



Iceni Newsletter June 2026

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. 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 Last Meeting Wednesday 20th May 2026

Iceni Computer Club AGM

(held online with Jitsi as usual.)

This is a short summary of the AGM which is formally written up and presented next year.

We began at 7:55 p.m attended by Gareth, Duncan, Paul and Peter.

Apologies for absence were received from Michael.

Minutes of the last Meeting

These were read in silence. They were approved by Gareth and Seconded by Duncan.

Matters Arising.

Paul commented that he did not remember not being there. Peter apologised and said he would correct that.

Chairman's Report

Gareth presented his report and it was approved as being a good record of the year's activities. It is reproduced here in full.

Iceni Computer Club AGM - May 2026 Chairman's Report

Our club year began slightly later as the 2025 AGM was delayed till July due my illness and hospital stay, and where following the formal proceedings I presented the current state of Google's ChromeOS operating system as used a lot in schools nowadays.

August was of course our Summer Social Evening, held at the Brook Inn, Washbrook. It was good to see some old faces from EAUG once again.

In September Steve gave us all an update on his adventures using AI, running local LLMs and we were able to see the progress these models have made in responding to our questioning since the previous year. An area of fast progress, and where I have just started trying out AI coding for the first time myself.

October saw us take a look at 3D printing and in particular OctoPrint, which can be run on a desktop PC or even Raspberry Pi and control a 3D Printer. I showed this connected to an Ender 3 V2 3D printer that both Peter and I have. A useful feature with a webcam is time lapse videos of the print, which I showed an example of from my own printer.

In November we held our Photos and Video Evening, which has been an annual event for us since the days we managed to acquire a projector and where we showed our trips and visits over the year.

December was our Gadgets Evening with interesting gadgets and items from the year and some good discussions.

In January we revisited developments in RISCOS for the first time in quite a while. Firstly some new modular machines from RISCOSbits that utilised the Raspberry Pi Compute Module 4, featuring fast SATA and NVMe SSD storage and a lot of models from ready built to DIY kits. We also looked at the new Iris web browser which is based on an open source browser base but with significant work to integrate and work well on RISCOS.

February was to be the Minisforum MS-R1 talk but I needed more time to prepare as it was a brand new device to me, so we held a general Computer Surgery evening with a lot of interesting discussions.

March saw us take a look at accessing old file formats on modern systems which was very interesting and we covered projects that allow access to the old BBC B and LaserDisc based Domesday Project, with links to download digital copies of the discs and software to run it under emulation, but also the online version at <https://domesday.computinghistory.org.uk/>. We also looked at various ways to access Kodak PhotoCDs that had a following in the days before digital cameras.

Rounding out the year in April I introduced and demonstrated the Minisforum MS-R1 ARM system, which is a small form factor desktop with a 12 core ARMv9 CPU, 64GB RAM and 1TB NVMe drive. This is an interesting system with a Chinese CIX P1 CPU that aims to boot any ARM Linux image, but is still missing some drivers meaning for now a custom version of Debian is supplied. I plan to use it as a small home server.

A slightly shortened year and with some “ad hoc” discussion evenings due to health and peoples busy lives, but we have certainly had some interesting topics and conversations. I apologise for any inaccuracy in reporting on topics as I was not always present with health and work, but I hope it is a good reflection. I look forward to seeing the programme of topics we set for the year ahead!

Gareth

Treasurer's Report

Very little has changed in our accounts which show a balance of £71.70 after all liabilities are accounted for. I shall attach it with this Newsletter. One of our criteria was to safeguard purchasing of a new projector lamp but aside from Gareth's acquisition of a more up to date projector we have no current plans to start live meetings anywhere and most venues have large screens available instead. There was some discussion of this in the meeting and that is the position we arrived at.

Election of Officers and Committee

As in previous years there were no nominations received by the Secretary and since **all** the Officer's were willing to stand again they were re-elected *en bloc* agreed by General Consent nem con.

That is Chairman - Gareth, Vice-Chairman Duncan, Secretary Peter and Treasurer Michael.

AOB

There was a short discussion on production of the Newsletter.

The meeting ended at 8:33 p.m.

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## **Extras**

There was a discussion of the future programme and it resulted in the programme below taking us until the end of the year.

