

# Plymouth Mac User Group Newsletter

## June 99

### Hello and welcome to our June newsletter!

We have received many contributions for this edition and we would like to thank **Tag Gorton, Ron Hall** and **Andrew T. Schnick** for their articles !

One of the big events for the club was our first Open Day on April the 18th in Plymouth which turned out to be a huge success. We recruited almost 30 new members and were supported by MacAce of Bodmin and Tavy Typesetting of Tavistock (both can be found in the Yellow Pages) who had sales and information stalls. It was very pleasant to meet many of our members in person and being able to help with their problems and queries.

A big "thank you" to everyone who made the effort and to those who helped to make this event such a huge success !!

We hope to have another Open Day very soon - maybe in Cornwall or up in the Exeter area like a Plymouth Mac User Group Roadshow kind of thing ? Any suggestions would be most welcome and volunteers to help organise such an event are desperately wanted ! We also plan to have regular workshops with different subjects e.g. "An Introduction to MacOS 8.5", "Desktop Publishing", "Graphics" and maybe a special workshop for older MacUsers (O.A.Ps). The maximum number of participants per workshop will be limited to 8 plus two teachers but a minimum of 5 participants will be required. Advance booking via e-mail or by post. We will post the dates for the upcoming workshops shortly. We have also found a new venue for our bi-monthly meetings: Noah's Ark, 32a, Courtehay Street, Plymouth (off Royal Parade, behind WH Smith). Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, 20th of June 1999 at 12 noon.

Enjoy your newsletter !

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### iMac Newbie By Tag Gorton



*Moving house or 'losing' one's life partner are supposed to be top of the shop when it comes to traumatic life events. Strangely enough, more dramatic or exciting happenings than this do not figure too highly on a psychiatrist's trauma hit list - although one I think they ought to consider very seriously, is the upheaval involved in changing computer platforms!*

The change had to come. My '040/PPC based Amiga was becoming increasingly inadequate for internet work and, while Gateway (the new owners of Amiga Technologies) have already produced a prototype cross-platform Amiga, I really could not wait another eighteen months for a new machine and it was time to look around.

The choice in fact was fairly stark. I could either purchase a Wintel PC and run my favourite programs using Amiga emulation - or change to Apple Mac. A year ago I would not have considered this course of action at all because my perception of this company was that it was collapsing before the all conquering might of Microsoft - and no matter how good the operating system, it could not compete against the financial muscle and marketing power of the so called 'Evil Empire'. My mind was changed by the advent, and success of, the iMac.

#### *Works as Well as it Looks*

I know that for many hardened Mac hands, the iMac, while very pretty, is largely unexpandable and not really a machine for enthusiasts. Well I think this is very true. The iMac is NOT for born again enthusiasts, because it is for people who

want a machine that is easy to use and powerful enough to do most of the standard computer jobs. My own machine is used largely to enhance my hobby activities by improving communication between like-minded people and also to crunch words for publication which pays for both hobby and computer. A bonus is that it is the first ever computer to look as if it has not been designed by a style-challenged geek.

The fact that I do not spend hours learning to know my computer inside-out does not mean I am immune to the attractions of a machine that works as well as it looks. I did have problems using my iMac initially, but this was based on my experience with another graphics based operating system and, of course, the machine did not behave in *quite* the way experience had led me to expect. In fact the operating systems of both Amiga and Mac are very similar and after some experimenting I began to feel at home in my new environment. Here at last was a machine, other than an Amiga, that did sensible things like putting an icon on the desktop when one put a disk in it!

### *Little iMac Book*

Of course there *are* things about iMac that I dislike. One thing that is particularly annoying is the lack of documentation provided with ones new machine. O/k, I know that everything is provided on line and one can always print it off etc. etc..... One cannot however, settle down in the loo for half an hour with half a dozen sheets of A4. If proper bound documentation can be provided for a microwave oven costing 150, why can't Apple provide something similar with a designer machine crafted to drag in the computer illiterate?

