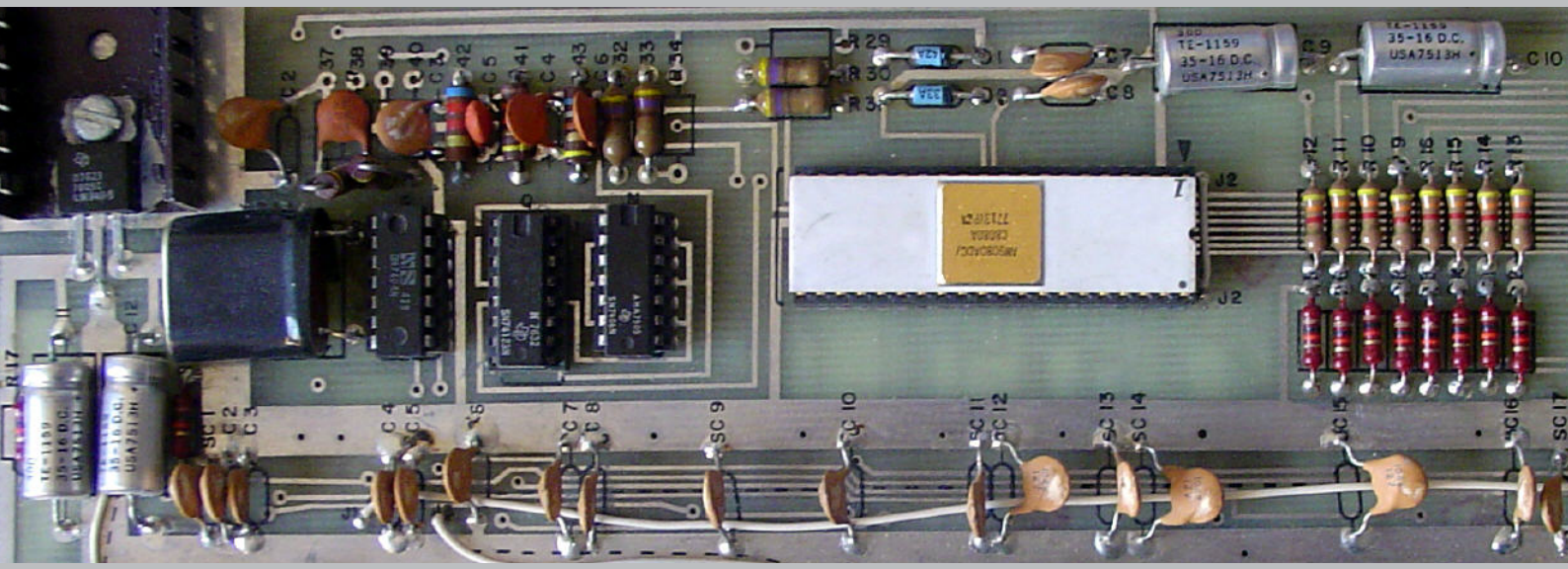
the centre for
computing history



a
new
museum
for
cambridge

“To achieve great things, two things are needed: a plan, and not quite enough time.”

Leonard Bernstein

The Background

Established in 2006 to create a permanent, public exhibition that tells the story of the Information Age, the Centre for Computing History presents an internationally significant collection of vintage computers, memorabilia, artefacts and associated documents.

The core collection consists of over 7,000 items including historic machines like the Altair 8800, usually considered the first home computer, the Sinclair Spectrum, Commodore 64 and Acorn Atom.

As well as preserving and displaying this IT heritage, the Centre traces the social, historical and contemporary impact of the computer; it turns a spotlight on the people, inventions and machines that have played key roles in this influential story and records the information necessary to inspire and enthuse future generations.

Location

Currently situated just outside Cambridge in Haverhill, the Centre is planning to move to a city location. It regularly exhibits at venues around the country; these have included the Open University and the Gadget Show Live. Aimed at everyone from children to academics, an inventive multimedia approach allows visitors to interact with many key machines, thereby providing a hugely entertaining experience.

With a website that currently attracts over 12,000 unique visitors a month, the Centre also enjoys a robust reputation as an educational resource.

