

Loan and Learn



Wulvern invests in community projects that help our tenants so when John Bottomley from Beech Drive Community Centre contacted us with a great idea then we just had to support it. Homewords reporter Hilary Buckley takes up the story.

Thanks to support from Wulvern's community investment fund, the Centre based in Wistaston Green has set up a Computer Loan Scheme providing residents with an invaluable way of acquiring computer skills - and a gateway to new opportunities for learning and employment. I popped along to the Centre and met John who told me

"The Loan and Learn project enables you to borrow a computer for an unlimited period for just £20 - all we ask is that you bring it back!

The Computer Loan Scheme aims to provide low cost quality computer skills to those who need them most and we hope to improve people's confidence at the same time.

We have been working in partnership with Sir William Stanier School and local companies, including Wulvern, who have kindly donated their old equipment.

So we are doing our bit for the environment by recycling. We've now got around 150 refurbished machines and are about to open a new shop on Bramhall Road.

Running hand-in-hand with the Loan Scheme are the free, informal computer drop-in sessions offered by John and his team.



"The sessions are for everyone regardless of age or ability. We offer one to one training and support on any subject or area of Information Technology from how to turn on the computer and get started to creating a spreadsheet to manage your household bills. If you just want access to a PC to download your holiday snaps or for social networking, we offer a free broadband connection."

Rob Allen Wulvern's Director of Partnerships told Homewords "The Computer Loan Scheme is a great example of how Wulvern working with community groups can support our tenants. The Beech Drive projects enterprising approach shows what can be achieved".

To loan a computer, donate your old one or more information on the training and drop-in sessions, please contact John Bottomley on 01270 663154.





Sue's story

Twelve months ago 45 year old Sue Barber, a registered nurse, injured her back and had to give up nursing. Looking for a change in career she soon discovered that computer skills were essential.

"I really thought the computer side of things would be beyond me, I had no idea where to begin let alone switch one on.

My confidence about my career prospects hit an all-time low but the Computer Loan Scheme and some training at the Beech Drive Community Centre changed all that."

Sue has now progressed to completing level 2 of a nationally recognised Computer Literacy and Information Technology (CLAIT) course and she is looking forward to a new career.

Anthony gets arty

"I read about the facilities at Beech Drive in Homeworlds and thought I'd pop in and give the computer training sessions a try" says Wulvern customer, Anthony Watts. I've created my own letterhead templates, made Christmas cards and downloaded my holiday photos - quite an achievement for someone who couldn't turn a computer on nine months ago!



Everyone has been so friendly. We enjoy a laugh while we learn, there's no pressure or competition. I've even felt confident enough to buy my own laptop.

Mary takes it easy PC

"The Computer Loan Scheme opened up a whole new world for me" Mary Wilkinson told Homeworlds.

Mary uses a wheelchair and spends much of her time at home, relying on her carer to take her shopping.

Since borrowing a computer Mary has started to do her grocery shopping on the internet and keeps in touch with friends more often using the social networking site, Facebook.

Mary says "Shopping on-line means that when I go into town with my carer we can have some quality time. Instead of dashing around with heavy bags of groceries, we enjoy a leisurely cup of coffee and a tour of the dress shops!"

Computer Training Drop-in Sessions

Beech Drive Community Centre
Monday 9.30-11.30am, 1.30-3.00pm, Tuesday 3.30-5.00pm, Wednesday 9.30-11.30am,
(Free crèche available by prior arrangement)

Marshfield Bank Community Centre
Tuesday 9.30am-11.30am

The Bungalow, Sherborne Road
Wednesday 4.00-5.30pm

Gresty Flat, Brookhouse Drive
Thursday 1.00-2.00pm and 4.00-5.00pm

Computer Loan Scheme

To borrow a computer or for more information call in to the Take A Look shop on Bramhall Road, Wistaston or telephone 01270 663154.

Recycle!

If you have an old or unwanted computer please don't throw it out! The Computer Loan Scheme welcomes donations of all PC's, printers etc - please get in touch.