



DO, RON, RON, RON.....

RON WOOLENER, a 74-year-old from Tiptree in Essex, has decided it's time to show what his generation can do as far as the computer revolution is concerned. Ron has enrolled in TBG Learning's "Switch On" computer course at its centre in Colchester, and is improving his computer skills as he works towards his first qualification since leaving school.

"My daughter bought me a computer, but it sat at home like an ornament so I decided to do something about it. With the course here you're not pushed, you go at your own speed which I like. I knew nothing before I started and what I'm aiming for is

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to be able to send emails and surf the net. I'd also like to type a letter, which I'm learning to do as part of the word processing part of the course," says Ron, who was an engineer with Anglia Water before retiring ten years ago.

"My three grandchildren run rings round me as far as computers are concerned and it pushes me to learn more. As you get older, you've still got to move with the times and I'm really enjoying this. If I get my teeth into something, I don't let go."

Ron attends the Learndirect suite, where there are ten computers for people of any age to use and to follow courses online. With the help of IT tutors, most learners

Pictured left: Sue Chaney and Ron Woolener in the IT room at TBG Learning Colchester. Frances Ross and tutor, Keith Beckett, are in the background.



complete the "Switch On" basic introduction course in ten hours and the "Using Your Computer" course for beginners in a month.

For those who already have some computer skills, the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) – highly-regarded by employers – can also be attained through the centre. Among those currently working towards their ECDL qualification are learners Frances Ross and Sue Chaney.

Sue, now aged 57, started from scratch when she first came to TBG Learning two years ago. She says, "Computers aren't going to go away and I didn't want to get left behind. They are really helpful here and there's no pressure. I've also met some really nice people in my age range and in a similar position. The course has paid off because I've been helping to produce a newsletter for the RAF Association and I've had no complaints!"

All levels of computer courses are available at TBG Learning, which welcomes people of all ages and abilities. ■

About TBG

- Part of Rehab Group, TBG Learning Ltd is an independent training provider in the post-16 education sector. Its mission is to improve people's lives through learning.
- There are 17 TBG Learning centres in some of the most economically-challenged areas of Britain. Over 6,500 learners are on programmes and courses at any one time.
- TBG Learning centres provide a range of courses and job search support in areas such as "Skills for Life" (literacy, numeracy, English for Speakers of Other Languages), business administration and computing. Six of the centres deliver the "Entry to Employment" programme for 16 to 18-year-olds who are unemployed and who have not entered further education.
- TBG Learning also works with over 800 employers in London, Kent, Essex and the Midlands, delivering apprenticeships (for 16 to 24-year-olds) and "Train to Gain" workplace learning programmes for employees aged 25 years and over.
- TBG Learning's programmes are funded through contracts with local Learning and Skills Councils, Learndirect, Colleges of Further Education, Regional Development Agencies and Jobcentre Plus.
- All courses have learning aims and lead to nationally-recognised qualifications, with high rates of achievement and progression into employment or further education.

Who to contact

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