



East Midlands

Adult Learners' Week

Awards 2010

co-ordinated by



supported by



Programme

East Midlands Adult Learners' Week Award Ceremony

Programme of the day



12.00

Registration

12.30-1.30

Lunch, with musical entertainment by Roger Marvin

1.30

John Griff (broadcaster and journalist) is the host for the East Midlands Adult Learners' Week Award Ceremony

1.40

Opening speech

Wednesday 19th May



The Curve Theatre

1.50

Award presentations

ESF Regional Individual Award Winner: **Shakeela Butt**

ESF Learning Works Award Winner: **Gill Pinnock**

East Midlands Regional Senior Learner of the Year: **Stephen Shepherd**

East Midlands Outstanding Learner of the Year: **William Ride**

East Midlands Regional Award Winners:

Carol Hilton

Sarah Bowker

Saeed Khan

Stephen Welyczko

Musical interlude with Roger Marvin

Booktrust Power of Reading Award – Highly Commended: **Ian Rousell**

Skills Funding Agency Learning for Work Award Winners:

Dawn Booton

Natasha Papanicolaou

Samantha Ranshaw-Ryan

Yorkshire Bank Special Learning Award Winner: **Angie Fear**

Transformation Fund Award Winner: **Brough Superior Learning Revolution Team**

Closing remarks

Tea and refreshments

Welcome to the East Midlands Adult Learners' Week Award Ceremony

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you to the East Midlands 2010 Adult Learners' Week Awards Ceremony here at The Curve in Leicester.

Adult Learners' Week is the UK's largest festival of learning. The event has been co-ordinated by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) since 1992 to celebrate adult achievements and showcase the creativity, imagination and energy adults bring to their learning.


Today's event gives us an opportunity to recognise the achievements of adult learners from across our region who have been nominated to receive adult learners awards. We hope that you will enjoy hearing the inspirational stories of our learners, many of whom have succeeded despite numerous problems and difficulties.

I welcome our host for the evening, BBC Radio Northampton presenter, John Griff, and Roger Marvin who is providing the musical entertainment.

I hope that you have a wonderful afternoon, and congratulations to all our winners – all of whom show that anything is possible.

Carol Anne Taylor
East Midlands Adult Learners' Week Regional Co-ordinator

A great year for the East Midlands



This year was a great year for the East Midlands, with an increased number of nominations for Adult Learners' Week Awards. The quality of the nominations made it a difficult task for the judges to make their selection of the winners. Each nomination told a story of achievement and success, confidence and self-worth. We are here today to congratulate you, and recognise your achievement.

Adult Learners' Week is an excellent opportunity to promote the value of learning. Your stories show that learning can change your life and the lives of those around you.

The relationship between learner and tutor is important, and we thank those tutors who recognised the achievement of their learners and took the time to nominate them for the Awards.

Our thanks go to all involved in this year's ceremony – learners and nominators, learning providers, judges, presenters and sponsors – and our congratulations to the winners.

Whether you are one of these people, or whether you are here to support and cheer them on, we hope you have a great afternoon.

Carol Anne Taylor
East Midlands Adult Learners' Week Regional Co-ordinator

East Midlands Outstanding Learner of the Year



William Ride

Age 42, Ripley, Derbyshire

Nominated by Pauline Ferguson, Derbyshire County Council

When William Ride became a single father of his two sons after his wife's death from leukaemia, he approached his Sure Start centre for help. Six years later he is planning a career for himself working with children, with an ambition to set up dads' groups in his area.

Following his visits to Sure Start, Barnardo's asked him to consider forming a fathers' group. Starting with a Saturday morning brunch club and a Dads' and Tots' Group, activities have spread rapidly throughout Derby including two conferences. He was also on a fundraising committee to pay for trips for families to local attractions.

