

# Computer Buddies Scheme

## Are you a new computer user?

If you've only recently learnt to use a computer, you'll know that it's easy to forget how to do something. You may have course notes or a book, but you might also like to sign up for our Computer Buddies Scheme.

## Computer Buddies – who are they?

Buddies are members of the public who have volunteered to provide help to beginners in computing.

They may not necessarily be computer experts, but they have the skills and understanding to help a new computer user practice their skills such as basic word processing, email and Internet.

## How does the scheme work?

We try to match you up with a Computer Buddy. Your Buddy will sit with you when you work at a library computer at a time that suits you both. He or she will be there just to give you a hand if you get stuck, and maybe show you a few new tricks.

You and your Buddy will usually meet at a time to suit you both for an hour a week for up to six weeks. This can be flexible and you and your Buddy can arrange what suits you best.

If you think a Computer Buddy could help you, fill in the form on the back of this leaflet.

## Are you an experienced computer user?

Are you patient and a good listener?

Would you like to help others to learn?

Can you give up an hour or two a week to be a volunteer?

If the answer is Yes, you can help us by becoming a Computer Buddy.

## What does a Buddy do?

A Buddy sits in the library with a beginner who is practising new skills (surfing the net perhaps or sending emails).

The Buddy gives encouragement, passes on useful tips and answers questions.

## Who can be a Buddy?

You don't have to be a computer whizz kid to be a Buddy! If you aren't it may be easier for you to understand what the beginner is going through.

If you use a computer regularly, send emails and make searches on the Internet, you have all you need to know to help a beginner.

If you would like to know more about becoming a Computer Buddy, fill in the form on the back of this leaflet. When we get it we will:

- ask you to complete a short application form;
- have a discussion with you about what is involved;
- discuss dates and times for you to be in the library and the beginners suitable for you to work with, and
- keep in touch with you to see how things are going.