

Award winner's story

Billy Baxter

Award Winner
East of England

"Money couldn't buy what I've learned from coming to college – you couldn't put a price on how valuable it has been for me."

Having served as a soldier for twenty years, Billy lost his sight, leading to the loss of his job, home and a life that he loved.

St Dunstan's – a charity that provides rehabilitation to ex-service men and women – inspired Billy to look to the future. He learned new skills and adapted existing ones as part of his rehabilitation and began sharing his experiences by encouraging others to accept their blindness and embrace life.



In 2009, Billy enrolled on a National Diploma Performing Arts course at Cambridge Regional College to develop formal training in public speaking and performance, with the aim of being able once more to enjoy army life by entertaining the troops as a show host and stand-up comedian. Billy has bravely entered education as a 45-year-old in a class of teenagers but consistently achieves high marks.

If you know an individual who has benefited from learning focused on arts, craft skills or culture, they could be eligible for the Learning through Arts, Craft Skills or Culture Adult Learners' Week Award. Projects that offer learning opportunities in these areas can also be nominated.

Nominate now
at www.alw.org.uk/nominate

Follow us on Twitter, find us on Facebook and see us on YouTube



<https://twitter.com/NIACEhq>



www.facebook.com/niaceadultlearnersweek



<http://www.youtube.com/user/NIACEhq>

It **will** help to change someone's life

Nominating an inspiring learner will boost their self-confidence and turn them into a role model that others can follow back into learning.

Adult Learners' Week

18-24 May 2013

Learning through Arts, Craft Skills or Culture



Adult Learners' Week:

- Recognises achievement
- Encourages participation
- Shapes the debate about adult learning

Kerry Jane Aston
Award Winner

learn for life

www.alw.org.uk

Co-ordinated by:

niace
promoting adult learning

Supported by:

BIS
Department for Business Innovation and Skills

The European Social Fund (ESF) aims to improve employment opportunities in the European Union by supporting Member States' employment and skills policies. In England, in 2007-2013, the ESF is investing £2.5 billion in jobs and skills.

What is Adult Learners' Week?

Adult Learners' Week is a national celebration of the benefits of lifelong learning and an opportunity to explore the many types of learning available to adults from all walks of life.

Events

It is the biggest annual learning festival in the UK and last year over 100,000 people participated in over 2,000 events. Staged by FE and HE colleges, large employers, government departments, voluntary organisations and charities, these events inspired, encouraged and helped adults into learning across the UK.



Celebrate and share your learning with our

'Learning through a lens' photo competition

We're looking for photos that reflect the many types of learning through arts, craft skills or culture that takes place.

Visit:

www.alw.org.uk/photocomp
for more

Education providers use Adult Learners' Week to showcase the learning opportunities they offer. Employers use it to support and develop their staff. For voluntary organisations and charities it creates the ideal opportunity to reach more people. It also provides the perfect setting in which to recognise their hard work and the achievements of the learners they support.

Awards

Each year thousands of people are nominated for the highly coveted Adult Learners' Week awards. These recognise learning providers and individual learners. There are awards for a wide range of categories including *Learning for Work*, *Learning Through Technology*, *Learning Through Sport*, and *Young Adult Learner of the Year*. Anyone can nominate a project or an individual for an award. You can nominate online at: www.alw.org.uk/nominate. Nominations for 2013 must be made by **5pm, Thursday 13 December, 2012**.

Learning through Arts, Craft Skills or Culture

The Adult Learners' Week Awards celebrate achievements and encourage adults to take up learning. The Learning through Arts, Craft Skills or Culture award recognises individuals who have benefited from learning focused on arts, crafts skills or culture, and projects that offer learning opportunities in these areas. Examples include pottery, sewing, millinery, jewellery, carpentry, sculpting, acting, dance, painting, etc.

By nominating for the Learning through Arts, Craft Skills or Culture Award, you will be showcasing the active contribution that you and your organisation make towards celebrating excellence in adult learning. As a nominator, you will be able to actively participate in the regional and national publicity that Adult Learners' Week generates every year.

Join our national celebration of adult learning

By hosting your own Adult Learners' Week **event** and **nominating** inspiring learners or providers you are helping us to:

- Recognise achievement in learning
- Encourage participation in learning
- Shape the debate about adult learning and influence policy



During last year's festival:

- Over **75 awards** were presented across England
- Adult Learners' Week received over **1,300 award nominations**
- Adult Learners' Week was marked by over **2,000 events**

Celebrate the achievements of an inspiring learner you know by nominating them for the 2013 awards

National Awards Ceremony

The National Awards Ceremony is a key event and last year awards were presented by Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. There was wide ranging media interest throughout Adult Learners' Week with national titles including The Independent, The TES, The Daily Mail and The Sun all covering the activity.

For a full list of the awards categories visit:

www.alw.org.uk/nominate

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