

## Happy New Year



**Dear Learner**

*It was great to see so many of you make it through the ice and snow before Christmas. It demonstrated just how much you appreciate your classes and want to attend whenever possible.*

*I'm pleased to say attendance rates are generally very good which contributes to your excellent success rates. Last year, these were better than ever and outstanding in some subjects. Long courses were 13% above the minimum standard expected nationally and short courses were 15% above.*

*In addition to success rates, the Service has made great strides on improving its environment with the introduction of the Green plan – you'll see the signs of this in the green bins for recycling which have suddenly appeared!*

*For this term, I would like to encourage you to take an active part in the life of the Service by joining the Learners' Council. The Council represents the learners' voice which I always like to hear. Ask your tutor or reception about it. You can also let us know your views through the Framework for Excellence questionnaires, out soon.*

*Finally, I look forward to seeing many of you, individually or in groups, put forward for awards in Adult Learners' Week. The standard of your work and the efforts you make to achieve your learning goals always deserves recognition.*

Chris Parsons

**Welcome to the New Website: [www.aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk](http://www.aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk)**



- **Up to date News**
- **Easier to find information in a clear and structured way separated into specific areas**
- **Events**
- **Photo Galleries**
- **Video**
- **Search Courses**
- **Facebook / Twitter / Youtube connectivity**
- **RSS Feeds**

**Our new website is easier to navigate, with more up to date information that allows greater interaction with the public.**

The new website includes a number of new features including up to date stories, news and press releases and all the latest media from the different departments including photographs and videos of events, students' work and general views of the Service. It is now possible to search for all the latest courses within the website.

You can now keep up to date by the use of Real Simple Syndication feeds (RSS) that can be accessed directly from your (internet) mobile phones.

Also included are all the latest Social networking websites such as Twitter, Facebook and Youtube. These are three new ways you can connect to and stay in contact with the Service for live up to date information.

**Wolverhampton Adult Education Service**

## Keeping Safe

Safeguarding our learners is vitally important to us at Wolverhampton Adult Education Service and we are committed to being proactive in the promotion of the safety and welfare of our learners, staff and visitor population.

Safeguarding means:

- Promoting of your health and development
- Ensuring your safety and care
- Ensuring you are offered the best life chances
- Protecting you from abuse and neglect
- Preventing bullying and harassment.

If you, as a learner with the Service, have any concern about your wellbeing, safety or rights, then you should either talk to your tutor or contact one of our two Designated Safeguarding Officers:



**Suzie Lowe**

01902 556387, 07584491261

[suzie.lowe@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:suzie.lowe@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk)

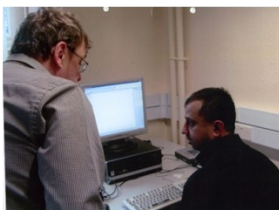
**Alison Farrell**

01902 556716, 07584491262

[alison.farrell@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:alison.farrell@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk)

**Your worries will be taken seriously and we will ensure discretion.**

## Visually Impaired Provision



During the past 3 years, six learners have achieved Entry level qualifications, seven level 1 and two have completed full level 2 qualifications. One of the learners has now progressed to become an employee and works as an additional support worker in the class.

In September 2008, Braille classes were also started to complement the ICT classes so that learners could learn to read Braille exercises and so make learning more independent. This has also enabled learners to join other classes such as cookery where they can use these skills to create Braille shopping lists and recipe instructions.

In July 2008, the Adult Education Service won a bid for funding from NIACE which allowed us to replace old ICT equipment and also invest in new technology such as scanners, up-to-date JAWS software and plectalk machines which provide portable access to digital information from CDs or pen drives, again making learning for the visually impaired more enjoyable and accessible.

Jim Wright said, "Some four or five years ago I decided to increase my level of self dependency and so embarked upon an ECDL course of seven modules. This has allowed me to write letters, perform and record financial data, surf the internet, send and receive email, together with downloading music and listening to radio programmes etc. My level of independence has increased greatly through the help and guidance resulting from this Adult Education Service course, but of course you need competent and highly skilled people to explain and teach the material to you.

"I look forward to the course continuing and flourishing so that many more blind and visually impaired persons will be able to enjoy the same computer skills as those afforded to sighted people. As for me I look forward to continuing with more advanced material and getting to grips with Windows 7 and MS office 2007/2010."

