

Notes on Meeting 18/12/2020

We had an excellent attendance at our pre-Christmas meeting on 18th December, 10 in all and 1 apology out of a current membership of 17.

This time around we tried Jit.si as opposed to 8x8 but as they are both built on the same platform, the controls are identical. Whilst there were the same fun and games as at the start of all video conferencing as people join, we very quickly settled down to the meeting in earnest. I would apologise again for the poor quality and sound from me in the presence of excellent transmission from most others. This is down to a very poor internet upload speed and a naff web cam/mike. I'll try something better next time. Also sorry for not muting when I was chatting to Jean on the phone!

Out of interest and for the first time, I recorded the session – unaware that just one 1 hour is recorded at a time. Whilst others heard the message that recording had stopped, unfortunately I missed that. In recording, the system largely shows who is talking at the time rather than any gallery view that we may have used. What is very apparent to me is how much fun we had, with much laughing and joking about such things as muting/unmuting, pictures/no pictures etc., etc., Watching again is a real tonic and if you'd like to revisit I've posted it in... (*link to Dropbox folder in original email*). Note, you don't need a Dropbox account to access. Also, *and nothing to do with C&T*, if you were interested in 'House' music in the '90s I've also added another video for your delectation, of my son Paul, AKA 'Tinman' reprising his '18 Strings' hit from 1994 during a recent live streaming session.

Many thanks to Dave P for his considerable technical input during the meeting.....

There was no set Agenda but we did work through quite a few items of interest.....

Last Meeting: We had a careful look through and discussion on several items in the note on the meeting of 25th September – you can [refresh your memory here](#).

Q&A:

- Connie – could not download some large documents (probably PDFs) attached to an email from a professional company and had to request hard copies.
 - Most ISPs put a limit on the (total) size of attachments that can be sent/received ranging from 10 Mb up to 25 Mb for Gmail (but this only applies Gmail to Gmail)
 - Whilst looking into this I discovered that the files you attach to your email double in size as they are encoded into the necessary format for email sharing. Ouch.
 - It would have been far better if Connie's sender had either put them in a zip file which may have compressed them to a transmittable size, or better still provided a link to the documents on their own web site so they could be downloaded from there.
- Colin – lap top 'died' no power discernible. Should he try and repair or buy new?

- It would be useful to find out (Dave P) if it really is dead before plunging to buy a new one.
- Followed a discussion on various checks, finally looking at the charging lead to the lap top
- Question arising - 'is the charger a transformer? Answer, yes and more. A transformer steps down high voltage AC mains to low voltage AC then a rectifier converts AC to DC which charges the lap top battery.
- What is a 'Chromebook' ? (Arising from last meeting discussion)
 - In essence, Chromebooks are designed to run a lightweight operating system that's intended to help you with some productivity tasks, but mostly handle light computing ones like browsing the Internet, streaming videos and playing mobile games. In other words, they are typically some of the most lightweight and amongst the most affordable lap top alternatives around.....
 - The key difference between Chromebooks and other laptops is the operating system. Rather than Windows or macOS, Chromebooks come with Google Chrome OS installed. This is rather like a mobile phone operating system and can only run apps from the Chrome Web Store or the Google Play Store, not on the machine.
 - If your computing needs are simple, then this could be right for you.

New items:

- PDF24 Creator – as recommended by Computer Active:
 - On line or download to desk top (first seen in CA), [get it here](#), it's free and safe.
 - Other formerly free sites like Small PDF now require a sign up and CC details before you can use the free options.
 - Anything you could possibly want to do with PDF is here. Rather than list everything, ***please see attached screen shot*** (in original email) to see all the tools.
 - A particularly useful feature is the 'Merge PDF' function where several PDFs can be linked to form a single multipage document. A good example is the one I prepared for the AGM documents you will have received in November.
 - Incidentally, you can create a multi-page PDF from scratch using PowerPoint. If it is just a lot of pictures, say, just select 'Photo Album' then locate your pictures, select them all and insert. Then use 'Save as PDF – QED!
- Windows Feature Update, 20H2:
 - Round the 'table' several had successfully installed 20H2, although Rick said his computer had crashed during the process, whilst others had not yet had it offered. Microsoft is rolling out this update and will only offer it when it (Microsoft) deems that your system is ready.
 - I've updated my PC, where the whole process took less than 5 minutes, and a lap top. We went through the process, illustrated by a series of photos I took whilst updating the lap top – the multipage PDF also in the Dropbox folder. To get started follow 'Start'>Settings>Update and Security>Check for Updates. In answer to a query, the picture on page 10 is a random Microsoft

picture generated by Windows, whilst page 11 is the desk top picture which you can pick from a Windows selection or even use one of your own.

- Some new features....
 - Control panel, as such is removed, but all its features can be access from 'Settings'
 - Built in New Microsoft Edge (if you want it)
 - Additional features to the Samsung Phone App
 - Theme aware start tiles – reflects colours on your desk top
 - Optimise monitor refresh rate (probably mainly of use to gamers)
 - New 'Microsoft Meet' icon on task bar, bottom right. This is basically a simplified Skype meeting programme, no sign up, no need to have a Skype account. Quick look very similar to Jit.si and 8x8. [Read more about it here](#)
- Dream App
 - Help fight Covid and Cancer whilst your phone is charging overnight
 - Vodaphone have teamed up with Imperial College London to launch the new Corona-AI project, which harnesses the power of a connected UK and [DreamLab technology](#) to help in the fight against COVID-19. DreamLab harnesses your smartphone's unused processing power to analyse complex data while you sleep, helping scientists identify existing drugs and food-based molecules that could benefit COVID-19 patients. Alongside thousands of other DreamLab users, you'll help research better ways to fight COVID-19.
 - For iPhones on the AppStore and Android on Google Play

I think that collectively we all enjoyed the meeting a great deal, so much so that the members decided that we should have another meeting in February rather than wait for March. I suggest, then, **Friday 19th February, 3 pm.**

I'll send out a reminder closer to the time

Have a Safe and Happy New Year