


ADULT LEARNERS'
WEEK

**9-15
MAY
2009**



Adult Learners' Week

Review 2009

co-ordinated by:



supported by:



Department for
Innovation,
Universities &
Skills

**Careers
Advice**



Our
future.
It's in
our hands.



Highlights

- 1,418 nominations for Adult Learners' Week Awards
- At least 45,000 people engaged in 3,000 events
- 70% enrolled on a course after calling the helpline
- 53% enrolled on a course after attending an event
- 62% intended to return to learning after reading New Horizons
- Nearly ¼ million visits to the campaign website
- Over 2,300 items of media coverage

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“Learning is one of the best parts of living.”
Philippa Forrester



An introduction



Once again, Adult Learners' Week, the UK's largest festival of learning, has engaged thousands more and different people in learning.



In 2009, Adult Learners' Week celebrated its 18th anniversary with events, celebrations and publicity from 9 to 15 May. Based on a simple formula, now copied in over 50 countries across the world, the campaign recognises remarkable adult learners in all their diversity, whilst inspiring others to give learning a go.

As ever, the over-arching aim of the campaign is to raise the demand for learning and skills. Co-ordinated by NIACE, the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, the Week seeks particularly to inspire low-skilled, unemployed and low-paid adults, and those with few or no qualifications. It also supports providers to engage the most isolated and excluded of learners in activities that develop social and employment skills, confidence and ambition.



Foreword by Alan Tuckett, Chief Executive of NIACE

There has never been a stronger case for adult learning. Businesses that fail to develop their staff are twice as likely to collapse. Firms seeking to reposition themselves for the economic upturn need to invest in their staff's flexibility, responsiveness and skills. Industry must respond enthusiastically to the government's Train to Gain programme, which offers training to workers with few formal qualifications. In an ageing society, it makes sense to support older adults to develop new skills, prolonging their working lives.

These are all good reasons to support adult learning...

It is a mistake to separate learning for work and for community and personal development. Language classes have dropped sharply; yet, for anyone looking to develop trade in China, learning Mandarin can be a business benefit.

In the same way, helping someone rebuild relationships after a period of depression might happen in a yoga class, but the benefits will be felt in the workplace. Learning leaks, since adults use skills developed in one context in quite different environments.

Education can transform lives. It fosters dignity, confidence and capability – and investing in it makes sense for individuals and for the economic and physical health of the nation.

This is what NIACE seeks to celebrate during Adult Learners' Week – with the support of thousands of our partners.

This annual review brings you the highlights of the 2009 campaign, when Adult Learners' Week celebrated its 18th anniversary.

Alan Tuckett



“What can I say? Winning an award was overwhelming. It was an honour to be recognised and great that I was given the opportunity to inspire others. Adult learning has changed my life.”

Paul Parker, Adult Learners' Week Award winner 2009

Our sponsors

We are grateful to all of our sponsors, who have helped to further enrich the impact and reach of Adult Learners' Week 2009 and its messages.

"The European Social Fund (ESF) is pleased to continue its sponsorship of Adult Learners' Week. The ESF programme invests in jobs and skills and shares many aims with Adult Learners' Week – which provides a great opportunity to celebrate learning and communicate positive messages about its potential."

James Ritchie, ESF Policy Unit



"SSAT has sponsored the Outstanding Adult Learner Award in specialist schools and academies since 2008 as part of Adult Learners' Week to raise the awareness and support the development of adult and family learning as part of the community engagement of schools. Our two excellent award winners, Marie Harvey (4 Dwellings school: family learning linked to the science specialism) and Voldis Kudliskis (South Dartmoor Community College: for NLP work with all ages of learners), have in different ways demonstrated and encouraged a resurgence in adult and family learning in specialist schools and academies in England."

Peter Webb, National FE Co-ordinator, SSAT



"Since 2000, learndirect has used technology to enable millions of adults to gain the skills they, their employers and the economy need. Adult Learners' Week is a great way of showcasing the power of learning to change lives and learndirect was delighted to continue its support through sponsorship of the Learning through Technology award. Harnessing the power of technology and the efficiency it offers for helping people gain new skills has been more important in the past year than ever before as economic challenges continue. The award was a great way of highlighting some of the inspiring ways in which adults have transformed their lives for the better, and of celebrating their individual achievements."

Sarah Jones, Chief Executive, learndirect



"Embedding media literacy in Adult Learners' Week is an excellent way to help people learn about the benefits of digital participation. It is essential to support people as they develop the skills and confidence to improve their lifestyle and life chances. We are delighted to support NIACE as they continue to do such great work in this area and welcome them as members of the Consortium of the promotion of digital participation."

Robin Blake, Head of Media Literacy for Ofcom



"The Booktrust: Power of Reading Award celebrates the contribution that books and reading give to adult learners, so the partnership with NIACE was a natural one. Booktrust is dedicated to encouraging people of all ages and cultures to engage with books, particularly those who may feel less confident about reading. It was an honour to read and judge these entries, and we were so impressed with the achievements of last year's entrants and eventual winner who, through their stories, revealed the transformative power of reading in their own lives."

Viv Bird, Chief Executive of Booktrust



"The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is delighted to have supported Adult Learners' Week in 2009.

This annual celebration continues to promote the message that learning is something that we can all take up, no matter what age we are.

Adult Learners' Week highlights the benefits that learning can bring to us all, from increased confidence to gaining the skills that can really help us to keep our lives moving forward.

The outstanding achievements of the Adult Learners' Week award winners truly are an inspiration to us all to follow in their footsteps and achieve our goals through learning.

Congratulations to you all on another successful year!"

Geoff Russell, Chief Executive, Learning and Skills Council



"Adult Learners' Week is a key time in the calendar when we celebrate everything that is good about adult learning. Last year for the first time we sponsored an Outstanding Achievement Award for learners who have taken our qualifications, and looking through the case studies really brings it home to you about the great lengths people go to, the barriers they overcome and the sheer determination they have to marshal in order to complete their studies.

It continues to be a difficult time in adult learning and amongst all the policy shifts, the difficulties in funding and the general uncertainties, we do well to remember that at the end of the day, it's the learner and the learning that really count. Adult Learners' Week really helps us to focus on this – long may it continue."

Jill Brunt, NOCN



"QCDA is proud to continue supporting Adult Learners' Week. We are committed to helping all learners achieve their full potential and get recognition for their achievements. The Qualifications and Credit Framework we are developing will give adult learners more flexibility to develop their skills and build up qualifications from smaller units of learning."

Sue Georgious, Director of Adult Skills, Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency



"BIS (previously known as DIUS) is delighted to be a partner in Adult Learners' Week (ALW) and extends warm congratulations to our colleagues at NIACE and the many individuals and organisations whose passion for learning helped make ALW 2009 such a success.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of ordinary people discover the pleasures and benefits of learning for personal, family and community development. Informal adult learning tends not to lead directly to qualifications, but its reach is long and we know that it can be particularly effective in helping to engage people who are reluctant to learn and encouraging them to progress and achieve. The Learning Revolution White Paper published in March 2009 outlines what Government can do to support this type of learning and raise the profile of informal adult learning wherever it happens. Adult Learners' Week will continue to play its part in helping people discover the benefits of high-quality innovative learning that is accessible to all."



