

## IT for the Eldery June 2013

The I.T. classes for the elderly have proved to be very popular with the groups growing over time, we have had a lot of changes to computers and programs over the last few months, especially with the New Windows 8, also changes to how email now looks. This has been a challenging time for the older people, but they have learned a lot of new things over this term, there are a fabulous group who are keen to learn about their computers.

This term the beginners have learned a lot and have been able to put this into practice at home e.g. learning how to email. Emailing is a huge part of what they first want to learn as this allows them to keep in contact with each other and also friends and family. They have been able to add contacts, send mail, add pictures, and files, which they have enjoyed doing as this has then led onto them being able to send their own

family pictures through email, allowing them to show others their special moments.

Those who have been attending for some time and are no longer beginners have concentrated on getting used to different programs. They spent some time learning some of the basics of Photoshop so they could fix their pictures, resize and fix redeye problems. They found this to be a bit more difficult than anything else they had done previously but did manage to pick up the basics. They also asked about Facebook and we spent a little time learning about that. They joined up and have started to adjust their settings so that they will only use it within the computer class group at the moment till they get used to how it works. U-tube was another project we did and this showed them that it was not only for watching funny videos, but could be a learning tool also with all the

instructional videos people post. They learned how to use Google translator and this was particularly interesting for a lot of the group who have friend abroad and they would like to send cards and small letters in another language. This exercise proved to be fun for all.

These computer classes are an essential part of our programme within the Skate park, when people come along they can make new friends and keep in touch with each other once the class is over. Everyone who attends feel this is a great project, as some of the people do not have any other social outlet and we are providing the opportunity for them to meet up here, give them support if needed and make good friends with similar interests. All of the groups have become very good friends.

# Report

## Photoshop Class

I have taken over Rowan's pensioner's Photoshop class, which was quite daunting, as Photoshop is not something that I have very much experience with. However, the group have made me feel very welcome, and assured me that they are more than happy with the work we have been doing over the previous weeks. We have been working on areas within Photoshop, such as putting text on their

images, turning their images from coloured to black and white. Progress can sometimes be a bit slow, but this is understandable given their experience levels, and their ages, however we just take our time and if any of the class has any issues then we will stop and go over things again.

As I was not very familiar with Photoshop, teaching this class has been a challenge for me too, but as I have mentioned

the class are very patient with me, and understand if they ask something that I don't know the answer too they know that I will have the answer the following week for them. I think that it has been a benefit to the group that I am not that familiar with Photoshop as it is a learning process for all of us, and we have been able to work through the problems that we have encountered together.