



This image is of the first session of the local digital support drop-in held in Gotherington. There are 7 people being supported by 2 volunteers.



## Update July 2025



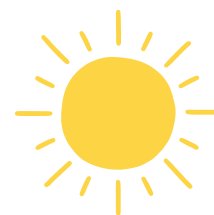
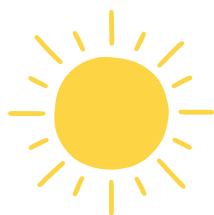
Hello everyone! The warmer weather is here! Welcome to our Summer newsletter! Over the past few months, our team has been working hard to meet the specialist digital needs of local communities. Furthermore, we continue to collaborate with our amazing DAISI Partners...

In this newsletter, we'll tell you about the amazing new partners who have joined us, introduce Community Autism Support & Advice's new RISE service and celebrate our first Photography for Wellbeing workshop held at Westonbirt Arboretum, where we buzzed into mindfulness and captured nature's beauty *one photo at a time*.

We want to use this newsletter to champion the partnership's activity and spread the news of the wonderful work you are all doing to support clients and increase digital equity in Gloucestershire. **If you want to share your news with the partnership, email [digital@grcc.org.uk](mailto:digital@grcc.org.uk) with the subject line DAISI News.** We aim to send out our newsletter approximately every 6 weeks.

# WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARTNERS

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## THE OLD CHAPEL GOTHERINGTON



The Old Chapel in Gothington was built in 1833 and was originally owned by the Countess of Huntingdon's Trust. Today, the building is owned by The Old Chapel Community Project (Registered UK Charity No. 1179607), a charity set up in 2018 by residents of Gothington, who wanted to ensure that The Old Chapel would remain a place the community could use for years to come. The old chapel supports DAISI's mission for digital equity and now enables us to hold our hyper local digital drop-in there monthly.

## THE SHARING KITCHEN NEWENT



The Sharing Kitchen Newent, a recent member of the DAISI partnership, is situated in the Memorial Hall and offers free food and friendship to enhance local quality of life and combat isolation. In less than a year, it has attracted over 20 attendees weekly, demonstrating its success in meeting community needs. DAISI supports this vision by providing digital knowledge and access, helping isolated individuals stay connected. The DAISI team is excited to offer digital support alongside delicious meals, companionship, and fun quizzes at The Sharing Kitchen.

*"The Sharing Kitchen is really benefiting from the DAISI project. Louise and Sarah have already helped many local residents with technical queries and word is spreading in Newent bringing even more people to the Sharing Kitchen. We are very grateful to host such a valuable offering to the community."* - Krissie, Volunteer for The Sharing Kitchen

## FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL

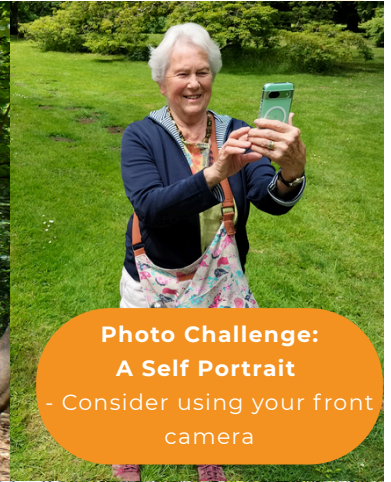


Five Acres High School is addressing the digital divide by supporting its students and their families. DAISI will be attending an open evening where they will discuss access to data and devices, online safety, spotting fake news, and digital wellbeing.

The initiative aims to ensure students have access to the internet and the best technology for their homework and learning journey. Additionally, resources for parents on social media privacy settings will be provided to help keep families safe online. This support aims to instil confidence in parents, carers, and students as they begin this new educational chapter.



## PHOTOGRAPHY FOR WELLBEING WORKSHOP 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025



### Photo Challenge: A Self Portrait

- Consider using your front camera

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June, we took a group of community members who are being supported by our North Cotswolds Social Prescribing Link Workers to Westonbirt Arboretum.

Bo, our Digital Equity Team Lead, utilised their photography degree to create a photography for wellbeing workshop. The group were tasked with 10 photo challenges that combined gentle physical activity with mindful observation, encouraging participants to connect with nature and think creatively.

The workshop aimed to reduce stress, enhance appreciation for the present moment, and boost overall mental and emotional health.

