



UNITED AMSTRAD USER GROUP



1, MAGNOLIA CLOSE,
FAREHAM
HANTS PO14 1PX

NEWSLETTER No.2 - March 1987

EDITORIAL

Dear Members, welcome to the March edition of the U.A.U.G newsletter. I must start this newsletter with a plea. We are still seeking books for the Computer Book Library, so if anyone has an old book or a book which they have finished with then we would be very grateful to receive them.

Also we aren't receiving many letters or contributions for the newsletters. I can only put a certain amount of my own time into producing articles for newsletters and what with the many other jobs I have to do to keep the club running, I just can't manage. If you are puzzled or stuck for ideas then take a look at Mr M R Pugh's letter about computer magazines, this is exactly the kind of thing we like to receive as it is both interesting and it puts across a fair point.

You will notice that there have been no additions to the Public Domain Software Library lately. Well by next newsletter there should be quite a few CP/M packages available as Mr R B Phillips has kindly offered to supply some. Also as soon as I can find time I will document the BASIC programs that are already in the library, as at the moment there are no instructions with the programs.

Due to technical problems the Serious Software Review, Communications and Hints & Tips sections have had to be left out of this newsletter. They will all re-appear in the next issue along with some new sections (hopefully!). As usual we welcome your comments on the various sections and we are always willing to consider new sections!

The new Durell games have been included in the Reduced list, so if anyone wants any of the games just send a cheque for the price stated to me at the usual address. In case anyone doesn't know, all Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to: United Amstrad User Group.

As we haven't been able to include the Communications section in this issue I will include this request here. Martin Newham, the systems operator of MBBS Mitcham is looking for a co-sysop to help run an Amstrad section of the Bulletin Board. His Bulletin Board runs at both 300 and 1200/75 baud and can handle both viewdata and normal terminal (scrolling) modes. If anyone is interested in using the board it's open 24 hours a day and can be contacted on:- 01 648 0018.

Finally I'd just like to mention advertising. Most of you will have seen the mentions in: Amstrad Action, Popular Computing Weekly, Micro Mart, Ceefax, Prestel, Solent Reporter and on various Bulletin Boards, but we still need to spread the name of U.A.U.G, so if anyone can suggest a cheap or free method of advertising I'd be very pleased to hear of it. Also remember the pages of the newsletters are open to outside adverts as well as adverts from members, so why not see if you can get your local computer shop to advertise in the newsletters. We'll send then a copy of the advertising rates on request.

Gary Carter



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MEMBERS LETTERS

A DIG AT THE COMPETITION

Members of the U.A.U.G. who feel like putting pen to paper and sending the product to any of the commercial computer publications, take heed, around Jan 1986 I wrote a letter to 'AMTIX', commenting about the price of games etc. for the Amstrad, sold on disc, also the then very high price of blank discs and at times the non-availability of them. There were other comments in my letter. For this letter the magazine awarded me the title 'Letter of the month' with an award of £20 worth of software.

The software has never arrived, nor for that matter has any answer from 'AMTIX' for the letters sent by me asking what was happening. I know for a fact that several people who have been awarded the same 'letter of the month award' or prizes for competitions run in this and on several occasions in other computer magazines have not received their prizes.

I advise, if you are going for competitions in this type of magazine try and look through a few back issues and read the letters to the Editor, it's suprising how many people write in asking what's happening to their prizes, others send money for various programs which never arrive. If you find just one such letter then hold the pen, why waste the ink, paper and stamp!

Help has any member of the U.A.U.G. got a program covering weather records or Observations of which they are willing to sell to me or possibly a copy on tape or disc, disc preferred, my machine is a CPC464.

Sent by Mr M R PUGH (1032)

Mr P Blackmore (1053) Is looking for a Maxam Assembler listing, can any one help?

Mrs Yvonne Kelly (1046) Writes :-

I have an Amstrad CPC6128 and a DMP 2000 printer. I am using a Protext word processing package (by ARNOR). Can any one provide me with a step by step instruction on how to change the control codes i.e. for italics, bold etc.

Mr K Walters (1018) is interested in using Amstrad Computers for RTTY and CW transmission and reception on HF Home bands and he is looking for a Morse transmit and receive program. Has anyone a similar interest or can anyone supply such a program?

Write to:- Ken Walters, 18 High Meadow, Southampton, Hants, SO2 5SP.



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GAMES REVIEW

THE HOBBIT

Melbourn House, £14.95 Tape

This has got to be the most enjoyable adventure game I have ever played. It come complete with the wonderful childrens book by J.R.R. Tolkien. The book is totaly brilliant even for adult adventure fans, and it realy helps when it comes to actualy playing the game, because you can relate to the characters well.

This game of course allows you to communicate with the other characters during the journey eg. Thorin and Gandalf. As any one who has read the book will know, Thorin is head dwarf and Gandalf is the wizard.