"My colleagues at LSIS and I send our best wishes for Adult Learners' Week (ALW) 2010. The organising team are to be congratulated for the tremendous commitment and energy they bring to the country's largest and longest running learning campaign.

But most of all, ALW is about learners, and our good wishes go to them for their achievements past, present and future. Adult learning is transformative; it gives people the chance to develop new skills and revisit areas of learning that they missed out on in their earlier years. It enriches the life of individuals and of communities, as well contributing to economic well-being. One of LSIS's four strategic outcomes for every learning and skills provider is effective engagement strategies for learners and communities, and we will pursue this objective through our support to providers to meet the needs of learners at whatever point on their learner journey they are on. That is why we are delighted to wish ALW and adult learners every success."

David Collins, Chief Executive, LSIS



"As ever, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) welcomes the opportunity to support NIACE in its mission to encourage more and more adults to engage in learning throughout life. Adult Learners' Week is a key part of their strategy in this regard and I am delighted that, once again, our Careers Advice Service is helping to promote the national, week-long event.

Our trained advisers answer a wide range of enquiries through the 0800 100 900 number throughout Adult Learners' Week, not only from individuals looking to find out more about learning new skills, but also from those who simply want to find out how to get involved with the events taking place during the week itself.

Both the LSC's Careers Advice Service and its nextstep face-to-face service can provide adults with real help, through impartial careers information and advice – whether they are facing redundancy, worried about their job, or looking to get into, or on at, work."

Jon Gamble, Director for Adults and Lifelong Learning

**Careers
Advice**



Events

Comprising a week-long programme of national events, supported by thousands of regional and local activities, Adult Learners' Week has become an established part of the adult learning calendar.

National events

Each day of Adult Learners' Week is given a national focus, hosting key events, taking every opportunity to remind politicians and policy-makers that adult learning matters – not only to the economy, but to the wider social health of our communities.

Cultural Diversity Weekend

Adult Learners' Week burst into life with Cultural Diversity Weekend on 9–10 May. At least 10,000 people attended events up and down the country celebrating all aspects of the rich cultural heritage of England's population. From music, sport and dance, to food, fashion and languages, learning was colourful and fun!

Among the highlights were a Culture Fest in Stockport town square, a Buddha's Birthday event at Stevenage Museum, and Ancient Daoist Art of Lishi, including Tai Chi, Qi Gong and Kung Fu taster sessions in Leeds' Kirkgate Market.

A Passport to Culture tour of the world's continents was held in Lincolnshire's The Collection, where local communities (including Polish, Portuguese, Nigerian, Spanish, Italian, Indian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Mexican, Bulgarian, English and Sudanese communities) volunteered to share a variety of craft, dance, music and food activities.

Over 2,800 people signed up to courses, from samba and drumming to plastering with Walsall Learning Alliance's new learning campaign, and a range of world dance sessions from Bhangra to salsa were held in Leicester's libraries. The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust held a Falcon Flying event at Mary Arden's House and a celebration of poetry and prose was celebrated across Derby.

A 'Learn Yourself Well' event was held at the World Museum in Liverpool, offering African dance, holistic therapies, a learning market and a chance to join the City's Challenge to get fitter and healthier. The 'Celebration of Culture' event in Woking hosted a free internationally themed concert in the town centre with colourful acts from lion dancers to Morris dancing!



"I didn't realise how many different cultures and countries were represented and had a presence in Lincolnshire."

Greek participant in Lincolnshire's Passport to Culture event.



“My course has become my passion and a major focus having been home for some years taking care of children.”

Sharon Glaas



Inspired By...

The V&A Museum held its tenth 'Inspired By' awards ceremony on Saturday 9 May, highlighting the benefits of learning through art and museums. Each year visitors are asked to submit a piece of work that is inspired by a piece of art at the museum. The NIACE Adult Learners' Week Inspired By Award Winner was Sharon Glaas from Tadworth. Sharon, who studied at Scola, was inspired by a Japanese Kimono at the museum to produce a beautiful Ikebana neckpiece.

The Inspired By Awards are also run during Adult Learners' Week by seven regional museums: Manchester Art Gallery; Bodlewyddan Castle Trust; National Museums Liverpool – Sudley House; World Museum, National Conservation Centre; The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent; Stockport Museum and Art Gallery; and this year one international museum, the Brandts Museum, Denmark.

Freedom to teach, freedom to learn

On Monday 11 May a joint conference entitled 'Freedom to Teach, Freedom to Learn' was held by NIACE, the NRDC, and UCU at the Institute of Education. Just under 100 participants joined in to discuss adult learning and teaching issues.

National Policy Conference

We were proud to have this year's annual policy conference **sponsored by the QCA**. 'Beyond the Recession: Adult Learning in a Changing World' was held on Tuesday 12 May at the Mermaid Theatre, Blackfriars, London.

The keynote speech was delivered by Rt Hon John Denham MP, then Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Other guest speakers included Chris Humphries CBE, Chief Executive, UK Commission for Employment and Skills; Pam Johnson, Head of Unison Learning and Organising Services; Andrew Sich, Head of Public Affairs, City & Guilds; Alan Tuckett, Chief Executive of NIACE; and Sue Georgious, Director, Adult Skills Programmes at QCA.

The conference theme was also prominently covered in a special Adult Learners' Week supplement in *The Guardian* on the same day.

Quick Reads Learners' Favourite Award

NIACE co-ordinates the outreach work for this hugely successful literacy initiative, and its fourth year was celebrated in Adult Learners' Week on Wednesday 13 May at the British Library. Readers voted online for their favourite Quick Reads author,

awarded to Patience Thompson for *101 Ways to Get your Child to Read*. Sherrie Hewson (pictured on page 10), of Coronation Street fame, shared her experience of writing Quick Reads book *The Rising Star*. Find out more at www.quickreads.org.uk

Adult Learners' Week Parliamentary Reception

Held on the evening of Tuesday 12 May, the Parliamentary Reception offered the perfect opportunity for MPs across all parties to discuss the adult learning agenda. **Sponsored for the first time by City & Guilds**, the event was hosted at the House of Commons by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Lifelong Learning. Keynote speeches were delivered by Kelvin Hopkins MP – Co-Chair of the All-Party Group; Sion Simon – Minister for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (as was); Stephen Williams – Liberal Democrat Spokesperson, David Evenett MP – Shadow Spokesperson for Further Education and Skills; and Alan Tuckett, Chief Executive of NIACE.

