



Five years of funding evaluated

In the autumn of 2019 the Trustees of PCrefurb submitted an application to the National Lottery Community Fund for almost £100,000. The aim was to build on the digital inclusion work which had been developing since the organisation became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation the previous year.

The bid was successful and secured five years of funding.

Fast forward through those five years and it was time to reflect on what had been achieved thanks to the grant. We commissioned an external evaluation which was carried out by freelance consultant Kerrie Fletcher. The survey of beneficiaries which was undertaken to inform the report provided wonderful evidence of the positive difference that we are making to hundreds of lives. The report can be read [here](#).



“The National Lottery grant funding enabled PCrefurb to grow, develop and expand its services: developing its delivery model, establishing local relationships and securing additional resources to do even more to respond to the impact of these changes and bridge the digital divide.”

(Kerry Fletcher)

It has been so helpful in giving me the opportunity to improve my IT skills as before I had less than basic. It's been amazing the staff and the people I had contact with have been so helpful and are there to help if I need it, I have tried other avenues but none as understanding as PCrefurb.

(Survey response)

A trip to the Freemasons' Hall

On Tuesday 11th March Sam Hardy (Access Digital Tameside and Digital Link Project Lead) and Julia Norton (Operations Manager) attended the Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF) Grand Review at the Freemasons' Hall, London, followed by dinner at the Grand Connaught Rooms. The invitation to attend the event came following a successful application to the MBF for a grant to enable us to purchase new IT equipment for the staff team and devices to use at our digital training support groups.



Julia reflected on the day saying, “It was a wonderful opportunity to thank the Mark Masons in person for their generosity, network with other recipients of grants and talk to the attendees about our work. Everyone was very welcoming and interested to learn about PCrefurb”. More information about the visit can be read [here](#).

Quizzing together



We would like to thank everyone who came along to the fundraising quiz that we were invited to hold at Glossop Labour Club on the 9th February. In total £146 was raised which is fantastic. Thanks to our Sam (Hardy) for being an excellent quiz master.

Thanks to our supporters

In this edition of our newsletter we would like to extend our thanks to the company **Telecom2**. Over the last four months we have received a total of 61 Chromebooks from Telecom2! Already, 33 have been passed onto clients.



Pictured here on the left is Tim Duncaif the Telecom2 Sales Director. In March we had the pleasure of welcoming Tim to one of our refurbishing workshops so that he could see first hand the work that we do and learn more about the people that benefit from our services. Tim told us "The work you're doing is truly inspiring, and I can see the incredible benefits you bring to communities and individuals".



PCrefurb Newsletter

Spring 2025

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“We are the Champions” (almost)



In February we were excited to learn that we had been nominated in the Community Group of the Year category for the first ever Glossopdale Community Champions Awards. While we didn't win, we were still encouraged by the recognition that we had received. Digital exclusion isn't something that most people have to think about, but for those unable to access the digital world its effects are enormous. Pictured here are Jon (Trustee), Helen (Chief Officer) and Suzanne (Digital Training Coordinator) at the awards ceremony on 27th March.

Thanks to the **Hummingbird Project** and **The Bureau** for organising such a such an entertaining and celebratory showcase for everyone involved in voluntary and community work in Glossopdale.

In Memory

In March we received the very sad news that Angela Johnson, one of our Digital Champions, had passed away. Angela joined us as a volunteer in March 2021. Helen Melhuish, our Chief Officer who attended Angela's funeral, said Angela "contributed greatly to our work, not just through her expertise in supporting clients but also through sharing ideas and information."



Angela is pictured here, in the centre, at the presentation of our QAVS award by HM Lord-Lieutenant Mrs Elizabeth Fothergill CBE in September 2022.

Partnership working

In February we received this great photo of attendees at the latest course delivered by Extra Time CIC. This organisation supports older people in the High Peak and Tameside who want to return to the workforce. PCrefurb have been providing IT equipment and digital skills training to some of Extra Time's clients.



Extra Time CIC can be contacted via their website [here](#).



Mary, their Finance and Grants Lead told us, "We have just finished the current course and I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for your support in both providing additional training, equipment and importantly referrals to the course".

Youth Matters CIC

In March, through our work with Rural Action Derbyshire and the Digital Support Derbyshire Network, we were very pleased to pay a visit to **Youth Matters CIC New Mills**. We had been asked for advice on a proposed computer suite, and we subsequently arranged to replace the computers they were planning to use. Jay, our Technical Lead, was also able to get the computer room connected to the internet.



January - March statistics

Equipment referrals:	72.6 tonnes of CO2e saved.
83	
Equipment distributed:	That's the same as driving 36.3
256	petrol cars, or
Hours of skills training:	growing 3629
626	trees for one year!