## **Gareth updated us on the latest update of Ubuntu 26.04 “Resolute Raccoon”**

Gareth said it was a lot easier to talk about Ubuntu compared to his Minusforum machine where he was not familiar to it. Most updates to Ubuntu are quite incremental and there is a lot under the hood which isn't big news or noticed by the user. He would try and share his screen but was unable to make it full screen because he had a network KVM plugged the machine that is running Ubuntu. He was also in process of changing his machine over from being his old work laptop since leaving Canonical since they included the value of the machine in his leaving package since it was less than 3 years old. 26.04 is a LTS release so will be supported for 5 years on security updates and bug fixes.

However if you have a debug to grow subscription this will extend to 10 years or more.

This actually the first release where the minimum requirements have increased; they are now suggesting 6GB of RAM instead of 4. It is not the OS which needs it but some of the Apps have increased in size. There is a server version too even with 1GB. Gareth would try and install a virtual copy in the demonstration. There are lots of different flavours of Ubuntu all needing slightly different requirements. Peter asked what the differences were. Gareth said it depended which desktop they had. Ubuntu is the GNOME desktop, Qbuntu is the KDE desktop and Lubuntu is the LXDE desktop. The speed I affected too. The modern is a 3D desktop and is a bit slower.

Duncan said he preferred the Kubuntu which he was currently running. Gareth said that a lot of things were incremental improvements like the difference between Node 47 and Node 50 some things get screen accelerated. If you do a shell search it will now find snap applications not just Debian packages. It seems to be a modern way for making easily distributable code. It is an application to run after login. He wondered how long ago RISCOS had that. A lot of desktops have had that for a long time. There is another change called the Yarrow theme which I shall try and demonstrate later.

A lot of things are of little interest to most people like the default document viewer for PDFs has changed. It was 'Events' for years bit is now 'Papers' and has been written in a memory safe language called 'Rust'. But has met with mixed opinions. The idea

is to support containers . But the knock on effects are far reaching , new default emulators and teminal.

Like in the old days with Unix, Solaris, drew graphics with X11 and then linux replaced the Xorg fork to it. GNOME can no longer run an Excel session it is only supporting Wayland. It does now work very well and NViDIA graphics drivers.

Undoubtedly more modern languages and systems are more secure. A new kernel is also of benefit for new hardware.

One thing which was nice about X was that it was designed as a network based protocol but with Wayland you are forced to run things like RDP clients or VNT clients and servers to do remote desktop type stuff whereas right up until you couldn't run X11 any more you could still open a desktop from a remote machine just using native graphics protocols. You know you could SSH/X into a machine and then just run Firefox and it would open up your machine over the network. He thinks it is a shame because he spent all of his University career doing that.

Gareth continued saying he found RDP servers and clients [Ed.Remote desktop] a lot better than BMC [ Ed. Baseboard Management Controller] in terms of performance on Linux it is basically sending a load of graphics over the network versus sending instructions to draw the graphics so it is a very different way of doing it. He also spoke about the RISC-V and architecture and said that often washing machines would now have a RISC-V processor not an ARM processor. Poorer performance compared to an ARM and quite slow. The kernel is the big thing here. TPM [Ed. Trusted Platform Module] is a security chip built into your

laptop used for disk encryption which can store keys. Linux lagged a long way behind in the use of it yet. It is not quite compatible but is very useful using a memory safe language. As you know C is not good at garbage collection and memory protection.

There are many small changes which the average desktop user would be unaware of in Windows, MacOS and Linux. IN Ubuntu you can now search the web and get web results and snap results.

Some of the other changes are to do with DPI scaling for high DPI displays.

## **ICENI Future programme**

### **2026**

|              |                                                     |                     |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 20 May       | AGM + Ubuntu 26.4<br>“Resolute Racoon”              | All                 |
| 17 June      | Raspberry Pi – discussing<br>the range of machines  | All                 |
| 15 July      | Update on AI                                        | Steve and Sue et al |
| 19 August    | Social Evening TBA                                  | All                 |
| 16 September | Retro systems- FreeDOS                              | All                 |
| 21 October   | Computer Security –<br>Certificates and Secure boot | All                 |
| 18 November  | Photo and Video evening                             | All                 |
| 16 December  | Gadgets and Party evening                           | All                 |

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.

The new RISCOS browser; this already had a mention in Duncan and Paul's meeting.

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](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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