Newly elected Committee Members for 2003 at the recent AGM at the Riverside Centre

FAMILY HISTORY

A well attended meeting was treated to an excellent and professional presentation of the various aspects of Family History. Tony Elgar used a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate how to use the software and showed how to obtain resources from the Internet, cover disks, various certificates and other means of obtaining necessary information to compile a family history. Tony's presentation can be found on this month's cover disk in the Family History folder and if you don't have Microsoft's PowerPoint software installed on your computer, you can install the PowerPoint Viewer software contained in the same folder.

Tony mentioned that there is various software on the market, including Family Tree, Brother's Keeper, Family Origins, Cumberland Family Tree, to name a few. Tony's favourite and the one he used at the Riverside Centre was Family Tree. On the cover disk you can find a freeware copy of GSP Family Tree to experiment with. He also said that the 1901 census is now available on CD. Tony also emphasised that all work that you accomplish in compiling your family tree should be backed up every time you work with the program and burn to a CD for essential safety.

After the coffee break Tony introduced the USA version of Family Tree Maker and then answered questions that the meeting fielded.

FUTURE MEETINGS

5th March	Windows Multimedia	Andy Martch Island Computers
19th March	Introducing the BIOS	Dennis Linzmaier
2nd April	Video Editing	Noel Stimpson
16th April	Motherboards and Processors	To be arranged
7th May	Backing Up	Dennis Linzmaier

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, 22 Coronation Road, Cowes, I.W. PO31 7JY - **buzz_austin@yahoo.com**   **291673**
E-mail Discussion Group "iwpcusers":
Owners: Roger Skidmore and David Broughton
Moderator: Rob Webb
E-mail Discussion Group "IWPCUG-Web-group":
Owner: Rob Webb, 46 Solent View Road, Ryde, I.W. PO34 5HX - **bwana@ntlworld.com 613693**
Moderator: David Broughton

AGM Meeting at the Riverside Centre

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,

Committee Member/Computer Custodian:
Dennis Linzmaier,

Committee Member/Marketing:
Derek Cox,

Committee Member/Show Organiser:
Cliff Maidment,

Committee Member:
GeorgeWilson,

Committee Member:
David Groom,

Chairman - Computability Section
Roger Skidmore,

Disability Resources Co-ordinator:
Helen Edom,

EDITORIAL

My apologies for an error. **The correction**: On page 13 of the February Hot Key, there is an error in the url in the Contacts section, namely **RegCleaner**, which should read:

http://www.vtoy.fi/jv16/shtml/regcleaner.shtml

In addition there is a back slash missing from the url for NTREGOPT

****

David Broughton loaned me a new device, a **32Mb Netac Only Disk**, which connects directly into a USB hub on my computer to transfer various files and folders that are too big for a floppy drive but not enough to warrant burning to a CD. This apparatus is a flash memory drive that fits on your keyring and weighs only 13 grams. It can store MP3 files, sound, movie or picture files and is compatible on any system with USB 1.0 or 2.0. The capacity of the **USB Only Disk** is available from 32Mb up to 1Gb and varies in price. The 32Mb device is available from **www.inkcycle.co.uk** for only £27.95 inc. vat. More details are on page 7.

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George Wilson has recommended the following useful utility. **REGSCRUBXP**
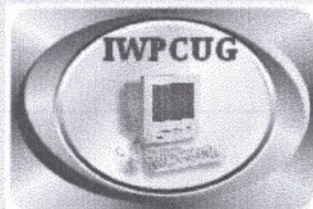Cleans junk out of the Windows XP/2000 system registry.
All changes made to the registry are fully restorable to it's original condition.
You can make an exclusion list of registry entries that RegScrubXP will not display as problems.
You can sift through a list of file extensions, company names, "run upon startup" programs, Internet Explorer history, and uninstall programs to delete what you think is junk.