Structure

The Centre for Computing History is recognised as a charitable trust No: 1130071. It is currently working towards accredited museum status. The trust is managed and supported by a dedicated development team and a group of enthusiastic volunteers; these supply a range of services including administration, technical, archival, financial, legal, PR and research.

The Information Age

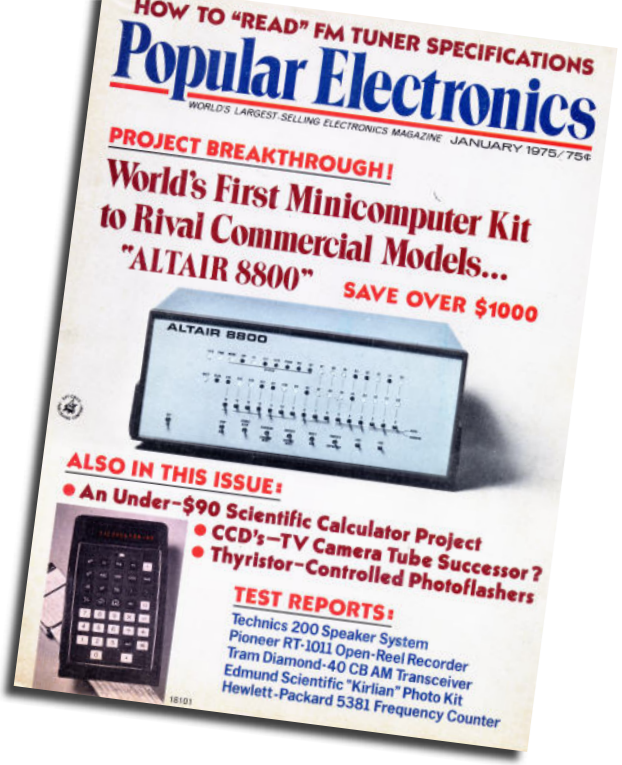
The objective of the Computing History initiative is to create a permanent public exhibition telling the story of the Information Age.

Why?

The impact of the Information Era remains immeasurable. The way we think, our means of communication and the manner in which we organise our lives have all been irreversibly transformed. Rapid global communications and networking now shape modern culture and society.

It is virtually impossible to envisage a world without computers.

However, the fast-paced nature of the computing industry, along with the tendency to discard irrelevant technology as it becomes outdated, creates the risk that a sense of its origins will be lost. The Centre's aim is to preserve this fundamental part of our history as it happens and keep it alive.



The Computing Revolution

The Altair 8800 is generally regarded as being the first 'Personal Computer'. The appearance of this machine, unveiled in January 1975 on the cover of Popular Electronics magazine, sent a shockwave through the computing fraternity and with good reason. The development of the Altair was a watershed moment ultimately leading to the birth of the computer industry.

The history of the computing industry is a compelling subject. In a short space of time it has created the world's wealthiest man, witnessed some of the worst business decisions on record and generated the largest first year profits for any company in history!

Along the way, it has spawned notorious legal battles as well as engendered breath-taking innovation. This is a story that encompasses passion, intrigue, betrayal, wonder, risk and vision.

It is a story still waiting to be told in this country.


Significantly, there is now a generation growing up who know little, if anything, about the dawn of the Information Age. It's hard for them to imagine homework without the Internet or socialising without mobile phones. They are fascinated to learn that a computer in 1975 had less power than a mobile phone of today.
ELITE
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Why Cambridge?

Cambridge is the natural home for The Centre for Computing History in the United Kingdom.

Known as Silicon Fen, the region around Cambridge is home to a large cluster of high-technology companies (computing, bio-technology, electronics and software) many of which have direct and indirect links with the University of Cambridge. This record of high-tech company formation, dating back to the sixties, has become known as the Cambridge Phenomenon. As an area of intense innovation activity, with the City of Cambridge at its heart, it is associated with brilliance and considered one of the most important technology centres in Europe.

A Cambridge Heritage

1812: Charles Babbage - originated the concept of a programmable computer with his first ideas for a calculating machine.

1897: J J Thomson - discovered the electron in 1897 at the University's Cavendish Laboratory setting the foundation for modern physics, electronics and computer technology.

