

What is a browser ?

28/07/2017

A web **browser** is basically a software application (**app** or **program**) that allows you to get onto the internet, and view web pages such as our Home page at www.theramblers.ie or the Members Area page at www.theramblers.ie/members-area/

Every web page has a unique **address** or **URL** [which stands for **U**niversal/**U**niform **R**esource **L**ocator].

The full URL for our Members Area page is **https://www.theramblers.ie/members-area/** but the **https://** and even the **www.** can often be omitted

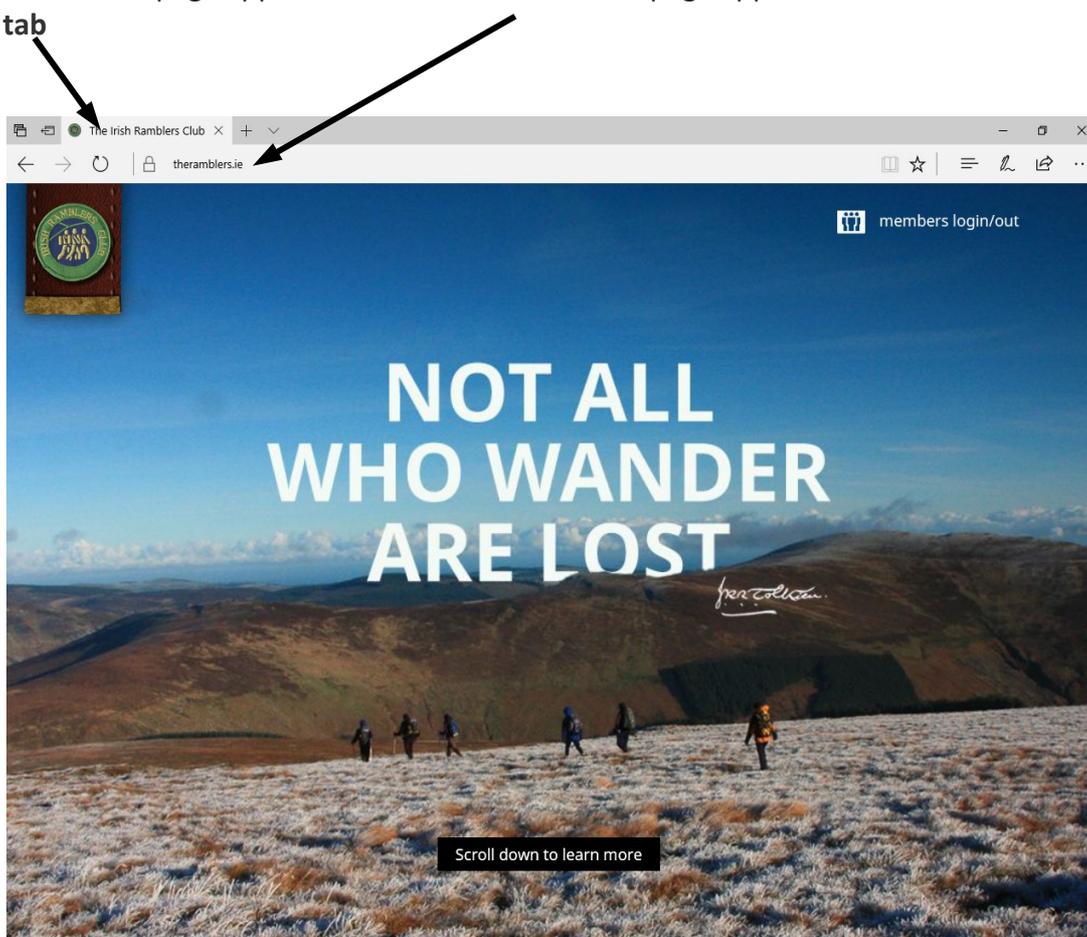
If you click on a link to a URL then Windows will open the default browser [unless it has already been opened] and load the page.

So if you receive an email which asks you to

".... please click on this link www.theramblers.ie to get to our Home page..." you will see your default browser in action.

