

Email report – meeting 14/11/2012 at Stowupland School -----There were 11 members at the Meeting and apologies received from Ann Croft, John Haseltine and Irene Turner.

In my introduction, I referred back to the October meeting when 'Favourite Web Sites' was the topic and which had been a great success. We thought that it may be a good idea to revisit in about a year's time. In passing, I mentioned a site I use regularly, <http://www.ereaderiq.co.uk/>. This is devoted entirely to Kindle books enabling you to track price drops, books recently transferred to Kindle and, most importantly, free Kindle books. If you sign up, you received a daily email listing the latest free books by the genres you've specified. Over the last year I've downloaded and read upwards of 50 titles! Philip also mentioned <http://www.booksprice.com/> where you can compare prices of books from all the various retailers. It's also does the same for DVDs and music.

Agony Corner:

1) Windows 8 - following last month's topic

- Many people who don't want Windows 8 are considering a Unix 'open source' system one example is Ubuntu. You can read about it here <http://www.ubuntu.com/ubuntu>
- Philip mentioned the 'Softmaker' alternative to Windows Office suite. The it's necessary to buy the current version 2012 but a totally free 2008 version is available at <http://www.softmakeroffice.com/>

2) 'What's the correct way to get a picture from my scanner onto my computer? -- from last month.

- A topic that creates a lot of difficulties for some people.
- Complicated by the variety of scanners and software on the market.
- Agreed that this could be a useful topic to cover in detail (see below).

3) 'How do I copy my contacts address book from Outlook Express on my PC to Windows (Live) Mail on my lap top?'

- First export your contacts from Outlook Express by saving to a CSV file. In OE go to File, Export, Address Book.
- In the address book tool Select Text File (Comma Separated Values), click Export and follow the instructions.
- Save the file to a USB memory stick.
- Put the stick into the lap top and open Windows Live Mail.
- Go to 'Contacts', bottom LHS and click.
- This opens the Windows Mail Contacts dialogue box.
- Click File, Import, CSV the follow the instructions.
- Follow link for pdf with pictures illustrating the procedure.
- <http://u3astowmarket.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/address-book-from-oe6-to-windows-live-mail.pdf>

4) 'I accepted the offer of an update to my Kodak printer, but after that it wouldn't print'.

- Member tried system restore, tried contacting Kodak by email and sought professional help, all to no avail.
- Eventually heard back from Kodak that their original down load was faulty. They issued a special tool that could not be used wirelessly but the problem is more or less solved.
- A complaint letter to Kodak MD has so far elicited no response!

5) 'Aware of confusion between 'Direct Debits' and 'Continuous Payment Authorities' (CPA)'.

- A CPA may also be called recurring payment authorities, recurring transactions or recurring payments.

- New Consumer Focus research shows that banks' customer service advisers are unclear of the rules around Continuous Payment Authorities (CPA) and often give customers incorrect advice as a result.
- We discussed this topic in detail but I would suggest you visit these sites to get the full picture <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/banking/recurring-payments> and <http://tinyurl.com/consumer-focus>
- On a related theme, members should be aware that when you sign up to a 'free trial' of software, say, you are often asked for your credit card details even though no payments are taken at that time. It's important to remember to cancel this authority in good time otherwise you are committed to pay.

6) Spam mail, often discussed...

- I've recently received several emails ostensibly from family members which patently have not been sent by them.
- There's never a subject line and the manner of starting, 'Hi Peter', for example, together with a complicated web link clearly indicate a scam which could involve downloading a virus.
- Fortunately all these have been caught by the Gmail spam filter (all my mail is routed through Google servers).
- This is a reminder to never, ever follow a link in any email that looks unusual or suspicious in any way even though it seems to have been sent by someone you know.

7) Marion has recently switched from AVG Free to Microsoft Security Essentials.

- MSE virus checker is very efficient and doesn't use a lot of computer resources.
- We discussed this in detail at our June meeting and the software can be downloaded from <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-GB/windows/security-essentials-download>

'Online Genealogy'. How online resources can help with your family history research. *Many thanks to Marian Brown* for this comprehensive coverage of our topic for the day.

- Marian based her talk on a selection of web sites where genealogy information was available, mainly for free.
- We were given an insight into the origins of the recording of proper family records, mostly through the churches, and when the official national census began.
- With us all trying to access the same sites, we rather slowed down the system! This did not, however prevent us from finding out lots of new information.
- There's far too much information to cover here *so I've prepared three pdfs* (links below) containing everything provided by Marian. I would encourage you explore the free sites at leisure.
- <http://u3astowmarket.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/free-online-sites-from-doug-doust.pdf>
- <http://u3astowmarket.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/the-parish-chest-from-john-wild.pdf>
- <http://u3astowmarket.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/the-parish-chest-from-john-wild.pdf>
- Marian also recommended a useful book on the subject, *The Genealogist's Internet: The Essential Guide to Researching Your Family History Online*. Here's a link to the latest version on Amazon <http://tinyurl.com/cjq7guf>

Next Meeting:-

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 12th December**, 1.30pm at Stowupland High School.

Topic for the day: Many times, questions have been asked about scanning of both pictures and documents, how to do it and how to get it in the correct format on the computer.

I will lead a discussion this month on **'Scanning Basics'** and encourage others to report on their experiences. There is a scanner in the room so we should have the opportunity to experience the issues first hand.