

COMPUTER CLUB GROUP

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Did you know that since coronavirus came along usage of the internet has increased by nearly 70% and streaming services like Netflix have also seen massive increases in their data transfer? According to Ofcom, adults are spending a record 4 hours a day online on average and twice as many people are using video calls to keep in touch. Not surprising really as we are stuck at home and there in the study / office / lounge / bedrooms and kitchen tables is our computer / laptop / tablet or smartphone providing a link to the outside world.



We in the computer club are part of it too, we now meet twice a month via video conferencing rather than just once, pre-covid in the Tesco community room (my, that seems a long time ago). Mind you, video conferencing isn't for everyone, a few of our members have taken time out and intend to re-join the club once we can meet again in person. Of the rest a few pop in and out of our calls, but I'm pleased to say that a hardcore of about 7 or 8 members can be relied upon to turn up every other week.

Along with every-one else we started with Zoom for our meetings; but being the computer club, we also tried Google Meet (No time limit, but not so good for tablets) and are currently using Jitsi Meet an open-source software programme that does all we need it to do. Easy to use, HD audio and video, no time limits, free to use for up to 50 participants at a time and screensharing.

Some of our more interesting topics we covered in the past 12 months were Understanding Memory (Computer memory that is), Online Mapping services, and a group of functions that we all have on our PC, but I suspect few of us go there – and that is Windows Accessories and Admin tools. Topics for future months include Home networking and Crypto Currencies.



Our second meeting of the month that we introduced doesn't have a main topic, instead members bring to the meeting a problem perhaps they can't solve, an issue that they found interesting or a topic they just wish to discuss. We've found many of these highly informative, we all learn something and there is always something to discuss.

The Computer Club Group exists to share knowledge and help those people who are wishing to learn more about their computer/s. About a fifth of the group are keen enthusiasts with plenty of knowledge, but the majority are there because they want to learn. In practice we find that everyone has something to contribute. The computer club does not offer one to one tuition although it is not unknown for an experienced member to later remote into one of the other members computers to help solve a problem.

Finally, my top tip for all U3A members: Get to know File Explorer – thoroughly. It's an essential part of windows and being able to navigate it with ease will make your life a whole lot easier. If you join the Computer Club group you will be able to download (amongst others) our comprehensive PowerPoint presentation and fact sheet on File Explorer that explains it all.