TASC Talk Oct/Nov 2017

I'm afraid to say that this current Science Club report is going to be a bit shorter than usual. Some of you will already know that I and the missus have recently returned from a marathon five week holiday in the States, because of this we decided that The Adstock Science Club would also take a bit of a holiday. Before I give you an outline of Septembers talk let me just say if you haven't been to the Grand Canyon, put it on your "Bucket List" Now. It was one of the most incredible places we have ever been to. The first time you see it, you cannot help going "WOW!" From a scientific point of view it shows you just how incredible the power of what looked like a small stream, from where we were standing, the Colorado river, has in shaping its surroundings over millions of years, and also you get to see just how beautifully layered the rocks (I don't know what else to call them) are. A heaven for geologists.

Now to our recent talk which was presented by one of the science clubs members, Mr John Foggitt. His talk was entitled "Number, Shapes, Colours and Sounds" where he tried to show how numbers are involved in many aspects of our life experiences.

He explained and demonstrated how colours are perceived by the human eye and how these colours could be generated by red, green and blue pixels by a TV screen or computer monitor, and the way that by altering the ratio of red, green and blue fools the eye into seeing a beautiful vivid scene on these devices. Similarly with regards to sounds John talked about how sounds are stored and reproduced digitally on CDs and DVDs. And lastly he showed us how some beautiful shapes could be created just by utilising the power of the computer to manipulate numbers within simple algorithms within a graph like environment.

So there you have it, our next talk will be Professor William Murray, who works at the LHC, on "The discovery of the Higgs Boson". The search for the Higgs boson took 50 years and culminated in the 27 Km LHC and its experiments with thousands of people. The motivation and challenges of this search are reviewed by Professor Murray, who was coordinating the search on one of the experiments, ATLAS, in the run up to the discovery. Sometime will be devoted to the implications for physics, and why it was decided in 2016 to run the LHC for an extra 10 years.

Actually, now that I've finished this article, it doesn't look that much shorter than usual, oh well!