

# informED

INFORMAL EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

## LINCOLNSHIRE AND RUTLAND WLA NETWORK WIN AWARD

Congratulations to everyone who took part in Adult Learners Week. In this edition of informED you can read about activities that took place around the network. You can find more information at [www.wlas.org.uk](http://www.wlas.org.uk) and on our Adult learners week page on the website.

Lincolnshire and Rutland Workplace Learning Advocates (WLA) network has won the prestigious NIACE Midlands Region workplace project award. The Award celebrates the achievements of outstanding adults that have transformed their lives through learning.

The Lincs and Rutland WLA network was one of the first to start meeting regularly in 2011. Since then over 40 WLAs have completed their training and 600 employees across the region have engaged in learning in their workplace as a result. Clare Hughes from the Lincolnshire & Rutland



Hayley Moss from The Gelder Group, Fran Lovely from Mortons, Pauline Morgan from RPC, Oakham and Ann Fowkes from Lincolnshire Co-op collecting the award.

Employment and Skills Board said "The great thing about the Workplace Learning Advocate scheme is that everybody benefits. It is employee led, so it matches what people want and need in terms of learning, it

brings benefits to the employer through improved engagement with staff and teams and it provides a mechanism for people across a range of businesses to share learning experiences and initiatives."

## WORK SKILLS AWARD WINNER JULIE CELEBRATES SUCCESS

Kath Harrison, a WLA at DHL Deutsche Post in Warrington, nominated colleague Julie Wright for the Adult Learners Week Award for Warrington. Julie beat off the competition winning the award in the Work Skills category. Kath says "This award recognises Julie's dedication to completing her NVQ in IT in the face of difficult circumstances."



Becky Smiles is the WLA at Alex Smiles Ltd in Sunderland and her success in promoting a range of formal and informal learning opportunities to colleagues was acknowledged with an Adult Learners' Week Certificate of Achievement. She was presented with her certificate by Liz Johnston from WLAs.

People inspiring people to learn at work

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# News from your local WLAs

## → YORKSHIRE & HUMBER →→→

### SHARING KNOWLEDGE DURING ADULT LEARNERS WEEK AND BEYOND

Anne-Marie Ledson, WLA at Advonet in Leeds organised a 'Language Exchange' session for Adult Learners Week where staff taught each other some basics in different languages. Mags Ashman, WLA at Revive Leeds, has been supporting people to take part in free distance learning

courses and Tina Ashby from Voluntary Action Leeds is involved in a new project called Mid-Life Career Review which supports staff and volunteers to make effective decisions about a range of issues in mid-life.

## → NORTH WEST →→→

### SPOTLIGHT ON APPRENTICESHIPS, LEADERSHIP SKILLS & USING LIBRARIES

Amanda Hesketh of Kellan Group Plc in Warrington saw that the free training provided by apprenticeships could bring great value to the business and her colleagues. 11 members of staff signed up for training in Business Administration, Leadership & Management and Recruitment Skills.

kellan

The WLAs at The Rum Story, COSC (Copeland Occupational & Social Centre) and The Haig Mining Museum celebrated Adult Learners Week 2013 by welcoming Cumbria Libraries into their workplaces. People took advantage of the range of learning books/DVDs/CDs that the library brought in, including How to be a better manager, How to improve Maths & English Skills, How to speak a language.



Julie Steel from In-Corpor8 Industries

When Julie Steele, WLA at In-Corpor8 Industries heard that Kendal College were offering a free EDI Level 2 Certificate in Team Leading Principles she wasted no time in promoting the course to her own staff and those of other local WLA companies. Julie has organised 3 courses to date. Julie says "People who attended the course have gained a wide range of skills including building the confidence to deal with people and interact effectively with their teams."



Bringing the library to COSC

## → NORTH EAST →→→

### IMPROVING MATHS SKILLS

Elaine Nordstrom and Carol Pattison, new WLAs at Raytec CCTV, an LED light manufacturing company based in Northumberland, have offered a range of training opportunities to staff from Maths to Manicure and Cup Cake Decorating! They made use of Maths4Us resources and arranged for staff to use an office computer to improve their maths skills. They are currently working with a local training provider to identify NVQs for staff which will include Maths and English assessments to help staff to improve these core skills.



