

# Derby Adult Learning Service

## Learner Newsletter

### Welcome



Cllr Sarah Russell

Welcome to the summer edition of our learner newsletter. I believe that you are never too old to take on a new challenge and we want to keep you up to date with the opportunities that are available to you here in Derby.

Adult learning is not only a great way to move forward in your career, but it can also improve your health and wellbeing. Whether you are interested in gaining new skills, changing profession or simply meeting new people, we could have a course that would be perfect for you or a member of your family.

Given the challenging financial situation of the Council, I am delighted that we are able to continue to offer adult learning courses in the city. I have seen first-hand the transformative effect adult education can have on the lives of Derby people. Together with my Labour colleagues, we are fully committed to supporting this vital service.

We are enormously proud of our adult learners and their achievements – we hope that our regular newsletter can inspire you or someone you know to carry on learning.

### New courses starting in September

Our new brochures will be available from **16 June 2017**. We have lots of new, exciting courses on offer from **August – December 2017**.

Enrolment opens on **Monday 19 June 2017**. Places are limited so please contact us on our Learner Helpline **01332 717900**, visit one of our centres or email **enquiries@derbyals.org** to enrol or visit our website **www.adult-learning-derby.org.uk**.

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meet

enjoy

learn

achieve



Derby City Council

# Changing your life through learning

We recently contacted over 1000 of you who learned with us on Community Learning (non-qualification) courses in 2015/16 to find out what you felt about your learning and what impact it has had since you learnt with us. The results make for some very interesting reading. You told us that your main reasons for coming on the course were to improve skills and knowledge, to meet people and make friends and to benefit health and well being.

Here are some examples of the benefits of your learning:

- improved other skills and knowledge (76%)
- increased confidence (66%)
- meeting people and socialising (56%)
- benefits to your health and well-being (35%)
- more independence (22%)
- gaining a clearer idea about your future (12%)
- helped you to help other members of your family (11%)
- helped you to progress on to another course (10%).

Whatever your current levels of skills or interests, you really can change your life through learning. We will be conducting more surveys in the near future and really do appreciate you taking the time to feed back and help us to improve our service to you.

## Italian advanced class with Giuseppa

We celebrated the end of the Second Term by having dinner at a new pizzeria.

The evening was spent speaking to each other in Italian and eating authentic Italian pizza. It truly felt like we had a full Mediterranean experience with lots of delicious food. It was a lovely evening and a perfect way to start the Easter Holiday!



## Award winning Talk English project begins in Derby

The award winning Talk English pilot is underway at Derby's Adult Learning Service. As part of the project we have recruited and trained thirty-one enthusiastic and committed volunteers who want to make a real difference to the lives of people in Derby.

The Derby Adult Learning Service is one of only five pilots in the UK as part of the "Talk English" project. The main purpose of Talk English Project is to engage and support individuals to improve their English language skills, encourage them to get more involved in their community and enable them to independently access local services.

### **The target group for this provision will:**

- have little or no English language skills (Pre-entry - Entry 1 ESOL)
- be isolated due to their lack of English
- be unable to engage with their child(ren)'s education
- not be in employment or education
- be aged 19 and over.

As part of the project the trained volunteers will be supported by ESOL specialists to deliver basic English conversation classes in a number of venues across Derby. In addition to providing formal learning activities, the project will also offer a variety of informal learning sessions which will include:

- speak and discover – Derby Museum Tour
- speak, stitch and sew – Talk English needlework class
- coffee and chat – the Rye Café
- walk, talk and create – Normanton Park, parks and craft activities
- after school homework club – parents and children.

The Talk English project is funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and sets out to help people with low levels of English.

If you know anyone who may benefit from this project or are interested in hosting a Talk English class in your community please contact

**[jo.porrino@derbyals.org](mailto:jo.porrino@derbyals.org)**

or email **[enquiries@derbyals.org](mailto:enquiries@derbyals.org)**.



## Lights Camera Action - en français bien sûr!

Learners in Derby have used video exchanges over the internet to work with a group of video makers in Mauriac France to polish up their use of French through joint video making.

In the first stage - Spring 2016 - the group of DALs learners had great fun making a video in French about our city and the surrounding countryside. As each section was finished, it was sent to Mauriac for comment.

Our French partners worked **ONLY** in French and that was just what we wanted!

