“Building Connections: Enhancing Engagement in the HPC Community”

Zara Birch
NI - HPC Northern Ireland High Performance Computing

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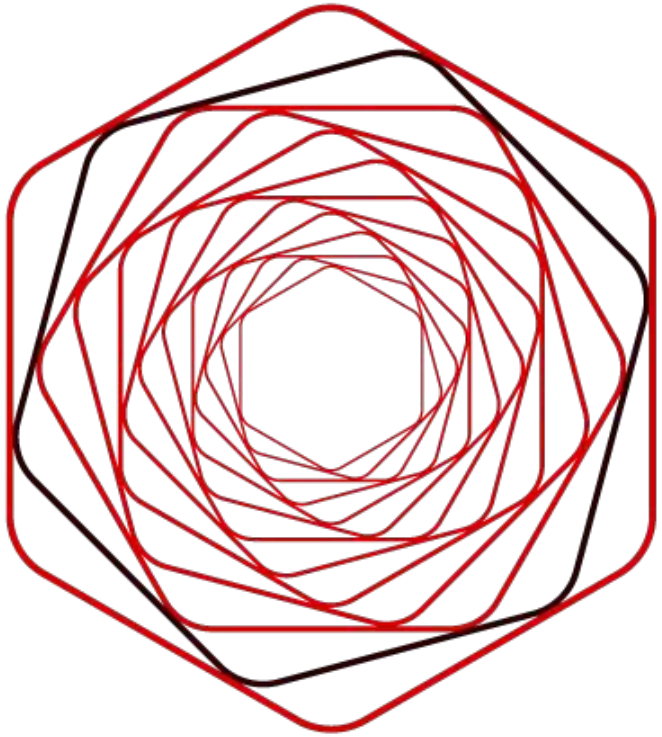

NI-HPC

NORTHERN IRELAND HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING

Ulster University

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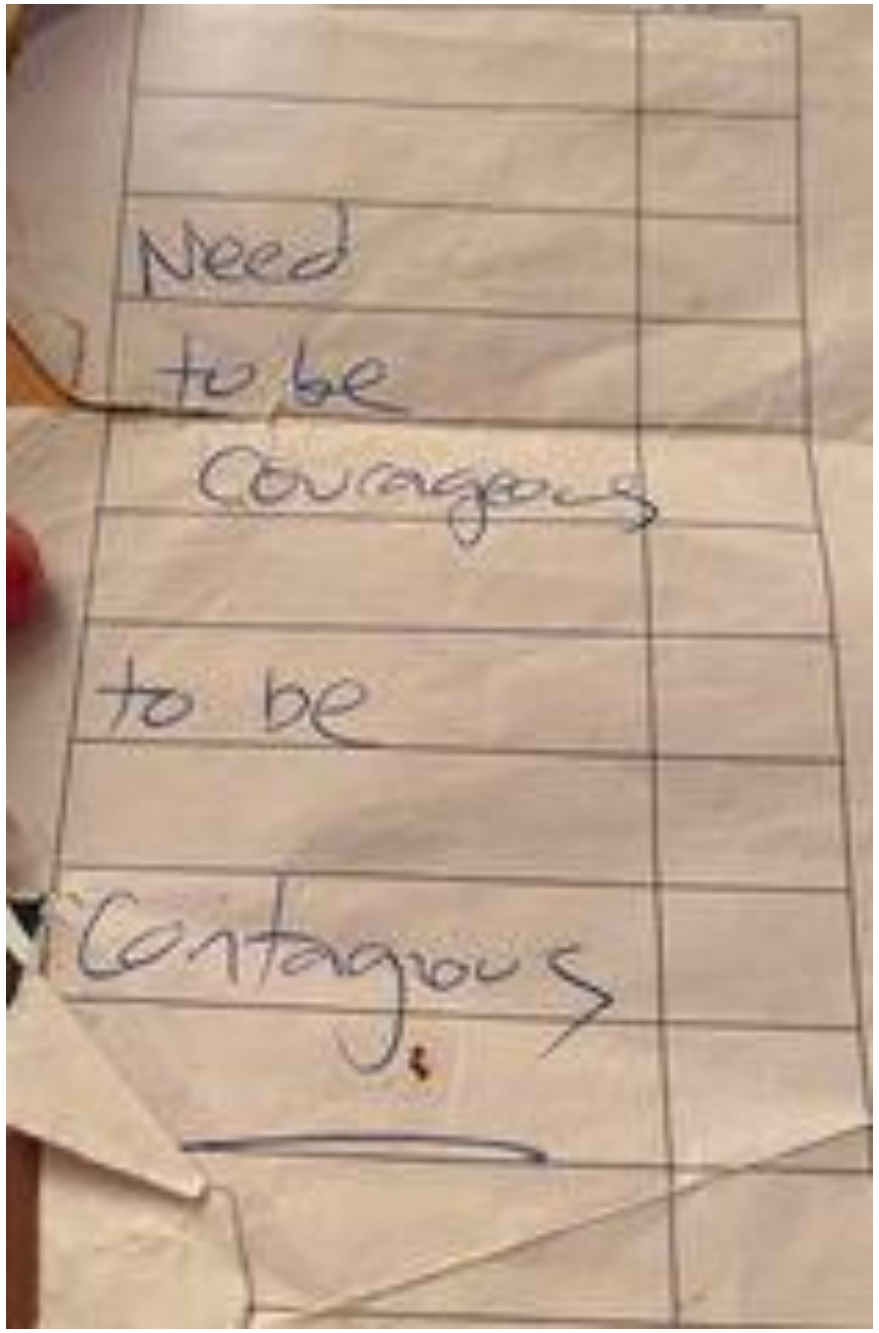
Building Connections: Enhancing Engagement in the HPC Community

