

Appendix One Dearne Development Fund Case Studies

GDG- Margret 67 years old

Margret was widowed at a young age she also suffered a stroke a couple of years ago, has arthritis and high blood pressure, therefore had difficulty in getting around. She was asked what difference attending the events had had on her. She would normally just sit at home alone and because of her mobility she tends not to get out much. The events help her in mixing with other people but also finding out other information has been really useful to her. She really appreciates having a taxi to get to the event and cannot wait to see her new found friends next month.



DECV silver surfers- Kathleen

Kathleen is 79 years old and turned up at the sessions with her iPad which she didn't know how to use. She had never used a computer and relied on family to help her, especially with online shopping. The iPad was bought and used by Kathleen's husband, who sadly had recently passed away, so she wanted to learn how to use it. The sessions with Kathleen were primarily conducted on the iPad with other sessions using a desktop computer in for word processing etc.

Kathleen has slowly built in confidence over the course of 2 months, can produce documents, email and search the internet. We have installed various apps on the iPad, used the iPad for online shopping and also had sessions on skype. Kathleen will complete the qualification shortly and has also started the Learn My way Online course which she is doing at home on the iPad which goes over ground already covered in sessions but is great for practice with Online shopping / Online Forms and banking. Kathleen is hopefully going to continue her training at DECV after the course ends, hopefully level 1 in ICT.

DECV- Harry and Brenda

Harry is 85 years old and has decided to make the step of going into computing and buying a laptop. Harry attends the sessions with his wife, Brenda (83), who is also recovering after a serious illness. He thought it would be good for Brenda to attend as he didn't want to leave her and also it would be good for Brenda's self-esteem.

Although not familiar with Computers, Harry did have a rough idea what he wanted to learn due to conversations with Family and friends. He was interested in Email, the Internet, and Skype. Brenda wanted to see what the Internet could offer in terms of online cookery recipes. After an initial assessment with both learners I amended certain aspects of the OCR computer course to fit with Harry's requirements.

The setting is a small group workshop and Harry and Brenda really need 1 to 1 training. I had a volunteer work with the couple to ensure they didn't get left behind. This also meant the sessions could be tailored to fit with their requirements.

Both learners are progressing well through the course and have recently, with our help, bought a new laptop. They are emailing, going online (Harry for sport and Brenda for cooking) and are about to start using skype to stay in touch with relatives. They also enjoy the social aspect of the workshop and enjoy the sessions very much!