The results were incredible, here is some of our feedback:

***"The walk was very enjoyable and interesting. The photography challenges made it more interesting and fun."***



### Photo Challenge: A Close Up

- Consider using your macro setting



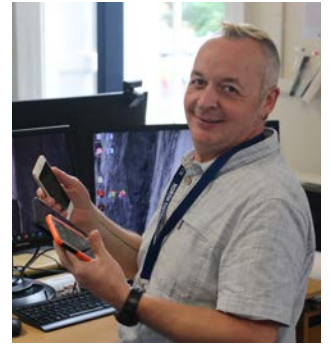


## VITAL DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT IN THE NORTH COTSWOLDS

### What happens when Jason Spinney, our Digital & Technology Inclusion Social Prescribing Link Worker, visits patients at home?

Below is an example of what Jason's work could involve:

A clinician referred an elderly couple, Mr. and Mrs. A, to the digital team for crucial support. Mr. A's early-stage dementia and Mrs. A's significantly limited speech due to a stroke presented unique communication challenges. Their initial request was for software to help Mrs. A verbalise words and sentences – a need that became even more vital as Mr. A's dementia progressed.



Jason introduced an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) board. This innovative tool features categorised words that can be used individually or to form short sentences. While not a perfect solution, free versions offer a valuable verbal outlet when needed. Jason's support didn't stop there; it expanded to include iPad syncing, account security, and ensuring broadband connectivity, all essential for the couple to utilise this vital communication aid effectively.

This is just one aspect of the innovative Digital & Technology Social Prescribing Link Worker project. To find out more, please contact us at [digital@grcc.org.uk](mailto:digital@grcc.org.uk).

## MEET JASON!

You can now meet Jason on the **FIRST** Tuesday of the month in Stow Surgery's waiting room.

Do you have a question about the NHS app? Has your GP recommended tracking your blood pressure, mood or diet? Jason is on hand every month to help you navigate the online world for the benefit of your health!

If you would like to talk to Jason about his support and the most appropriate digital support for you or your client/ patient, please email Jason at: [jason.spinney1@nhs.net](mailto:jason.spinney1@nhs.net)



## Digital Drop in for Wellbeing

We can help you with:



Help to get onto the **NHS app** or **NHS recommended apps**



Using your devices including **internet access** and **online security**



General **digital and technology support** such as updating software

**Where: Stow Surgery Waiting Room,**  
Maugersbury Road  
Stow on the Wold  
Gloucestershire  
GL54 1AX

**When: First Tuesday of the month** 1<sup>st</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2<sup>nd</sup> December.  
**Time: 9am-11:30am**



## ➤➤➤ MORE NORTH COTSWOLDS CONNECTION OPPORTUNITIES



A photograph of our digital drop-in at Ebrington Village Hall.

### Ebrington Digital Support!

Ebrington Village Hall Digital Drop-in is growing, averaging 6 support requests monthly. To manage these demands, the North Cotswolds is seeking more tech-savvy volunteers. Interested individuals should contact the Digital Triage Officer using the details below.

### Bourton on the Water - 11-week Basic Digital Skills Course

An 11-week course is now underway at the George Moore Community Centre in Bourton on the Water! A course attendee provided this feedback to Ken, our volunteer course lead:

*"I am certainly one of the much older members of the community, and now have great difficulty with all today's technology, somehow my mind appears to put up barriers and generates a general fear that I will get into a silly situation, that disables me. So I wanted to tell you that although your course is presented very well indeed, the "icing on the cake" is the quality of the notes you provide with each session. They avoid the need to make lots of hand written notes, and are wonderfully helpful afterwards, to enable me to recall what was said, and discussed. They are also excellent as a reminder at a later date. Thank you for putting such energy into creating the notes in glorious colour."*

We are incredibly grateful to our team of volunteers in the North Cotswolds and their passion for supporting their local community to access the online world - one click at a time.



## ➤➤➤ MORE HYPER LOCAL DROP INS!

You can also attend Jameson Court community club every 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month for digital support. Please see details below, or contact our digital team at [digital@grcc.org.uk](mailto:digital@grcc.org.uk)

## ➤➤➤ MORE RESOURCES FOR PARTNERS

Did you know we have Digital Upskill resources ready to use and distribute?

Thank you very much to the partners who have been in touch with resource requests!

All our resources are peer reviewed and available in accessible formats.

Our catalogue is now at over 50 resources. Most recently, we have been working with some of our new partners on resources for parents.



Would your organisation, community group or clients benefit from a digital resource?  
Email the ACORN team at [digital@grcc.org.uk](mailto:digital@grcc.org.uk)



### How to keep your kids safe online

Keep your children safe online, one click at a time...

#### Parental controls

Different apps have their own parental control settings whereby you can prevent access to certain websites. internetmatters.org provides settings, including how effective they may not be enough for you.

