

Dear Learners,

Enrolment has once again been very positive with all areas recruiting well. We are sure you will all be well immersed in your courses by now, making new friends and possibly meeting old ones. Although we no longer offer programmes at Compton Grange, the new partnership arrangements with The Lindens, St. Edmund's School, Newhampton Arts Centre, Tettenhall Wood Community Association and Bradmore Community Centre are working very well and learners are delighted with their new surroundings.

Once again, the results for last year are forecast to be outstanding and contracts with the Skills Funding Agency are in place for the forthcoming year.

At the beginning of the term we said goodbye to Christine Parsons, Head of Service, who retired after thirteen challenging years with the Service. However, the Service she leaves is in a very strong position and continues to have the support and confidence of the Council.

We know Chris would want to pass on her best wishes to all learners, past, present and in the future.

Senior Management Team

## The Service says farewell to Christine Parsons



Chris with Councillor Philip Page

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, Christine Parsons, Head of the Adult Education Service, said her farewells to friends and colleagues, not only from the Service but from many organisations associated with the Adult Education Service, following her decision to retire.

Councillor Page presented Chris with gifts and flowers, and a special presentation was made by the Café Staff, with a special retirement package from Val Sadkowska containing course listings and an enrolment form!

Chris was Head of Service for over 10 years and was based at

Pendeford initially before returning to the newly refurbished City Learning Quarter in 2004. The Service faced its first full Ofsted Inspection in 2005, which was a challenge, as well as then having to meet the financial restraints brought about by major building works and Government cutbacks, the latter of which resulted in significant staff redundancies.



Chris with trusty PA Anita Povall



Chris with Café Staff, Janet King, Tina Daker, Linda Page and Site Supervisor John Chilton

Currently the Service is rated as an Ofsted Grade 2 provider of adult education and is in a good position overall. The Senior Management Team will be managing the Service on an interim basis until a new Head of Service is appointed.



**Need a place to Study?**  
**Drop into your**  
**Learning Development Centre**  
**in the Foyer Building to get the support you need.**

Have you found it yet? It's based on the ground floor in the Foyer Building, opposite Sainsbury's. You will find a member of the Learning Services team there whose aim is to support your learning. From here you can;

- ◆ use a computer for independent study or get a head start on that assignment!
- ◆ chat to a Guidance Adviser to decide on what you want to do next, or plan a career path
- ◆ check if you are entitled to any financial help to enable you to study, for example travel to and from your course or paying for childcare while you attend your class.
- ◆ talk to us about any additional support needs
- ◆ get information and advice about our courses
- ◆ get advice about paying for Level 3 courses
- ◆ raise any safeguarding concerns you may have
- ◆ register for workshops aimed at supporting your studies or improving your potential to gain employment – watch out for more information about this.



**From 4<sup>th</sup> November the new term-time opening times for the Learning Development Centre are:**  
**Monday – Thursday 9.00am – 6.00pm and Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm.**

## Get a Head Start – Get into Work

Getting your foot on the ladder can seem daunting. WAES have a **Guidance** Adviser who can help you assess your skills and explore your employment options. In addition to this from November we are launching workshops aimed at giving you even more of a helping hand. So it's time to brush the cobwebs off your current C.V. or start from scratch to create a new one. Simply speak to a member of the Learning Services team to book onto our **C.V Building workshops** which will be held on Wednesday's 15:30-17:30 and Friday's 13:00-15:00, starting week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Alternatively come along to our **Job Club** where you will have the opportunity to exchange skills, find opportunities, make contacts, share experiences and receive support. The Job Club will be held on Thursday's between 12:00-13:30.

To secure your place please phone 01902 551658 or pop into the Learning Development Centre, Foyer Building.

# Sleepless just North of Seattle



As reported earlier this year, Melissa Nicholls, Lead Tutor for 'Activities 4 Health', was awarded a Student Scholarship by the University of Wolverhampton to attend the world renowned Pilchuck Glass School near Stanwood, just North of Seattle. Having completed the two and half week course she has developed new skills in glass blowing, made many new friends and contacts, and has a new approach to her work for the final 60 credit module of her MA degree course.

Melissa says the school, which is situated in the middle of a forest, is an awe-inspiring place where everyone is working towards a similar goal, with a thirst for knowledge and the desire to learn and develop skills and techniques in a variety of glassmaking disciplines.