The high point of stage one was the joint celebration evening in June with a live Skype contact between France and Village Learning Centre. By now, the genie was out of the bottle and there was no stopping us (not even Brexit!).

In Stage two more DALs learners came together to make a comedy based on the Magic Staircase (Escalier Magique) at Duffield Castle which took the main characters back 1000 years to the time the French speaking de Ferrés family settled here after 1066.

But the best was yet to come!

A group of 9 of us set off for Mauriac in December 2016 to make a film in French, in 48 hours with our partners. It was an intensive two days with very little English spoken at all but lots of laughs and plenty of new French learned and existing language practised. The result: *le Songe de Théo* - a spooky story harking back to a medieval legend of a princesses dream.

**To find out more and to see the local screen stars in action go to <http://bit.ly/2p0ZOUY>**





## Help with costs – Learner Support Fund

We have a small support fund for helping learners to pay for some of the costs of coming to courses. However, this support fund only applies to certain learners on certain courses and who are in genuine hardship. Conditions also apply. You may be able to get support, either full cost or a contribution towards:

- tuition fees
- exam fees
- transport costs
- books or small equipment
- childcare.

Please ask a member of staff at any of our centres or contact the Learner Helpline on 01332 717900 or email [enquiries@derbyals.org](mailto:enquiries@derbyals.org) for more details.

If you meet the criteria, we will ask you to complete a simple application form.

Please apply as soon as possible.

## Your feedback

We are constantly looking for ways of improving the quality of service we provide to you.

In order for us to do this we would like to gain your thoughts and opinions and invite you to a 'Drop in Focus group' meeting to be held at the **Rycote Centre, Parker Street, Derby DE1 3HF on Wednesday 10 May 2017 between 9am and 12.30pm or 1pm and 4pm.**

As a result of recent feedback and further improvements to how we provide advice and guidance the following changes have been implemented:

- cleansing wipes will be made available for IT equipment in classrooms
- refreshment supplies are now standard in all centres
- careers @derby advisors are located at main centres on selected days each week to provide advice and support.

### Learners have told us that:

- their confidence has improved since attending classes
- skills learnt in the class are used at home and work and on holiday
- teachers are very supportive and of high standard
- improvement in maths and English skills which has helped when out shopping
- attending class is also a 'social event and not just learning'
- the course has given more confidence with job searching.

If you would like to have your views heard, but are not able to attend the sessions above, please contact **Carole Zajciw** via our Learner Helpline on **01332 717900** or by email [carole.zajciw@derbyals.org](mailto:carole.zajciw@derbyals.org) to arrange an alternative method of providing your comments.

## Inspiring Derby Week 2017

**Don't miss free taster sessions during  
Inspiring Derby Week!**

**Monday 19 June 2017 to Saturday 24 June 2017**

This is a week packed of free tasters. Tell your friends and family now so they can reserve their place. Book early to avoid disappointment. Places are limited to two free tasters per person unless you are in our Learning Club and then the number of free tasters is unlimited!

**Click here to view the brochure**

<http://www.adult-learning-derby.org.uk/images/pdf/IDW-2017.pdf>

## Do you enjoy reading?

Through books, we can all experience a world of knowledge and adventure from the comfort of our own homes and at very little cost – library membership is free!

Derby Adult Learning Service challenged 100 learners to take part in the Reading Ahead Scheme. This was a huge success. **So far 168 learners have taken up the challenge and are on track to complete by the end of June.**

Reading Ahead invites participants to pick six reads and record, rate and review them in a diary that is provided. The scheme isn't just about books - it's about newspapers, magazines and websites too.

Those who have taken part need to complete and submit their reading diaries by the end of June. Those who take part are entered into a national prize draw to win some great prizes including a trip to London and e-readers for the runners up.



## Learning Partners and Volunteers

### Learning Partner Scheme

The Learning Partner Scheme links volunteers with learners who would like to join an adult learning class but are not able to do this alone. Volunteers support learners with a wide variety of needs including learning difficulties, mental health issues, physical and mobility issues. If you are interested in becoming a learner partner please contact Pat Ward (details below)

### Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to support in our Workclubs. Potential volunteers would need to have good IT skills.

Volunteers are also needed to support deaf learners. Potential volunteers would need to have British Sign Language Level 2.