Zara Birch

Engagement Lead NI-HPC

25 September 2024



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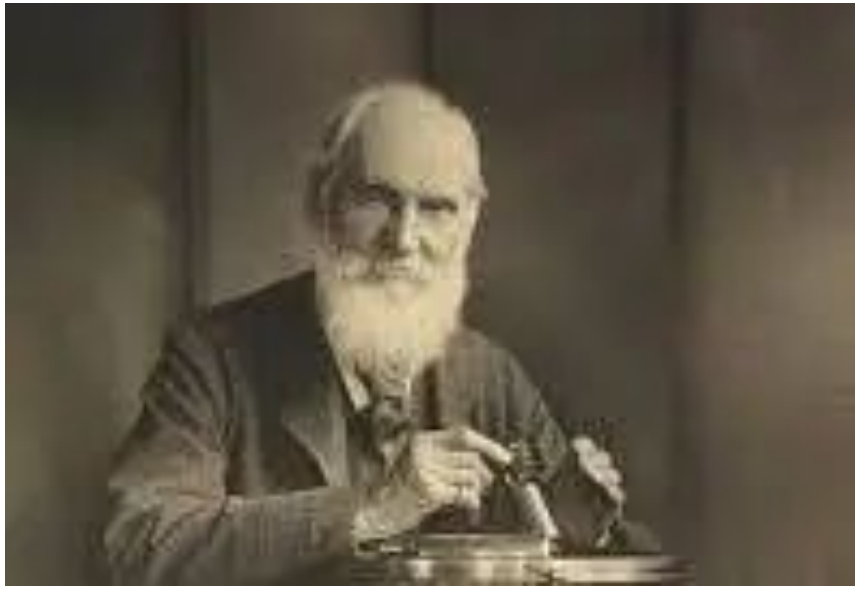
CONTEXT



- UK Tier-2 National HPC
- Funded in 2019 by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), jointly managed by Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University.
- Hosts the Kelvin-2 HPC system (first and only Tier 2 in NI)
- Team 2-11
- Communications/engagement managed by team on an ad-hoc basis

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COMMUNICATION/ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- Increase awareness of HPC resource among key stakeholders
- Increase number of users
- Inform and engage PG researchers
- Facilitate collaboration
- Promote case studies that demonstrate impact
- Enhance HPC community

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CHALLENGES

New role

Ad hoc comms

No channels

No long-term strategy

Funding allocation-hours

New world

Dislocated networks

Too many opportunities

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STRATEGIES FOR COLLABORATION

Quick wins

- Comms strategy
- Website
- Template for comms
- Socials content
- Relationship building

Things that helped

- Team
- Comms roles
- Networks
- Research
- Socials
- Trust – write your own role

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FUTURE DIRECTION

- NI-HPC user conference
- WHPC Chapter
- Embedded within research in schools
- New website and video
- Regular social networking
- Comms briefing for staff
- Newsletter
- Events calendar roll out

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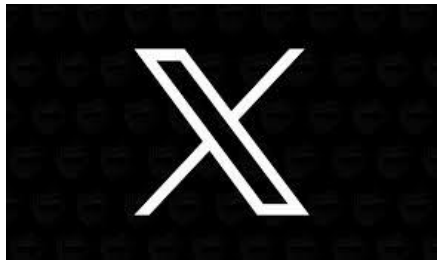
Get in touch!



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