



Spring Newsletter 2016

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Welcome from Arwyn Jones, Chair of the Network Board

A very warm welcome to the Spring edition of the Karten Network newsletter. As I write this the latest hail shower is hammering against the windows – but that’s good sign as summer is on its way - isn’t it ? We can but hope!

The last few months have seen significant changes in the leadership and management of the Network, and I wanted to take this opportunity to outline some thoughts for the future development of the Network.

Previous notifications to the Network members have confirmed that Dawn Green has been appointed as Network Development Co-ordinator to succeed Ceri – a tall order but one I’m sure Dawn will rise to. In addition, myself and Rohan Slaughter were appointed as Chair and Vice Chair respectively by the Network Board. I am happy to confirm that the Trustees of the Ian Karten Charitable Trust have agreed to the continuation of Martin Pistorius’ work on mobile technology and website developments.

The Karten Network was founded upon Ian Kartens’ passionate belief that technology, appropriately developed and used, can make life changing differences and improvements to the quality of life of people living with a range of disabilities. So much so that for many their personal and professional ambitions have been achieved in a way that has been transformational.

The pace of technology development seems to accelerate almost weekly, and many of you will know that this year seems to be the one in which Virtual and Augmented Reality (VR / AR) have arrived in a big way. There are examples already of how this type of technology is helping people with dementia, physical rehabilitation needs and even helping reduce the effects of some sight loss conditions. I know more applications already exist and many more will be developed.

The pace of development and solutions will only quicken, and I feel it is important that we develop the Network in a way that keeps pace with the opportunities these technologies offer our members and their service users.

Over the next twelve months in particular Dawn will be spending a lot of time visiting Centres, looking at how Karten funded equipment is being used, and listening to the ideas and innovations that abound. At the same time we will be working to develop the resources available via the Karten Network website to support members, especially around the mobile resources that Martin that works on.

We will also implement some new innovations to engage Network members in different ways, ranging from the autumn regional events to improved use of on-line technology to involve Network members more regularly. As a technology network, we should make maximum use of it to create more and better two way communication with and across the Network.

Whilst we are clearly focussed on broadening the use of assistive and on-line technologies, we are not forgetting the importance of supporting Network members and their service users to stay safe when using the internet and on-line resources. We will build on the good work already done on this topic and make sure we give more prominence to good practice resources on the Network website in the coming months that can complement Network members own resources.

Whilst we have clear ambition to develop the Network from the brilliant work that has been done over the years, I and the Network Board are acutely aware of the financial challenges many Network members face, including the organisation I lead – Beacon Centre for the Blind. However whilst Karten cannot help with many of those challenges, the equipment and resources we can fund can make a demonstrable difference to Karten Centres and their service users, and it is vitally important that we document and share that positive impact. By doing so we are better able to argue for and encourage more investment in such resources from other sources that enhances the Karten investments. There are so many fantastic achievements out there as you will read from this edition of the newsletter and we need to showcase and celebrate many more of these.






The Karten Network team is optimistic about the future, encouraged by what we have achieved already, and we very much look forward to working with you as part of a mutually supportive Network in the future, making Ian's dream a reality for many years to come.




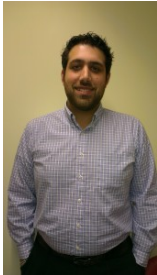

Arwyn Jones, Network Chair






Trustees of the Ian Karten Charitable Trust

<p>Tim Simon – Chair</p> 	<p>Angela Hobbs</p> 	<p>Dave Fullerton</p> 
<p>Anthony Davis</p> 	<p>Alexandra Davis</p> <p>Image unavailable</p>	<p>Ceri Hibbert</p> 

Directors of the Karten Network Board

<p>Arwyn Jones Chair</p> 	<p>Rohan Slaughter Vice Chair</p> 	<p>Christine Price</p> 
<p>Joel Elias</p> 	<p>Vic Myko</p> 	<p>Joe Cash</p> 
<p>Matthew Kayne</p>		<p>Image unavailable</p>