Starting at 7am the class, working in groups of three, pulled cane, made glass tumblers and footed drinking glasses until 12 noon, followed by a clean-up of the hot-shop. After lunch the instructor, Tom Rowney of Canberra Glassworks, Australia, whom Melissa describes as 'down to earth, friendly and amazingly talented having blown glass from the age of 16', gave a two hour demo which covered all of the techniques involved in the course. A group critique lasted until 5 pm, giving the students an hour before dinner. The food was very healthy, lots of salad, green veg, pasta and chicken. In the evenings it was possible to watch another advanced group blowing glass which went on until 1am, hence very little or no sleep.

Sunday was the only day off. The group would go for long walks around the grounds, up to Inspiration Point and Disappointment Point, so called because the trees have been felled and the expanse of land looks sad. However, once you reach the summit, the view is breath-taking. On this day, the hard working staff and interns got to make glass all day, which was informative and fun to watch, with many weird and wonderful pieces being produced.

It wasn't, however, all work and no play! There were several parties. The first TA party involved a pole which, as the evening wore on, saw many a person swinging around it. The group also presented work in the small gallery and had a private view with wine and nibbles. The Auction Party was the most exciting event, with a silent auction where the students donated pieces to raise money for the school and had a fancy dress theme of Canadian Jungle Couture.

On Melissa's return to the UK she started researching other opportunities like this and recently submitted an application for a residency in Australia early next year. So watch this space!

She hopes to bring new ideas and experiences into the classroom here at WAES and hopes people will take inspiration from this story. She says, "It's never too late to do the things you've always dreamed of. Never give up, always keep trying!"

# Be Safe!

We strive to ensure that everyone feels safe when they are accessing our services and buildings. If, however, you have any concerns, please get in touch with Suzie Lowe on 01902 551545 as soon as possible or use our designated email address: [safe@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:safe@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk).



Great news **NUS** cards **NOW** available to **WAES** learners!



**NUSextra** over 160 savings on all the brands you love  
Buy yours today from £12 for 12 months



**nus extra**  
more sense than money

Great news! Our learners can now register with the National Union of Students and purchase a NUS Extra Card from £12 per year to receive fantastic discounts. Do you fancy money off your favourite restaurants, shops or days out? Take a look at some of the 160 discounts of up to 25% on [www.nus.org.uk](http://www.nus.org.uk) and then simply log on to [www.cards.nusextra.co.uk](http://www.cards.nusextra.co.uk) to apply. You need just 3 things to process your application ① to be a learner, ② be able to upload your photo and finally ③ have your payment ready!

## City adults urged to learn a new lingo



People in Wolverhampton had the chance to wax lyrical in a new language to mark European Day of Languages.

Wolverhampton Adult Education Service (AES) hosted a free language learning advice workshop at Bantock House on September 26 from 12-3pm. The event was part of the special day that was celebrated across Europe.

Visitors were able to find out about the benefits of learning a new language, tips on how to take up a language, how to improve their existing skills, and the courses available. Last year, more than 450 adults joined Language classes run by Wolverhampton AES.

Councillor Phil Page, Wolverhampton City Council's Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Learning, said: "This is a unique way of marking European Day of Languages and showcasing what our Service has to offer.

"Learners can gain qualifications, learn languages that will help them when travelling abroad or just help to keep their brains active by enrolling on a new course.

"I would urge anyone interested in learning a new language to get in touch with our Service and find out more as soon as possible."

Former AES student Cate Ball, said: "Language learning was something I wasn't very interested in at school but I'm so glad I've come back to it as an adult.

"I've really enjoyed it and it's been great to put on my CV too."

Wolverhampton AES offers a range of different languages, from Mandarin to Polish, which can also be taken as evening or weekend classes.

For more information, please contact Wolverhampton AES on 01902 550378.

# Keeping fit for Cancer Research



CANCER RESEARCH UK



Club Class facilitator, Mary Wetton, ran keep fit summertime classes at

Bradmore and St Alban's Community Centres to help keep learners fit and active during the holiday. The classes were completely non-profit making, only covering overhead costs. Mary delivered the sessions for free and donations made by learners during this period were collected for Cancer Research, raising a grand total of £396.00, taking the grand total raised since 2009 to £2000.00.



