



Iceni Newsletter September 2025

Coronavirus Impact Covid-19.

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

ClubMeeting <https://meet.jit.si/IceniComputerClubMeeting>

and follow instructions to allow camera and microphone access. 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.

AGM and Chrome OS talk now changed to July 16th 2025 owing to the Chairman being ill.

The Chrome OS talk was arranged at 7:30 to allow the Treasurer the 8:30 start. In the event the Treasurer was unable to attend due to a close family bereavement.

Our Last Meeting Wednesday 16th July 2025

AGM (held online with Jitsi as usual.)

8:30 p.m.

This is not a formal report but just covers key points.

Apologies from Michael were received since he was not able to join us after his recent family bereavement.

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated earlier and were taken as read. Matters arising were the outstanding debt to Bourne Vale and payments for our website registration.

The Chairman read his Report; which as usual was a very good summary of our Annual activities. It is issued in full alongside this Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report. At this point we did not have a Treasurer's Report but knew that the balance would be very similar to last year and the payment to Gareths for Website registration and the outstanding payment to Bourne Vale were the only expenditure. We would seek validation from the Treasurer later.

In the absence of the Treasurer we knew that the balance was very similar to last year and that apart from a debt to Gareth for website registration and the debt to Bourne Vale there were no other outgoings. The Secretary and Chairman made statements to this effect and with approval of the meeting we intended to have theses figures validated later.

However the Treasurer had sent a report, found after the meeting covering the accounts, which showed that this was the case.

However the Treasurer has been in contact with Bourne Vale and they have happy to forget the debt.

As in previous years there were no changes at the Election of Officers and Committee, and all were willing to stand again. So once more the Committee were voted in *en bloc* by General Consent.

There was no other business and the meeting ended at 9:04 p.m.

Extras

The first part of the evening was a presentation by Gareth on Chrome OS.

following the formal part of the evening it was agreed to hold a committee meeting to organise a programme for at least 6 months of the year.

Chrome OS

Gareth began by showing the Chrome OS desktop i.e. Google's Desktop Linux based. Looks very similar to other desktops in style. In 2008 /2009 originally built from Ubuntu, but later in 2010 they moved to Gentu because the package rules were easier. In those days you didn't have binaries to build from but had to build from source with a process called merging. The window manager and desktop is built around the Chrome web browser. Hardware is low end because they wanted to use cloud based storage and there are few apps , with 4GB RAM 4GB storage however it is possible to get Google 4i7 16GB RAM so not much use for video editing. They do have a store but relatively limited. Gareth has some extras installed. Gmail, File Manager, You can have Network shares with SMB shares. Folder shared with Linux ... see later.

A following in US. UK now used in Schools in preference to Windows. There is an App container called Arc++ and is a tool for Android Apps from Google play store and install a subset of the applications.

This particular unit is an ARM device so has better performance than the more powerful Intel machines since many Apps were written for ARM . Games work quite well as does Spotify for music. You can still use a VPN and Gareth showed the text App. A few years later they introduced ArcVM from Android.

One thing he had installed was Calibre – a word processor. He had installed a Plex media player and showed the media. However it appears as if running on a mobile phone is in portrait orientation but there is a resize option. There is a warning that not everything will work but Gareth has not had a problem with this. The Amazon Prime video works. Many things run as a cutdown version. Some of the networking features are quite clever.

In 2009 Google wanted to develop on Chrome OS and used a Linux VM. It uses a built in terminal app. Penguin downloads a copy of Debian 12.11 . It runs containers so can run many other things. Gareth has several SMB shares. Graphics, Sound and Microphone. Still no webcam but this is not intended. You can install your own containers.

You get access all the files on Chrome and Linux. You can get several programs running without the machine slowing down too much. You get 10 years of support which should suit most schools. Any Browser Tab may become an App. Running some Plex files found a need for an update to run all codecs. Unify login tasks, share and save. It has now come out of the tab because it is now an app. As soon as you create a login on Chrome OS it is encrypted. Unfortunately you can't encrypt a USB stick. A lot of people want this. It is possible to reuse a Windows machine as a Chrome OS machine. You might need to import graphics or display drivers from another OS. You might need to re-flash the BIOS. It works well as a tablet. Many different hardware manufacturers produce a ChromeBook. It can work in either desktop mode or tablet mode by just rotating the screen.

Thanks for this talk Gareth. Worth waiting for!

Our Social Evening on August 20th

We had our Social Evening at the Brook Inn, Washbrook once more. Another very good meal and I think everyone enjoyed being there and to have the opportunity of meeting *in the flesh* so to speak. We were very pleased that Dick and his daughter Daniele, and also Anne were able to come. Of course we were also delighted that Gareth had made a good recovery at last after his illness.

Here are some photos as a reminder of the evening.



After our discussion of the future programme we now have the following meetings planned:-

ICENI Future programme

2025	Subject	Speaker(s)
16 July	Chrome OS talk followed by AGM (postponed since June.)	Gareth
20 August	Social Evening at Brook Inn Washbrook details by email.	
17 September	AI – and its use in Software development.	Sue and Steve
15 October	3D Printing developments	Gareth and Peter
19 November	Photos and Video evening	All
17 December	Gadgets and Party Evening	Gareth and Peter
2026		
21 January	RISCOS developments	Paul and Duncan
18 th February	TBA	
18 March	TBA	
15 April	TBA	
20 May	AGM + Extras	
17 June	TBA	

Future topics may be Open AI and Pi HAT Radio Transmitter /Receiver Beacon (Licence needed) Peter said it was a bit like WhisperNet which works in the background which a friend of his who is a Radio Amateur uses.

Other topics were Crypto currency – PIN board 2.0 of RISCOS. A RISCOS new browser out of RISCOS Direct.

The programme is open to changes as the year unfolds and topics may become more detailed.

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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<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.

End