The papers are full of stories about senior officials letting us and themselves down. It is refreshing to have someone actually owning up to being a bit daft and falling for a computer scam. Mike F confessed his lapse to alert members of Penarth Computer Club.

He switched on his computer to be faced with a Police message saying they had disabled his computer because it had recently been misused and he could avoid prosecution only if he immediately paid a cash fine.

Certainly his computer wouldn't work. As an innocent party he wanted to get his machine sorted and then tackle the mistake. To do this he had to go out and buy a voucher and return to enter the code it contained.

Only then did he ring Cheshire police to tackle the problem – only to be told that he had been the victim of a scam and that the scammers now had the value of his voucher and he could not get it back. Mike has been well aware of the existence of scams for some time. What caught him out was the newness of the approach and the convincing presentation.

The scam is known as the *Cheshire Police Authority Ukash Virus.* You can Google it and find out more, including how to get rid of it easily. You might have to get a friend to do the Googling, of course. The main lesson is that first you have to be suspicious of such incidents and don't part with any money. You are better prepared if your anti-virus software is fully up to date.

After sympathising with Mike F, we got down to the business of the evening; a quiz by Mike J whilst the order for fish and chips was processed. The quiz is not to be taken seriously and was punctuated by some friendly banter. A nicely balanced set of questions contained no music ones (hooray) and just a single computer-related one (we are not nerds!). First and last teams were separated by 10% of the total available points.

The fish and chips arrived and the chatter started as we dined. Nic made tea to supplement the bring-your-own refreshments.

Members were reminded that the last meeting would be our Open Evening on 9th July. They were invited to bring along their laptops or computers; be prepared to show visitors how they use them and answer questions about the club.

The 9th is our normal meeting date, being the second Tuesday of July. As the Festival has moved back this year we are supporting it a couple of days before it officially starts. We could argue that we are again a little ahead of the game, of course.