William had always found learning difficult but he was determined to do his best for his children, so he took courses in Parenting, Diversity and Safeguarding, Handling Children's Behaviour and Child Protection. Now he is taking the NCFE Level 1 Working with Children course and plans to make this his career.

Learning was his key to success, he said. **"The learning I have done on the course has given me the skills in childcare and helped me with my knowledge and understanding."**

Pauline Ferguson, his tutor and nominator from Derbyshire County Council Adult Community Education Service, said, **"He is an excellent role model for learning and progression."**

Carol Hilton

Age 46, Boston, Lincolnshire

Nominated by Shirley Telford, Open University, Nottingham

Carol began her career at The Pilgrim Hospital in Boston as a cleaner over 20 years ago and in the last few years she has been distance learning part-time so she can become a nurse. Studying on her days off, during her holidays and in every spare minute available has seen Carol achieve NVQ Levels 2 and 3 in health and social care, whilst working as a care assistant. She has also gained an Open University certificate in Health Care and completed the Diploma at the start of 2010. Carol has been rewarded with the offer of a job as a staff nurse in A&E at The Pilgrim Hospital.

Carol's achievements are even more remarkable as she has put in many more hours than her fellow students, due to her dyslexia and finding some of the study difficult. Carol said, "Through constant support and patience from my tutors and colleagues I have been able to overcome these problems." She ended, "[I] now feel able and confident to be part of a professional team and achieve all my goals."

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Carol

East Midlands Regional Award Winner



Sarah Bowker

Age 46, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire

Nominated by Dave Ferguson, Grantham College

Sarah injured her spine in a riding accident in 2003 and lost her job as a night HGV driver, which left her feeling depressed and uninterested in life. After seeing an advert for a basic computer course at a local college, Sarah decided to enrol and, although she almost didn't turn up to the first class, it became the start of her learning journey.

Despite not knowing how to switch on a computer, Sarah passed the desktop publishing course and subsequent courses in Word and text processing and a CLAIT Diploma, then Literacy Level 1 and a GCSE in English. It was her personal experience of counselling following the accident that gave Sarah an interest in studying the subject, and she has progressed from Level 1 and is currently studying for a Level 4 Diploma in counselling skills. "I hope one day to qualify and make a difference to someone's life," said Sarah. Her nominator, Dave, added, "Sarah is a truly astonishing person. She has no academic background... and yet she has huge drive and ambition, a determination to make the most of her opportunities and develop new skills."

Saeed Khan

Age 37, Leicester

Nominated by Ian Lewis, Leicester College

Saeed returned to learning to help him improve his skills and his taxi business, having left school with no qualifications due to family circumstances. He enrolled on the NVQ Level 2 Road Passenger Transport Vehicle Driving course at Leicester College to learn more about subjects, including customer service, supporting passengers with special needs and road safety. In the same year, he also completed Level 2 in Literacy and Numeracy, as well as his A1 Assessor training to allow him to assess other taxi drivers on the NVQ driving course. He is planning to continue learning to become an internal verifier.

Saeed dedicated time to learn, despite working regular taxi night shifts and supporting his extended family. He now encourages other drivers to learn, telling them first-hand of the benefits it can bring. **“The commitment he shows sets a clear example to others who are in similar situations with the mindset that adult learning is impossible,”** praised nominator, Ian Lewis.

Saeed said, **“I understand and recognise that many drivers find literacy and numeracy a challenge... One of my long-term goals is to support and encourage other drivers to undertake basic skills training and overcome these barriers.”**



“Learning has certainly transformed my life, opened new doors and provided me with a much brighter future.”

