

Making it Happen

The Community Learning Newsletter - Spring 2019
Focusing on Adult Learning in West Berkshire

Learner Achievement Awards Nominations Open

The annual Learner Achievement Awards celebrate the success of post 19 adult learning and training in West Berkshire covering apprenticeships, professional, academic and vocational courses and learning programmes that support families, communities and health and wellbeing.

The 11 award categories reflect the scope and priorities of education and include outstanding achievement, tutor/trainer contribution and older learners.

All winners receive a cash prize, a certificate and are invited to the awards ceremony at Shaw House, Newbury on Friday, 7 June.

To make an on-line nomination or to download a nomination form go to <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/laa2019>

The Learner Achievement Awards are part of the annual national Festival of Learning, and sponsored by [Newbury College](#), [West Berkshire Training Consortium](#), and the [Newbury Community Resource Centre](#).



Local Update



Donna Fox, Principal Adviser for School Improvement

Donna Fox is the new Principal Adviser for School Improvement at West Berkshire Council with a brief that includes schools, post 16 education and community learning. With over 19 years school leadership experience in both Hampshire and West Berkshire, Donna joins the Council from her role as Executive Headteacher at Parsons Down Partnership of Schools.

When Donna is not working she enjoys spa days and supporting Liverpool football club.

Contact Donna at donna.fox1@westberks.gov.uk

National Update

- The Labour party has set up a [Lifelong Learning Commission](#), chaired by Estelle Morris (Secretary of State for Education 2001-2), with an ambition to provide free, government funded, education from birth to grave.
- A new [Ofsted Common Inspection Framework](#) was open to consultation between January and April 2019. The new framework is more outcome or purpose focused with an emphasis on Intent, Implementation and Impact.
- The [post 18 education review](#) is due to report its findings in Spring 2019. The review focuses on HE/FE organisation and funding.
- The [Integrated Communities Action Plan](#) was launched in February 2019. The plan focuses on integrating communities and includes support for new migrants and local residents through education and increasing access to English language courses.

Local Update



Lee Hunt MBE, Vice Principal, Newbury College

Lee Hunt joined Newbury College as Vice Principal in December 2018. Previously Director of Curriculum at Havant and South Downs College Lee is focused on working with partners to develop a curriculum that meets the needs of the local economy.

Commenting on his appointment Lee said “I recently joined the senior management team at Newbury College and I am excited to bring my knowledge and expertise to the local area in helping business build a more resilient and focused workforce.”

Contact Lee at **01635 845000**

Community Learning Partnership

The next Partnership meeting is scheduled to take place at 10am on Thursday, 25th July 2019 at Newbury College. To become a member go to www.westberks.gov.uk/clp and complete the online registration form

Community Education Fund

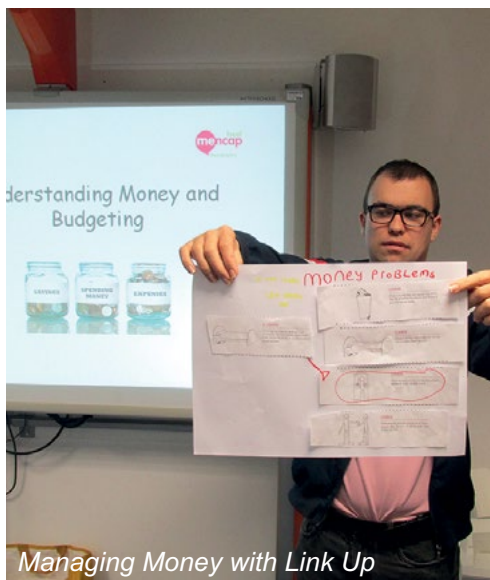
The Community Education Fund supports education based programmes aimed at adults aged over 19 years.

Each year around 20 local providers are allocated funding with a focus on local priorities across four themes: employment and further learning, health and wellbeing, family learning and community development.

The next funding round will be launched on Monday, 13th May 2019 to cover programmes for delivery in the 2019/20 academic year. For more information go to www.westberks.gov.uk/cef or contact the community learning team at email: aclteam@westberks.gov.uk or telephone: 01635 519060.

The following provision was supported by the Community Education Fund in 2018/19:

- English and maths for adults
- Self employment workshops
- English for native and non-native speakers (including refugees)



Managing Money with Link Up

- Mental Health Recovery courses
- Managing money for adults with learning difficulties
- Chess for adults with dementia (in partnership with Public Health)
- Courses to support adults in employment
- School Readiness Programme (in partnership with Family Hubs and Sovereign Housing)
- Family Wellbeing (in partnership with the Corn Exchange, HomeStart, Time2Talk)
- A range of community development courses including Supporting Community Buildings, Fuel Poverty, Community Organising and Neighbourhood Planning
- A Keeping Active programme in residential and day care settings



Learning English with the Berkshire School of English

Stronger Together



Stronger Together is a Reading and West Berkshire based initiative that aims to support adults over the age of 25 in to training and employment.

