

21 May 2011

Press Release

SILVER SURFERS' DAY PROVES A HIT AT CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL COLLEGE

Aspiring 'silver surfers' were introduced to the secrets of the internet yesterday in a day of free workshops at Cambridge Regional College to mark Adult Learners' Week.

The Silver Surfers' Day provided an easy introduction to computers for senior citizens who popped into the Learning Resources Centre, with instructors on hand to teach them how to go online, search websites, practice with digital cameras and even use Skype.



Unlocking the secrets of the digital world at CRC's Silver Surfers' workshop

Peter Hilditch, CRC's Learning Resources manager, said the day had been a big success, with many of the senior citizens keen to learn more.

"A lot of senior citizens would love to know how to use computers to keep in touch with their children and grandchildren by email but don't know how to take that first step," he said. "One of our participants, who is involved with the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline charity, set up a Skype account so he can now stay in touch with one of the children he helped nine years ago.

"We held the free workshops to encourage them to start off and give them a great introduction to the internet.

"We also run free BBC First Click courses – part of the BBC's campaign to get more people online - which take people on past the beginners' stage, and are proving very popular."

The next six-week course, which takes place on Friday mornings, starts on 10 June and runs until 15 July.

"By the time learners have finished the course, they should be able to attach photographs to their emails, search the internet with confidence and do their shopping and banking online," said Peter.

"After that, the next stage would be to do an ITQ course, which introduces people to everything from designing stationery and birthday cards, to playing games online. It's a lot of fun and has the great bonus of making new friends."

To book a place on the next free BBC First Click course, ring 01223 418216. For more information on ITQ courses, call 01223 226360.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is one of the largest providers of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region, with more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk. Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes.