Last time we noted the preparation needed to get a good end product be it DIY or designing a website. We told you that the slides used were on our website *www.penarthcomputerclub.co.uk*

If you have looked at them you will see sets of initials, some of which it would be useful to understand. It's not essential, but it does help to be aware. Chris said "DON'T PANIC" and explained the meaning of the ones you are more likely to come across if you browse the web looking for further advice.

 Before that, though, he pointed out that the Internet and the World Wide Web, although used interchangeably by many people, are quite different things. Without going into the origins of each, it is that the Internet is the physical network of computers with their loaded programmes and wires that link them all together and the Web is the many millions of pages of information that is stored ready to be looked at by anyone who can access it on the millions of websites. And it is World Wide.

For the system to work there must be order imposed. Just as society establishes manners as a code of acceptable conduct, so the Web needs the same thing – but to work world-wide it needs to be agreed world-wide. These sets of rules are called Protocols.

There are several of them to deal with different aspects of the operation.

Normal typing will do most of the work in documents, but a system (protocol) was devised to link highlighted words to another part of the document (or even another web page). This superior text is called hypertext and in use it is known as HTML that stands for Hyper Text Mark-up Language.

The agreement to use it everywhere means that the system of transferring information around the internet is the Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP). That is the 'http' you see at the start of a web address. It is so common now that you don't need to type it. It is assumed and automatically inserted. For (S)ecure transmissions an 'S' is added and it becomes HTTPS.

Files are transmitted according to a File Transfer Protocol (FTP).

There are non-profit organisations that administer these matters and allocate names as required.

Each website occupies a piece of territory somewhere on the Internet and this area (called a domain) has a Domain Name. You can make up your own name, but it must be unique and will have bits attached to help with that; for example .uk to say it is British.

Each piece of your equipment that is linked to the internet has an IP Address. It is the address of the device under the Internet Protocol. Again, there are organisations that impose order on things so that you don't have to worry about them.

It's so nice that most of the things you need to do require a simple mouse-click!

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In Brief

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