

Account of Purley on Thames

The Internet

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The internet began as a collaboration between a number of US Universities in a venture known as Arpanet and many large technology companies soon followed suit to provide communications between their employees. Then a British engineer invented the World-wide web whereby anyone could access anyone else who had what was fairly simple technology to receive and send electronic messages know as e-mails. An elaborate system of country and service codes was devised so that each country had its own code and a variety of services such as .ac for academic institution, .gov for government and .com for commerce. The symbol @ came in widespread use to link the codes together so that any individual could have a unique email address such as *name@uni.ac.uk* for someone at a UK university and forwarding centres were set up to forward mail to the correct centre so that the recipient could read the e-mails that had been received.

From this websites evolved whereby anyone could set up a display of information to promote their business, publish articles for anyone to read or for buying or selling goods.

Now, many Purley individuals or groups have their own websites to provide information or to keep members in touch with one another.