



NEWS

NO 2. WINTER 2002-3

CONTENTS:

Welcome to SALTA News	2
Adult Learners' Week	2
Family Learning Report	3
21st Century Man's World	4
Paris Trip Review	4
A Century of WEA Learning	5
Free Professional Development	6
The Proof of the Pudding	7
Registration Form	8

New Ideas for Evening Classes at Community House:

Self-Improvement

- S1 Overcoming Peace of Mind
- S2 How to Overcome Self-Doubt through Pretence & Ostentation

Health & Fitness

- H1 Creative Tooth Decay
- H2 The Joys of Hypochondria
- H3 Skate Your Way to Social Ridicule
- H4 Optional Body Functions

Business & Career

- B1 Money Can Make You Rich
- B2 The Underachiever's Guide to Very Small Business Opportunities
- B3 1001 Methods of Blackmail

Crafts

- C1 Self-Actualisation Through Macramé
- C2 Weaving with Bodily Hair
- C3 Creative Nail-Clipping Arrangements

Home Economics

- E1 Cultivating Viruses in Your Refrigerator
- E2 Burglarproof Your Home with Concrete
- E3 Sinus Drainage at Home
- E4 Teach Your Goldfish Buddhism

I do hope you have a sense of humour!
Please send in your courses for the next edition, a prize will be given to the most humorous suggestion - Paula.

WELCOME TO SALTA NEWS

Paula Jones, Editor



Welcome to the second edition SALTA (Somerset Adult Learning Tutors' Association) newsletter. I am delighted that so many colleagues who work part-time across the county have signed up for the Association already – the interest and welcome for the Association is most encouraging. For a long time part-time tutors have not had a great deal of contact with each other, especially when working for different adult learning providers. The Association will offer joint developmental events, give part-time tutors a voice and help bring people together to learn from one another.

In this edition there are further opportunities for free training and networking, and developments in the search for a common county framework to recognise and record non-accredited learning. There is news – some from the membership – and other information which I hope you find useful. There is also a further opportunity to join the Association if you have not already done so.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year and encourage you to start well by sending in news, stories, views, and pictures for Edition Three of the newsletter!

I look forward to hearing from you,

Regional Professional Development Manager
South West Association for Education and Training
Tel: 01823 365440 paula_jones@swafet.org.uk



ADULT LEARNERS' WEEK 10-16TH MAY 2002

It's that time of year again and the search is well and truly on for the outstanding adult learners of 2002.

For the 11th year, Adult Learners' Week will recognise and celebrate the successes of people who have made progress in any area of learning, at any level. In Somerset, the local award ceremony will be hosted by Dillington House and Adult Learning and Leisure, at Dillington, on Tuesday 13th May.

By the time you read this newsletter, it may be too late for part-time tutors to nominate individuals and groups for awards, unless you have already done so. But look on the NIACE web-site, www.niace.org.uk/alw, for further information and you will see that there may still be time for Learning Works and Family Learning Awards. Nominations for individuals and groups of learners always have to be submitted by early January, so it is something to be borne in mind for next year.

If you have any ideas for how Adult Learners' Week may be celebrated in your college or centre, why not discuss the idea with your manager!

FAMILY LEARNING REPORT FOR SALTA

Jessica Stedman, Family Learning Team

Family Learning in Somerset works with schools to involve parents in their children's learning. We offer many initiatives aimed at parents and carers to enable them to support their child/ren with numeracy, literacy, ICT, the early years and parenting.

Research has proved that when parent carers become involved in their child's education the partnership between school and home becomes stronger and more positive. Meanwhile the child feels more secure while experiencing the home school link. Involving parents is key to raising children's attainment in learning.

Parents become more conversant and more confident while talking to the teaching staff. They have a clearer picture about what their children do at school. When they ask the question, "What have you done at school today?" and the answer is, "Nothing" the parent has at least got the information and language to extend the conversation by gently asking more appropriate questions and initiating positive dialogue. They are also able to help with homework, particularly with numeracy.

Being able to understand the numeracy strategies used and appreciate how successful the literacy hour has been and how it is structured, is often a revelation to adults. Certainly after numeracy sessions some parents become inspired and those old feelings of horror when maths is mentioned gradually dissipates.

Family Learning Development Workers who are responsible for promoting and supporting initiatives in schools travel throughout the county. Siân Strang leads the team in her role as 'Adviser for Parental Involvement'.

We are looking for tutors that could deliver a course called 'Discovering Learning Through Play'. This initiative has evolved from the 'Play to Learn' sessions that are used as an opportunity to introduce new parents to the school. It is aimed at pre-school and reception children and their parent carers. It gives them the opportunity to play together with their child and appreciate the relevance and importance of play in the development of their child.

If you are interested in becoming a tutor for Family Learning, contact Jessica Stedman, Family Learning Administrative Assistant, Family Learning, Adult Learning and Leisure, Parkway, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 4RL, Tel: 01278 459023. For more information about the Family Learning Team and courses available just give us a ring!