The Wolverhampton Adult Education Service remains committed to supporting learners who are visually impaired with ICT provision for 2010/2011. This provision has now made the move to The Maltings building which is fully DDA compliant, allowing visually impaired learners with multiple disabilities to attend.

### The skills include:

- Building confidence
- Accessing news and information via the Internet
- Communicating with friends and relatives via email
- Learning to use screen reading software which helps to develop independence through reading and writing their own mail
- Gaining employability skills and qualifications

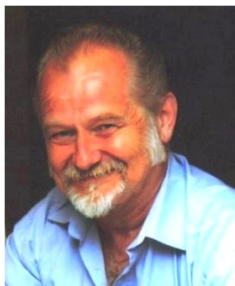


### Award winning provision

Wulfruna  
Award for  
Outstanding  
Provision

## A Tribute to Keith Farley

My friend Keith Farley spent his early childhood on Underhill Estate, Wolverhampton and attended its local primary school. His parents were thrilled when he was awarded a place at the Wolverhampton Grammar school but he always removed his school cap and tie well before reaching home territory for security reasons. His new school badge held no kudos amongst the other lads on the estate!



Before joining the Grammar School he had his musical 'road to Damascus' moment on hearing Elvis Presley for the first time and that love of popular music remained a huge part of his life. Perhaps only those who were young in those dull post-war years can appreciate the impact that American Rock and Roll had at that time.

You could not fail to notice Keith in class with his tight, wrinkled trousers, winkle picker shoes and his mop of blond hair, swept back in Billy Fury style. He was often a rebel and that edginess remained part of his personality.

In our 6<sup>th</sup> Form days we went on trips to Birmingham Town Hall to see some of the first rock concerts starring the greats such as Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, Gene Vincent and Chuck Berry.

After graduating from Leicester University, Keith quickly established himself as a gifted history teacher with the ability to bring his subject alive and motivate children of all abilities. In time he became a Head of Department and History Advisor for Wolverhampton schools.

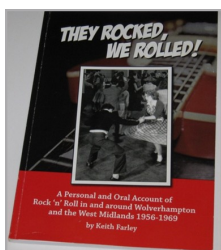
In later years he moved into Adult Education where he continued to inspire students at all levels. He was a founder member and first Chairman of the local History and Heritage Society and enjoyed researching his infamous quizzes.

On my retirement he encouraged me to join his WEA Friday class and I immediately recognised his talent for creating a learning environment which made everyone feel valued. His quirky scrapbook approach to history was ideal for our group. We learned much about Wolverhampton: its heroes and heroines, blue plaques, industrial roots and its renowned music scene of the 1960s. His style was informal yet highly informative and he had a gift for getting people to engage and interact, making the sessions often gloriously funny.

Keith was taken seriously ill last December but rather than allow the group to fold, we decided to keep it running under the tutorship of Ned Williams, by offering sessions led by members, sharing their own historical knowledge and interests. Keith was very touched that we had chosen to do this.

His death in March was sudden and unexpected but he had used the last few months to complete another of his popular books on the local rock scene in the 1960s. This partly autobiographical piece was published shortly after his death and is a cracking good read! This, his final legacy, from a well respected and much missed tutor.

Colin Angus



For Further details of Keith's last book, 'They Rocked, We Rolled', email [www.theyrockedwerolled@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:www.theyrockedwerolled@hotmail.co.uk)

## Hungarian Exchange



Three members of staff from Wolverhampton Adult Education Services English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) department went to Kobanya, Budapest in early November to monitor and evaluate the **Leonardo Project** (European project providing work placements for English language teaching assistants in Hungary and Poland).

During their visit they delivered a seminar on 'Innovative ways of teaching English' that looked at how technology can be an aid to the learning process and how the tutors can use technology to support the children's English language development. Bruce Parsons and his team were interviewed at the seminar by a local news programme that later appeared on local Hungarian TV.

During the visit in November Bruce and his team were invited to the Houses of Parliament in Budapest by the MP for Kobanya – Mr Revesz Mariusz. The MP stressed his commitment to the project. A further meeting took place with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Kobanya, who also re-iterated that the local council remains supportive of the project and that they value the work being done by the teaching assistants from Wolverhampton.

