

Stuff for Guy

Originally created to cheer Guy up. Now, sadly, it's a memorial.

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»» And, finally...

Thank you all for participating and visiting this blog. It's now time to wrap it up but it will stay online for the foreseeable future.

You are welcome to download a copy of the full blog - all pictures, posts and comments with links to external material - at <http://www.tebbo.com/StuffForGuy.pdf> It's about 1.2MB and arrives as a 39-page Acrobat document.

May 12, 2010 | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

»» A celebration for Guy: June 25th

Daughtermouse has put full details on Guy's hunkymouse blog: <http://hunkymouse.livejournal.com/63989.html>

May 07, 2010 | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

»» Goodbye Guy

This lovely picture was on the cover of the order of service at Guy's funeral. (Click on it for larger version.)



Bon voyage, Guy.

UPDATE: Turns out James Gracie was the photographer and Guy's companions were Noel on the left and Kelvin on the right. James penned a short note about the trip which is worth repeating:

My lasting memory of Guy was his incredible way with words. We were on the way back from a well lubricated session in Spain and the Flanders and Swan version of one of the Mozart Horn Concertos came out, word and tone perfect.....

Apart from that, he and I probably still hold the speed sailing record on the Mar Menor. We had all eaten at a restaurant on one of the islands and Guy and I blasted back on a cat flying the kite. The late afternoon thermal wind came in and caused a general recall for all the boats, but we were allowed to continue blasting back and forth, so fast that the safety boat couldn't keep up with us. So there are no photos of that, only great memories.

April 24, 2010 | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

»» Guy's memorial

No plans as yet. End of May perhaps. Lucy is keeping us informed on the Hunkymouse blog. <http://hunkymouse.livejournal.com/>

I think this particular blog has served its purpose. It gave Guy some pleasure when he was able to enjoy it. And it was a focal point for conversations when he first left us. But, now, I'd say that the hunkymouse blog is the centre of the Guy universe.

I'll keep this blog running and will add new tributes to the list on the right as they come to my attention. And, if you prefer Typepad to LiveJournal, you'll still be able to post here.

My heartfelt thanks to all those who turned my little idea into a big reality. Not least of all, Guy himself, because he was the magnet for all the affection and reminiscences.

April 14, 2010 | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

[Guy's hunkymouse blog](#)

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published tributes a-z

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»» Guy's funeral

Lucy has posted details of the funeral arrangements here:
<http://hunkymouse.livejournal.com/63103.html>

April 11, 2010 | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

»» It's all over for Guy

I'm sad to report that Guy is no longer with us. He died early this morning. His wife, Mary, says it all with her comment in this blog, reproduced below:

I want to thank everyone who has posted here. Your words meant a lot to Guy (and to myself and our daughters).

I am really sorry to report here that Guy died at twenty to one this morning (8th April). Right until this afternoon he had been peaceful and calm. He had a nasty fall this afternoon and I think that unsettled him tremendously. The nurses put him on a morphine pump at about 5pm yesterday. We were lucky to have a wonderful nurse from Marie Curie with us this evening and she looked after him (and us) really well. I have one of my sisters staying with me and one of my nieces. Lucy and Alice are both coming here tomorrow.

Guy died with dignity. He was a wonderful man and I will miss him terribly.

April 08, 2010 | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(68\)](#)

Technorati Tags: [guykewney](#)

»» Some words for Guy

I've started this blog in case anyone feels like reminiscing about good times spent with Guy Kewney. Or bad times, with a humorous twist. (And keep it clean, you never know who might be reading it.)

The aim is to give him some cheerful reading between the bouts of discomfort.

If you can't get your comments up, write to me: david.tebbo.com - you know where the @ and . belong

March 01, 2010 | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(175\)](#)

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» Photos

I'm really sorry about the fit of the photos. Click if you want to see them uncropped.

If you'd like to add a photo, please email it to me: david.tebbo.com - you know where to put the @ and the . - thanks. Add your own citation as well if you don't like mine.

Here's a boring group shot sent in by Banksie from what looks like an IBM event. But lots of memorable people...



Here's another from Banksie. It's erm, well, you tell me. Did Banksie and Guy slope off on a Texan holiday together perchance? Tongues will wag...



July 9th last year, Banksie and Tebbo had lunch with Guy by the (freezing) lakeside. We thought we'd take a sad pic and a happy pic. It was that sort of day. Here's the happy one:



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Young John Tweddell and the even younger Elaine Connolly kindly supplied their 'stockyard' photo. Here goes:



And now Phil Manchester has dug out a 1978(?) pic from the Computing office. Someone is trying to impress Guy with a transparent computer. Anyone know who that someone is?



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March 01, 2010 | [Permalink](#)

comments

 You can follow this conversation by subscribing to the [comment feed](#) for this post.



Hi Guy. I remember the first time we met. It involved a circuitous walk round Soho, taking in a games arcade. We probably ended up in Hari Krishna or similar. [Later: Bong! It was Cranks in Marshall Street.] It was my first introduction to a real journalist. I nearly fled.

The next time was at a computer show where I'd arranged to interview Adam Osborne. To my shame, I totally lost my nerve and asked you to do it. (I think that was June 28 1979 - my first day on PCW.)

Then you told me that my hairstyle was inappropriate for an editor. So I changed it. And there it stays. What's left of it.

Tons of other silly little memories, but I'll let others have a go now.

Posted by: [David Tebbutt](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 04:15 PM](#)



Guy, once I asked you what you thought of peer review for writers.

As I recall you replied, "Who is a peer?"

Tim :-)

Posted by: [Tim Anderson](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 04:35 PM](#)



In among all the bullshit of the late 70's and early 80's figuring out the PC publishing game...

There were two guys who taught me the REAL value of editorial integrity and knocked the "whore" out of me (the ad sales guy!) - Kewney and Tebbo.

Not sure if you needed a beard or unruly hair to gain my respect but it didn't hurt!

Posted by: [Stephen England](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 04:41 PM](#)



I still remember the many hours of fun we had (well I enjoyed it, anyway) when I was on CW and you were on Computing. Were both covering the microcomputer and semiconductor scene and so we'd always go to the same press events.

PRs, bless them, seemed to assume that if we ever got with arms-reach of each a fight would ensue, so they'd do everything in their power to keep us apart.

Till one day (a TI event, I think) there was a press conference, followed glasses of grog and buffet lunch. PR flacks studiously kept us at other ends of the room, till we went to get food. We approached the same small table - just 2 seats - and sat down together. I have this memory (after all these years maybe its just wishful thinking, but its there nonetheless) of you and I looking up to each other at the time, then turning to look at the flacks and their starled faces as they waited for the fight to start, and then we just giggled.

Posted by: [Martin Banks](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 04:42 PM](#)



And of course, the one journalist you and I both looked up to in those days, was Tim Palmer. Well, I suppose Hedley and Max Relic, too...! But Tim was the fountainhead for me

Posted by: [Gkewney](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 04:47 PM](#)

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I do remember annoying you at a Personal Computer World Show when I created a name badge that said 'NOT GUY KEWNEY'. Apart from having beards we don't look a bit alike, but lots of people thought Me was thee that day.

Posted by: Martin Banks | [March 01, 2010 at 04:47 PM](#)



Well I doubt if you'll remember me Guy, even though we did spend a couple of days together in San Mateo as guests of Trip Hawkins a million years ago. Ah those early Electronic Arts days!

When I got offered a job to be Director of IBM's first ever outside consultants in the 80s I asked you if you thought I should take the job. You told me that as IBM spent all its time saying no comment it would be a cushy number and that I should take the money and run. How things have changed!

You nag me mercilessly about my smoking (finally stopped five years ago and never tempted to go back!) and complain about my juniors making spelling mistakes and typos in their press releases. Actually, you were a grumpy old goat even in those younger days so goodness knows why we all love you so much.

You were more of a mentor to me, in all matters tech and complicated than you know and I am always grateful for that, though I've slipped right back to ignorant bliss these days.

What a bummer about your cancer and your chemo. I'm sorry we lost touch over the years.
Tari xx

Posted by: Tari Lang (used to be Hibbitt) | [March 01, 2010 at 04:51 PM](#)



Ahh, yes Guy, Tim Palmer. The journalist IBM UK used to phone to find out what was happening at IBM Corporate. That was back in the days when the mushroom method was the high-point of management thinking.

Posted by: Martin Banks | [March 01, 2010 at 04:56 PM](#)



I remember I first met Guy at the PCW show in 1988. I was still working for Amstrad in the states but about to get married and move over here.

Roland introduced me to Guy on the Dell stand. We got in to a heated debate over OS2.

Roland later informed me I was arguing with the number one journalist in the UK - and he became my first real UK friend.

Posted by: Jennifer Perry | [March 01, 2010 at 04:57 PM](#)



I have to confess my early memories are clouded by the vast amounts of alcohol we seemed to put away. But I can remember seeing you on the dancefloor of a Soho disco, doing some kind of low-down limbo dance surrounded by eager PR bimbos. I was so envious of your magnetic powers! Then I think I fell over.

Posted by: Ron Condon | [March 01, 2010 at 04:58 PM](#)



And there was also, of course Peter Fletcher, another who'd forgotten more than most in the industry (let alone the rest of hackdom) had ever known

Posted by: Martin Banks | [March 01, 2010 at 04:58 PM](#)



It all seems like a long time ago now - but I remember Guy's kindness and friendliness when I was a new and inexperienced reporter, and that he always took me seriously and helped others to do so too.

I also remember him inducting me into the mysteries of CIX, or social networking as we'd call it now, at the end of a long day of VNU. There was champagne involved, and I learned how to use a challenging interface, how to do email, and all sorts of stuff it would be impossible to live without today.

Guy's taxonomy of those in the computer industry into stick insects and otherwise... and many other wry observations always full of insight.

Tebbo, I also have reasons to thank you for your kindness over the years too...

Posted by: Carol Atack | [March 01, 2010 at 04:58 PM](#)



Mine is very prosaic - I just used to enjoy the articles he wrote from the tail end of the 80s. But those articles enthused me into an entire career in the field - a whole professional life in fact, now drawing to a gentle close as I prefer to take photos and ride bikes. So, in a sense, I owe him everything I have. Thanks Guy. We'll miss you.

Posted by: Louis Dobson (acam) | [March 01, 2010 at 05:02 PM](#)



Guy, became a mentor to me when I moved to the UK.

I hated working a Commodore. You just wouldn't believe what was happening inside that company - really unbelievable!

The company was about to have a company retreat. Having been on one I knew it was a drunken fest with a horrid, obnoxious boss.

I panicked got on the phone to Guy - he said meet me in London. A few drinks later we

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had a plan - I resigned the next day.

Posted by: [Jennifer Perry](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 05:03 PM](#)



Guy - When I first started working in PR, my account manager gave me an extra fiver because I managed to get you to a press event - I think it was her coup of the month! It taught me a lesson then that I've passed on and used many times since when getting execs to do ringrounds...never let them know how senior a Journalist they may be speaking to. Sorry to hear you're not well. Thinking of you, Nicky Jenkins nee Rudd

Posted by: [Nicky Jenkins](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 05:14 PM](#)



I remember Guy from quite a number of press events and trips. At first I saw you as the chap with who always had a question I didn't understand, or whose significance didn't understand, until quite a lot later. That's later that day as a result of the application of alcohol, or later as in older.

I have also to confess that the process of extracting, as lime juice from granite, copy for PCW's Newsprint column still looms large in my memory. It always arrived, but it was always late. And it was always late because that left me no time to edit it. That's what YOU thought... :)

But it was always good...

Posted by: [Manek Dubash](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 05:19 PM](#)



As one who is old enough to be a time warped hippy but came to hackdom late (cough 1991), Guy is one of those dudes you always heard about. A titan among a generation of giants.

Guaranteed to ask the pithy question that would have the rest of us tittering while the poor VP or what not was mostly left red faced. Sport of the highest calibre and not to be missed.

Do they breed that sort anymore? From what I see in the fawning digital detritus that masquerades as analysis these days, it would appear those days are behind us.

The good news is we have those delicious memories.

Posted by: [Dennis Howlett](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 05:21 PM](#)



Hi Guy - seems an age ago when we first met on an Acorn stand! Those were the days and hope you saw the recent Micro Men TV programme. More recently I remember having a discussion at Infosec as to whether image analysis S/W could differentiate between a pig on a bed and a porn star!

Posted by: [Peter Rennison](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 05:33 PM](#)



Is the Kewney Chaos Field still working or has its power dwindled these days? In its heyday, it could kill a desktop PC from over 100 metres :-)

Posted by: [Kelvyntaylor.blogspot.com](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 05:36 PM](#)



So many familiar names on here evoking so many memories.....

When i first started in PR at Infopress in '87, Guy was quite simply the god you wanted to get to your press conferences (and Tebbo and Banksy too!).

Yes we really DID gather in rooms to listen to boring CEOs blather on about their stuff - using ppt of course!

and you always had time for us newbies as well

thanks Guy!

x

Posted by: [Caraline Brown](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 05:42 PM](#)



Ah yes, the Chaos Field. In the PC Mag days, when I where I spent a further nine years extracting copy from said individual, the Field was the stuff of legend.

No-one else ever had as catastrophic effect on hardware and software as dear Guy.

A machine could have been working perfectly for - oh - days or even longer but, once within 100 feet (let's be generous) it would in some way cease to function - either properly or at all.

I want the secret...

Posted by: [Manek Dubash](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 05:44 PM](#)



Wondering whether Guy will let us into the secret of his destructive powers. Or did those sandals have another, more sinister purpose?

But then I think secrets like that should be kept. It keeps maintenance bods busy.

Posted by: [Dennis Howlett](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 05:51 PM](#)



And let's not forget the socks. The cloven-toed ones. Aarghhh!

Posted by: [David Tebbutt](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 05:51 PM](#)



It was Guy who launched me into the Personal Computer business - a short piece in his Computing column about a shop in Reading selling microcomputers that was looking for a manager.

Posted by: [Roland Perry](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 06:09 PM](#)



I'd been reading Guy's columns for years -- turning to them first when a new copy of PCW hit the doormat; but I first actually met him on Boxing Day 1983. Alan Sugar had hired Guy to write a private review of the CPC464, still months away from launch, and I went round to his house to deliver his machine; specially set up with the very latest firmware ROM. After we'd chatted I got fed lunch ... about which the whole family was extremely excited. Xmas had brought them that most modern of gadgets, a microwave, and they were heating up a meal with it for the very first time! It was a privilege to be part of such a moment.

Guy was really nice about the 464 both privately and later in published reviews, but even nicer about the PCW when we developed it a couple of years later. At last, he wrote, when people come up to me a parties and ask me to recommend a machine I will be able to say in just a few seconds, "buy one of these", and then I can enjoy the rest of the evening without talking shop. It's that sort of quirky (and immodestly I'll say insightful) sort of approach to explaining what he thinks about products that has always made him such a joy to read.

Posted by: [Richard Clayton](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 06:16 PM](#)



So much to remember; but picking out some:

Tari, that Trip Hawkins trip stands out in my memory for several reasons, but particularly because of that Canadian journo who went with us. He took on That Bet about the airline cheese crackers, if you remember?

Name is lost in chemo brain, but he was a foodie. The bet was "I can eat all three crackers without a drink in a minute." He did. He just stuffed them in, and swallowed!

The other memory was your colleague. She was living in Brentford, and working in Slough, and commuting by car each day. Ow...

Posted by: [Gkewney](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 06:19 PM](#)



Brentwood, I mean...

Posted by: [Gkewney](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 06:19 PM](#)



You're right of course about Guy's columns. The pain of actually delivering them aside, I too was a PCW reader, and Newsprint was the first place to go...

Posted by: [Manek Dubash](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 06:22 PM](#)



You were hired to write the UK's first microcomputer page - on Computing - which I sometimes subbed. Your technique was to spend an afternoon on the phone to Clive Sinclair, Chris Curry etc. You seemed to be able to get through to them straight away, but there was an agonising wait for the copy. When it finally arrived it was always infuriatingly well-informed, surprising and entertaining.

One day I told you I was going home and you could sub and write headlines for your page. After I saw the results next morning I never made that mistake again.

Those micro pioneers owe you a debt of gratitude for understanding what they were about, telling the rest of us and incidentally helping to shape the development of their industry.

Posted by: [John Lamb](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 06:23 PM](#)



The KDF I hope you realise is a myth.

Behind the myth, there is genetics: I inherited a knack from my father. He was a clerk in the Civil Service in the 40s and 50s, when clerks added numbers - pounds, shillings and pence - as fast as they could; running three fingers down the page and writing the answer at the bottom. After a while, they could just look at the page, and write in the totals.

I found, weirdly, a similar ability to integrate and synthesise. I'd spend a minute with a machine, and (somehow) focus automatically on one feature. It would be the one that broke it.

I only wish I could have reliably found that Achilles heel, but most eluded me!

Posted by: [Gkewney](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 06:24 PM](#)



Guy, I remember you as 'Guy' on cix. You didn't have a surname in your id because you didn't need one - everyone knew you. I think I came across you in /writers at first, and then elsewhere. You were always a calm, kind, intelligent, knowledgeable, warm presence, like a lovely uncle. Everyone respected you and liked you, then and now - at least, I never saw anyone that didn't. I think I only met you once in the flesh, at your birthday one year when I came with Robert S, but sometimes with you folk that I knew online it's hard to remember if and how often I'd met you, because that wasn't really the point. I joined cix about 17 years ago, and only left a year ago. All those years I remember you on there, and since then, on Facebook. So, I'm thinking of you, Guy, at this difficult time, and wishing you the easiest time possible under the circumstances. I must just say... the Guy Goma incident made me laugh so hard. Warmest thoughts...

