

We had 8 members at the meeting on 11th November, with 6 apologies (including mine). Many thanks to David Potter for holding the fort in my absence.

### **Agony Corner:**

There were no major items arising from the questions at the last meeting.

1) 'When I recently tried to do a Google search I got a message, allegedly from Google, telling me that I had to read the details of their security policy and agree before I could proceed. In view of the warnings about scams, I've been scared to click on OK in case it's malware. There seems to be no option just to by-pass this, so although I can go to known web sites, I can't search for new ones. I'm fairly confident that my machine is free of malware.'

- The consensus was that this is a genuine message. Google have been under pressure to make their policies clearer to users and provide options to accept or reject some of these.
- Other members have received similar messages in recent times but it has been easy to by-pass the message and continue surfing without clicking though.

2) 'Trying to buy on Royal Mail web site. Keeps failing with message to the effect of 'error processing...display failure'. This is the same even when accessing from a different account.'

- This was almost certainly a problem with the Royal Mail server at the time. Hopefully, trying again in the future, you should find it has cleared.

3) 'I discovered recently it is possible that if the phone is too close to the router, your internet speed can be slowed?'

- Yes, this is quite true, particularly if you are relying on Wi-Fi rather than an Ethernet connection to your PC.
- Digital phones emit wireless signals as do other devices all of which can interfere with your router.
- Here's a link to a recent Daily Telegraph article covering this very topic in detail  
<http://tinyurl.com/pddj388>

4) 'I'm planning to replace my ancient Vista lap top with a new one equipped with Windows 10. I have a very old printer with USB connection and which run well on compatible cartridges. Will I be able to use this with my new lap top?

- It highly unlikely, but to confirm just search the manufacturer's web set with the model name and this will tell you if there is a software upgrade or not.
- As printers are so comparatively cheap these days it may be a better bet to buy new and run it on compatibles once the supplied originals run out. The printer will warn you that you are not using the correct cartridges but in most cases will let you go ahead anyway.
- Our members often use compatibles and can recommend reliable sources, e.g.  
<https://www.internet-ink.com/> and <https://www.stinkyinkshop.co.uk/> to name but two.

### **Topic for the Day:**

**'Portable Apps'**..... these are programmes that can be run entirely from a USB stick flash drive so can be used on any PC without installation. Thanks again to David Potter for giving this demonstration.

- Even if you have no need to take programmes to other computers and do all your work on your own, it can be very useful to try out a portable apps version of a new programme before committing it to your PC.
- There are many different programmes available from games to office software through to security and photo applications.
- The Portable App Directory™ and Portable App Marketplace™ list free open source software and freeware portable apps. All apps are 100% PuP, malware, and virus free.
- Always go to <http://portableapps.com/>, and first click the 'Learn more' text below the download button, then the 'Apps' tab to see the full range available.
- Don't be tempted to download directly from this list as you may be taken to a SourceForge download site which has got a dubious reputation for adding PuPs and the like.
- Go back to the main <http://portableapps.com> page and click the large green Download Now – Free button. The installation file will download to your default download directory
  - Insert a USB stick with space into an available slot
  - Locate the file and double click to launch (some antivirus programmes may alter a false positive – just allow)
  - Click through to 'Install Location', select the default 'Portable – install to portable device'
  - > Next, select installed USB (e.g. k:\), then > Next and install.
- Installs the PortableApps.com platform. Click 'Run PortableApp.com Platform'
  - Opens the Portable Apps Directory (you need to be online at this stage)
  - > Download New portable apps
  - Select the ones you want, then next.
  - Apps will install..
  - Enjoy!

### Next Meeting:

Date: **Wednesday 16th December** (**Not 9th which has been appropriated for the U3A Xmas Lunch at the Cedars**) – 1.30 pm at Bacton Village Hall

We've decide that this meeting will be a little different from the norm. In the spirit of the season we will make it a *fun party session* and take look at what we all enjoy doing on our computers and/or tablets, it being online games, favourite web sites, You Tube videos or what ever time waster takes your fancy.

Bring along your ideas or better still some links on a USB that we can all enjoy on the projector.

Members are invited to bring along a plate of any kind of festive fare so we have a nice variety to share around and keep the party going.