

I.O.U.

The Newsletter of the Independent Oric Users' Group

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EDITORIAL

Hello once again. My name is Allan Whitaker and the last time I had the pleasure of editing the I.O.U. was issue 15. Let me start off by thanking all the members expressing their desire to see the newsletter continue, offering to compile future issues and sending the many contributions to this issue. As a result of the number of contributions received and a special rate from Gary's photocopiers, this issue has been extended to 6 pages. Also, judging by the number of queries and contacts I have received over the last few months, there are still active ORIC users about with queries, problems or ideas for programs which require persuing. Also, the response to Gary's editorial in issue 19 has been very encouraging and helped make my job so enjoyable. I am sure that you will find the contributions very interesting. To encourage member participation I have initiated a new section for the newsletter to deal with these requests or projects, entitled PROJECTS (logically enough) which I am prepared to administer for Gary.

My own recent little project has been to add a second drive to my ATMOS. I purchased this drive from MATMOS Ltd. (see issue 11) and for £32.14 (v.a.t. & p/p inclusive) received an uncased Hitachi 40 track drive, 34-way drive data connector, drive power supply connector and instructions. I obtained the relevant 34-way connector and ribbon cable required to complete the connection to the master drive. Also, using scrap metal sheets I manufactured a battered but functional case to house it in. The instructions provided with the drive are basically intended for the Amstrad 6128 but proved to be adequate apart from the reference to connecting pin 1 of the Amstrad connector to pin 34 of the drive and vice versa. I ignored this instruction and connected the two ribbon cable connectors pin to pin. After soldering the power plug pins to the Microdisc power supply connector (first removing the DIN connector) I nervously connected up and switched on. Amazingly enough there was no smoke and I soon was marvelling at how backing up a disc using two drives makes life easy for the programmer.

If you are considering purchasing a second drive and are prepared to do it yourself then contact MATMOS soon for they told me that their stocks are dwindling and have less than 100 3" drives left, although they are now marketing a 3.5" drive for £65. The company's address and telephone number is MATMOS Ltd., 1 Church Street, Cuckfield, West Sussex, RH17 5JZ. -- 0444 414484/454377 or try its sister company Computer Appreciation, 111 Northgate, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1BH -- 0227 470512.

A significant proportion of my recent correspondence has concerned the various ORIC disc systems, therefore, I have included a larger section on DISC MATTERS in this issue.

To complete this editorial let me wish you all the best with your ORIC computing.

Allan Whitaker

NEWS

It has been confirmed that Eureka Informatique/ORIC International, in France, has had to call in the receivers. The company has been squeezed out of the French micro market by Amstrad. Also, in this country, O.J. Software and Phildata have withdrawn from the ORIC market.

