

EUROMAYENNE Tech Club Minutes Tues 3Sept13

The Chairman welcomed members to the first full meeting of the Technology Club and began by offering apologies for non-attendance from Patrice Riegler and Peter Parkes (unable to continue attending due to the amount of travel involved). There followed a reminder to members that the membership fee of €5 would be due at the October meeting, to be paid to Pam Britton, and that all members had to be paid up members of Euromayenne (fees also now due).

At the inaugural meeting in June, Peter Sansbury had offered to investigate the possibility of a visit to the Clarte Virtual Reality Show at Laval. It transpired that the centre has "Open Days" once a year but does arrange visits by outside organisations, indeed Euromayenne has made a visit there in the past. It was decided to contact Clarte in order to arrange a visit at a later date.

The website address is: http://195.194.24.18/alterne/cons_clarte.html The Chairman and Peter Sansbury to liaise in arranging this.

It was agreed that the October meeting should include a "Tablet Workshop" at which the members would bring along their tablets to demonstrate the way they used them, the Apps they used and how they connected to other computers etc. A show of hands indicated there were about 8 Apple users, a Kindle Fire HD and a Nexus 7, held by members. Depending on the availability of Wifi, the Chairman suggested that two or three groups should form at the meeting to enable a lively interchange of ideas; volunteers to act as group leaders would be called for on the night. The Chairman asked if there was sufficient interest in an Excel workshop for the November meeting, however as this was not popular, it was agreed that if possible the demonstration of Sue Clarke's Printer Cutter, that had been cancelled due to a computer problem, might be planned.

Other business- this was a discussion period:

1. Timing of meetings- it was agreed by a show of hands that the start time of 1600 hrs was acceptable to all present.
2. Internet wifi supply. The use of dongles/keys to access the Internet was discussed and a key from Orange was shown by Gail Jones; prices depended on the period of access and quantity of data accessed. It was also noted that keys could not be used with tablets unless they had a conversion cable to connect via a USB port.
3. Sylviane Guyomarch reported that HyperU were unable to offer a demonstration of Smart TV as they had no Internet supply available. Sylviane agreed to contact Darty at Laval, to see if they could offer a demonstration, and the Chairman agreed to follow up any positive response we receive.
4. Future topics:
 - a. 3D printer demo-possibly through Phil Stevens at Moulinex
 - b. Possible visit in Autumn to OPL Observatoire Populaire de Laval Astronomie. Astro-mome visit site: www.fal53.asso.fr/opl
The Chairman circulated a list of events organised by OPL there was a general interest in a visit to see the Planetarium; Chairman to follow up.
 - c. The Chairman offered to demonstrate some optical equipment to include several digital cameras, a night vision telescope and an astronomical telescope complete with automatic tracking capability. There was some interest in this and perhaps an outside event could be arranged later in the year.

After this the Chairman called for any other business. The topics discussed were wide ranging and discussions continued through the coffee-break that followed. For brevity, the topics are listed as an Appendix at the end of these Minutes.

After coffee, the Chairman gave a presentation on Cloud computing that generated considerable discussion. The meeting ended at 1815.

Appendix: Topics discussed. **Please excuse the personal nature of these notes, but they were taken during the meeting and are necessarily brief.** If your names are in these notes please confirm your agreement to undertake the task in question. I have already inserted some answers to some of the queries raised so please read! Lastly, please let the Chairman know of any action you take on the items below so that he can co-ordinate the effort.

Gail-collect and organise list of web sites/addresses. Chairman to mail you a list already collected

NB If you find an interesting site please pass details to Gail.

Eddie Rowan will come when he is in France.

Clarte- two sites in Laval

Peter Sansbury-liase on Clarte

iPad- Spreadsheet, App- Numbers compatible with Excel?

iPad telephone dongle-Gail has one and showed it

What is in the historic range of iPads, their capabilities and also which connectors are available-

volunteer needed to do this?

Smart TV demo-Darty, Laval? **Sylviane** to contact as French, Chairman to follow up and arrange visit if possible.

Visit to Planetarium-Chairman to arrange-English translation during demo?-Lexicon of terms especially Constellations and tech terms.

Apps for smart phones- question from Sylviane

John Guidon-compatibility of apps for smart phones-to research

Presentations offered by members-Peter Sansbury-Computer security/back up

Paul Climance-web site design

Microscope for PC-from Peter Sansbury to investigate?

VHS to hard disk or DVD Sylviane has interest

Demo of 35mm slide scanner -Chairman

Question from Pete Sansbury- film to TV-research. Apple TV. Wifi hard disk? Film source?

Tony-Orange Live Box-wireless system for extension Duo-orange?

Wifi extender (to overcome use of extension cable for thick walls)-any experience in club

Linksys see:- <http://store.linksys.com> the Powerline wifi Extender for UK power circuits- French equivalent should be available

Instant website translation-is it possible

App for translation-is available on iPad, it views text with the camera and translates the text.

What is Blue Tooth and compare with wifi is applicable. Short range wifi system See Wikipedia.

Apple-app/use to take snap shots from video -Mick Cruse (press hold on button then off button together)

Best new Microsoft laptop-several makes discussed including Apple! No consensus reached!

Possible demo of Powerpoint, called for by Tony Browne-is there sufficient interest in this? Chairman could do it.

Gail-photo book creation

PLEASE NOTE: **Thank you for the above suggestions. As we are a small self-help group, we can only thrive if members are willing to get involved in researching topics and giving talks/presentations-please offer your assistance!**