The Somerset County Federation of Women's Institutes are looking to run some workshops and short courses for their members for which they need tutors. The activities they wish to run are:

- Lip-reading • Willow Craft • Tai Chi • Yoga • Fun with Flowers
- Create a Wildlife Garden • Creative Writing

If you are interested in tutoring any of the above activities, please contact Hilda Marsden:

*Somerset County Federation of Women's Institutes,
Wilton Lodge, 11 Trull Road, Taunton, TA1 4PT.*

You can call Hilda on (01823) 284261.

IT'S A 21ST CENTURY MAN'S WORLD

Lou Evans, Somerset Information Guidance Network

The skills and abilities needed to equip today's man for life in the 21st century are to be explored in a new project funded by Somerset's Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

From DIY to football, computer skills to cookery, clubs and groups in selected Somerset towns are being invited to take part in the project, which is being run by the Somerset Information Guidance Network (SIGN).

SIGN offers individuals impartial information and advice, on learning and work opportunities. Some special events are being organised for men who want to learn a new skill or pursue a leisure interest. The events are aimed at men over 20 years old in the Bridgwater, Frome, Minehead, Street, Taunton and Yeovil areas.

It is hoped to establish a number of joint partnerships with local groups, clubs or organisations involved in delivering learning or providing leisure activities for men. A number of promotional events are planned:

- Minehead Sports Centre 1st and 2nd March
- Taunton Racecourse 10th March 2003
- Bridgwater Rugby Club-mid March (tba)
- Yeovil Football Club 1st March
- Street –Wetherspoons 21st March
- Frome Leisure Centre end of Feb (tba).

If tutors are interested in finding out more about this project or the events, they should contact lou at louevans39@hotmail.com or on 01823 667300.

GRUNDTVIG 3 PARIS 3-9 NOVEMBER 2002

Gillian Lyne. Burnham-on-Sea Adult Learning & Leisure Centre

Five Somerset Tutors teaching French to Adults, with delegates from Norwich, Newcastle, Cornwall and Sweden received European funding for Training in Paris.

The programme included Workshops and discussions to explore a range of materials, use of Powerpoint, and classroom practice, as well as a walking tour of Paris from the Bastille to the Louvre and outside visits.

At the Sources d'Europe we were able to gather posters and booklets. The country home of Jean Monnet, the founder of the EU, gave a fascinating insight into the development of the Union, and a day at an Adult Education Centre enabled us to compare French structures, teaching methods and resources with our own.

As a "Germanist", the best part for me was a whole week of total French. It was great, too, not only to revisit Paris as a "Student", but also to collect books, music and website addresses for use in class.

It was such a wonderful opportunity, I would urge anyone who has the chance to go for it! Michèle Laouénan is planning a similar course for October/November 2003, and CILT currently has information for other languages.



A CENTURY OF LEARNING

Paul Cary, The Workers Educational Association

The Workers' Educational Association (WEA) is the largest single provider of adult education in Britain.

Founded in 1903 by Albert Mansbridge to 'promote higher education' when limited educational opportunities existed for working men and women. Today's WEA in 2003, its centenary year, promotes over 10,000 courses for over 110,000 adult students from all walks of life.

The strength, and the 'difference', of the WEA is that it is a voluntary organisation which relies on its members (current and former students) to help organise and support learning in their local communities – in village halls, community centres, schools and in some cases public houses!

Caribbean Literature at Charlton Horethorne, Medieval Misconceptions in Medicine and Science at Ilminster and Folklore, Customs and Superstitions of the West Country at Minehead highlight the diversity of the general provision across Somerset. Field Trips, Day Schools and residential weekends compliment the traditional classroom courses. Whilst Helping in Schools, part of the WEA Community Programme, continues to prove popular with parents across the county.



Helping in Schools: Students at South Petherton receiving their Certificates from County Councillor Doug Campbell and Tutor Ann Campbell.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST WANTED!

Adult Learning and Leisure is planning courses for September 2003 and is keen to receive interest from qualified and experienced tutors in the following subject areas:-

- Mathematics • English • Basic Skills • ICT
- Arts and Media • Foundation and first step learning
- Leisure activities including Yoga
- Modern Foreign Languages
- A wide range of stimulating subjects such as gardening or even dog training!

You need to be a knowledgeable and experienced in your subject field. We can offer access to teacher training courses for people with the right personal qualities.

If you are interested please send your CV to:
Karen Ingram, Adult Learning and Leisure, C Block, County Hall, Somerset, TA1 4DY.

or email details to kigram@somerset.gov.uk.

Please state that you are expressing your interest in potential work for Adult Learning and Leisure.

FREE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(and an excellent lunch! – editor)

The free training open to part-time tutors across the county on December 6th on 'Differentiation in Learning for all' was a great success.

There was opportunity to meet and interact with other part-time tutors across the county tutoring in a range of subjects. The most apparent benefits arising from evaluation concerned the welcoming of time to reflect on learning processes and to share a range of strategies to take back to base to practice.