Stephen

Stephen Welyczko

Age 50, Northampton

**Nominated by Claire Ward, Northamptonshire County Council
Adult Learning**

Stephen enjoyed a successful career until both his parents died suddenly, which, along with job loss and financial problems, caused him to become depressed. In 2008, he joined Learn2B and completed ‘Journey to Wellbeing’, ‘Pens not Pills’ and Anger Management courses, which assisted his recovery. Becoming physically active helped lift Stephen’s depression too, when he joined ‘Man Alive’ and learned about healthy living, losing 10% of his body weight through a lifestyle change. Stephen took up cycling again after 34 years and is now a qualified National Standard Cycling Instructor, and has also completed an initial lifelong learning teaching qualification. He is also active in his local community doing valuable work for Semilong Community Forum and the Castle CASPAR Neighbourhood Renewal Project.

Initially a student with Learn2B, Stephen now aims to use his qualifications as a tutor at the project. In 2010 he hopes to manage a new cycling training co-operative, and will continue studying an HE Certificate in Creative Writing at the University of Leicester. **“Learning has certainly transformed my life and opened new doors,”** ended Stephen.

Shakeela Butt

Age 30, Derby

Nominated by Louise Adam, Derby Adult Learning Service

Shakeela came to the UK from Pakistan, and enrolled on an English course at Derby Multicultural Centre to help her feel comfortable communicating with others. It took Shakeela a couple of years to pass her English, literacy and numeracy courses, but she never gave up, and gained her European Computer Driving Licence Levels 1 and 2. Shakeela wanted to work with children so she then studied and passed NVQ Levels 2 and 3 in Childcare Learning and Development (CCLD) whilst doing voluntary work at her daughter's school and nursery. Shakeela now has her first job in the UK working for a local Sure Start Children's Centre.

Shakeela said, "I hope there are other women who will hear my story and feel if I can do it they can do it too. Sometimes it's hard as you don't always get what you want first time around, but you just have to carry on doing it and you will get there."



**ESF East Midlands
Regional Award
Winner**



East Midlands Regional Senior Learner of the Year



Stephen Shepherd

Age 58, Nottingham

Nominated by Julie Froggatt, Derby College

Steve wanted to gain nationally recognised IT and computer qualifications to get back into work, having been unemployed since losing his sight two years ago as a result of diabetic retinopathy. Steve enrolled on an ITQ Level 2 course at Derby College's learning centre at The Spot in April 2009, with a specialist audio screen reader enabling him to access screen material, successfully completing the course two months ahead of schedule. **"It just goes to prove that disability need not be a barrier; the important thing is to remain positive and find out what help and support is available,"** said Steve.

Steve is due to enrol on a course to achieve an Access to the Blind computer certificate and CLAIT Plus, which will allow him to train others. He currently volunteers with partially sighted people and hopes his qualifications will help him find paid employment. **"The computer at home is now my lifeline since I lost my sight, as it enables me to better communicate with people,"** ended Steve.

Gill Pinnock

Age 40, Leicester

Nominated by Lucy Atherton, Protocol Skills Ltd, Cheshire

A sales assistant since leaving school at 16, including a career break to raise a family, Gill never considered promotion until her manager suddenly quit the store. “I could have just waited for a replacement,” she said. But after finishing an NVQ Level 3 and a Management Advanced Apprenticeship in Retail, with the support of Clinton Cards and national training provider, Protocol Skills, she rose to the challenge and was successfully promoted to the role.

Now, having recruited nine new employees, Gill promotes vocational training to all her staff, some of whom have gone on to take qualifications themselves. She insists the ESF-funded learning made all the difference to her life and wants others to share the opportunities.

“When I was recruiting in store, it helped me to know what people I needed, how to put them in the right places and how to treat everyone fairly and understand their individual needs,” she said. “One of the greatest things it has taught me is the importance of managing myself better – ‘working smarter’ helps me to manage a team successfully.”



**ESF Learning Works
Award Winner**



Highly Commended: Ian Rousell

Age 37, Shirebrook, Mansfield

Nominated by Alison Rodger, Derbyshire County Council

Attendance of literacy classes has led Ian to read a poem for the first time, become a regular borrower of library books for pleasure and write a poem described by his tutor as 'eloquent and touching'. Ian is expected to pass Level 1 in literacy and progress to Level 2 in 2010. "Until this course, I would never have dreamed of writing stories or poems but now I think I can take on the world," said Ian.