Back in England the Leonardo Project was nominated for the Wulfruna Awards and was awarded a certificate, being 'Highly Commended' by Wolverhampton City Council for 'Exceptional Cross Boundary Partnership Working'.

The Service would like to congratulate the ESOL department for their achievements.

## Learners' Views

The opportunity to voice your views about your learning experience with us will help potential learners and employers make informed choices by comparing information on all post 16 learning providers who receive government money. Some of you may be asked to complete a short Framework for Excellence web-based survey which asks your views on your learning experience with us. Staff will support you to access the survey, if needed. We need as many responses as possible so, if you are asked to take part, please help us by sparing a few minutes to join in.

Skills  
Funding  
Agency

## Enrolment / Information

### Access to Higher Education Diploma

Information / Assessment Days

Information **10.00am - 4.00pm**

Initial Assessment **10.00am- 2.00pm** on the following days

**Friday 28 January 2011**

**Friday 4 & 11 February 2011**

For the Art and Design diploma only, bring a portfolio of Art work with you and for all diplomas bring evidence of any English or Maths qualifications with you to the information day.

Diplomas on offer for 2011/2012:

- Art and Design
- Combined Studies (this includes an option to study ICT and Business Studies or Health Studies and ICT)
- Social Science and Community Work
- Education Studies
- Nursing / Health Studies

### Languages

Would you like to learn Spanish? Now is a good time to get started. We have short courses for beginners and improvers starting in January on Saturdays. We also have a range of courses at other levels and in other languages that you can join from January. Just call us on 01902 550378 or check out our website for more information.

### Arts Crafts and Media

In Arts, Crafts and Media we offer a wide range of courses including Dressmaking, Drawing, Painting, Pottery and Digital Imaging, to name but a few.

To enrol on a new 15 week course starting in February / March come along to our enrolment:

**Monday 14 - Wednesday 16 February  
at Old Hall Street 10.00am—7.00pm**

For Information on all other departments please call reception on **01902 558180**, or contact our information advice and guidance team on **01902 551658 / 551655**

Alternatively Visit our website:  
**www.aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk** for a full up to date course listings.

## Enter Arts Exhibition

showcase exhibition of  
Midlands based artists

26 January – 21 February in  
the Foyer Exhibition space at  
the City Learning Quarter at  
Old Hall Street in the City Centre.

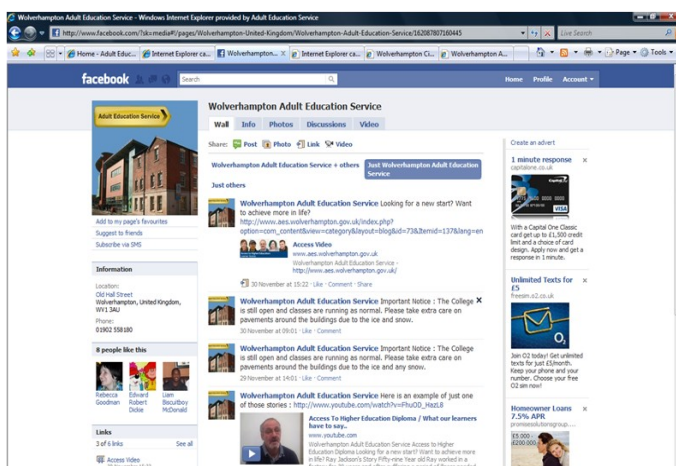
Join us for a special open  
evening on Tuesday 25



# facebook

## Become a friend of WAES

If you have a Facebook account, why not become a friend of the Wolverhampton Adult Education Service Facebook page? Search for it in the white search box at the top of every Facebook page. Once found click 'Like' at the top of the page to become a friend.



Then click 'suggest to friends' under the profile picture. Select all your contacts then click send invitations. I've invited all my contacts, why don't you support the Service and do the same?

Please note if you don't have a Facebook account you can still access our Facebook page by logging on to the Service website at [www.aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk](http://www.aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk) Scroll to the bottom of the front page and you will see the 'Follow Us' link as shown below.

Follow Us

Edward Dickie

Examinations Officer



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## Send us your articles

If you would like to contribute to the next issue of In Brief then please send your articles to:  
**enquiries@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk**  
for the attention of the Marketing Team.