Available at: **http://home.carolina.rr.com/lexunfreeware**

****

The cover disk has been a challenge over the past few months as the software had to be selected, a readme file produced and as a last minute arrangement the Family History presentation has been added as a bonus to our members. In the folder of Family History you will find a copy of Microsoft PowerPoint Viewer, which needs to be installed before viewing Tony Elgar's PowerPoint presentation. Also in the same folder is a copy of GSP Family Tree for installation, so that our members can experiment with the program. This is a freeware program. David Broughton has kindly supplied the entire website of IWPCUG, which you can explore offline, plus there is a 'Workshop - Scanning made easy' - for which we thank PC Advisor Magazine for and 'Upgrading a Motherboard' for which we thank Computer Shopper Magazine.

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.

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.**

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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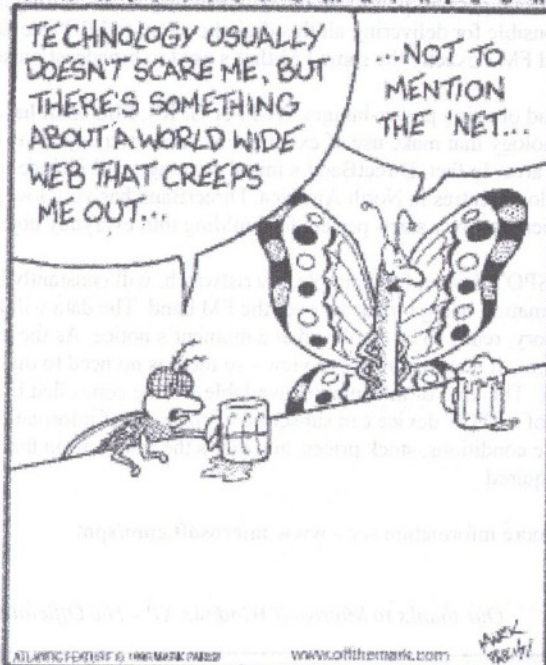
Smart Personal Objects Technology (SPOT)

SPOT Technology is Microsoft's plan for making everyday objects, such as clocks, pens, key rings etc. 'intelligent' by adding the magic touch of software. For example, a 'smart' alarm clock would be able to ensure it was accurate by synching with Atomic clocks (and would update automatically when moved to a different time zone), as well as being able to display news headlines and weather. It could even monitor local traffic news and adjust the alarm time accordingly. The primary purpose of the alarm clock hasn't been changed, but because it's been given some brains and access to up-to-date information, it's been made considerably more powerful.

A SPOT device consists of three components: hardware, software and access to a network. The hardware (an ARM 7 CPU, some RAM, some ROM and a receiver) has been co-developed by National Semiconductors and is both cheap and tiny - tiny enough to build into almost any existing object. Amazingly, a basic SPOT device could have four times the processor speed and eight times the memory of the first IBM computer.

The software is based on Microsoft's .NET Common Language Runtime, and as for the network, well, with the growth in wireless networking technology and high-speed networking for mobile phones, you're probably wondering what exciting new acronym is going to be responsible for delivering all this digital content to SPOT devices. Here's the surprise: it's called FM - exactly the same FM that's used to broadcast music.

Instead of using power-hungry Wi-Fi or GPRS, Microsoft has developed DirectBand, a technology that make use of existing FM subcarrier signals to carry digital information over a wide area. In fact, DirectBand's initial coverage will include more than 100 of the largest populous centres in North America. DirectBand has very low power requirements and a tiny physical receiver size - perfect for building into everyday objects.

The SPOT device, for example, a wristwatch, will constantly be paying attention to the information being broadcast over the FM band. The data will be cached in the watch's internal memory, ready to be displayed at a moment's notice. As the information is being updated all the time, it's always ready to view - so there is no need to dial up or browse through web pages. The kind of information available will be controlled by a personalised website. Every user of a SPOT device can subscribe to channels of information, such as local weather, news, traffic conditions, stock prices, and that's the information that will be displayed on the watch as required.

For more information see:- **www.microsoft.com/spot**

*Our thanks to Microsoft Windows XP - The Official Magazine for this article*

What is USB2.0 OnlyDisk?

