkes in Ryde, who installed the new motherboard and re-installed my AMD 2Gb processor and 512Mb of DDR RAM together with all the other hardware pieces and updated all my Windows XP critical updates and drivers from the Microsoft website using his Broadband

connection. Dennis also updated my Norton Anti-virus software via Broadband and ensured that my cables were connected properly. I also purchased from Dennis a round cable, which is longer than my previous ATA 80 cable that was a bit short to reach the second hard drive in my tower case. Round cables are meant to allow more space and air circulation in the case. My updated system is now working efficiently without the previous crashes that plagued my system.

Recent purchases have included a new graphics card in the form of a Sapphire Radeon 9000 Atlantis Pro with 64Mb RAM, which although not the fastest graphics card around (I am not into games) is adequate for my Windows XP system and is compatible with my new Gigabyte motherboard. This Sapphire card however did get a good write up in the recent Labs Test in PC Plus and the writer did mention that it was very good value for its performance and price. Also included in my recent acquisitions is an external USB Modem for Windows XP. This is a Mr. Modem 56k Fax modem and replaces the previous Windows 98 internal modem. I must say that although Windows XP is a very good operating system it does mean that previous hardware that worked with Windows 98 is out of date and not likely to be compatible with Windows XP, thus causing many visits to the bank to invest in hardware that is acceptable to XP.

My wife's computer, which is a Packard Bell Cyrix 300 with 128Mb of RAM, has been freezing intermittently probably due to a clash with the onboard video and a PCI 4Mb SiS graphics card in a PCI slot on the SiS 5598 motherboard. The Device Manager was showing that the PCI graphics card had been installed (with an updated driver) but the onboard VGA was earmarked with a yellow exclamation mark. The BIOS did not have a disabled feature so the VGA was disabled in Device Manager with a red mark next to it. It was only when my neighbour called by to borrow a graphics card that the problem was solved. I asked him what could be the problem with the freezing and he looked at the Packard Bell motherboard manual and discovered that the onboard video can be disabled by changing the JP4 jumper. The onboard VGA in Device Manager disappeared and the computer is now working to its best ability.



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 new information. Our meetings are bi-monthly on **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.

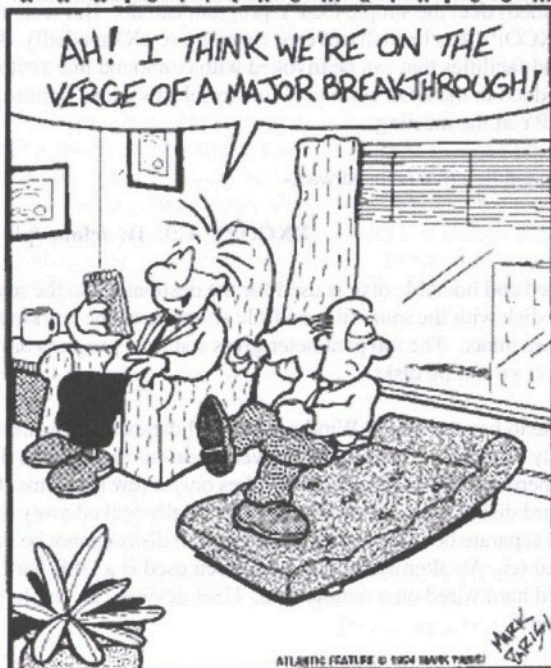
Membership is £12 per year.

Visitors are welcome.

This journal, "HOTKEY", is printed every month. If you would like to know more about us, either come along to one of our meetings or contact one of our Committee Members listed on page 3.

Club's Website - <http://www.iwpcug.org/>

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BACKING UP



Three members contributed to the Backing Up evening, held on 7th May, each presenting their own perspective on this important area of computer operations.

Roger Skidmore's answer to the problem of backing up was to backup everything from one's working hard disk on to another hard disk. Although both hard disks could be permanently installed it would not provide the flexibility that removable hard disks can give. So his computers (he runs a business as well as using computers as a hobby) have hard disk caddies so that the disks can be swapped around with the minimum of trouble.