- **Parental controls on an Android** - Installing Google Family Link creating a child account at Parental controls. This allows apps accessible.
- **Parental controls on an iPad** - Screen Time. Under Family Time, turn on Content & Privacy.
- **Google search and Bing** - Both can use to filter out inappropriate content.
- **Home internet filter** - The Virgin Media at saferinternet.org.uk



#### Managing screen time

- You can prevent access to Wi-Fi at certain times of day by changing the settings on your router. To know how to do this you will need to consult the website of your router's supplier. As an example, if you have a BT router you will need to consult BT's website. This will not prevent access to the internet through mobile signal however.
- Apple and Google provide settings through which you can limit screen time on devices. These are Apple Screen Time, which is accessed through Settings, and Google Family Link, which is downloadable through the Play Store.

#### Games consoles

- Parental control settings are built in to different games consoles.
- You can turn off chat functions, restrict games based on age and turn off or limit in-app purchases.
- Please refer to the website for your child's console for a parent's section for details of the different features you can use.



@daisi\_project



## ➤➤➤ DAISI'S DIGITAL TRIAGE SERVICE

Our Digital Triage service is off to a very busy start! Alongside calls and emails, Emma has spent time attending community events in Gloucestershire and discussing the benefits of having a central point of contact when there is an unmet digital need. This is helping the DAISI team to see areas of deprivation and continue to build knowledge about how best we can support communities.

We are continuing to signpost to all of the digital support available in Gloucestershire, as well as signposting those phoning in from out of county to their local support services.

Community members are phoning in for many reasons including:

- Local digital support centres and training programmes
- Identifying free Wi-Fi locations
- Affordable device access and connectivity
- Digital safety information
- Cost-saving initiatives
- Digital Volunteering Opportunities
- VCS support



Available Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4:30 pm, we offer personalised advice for both individuals and professionals to address digital exclusion. Contact us at 07469 583395 or [digital@grcc.org.uk](mailto:digital@grcc.org.uk) to learn more and promote digital inclusivity in Gloucestershire.



## TEWKESBURY NEWS!

### FROM DINING ROOM TABLE TO BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY VENUE!

Our Digital Navigator for Tewkesbury Borough has been visiting a group of 8 individuals in Gotherington for the past year. Through word of mouth, we found a high demand for support that had outgrown the dining room table!

Gotherington's Local Digital Support drop-in now runs every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Gotherington Old Chapel from 4 pm - 6 pm, supported by the Digital Navigator and DAISI volunteers.

### A NEW VENUE FOR TEWKESBURY TOWN!

Due to increasing numbers, we have moved our local digital support drop-in to Tewkesbury Baptist Church! We'd like to take the opportunity to thank Priors Park Neighbourhood Project for supporting the people of Tewkesbury with digital support for the past year.



## INTRODUCING COMMUNITY AUTISM SUPPORT & ADVICE'S RISE SERVICE

### RISE (Remote Independence Support and Empowerment)

The RISE service provided by CASA offers structured, personalised, one-off support and advice to autistic adults. DAISI are working with CASA to ensure digital support is available for all. These sessions last for one hour and can be in person, over the phone or online.

As a DAISI partner, CASA also offer digital support at their own countywide drop-ins. If you or someone you know has an autism diagnosis and would benefit from support, such as how to use the NHS app or using their devices to support a daily routine, get in touch with our digital triage or book online for a CASA session at [www.cal.com/casarise](http://www.cal.com/casarise)



## RISE

RISE (Remote Independence Support and Empowerment)

**RISE provides structured, personalised, one-off support and advice for those not currently receiving 1:1 support**  
Sessions can take place either face-to-face at our offices, remotely via telephone or online.  
These sessions are designed to help you navigate challenges you may face as an autistic adult.

Examples of support we can offer (but are not limited to)

- Making important phone calls
- Understanding correspondence
- Building routines
- Communication support
- Advice on reasonable adjustments
- Signposting to services
- Digital support

**Please note:** Those with co-existing Learning Disabilities should contact Learning Disability Services. If you would like to discuss, please contact us.



To book a 1 hour session visit [www.cal.com/casarise](http://www.cal.com/casarise) or scan the QR code



#### Who is the service for?

- Adults over the age of 18
- Residents in Gloucestershire and/or registered with a Gloucestershire GP

Follow us on social media to see what we get up to!