Netac USB2.0 OnlyDisk (U2B), is a new type of USB flash drive compatible with USB 2.0 specifications. USB2.0 OnlyDisk provides you a higher transfer rate than ever, which is up to 6MB/S (reading) and 2MB/S (writing). USB2.0 OnlyDisk also possesses completely backward compatibility with earlier versions (USB 1.1/1.0), and performs data transfer at 1.1 MB/S (reading) and 950 KB/S (writing) even over USB 1.1 port. With write protection switch, the files in USB2.0 OnlyDisk can be protected against virus and accidental deleting.

Presently USB2.0 OnlyDisk supports Windows 98/Me/2000/XP and Linux 2.4.x.

More info at:- **www.netac.com** and **www.weast.co.uk**

Windows XP Hints and Tips
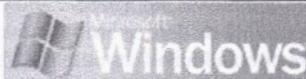
Configure which icons are displayed in the notification area at the bottom of the screen. XP lets you configure which notification icons appear on screen and whether XP hides an icon when its process is idle. To configure the display notification settings, perform the following steps:

1. Right-click the taskbar and select Properties from the context menu.
2. Select the "Hide inactive icons" check box.
3. Click the Customize button.
4. Select the appropriate display behavior (i.e., "Hide when inactive," "Always hide," "Always show") for the icon you want to modify.
5. Repeat Step 4 for each icon whose behavior you want to modify, then click OK to close all dialog boxes.

Displaying the QuickLaunch Toolbar

By default, WindowsXP does not show the QuickLaunch toolbar.
To enable it again:
Right click on an open area of the toolbar
Select Toolbars
Select Quick Launch
Now you can add programs like with Win98

Shutdown XP Faster

Like previous versions of windows, it takes long time to restart or shutdown windows XP when the "Exit Windows" sound is enabled. To solve this problem you must disable this useless sound.

- Click Start button.
- Go to settings > Control Panel > Sound, Speech and Audio devices > Sounds and Audio Devices > Sounds.
- Then under program events and windows menu click on "Exit Windows" sub-menu and highlight it. Now from sounds you can select, choose "none" and then click Apply and OK.

Now you should see some improvements when shutting down your system.

More XP Tips and Tweaks available from **http://home.carolina.rr.com/lexunfreeware**

Broadband

MOVING INTO THE FAST LANE

Feel the bandwidth

Broadband offers three obvious and significant benefits over a modem connection: greater bandwidth, no call charges and a permanent connection to the Internet.

Bandwidth is a measure how much data passes between two points over a given connection. A standard 56K modem theoretically operates at 56 kilobits per second but in practice, peaks at around 42-45 kilobits per second. A typical broadband connection, on the other hand, runs closer to 512 kilobits per second. Quite simply, this means that web pages load much faster, hefty downloads are a breeze and you can enjoy high-quality **streaming** sound and video. With a 56K modem, a 5Mb file takes over 12 minutes to download in perfect conditions but a mere one-and-a half minutes over broadband.

As for call charges, whether you have an ADSL or cable broadband service, you pay a fixed monthly fee for your Internet access and most ISPs let you stay online for as long as you like.

Cable ties

The expansion of the two main broadband networks - ADSL and cable - has been patchy. In particular, rural and semi-rural areas have been last on the priority list and around a third of the population is still unable to get broadband. The main cause for the delay so far as ADSL is concerned is the cost of upgrading local telephone exchanges. BT says it needs between 200 and 700 subscribers per exchange before it is economically viable to offer an ADSL service.

Installation issues

If you're tempted by broadband, you'll need a computer that's up to the mark and it is strongly suggested that you check with your intended ISP before taking the plunge. As a rule, PCs should be running Windows 98 or later and employ at least a Pentium 200MHz processor with 32Mb of memory.

BT's consumer ADSL service uses a broadband modem that plugs into a **USB** port, so you will need a free one on your computer. Some computers have one as standard built onto the **motherboard** but the rest needs a network card that fits into a free **PCI** slot.

