

IT for the Elderly December 2013

This term we covered a range of activities including emailing, facebook, letter writing, & the use of Microsoft office.

We began back at the start as some of the class were still having issues with emailing, they can send general mails, but anything that requires attaching a file or photo becomes an issue. This is something that we covered previously and will continue to do so throughout the full year, keeping them using it as much as possible. Some of the group are quite confident about this and others tend to only use it whilst in the class, so hopefully the more we can use it the better they will get.

The use of office has been really good in getting them to understand toolbars, spacing, and general typing and the use of keyboard. This helped them with writing emails and helped them to change fonts, sizing of writing and colour schemes, some of the group even made flyers in the Word programme for their local clubs, i.e. bowling, crafting and others. This was

something they really enjoyed and we will continue with week to week.

Facebook was a bit of hit and miss with most of the class were very interested in this but some felt it was a bit intrusive. Once I explained that it would all be private and only between the class they were all happy to give it a go, some of them now use it regularly while others tend to just use it for seeing pictures or just finding out about things they are interested in i.e. music, certain famous people and they have all learned how to add these things to their newsfeeds.

Some of the group have now purchased tablets and seem to be getting along quite well with them, although they still continue with general computer based things, I still feel they learn more sticking with their computers and then just using their tablets for little things

I personally feel the group enjoy coming along to the classes and learning what they

can, some are really keen and this shows when they return the following week and can show what they have achieved, other feel this is more of a social setting where they can learn something and also meet up with friends they only see at this time. One of the group turned 80 before the end of our term and we had a small party after the class for her, she was so overwhelmed by the rest of the class giving her cards and buying a birthday cake this made her day, she would have normally spent this time on her own. I would like to think that our classes are a bit more than just learning about computers, it gives the older generation something to look forward to.