

Centre for  
Computing  
History



The future of Cambridge's new museum

*“The Centre for Computing History is quite extraordinary. I have witnessed its progress from a fledgling enterprise in 2010 - with a collection of collections but no home – to its opening in Cambridge in 2013, and now as it celebrates a year of exceptional achievement.*

*Over 5,000 children have stepped through its doors, since March 2014, to participate in programming and electronics workshops. These children deserve a space which is engaging and instructive, where they can feel a sense of adventure, exploration and surprise! Odyssey, the Centre’s new core exhibition, which will be created during the refurbishment of the main gallery, promises to fulfil this vision. With your help it could be completed by the end of this year.*

*Understanding the way the past has shaped the present, especially in terms of technology, has never been more important in enriching our understanding of the world and providing creative inspiration for the future.*

*I am proud to be involved with the Centre for Computing History – as a visitor and benefactor – and I have no hesitation in urging you, to whatever degree you are able, to support this very special organisation.”*

Dr Hermann Hauser, KBE, CBE FRS FREng FInstP  
Amadeus Capital Partners



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## Centre for Computing History

Since opening in Cambridge in August 2013, the Centre for Computing History has demonstrated its ability to delight, motivate and excite all age groups through a variety of activities, most recently through the expansion of its educational work with young people.

Established in 2006, it is a pioneering educational charity and non-profit company. Its core purpose is to increase understanding of developments in computing over the past 50 years through exploring the social, cultural and historical impact of the computing revolution.

While 50 years is small in terms of human evolution and infinitesimal in the history of the stars, it is deeply significant in the context of computers.

Future generations will wonder how it all happened. If we lose that history, we lose our cultural heritage.

The Centre's over-arching aim is to help people capture the 'magic', to engage with the industry's heritage and history of innovation, and come to a better understanding of this most important cultural development.

The Centre is run by a team of five dedicated staff and a group of volunteers who keep its heart beating with their energy and enthusiasm.



Coding Extravaganza with Raspberry Pi, ARM and Computing At School

*“As a ‘bootstrap’ venture - in the spirit of so many early tech pioneers - the Centre has managed to come a long way with limited funding. We are proud of this fact.*

*At the outset, we calculated that we needed £250,000 to allow us to transform the current building and open in Cambridge. Despite only raising 20% of that goal we went ahead, did what we could, and opened the doors. Having attracted nearly 10,000 visitors last year, we are hoping to double that figure in 2015!*

*We now need your help. Although self-sustaining, there is no capital left to finish the transformation of the main gallery, which will cost in the region of £110,000. In its current condition it fails to do justice to the richness and variety of the collection.*

*Over 5,000 schoolchildren visited last year, were introduced to the ‘magic’ of code in our educational workshops, and received guided tours to stimulate curiosity and develop understanding.*

*But for curiosity to flourish, your support is needed.*

*Although visitors can see, touch and use many of the ‘superstar’ machines on display, we lack the resources to show how each of these computers represents a step towards the small, powerful, multi-purpose devices that are inseparably woven into our lives.*

*Refurbishment of the gallery and creation of a new exhibition, **Odyssey**, will help us tell this inspirational story. **Odyssey** will expand the Centre’s educational services and make this story appealing and accessible to anyone – young and old, techie and non-geek alike.*

*Computing history isn’t over. It’s happening now.*

*Our aim is to create an international centre which will inspire present and future generations. We still have far to go in order to complete our vision for a purpose built home in Cambridge – but we’re on our way! The transformation of the main gallery will allow us to complete the first phase of our development.*

*We are deeply grateful to all our benefactors and supporters who have helped us get to where we are today. As we embark on this next stage of our journey, I hope that you will join them in supporting our dynamic, vibrant and very unusual organisation.”*

Jason Fitzpatrick  
Director / Curator

# How you can help

The Centre for Computing History is in Cambridge (where else?).

It integrates history with computer science and education.

It makes the history of computing relevant.

And it needs your help.

Your support will help us to realise our vision for this unique organisation.

As a registered charity we can claim an extra 25% in the form of Gift Aid from personal donations.

Please be assured that any amount you feel able to donate will make an immediate and significant impact.

To donate call us on

**01223 214446**

Operators will be standing by!

