



# PCrefurb Newsletter

Winter 2023/4



[Subscribe here](#)

## New Project Launch!



## Access Digital Tameside

*An exciting new project, bringing  
digital training groups across Tameside*



PCrefurb are pleased to announce the official launch of Access Digital Tameside.

Generously funded by **The Access Foundation**, this project enables PCrefurb to build upon previous work teaching digital skills throughout Tameside.

Access Digital focusses on helping people tackle the cost-of-living crisis through teaching basic digital skills. It is easy to underestimate the additional costs people experience if they can't get online, but once we begin to think about any aspect of our lives it becomes clear that digital exclusion generates a huge financial inequality. For example, not having access to the best utilities offers, not being able to apply online for a job, not being able to manage a bank account following the closure of local branches.

The Access Digital Tameside funding has enabled PCrefurb to employ two part time Digital Skills Tutors, Jason Egerton and Ellissa Bryant who, alongside Project Lead Sam Hardy, have already begun teaching free basic digital skills in four Tameside venues. We have a huge capacity to expand to further venues as people come forward, and as we recruit and train new volunteer Digital Champions to help run the groups.

If you would like digital skills training yourself, or you know someone who would benefit, or you would like to volunteer to become a Digital Champion, then do get in touch with Sam Hardy at [sam.hardy@pcrefurb.org.uk](mailto:sam.hardy@pcrefurb.org.uk) or call 07873 308752.

**Together we will bridge the digital divide for Tameside residents.**

## Our Supporters

Here at PCrefurb we can't fulfil our objectives without the amazing help of our supporters. During the period October to December last year we received 12 donations from members of the public and businesses. In this edition of our newsletter we would like to highlight the support we have received from Benchmark International over the last three years.

In October they provided three 10th Gen (64GB) iPads for the Excel and Exceed Centre in Bury, a secure psychiatric hospital school for young people aged 12-17 years. The iPads are being used to facilitate their new curriculum in expressive arts, particularly music, via Garage Band software.



James Thornton, COO at Benchmark International with Wendy Webster, Headteacher of the Excel and Exceed Centre



# PCrefurb Newsletter

Winter 2023/4

[Subscribe here](#)

## Skills training for volunteers



In November, Brett Casterton, founder of [Inology.IT](#) provided a wonderful opportunity for our refurbishment volunteers to undertake a free, four week course on 'Networking Essentials'. We are very grateful to Brett for giving up his time to share his knowledge.

## Digital Link Project news



During November and December our Digital Link Project worked with Infinity Initiatives CIC a community café and support charity for the most vulnerable in Ashton.

Infinity had two placement trainee Occupational Therapists that our DLP Project Lead, Sam Hardy, worked alongside. The aim was to train volunteers to help café users acquire basic digital skills. To facilitate this, PCrefurb provided two refurbished laptops and a set of headphones so that Infinity Initiatives' café users will be able to access digital training and use internet-based services during café opening times.



## Community Support



In November our Chief Officer, Helen Melhuish, was happy to provide digital skills training to members of Incredible Edible New Mills, helping them to manage some of their "back office" administration.



## Annual Review and Social

We held our Annual Review and Social in October. It was great to catch up in person with friends and supporters of PCrefurb, to have the opportunity to share some highlights of last year, to talk about what we're up to at the moment, to discuss ideas - and to eat cake!

Our Annual Review and Impact Report is available to [read on our website](#).



## Drop-in digital support

If you, or anyone you know living in the High Peak, needs some digital support we now have drop-in groups at these locations:

**Tuesdays:** Hadfield Methodist Church, 10.30 - 12pm (first Tues. of the month).  
The Bureau, Henry St., Glossop 3:30 - 4:30pm.

**Wednesdays:** New Mills Volunteer Centre 10:30 - 11:30am.  
The Vineyard, Charlestown Rd., Glossop 12:00 - 1:30 pm.



## Oct. - Dec. Stats:

Equipment referrals: 59  
Equipment distributed: 129  
Hours of skills training: 222



53.7 tonnes of CO2e saved.  
That's the same as driving 10 petrol cars, or growing 986 trees for one year!



(sources available)