



pass IT on

Annual report 2017

Scottish charity SC033560

About us

Pass IT On (*founded 2002*) is a small, innovative charity which collects donated computer equipment, adapts it and gives it free of charge to disabled people living in the EH postcode (Edinburgh and Lothians) area. Our clients are enabled to access the huge benefits offered by computers and the online community - benefits which can have greater impact for those who face barriers to getting out and about. Pass IT On helps clients become more independent, improves their quality of life, reduces their inequality with non-disabled people and offers opportunities for them to make contact with other people, reducing social isolation. Equipment is donated by organisations and individuals upgrading their computers, bringing over six tonnes of equipment back into reuse. We also provide supported volunteering opportunities for people with additional needs, allowing volunteers to learn new skills and contribute significantly to the work of Pass IT On - collecting, building and adapting computers for our clients. We have three paid members of staff: a full time Manager, part time IT Technician/Volunteer Coordinator and a part time Administrator Plus. We have 21 regular volunteers, including our board of Trustees.

Our mission

Our vision and what our work aspires to is for all individuals, regardless of health or disability status to have the option to participate in the digital world. Using good quality refurbished equipment, we provide individually adapted computers and software free of charge to disabled people in the EH postcode area who are unable to access publicly available digital technology.

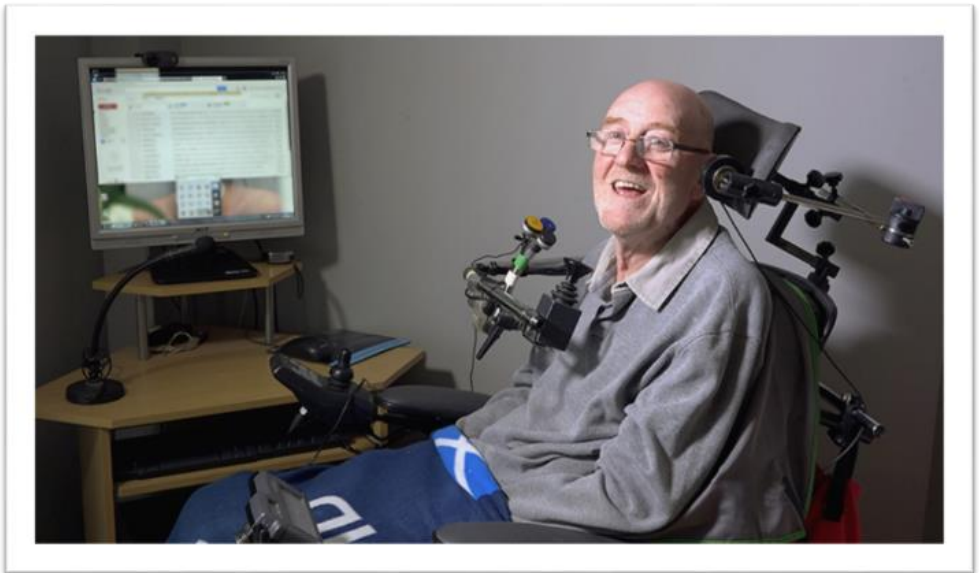
Regulation

Pass IT On is a Microsoft Authorised Refurbisher. We are registered with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. We are a signatory to the Scottish Government's Digital Participation Charter. Our Manager and IT Technician/Volunteer Co-ordinator are qualified to carry out PAT testing and qualified in First Aid in the Workplace. Both are members of Disclosure Scotland's Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme, which carries out criminal record checks to ensure that staff are suitable to carry out regulated work with children and vulnerable adults.



Each computer donated to Pass IT On represents 69kg of CO2 savings!

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death in December 2017 of **Robert Macpherson** (pictured right). A committed campaigner for equality and justice, Robert supported Pass IT On through donating his fees from taking part in user experience



panels and testing accessible computing options. We miss Robert's cheery voice on the phone and his wry sense of humour.