Two Early Day Motions for Adult Learners' Week

The first was issued on 6 May 2009: "that this House welcomes Adult Learners' Week and the events being organised all over the country to celebrate the achievements of adult learners; notes with regret the cuts to the number of Learning and Skills Council-funded adult learner places, which have led to 865,000 fewer female learners and 375,000 fewer male learners since 2004–05; is concerned about the opportunities that have been closed to some of the most vulnerable people, including those with learning disabilities and other disabilities; regrets the failure to plan the adult apprenticeship budget, which is likely to lead to a decrease in the number of places available; is further concerned about the slow pace of the Government's attempt to deal with the capital crisis in further education; and calls on Ministers to provide new opportunities to adult learners during the recession."

The second was issued on 12 May 2009: "that this House welcomes the 18th Adult Learners' Week; celebrates the achievements of adult learners throughout the nations and regions of the UK; acknowledges the valued contributions of partners in the voluntary, public and private sectors; and affirms the equal importance of the skills, civic participation, widening access, health and well-being agendas."

In all, across both parliamentary motions, 108 MPs signed up to offer their support to the campaign.



"The feeling of winning an award was amazing and it made me realise that I must not underestimate my ability to achieve more things."

Richard John Stacey

“I felt like I was on cloud nine. You recognised me for what I had been trying to achieve and put me on a pedestal and showed me that I was somebody special.”

Gerildine Talbot



“I was surprised to have been nominated and amazed to have won an award. After a hard and difficult start to my education, this award represented how far I have come and how much I have achieved.”

Paul Slinn

Adult Learners' Week National Award Ceremony

The prestigious Adult Learners' Week Awards ceremony was held on Friday 15 May at QEII Conference Centre, London, **sponsored by BECTA**. Just under 100 inspirational adult learners were celebrated from across the country, in the presence of **NIACE's Patron, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal**.

The national ceremony was hosted by TV and radio presenter **Philippa Forrester**, who returned to learning as an adult, gaining a first-class degree in Ecology and Conservation at Birkbeck College in London, while she continued to present *Tomorrow's World*.

The European Social Fund Awards were presented by Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform (DWP) and Minister for London – Rt Hon Tony McNulty MP

Learning at Work Day

Once again, this national themed day saw hundreds of events being held at workplaces up and down the country. With co-ordinators Campaign for Learning, NIACE also launched a national Learning at Work Day survey, assessing the impact of workplace learning with employers and learners. A follow-up conference will be held in early 2010. Visit **www.learningatworkday.com** for further information.

Silver Surfers' Day

A focus was given to IT skills for older people as part of Silver Surfers' Day on Friday 19 May. Co-ordinated by Digital Unite, hundreds of events were held in libraries, schools and sheltered housing organisations. Visit **www.silversurfers.digitalunite.com** for details.

Regional Awards Ceremonies

The inspirational Adult Learners' Week Award winners were also celebrated at special Regional Awards Ceremonies in each of the nine English regions. Many providers also held their own local awards ceremonies, adding further to the occasion.

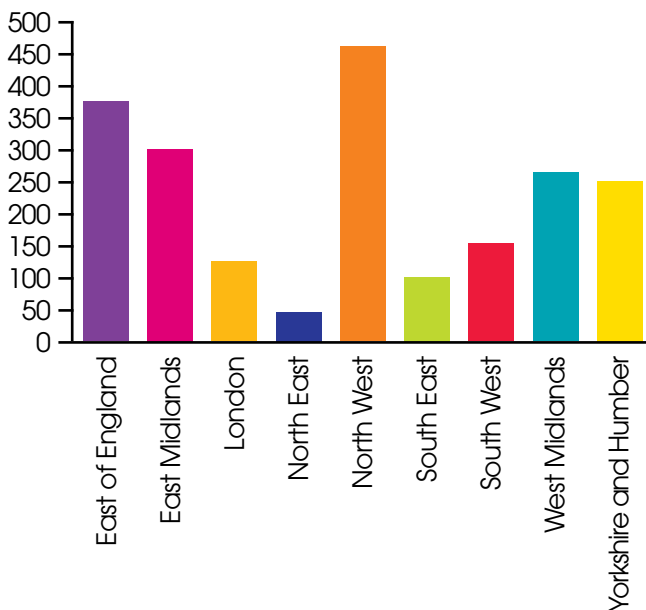
Regional events

Each year thousands of events are run across the country as part of Adult Learners' Week.

In 2009, just under 3,000 events were registered on our online calendar as open to the public throughout England. This figure is always a significant underestimation of the activity that takes place across the country by our supporters, as not all events are captured (such as workplace events or those for specific service users).

It is estimated that this diverse range of activity engaged at least 45,000 participants.

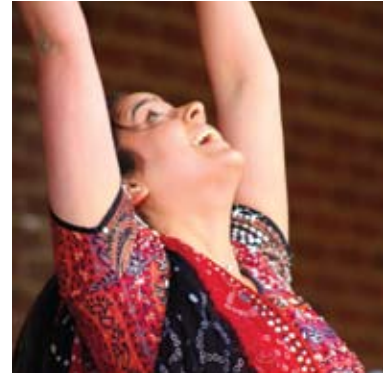
Figure 1: Regional breakdown of events



Each year a set of themes are developed to support local and regional activity. Here are some highlight activities that took place under each theme.

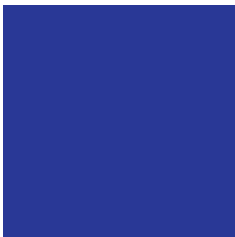
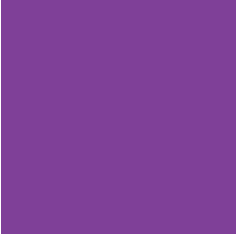
Globalisation and the changing world of work

Workplaces and unions held events across the country, including branches of Tesco, DHL, Argos, Sainsbury's and McVities; reading and writing workshops were organised by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust; 'A Journey up Cumbria's Learning Ladder' conference was held by Cumbria Adult Education, Cumbria CVS, University of Cumbria and Cumbria Higher Learning; information and Citizens Advice Bureau sessions were held in Warrington libraries; Skills for Life sessions were held at National



"The very day after my Adult Learners' Week award presentation I was so filled with confidence that I did something I have always wanted to do. I enrolled on a quilt-making course... it will certainly fulfil a dream I have had for many years."

Pauline K. Murfin



Museums, Liverpool; a Regional Maths Week was held by the Association of Colleges in the Eastern Region; 'Improve your English' tasters were held by Chelsea Theatre; and a Jobs and Training Fair was organised by Greenwich Council, giving participants an opportunity to be interviewed as volunteers for the Olympics.

Environmental sustainability

The BBC's 'Queen of Green' Penny Poyzer led three sustainable lives workshops in Derby; an Eco-chic fashion show was held in Shrewsbury; and Birmingham Conservatoire ran a week of events. Other events included recycling costume jewellery sessions in Southend; bird walks and bird box making at Chasewater Innovation Centre; a 'Health and Well-being - People and Planet' event which included calculating your carbon footprint; stonemasonry and heritage skills in Chester; and gardening workshops in Somerset, complete with a grow your own salad plant!

