

Special Open Meeting, 16th March 2018

Meeting: I was initially disappointed that for this special meeting (planned since December) we only had 6 of our regular members attending and just 5 others (including our chairman, Ken Snow) from the wider membership who had accepted the well-publicised invitation.

In the event, however, the event proved to be very successful with the ratio of visitors to C&T members being just right. It was interesting that our visitors arrived with a selection of devices including tablets and smart phones as well as Windows laptops.

Every member of our team became involved; particular thanks go to Ann and John H for multitasking whilst Philip, Jean and Joyce were able to assist along the way.

Discussion: Before we dispersed we had a discussion about the day's happenings and everyone was pleased with the way things had gone. Our visitors said they had learnt quite a lot in a short time, two of whom decided to join the group. Welcome!

Since the last meeting in December there had only been one problem raised on the forum page whilst several more have been raised with me directly*. Of course I am, as well as other members of the group are, more than happy to help out along the way but the purpose of the discussion page is for us to share our problems. This provides the opportunity for more than one person to respond plus others may have the same problem and welcome the answers – so please consider making this your first port of call. *I'll post some of the issues raised directly with me on the discussion page in due course.

Ken Snow asked how we could further help those of the wider U3A membership who were still too afraid to come forward and ask for help on computer and other technological matters. Several times over recent years the group has tried to get beginners to come forward and we've always made it clear that beginners are more than welcome. However, some people are very reluctant to come forward – illustrated both by the fact that last year we made a public offer in the Newsletter for one-to-one tuition where one of our members offered to visit people at home – just 2 people responded – and today's event where only 5 people felt able to come along. We will of course examine further options but it may be that, after all, the demand is not there.

The 'where do we go from here?' query was raised. It was agreed that we could not sustain a monthly meeting for all the reasons discussed previously and we should continue at three monthly intervals - but it was essential to keep in touch via the forum page in the meantime. It was agreed that members would prefer it to continue to be password protected (**STARU3AC&T**)

Please note: I forgot to mention at the meeting, but hopefully you've noticed that the web site is now free of adverts. At the December meeting there were mixed feelings about the 'acceptable' ads allowed by Wordpress on the free site – some were not bothered whilst others found them most obtrusive. I'm pleased to say that at the January Committee meeting it was agreed that the U3A would pay the £36.00 pa to keep the site free of adverts and this was acted on immediately.

Next meeting: On the basis of what has been agreed, I suggest that we meet in **June** sometime. *I'll make further enquiries and make a firm date closer to the time.*

We can discuss issues raised on the forum and any new problems that have arisen. If there's any particular topic you'd like a session on or one you would like to present yourself, please let me know.