An American friend of mine sent me a delightful publication called "The Little iMac Book" written by a lady called Robin Williams. It cost eighteen dollars and is perhaps the most user friendly handbook I have ever come across. I have to say that it was perhaps too basic for what I wanted, but my American friend is far more at home with the insides of a steam locomotive than the keyboard of a computer, and *he* was singing the praises of both book and machine. While we are talking books, Maria Langer's tome on Mac OS 8.5 provides a little more depth in a palatable way, although the cover 'flash' saying "iMac section" was a bit of a cheek, bearing in mind that the relevant portion of the book mentioned little more than the fact that the iMac does not have a disc drive.

### *Where is the DEL Key?*

Back to complaints and perhaps a more general gripe is both the cost of Mac software and the annoying habit of Advertisers in Mac magazine who advertise prices Ex. VAT. Now I am a consumer, not a trade customer as, I suspect are most of the readers of Mac Format. I therefore object strongly to having to do this little sum 'cos things look cheaper without VAT. Do they think we are stupid? Or is it a matter of each advertiser being scared to be the first one to use real prices? It is worth mentioning however, that apart from Norton Utilities and perhaps a virus killer, the iMac comes with a fairly complete suite of programs.

O/k now I am really scraping the barrel here, but as a word cruncher, it is important to me. In Apple (Claris) Works, deleting to the left of the cursor can be easily achieved by pressing the right arrow. I could not however, find a way of deleting the character to the RIGHT of the cursor, which is a perfectly standard WP operation, and so I looked it up in the on-line help on my iMac. It says "...to delete the character to the right of the cursor press DEL". Read my lips, Apple. The iMac (and G3) keyboards do not have a DEL key and it is b\*\*\*\*y annoying!

### No Regrets?

Bearing in mind that the Mac can cope easily with Wintel text files, one would think that changing from one Motorola processor based computer to another would be easier and this certainly was not the case when I decided to swap my PowerPC Amiga for a nice new iMac. Puzzlingly, the Motorola machines would not talk to each other without the help of that nice Mr Gates! I had to save RTF files to a PC formatted HD disk and transfer to my iMac via my Imation Super Drive. Yes I am aware that I could do this via Email, but for some reason my iMac would not accept every file this way. I still have several articles and a book draft that are awaiting transfer, but I will, certainly, be there very soon.

My address book has been rebuilt, my newsgroups, bookmarks, and email address list have been painstakingly reconstructed and I have learnt to use my nice new peripherals. Life, on the computer front anyway, is proceeding well. Certainly I do not regret changing. Like Amiga users, I do not have to depend for help on an anonymous half trained student on the end of a premium cost telephone line. With like minded individuals in a user group such as this, combined experience can provide an answer to most user problems. I do wish however, that I had waited three weeks to purchase a nice green 266. But then the new generation is here already. Never mind I shall change in three years. At least Macs are worth something on the s/h market!

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### Addendum

It has occurred to me that many of us iMac users are a just a little different from the more usual run of Macintosh enthusiasts. Indeed, many of us are not 'natural' computer users and it really is handy to have someone to ask when things just don't seem to do what they are supposed to. The Plymouth User Group have several people who would be happy to answer our queries and, until a more formal method (perhaps a mailing list) is set up, I am happy for my Email address to be used as a contact point specifically for iMac problems.

## iMac Tip

If your machine seems to be acting a little odd try rebuilding your desktop! It can solve a wide variety of unexplained problems and it is something that is well worth doing on a regular basis for your iMac's day-to-day health. Read the directions first and then try it.

1. If your computer is **on** , quit all applications. From the Special menu, choose Restart.
2. Instantly hold down the Shift, Option and Command keys and keep holding them down. You will get a message telling you extensions are off. When you see that, you can let go of the Shift key (although you don't have to) Keep the Option and Command keys down until you get a message telling you that your desktop is going to be rebuilt. Click the OK button.
3. Your machine will then continue to boot. After it has booted all the way up, hit restart again to load your extensions.

And that is it! This simple procedure once a fortnight will help keep your machine in the rudest of health!

(Other [tips](#) can be found elsewhere on the website!)

