Do you feel old when you consider today's technology? Struggling to keep up? Take heart - so are most of the rest of the population. It will get better. Really. Read on.

Peter is a gent steeped in modern communications technology. He has just made his fourth visit to Penarth Computer club to share his views on what is happening now and what is on the way. Before starting his tour of developments in mobile communications, he set out his credentials as forecaster.

In 2002 he demonstrated the first camera-phone in the UK and said it would be the next big thing in mobile phones. He was soooo right!

In 2006 he talked about the expansion of Next-Generation Networks covering the entire UK by 2011. What happened? Nothing. Things went a different way and concentrated on things like Skype, BTVision and Virgin Media.

In 2009 he made four predictions. Devices got more powerful (although the expected price drop didn't happen). Applications (Apps) would proliferate enormously (except for the e-wallet that is still a keen ambition for developers). People would use their phone primarily for communications – texting testifies to that.

The fourth prediction was that computing would be changed dramatically by touch-screens, net-books, and laptops as the variety of hand-held devices confirms, whether they are called *something*-pads or *something*-books.

Peter had forecast a "tsunami of change" and scored four out of four. He admits that in 2009 he was beginning to feel 'old' and now, in 2013, is feeling older still.

After over 20 years in the mobile communications industry even by his standards things are getting complicated. The influence of the Iphone and Samsung Galaxy will be enormous as will that of tablet computers in a variety of sizes. Other major shifts are on the way coming from computer chip development; electronic identification tags that can be attached to just about anything and track its global location; the digital capacity to store vast amounts in your pocket on your mobile device and the ability to be always connected.

Peter is brave enough to venture some forecasts even though he admits a pinch of salt should be taken along with them. He considers the key technologies and how they might develop and their possible affect on the gadget in your pocket. He considers the impetus of both competition and demand.

For us he reviewed the major fields that concern mobile technology: Display, Memory, Processor, Battery, Connections and Keyboard. To these he added Operating Systems, Applications and Components – and then he wowed us with his latest predictions.

The convergence of these fields will mean that what we use in future might not even resemble our current devices, but look and operate differently. Next time I will set out some predictions and tell you why things should get better and easier.