@casagloucestershire

For more information please contact [risebookings@grcc.org.uk](mailto:risebookings@grcc.org.uk) or 01452 317460  
[www.grcc.org.uk/what-we-do](http://www.grcc.org.uk/what-we-do)

## ➤➤➤ BBC POINTS WEST WITH OUR PARTNER ITSA DIGITAL TRUST

In June 2025, DAISI was featured on BBC's regional news, offering a powerful glimpse into how community-led digital inclusion is changing lives across Gloucestershire. The segment focused on DAISI's collaboration with ITSA Digital Trust, highlighting efforts to provide refurbished laptops and connectivity support to some of the county's most digitally excluded individuals.



Daniel Gale, GRCC's Digital Equity Manager, visited individuals in their homes, distributing devices and providing personalised support. This highlighted DAISI's core values of trusted local relationships, ethical delivery, and a human-first approach to technology.

The report highlighted that digital access extends beyond devices, connecting individuals to health services, education, employment, and family. A recipient shared that receiving a device helped them attend medical appointments and reconnect socially.

## ➤➤➤ OUR DIGITAL EQUITY TEAM LEAD ON THE RADIO!

**BBC**  
**RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE**



On Saturday, 21st July 2025, Bo Moon, our Digital Equity Team Lead, was featured on the radio to emphasise the critical role of digital support in our increasingly digital world, especially for those who feel left behind. Our media outreach highlights the vital work of the DAISI partnership and reinforces the significance of cross-sector partnerships.

As digital barriers and poverty persist as pressing issues, the BBC feature illustrated how local initiatives can create tangible, scalable impact. DAISI continues to prove that with the right support, every person deserves - and can achieve - digital connection... *one click at a time.*



## ➤➤➤ RUSTIK PROJECT – GRCC BRINGS GLOUCESTERSHIRE’S VOICE TO FINLAND

In June 2025, GRCC (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council) took part in the international RUSTIK project meeting held in Joensuu, Finland. This gathering brought together rural-focused partners from across Europe to share approaches for navigating social, economic, and digital change in rural areas.

GRCC represented Gloucestershire’s rural communities as part of the Gloucestershire ‘living lab’, alongside academic partners from the University of Gloucestershire and its CCRI team, with Daniel Keech and Katarina Kubinakova involved with the living lab.

Daniel Gale, GRCC’s Digital Equity Manager, and Katarina discussed progress from sharing how locally-led, ethical digital transition are making a difference in health, education, and wellbeing across the county, through the use of data.





The meeting focused on learning from each other’s “Living Lab” pilots. GRCC shared its theory of change around rural digital access, open-source innovation, and how trusted relationships underpin sustainable digital transformation. Conversations highlighted shared rural challenges: ageing populations, poor connectivity, and the importance of face-to-face support.

The Finnish hosts offered tours of different sites and places around the Joensuu region. GRCC’s community-first approach drew attention from other European partners, who saw value in co-designed, inclusive methods.

As the only UK VCSE organisation in the project, GRCC is helping shape a vision for equitable digital rural futures, grounded in real voices, real needs, and lasting impact.






**For more information about any of these groups, please contact us today on 01452 528491 or email [digital@grcc.org.uk](mailto:digital@grcc.org.uk)**





## **NORTH COTSWOLDS LOCAL SUPPORT**




### **DIGITAL, ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSION, SUPPORT & INNOVATION (DAISI)**



At GRCC, the DAISI Project offers friendly, hands-on support and guidance for everything from computer basics, to online safety and the latest digital tools. DAISI provides easy access to personalised workshops and one-to-one assistance. Whether you're looking to boost your digital confidence or setting up a new device, digital support is available from our dedicated team of staff and volunteers who are on hand to support **your** digital needs.

Do you consider yourself tech savvy and want to give back to your community? Why not use your skills to **volunteer with us!** Contact Louise Fletcher, Digital Equity Navigator at [louise@grcc.org.uk](mailto:louise@grcc.org.uk) or call 01452 528491.

### **CONTACT THE COUNTYWIDE HOTLINE**

Our digital triage service is your first stop for any tech troubles you might face. It's designed to quickly assess your needs and guide you to the right support, whether you're dealing with a device hiccup or just need a bit of digital advice. This service is all about saving you time and reducing stress, so you can enjoy a smoother, more confident digital experience.



**Call or text us today on 07469 583395**  
 or email [digital@grcc.org.uk](mailto:digital@grcc.org.uk)





### **JASON SPINNEY - DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGY SOCIAL PRESCRIBING LINK WORKER (NORTH COTSWOLDS)**

Jason Spinney is a Social Prescribing Link Worker in the North Cotswolds, specialising in addressing clinical digital needs. Jason helps individuals navigate digital healthcare by connecting them with online health services such as the NHS APP, digital resources, accessible technology and offering tailored support.