Funded by the European Social Fund and Big Lottery the project brings together providers across the district to ensure adults who are unemployed and often very vulnerable are given the support and guidance to move forward with their lives.

In West Berkshire the project includes an Employment Support Adviser who is based at the Council and provides 1-1 support over a period of time to ensure

any barriers are addressed. The service includes:

- Information, advice and guidance to address Addiction, Mental Health, Debt, Housing, Homelessness, Offending behaviour/ Criminal Records;
- Individual action plans to support employment journey
- Life skills mentoring and support;
- Advocate for individuals who are participating in the project;
- Support with meetings that an individual is unable to attend alone including doctors, psychiatrists, solicitors, attendance at court, rehab panels/ visits etc.

Feedback from Stronger Together Clients:

"I met Louise last year, I've had incredible help and support. I was on the cusp of a nervous breakdown and was feeling suicidal. I was also having a go at my kids talking them not to come near me because I thought I was dragging them down. I feel the help and support I have received has given me hope for the future. Louise has helped me with reading letters, admin, debt, doctors, medications, mental health etc...." JK, Feb 2019

"Amazing. Top notch. Without this support I'd have been banged up again or dead. I have never had support like this since being in care as a kid. I trust Louise

as a professional and I have never trusted any of them. My confidence and self-esteem has grown and this is the longest I have been out of prison in nearly 15 years. I was a junkie on heroin, crack, alcohol and meth and I am now clean. I no longer commit crime after 90 convictions and nearly 300 charges. Less than a year of working with Louise and I have turned my life around and she made me believe in myself. No one's done that before." RC, Dec 2018.

For more information or to refer someone to the service please contact Louise Thornton at email: louise.thornton1@westberks.gov.uk or telephone: 07880 870 387



Louise Thornton,
Employment Support Adviser

Provider update

Chess in Schools and Communities

The Community Learning team has been working with Public Health and Chess in Schools and Communities to develop a free 10 week course at Newbury Library aimed at adults with memory loss, dementia or mental health concerns.

It is widely recognised that the game of chess, at any level, supports memory development, improves analytical ability and provides opportunities to widen social interaction and communication skills.

For further information contact the Community Learning Team.

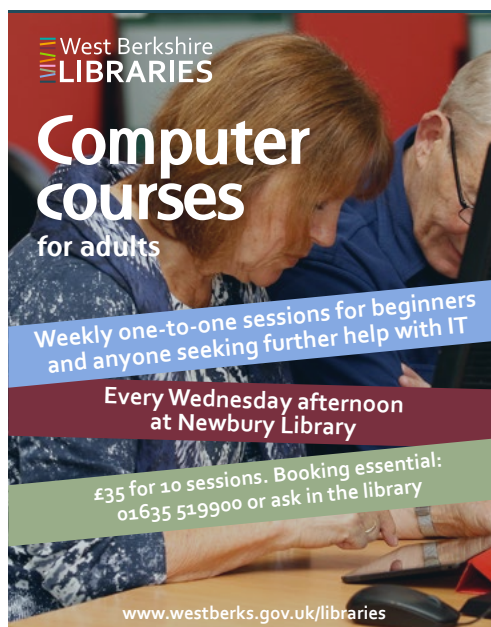
Computer courses for adults at Newbury Library

Newbury library is offering a 10 week IT course covering basic email and internet access to spreadsheets and specialist packages.

Learners can either use their own laptops/tablets or access the library's equipment. The course can also help to set up equipment straight from the box covering initial set up, on-line safety and basic guidance on the range of features that can fit individual needs and interests.

All sessions are on a 1-1 basis and cost £35 for 10 weeks with a free taster session available on request.

For more information pop in to Newbury Library or telephone **01635 519900** or email library@westberks.gov.uk



ESOL Success

Berkshire School of English are celebrating the success of their first cohort of students who have successfully completed their ESOL qualifications.

With a wide range of courses available to suit all abilities the Berkshire School of English invite adults who want to improve their

English, including speaking, reading and writing, to a coffee morning every Thursday between 10.00am - 11.30pm for coffee, chat, cake!

For more information telephone 01635 45900 or go to www.berkshireschoolofenglish.co.uk/



ESOL Learners celebrate with tutor Rachel Flynn Delargy (centre)

Supporting Mental Health

Recovery in Mind deliver a range of free courses to support adults with mental health needs. Supported by the Community Learning team the courses follow a stepped approach from bite size (step one) to a six week foundation course – ‘Welcome to Recovery’ (step two).

