

EUROMAYENNE “TECHNOLOGY CLUB” PROPOSAL. INITIAL MEETING 18thJUNE
MINUTES

1. The Chair welcomed all attendees (15) to the meeting and thanked Nicole (present) and Chris Mallinson (unable to attend) for their assistance.
2. The Chairman explained the format of the meeting and then a discussion followed each topic.
3. Reasons for forming the Club.
 - a. To overcome the difficulty of keeping up to date with technology due to the immense amount of material available.
 - b. Compare different technical options for products and services.
 - c. Draw on experiences of other users.
 - d. Improve use of technology.
 - e. Discover new technology that may be useful to members.

There was general agreement with these aims, items b., c. and d., were highlighted as of particular interest, whilst e. was considered to be useful for those wishing to explore emerging technology further.

4. The Chairman explained his ideas regarding the clubs' aims to identify examine and assess all aspects of Technology, of interest to members. This could include:
 - a. Exploring new technology from sources such as the Internet, Click (BBC), The Gadget Show (BBC), French equivalents and others.
 - b. Discuss the above.
 - c. Implement any items above that may be of use/interest to members. Possible workshops or demonstrations.
 - d. Assist members with IT problems (it is not intended to be a computer repair shop!!).
 - e. If found useful, form subgroups to deal with the following and other areas:
 1. PC's/Laptops.
 2. Tablet computers.
 3. Apple products.
 4. Skype/ Facetime (Apple equivalent) and other conferencing products.
 5. Back up/data storage/ cloud computing.
 6. Sat Nav equipment.
 7. On line auction use and payment sites.
 8. Website design/practice.
 9. New software products.
 10. Games.
 - f. The format would include discussions, demonstrations, workshops and specialist talks as requested by members.
 - g. Meetings should be on a monthly basis, July and August excluded, unless otherwise needed, and if possible a venue selected where Internet/wifi is available.

These items produced considerable debate with the following aspects arising:

1. Agreement to ensure the Club did not become a computer problem/repair organisation
2. The format of the meetings was agreed.
3. It was agreed, that the first meeting should be held on Tuesday 3rd September at 8pm, at a venue yet to be decided that was accessible to members (only one attendee lived any distance away from Mayenne). Discussion followed regarding the need to have Internet access (Wifi) and the possibility of using a roving license, as provided by France Telecom/Orange, that could be purchased by the Club on an occasional basis. The Chairman agreed to look into the costs. There were the following suggestions regarding a venue:
 - i. The Agitato building in Mayenne.

- ii. The possibility of using a room above a local bar. Sylvia Guyomarche suggested i. and ii., and agreed to make further enquiries about these venues.
 - iii. The buildings of UTL (Universite du Temps Libre) were suggested by both Nicole and Sylviane who had had contact with a Mr Chemin at the Immeuble Grimaldi, Mayenne. Both agreed to make contact to check if we could use the facilities. There was also discussion of combining the Technology Club with elements of UTL on occasions. Finally, the meeting agreed on the Club title-Technology Club, and that a membership fee of €5/year-or part year/person would be reasonable. Guests to any Club meetings would also be required to pay €2/ visit.
5. Tea break followed (thanks to Pam Britton) and the Chairman circulated a form, for completion by attendees, showing their hardware/software/ and technology interests. This was to act, as a basis for ensuring that topics would be of interest to as many members as possible.
6. Further discussions followed regarding:
 - a. SMART TV's (proposed by Mick Cruse). There was interest in this item and it was agreed to establish contact with HyperU with a view to arranging a group demonstration of this equipment. Only one attendee had experience with this item (Nicole), and her husband, Christian might be able to provide further information on this subject.
 - b. Visits to other establishments with a high technology content. Paul Climance proposed a visit to the MPO (makers of DVDs' at Villaine) and also reminded us that EM had visited the Virtual Reality Centre at Laval.
 - c. Peter Sansbury offered his experience in the use of On Board Diagnostic (OBD) software for vehicles. This was of interest to some attendees, but it was felt that it would attract a more specialist attendance that could also be drawn from EM members not in the Technology Club.
 - d. Sue Clarke offered a demonstration of her cutting printer, the Silhouette Cameo (<http://www.silhouetteamerica.com>) to demonstrate the production of text on various sheet materials-there was some interest in this item and it is hoped that a demonstration will be arranged.
 - e. The Chairman also suggested the possibility of finding a source to demonstrate 3D printing, and it was thought to be a worthwhile topic to research and arrange a demonstration with an equipment supplier possibly.
 - f. Sylviane Guyomarche enquired if the topic of Satellite TV reception could be discussed at a meeting. The Chairman agreed to discuss this with Sylviane with a view to arranging this.
 - g. The Chairman asked for volunteers to assist him in progressing some of these topics, and he is grateful to Sylviane Guyomarch and Peters Sansbury, for offering their assistance.
 - h. Francoise Pinault advised that she was studying Word and Excel and would, at a later date, be interested in being involved in a workshop on either topic.
7. The Chairman ended this section and asked that all attendees to e-mail him with three suggestions for discussion topics or subjects of interest, to be considered for future meetings. It is important to submit this information, as it will enhance the interest of people in the Club, and those who were considering joining the Club.
8. The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking all those who had attended, and for the interesting contributions they had made. The first meeting was confirmed for Tuesday 3rdSeptember 2013 at 8pm. Venue to be notified to Members.