



## *ICeni Newsletter August 2023*

**Coronavirus Impact Covid-19.** We are continuing to hold our meetings online as this seems to suit everyone and saves travelling during the dark Winter months.

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and will be able to join us online.

If you wish to join us just follow the link or paste into your browser:-

<https://meet.jit.si/ICeniComputerClubMeeting> and follow instructions to allow camera and microphone access. We have found some problems with screen sharing on the Mac if using Firefox, but using Safari or Chrome is ok as is using Windows.

There is nothing to download or install. We still meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. via Jitsi.org Video conferencing.

### Our Next Meeting Social Evening at the Stratford Anchor 7:00 for 7:30 p.m on Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup> 2023

Details of this event have been circulated by email. I hope to see you all there.

### Our Last Meeting on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 Interesting Websites – All

Although a new departure for us this meeting did not disappoint and we all enjoyed hearing about unusual and useful websites.

It is probably easier to go through each speaker's list although they were not actually delivered in this order. Both Paul and Duncan very helpfully provided these for me after the meeting.

#### Duncan's list

<https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>

The National Library of Scotland's map pages. This covers the whole of the UK and allows maps to be overlaid onto aerial photos, other maps or even LIDAR images. Most of the maps here are historic, out of copyright material.

<https://www.railmaponline.com/UKIEMap.php>

Railmap is an example of how user supplied data can be overlaid onto published online maps. This displays all known railways in the UK and Ireland, with additional material on canals, tramways, trolley buses, industrial and entertainment railways and the USA. Most rail lines on the map are associated with a link to the relevant Wikipedia entry.

<http://www.abandonedstations.org.uk/>

Contains information on the many abandoned railway stations in and around London, with lots of pictures. Linked from the above is:

<https://cartometro.com/cartes/metro-london/>

This is in French (with an option to select English) which provides a cartographically accurate map of the London Underground showing various closed bits and relevant dates. It also includes maps of metro systems in other cities.

<https://www.seat61.com/>

This was already known to some members. Staying with trains, this is a site with lots of information on train travel around the world, with links to timetables and ticket sites.

<http://www.normanb.net/index.htm>

This is something completely different. It's a collection of mostly 1960-80's radio jingles from both pirate and legal stations compiled by a former offshore DJ. Click on a jingle cartridge and hear the memories!

Others I didn't get to mention in the meeting, but which might be useful:

<http://www.45worlds.com/78rpm/>

for identifying that 78rpm record you have lying about somewhere. Useful for finding dates.

<https://www.staybehinds.com/>

The British Resistance Archive. About those secret military/sabotage units that would have gone into action if the UK had been invaded in the 1940s.

<https://www.findagrave.com/>

A family history site for locating the burial location of people you might be related to. Far from complete, but still useful.

<https://ahrefs.com/blog/google-advanced-search-operators/>

Secrets for advanced searches using Google.

## Paul's list

Magic Eraser - <https://magicstudio.com/magiceraser/editor/>

This is a clever piece of AI based software which will remove objects from an image and replacing the space with a copy of the surrounding area without any blemishes. Easier to demonstrate than describe!

Omni Calculator = <https://www.omnicalculator.com/>

This contains links to 3465 different calculators .....

Down for Everyone or Just Me - <https://downforeveryoneorjustme.com/>

This is a very handy check on websites which appear inactive. It could save a lot of time.

Just Watch - <https://www.justwatch.com/>

This is a search engine for TV and films which tells you which channel is broadcasting a particular film or series. e.g. Dad's Army.

PDF Escape - <https://www.pdfescape.com/>

This a utility to edit PDF files e.g to abstract or remove pages or change the page order or compile a new document from extracted pages from other documents.

Alternative To - <https://alternativeto.net/>

This is an entire Office Suite as an alternative to MS Office.

## Peter's List

[Lightningmaps.org](http://lightningmaps.org)

This is a real time mapping program with overlays of active lightning storms showing also a real time sound wave from each lightning strike. Interesting if you can hear the thunder of a storm near you.

Wordle <https://www.nytimes.com/games/wordle/index.htm>

The original word guessing game hosted by New York Times . A new puzzle every day to encourage you to guess a 5 letter word in less than 6 attempts. The screen shows 6 rows of attempts initially blank. There is an alphabet on the lower part of the screen. The five letters of the attempt are entered and letters in the correct position in the word are shown with green background. Entries present but not in the correct place are shown with a yellow background and incorrect letters shown with a dark grey background. The alphabet is similarly modified. The words entered must be genuine words or they won't be accepted.

If you run out you are given the answer. The words are American spelling and slang sometimes.

Invented by a Welsh engineer. Quite taxing. There is a British version as well and lots of variants.

Waffle <https://wafflegame.net/daily>

Waffle is somewhat similar but here there is a grid of 3 horizontal words and 3 vertical words. However all the letters are already shown, as correct, present in the word or not present in that word. It is played by dragging and dropping letters to exchange them. You get 15 goes and players are encouraged to build up a winning streak as large as possible. You get stars for unused goes. Successful Streaks of >25 are in the silver team, >50 gold team , >75 diamond team and 100 Centurion. >200 Guru. Unfortunately running out of goes at any point pushes you back to 0 again.

If you run out you are given the answers.

Flightradar24 <https://www.flightradar24.com>

I think most people are familiar with this real time Air Movements mapping programme based on radar. I think there is a free version of this but paying for the upgraded version gives more features. It does not detect aircraft all over the globe as some areas have no radar coverage. So if you are tracking a flight to New Zealand for example, don't think it has crashed if the aircraft disappears at times. You can even replay movements from previous times and it automatically indicates take off and landing airports and arrivals data, Country of origin and altitude, speed type of aircraft, ID etc. etc. It will track any aircraft which is allowing responder signal (squawk code) including light aircraft, helicopters and sometimes military aircraft when they want to be seen. There is also a 3D view from the cockpit or from just behind the aircraft based on the GPS terrain at that point. However the location accuracy is not so good close to the ground.

Altogether an interesting evening.

## ICENI Future programme

<b>ICENI Future Programme 2023/2024</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>2023</b>		
16 August	Summer Social Evening Stratford Anchor	Details by email.
20 September	Maria DB and MySQL	Paul et al
18 October	3D printing update	
15 November	Stills and Video Evening	All
20 December	Party and Gadgets Evening	All
<b>2024</b>		
17 January	Social Evening Venue TBA	
21 February	Open for Steve and Sue	
20 March	Mac Evening IOS updates	
17 April	Raspberry Pi and Arduino etc.	All

<b>ICENI Future Programme 2023/2024</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
15 May	AGM + Extras TBA	All
19 June	Open	

This programme is open to changes as the year unfolds.

**MEETINGS WILL NOW BE HELD ONLINE BUT STILL ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED..**

## **Special Notice - Insurance**

"ICENI does not have any Insurance cover for computers or other equipment so please be advised that you bring machines to the club at your own risk."

However many household insurance policies will include cover away from home often with no increase in premium. (Ed.)

## **Our Website and Email and Jitsi meetings**

Our website URL is

<http://icenicomputerclub.org.uk>

Email to: [iceni@woolridge.org.uk](mailto:iceni@woolridge.org.uk)

The website is where you will find copies of the Newsletter from Previous years and also where you will find our Committee Members and future programme.

I am open to suggestions on what people would like to have included in the website.

### **JITSI Meetings**

I am repeating this here from the top of the document.

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