Iceni Newsletter January /February 2024

A Very Happy New Year to you 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 21st February 2024

Modern AI systems (LLMs) focusing on free/open source ones which run on home PCs rather than in the cloud. Presented by Steve.

This is the first AI meeting we've ever had to my knowledge and will be an introduction to this very much on trend subject. It should be very interesting.

Don't miss it.

Our Last online meeting January 17th 2024

Since the weather was not good we decided that it would be better to stick with an on-line meeting this month for those able to join us. Perhaps we can have a social evening in the Spring.

There was no formal topic but there was a lot of chat about railways from narrow gauge light railways to travel in London using Oyster cards or other credit cards now being possible now if you had booked your origianl ticket on that card.

There was some discsssion about the speed of the Raspberry Pi 5 and running Linux on it.

Peter showed a new base plate he had been given for the Creality 3v2 3D printer. This consists of a self-adhesive steel base layer and a bendable magnetic top layer which lifts of after printing and aids removal of printed objects.

There will not be a formal newsletter for January therefore.

Our Last Meeting Wednesday 20th December 2023 Party and Gadgets evening – All

This is our regular pre-Christmas meeting. We were glad to see Gareth had recovered and was able to present his photos which had been held over from the November evening. [I have put the report on these into the November write up. Ed.]

Gareth's Gadgets

Gareth did not have many gadgets so he thought a device he had put together to get him onto the internet when away camping and was worthy of being called his gadget.

[Ed. I'll repeat that section here from the December Newsletter.]

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. Star-link uses mains power only so he got someone to build him a 12V inverter system to run from the camper. He added USB sockets as well and a local network.

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 i.e. on a days used basis.

Duncan's Gadgets

1) USB cable for the Raspberry Pi incorporating a power switch.

2) The software application "KDEconnect" for connecting KDE to an Android phone. There is also a Windows/Android version.

3) A 10-port powered USB hub. Just in case the Pi had insufficient power for peripherals.

4) A RJ45/RJ11 crimper tool, cable stripper and punch down tool. There was general agreement that this last was as useless as I found it to be.

5) A network cable continuity tester in two parts, one for each end of the cable. Bought from Maplin a while back.

6) And the odd one out, a pottery blackbird for holding up the top of a
pie. I wonder where the other 23 are?

Paul's Gadgets

1 - Sea to Summit Field Repair Buckle with Removal Pin - https://seatosummit.co.uk/products/ladder-lock-field-repair-buckle

2- Rii New Dual Mode Wireless Multimedia Keyboard with Touchpad Mouse I4 Bluetooth 4.0 with 2.4G -

http://www.riitek.com/product/214.html

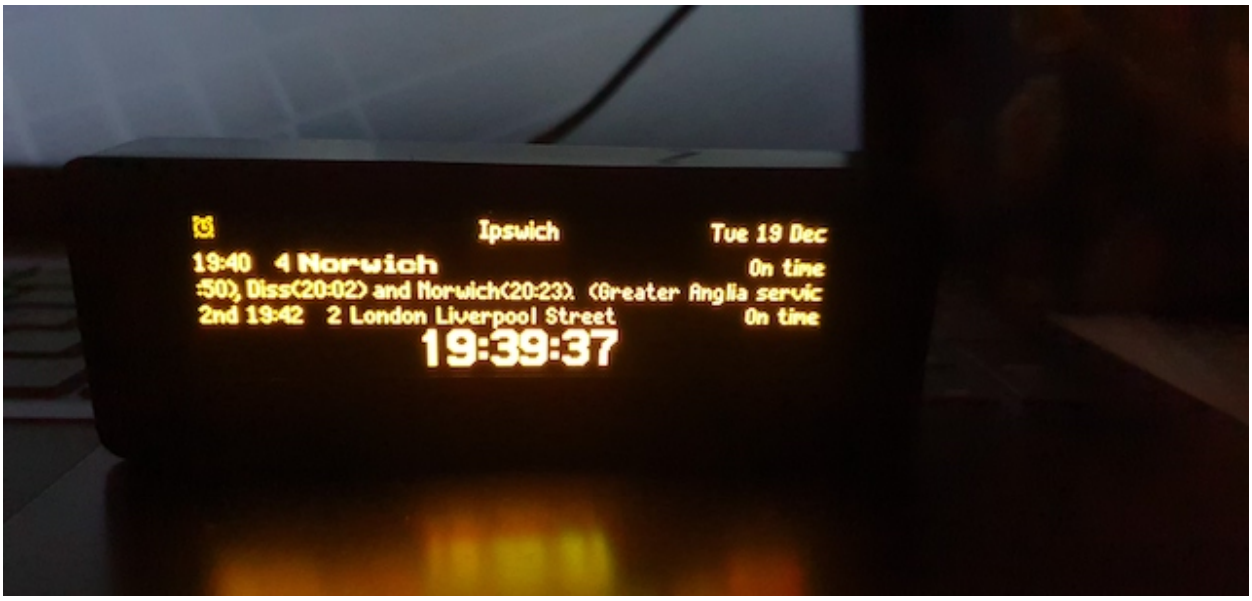
3 - Unitek IDE SATA to USB C Adapter Cable, USB 3.0 to IDE Hard Drive Converter for 2.5"/3.5" HDD/SSD -

https://www.unitek-products.com/products/usb-3-0-sata-to-ide-adapter-2-5-3-5?keyword=ide%20sa

4 - LONGTOO LCD Writing Tablet - https://longtoo.co.uk/products/longtoo-lcd-writing-tablet-full-screen-erasable-graphics-tablet-for-kids-and-adults-drafting-taking-notes-and-leaving-message-6-5-inches-screen-black?_pos=1&_sid=54d008520&_ss=r

5 - Vonets Mini Dual Band 2.4GHz/5GHz AC1200 WiFi Bridge - https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07KHV4SCX?psc=1&ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details

6 - Desktop Departure Boards- https://ukdepartureboards.co.uk/store/product/desktop-departures/?desktop=true



7 - SQFMI Watchy - https://thepihut.com/products/sqfmi-watchy

8 - Rite in the Rain
Waterproof Unisex Outdoor Staple Bound Mini Notepad -

https://www.riteintherain.com/3-25x4-625-stapled-notebook#371FXM

Peter's Gadgets

1 An updated pineapple cutter

This one now has a button on top of the handle to detach it from the drive piece. It also has a segmented disc for chopping your slices into chunks.

2 A mango cutter.

I can't remember whether I have shown this before. It is quite easy to push down on the mango held vertically and cut out the stone. The mango has to be ripe enough though.

3 An automatic electric can opener. This battery operated can opener is just placed on top of the can and when the button is pressed it will drive the wheel onto the side of the can. IT will then rotate around the can for 360 degrees. Pressing the button at the end will release the cutter. Sometimes needs adjustment to get it going and sometimes the lid requires a small twist to detach it. There is a small magnet which holds the lid at the end and keeps it on top of the can.

Easy to clean.

4 A Waterpic Dental flosser

Very good for flossing if you find difficulty with floss, especially if the gaps between your teeth are very small. Used with lukewarm water. It is recharged by attaching the cable magnetically to the side of the base. Charge last about 10 days dependent on how long you take.

Thank you to you all for contributing details, photos and data on your gadgets.

Peter

ICENI Future programme

ICENI Future Programme 2023/2024	**Title**	**Presenter**
2023		
2024		
17 January	Social Evening Venue not held.	
21 February	Modern AI systems (LLMs) focusing on free/open source ones which run on home PCs rather than in the cloud.	Steve

ICENI Future Programme 2023/2024	Title	Presenter
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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End