Other positions within the Karten Network

<p>Dawn Green</p> <p>Karten Network Development Co-ordinator</p>  <p>dawn@karten-network.org.uk</p>	<p>Debbie Ben-Tal</p> <p>Israeli Karten Network Development Co-ordinator</p>  <p>debbie@karten-network.org.uk</p>	<p>Martin Pistorius</p> <p>Mobile Technology Adviser</p>  <p>martin@karten-network.org.uk</p>
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Funding updates

In March 2016 the Trustees agreed funding at:

Linkage College's Toynton and Weelsby campuses, Lincolnshire – additional equipment funded to upgrade equipment in the existing Karten Centres

QAC Birmingham – additional equipment funded to develop a facility for students to learn about building PCs and networking

Victoria House, Hull – funding was agreed for a new Centre to provide services as part of the Disabilities Trust's Connectability Project.

Future funding applications

A reminder that Trustees meet to consider funding applications in March and September each year. The deadline for submission of September applications to Dawn (UK) or Debbie (Israel) is 15 July. Please ensure you let us know if you are planning on submitting an application, as this will give us the best opportunity to discuss your proposal and support you throughout the process.

News from our Centres

Mobile Technologies at Beaumont College

Fil McIntyre – Lead Assistive Technologist

In 2015 Beaumont College received funding from The Karten Trust to extend their provision of accessible mobile devices within the college. The hardware purchased included Apple iPads, Microsoft Surfaces and a range of mounting equipment. These devices are used in many ways, across various subject areas. Two are highlighted below:

iPads for Photography

Several groups are using photography for recording and interaction for students with very complex needs. Typically these students are wheelchair users and would struggle with using a standard camera. iPads are great for this group of learners due to the large screen on which to compose their photograph. Most of the learners are not able to hold the iPad, much less press the shutter button on screen at the same time. The students required the iPads to be mounted in a position that they could see the screen well and to use an access switch to activate the shutter.

Mounting

Previously we had issues mounting iPads successfully as the mounting systems available required the iPad out of a case so it could be clipped in. For obvious reasons all of our iPads are in cases and these cases are very difficult to remove (anyone who has ever used a Survivor case will testify to this!). As part of the Karten funding we sourced a system made by RAM (pictured) which is designed to hold a wide range of tablets. This attaches to a Manfrotto arm and clamp which can be secured in an appropriate position. This mounting system has proved so useful that we have since purchased three more.

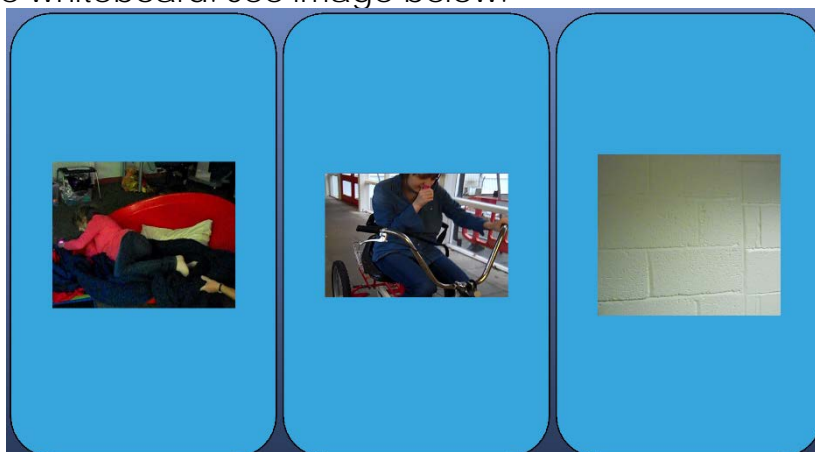
Switch Access

To enable the students who cannot reach the shutter button to access the camera an access switch is connected to the iPad. There are many ways to do this, mostly involving connecting a Bluetooth adapter. We decided to move away from the Bluetooth adapters as they add an extra level of complexity for staff – for example if the connection is lost. The switch adapter we use is called the Tapio and plugs into the lightning port on the iPad. The end result is the same though and enables any on-screen button normally tapped with a finger to be activated with a switch. The switch can then be positioned wherever is suitable for the student – wheelchair tray, knee, headrest etc.



