

iPPIG meeting 20th Oct, by Colin Hooker

Most of the meeting was devoted to looking at some of the new features in iOS11. The dock has been redesigned and can now be customised by including apps that are most commonly used. The dock also includes 2 or 3 most recently used apps, although it is possible to disable this option. We then looked at the split-screen feature which allows 2 apps to be active at the same time - this makes it easy to drag and drop photos or text from one document to another, e.g. to insert a photo into an email message.

The keyboard has been enhanced by including numbers and commonly used symbols in the qwerty keyboard. These are accessed by putting one's finger on the chosen key and sliding the finger downwards. John demonstrated the speak-screen feature which effectively turns an ordinary e-book into an audio book. And Colin followed this by demonstrating the new, improved Siri, which now has much more natural speech. We then had a look at the new Control Centre which is easier to use and can be customised with a range of useful functions.

We took a quick look at a new app, Radio Garden, which uses a globe which can be spun around and zoomed in on to select radio stations from around the world - great fun exploring other countries' broadcasts.

Finally we looked at the Apple pencil, which can only be used with the iPad Pro at present. It can be used to write notes, annotate pdf documents and screenshots and even fill in forms without having to print them off and then scan them before emailing - a big advantage.