



Iceni Newsletter December 2023

A Very Happy Christmas to All

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 Wednesday 20th December 2023

Party and Gadgets evening – All

This is our regular pre-Christmas meeting. Not with quite the same glitz that an in person meeting would have but nevertheless it is interesting to see what people have purchased during the year. Sadly we don't get to taste Gareth's Dad's mince pies; although you can provide your own and join in with a drink without worrying about driving!

There are usually quite a few different entries, anything goes, anything from software, hardware or cooking utensils; we have had them all; just be prepared to show them off and chat about them.

Our Last Meeting Wednesday 15th November 2023

Our Annual Photo and Video Evening - All

Unfortunately we were down to three as Gareth was unwell. I did not have much to show either because my photo opportunities have been pretty limited this year as we didn't get a holiday or go on any trips. I tried to show some older shots, but since they are on my NAS, my whole system became very slow trying to download and play into Jitsi at the same time. Next time I am going to copy them over to the SSD to play.

So Paul and Duncan were the stars of the evening.

Paul's photos

He began with his visit to the London starting with a shot of the old Bailey on the way to the London Transport museum and Bush House. He had also photographed lights in Ipswich on Cornhill last year but is now outside the University.

His usual venture to Cornwall included a shot of the statue of Sir Humphrey Davy in Penzance. He also spotted Dan Snow loading some equipment to go onto the boat to the Isles of Scilly where the BBC were filming.

Also in Cornwall he had visited Tresco Abbey Gardens and Star Castle on St. Mary's showing an Agave 10 metre high plant which lasts 170 - 100 years and flowers and dies. It is now close to doing that Paul things.

Paul has been there so often that he knows all the locals and here showed a a RIB (Rigid inflatable boat) owned by his mate "Dave" getting ready for tourists trips (Scilly Sea Safaris). One boat rip with a birdwatcher spotted a Red spotted Boubie and a brown Boubie on the helipad on top of the Bishop's rock Lighthouse. So visitors had now seen two boubies!

Most boats have dogs on, so he a shot of dog.

Paul's wife collects Teddy Bears and they had visited a Fayre in London in September [a bear Fayre ? Ed.] in Kensington Town Hall . They went

on the new Elizabeth line and noticed that they had renamed Bond St. as Burberry St. for London fashion week, but a lot of tourists were very confused. His picture of the Gherkin off Leadenhall Street showed more of the church of St. Mary Axe. Leadenhall Market was also very colourful.

He also spotted a colourful graphical map of the Piccadilly line which he liked. Not available as a poster yet for the London Transport museum.

On another trip he visited the old Battersea Power station , now a tourist attraction. Peter had visited it when it had been in operation, a very noisy place. The lift going up inside one of the chimneys gave a superb view over London. Paul also had a shot telling troops to break step going over Albert bridge which is a suspension bridge and so could become unstably resonant. Peter recollected that his Mother who had been a primary school teacher had taken a school trip to Bristol and gone over the Clifton Suspension bridge. All the children had been told to write a journal of their trip and some children had written “ we went over the bridge which was moving all over the place, but Miss said it wasn’t!” which he thought was hilarious.

Duncan’s photos

Next Duncan showed his pictures beginning with the boats used in the film “Swallows and Amazons” from the story by Arthur Ransome. Altered 50 years ago for the film as props but now getting very old and in need of repair. The Arthur Ransome Society are looking after them. Apparently it is going to be very expensive to restore them (£10000 estimated). Hunters yard at Stalham in Norfolk.

[Ed. Strange to think that when I read about Swallows and Amazons as a child that I had no idea that I would ever live in East Anglia!]

Duncan had also visited Beth Chatto’s garden and showed some interesting pictures of that. Also shots of cycle ride past his house in Spring. Another shot of a Aston Martin pre 1961 DB2 at tendering hall. Duncan preferred a Humber which was located near the village of Breckels showing the

church which had a gravestone inside the church with a lady who apparently been buried standing up according to her wishes.

He discovered in working on his house that some parts of the floor were packed with old newspapers dating back to 1875 and card board soap wrapping 1899. He showed shots of the outside and floorboards inside.

He also showed pictures of St Peter's Church in Colchester which is his parish church.

Later in year in June was given an invitation to join a friend on his boat which his friend had just purchased and turned out to be a maiden voyage.

Also included a wedding of his niece Becky to Tim and also a second wedding his nieces brother at high rocks Tunbridge wells unfortunately had to be indoors due to the wet weather. He also did a tour of Harwich Guildhall including a visit to the prison cell with ancient graffiti showing a sailing boat with what is considered to be the first graphical indication of the Stars and Stripes. A quick shot of a spitfire with double cockpit which flew over his house.

Gareth's Photos

Gareth had recovered by the December meeting and since he had prepared his photos was able to present them at that meeting. Since I had got somewhat behind with the Newsletters I decided to add them to this December issue.

Gareth began with a shot of Aidan eating a huge piece of Christmas cake. He also showed Aidan likes pushing shopping trolleys when they go shopping and driving his little electric around the garden. He also showed holiday pictures from their favourite New Forest campsite with of course shots of the ponies fortunately in good weather. A rare picture of Aidan eating an apple; apparently he takes after his uncle Royston in not eating much fruit and veg. Aidan was also seen in SoftPlay (Children's Play

area). Gareth had been working in his garage where Aidan's little car was kept but Aidan adopted a gadget as his oil filter. Gareth is training him well as a motor mechanic!

They had another short break to a Norfolk campsite again in fine weather. Gareth's Dad had recently purchased a Bosch robot lawnmower and Gareth was of course asked to set it up for him. It apparently connects with the network but not WiFi.

In August Gareth needed to go on holiday but wasn't allowed to stop working so organised a link so that he could still access the internet using the Star-link system. So he made an outdoor Wifi link too. This became Gareth first Gadget. Star-link uses mains power only so he got someone to build him a 12V inverter system to run from the camper. He added a USB sockets as well. It worked very well outside. It finds its own satellite to use without you having to align it. Costs £85 p.m.but only when turned on.

There were more holiday shots of the disused airfield at RAF Beaulieu.

He had some video of of the 2CVs racing at night which was quite spectacular.

Aidan also likes Minions and playing with sandcastles at Sheringham. Also a trip to Bure Valley narrow gauge railway. Another break more locally they went to the transport museum and went over the Orwell bridge on the top of a double decker bus. He had to travel to Riga for work recently and showed some shots from the city and exhibition.

He finished with some nighttime shots in a stay at Delamere Park in Cheshire. He had certainly made the most of everything.

ICENI Future programme

ICENI Future Programme 2023/2024	Title	Presenter
2023		
20 December	Party and Gadgets Evening	All
2024		
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
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..

Our Website and Email and Jitsi meetings

Our website URL is

<http://icenicomputerclub.org.uk>

Email to: 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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