

Notes on Meeting 21/12/2016

We had 15 members (a record for 2016) attending for our festive meeting on 21st December, and 4 apologies.

Once again we had an excellent spread made up of all the seasonal goodies brought by everyone. Thanks very much to the ladies present who put everything together. Unfortunately, the hall Wifi let us down again, but the day was saved by John Haseltine who had brought his MiFi sender along which enabled most of us to get on line (see below).

Agony Corner:

1) Update on earlier question re 'Windows 10 update sticking at 99%'

- There is a mountain of information on the net about this problem and many of the 'solutions' are convoluted to say the least. There are also several non-Microsoft companies who offer to fix the problem – for a price! Suggest you avoid these like the plague.
- The delay from the July deadline for a free upgrade may or may not be a problem. If you wished you could always start from scratch using the assisted/accessibility route which is still available, <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/accessibility/windows10upgrade> , to the best of my knowledge there are no checks on eligibility. Problem with this is that you may encounter the same blockages you have already experienced, but it may be worth a try.
- There's also a Microsoft support page where you can follow through your enquiry, <https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb> , or there is a Microsoft UK contact number and they may be able to give further advice, 0344 800 2400

2) 'My desktop icons have suddenly become too large. I haven't changed anything so what has happened?'

- This could be due to an inadvertent change of the defaults, a newly installed programme that may have taken over the display properties, or as the result of a Windows update.
- If you right click on the desk top, then right click Display properties then Advanced display properties you should be able to find the adjustments you require.

Topic for the Day:

This was our 'Fun' session and we made good use of the time.

John Haseltine: John has talked to us before about his Mifi experiences, but today he was able to demonstrate how really useful these devices are. Basically, a MiFi taps into 3G or 4G mobile phone networks and uses this connection to create a mini wireless broadband cloud or hotspot. This can then be shared between several mobile internet-enabled devices — such as smartphones, laptops, tablets and even games consoles — that are within range of its signal. At the next meeting perhaps we can prevail on John to tell us exactly how he managed to get us on line today.

Harry Orde brought along his new EPSON V370 Perfection flat bed film scanner which we'd discussed at the previous meeting. In addition to normal paper scanning, with special fittings it can scan 35mm film and slides but unfortunately not larger formats in either. You can see it here with full specification <http://tinyurl.com/gof2sas>

Harry also demonstrated a simple but effective tool for making bevel edges in photo frame card. Branded 'Daler', this board cutter is available in the Art shop in Bury St Edmunds.

David Plester fascinated us with his weather proof wildlife camera and was able to show us a YouTube video of a hedgehog (and others) in his garden at night – see it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GB1xY3iNGvk&t=12s> . David has supplied the details of the camera he demonstrated....*I bought it from 'Laptops Direct', <http://www.laptopsdirect.co.uk/> search for: Swann Outback 12 Megapixel Photo Wildlife Pet CCTV Security Camera Recorder - SWVID-OBC140-GL, cost is about £85.00.*

David also introduced us to an interesting BBC 'Art' podcast. Again, here are the details he's supplied....
The link to the BBC 'Art' podcast is: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04b0fk5>. If you scroll down you will see the link to the Google image where you can examine the painting as you listen to the podcast. But when you open the image it is necessary to open the podcast in another tab, so you can listen and examine at the same time. When you zoom into the image you may have to wait a few seconds for it to come into focus - it is in incredible detail!

Pam Webb brought along a memory stick containing a selection of amusing anecdotes and the like she has received in emails. Unfortunately, most would not open as they required the Office Outlook email programme not installed on my lap top. However, we had much fun seeing the few jpegs that would open, all pictures of the classic seaside postcards we remember from our childhood. If you would like a peek, just search for 'Classic seaside postcards' on Google and select Images (or <http://tinyurl.com/zru6sz8>) or for Donald McGill (or don't if you are of a sensitive disposition!)

Santa Tracker, published by Google in the run up to Christmas. I've checked and it's still available, <https://santatracker.google.com/village.html> . Amusing and in some places educational (there are coding lessons). We played around with No.1, the Present Bounce...have a look, and yes all 10 levels are possible!

Issuu is an amazing collection of magazines, periodicals and newsletters posted by companies and individuals. Many are complete issues, others in part only for publicity purposes....here are a few examples:-

- <https://issuu.com/> The home page which tells you all about it (you don't have to subscribe to read anything). From the top bar you can explore topics or search for particular magazines.
- https://issuu.com/muhammadosamaoh/docs/t3_note_7 A complete issue of the T7 gadget magazine. Note that if you scroll down you will see a lot of related publications available; this happens on all topics visited.
- https://issuu.com/mansionhousepublishing/docs/stowmarket_dec16 ; The December issue of the Stowmarket 'In Touch' magazine. To view any item, make sure to click the full screen option (bottom right of main picture) then click the right/left arrows to fold open the pages.

2048: This is an addictive brain-training kind of game where the ultimate aim is to finish up with a tile numbered '2048' (not an easy thing to do). Most of the time you will play against yourself to get a personal best score. It's available on every platform, Windows, Android etc. Just search in the Chrome Games Store, Google Apps store or even, in Win 10, just click Start, type 2048, enter and it will be pinned to the task bar.

TED Talks: TED is a non-profit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages. Meanwhile, independently run TEDx events help share ideas in communities around the world. We explored a little:-

- <https://www.ted.com/talks> Introductory page where you can filter by topic, language, duration etc.
- <https://www.ted.com/about/our-organization> The TED Mission statement, the History of TED plus links to the most popular and Must-see TED talks

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4PTvXtz4GM> we watched with amazement at this human calculator
- <https://www.ted.com/read/ted-studies> Created in collaboration with Wiley, TED Studies use TED talks as a jumping-off point for a structured educational experience. They're designed to help students, and self-guided learners [U3A members!] explore important topics in higher education. On TED.com, each TED Study includes a curated video collection, as well as an introductory essay and summary analysis.

We covered a lot of ground in a short space of time. I've often thought that TED talks could themselves become a U3A group, say with the members researching a particular talk in turn then presenting it to the group who would discuss it afterwards. Alternatively, TED talks could become an adjunct to established groups such as Discussion and Art Appreciation or even this Computing and Technology Group!

We discussed this in some detail and, having being hoist by my own petard, I was 'volunteered' to have a go at this for the next meeting!!

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday 11th January – 2.00 pm at Bacton Village Hall

As indicated above, I will pick a relevant TED talk which we can watch then open for discussion. It will be interesting to see how this goes!