XX

Posted by: [Debbie Clarke](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 06:38 PM](#)



As the PCW Show opening loomed closer, the cry would go out from the Press Office team, ...'Oh god not Kewney again'. It was with such joy I used to read, your wonderful and fearless whacking of just about every PCW Show as being absolutely the last.

Those press offices were made such fun by a wonderful cast of characters not least you, Banks, Tebbo, Magee, Cohen et al. You would explain quite politely to me - during the better part of a decade (or was it longer?) - why each show was an almost complete waste of time, full of boring crap. Ah...glorious days.

Oh yeah, before I forget, your help to Branko in not so glorious days of Balkan madness is not forgotten.

My compliments and very best wishes to you.

Posted by: [Matthew Pudney](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 06:49 PM](#)



I first became aware of Guy as a teenage reader of PCW, and he was a genuine hero to me. When I saw him in the flesh at a show I was thrilled and most terribly shy, so much so that I didn't dare go & say hello for fear of sycophancy, or worse stuttering silence. Then one day I blagged my way into PCW as a freelance contributor at the very beginning of my writing career and eventually got to meet the man - who was still, and who remains, admired and revered.

Posted by: [Jon Silver](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 07:08 PM](#)



But actually one of my favourite moments with Guy wasn't actually with Guy at all... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptyYe7sDIhA>

Posted by: [Jon Silver](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 07:09 PM](#)



Oh ho ho. That reminds me. We were in Zaragoza when the Goma story hit the Spanish headlines. I'd given the back story to some Greek folk and we were having a good old cackle and who should walk in, but Guy Kewney. Much straightening of faces and hiding of newspaper.

Posted by: [David Tebbutt](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 07:32 PM](#)



Reminiscing about my time on New Scientist. John Stansell was responsible for that. I felt very guilty, because that was Hedley's gig. I actually asked his permission before taking over

Stansell now runs Churchwood Valley Devon. Wonderful place!

Posted by: [Gkewney](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 07:47 PM](#)



My comments are also a tad prosaic, but I've always enjoyed reading Guy's articles since the Amstrad days. His work always has a knowledgeable, quietly authoritative air about it and avoids the hyperbole that seems der rigeur these days.

And, who can forget the Guy Goma debacle of a couple of years ago, when we were robbed of Guy's TV appearance!

Posted by: [Steve Craddock](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 08:02 PM](#)



Had contact with Guy practically since I joined EML 10 years ago. Guy is one of the few journalists who has taken the time to understand the complexities of our more technical clients, and reliably questions what people told him. At the same time, he has been very respectful to us, a PR agency simply trying to do a job for our clients. I hope we have been of some assistance to you Guy - now it's our turn to show you our respect

Posted by: [David & all at EML](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 08:07 PM](#)



Nothing to do with computers, other than them being the way we nattered then and still do now. I first "met" Guy on Cix in the early 90s and was in awe of the Graet Guru. But then we discovered a shared love of sailing, although he is a dinghyist and far better at making a boat go well than I will ever hope to be. We must actually get that weekend on Sea Spear before you finally set sail on the last voyage.

Posted by: [Jerry Jones](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 08:11 PM](#)



The first, and only time, I met Guy in the flesh was at the launch for Ameol2 at some place in London that Jennifer Perry picked. It was also the only time in my entire employment at CIX that I ever wore a shirt and tie, and you were kind enough to make some small adjustment to my shirt which I'd hitherto overlooked...

Otherwise I remember we spoke occasionally on CIX and you often had a lot of wise and constructive feedback about both Ameol and CIX which I hope I had the presence of mind to take on board!

Posted by: [Steve Palmer](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 08:16 PM](#)



This lot reads like a rogues gallery from The Golden age of IT hackery. Correction! It IS a rogues' gallery from the Golden Age.

Guy has chronicled and forgotten more about the bonkers world of our once great hands-on IT industry, than any of the ruffians presently tweeting frantically about IT could ever hope to learn, given that the great cycle of personal computing is now just about over, and we are back to the age of remote computing using terminals on distant hardware.

The perfect image to sum up those great days is the one of Guy pedalling around the Database studio in a C5, and wearing a tutu. What a shame YouTube was not around in those times...

Posted by: [William Poel](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 08:54 PM](#)



Ahem. No edit features?

For "bonkers", please read "bonkers world". Although, of course, your mileage may vary?

Posted by: [William Poel](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 08:57 PM](#)



Sorry about lack of edit, William. Anyone who wants something changed, drop me a note. All my links are on <http://www.tebbo.com>

Changing yours now...

Posted by: [David Tebbutt](#) | [March 01, 2010 at 09:07 PM](#)



I can't remember when I first met Guy, online or off, but I first head of him through my then partner, Clive Grace, who dragged me into tech journalism when I didn't know what else to do. We were typing in a code listing that made a classification tree; you chose all the answers finishing with 'what eats acorns' and Kewney came out as the answer...

Posted by: [Mary Branscombe](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 01:46 AM](#)



I seem to have met a lot of journalists for the first time in toilets, usually for some reason at the Savoy (and always during press conferences, I should add). Guy was my first such experience, two then-young hacks trying to make a name for ourselves with cutting-edge insight and corruscating wit. I had the vehicle -- Computer Digest, I think, while he was lumbered with something like Dataweek -- but he had the insight and the wit while I just had a full bladder. Which are among the reasons why he deservedly got the kudos for his writing and I ended up writing about mobile phone dealers.

Mind you I did get him out first ball once in an ill-advised cricket match somewhere. Probably the last time I got one over on him ...

Posted by: [Dennis Jarrett](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 02:53 AM](#)



Although I only met you during the late PCW era, it seemed to me, Guy, you were happiest at PC Magazine. That seat opposite you and dear Peter Jackson afforded me a bird's eye view of a master at work. I still think of those as my happiest working years - so thank you for helping to make them so.

Posted by: [Manek Dubash](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 09:26 AM](#)



I was aware, like everyone else with an interest in computers, of Guy's work on PCW in the 80s, but I first met him in the early 90s after Paul Somerson (US Ziff-Davis honcho brought in to get PC Mag UK off the ground) announced his intention of hiring 'the best columnist in the UK, whatever the cost'. Those were the days eh?

As a Production Editor then, I too was often on the wrong end of late, over-long copy - but we always forgave you Guy because it was your uniquely well-informed voice (we once 'created' a column for A N Other writer who failed to deliver, but could never have impersonated you!).

Chaos Field: witnessed and enjoyed many times. Beer: always a pleasure to see off John Barleycorn in your company.

Posted by: [Charles McLellan](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 09:36 AM](#)



How patient you were, Guy, when I drove you (in my ancient Reliant Scimitar, as I remember) to see Paul Bailey at Digital Research in Newbury, as the PR consultant working on the account while at Sterling PR, when I was 27 and you were already an IT journalist legend. At the time, the GEM system was competing against Microsoft and yes, it ended up as a squashing. Anyway, back to the M4. There is that bit, around Slough, where you pass the sewage farm and there occurred the inevitable 'inward drift' from the facility into the vehicle. I have no idea why I had such an anxiety attack about you possibly thinking you were trapped for an hour in a car not only with a PR person but one with doubtful intestines. But you were a complete gentleman and mentioned nothing, and the visit all went very well as I remember.

Knowing you personally was a badge of honour that meant a lot and you were always kind but challenging. To everyone else reading this who was in the 1980s IT generation eg Tebbo and Banks (RIP Tim Palmer and Claire Gooding), cheers for those years, they were great.

And the other thing I've just remembered is visiting your house and seeing this list of all the things to be done for the day pinned up by the door. I saw another side of

'tough guy' Guy.

Take care Guy,
Jan x

Posted by: [Jan Stannard](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 09:55 AM](#)



When I became an aged Johnny-come-lately journo in the early '80s, I looked up at Guy as The Master. I remember once telling him so at a press lunch.

Where are you being treated? And is your hospital doing its stuff- administratively and computer system-wise? I ask, because a close friend called Dick Vinegar (geddit) writes a column comparing his (excellent) treatment and some of his contemporaries' treatment (rubbish). <http://www.smarthealthcare.com/series/patient-from-hell>

Comments, even rude ones, very welcome.

Posted by: [Richard Sarson](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 10:22 AM](#)



My first memory of you, Guy, was my first computer press conference when a suit from Sperry Univac tried to intimidate you and make you stop asking a particular pertinent question ie "So, is this just an xyz00 in a different cabinet?" He, a 6ft cube of dense muscle, descended on you, pushed his clean shaven jaw an inch from your wispy folk singer beard and asked you to "REPEAT THAT QUESTION!" which you did, very politely, each time he asked you, which was about three or four times -until he stomped back to the podium. Hero.

Posted by: [Denise Danks](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 10:30 AM](#)



And talking of my dear friend, Tim Palmer. He was so delighted with a story about when you met Bill Gates. Apparently, you told him that you had been introduced to Gates as 'the top computer writer in the UK.' Gates had replied " I think the guy who writes that little yellow sheet is." Tim laughed so much about that (I hope it's true!) and you must know how much he respected you.

Posted by: [Denise Danks](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 10:39 AM](#)



I remember the first time I met Guy - twas at the PC User show in 1986 when I was quietly raging at Alan Solomon (Dr Solly) for SELLING shareware. Guy took me on one side and explained how journalism really works. I've been looking back ever since. Thanks Guy :) xx

Posted by: [Steve Gold](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 10:45 AM](#)



The mind plays weird tricks. But I think the first time I met Guy was when I joined VNU in 1987 as a writer on PCW. I'd submitted a big piece a few months earlier, as a freelance, which they published. Then a full-time job came up, I went for an interview, and got it. Turns out that Guy had personally recommended me to the then-editor, partly because of that article I'd submitted. So thanks, Guy, for changing the path of my career.

Posted by: [Rob Schifreen](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 11:10 AM](#)



Hey, Guy. Do you remember when we ended up in Singapore together? I bought a brand-new camcorder (not yet released in the UK) and couldn't wait to use it. So I ended up taking lots of shots of you (with Singapore in the background) which I still have. I also remember being very impressed by the fact that you had the roaming feature on your mobile phone and could call home. Light years ahead of me, as usual.

Posted by: [Ron Condon](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 11:59 AM](#)



MWC Barcelona (2007). Sat next to Guy in the front rom during a Broadcom press conference but - as I recall - he seemed preoccupied with swapping a laptop that had crapped out on him with a Psion handheld, (model still unknown) to care about the presentation. Or so I thought...

Later that day he gave a grilling to one of their execs on that very same content...ahhh, multitasking.

No one was more comfortable at these events than Guy. Tevas with wool socks - style and substance!

Posted by: [Greg Vitarelli](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 12:19 PM](#)



Hi Guy, I don't really know you but I am of course aware of your vast gravitational field and legendary status. I am so sorry to hear of your struggles and genuinely moved by your blog which I read today. Cancer can go and fuck itself up its evil arse, say I. I think the statements on here from your peers, juniors and mates are testament to your contribution, intelligence and commitment to IT journalism. And I would also say you and Tim Palmer remain standards for us all to try and live up to. Please do not go gently into that good night without knowing you mattered. Peace and love to you and your loved ones.

Posted by: [Gary Flood](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 12:51 PM](#)



Memories, eh?

My best memories, from my own career, will be working on the launch of "MicroScope" with Peter Jackson and Old Grumpy (Ian White, now of Mobile News glory). The

newspaper was my idea, cooked up with Felix Dennis. Fortnightly, I told him. "There aren't any fortnightly newspapers," he said. I waved Private Eye and Electronics at him. "Hm..." he said.

Peter had worked with Tim Palmer on Infomatics Daily Bulletin, and he and I bounced off each other. I think, at that part of the industry, we honestly knew more about who was doing what and to whom than anybody else in "micros."

Those were the days when the Channel was developing. I could NOT tell you the stories from Las Vegas during those times! The early days of Comdex, the end of the NCC, Ingram Micro, SBD Software, P&P, Mike Sterland, Modem House. Remember Modem house, Steve Gold?

Posted by: [Gkewney](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 02:35 PM](#)



Guy taught me to write. Some would have said it was a mistake for him ever to have done so. It took just one story, the launch of the 8086 in about 1978/9 which we went to together. He asked questions, and I took notes and he said I should write the story and I wrote some garbled nonsense. Guy then set my version aside and put a piece of paper in his typewriter and asked, "What did the CEO chap say would happen?" and I answered from my notes and he typed it. He then asked another question and again I answered. In this way we wrote the article in about 12 minutes. At the end he put the top copy in the in-tray and gave me the bottom copy to read. I was shocked. He had just added the odd word and linked the sentences. I thought I wasn't allowed to say those things. "The CEO said them to you and he knew you were a journalist, so of course it's okay," said Guy. The penny dropped and I have used the same technique to have the veil fall from the eyes of some 200 or 300 tech journalists in the 30 years since. So they all owe him something.

Posted by: [Peter White](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 03:01 PM](#)



Another Guy story from 1978 was when I naively wrote up a story that a certain company was up for sale. It had been told me by the US CEO and the UK MD and sales director wanted me shot and offered me lunch. Bill Moores was their PR and it was the first time I met him. Guy decided to invite himself along and so did Richard Shrape (Yes I know it's Sharpe but it annoys him. Once they had tried to bully me into saying it wasn't true and I had shown them a photocopy of the notes, things died down and they pretended to be all nice. The scything BackBytes that Guy wrote never let them off the hook and practically made them unemployable in the industry. But he would not have colleagues bullied, a testimony to his character.

Posted by: [Peter White](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 03:07 PM](#)



Oh Heck, I just can't recall the very first time I encountered you Guy - you were just always THERE. When I started on What Micro at Oxford Street in 1979 (Keith Elliott was the editor for a brief few weeks before Matt Nicholson took over) - I think you were working in the same building then ?
So many press events, so many lunches, so much copy, so many nice memories. It's all a bit of a haze.
Those were definitely the days, my friend.
Posted with Much Love.

Posted by: [Annie Gurton](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 04:08 PM](#)



When Tebbo realises that this site is fast becoming media gold to a certain range of advertisers (zimmer frames, trifocals and Wincarnis), make sure you get your cut, Guy...

Posted by: [William Poel](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 05:17 PM](#)



I don't know whether this will be useful. It was written by a mate of mine last year in UCLH. He had pancreatic cancer.

I particularly like the bit about Alzheimer.

I too need fear no more the heat o' the sun
Or the extreme results of climate change,
The global credit crunch can run and run,
The threat of Alzheimer's is out of range.
Weight gain, weight loss no longer bother me,
Not tender feet, teeth crumbling in the mouth,
My worsening hearing, and I'll never see
The garden's need to curb the plane tree's growth.
These I have loathed: the barking dog at night,
The clothes moth, helixia, the swelling floor,
The insolence of squirrels, postal blight.
They're all behind me now, with many more.
This querulous, pedantic critic must
Approve the fact he's now as dry as dust.

Posted by: [Richard Sarson](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 05:58 PM](#)



Memories of Guy, so many. The best, sitting along side him at his sailing club watching the school children learn while eating lunch and talking about the world ...

Posted by: [Dave Everitt](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 06:04 PM](#)



Oh Mr Poel. Low blow. But funny.

Posted by: [David Tebbutt](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 06:10 PM](#)



Young Mr Banks can't get the commenting stuff working, so he pinged me a couple of photos.

Now, the blog sports a photos page. And a couple of tabs, so you don't get lost.

If anyone else wants pix uploaded, send 'em to me - email's at <http://www.tebbo.com/>. To save me faffing around, see if you can make the width 500 pixels or fewer. Thanks.

PS If you're having trouble commenting, please ping me as above with your name, email and web address and I'll spoof your comment.

Posted by: [David Tebbutt](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 06:54 PM](#)



Inspired by Mr Banksie, I've added a couple of pix from July 9th last year. The three of us. Probably taken with Banksie's camera. Cheers Martin.

Posted by: [David Tebbutt](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 07:49 PM](#)



ah, how long have I known you, and yet the Guy known to all these other people, the journalist and technology reporter is perhaps the part I know least.

For me, Guy is a whole part of CIX, difficult, cantankerous, obsessed with mild pornography and sometimes frankly rude but essential reading with his own world view generously shared with all.

It's been up and down between us but just as we start to mellow time has been called. I'm so sorry because my own future joy has been curtailed, and because your leaving will make a huge gap in the world that we've inhabited together.

Enjoy yourself these last days, my friend, and if there is something on the other side, send us a postcard.

xx

Posted by: [Manda](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 08:44 PM](#)



I don't know you Guy, but I know one of your friends whose blog guided me to yours. I just want you to know how much I admire the way you are handling this 'thing'. Kudos. I have lit a candle and hope some vibes reach you and help. Attitude is King. Love from a fan.

Posted by: [chris](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 09:15 PM](#)



The story on how Guy became my dad.

One day I went sailing with Guy and co. I was heading off and wanted to go to the ladies. Guy showed me the way so he could get a life vest for Alice.