ADSL used to involve a visit from a BT engineer but it's now possible to install the requisite hardware yourself using a 'self-install', 'wires-only' or simply 'DIY' ASSL package, with the result that you can get up and running quickly and cheaply. You have to register with an ADSL-friendly ISP first though. This could be BT or any other ISP that offers BT's wholesale product under its own branding. The ISP then deals directly with BT to activate ADSL on your telephone line.

The actual self-install kit comprises an ADSL modem and a 'micro-filter' or two. These small signal-splitting gadgets plug into a standard BT telephone point and let the modem and a telephone handset share a single socket.

One small caveat - although you may live within an acceptable distance of an ADSL-enables exchange (around 5.5km). BT also conducts a line test to see whether the copper wiring running into your home is up to the task. If your wiring fails, which is not uncommon, consult the page on failed 'whoosh' tests on the BTO User Group website for advice. At worst, you may need to have a new line installed.

We can see no good reason not to take the self-install route these days providing you have a rudimentary knowledge of computers and some previous experience of getting online with a modem. If you really can't face going it alone, BT Openworld will send out an installation engineer to do the donkey work. Expect to pay around £250 for the privilege.

With cable broadband, the main requirement is fitting a cable modem to a cable access point in your home. For existing cable TV subscribers, this means more cabling to fit a new access point near the computer. If you don't have cable TV in the first place, you will also need a connection to the cabling in the street, which means more cables and possibly some digging. In other words, it's a job best left to the professionals.

The price of pace

BT Broadband's self-install ADSL package is being offered as a special deal if you sign up before 31st March. You get connected for free (saving £60), you can get a broadband modem for £50 (saving £30) and you pay a flat fee of £27 per month with a Direct Debit Order. You don't get an email service or any web space but you can surf the net and use the phone simultaneously. BT include the monthly fee on your phone bill. However, BT Openworld is a competing company and offers all the usual ISP bells and whistles for £3 more per month. AOL is pricey at £35 but some people would be lost without AOL's "walled garden" approach to the Internet. Clara.net on the other hand offer the following:-

Claradsl Solo Self-Install – Recommended for single machines.

Connection speeds of up to 10 times faster than dial up access
Simultaneous use of telephone, fax & PC
Permanent connection 24/7
Instant access to email and web
Free 50Mb webspace
Dedicated technical support
Unrestricted access to newsgroups
Choose your own modem
Incoming bandwidth – 512kbps
Outgoing bandwidth – 256kbps
Set up fee - £50.00 + VAT

£29.99 inc VAT per month

Demon, Eclipse, Pipex and Freedom2surf are among a slew of ADSL ISPs to step forward with tempting offers. While Freedom2surf announced it was cutting connection fees by 50% to £29.99 ex VAT, Pipex is offering users a choice. Customers can go for a free connection, modem and filters with a one-off activation fee of £23.44 or, if you already have an ADSL modem, you can enjoy completely free activation and month's free connection. A spokesman for Pipex said the offers would run at least until the end of March, but if successful could will be extended further into the year. Freedom2surf and Pipex were preceded by Demon, who announced they would waive setup costs for broadband connection to users who signed up before 31st March 2003.

Our thanks to PC Advisor Magazine for this extract

Broadband

In most cases, broadband suppliers insist on a 12-month minimum contract period. Even when the year is up, however, transferring from one ADSL ISP to another is a fussy affair that necessitates a complete loss of service for anything up to fifteen days.

As for the real budget merchants offering broadband ADSL for £20 or less a month, we would simply urge a little caution. These companies have to pay BT Wholesale £17.33 for each ADSL connection they resell, so anybody offering you a service for £19 or £20 is banking a pittance per customer per month and may - subsequently go bust!

Word up

Inevitably, it seems, even broadband services experience occasional problems and you'll certainly want to avoid any supplier with a consistently lousy reputation. We'd also advise that you keep a 'pay-as-you-go' ISP account active for just such moments - at worst, you should be able to use your old modem temporarily to pick up email; at best, you may be able to establish the cause of the problem by checking your ISP's home page or a support **newsgroup**.