1934: Alan Turing - graduated from King's College, Cambridge. Turing was a founder of computer science and cryptographer, whose work at Bletchley Park was key to breaking the wartime Enigma codes.

1949: Maurice Wilkes - developed the EDSAC, the first stored program digital computer. This and the EDSAC2 underpinned computer research and are central to computer science.

1978: Roger Needham - awarded a BCS Technical Award for the CAP (Capability Protection) Project.

1980: Andy Hopper - working with Maurice Wilkes developed the Cambridge Fast Ring, a pioneering computer network that would later form the basis of broadband Internet.

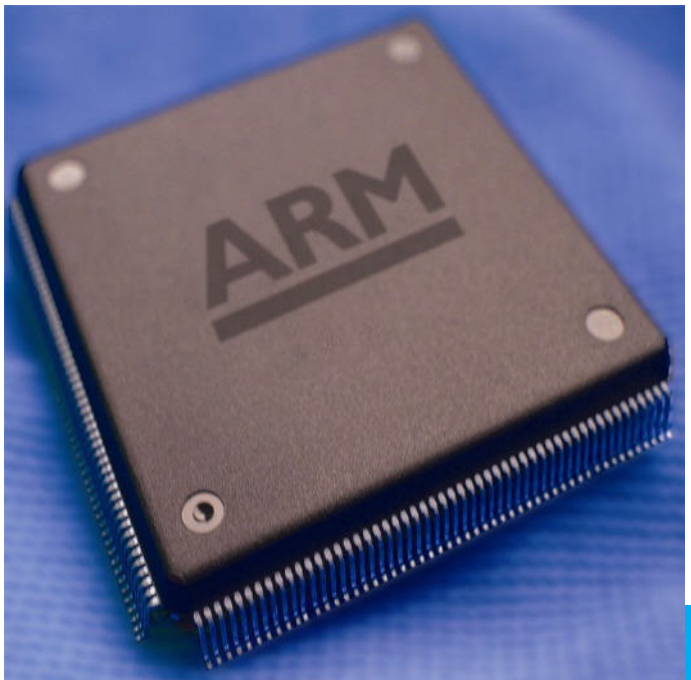
A Cambridge Legacy

The eighties witnessed explosive growth in the use of home computers. Cheap microcomputers dazzled the public imagination, daring users to dream of the brave new world these machines appeared to herald.

Two seminal Cambridge companies were Acorn Computers and Sinclair Computers. Sir Clive Sinclair brought computers to the masses with his affordable ZX80, ZX81 and Spectrum computers. Meanwhile, Acorn, founded by Chris Curry and Hermann Hauser, developed a machine that would be adopted by schools up and down the country: the much loved BBC Micro.

Sinclair is still in business. Acorn has long gone. However, Acorn's legacy, the ARM processor, dominates the mobile computing market with processors in over 98% of today's mobile phones. ARM is still based in Cambridge.

Cambridge is our 'Silicon Valley'.




CAMBRIDGE IS
THE NATURAL
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Our Vision

The Centre for Computing History has been established to tell the story and explore the social, economic, technological and political effects of the Information Age.