As we walked in Guy shouted I need a life vest for my daughter. This man turned around, looked at me and said I think this one will fit her!

Guy looked shocked - needless to say I thought it was hilarious - Guy has been dad every since.

Posted by: [Jennifer Perry](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 09:25 PM](#)



Now Guy, and your famous cheerfulness....

Last time I met you in the flesh, you hit me on the head with a press pack.

It was quite a gentle hit, and the pack was not overly rigid or solid.

And do you know, I'll treasure that moment.

Posted by: [Peter Judge](#) | [March 02, 2010 at 11:07 PM](#)



COMDEX 1983, at the VisiOn launch cocktail party, hosted by Daniel Fylstra. There is Kewney. And there is Jerry Pournelle, science fiction writer and author of the "Chaos Manor" column at Byte Magazine. And Pournelle has had one or two too many.

I don't remember who starts it, but suddenly amid the clinking of glasses and low-key nerd chatter, Jerry and Guy are going at it, debating which of them is the first real computer columnist, the first to use first person and a sociable style.

"Well," says Jerry, while still in the conciliatory phase of the conversation, "you may have been the first "British" computer columnist to write in first person, but "I" was the first person "anywhere" to write in that style." (Or words to that effect.)

"No," says Guy, "because I wrote my first column in [whatever the date was]."

This does not sit well with Pournelle, and on it goes.

As I recall, sometime later I leave with Kewney to have a drink or a coffee or somesuch, and as we wander out we can hear Jerry, still holding forth, still carrying on.

Was it really over 25 years ago?

Posted by: [Ezra Shapiro](#) | [March 03, 2010 at 04:37 AM](#)



Elaine Connolly and I had many a brush-up with Guy over the years we were in the IBM press office. I would like to think we were good friends (well as good as he had in IBM!) - However Guy - you have to admit you were a tough nut for someone in a PR in a press

office. You had a particularly tricky strategy of ringing up on a Friday afternoon with a good question and demand a reply by the end of the day. For those not in IT twenty years ago, the wars between 'Big Blue' and 'the gutter' IT Press (not my words - my boss's) are legendary. Elaine and I (with Alan Tull) always like to think we played a part in lifting the veil (although IBM's position in the market and the intro of the PC may have had something to do with it)

Elaine send her love and still has that photo thats on the blog) as a reminder of that press visit to Texas.. I think you know that we married after leaving IBM and still think about you and the gang over a glass of wine (hope your ears don't burn too much!
John T

Posted by: John Tweddell | [March 03, 2010 at 10:43 AM](#)



Those days, Ezra, were the BIX days of Byte, I think. And yes, it was never hard to fall into an "animated discussion" - online or in a bar - with an over-excited Jerry!

I remebmer particularly how you explained the odd politics of US academia, especially the political innocence of a generation of nerds who studied science under the guidance of ex-pat German refugees. "These were scientists who never interested themselves in politics, just survival," you said, "and they simply passed on what they had been told to young American nerds who were interested in model railways and Pong, and who just took it all for granted."

Explained a lot, I found.

Posted by: Gkewney | [March 03, 2010 at 10:59 AM](#)



Tweddell: I remember you as the guy who joined IBM so as to get their APL/Basic based micro (5100?) machine to play with. And yes, you were a breath of fresher air in their PR department.

That Texas trip was one of many to Austin, one of my favourite spots on earth. Sunset at Lake Travis; beer and jazz down town, Dell, and Motorola and IBM and TI to visit. But the IBM trip was where I got my authentic Fort Worth Cowboy Hat!

(So many messages. Would love to be able to comment to each one...)

Posted by: Gkewney | [March 03, 2010 at 11:11 AM](#)



By the way - when I said 'Gutter press', I meant Datalink - PCW was OK!

Alan Gillings sends his regards - we are just about to go out for a couple of pints!

I have the photo of Elaine on the bronco - not sure how to up-load it to the blog - but I will send it to David to put up if thats OK .. John T

Posted by: John Tweddell | [March 03, 2010 at 11:44 AM](#)



I've known Guy online for ages, but one time there was a need for more immediate contact & I left a message on his answering machine.

I was a bit startled when my phone rang a bit later and a completely unknown but distinctive voice said "Do you want to speak to me?"

Fortunately I recalled where I'd left messages, so responded, "If you're Guy Kewney, yes!" and proceeded to deal with the matter in hand (if I remember aright, an offer of a brew as he was going to be near where I live).

Posted by: Megan | [March 03, 2010 at 12:15 PM](#)



I've been trying to post a message about Lake Travis for 2 days now but somehow it doesn't work. Must be that the Chaos Field is still functioning well.

Posted by: Martin Banks | [March 03, 2010 at 12:26 PM](#)



That Fort Worth picture was taken by the in-bar photographer at Billy Bob's a huge bar, eatery and dance hall. It had one of those mechanical bucking broncos as well as that plastic steer on which we are perched. The photographer sat us on the beast and I promptly slid down, pushing you on to its neck in a way that Mary might not appreciate. That's why I'm holding on to the beast's tail.

Posted by: Martin Banks | [March 03, 2010 at 12:37 PM](#)



I had a dig around and found a couple of photographs that might amuse or at least raise a smile. Both were taken on an IBM trip to Dallas and Austin, one of the few occasions that Tim Palmer made it out of the Computergram office for a week-long jaunt.

I've sent them to Tebbo to see if he can get them up on this blog somehow.

That was a good trip, including the classic everyone-should-do-this-once-in-their-life evening of dinner overlooking Lake Travis. The sunsets there are just stunning, and watching a small boat scud across the lake as the light turns from dark maroon to purple is still a very fond memory. We stood at the balcony rail and said not a lot. It is still something difficult to describe.

But back to the photos - there is a classic group photo with the likes of Judith Massey, Peter Judge, Andrew Lawrence, Nick Enticknap and of course Tim. And there is one of thee and me on a plastic steer, pretending to be rodeo riders..... and failing.

Posted by: Martin Banks | [March 03, 2010 at 12:51 PM](#)



The photo uploading hare of Tebbo beat the commenting tortoise of Banksie.

Posted by: [David Tebbutt](#) | [March 03, 2010 at 12:56 PM](#)



That Canadian journalist was Geof Wheelwright and I had quite forgotten about the three crackers bravado! I don't know where he is now and what he's doing... I remember his wife was some sort of foodie.

And is the woman you're thinking about Lesley someone? She went to EA in California eventually.

This really is stretching the memory cells. And seeing John Tweddell and Elaine Connolly's names here, now there are some lovely memories. I heard you got married - hope you're both in the pink...

Posted by: [Tari Lang \(used to be Hibbitt\)](#) | [March 03, 2010 at 07:34 PM](#)



God. He's at Microsoft.

Posted by: [David Tebbutt](#) | [March 03, 2010 at 09:36 PM](#)



Many, many things come to mind when I think of you, Guy. The first is that trip to San Mateo that Tari mentioned - when you and I spent what seemed like the better part of a week together in San Mateo with Electronic Arts and Trip Hawkins. You were a well-established Industry Figure by then - and I was wondering what wonderful mistake had been in the invites that I should be accompanying you. I also recall you having a wonderful, human attitude toward the whole event - gently nudging the action-packed agenda in the direction of something more survivable given the jet lag and short timeframe of the trip.

I also remember having you as a columnist during my brief and inglorious run as editor of PCW. And I looked one up one of your columns for me - and it's amazingly prescient! You wrote it on October of 1990. And here's what you said:

"Unemployment has arrived in the microcomputer business. There are micro people who don't have jobs. And until this year, when such things started happening, in never crossed my mind that unemployment hadn't existed before. I thought that micro people always had jobs"

I have lots of other memories of you and our shared experiences that I'm sure will come to mind - from when I first came to the UK in 1982 and found that an energetic fellow called Felix Dennis was to be my publisher (and you had some useful observations about what that would be/was like) to when we last chatted a few years ago when I was doing some consulting in Vancouver - and I'll post when I think of them.

Posted by: [Geof Wheelwright](#) | [March 03, 2010 at 11:07 PM](#)



Just the "more comments" link and read Guy's recollection of the many crackers I stuffed in my mouth... I think I had suppressed that memory. I also recall Tari and Trip taking us to a baseball game at Candlestick Park - where the Montreal Canadians took on the home team....

Posted by: [Geof Wheelwright](#) | [March 04, 2010 at 12:30 AM](#)



OK - last thing for today. You were wondering what I'm doing now. I live in Bellevue, Washington, have three teenage kids (two 17-year old boys and a 19-year-old girl) and work at Microsoft - managing a team of technical writers in the Windows Server High Performance Computing group. You may remember my daughter, whom you see in the photo and whom you met at a press conference when she was a wee tot. And yes, my ex-wife was an enthusiastic foodie! You have a very good memory.

Posted by: [Geof Wheelwright](#) | [March 04, 2010 at 12:49 AM](#)



Rummaging my machine for mentions of Guy, I found a tale about him and Adam Osborne (RIP) from 1980. It starts with some comments about Adam Osborne's presentation of a White Elephant Award to Dan Bricklin and Bob Frankston for the then ground-breaking Visicalc:

Before leaving the presentation I asked a pretty young delegate why she had attended the session. She replied: "I didn't understand a word of what he said but, wow, that voice!" (Rumour has it that the young lady in question was subsequently invited to go yachting by the man himself).

And, while on the subject of sailing with Adam Osborne, I simply have to tell you the misfortune that struck our very own Guy Kewney just a day or two before the show. Seeking the pleasures of the sea, the two of them (having decided that it would be a good idea to use the engine for pottering around San Francisco Bay) carefully stowed the sails, upped anchor and motored off. After a while it became apparent that the yacht wasn't making too much progress - in fact it was proceeding at approximately walking pace even on full throttle. Guy held on to the tiller while Adam went below to investigate and, not knowing quite where to go, our "newshound" steered into the middle of the bay. Eventually Adam re-emerged with the news that the gears (or something) had stripped and that they would have to unstow the carefully stowed sails; the job done, Guy was again given the tiller while Adam went below to fix a drink. This time Guy headed in the general direction of the harbour entrance and, just as he was starting to feel apprehensive about getting back again, Adam reappeared to take over the helm. A few deft course adjustments later they were stranded on a mudbank! And technology wasn't finished yet!

Adam, attempting to catch the harbourmaster's ear via the radio waves, managed to disintegrate an important button on the radio; thus the two of them were reduced to

frantic waving at passing boats. It's all true. . . it must be, Guy told me.

Posted by: [David Tebbutt](#) | [March 04, 2010 at 03:36 AM](#)



Guy, I have so many fond memories of working with you and I'm so pleased that we've stayed friends over the years.

I remember you bringing me back a small fluffy lion from a press trip to Vegas I think, and I still have it now and it's been passed on to my daughter!

I was in awe of your lunches - a proper cooked meal at your desk with a bottle of beer or glass of wine. Those were the days!

You have always been so supportive throughout my career and I feel honoured to have known you. You are a very loyal person...if you say you'll be somewhere, you'll be there...which unfortunately can't be said of many journalists!!

I hope every remaining day is a very special one for you. You are in my thoughts xx

Posted by: [Wendymcauliffe](#) | [March 04, 2010 at 09:27 AM](#)



I should also mention that Guy was the first person who told me to watch out for Google as an up and coming thing. At the time, no one else had a clue that this rather barren ten word website was going to eat their breakfast, lunch and dinner: and then also raid their fridge at 3am...

Posted by: [William Poel](#) | [March 04, 2010 at 02:26 PM](#)



I remember the excitement at PC Mag when Google first appeared - it was palpable. But that's a discussion for another day....

Posted by: [Manek Dubash](#) | [March 04, 2010 at 07:42 PM](#)



Guy,
I was Microsoft's PR flack when we first met and you appropriately treated me as that. It irritated me at the time as I thought I was a genius that knew more about the world than anyone. I was 24 at the time. Pretty soon you made realize that I knew very little and that I had to learn a lot.

I recall you giving me hell because you did a meeting with Bill Gates and he was his usual self (rude, arrogant etc) and you felt he gave you a useless interview. It was at that point that I finally understood that you were a real journalist and I needed to be a real PR person.

Hope the days go well my friend and thank you for giving me hell at the start of my career. I needed it.

Posted by: [tim dyson](#) | [March 04, 2010 at 09:29 PM](#)



When I worked on Micronet800 and moved from (failed) sales to PR, Guy was the first non EMAP journalist I rang up. He was writing on Microscope and I had a news update for him. I was shaking so much it's a miracle the crockery and glasses stayed on the table. I think Guy noticed me trembling with fear and was very kind to me. He quoted me which was way beyond my remit. I thought I'd get fired but I survived a little longer.

I have so many memories of fun times with Guy (Dell, Oracle and various press trips to far flung places, and mad, bad and dangerous Firefly parties). I've also got a few hilarious photos. I have a few pictures of Guy adorning a Mexican hat(worn all the home on the train from the Which Computer Show at the NEC circa 1989). I guess it could have been the influence of a tequilla fuelled afternoon in the press office??

Banksy - I had to carry you to the station!!! Am happy to post some pics once I find them and then work out how..where..

Meanwhile Guy and Mary know only too well why I'm taking such a keen interest in his progress and wish him well, and will visit again soon xxxxxxxx

Posted by: [Claire Walker](#) | [March 04, 2010 at 11:05 PM](#)



Guy - it's funny. I don't remember not knowing you. Clearly I didn't know you before I moved to the UK... but once I was there and somewhat entrenched in the lovely world of PR/Microsoft, Intel etc... well you were always there, always fair (though sometimes I refused to admit that), very funny and simply brilliant at what you did.

I see that you gave Tim grief (phew, someone had to), but all I got from you was complete honesty be it about my clients, the company I kept or the company I tried to run ;-).

Lots of love and best wishes,

Katie Kemp

Posted by: [Katie Kemp](#) | [March 04, 2010 at 11:58 PM](#)



All I can say, Guy, is that you've been an inspiration and a mentor throughout my career - from neophyte moonlighter to the jobbing freelance I am today. You've always been there to talk to, and even on those rare occasions we've had a disagreement it's never been something that's got in the way of what has (as for so many others) turned into friendship.

Cheers!

Posted by: [Simon Bisson](#) | [March 05, 2010 at 12:22 AM](#)



Hi there Guy

Clive (Couldwell) just sent me a link to the first pic on this site's photo page - a group of distinguished (!) UK tech journalists on an IBM press trip to Texas with Elaine C. Happy days indeed, especially when we got those cowboy hats in the store in Fort Worth. We also stood on the famous grassy knoll in Dallas listening to conspiracy theories and drank gigantic margaritas in a hillside bar in Austin. And you tell the young ones today what hard times we had and they just don't believe you. Sorry you're ill; your courage is outstanding.

Posted by: [Judith Massey](#) | [March 05, 2010 at 09:30 AM](#)



Guy, correct me if I'm wrong but we first met during those heady launch days of PC Dealer (1986?). Tim Ring had charged me with gathering interviews with industry bods for the first issue. The only one who was being difficult was Alan Sugar. You rang him and gave him a sound bollocking. We got the interview. I learned a lot that day. Have been a bolshie bastard ever since.

Posted by: [Steve Mansfield-Devine](#) | [March 05, 2010 at 04:48 PM](#)



Back from a TEDIOUS day at hospital (nothing achieved) and finding dozens and dozens of new memories popping up. A very good way to turn an awful day into a tourist bus ride along Memory.

I'll post again tomorrow. Have updated the Hunkymouse blog with all relevant details, as usual.

Posted by: [Gkewney](#) | [March 05, 2010 at 06:18 PM](#)



Guy, this is indeed a great memory lane! Thanks to Geof Wheelright for sending me the link.

So Guy and I first met in the early 70s. We were kid reporters having a great time with the power of the pen (should note that we actually wrote stories on manual type writers in those days!!!!) and not knowing what we didn't know. Guy knew everything, of course. :) Martin Banks was also around and was equally sure of himself. (And lets just say they didn't always agree!)

Skipping forward, after I moved to California in 77, Guy would show up from time to time on a press junket. He would be visiting Adam Osborne and then come to my house (quite a step down I fear). The visit to San Mateo that Geof writes about must have been one of those occasions.

(more later)
Love, Louise

Posted by: [Louise Kehoe](#) | [March 05, 2010 at 07:44 PM](#)



Guy, I expect you are fed up with the BBC snafu, but seeing it here again gave me a big laugh. And it was Ray Snoddy (ex FT) who presented it deadpan. Now I cannot remember whether it was you or Banksie who told me about it at the time...one of my bearded friends anyway!

Posted by: [Louise Kehoe](#) | [March 06, 2010 at 05:12 AM](#)



Interesting to see Tim Dyson's recollection of a bad Bill Gates interview. So you had that problem too! One of my early interviews with him was so bad that the Wagg Ed folks made him do it over again a few days later :) Must say he got a lot better over the years though so I hope you also had that experience.

A question for you Guy: what was the most memorable interview you did? Memorable for being great or being awful?

Posted by: [Louise Kehoe](#) | [March 06, 2010 at 05:18 AM](#)



I don't know Guy.

ISTR meeting some old (I thought), bearded hippy at a bus stop on Ken high street in the early 80s after some show.

Oh, wait, why is Guy on my friend list in FB?

