



Iceni Newsletter October 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 Next Meeting Wednesday 15th October 2025

3D printing developments – Gareth and Peter

Both Peter and Gareth have been very busy lately with work and medical matters and we are not sure how much we will be able to present tonight. Added to which neither has used their printers much recently. However we will do our best. Gareth is hoping to be able to put together a Demo of Octoprint running his printer from a Raspberry Pi. Peter will outline some of the future directions of 3D printing and talk about calibration.

Our Last Meeting Wednesday 17th September 2025

AI a catch up on recent developments -Steve

Unfortunately Sue had to go to London on business and could not give her presentation this evening. Consequently there is some more general discussion after Steve's presentation.

Sue said there was a plugin which made writing code easier. Steve said there were future moves to lock down the phone (Android) so that you would be forced to use Google and would not be a way to load your own software. A somewhat gloomy prospect. Steve uses VPN's , as does Peter, to give a measure of anonymity. Paul was still suffering from garbled speech. Duncan suggested turning down the volume setting.

AI

Steve's update since February 2024. One thing he was keen on was the involvement of Meta. For some reason this is no longer a thing and Meta has fallen off releasing of AI models completely. The Chinese have entered the arena and no one knows how they produced such good models, i.e. DeepSeek , so quickly since they are banned from importing the fast GPUs for generating these models. It may be that they have developed very clever software or have imported nvidia devices on the grey market from third world countries. Some models are quite small and will even run on a mobile phone. The DeepSeek model is pretty good and is cheaper than OpenAI. One thing it introduced was thinking models. It is a bit like someone having a conversation with themselves about how to answer the question; you can see the reasoning process. Steve found it a bit irritating because he would rather just see the answer rather than all the workings. He did not find it useful.

It is used by Alibaba as Gwen which is the Chinese equivalent of Amazon. However they are heavily censored and asking it about Tienanmen square used to answer "it is an internal political matter " but now they no know nothing about it. So he suspects that the subject has been removed from the training which he thinks is more sneaky. The Google models are very good indeed and will run on a mobile phone and easy to uncensored. There hasn't been much change in the last few

months and he thinks it takes a lot of time to train the models until they can be released. Payment at one time £20/month but he used OpenAI, Gemini and Claude and used a free period on each in sequence. API queries are very cheap costing a fraction of a penny. So Monthly subs are a bad idea. There are some sophisticated routers which will direct your query to the cheapest. It depends also on what you are using it for. There is python tool called LLM. He uses it a lot for coding. There is a thing called VIBE coding and more targetted use. VIBE coding which really means you don't know what you are doing. By a process of trial and error you end up with something that works. When he was job hunting he wanted something to highlight certain items on a web page. So there are such tools available but as he doesn't know anything about Javascript or programming web browsers, so he took about an hour to get something to work. His plugin is not secure and he would only use it himself. It could be quite dangerous. Social media sites had open data which could be downloaded. He has used a more targetted approach and would search how to use a library. Can be a super Google tool search tool. Can give info on using an API. He could easily check it was doing what he wanted.

Stahlman described as a Bullshit machine. It now has good Grammar. Peter asked "Do you actually own the software you develop if you have used AI models?" Steve said it depends on the usage conditions of the system if it is something commercial. If you are using it for free they tend to mine your data. Most of LLMs contain training data which has broken copyright rules anyway.

Peter quoted a friend who used to say "It ain't what you know; it's what you know; which ain't so". So how does the system purge itself from out of date information? Steve said there could be a weighting applied to newer info.

Firefox added an AI link which might slow it down. It is best not to have too many tabs open at once.

Steve screen shared a session of Gemini.

From Chat <https://gemini.google.com/app> Gemma. This gives a link to the Gemini Chatbot. Size 16GB.

Duncan question about who was St. Augustine?

Two of them 1, St Augustine of Hippo (597 AD) and Augustine of Canterbury.

Mistral is another system (French). Duncan asked how many people would fit into a certain area of the city during a demonstration and it came back with the answer 250,000. He then linked it to a particular event and it came back with the BBC TV figure of 150,000. It did not count heads. The official answer.

Duncan asked about finding a location for a photo and he asked where it was. He also gave a verbal description of where it was. Can use “Google lens”. Steve uses it to supplement his memory. Peter mentioned a book called the “Unbreakable Brain” which he had recently obtained which was very interesting on memory. It describes special things to add to your diet.

Peter also mentioned John Naughton’s article from *The Observer* observation that AI models wanted to please and it gave him the sort of answers which it thought he wanted.

Thank you Steve for a very interesting talk. There are obviously lots of rapid developments here and all of us will have to get to grips with the future of AI.

Other links [Ed]

Claude available from <https://claude.ai>

or <https://www.wisprflow.ai>

DeepSeek from <https://agent.ai> for US based servers.

ChatGPT available from <https://aichatapp.ai>

Mistral available from <https://mirage-ai.com> for Mirage API key

ICENI Future programme

2025	Subject	Speaker(s)
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.

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End