Meeting 08/04/2022

1) We looked at the notes from the last meeting, reviewed – matters arising

- **Item 4**, **Group Communications**: It is unfortunate that so few members had responded to the invite to join our experimental WhatsApp group, we have just 4 so far.
- We talked Connie through the procedure and she joined easily, so now we are 5! We also had some fun with a couple of experimental voice messages…very easy to do.
- As a reminder, here is the note from the last meeting '*Here is the invite link you need to join – if you view this on your phone with WhatsApp already installed you will join immediately. If you have any problems, just send me your mobile number and I'll do it manually*'. Please do not share this link with anyone outside of Stowmarket U3A.
- For ease of typing it is possible to view and use WhatsApp on your PC but this needs to be linked to your smart phone. I shared my PC WhatsApp screen and we had some amusement with that.
- One or two members don't have a smart phone but it is possible in theory, using an Android emulator, Blue Stacks, to run WhatsApp on a PC without the need to link to a mobile phone. I've checked this out and to be honest, it's so complicated to do I don't think it's worth the effort.
- In no way is it intended that this WhatsApp group replace our bi-monthly meetings but could be used to encourage other members of the U3A to join us.

2) Windows Defender Ransomware protection.

- At the last meeting we briefly discussed this new form of protection. Dave and I have done some investigation into this and Dave has kindly supplied a line by line instruction list – please see attached (*to original email*), and HERE is a full description from Microsoft as to why it is necessary.
- On screen sharing, Dave talked us through the details. He thought the procedure very straightforward whilst I had had some difficulties – this resulted in quite a long discussion between us into the technicality of the various settings (too complicated to report here). Suffice to say that since the meeting, I've had to disable mine again as, because of my unusual drive arrangements, I get frequent false alarms.

3) What to do with scam emails (following on from the above and a subject frequently discussed)

- Dave recounted a recent experience. Within a couple of days of an eBay transaction he received a stream of emails, allegedly from Pay Pal, saying that his account had been compromised and that he needed to reregister his details – all obviously scams.
- This scam is well known to Pay Pal and they encourage recipients to forward the message to them at spoof@paypal.com before deleting it. They have some useful information on how to spot fake emails . Similarly, you can report them to the government by report@phishing.gov.uk where it will be investigated by The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)
- Similarly, I showed the content of a recent email (retrieved from my deleted folder) – an obvious scam but with very nasty content. Since the meeting, I received another so decided to follow the procedure above to forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk. Repeated attempts failed with the alert 'Message not sent, servers reject as spam'. I then tried to forward it as an attachment, failed again and finally wrapped the attachment in a zip file and it still wouldn't go. At this stage I gave up!!

4) **Are BT stopping analogue phone lines?**

- Last year, BT began a major rollout of Digital Voice – 'BT's new home phone service that will mean calls are made over our new broadband network, rather than the old analogue network which is over 40 years old'.

- After a major national outcry from all sections of the community (but particularly the elderly) BT have now backtracked. On the 29th March they issued a press statement to the effect that they would pause all further Digital Voice switch-overs for customers who don't want to move to the new technology straight away. You can read the full statement here.

5) Back-ups: What is the difference between a clone and an image?

- This causes much confusion. A recent 'Ask Leo' article attempts to explain this.
- In summary: 'A clone contains every bit of information on a disk, including whatever's in the unused areas, and preserves the physical layout. An image contains only what we care about: the overhead information used by the operating system and all of our data. When it comes to routine backups, an image is generally what you want.'
- **Backing up:** We watched an Ask Leo video where he explains how to use Windows 10 and 11 tools to create back-up and then goes on to describe other methods. You can find the text version of the video, here... 'How to back up Windows 10 (and 11)' with the information about EaseUS Todo free back-up software. I can't find any negative reviews or warnings about this programme on the web. If you look back on the notes of the December meeting, item 4) you will see we discussed this whole topic at length.

6) Smart phones.

- We had a discussion about mobile (smart) phones. Some members have not yet taken the leap as they see no need.
- It's not necessary to spend a lot of money and several brands target older users, this Expert Reviews article could help you decide.

7) How to make easy access web links on your desktop.

- It tends to be second nature to do this (a variation of 'book marks), but if you haven't been aware, this is how…..
- If you are on a web page that you wish to keep for future access (for example ours), make sure it is not full screen then just left click on the padlock to the far left of the address panel, hold and drag onto the desktop. Thereafter, just double click on that short cut.

Next Meeting: Friday afternoon **24th June.**