TASC Talk – 8 Bit Ecstasy, 19th September 2019

Following our short summer break which ended with a very tasty Bar-b-Que, even though I say so myself, I think I am finally getting the knack of not cremating everything I cook, our September talk was presented by one of our members Mr John Foggitt. This was titled "8 bit Ecstasy" and was an introduction into the world of the programmer. John introduced his talk by saying that "We have all heard of bytes in computers, one byte comprising eight bits. Getting a computer to do what we want can be very satisfying, especially when we've written the program which manipulates bytes to do what we want. Writing a computer program can be very simple and cost free". John introduced the topic with easy to understand yet interesting examples.

```
10  INPUT "What is your name: "; U$
20  PRINT "Hello "; U$
25  REM
30  INPUT "How many stars do you want: "; N
35  S$ = ""
40  FOR I = 1 TO N
50  S$ = S$ + "*"
55  NEXT I
60  PRINT S$
65  REM
70  INPUT "Do you want more stars? "; A$
80  IF LEN(A$) = 0 THEN GOTO 70
90  A$ = LEFT$(A$, 1)
100 IF (A$ = "Y") OR (A$ = "y") THEN GOTO 30
110 PRINT "Goodbye ";
120 FOR I = 1 TO 200
130 PRINT U$; " ";
140 NEXT I
150 PRINT
```

John's background was heavily influenced by the BASIC (Beginner's All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code) programming language which he loves as he has spent many happy hours developing all sorts of applications using it. His enthusiasm was evident and a number of us found his explanation and the examples he used to write code to display various shapes, colours etc. quite enlightening.