

## LITTLEBOROUGH SILVER SURFERS - session 3

*All the information and links below are at*  
[www.wardle.demon.co.uk/silversurfers.html](http://www.wardle.demon.co.uk/silversurfers.html)

### **Wikipedia (wikipedia.org)**

Wikipedia is an online encyclopaedia. It is very useful for finding out lots of information about one particular topic.

If you're not sure whether to use Google or Wikipedia in a specific case, use Google - if there is a relevant Wikipedia article, it will usually show up as the top Google search anyway. Think of Google as an entire library and Wikipedia as a shelf of encyclopaedias within that library.

Wikipedia can be updated by anyone (including you!) and this tends to mean that it is very up-to-date. Some people say that Wikipedia is untrustworthy and unreliable for the same reason, but my experience is that it's fine, although the depth (and length) and quality of articles varies widely.

You can search directly from the entry page (wikipedia.org), but once you are into the site itself, you can search from whichever page you're on - you don't have to keep going back to the starting page. The search box is at the top right-hand corner. Type your word(s) and press enter. (Remember you need to search for a particular TOPIC, not an individual fact.)

As usual, you don't need capital letters, but you need the correct spelling - Wikipedia is less forgiving than Google.

Sometimes you will get taken straight to the page you want; more often, you reach a "disambiguation page", which lists various pages that might be the one you want. Just click on the one that looks most relevant.

Most articles have some helpful category links at the very bottom of the page, which are often useful if you didn't find quite what you wanted.