If you missed, or were unable to attend, the meeting there is another chance for you to take up this free training and lunch on Thursday 20th February 2003! So if you haven't already done so, please get in touch and we will send further details to you. (See page 8).

GOOD AND HELPFUL NEWS FOR THE NEW YEAR: MORE FREEBIES!

We are aware that positive learning and development arises from non-accredited courses or programmes of learning but are often challenged in how to work with the learner to record and recognise this in course, session planning and delivery.

There are abundant indications that this challenge needs addressing in order to sustain the colourful and often wonderful variety of courses on offer in Somerset.

With funding from the Learning and Skills council, a project to develop a county common framework to support the recording and recognition of non-accredited learning is now well underway. The project recognises:

- The need for all learning to be celebrated whether in a formal or non-formal setting
- The importance of helping learners to recognise their achievement and personal development
- The promotion of life-long learning

The project is underpinned by awareness that many part-time tutors already use a range of excellent practices in capturing the often 'informal' moments when a learner improves in understanding or gains confidence in applying a new skill. Much support for this project has already been offered in the county already. If you have any ideas or contributions to make to the project then please get in touch.

There will be a series of FREE one-day events across the county for Adult Learning Tutors during February and March 2003. The aim of the days are to share strategies of how you can show the learning and development from the non-accredited courses you deliver. E.g. how can you show that a learner has gained in confidence? How can you show a learner she/he has learnt something during a short course?

PLEASE get in touch and we will send details out to you of the date and venue nearest to you (see page 8). You may like to read the view of a colleague who supports this important work 'The proof of the pudding', on the following page.

Some of the comments received:

- 'All re-usable stuff, especially sharing experiences with other tutors'
- 'I found working in a group rather than on my own most useful today'
- 'As a result of today I will ensure differentiation is an integral part of my course and lesson planning and delivery'

THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING!

Hannah Sinkie: Widening Participation Community Projects Co-ordinator, Bridgwater College

Policy makers and funding bodies are becoming increasingly concerned with evidencing the value of Adult and Community Learning.

They want us to prove that our programme works, that new skills are learnt, that learners gain confidence and improve self-esteem, that they learn to learn and value lifelong learning. To us this translates into Individual and Group Learning Plans, Mid-Course Evaluation, Post-Course Evaluation and Evidence of Progression. It all seems rather formal, possibly too formal for a programme, which values accessibility and aims to provide a non-threatening, relaxed learning environment. So why do we need to do it?

We know there is value in Adult and Community learning, it exists in the effect it has on our learners, it exists in the diverse and intrinsically personal benefits each individual learner takes from their time on the course. The language our learners use to express value may not be the same as the professional jargon but the essence is the same. Some of our learners value gaining new skills; others value the opportunity to meet new people, to try something new or to break out of their normal routine for a few hours a week and spread their wings.

It is our role as Tutors and Adult Learning Managers to find a way to capture the many and varied experiences of our learners and report them back to policy makers. We must do this because we need to ensure that policy makers and funders know that our programme works, that we are succeeding in achieving our objectives and that our staff and learners deserve the highest praise.

So this is our challenge – to act as the bureaucracy buffer between our learners and the policy makers and funders, to translate our learners' experiences into evidence, which can be used to champion and celebrate the value of our service at a National level.



WEEKEND COURSES AT DILLINGTON FOR £25

For 2003 Dillington House and Adult Learning and Leisure have combined to offer financial assistance so a weekend course will cost only £25.

There's no catch – as long as participants are on means tested benefits or low income and live in Somerset.

There are courses almost every weekend between now and the end of June in subjects as varied as watercolour painting to the history of aviation. Places are limited and subject to availability, so please pass on this good news to all you know especially your learners.

For more information please contact Geoff Hewitt, Programme Manager, Dillington House on 01460 52427 or a full brochure of courses and application forms can be obtained from Dillington House on 01460 258613.

Registration Form:

Please use this form to allow us to keep you updated directly about SALTA's news and activities, and give us feedback about what you would like to see in this newsletter.

(This information will be collated for the purposes of developing the Association only and will not be passed on to any other agencies without your prior permission)

Name

Address

Contact number/email address

Teaching specialism

Current work

Qualifications or recent training undertaken

Membership of any other Professional Teaching Agency?

Please send me more information on the training events:

Differentiation in Learning for All (20th Feb)

Assessment for Non-accredited Learning (various dates/venues)

Professional Development events are best for me:

(please tick appropriate box/boxes)

In the morning In the afternoon

Weekdays Saturdays

We would value your comments on the newsletter and ideas for next editions:

Please photocopy and return to:

Paula Jones, SALTA News Editor,

SWAFET, Bishops Hull House, Bishops Hull,

Taunton, Somerset, TA1 5EP

This newsletter and form is also available online at:

www.swafet.org.uk (look in Contracts – News)