Roger originally used XCOPY to make the backups which he explained in a handout to the meeting. This is a DOS program which derives its name from the fact that it does a bit more (i.e. eXtended) than the simple COPY program can do. But recently an even better program named XXCOPY has been discovered (even more eXXtended!). XXCOPY has many more options and facilities that can be invoked with command line switches. These are extra symbols added to the DOS command line to select various options. He demonstrated the use of XXCOPY at the meeting.

The command line that he used was:-

XXCOPY C:\. D: /clone /pb

A formatted and bootable disk is used for the destination so the result of this copy operation is to make a disk with the same files and file structure as the working hard disk whilst keeping all the software intact. The /pb parameter gives a simple progress bar if required. Restoration is as simple as swapping disks.

We all hate to have to reload Windows with all the extra software installed and Roger is particularly wary of this. His system is very thorough and can be done on the fly if both hard disks are permanently in place; it then takes only a few moments if done regularly. If the backup hard disk is kept in a caddy and is normally locked away from the computer then it requires a separate boot-up session because hard disks cannot be swapped whilst the computer is switched on. An alternative which has been used is a USB hard drive permanently locked in a cupboard hard wired on a remote lead. USB devices can be plugged and unplugged without switching off.

More details on XXCOPY can be found from the web site:- www.xxcopy.com .

David Broughton presented his ideas next and this was at the other extreme. He uses DOS operations also but makes backing up as simple as a double click on a Windows desk top icon which means it can be done very quickly, after each session at the computer if required, or even more frequently than that when the need arises. It suffers, however, in only copying recent new files or files that have changed since the last backup. It is therefore not as robust against dramatic failures of the operating system or disk drive.

David began with XCOPY to do the job but discovered some bugs in early editions and so wrote his own version called XCP. This will create the necessary directory structures that are needed and allows for an exclude list of files and directories that are not wanted on the backup like Windows temporary files and Internet cache files. Like Roger, the backed up files retain their structure on the backup medium so that restoration is easy. A big difference from Roger's method is that David does not cycle the back-up media but retains a historical record of files going back many years, so his back-up system doubles as an archive. David has written several utility programs to overcome some of the limitations of DOS programs and it is interesting that Microsoft are now recognising this need. The enhanced DOS facilities that comes with Windows XP are a big improvement on the old programs. They can be investigated by typing "?/" after the command to get a comprehensive help screen on their usage.

DOS procedures are best batched together into batch files. These can then be invoked with a simple desktop icon or a single word typed on the command line.

A point emphasised in David's talk was the need to distinguish between one-off files like letters, on the one hand, and files that are continually being changed or added to like a diary or a database. These two kinds require different procedures to ensure that files like databases do not overwrite old backup copies. Several schemes were outlined to deal with this. Whilst he has written several special purpose programs of his own for backing up, he said he would be quite willing to help members set up methods using the new Windows XP DOS functions.

Dennis Linzmaier was next to present his contribution to the subject and this took an unusual form. He demonstrated the use a circuit chip (called Magic Chip) that is plugged into a computer, providing a means of saving and restoring the whole contents of a hard disk. It was like Roger's scheme but without the need to have a second hard disk, because the surprising thing was that the actual storage of the disk data was a mystery. Was it stored on the chip? No, because there was not enough memory, as far as it was known. In any case, several experiments showed that the storage was only applicable to the specific disk installed. If another disk was used to replace the old disk, then it would not work, so this system was not a backup of a hard disk hardware failure; it was only suitable in circumstances where some misoperation had corrupted or lost important files. Was the disk data stored on the disk itself? By checking the amount of free space, this seemed unlikely. Someone speculated that every hard disk may have areas that are not used in the normal way and that this device somehow accesses these areas. But if so, why do not disk manufacturers also use this area to increase the disk capacity? Dennis claimed that there was no slowing down in normal usage whilst this device was active and the process of saving the disk image took very little time, not the time one would expect if the disk were being copied. So we all went away from the meeting mystified, whilst also being a little better informed with ideas for backup systems.