## A cultural learning experience



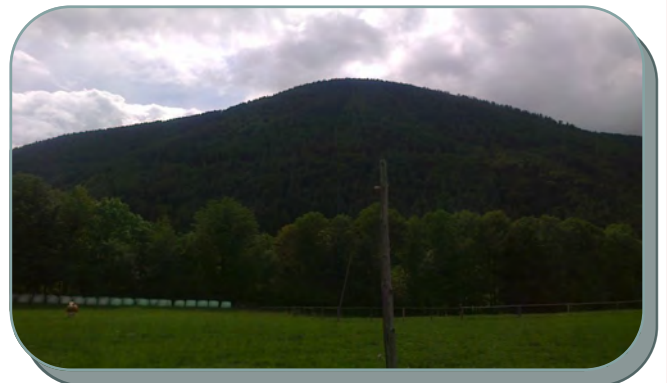
My name is Tina and I teach Intermediate Level German, here at Wolverhampton Adult Education Service.

In August I went on an in-service training course to Vienna and the Raach Mountains. This course was designed for teachers of German and we attended workshops on the methodology of teaching German to our students. We were also enriched with cultural, historical and geographical knowledge and had the opportunity to practise speaking our German with the locals.

I found the course useful as I became fully immersed in the language and culture of Vienna. The course has left me inspired and full of new and innovative teaching methods which I can bring into my lessons, thereby helping me perform my job better.

There are many opportunities for courses/work experience abroad which are available for staff as well as students.

These are funded by organisations such as Leonardo, Grundtvig and Transversal. Contact: 0845 199 1919 for more information on these opportunities for grants.



## Ofsted want to hear your views



We will often ask you to give feedback about how you have found the service you receive from us. Additionally Ofsted invite you to tell them what you think about your learning experience while you are with us through an online Learner View survey. Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. They inspect and regulate services which care for children and young people and those providing education and skills for learners of all ages.

Learner View asks for your opinion on a range of aspects: from whether the lessons/training sessions are well taught to if you would recommend the provider to a friend.

If you would like to give your feedback, please log on to <http://learnerview.ofsted.gov.uk/>. Alternatively, you can find the link on our home page.

# Challenging the social norm!



To break a social norm is to not conform to social expectations. It is up to you what norm you break. For example, you can demonstrate a behaviour that is non-normative across our culture, such as facing the back rather than the front in a lift, or wearing pyjamas to work, queue jumping or walking into an office unannounced.

At the beginning of each year I set the Access to Social Science Higher Education learners a challenge. I wanted them to research an era and then attend one of their class room sessions dressed in an outfit from that era. This, of course, meant travelling from home to class dressed in what would be deemed as inappropriate attire and, as expected, it created some controversy. *Lorraine Mayes*



## Outstanding Japanese results

Over recent years, interest in learning Japanese at WAES has increased, and this June eleven students were entered for their GCSE. When results were released in August they featured some outstanding grades, with 6A\*s, 2As, 2Bs and 2Cs amongst the group.

Eiko Matsuura, the tutor, is extremely proud of what the group has achieved this year and, as she says, "I had fantastic students in this group who showed excellent commitment and continually worked hard. It was the first time that we did GCSE Japanese at WAES so, at times, it was challenging for the students and the teacher alike."

Each student has their own motivation for learning Japanese. Rebecca Forster said, "I am studying Japanese because I would like to live and work in Japan in the future. I feel it is a much more interesting language to learn than some of the others. I also have a passion for Japanese culture and it is very useful comparing the similarities and differences between our culture and theirs."

Another student, Daniel Harrington, said that he is learning Japanese as a hobby.

The students are now looking to the future and many of them are hoping to come back to us and develop their Japanese further, and maybe even look at taking other qualifications.

Rebecca said, "right now I am currently working part-time and trying to set up a high fashion business with my friend. Our future dream is to be selling in the UK, Australia and Japan, so having Japanese language skills would be very useful, I would be interested in taking another exam this year if it was possible, maybe the AS level exam or something towards it, as I did very well at the GCSE."

Eiko would also like to extend thanks to certain members of the team who she feels supported her during the year, "Thank you for supporting us throughout the year. Special thanks to Judith, Debbie, Cate and Rosanna."

Once again we would like to celebrate the learners' hard work and encourage anyone who wants to learn a language to give it a go. It may be hard work at times but, as the achievements show, the excellent results are motivation alone.

# Creative Cohesive

**A networking event and art exhibition**



**Showing at the  
The Foyer  
Building,  
St George's  
Parade,  
Wolverhampton  
WV2 1AZ.**

A unique exhibition showcasing the talents of artists looking to start their own businesses has been launched in Wolverhampton.

Creative Cohesive showcases work by former Wolverhampton art students as they embark on setting up their own companies based on their chosen crafts such as jewellery and ceramics.