Learners are encouraged to progress to additional courses (step three) that support adults to self- manage their difficulties and

help them to lead more enjoyable and meaningful lives. The step three course portfolio includes the photography based ‘Recovery Street’ in which learners work with a professional photographer to develop photography skills and record their recovery journey. The course culminated with an exhibition of the learners work at Newbury Library.

Angela Ryan, Recovery In Mind owner and tutor, said” As an organisation we hope the exhibition will also encourage other adults with tutor)mental health challenges to try Recovery in Mind courses but it should also help reduce the stigma and misunderstanding surrounding mental health. The photos provide an insight into mental health give others a deeper understanding of living with mental health challenges. We would encourage anyone with an interest in mental health to pop in to the library to take a look. Thanks to all those students who shared their work.”

For more information go to www.recoveryinmind2016.com/free-courses



Recovery Street Photo Exhibition

Newbury College

To celebrate this year’s Festival of Learning Newbury College is offering a wide range of FREE courses during May and June.

The courses include:

- Building Confidence and Self Esteem
- Ceramics
- Creative Crafts

- Creative Writing
- Customer Service Skills
- Art
- Photography
- Dementia Awareness
- Mental Health Awareness

For further information go to: <https://www.newbury-college.ac.uk/search.html?q=festival+of+adult+learning> or telephone 01635 845000

HEROs

HEROs delivers equine based courses and functional skills to targeted adults and young people.

In February 2019 a new Education Hub was opened that includes top of the range smart, interactive teaching technology to support the delivery of the following courses:

- Entry Level Equine courses - for those with an interest in horses but lacking the practical skill
- Level 1 Traineeships - For individuals with some limited experience of horses who have interests in working in the industry
- Apprenticeships - Level 2 and 3 for learners who have a good working knowledge of horses and the industry who

need to support to gain formal qualifications whilst out in a working placement

- Work Experience Placements with North Farm Stud
- Alternative to School Provision placements
- English and Maths Functional Skills classes at Level 1 and Level 2.

For more information contact Dan Barrington at email:

dan@heroscharity.org or go to www.heroscharity.org/



Hero's new education hub

Community Furniture Project

The Community Furniture Project celebrated the success of its training programme in December with a presentation ceremony at its centre in Hambridge Road, Newbury.

The Mayor of Newbury, Councillor Margo Payne, presented certificates to sixteen adult learners who had successfully completed a range of qualifications that focused on work skills and employment requirements. The event included a celebratory lunch prepared by the students using the skills they had learnt in their training.

The Community Furniture Project delivers a wide range of qualifications and practical based courses to adults and young people.

For more information contact



Adam Stoneman receiving his certificate from Councillor Margo Payne

Kelvin Hughes on email: kelvin.hughes@cfpnewbury.org telephone 07780 642718 or go to the website at <http://cfpnewbury.org/train-with-us/3443712>

Useful West Berkshire Contacts

Ian Pearson, Head of
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Berkshire Council
01635 519729
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Alison Prudden, CL Principal
Officer, West Berkshire Council
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Learner Services and
Information,
Newbury College
01635 845000
or visit the website on
www.newbury-college.ac.uk

U3A Newbury,
01635 524099
http://u3asites.org.uk/newbury/
home

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Ruth Pearse CEO,
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ruth@
parentingspecialchildren.
co.uk 0118 986 3532

National Careers Service
0800 100 900

Venues for hire

Riverside Centre, Clay Hill, Newbury

Tel: 01635 332700
Email: clayhillra@gmail.com

Adventure Dolphin, Pangbourne

Tel: 0118 984 3162
Email: adventuredolphin@westberks.gov.uk
activityteam@westberks.gov.uk

Phoenix Resource Centre, Newbury

Tel: 01635 520150

Newbury College, Newbury

www.newbury-college.ac.uk/room-hire.html

West Family Hub, Newbury

Contact: Sally Lawson - slawson@victoriapark.w-berks.sch.uk

Central Family Hub, Thatcham

Contact: familyhubs.bookings@westberks.gov.uk

East Family Hub, Calcot

Contact: familyhubs.bookings@westberks.gov.uk

Hungerford and Area Family Centre

Contact: Shelly Hambrecht
Shelly@hungerfordnursery.w-berks.sch.uk

Newbury Community Resource Centre

(Free room hire and car parking for VCS organisations) 01635 43933

West Berkshire Libraries

(Low rates for Community Learning Providers)
library@westberks.gov.uk

Contact Us:

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e-mail: aclteam@westberks.gov.uk

We are committed to being accessible to everyone. If you require this document in an alternative format or translation, please call the Community Learning Team on Telephone 01635 519060.