

Press information

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THE OLD CROWN PUB

Malcolm &
Pat
Hawksworth

Hesket Newmarket
Wigton
Cumbria
CA7 8JG



Phone: 016974 78288
Mobile 077 66 281 306
email - malcolm.hawksworth@yahoo.co.uk

Subject – HRH ‘Pub is The Hub’ initiative logs on for another win - Coop owned Old Crown Pub expands free community Computer Services

Earlier this year when HRH The Prince of Wales visited The Old Crown at Hesket Newmarket he inaugurated a community I.T. suite at the pub. The Old Crown was the first co-operatively owned pub in the UK and was probably the first pub in Cumbria to have a free Internet facility for its guests.

The Prince’s own initiative, ‘The Pub is the Hub” brokered this ground breaking scheme for the pub. Villagers and visitors alike have since made good use of the free internet and computer facilities. Users ranging in age from 7 years to 80 + are getting on line on the internet and also using general office and media software packages available on the two PC’s and the laser printer which were funded by The Kirkbride Learning Centre near Wigton and UK Online.

In response to this success, free computer training sessions are now about to launched at The Old Crown, to take place every Tuesday lunchtime during school term time.

Made possible through further funding from UK Online, the Drop in Sessions are being organised by Sandra Harrison, Manager of The Kirkbride Centre, and Dawn Harrison, I.T. Trainer.

The Drop in Sessions will cater for the first nervous steps of the complete computer virgins right through to experienced people keen to expand their existing I.T. skills using the internet, or other packages such as word processing, desk top publishing, numbers and accounts spreadsheets, creating and managing mailing lists and databases.

Dawn Harrison ‘Drop in’ I.T. Trainer says –

“ I love helping to demystify the whole story about computers.

It is particularly rewarding when I get to help complete beginners from unexpected backgrounds – such as one of my primary school teachers, a lovely lady who is now in her 80’s, - it was really exciting to help through her first tentative steps on line and open up the world of computers to her just as she opened the world up for me when I was only seven year old.

No one is too old or too young to learn how to use computers – they are a massively powerful tool but easy to get started with – and at The Old Crown the whole service will be free and in addition to the Drop in Sessions, the computers are available at all times when the pub is open.”

- For more information about the computer training Drop In sessions at The Old Crown and photo-calls please contact Sandra Harrison or Dawn Harrison at The Kirkbride Learning Centre – 016973 532284 or email to manager@kirkbride.cumbria.sch.uk

- For information about the Old Crown Pub and its services please contact Malcolm Hawksworth on 016974 78288 or email malcolm.hawksworth@yahoo.co.uk and see the website www.theoldcrownpub.co.uk

- For more information about HRH The Prince of Wales’ ‘Pub is the Hub’ initiative contact gordonstewart@pubisthehub.org.uk - see their web site www.pubisthehub.org.uk and HRH’s own website - www.princeofwales.gov.uk/personalprofiles/theprinceofwales/initiatives/the_pub_is_the_hub_1916389644.html