MIG report, by Anton Petre

Improved turnout for the Mac Group in September, and lots of things to learn about. We started with a look at the new Mojave operating system, which seems to have some very clever and useful additions.

Then Clive gave us a useful session on the use of the Time Machine backup system, along with the warning that it is not IF a hard drive will fail, but WHEN. He made the point that a one terabyte USB drive for backups can now be bought for not much more than $100, and that anyone not keeping backups is taking a major risk.

Clive also ran through a useful list of Mac shortcuts, and later we looked at the Mac's inbuilt system for creating your own shortcuts. One of the built-in shortcuts we demonstrated was the Command-I way of bringing up full information on a file or pictures, along with the ability to determine what was used to open a specific file. We found that video files, in particular, could be fussy, but that the free VLC program would open most of them.

The Mac also has a built-in program for checking all the details of a wi-fi connection, providing a graphical report on how well the wi-fi is (or is not) working, and giving strong clues as to why. Maybe that nearby portable phone?

Videos on photo handling, getting rid of malware using the free program Bitdefender, and other useful aspects of Mac OS rounded out an information-packed session. Good to see lots of folk had their notebooks with them, and were busily taking down details of some of the hints, tips, and how-to lessons.

Several of those at the meeting emphasised their desire for the MIG meetings to keep going… the question had been raised by the small turnouts at some recent meetings.

Use it or lose it…