Surface Tablets and The Grid 2 Software

We have previously had great success with hard to engage students, by enabling them to activate videos of favoured activities. To enable a choice of videos we used The Grid 2 software so that a choice of videos could be presented to the student and then played by touching the appropriate cell on the grid. Typically the student accessed this through a large touch-screen or interactive whiteboard. See image below.



One tutor wanted to make this activity more portable and the Surface tablet was the ideal solution as standard Windows software can be installed on it (in this case the Grid 2). The setup replicated the video choice described above, but the user was no longer tethered to a particular computer, or even a particular room. It has even been used successfully outdoors – though this can be tricky on bright days.

We are using the Surface Pro 3s and for most uses the volume is perfectly loud enough and the touchscreen is very responsive. We also managed to source a case at a reasonable cost in the Kensington Backbelt (some Surface cases can be over £50).

One disadvantage of the Surface as a tablet is that it can't be fully enclosed in a case as the iPad can. Whilst this places some limits on its usage there are situations where we require windows software to be used rather than iPad apps and the Surface lends itself to these situations.

Useful links

RAM iPad mount - <http://www.inclusive.co.uk/adjustable-ipad-cradle-mount-p6676>

Manfrotto arm - <http://www.inclusive.co.uk/universal-switch-mountings-p2617>

Tapio switch adapter - <http://www.liberator.co.uk/tapio-switch-interface.html>

The Grid 2 software - <https://thinksmartbox.com/>

Surface Pro 3 - <https://www.microsoft.com/surface/en-gb/devices/surface-pro-3>

Kensington Blackbelt Cases -

<http://www.kensington.com/en/gb/4463/k97416ww/blackbelt-1st-degree-rugged-case-for-surface-pro-3-black>

Fife Society for the Blind



- Do you play games on a console, computer or a smartphone or tablet?
- Are there any games you have difficulty with or find challenging due to accessibility issues?
- Would you like more games to be made accessible to people with a



- visual impairment?
- Would you like to discuss your gaming experiences?

If any of these questions apply, join MonkeyGaming!

What is MonkeyGaming?

Last year Fife Society for the Blind launched MonkeyGaming - a network of blind and partially sighted people in Scotland. We want to influence the gaming design industry to make more games accessible to blind and partially sighted people. We believe that people with sight loss should be able to engage fully with immersive, game play experiences, just like our sighted friends. We are achieving this by building a dedicated gaming channel through an audio platform called "Audioboom". Audioboom is the world's largest platform for hosting audio content and material. The channel is gathering followers and contributors who can contribute and share their gaming knowledge and experiences. This channel should also provide an effective platform to bring games which are currently accessible to a wider audience. We are currently providing a series of audio podcasts about our experiences of playing main stream as well as online and audio games. The podcasts are also about our experiences of beta testing games under development.

How to listen to our podcasts

To listen to our podcasts, visit www.audioboom.com or download the audioboom app to your smart phone or tablet and then search for MonkeyGamingFSB.

We also have a YouTube channel which currently hosts the podcasts we have created. We are hoping to use YouTube for video content in the future, however, our main focus at present is working on podcasts through our dedicated audioboom channel.

Social media

Get in touch through Facebook and Twitter.

FaceBook: MonkeyGamingFSB.

Twitter: @MonkeyGamingFSB.

Or, if you would like to know more about MonkeyGaming please do not hesitate to get in touch with Stuart Beveridge.

Tel: 01592 644979

Email: stuart.beveridge@fifesociety.com

Stuart, who is registered blind, is able to create podcasts for MonkeyGaming thanks to software and equipment purchased through Karten Funding.