The foundation of a new resource: more than a museum

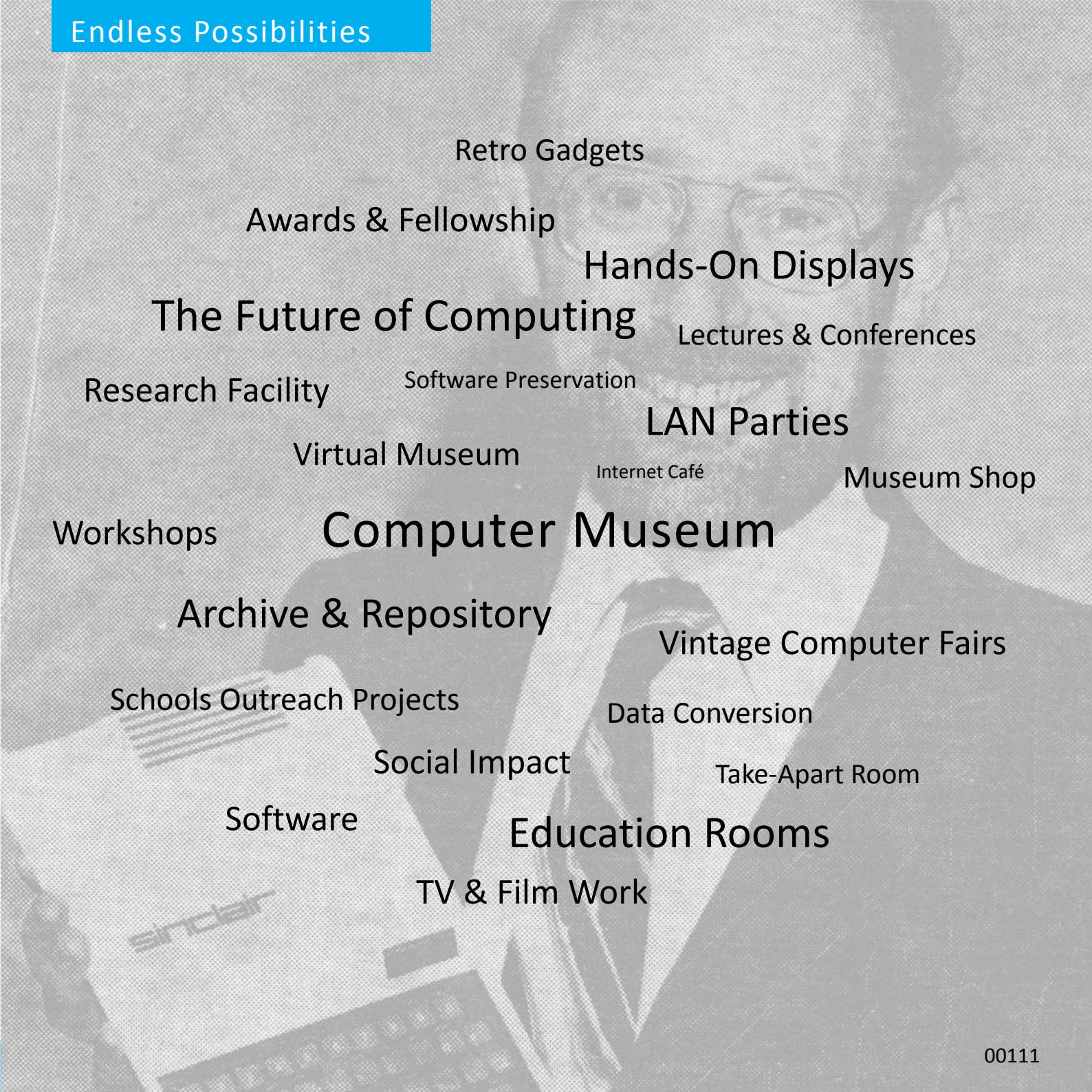
- **World class:** The Centre for Computing History will be a vibrant, international hub that tells the story of the Information Age and explores all aspects of the computing revolution.
- **A centre of excellence:** The Centre will be a powerful and permanent symbol of the importance of computing and a celebration of its story, including Britain's unique contribution to this industry.
- **Unforgettable experience:** The Centre will provide a high impact family experience. The many hands-on exhibits will be accessible to all ages, offering a fascinating, informative and inspirational celebration of computing in all its forms.
- **A beacon for research and learning:** The Centre aims to be a national and international focus for organisations and individuals. It will inspire and educate through sharing the skills and resources to make this possible.
- **Special collections:** The Centre, in addition to its core collection, will be home to unique collections, which will be stored and displayed. It has unlimited potential for future exhibitions.

A glimpse of the future...

There are many ways of experiencing computing technology and the Centre for Computing History aims to provide visitors, young and old, with a range of opportunities designed to stimulate all the senses. They will view vintage computers, use them, explore the stories of the pioneers, step through doorways into the past and fast forward into the future. Most importantly, they will reach an understanding of how it has all happened and what could happen next...

Our wish list includes galleries, exhibition spaces, an auditorium, café and shop.