You are right about your ability to synthesise. The targets in the PR world, possibly being outed too early, would claim you were "leaping to conclusions".

You have been passionate about this industry, and yes, I would read your insightful pieces.

It's not over yet, you or the industry. Now it's really personal and you'll still push out comments worthy of note.

Posted by: [Elves](#) | [March 06, 2010 at 09:45 AM](#)

[Later comments »](#)

The comments to this entry are closed.

Stuff for Guy

Originally created to cheer Guy up. Now, sadly, it's a memorial.

[Home](#) [Photos](#)

[Main](#) | [It's all over for Guy](#) »

» Some words for Guy


I've started this blog in case anyone feels like reminiscing about good times spent with Guy Kewney. Or bad times, with a humorous twist. (And keep it clean, you never know who might be reading it.)

The aim is to give him some cheerful reading between the bouts of discomfort.

If you can't get your comments up, write to me: david.tebbo.com - you know where the @ and . belong

March 01, 2010 | [Permalink](#)

comments

 You can follow this conversation by subscribing to the [comment feed](#) for this post.



So, back to the wonderful 70s and 80s, when it all happened. We started this business, Pete and Pam Computers, with an Apple //e and everything that went with it. Of course, it was a time when I read every computer magazine that I could get my hands on. Since I am a compulsive hoarder, I still have some of them.

There was a name that came up so many times, Guy Kewney. Not an easy name to forget. All I really knew about computers was what to buy and how to sell it. Here was a Guy who knew quite a bit more than that.

To me, anyone who at that time wrote in a computer magazine was REALLY famous. At least as famous as anyone on T.V. Computer shows, Comdex, always had an element of 'Spot the Personality' about them. I can't remember how we met, but it wasn't long before we had regular telephone conversations, at the time when you were working on the U.K. Computer Industry's trade rags.

Those were the days! A time to discuss who was doing what, what difference it made. Who was buying who. Who was jumping ship to go off and sail with another company. All before the real advent of the Internet.

My mobile phone was barely that and was the size of two bricks, and weighed as much. I used to stand in shop doors to use it because I was so embarrassed. Remember those days Guy?

Time has moved on, and we've still kept in touch, on and off, especially through Facebook. I've always appreciated your dry wit, incisive comments, and wide understanding of the computer revolution that we've all experienced, in one way or another. I'm so glad that I met you. Peter

Posted by: [Peter Fisher](#) | [March 06, 2010 at 09:59 AM](#)



Guy, Tebbo just got in touch to tell me of your trials and tribulations. We haven't caught up in a while and it got me thinking of those early, mad days when PCW first entered my life. In fact they began with FD suggesting that, having worked in videotape at the BBC, I must be the right person to take charge of a computer magazine... mmmmm... Still, with the infinite help of you guys we did make an early mark.

These days I'm enthusiastically licensing magazines all over the World and trying to prove that, against all odds, I can run a successful company. So far so good but I'm not holding my breath.

Posted by: [Bruce Sawford](#) | [March 06, 2010 at 04:31 PM](#)



Most memorable interview ever: when I was on Computing, and writing the diary column, "Backbytes." Jane Lott told me to do a piece about the appearance of a stage version of the Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy. It was due to run for some weeks at the Rainbow theatre in Finsbury Park (former Astoria, now an African church).

I knew of Douglas Adams and knew his status in computer circles, and so asked for his phone number. "You'll have to get that," said Jane, leaving me to my profession. I rang the theatre, which gave me his agent's number. The agent told me to forget it "He's busy. Production starts next week."

I left my phone number on the off-chance.

Five minutes later, the phone rang. "Guy? It's Douglas Adams!"

I began to explain my mission.

"Oh, yes, yes; let's have a drink. Tonight?"

[Guy's hunkymouse blog](#)

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[Donate to Macmillan](#)

If you have photos or links to new tributes, please email them to david.tebbo.com - you know where the @ and the . belong.

published tributes a-z

» A word or two

Many of these tributes have their own comments. You don't have to follow many to see what a profound influence Guy had on so many people.

» And there's more on Guy's blog

- » [From Andrew Brown](#)
- » [From Barnaby Page](#)
- » [From BBC](#)
- » [From Bob Kane](#)
- » [From Bruce Everiss](#)
- » [From Chris Green](#)
- » [From Chris Kenyon](#)
- » [From Claire Thompson](#)
- » [From Context PR](#)
- » [From Dana Blankenhorn](#)
- » [From Dana Blankenhorn at SmartPlanet](#)
- » [From Danny O'Brien](#)
- » [From Davey Winder](#)
- » [From David Tebbutt](#)
- » [From Dean Bubleby](#)
- » [From Dennis Howlett](#)
- » [From Dick Vinegar](#)
- » [From Emory Kale](#)
- » [From Faris Raouf](#)
- » [From Frank H Little](#)
- » [From Henry Tucker](#)
- » [From Iain Laskey](#)
- » [From Iain Thomson](#)
- » [From Iain Thomson \(Guy in top 10 Sci/Tech writers\)](#)
- » [From Jack Schofield \(The Guardian\)](#)
- » [From James Enck](#)
- » [From Jimmy Blake](#)
- » [From Joe Pritchard](#)
- » [From John Lettice](#)
- » [From Jon Honeyball](#)
- » [From Josie Herbert](#)
- » [From Justin Sorkin](#)
- » [From Kelvyn Taylor](#)
- » [From Kelvyn Taylor in Computeractive](#)
- » [From Kevin Townsend](#)
- » [From Kieren McCarthy](#)
- » [From Lucy Sherriff](#)
- » [From Manek Dubash](#)
- » [From Manek Dubash in EI Reg](#)
- » [From Mike Magee](#)
- » [From Mobile News](#)

I felt I'd better confess that I wasn't a theatre critic. "I write for Computing," I began, "where I do a weekly column..."

"Yes, yes. I read all your stuff all the time. You're famous, you are..."

He was one of my best friends for the rest of his life. He even took me to a Comic Relief celebration at Grouchos once...

Posted by: [Guy Kewney](#) | [March 06, 2010 at 08:00 PM](#)



I remember that Guy was always missing the (our) PR parties because he was in the office and finishing the last stories for that edition before it went to bed.

Guy - your trouble is that you took your job so seriously - or is that the issue of being the editor of a magazine - and if so is it worth the few extra pennies a month -

Posted by: [John Tweddell](#) | [March 07, 2010 at 01:22 AM](#)



All this talk of (a) Guy always being reliable, yet (b) Guy missing PR parties to finish off editions, recalls Locomotive Software's "Kewney Days".

They first started because although I had met Guy, the other developers had not, and so we made arrangements for a trip down to Surrey, to meet up -- and then the plan was for us all to sit in the sun and eat a pub lunch ...

... as Chris Hall remembers it, Kewney Days were an excellent institution:

"On a Kewney Day we would take a break and go for a long lunch at one of the better pubs near Dorking. Kewney Days seemed to happen most often on warm summer days when a pub garden was somehow the natural place to be.

Sadly, Guy wasn't able to join us on Kewney Days. On the first two or three, he had planned to come and see us, but was unable to make it. However, we so much enjoyed a Kewney Day that we took to declaring one at very short notice every now and then. Such short notice that, unfortunately, it wasn't practical to invite Guy ... so he tended to miss those as well.

It was, as I said, an excellent institution."

Posted by: [Richard Clayton](#) | [March 07, 2010 at 04:20 PM](#)



Ah yes, guy - Modem House. One Mr Rose and his kidnapping escapades. I remember being at a Manchester compuyter fair in the late 1980s and was busy slagging off his modems for their red triangles, only to discover he was stood a few feet away. I'm told he was looking daggers at me for a few minutes. I found out later that Rupert, Guy and myself were off his Christmas Card list for our criticisms.

And being crossed off Mr Rose's Christmas Card list was not necessarily a good thing in terms of one's short-term survival back them. Allegedly. Ahem!! :)

Posted by: [Steve Gold](#) | [March 08, 2010 at 05:02 PM](#)



Hi Guy,

I always look forward to pitching you a story as I know we'll have a good chat. I particularly enjoy briefings with you always bring so much knowledge and dry wit to the table. I particularly enjoy thinking of one over a pie and a pint outside Olympia. Thanks for being open to these discussions. Another big thank you is for your family I only know Lucy, but it was a surprise (a lovely one!) after a year or so of working with Lucy and her great support of Brain Academy at the Reg, that she was your daughter. Love and best wishes, Rose

Posted by: [Rose Ross](#) | [March 09, 2010 at 09:18 AM](#)



Have updated the hunky blog: <http://hunkymouse.livejournal.com> - disgusting, awful taste, no shame, etc etc as usual!

Richard Clayton; you're very nearly right. I did, once, make a Kewney day. I remember being regarded as something of an interloper! - "what's this guy doing here, when we're trying to have an ordinary Kewney Day? Is this an Official Inspection?" - bafflement.

:~)

Posted by: [Gkewney](#) | [March 09, 2010 at 01:12 PM](#)



Well, I'm only surprised no-one's mentioned Guy's famous screensave. The words 'woman' 'pleasure' and 'Coke bottle' ought to provide a clue. ;) For some reason I can't fathom, there were always a lot of blokes clustered round his desk...

Posted by: [Patricia Mansfield-Devine](#) | [March 10, 2010 at 11:31 AM](#)



The days of creative screen savers seem to be fading, along with the ring-tone business. My favourite was a "Bill The Cat" saver with cartoons of his relationship with "Socks" Clinton.

Posted by: [Gkewney](#) | [March 11, 2010 at 07:29 PM](#)



Oh dear, we're not heading into the "sack my cook" territory are we?

Posted by: [David Tebbutt](#) | [March 11, 2010 at 08:02 PM](#)

- » [From Richard Holway](#)
- » [From Simon Quicke](#)
- » [From Steve Bell](#)
- » [From Steve Broadhead](#)
- » [From Steve Mansfield-Devine](#)
- » [From Team Register](#)
- » [From The Week \(a mention\)](#)
- » [From The Week \(full obit\)](#)
- » [From Tim Danton](#)
- » [From Tom Graves](#)
- » [From Trish Mansfield-Devine](#)
- » [From Wayne Rash](#)
- » [From Wendy McAuliffe](#)
- » [From William Poel](#)



Douglas Adams story is priceless! Great to be "famous" :) Thanks Guy.

I actually think you gave me his book... would have been when I was first in CA.

So on a similar theme... What is the story/column you are most proud of? Come on, we all have one or two we still remember!

Hope tomorrow is a good day.
Love, Louise

Posted by: [Louise Kehoe](#) | [March 15, 2010 at 04:49 AM](#)



Guy, Your blog is a masterpiece: John Diamond with added medical ingredients. I know because I have had reason to read a lot of similar blogs over the past year.

Posted by: [Richard Sarson](#) | [March 15, 2010 at 11:32 AM](#)



Thanks, Richard. Nice to know my "chemo brain" still functions for prose creation!

Have an unexpected hospital appointment tomorrow; see hunkymouse blog. I may not be able to post here for a few days, cos they are repeating the endoscopy they did last Thursday, which put me in bed pretty much till today.

I wonder if I should mail Herman the Austrian with the URL of this blog...

Posted by: [Gkewney](#) | [March 15, 2010 at 10:08 PM](#)



Louise: I really couldn't point to a "most proud" interview or article.

Some of the hardest work I remember doing, was when you and I were both writing for Electronics Weekly, mid-70s; I was entirely unknown, and learning my trade as reporter and as computer specialist. The Editor decided that a "Micros At Work" series would be a good idea and, from my point of view, it probably was: in-depth, technically detailed descriptions of actual projects carried out by contractors for their clients, using those original weird chips - the 1802, the 9900, the 6800, the 8008 and 8080, and then the 6502 revolution. And the SC/MP from NatSemi, never forget that!

Just finding contractors who would admit to doing projects was a knuckle-scraping challenge; talking them into describing it on the record was a steep climb, and getting clearance from their clients was often impossible. And the work was really, really tough; having to write it all down, and then go away and find people who'd explain what it meant. I didn't know what a "latch" was. Or a Truth Table. Or Schottky line drivers. Yes, I was a programmer, but the electronics was all new. Peter Fletcher was endlessly patient and helpful. So were you. I got into deep trouble with at least two of those, and it was always a miracle when they appeared in print.

Some of the best work I did, was in the first two years of MicroScope. Nothing particularly stood out in my memory, but there was an overall sense of doing seminal stuff, discovering things nobody else knew or understood, with Peter Jackson, and bringing this information to a brand new industry, who lapped it up.

Those were the days when I was on the phone to California as soon as the West Coast woke up... ringing people like Adam Osborne, who became a very good personal friend (weird chap!) and Gary Kildal and Jeff Raikes at Microsoft, and Lee Felsenstein and Steve Jobs and "Captain Crunch" and all the hippies from Palo Alto - ComputerTown USA. I joined the launch of InfoWorld, which was tremendous fun, and then when they were all fired, became part of the second-generation gang: Steve Levy, John Markoff, Michael Swaine, John Dvorak. And I wrote stuff for Creative Computing which wasn't bad.

I can tell you that I am still disappointed by how badly I covered the Amiga launch. I discovered the project ages before anybody, and had excellent sources both sides of the pond - Metacomco in Bristol, who wrote the OS, and the Dragon-loving Jay Miner in Palo Alto, and of course, when Commodore came in, I already knew that bunch of crooks! And yet, somehow, everything I wrote was far short of what I was aiming for, and I never quite felt I got hold of it, or gave my readers what they needed about it.

Probably the most fun story, though, would have been the Million Dollar Software Awards, which I wrote for Jack Schofield at the Guardian.

We had a fetish at MicroScope about awards. We took a pretty hard line about "The Oscars Of Microcomputing" claims, and insisted that in this industry, commercial success was the only "award" that mattered.

A friend applied for a Million Dollar Software Award, and rang me up in triumph. "You'll like this," he assured me, "because it's sales related."

I said: "How much did you pay for the plaque?" and he was insulted. "Well, you're suggesting you just sign the cheque and get it!" he yelled.

"Yes."

He told me to put my money where my mouth was. He helped me. We created an entirely fictitious company "ConSoft" with an altogether imaginary product, DBXV which we implied was some kind of database manager. The form was filled in by the "company secretary" LD (lazy dog) Spencer who was the rat-catcher at my friend's real offices in Hawick. We claimed sales of \$15m and sent off the paperwork.

We received virtually instant confirmation of our success in claiming the award, followed within two days by an opportunity to advertise in the Awards Catalogue at advantageous rates, and a chance to attend a black tie celebration in a smart London hotel for another fee, plus a nominal extra 70 quid for the aluminium plaque. Each of us put in 35 quid, and explained that we were going to be on an overseas sales trip on the day of the awards ceremony.

Jack arranged a lovely photo of me and my plaque, and the story ran under the headline "Million Dollar Guy" and got world-wide traction.

Jack never paid my expenses on that one.

Posted by: [Gkewney](#) | [March 16, 2010 at 09:57 AM](#)



"My best memories, from my own career, will be working on the launch of "MicroScope" with Peter Jackson and Old Grumpy (Ian White, now of Mobile News glory)"

Hey Guy. -it's Old Grumpy here himself! I recently heard about your situation and send you my best wishes.

Anyway - can I trump everyone here by saying how we first worked together in 1974 on "Adweek" in that crappy old building in Waterloo working under" the great Bernard "Groucho Marx" Barnet. (How many IT hacks really know your dark secret that you once worked in advertising before crossing over to the ad trade press?). Yes folks - Guy Kewney was once a "Client".

Then "Adweek folded" and we went our separate ways until meeting up again at that crappy old building in Rathbone Place under the even greater Felix Dennis. We were a little island of unhipness in a sea of coked-up biker journalists and '60's counter-culture freaks.

For some reason Felix thought a marketing press hack would make a good computer journalist and he offered me a job on MicroScope after an interview in his flat involving a full bottle of Cointreau.

I had no idea what a computer was (except it filled a room and had lots of flashing lights).

Remember how we took delivery of those three sewing machines (aka Osbourne Portable Computers) and you introduced me to the delights of CP/M and Wordstar.

I was amazed that the sewing machine could move letters around and I asked you how much further these amazing 'chips' could possibly develop?

You patiently explained that the chips on the computers we were using could carry enough information to store a map of Los Angeles but that one day they would have enough power to store a map of the whole of America. How I laughed!

I suppose the reason I was Grumpy was that i realised I wasn't as clever as you!

Keep the faith.

Posted by: [Ian White](#) | [March 17, 2010 at 09:31 PM](#)



Ah, yes; AdWeek. And before that, of course, we both freelanced for Campaign in the old Warings and Gillow building in Oxford Street. That was (as you say) after I dropped out of being "Promotions Officer" for Iberia Airlines UK. I was a client! - in charge of all Iberia's motor racing sponsorship. Horrible job...

Bernard Barnet taught me the skill of reporting. A great Editor indeed. I wrote my first story for him in Ludgate House, corner of Fleet Street."Er, Guy..." said his voice with an implacable steel, in it, "have you ever been taught to write a news story?"

I considered bluffing. I dropped that. "No."

"Ah. Good, good; if you'd said yes, I'd have said 'you're fired' right away. Come HERE!"

That building had a hydraulic lift. Press the button for your floor, and it sounded like you'd flushed the bog...

No, Ian, actually if I recall, you were grumpy because you were inbetween girlfriends! :-)

Been there, done that, but it was a long time ago.Mary and I have been married 38 years, now.

I have to say: it's been wonderful watching your utter dominance of the mobile trade market. An excellent title, beautifully run. You should be proud...

Posted by: [Gkewney](#) | [March 18, 2010 at 05:06 PM](#)



Thanks for your kind words. Who would ever have predicted the mobile industry would have converged with the computer industry to the extent that it has? All these years later and I'm STILL writing about Apple re-inventing everything that has gone before and leaving the big names in the dust (Hello Moto). Remember, if Steve Jobs can beat his little bout of ill health ...

Posted by: [Ian White](#) | [March 19, 2010 at 10:21 PM](#)



The Poquet PC in '89 - Guy said looked like scrabble letters had been thrown at the keyboard - I liked that and was true. Always proud that on kissing cheeks friendship with Guy - esp in front of my management ;-)

Posted by: [Jenny Cowell \(Bacon\)](#) | [March 25, 2010 at 08:34 PM](#)



I started as news editor of Computing in September 1980, just after Alan Cane left for the FT. I also inherited Backbytes but my consolation was that Guy wrote a regular page on personal computing -- something for me not to worry about as I, an ex-electronics journo, wondered what all this computer stuff was all about.

It was a great team, in that squalid room in Frith Street, with the air so thick with cigarette smoke that you could hardly see across the room by 4pm on Monday, press day.

Posted by: [Alan Burkitt-Gray](#) | [March 25, 2010 at 08:42 PM](#)



Being the first person to read your esteemed column when I became editor of PCW in the early 1980s was one of the job's big treats. It was amusing, well-informed and often controversial - as in the case of: "How to copy Acorn diskettes"! And you were always so charming when you dropped it in to the Oxford St office some time after the deadline that nobody could be very cross.

Since then, when venturing out to press events and PR parties, it has always been a pleasure to spot your familiar good-humoured presence across a sea of increasingly youthful and unknown faces. Some fun to be had after all...

Posted by: Jane Bird | [March 26, 2010 at 12:58 PM](#)



It was back in the late 70s when I called Guy up at Computing. I had an idea for a new Bill in Parliament to give explicit copyright protection for computer programs as literary works. Guy looked me over - in those days I wore a bowler hat and had a moustache (rather like that worn by Peter Mandelson). Guy commissioned me to write a feature on the topic - which got taken up all over the place including in the Economist. Computing in those days had a big photography budget and Guy sent around a photographer who took a photo of me in the car park outside my then Chambers in Lincoln's Inn. In the final printed edition they made it a full page photograph. My fellow barristers cut the page out and put it on the main notice board with the label "Would you buy a used car from this man?" since I had a slight "Arthur Daly" look about me. I never lived it down.

Posted by: [Alikelman](#) | [March 26, 2010 at 08:58 PM](#)



Some twelve years ago in the heady days of PR and IT journalism, I was arranging yet another press trip to leper, Belgium. Via Eurostar, Guy was to travel with another well known journalist (who shall remain nameless). The timing was tight, and for various reasons, the two journalists were to travel alone, to be met by a PR rep in leper. Guy and Journalist X were booked on the first train out of Waterloo, at the slightly anti-social hour of 6am, if I remember correctly.

Their tickets would be clearly marked and awaiting their arrival at the ticket office. A simple show of their passports, and they would collect the tickets, pass through security/ check-in to board the train. They had even met before, and had each other's contact details. Now, what could go wrong with that...?

Journalist X arrives before Guy. Cheerfully shows his passport, grabs an envelope and takes out his ticket. He then duly goes through check-in and waits in the departure area.

Soon after, Guy arrives, and went to collect his ticket. Big problem - Journalist X has unwittingly collected both tickets! With time ticking away, Guy explains the situation to the ticket clerk. Thirty minutes pass, calls to Journalist X's mobile are met with a voicemail message, tannoy announcements are ignored, and the staff tell Guy another ticket cannot be issued; and without one, he cannot pass through to departures, nor board the train.

Fuming, Guy misses his train and returns home. Nine am. My office phone rings. "Bloody idiot. That buffoon left with my ticket!". The next ten minutes are filled with Guy's tale of incompetent Eurostar staff, and how ridiculous it was that Journalist X hadn't realised that Guy hadn't arrived, and checked the envelope containing Guy's ticket.

Yet not once did Guy lay any blame on me. The mark of a true true gent...He even managed to laugh it off.

Lesson learned? Never send a journalist unaccompanied anywhere!

Guy - we're all thinking of you. Keep strong.

Warmest regards
Nick Spencer

Posted by: [Nick Spencer](#) | [March 27, 2010 at 12:37 PM](#)



When I was a young and wet-behind-the-ears PR, I must admit to being slightly intimidated by Guy Kewney. Imposingly tall, articulate, quick-witted and phenomenally knowledgeable, there would always be a slightly awkward moment and uncomfortable shuffling in seats at a press conference when Guy raised his hand to ask the 'Kewney Question'; for everyone in the room knew - PR and client included - that within less than three concise questions or statements, Guy had stripped out the puff, and dived right into the crux of the product or service being announced. He'd spot the flaws, identify the area that hadn't been thoroughly thought out, or the apparent contradiction with an existing strategy, product, or technology standard.

Despite the many "I'll get back to you on that" responses to his questions, it's important to understand that Guy wasn't being deliberately provocative. He was rightly doing his job to an impeccable standard, and I think to some degree is responsible for causing PRs - and their clients - to rethink the credibility and validity of a statement or messages before launching them to the press. I don't think I'm the only PR who now considers the "Kewney Question" as a litmus test of credibility, when reviewing or drafting material for the press.

Guy wasn't being intimidating; far from it. And that is never more apparent when meeting him, or chatting cheerfully on the phone, when his politeness and respect for the other party he was talking to - which means a lot to PRs - really stood out.

Guy - you've probably influenced more people than you realise, and I'm happy to consider myself one of them.

Posted by: [Gino Mainolfi](#) | [March 27, 2010 at 05:49 PM](#)



Guy, I'm not sure where to start to be honest. I guess I probably first encountered you as a cocky newcomer (me, that is) busting my way into the tech hack scene back in 1990 or thereabouts. I don't have fond memories of your work on PCW or earlier, as I never really bothered reading tech magazines before I started writing for them :)

My first real memory of you would probably be on Cix and the 'adult' conf with the exchange of porn etc. I attended various fetish clubs where I bumped into many a CIXen and many a tech editor, although never you I hasten to add. But the way you dealt with the whole piss poor treatment by the Daily Mail (I think it was) impressed me greatly.

Not as much as I was impressed when we actually met for the first time and I discovered a quiet, thoughtful and really bloody nice chap. Indeed, we went on many a press trip together and although you probably never realised it I kind of adopted you as a replacement for my recently deceased Dad at the time.

Fondest memory is probably when you and I, for whatever unlikely reason, became the de facto satellite comms experts in the UK and so were invited to NASA on a VIP trip to see a space launch. I recall the partying and the science with equal wonder, especially getting the chap from the government so pissed he ended up with a traffic cone on his head and his trousers rolled up at that stupidly lavish gangster/Chicago themed party in the Disneyland hotel we were staying at. The one with the cigar bar, where we invented cocktails and told the barman they were very popular in the UK.

Guy, there is a very good reason that you are held with such high regard in this industry of ours - and that is simply that you are that rarest of beasts, a fucking nice bloke...

Posted by: [Davey Winder](#) | [March 28, 2010 at 12:03 PM](#)



My relationship with Guy goes back to the early '90s when I worked in IBM's PC Company. This constitutes in my mind the Good Old Days of Tech PR when the technology was still pretty much inchoate. There were two consequences: in those heady days where we all had more time and more budget, Guy was one of the few journalists whom I would willingly take out for lunch in order to be able to listen to his views on the PC industry to keep myself educated on current thinking on hot topics; and secondly, Guy had the highest-developed ability to take a working loan PC and make it not work - the much vaunted "Kewney Chaos effect". I would like to thank Guy for (a) his insights and (b) the opportunity to dine in some of the better restaurants in London (IBM would never have worn the bills if I had not been doing important PR work).

Posted by: [Spwalker](#) | [March 28, 2010 at 04:04 PM](#)



It was the News of the World farce, and one of the worst times of my life. Nothing I could do about it except wait for the memory to fade. Almost not a single word of the story was either in context, or accurate, and Duncan Campbell consulted his libel lawyer, and he gave me advice:

"You would almost certainly win an action. But the paper knows its law, and will take steps to minimise its costs. In the interim, it could be easily two to three years when it would 'open season' on you and everybody who ever knew you. Ex-girlfriends would have been asked questions about 'what's he like in bed?' and offered large sums for any answers. Your family would be followed, haunted, and investigated. Any and all indiscretions would emerge in the most salacious detail, whether true or not. And if any of them worked with kids, the story would go front page. And...'

Ghastly.

Posted by: [Gkewney](#) | [March 28, 2010 at 09:50 PM](#)



An abiding memory is dragging you across the newsroom at Computing by the finger to try and get you to phone people and get a story. Hope the finger healed. Still at CIX which shows my age. From Shrape!

Posted by: [Richard Sharpe](#) | [March 29, 2010 at 10:04 AM](#)



Guy -- You have been a technology titan from the earliest days of my career in PR -- dare I say from the mid-80's!

So many occasions to recall, but one I'll highlight is a trip with XTree (remember them) down to Cowes for day on a Round The World yacht. No wind but plenty of drink and great banter. I think Mr Tebbut and Mr Banks might also have been on that trip.

Over the years, our paths have crossed many times, most recently when we discussed Friction.tv and your possible appearance as the Technology Guru. I always enjoy our chats and the slightly incorrect gossip about who's hot, who's not etc! :)

So my thoughts are with you through this difficult time.

Posted by: [Andy West](#) | [March 29, 2010 at 10:27 AM](#)



For the record, I wasn't on the Cowes trip.

However, I was in the garage yesterday, clearing out stuff and I found my notebook from my first day on PCW - 28th June 1979 and there, in the middle, were the words 'Guy Kewney'. Probably the first occasion I wrote his name.

(I'm pretty sure it was there because he'd just asked Portia Isaacson an awkward question.)

That was the same day, incidentally, that I realised I knew so little about this 'microcomputer' business and journalism (I was still officially a project manager at ICL)

that I bottled the Adam Osborne interview and asked Guy to do it.

Happy days.

Posted by: [David Tebbutt](#) | [March 29, 2010 at 10:36 AM](#)



Guy was the reason I once spoke briefly to the then plain 'Mr' later to become 'Sir' Alan Sugar. Guy was the only journalist Sugar trusted. Guy knew everyone who was worth knowing in the business - and out of it for that matter. I was always in complete awe of that fact that he actually knew Douglas Adams! Frankly, I still am. Guy's two days a week in the office (Friday and Monday), were the only reason why PC Dealer ever had any decent industry stories in the early days. Working with Guy was also one of the big plusses of working on the paper and Guy always had time for the greener hacks amongst us who were often slightly baffled and dazzled by it all. I myself learned a great deal from you Guy and will always remember working with you fondly, as will many others, I am sure of that. They were heady times - and a lot of fun. When you think about it, we had quite a bunch of characters on Dealer team. Guy though was always our star player.

Even to this day I still quote some of Guy's aphorisms when talking to people about how they should (or should not) deal with the IT media. My favourite I think is "There's no such thing as 'off the record'". We got into a little bit of hot water from time to time, but they were good times and I'm glad I was there.

Posted by: [Simon Meredith](#) | [March 29, 2010 at 02:13 PM](#)



Like many of my generation, I remember first reading Guy when I was about ten years old in the ONLY entertaining pages of PC World (in the days when that wasn't a shop) Informative, educational, and always funny. I can't tell you how thrilled I was to actually talk to him on cix during the 1990s. again we found the same intelligence and wit he'd shown in his articles, but also his humanity. I am sorry he is not well, but he will always be thought of with affection and admiration, particularly by me.

Posted by: [Farmbrough.wordpress.com](#) | [March 29, 2010 at 05:53 PM](#)



Having avidly read one of the foremost computer journals at the time (early 1990s) and shared conferencing exchanges on CIX, my first real encounter with Guy was when he considered my (there were 4 founders) company (Demon Internet) for a PCW award. I still have the magazine! Guy could see the great appeal and possibilities for the Internet, probably more than we could at the coal face. The software we used was a hacked together set of shareware with a front end. "The software is terrible" he wrote. He wasn't wrong but not the greatest accolade, especially that given Demon Systems was a software company from which Demon Internet came. But right on the money as ever. I'll have to get the article out to see how close his predictions came true (1993 I think it was). We met a few times more in the 90s and I have always held him in great respect for his diligence and professional approach coupled with a wry sense of humour.

Posted by: [Grahame Davies](#) | [March 29, 2010 at 06:43 PM](#)



I remember attending numerous press luncheons when I was with InfoWorld, listening to many softball or inane questions, but knowing if Guy was in the room, he would eventually let fly a real question or two for those paying the lunch bill. And then everything was all right.

Posted by: [Scott](#) | [March 29, 2010 at 09:19 PM](#)



And that's why I hate one-to-ones so much. One poor bugger from the company spends a day getting glazed answering the same questions from a series of us hacks, and we don't get the pleasure of hearing Guy and his like (not that there are many of them) asking the really sensible questions.

Posted by: [Alan Burkitt-Gray](#) | [March 29, 2010 at 09:52 PM](#)



How come the early 90s seems like ancient history? My first memories of Guy are when I lobbied at Lexicon PR in 94 with the much-missed Lynne Thomas and the ever ebullient Annabel Hunt. More than one long evening at La Rocchetta on Clerkenwell Green - but then that was where we always ate, and Guy cheerfully charging into the office and demanding coffee. I am sure I must have talked to Guy about IT at some stage, but it's the social occasions that stayed in mind. Sunny afternoons in Farringdon, the sun struggling through the big, always dusty windows. Annabel and Lynne trying to outdo each other in giving Guy a hard time (or indeed any journalist game enough to drop by). Finally, when I had already turned 40, I was getting some proper PR training.

Posted by: [Lyle Closs](#) | [March 29, 2010 at 10:02 PM](#)



Guy Kewney? An Editorial Fellow of high repute: One to be relied upon to ask the killer question still forming in the rest of our minds; to offer his copy predictably late (though as we moved together through monthlies, weeklies and then online, this got progressively less painful I fancy...); a person you simply cannot get cross with; a commentator of huge importance to his many readers; a courageous wearer of both sandals and socks (or was that Rupert?); the submitter of two years' expenses in a single go; the owner of a personal chaos field able to reveal the single catastrophic weakness in a thousand component precision engineered new product... Must I really go on?

Guy, I have enjoyed working with you though the (many) phases of ZD, have often appreciated your experience and wisdom and can only wish you all possible luck on your present tough journey.

Posted by: Tony Westbrook | [March 30, 2010 at 01:32 AM](#)



I joined a conferencing thing called CIX some years ago, and soon found myself in a forum where people were slowly losing their religion. One of the most thought provoking people there was a guy who was just called guy. That should have been a clue.

So Guy, you are one of those who helped me lose the faith and become the fully paid up humanist I am today. I'm eternally grateful if that's the right adverb :-). You have been a constant presence throughout CIX, cutting down to size all manner of nonsense and ballyhoo, always politely and patiently but never letting anyone get away with clumsy and untenable thinking, and often finding something better to put in its place. Along the way you uncovered a bunch of interesting insights, some of which I will be working through for years to come, as I'm sure will many others.

I knew about your column but never quite realised what a legend you were outside of CIX until I mentioned you to one of my more computer-savvy friends and saw his reaction. It was good to finally meet you in person the other week, after what seems like years of trying to be the same place at the same time. Apart from being at opposite ends of the table at one of Mark's restaurant outings it seemed that one or other of us wasn't there. But at the same time you were always there on line with a witty reply or an intelligent insight. I look forward to seeing more of your thinking on line for as long as you can keep it up. Even after that, you'll always be there.

Posted by: [Mike Bennett](#) | [March 30, 2010 at 03:24 AM](#)



Mike Bennett has just beaten me to it. Much as I've always hugely admired you Guy from the journalistic aspect, it is your inciteful and thoughtful commentaries in the various religious and philosophical discussions on CIX that I value most. The current epic one in the jokes conf (of all places) being a case in point. You seem to have a knack of teasing out the truth buried in 'hot potato' topics. I have always hoped in my 18 years on CIX that one day I might meet you so I could shake your hand and thank you for the thousands of CIX messages marked K for keep that have the moniker 'guy' at the top but this woefully inadequate message will have to suffice.

Posted by: [Iain Laskey](#) | [March 30, 2010 at 08:30 AM](#)



Guy: you really did claim expenses from ZD for 'wear and tear on socks' following a trade show didn't you? Been relating that one for years...

Posted by: [Charles McLellan](#) | [March 30, 2010 at 10:54 AM](#)



I still haven't had the privilege of meeting Guy in person but, like Hypercube, I met Guy as guy on Cix. Unlike Hypercube, I knew who he was.

As a long time hard-core techie, I had been familiar with Mr K from the mid seventies and always appreciated the type of information he gave us. As a back-room techie it was interesting to know who were the real industry movers and shakers who were the real industry bullsh*tters. And I didn't envy his endless junkets around the globe. Oh no. Not at all.