A meeting of religions and cultures at our Karten CTEC for People with Deaf-Blindness

A devout Moslem Arab-Israeli, a secular Christian Arab-Israeli and a haredi (ultra-Orthodox) Jewish woman, all with the dual disability of deaf-blindness, meet and learn from each other every week at our Karten CTEC in Tel Aviv, Israel.

The devout Moslem is F, who comes from an Arab village in Northern Israel. She is blind from birth and hard of hearing, lives with her mother and tended to stay at home. The plan is for her to learn computer skills and tactile sign language at our CTEC in Tel Aviv, and eventually, as she becomes more empowered, to learn to teach Braille.

The second woman, M, a secular Christian, is hard of hearing and profoundly visually impaired. Years ago she fled with her husband, a former SLA officer (Southern Lebanese Army), and family from Lebanon to Northern Israel, where they were taken in as refugees in a Jewish town, and to this day prefers to teach in Tel Aviv as she is afraid to enter Arab villages. M is a

registered nurse who speaks several languages, an energetic, empowering woman who is an expert on the use of the Braille computer programs. She is very excited about learning tactile sign language and teaching profoundly deaf-blind students. F is her first student, and as she says, "patience and respect are particularly important because both of us have the dual disability of deaf-blindness. I just keep trying and we both rejoice at her successes. I want her to learn to be like me, to learn and eventually to teach others and set an example. I have 3 children and ... I can still live a full life and so can they."

M teaches F vital computer skills at the CTEC for three hours, with the help of our FM system. Then they are joined by S, a haredi (ultra-Orthodox) woman from Jerusalem and trained ISL (Israeli Sign Language) instructor, who teaches them both tactile sign language. S has Usher Syndrome, a genetic condition due to which she is deaf and gradually losing her vision.

In many ways these three women have become a source of strength and inspiration for each other, as they learn that despite the differences in terms of religion, culture and upbringing, they actually have a lot in common. For example, each tries to use what little hearing or vision they have to the fullest. They freely discuss sensitive topics such as using a cane, cochlear implants, getting out and about – in both practical and emotional terms. M teaches them all to be self-advocates, not to give up and surrender to the difficulties they face.



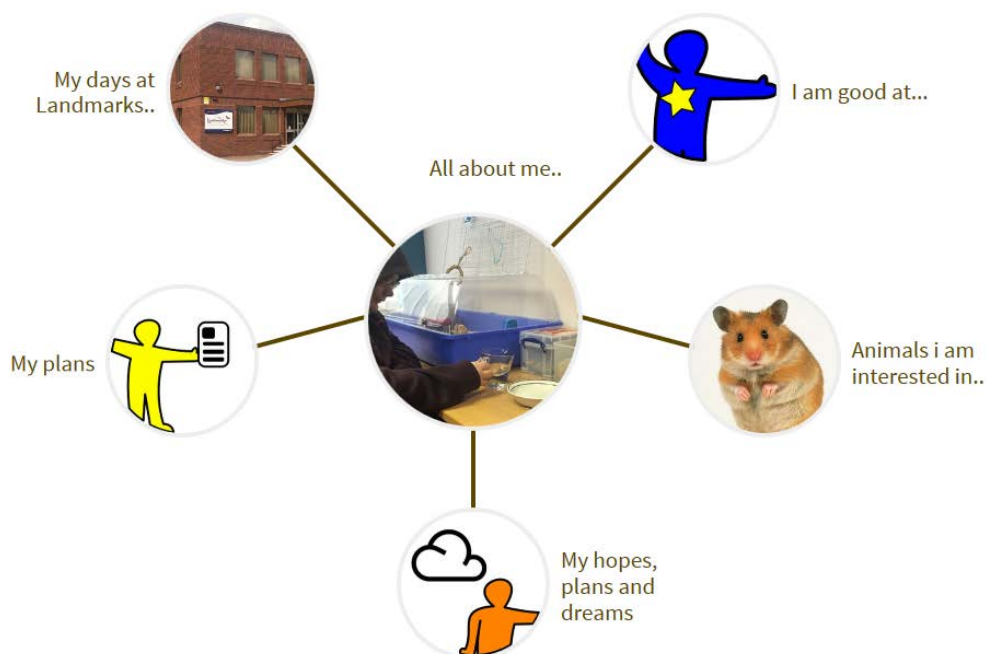
Developing Wikis at Landmarks Specialist College

At Landmarks College we have 5 learners who are using Wikis to create multimedia person-centred plans that use pictures, word, video and sound to capture the voice, skills, aspirations and needs of the individual.

