Silver Click Tutors; Kay and Richard lead a session on Computer Hardware and Internet Connections at The first Drop In Group Computer Session at the Minehead Centre.

Laptops for Loan in Manchester Libraries

Manchester Libraries are pioneering a new scheme allowing members to borrow a laptop for use within the library.

The scheme, believed to be the first of its kind, is being made available at four branches - City Library, Forum Library Wythenshawe, North City Library and Avenue Library & Learning Centre.

Customers can also take advantage of free Wi-Fi, surfing from a sofa, easy chair or desks with room to spread out with other resources.

To borrow a laptop, the customer must already be a library member and must leave a suitable form of identity - such as a credit card or driving licence - with library staff. This scheme poses an innovative way to use technology and is another great reason to join your local library if you haven't done so already. **ASK SILVER CLICK FOR MORE DETAILS.**

TIP: *Enlarge the text on the screen***:** Press **CTRL** and **+** on your keyboard to enlarge text while using Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, or Firefox. Press **CTRL** and **-** to reduce the size again.

Home Visits are a Hit!

Jack-Silver Click Technician has took to the Old Moat Estate with his team, encouraging older people to embrace Computers, Digital Technology and the Internet (Computer Basics, E-mail, Staying Safe, Accessing Public Services and much much more!}. To arrange a home visit from Silver Click please Telephone: **0161 437 0717.**

WEBSITE: Wikipedia is a collaboratively edited, free Internet encyclopaedia. Its 24 million articles are written collaboratively by volunteers around the world. Almost all of its articles can be edited by anyone with access to the site, and it has about 100,000 active contributors. **Address/URL: www.wikipedia.org**.

When using a search engine, enter a term followed by the word 'wiki' to search for Wikipedia entries i.e. 'Elvis Presley Wiki'.

Age Concern Manchester in Partnership with Southway Housing Trust

EUREKA!

Are you getting or thinking about buying a Laptop, Desktop or Tablet Computer?

Do you already own a Computer or device that allows you to connect to the Internet?

Would you benefit from support with setting up and using your new gadget in your own home?

Let *Silver Click* help...

- Simple and impartial support and advice.
- A dedicated Support Team and Hotline.
- Help with all the basics.
- It's **FREE!**...

I'd love to but I feel like its beyond me!

Let us be the judge! Call **0161 437 0717** and ask to speak to "Silver Click". Its cheaper, easier and safer than ever to access Computers and the Internet, let us help make it Click!
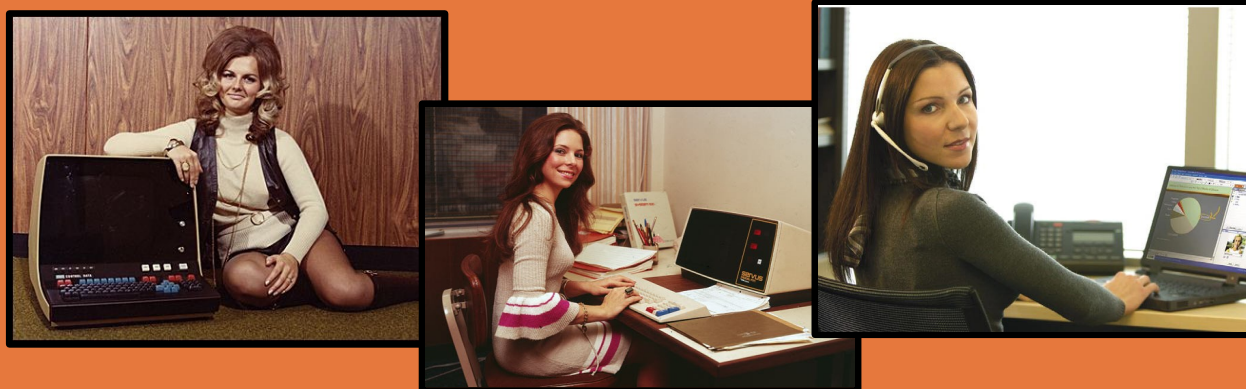
Gentle Reminder: Silver Click Helpline Live Hours

As a member of the Silver Click network, you can make use of our dedicated Helpline. Below are the 'Live Hours' for this service, you may have a burning question or a technical query, whatever the issue, someone will always be on hand to take your call via Telephone: **0161 437 0717**.

Monday	Tuesday
2-4 PM	10 AM-12 PM

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2-4 PM	10 AM-12 PM	2-4 PM

Free IT classes

Digital Skills for Women in Manchester

Finding a job can be tough, especially if the world has moved on since you were last looking. That's why three Manchester organisations, The MadLab, Manchester Girl Geeks, and the Manchester Libraries, are joining together to offer IT training for women – for free. The Digital Skills for Women in Manchester workshops, taking place in five libraries from January to July 2013, will equip women with the tools they need in today's workplace.

"The project aims to reach out to over 100 women in Greater Manchester who are currently not in employment to help them on their way".

There are four courses available: *Basic IT Skills, Social Media Skills, Introduction to Web Development and Introduction to Programming.* Participants can choose to take as many as they like. Not only will the workshops help women increase their opportunities to find employment by arming them with vital technical skills, but they will also increase confidence in their abilities to learn new things.

Course Dates and Venues:

Basic IT Skills (3 weeks, 10 am to 1 pm)

North City Library: Tuesday 29th January, Tuesday 5th and 12th February.

