

Whitstone Get IT Together

Report for Annual Parish Meeting, 9th April 2014

Whitstone Get IT Together was set up to provide basic computer and internet instruction for beginners who have never used a computer before and for those who wanted to progress their skills to take full advantage of all that it has to offer. It came about from a request expressed in the Parish Plan of 2010 with major progress started in December 2012.

In late July Superfast broadband was installed in St Anne's Parish Hall with Wi-Fi throughout the building. Our thanks go to St Anne's Hall Committee and the Parish Council for supporting this. It is hoped this will benefit the whole community and is available for all Parish Hall users. We were granted an award from BT Community Connections to help fund the broadband rental.

We have been able to run about 36 sessions starting at the end of July last year which have just now ended. Over 100hrs of instruction has been provided with over 20 people taking part at various times.

The initial sessions were funded by Superfast Cornwall and Citizens Online with later sessions led by three local people who have become volunteers with Superfast Cornwall Volunteer Network to enable them to lead the training sessions.

As well as the sessions in the Parish Hall the volunteers have helped at a training session run by the Kilkhampton volunteers and held a **Digital Taster Event** at the village school during May last year in support of Adult Learners Week. Thanks go to Mr Woolner and the school for supporting this and special thanks to the pupils who helped at the event.

During August Nina Davey from BBC Radio Cornwall visited us to interview the volunteers and participants which was later broadcast on the Tiffany Truscott show. You can hear the interviews and read more about Whitstone Get IT Together on the village website at www.whitstonevillage.com/computergroup.htm

The volunteers have enjoyed the sessions and we hope everybody who came along managed to pick up some useful skills. We would be happy to run more sessions in the future if requested and enough people want it.

Mike Sutton

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