Our funding

We were fully funded by the Scottish Government until July 2017. We subsequently received funding of £10,000 towards the IT technician/Volunteer Co-ordinator post from the Voluntary Action Fund, matching Scottish Government funding allocated for this role. Throughout 2017 our staff and Trustees worked on a funding plan for 2018-20, and we are pleased to report that we have been awarded significant funding from the Robertson Trust, the RS Macdonald Trust and Miss Agnes H. Hunter's Trust towards securing Pass IT On's future. We also generate income through repairs and sales of refurbished computers.



Our service area

Although our work is restricted to Edinburgh and the Lothians, we regularly respond to enquiries from throughout the UK, and overseas.

Our client service in 2017

81 people registered for a computer

We carried out **56** assessments

We provided individually adapted computers to **60** people and **558** sessions of follow up support.

We received around **6 tonnes** of donated computer equipment, representing an astonishing CO2 saving of **17,250kg**.

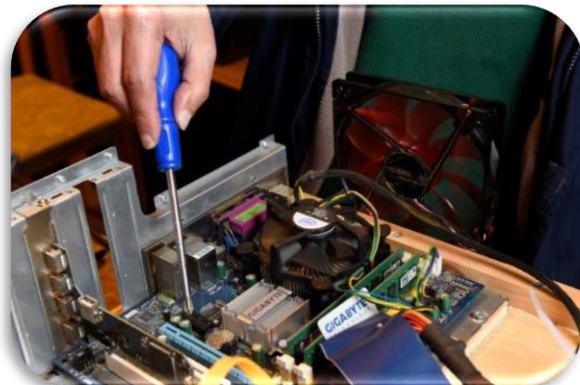
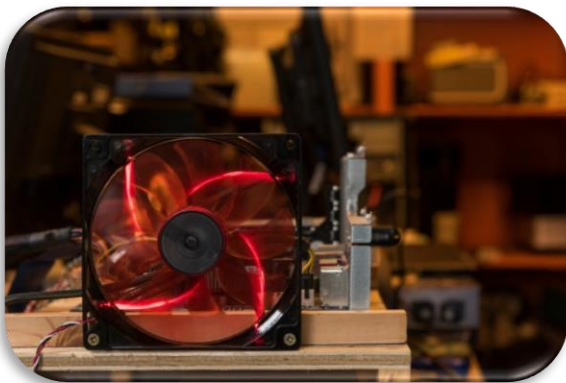
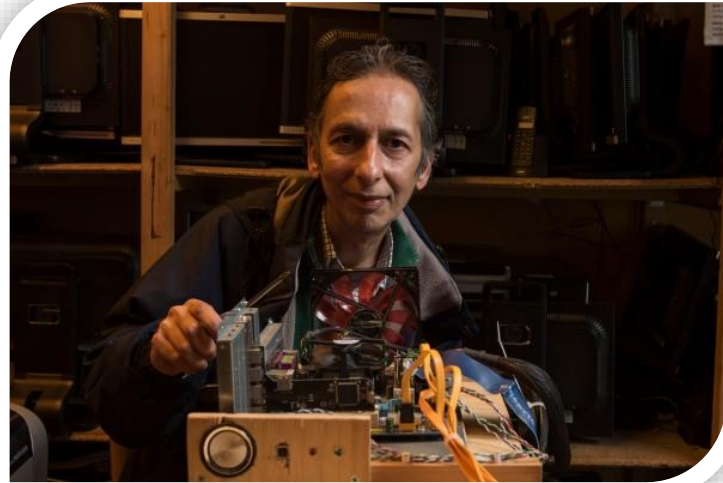
New developments



We secured funding from the Scottish Government Digital Directorate to recruit an **IT technician/Volunteer co-ordinator** to extend volunteering opportunities within Pass IT On, and appointed Pete White in January 2017. Additional funding from the Voluntary Action Fund meant that this role could continue into 2018, and we appointed regular volunteer Antonios Tsirikas (*left*) in November after Pete took up a full-time position elsewhere. Our goal was to extend the number of available volunteering opportunities, while also freeing up more of Manager Sandy Kerr's time to work with

