



Silver Surfers to benefit from BT grants

Age Concern Waltham Forest has received a grant and 2 laptops as part of the fifth annual BT Silver Surfer Grant Programme that will help older people get online in Waltham Forest. The grant funded by BT will allow more training sessions to take place.

The grant has been awarded as part of BT's digital inclusion work with Age Concern and Help the Aged, which aims to get older people online. Around 6.4 million people over 65 in the UK have never used the internet and subsequently miss out on potential cost savings as well as the opportunity to more easily keep in contact with friends and family.

Sheena Dunbar, Chief Executive of Age Concern Waltham Forest commented: "We are delighted to have received this grant as it will make a real difference in helping to expand the service we can offer locally. As a result of the grant we will be able to help more people in Waltham Forest by providing more beginners computer classes".

The grants are being awarded to organisations around the UK that are part of the Age Concern and Help the Aged Digital Inclusion Network. The national network of organisations delivers IT training specifically to help older people get online. Thanks to funding through the BT Silver Surfer Grant Programme, 83 organisations have benefited from nearly £214,682 and 55 laptops since 2005.

Simon Paul, Community Investment Manager at BT commented, "The internet offers a range of benefits including easy ways to keep in contact with friends and family, yet 64 per cent of people over 65 have never been online. This grant will help Age Concern Waltham Forest continue and grow their local services, so that older people can have practical lessons using computers and other technology."