His ability to pop over-blown egos (including mine on more than one occasion) was masterful. Although I have to wonder why he bothered to pop the ego an unknown like me :-).

We have had endless discussions about religion, some of them quite heated on occasion (POP). I think we now understand each other rather better than we did. I don't know if (I only believe that) there is a God. If there isn't, Guy can leave happy in the knowledge that he gave everything his best shot. If there is, He will know that Guy gave everything his best shot and I'm sure that is enough.

By way of anecdote, I will never forget, and will always be grateful for, finding Guy (and a mutual e-friend called Anne) on the other end of the wire(less) when I fired up my laptop during a particularly tedious spell in hospital about six years ago. His cheerfulness and charming nature made me feel much more content to be where I was. I am awestruck by his fortitude and resolution in the face of this awful illness. I pray that he can make the most of his remaining time with us and be happy that he has touched many lives for the better.

Oh, and Guy, I still want that beer. Later, OK?

Posted by: [Rob Jones](#) | [March 30, 2010 at 07:17 PM](#)



>I am awestruck by his fortitude and resolution in the face of this awful illness.

You could not have put it better. Guy: here's to our next encounter - whenever and wherever that may be.

Posted by: [Manek](#) | [April 01, 2010 at 03:54 PM](#)



I mentioned this blog to Vik and suggested he might want to add some memories: "My memories of time spent with Guy are generally a bit fuzzy". I have a few but they generally start with the inside of a pub and end shortly after.

Posted by: [Suz Olliver](#) | [April 02, 2010 at 09:52 PM](#)



Feel a little late to add this - but I only found out about the blog today. Lots of folk I know here too... and good wishes to them. Guy was the first person I met when I strolled out of the computer industry into journalism in 1978. I arrived in Computing's Dean Street offices on April 2 1978 and Guy was hunched over his desk. "Hi - I'm the new boy - where do I sit?" I asked. "Over there," he replied - "now shut up, I'm busy."

What seemed like an eternity later, Guy looked up and smiled. "Sorry, I was working out my expenses - the only creative writing I get to do around here."
I was smitten and remained so. Through the next few months, as I learned how to be a hack, Guy gave me words of encouragement. Only the world can judge whether this was a good idea - but I for one will always be grateful.

Posted by: Phil Manchester | [April 02, 2010 at 10:00 PM](#)



While my memories of actual events when I was learning the software biz in the UK are more than a trifle spotty, there are a select few folks whose names are irrevocably tied to my learning that I was really more cut out to be an industry gossip than a PR person. So thank you Guy (and Tebbo, and Banksie, and Lettice) for redirecting my career into the more fulfilling area of "communication". A word to which I apply an appropriate definition, depending on whether I am trying to earn a living or just on a lark. Sending you peaceful thoughts from the redwoods.

Posted by: Pat Bitton | [April 02, 2010 at 10:14 PM](#)



I have only 'met' Guy on Cix in the peewheet conference and occasionally in the fairly quiet writers' conference. I have always found him a thoughtful, compassionate and sensitive soul, even if sometimes I can't quite follow his arguments in peewheet!

I remember the comforting post he wrote for me one day when Rob was working away and I said I felt a bit lonely. It was so kind of him. Thanks again for that Guy.

Must look at the cix/jokes thread to see what he's been up to there.

The livejournal gives a window on Guy's world that it has been a privilege to look through these last few months.

Although I haven't met him, I think of him very fondly; and I wish him the best that can be.

Justine

Posted by: Justine Jones | [April 02, 2010 at 10:32 PM](#)



I've been holding off from writing here, because I just can't get my thoughts about Guy in order. That seems a poor excuse.

Guy the First, late 70s/early 80s: a young Rupert obsessed with technology, growing up in Plymouth, discovers Personal Computer World in WH Smiths on Royal Parade. (There is not much else going on in Plymouth in the late 70s/early 80s.)

PCW is an amazing thing. It has loads of fab technology, and an entire menagerie of Wise Beings writing about said tech. Desperate Dave Tebbutt. Banksie (before his move into graffiti). And some cat called Guy Kewney.

This was all terribly exciting, and got even more so when I managed to save up for a ZX81 kit from Uncle Clive. By then, there were things like PCN, What/Which/Yawn Computer, as well as the specialist titles, but PCW remained head and shoulders above the lot of 'em. And in the PCW jungle, Guy was clearly the alpha male. He knew everyone and everything, but still had that innocent-abroad tone which so effectively defused the hype.

Then I ended up in London with a Spectrum, a VTX5000 and a bad telephone bill... and after a while (to gloss over an awful lot) discovered Cix.

Guy the Second, 1985-ish: So, there I was on Cix, getting my head around social media (I believe others have discovered that since). That Guy Kewney was everywhere in the UK computer industry. He was the chap Uncle Clive chewed his beard over (and, later, I discovered, inspired similar dental action in Alan Sugar). He was talked about in awed tones by other journalists. He knew Douglas Adams.

And then I left a message on Cix, I forget where, and Guy answered. Yes, THE Guy Kewney. Left an answer. To my message.

OMFG.

Cix was... well, vastly engaging back then. After I'd worked out that Guy was in fact probably mortal (damn), I fell in with him and other bad sorts online and spent far, far too much time talking about computers and religion and music and drinking and sex and... hm, nothing much has changed.

I can't remember when I actually met him in the flesh for the first time, But I remember lots of the online times - the cix/adult mania, the rise and fall of Demon, so many intensely important fallings-out that mean nothing now.

Guy the Third, 1992: And then, after lots of peripheral encounters, finally on the same title as him - PC Mag. Which led to all sorts of fun - Comdex with the man, and watching him talk Michael Dell into talking us into the Spencer Katt Party. Togas. The curious inverse hierarchy about which of us was most hated by production for Adamsian approaches to deadlines. His theory was that if he was very, VERY late with his copy it was a Good Thing because it meant that nobody had the time to mess it up before press. His further theory that he was actually never late with his copy.

There is no record of the number of times he helped me out, but I wouldn't be here for at least five different reasons if it wasn't for Guy.

That was the work side. The personal side... I doubt anyone who's known Guy has escaped the perplexity, infuriating teeth-grinding frustration and sheer essence du D'oh that the man induces in all who draw near. Nor do I know anyone who, having experienced all that, counts it other than a price worth paying, and cheap at that. (The closer you get, the higher the price... and the more worthwhile.)

Guy drives everyone who knows him mad, and then has the chutzpah to wonder out loud and at length why the world is so full of mad people. The man has not a hadron of malice in his soul, and is clearly on the wrong planet.

Glorious.

(Tony: I NEVER wear socks with my sandals. That's Guy. Wrong planet, or what?)

Posted by: [Rupertg](#) | [April 03, 2010 at 03:38 AM](#)



Rupert's lovely piece echoes my own hesitations about writing here. I suppose I knew Guy through his PCW stuff first: that strange and giddy sense that people were discovering a new way to be human which was, however absurdly, the real enchantment of the "micro revolution". Then I must have met him and Rupert on cix at about the same time in the late Eighties, and in the flesh shortly thereafter. I remember his arrival at a couple of our parties: the inexhaustible, iron-willed melancholy; the generosity with knowledge and advice. This may have been the wrong planet for him, but we all here gained by it.

Posted by: [Andrew Brown](#) | [April 03, 2010 at 08:08 AM](#)



I'm coming to this a bit late, having only discovered the blog today. The dark-haired girl from Ireland, who swore regularly about the PC Direct sales people, didn't make an impact on the computing world, however she has very, very fond memories of Ziff Davis and Guy's smiling face. Thank you for sharing your knowledge so willingly with an upstart like myself, but above all, thank you for being a kindly father-figure in a vast, confusing sea of bits and bytes. Love, sparkles and a little bit of mischief from the Emerald Isle.

Posted by: [Fiona Corless](#) | [April 03, 2010 at 07:54 PM](#)



Dearest Guy greetings form Poole.
The dinghy is in the outhouse, asleep . I think the last time I was in it with you was because you were able to keep calm when I was on the water, unlike poor Peter who turned into Captain Bligh.
We lit a candle in Mary's beautiful sconce last night. My brother Paul and his family were here, and we all drank a toast to you Guy.
we'll be back in London soon
love and God Bless
Patricia & Peter

Posted by: [Patricia Kenyon](#) | [April 03, 2010 at 08:24 PM](#)



Unlike so many here, I had no idea what PCW was or who Guy was in the scheme of things when I met him. My first memory of him really (other than subbing his copy one time) was the day I found him, very shaken, at a desk in VNU because the Mail had done a scandal-mongering job on cix, with Guy as chief scandaleer. So to me he's always been a rather more vulnerable than godlike figure.

More in common with others, though, he has always been part of my landscape in technology writing.

I'm saying this only because I can't do what I'd really like to do, which is upload a pic of self wearing my I AM THE "REAL" GUY KEWNEY T-shirt.

wg

Posted by: [Wendy M. Grossman](#) | [April 04, 2010 at 09:53 PM](#)



Guy,
Wonderful posts here. To see how many people you inspired and mentored is fantastic. Such a wonderful legacy.

To add one more. I think that if you had not cajoled me into writing something soon after I landed in U.S. (some 30+ years ago), I might never have continued in journalism.

Thinking of you.

Love, Louise

Posted by: [Louise Kehoe](#) | [April 06, 2010 at 07:03 AM](#)



Pretty sure one of our first meetings was at a conference on the future of personal computing, where I was chairing a panel. I remember Bill Gates was on the panel, but he wasn't anywhere near as interesting as Guy. Guy and I are still friends - but looking at this series of posting, I wonder how thick the book of birthdays is now. Still its great that someone still remembers mine, outside the family. I do remembers staying over at Guys, and going to the loo in the morning only to find out it was immediately above the kitchen - and the ceiling had been removed. Through the floorboards, you could just see the cooker, with breakfast on the trot. Talk about an incentive to aim accurately!
Not the only memory - they are all priceless mate. And your sense of humour, whilst sorely stretched of late, will stay with many of us for ever...
Richard

Posted by: [Richard Clark](#) | [April 06, 2010 at 08:29 AM](#)



For those who want to read the Guy of yore in action, I've uploaded a PDF of the first issue of PCW on Google Docs (no sign-in needed).

<http://tinyurl.com/yhyha54>

I created this for the 30th anniversary issue in 2008 - Guy's first column is on page 14.

Kelvyn

Posted by: [Kelvyn Taylor](#) | April 06, 2010 at 06:33 PM



So this could take a while... My first knowledge of Guy was reading Datalink while stumbling through a TOPS course in Liverpool on IBM 360 DOS VS + Power (you got value for money in course names then). I can't say that Guy enlightened me much at the time, very little did then but I did look forward to reading Datalink each week, well his bit and Bill Tidy.

Then later working for ACT, Apricot and really at Tandon I got to know him a bit more and it was always a pleasure to share some nugget or other knowing it would get used properly and in context.

Over the intervening years we have bumped together at places and times like Cebit and such and he has always had the good manners to remember who I am.

He even remembered who I am recently and I'm sorry we've not got round to having that call we promised one another so far.

Which reminds me I should pummel James Minotto to comment if he hasn't already. It would not do to not have the rent-a-mouth of the 80's join in as well.

Posted by: [Simon_Lucy](#) | April 06, 2010 at 06:49 PM



It was Guy's articles in Computing, about 1977/8, that kick started the whole microcomputer industry in Britain. They created a sense that something very big and very special was just about to happen. Many people, myself included, were inspired to get on board. Sinclair, Acorn, Amstrad etc were just children of something Guy created. The Personal Computer World days saw the realisation of what Guy had seen coming. So today we have a whole pile of industries where nothing existed 35 years ago.

Guy was always very sociable and very supportive. We had meals, met at shows and lunches, he invited me to his home. Mostly we gossiped on the phone, he knew a vast amount more than ever appeared in print!

Guy has lived in exciting times and been a major player in events. Very many of us owe him a lot.

Posted by: [Bruce Everiss](#) | April 07, 2010 at 09:42 AM



I got to know Guy through CIX and mutual friends like David Morton and Jon Honeyball and I used to sneak out from my first proper job in IT - Mac support at News International - and have long silly lunches with him in Wapping.

I followed his every word to the letter and still do to this day.

Posted by: [Tim Biller](#) | April 07, 2010 at 11:51 AM



Best wishes Guy.

I just read your comment from a few days back: "pretty much what I'd expect in the final stages of a terminal illness: a sense of fading purpose, a sense of reducing energy, and a sense of withdrawal."

That will live with me for a long while: the ability to utter those words, and the tone of your typed voice is yet another of the reasons we all love you.

I hope you get this message - and I'm wishing you all the best.

Peter Judge

Posted by: [Peter Judge](#) | April 07, 2010 at 04:21 PM



I could go on chapter and verse on this topic but here are a few highlights:

Copy - back when I was doing my apprenticeship in the trade I was writing on accountancy of all things and was having real doubts about my chosen career, so much so that I left it and went into PR for a bit. But reading your copy it was clear that while the subjects weren't glamorous they were both interesting and tremendous fun to write about. It was something I set out to do myself, by hook or by crook.

CIX - I freely admit to being very jealous of your three letter address - it was the height of geek cred on the board. We met for the first time after you asked if anyone had a spare Palm sync cable and as I happened to have one lying around we arranged to meet up at the OS/2 drinking club in Soho and exchange it for a pint. It turned out to be several and I staggered out some time later more determined than ever to work with such people.

Cleanliness - Cleanliness may be next to godliness in some people's books but not in yours (or mine). The last desk you had at Ziff should have been preserved for history. It was piled chest high with press releases from the dawn of time and in the future archaeologists should have had the chance to pull apart the compressed matter to find releases for SCSI connectors or the launch of the 486. It drove Facilities management, with their clean desk policy, absolutely nuts and that's another reason to remember it with pleasure.

Questions - One of the key things I learned from you was it's not what you ask but how you ask it that gets the best results, but that no matter what you should always question. Sure, we might have disagreed on some issues but arguments were always sharp and to the point, just like press conference questions.

Sailing - It's still a niggle that for all our mutual love of sailing we never went out on the water together. Competition for on the water jollies was tight but it was always fun to catch up on a Monday with the latest news of the Vendee and Ellen McArthur, cats verses tris and whether the Moth class would actually work in anything less than a gale. I'm out on the water a lot more now I'm in the Bay Area and wondered what you

would make of the America's Cup coming to San Francisco, as was made possible last month.

Lateness - There was a kind of greatness to your lateness, or even just the excuses for it. You still have the second best excuse for coming in late I've ever heard - a bus had soaked you from the knees down with a splashed puddle and you'd had to go home and change. It was only beaten by another PC Magger who turned up to work at 2:30pm with the excuse "Sorry I'm late, I was doing mushrooms until five this morning and couldn't sleep." You know who you are...

Posted by: [Iain Thomson](#) | [April 07, 2010 at 04:58 PM](#)



Dear Guy. Thanks for being a champ, for lunch at L'Escargot with Jamie Whatisface (as a sub, I didn't get many perks), for seeing me safely onto the bus in Aldgate, for not strangling me for chainsmoking in the office (which you hated and complained about constantly while I ignored you). For always being nice, basically. Good luck on the journey. xx Trish

Posted by: [Trish Devine](#) | [April 07, 2010 at 11:01 PM](#)



Like everyone else I owe a lot to Guy. But being stupid I never really realised it until way after I should. Back in 1978 I remember buying my first copy of PCW and reading it from cover to cover. For the next ten years PCW was my lifeline to the big exciting world of personal computers, and it was also the inspiration I needed to put two fingers up at all my mates and my teachers, and to go to a completely different sixth form from the one everyone recommended, just so I could do a computing A level, because PCW and Guy said it was the future.

Little did I know that 14 years after that reading my first copy of PCW, it would lead to the situation of me standing in front of Guy Kewney in Ziff towers, listening to him explaining to me - very politely - why I wasn't going to get my copy, just yet. But of course when I did get it, 10 seconds before the really and truly, really final, final, final, final deadline was up, it was perfect, as always, and that's why I kept asking him to write more.

Yet, I still didn't connect that the annoying - yet polite - Guy who didn't get his copy in, and the Guy I argued with in the pub about bits, bytes and bollocks was the same Guy, nor that the Guy I got horrendously drunk with at Comdex year-after-year was also the same Guy. Or that the really irritating Guy at every press conference you ever attended, who always asked the really annoying questions - very politely - that you wished you really had the guts to ask, was also the same Guy.

Thank you for being irritating and inspiring, and just being Guy, and I'm sorry I was too stupid to connect the two, perhaps I would have treated you with a bit more reverence if I'd known. I'm not worthy!!

Marcus

Posted by: [marcus austin](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 01:21 AM](#)



I want to thank everyone who has posted here. Your words meant a lot to Guy (and to myself and our daughters).

I am really sorry to report here that Guy died at twenty to one this morning (8th April). Right until this afternoon he had been peaceful and calm. He had a nasty fall this afternoon and I think that unsettled him tremendously. The nurses put him on a morphine pump at about 5pm yesterday. We were lucky to have a wonderful nurse from Marie Curie with us this evening and she looked after him (and us) really well. I have one of my sisters staying with me and one of my nieces. Lucy and Alice are both coming here tomorrow.