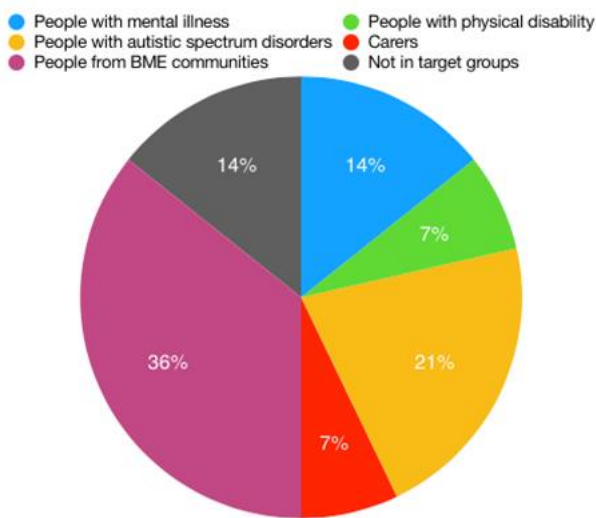
clients. For the first time we were able to offer volunteering on six days each week, including on a Saturday. We recruited **17** new volunteers in 2017, and our pool of volunteers gave us **1620** hours of their time.

Several new volunteers were keen to help us to promote our sales of budget computers and helped us by distributing publicity materials at different locations such as cafes, hospitals, universities and colleges. Our fundraising income through sales and repairs went up accordingly, and we raised **£4010** from sales/repairs in 2017.



Addressing Disadvantage

In addition to the economic disadvantage that many of Pass IT On's volunteers face, new volunteers recruited this year included a carer - the single parent of a disabled young person, a volunteer living with the impact of a serious psychiatric condition, a young adult with multiple complex disabilities who had struggled to find a meaningful work placement and an adult with a neurological impairment that had been a barrier to work. This volunteer was subsequently offered (and accepted) a full-time IT support role! Another volunteer was recruited to a programming post, crediting their time with Pass IT On as a crucial factor in them getting this job. One volunteer found work in the IT field after changing career and fed back to us that the skills and environment at Pass IT On made all the difference to them securing this job. As a real bonus, regular volunteer Antonios successfully moved into paid work with Pass IT On during the year.



Many of our volunteers cite giving something back to the community as a motivating factor in volunteering with Pass IT On. This applies equally to those facing disadvantage to those who do not. Volunteers tell us that they feel **valued** through their volunteering work with Pass IT On and gain satisfaction through developing and using their skills to help our client group as well as the wider community.

We were thrilled to be able to include two clients as volunteers for the first time in our history, and both reported that learning to build their own computers was an encouraging and empowering experience.

"Staff always treat me in a very professional, polite, respectful and friendly manner. They meet me with recognition and understanding of autism and dyslexia and make me feel like I belong. It is a fun, safe and supportive environment, which means I am free to be me.

The most noticeable impact on me has been an increased self-confidence, motivation and sense of empowerment. Since I have started volunteering at Pass IT On, I have greatly grown as a person and gained a more positive outlook on life."

M, client and volunteer

The difference Pass IT On makes

Our clients have a diverse range of interests, and overwhelmingly they report back to us that having their own computer has made a vital difference to their life. Hobbies, learning, peer support, reduced isolation, political campaigning, writing a novel and seeking employment – all of these things help to reduce a division between disabled and non-disabled people.

“As a board member of two organisations it helps me read the required papers and keep in touch with other board members and the management; on a personal level it allows me in particular to keep in touch with my daughter and grandchildren who live abroad via Skype.”

“I do not feel left out or intimidated by technology.”



“Think I may have seriously given up on life without a laptop in my home as I'm unable to use the library facilities without severely increasing my pain. Able now to do online banking, read emails, listen to music, shop online for delivery to home, save photos, read information online to understand my health issues and read nutritional advice, all that supports my health in improving...watch YouTube fitness videos to do stretches at home to help me, and videos to support how to do things

for my intended future career, watch dvds, watch tv...join facebook to re-connect with old friends and could not have been without [it] to study and do course work for college.”

