Meeting 10/06/2015

We had 15 members at the meeting on 10th June at Bacton Village Hall . There were 6 apologies.

This was the second time at the hall and everyone present agreed that, whilst there was a small hire charge (1.30pm – 4.00pm; £15.00 - divided amongst the numbers present), the venue overall had some advantages over Stowupland High School. Notably, free WiFi at decent speed available to all, comfortable seating and a feeling of being freer to do our own thing without being herded around. At this meeting as well as the May one, this lead to a very convivial atmosphere and much increased interaction amongst the members.

We did agree that there was a strong case to make Bacton Village Hall our permanent venue plus it would mean that we aren't restrained by school holidays and other happenings. It was agreed that we should try once more at Stowupland, but once again I've been told that they cannot accommodate us on 8th July so I've booked Bacton Village Hall for this meeting and the next on 12th August.

If members are agreed at this month's meeting, I'll make enquiries about making BVH our permanent venue.

Whilst most members can bring their own laptop and/or tablet to the meetings there are one or two who don't use them. This should not normally be a problem as people can share resources plus others may still have redundant laptops which can be lent out.

Agony Corner:

There were no outstanding matters from the last meeting. New items.....

1. I'd like to transfer/back up all my photos from iPad to PC; how can I do this?

- This is quite straight forward. Official Apple guidance can be found here https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201302
- Or You could use Cloud storage and download from there. There are many services these days from all the big names, Google, Microsoft, Apple and of course Drop Box. A comprehensive comparison is given here http://tinyurl.com/qbeyrjs
- A new addition to the Google stable is 'Google Photos' which is also an organiser and basic editor https://www.google.com/photos/about/?page=home . We can look at this in a little more detail at the meeting.

2. I've noticed a new Windows icon on the bottom RHS of my task bar. Is this a scam or malware?

- No, this is a genuine message from Microsoft asking Win 7/Win 8/Win 8.1 users if they'd like to reserve the the Windows 10 upgrade which is free to those users. It's entirely up to you whether you take any action or not.
- You don't need to reserve your upgrade, though, to receive it. Prior reservation of the free upgrade will allow you to download Windows 10 before 29th July beating the rush on the day of release when download speeds will be slower. You won't be able to install the operating system until 29th July though and then you will be able to install it at a time convenient to you.

3. I've changed my screen resolution but each time I reboot it reverts to the previous configuration. I always confirm the changes by clicking OK. What am I missing?

- You need to click 'Apply' before clicking 'OK'.

Topic for the Day:

Thanks to **John Hasletine** who lead an interactive discussion and shared his own experiences with **'Tablets'** – what you can do with them, what perhaps you can't, and any queries you would like to make.

More than 10 members brought their tablets (mostly Android but including 2 iPads) which shows how popular these devices are. Prior to the meeting some members had, by request, installed the EZcast app.

This requires the EZcast device to work. The EZCast is an HDMI dongle-based TV streamer that is a cut-priced alternative to the Google Chromecast and John started off by wirelessly sending his tablet desk top to a television he'd brought with him.

Everything that was on his tablet could be mirrored onto the TV screen, including TV through UKTV, YouTube plus all the regular apps that people have on their tablets. He also uses an app, 'WAZE' as a substitute sat nav.

We then had a lot of fun as everybody tried to cast their own tablet to the screen. This worked very well once we discovered that it was *strictly one at a time!*

Alongside this I was able to demonstrate (for the first time) that a tablet screen can be viewed on a VGA projector. We've always been told at Stowupland that this was impossible. Using a mini HDMI to VGA converter (Amazon http://tinyurl.com/qa7fqhs) anything that I did on my tablet was reflected on the projector screen.

Although we did not have time to look in any detail about other apps and functions of tablets, the session certainly generated a lot of enthusiasm. We could have gone on longer with more Q&As but the members actually went their own way comparing notes and helping each other out – a good way of working together, I thought. I suggest that we have another 'Tablets' session in a few months time – there's more than enough to go at.

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday 8th July – as above, will be held at Bacton Village Hall

Topic for the Day: **Photo manipulation** - and a survey of free software available. This will be a review of what you can achieve without having to invest in expensive software like PhotoShop, PS Elements, Lightroom, Serif Photo Plus etc.

Where possible, I'll bring along the installation files so please remember to bring along your lap tops and USB sticks as I'd like to make this session fully interactive.

Looking ahead, the August meeting will also be at BVH and the topic will be 'Windows 10' – what's it all about and should I install it? As mentioned above, Win 10 will be released on 29th July so we will all be interested if you've already made the leap!