Technological change

Events included: a Wii Play Event at The Collection in Lincolnshire, engaging families and groups in intergenerational play; digital technology workshops by learndirect Centres in Sandbach, including eBay Auctions, Banking Online and Socialising Online; how to build a computer from scratch session in Stroud Green Library; and a photography competition for East of England sponsored by East of England Skills and Competitiveness Partnership, attracting 300 entries, the shortlist of which was exhibited at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford.

Citizenship and belonging in a democratic society

Activities from archaeology and India to religion and creative writing were held at the British Museum with the Open University. There was international cookery and cake decorating by Bexley Adult Education; exploring census materials at Metropolitan Archives; the artefacts and works of Rabindranath Tagore by Alexandra Park Library; a celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth at London South Bank University; and ESOL, numeracy and literacy and citizenship taster events by City College Norwich at ASDA, the Norwich train station and Norwich Job Centre.

Demographic change

Over 700 people visited the town centres of Cheshire and Warrington for advice and guidance as part of dedicated 'reading corners'; HMP Wormwood Scrubs offered a variety of tasters on parenthood, being a good father and helping

children stay off drugs; a Norwich Community Learning Circus event featured circus skills and kick boxing to engage adults across the region; and there were introductions to Japanese, Spanish and Arabic by Richmond Libraries.

Poverty reduction

Events included baby first aid courses by British Red Cross through Hackney Libraries; a money advice campaign in Derby; a Skills and Learning Fair in Rochdale; free taster sessions in growing your own vegetables, Internet auctions and beating the credit crunch run by Dacorum Borough Council; an e-learning and jobs fair in Greenwich; a Money Matters event to support the launch of BBC RaW money website in Whitehaven; a free recession buster service offered in Coventry; a mobile learning bus in Worcester; a family fun weekend in Bethnal Green; father and child Tai Chi lessons in Derbyshire; and a numeracy awareness day at Bury Fire Station and 'Weigh to Go' event at Bury Market tackling maths through fruit and veg!

Roles of public, private and voluntary sectors

Events included tasters in Community Leadership by Birkbeck College; free workshops in radio and community communications in Middlesbrough; retirement workshops by Peterborough Senior Citizens Forum; test-driving the online citizenship training programme by East Ham Library; a community cohesion event in Burton on Trent; Street Skills advice in Ludlow town centre; volunteering tasters at Citizens Advice Bureaus across the country.

Well-being and happiness

From ballroom to belly dancing, salsa to Bollywood, in 2009 dancing was a popular activity everywhere following the launch of Dance Off as part of Adult Learners' Week the previous year.

Other highlights included circus skills tasters by Norwich Sheltered Housing; life drawing sessions at various galleries including The Usher Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery; Leeds' Kirkgate Market held a range of activities including Qi Gong, Kung Fu cookery and yoga; chess for women and the over-50s in Hackney; gospel singing in Lambeth; Wii health and fitness demos at Royal Mail by the WEA; pottery and sculpture at The Rosetta Arts Centre; a Fantastic People, Wonderful World event at RAF Museum Cosford featuring science, engineering and technology; a Books on the Beach event in Hartlepool; hair and beauty treatments in Gainsborough shopping centre; and a Weekend Warriors gig for over-35s in Corby.



Survey of event participants

A cross-section of just over 400 event participants were interviewed by independent research company TNS two months after Adult Learners' Week – measuring the impact of the campaign and the events they attended.

Seventy-five per cent of the sample had heard of Adult Learners' Week when asked. The majority of awareness was through word of mouth (24%), an organisation (19%) and an Adult Learners' Week poster (13%). See Figure 2.

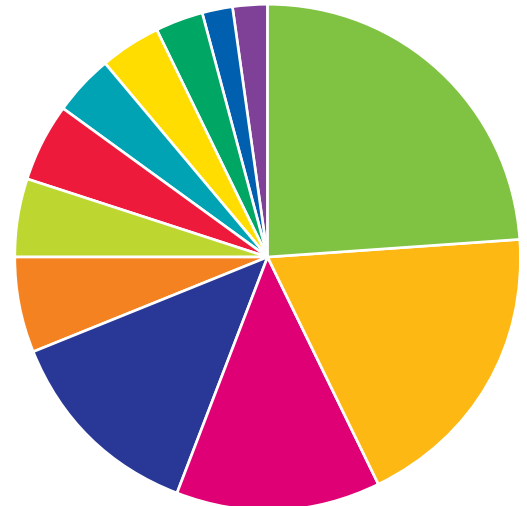
The most popular type of event attended by the sample was a taster session (39%), followed by an open day (17%) and an awards ceremony (9%). See Figure 3.

The most popular actions encouraged by the event they attended was to learn new things (63%), to find out about courses (49%), to encourage their friends and family to learn new things (48%). See Figure 4.

Fifty three per cent of the sample has signed up to a course as a result of attending an Adult Learners' Week event. This involved 58% of female, 62% of those unemployed, and 56% of those with no qualifications. Interestingly, it also included 63% of those with a Level 4 qualification. Of the total sample, 40% had not undertaken any learning over the last three years.

Each of these statistics provide demonstrable proof of the value of the Adult Learners' Week campaign to effect change with respect to engaging adults in learning of all kinds.

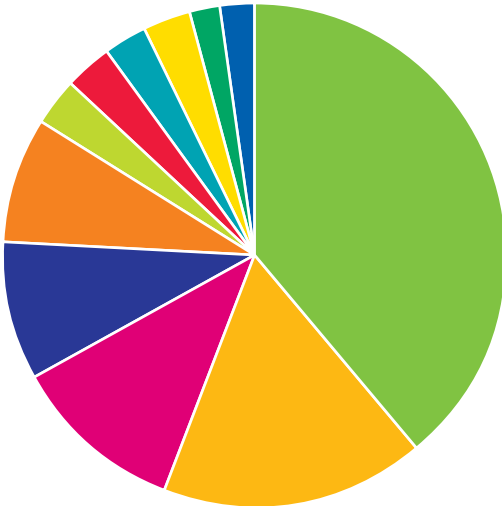
Figure 2: First Contact with Adult Learners' Week



Word of mouth	24%
An organisation	19%
Other methods	13%
Poster	13%
Workplace	6%
Local paper	5%
Child's school	5%
National paper	4%
Bookmark	4%
Email	3%
Website	2%
Television	2%



Figure 3: Type of Adult Learners' Week event attended



■ Taster session	39%
■ Open day	17%
■ Other	11%
■ Awards ceremony	9%
■ Course/training/workshop	8%
■ Display/exhibition	3%
■ Family event	3%
■ Learning at Work Day event	3%
■ Guidance and information	3%
■ Cultural activities	2%
■ Conference	2%

Figure 4: Actions encouraged by Adult Learners' Week events



■ Learn new things	63%
■ Find out about a course	49%
■ Encourage friends and family to learn new things	48%
■ Sign up for a course	37%
■ Learn about volunteering	30%
■ Seek out careers advice	25%
■ Seek out workplace training	23%
■ Change career/job	11%
■ Apply for a job	8%
■ Go to the job centre	8%
■ Start work	8%
■ Ring Careers Advice service	8%
■ Other	1%





Awards

Each year we seek out the most remarkable adult learners across England – those whose stories will inspire others to give learning a go.