With the iPads we received from the Karten funding, we are now able to provide our group of Life Skills learners with individualised iPads that they are able to access their Wiki website on.

Here is an example of one of the home screens from one of our learner's wikis.

You can add information a



Wikis are great because they don't stay at college. Learners have full access to their website out of college and can take it with them when they leave college. It can also be a great resource for people to read to get to know the learner e.g. new College staff or employer.

User Led IT Training At Hedley's Able2



Richard Hunter has devised an IT training package which he delivers at Hedley's Able2 to staff and service users with varying levels of IT experience.

Richard works alongside each learner and provides coaching and practical guidance on different aspects of technology including a basic introduction to using IT.

He has incorporated tips on purchasing equipment and software and online safety and security. Richard enjoyed devising the promotional materials for the course and creating and presenting the training package. He hopes to build on this in the future and share the training with a wider audience.

Introduction of Clicker6 at Portland College

In October 2015 we decided to purchase a site licence for Clicker6 to support learners with literacy and access to ICT. For those who are not familiar with Clicker6 it is a piece of computer software which has been around for many years that enables learners of any age and ability to practise and develop their literacy skills through a variety of activities as well as being a word processing software with additional support. As well as a resource bank of Clicker set activities you are also able to quickly and easily customise or make your own activities. The word processor enables learners to have prediction support which can be personalised to suit the individual support a learner needs as well as picture support from either the clicker set pictures or by inserting your own picture or symbol library.

In November 2015 we introduced Clicker6 to a small group of staff to enable them to get to know the software and learn the basics before rolling out to all. The initial response was one of intrigue into what the software could do, but also fear of learning a new piece of software when time is at a premium as a busy college tutor. After an initial training session where we demonstrated some of the possible uses for Clicker and showed some video demonstrations from the Clicker You Tube page staff were more on board and eager to try it out. The free resource area proved very popular as a starting point as staff were able to see what activities could be done and they began to think how they could adapt them for their learners.

In the following weeks and months I began using Clicker6 more and more with my learners. One learner is confident at using a computer for writing documents and using the internet but struggles due to his poor literacy skills. Now using Clicker6 he is able to use the predictor feature to support his spelling and give him suggestions of words to use. He is also able to listen to what he has typed to make sure it sounds correct. By listening to his word he is able to identify himself when a word is spelled incorrectly and use the spell checker to change it. He has also found this feature useful when needing to read text as he can copy and paste the text into Clicker6 and then listen to it rather than having to read it. I have seen a change in this learner's confidence when working independently and the work he is able to produce is of a higher standard than before.

In another case I had a learner with physical and learning disabilities who was very keen to use a computer but due to access issues and poor literacy skills he found this very difficult without 1-1 support. The learner now uses Clicker books to present his work. He is able to use a roller ball mouse and big keys keyboard to open up the software independently, open a clicker book

template and insert his own words and pictures into the book using the Clicker features. He then listens to what he has written and also uses picture and word banks to help him structure his sentences. The learner uses a communication aid and has had their Clicker software installed on this device also which means he is able to use the software in his own time as well as in sessions. It also means he can use the touch screen rather than a mouse and keyboard which he sometimes prefers as this access method is much easier for him.

I have also seen the benefit of using Clicker6 with a group of Pre-Entry learners who are working between milestones 4-7. When I was first asked to provide a session for these learners using Clicker I admit I was a little apprehensive. I decided following the topic they were doing of winter, I would produce some Clicker Matching and storytelling activities. The first session I am pleased to say was a great success! The learners were mostly very keen to participate using the smart board to match winter themed items such as snow, rain, coat, hat etc. Learners who would ordinarily be difficult to engage found using Clicker interactive and fun to use and participated with prompts and support from staff. In the following sessions the learners continued to enjoy using Clicker and, with support, modelling and prompts from staff, were able to participate in photograph taking, choice making and matching activities.