"Until this course, I would never have dreamed of writing stories or poems, but now I think I can take on the world."

Ian

Skills Funding Agency Learning for Work Awards

Skills Funding Agency Learning for Work Awards



The Skills Funding Agency is supporting the Adult Learners' Week Awards in the East Midlands by sponsoring the Learning for Work Awards.

The Skills Funding Agency is one of the new agencies formed following the dissolution of the Learning and Skills Council from April 2010. The Agency funds and regulates adult further education skills in England and is an agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

Responsible for channelling funding swiftly, efficiently and securely to further education colleges and other providers, primarily in response to employer and learner choice, the Skills Funding Agency operates through customer focused services: National Apprenticeship Service; Learner Services, Employer Services and the Adult Advancement and Careers Service.

Our mission is to ensure that people and businesses get the skills training they need. We do this in the context of policy set by BIS and informed by the needs of businesses, communities, regions and sector and industry bodies.



Dawn Booton

Age 47, Hinckley, Leicestershire

Nominated by Marion McMillan, Leicestershire Adult Learning Service

Dawn left school without good qualifications and worked in a range of jobs. In 2002, she enrolled on a 'Keeping up with the Children' course run at her son's primary school. She enjoyed being able to help her son with his homework and followed this course with a 'Creative Writing' one.

She started volunteering with Home-Start, her confidence increased and she was successful in becoming a carer. Since then, Dawn has completed an NVQ 2 in Caring and an NVQ 2 in Dementia, and is currently doing an NVQ 3 in Palliative Care.

The 'Keeping up with the Children' course changed Dawn's life completely. She is more confident, able to attend training and has a job where she feels she is making a positive contribution.

"The classes were a start of a whole new life for me and I'm finally doing a job I love. I am a different person to what I used to be... I walk tall with confidence and my head held high at last," said Dawn.



Natasha Papanicolaou

Age 29, Newhall, Derbyshire

Nominated by Gail Middleton, Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service

In 2007, Natasha moved to a different area and, knowing only her immediate family, she felt very isolated.

In February 2008, she saw a leaflet with information about childcare courses at the local adult education centre. Natasha has always been interested in the subject, and although she was worried about not having studied for nearly ten years, she enrolled in one of the courses.

During the past two years she has completed six childcare courses, several childminding courses and is studying for an NVQ Level 3 in Childcare, Learning and Development. She also runs her childminding business and has just achieved an 'outstanding' grade in her first Ofsted inspection.

Natasha is now planning to start an Early Year's Foundation Degree. "I believe my continuous need to expand my knowledge and develop further can only improve every outcome for myself and any child who attends my setting now or in years to come. The future is definitely bright!" said Natasha.

Skills
Funding
Agency

Skills Funding Agency
Learning for Work
Award Winner



“I have earned recognition of a good proficient farm manager, which has in turn provided a steady advancement to my career.”

Samantha

Samantha Ranshaw-Ryan

Age 38, Ashbourne, Derbyshire

Nominated by Carl Fryett, Poultec Training Limited, Dereham, Norfolk

Samantha is a manager of a 270,000-bird farm. This has meant that she has had to increase her knowledge of a wide range of systems and processes.

She has shown a high level of dedication and determination in gaining the information necessary to complete the work, using the Internet to source the information she needs.

Through her commitment, she has earned the respect of her peers and has been able to develop training programmes that she uses to train staff members on her site.

Samantha feels that she has learnt more on her NVQ Level 3 than she thought possible. Learning has improved her quality of life – something that she feels we all strive for.

“The more learning, the more proficient I become... I have earned recognition of a good proficient farm manager, which has in turn provided a steady advancement to my career,” said Samantha.