BIOGRAPHY ON MICHAEL HODGE



| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Born: | 24th April 1934 in Cambridge | |
| Family: | Father: | (Professor {Sir} William Hodge |
| | Mother: | (Lady) Kathleen Hodge (nee Cameron) |
| | Sister: | Gillian (born 1936) |
| Education: | 1938-41 | Kimway School, Cambridge |
| | 1941-45 | St. Faith's School, Cambridge |
| | 1945-47 | Dorset House, Littlehampton |
| | 1947-52 | Rugby School, Rugby |
| | 1952-54 | Royal Army Ordnance Corps |
| | 1954-57 | Pembroke College, Cambridge |
| | 1957-59 | Ridley Hall, Cambridge |
| Vocation: | 1959 | Christ Church, Harpurhey, Manchester |
| | 1959-62 | St. Mark, Layton, Blackpool |
| | 1962-67 | Vicar, Old St. George, Stalybridge |
| | 1967-81 | Vicar, Cobham w Luddesdowne |
| | 1970-95 | Convocation and General Synod |
| Appointments: | From 1981 | Honary Canon - Rochester Cathedral |
| | 1981-1999 | Rector of Bidborough |
| | From 1995 | Synodical Secretary - Convocation of Canterbury |
| | From 1995 | General Synod - Election Scrutineer |
| | 2000-2003 | Secretary, Yarmouth Sailing Club |
| | From 2002 | Secretary, West Wight - Holiday Bible Club |



My Family: 1961: Married to Margaret Clark
 1963: 1st child: Tricia
 1964: 2nd child: Rachel
 1967: 3rd child: Andy (known as 'Bono')
 1969: 4th child: Sue

Moved to Isle of Wight: 5th May 1999

Current Computer Activity:

Software: Microsoft Word 2000
 PC Study Bible
 Microsoft Excel 2000
 Microsoft Access 97
 Microsoft Publisher 2000
 Microsoft FrontPage 98
 Microsoft Visual Basic 6 (Professional Edition)

Programming: Basic
 Turbo Pascal
 Visual Basic 6
 SEATS Program
 STV Program

The Future: Microsoft PowerPoint
 (and I used it for the first time at the Riverside Centre to demonstrate my History)

Our thanks to Michael for an impressive biography of his life with computers.

MY PROFILE by John Bownas



I was born in August 1930 at **Heald Green** (Near Manchester)

Dublin - About 1933-1935

Hazy memories of Elephants in Phoenix Park and the bridge over the river Liffey

Driffield - About 1935-1937

Nothing much here, started school, cannot remember much about it.

Plymouth - About 1937-1939

Memories of walking to school, Open day at the Naval Dock Yard etc.

Weston Super Mare - About 1939-1944

Wakefield - About 1944-1948

Camping with the scouts, Hobby making radio receivers, made 'portable' 1 valve set.

Obtained scholarship to Manchester University

Manchester University

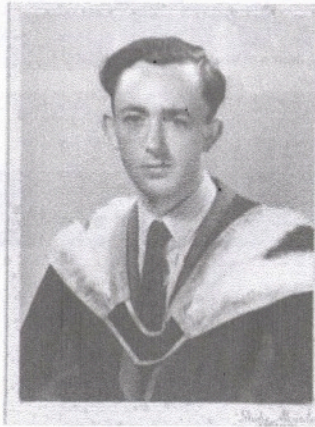
About 1948-1951

Lived in Dalton Hall, Hall of Residence. Had to get bursaries to be able to afford to go.

No free University education like the present

Lectured by builders of one of the first stored program machines

Turing machines, theoretical machine capable of solving logical problems



Graduation in 1951

BAC Bristol - About 1948-19??

Solartron Farnborough Hants.

A new job at Farnborough with Solartron, an Electronic Instrument and System company.

On to Cowes (Plessey)

Plessey Radar Cowes /New job with Plessey Radar Cowes -

Bought house in Place Road, still living in it.

