

by Steve Fryatt – stevef@wrocc.org.uk

Joel Rowbottom contacted us last month, shortly after the last newsletter was sent out to members, to tip us off about Acorn World 2009 (yes, you did read that correctly). The event, which has no connection to the show that Acorn cancelled eleven years ago, is to be held next month in Huddersfield as part of the Retro Reunited classic gaming convention.

The event will be taking place over the weekend of 12th and 13th September, in the Cedar Court Hotel at Ainley Top near Huddersfield. From the information which is currently available, a lot of the focus seems to be on old 8-bit systems, with a wide range of interesting hardware add-ons, upgrades and software currently shown on the exhibitor list and floorplan.

The list of names who will be present makes interesting reading for anyone with a long (or on some cases, not so long) memory. Neil Fazakerley, from Beeb Control, will be demonstrating Beeb- (and Iyonix-) controlled robotics; Rob Sprowson will be showing off his hardware upgrades for 8-bit systems; demonstrations of John Kortink's GoMMC will be taking place.

There will be a Domesday System present – courtesy of Joel – and the Centre for Computing History, who attended our show in April, will also be there. The current exhibitor list contains many others with 8-bit hardware upgrades, games and software on display.

It isn't all 8-bit, however, and there is an "Arc and RiscPC Gaming" stand listed amongst the exhibitors. Although not down as an exhibitor, RISC OS Open Ltd are scheduled to make an appearance on the Sunday to talk about RISC OS 5, the shared-source project, and Beagleboards.

A quick email to organiser Dave Moore to confirm the details for this article get me the reply that there may well be some other



RISC OS-related exhibits present. One of the exhibitors plans to show the current work in progress on a five-player arcade game for our systems, some of the networking exhibits will contain 32-bit hardware, and Acorn's Pizza Oven RiscPC slice will be on display.

Dave also noted that he is aware of the current imbalance in favour of 8-bit systems, and will be happy to allocate a few more tables to RISC OS exhibits if there is the interest.

Tickets for the event cost £13 for the weekend, and cover both Acorn World and Retro Reunited. They can be purchased online in advance via the show's website, or on the day. However, Dave did warn me that the last couple of similar events he has been involved with have sold out a few weeks in advance, so bear this in mind if you decide to make a last-minute decision.

Alongside Acorn World, the Retro Reunited event is a gaming convention covering a wide range of old and new hardware. In addition to the BBC Micro, the website lists a diverse range of systems including Amstrad, Atari and Commodore, as well as Microsoft, Nintendo, Sega and Sony. There will even be full-size arcade machines there, if that takes your fancy.

The whole event is being run on a non-profit basis, with all proceeds being donated to the Shelter charity for the homeless.

To find out more

Details of the Acorn World event can be found at www.acornworld.co.uk

Retro Reunited has its own website at www.retroreunited.info