The game has totaly hooked me and any help you can offer me in completing the game will be very gratefully recieved (write to usual address please). To conclude this review, the game is well worth the money and is a must for all adventures.

Graphics:	72%	Playability:	96%	UAUG Rating:	89%
Sound:	N/A	Value:	89%		

THE PRICE OF MAGIK

Level 9 Computing, £9.95 Tape, All CPC's

Level 9 have done it again, this game has over 200 locations all fully illustrated with wonderful graphics (considering the amount of memory available). There are two versions of the game on the one tape, one with extended text and no pictures for the 464 or 664 and on the other side a fully illustrated version with shorter text.

In The Price Of Magik you can intergrate with other characters in a similar way to the Hobbit. The monsters in The Price Of Magik are considerably better than the Red Moon nasties, the 'BURY' command no longer kills all monsters without trace.

Another brilliant adventure by Level 9, another absolute must for adventure fans...

Graphics:	59%	Playability:	87%	UAUG Rating:	80%
Sound:	N/A	Value:	79%		

Reviewed by Seamus Delaney



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HARDWARE REVIEW

ELECTRIC STUDIO LIGHT PEN (Mk II)

The Electric Studio, Tape £19.95 Disc £26.95, All CPC's

The Electric Studio Light Pen is a fun drawing package with all sorts of wonderful features including: Brush of varying width, spray can also of varying width, Mirror draw (both horizontal & vertical) and all sorts of other goodies to mess around with.

When the loader is loaded it produces a menu of various options: Mode 0, Mode 1 etc. After choosing your option, an icon menu is displayed with the various drawing options on it. This is where the fun begins, choose your option and there is no stopping you for a couple of hours.

The pen is pixel accurate and it is even possible to sign your name on the screen. There is also an option to set up a window on the screen and scroll the contents in any direction (not very useful, but some pretty wonderful messes can be produced).

The save and load functions are a bit inconvenient, because the 'FL' option has to be chosen, then answer yes you do want to use the file option, then choose save or load and the last of all type in the name of the file that is to be Loaded/Saved.

From the Main Menu a Zoom option is available. There is a rectangular shaped cursor which can be moved around the screen and the area enclosed is magnified. This magnification allows pixel accurate detail. Files that have been done on the main light pen program can be loaded into the zoom utility and edited.

The printer dump option is pretty ordinary, by ordinary I mean that the printer options inevitably do not include the printer you have got, so the answer is to mess around a bit with the different choices until you find the one that works.

This is an entertaining piece of hardware for the first couple of weeks, but the thrill of being able to produce strange shapes on the screen soon wears off. This is not really an accurate design package and is not really much good for the serious side or design.

Presentation:	62%	Actual Use:	29%	UAUG Rating:	43%
Documentation:	48%	Value:	20%		

Reviewed by Seamus Delaney



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COMPETITION TIME

FIRST PRIZE: The Rocky Horror Show on Tape!

As noone even had a try at last issue's code competition we can only guess that the code was too difficult to crack, so we have decided to give everyone another chance by making the code easier to break.

The numbers 0-9 and the letters A-Z have all been rearranged to form a code. For example 1 could be represented by E, 2 by D, 3 by C, 0 by 6 etc, and the spaces have been left in the five questions below to make life easier.

All you have to do is crack the code, work out the answers to the simple questions and send the answers to us (in normal english). The first correct entry (if we receive more than one!) out of the hat will receive CRL's great game, The Rocky Horror Show!

- 1) L180 J48Q L8P 014 8VPOQ85 6S6ECE 3ZQP0 7QTN210 TNO ?
- 2) L180 PZI4 T3 5ZP6P 5T4P 014 8VPOQ85 55Z H NP4 ?
- 3) L1Z61 6TVS8UJ SQT5N645 VZUZ T33Z64 ZZ ?
- 4) L180 68Q 5T4P 8W8U PM28Q TLU ?
- 5) 1TL V8UJ 6Q45ZOP 5T JTN P08Q0 LZ01 TU 4WZO4 ?

Name: Membership No:

Answer 1:

Answer 2:

Answer 3:

Answer 4:

Answer 5:



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COMPUTER BOOK LIST

Code	Title	Remarks/Subject
B1001H	Computer Programming	Learn computer programming
B1002P	How to Get Your Programs Running	De-bugging programs.
B1003P	Using Computers	Programming ideas.
B1004H	Colour Coded Guide to Computers	Everything on computers.
B1005P	Writing Adventure Games Amstrad	BASIC adventure writing.
B1006P	Sixty Programs for Amstrad 464	Also 664 & 6128 compatible
B1007P	Computer and Video Games	Basic but interesting!

