



December 2009 meeting

The December (also known as the Christmas) meeting of ClubMac took place in Merrion Cricket Club on Wednesday, December 2, in front of a lively audience!

One of the many highlights of the meeting was the mini Apple Store set up by Tony Stott of Galmac Computers. Tony also got into the Christmas spirit by offering discounts to members on a range of hardware and software products.

Technical Q&A

The Technical Q&A was chaired by Peter O'Reilly and the issues covered included:

- Reducing the size of PowerPoint presentations to send by email (thanks to Brian Greene for pointing out a very interesting solution: create a PDF (use the Print menu option). Open with Preview and then using the Save As command and utilise the Quartz Filter pop-up button in the dialogue box to reduce the file size);
- Follow up to a query from the October meeting on using car cigarette lighters for charging computer equipment;
- Problems with Keynote presentations jumping pages.

What's new

Brian Greene reported on new developments in the world of Apple:

- Special deals on iPhones now that Vodafone will shortly be selling them;
- News on the new Google Chrome beta for the Mac.

In other news, CompuB have opened a new store in Cork and are rumoured to be opening a store shortly in Dublin.

Presentation: Digital Crea8or training programme

Séamus Cannon, ClubMac member and who is the head of the Blackrock Education Centre, outlined the Digital Crea8or media training course that his Centre is providing to teachers. The course develops skills in creating and sharing digital images, video, audio and animated. He said that the course was ideally suited to those on the Mac as it utilised many of the applications in iLife. Séamus illustrated his presentation with examples of work he had put together as a learner himself on the programme.

Séamus is proposing to offer ClubMac members the opportunity to participate in the Digital Crea8or course; further details on the registration and tuition fees will be circulated to all members in the coming weeks.

Members will also have the opportunity to indicate their preference for the entry-level training offered by Aoibheann O'Sullivan.

Santa's gift guide

Tom Martin's suggestions for the Mac enthusiast's Christmas stocking included:

- ComicLife: <http://plasq.com/comiclife>;
- iPods (shuffle, nano, classic, touch);
- Wacom Bamboo;
- MacSpeech Dictate 1.5: <http://www.macspeech.com>;
- WriteRoom, for distraction free writing: <http://www.hogbaysoftware.com>;
- Pixelmator, the image editor for the rest of us: <http://www.pixelmator.com>;

Some of the above are available from the Apple web store but, remember, ClubMac members can get a better deal by going through Tony Stott of Galmac.

One last thing ...

- The next meeting will take place on January 13, 2010 (please note that this is the second Wednesday in the month);
- A round of applause was given to Sylvia, Henry and Stephanie for organising the food and drink for the party.

The ClubMac Committee took the opportunity to wish all its members a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.