Have you been inspired by the Olympics and Paralympics? The determination and application of the participants is incredible and there has been nothing but praise for the cheerful and helpful work of the volunteer Gamemakers.

The plan is that the volunteer spirit will live on beyond the Games and that society at large will benefit from it. Much has been said about the volunteering that already exists in many forms.

In our little corner of the world we have Penarth Computer Club doing its bit to help people get along with their computers. We pride ourselves in being just as friendly and helpful as the Gamemakers – our motto is "The Friendly Club". We do not claim to be experts, but we are able to offer help, especially to beginners, in a friendly way.

Very soon we shall be "rebooting" our twice–monthly meetings (2nd and 4th Tuesdays) to help introduce people new to computing to the wonders of modern technology. We will welcome any new faces: give an introductory presentation followed by a Question and Answer session.

Some folk simply want to get a feel for what is happening: to catch up with the technological age. Everything is moving along and they feel they are being left behind.

Learning to use a computer might be part of it all. Developing such a skill could open the door to all manner of benefits.

Some of those benefits were explained to visitors at our Open Evening as part of the Penarth Holiday Festival.

An informal chat eased the feelings of fear uncertainty and doubt about using a computer – or rather about the process of learning how to use one.

We understand the problems of beginners; recognise different levels of ability; note that people pick things up at different speeds - and we try to cater for all this.

The club is a place where people can come to be helped as they get started and continue to enjoy friendly assistance and advice as and when they feel ready for it.

After dealing with the basics and the essentials of getting started, we concentrate on the things that you need to know next for easier working. If appropriate, notes are handed out, but meetings are generally reported in the press and on our website.

We aim to keep moving with the times. We embrace digital photography; emails; internet telephone calls; and family history research as well as the current trend to establish simple home networks to cope with the growing number of households with more than one computer.

We have free range Brains Trust meetings to take questions of immediate interest.

Our first meeting is on Tuesday 11th September 2012. Doors open at 7.30 pm for an 8.00 pm start. Talks usually last an hour or so. (Sometimes they overrun.) Tea and biscuits are provided after the talks, providing an opportunity to chat with other members; perhaps to discuss an area of computing interest.

For more programme information visit our website at www.penarthcomputerclub.co.uk