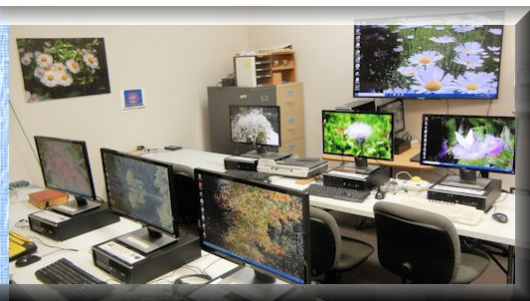


The Bristol Village Computer Club Newsletter

March, 2025



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Spring Flowers

Residents who frequent the Cooper Wildflower Woods know that the early blooming snowdrops and aconite quickly



push their way up through the last snow falls and are now showing.

However, If you are ready to bewhelmed, or overwhelmed, with spring flowers, here are some YouTube videos that will satisfy your need to get a head start with viewing spectacular collections of spring flowers.

(For the best effect once the video is playing, press F for full screen mode. Press F again to exit full screen mode.)

Dubai Miracle Garden

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wP6DNvGADF4>

Ahmedabad International Flower Show 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOkdtQIcJOs&t=819s>

Ashikaga Flower Park

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcORinPPWF8>

The Al Ain Flower Festival 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHKb4E409qg>

Ekamra Kanan Botanical Gardens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQOrydxiALE>

Need help looking for a new computer?

If you are in the market for a new Windows computer and have no idea how to choose from the many available options, Daryl and Len have a lot of experience with computer purchases and can help. In some cases we have purchased new computers for people who then reimburse us.

After your new computer has arrived, Daryl and Len will help you set it up. There are a lot of screens to go through the first time a computer is used. There are many, possibly confusing, options to select. Also, the default **Start Menu** will be filled with a lot of junk you will not be using. This needs to be cleaned up.

We can install several basic apps for you.

[LibreOffice](#) is a free alternative to the expensive Microsoft Office 365. The free [VLC](#) player program can play both music and video files (for example we use this for playing the pre and post vespers videos that are shown on bvtv). We can also install both [Firefox](#) and [Google Chrome](#), alternatives to the intrusive Microsoft Edge web browser.

So, if you want a new computer and need help, Daryl and Len are available.

Len's YouTube picks of the month

Floating Dancers.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6Xmv6MzQ8&list=RD-q6Xmv6MzQ8&start_radio=1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eij66KuyPh0&list=RD-q6Xmv6MzQ8&index=8>

The Beryozka or Berezka Dance Ensemble (in Russian: Берёзка, 'little birch tree') is a troupe of female dancers founded by Russian choreographer and dancer Nadezhda Nadezhkina in 1948 in the Soviet Union which specializes in performing in long gowns and moving across the stage as though gliding or floating. Although often considered a form of folk dancing, its founder once stated, "Beryozka's dances are not folk dances. They are dances whose source is the creative work of the people. But these dances are composed by me".

The floating step is difficult to perform. According to Nadezhkina, "Not even all our dancers can do it. You have to move in very small steps on very low half-toe with the body held in a certain corresponding position".

The 2025 Spring Festival from China TV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHKy19ozOJk>

This is a 45 minute collection of festival highlights from all over China.

Dancing with robots.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B72aVz-PEgM>

Scenes from Shanghai

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8Dek3UfQjk>

Skype is shutting down after two decades

[from <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/28/tech/skype-microsoft-shutdown/index.html>]

Microsoft is shutting down Skype, the internet-based phone and video service that was once the dominant way of staying connected in the mid 2000s.

Skype will "no longer be available" to use starting in May, the company confirmed on X, telling users that their log-in information can be used on Microsoft Teams' free tier in the "coming days."

If you are a Skype user

If you are a regular Skype user, you need to make alternative arrangements with those who you communicate with through Skype. Unless you are a dedicated Microsoft account user, it looks like Zoom is currently the best alternative to Skype.

Skype's shutdown comes 14 years after Microsoft bought the service for \$8.5 billion in cash, marking the company's largest ever acquisition at the time. Microsoft integrated the service into its other products, such as Office and its ill-fated mobile operating service Windows Phone.

