



Gerry Thornton was previously Vice President of risk and reinsurance firm Guy Carpenter. After working at the company since 1977, he was made redundant in late 2008 and used the opportunity to set up his own IT training company, www.icomputeit.co.uk. He shares his experiences of life after redundancy.

“When I was made redundant in September, I thought what could I do now? I’m pretty positive about life anyway, and I thought that this gives me the opportunity to do something a little bit different. As a Business Analyst I’d been training people in bespoke IT systems for a number of years, so I thought that what I’d like to do is to be able to offer computer training for people over 50. I didn’t want to create just another ordinary computer training company; I want to create one with a difference. So I created a community interest company, which is a social enterprise, and the idea is that if the company makes a profit at the end of the year, the profits are ploughed back to the benefit of the community in some way. When I was made redundant my company fortunately provided me outplacement services from Penna. They put me in touch with a coach called Sue Duncan who has experience of social enterprises, so she has helped me tremendously in giving me ideas of who to contact, and funding avenues. We talk

on the phone about once a month when I’ll run a few ideas past her and she’ll make suggestions.

If you are fortunate enough as I was to have outplacement support, it doesn’t have to mean that you go back into a similar job. There are opportunities out there, and it just means talking to the right people, perhaps to retrain or to just make the best out of the situation.