

## Spring into Learning



Dear Learners,

New classes have started this term and the new look Learner Services have been very busy answering your enquiries. You may also have noticed the Service's website has been given a make-over and is kept fully up to date with all the latest courses and programmes. Please let us know what you think about both developments.

I am pleased to report that the Ofsted consultative inspection went well although the results will not be formally published. Inspectors will use what they found to improve the current inspection system. They were particularly impressed by the standard of work which you produce and by the way in which you work together, no matter what your background.

As we thought, the new process will focus increasingly on teaching, learning and assessment and you, as learners, will be asked to give your views.

Thank you to all who talked to the inspectors this time. They did listen and they took into account what you said as well as what they saw when they visited classes.

Chris Parsons

Head of Service

## Centre Supporting our Learners



Wolverhampton Adult Education Service proudly launched their Learning Development Centre this academic year where existing and prospective learners can drop in for information and advice, guidance interviews, initial assessments, dyslexia assessments, IT support, advice about financial support and help with childcare, completing enrolments, attending workshops, accessing computers or simply carrying out independent study; these are just some of the reasons attracting a large number of learners each week. We have

recently started holding "English Drop-in Support Sessions" on Mondays between 9.30-11.30am and "Maths Drop-in Support Sessions" on Thursdays between 1.00-3.30pm. So, if you need to practise between your classes or have a query, then visit the Learning Development Centre Room 5, Foyer Building (opposite Sainsbury's). With term-time opening times from 9.00am until 7.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.00am until 4.00pm on Fridays there are plenty of opportunities to engage with the activities in the centre.

Coming soon in the Learning Development Centre, a variety of taster Employability Workshops as well as a video booth to capture learners' views.

Contact Learning Services on 01902 551658 for more information.



**A chance to have your say, watch out for the Big Chat coming soon! See inside for more details**

**Wolverhampton Adult Education Service**

# Photographer and Portfolio Producer



Brian Gornall

In 2005 I began a Masters course in History of Art and Design at UCE in Birmingham. It was only towards the end of that course that photography began to appeal to me after I started making experimental photos with a camera phone. During a spell in hospital I took pictures of inanimate objects to try and capture the mood of the place as well as record my stay. I decided to buy some equipment and set up a studio at home. I graduated with my MA in January 2008.

I began the Enter Arts course at Wolverhampton Adult Education Service to develop my business skills as a freelance artist. I have just finished a second semester on

Creative Connections (Enter Arts), where I concentrated on the potential of my photography for reproducing artwork. My aim is to create portfolios using both photography and text and make prints of the work to support each artist's ongoing creative explorations. I have already created a few portfolios. Creative Connections has been a very helpful, informative and business-orientated course which has also highlighted the power of social networking sites to help grow a business from the roots up. It was also great to make some friends on the course who have their own love of art.

As fortune has it, I am grateful to have been invited by Wolverhampton Adult Education to support students on the Art Access course by photographing their work and also giving some tuition on how they can best do it themselves. This will be an ongoing commitment at least one day per week on a voluntary basis. I am thrilled to have the chance to do this as it also helps me to organise my knowledge of studio photography into an understandable and logical order and consider all the factors that make for a good digital image. Photographing digitally has been very useful to me to help increase the speed of my output as well as being a very convenient medium for editing and manipulating images in my photographic artwork. If you would like to view my work and would like to find out more, please visit [www.briangornall.co.uk](http://www.briangornall.co.uk).

## Access and Foundation Learning



**There are exciting new courses coming very soon to the Access and Foundation department.**

We are piloting the 'Computers don't Byte' course which is a foundation learning programme centred on computer skills for those who have never used a computer before. The course aims to help them gain basic mouse and keyboard skills with a range of entry skills needed to progress onto the Absolute Beginners class. We hope this will be a successful pilot and will be available more widely in the future.

For those who are unemployed and need support, help and guidance to return to work, we are piloting the OCR Employability course starting in February. Learners will work towards the OCR Employability Award at Entry Level 3. The course covers a range of skills from looking at what skills are required for particular job sectors and roles, to preparing yourself for an interview. It has been designed to use a range of activities so learners can gain experience in interviewing techniques, job searching and matching techniques from different sources. The course is in its pilot stage at the moment.



