

Welcome to the New Academic Year!



Dear Learners,

Enrolment has been very successful with more learners than ever expressing satisfaction with the process. Once again, new programmes have been introduced, especially for employment. Strong partnerships are being forged with Children's Centres leading to new programmes for parents and carers and with community organisations leading to increased capacity for local delivery. Check with Information Services to find out where the nearest learning centre is to you.

Buildings have been refurbished and additional learning spaces created at the Maltings. There's a new look for the Learning and Development Centre in the Foyer building and extra e-learning equipment in many of the classrooms.

We have already celebrated many learner achievements including an art exhibition by Jimmy Lannon who is now in his third year of University, the Access to H.E. end of year exhibition in the Civic Centre which was opened by Cllr Phil Page, the picture-framing skills of Harry Rayner who undertook a commission to frame a portrait of Cllr Bert Turner and learners who attended taster classes to promote the European Day of Languages. A presentation evening is being arranged for the ESOL learners who took courses last year and I look forward to celebrating more successes with you later this academic year.

Best wishes for a successful and memorable year with us.

Christine Parsons

Head of Service

Recruiting new members

Your Learners' Council

The Learners' Council:

- is the voice of learners who use the Adult Education Service
- helps to make sure that the Service is providing what people need - when, where and how they need it
- makes a positive contribution to the development of the Service

The Adult Education Service is keen to ensure that the Council remains representative.

For information about joining the Learners' Council, please telephone: 01902 551658 or email: enquiries@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk



**Want to Join?
Could this be
you?**

**Be part of the
Learners'
Council.
You can have
your say,
express your
views and
represent other
learners.
Go on - make a
difference.**

Jimmy Lannon....Living his dream!



Jimmy Lannon came to the Adult Education Service in September 2006 and started his learning journey on a General Art Programme; he then progressed from City & Guilds to Pre-Access and completed his learning with the Service on the Access to Higher Education Art and Design Diploma. He is currently in his third year at the University of Wolverhampton studying on the BA Fine Art degree course. This inspirational exhibition celebrated the distance

travelled by Jimmy on his journey from adult education and beyond!

Jimmy said, "Experimentation with the process and materials that I use has been a key factor in the development of my practice. This allows me more freedom to explore techniques in applying the paint to the canvas, and the different paints I use. When I start a new piece of work I don't set out with an initial idea of what I want to achieve, this depends a lot on chance. My paintings may resemble something or they may not, but that's not important. When I stumble on an interesting technique I just create a few in that style then continue with more experimentation. I look for inspiration in nature, architecture and in urban environmental decay. I tend not to look for influences in other artists, but there have been a few that have helped me understand my own practice more. These artists are: Gerhard Richter, Calum Innes and Ian Davenport.

When I first started studying at Wolverhampton Adult Education Service I'd recently come off Incapacity Benefit, I was lacking in confidence and self-belief. The tutors and staff were very patient; they supported and encouraged me with my study. After a long time of recovery and study, my confidence began to grow and I started to believe in myself. Eventually I was encouraged by my tutors to go to University, and am now in my final year of my BA in Fine Art at Wolverhampton University. This is why I've chosen to do my first solo exhibition here to show my appreciation for all the support I received, and to say thank you to all the staff for helping me to fulfil my dream."

Property Services' Hidden Talent



The Right Worshipful, the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Christine Mills, Harry Rayner, Lee Thomson and Councillor Bert Turner.

The Right Worshipful, the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Christine Mills, hosted a brief ceremony to hand over a portrait of Councillor Bert Turner painted when he was Mayor of Wolverhampton. Councillor Phil Page and Christina Gibbon, the Headteacher of Wilkinson Primary School, were also in attendance.

During 2011-12 when he was Mayor, Councillor Bert Turner, Labour Member representing Bilston East Ward, was approached by Lee Thomson, Senior Architectural Technician in Wolverhampton City Council's Property Services division, to enquire if he would be interested in having his portrait painted by Lee. Lee is a keen artist in his spare time, specialising in portrait painting.

Once the portrait was complete Wolverhampton Adult Education Service asked if one of their learners would be interested in framing the portrait. Harry Rayner, Learners' Council Chair, who attended Picture Framing, Mount Cutting and 3D Picture Sculpture in 2011-12, offered his services.

The portrait will be hung in pride of place in the newly built Wilkinson Primary School, in appreciation of Councillor Turner's services as Chair of Governors on Wilkinson Primary School's Governing Body for many years.

The original Wilkinson School premises, and all resources and records, were destroyed in an arson attack in October 2010. Since that time the school has been operating in temporary accommodation, a cluster of prefabricated buildings situated within the school grounds. Work is due to commence shortly on a replacement school building, with completion anticipated in September 2013.

Councillor Bert Turner said "I am very proud to have had this portrait done. It's wonderful to know that we have such talent among the Council's staff. I feel very honoured that Wilkinson School have asked for it to be hung there and I would like to thank the Headteacher for agreeing to this."

Lee Thomson has since been commissioned to paint a portrait of ex-Councillor Paddy Bradley in recognition of her many years as Councillor for Penn Ward.