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## Posted By Ron Hall

### To set up an iMac for IC24.....

Go to the connection wizard to set-up a new connection

stage 2, enter IC24 register as the dial in name, set to modem,

3) Set modem settings

4) Enter Dial up number 0845 3040519

username icguest

password guest

5) No PPP

6) No to IP address

7) All server assigned, so leave blank

8) leave blank for time being

9) leave blank for time being

10) leave blank for time being

11) No proxy

12) Finished, now connect

Then connect, and open Internet Explorer to our registration page, <http://register.ic24.net:10001>

Enter your details as required.

Copy down your registered details at the end. Do not download the file to update your browser and mail - these only work for PC's.

Disconnect, then make another dial up connection, this time for your normal login.

Go to the connection wizard to set-up a new connection

stage 2, enter IC24 as the dial in name, set to modem,

3) Set modem settings

4) Enter Dialup number 0845 3040510

username ic..... - as specified by our server when you registered

password ..... - as specified by you when you registered

5) No PPP

6) No to IP address

- 7) All server assigned, so leave blank
- 8) enter your email address and password
- 9) enter your pop email address e.g.. *ic00xxx00@pop3.ic24.net* <*mailto:ic00xxx00@pop3.ic24.net* >  
set smtp host to smtp.ic24.net
- 10) news server - not activated at the moment, but will probably be news.ic24.net (you can enter this later on anyway)
- 11) No proxy
- 12) Finished, now connect

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## Subject: Macintosh Myth?

Date: Wed, 26 May 1999 10:29:01 -0500  
From: "Andrew T. Schnick" <aschnick@earthlink.net>  
To: Paul Mason <paul.mason12@virgin.net>

Got an answer for me?

I got some ad quicktime movies about Macintoshes off of Apple's FTP site in the why mac directory, and it opened my eyes to things I never thought were part of Macintoshes with out additional hardware or software. These things might not be possible with my computer, (Power Mac 6100/60 AV), because I feel a lot of technologies were included in macs right after my model was discontinued.

In these quicktime movies I got from Apple's FTP site, it said that Macintoshes come with built-in video capability, and video conferencing. Doesn't a person have to add software for these features? I know there is a video input jack on the right side of my Power Macintosh 6100/60 AV 14 monitor, but I don't know if I need a TV to PC package that requires a PCI slot that I don't have. Is there an instructional video course that might teach how to use these features? Oh, and how come I can't find any digital video cameras that aren't USB? Any answers would be nice. Thank you for your time in reading this email.

Andrew T. Schnick  
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We received this via e-mail: (please note the User Group does not recommend or not recommend this company, this is for information only)

Hi, my name is James. I work for a company called First Choice Components LTD.

We sell memory specifically for the computer trade, and I thought you might be interested in our latest prices, listed below.

If you have any questions, or would like some information of our other products, please give me a call.

Thanks,

James

	<b>iMac Dimms</b>	<b>G3 Memory (Yosemite)</b>
<b>32 mb</b>	£19	£19
<b>64 Mb</b>	£36	£35
<b>128 Mb</b>	£74	£70
<b>256 Mb</b>		CALL

James Kirkby  
FIRST CHOICE COMPONENTS LTD

Tel UK 0181 657 3220  
Fax UK 0181 651 3313

Email: [jkirkby@fccmemory.com](mailto:jkirkby@fccmemory.com)  
Web: [www.fccmemory.com](http://www.fccmemory.com)

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This is what Apple's Black Yosemite looks like, in my opinion better than the blue and whites



Paul Mason

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And here is where you can download Quick Time 4:

Dear Mr. Mason:

Thank you for your recent correspondence to Apple Computer, Inc., requesting technical assistance with QuickTime 4 Beta. Currently Apple provides support for this product on the web at [<http://www.info.apple.com/support/quicktime/index.html>](http://www.info.apple.com/support/quicktime/index.html). If you wish to report a problem please post a description of the problem you are experiencing on Apple's Tech Exchange message board. You may post your feedback at the web site listed above.

Sincerely,

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We have once more reached the end of our newsletter. Hope you enjoyed it ! Please keep sending in articles !  
Looking forward to seeing you on June the 20th , until then  
take care

Paul

P.S.: if you would like to see some pictures from our Open Day, [Click Here!](#)