

We had 9 members (and 4 apologies) for our meeting on **9th March 2016**.

Unfortunately, for today's meeting we were again without an internet connection. All devices were showing a full signal from within the hall but no actual connection to the web. I subsequently had a long conversation with the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee. As discussed before, the hall does not yet have its own internet connection (*it is hoped to have this within the next couple of months*) so relies on a relayed signal from a nearby private house. The assumption is that recent heavy rain had interfered with the external receiver, thus the signal was not transmitted.

I stressed that we were entirely dependent on having a reliable internet signal which was one of the reasons for choosing the hall for our meetings. By way of compensation, the Chairman agreed that *we would not be charge for the hall hire for our next meeting on 13th April*.

I will be visiting the hall for another event this Friday and I'll check out that all is working correctly again.

Agony Corner:

There were no outstanding items from the last meeting.

1. 'Recently (after a Windows 10 update) I found that I couldn't edit some Excel files on a USB stick which had previously been OK'.

- Many strange things have happened following recent Win 10 updates (see below for next meeting).
- This looks as if the properties of the files have been changed to 'Read Only'.
- Suggest, right click on file name, click Properties (at bottom of the list), General tab, Attributes, un tick 'Read Only' box then Apply, OK.

2) 'Again after a Windows 10 update, I couldn't immediately send photo attachments by email in the way I always had. I eventually managed it but I'm not quite sure how...'

- We discussed this in detail but much too much to describe here.
- This and the above question effectively decided the topic for the next meeting (see below).

3) 'I purchased an OTG (On The Go) USB cable for my Hudl 2 but the tablet won't recognise it'.

- An OTG extension cable plugs into the Micro USB charging point and terminates in a full size USB female connector. A host OTG cable lets your Android device connect to most USB Flash Drives, Mouse & Keyboards.
- It's necessary to make sure that all external storage devices are formatted in FAT32, not NTFS or FAT, otherwise they won't be detected by the tablet.
- You could also try the 'USB OTG Helper' app available from the Google Play Store). Run the app, then plug in your USB OTG cable with the already-connected flash drive. Now you should be able to access the drive. (Please note: *I've read about this but not used it myself – no guarantees, then*. I'll purchase an OTG connector specified for Hudl 2 prior to the next meeting so we can compare notes).
- This problem was further discussed during the 'Topic for the Day', below.

4) 'I have bought a USB, VHS>DVD converter kit but I can't get it to work'

- With the Panasonic recorder, the lap top and the cable connections all available it was still not possible to get the software to work even with the extensive help given by other members.

- A final try would be to uninstall and then reinstall the software.
- Will follow up prior to the next meeting.

Topic for the Day:

All: 'Tablets and Smart phones' – how do we individually use them and how do we connect to other devices?

The fact that we had no internet access limited us somewhat but, nevertheless, this proved to be a very useful session.

- Several members had brought along their tablets; mostly Android but a couple of iPads.
- There was much interaction with members helping each other on various topics.
- Chromecast: The original Chromecast was updated to a smaller disc like device last year but still costs only £30.00. You can find out what it can do here <https://www.google.co.uk/chromecast/tv/> and there's a very good review here <http://tinyurl.com/jgaunay>.
- We discussed the similarities and differences between Chromecast, Apple AirPlay and Miracast. Miracast is available on any Android device with Version 4.2 and above. AirPlay allows you to stream video from an iOS device or a Mac to an Apple TV. It can display your Mac's desktop on a television, for instance. It can also take video playing in an iPhone app and stream it to your television, while letting you use playback controls on your iPhone, and it can even mirror your iPad's screen onto your television. There's a useful comparison of all here <http://tinyurl.com/jabv47r>
- The Chromecast is very useful if you don't have a 'Smart' TV enabling all sorts of access to many services such as Netflix, Now TV, BBC i Player etc. without having to upgrade your TV.
- Miracast is similar to Chromecast but is only able to show what's being displayed on the screen of your device. This streaming protocol can be used to mirror your images onto a PC or (Smart) TV screen allowing you to easily watch and share content whether it be games, videos or apps. Miracast streams directly from your device and you can't move away from it whereas Chromecast is just set up from your phone/tablet then runs through the Wifi and you can do other things on the device at the same time.
- With the intention of letting everyone access a Chromecast, I made a rig, Chromecast HDMI > HDMI > VDA converter > projector. We were able to see the Chromecast's welcome on the screen but without WiFi access we could go no further.

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday 13th April – 1.30 pm at Bacton Village Hall

Topic for the day: We've already had a couple of sessions on Windows 10 but today's meeting proved that is still a need for more help with Win 10 and it's frequent updates which seem to cause a lot of trouble to some but not much to others. Also, since the last time several more members have taken the step up. Dave Potter reminded us that recent issues of Computer Active also provide a lot of info on Win 10 problems.

Our next meeting, then will be on the topic of '**Windows 10**' – your latest questions and answers. Again, hopefully a very interactive session.