BACS Payments:

Centre for Computing History

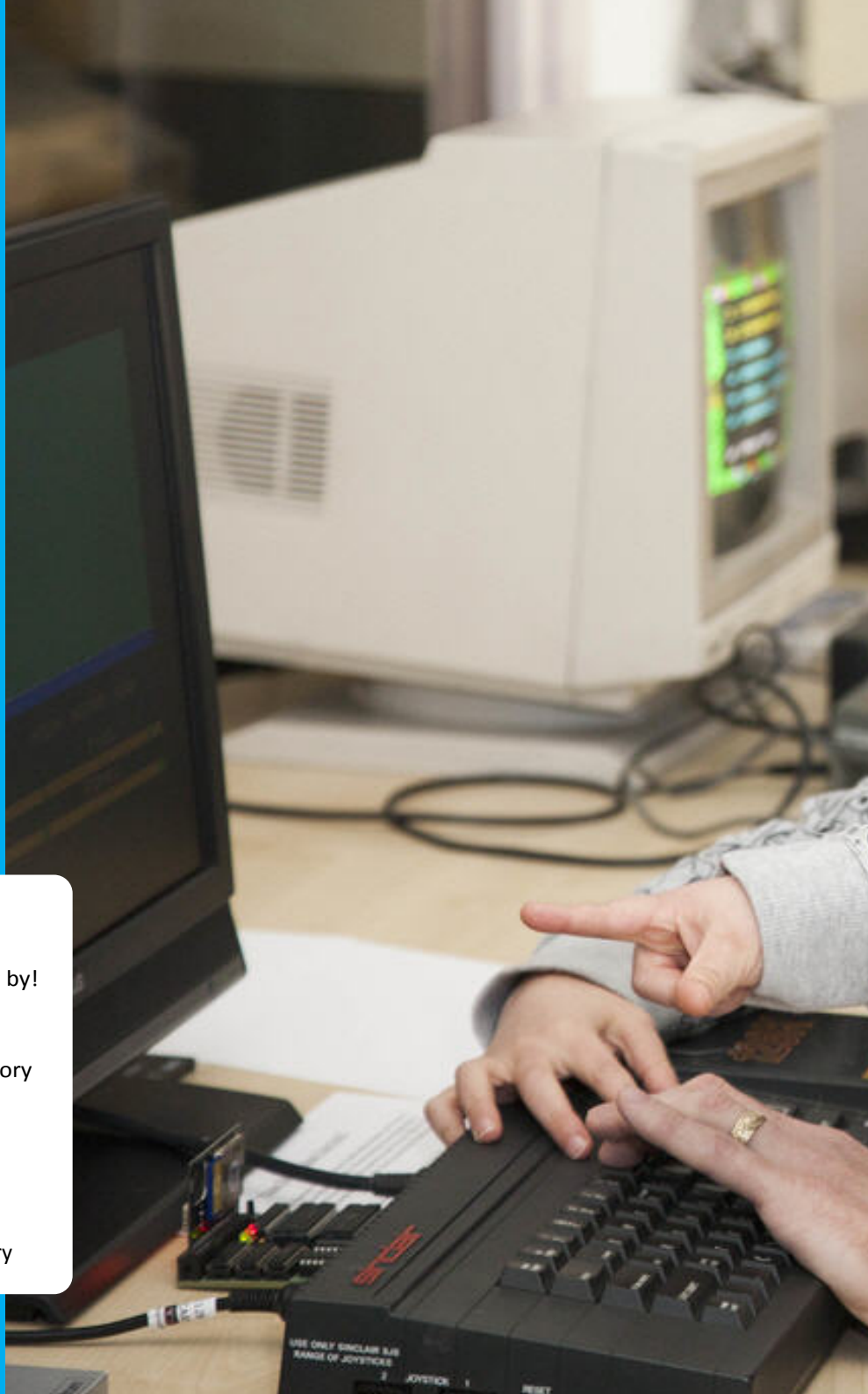
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## Odyssey: computers for everyone

During 2014 we developed exciting plans for this key exhibition that will provide an opportunity for people of all ages to increase their knowledge, awareness and appreciation of the computing revolution and its global impact.

Computing has been responsible for wholesale social and cultural transformation on a speed and scale unparalleled in human history. Innovations in home computing have irreversibly changed our ways of thinking, communicating, organising, working and playing. Yet the history of how we got to this point – in a single heartbeat – is barely understood.

**Odyssey** will bring this history to life in a vivid, modern exhibition designed for technical and non-technical audiences alike. We plan to use every available tool – artefacts, oral histories, marketing brochures, photographs, letters, software, films, interpretations, interactives and ephemera – to present this epic story.

