

Agewell Computer Club July & August 2010



About the Agewell Computer Club.

The Agewell Computer Club (ACC) complements all the other activities of Agewell in Hackney – services for Hackney residents in the ‘mid-life’ 50 to 65 age range. We focus on people who have little or no experience of computers or the Internet, but want to find out more. We also welcome mid-lifers who have had some experience, but who have been too busy to do much with it.

We have a constantly varying program, usually centred around the Internet – though we are also very interested in other uses of computers, mobile phones, digital cameras, and anything else which has ‘digital’ in its name.

Our methods are *informal* – no classroom teaching, no exams, no pressure – members learn what they want to learn in their own way at their own pace. Most people who attend are absolute beginners when they start, and surprise themselves by how quickly they learn.

We have a strong emphasis on developing and strengthening basic computer and Internet skills. We make sure that everybody who joins us has an email address that they know how to use, learns how to use the World Wide Web, and has opportunities to develop their interests in a personal direction.

If you are a new member you will get priority – we will help you settle in and begin learning how to use computers and the Internet on your first day. Don’t worry if you have no previous experience, we will *teach* you – that is why we are here. You don’t need a computer at home – and if you have a computer, you don’t need an Internet connection. We provide all of that, plus training and the support you need afterwards. All Hackney mid-lifers are welcome, and it’s all free.



‘Assistive technology’ at The Lawns and at home.

Wednesday 7 July, 10.30 am to 1 pm.

The Agewell Computer Club has joined AbilityNet’s ‘Sustaining Switched on Communities’ campaign – helping people with disabilities to access computers more easily.

For us, the word ‘disability’ incorporates all the usual impairments associated with not getting younger – for example, eyesight that is not as good as it used to be, and difficulties using a computer mouse or keyboard (both of them design atrocities). There are solutions to most of those problems, known collectively as *assistive technology*.

AbilityNet have delivered an Assistive Technology Kit for use at The Lawns – including alternatives to the standard keyboard and mouse, software to help dyslexic people, and a bunch of other stuff which we haven’t tried to use yet.

At this session we will demonstrate some of this assistive technology, and tell you about other major benefits for people who have a computer at home, including ...

- An online assessment tool to help you set your own computer to your own preferences.
- Access to a loan bank of equipment.

There is no need to reserve a place at this session, and you don’t even have to be a computer user. Just come along if you are interested. If you would like a bit more information, phone us on 020 7254 2183 (ask to speak to, or leave a message for, Rick).

‘Mapping The Change’ – Hackney Museum oral history project.

Wednesday 7 July, 10.30 am to 12.

On the same day Tony T and Rebecca Goldstone of Sweet Patootee (they make history documentaries for TV) will be at The Lawns to tell you about this new project ... and hopefully get you involved! In their own words: “We want to create a collection of engaging real life testimonies, reflecting diversity in social background, cultural perspectives, relationships, values, and, experiences of change.” That means they are interested in you, *your* life, and *your* experiences.

This project sounds like a perfect fit with our *What’s Your Story* film project earlier this year, and the local history project we want to start in September. Please get here early to meet Tony and Rebecca. They will arrive at 10.30 am, but will not stay all morning.

Computer images for beginners.

Wednesdays 14 July to 11 August, 10.30 am to 1 pm.

This will be a short course on 5 successive Wednesdays, 14 July to 11 August.

The course will be an introduction to doing things with digital images (probably mainly photographs) and managing the results. Course topics will include

- Learn how to use *Irfanview* – the free image program we recommend and use at the Agewell Computer Club.
- How to make digital copies of old photographs using the image scanners at The Lawns.
- How to process and manage photos from a digital camera.
- How to upload photos (and other digital images) from your computer to a website, or attach them to an email.
- Finally, we will get you to *do something* with the results – for example, put your images on a website, add to a Facebook photo album, create a Flickr album, get started with HistoryPin – something useful to *you*.

The course is for beginners, but not *absolute* beginners. You should at least be able to send an email without help. You do *not* need to have your own computer at home.

We can manage 12 participants in our teaching area, so that is the maximum number for the course. You can ask to reserve a place (for the whole course, not individual sessions) by sending an email to acc@lawns.org.uk . If you would like a bit more information, phone us on 020 7254 2183 (ask to speak to, or leave a message for, Rick).

This short course is part of a longer project using *Historypin* which we would be halfway through if we had not been delayed by problems with our Internet Service Provider. Find out more about Historypin at <http://www.historypin.com/>

The full Historypin project *will* happen eventually, probably in September.

Where and when: all our workshops and courses.

Every Wednesday morning, 1.30 am to 1 pm.

- Address: 52 The Lawns, Matthias Road, N16 8QD (close to Newington Green, on the 236 bus route).
- Phone: 020 7254 2183
- Email: acc@lawns.org.uk
- Web: <http://acc.lawns.org.uk>