Wythenshawe Forum Library: Thursday 31st January, Thursday 7th and 14th February.

Gorton Library: Tuesday 26th February, Tuesday 5th and 12th March.

Longsight Library: Tuesday 5th, 12th and 19th March.

Social Media (2 weeks, 10am to 1pm)

Wythenshawe Forum Library: Thursday 21st and 28th March.

City Library: Wednesday 17th and 24th April.

For further information and to register your interest visit **digitalskills.madlab.org.uk**

Point of Interest...

Each issue we bring you an article in a series of Computer Basics Topics, and what better place to start than with the burning question: *What is a computer?*

"...a Computer is an electronic machine that can carry out calculations and is able to store information".

In order to do these things, a computer uses different programs or applications for specific tasks. For example, it has a word processing program for typing letters and a program called a Web Browser for searching and browsing the internet. Computers also come in different shapes and sizes e.g. laptops, desktops and tablets but they are all able to perform the same or similar tasks.

In the beginning...

The first programmable computer, designed by Charles Babbage in the 1830s, was mechanical rather than electronic. Unfortunately it was never built, and it wasn't until World War II that British code breakers built Colossus, the world's first programmable and fully electronic computer.

However, Colossus still didn't include a number of elements present in modern computers. Finally, after the war, a complete computer was built in Manchester by the great mathematician Alan Turing, who had worked with the code breakers.

From science project to everyday tool...

Computers were initially of interest only to scientists and engineers. But from the human–computer interaction theories of mouse inventor Douglas Engelbart in the 1960s to the release of the Apple Macintosh computer in 1984, they became easier to use and more capable of tasks that ordinary people could carry out.

Now, with the spread of personal computers (PCs), mobile phones, notebooks and tablets, computers have become part of our everyday lives. It's almost impossible to imagine modern society without them.
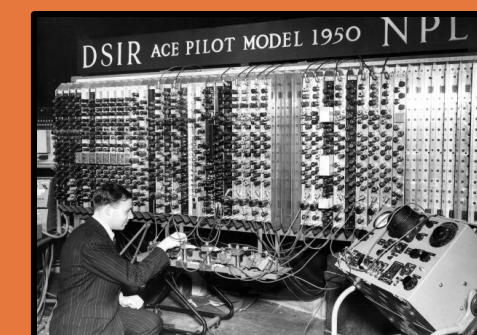
Highlights in the development of the Computer

Computers started out as huge racks of glass valves and wires that occupied multiple rooms and weighed tons. Now they can fit on tiny microchips that are barely larger than an ant and are millions of times more powerful than the first ones.

Computers have a huge variety of uses. Originally employed to break enemy codes and calculate artillery trajectories, they're now used for everything from word processing and spreadsheets to mobile phones and playing games.

One of the Computers designed and Built by Turing.

The number of computers in the world has risen incredibly. Urban myth has it that, in the 1950s, the head of IBM estimated a global market for five – yes, five – computers. But within the next few years, it's expected that there will be 2 billion computers – and that figure doesn't even include computers built into other devices.

In the late 1960s, the American government created ARPANET, a network that allowed the few university and military computers in the US to talk to each other. This eventually turned into the internet, a global web that connects well over a billion computers – and people – to each other.

ADSL - 'Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line' - a type of broadband technology used for connecting to the internet.

Bcc - Blind Carbon Copy. The Bcc box allows you to send an e-mail to more than one person but their e-mail addresses are hidden from other recipients.

CD-R - Stands for 'Compact Disc - Recordable'. A type of CD that can be permanently filled with data (like music, videos and other files) on a home computer, then viewed by other people.

Desktop - A metaphor used to describe the way different programs are laid out on your screen, which is similar to how you might lay out documents and photos on a real desk.

.edu - When used at the end of a web address, this means that the website is related to education.

Emoticon - A combination of characters used in text messages which, when viewed from a certain angle, resembles a facial expression. For example, :) is a 'smiley face' and :(represents an unhappy face.

Graphics card - A piece of hardware inside your computer which helps it to display high-quality images such as those used in games and videos.

HD (High Definition) - Very high quality graphics, which require special screens to view.

Install - Transferring software onto your computer and setting it up so that it can work properly.

Junk email - Unsolicited or unwanted email.

LCD screen - Liquid Crystal Display: a thin, flat kind of electronic screen used in modern computer monitors and televisions.

G L O S S A R Y O F T E R M S

-A to Z and the odd number thrown in for good measure!

Megabyte (MB) - A measure of computer memory: 1,000 kilobytes (or a million byte

Notepad - The most basic text-editing software available on a PC. It comes as standard on computers with a Windows operating system.

Outlook Express - Popular email software made by Microsoft.

Offline - Not connected to the internet.

Photoshop - A software program made by Adobe which you can use to view and edit images.

QWERTY (keyboard) - A standard keyboard, so named because the main letters across the top happen to spell out 'QWERTY'. This doesn't mean anything, but serves as a handy nickname.

Recycle bin - A place files go to before being permanently deleted, so that if you have second thoughts you can 'undelete' them.

SSID - A code up to 32 characters long which identifies a network, helping your computer to connect to it.

TalkTalk - A TV, broadband and mobile phone company.

URL - Uniform Resource Locator: a web address, eg www.bbc.co.uk.

WPA - Wi-Fi Protected Access: a way of encrypting a wireless connection so that people can't hack into it and steal information.

3G - A standard for mobile phones, which means that your phone is able to access the internet via mobile broadband.