For more information, please contact our Learner Support Organiser, **Pat Ward** on **01332 642308** or email **pat.ward@derbys.org**.

## Blue Sky

Our Blue Sky Derby research project will soon be coming to an end. However, it is not too late to join. We would, therefore, like to offer you a free 6 week course to see if a short community learning programme can improve your mood and wellbeing.

Blue Sky courses are open to almost everyone. There are just a few project criteria that you will need to meet.

Therefore, whether you are experiencing stress, worry, feeling down, have sleep problems or would describe yourself as being generally quite well, we would like to invite you to one of our introduction meetings where we can explore together if you are eligible.

If a Blue Sky Derby Course is right for you, you can select from one of the following courses:

- how to use an iPad
- digital photos and editing
- wellbeing through music
- slow stitching
- paper craft diaries for wellbeing
- creative writing
- different crochet styles
- diaries for wellbeing
- tai chi qigong and relaxation
- discovering the outdoors: earth, wind and fire (and water)
- learners with Learning Difficulties (LLDD) Blue Sky Café.

For more information please email **blueskyderby@derbys.org** or call or text **07391 734436**.

## GCSE Examinations reminder

**Important reminder for learners taking GCSE examinations in May/June 2017.**

Please ensure you have noted down the dates of your examinations in your diaries and you bring photographic identification with you, to each exam session.

If you do not possess any form of photographic identification, please contact the Examinations Officer **charlotte.morgan@derbyals.org** or **01332 717900** to discuss alternative forms of ID.

Please also familiarise yourself and take time to read 'Information for Candidates – Written Exams 2016-17', which can be found via the following link:

**<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents>**

Good luck in your examinations!

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ARRIVAL TIME</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
1. Maths GCSE (1)	25 May	09:00	Rycote Centre - Hall
2. Psychology GCSE (1)	5 June	13:00	Rycote Centre – Hall
3. English Language GCSE (1)	6 June	09:00	Rycote Centre – Hall
4. Maths GCSE (2)	8 June	09:00	Rycote Centre – Hall
5. Psychology GCSE (2)	8 June	13:00	Rycote Centre – Hall
6. English Language GCSE (2)	12 June	09:00	Rycote Centre – Hall
7. Maths GCSE (3)	13 June	09:00	Rycote Centre – Hall
8. Psychology GCSE (3)	16 June	13:00	Rycote Centre - Hall

<b>PAPER</b>	<b>DURATION</b>
1. 8300/01 – non-calculator	1 hour 30 mins
2. B541/01 – Studies and Application in Psychology 1	1 hour 15 mins
3. 8700/01 – Paper 1	1 hour 45 mins
4. 8300/2 - Calculator	1 hour 30 mins
5. B542/01 - Studies and Application in Psychology 2	1 hour 15 mins
6. 8700/2 – Paper 2	1 hour 45 mins
7. 8300/3 - Calculator	1 hour 30 mins
8. B543/01 – Research in Psychology	1 hour



# Heritage Lottery Fund Project Green Lane Regeneration

Do you want to get involved?

On Friday 23 June 2017 an art exhibition will be held at St Peter's Church on St Peter's Street to celebrate the history of some of Derby's lesser known streets.

We have been challenged to use archive material to artistically interpret these historic streets through textiles, pottery, ceramics, paintings, photography, drama and graphic design.

The work will be on display at the gallery launch in St Peter's Church on 23 June from 6pm onwards. Members of the public are welcome to join us in celebrating the history of some of Derby's oldest streets.

**Would you like to contribute to our textile banner, patchwork or music for the gallery launch and celebration?**

Brand new courses starting soon and are all **FREE!**

For more information, call our learner helpline on 01332 717900 or email [enquiries@derbyals.org](mailto:enquiries@derbyals.org)

## Mental Awareness Week

**Monday 8 May 2017 to Sunday 14 May 2017**

We are offering a free taster session where you can make your own 'Mental Health First Aid Box'

Join us on Monday 8 May, 1pm to 3pm at the Rycote Centre, Parker Street, Derby, DE1 3HF.

To book a place, call our Learner Helpline on **01332 717900** or email [\*\*enquiries@derbyals.org\*\*](mailto:enquiries@derbyals.org)

## DerbyLearn

[www.derbylearn.net](http://www.derbylearn.net)

### What is DerbyLearn?

DerbyLearn is a website that has lots of information to support you as a learner. DerbyLearn is part of your course when learning with us. It is free to use.