Worked on 3D Radar system

My Computer -

350 MHz Pentium, bought Jan 1999/ Tower case/ 64 Mb RAM/ Pentium 2.

Upgrades -

SCSII CD ReWriter/ C: drive fitted in caddy to allow change of O/S - 2 more caddies fitted to allow additional data discs/ USB zip drive/USB A4 scanner /USB 35 mm scanner.

Software: still using Windows 98, no intention of changing to XP or any other flavour of MS in the immediate future. Have used SuSE 8.0 Linux for some time and have just upgraded to SuSE 8.2

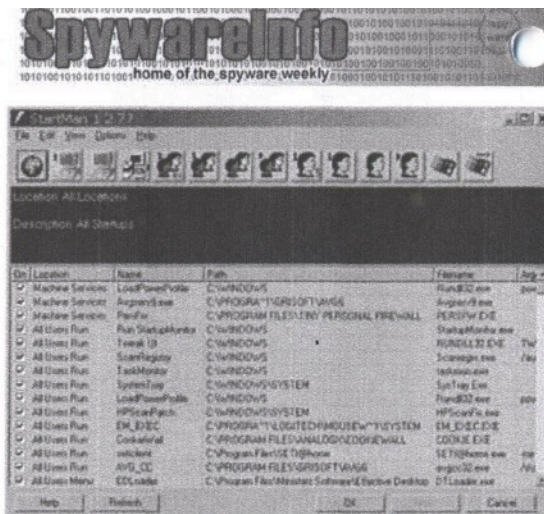
Linux

- (1) Linux is an open source and free operating system; there are also many applications available under the same licensing conditions.
- (2) You can obtain Linux by simply copying a set of CD's. The license under which it is distributed allows this.
- (3) The best way is to buy it from a distributor. What you actually pay for is the cost of the CD's plus handbooks and other distribution costs.
This way you usually get some documentation which is a help when first using Linux.
- (4) I have only had experience of the SuSE distributions.

I bought version 6.3 some time ago and found it very hard going. More recently I bought version 8.0, which is a great improvement on 6.3 and last week I bought version 8.2 (professional) version. I have only had time for a brief examination, so far it seems excellent.

Our thanks to John Bownas for his hard work in presenting his talk on May 21st, 2003

StartMan



StartMan is a startup manager created to address some of the shortcomings in Microsoft's original System Configuration Utility (MSCONFIG.EXE). MSCONFIG is primarily a troubleshooting tool, not a startup manager, and as such it does not permit the permanent removal of startups - they can only be disabled. Under normal circumstances all startup items should be enabled as it is difficult to troubleshoot a system's startup while some items are disabled on a more permanent basis. Such non-essential items should be removed completely, in order to both release MSCONFIG for its primary purpose of troubleshooting, and to remove any confusion where duplication occurs. Where an item is essential, the program that requires it will quite often re-instate the item. But since it knows nothing of the disabled item, you end up with a duplicate. A duplicate is simply an item that is both enabled and disabled (not as impossible as it sounds, since enabled and disabled items are stored in separate locations).

MSCONFIG also doesn't show where each of the startup items are actually located (versions previous to Windows Me's version). This can be an important factor when determining whether a startup item is essential to the system or not.

StartMan addresses all these issues by displaying each group of startups separately and by permitting the user to delete non-essential items as well as temporarily disabling the essentials. It is fully-compliant with MSCONFIG with regards to the location of disabled items and, where a duplication occurs, will automatically offer to remove the disabled item for you (a feature unique to StartMan). StartMan also displays additional startup groups that MSCONFIG simply doesn't touch.

A feature that I particularly like is the option to export the entire list to a file, either text or html. Very useful for what I do.

This product is very frequently updated to fix bugs and for updates. Make sure to check back for updates.

<http://www.spywareinfo.com/downloads/startman/>

Our thanks to Roger Skidmore for submitting the above information.