Yorkshire Bank 150th Anniversary Community Awards

Yorkshire Bank
Special Learning
Award

NIACE was delighted to receive one of the Yorkshire Bank's Community 'Commended' Awards, presented to members of the Midlands regional team in November 2009. In the spirit of the bank's awards, NIACE felt that it would like to celebrate further by offering a Yorkshire Bank Special Adult Learners' Week in the East and West Midlands.

The Yorkshire Bank awards recognised charities and communities groups across four main areas, of which education was one. This strand and the others are an integral part of their Corporate Responsibility agenda.

Dean Cutbill, Director for Yorkshire Bank, said, "As a business we're passionately committed to supporting education in our communities, which is why we're so delighted that NIACE was able to use the prize money to fund such a worthwhile cause."

For more information about the Yorkshire Bank 150th Community Awards, visit:

www.ybonline.co.uk/about-yorkshire-bank/community-awards

Angie Fear

Age 61, Leicester

Nominated by Chris Worsey, Leicester Adult Skills and Learning Service

Angie joined REMIT, a community education mental health project, in 2003, starting with a ceramics workshop and a computer class. She developed a love of ceramics and continued onto more advanced courses, proving to be very skilled and creative – one of her recent pieces is a three-foot-high ‘terracotta man’.

Angie has continued her learning, passing her Literacy exams and once again studying computing. She is a member of the REMIT User’s group, who fundraise for trips and parties, supporting the project and other learners as well as being the voice of the learners.

She is branching out into more creative ceramic work and has taken up life drawing, which she finds challenging.

“Through these courses I have found my confidence boosted... This has given me a real feeling of self-worth. My confidence was further boosted by having some of my ceramic work exhibited in the City Gallery and actually selling a piece,” said Angie.



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Brough Superior Learning Revolution Team



Transformation Fund
Award Winner

Nominated by Rachael Evans, Nottingham City Museums and Galleries

A group of Nottinghamshire adults aged 19 to 68 from diverse backgrounds have been meeting on a weekly basis since October 2009 to learn how to restore a piece of Nottingham's history – the 1936 Brough Superior vintage car. The 56 group members are learning about all aspects of car restoration, as well as the history of the car, so that the final result can be exhibited in Nottingham. The project has led to some members considering Further Learning, and others getting job offers.

The group – known as the Brough Superior Learning Revolution Team – works in teams, with each team learning a different skill. The research teams are learning how to document evidence for the end exhibition; the restoration team is learning about mechanics, body and panel work from professionals at Riste Motor Company; the film-making team is documenting the restoration and learning how to use cameras and edit film; and the journalist team is being trained on writing news stories by the *Nottingham Evening Post*.

Each group member has a different reason for joining the project, including the desire to learn new skills, having fun and being involved in the heritage of their home city. However, their shared aim is to learn and be proud of what they achieve. A member of the group, Anthony, said, “Reflecting on my learning outcomes, I feel more confident and independent, and I'm glad to have met so many wonderful people. This project is a life-changing experience I will never forget.”



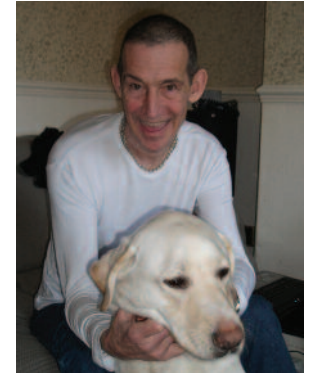
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Acknowledgements

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this event – the winners and their families, the nominators, members of the selection panels, sponsors, award presenters, county co-ordinators, and all those who have helped with the Award Ceremony. Thank you to **John Griff** for acting as the host and MC, and **Roger Marvin** for the entertainment.

Many thanks also to those nominators and press contacts who kindly donated images for use in this profile book.

East Midlands Adult Learners' Week Award Winners





Carol Anne Taylor

East Midlands Adult Learners' Week Regional Co-ordinator

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