

Occasionally one comes across a kindred spirit who responds well to a challenge. We offered one to Terry and he came up trumps at very short notice.

As a club we want to broaden our horizons now that Apple computers will drive Microsoft's Windows 8 operating system. Microsoft has designed Windows 8 to look and feel the same on a desktop, Laptop, Notebook, Tablet and smart-phone. Any of these pieces of kit can come complete with a touchscreen.

Such a screen responds to finger-taps or –strokes making a mouse optional.

Wally has already transferred his preference to an Apple computer and agreed to demonstrate it at our meeting. 24 hours before the scheduled start he reported a vital piece of kit had not arrived and that in any event he would not be well enough to come.

Terry is an Apple Mac user and we have been in touch from time to time, but as the club has not dealt with Apple computers he is not a member. As a long shot he was contacted by email late into the evening. On the day of the meeting he located and bought the required connecting cable and was able to set up our projector at home to ensure the system worked. It did and he was able to save the day.

At the meeting he introduced us to his computer and talked through the things he did with it and responded to the many questions thrown at him. He showed how the Microsoft applications such as Word and Excel looked pretty much the same and each was used in the usual way. He talked about how the computer is operated in the same basic way, but (being an Apple machine) was easier to use.

He confirmed comments that we have heard from other Apple Mac users that "everything just works". The Apple Mac computer is the machine preferred by designers for that reason. The fundamental use of the computer is just the same, but everything is just naturally easier to do because of the way its design recognises the way people naturally want to do things. The expression used to describe this effect is that the use is more "intuitive" as the things you need to do are the things that you expect to be required to do.

The reason everyone doesn't use this better machine is that it is considerably more expensive than an ordinary PC. Apple's company policy of producing its own hardware and software means it is able to retain tight control over quality and design.

Terry is a busy chap and works his computer quite hard. Please note that he is one of the few people I know who keep their files backed up in a location remote from home.