European Day of Languages

On 26th September a range of events across Europe celebrated the 230 languages in use throughout the continent as part of the 11th European Day of Languages festivities. Here in Wolverhampton, with 60 different languages spoken across the city, the Adult Education Service marked the day with free classes in different languages and information sessions throughout the week. Councillor Phil Page, Cabinet Member for Schools Skills and Learning, joined the British Sign Language taster session to open the event and brush up on his skills.



More people than ever are keen to learn English as a second language and the demand for teachers is growing. Budding English Language teachers were invited along to find out how to qualify and open up the doors to an exciting career. Ian Walker, 35, said, "Learning to teach English as a foreign language has turned my life around. I finished the course in April and have just started my new job teaching people from all over the world here in Wolverhampton." Others who completed the part time course have jetted off to work in Switzerland, Spain and as far away as China. To find out more about teaching English as a foreign language or learning a new language yourself call 01902 558180 or email enquiries on enquiries@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk

Art lovers will be 'Inspired by...' Bill's work



Exhibition launch Saturday 6th October, Bill pictured with V&A's Head of Ceramics, Terry Bloxham.

A well-known adult learner from Wolverhampton is inspiring art lovers after contributing to a prestigious show at London's Victoria and Albert (V&A) Museum.

Bill Dixon's work, 'Midsummer Night' a large scale sculpture flanked by two poems on the subject, has been included in 'Inspired by...' the V&A's annual art competition for people undertaking part-time art courses.

Entrants were tasked with creating a piece inspired by the collections of either V&A South Kensington or the V&A Museum of Childhood, and the winning artwork, including Bill's, is now on display.

Bill, who is 79, has been attending Adult Education Service classes for 30 years, studying a whole host of disciplines including ceramics, drawing, painting, print making, languages, history and poetry, as well as an Access to Higher Education

Diploma in Art and Design. He went on to achieve a fine art and sculpture degree at the University of Wolverhampton but still continues to learn his craft with the Adult Education Service.

He was introduced to the competition by Ceramics Club Class facilitator Lorraine Stant from Wolverhampton Adult Education Service, who encouraged her learners to create work to submit.

Bill said, "For over 30 years I have always found the Adult Education Service to be very open, welcoming and encouraging in whatever subject you select. Studying has rejuvenated me and helped keep me young."

Councillor Phil Page, Wolverhampton City Council's Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Learning, said, "Bill is an inspiration to us all and a role model to demonstrate the benefits of lifelong learning. Exhibiting at the V&A is a great honour."

Christine Parsons, Head of Service, added, "Motivational facilitators such as Lorraine are incredibly important in bringing out the best in us. We are extremely fortunate to have such tutors and facilitators in the Adult Education Service."



Access Art civic display



The exhibition of work by students on the Access to Higher Education Diploma in Art and Design course run by Wolverhampton's Adult Education Service features a wide range of media, from painting, textiles and printmaking to sculpture.

It includes work by Janette Adamson, Shaun Bateman, Paul Bates, Claire Buckerfield, Adele Broadhead, Lesley Goodwin, Suzanne Lavender, Richard Lawley, Lauren Madden, Castina Ramsey, Nigel Ridd, Alison Sherratt and Stacey Wright.

The exhibition was formerly on display at the Adult Education Service's Old Hall Street building, and proved so popular that a selection of work has been transferred to the Civic Centre, where it will be on show until Friday 19th October 2012.

Siân Fletcher, the Adult Education Service's Manager for Creative Studies, said, "This exciting exhibition of original art and design is the culmination of the learners' work this year, and we are delighted to be able to bring it to a wider audience by showcasing the work of the students at the Civic Centre."

The Access to Higher Education Diploma is ideal for people thinking of a career in art and design and who want to go to university to study the arts. 100% of learners who completed the course this year are planning to go on to study a degree at university." To find out more about the Access to Higher Education courses, please log on to www.aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk or call 01902 558164.



Opening Times
Monday -
Thursday
9.00am - 7.30pm*
Friday
9.30am - 4.00pm*
* Term Times
Please phone to check
opening times during
holiday periods

Drop into your
Learning Development
Centre
in the Foyer Building
(Room 5)
to get the support you need.

We can offer:

- A computer suite to carry out independent study
- Space for group working
- Curriculum support
- Financial support
- Advice and guidance
- Dyslexia screening
- Initial assessments
- Advice to keep safe or report issues of concern

For further information about the Learning Development Centre call 09102 551658 or email: enquiries@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk

Foyer Café

Linda and Janet welcome everyone to the Foyer Café. Linda said, "We are open Monday to Friday offering a wide selection of hot and cold food and drinks at competitive prices. Specials are available daily offering you meal deals.

We also host fun charity fund raising events throughout the year. Look out for our events and join in the fun and help us raise funds for some very worthy causes."



Manager Linda Page and Assistant Manager Janet King

Opening Times
Monday - Thursday
9.00am - 3.45pm
Friday
9.00am - 1.15pm

Adult Education Service

Old Hall Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 3AU

Reception: 01902 558180
Fax: 01902 558170

Website: www.aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk

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 for the attention of Marketing.

