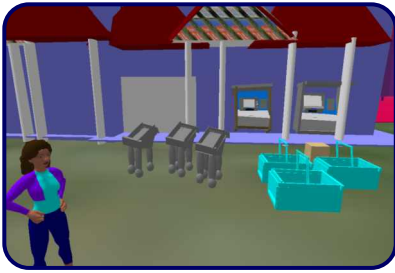


# Don't just take our word for it...



Sarah, 28, has a processing disorder and was invited to participate in *3DConnections for Work*. The course appealed to her because it's designed to build confidence, employability and IT skills and done online. On the 12 week course, she learned IT skills in 3D environments, including how to build 3D shapes and objects. The course helped her confidence, and helped her develop skills such as delivering presentations. She attended several job interviews, and

secured a paid job at the Stratford Athletes Village (Olympics 2012). This was a major achievement for Sarah and she returned to give a presentation to 18 learners and staff on this unique opportunity.

Sarah cites the following as her key achievements: building a virtual supermarket, a house and creating her version of the Olympics Athletes Village; learning how to take criticism to improve her skills more. When she is at interviews: *"One of the first things they ask me is can you please tell me about Hao2.eu!"* Since her course, *"life is getting better. I've attended more interviews and more employers are taking an interest."* Her involvement with Hao2 and Autus has helped her interact with many different people. She is now a member of a peer support group as part of the *Getsetgo!* project, a platform for young people to work together to reach their goals. She volunteers for a North West London hospice and hopes to find work in admin, and eventually work as a PA. What did she think about her experience? *"It is a gateway to gain experience and helps employers take an interest in your CV. It has been good for my career".*

Simon, 47, has been a self-employed writer, journalist and graphic designer for most of his life, but he has been plagued with health problems several times in his working life since being diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 1999. He has worked in several creative media such as comics, theatre and screen writing, and has concentrated on marketing and promotion in the past. He suffered a major depression in mid 2012 and had to stop working due to this condition. Simon enrolled in Digital Highways, *"because it seemed a very creative way that would give me the chance to work therapeutically in a new medium – the 3D virtual world – and help me gain new skills. The course structure and evidence gathering was comprehensive and I was given full and friendly support by the tutors."*



Over the duration of the course, Simon created a 3D hub for a new company he has planned, and has plans to build a virtual 'town' with 3D premises that represents commercial partners and clients. He also has helped to build a virtual counterpart to one of our Digital Access Points in South Wales. Thanks to Digital Highways, *"I've overcome many of the effects of depression, including a lack of confidence and low self-esteem. It's also great to have been introduced to a new creative medium that I enjoy."*



Steven, 25, has Asperger's Syndrome. When asked to describe his struggles prior to Hao2, he said: *"myself, and identity, and what I wanted to do with society"*. He was home-educated by his mother, and many of his struggles involved people, relationships, stress and fears. He likes life to be predictable, causing difficulties when things did not go as expected.

Steven discovered Hao2 through his social worker and began our *3DConnections for Work* course in 2012, which exposed him to aspects of work and development of vocational skills. A year later, Steven applied for a paid job with Hao2. He was successful and began a 6 month supported employment role where he could use his 3D modelling skills. He designed buildings like offices, banks and supermarkets. He felt *"really understood"* and *"adjusted very quickly"*. Steven gained new skills in design and is more confident about his creativity, feeling that he has proven his talent. He has more confidence in real life, and, after his supported employment contract was complete, he progressed to our *Digital Highways* course, where he is now working to a *City & Guilds Level 2 Qualification in Employability & Personal Development*. Steven hopes that this qualification will enable him to secure further employment.



Robert Lewis has built some amazing things that have made a huge difference to other people's lives. He was an army engineer and a designer/installer of assistive equipment for disabled people. But his ability to use his creative and engineering skills was limited by serious health conditions, making it impossible for him to do the activities he previously did.

For Robert, Digital Highways *"has given me new ways for meeting new people, and the chance to set the classroom up and help other students in their work"* - as other trainees worked on the course 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 the *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 Digital Highways, 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 PTTLs-qualified volunteer IT tutor, as well as to explore his own creativity!

**We've got more success stories for you. Just get in touch and we'll send you some!**