The Adult Learners' Week Awards received a record 1,418 nominations this year, an increase of 33% from 2008.

The quality of entries was again outstanding, and just under 100 awards were given in the categories which follow.

- Outstanding Individuals (national and regional winners)
- Outstanding Groups
- Outstanding Family Learners of the Year
- Opening Doors to Adult Learners (for projects and programmes)
- Learning Works Awards
- Senior Learner of the Year (national and regional winners)
- ESF Group Award
- ESF Learning Works Award
- ESF Regional Awards
- ESF Opening Doors Award
- ESF Outstanding Learner of the Year
- SSAT Outstanding Learner of the Year
- Booktrust Power of Reading Award
- NIACE Right to a Voice Award
- learndirect Outstanding Learner of the Year Award
- LSC Regional Learning Works Awards
- NOCN Outstanding Learner of the Year Award





The nominees

The Adult Learners' Week Awards seek to celebrate adult learners in all their diversity. As in previous years, this was again in line with NIACE's core aims to target and widen opportunities for underrepresented groups.

Of the total nominations received:

- 18% were from black or minority ethnic groups
- 65% were female
- 20% had a disability
- 15% were unemployed; with 57% of this group being unemployed for more than three years

All nominees received a Certificate of Achievement.

The winners

All winners were invited to attend national and regional awards ceremonies, where they were presented with their Adult Learners' Week certificates and learning vouchers (to purchase learning materials worth between £200 and £1,500). Here is just a small sample of this year's inspirational winners.

Maria Gough Learning Works Award

Maria Gough left school with few qualifications at the age of 16 but now, 24 years later, she has fulfilled her ambition of becoming a Senior Nurse and is playing an active role in her community.

Maria grew up in a Glasgow tenement and, despite passing her 11+, her parents could not afford to send her to the local grammar school. Maria's childhood was spent either in a children's home or caring for her unwell mother. Now a single parent, Maria has worked hard to improve opportunities for herself and her daughter.

"My employer couldn't fund my Masters degree, so I paid for it myself. The Master of Law course required a first class degree, so I did a BSc degree to qualify."

Maria works as a Senior Nurse in an NHS walk-in centre, as well as volunteering in a women's centre. She has also become a union learning rep encouraging others to take up learning.



"Much of my education was sheer bloody-mindedness. My dad told me I was thick, and that education was wasted on women; I proved him wrong."

Maria Gough

Barrie Hughes **Senior Learner of the Year**

Barrie Hughes had worked for the parks department in Brighton and Hove for 14 years and had always hidden the fact that he couldn't read and write, but at the age of 58 he decided it was time to seek some help.

The turning point came when Barrie had to attend a training course for work; anxious about people finding out that he couldn't read and write, he bandaged his arm and hand to look as though he'd had an accident. Barrie realised he couldn't do this forever so he asked for an assessment with a tutor. He began with one-to-one literacy classes to boost his confidence levels.

Barrie now actively encourages colleagues to get back into learning.

Frank Harris **ESF Outstanding Learner of the Year**

Following 35 years in and out of prison, addicted to cocaine and living on the streets, Frank Harris has turned his life around. Within the last four years he has quit drugs, gained A-grade GCSEs and begun training to counsel and support other vulnerable people.

Frank began studying while he was in prison and, after gaining his GCSE English and Maths, felt confident enough to take two counselling courses. After leaving prison, Frank took part in the ESF-funded Move project, which helped to provide him with stability and the prospect of employment.

Frank has volunteered to work with people with a variety of needs. He is now motivated to earn an honest living in social care and be a positive role model for his children. "My learning has empowered me and given me the belief that my future is in my hands... I now feel liberated and free from the fear of prison and addiction."



"I love being able to write poetry and to read things. I would not have had the confidence or ability to do this before I started learning again."

Barrie Hughes



"My learning has given me a new self-belief and confidence; it also means I can help those who find themselves in a difficult situation and need support."

Frank Harris



Kushti Bok Group Award

Having experienced prejudice and exclusion throughout their lives, members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities in Dorset formed a group, Kushti Bok, to overcome negative stereotyping and to encourage learning. Part of the largest single ethnic minority in the county, they are using their culture and skills to help others understand them.

The ten-strong group was formed after partnership working with the ESF-funded Matchmaker project at Kingston Maurward College. Inspired by the College's approach to ask what education and training they needed to improve their lives, participants were pleased that courses could be delivered flexibly at times and places to suit them. Through the Matchmaker project, over 100 Gypsies and Travellers have achieved qualifications at Levels 1 to 3, from large goods vehicle driving, hairdressing and beauty therapy, to chainsaw operation, childcare and teaching.

As the group has grown in numbers, so too has their confidence. With a philosophy of 'nothing about us without us', they have become members of various consultative and advisory groups including local authority and mental health agencies.



Kushti Bok has been invited to design and deliver awareness training to Dorset Police. The group meets monthly at Kingston Maurward and has also organised and delivered several conferences to raise awareness of the needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

Ruth McGill, one of the Kushti Bok learners, said, "Kushti Bok has encouraged people to believe in themselves and supported them to achieve their dreams and aspirations."

In Touch Volunteers Opening Doors to Adult Learners Award

The In Touch project promotes lifelong learning, and improves basic skill levels and the quality of life in localities where social and economic deprivation is highest. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the project has involved over 120 volunteers across Greater Manchester, including long-term unemployed adults, non-learners and people with low and outdated skill levels, young adults in danger of exclusion, single parents and refugees and asylum seekers.

Volunteers follow a unique tailor-made Cultural Heritage Course with literacy and interpersonal skills embedded within it. Delivered in partnership with Salford College, the course uses the rich resources of the museums and the role of the volunteers to provide an innovative and enjoyable learning experience. On completion of the course, volunteers gain a nationally recognised Skills for Life literacy qualification.

Programme volunteers have successfully gained the confidence to progress onto further learning - ICT courses, GCSEs, Access courses and NVQs - as well as securing employment. Volunteers also become strong ambassadors for lifelong learning amongst their families, peers and the wider community.



“For 20 years I worked in a factory. When the factory closed last year I felt lost, fed up and was short of confidence and lacked motivation. Since completing the In Touch programme I am focused, more confident and have started an IT course.”

An In Touch Volunteer



Publicity
WEEK 2009
ADULT LEARNERS' WEEK CAN HELP YOU ON YOUR WAY TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

LIVE TO LEARN

Radio presenter Philippa is giving her backing to the country's largest festival of learning – Adult Learners' Week which takes place from 9th to 15th May 2009.

before you have realised it." Philippa's now got her heart set on learning carpentry next. "I would just love to be able to pick up the tools myself and set to and create something beautiful in wood."