# Icing Her Way to Success



**Sugarcraft tutor Amelia Nutting is a rising star in the wonder world of novelty cakes and icing**

22 year old Amelia opened 'Shuga Budz' cake makers and decorators shop in Tettenhall Wolverhampton with her mother in July 2007. It was supposed to be a short term arrangement, just helping out through the summer months, but she loved it so much she ended up staying and becoming a business partner.

After being open for seven months, Amelia entered a national competition 'Celebration Cake Maker of the Year' in 2008 and came 2nd. When the competition was over she decided to study to complete the PTLLS teaching qualification at Wolverhampton Adult Education Service, which she passed with flying colours, and in September 2011 Amelia Started teaching Sugarcraft for the Service.

In the next couple of years Amelia entered in a few more competitions, coming runner up in 'Best Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2010', and in the same year she also won 'Celebration Cake Maker of the Year'. After winning these two awards she was asked to do a live demonstration at the Spring Bakers' Fair. In July 2011 Amelia was contacted by the BBC and asked to take part in the series 'Young Talent of the Year' in the Bakers category in which she was awarded 2nd in the country and appeared on BBC3 in January.

Amelia said, "I was delighted to accept the post as Sugar Craft tutor at the Adult Education Service; teaching is great and business is good. I am looking forward to delivering an inspirational speech at the ABST (Association of Bakery Students Training) Conference at Alton Towers about my experiences. My advice is, enjoy what you do, work hard and you can make a great success of anything you put your mind to, believe you can and you will!"

## Get involved with "the Big Chat"

Wolverhampton Adult Education Service would like to hear your views about what you like about learning with us and what you would like to see improved.

In April, we will be asking you to give your opinions, which you can give either paper-based, via the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) or through our Video Booth (coming soon!). Your views will help



improve the services we offer to both you and new learners, so don't hold back! We will then follow this up with an event during Adult Learners' Week in mid-May where you can help us prioritise all the feedback we have received. Watch out for more information.

# Operation Shoebox



**HELP US TO HELP  
OUR TROOPS  
WITH OPERATION  
SHOEBOX  
PLEASE COLLECT  
YOUR SHOEBOX**

**FROM THE FOYER CAFÉ BY  
DONATING £2.00 TO COVER  
DELIVERY THEN FILL YOUR BOX  
FROM THE LIST AND RETURN TO  
US. PLEASE DO NOT SEAL BOXES**

## Items to donate:

Soap  
Travel size shower gel  
Small bottles of shampoo  
Small tubes of toothpaste  
Toothbrushes  
Disposable razors  
Fruit shoots  
Small packs of wet wipes  
Tweezers  
Small mirrors  
Packets of noodles  
Small boxes of cereals  
Sauce  
Salt/pepper  
Sugar sachets  
Boiled sweets  
Mints/crisps  
Biscuits/cakes  
Small tins fruit (easy open)  
Small bottles fruit water

## PRIORITY ITEMS

Travel size tissues  
Paracetamol (cheap option)  
Multi-vitamins/vitamins  
Cold/flu sachets  
Plasters  
Lip balm  
Vaseline/aqueous cream  
Womens personal items  
Sunscreen  
Washing powder  
Nail-brushes  
Chewing gum  
Pork scratchings  
Puzzle books  
Haribo  
Butterkist popcorn  
DVD's—Free Out Of Papers  
Magazines new or old  
Travel games  
Playing cards  
Dominoes  
Tennis/bouncy balls  
Personal letters/cards  
(Return address not needed)  
**NO AEROSOLS, ALCOHOL,  
BLUE MATERIAL OR  
CHOCOLATE.**

**If you do not wish to fill  
a shoe box please feel  
free to donate any of  
the items on the list.**



FUNDRAISING  
IN SUPPORT OF  
**HELP for  
HEROES**

# Troops on Parade Charity Night



**Friday 18th May**

**Starts 7.30pm Tickets £9.00**  
(must be booked in advance by 14th May)

**Live Band  
Fish and Chip Supper  
Fancy Dress - Military (Optional)  
Prize for best costume**

## Foyer Café Daily Specials

### Breakfast

**8 Items + hot drink  
£4.00**

**5 Items + hot drink  
£2.75**

### Hot meals

**start at  
£1.25**

**A wide selection of  
sandwiches and  
snacks are also  
available.**

### Opening Times

**Monday - Thursday  
9.00am - 3.45pm**

**Friday 9.00am - 1.15pm**



Manager Linda Page and  
Assistant Manager Janet King

### Adult Education Service

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for the attention of the Marketing Team.