It is still early days in Portland's journey with Clicker6 but already we have seen the impact it can have for both individuals and groups of learners. Teaching and support staff are beginning to use the software more and more and with further training planned for the near future and a recent update to Clicker7 it is set to benefit more and more learners. Clicker has given learners with poor literacy and limited ICT skills the confidence and ability to work more independently and to take more ownership of reviewing and amending their own work. We have already seen the broad range of learners who can benefit from Clicker and are looking forward to continuing to learn and develop the use of the software within college.

Share Community proudly open the Ian and Mildred Karten Immersive Learning Centre

The immersive space was officially launched at Share's Open Day on 15th March 2016.

Tim Simon, chair of the Ian Karten Charitable Trust, and Natasha Wright, programme manager for science and medicine from the Wolfson Foundation, two of four joint funders for the project were present to cut the virtual ribbon to officially open the Ian and Mildred Karten Immersive Learning Centre.

Mr Simon commented "I was fortunate enough to be at the House of Lords in 2012 when Share launched the fundraising for its immersive learning space and privileged to be asked to 'cut the ribbon' at its opening. To say that it is impressive is an understatement; it is truly state of the art and it was wonderful to witness the enthusiasm of those who had already used it. Without doubt it will be a significant asset to all of Share's clients and the Karten Trust can be proud to have played a part."

Martin Pistorius, mobile technology advisor at Ian Karten Charitable Trust, who also attended the event, added "It was a privilege to be part of the wonderful launch of the Ian and Mildred Karten Immersive Learning Centre in London. It was encouraging to witness the passion and enthusiasm of the Share Community staff. Clearly, the Immersive Learning Centre will make a positive difference to the community."

The opening of the Centre represents a culmination of many years of fundraising and planning, so it was a real pleasure to see more than 80 guests at the launch, all of whom were able to see and experience the interactive digital space for themselves.



In addition to providing innovative learning for Share's students, the Centre is a valuable community resource, which is available for rent for meeting and training events.



As part of the Open Day, guests were able to learn more about our future plans, including our digital transformation strategy, of which the Immersive Learning Centre forms just one part, the implementation of our [Outcomes Star](#) to monitor each student's journey at Share and measure our impact, our new catering training programme [Yes Chef!](#) for young people who want to train and work in a food-related industry, and the steps we are taking to becoming an autism-accredited organisation.



The day was attended by professionals and carers who work with and care for disabled adults, as well as potential students, and our partners and supporters in the community. The Centre is jointly funded by the Ian Karten Charitable Trust, the Wolfson Foundation and the Beatrice Laing Trust, as well as a legacy left to Share by the late Mr John P Heron.

Check out more photos on [Share's Facebook Page](#).

Treloar College From pupil to employee – Rob’s story

Rob joined Treloar School as a pupil in 2009, and in 2011 moved to Treloar College to be a student in our Ian Karten Centre printing enterprise, where he completed a City & Guilds level 2 qualification in Business and Administration. He left the College in the summer of 2014 but his plans did not work out. As a result, he returned as our first ‘trainee’, partly funded by Farnborough College. This was a great success. During the course of his traineeship, Rob added a Presentation Software unit to his C&G NVQ Level 2 qualification, for which he developed an excellent on-screen presentation to provide visiting customers with an interactive price list on a free-standing touchscreen console in our reception area. He also prepared for and passed the exams for Functional Skills Maths and English at Level 1 and developed his employability skills and resources by attending some practice interview sessions, a work skills study training course, and he updated and improved his CV.

