We really like the Internet …..

We make absolutely no secret about it, the internet is a great source of up-to-date information and news, it adds greatly to resources available to people leading busy lives.

The constant fall in the costs of purchasing all electrical goods has now placed a PC within reach of most people, the falling cost of connection to broadband makes it possible to access websites from around the globe; Email, digital banking and messaging all potentially at your fingertips. Students of all ages can extend the range and depth of learning. Busy parents can save time and access information on travel, weather, shopping etc. etc. Seniors can keep in touch with family and friends even if they cannot get out and about as easily as they used to. A simple computer will cost about £350 to purchase, internet connection about £16 to £17 per month (much less than the weekly cost of smoking.) You will need some software, this may come bundled with your machine or you can obtain Open Source programs if proprietary brands of software prove too expensive for your initial budget.

Remember the development of computing is accelerating and that most machines become completely obsolete after 3 years – there doesn't seem to be any successful method of future proofing though some of our readers are still able to get reliable service from machines up to 6 years old or so.

Assuming that most of us are on a very limited budget, how can we get the best out of it?

First try one of the short courses being held at Broomwood Primary School, even if you cannot type you will soon learn how to use a computer, there are accessibility aids for those who find the use of a keyboard difficult or even out of the question.

Recently we have been enjoying looking at some new programs such as Mozilla Firefox www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/central.html its free and versatile, also some innovative Search and Tracking programs, from www.copernic.com which we are finding quite useful to generate content and links for www.broomwoodvoice.com

Unfortunately though most of the new technology is very wonderful in its way, some of the characters using it leave a lot to be desired: Authors of Malware;Viruses; Spyware; Pop-ups; Phishing-Scams; Cyber–Fraud; DoS. Porn Etc. can be a weighty problem; Overcome if just a few simple steps are taken, You will need a good Firewall, Anti-Virus/Spyware programs too. If you have children who use a family computer keep them safe and happy by taking a few simple effective precautions, such as highlighted by www.chatdanger.com who give some good **Chat Room Safety Tips** - listed below:

Be careful - people online may not be who they say they are. Hang on to your personal information - never give out your e-mail or house address, phone no., or where you go to school!
Arranging to meet is dangerous - never meet someone offline unless you are sure who they are, and then only in a public place, with a parent/carer present!!
Tell your friends or an adult if you come across something that makes you feel uncomfortable!
www.chatdanger.com

If you are interested in taking computing classes on Broomwood then email us at info@broomwoodvoice.com we can give you the latest **TOUCAN** details.

Remember mostly anything that the human mind can dream or imagine can be performed
using a computer – **It's up to you not to get left behind.**

E-mail us at info@broomwoodvoice.com
or by writing to Broomwood Voice, c/o K. Gleave, 169 Redbrook Rd, Timperley