Guy died with dignity. He was a wonderful man and I will miss him terribly.

Posted by: [Mary Kewney](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 03:36 AM](#)



A reminder to us all that while the industry is still young the 'Henry Fords' are leaving us...

Posted by: [David Banes](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 08:34 AM](#)



RIP Guy. I count myself lucky to have worked with you.

Posted by: [Ian White](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 09:33 AM](#)



I was interviewed a couple times last year by Guy for articles on cloud computing.

It was really weird being interviewed by someone who I had grown up reading his articles in PCW and who had been such a massive influence on me working in the field of computing.

Guy was a lovely bloke and a massive force in UK tech journalism - he'll be greatly missed.

Posted by: [James Blake](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 10:36 AM](#)



Guy was a regular read.

Sadly I once featured as a player in a Guy article, under the byline "A Fule" (deserved). Guy was taking on a major manufacturer that was both incompetent and behaving very badly. He stood up for the customers.

Posted by: [David F. Cox](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 11:46 AM](#)



Guy was my first UK friend 'in the business' when I arrived here nearly 20 years ago with Kenan Systems. I needed a speaker for our first User Group meeting and asked around for someone 'edgy, insightful, and colourful.' Guy delivered in spades and we struck up a close and immediate friendship.

I soon moved to Microsoft/UK where Guy was shunned as a 'Microsoft baiter'. Microsoft PR mostly wanted to invest time and attention to those who would deliver positive copy. Yet, I continued our annual Yacht Club lunches where we explored all manner of issues and ideas in good natured banter. Contrary to being a Microsoft 'baiter' he held Microsoft in high regard and was always open to hearing the other side (most of those unattributed Microsoft quotes that gave the MS view were from me).

He request that our last Yacht Club lunch in October had to be moved to his 'local club'. A lovely public sailing facility on the Stoke Newington reservoir that he was instrumental in initiating. We sat in the sunshine watching a class of rambunctious youngsters bobble about in dinghys while musing about the great and good. I will dearly miss such a kind-hearted soul who never failed to spark new ideas and rouse good humour.

Posted by: [Bruce Lynn](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 12:38 PM](#)



Oh dear I knew Guy well, I met him when he started as news reporter for Personal Computer World about the same time I contributed articles, circa 1983. In 1984 he wrote a news feature in Computer Weekly with the headline "BEEBUG boss Sheridan Williams forced to buy a Ferrari". A really nice guy (pun intended), he will be missed.

Posted by: [Sheridan Williams](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 12:42 PM](#)



Guy was the only person I've ever known to complain that there was too much sitting space available in the Mobile World Congress press room! It made me laugh then, and it brings a smile to my face now. He will be missed.

Posted by: [Superglaze](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 12:51 PM](#)



I'm a bit late with my contribution - but then, being late with copy is an appropriate tribute for Guy.

I held off because, unlike so many of the other people on these pages, I never actually worked with Guy. Like most people in the IT journalism biz, I was in awe of Guy and always considered that getting Guy to write for your publication was the acme of success.

When I set up Techworld and was casting around for freelancers, I finally got to use Guy and, needless to say, his copy was always interesting and perceptive. We had lunch together as we discussed other ways to proceed - a very jolly lunch, but, sadly, the plans came to nothing.

I wished I'd had the chance to use him more - our paths crossed only briefly - but for the influence he's wielded, his erudition and his refusal to take vendors at face value, he'll always be much respected.

RIP Guy - you'll be much missed.

Posted by: [Max Cooter](#) | [April 09, 2010 at 07:25 AM](#)



It was such a lovely day. I was thinking and chatting to Guy all day. I was telling him about plans my plans to take Mary out soon.

Not sure if he can hear me but I'm sure he would approve.

Posted by: [Jennifer Perry](#) | [April 11, 2010 at 05:42 PM](#)



Guy, the world was much richer for your presence, and much diminished by your passing. At least you've been wearing the appropriate footwear all this time.

I remember hiring you once to speak at a conference. When I told one of my industry buddies he said "you must be brave!" and I'm glad I was.

You were funny, acerbic and your joke about the shuttle cock shocked my US colleagues into a stunned silence, as did many of your other remarks.

Needless to say, the audience loved it - as your audiences have always loved you. Adios, amigo...

Posted by: [Bob Apollo](#) | [April 12, 2010 at 11:20 AM](#)



A great loss - and an example to everyone who seeks to shine a light on technology business.

In the 1980s I relied on Guy and Tebbo as the two guys who could be relied on to point me in the right direction - trying to find a way through the smoke and mirrors of the industry.

Every writer on technology or business should be obliged to study (not just read) the work of you both.

Posted by: [Ken Welsby](#) | [April 15, 2010 at 11:35 AM](#)



Guy was and is a legend; he never seemed to get tired of this difficult and frustrating industry.

He will be sadly missed but never forgotten.

Posted by: [Robin Daunter](#) | [April 16, 2010 at 01:50 PM](#)



Goodbye old friend...

Our paths first crossed over 33 years ago, in 1977, when Guy was at New Scientist and I had just started a hobby computing newsletter. Since then we have been good friends and our paths have crossed many times, working for the same publishers, writing for the same magazines, going to the same press launches. You were always there with a friendly face, the latest gossip, and a deep insight into many things in life, not just technology.

Most recently we were partners in a little e-reader consultancy called AFAICS. Guy thought of the name, an acronym for As Far As I Can See. We published a couple of reports on e-reader and e-paper technology and used to hold all our meetings either in the Dog and Duck, our 'office', over a pint of the landlords best, or at Govindas over a thali.

On the 30th, Guy's birthday, I will be raising a glass to him in the Dog and Duck. Guy will be greatly missed, but will always live on in my memory, and I am sure in the memories of all the many other people who knew him, and whose lives he touched.

Posted by: [Nick Hampshire](#) | [April 22, 2010 at 08:50 AM](#)

[← Earlier comments](#)

The comments to this entry are closed.

Stuff for Guy

Originally created to cheer Guy up. Now, sadly, it's a memorial.

[Home](#) [Photos](#)

[« Some words for Guy | Main | Guy's funeral »](#)

» It's all over for Guy

I'm sad to report that Guy is no longer with us. He died early this morning. His wife, Mary, says it all with her comment in this blog, reproduced below:


I want to thank everyone who has posted here. Your words meant a lot to Guy (and to myself and our daughters).

I am really sorry to report here that Guy died at twenty to one this morning (8th April). Right until this afternoon he had been peaceful and calm. He had a nasty fall this afternoon and I think that unsettled him tremendously. The nurses put him on a morphine pump at about 5pm yesterday. We were lucky to have a wonderful nurse from Marie Curie with us this evening and she looked after him (and us) really well. I have one of my sisters staying with me and one of my nieces. Lucy and Alice are both coming here tomorrow.

Guy died with dignity. He was a wonderful man and I will miss him terribly.

April 08, 2010 | [Permalink](#)
Technorati Tags: [guykewney](#)

comments

 You can follow this conversation by subscribing to the [comment feed](#) for this post.



This morning I wake up to find that the world is a poorer place.

When I first started to use computers I devoured magazines and found that the articles that taught me most were by Guy Kewney. When I later became a journalist, I was naturally in awe of him. However, I found him to be very approachable, totally charming and very warm.

He was also a very fine sailor. I followed him round the Solent in 40 footers with BT. Only feet off his transom I was waiting to pounce on his first error - but there were none!

Posted by: [Rod Newing](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 06:07 AM](#)



Really really sad to hear about Guy... The PR community will miss him a lot! RIP Guy.
Monica costa

Posted by: [monica costa](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 09:01 AM](#)



So sad to hear the news. Guy was an inspiration to us all.

Posted by: [Jenny Cowell \(Bacon\)](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 09:19 AM](#)



My last meeting with Guy was with a Swedish start-up. We met out near his home, over lunch alongside a man-made lake (can't remember the name) but there were several small boats out on the water, skippered by the young and old.

My client, himself an avid sailor, spent more time talking with Guy about boating than technology, which seemed to go over very well.

It's a nice memory. Rest in Peace, Guy.

Posted by: [Greg Vitarelli](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 09:36 AM](#)



Sorry to hear of Guy's demise. He was the only journalist of the early microcomputer days that I noticed and read. Saw a lot of his very rational views on CIX too. The IT industry is a little smaller today than it was yesterday.

RIP.

David Mather

Posted by: [Benbattle](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 09:46 AM](#)



My thoughts are here: <http://bigtin.wordpress.com/2010/04/08/guy-kewney-rip/>

Posted by: [Manek Dubash](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 10:03 AM](#)

[Guy's hunkymouse blog](#)

[Donation site](#)

[Donate to Marie Curie](#)

[Donate to St Joseph's Hospice](#)

[Donate to Macmillan](#)

If you have photos or links to new tributes, please email them to david.tebbo.com - you know where the @ and the . belong.

published tributes a-z

» A word or two

Many of these tributes have their own comments. You don't have to follow many to see what a profound influence Guy had on so many people.

» And there's more on Guy's blog

- » [From Andrew Brown](#)
- » [From Barnaby Page](#)
- » [From BBC](#)
- » [From Bob Kane](#)
- » [From Bruce Everiss](#)
- » [From Chris Green](#)
- » [From Chris Kenyon](#)
- » [From Claire Thompson](#)
- » [From Context PR](#)
- » [From Dana Blankenhorn](#)
- » [From Dana Blankenhorn at SmartPlanet](#)
- » [From Danny O'Brien](#)
- » [From Davey Winder](#)
- » [From David Tebbutt](#)
- » [From Dean Bubleby](#)
- » [From Dennis Howlett](#)
- » [From Dick Vinegar](#)
- » [From Emory Kale](#)
- » [From Faris Raouf](#)
- » [From Frank H Little](#)
- » [From Henry Tucker](#)
- » [From Iain Laskey](#)
- » [From Iain Thomson](#)
- » [From Iain Thomson \(Guy in top 10 Sci/Tech writers\)](#)
- » [From Jack Schofield \(The Guardian\)](#)
- » [From James Enck](#)
- » [From Jimmy Blake](#)
- » [From Joe Pritchard](#)
- » [From John Lettice](#)
- » [From Jon Honeyball](#)
- » [From Josie Herbert](#)
- » [From Justin Sorkin](#)
- » [From Kelvyn Taylor](#)
- » [From Kelvyn Taylor in Computeractive](#)
- » [From Kevin Townsend](#)
- » [From Kieren McCarthy](#)
- » [From Lucy Sherriff](#)
- » [From Manek Dubash](#)
- » [From Manek Dubash in El Reg](#)
- » [From Mike Magee](#)
- » [From Mobile News](#)



It is strange going to Facebook and seeing his chat with me still there. In December he said: "I may have another year... not very much more, probably. An embuaggerance! but well, we have to go some time."

Sadly it was not to be, but typical Guy phrasing.

Posted by: [Bruce Everiss](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 10:52 AM](#)



I will really miss Guy. I've put my thoughts together here:
<http://www.chrisgreen.co.uk/525/in-memory-of-guy-kewney/>

Posted by: [Chris Green](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 11:34 AM](#)



We'll all miss you, Guy. My thoughts are with the family and so many friends around the world.

Posted by: [Alan Burkitt-Gray](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 11:44 AM](#)



I worked with Guy for a year at PC Magazine and often bumped into him at press events (in fact, we once spent a week on a yacht, courtesy of a BT press jolly).

He was an inspiration to younger journalists and an all round nice guy. I'm very sorry to hear this news.

Posted by: [Lance Concannon](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 12:31 PM](#)



Fond good bye from the London OS/2 Drinking Club.
:-)

Posted by: [Andy B J Low](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 12:38 PM](#)



Sad to hear the news: talked a lot with Guy, mainly about boats, in the old days on CIX... Best wished to his family.

Posted by: [JimC \(sccis3@cix\)](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 12:39 PM](#)



Am saddened to hear of Guy's passing. I only had one telephone conversation with him, many moons ago. However I was a great fan of his columns.

RIP Guy - you will be missed.

Posted by: [Jeremy Haile](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 12:41 PM](#)



How very sad. I learnt a great deal and Guy made me laugh. An inspiration.

Posted by: [Terry](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 12:41 PM](#)



Very sorry to hear this. Guy in his prime was the journalist I first turned to for intelligent informed comment with a witty turn of phrase. Later, it was always a delight to bump into him or have an extended telephone-based gossip.

Posted by: [Peter Sommer](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 12:42 PM](#)



Way back in the 80s I devoured his words in Personal Computer World.

During my brief stint as a journalist he was a ready source of wit and insight.

We'll miss him.

Posted by: [Mark Stephens](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 12:59 PM](#)



Guy was an inspiration to many of us in the IT community and a really nice chap. He will be sorely missed. RIP Guy.

Posted by: [Angelica Mari](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 01:11 PM](#)



I sadly never met Guy but have read his articles avidly since PCW back in the early 80s. A great, insightful and amusing writer, he'll be sorely missed by all us techies. Sincere condolences to all his friends and family.

Posted by: [Paul Westerman](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 01:23 PM](#)



There is a strangeness to this: Guy was there at a couple of formative and important parts of my life. And that's quite aside from his value as a journalistic role model. I've left a few thoughts here: <http://www.webvivant.com/guy-kewney.html>

Posted by: [Steve Mansfield-Devine](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 01:46 PM](#)



The computer world was made vastly richer by his contributions and, while I never got to work with him in those heady days of the Nascom, Tangerine and NewBrain he was a constant source of inspiration and a figurehead to our slightly deranged community. I guess we are all getting a lot older than we realised...

Posted by: [Henry Budgett](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 01:59 PM](#)

- » [From Richard Holway](#)
- » [From Simon Quicke](#)
- » [From Steve Bell](#)
- » [From Steve Broadhead](#)
- » [From Steve Mansfield-Devine](#)
- » [From Team Register](#)
- » [From The Week \(a mention\)](#)
- » [From The Week \(full obit\)](#)
- » [From Tim Danton](#)
- » [From Tom Graves](#)
- » [From Trish Mansfield-Devine](#)
- » [From Wayne Rash](#)
- » [From Wendy McAuliffe](#)
- » [From William Poel](#)



It is with deep sadness that we learn of Guy's passing today.

On behalf of all the comms and tech community at IBM, who worked with Guy over the years, I'd like to offer sincere condolences to his family and friends at this difficult time.

He was credit to his profession and will be sorely missed.

Joe Hanley, IBM

Posted by: Joe Hanley | April 08, 2010 at 02:47 PM



I only met him a couple of times at press events but he was a very intelligent man who always gave you his time willingly to chat and share his thoughts. The world is a poorer place for his passing. RIP Guy.

Posted by: M.Shepherd | April 08, 2010 at 03:32 PM



Guy was just - always there. one of the fixed points as well as one of the quirks. uniquely himself and his own best tribute. I'm glad to have known him, glad - in the best possible way - to miss him, because it means I did know him

Posted by: Mary Branscombe | April 08, 2010 at 03:56 PM



Strange, but I can't see Guy being too smitten with the idea of sadness, though sad day it surely is.....I shall miss those wonderfully elliptical discussions we sometimes had that seemed to incorporate every known technology in the universe.

And anyway, I keep smiling at the thought of those great celestial press conferences, with Guy alongside the likes of Sean Hallahan, Claire Gooding, Terence Green, Hedley Voysey and Rex Malik: "Now, that water-into-wine trick. Did you palm a phial of wine concentrate or was it the simple con of tell-them-enough-times-its-water-and-they-won't-even-look?"

Posted by: Martin Banks | April 08, 2010 at 03:57 PM



And I forgot to include Tim Palmer in that celestial press conference. We will miss Guy, he may miss us, but he will certainly have some excellent company.

Posted by: Martin Banks | April 08, 2010 at 04:06 PM



Guy - you will be missed here in the colonies as well. My thoughts are here: <http://blog.bkane.com/?p=127>

Your family will be in my prayers.

Posted by: Bob Kane | April 08, 2010 at 04:07 PM



I just wanted to add my name to the many others paying tribute to such a wonderful person. I remember some good times we had together.

May his memory be a blessing.

Posted by: Dan Bricklin | April 08, 2010 at 04:44 PM



Very, very sad to learn of Guy's passing.

As I said in another place, I think he would find it fitting that the interactive electronic space we inhabit today - and which he helped to create from the earliest days - should generate so much discussion of his valuable life.

So long my old friend. I really will miss our chats.

Steve xx

Posted by: Steve Gold | April 08, 2010 at 04:49 PM



Mary, Lucy, I am so sorry to hear this news.

You are in my thoughts and prayers, as is he. RIP.

Posted by: Sarah Taylor | April 08, 2010 at 05:01 PM



The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time. -Mark Twain

Guy lived life to the fullest...always...and I miss him. He was a guiding force for me when I lived in the UK.

When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight. -Kahlil Gibran

Guy was a delight to know and the memory of his life lives on in all of us.

Jamie Minotto

Posted by: James Minotto | April 08, 2010 at 05:03 PM



Guy was undoubtedly a one-off and an inspiration to a host of writers out there. My thoughts are with his family.

Posted by: Jan Howells | [April 08, 2010 at 05:12 PM](#)



It certainly came as a shock to me too... At PCW Guy was one of the first commissioning editors ever to buy one of my stories, so I guess I owe much of my subsequent career to early his patronage.