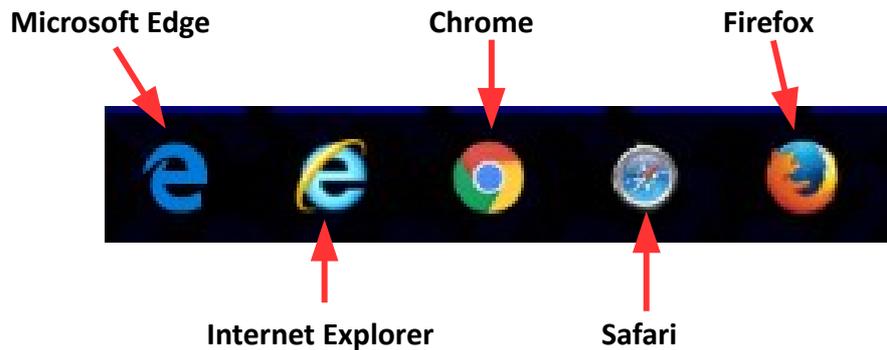
The **Title** of the page appears in a **tab**

the **URL** of the page appears in the **address bar**



The default browser here is **Microsoft Edge** which comes with Windows 10

The most common browsers and their icons are



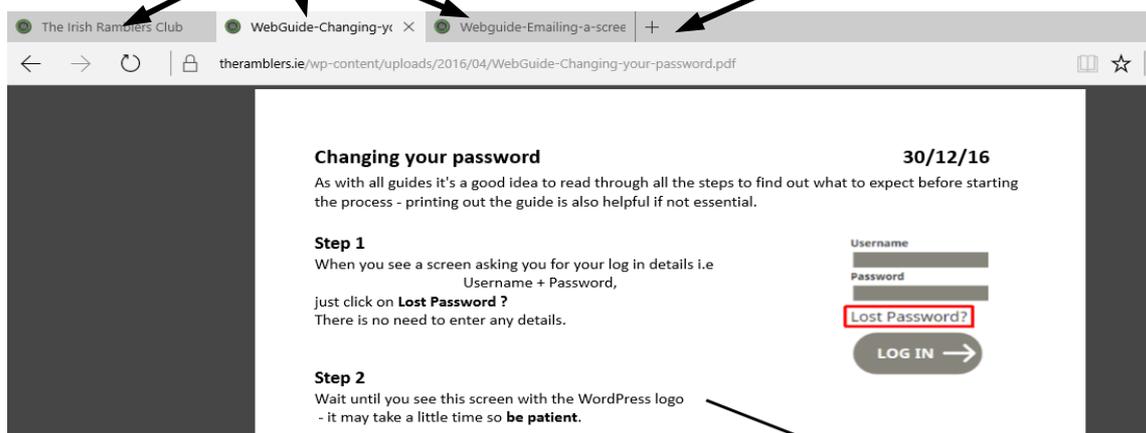
You can click here to find out [which browser](#) you are using.

Tabs

All browsers will allow you to have two or more different pages open in different **tabs** making it quick to switch from one page to another

Here there are three tabs

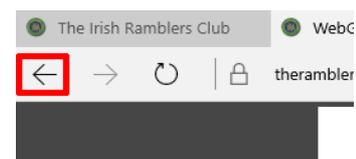
clicking on the + sign opens a new tab



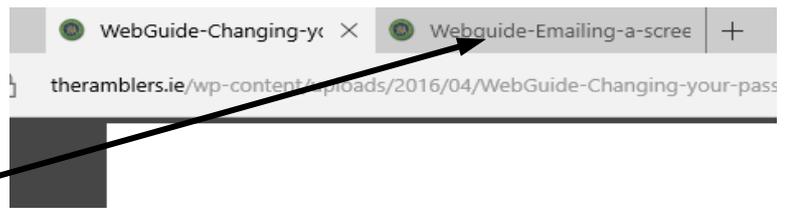
If you are given a link in a **PDF [Portable Document Format]** such as this or the monthly Rambler then clicking on the link will open it in the same tab "on top of" the page you are working on.

You can try this out now by clicking on this link to [Logging in](#) but before doing so be aware that this page that you are reading will "disappear" beneath the newly opened page.

To get back to this page you will need to use the back arrow



If instead you hold down the **Ctrl** key while clicking then the page will open in a **new tab**. You can then switch between the pages by clicking to activate another tab.



To close a tab click on the **×** symbol.



You can try this out now by holding down the **Ctrl** key while clicking on this link to [Logging in](#)

This time the PDF opens in a new tab and you can switch from it back to here by clicking on this page's tab.