**Jason works alongside all North Cotswolds GP surgeries, so you can contact your GP surgery for more information or contact Jason directly on 07707 281803 or [jason.spinney1@nhs.net](mailto:jason.spinney1@nhs.net).**

**Want to share this information with a team or client? Email us today at [digital@grcc.org.uk](mailto:digital@grcc.org.uk) for your copy of the North Cotswolds Leaflet!**

## **Our Local Digital Drop ins:**

**Ebrington Village Hall**, Hidcote Road, Ebrington, GL55 6NA. The last Saturday of the month, 11 am - 12.15 pm.

**Bourton on the Water**, George Moore Community Centre, Moore Road, Bourton on the Water, GL54 2AZ. Every Tuesday, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.

**Stow-on-the-Wold**, Stow Surgery, Maugersbury Park, Stow-on-the-Wold, Cheltenham GL54 1AX. The First Tuesday of the month, 9am -11:30am.

**Jameson Court Community Club**, Jameson Court, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 0EW. 2nd, 3rd and 4th Monday of the month, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.



For more information about any of these groups, please contact us today on 01452 528491 or email [digital@grcc.org.uk](mailto:digital@grcc.org.uk)



# Local Digital Support Group

We can help you with:



NHS app support



Information on scams and staying safe online



Accessing and organising your emails



Keeping in touch with friends and family through your device



Accessing the internet

All FREE to attend!

Our Local Digital Drop ins:

**The Old School, Highnam** Community Centre Trust, Newent Road, Highnam, Gloucester, GL2 8DG. Bi-weekly on Fridays from 12:30 pm - 2 pm.

**Tewkesbury Baptist Church**, Station Road, Tewkesbury GL20 5DR. Every Wednesday from 10 am - 12 pm.

**Shurdington Church Hall**, School Ln, Shurdington, Cheltenham GL51 4TF. Every 3rd Monday of the Month from 9 am - 10:30 am.

**Gotherington Old Chapel**, Gretton Road, Gotherington, Cheltenham GL52 9EP. The third Tuesday of every month from 4-6pm.



For more information about any of these groups, please contact us today on 01452 528491 or email [digital@grcc.org.uk](mailto:digital@grcc.org.uk)



Community  
Action in  
Gloucestershire



# FREE Local Digital Support

## Forest of Dean:

**Forest Sensory Services**, Forge Centre, Foxes Bridge Road, Cinderford, GL14 2LJ. On the first Monday of every month, starting on 7<sup>th</sup> July, from 10 am.

**Newent Sharing kitchen**, Newent Memorial Hall, Bury Bar Lane, Newent, GL18 1PT. Every Thursday from 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm.

**Upcoming** in **Lydney** and **Sedbury**, as a part of the **See Me** project.

**Gloucester:** 4 closed sessions are currently running with more upcoming . Please contact us for more details.

**Cheltenham:** Coming soon! Please contact us for more details.

## South Cotswolds:

**Fairford Community Centre**, High St, Fairford GL7 4AF. Every Tuesday at 10am - 11am and Every Wednesday at 10.30am - 12pm

**Lechlade Baptist Church**, Sherborne St, Lechdale GL7 3AW. Every Thursday at 10.30am - 12pm noon (during Talking Café). Support through our partners **Etcher CIC** in the Cirencester area.

## Stroud:

Working with local partners, to get the local support individuals have asked for and say they need. Ask for details



WE WANT YOU!

# Are you confident using Computers & Mobile Phones? Could you help others?

We are looking for volunteers across Gloucestershire to support people with the use of their devices such as smart phones, tablets and laptops!

## Support your community whilst:

- Trying something new
- Being part of a team
- Using your knowledge and skills to help others
- Making a real difference to people's lives



We are looking for Volunteers to support the running of Local Digital Support groups in **Tewkesbury Borough, Stroud, South Cotswolds, the Forest of Dean and the North Cotswolds!**

If you, or someone you know, is local to these areas or willing to travel, please email [digital@grcc.org.uk](mailto:digital@grcc.org.uk) or call us on 07469 583395.

We are also looking for a volunteer with creative flair to make new and relevant resources to support young people. We are looking at topics such as how to stay safe online and on social media. There is flexibility in this role to be remote, and an opportunity to co-produce these resources with young people through our partner connections!

If you or your organisation would like to be part of the conversation please contact us at [digital@grcc.org.uk](mailto:digital@grcc.org.uk).



@daisi\_project