

MIG report, by Anton Petre

We had a better turn out for our end of year meeting, with 10 members and 3 apologies. After a discussion about whether or not to disband the DIG, the consensus is for the interest group to continue. It was decided to have a two month break and start again in March as most of us are away over January and February.

We had a good show of photos and Peter Hallett gave a demo on how to do a collage using Gimp. I showed a photo story of our years work. Apologies for those photos not selected but it was hard to choose from so many excellent photos. Then we had a cream tea provided by two members, Barbara and Maureen. Thanks to Barbara for doing the minutes each month, maybe some one else could do it next year.

Our group would welcome new members from the club, we run on the first Friday of every month. Note that DIG is restarting March 3rd 2017 at 2.30pm

Questions and answers were the main feature of the November Mac Group meeting...lots of great interaction and answers. We talked of backups, spent a lot of time on passwords and security, and looked at various ways of using the system and application preferences on the Mac to tailor and refine the system to the needs of the individual user. One interesting question was on sending large numbers of pictures by email without running into trouble with ISP size limits. We looked at resizing the pictures in the mail program, and also at how Preview could be used to resize pictures as well as adjusting them, and even cutting out backgrounds and adding text and speech bubbles.

A useful video showed how to set up the Safari browser to fill in names and passwords, using the Keychain Access utility to reveal passwords to a user with the right admin password — which in turn led to emphasis on the need to protect and never lose the vital admin password. The possible need for a login password was emphasised by tales of how visiting grandchildren — for instance — could get into a system and unintentionally cause a lot of damage.

Finally we had a video showing how to set up the trash system to automatically empty after 30 days, rather than building up and robbing vital hard drive space.

No Mac Group in December— next meeting will be at the end of January. A happy Christmas season to all!