Questions, questions

Are there any special considerations?

Yes, indeed. First and foremost, get yourself a **firewall**. The longer you spend online, particularly in one session - and long sessions are the norm with broadband - the more vulnerable your computer is to probes and other unpleasantries from other Internet users. Windows XP has a decent but no-frills firewall built in; otherwise, install the free version of the excellent ZoneAlarm from our latest cover disk.

Broadband makes it easy to download huge amounts of data including videos and movies. This may seem like a pirate's paradise but do be warned that ISP's require you respect copyright restrictions and otherwise act in a lawful manner. Check the terms and conditions and don't be surprised if file sharing services suddenly become inaccessible.

Kyle MacRae

Our thanks to Computer Active Magazine for the extracts for this article

INTERNET USAGE

Oftel - the UK regulator for the telecommunications industry have recently produced a report on Internet usage. Some of the interesting research statistics found include:

50% of UK adults use the Internet in a variety of locations
42% of UK homes have Internet access
63% of homes with Internet access use unmetered packages
9% of homes with Interent access use broadband packages
9 hours is the average weekly household time spent online

Our thanks to Oftel for this information

Creating an Icon
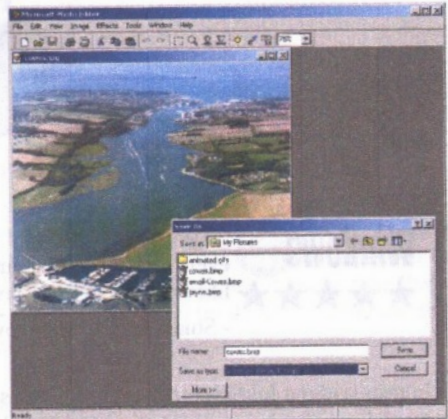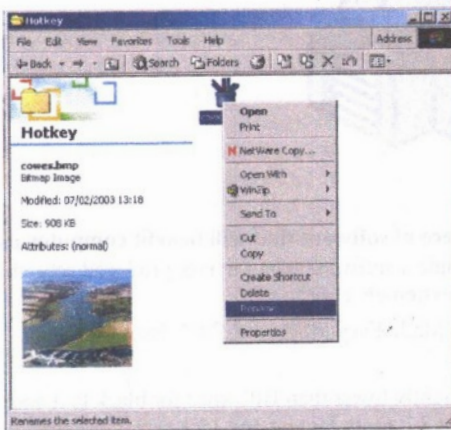by Dennis Linzmaier

To create an Icon from a Photo (jpeg, tif etc.)
use a photo editor (any good one will suffice) I used
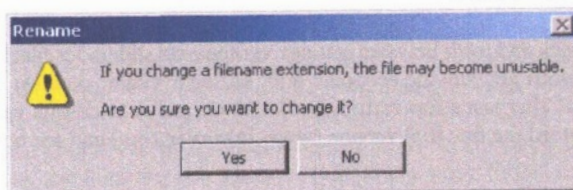Microsoft Photo Editor but they all work in a similar
fashion.

Open your photo (squarish pictures are preferable)

I'm using an ariel photo of Cowes

You then need to save the file as a "BMP"

You then need to rename the file from the directory
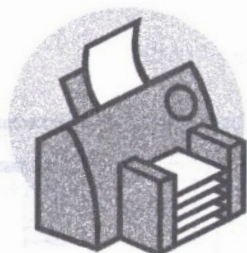with an "ico" extension, i.e cowes.ico

cowes.bmp   cowes.ico

Slash Ink Jet Printing

BUY IT! active "Black text remained almost perfect at 25% and acceptable at an astonishing 45 percent saving"
★★★★★ - Rob Saw, ComputerActive Magazine, 8/02

Windows made easy "a superb and unique piece of software that will benefit computer users everywhere ... It's about time a software manufacturer produced something ★★★★★ like this - great value and extremely easy to use"
- Stuart Tarrant, Windows Made Easy Magazine, 7/02 (issue 51)

In tests without InkSaver, the page yield was slightly lower than HP's spec for black text and much lower for color, so actual costs were about 3.7 cents for text and 15.3 cents for color. With InkSaver set for 50 percent ink savings, I more than doubled black text pages and nearly tripled color output, so suddenly the black text page cost only 1.7 cents, and color cost 6.1 cents. InkSaver reduced page costs for the Epson and Canon printers too, but those savings varied.