All this paid off, as our Head of College was so impressed with Rob’s progress and how well he had worked in TreloarPrint, our very popular and successful printing enterprise, it was agreed that we should draft a job description for a new salaried post – IKC Technical Assistant – which was advertised and open to any applicant. Rob applied, was interviewed and appointed. He started work in September 2015 and is proving to be a valuable and capable member of the team. He works from 9 to 4, Monday to Friday, and he lives in local supported accommodation. We are delighted that this new initiative is working so well and we are hoping to build on this, possibly with other similar roles such as reception services, estimating and supplies or perhaps promotion and marketing.

Rob is a highly skilled and capable employee, very knowledgeable about all of our machines and systems, adept with complex software, and able to communicate and instruct others clearly and effectively. We are proud to have been part of his journey from pupil to employee.

Below are some photos showing Rob carrying out his work in TreloarPrint.



Karten Network

Supporting organisations working with disabled people



(Left) Rob is showing a student how to control colour gradients using Adobe InDesign to produce new business stationery for a local plumbing and electrical supply company.

(Right) Rob is showing a visiting school 6th form student how some of the TreloarPrint systems work – in this case how to use the information from our Job Record spreadsheet to produce an invoice.



(Left) Rob is talking a student through how to use the photocopier to scan printed documents to create pdf files.

*Jerry Cullum, TreloarPrint Co-ordinator
The Ian Karten Centre, Treloar College
Alton, Hampshire GU34 4GL
01420 547424
print@treloar.org.uk
www.treloarprint.org.uk*

The Karten Project @ Vision North Somerset

Visually impaired people living in North Somerset are benefiting from a partnership between Action for Blind People and Vision North Somerset, which gives them an opportunity to learn IT skills.

IT provides many options for communication for blind and partially sighted people and this is demonstrated by the Action Technology Training Suite run by Scott Wood at Action for Blind People. Having identified a similar need in North Somerset Vision and Action got together to make it happen.

With funding from the Karten Trust an IT suite was set up at Vision's Centre in Weston super Mare. Desk top computers, iPads, iPhones, android tablets and phones all ready to go - but what about the expertise?

Over to Scott. "This has been a great partnership from the very beginning. Using the experience and lessons learned from the Bristol project we were able to recruit and train IT savvy volunteers to meet the needs of people in North Somerset."

Blind and partially sighted people are referred into the project from workers at Vision North Somerset. Scott undertakes an initial consultation to find out what they want to learn and to set realistic goals. At this point some people decide that IT is not for them, but it is important that they have had the chance to explore options.

"I would say that the 80% of people are interested in learning about mobile technology and we can show them how the built in accessibility features will work for them", says Scott.

The individual is teamed up with a Vision Volunteer and has 6-8 weeks of personal tuition geared to their needs. Several of the volunteers are visually impaired themselves and have considerable empathy with people wanting to join the world of IT.

Nina Farr, Vision's Rehabilitation Officer said "Our project is great for our service users and volunteers alike. One very satisfying achievement is matching a 16 year old youngster with a volunteer who was a former teacher. They had a great rapport and our star pupil was able to gain sufficient confidence and skills to take up a place at college."

The team have had to overcome the perception that IT is not suitable for visually impaired people, not to mention the cry that "I'm too old". One of



the greatest challenges is helping people to build up their confidence and believe in themselves.

In the first year of operation 49 people have enquired about learning and received an assessment. 22 people decided to give IT a try and are now competent in using touch screen technology, emailing, accessing the internet and more.

Our conventional computer users are keen to learn touch typing. Where possible we use free speech or magnification software. This keeps costs down for when people are looking to set up their own kit at home.

The Karten Project has been much more than simply learning about IT. People have become more confident, they have learnt more autonomy and independence. They can shop on line, do their on-line banking and keep in touch with family and friends – all of this is great for their self-esteem and we are proud to be a part of it.

All it takes is a chat with Scott!

Karten Network Development Co-ordinator's Update

Hello all! I am delighted to be compiling my very first Network Newsletter after just a couple of months in my new role. There are so many exciting things to share and I hope you enjoy reading about them!

I would like to thank you for your kindness, support and warm welcome. It has been the very best start I could have possibly hoped for. I was so fortunate to have a few weeks working alongside Ceri, and therefore benefited from a thorough handover from the resident expert!

