

Award winner's story

Startingpoint

Award Winner
North West

"This is a great place to live and learn. It's the Big Society working at its best."

Startingpoint's 'School of Fish' offers all aspects of training in the hospitality industry, and was first set up as a commitment by family-run fish and chip shop, Taylors, to provide training for their staff.

When Taylors started struggling due to the recession, owner Anne Wallace, remortgaged her house and turned an empty unit into a coffee shop. It soon became a community hub hungry for informal adult learning.

Startingpoint began offering basic IT training, which was sustained further with funding from the European Social Fund and the Transformation Fund. It targeted over 500 learners with additional funding to operate as a UK Online Centre and by becoming a Community Capacity Builder, taking



IT learning to local centres, including retirement homes and sheltered housing. Startingpoint continues to build strong partnerships. It has set up a Quick Reads Reading Group and is part of Stockport College's Life Changes scheme, offering adults a 12-week vocational learning programme leading to work and further education.

If you know an individual who has benefited from learning through or about new technology, innovation and/or broadcasting, they could be eligible for the Learning through Technology Adult Learners' Week Award. Projects that provide learning activities 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 Technology



Margaret Corston
Award Winner

Adult Learners' Week:

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

learn for life

www.alw.org.uk

Co-ordinated by:

niace
promoting adult learning

Supported by:



BIS
Department for
Business Innovation
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 different types of learning through technology that takes place.

Visit:

www.alw.org.uk/photocomp
for more

Adult Learners' Week provides a key opportunity for education providers to demonstrate what they are teaching with or about technology through online virtual events. NIACE are inviting anyone who has an idea for a webinar, social media or other virtual event to contact us at alw@niace.org.uk. We will provide help with publicity and support for your event.

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 Technology

The Adult Learners' Week Awards celebrate achievements and encourage adults to take up learning. The Learning through Technology Award recognises individuals who have benefited from learning through or about new technology, innovation and/or broadcasting, and projects that provide learning activities in these areas. Examples include online learning, learning with the use of new media and new technology gadgets (e-book readers, tablets, etc), etc.

By nominating for the Learning through Technology 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

Nominations must be completed by **5pm, Thursday, 13 December, 2012**