Microsoft Magnifier

If you want to magnify a small portion of the screen to see something in better detail, you can use Microsoft Magnifier in six settings. The first, Magnification Level, determines how much magnification you get. The default setting of 2 should work for most situations. The Follow Mouse Cursor, Follow Keyboard Focus and Follow Text Editing options determine where the focus of the magnification is. In most cases, you should use the Follow Mouse Cursor option if your sole purpose is to look at a particular area of the screen. The Follow Keyboard Focus and Follow Text Editing options come in handy when you're working with small type in a desktop publishing program. The Invert Colours option enables you to swap foreground and background colours in the magnified area. The Use High Contrast Scheme option changes your display colour scheme when using the magnifier. This last option displays the screen using the same colours as the High Contrast option on the Display tab of the Accessibility Properties dialogue box.

Special Keyboard Features

Windows provides three special keyboard features: StickyKeys, FilterKeys and ToggleKeys. They can be found on the Keyboard page of the Accessibility Properties dialogue box. These features all have one thing in common: they change the way the keyboard works, independently of the keyboard driver.

Using StickyKeys - This feature comes in handy in that it makes the Shift, Ctrl and Alt keys act as toggle switches. Press one of these keys once and it becomes active. Press it a second time and it's turned off. There are three groups of settings for StickyKeys. The first option, Keyboard Shortcut, enables you to turn on StickyKeys using the shortcut key. The Options group contains two settings. The StickyKey option works like a toggle. Checking the first box tells Windows to wait until you press the same control key twice before making the control key active. The second box enables two people to use the same keyboard. Pressing a control key and a non-control key at the same time turns StickyKeys off. The Notification group also contains two settings. The first setting tells Windows to play a different sound for each unique control key it activates. This can prevent you from activating a control key by accident. The second option displays an icon on the taskbar so you can control StickyKeys more easily.

Using FilterKeys - FilterKeys helps eliminate extra keystrokes so you don't get "tthis" instead of "this". As with StickyKeys, you can adjust the way FilterKeys works by clicking the Settings button. The first option in this dialogue box enables you to turn the shortcut key on and off and the main difference is that instead of playing a sound, FilterKeys beeps when you activate it. The Filter Options group enables you to select from two ways of filtering keystrokes. The first option filters keys that get pressed in rapid succession. This feature would filter the rapid typing of the extra "t" in the example previously mentioned. The Settings button displays a dialogue box that enables you to select how long an interval must pass between the first and second times you press the same key. The second option in this group filters accidental key presses.

Using ToggleKeys - The ToggleKeys feature emits a tone every time you turn the Caps Lock, Scroll Lock or Num Lock keys on or off. The ToggleKeys dialogue box contains a single option, which enables you turn the shortcut key on or off.



PRIZE PUZZLE CORNER

JUNE 2003

by David Broughton



| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | 9 | 3 | |
| | 6 | | 5 | 7 |
| | 5 | 5 | | 3 |
| 6 | 5 | | | 7 |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | | |

In the above diagram, each of the 5 columns, 5 rows and the two main diagonals add up to the same total. Can you fill in the missing numbers? Send your completed matrix to me, David Broughton (see page 3 for address) to arrive by Wednesday, 2nd July 2003 to be entered into the prize draw. You can get a printed copy of the diagram from:-

www.iwpcug.org/davidbro/puz0306.htm

Answer to the April Puzzle

"TOO MANY COOKS SPOIL THE CURRY" was the variation on a well known proverb. Eight members managed to disentangle these letters from the block of 30 provided (plus asterisks). They were Sylvia Farley, Ray Boote, John Amos, Peter Greenhalgh, Gordon Stonham, John Moxon, Bill Woodmore and Les Burridge. John Moxon won the draw but generously declined the prize on the grounds that he was a recent winner. A second draw selected Bill Woodmore who won the £5 book token. Well done all of you.

OUTLOOK EXPRESS

A clean act

If your Inbox is overflowing, it can be quite difficult to work with your messages. One option, of course, is to be ruthless and delete them. If you can't quite bring yourself to throw messages away, you can at least put some of them out of sight. Click on the View menu and select Current View. This brings up a choice of views – choosing either Hide Read Messages or Hide Read or Ignored Messages will give you a much neater Inbox.