At 25 percent, text looked fine on all three printers; and for color graphics, the HP 995c gets a full endorsement, while the Canon gets a maybe.

InkSaver makes it easy to switch back and forth between settings via separate sliders for black and color (a degree of control you don't get with the economy/draft setting available on most printers). InkSaver can pay for itself after just a few cartridges. But since quality trade-offs vary by printer, your best bet is to download the free trial version (**www.inksaver.com**) and see how it works for you.

Our thanks to Dan Littman. From the August 2002 issue of PC World magazine.

Profile on George Wilson -
IWPCUG Committee Member

Maybe it is only to be expected that someone born in Moscow should earn a reputation for bolshiness. George. Wilson, maverick County and Medina Borough Councillor, which had spanned over twenty five years, hails from Moscow, near where Rabbie Burns lived in Scotland. He confesses, indeed takes pride, that he says what he believes, irrespective of whom it embarrasses. A jokey, 16 stone, toby jug of a man, invariably wearing a broad smile. His light-hearted approach to authority belies an underlying toughness and common sense. It was not unusual to see those who took him on over procedural matters having to retire, licking wounds.

Ill health meant that he had time on his hands so he stood and was elected to the council. He believes if you don't participate in government you allow yourself to be ruled by fools. When councillors found out that George was told he was on invalidity for life, they concluded that the problem was in his head, as councillors do, but he had papers to prove that it was in other parts of his anatomy.

His time in County hall gave him the opportunity to press for computerisation. Most other countries were way ahead in this new and necessary technology. George, with the permission of the then Director, proceeded surreptitiously. Now all our schools, libraries and outposts are furbished with the computers. Even the councillors have desktops, whether they can use them or not. Those in need of help cannot do better than to become a member of the IWPCUG; he did.

He first came in touch with the computer technology when he served in the Royal Navy. The ship in which he served had produced a very small computer on board called "George". He denies all claims to fame for this. He was fleet librarian with portfolio, managing Educational, Vocational Training and Welfare Officer. He is remembered for his ability to quote Admiralty Fleet Orders and Kings Regulations backwards. His time in the Navy gave him the opportunity, when in Basra, up the Persian Gulf, to visit the archaeological dig in Ur of Chaldes, where Queen Nefertity and King Nebuchanezer played doctors and nurses in 2000BC. Also to make clandestine forays in Iraq. He says that his memorable visit was to Zanzibar, when his five man diving team raised sunken vessels in the harbour, which then allowed Arab Dows to tie up and unload instead of having to row small dinghies back and forward. The Sultan not so long afterwards was deposed. He and the Sultana came to live in England with their daughter, who had a fatal accident. George says that is another story. He also took up copying commercial wines as a hobby, thinking that if he imbibed enough alcohol he could preserve his livers. Unfortunately it was not so and he now has only half. All you who indulge heed this warning.

IWPCUG will welcome people of all ages to come along to their meetings as a visitor and then join up as a member. If you don't possess a computer, you can use one at any of the libraries on the Island. Check out the website **www.iwpcug.org** or telephone the Secretary (see page 3).