Elaine Nordstrom & Carol Pattison from Raytec CCTV

# News from your local WLAs

## → OXFORDSHIRE →→→

### BUILDING THE WLA NETWORK

A committed network of ten organisations from across the private and voluntary sector had their second meeting in May 2013 as a celebration of Learning at Work Day. It proved a great opportunity to network and learn about free and low cost learning opportunities from WLAs.

Seeing the value of Workplace Learning Advocates (WLAs) to local businesses Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) have facilitated the training of 11 WLAs on two 2 day Open Awards accredited Information and Advice courses. Lucy Nichol, one of OCC's own Tutor Coordinators, has also been trained to continue to deliver accredited and short courses in the region for WLAs.



Ruth Ward, Teresa Whitford, Judy Dykes, Josie Waters and Lucy Nichol

## → LONDON →→→

### DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CAPITAL



Lorna Jeffers and Anuja Janaarathanan from Alpha Care Agency

The first thriving network in London has an active group of WLAs from Third Sector organisations ranging from care to advice and support organisations. One of these, Alpha Care Agency, is helping grow the skills base of organisations in Walthamstow, and have hosted two 2-day Information and Advice courses for 12 WLAs and 10 maths champions.

A network of small business entrepreneurs, part of Barking Enterprise Centre have, benefited from learning Excel skills to enhance their businesses through effective budgeting, planning and invoicing and learning about more

free learning opportunities through Workplace Learning Advocates.

### BRAVO Motors Group

Newly trained WLA Santosh Jassal of Bravo Motors Group is seeing the benefits of the WLA approach already. The business is working locally with Havering College to train people to secure paid work placements for clients with learning disabilities. The company hopes to ensure that they are a company who combines profit with benefiting the community as a whole. You can read a full case study on Bravo at: [www.workplacelearningadvocates.org.uk/case-study-bravo-motors-group](http://www.workplacelearningadvocates.org.uk/case-study-bravo-motors-group)

## → LINCOLNSHIRE →→→

### SPEED SKILLS SHARING FOR ADULT LEARNERS WEEK



The Gelder Group has been busy using the speed-dating concept to share skills. During ALW they launched a new on-line Intranet tool to allow users to list what they would like to learn or what they could teach, with space for staff to leave comments 'Facebook' style.

At The Longhurst Group the theme for this year's Adult Learner's Week was learning in different ways. Staff were asked to nominate sessions they really enjoyed in

the previous 12 months as well as individuals who had accomplished training and development and had seen a change in either their own personal development or in the organisation's development.



The Mortons Out of Hours Club together with WLA's held a maths spectacular with prizes. Staff also had the opportunity to enter a competition to win a mini BBQ by answering questions. The answers could be found by visiting learning websites listed. Many employees entered and enjoyed the challenge.



# Case study

## → SPP PUMPS →→→



Engineering Manager at SPP Pumps Laura Hurcombe was one of several Workplace Learning Advocates in The Forest of Dean who trained as a Maths Champion. Inspired by hearing about financial education workshops run by

WLAs in the North East region Laura decided to run something similar for SPP Pumps.

Laura co-ordinated a series of free Maths themed learning workshops for employees of SPP Pumps and their friends and families during Adult Learners Week. The 'Making Ends

Meet' sessions covered top tips on budgeting and getting best value from your pound. Another session looked at the maths children cover in school, so parents would be better able to support them. Attendees loved the style of learning and felt comfortable sharing skills and ideas.

+ MATHS  
+ 4  
+ US



## THE COLEFORD QUEST



Clare Ham of Coleford Area Partnership (CAP) and Maths Champion, devised an ingenious treasure hunt around the local town combining maths-based clues and information about Coleford's heritage. 'The Coleford Quest', supported by others from CAP proved to be a fun way to engage families in learning whilst getting to know the town better. Clare commented, "Adult Learners Week was the perfect time to deliver The Coleford Quest. Combining maths with our local heritage project got people thinking about their local community as well as their own skills. It would be easy to replicate the model so I'd encourage other Maths Champions to give it a go."

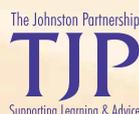


## NEW ON WWW.WLAS.ORG.UK

Since June 2012 over 5,300 visitors have come to the website to access 24,500 pages! You can find all the latest resources and news about activities happening in your region on the website including:

- Maths resources
- News and ideas from Adult Learners Week
- WLA E-Shot and Learning for Work booklets

WLAs in the North have a LinkedIn group. Contact Liz Johnston if you'd like more information.



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