All over the country thousands of Adult Learners' Week events will take place. Courses range from IT, maths and literacy, to more specialist activities including, Be Nice to Bees, Buddha's Birthday and Tudor Skills and Sonnet Reading. "Adult Learners' Week is a chance to get involved, to make a difference and to – maybe – change your life," says Kamy Basra, Campaigns Officer at NIACE.

It allowed doors to be opened that had

Publicity

Adult Learners' Week is a national multimedia campaign reaching a huge range of audiences.

A broad range of publicity techniques are used to reach potential adult learners in all their diversity – to draw in nominations for the awards, to publicise the call to action and to support events across the country.

Publicity is generated through the media, the campaign website, the *New Horizons* motivational magazine, other publications, videos and podcasts, as well as through promotional materials and merchandise.

Media coverage

Adult Learners' Week receives significant media coverage every year. This is a crucial part of the campaign, raising awareness and spreading positive motivational messages to learners and highlighting policy issues to key opinion formers and practitioners.

A record 2,300 pieces were generated through the media, an increase of 18% from the previous year. Features included the NIACE Annual Participation in Learning Survey, the Adult Learners' Week Award winners and taster events across the country.

Highlights of media coverage are set out below.

- National press: The Guardian, The Times Educational Supplement (TES), The Daily Mirror, The Sun, The Mail, The Express, The Star, The Times, The Telegraph and The Court Circular.
- TV: GMTV, Channel 4 News, BBC East Midlands, ITV Meridian, ITV Central East, and DM Digital Manchester.
- Radio: BBC Woman's Hour, Independent radio in the North West and East Anglia, BBC Radio Manchester, BBC Radio Sheffield, BBC Radio Lincoln, BBC Radio Leicester, BBC Radio Shropshire, BBC Radio Kent, BBC Radio West Midlands, Connexion FM (French station in London).
- Specialist coverage: Asian Voice, The London Paper, The Voice, Choice Magazine, Personnel Today, Education News, NHS Behind The Headlines, Eastern Eye, Health Service Journal, Nursery World, Training Zone and the BBC Radio 4 Newsletter.





Media supplements

NIACE commissioned two media supplements to coincide with Adult Learners' Week. The first was in The Daily Mirror on Thursday 7 May and the second was in The Guardian on Tuesday 12 May. The readership engaged through these two papers reached just under 5 million.

The four-page Daily Mirror supplement, which contributed to a huge peak of activity on the helpline, was supported by Philippa Forrester – TV celebrity and former presenter of the BBC's *Tomorrow's World*.

The Guardian 12-page supplement was aimed specifically at practitioners and policy-makers, highlighting key policy features. Additional copies of both supplements were distributed at all Adult Learners' Week national events.

Radio advertising

A special two-week intensive radio campaign was broadcast in north-west England this year, funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC); running from 29 April to 13 May. This publicised Adult Learners' Week and the free call to action to an audience of over 2 million residents (target audience C2DE 18–64 years), thus widening the reach of the campaign into a previous ESF-restricted area. Thirty-second adverts were played at least five times a day on the following radio stations: Radio City 96.7/Magic 1548, 107.6 Juice FM, The Buzz 97.1 FM, Real Radio (North West) (was Century), and talkSPORT (North West).

Online media

The Adult Learners' Week website www.alw.org.uk is one of the main calls to action for the campaign. It is publicised in all communications.

In 2009, the website had a record 219,000 visits, an increase of 72%. The majority of the traffic was direct to the website (96%).

In the period from 1 October 2008 to 31 May 2009, the website saw:

- An average of 872 visits per day (an increase of 175% from 2008)
- Just under 15,000 visits during the Week itself (54% increase from 2008)
- The Order Form as the most downloaded file – 47,455 times, followed by the campaigns wall planner and the Planning Toolkit

The branding suite on the website was once again well used. Containing all logos and customisable materials, it allowed easy access for providers to produce their own branded publicity.

Short films were created about each of the national winners and featured on the website, as well as being showcased at all regional and national award ceremonies.

The majority of the events registered on the **online calendar** were taster sessions or workshops. The highest numbers of events were registered by libraries (580), local education authorities (373) and further education colleges (361).



Promotional materials

Over 300,000 promotional items were produced to support the campaign, with a 91% distribution rate (compared with 87% in 2008). This included a range of free posters, pens, bookmarks, postcards, and other outreach merchandise for event holders; and, through the campaign newsletter, *Discover*, to a network of around 15,000 contacts. All materials advertise the campaign's calls to action: the website and the free helpline.



Event in a Box

This popular resource was re-introduced for the second year running. Containing a full set of materials to run an event for up to 50 people, nearly 600 were sold (an increase of 37% from 2008).



For the first time, a Cultural Diversity Weekend Mini-Box was introduced, selling a welcome 435 boxes. This contained various materials in different community languages.



In total, there was an increase of 28% in orders from 2008, just under 1,300 orders, proving once again that the campaign materials are a popular resource.





New Horizons

This free handy-sized motivational magazine offers potential adult learners advice and guidance on learning opportunities and highlights inspirational stories of Adult Learners' Week Award winners.

One quarter of a million copies of the magazine were distributed across the country by libraries, job centres, colleges, universities, employers, health centres, retail outlets, and many others.

Reader Survey

Each year New Horizons contains a reader survey to ascertain the impact and reach of the magazine.

This year, 97% of returned questionnaires rated the magazine as very useful or useful.

The readership showed:

- 48% of respondents were not currently learning
- 62% intended to return to learning (a further 30% were still unsure)
- 48% wanted to improve their maths and English skills.

The demographic information of the readers showed that:

- the oldest reader was 85
- around 43% of the readers were from minority ethnic communities
- 28% were unemployed, and of these, 45% had been unemployed for more than three years.



Helpline

The campaign's main call to action is a free helpline number: 0800 100 900.

The campaign's main call to action is a free helpline number: 0800 100 900. It is hosted by the Careers Advice Service, and publicised on all campaign communications, enabling the general public to call and find out more about learning opportunities in their local area. A copy of the *New Horizons* magazine is also offered to every caller.

In 2009, 25% of all calls to the helpline were related to Adult Learners' Week during the Week itself.

As in previous years, a sample of 300 callers was interviewed about their reactions, actions and intentions following Adult Learners' Week. This was undertaken by Continental Research through the government's Central Office of Information (COI).

Although the profile of callers was broadly similar to previous years, there was an increase in unemployed callers – perhaps due to the economic downturn. The results showed that 70% of all callers took some form of action following Adult Learners' Week – compared to 58% in 2008.