Roadkil's Unstoppable Copier

This program is great for recovering files from scratched CDs or defective floppy/hard disks. Normally when your computer is unable to copy a file from a damaged disk it will abort and delete the portion of the file it has copied. This program however will continue to copy the file right to the end. Any data that is not recoverable after many retries is replaced with blanks. This will allow you to truly recover every byte of information that is available for recovery. The program allows you to specify a single file, a group using wildcards (* and ?) or if you wish, select a starting folder and the program will copy all data from it and any sub folders it may contain. This program doesn't just need to be used for copying files form defective disks, it can be used to transfer any files!"
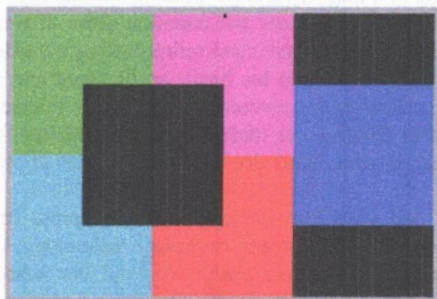
It's at **http://homepages.ihug.com.au/~roadkil/**

PRIZE PUZZLE CORNER
MARCH 2003
by David Broughton

THE BLUE SQUARE PUZZLE

You should get a cover disk with this edition of Hot Key and there you will find the puzzle for this month as a computer program. The name of the program is BLUESQ and the executable file name is bluesq.exe and it can be found on the website copy of the cover disk under the menu item "David Broughton's Puzzles and Programs" or on the club's on-line web site at www.iwpcug.org. You can download and run the program or simply run it from its original location. It has been scanned for viruses. The program will run under any version of Windows or DOS. So what is it all about?

The blue square in the diagram is one of five wooden blocks in a rectangular frame. The black areas are spaces into which the blocks can be moved horizontally or vertically, but not rotated. You have to get the blue square into the area at the left so that it is surrounded by the four corner blocks.

The computer program will allow you to move the blocks either by dragging with the mouse or using the control key in conjunction with the arrow keys. When you have done the puzzle, a code word will appear on the screen. Please send that code word to me (see page 3 for addresses) to arrive by the closing date of Wednesday, 2nd April 2003.

ANSWER TO THE JANUARY PUZZLE

This was in the form of a crossword using numbers, where all the numbers were given and had to be fitted into the diagram. There was one extra number that fitted nowhere and knowing which one was the puzzle. There were a few tricky bits of logic that had to be solved but this did not prove too difficult for some members. The answer was 39714.

I received six results, all correct. They were from Gordon Stoneham, Peter and Dorothy Woollerton, David Groom, Peter Greenhalgh and John Moxon. Congratulations to David Groom who won the random draw and a £5 book token and better luck next time to the others.

Question: I am running WinXP Pro. When I right-click on a file or folder, and use the "Send To" menu, there are only two options on the menu: "Send to 3.5 floppy" or "Send to CD burner." Before, there were several options, such as "Mail recipient," "Zip file," etc. What happened to this menu, and how do I get it back?

Answer: The contents of the "Send To" menu match the contents in your "SendTo" folder. This folder can be found in different places depending on your Windows operating system. Do a search for the "SendTo" folder and you should find it. Since you use Windows XP, you'll find it in C: \ Documents and Settings \ User Name. The "SendTo" folder is hidden by default, so you may have to go to Tools | Folder Options | Show Hidden Files and Folders. For those using Win98, the file is in the C:\Windows directory.

To add contents like the Zip file, e-mail, etc., by creating a shortcut in that folder. To remove an item, just delete the shortcut. Another neat trick: if you want to play an audio file in a specific application rather than the default application, right- click on the file and "SendTo" the audio application. Before this can work, you need to have a shortcut for the audio application in the... you got it, "SendTo" folder. You can even create a subfolder in the "SendTo" folder to group applications such as multimedia, word processing, and so on. As for why your options disappeared, that's hard to say without looking at your system and knowing what has been done recently. This fix is easy, why worry? (Well, it if repeatedly happens, then it's time for a serious look at your computer.)

Our thanks to Chris Pirillo at www.lockergnome.com for this article.

Andrew Elgar and Tony Elgar pictured at the recent 'Family History' talk

MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD

CLUB LIBRARY

For a complete listing of the Library books available to members see our IWPCUG website.

www.iwpcug.org/docs/library.htm

Support local Isle of Wight Businesses

off the mark   by Mark Parisi   www.offthemark.com

WHEN IT COMES TO COLLARS, MAYBE IT'S NOT THE BEST IDEA TO GET ALL THE BELLS AND WHISTLES...