Gathering the components

The first step in establishing a computer system with Raspberry Pi is to gather together all the necessary components listed below:

- **Raspberry Pi** – first you will need to get your hands on a Raspberry Pi board itself, available worldwide through Premier Farnell/Element 14, Allied Electronics, and RS Components.

- **Micro SD card** – to contain the operating system, so is recommended at least 8GB capacity and Class 4 or higher.

- **Micro SD card reader** – to write the operating system onto the card, unless you have a pre-installed system card.

- **Micro USB 5 volt power source** – typically a cellphone charger or e-book reader charger, providing a power supply output of at least 5V.

- **USB mouse** – any standard mouse.

- **USB keyboard** – any standard keyboard.

- **TV or monitor** – any HDMI/DVI monitor or TV should work, but for best results use one with HDMI input.

- **HDMI cable** – to connect to a TV/monitor.

- **Ethernet cable** – for wired internet connection, unless you use the built-in Wi-Fi adapter to connect to a router wirelessly.

This seemingly long list of requirements is broadly similar to the components of a traditional PC so you may well already have some items on this list, but others you may need to purchase.
When you have gathered together all necessary components they can be connected as shown above – but the Raspberry Pi is not yet functional as the SD card doesn’t contain an operating system.