



Gamesley Community Centre Reopens



On the 3rd May representatives of PCrefurb attended the grand re-opening of the Gamesley Community Centre. The venue is becoming a vibrant hub of activities for local people, managed by the [Gamesley Community Group](#). At the time of publishing this newsletter PCrefurb has provided three PCs for a community café, installed a further four in the office for staff and volunteers to use, and soon we will be adding six more for a training room. Helen Thornhill (Founding Trustee) told us “thank you for the installation, it’s a fantastic service you are offering and so supportive to the community”.

All the Fun of the Fair?

Supporting job seekers to get online is an important part of the role of our digital support groups. Members of our team try to get out and about as much as possible to let people know about our services. Pictured here are our Digital Training Coordinator Suzanne and Digital Champion Sean at the Buxton Jobs Fair . Below is our Project Lead Sam at the Hyde Jobs Fair. Both events took place in April.



April - June Statistics

Equipment referrals: 68
Equipment distributed: 148
Hours of skills training: 585

53.1 tonnes of CO2e saved.
That’s the same as driving 26.5 petrol cars, or growing 2654 trees for one year!



Device Support Project

Since December 2023 we have partnered with Rural Action Derbyshire and received funding from Derbyshire County Council to run a Refurbished Device & Support Project. We were pleased to have this project renewed for a second full year, starting in April. The scheme enables us to provide refurbished IT equipment to members of the Digital Support Derbyshire Network and their clients, therefore spreading our reach beyond the High Peak..



An example of one such Network member is [Kelsey Family CIC](#). They provide family-based recovery services to those affected by substance misuse disorder. We were contacted by Director Steph Kelsey (pictured here with her husband Ben) as the CIC was keen to offer digital support services to their clients

We provided three laptops and three desktop PCs. They have now created *ReConnect*, a hub offering free digital access with trained facilitators.





PCrefurb Newsletter

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Spring Social

In May PCrefurb volunteers, staff, Trustees, funders and supporters came together at Glossop Labour Club to share news, experiences and ideas. Twice a year we undertake these informal consultations as an invaluable way of creating a sense of unity and shared purpose.

Presentations were made by Helen, our Chief Officer, and Sam our Tameside digital projects Lead. It was also an opportunity for Jon Spriggs, our new Chair of Trustees (see below), to introduce himself. There was a lovely atmosphere as attendees chatted to one another and we all enjoyed the fantastic buffet from Sett Valley Café.



Introduction from Jon Spriggs our new Chair of Trustees



"I have worked in IT since 1999, holding various roles from on-site and telephone tech support, server and network security administration and technical account management. Parallel to this, I have held a strong interest in teaching and developing technical skills in the community, including organising community meetups, speaking at conferences, blogging, podcasting and streaming about the technologies I was working with professionally and in my personal life.

I was drawn to PCrefurb's mission to bridge the digital divide and I was thrilled when I was asked whether I would consider joining the board of trustees. Since joining the board in 2024, I have aimed to support PCrefurb's inclusion activities, leveraging my IT background and commitment to community engagement."

Congratulations to our Learners

Our digital tutors are very happy to support clients as they progress through all the modules of the online learning platform 'Learn My Way'. This is a really effective tool to take participants from, often, zero digital skills or knowledge to the stage where they are confident to navigate the online world independently.

We like to mark the occasion of the completion of Learn My Way with a certificate.



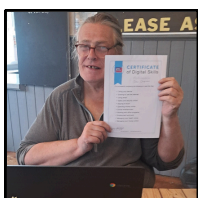
Graham



Rose



Arron



John



Cesako

Information about our digital training groups is available on our [website](#).

Digital Inclusion Action Plan

Earlier this year the Government presented to Parliament its [Digital Inclusion Action Plan](#). This plan highlights the impact of digital exclusion and lists their first five actions which included measuring what works regarding digital inclusion. In response to this we wrote to Jon Pearce M.P. in April, requesting that he contact The Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, on behalf of PCrefurb, to express our views on the Action Plan. In a lengthy letter we highlighted, from our extensive experience, that community based digital support initiatives that have a holistic approach of providing access to devices, skill support and connectivity at a local level are the most efficient way to help individuals become confident to function in and benefit from "digital first" services and opportunities. We stressed that this is what we have been delivering for many years.

At the time of writing this newsletter we have yet to have a reply from Jon Pearce or the Secretary of State.