



Iceni Newsletter January 2025

Coronavirus Impact Covid-19.

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 Next Meeting: Wednesday 15th January

Software defined radio SDR – Duncan

Duncan will revisit this topic and update us on the possibilities of SDR. It is a while since the last talk on this subject and I'm sure there have been few changes.

Our Last Meeting : Wednesday 18th December Gadgets and Party Evening -All

I always reckon “we have not got many gadgets this year”, but then am surprised at how many turn up.

Duncan started with his Coffee mug called “MUG”.followed by Steve with his Meglit torch and a Swiss army pen knife an older model with the tweezers.

Duncan followed this with his “Useless Box” which we all enjoyed again. It consists of a box and a switch. Operating the switch opens the lid and out comes a hand which resets the switch and closes the box lid again. Comes as a kit which you build. [I must get one Ed.]

Peter also had a telescopic magnetic wand useful for picking up iron or steel screws etc which have fallen on the floor. It also includes a light and pen and spirit level.

Sue then showed us a strong magnet and Emergency lamp.

There was a puzzle tool and headphone replacement pads.

Sue also showed a hot water bottle cover with a Grogi design.

Duncan had a pack of old stock screws and a small size carpenters plane.

There were some comments made about the optical fibre broadband network in Grundisburgh being insecure because they are using GPON so it is thought any customer may view another subscribers traffic.

Peter showed his “In Confidence” ink roller which is used to print over names, addresses , bank statements etc. on any mail being discarded to prevent anyone reading them saving on shredding.

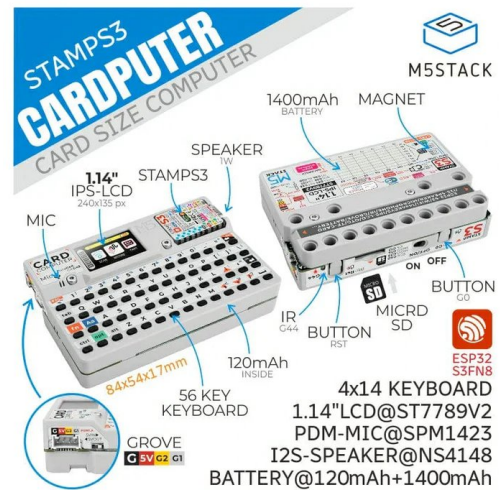
Steve then showed his Bluetooth radio by McJonty. Many of us were owners of Evoke 3 radios which cannot receive DAB+ signals and can't be upgraded as they are hardwired. So consequently can't listen to Classic FM on DAB. There is an Android App called “Transistor” Radio which is free and Open source using an OpenLibrary and can be used for a streaming service.

Paul then showed his gadgets beginning with the credit card sized computer.

The M%Stack Cardputer.

This a credit card sized computer with keyboard and screen. These can be found online for around £30. from the PiHut. It hasWiFi, Infra Red and two batteries , one smaller to allow changing of the large one. A speaker and microphone ESP32S3. Bluetooth and can use as an USB keyboard. It has streaming for internet radio. It will most of stuff Clipper will do.

[I look forward to seeing a demonstration of the capabilities of these. Ed]



M5stackc plus

This is version without the screen has 3 buttons.

There is a launcher program. A lot of people have written Apps for ii. And Sensors for temperature. RFID tags. Etc. It came out in Oct 2024.

Showing both sides of the same object.





Env- iii-1



mini-GPS-Unit-1

RFID unit



There are reports of them being discontinued or maybe just out of stock.

Paul's last item was a pocket screwdriver

[HOTO Pocket screwdriver SE] with several extra features.

With an everlasting pen - faint but does write.



And with screwdriver bits enclosed.

We were pleased to see Michael again who joined us to show us his gadget which was a robot vacuum cleaner by EUFY Peter mentioned having had two in the past which had failed and it was not easy to get them repaired.

Duncan then showed his pin punch. A cleverly designed tool for using those annoying little nails which are hard to insert into wood otherwise. [I usually use long nose pliers for this, but this tool is much neater. Ed.] It has a spring loaded outer tube which moves up the handle as you hammer it in and is also useful to clear the tool if a pin gets stuck. Designed for pins up to 1" in length.

The last gadget also from Duncan was a special dust cover for his scanner, made to measure from perfectdustcover.com

Thanks everyone for all this quite a good and interesting selection.

Extras

A late entry for the Gadgets evening has been received from Andrew Wallace on 10th January. You may remember Andrew when he used to visit us at Bourne Vale when he was working in Ipswich. Strangely I have not been able to persuade him to join us on Jitsi. He said it was too far away!

I think he is based in Cambridge now.

I hope you are well. Please would you consider forwarding this to the group, with some interesting news on the ARM SoC board market.

Currently the performance crown goes to the Radxa Rock 5b SBC, which uses a Rockchip 3588, an ARM octa-core SoC with Mali G610 GPU. I have 6 of these boards, which are slightly bigger than the Raspberry Pi SBC format. They are used extensively for rendering 3D fractals using a program called Mandelbulber2.

However, a more powerful SoC has just been announced, the Cix CD8180, and Radxa have designed a mini-ITX board, the Radxa Orion O6, around this SoC. The new SoC is a 12-core design, with a Quad A720 core clocked at up to 2.8GHz, a Quad A720 core clocked at up to 2.4 GHz, and a Quad A520 core clocked at 1.8 GHz, along with a much more powerful ARM Immortals G720 GPU. If Radxa produce an option with a smaller form factor, I may well buy one.

You can read more about these devices at

<https://radxa.com/products/rock5/5b/>

<https://radxa.com/products/orion/o6/>

You can see some of my fractal work, including videos of fractals morphing as their defining parameters are slowly varied, on facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mandelbulbers/>

If you access the page before Monday morning, 13/1/2025, one of my fractal creations is still in use as the group cover photo!

Best regards, Andrew

ICENI Future programme

2025	Subject	Speaker(s)
18 th December	Party & Gadgets	All
15 January	Software defined Radio SDR	Duncan
19 February	3D printing, Octovision and RPI	Gareth and Peter
19 March	Operating System upgrades, Windows, IOS, Ubuntu and Riscos	Gareth, Michael, Steve et all.
16 April	Chrome OS	Gareth
21 May	AGM and Extras	All
18 June	Open	

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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End