Email report – meeting 11/07/2011 at Stowupland School

For the new term in September the school timetable has changed so we will no longer be able to have our usual Monday morning slot. Options….

1) Change our meeting date at Stowupland to a Wednesday afternoon, the only space available, or

2) Move to the new 'Gipping Valley Resource Centre' adjacent to Stowmarket High School.

Together with Philip, I've visited the Resource Centre and can report that it is an excellent facility which would be ideal for our purposes. However, the downsides are that there are no vacant times during a normal weekday other than 3.30pm - 5.30pm plus there would be a charge of £28-£30 per session.

These options were discussed and it was unanimously agreed that we should remain at Stowupland, so, from September we will meet at 1.30pm for coffee and discussion in the dining room before moving to the computer suite, 2.00pm - 4.00pm, **2nd Wednesday, 14th September**.

Agony Corner:

1) 'Adobe Flash Player won't update'....

- To be viewed correctly a lot of web sites need Adobe Flash Player installed on your computer.
- Once it is installed, it should be allowed to automatically update.
- There could be lots of reasons for the failure to update Flash, far too many to detail here, but.......
- There is a web page which should, one way or another, provide the answer... http://tinyurl.com/pat-flash
- Stop press! This problem has been solved

2) 'My 'Chrome' browser does not display the most up to date version of a web site'...

- I've looked on line in various forums and find that this is a common problem with Chrome.
- It seems that unless you force the issue, Chrome will often (always?) give the cached (i.e. saved on your computer) version of any site visited before.
- The easiest way to check is to click the 'refresh' button (a clockwise circular arrow to the left of the address bar), although some people in the forums say that even this didn't work without clearing the cache.
- There is no option available to force Chrome to refresh every time and most people suggest that it's desirable to just clear the cache regularly.

3) 'I sometimes have problems with printing pdfs received as email attachments'....

- Suggest first saving the pdf to a folder on your computer, double click to open then click the printer icon.
- There's a lot more about pdfs here…. http://tinyurl.com/u3a-pdfs

4) 'Tag/ MS Office/ Security/Removal'.

- We discussed this topic but I took insufficient detail down to report. Apologies
- We'll carry this forward to the next meeting.

5) 'I have 'Open Office' but my friends can't read the files'.

- This should not be a problem. 'Open Office' can read and save all documents in the MS Office format, e.g. xls, doc, ppt
- You can find all the help you need with free tutorials here... http://www.tutorialsforopenoffice.org/

6) 'Ubunto Operating System'

- Ubuntu is a fast, secure and easy-to-use operating system used by millions of people around the world.
- It is the most popular 'Linux' based operating system and is truly free and open source.
- It can be installed to run alongside 'Windows' OS but if you have an old PC it is better to install it on this and experiment before committing to it on your main computer.
- Full information can be found at http://www.ubuntu.com/

7) 'I'm having problems with my new HP printer'

- Follow the instructions on this link and you should get an answer from HP.... http://www8.hp.com/uk/en/support-drivers.html
- And this link will take you to the forums where you can post your question and get a reply from other users..... http://h30434.www3.hp.com/psg/

8) 'Several members have new lap tops but are not too comfortable with the Windows 7 operating system'...

- There are excellent video tutorials for new users at .. http://tinyurl.com/u3awin7
- A Google search will find much more as well.

Introduction to Windows Movie Maker

This was the subject of my talk today. Windows Movie Maker is a video creating/editing software application, included in Microsoft Windows Me, XP, and Vista. It contains features such as effects, transitions, titles/credits, audio track, timeline narration. It is very easy to use and most things can be learnt by trial and error!

It is not installed with Windows 7 but there is an updated version (windows Live Movie maker 2011) available on http://tinyurl.com/34spql6 ...

However, many people think that Windows Live Movie Maker is inferior to the original Movie maker and Windows 7 users are advised to install version 2.6 at http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=34 .

Windows Movie Maker can use a large variety of file formats to help in your creation..

Video files: .asf, .avi, .dvr-ms, .m1v, .mp2, .mp2v, .mpe, .mpeg, .mpg, .mpv2, .wm, and .wmv

Audio files: .aif, .aifc, .aiff .asf, .au, .mp2, .mp3, .mpa, .snd, .wav, and .wma

Picture files: .bmp, .dib, .emf, .gif, .jfif, .jpe, .jpeg, .jpg, .png, .tif, .tiff, and .wmf

We started by importing pictures either by dragging and dropping or clicking 'Import pictures' from the Movie Tasks pane. They were then all selected (click the first then hold 'shift' then click the last) then dragged onto the story board at the bottom. If you're not

happy with the position, any picture can be dragged to another position on the story board.

It is important that the 'project' (as filename. MSWMM) is saved regularly so that if you make a mess of things you can always go back to where you knew it was alright. There's too much detail to report here, but we then went on to create titles, imported video clips and created slide transitions. Finally everybody was able to save the final project and view a preview of their efforts.

It is possible to save the final project as a *filename.wmv* in various sizes from 'email' to 'DVD' quality. There was insufficient computing power available for everyone to make the video so unfortunately nothing for anyone to take away with them. (A small, 2.0Mb, version of the final wmv video was sent to the email recipients. This had also been resaved in 16_9 widescreen format so that the video clips displayed correctly).

 If you want to learn more there's plenty of help on this Microsoft site .. http://tinyurl.com/y92dvao

Next Meeting:

As the school will be closed for the summer holidays our meeting on **Monday 8th August** will be at the **Woodfield Bowls Club**, 10.00am for a 10.30am start, please. Philip will be giving us some tips for 'Windows' and 'Word' and will also be giving a demonstration of his new hand held scanner.