Restart Windows in Safe Mode

If, after you've added a piece of software or hardware to your PC, Windows fails to load when you restart your machine, don't panic. Turn your PC off and then back on again but immediately after, press F8 repeatedly (about once every second) until you are presented with a menu (this usually takes about five to 10 seconds). The menu will give you a list of Options, one of which is to load Windows in what is known as Safe Mode. Safe Mode loads only a very basic version of Windows and 99 times out of 100 will give you access to your PC. Reverse all of the steps you took to add the new software or hardware then restart your PC as normal. All being well, your PC should have made a full recovery.

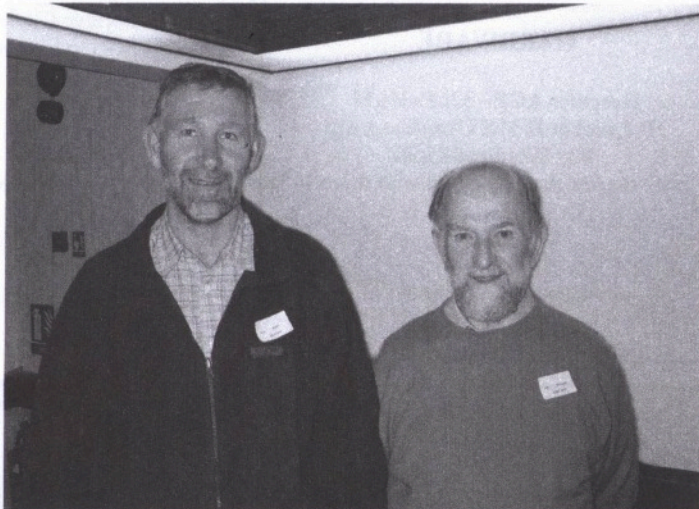
Internet - Avoid disconnection

When closing Internet Explorer or Outlook Express, you will be prompted to close your Internet connections. This can get annoying after a while if you want to continue using the web. To disable it, launch Internet Explorer, then click on the Tools menu and then on Internet Options. Click on the Connections tab, then click once on your connection that will be listed in the Dial-Up Settings box. Click on Settings, then click on the Advanced button and the Advance Dial-Up dialogue box will appear. Take the tick out of **Disconnect when the connection may no longer be needed** and click on OK to finish.

Windows 98 - Recent clean-up

In the Start menu there is a heading called Documents that displays a list of all the documents that you've accessed recently. While this is generally useful, sometimes you might want to clear it out because none of the files are relevant any more. Right click on the clock at the bottom left of the screen and choose Properties from the list. When the dialogue box appears click on the Start Menu Programs Tab, then click on the Clear button in the bottom half of the screen - your Recent Document list will now be cleared.

Our thanks to Computer Active Magazine for these tips



Rob Webb and Les Burrige pictured at a recent meeting at the Riverside Centre

MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD

Please use this Notice Board
to benefit other members.



FOR SALE

HARDWARE

Pentium 2 - 333MHz CPU & Fan
£15

Pentium Celeron 400MHz CPU
£10

Contact:
Roy Hollis
Tel.

FOR SALE

HARDWARE

**Elsa Microlink 56k PCI Internal Modem
for Windows 95/98**
Boxed with manual and CD-Rom with drivers

£10

Contact: The Editor
Tel.

FOR SALE

HARDWARE

Artec AM12E+ A4 Scanner

with Power Lead/LPT connection and
12volt Power Supply
and
CD-ROM with driver and manual
and

Arc PhotoScanner Suite
PhotoEasy/Artist
Textbridge Classic OCR
Photo Explorer

£20

Contact:
Dennis Lambeth

denlid@

Tel.

FOR SALE

HARDWARE

**Hercules AGP - 32Mb RAM
3D Prophet II MX Graphics Card
For Windows 95/98**
with manual and CD-ROM with drivers

£20

Contact: The Editor
Tel.

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