The Centre's story is now starting to unfold: we believe there will be many **exciting developments** along the way.


Endless Possibilities
Retro Gadgets
Awards & Fellowship
Hands-On Displays
The Future of Computing
Lectures & Conferences
Research Facility
Software Preservation
LAN Parties
Virtual Museum
Internet Café
Museum Shop
Workshops
Computer Museum
Archive & Repository
Vintage Computer Fairs
Schools Outreach Projects
Data Conversion
Social Impact
Take-Apart Room
Software
Education Rooms
TV & Film Work
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Fascinating Machines

Unprecedented interest in an exhibit at the Gadget Show Live 1020. The Centre for Computing History's object-rich display resonates with people of all ages.

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Driven by Passion

The Centre for Computing History was established in October 2006. Driven by an unparalleled passion for the subject, unwavering commitment and sheer determination, the museum has already achieved great things in a very short space of time.

Some achievements to date:

06-2007 - Move to high-street location in Haverhill

07-2007 - Museum appoints general manager

12-2007 - 2,337 unique visitors to website throughout 2007

03-2008 - Involved with **Brits who made the Modern World** Channel 5 Documentary

06-2008 - Featured on ITV News

09-2008 - Heritage Open Weekend - Fully Booked

11-2008 - Supplied Computers for **IT Crowd**

12-2008 - 40,234 unique visitors to website throughout 2008

04-2009 - 22m x 5m Display at the **Gadget Show Live** - Voted 'Most Interesting Stand'
Featured on MSN Tech website

05-2009 - Obtained Charity Status
Exhibited at Wakefield RISC OS Show

06-2009 - Large Collaborative display at OU 40th Celebrations.
Consultants & Suppliers for **Electric Dreams** BBC/OU Documentary

09-2009 - Sponsored & Exhibited at Acorn World & Retro Reunited in Huddersfield
Heritage Open Weekend

10-2009 - Star Attraction at Haverhill Business Exhibition
Micro Men - TV film about Acorn & Sinclair: consultants and suppliers of equipment

12-2009 - 114,942 unique visitors to website throughout 2009

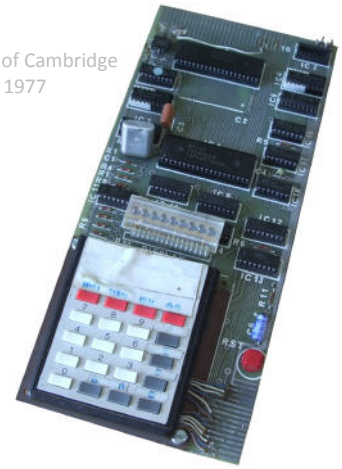
01-2010 - Released Steve Furber video interview; attracts attention from across Europe and USA

02-2010 - Mini-Museum installed at Samuel Ward Upper School, Haverhill.

03-2010 - Display at the **Gadget Show Live 2010**; again voted 'Most Interesting Stand'

04-2010 - Acorn Domesday System on Display at Museum - Preservation project started

06-2010 - Exhibited at UK Vintage Computer Festival @ Bletchley Park



Science of Cambridge
MK 14 - 1977

Acorn Computers Ltd
System 1 - 1979

Tangerine Computer Systems
Oric Atmos - 1984

Sponsorship Opportunities

Together we can make this happen

The Centre for Computing History has navigated an eventful journey over the past four years. It has forged a reputation for originality and impressed organisations as diverse as the BBC, Open University and the Gadget Show Live.

Like any good piece of software, the museum is designed to be scaleable. The cloth has had to be cut according to the means. And yet, thoughtful strategy, sheer hard work and passion have delivered remarkable results, despite a limited budget.

The Centre now stands poised at a definitive moment. To embark on the next stage, reach for its full potential and **achieve great things**, it needs your support.

Through sponsorship, organisations now have the opportunity to make an enduring contribution to computing history and play a key role in shaping the museum's future.

The amount of funds raised will determine the magnitude of the project.

The primary aims are to move the Centre to Cambridge and provide financial support for an initial five year incubation period, at which point the Centre will be self-sustaining.

The Centre for Computing History seeks to reinforce relationships already successfully established during the last four years. It is also looking to new sources of funding from the Corporate and Private Sectors.