I have already visited about 10 centres, all unique but all doing fabulous work for the people accessing their services. Without exception, a passion, commitment and sense of determination to achieve the very best outcomes possible has been evident in all of these centres. It is clear that there are significant challenges, and the achievements in the organisations I have visited are even more remarkable in the context of budget cuts and changes to commissioning which are impacting across the board, irrespective of the sources of funding income. There is no lack of creativity and innovation and we have so much to celebrate and share.



If I have not yet visited your Karten Centre, I apologise and promise I will get to you in due course. If you have something that you would like to draw to my attention or you would really like me to attend please contact me and I will do my very best to fit it into my schedule.

I hope you can see the sorts of exciting things that we have going on across the Network from the articles included in this Newsletter. Many thanks to those who have contributed. From Monkey Gaming to Wikis to Employment outcomes there is something of interest to us all.

Remember that you can use the jiscmail email address (kartennetwork@jiscmail.ac.uk) to send an email out to the members of the Network. You may want to share a great idea, ask a question, get some advice – with one email you get access to approximately 150 Network members. There is such a depth and breadth of knowledge across the Network that you are guaranteed a high quality response!

Current priorities for myself and Martin include Website development and increasing the Karten Network's social media presence. We will launch the new website in Autumn 2016, until then the current site will remain live. There are some really useful resources on the website including the resources from the 2015 Regional events and of course the Mobile Technology Resource. If you don't already like us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/KartenNetwork/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel) or follow us on Twitter (@kartennetwork) please could I encourage you to do so, and please ask your colleagues and service users to get involved too.

We have lots of ideas for how we think we should develop tools, resources and activities to further improve engagement across the Network. However, it is your Network and I would really love to hear your ideas so please email me and tell me the sorts of things that would be welcomed by your Centre. I am particularly interested in ideas which involve your service users or students. What do they want? How could they engage with peers in other organisations? Competitions, events, online forums I look forward to receiving your ideas soon.

For future newsletters I would like to move away from this format to an e-Newsletter. I wonder whether any centres have the capacity to design and develop the Newsletters. It could be great work experience for your service users. Let me know if you are interested in getting involved.

Most of the dates and venues have now been confirmed for the Autumn events – see below. However, I am still looking for a venue in the South West.

If you have the facilities to accommodate up to about 30 delegates for a day's event (10.00 – 15.00) please contact me. There is flexibility around the date, the event will be scheduled for mid-October to mid-November.

Goodbye and thank you from Ceri

I was very touched by all the kind words, cards and gifts on my retirement. It was so kind of you all, and meant an enormous amount to me. Thank you so very much. It has been a real privilege to work with you all.

Retirement is very different! I keep thinking I should be doing something of more value - I asked a retired friend recently whether retirement really meant that you just enjoyed yourself for the rest of your life! But I am busy - we moved house just before Christmas, so the garden has been a high priority for me. I am also a Governor of a local special school, secretary of the choral society I sing in, and also of my quilt group, and this week have my training to be a registrar. So look out if you're planning to get married in Herefordshire - I may be officiating at your wedding! And of course, I have become a Trustee of the Ian Karten Charitable Trust, so will continue to be involved in the Network.

So thank you all again, and I wish you continued success in your ventures.





Dates for your diary

15 July 2016 deadline for funding applications to be received by Dawn or Debbie.

Autumn events 2016

19 October 2016	Percy Hedley	North East
2 November 2016	QAC	Midlands
10 November 2016	Newbridge	North West
17 November 2016	Share Community	London
To be confirmed		South West

Centres located in the South West if you can offer to host an event please contact Dawn to discuss further.

Keeping in touch

You can keep up to date with the activities of the Karten Network in a number of ways:

Karten Network website – www.karten-network.org.uk

Jiscmail - are you signed up to the jiscmail distribution list? Let Dawn know if you would like any other members of staff adding to this email group

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter – search for Karten Network

Contact us

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