INVENTOR & MAKER OF THE WEEK

Ada Lovelace

THE FIRST COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

Ada Lovelace was born in London in 1815. Her father was the famous poet Lord Byron and her mother was Lady Byron.

Ada's mother brought her up and insisted she learnt maths and science. At that time, these subjects were usually just for boys.

Lovelace spent time with many great scientists and mathematicians. One of these was Charles Babbage. He was the inventor of the first basic computer, which was used to do calculations with numbers.

When she was 18, she was asked to translate a French article about Babbage's work. She went a step further and added her own notes saying that his machine could handle letters, symbols and even music and pictures too.

Her theory was so new and revolutionary that it took more than 100 years before it was recognised as the first computer algorithm. Since then, Ada has been known as the first computer programmer.

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