

The Computer Group Toolkit for new members



The group has a website **Thought grazing** – <https://thoughtgrazing.org> – which is a private site, only accessible to Cardiff u3a members. All Computer Group members will be given a UserID and password upon joining the group and they will be able to access it for as long as they remain members of Cardiff u3a. Details of your UserID and Password will be sent as soon as is practically possible.

The website has a menu bar which you can see after you've logged in ...

Thought grazing

... for Cardiff u3a

Blog posts Forums Computer Group ▾ Guides Help? ▾ Notice Board Profile Log out

The Tab **Blog posts** takes you to the last two posts on the website – usually that's where you'll find the latest Notes of the last Meeting.

The Tab **Forums** takes you to an area that has become underused of recent – a place where you can raise issues, or ask questions.

The Tab **Computer Group** is a pull-down menu that shows ...

Computer Group ▾	
Meeting notes	access to the archive of meeting notes
Member posts	access to the archive of blogposts written by members
Flipboard Magazine	a link to the Thought grazing Flipboard “magazine” for news
Next year with the Computer Group	a rather speculative page, that I should endeavour to keep up-to-date
Write an article for Thought grazing	an intro into how to write a blogpost on the site
Google+	< a link to the archive of posts that once appeared on our Google+ site

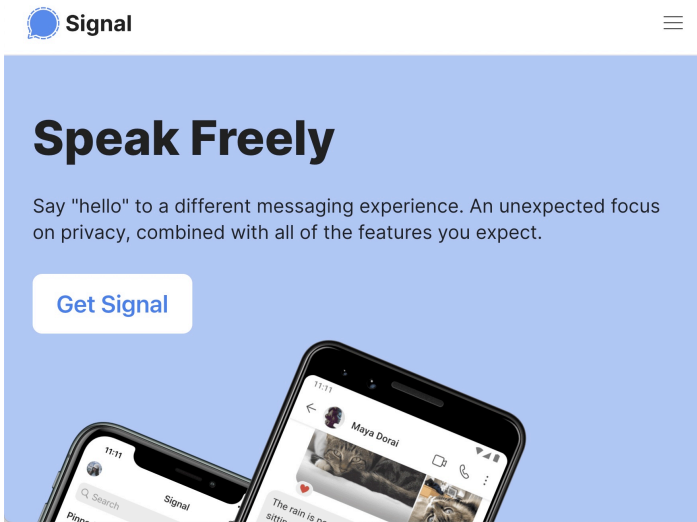
The **Guides** Tab takes you to some guides written by me, and also some that I've uploaded to the site.

The **Help?** Tab is hopefully self-explanatory. If you feel that more help is needed – contact me!

The **Notice Board** Tab details changes I make to the site.

The **Profile** Tab is where you can change your Password – not really necessary, but just in case.

And **Log out** is what you do when you've finished using the site.



The Group also uses **Signal** for members to communicate with each other between meetings. Signal is Open Source software. The codebase of Signal was incorporated into WhatsApp, so they operate in a very similar way. It has the benefit of not being owned by Meta (viz. Facebook) and all communications are encrypted and kept on the smartphone that you register when you apply for an account. It has the additional advantage of running in native form on both Android and Apple tablets, as well as desktops and laptops.

I would encourage members to download Signal onto their smartphone and let me know their mobile phone number. I can then add them to the Signal Computer Group. If you are having any difficulties in doing this, please let me know.

You can download Signal for all its platforms from <https://signal.org>

We also run a **Thought grazing “magazine”** where members can post articles they’ve come across on the web, which they think might be of interest. There are three Group members who look at general technology, Apple, Microsoft and Google issues – both hardware and software – and who post to the magazine. You can read it at <https://bit.ly/3dixR7e>. If you’d like to contribute to the magazine you’ll need to open a Flipboard account - <https://flipboard.com>



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... and then let me know and I’ll add you to the Thought grazing magazine as a contributor.