There are general areas for all learners that contain information about studying with us, keeping you safe on the internet and much more. This is in an area called "Information for all learners."

Your tutor will tell you about their area for your course. This may include additional information to enhance your classroom learning. It may contain homework and for some courses, it may be where you store your coursework as part of a qualification.

### Where do I start with DerbyLearn?

Once you have created an account and confirmed it through your email address, you will be able to log into DerbyLearn.

There is an area called the 'Learner Hub – getting started with DALs' – once you have logged into DerbyLearn, there is a link to this area from the top of the first page. You may be asked to enrol to allow you to look at what is in this section.

If you have any questions or queries about DerbyLearn, please email [enquiries@derbyals.org](mailto:enquiries@derbyals.org) or telephone 01332 717900.



*The Platform for success.*

## Do you live in Allenton?

### Do you live in the Allenton Big Local area?

Did you know that Allenton Big Local is offering a bursary of £500 to all residents to pay for course fees?

Those with childcare or caring responsibilities can also apply for up to £500 towards the cost of a nursery or care for an adult dependent during the course.

For more information, go to [www.biglocalallenton.co.uk/bursary](http://www.biglocalallenton.co.uk/bursary)



## Careers@derby

A member of the **careers@derby** team will be available one day a week at each centre, where learners will be able to pop in and have a chat with the advisors, regarding any issues/concerns they may have, on finding employment, help with CVs, completing job applications, barriers to finding employment, help with NARIC (recognition and comparison of international qualifications), and access to employment opportunity information.

The days that a **careers@derby** team member will be in the centres are:

- **Mondays** Allen Park
- **Tuesdays** Rycote Centre
- **Thursdays** Derby Multicultural Centre
- **Fridays** Village Learning Centre.

## Do you want to use your own equipment?

Did you know you can use your own equipment in our classes? We always try to provide technology in our classrooms but we realise there may be times when you want to bring your own.

We provide access to free learner Wi-Fi in our learning centres. You will need to sign into this and agree to the terms and conditions in order to use it. The password is located on noticeboards in the centres where it is available. You can ask your tutor for the code too.

We have a Bring Your Own Device policy to ensure equipment is used appropriately in class. Please visit the Learner Hub on DerbyLearn [www.derbylearn.net](http://www.derbylearn.net) where you will find the policy, or ask your tutor to provide a copy.



### **Please note:**

- you should not electronically record anything without specific agreement of your tutor and other learners in your class
- we cannot offer support for your own equipment.

## Visit our Cafe

Have you visited our five star food hygiene rated Rye Café?

### **Come and see our learners in action!**

The Rye Café is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays during term times for morning break and lunch (12 noon - 1pm). As well as having the highest possible food hygiene rating, we only serve freshly produced food, cooked on site and have some of the lowest prices you will find anywhere.

- dish of the day £2.50
- jacket potato with fillings and help yourself salad £2.50
- toasted sandwich and help yourself salad £2
- puddings and cakes
- drinks from 30p.

The Blue Sky cafe will be open on Thursday 18 May 2017 and Thursday 8 June 2017 between 12pm and 1pm. They will be serving the following:

- jacket Potatoes with various fillings and salads
- toasted sandwiches with various fillings and salads
- tea, hot chocolate, fresh coffee and squashes.

The Rye Café is open to everyone, so why not bring along your friends or family for a delicious meal.

# Derby Adult Learning Service | Learner Newsletter

## Blue Sky

Our **Final** Afternoon Tea is on  
**Monday 8 May 2017**  
**1pm till 4pm**



Come along and meet the Blue Sky volunteers and tutors for an informative chat about our exciting classes, with some free refreshments.

The afternoon will include some basic music tuition on the guitar and glockenspiel.

For any other information, please email [blueskyderby@derbyals.org](mailto:blueskyderby@derbyals.org) or phone/text **07391 734436**.

### Please send us your articles

If you would like to contribute to the next issue of the Learner Newsletter, please send your articles to [enquiries@derbyals.org](mailto:enquiries@derbyals.org)

We can give you this information in other ways, styles or languages that will help you to access it.

Please contact us on 01332 717900  
[enquiries@derbyals.org](mailto:enquiries@derbyals.org)  
Typetalk 18002 01332 706846

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