The exhibition was launched with a special event by Wolverhampton Adult Education Service on Wednesday, October 2, and will be on display at the Foyer Building in St Georges Parade until November 12.

The launch was also an opportunity for the artists to network with guests, including representatives from local businesses, community groups and education providers.

Creative Cohesive is a collaborative project led by sculptor and tutor Hannah Boyd, glass artist and tutor Melissa Nicholls, printmaker and tutor Moya Lloyd and sculptor Gavin Lawley from 5th International.

Councillor Phil Page, Wolverhampton City Council's Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Learning, said, "Creative Cohesive is an excellent exhibition which showcases the talents of artists who developed their skills in our city.

"Wolverhampton Adult Education Service offers a wide range of creative courses that promote self-employment, business and enterprise, equipping the learners with the skills to develop these areas.

"I am delighted to support the artists who are part of this collective as they are the businesses of the future."

To find out more about creative courses offered by Wolverhampton Adult Education Service, telephone 01902 558180 or email [enquiries@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk)

## The Graduate Exhibition

A selection of former learners who studied on the Access to Higher Education Diploma course at Wolverhampton Adult Education Service, has been invited to exhibit their artwork in 'The Graduate Showcase', an exhibition that celebrates their progression and achievement from the Adult Education Service to graduation and beyond!

The display of artwork highlights how people have launched their careers after studying an art course or starting their academic journeys with the Adult Education Service. Many are now either working artists, studying at a higher level, or venturing into the creative industries.

Siân Fletcher, Manager for Creative Studies said, "This new exhibition records the progress of learners from their time with the Adult Education Service to where they are today in their careers and as artists.

"It really goes to show how people can develop their skills and transform what may have simply been a hobby or ambition into a full time career."

## 16-18 Years of Age?

If yes, then you may be able to access financial help to support your learning with us. Speak to a member of Learning Services for more information to find out if you qualify? We are based in the Learning Development Centre (room 5) in the Foyer building or simply phone 01902 551658.

# Foyer Café

Linda, Janet and Tina welcome you to the Foyer Café!

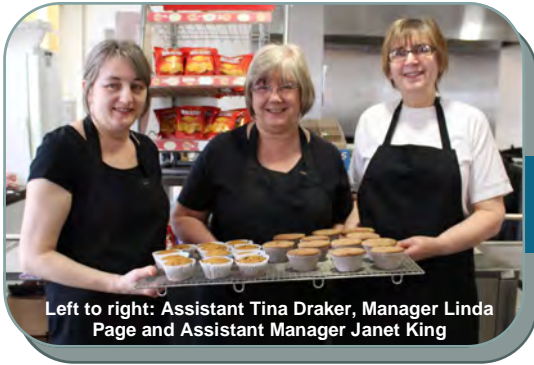
We are open daily from 9.00am and offer a range of hot and cold meals and snacks at competitive prices.

Join us for breakfast, lunch or an afternoon snack.

## Café opening times

Monday - Thursday 9.00am - 3.45pm

Friday 9.00am - 1.15pm



Left to right: Assistant Tina Draker, Manager Linda Page and Assistant Manager Janet King



B|B|C

## Children in Need

# November 2013

A full programme of fun activities and events will be taking place week commencing 11th November to help raise funds for Children in Need, ending Friday 15th with a karaoke disco presented by former Access learner, DJ Suzie & Atmosphere Audio. A buffet will also be included in the price.



## Newspaper Tom is ready to leave the Service

Regular visitors to the Foyer Café will recognize fellow diner, newspaper man Tom. He has frequented the Service for a little over a year, studying a multitude of courses from basic skills to the more advanced, and feels confident and ready to move on. So he has now decided to auction his services in search of pastures new and to help his friends from the café raise money for Children in Need. Tom will be appearing for a limited period only on Ebay but refuses to be sold for less than his current going rate. He has upskilled, has a very quiet disposition and will be an asset to any organization, family and/or group of friends! Work experience to date, Creative Studies, Exhibition invigilator, Café frequenter and charity fund raiser. To find out more and when bidding starts, look out for information in the Café and on the Service website.



Look out for our new vending machine. A donation of 10p for every sweet tub purchased will be made to Starlight, a small children's charity which has a massive impact on the lives of seriously and terminally ill children and their families throughout the UK. The sweet tubs will make fabulous stocking fillers for your children, whilst also helping this worthy charity.



Adult Education Service



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## Send us your articles

If you would like to contribute to the next issue of Inbrief then please send your articles to: [enquiries@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk) for the attention of Marketing.