“Since being sick I have been on a very low income. There is no way I could afford my own personal computer, especially a laptop, so I felt that other working able bodied people had an advantage, so I would then miss out on opportunities or even not have equal peace of mind. I feel now I do.”

Pass IT On

14 Wardie Ave, Edinburgh

5.0 ★★★★★ 9 reviews



David Scott

Local Guide · 107 reviews · 11 photos

★★★★★ 10 months ago

...nearly a year on since 'Pass IT on' kindly gave me a great laptop, and the things I have achieved and been able to access because of it are so many I've lost count! ...thanks guys you are AWESOME! :)

Pass IT on is a very friendly and professional service.

I needed a computer to study, research, be part of online communities and just stay connected with things - and I honestly could of never afforded even a second hand computer on the small income I have.

I got in touch with the charity and asked for help, and they gave me a great computer which is perfect for my needs - I am so IMPRESSED !... just this gift completely changes things for me. Being ill stops me doing a lot of things, but having a computer gives me a powerful tool and allows me some element of productivity again.

Thanks guys, I really appreciate it.

update: Having a laptop has completely changed things for me in the last few weeks. I have been so more productive and able to get at information and services that I couldn't before.

I am so thankful to you guys.

Financial review of 2017

Statement of financial activities	2017	2016
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Grants	35,500	79,349
Donations & fundraising	2,009	1,566
Total incoming resources	37,509	80,915
Used equipment sale	3,775	1,844
Benefits in kind	27,420	22,580
Bank interest received	-	18
Total incoming resources	68,704	105,357
Resources expended		
Charitable activities	93,056	72,901
Fundraising	2,820	1,380
Total resources expended	95,876	74,281
Net income	(27,172)	31,076
Balance brought forward at 1 st January	66,340	35,264
Balance carried forward at 31st December	39,168	66,340
Balance sheet		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	682	558
Cash and bank	44,615	70,429
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and accruals	6,129	4,647
NET CURRENT ASSETS/NET ASSETS	39,168	66,340
FUNDS		
Unrestricted	18,468	65,890
Restricted	20,700	450
Total funds	39,168	66,340

We are profoundly grateful to the many individuals and organisations that donate their time, energy and equipment to Pass IT On. The support of our wider community is essential in helping us to deliver our service effectively.

Board of Trustees

Lydia Morrow (*Chair*)
Kirstin Corrie
Ian Currie
Simon Maclaren (*Treasurer*)

Staff

Sandy Kerr (*Manager*)
Helen Russell (*Administrator Plus*)
Pete White/Antonios Tsikrikas (*IT technician/Volunteer Co-ordinator*)

Pro bono independent examination of our annual accounts is provided by [Jamie Pool](#), *B Acc Sc, MBA, MSc (IFM), FAIA, Professional Accountant (SA)*

[Peter Kirwan](#) volunteered his time and expertise to help us refresh our website.

[Susan Lester-Cribb](#) gifts us our accommodation and utilities.

[Andy O'Brien](#) took professional photographs of clients and volunteers.

[Pauline Platt](#) provided invaluable marketing advice and guidance.

We were very fortunate to receive funding from the Voluntary Action Fund towards the staffing costs of our *IT Technician/Volunteer Co-ordinator*. The Corra Foundation provided essential funding towards our *Administrator Plus*, while the RS Macdonald Trust, Robertson Trust, Miss Agnes H. Hunter's Trust and the Castansa Trust awarded us significant funding for 2018 onwards.



Website - www.passitoncomputers.co.uk

We had been planning to refresh our website for some time, and after this was also identified as a priority in discussion with a marketing consultant, we were able to develop a plan. Serendipitously, we were also approached by a new volunteer with a particular interest and expertise in helping us with website redesign. After an intensive period of work, the new site went live in mid-January 2017.

Pass IT On, 14 Wardie Avenue, Edinburgh EH5 2AB
www.passitoncomputers.co.uk

Reusing computers to change lives