Past financial support has come from The Open University, Borough Councils, Town Councils and private organisations. The Centre already generate a portion of its own revenue from exhibitions, TV & film, consultancy and sales.

Future sponsorship and donations are likely to come from the following areas: Companies, Trusts & Foundations, Major Individual Gifts, Public Appeals and Events.

With your financial support we can relocate a successful museum to its natural home in Cambridge.

Sponsorship Packages

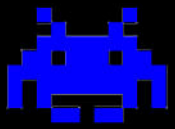
Insert Coin _

Bit Sponsorship

For just £100, anyone can play a bit part in our story.

Byte Sponsorship

£1000: includes listing on the sponsors' page of the website.



Kilobyte Sponsorship

£10,000: includes sponsors' logos appearing within the footer on all pages of the website plus the museum's benefits package.

Megabyte Sponsorship

£50,000: includes all of the above plus additional publicity in the Centre's press releases and media material.

Gigabyte Sponsorship

£100,000: includes all of the above, the highest visibility in press releases and media communications plus an exclusive VIP benefits package.

For details please visit our website.

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Trustees

Jason Fitzpatrick

The core collection of the Centre for Computing History has been amassed by Jason Fitzpatrick. Chairman of the trustees and curator of the museum, Jason's passion, energy and expertise have driven the project forward from day one.

Founder Director of Pure Energy Multimedia Ltd, a digital creative agency, Jason combines a sharp commercial mind with a deep understanding of the ways in which technologies can be pushed to create new possibilities. Possessing an unyielding commitment to quality and innovation, he early on recognised the need to integrate communications processes. He sees the enormous potential in the business capabilities of the web and especially its usefulness as a front line marketing medium.

Having acquired his first computer in 1980 at the age of 10, Jason acknowledges how deeply grateful he is to have had the good fortune to be born at exactly the right moment in time; this age of electronic technology suits him perfectly. He delights in every step forward made possible by each new development in computers. He is, however, no happy amateur, but a keen professional who has no problem with the challenges that a technological based business brings, including its demand for just the right measure of strategic and creative thinking.

His academic background is in electronics, in which he gained an HND. Apparently, his final papers were flawless – he received one of the highest marks ever recorded by his college – repeating an earlier performance in 'A' level Physics. Along with his many competencies, he is proficient in several programming languages.

Elaine Collins

A founding director of the Centre, Elaine Collins runs Gold PR, an independent PR consultancy. She is also a qualified teacher with over 12 years experience of teaching students 11 to 18 years of age.

In November 2003, Elaine, Jason and two colleagues formed the Haverhill Chamber of Commerce. Within six months they launched the Haverhill Business Awards. This initiative was an outstanding success and attracted sponsorship from organisations as diverse as BAA Stansted, Barclays Bank, Vibe FM and Genzyme. The programme culminated in a Gala Ball and Awards Ceremony held in May 2005, which was attended by nearly 400 key members of the area's business community and representatives from organisations across the region.

Lisa McGerty

Lisa McGerty is a founding director of the Centre. Her academic profile dovetails perfectly with the aims of the Centre; the title of her doctoral thesis was, 'Nobody Lives Only Cyberspace': Gendered Subjectivities and Domestic Use of the Internet'. Lisa currently works at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge as the Trauma Audit & Research Network Co-ordinator.

Peter Robson

An active trustee of the Centre since 2007, Peter Robson is a RIBA registered architect who runs his own practice from Newmarket.

Nick Keeble

Nick Keeble has taken a keen interest in the Centre since becoming a trustee in 2007. He is Arts and Leisure Manager at Haverhill Arts Centre and has a wealth of experience in organising Arts initiatives.

Jason Fitzpatrick with Peter Snow during filming of the Channel 5 series ‘Brits who made the modern world’

The story of the Information Age and of all the engineers,
innovators, inventors and creative visionaries
who made it happen is inspirational.

It is still waiting to be told in this country.

The "Centre for Computing History" initiative is:

Possible Relevant Timely

If it doesn't happen here in Cambridge, it will happen elsewhere in the UK very shortly…

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