

I.O.U.

The Newsletter of the Independent Oric Users' Group

ISSUE No. 16 - early July 1987.

EDITORIAL

It's been a long time since I last prepared an issue, issue 12 in October 1986 to be exact. Since then the I.O.U.G. has reached its second birthday in April. This went by unannounced due to me forgetting to remind Allan Whitaker, who prepared the last issue. I've also finished my degree course, having managed to get an honours degree even though I found most of my course extremely tedious. Thankyou to all of those people who sent me their best wishes etc. in the run-up to my exams. I have also landed a computing job with G.U.S. Catalogue Order Ltd. here in Manchester, so there is no change of address for the time being.

You will have noticed that this issue is slightly late as have been some of the more recent issues. This is because for the past year or so my degree course and other commitments have meant that I have not been able to accurately predict the demands upon my time. This has caused various deficiencies on my part in relation to the I.O.U.G. such as late issues, delays in replying to letters, mislaying of users' contributions etc. . This is something I hope to be able to put right over the coming months along with introducing new ideas to improve the service offered by the group. Incidentally issue 15 was not as late as some of you have thought. A typographical error in issue gave the later target date for distribution as 15th April when it should have read 25th April.

On the Oric scene we are now faced with the somewhat ironic situation of there being four disc systems either still available or in common use for a computer that no longer sells in the high street. These are the Microdisc, Microdisc with SEDORIC, Cumana system and the new OPELCO system. Meanwhile some French software is beginning to arrive via W.E. (Software) . It's a pity that this sort of support wasn't available when the Atmos needed it to help to encourage sales.

The arrival of the Telestrat is supposed to be imminent. I doubt however that the U.K. price that W.E. and Eureka Informatique arrive at will be sufficient to generate significant sales. The state of the U.K. computer market is such that a new 8 bit home micro is unlikely to be more than moderately successful even if it had the support of the big names such as Amstrad, Commodore or Atari. Most of the interest amongst those who are mainly hobbyists seems to be in the 16 bit machines, or the Atari ST and Commodore Amiga to be more exact. Those that are interested mainly in practical applications are mostly going for one of the Amstrad machines, be it the 6128, a PCW or a PC. The Telestrat, sophisticated as it obviously is, will therefore probably be aimed solely at existing Oric owners looking for an upgrade without losing out on their existing investment in software. I hope that the price will be less than £350 (inc. p+p since W.E. choose not to include p+p directly in their prices) because otherwise such Oric owners may start thinking that if they are going to spend so much then £400 to £550 might be better spent on a computer which has much wider support and more sophisticated software.

Gary Ramsay

NEWSFLASH

David Lynam of Watford has informed us that Cumana have rectified the bugs with the STORE and RECALL commands and have made a replacement ROM available with the corrections and also a SUPER2 DOS. If existing users haven't been contacted with the details then I would advise you to contact your supplier or Cumana directly as

