



PCrefurb Newsletter

Summer 2023



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In May former Chairman of PCrefurb, Ed Kelly, and volunteer Owen Dack were chosen to represent PCrefurb at Buckingham Palace as guests of King Charles III at the first royal garden party held since the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The invitation came as a result of the charity receiving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) in 2022. Equivalent to an MBE, the King's Award for Voluntary Service (as it is now) is the highest award given to local voluntary groups in the UK and is awarded for life.



PCrefurb welcomes new staff member



[PCrefurb.org.uk](https://www.pcrefurb.org.uk)

Suzanne Fernley joined PCrefurb in July. She is pictured here supporting Jackie at our Ashton Pioneer Homes digital training group.

Suzanne tells us, "For the past 15 years I have been supporting unemployed people to overcome barriers including increasing their confidence, self esteem and basic skills, helping them to move into employment, voluntary work, education or training.

I am looking forward to supporting people to increase their confidence and improve their digital skills in my new role as a Digital Training Coordinator here at PCrefurb."

Funding news

Three years into our five year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund we commissioned an independent evaluation.

If you would like to read a summary or the report in full please follow the link here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yनुbc8nt>





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Our supporters



Pictured here are: Left to Right - Jack Lyons, Dave Brereton (MysonPages), Vicky Bamford, Karen Finnegan (Zen Internet), Helen Melhuish, Steve Lafferty and James Melhuish (PCrefurb).

In April we were thrilled to receive 96 Dell Optiplex PCs from Zen Internet. This partnership with Zen is thanks to our wonderful supporters at Myson Pages who advocated on our behalf.

15 of these PCs have already been refurbished and passed onto RSPCA Bury, Oldham & District to be used by staff in their charity shops.

Vikki Walsh of the RSPCA told us, "The computers provided to our charity by PCrefurb, along with the support received from our IT partners Myson Pages and Zen Internet, are a massive lifeline to us during these difficult times. They allow our retail and ecommerce staff and volunteers to continue with their great work reaching out to the community, both locally and further afield. Being able to do this provides much needed funds for the charity, which helps enable our branch to continue its charitable aim of helping as many animals as possible."



Digital Wellbeing Project comes to an end

In 2020 we were approached by the Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust to set up a digital literacy project which sought to address the health and wellbeing of our community through improving digital inclusion. This project ran from the spring of 2020 until May of this year.



The project had a challenging start as the Covid pandemic prevented face to face engagement with clients. Once restrictions were lifted, digital support was provided initially in clients' homes and then through eight digital training groups in the community.

In total 85 Digital Champions were trained to help clients. Their dedication cannot be underestimated, providing bespoke one-to-one support for the many clients that came along to our Digital Training Groups.

In summary, the project received 392 referrals through 41 referral partners, delivered 1887 hours of digital skills training and provided 197 devices.



"Social tariffs are cheaper broadband and phone packages for people claiming Universal Credit, Pension Credit and some other benefits. Some providers call them 'essential' or 'basic' broadband.

They're delivered in the same way as normal packages, just at a lower price. Amid rising living costs, Ofcom is encouraging companies to offer social tariffs to help customers on low incomes." Keep up to date with the latest packages here:

<https://tinyurl.com/2ap2cfjs>

Apr. - June Stats:

Equipment referrals: 47
Devices distributed: 87

