



Iceni Newsletter February 2026

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.

Our Next Meeting Wednesday February 18th 2026

MacWhisper Dictation Software – Peter and

Minisforum MS-R1 ARM machine running Linux

- Gareth. Also defining future programme.

Peter has recently been trying out some dictation software which you may find interesting. Gareth has recently had access to the Minisforum machine. We also must set out some topics for the future.

Our Last Meeting Wednesday January 21st 2026

RISCOS Developments – Paul and Duncan

Duncan lead off with a review of the latest Archive magazine December/January 2025/6 issue which has most of the details of the latest information on RISCOS.

RISCOS M is updated and Pipe Dream is updated. Also a review of two new RISCOS machines.

This one is called Taka, which is produced by RISCOS bits. They come as a kit and you add various bits to them. You start with a thing called the DIY3 kit. as the Sketch 40 of memory rubber sketch free software and the case is unfinished. They look really good. If you go to what Archive is saying is that you start off with that and there is an extra mod, an extra slice , you can put in based on the compute module 4. Which sounds really rather interesting. And you could actually run RISCOS and Linux at the same time on separate machines in the same box. Basically and so instead of running RISCOS inside Linux you're running Linux effectively inside RISC OS. It gives you a single cohesive stat dual environment machine without taking up extra desk space so it sounds really interesting.

Paul said

“It was very popular at the show. I never got a chance to speak to Andy Marks because everybody was looking at that.”

Duncan continued that definitely sounds like an interesting development. There is also a file format called WEBp which I was actually unaware of. But apparently it's common for things like JPEG and PNG and GIF, and this is now being developed so that you can display them on RISCOS. There's some interesting views on actually the size being much smaller than a than a JPEG and very much smaller than a PNG and it can be compressed form or it can have a lossless form. Sounds like an interesting development.

There's a review of compute module 4s. on top of a separate support board and he had one put together. Duncan showed a picture of the machine and the appearance of the machine desktop with everything running. He's got one Linux computer and two RISCOS computers. He's basically saying you can run start something up running and then switch to another computer on the same processor at the same time and come back to the first when it is complete.

Or you know, we've got here having several processors compute modules and running RISCOS on one Linux on another.

The ARMS are now multicored although RISCOS only uses one and seems fast enough.

You could run two different versions of RISCOS at the same time. Peter wondered how it was possible to split software to run on multiple cores but we don't know.

There is now a new browser for RISCOS called Iris. Duncan showed it working by bringing up Icenis's webpage. But you can start a new tab up here. It looks very much like more modern browser. We then tried the BBC website which looked good.

It was a bit slow because Duncan was running on his ARM X6 and of course running the JITSI session as well. Across his network from the RiscOS machine into the Linux machine and then going out through Jitsi, which obviously slows things up even more. And you've got VNC in the middle as well? Absolutely VNC in the middle. But um so I could let me just switch my control so I'm controlling it from the um the RISCOS side which does make it appear faster but it still hasn't fully drawn the screens. So yes you've got the BBC there, Wikipedia and so on. So that is Iris anyway.

As you see, quite a lot of options, extra fonts as well by the look of things, free serif. You see these these are not your normal RISC OS fonts. These are the ones you might expect to see on an ordinary computer, as it were. How to sort bookmarks, what happens when you start up. So you can start it up with a blank window or start it up as it was before. Okay, and what to do with PDFs only when running, but you could change it to always or never.

Peter said that Gavin had asked him to be taken off our email list since he did not consider we did enough on RISCOS any more to be of interest to him. So I did that but said that I would send him newsletters when they were relevant. So I shall send him this one. So you you're citing his magazine quite a lot, so he should be quite happy.

But the last couple have been interesting and certainly this one with the Hydra and so on.

With a lot in it. The article by Chris Hall on specialized maps for railway lines was interesting. However Duncan said he used RISCOSM himself but got a bit lost in the article. Paul said that Chris Hall was in the Severn

Valley Railway Special Interest Group. And his email is Chris.Hall@svrsig.

Duncan said :-

They did have a special price at the show for RISCOSM. There is an article about using the stacker for adding the CM compute module, but when he looked up RISCOS bits website he could not find it.

Duncan said there's a thing that says "systems" and you go to "DIY kits" and it's got "DIY 1", "DIY2", "DIY 3", "DIY 0", "mini box stacker" but I click on "stacker" and absolutely nothing happens. So the menu is there, but the first one goes to RISCOS Bits.co.uk/ 1 and then /2 and then /3 /0, but the others just have JavaScript;; So they're not linking to anything.

Paul said that the other interesting one in that and the previous two magazines was T-Wimp. I don't know if you read that. Yes, Duncan said he couldn't see what that was doing that Dr. Wimp or one of these other things didn't do. We didn't know whether DrWimp was currently being developed but T-Wimp looked a lot easier.

The DIY two is being priced at £199.

Paul said that with Dr. Wimp, you had to actually design your screens. Use the screen designer and design your screens, whereas T Wimp, you can just describe the screens. in the description file and it will draw them for you.

Paul said that was the thing that appealed to him. Duncan thought he had missed that when he was reading it.

Paul added that if you leave out information it'll assume things for you like window position and things like that.

Duncan said this was on the last one, easy app writing part three.

Peter said the DRWimp was meant to enable you to write sort of little apps and things, wasn't it?

Paul said that's what T-WIMP does as well.

There are also plans to tidy up the programmer reference manuals.

To understand some interfaces you have to cross-reference several books and mentally apply layers of amendments. The years of further development only documented in places like the RISC OS the RISC-00L Wiki. So that's what they're trying to do, bring them all together.

Quite a lot going on.

Because they they couldn't do anything with them for a long while.

Because the font was a paid for font that the manual was produced in.

And until somebody actually decided that they would stump up the money and buy the font. They couldn't do anything with it.

It seemed obvious in hindsight that they should have used a RISC OS font but historically since the original PRM was RISCOS III.

ICENI Future programme

2026		
21 January	RISCOS developments	Paul and Duncan
18 February	Minisforum Machine and Dictation Software	Gareth and Peter
18 March	TBA	
15 April	TBA	
20 May	AGM + Extras	
17 June	TBA	

We shall need to discuss the future programme as our topics are not defined after from January. Anyone any ideas in addition to those mentioned below.

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.

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](https://jitsi.org) Video conferencing.

End