

## Regained Confidence and Purpose For Engineer Following Health Problems

An engineer whose life was limited by serious health problems has been able to regain confidence and make a significant contribution to the local community after experiencing the virtual world through the 3DNovations Digital Highways programme from Hao2.



As an army engineer and, later, a designer and installer of assistive equipment for disabled people, Robert Lewis has made a difference to the way people work and live. However, his ability to use his creative and engineering skills was limited by serious health conditions, making it impossible for him to do the things he previously did and removing much of what made him who he was.

When the Digital Highways pilot project was introduced at the Coleshill Centre in Llanelli, by local social enterprise Ynghyd, Robert jumped at the chance to take part and help others to experience the benefits of the virtual world. "Digital Highways has given me new ways of meeting new people, and the chance to set the classroom up and help other students in their work". Having gained the PTLLS teaching qualification a year before, Robert was ideally placed to help them to achieve their City & Guilds accredited qualification.

In less than 3 months, Robert has created a "Treasure Island" of content for personal development, creative expression and relaxation, as well as a range of work-related content like a 3D Supermarket which Robert plans to use to help people improve their confidence and skills for work, in areas such as managing money and living independently. Thanks to the 3DNovations Digital Highways project, Robert is able to "build objects I never dreamed I would be able to build", and create 3D content and scenarios to support his professional goals as a volunteer IT tutor, as well as to explore his own creativity.

