

## Meeting 14/09/2016

In spite of having had a holiday break in August we had just 7 members at the September meeting. There were 4 apologies.

### Agony Corner:

After reviewing the items from last meeting, we moved onto new items.

1) I have considerable trouble getting my smart TV to hold its WiFi signal. This led onto a variety of issues..

- As previously discussed at previous meetings, a better, more stable connection can be obtained by using a 'Home Plug' connection. This consists of a special plug usually located near the router and connected to that directly by an Ethernet wire.
- This can transmit the internet signal through the mains to at least one other (often several) located near the (in this case) TV. Most modern TVs have an Ethernet connection point.
- There was further discussion about the various other pieces of kit that can be attached to TVs and the difficulty sometimes of getting them all to talk to each other, particularly if they are of various brands.

2) I was approached by my electricity supplier to fit a smart meter. I agreed but various issues arose..

- When the engineer arrived to install, he didn't go ahead because he couldn't get a (mobile) signal which is required to transmit the data to the supplier.
- *I was further concerned as I was told that these meters were just a precursor to electricity rationing....* This is probably a misunderstanding about the principle of dynamic pricing (raising or lowering the cost of electricity based on demand).
- There is much discussion at the present time about the pros and cons of 'Smart Meters'. Some people are very pro, others very much against.
- The Government has set a target for all homes to be fitted with smart meters by 2020 but on present evidence this seems unlikely to succeed.
- Here are links to a couple of sites which list the pros and cons, <https://www.thebalance.com/pros-and-cons-of-smart-meters-1182648> and <http://www.smartme.co.uk/good-or-bad.html>

3) I'm having difficulty in deleting some files from a memory, USB, stick on my Windows 10 machine.

- This is no different from the method on any other XP, Windows 7 system and was demonstrated on screen.
- The process is illustrated in the attached PDF.

<https://u3astowmarket.files.wordpress.com/2016/10/delete-a-file-from-usb-win-10.pdf>

4) After the recent update of Windows 10 I discovered that all my data had disappeared but the programmes were still there. I rebooted and everything became visible again.

Also, I received a message from Adobe that my Lightroom trial had expired even though I have it on subscription. Again, a reboot solved the problem.

- We put these issues down to the vagaries of computers in general and Windows updates in particular that can often be solved by the simple expedient of switching off and back on again!

### Topic for the Day:

Thanks to Dave Potter who gave us a very interesting and in depth talk about '**Ransom ware**', - what is it, what can we do to reduce our chance of infection, and what should we do if we do get caught?

He illustrated this with slide show presentation, so for clarity, I've attached a PDF version herewith <https://u3astowmarket.files.wordpress.com/2016/10/ransomware.pdf> . This includes several active web links where you can get further information.

*This is a very hot topic at the moment and of great concern to us all, so please read the details carefully.*

**Next Meeting:**

Will be on **Wednesday 12th October at Bacton Village Hall**, 1.30 pm

**Topic for the day:** Following on from one of our issues today, it would seem worth while revisiting a topic we last covered in 2012 – '**The 'right click' or Windows context menu**'..what is it and what use can we make of it?