Email report – meeting 12/09/2012 at Stowupland School

We had 12 members at our September Meeting; apologies received from Clive Herrod, John Haseltine, Jean Roche and Harry Orde.

Included in the circulation list for this email are those who showed an interest in the Computer Group at the recent AGM/Groups Day and subsequently signed up for membership of. Please feel free to come along to our next meeting and you will be made very welcome. Remember to visit www.u3astowmarket.org.uk, click Groups then Computer and you can read about the kind of things we've covered over the last couple of years or so.

Agony Corner:

1) 'Is 'The Cloud' safe?'

- This item was covered at length at the last meeting. Immediately after the meeting I received an 'Ask Leo' newsletter covering this very topic.
- Follow this link, http://tinyurl.com/cxkql7j it makes interesting reading.

2) 'Join.me'.

- We discussed how to get the free version at the last meeting.
- In the intervening period, two of us have remotely accessed each other's screens/computers with no problems at all.

3) From a member this month. 'My laptop Wifi has suddenly become inaccessible although it works ok on my other computers?'

- This sounded like a registry corruption - may be due to a driver conflict or perhaps following installation of new software.
- Problem solved by using the 'Windows Restore' facility which gives the opportunity to take the system settings back to an earlier time when it was known to be functioning correctly. This only affects the settings and new programmes that may have been installed and leaves documents (Word, Excel, text etc) unaffected.
- To use System restore go to Start/AllPrograms/Accessories/System Tools/System Restore and then follow the prompts.

4) 'When working with a lot of pictures (jpegs) I noticed that some thumbnails did not represent the correct picture but when opened they were correct. What's going on?'

- Windows can sometimes get confused when pictures are moved around, say, or opened or closed in different programmes. For example, if you open a picture then crop it to a different shape, the new saved image thumbnail may still show the full original picture. On other occasions, as illustrated in the question, an entirely different picture may be represented.

- Fortunately this is an easy problem to deal with. Hover the mouse over the offending thumb nail and right click. As discussed in our earlier session this brings up the context menu relevant to the file. In the top section you will see 'Refresh Thumbnail' - left click on this and the correct thumbnail for the picture will be revealed.

5) 'Is it possible to a screen shot or copy/paste on a (standard) Kindle?'

- No, it is not possible on the Kindle itself. However, the Kindle software can be installed on your PC, laptop or tablet; the content is synced by default with your main Kindle.
- On the lap top, open the page you wish to copy from and select the full screen view. The Kindle software will not allow a normal copy/paste but the content can be captured by pressing 'Print Screen' which puts a copy of the visible content in clipboard.
- Paste this into, say, Irfanview when it can be saved as a jpg or pdf. Should you wish to edit it, you will need to convert the pdf to Word or rtf; free software is available.
- This can also be done on a tablet computer. On the Asus Transformer, for example, and with the keyboard attached, open the Kindle at the page required and press the screen shot icon (on the top row, image of screen and camera). This will be saved and can be opened in the image viewer offered.

6) 'Is it possible to read Kindle files on other devices or other e-book files on a Kindle?'

- Yes. Go to http://calibre-ebook.com/ and read all about it!

7) 'What can I do to make Windows restart quickly?'

- We've discussed before about cleaning up the boot up process with config.sys etc., but an easier way is to put the PC into hibernation instead.
- Hibernate is useful because it saves the status of your Windows session (all the programs and documents you have open) to the hard drive, so it can automatically restore it the next time you power up.
- A quick way to do this is (in XP) to go to Start, Turn off Computer. While in the Shut Down box, hold down the Shift key and hit the H key. The computer will instantly hibernate.
- When you next power up again, the computer will be ready to run (as you left it) in less than 1 minute.

8) 'I can't open my MS Publisher files - I get 'Out of memory' message'.

- Without seeing the actual message it's difficult to be specific but it may be that you need more 'Virtual' memory which means the 'Page File' size needs increasing.
- Have a look at these sites for extra information http://ask-leo.com/what_is_virtual_memory.html and http://windows.microsoft.com/is-IS/windows-vista/Change-the-size-of-virtual-memory (this refers to Vista but it's very similar on XP and 7).

'Computer and internet - hints and tips' - Our topic for the day.

- This fully interactive session was devoted to exploring a UK based help site, http://pcprop.com/w/hints-and-tips/.
- There are six sections, Keyboard, Pointer, Internet Browsing, Downloads, Windows 7 and General.
- We collectively explored every one and, each having their own workstation, we were able to try many of the tips out ourselves.
- If you missed the meeting, I think that you will be pleasantly surprised with what this site has to offer and the clarity with which everything is explained.

Next Meeting:

The next will meeting will be on Wednesday 10th October at Stowupland High School, for a 1.30pm start.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances out of my control, I won't be able to attend this meeting. Philip has agreed to stand in for me and the meeting will take the usual format of Agony Corner, then the topic for the day in the ICT suite.

Mike Hitchcock suggested the topic for this meeting. Most of our members have a 'favourite' web site or know of one that they've found particularly useful or interesting.

The idea is, then, that as many of you as can could give a short demonstration to the group. It need not, I suggest, be necessarily all about computers or indeed the internet in general so long as it's a site that interests you.

All you have to remember is that whatever you bring up on the work station at the front will be seen on the large screen behind.

Please let me know if there are any topics you would like to be covered in the future or even re-visit anything we have covered over the last couple of years.

Have a good meeting and I look forward to being back in November.