Caller profiles

- 65% female
- 30% minority ethnic
- Regional spread but 50% in south
- 81% aged under 50
- 28% were unemployed (37% of whom had been made redundant)
- 32% had no qualifications or these were below five grade A-C GCSEs
- Three in five had done little or no training in the last three years
- 29% said there were no opportunities to learn at work

Reasons for calling

- 45% wanted information about courses (30% in 2008)
- 77% wanted to know about training or improving skills for work (74% in 2008)

Results

- 77% said that Adult Learners' Week helped them to see learning was for them
- 68% said that it made them think seriously about education and training
- 70% said they'd taken action as a result of calling the helpline i.e. enrolled on/applied for a course or looked for/applied for a job (up from 58% last year)

Thank you!



Adult Learners' Week is supported by a huge network of colleagues and supporting organisations. NIACE, as the campaign's co-ordinator, would like to extend a big thank you to everyone listed below and sincere apologies to anyone we've missed out unintentionally.



Sponsors of Adult Learners' Week 2009

Co-ordinated by:

Core funders:



Specific Award Sponsors:



National Event Sponsors:



NIACE (The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education) would like to thank the following organisations for supporting Adult Learners' Week across the country.



Core sponsors

Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
 European Social Fund
 Learning and Skills Council
 Ofcom
 Careers Advice

Specific Award Sponsors

Opening Doors to Adult Learners Awards

Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
 European Social Fund
 Learning and Skills Improvement Service

Learning Works Awards

European Social Fund
 Learning and Skills Council
 Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Booktrust: Power of Reading Award

Booktrust

learndirect: Learning Through Technology Award

learndirect

National Open College Network (NOCN)

Outstanding Achievement Award

National Open College Network (NOCN)

SSAT Outstanding Adult Learner in a Specialist School Award

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT)

A Right to a Voice Award

NIACE

Sponsors of National Events

Adult Learners' Week Policy Conference

QCA

Adult Learners' Week Parliamentary Reception

City & Guilds

Adult Learners' Week National Awards Ceremony

Becta

Other supporters include:

Alliance of Sector Skills Councils
 ACAS
 Age Concern
 Association of Colleges
 Association for Education & Ageing
 Birmingham International Airport
 CEEFAX
 Chartered Institute of Library &

Information Professionals
 Cheshire County Council
 Chelsea Football Club
 Communication Workers' Union
 Community Channel
 Community Service Volunteers
 Connexions
 Crisis
 Cumbria County Council
 Development Education Association
 East Midlands Business Ltd
 Educational Guidance Service for Adults
 Enable
 First Bus
 Help the Aged
 Heritage Lottery Fund
 Institute for Learning
 Lincolnshire County Council
 Lifelong Learning UK
 Local Education Authorities Forum for the Education of Adults
 Mature Times
 National Portrait Gallery
 National Youth Agency
 Nextstep
 NRDC (National Research and Development Council for literacy and numeracy)
 Offender's Learning & Skills Unit
 Openlearn
 RAF Museum Cosford
 RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People)
 Royal Horticultural Society
 Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust
 Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
 Tate Galleries
 V&A Museum

National team, regional staff, ALW co-ordinators

England

NIACE Campaigns team

Kamy Basra, Emma Cliffe, Richard Crabb, Silvia Errington, Shona Farmer, Linda Faulkner, Lucy Herbert, Gareth Howard-Laity, Marie Koupparis, Michael Lyden, Ed Melia, Raksha Mistry, Barry Norris, Allison Parkes, Mariyam Sidik, Victoria Thompson, Rachel Thomson.

Wales

NIACE Dysgu Cymru Campaigns team

Holly Barrett, Essex Havard, Steve Johnson, Rachel Jones, Stephen Martin, Kay Smith, Clare Southard, Rhydian Thomas.

Scotland

Scottish Adult Learning Partnership.

Northern Ireland

Educational Guidance Services for Adults.

National Information Exchange Group

Gill Adams, Digital Unite; Heather Baldwin, LSC; Robin Blake, Ofcom; Fiona Boucher, Scottish Adult Learning Partnership; Olivia Burns, QCA; Tamzin Caffrey, The National Centre for Languages (CILT); Louise Dennis, Campaign for Learning; Richard Emmett, QIA; John Gibson, BIS; Margaret Holborn, Guardian Newsroom; Natasha Innocent, Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA); Jason Jones, Ufi Ltd; Wendy Jones, BBC; Eileen Kelly, EGSA; Vikki Light, UK Skills, Bethan Nofor, Open University; Stella Pearce, ESF; Chantel Phippen, City and Guilds; Catrin Roberts, BBC; Katie Streten, 4 Learning; Cath Warren, BBC; Peter Webb, SSAT; Wanda Wyporska, Unionlearn.

Regional Co-ordination

NIACE would like to give a special thanks to the regional and local co-ordinators who provided active support to Adult Learners' Week and Sign Up Now.

East Midlands

Wendy Bond, Lincolnshire County Council; Colette Bryne, ENABLE; Kieran Bussoopun, Lincolnshire County Council; Sally Furness, Derbyshire County Council; Jill Hill, Lincolnshire County Council; Elessa Maelzer, Grantham Museum.

East of England

Roy Brown, Consultant.

London

Amanda Pavon-Lopez, NIACE.

North East

Pat Whaley, NIACE.

North West

Frank Collins, Cheshire County Council; Sue Doyle, Cumbria Adult Education; Ibrahim Mayat, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council; Gill Mitchell, Cumbria Adult Education; Kathryn Rosati, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council; Joanne Ward, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council.

South East

Pauline Roussos, NIACE.

South West

Paula Jones, Learning South West; Sue Edwards, Learning South West.

West Midlands

Jo Knight, NIACE.

Yorkshire and the Humber

Yorkshire Forward. Godfrey Sutcliffe.

Award Selection Panels

Opening Doors to Adult Learners Awards

Priscilla Baily, Derbyshire County Council; Jon Boagey, NYA; Adam Perry, Community Channel; Jo Reilly, Heritage Lottery Fund; Cherry Sewell, CILT; Rachel Thomson, NIACE; Louise Wordsworth, BBC.

Group Awards

Wendy Buddin, Chelsea FC; Sarah Harper, Learning and Skills Council; Fiona Lennox, Ofcom; Anne Rehahn, RNIB; Duncan Shrubsole, Crisis; Rachel Thomson, NIACE; Dr Wanda Wyporska, Unionlearn.

Learning Works Awards

Mary Alys, Unionlearn-TUS; Anne Hansen, NIACE; Shona Harper, CCP; Bob Lawrence, 2008 Learning Works Winner; Ed Melia, NIACE.

Senior Learner of the Year Awards

Kamy Basra, NIACE; Lois Gladdish, NIACE; Tony Maltby, NIACE; John McAnuff, Learner; Caroline Needham, Help the Aged; Emma Solomon, Digital Unite; Jo Walker, Association for Education and Ageing; Tony Watts, Mature Times.

Family Learners of the Year Award

Margaret Bellamy, Leicestershire County Council; Carol Cox; Natasha Innocent, MLA; Penny Lamb, NIACE; Raksha Mistry, NIACE; Alison Ward, DIUS.