The idea of a press conference with him lined up alongside Hedley Voysey, Rex Malik and the others appeals - but I suspect it might be more hellish than celestial for any industry execs who had to face that lot. Another sad reminder of how times have changed.

Posted by: [John Stokdyk](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 05:14 PM](#)



A room full of all of you: Mary, Guy and children -- that's what I remember when we visited a long time ago for a chaotic but fun dinner in Finsbury Park, I think. I hadn't heard that Guy was ill -- so sorry not to have posted before, to have wished him my best and shared some memories. Of San Francisco, on a sparkling day when we first met a long time ago. I am thinking of you all.

best
Deborah

Posted by: [Deborah Wise Unger](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 05:54 PM](#)



Worked with Guy a few years back and always enjoyed his pieces. Sad to think he won't be imparting such smiles to us any more.

Posted by: [John R. Quain](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 06:31 PM](#)



Who needs the Internet. Word had got around the inner and extended sancta of Guy's illness and put most of us into a state of petrified shock. Ever since there have been usable computers in the UK there has always been Guy to explain the issues. IT without Guy was unimaginable.

I founded Ashmount Research in 1990 with William Lees. Without Guy's emotional support it may not have happened. We were probably not the first Internet Software company in the UK but certainly one of the first.

Guy was always there for a chat and ideas grinding session which was essential for a small firm smothered, even then, by multinationals.

What I will always remember about Guy was that contrary to his home study or wherever he worked, which was a glorified shambles, his words always shone forth ordered clarity.

The truth was important to him and he would write nothing less.

With all my love and best wishes to everyone who know him, especially his family.

Ed Hasted

Posted by: [Ed Hasted](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 06:32 PM](#)



Guy was one of the main reasons I subscribed to PCW for so many years. He taught me more than I can remember in my pre-teen years and kept me informed all through university and into my early career. His articles were always well written, informative and well worth the time to read. He will be sadly missed.

Posted by: [Mark Booth](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 07:52 PM](#)



For what it's worth, my thoughts are here
<http://www.practicalpc.co.uk/opinion/guy-kewney.htm>.

Posted by: [Iain Laskey](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 09:19 PM](#)



But Tim Palmer didn't go to many press conferences, Martin. He sat at his Superbrain in the Infomatics office, phoned people who knew what was happening, and puffed away on his small cigars as he wrote the IDB, and finished every day on the dot, ready for it to be printed and mailed out.

What a sad day, and sad to recall all those others you've mentioned, Sean and Claire, Terence, Hedley, Rex, Tim and now Guy -- though at the same time so good to have known them and worked with them.

Posted by: [Alan Burkitt-Gray](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 10:16 PM](#)



I remember reading his PCW review of the Lisa, when it came out, wherein he succinctly laid forth just what a shift in programming that foretold - where the program would be reacting to events, generated by the user, rather than the program being in control, and the user responding to it.

Simple, and profound. We so dearly need more folks able to communicate such concepts with such apparent ease (and wit).

Posted by: [Porsupah](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 10:44 PM](#)



They just don't make 'em like Guy anymore. Such a sad loss. Mary and Lucy - we've never met but my thoughts are with you. We were all lucky to have known him.

Posted by: [Tari Lang \(used to be Hibbitt\)](#) | [April 08, 2010 at 11:05 PM](#)



I used to rib him about Guy Goma - he never took offence, and still bought me a beer. I miss our chats about nothing in particular.

Mr.G

Posted by: Mr.G | [April 08, 2010 at 11:20 PM](#)



I have many fond memories of Guy, but perhaps my most vivid is those sandals. With socks. Descending a mountain somewhere in Germany on a press junket, on toboggans. And with Guy typically brushing aside any concern for his feet. God he must have been freezing. I miss you already Guy.

Posted by: Matt Loney | [April 09, 2010 at 12:51 AM](#)



Well, what a way to start the day; to wake up to this news!

Very sad now :-{

Always a pleasure to see, hear or read what this man had to say.

Posted by: Carl Waring | [April 09, 2010 at 09:36 AM](#)



A man who instantly made you feel like a friend. RIP Guy.

Posted by: Timothy J. Brown | [April 09, 2010 at 09:37 AM](#)



I arrived home from a day out yesterday to hear the sad news that cancer had claimed the lives of 2 people I knew. I only met Malcolm McLaren once, in around 1987, when he and I were guests on a TV chat show. I was talking about hacking and being a computer nerd. Malcolm was talking about his music, and had quite evidently been smoking something he shouldn't have. Unsurprisingly, our paths never crossed again.

Today, the web is rightly awash with tributes to Guy Kewney, from the people he worked with and from his multitudinous readers. Many of them start "I never met Guy, but..." or "I'm proud to say that I met him once...". He clearly had mastered the art of making a good impression quickly.

I'm extremely proud to say that I met him first in 1987, some 23 years ago, when I joined Personal Computer World as a staff writer. I'd been a member of Britain's extended family of professional IT journalists since '83, working as a staffer on EMAP's Computer & Video Games and as a freelancer for other titles too. The gig at PCW came about because I'd submitted a big freelance piece for them, which they liked and published, shortly before the full time job was advertised. When I arrived at the offices and met Guy, who wrote the news pages, he welcomed me with metaphorically open arms and told me that one of the reasons I'd got the job is because he put in a good word for me. Apparently he thought that freelance piece was right up their street. It was, if I remember, 6 or 7 pages about writing programs using the undocumented batch control language built into Telecom Gold.

Being in the above-mentioned family of IT journalists has meant a lot to me. I still meet today, both online and in person, people I first encountered at press conferences in 1983. I was a full-time journo for more than 2 decades, though now, like many others of that era, I'm more the son who's left home but still remembers to send a card at Christmas or turns up when he needs a quick meal or a load of washing done.

Like any family, members come and members go. My good friend Lynne, an IT PR person who happened to live just around the corner from Guy and knew him well, died a few years ago. And now Guy himself is no longer with us. Toward the end, his blog postings had begun to contain pretty clear hints that he just wanted it all to be over now. So for his sake, I'm glad that it is.

Guy was one of the most well-informed, professional, helpful, competent, knowledgeable and infuriating people I'd ever met. He was also one of the most disorganised. His copy, when I was at PCW, was always late, and his range of excuses would put to shame any schoolboy who kept falling back on the ones about the dog or the bus. Yet his column was always the first thing that most readers turned to, for their monthly insight into what was happening in their world. The industry devoured it too - it was often the best way to find out what was happening in your own company before any official announcements were made.

He was, as many have said, a one-off, and I miss him already. His writing, which stopped only 10 days before he died, was inspiring, cathartic, therapeutic and courageous. Me, I couldn't even muster the courage to pop up to north London, knock on his door, and say what I knew would be a final goodbye. Sorry, Guy.

Somewhere between here and whatever we might want to call an afterlife or heaven or whatever, Guy is probably in a taxi right now, heading to a press conference for which he thinks he's late. Actually, he's misread the diary and it's not till next week. In life, his timekeeping was frequently out by a few days. In death it's more like 20 years. He was 63, which is far too young.

Posted by: Rob Schifreen | [April 09, 2010 at 10:23 AM](#)



Thanks Rob, for your heartfelt comment. I am generally standing to one side while others create the content here. But your last remark has encouraged me to share something odd.

At 4:30am yesterday, a panel behind our wall-mounted tv fell, knocking a stone ornament off the mantelpiece onto the hearth, where it shattered. Wide awake, I switched the computer on to learn that Guy had died.

After doing stuff with this 'Guy' blog, I tried to sleep, but couldn't. Then it occurred to

me that maybe Guy had woken me up deliberately, so I would get my arse in gear.

The odd thing is that I eventually shared this thought with Banksie (Martin Banks) and he said that, at 6:00 yesterday morning, a string broke on a noticeboard in his kitchen and it clattered to the floor.

As Martin said, "Probably took him 90 mins to work out how to get to my place from yours. He'll get the hang of it soon, I expect."

Posted by: [David Tebbutt](#) | [April 09, 2010 at 10:40 AM](#)



Sad news.

I never met Guy - but I always read his stuff when I could, right from the early days. He was consistently interesting. I, like many, will miss him. A sad day indeed.

Posted by: [Mike Phillipson](#) | [April 09, 2010 at 12:20 PM](#)



We will miss your forthright insight Guy; that so often illuminated the shortcomings in this technology industry. I enjoyed working with you and that your personal integrity was always paramount. But what I'll miss most is the expressions of the exasperated industry leaders failing to impress you with their song and dance routines, wonderful memories. Thank you

Posted by: [Victor Aberdeen](#) | [April 09, 2010 at 01:36 PM](#)



Like so many other old friends here, I felt deeply saddened at Guy's passing. As well as being a truly great and unique journalist, Guy was a great family man, endlessly kind and considerate and an example to us all. We will all miss him but none more so, I am sure, than Mary and Lucy and his other close family and friends. You will have many happy memories to carry with you, a windy but sunny Saturday in the Shropshire countryside almost 22 years ago included I hope. I am just glad that I knew him and like so many others, I will never be able to forget him. How could you once you'd worked with him? Always late into the office, always late with copy, always late with everything, always suprising us with his amazing knowledge, contacts and stories, and his quirky behaviour and sudden disappearances when the news deadline was upon us, always great company, always the one and only Guy Kewneyd
`begin_of_the_skype_highlighting` `end_of_the_skype_highlighting`.

Posted by: [Simon Meredith](#) | [April 09, 2010 at 04:33 PM](#)



I feel guilty for missing the run-up to this event: Quni last chatted with me last year, while I was in Europe, and I could tell that he was "making his rounds" as it were. I was too busy; which I now can't make amends for. Without Guy I wouldn't be where (and what) I am today, no question about it. Like Tebbo & Banksie, last night was very disturbed here at Schloss Cassidy; and now I know why.

Posted by: [Steve Cassidy](#) | [April 10, 2010 at 12:41 AM](#)



For those of you who would like a briefer and more memorable url reference to this site (actually <http://teblog.typepad.com/guy/> works. - Ed.), I have posted my brief valediction at Guy's own site: <http://www.kewney.co.uk/> - with a link back to here.

Posted by: [William Poel](#) | [April 10, 2010 at 03:28 PM](#)



Guy was one of those journalists that you really wanted to like your product, company, ceo, or initiative... if Guy thought it, he or she was good or worthwhile you were on a winner - you had credibility.

He also had that priceless knack - when you read his pieces you could hear him saying the words. As Manek noted elsewhere - he wrote in his own voice. And that voice was independent, authoritative, wise, warm and funny. He will be much missed.

Posted by: [Kevin Taylor](#) | [April 10, 2010 at 04:20 PM](#)



So long Guy, and thanks for inspiring me, and those like me, who've never met you but found honesty, integrity, intelligence and humour in your words. You will be missed.

Posted by: [Declan McGuire](#) | [April 12, 2010 at 02:10 PM](#)



A good man and an outstanding journalist. Very sad news indeed.

Posted by: [Richard](#) | [April 12, 2010 at 02:12 PM](#)



Only just heard about Guy. Have been away and unconnected to the Web. Really sad news. Guy was one of the first journalists I used to call on behalf of my clients. Rightly always tough and analytic about whatever I was trying to promote but ready to give me a hearing. Daniel

Posted by: [Daniel Couzens](#) | [April 12, 2010 at 03:07 PM](#)



Someone I grew up reading has passed away. Sad indeed.

Posted by: [Mohammed Choudhury](#) | [April 12, 2010 at 05:36 PM](#)



Rest in peace, Guy. Your work was always thought-provoking and your articles taught me a lot in the early days of the microcomputer/PC industry.

Posted by: Vinay Sajip | April 12, 2010 at 05:52 PM



I had the pleasure of working with Guy and he was genuinely interested in how technology affected people and how to make it sing. He will be missed by myself and others and my thoughts go to his family.

Posted by: David Overton | April 13, 2010 at 07:34 AM



I was part of the late 70s Computing magazine crew where Guy wrote his 'worlds first' pc column after joining from Electronics Weekly. Sitting at the opposite desk he taught me all I ever knew about how to use the telephone to get information. He and Hedley Voysey formed a great double act. Maybe they have again, up there somewhere. My best wishes to his family.

Posted by: Roger Green | April 13, 2010 at 08:09 AM



Over the years I had the great privilege of spending time talking about technology with Guy. What started as simple technology interviews gradually grew into hours and afternoons discussing where the industry was going, why it was doing it and everything else from local sailing clubs to the best kebab shops in Dalston.

The great thing about Guy was his breadth of knowledge and enthusiasm to apply it to questioning everything he came across. He had an enviable ability to see the bigger picture, as so much of his writing illustrates. As I'm stumbling at the keyboard to put some appropriate words together I'm reminded of how he would be composing an article at speed on his laptop, while facing me and talking about something entirely different, which might get woven into a blog a few minutes later. He was a man for whom "information overload" was an ambition, not a fear, and who wove clarity from the murky threads of the computing and mobile industries.

He will be sorely missed.

Posted by: Nick Hunn | April 13, 2010 at 09:49 AM



I'd like to add my condolences. He was a great guy, a veteran journalist of the best calibre, and will be sorely missed. Such a shock. :(

Posted by: Nigel Powell | April 15, 2010 at 10:10 AM



So sorry to hear of the death of Guy Kewney. I well remember his 'near expert user' column in PC Magazine back in the nineties and the smile it brought to my face as I read them.

For someone who was then just starting out in the IT industry, his wit and unmistakable love for all things techie were a welcome break from the dry reviews that would fill up the rest of the mags he wrote for (those pages that weren't inevitably given over to adverts at any rate).

farewell, Guy, you will be sorely missed.

Posted by: Neil Griffiths | April 17, 2010 at 07:59 AM



Only just heard this terribly sad news. Guy was literally my hero when I was growing up with PCW as an eager and excitable teenager in the eighties. You don't know how much I looked forward to getting the next edition of that magazine after I had read the previous edition word-for-word, cover-to-cover. It was this publication, and his words particularly, which inspired me. When I met Guy years later (2005 I think) when he interviewed me about mobile Internet stuff as part of an O2 product launch I was so excited and somehow felt that I had accomplished something: it was more important to me that I was chatting to Guy than it was talking about our product! I still have a record of a later conversation I had with him by email soon after he found out about his illness, and I will cherish this dialogue for a long time. For despite it being shocking news for him, he was seriously up for a cuppa and a natter. That's how I will remember Guy; resilient and inspiring to the very end. May he rest in peace.

Posted by: Jag Minhas | April 17, 2010 at 09:33 PM



I did two.
At SmartPlanet, where I needed a health angle to get it in.
<http://www.smartplanet.com/technology/blog/rethinking-healthcare/the-healing-power-of-the-web/1091/?tag=content:col1>

And just now at my own place, where I could say what I wanted.
<http://www.danablankenhorn.com/2010/04/guy-kewney-was-the-best-computer-journalist-ever.html>

Posted by: Dana Blankenhorn | April 20, 2010 at 05:27 PM



I worked with Guy for a few short years at ZDNet, but it was long enough to be able to say 'yes indeed' to all of the respect and love recorded here. I remember when I landed the job feeling so proud that I would be working with 'the' Guy Kewney. But looking back on those days, and reading the tributes, I see that that was just a small part of you. The Guy I'll remember was the lovely, modest, kind person who treated all of his colleagues the same - and was just as animated talking about food, sailing, sandals or Finsbury Park as he was recounting the conversation he'd just had with Sir Clive

Sinclair.

Posted by: [Eugene Lacey](#) | [April 21, 2010 at 04:53 PM](#)



Probably I have the least right to write about him. I live mainly in Australia but come to England every three months or so. Normally we had lunch in the Hop Cellar. Guy always wore sandals but would delight us with stories about what was happening in IT in the UK. Thus ours was a sporadic yet deeply felt friendship.

Once I interviewed him for radio and Steve and I were open-mouthed at the fact that not even the most difficult question made him hesitate for a moment. At IT there was no one to compare.

Sadly, he never seemed to get a grip on his personal finances and must have driven the tax man wild.

I shall miss him. A lot.

Gareth Powell at the moment in Bangkok

Posted by: [Gareth Powell](#) | [April 25, 2010 at 05:44 AM](#)



I only just heard about Guy's death and would like to add my condolences here.

He lived a few doors down the road from me in Finsbury Park for 4 years. Although I kind of work in the same industry, I was never even aware of who he was until very late on, when we had a very brief and for me almost embarrassing chat along the lines of "oh, you are "the" Guy Kewney?".

I just remember him as a very friendly neighbour who would always have a smile on his face and stop for a chat (indeed wearing sandals mostly). He was very sweet with my then very young baby girl and often spoke in a charmingly proud way of his own daughters.

I just told my wife the news of his far-too-early death and, not knowing anything about his professional career and 'fame', was genuinely saddened. He seemed a very lovely man.

Best wishes to his family in this difficult time.

Posted by: [Wolf Luecker](#) | [April 26, 2010 at 02:11 PM](#)



Bit late to find this site. I learned about Guy passing away last week from Stevie B - v sorry to hear the news.

My lasting memory of guy was atop an Austrian mountain in the middle of winter where we were forced into a Quiz Competition. Guy was our team leader and we were the Refuseniks and we did score nil points!

Posted by: [John Earley](#) | [April 27, 2010 at 08:53 AM](#)

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