## People love stories and they're a great way to learn

Themed exhibitions will shine a light on dark corners. Depicting the development of computing through the years, each one will be anchored by a ground breaking object, to illustrate a dramatic, revolutionary moment in time.

The objects will act as catalysts for stories about all those remarkable visionaries, dreamers, pioneers, inventors, engineers and microprocessor developers who brought computer technology into our everyday world.

Displays will include:

- Computing History Timeline
- The Cambridge Story
- Creative Computing
- The WWW - Connecting the World
- Home Computing Heroes
- The Silicon Chip
- Social and Mobile

## Our educational service

From January 2014, the Centre has worked with schools and academies to deliver education services, including programming and electronics workshops.

Following changes to the national curriculum, which brings the history of computing and coding into the classroom, demand for the Centre's learning services has intensified. To meet this need we appointed an Education Officer, financed by a private individual, British Telecom and Microsoft Research.

Our Education Officer currently:

- Delivers educational sessions to primary and secondary schools on site: these include programming and interactive learning using historic (1970s and 1980s) machines.
- Delivers Raspberry Pi sessions for students, teachers and the general public.
- Implements a learning strategy to engage schools (Key Stages 1-4) and FE colleges.

The refurbishment of the main gallery and creation of the **Odyssey** exhibition will vastly expand our existing services.

Our Education Officer will use the **Odyssey** exhibition to:

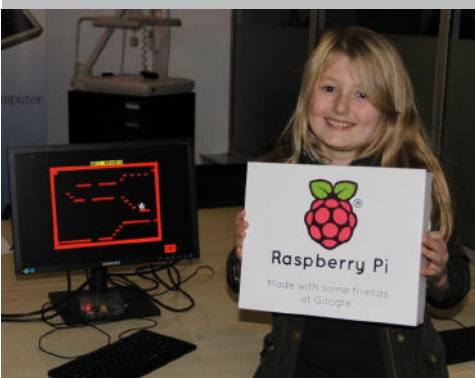
- Create dynamic learning resources to foster innovation, creativity and aspiration through the stories of others.
- Promote understanding about the ongoing relevance of the history of computers to inspire students and underpin their learning.

*"Attracting young people to STEM subjects is fundamental to our ongoing prosperity as a nation. CCH is a valuable asset in promoting the role of technology in people's educational and creative development and in instilling the joys of programming into young lives."*  
Mike Muller, founder and chief technology officer, ARM





## Proud of our achievements



From top left to bottom right:

- Andrew Herbert demonstrates the 1966 Elliott computer to a young visitor
- BBC Programming Workshops with schools and general public
- Learning to Code with Key Stage 1
- Programming Competition at Family Gaming Night
- Sinclair weekend: Sir Clive Sinclair, David Southward and Christopher Curry - meeting during the weekend
- Freudian Slips - Women in Computing
- Computing History Roadshow
- Electronics Lab - Weekend Workshops

We are increasing the chance that the next Bill Gates comes out of Cambridge...





## Viva Computer! a people's history of computing

In 2014 we received an £85,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a new audio-visual project, **Viva Computer! A People's History of Home Computing.**

Known locally as Silicon Fen, Cambridge has been, for many years, home to global advances in technology but there has been no systematic attempt to preserve this rich heritage before it dissipates and disappears. **Viva Computer!** will redress this need and uncover the memories of the past. Focusing on the people, technological breakthroughs, computers and businesses that created, developed and sustained the 'Cambridge Phenomenon' – funding will bring these stories to life for a present day audience and make it freely available as a digital resource for the general public.

The project will aim to secure, wherever possible, the machines, company documentation, advertising materials, books etc. of various local companies, in order to build the museum's Sinclair and Acorn collections into repositories of national significance.

**Viva Computer!** will culminate in an exhibition and month long festival in June 2016.

*"In your life you only get to do so many things and right now we've chosen to do this, so let's make it great."*

Steve Jobs

## A lasting legacy

Developments in the computing industry occur at such a highly accelerated pace that there is a tendency among participants to discard outdated technology and machines rather than keep them for future generations. As a result, the physical heritage is at genuine risk of being lost. CCH aims to preserve this fundamental part of our heritage and ensure it is valued and celebrated for posterity.

We are deeply grateful to all our benefactors who have helped us get to where we are today.

Neil and Tracy Davidson  
Hauser-Raspe Foundation  
Mike Muller  
Ian and Jan Williamson



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