"Skype has been an integral part of shaping modern communications and supporting countless meaningful moments, and we are honored to have been part of the journey," Jeff Teper, president of Microsoft 365 collaborative apps and platforms, said in a blog post. "We're excited about the new opportunities that Teams brings and are committed to helping you stay connected in new and meaningful ways."

Skype’s popularity has faded in recent years, despite a pandemic bounce that lifted other competing products, including Zoom, Google Meet and Cisco Webex. Skype has also faced increased competition over the last decade and a half from apps like Apple’s FaceTime and Meta’s WhatsApp. Plus, Microsoft has been investing heavily in Teams, which offers many of the same services.

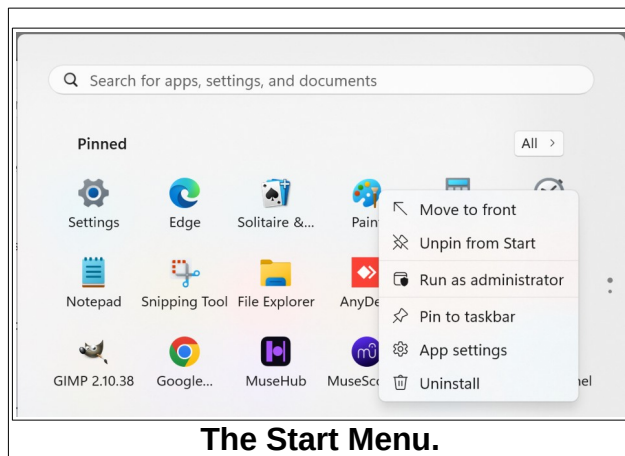
Skype launched in 2003 in Estonia and quickly caught on as a way to make free calls worldwide, a notable perk considering international calling on traditional phones used to be expensive. The service quickly became popular, leading eBay to buy it in 2005 for \$2.6 billion. However, the partnership did not work out, and eBay sold its 65% stake in Skype to an investor group for \$1.9 billion in 2009 before Microsoft bought it in 2011.

When you **left click** on the Start tool, the Start Menu will open. This menu has shortcuts to different apps installed in your computer. **Left click** on an app icon to open the app. If you **right click** on an app tool you can unpin it from the Start Menu. This does not remove the app from the computer, it only removes the shortcut. The default Start Menu probably has a lot of app shortcuts that you never use. Simply remove them from the Start Menu.

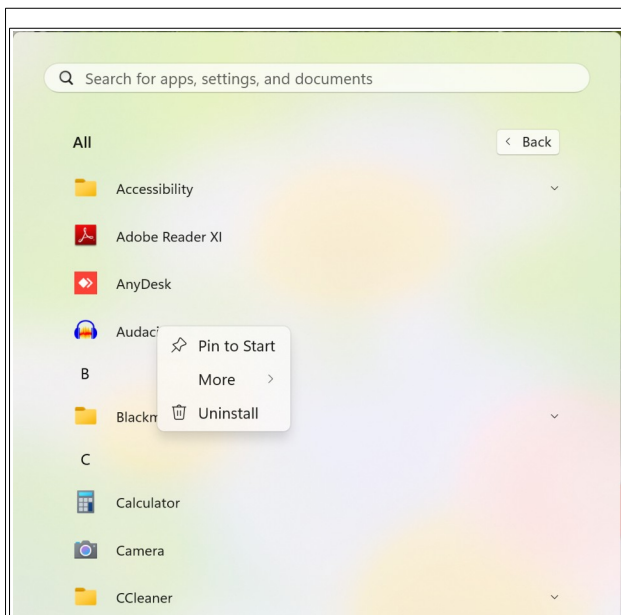
To add app shortcuts to your Start Menu, select the **All** tool to open a list of everything installed. **Right click** on the desired app tool from the list and select **Pin to Start**.

A customized Start Menu can make you computer use faster and easier.

Customize your (Windows 11) start menu



The Start Menu.



The app list.

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