REDUCED SOFTWARE/HARDWARE LIST (ALL CPC's)

Code	Description	RRP	CLUB
RS1001T	Combat Lynx (game)	£8.95	£5.50
RS1002T	Saboteur (game)	£8.95	£5.50
RS1003T	Turbo Esprit (game)	£8.95	£5.50
RS1004T	Critical Mass (game)	£8.95	£5.50
RS1005T	Death Pit (game)	£8.95	£5.50
RS1006T	Harrier Attack (game)	£8.95	£5.50
RS1007T	Spaces Hawks (game)	£8.95	£5.50
RS1008T	Roland goes Square Bashing (game)	£8.95	£5.50
RS1009T	Thantos (game)	£9.95	£6.50
RS1010T	Deep Strike (game)	£9.95	£6.50
RS1011T	Sigma 7 (game)	£9.95	£6.50
RO7001	Maxell CF-2 Blank 3" Discs	N/A	£3.99
RO7002	Hitachi 27128 Eproms (16k)	N/A	£4.50
RO7003	Blank disc labels x100	N/A	£2.50

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE LIST

Code	Title	Description
PU1001T/D	Bindump .001	Machine code dump for serial 8056 printer.
PU1002T/D	Basdump .002	BASIC screen dump for serial 8056 printer.
PU1003T/D	Typewrit .003	Simple typewriter program for 664 or 6128.
PU1004T/D	Digit .004	Sound digitizer program.
PU1005T/D	Minifile .005	BASIC card indexing system.
PU1006T/D	Clock .006	Real time clock routine controlled by RSX's.
PU1007T/D	Search .007	Locates keywords/variables within a program.
PU1008T/D	Minimag .008	Mini Magnifying routine. Large characters.
PU1009T/D	Xen .009	Adds 34 extra RSX commands to Amstrad BASIC!
PU1010T/D	Xenplus .010	Adds another 13 RSX's to Amstrad BASIC!
PU1011T/D	Keylett .011	Keyword abbreviations routine.
PU1012T/D	Pagelist .012	Stops screen displays scrolling to fast.
PU1013T/D	Freemem .013	Constant memory status display.
PU1014T/D	Memedit .014	Allows you to view ROM and view/edit RAM.
PU1015T/D	Sidewrit .015	Two RSX's allow text display on the side!?!?
PU1016T/D	Bigscrol .016	Massive scrolling displays! Ideal for ad's.
PU1017T/D	Keylist .017	Lists all the function key definitions.
PU1018T/D	Assemble .018	Z80 assembler. Machine code experts only!
PU1019T/D	Disassem .019	Z80 disassembler. Hackers only!
PU1020T/D	Bigtext .020	Double height text. using two RSX'S.



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ADVERTS

Amstrad, Spectrum and Memotech Software For Sale

Prices from as little as 75p for older Spectrum tapes
to £15 for high quality Amstrad 6128 disc software.

Games, Utilities and Serious Stuff.

Please send SAE for full list by return.

Also available unused box of 5.25 inch discs (SS/DD).

Top Quality. Only £6 including P/P.

Also MP2 Modulator for Amstrad.

Needs some attention hence only £8 plus P/P.

Mr T R Roberts, Woodlands, Church Road, Harrietsham, Kent, ME17 1AP.

FOR SALE

Original Amstrad Tape Software

The Hobbit (including book) £7.50, Way of the Exploding Fist £5.00

Message from Andromeda £4.50, Dark Star £4.00

Colossal Cave Adventure £4.00, Roland on the Ropes £2.00

Sweevo's World (on disc) £6.00, D T Decathlon £3.00

Graphic Adventure Creator (on disc) £10.00

or buy all the software for only £40.00

Contact:- U.A.U.G, 1 Magnolia Close, Fareham, Hants, PO14 1PX
Quote advert number 2

Amstrad Tape Software For Sale

Roland in Time £4.50, Harrier Attack £4.00, Flight Path 737 £4.00

Classic Games £4.00, Soul of a Robot 75p, Nonterraqueous 75p

Fig-Forth £8.00, Mini Office £4.00

Contact:- U.A.U.G, 1 Magnolia Close, Fareham, Hants, PO14 1PX
Quote advert number 3

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ALL-IN-ONE ORDER FORM

Name: Membership No:

I enclose a Cheque/PO for the Total of £.....

BOOK REQUEST FORM

Please send the following books as soon as possible:-

Code	Title
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I enclose a Cheque/PO for £.....

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE REQUEST FORM

Please send a copy of the following programs:-

Code	Title
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I enclose: Tape [] Disc []

EPROM PROGRAMMING REQUEST FORM

Please transfer a copy of the following program(s) onto Eprom(s):-

Filename	Eprom Name	Type	Length
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Please supply Eprom(s), I enclose a Cheque/PO for £.....

I'm supplying Eprom(s), I enclose a Cheque/PO for £.....
