

## **General meeting**

### **Fornham All Saints Computer Club**

**17<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

In attendance: Bernard Grimshaw, Tony Mayhew, Bob Rainbird; David Aris, Catherine Buxton, Maurice Buxton, Gloria Davies, Enid Gathercole, Mary Grimshaw, Avril Howcutt, Jim Lang, Harry Lidster, Heather Long, Alick Mapston, Jim McCabe, Mary Purnell, Paul Purnell, Colin Smith, Kyra Turner, Janet Williams.

Chairman's Report: Bernard expressed his pleasure in the general and continued support of the club by members. However, both he and Tony thought the sessions were not clear for everyone, as some members were not up to speed and often needed repeats, as computing is a complicated matter. The schedule for the next 6 months includes a review of the work covered but members must also feel free to ask for specific topics to be reviewed if they are struggling to understand and generally topics members want to cover. We need to look at the membership level which stands at 25 at present which is ideal for giving everyone the attention needed. Following our last meeting Mary Purnell agreed to be the membership secretary and Enid Gathercole is looking after the hall bookings. Another topic raised at the previous meeting was the question of membership fees and how they were to be applied during the year. It was agreed that at renewal in January the fees will be arranged at £20 for each 6 month period. So joiners in the first 3 months of the year pay the full rate £20; joiners in the second quarter pay £10 then £20; joiners in the third quarter will pay £20; joiners in the fourth quarter will pay £10. This will remain in force for another six months in order to have a better understanding of what our cash flow will be. We are in a good position at the moment because of the contributions made by other village organisations; Enid on behalf of the Community Centre (CC) has donated £500 for running costs and make no charge for the use of the centre; the Friends of the Village Hall have also helped by charging low fees and making a contribution as well. Our local Councillor has also provided £1500 towards the purchase of equipment. This has all allowed us to plan and purchase what we need to continue. The biggest issue we have had over the past months is the provision of broadband to one of our venues, after a lot of discussions and quotes for various providers the Community Centre have now made the decision to have broadband installed and it is going ahead, albeit, at BT speed! However it has now been surveyed and it should be completed shortly.

Financial Report: Bob confirmed the finances are in good order the balance standing at £1,973.14 at present. The bank account was finally set up with the Co-Op in November, unfortunately the town centre office is now closed and transactions are now carried out through the Post Office or by cheque by post. Our biggest expenditure so far has been the Anselm Centre, which while it is relatively comfortable the broadband is not good. It was suggested we change the bank to enable easier transactions, however, the feeling was that we should remain where we are at present having taken so long to get an account arranged. Another matter arose regarding an amount Bernard had paid with his own money to obtain equipment to get things off the ground. Bob confirmed he would reimburse Bernard and the general consensus was gratitude to Bernard for doing it. The next big purchase would be the projector of £900 which will be shared between the Film Club and the Community Centre. If we hadn't had the grant or the fees waived by the CC we would have better than broken even so Bernard thought we should give it another 6

months before we decide on whether to change the subscription level. We must keep in mind that we need to cover the cost of the broadband. Although we are not in it to make a profit we do need to consider the purchase of other equipment like microphone etc.

and spare laptops and Enid has approached Curry's in this regard. We have the opportunity to run 2 car boots this year, 14th May and 16<sup>th</sup> July in order to raise funds for the club. We can also apply to the council for extra funds as they currently have funds available.

Content: Tony advised he had been offered a small quantity of second hand books on Windows 10 that are for sale, Jim, Dave, Mary G and Mary P all asked for copies. The ongoing Windows courses are all following the book and Tony urged everyone to complete the exercises at the end of each section. Chapter one was carried out last week and he will continue to work through the book rigidly to ensure everyone knows what is expected week by week and thereby gain more proficiency. We can also get knowledge on how to use the internet, obtaining information on genealogy, train time tables etc. or any other interest members have. Bernard interjected that perhaps we also need to go back to basics on some things, e.g. Tablet or Android or iPhone sessions, most members thought this was a good idea. Guest speakers may also be a part of the next few months to add interest, Howard Quayle may come to speak about publishing for example. Tony is to produce a schedule of what each session will focus on so members will know what to expect and perhaps look at the chapter beforehand. Asked for any special interests; it was suggested mail attachments, downloading apps and/or programs, use of USB sticks. Tony suggested making proper use of the sessions we must all make sure we have a Microsoft account and a USB (universal serial bus) stick or have downloaded the practice files that go with the book. Tony has copies if anyone needs them, he also has 10 sticks if needed. Storage of equipment will be necessary soon and Enid and Paul are in the process of constructing a cupboard that could be used by this club in the future.

At present there are 12 – 15 people at the Windows sessions which are an ideal number for everyone to get what they need. The tablet groups are smaller, 5 or so people so there could be increased growth here. It is certainly an area of growth for the older generation who don't use a PC anymore. 6 -7 in the iPad group and 5 – 6 on the android group.

**After the coffee break Catherine Buxton expressed the sentiments of the whole membership in thanking Bernard and Tony for doing all this work on our behalf.**

Bernard demonstrated how to use "YouTube" to find all sorts of interesting articles.

The meeting concluded at 16:10.