European Social Fund (ESF) Awards

Steve Arnott, Government Office for the Yorkshire and the Humber; Libby Doherty, Government Office for the North West; Eileen Gay, Government Office for East Midlands, Ursula Harrison, Government Office for the East Midlands; Andrew Hitter, Government Office for the East of England; Peter Long, Government Office for the West Midlands; Forogh Rahmani, European Social Fund; David Steed, Government Office for the South East; Janet Woolley, Government Office for the South West; Sandra Zamenzadeh, Government Office for the North East.

National ESF Panel

Vicky Bailey, DWP WWEG ESF Team; Kamy Basra, NIACE; Stephen Clarke, LSC National Office; Stella Pearce, ESF; Emily Tucker, ESF.

Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Learning Works Awards

Mary Alys, Unionlearn-TUS; Olivia Burns, QCA Matt Chapman, Arriva; Anne Hansen, NIACE; Shona Harper, QCA; Bob Lawrence, 2008 Learning Works Winner; Ed Melia, NIACE.

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) Outstanding Learner in a Specialist School Award

Barry Burningham, The Nobel School; Emma Cliffe, NIACE; Marie Theresa Harvey, Learner; Victoria Thompson, NIACE; Peter Webb, SSAT.

Individual Awards Panels

East Midlands

Charlene Arnold, East Midlands Business Ltd; Wendy Bond, Regional Co-ordinator; Sarah Dakin, Grantham College; Lucy Herbert, NIACE; John Litherland, 2008 Outstanding Regional Winner; Bhavika Pancholi, De Montfort University; Linda Penrice, LASC East Midlands; Gary Petley, ENABLE; Debs Powell, Connexions; Ian Yarroll, NIACE.

East of England

Sue Besant, CP Learning Trust; Roy Brown, ALW Regional Co-ordinator; Andrew Church, Cambridge Housing Society; Karen Fysh, Jobcentre Plus; Andy Hodgson, Norfolk Learning Partnership; Jackie Smith, Learner; Trish Judson, MOVE Lifelong Learning Network; Sue O'Gorman, NIACE; Victoria Thompson, NIACE; Veronica Windmill, Acer.

London

Emma Cliffe, NIACE; Judith Gawn, NIACE; Gamon AP Garth, Birkbeck, University of London; Catherine Froggatt, Communities into Training and Employment (CITE); Paul McNeil, 2008 Outstanding Regional Winner; Amanda Pavon-Lopez, ALW Regional Co-ordinator; Rebecca Simor, BBC; Martin Sundram, WEA.

North East

Richard Brannen, LSC; Eddie Costello, CfBT Advice and Guidance; Sue Hannan, Tess Valley Joint Strategy Unit; Gareth Howard-Laity, NIACE; Brenda Mitchell, ITV Tyne Tees; Judith Richardson, 2008 Outstanding Regional Winner; Asma Shaffi, Prior Pursglove College; Lesley Shea, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council; Rob Strettle, Northumberland Strategic Partnership; Pat Whaley, NIACE; Ed Young, North East Workforce Team (NHS North East).

North West

Owen Boxx, North West Regional Development Agency; Tina Collings, 2008 LSC Regional Learning Works Winner; Gaye Jackson, NHS North West; Marie Kerwin, NIACE; Michael Lyden, NIACE; Jane Mathieson, Time to Read; Jon Merrick, North West Regional Development Agency; Gill McCarthy, Acas North West; Tony Saunders, Unionlearn; Jo Ward, ALW Regional Co-ordinator; Jo Wiggans, Aimhigher Greater Manchester.

South East

Charles Charalambous, Isle of Wight Council; Kevin Delf, Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership; Melita Dennett, BBC; Romy Jones, University of Chichester; Adam Limbrey, learndirect; Pam Lumsden, NIACE; Yasmin Miller, LSC; Pauline Rousoss, NIACE; Adrian Ryan, Unionlearn; Jon Tennison, Unionlearn; Martin Vince, Learner; Elizabeth Widdett, The Surrey Learning Partnership.

South West

Paulette Bjergfelt, The Open University in the South West; John Brookham, LSC; Faith Davey, Age Concern; Shona Farmer, NIACE; Paula Jones, Learning South West; Roy Steggies, 2008 Outstanding Regional Winner; Karen Wilmshurst, Bournemouth Adult Learning.

West Midlands

Martin Bird, Ufi; Eddie Currall, West Midlands European Network; Mary Dunleavy, CSIP West Midlands (Care Services Improvement Partnership); Jayne Howle, Birmingham International Airport Limited; Paul Humphreys, Midlands Unionlearn; Jo Knight, NIACE; Ayesha Rees, Alliance of Sector Skills Councils; Kate Smart, Community Service Volunteers; Lesley Talbot-Strettle, NIACE; Lynne Tolley, Staffordshire University; Martin Wassall, Birmingham City Council.

Yorkshire and The Humber

Kathryn Harrison, Chair of Yorkshire and Humber Regional ALW Group; Raksha Mistry, NIACE; Joyce Martin, University of Bradford; Jan Novitzky, NIACE; Bryony Wakefield, Ufi learndirect; Anne Weston, Careers Bradford; Claire Wright, 2008 Outstanding Regional Winner; Anne Rowe, Shipley College; Jim Scott, Unionlearn; Godfrey Sutcliffe, ALW Regional Co-ordinator.

Awards Confirmation Panel

Kamy Basra, Richard Crabb, Shona Farmer, Ed Melia, Alastair Thomson, Rachel Thomson (Chair).

“My course has empowered me and given me the belief that my future is in my hands.”

Frank Harris



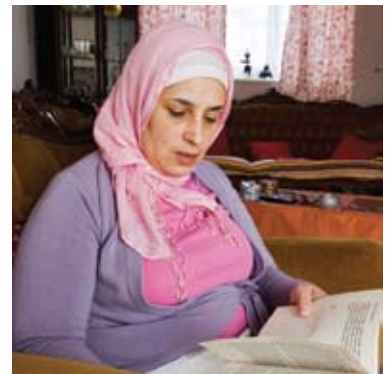
“It’s like a door opening. I cannot stop reading. It’s like magic to me now (I know I will be learning all my life).”

Gerildine Talbot



“Education can transform lives. It fosters dignity, confidence and capability - and investing in it makes sense for individuals and for the health (economic and physical) of the nation.”

Alan Tuckett





Adult Learners' Week is the flagship campaign of NIACE, the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education. NIACE works to develop increased participation in education and training, particularly for those who do not have easy access due to barriers of class, gender, age, race, language and culture, learning difficulties or disabilities, or insufficient financial resources. Visit www.niace.org.uk for more information.



'Learning has stimulated my mind and got me socialising with new people.'

Tom Birch

'My degree has given me the opportunity to change my life, offering my family a bright future.'

Nicky Jecks



'Learning has given me back the sense that the world is an exciting place.'

Gill Houghton



Get involved in Adult Learners' Week 2010 (15 to 21 May). Visit www.alw.org.uk for more information.

