

Student News Update

A Quarterly Newsletter on Adult and Community Learning



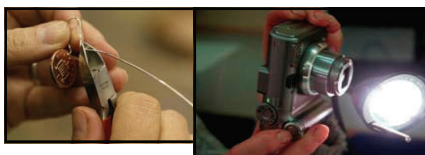
Welcome to the January Bumper New Year edition of Student News Update from the Adult College for Rural East Sussex. This quarterly newsletter is designed to provide you with the very latest in all that's happening at ACRES. focused very much with the student in mind.

So don't forget we would welcome your contributions, letters of interest and feedback. Just drop us a line on email to: adultlearn@uctc.org.uk with 'newsletter' in the subject box with any comments you have or write to: Adult Learning Manager, ACRES Office, Uckfield Community Technology College, Downsview Crescent, Uckfield TN22 3DJ

A happy New Year to all our students from the ACRES team, we hope 2011 holds all that you wish for!

What to look out for in the coming months....

Saturday Workshops On 5 February at Uckfield Community Technology College



If you can't make the commitment to our evening or day-time programme why not come along to Uckfield in February. We have a range of excellent choices from the following:



- Beaded Jewellery, All Abilities.**
- Kiln Fused Glass Jewellery, All Abilities.**
- Shopping on the Internet.**
- Digital Compact/Hybrid Camera for Beginners.**
- Italian Renaissance Dance.**

So why not set aside that Saturday now and book your place. These prove very popular make sure you don't miss out, book now!

For further details on any of the above speak to our friendly team on 01825 761820 or visit www.acreslearning.org.uk

Adult Learners' Week Awards

The 20th Adult Learners' Week this year is celebrated 14-20 May. ALW promotes the positive impact of learning in all its forms.

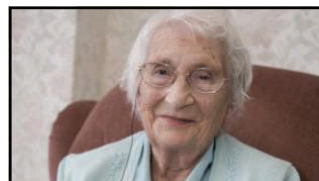
The ALW awards celebrate all kinds of learning, whether it's informal, leading to a qualification or just for fun.

ACRES will be putting forward nominations for this years awards of Students who have transformed their lives through learning. All students nominated will receive a Certificate of Achievement. The winners will receive a learning voucher valued between £200 and £1,000, and will be invited to a presentation ceremony during Adult Learners' Week.

[Previous South East Region Award Winner](#)

"Information Technology in particular has prevented me from feeling lonely and isolated as so many other old people find."

Jessie Beattie
2010 Winner



Jessie Beattie, aged 94 bought her laptop in her late 80s and now uses Microsoft Word, sends emails, talks on Skype and uses Windows Messenger to stay in touch with friends and family.

Saturday Workshops On 19 March at Hailsham Community College



If you can't make Uckfield in February why not come along to Hailsham in March. We have a range of excellent choices from the following:

- A Day of Dance.**
- 17th Century Country Dance.**
- Adobe Flash – A Taster.**
- Shopping on the Internet.**
- Getting to Grips with Photoshop Elements.**
- An Introduction to Email and the Internet.**
- Organic and Sustainable Food Growing.**

Both of these super Saturdays are bound to be popular, so if you really want to make the most of this ideal learning opportunity make sure you book now!

For further details on any of the above speak to our friendly team on 01825 761820 or visit www.acreslearning.org.uk

The gift of Learning...

Do you have a special occasion or birthday of a friend or loved one coming up?

Why not provide a gift that they will appreciate for years to come, an Adult Learning course from ACRES. Take a look at our brochure you'll see it's packed full of courses to suit every pocket and taste.

You can purchase vouchers to the value of a full course or help your chosen recipient buy buying vouchers of any value.

To discuss the ways we can make sure you deliver a real surprise give our team a call on **01825 761820**



A poem in praise of email

Don't fall off your perch,

I'm learning the computer at King's Church.

Soon I'll be emailing night and day,
I might even run out of things to say.

Letters sent via watts and amps,
No need to hunt for postage stamps.

No more walking in the rain
to the letterbox, such a pain.

Typing letters without a care,
Then sending them through the air.

I've a lot to learn in such a hurry,

So bye for now I must scurry.



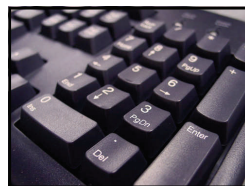
Pamela Oram
ACRES'
Student

One man and his Computer...

It was my daughters who persuaded me to get a computer after I retired. Deciding I needed the discipline of the weekly classes offered by ACRES I joined a CLAiT Level 1 class and thoroughly enjoyed it, gaining first my Certificate and then my Diploma. The following year I was unable to join CLAiT Level 2 so I decided on Microsoft Publisher followed by Web Design at both levels. CLAiT Level 2 followed on the next year and I was able to achieve my Certificate and Diploma at this level.

Now I complete a Newsletter for a local group and edit a 56 page Journal for the Dexter Cattle Society. I use Excel for wall charts for my Dog Boarding business, use the Internet for my farming activities and produce invoices for selling stock and hiring out of bulls. I source farming equipment online, design and print our Christmas cards using Microsoft Publisher and when I have time I intend to organise my own website.

All this would not have been possible without ACRES, the Tutors and the team. Thank you all.



Chris Sparrow
ACRES'
Student

Why all the paperwork?

We are currently undertaking a review of the amount of paperwork we issue to students and we will be seeking your views on this over the coming weeks.

A random sample of students will receive a brief survey to complete and return which will enable ACRES to determine the best course of action on this issue.

If you want to make sure you take part in this valuable survey please contact us either by email: **adultlearn@uctc.org.uk**

With 'Student Survey' in the subject box, by phone **01825 761820** or by post to:
**Quality Improvement Co-ordinator,
Student Survey, ACRES Office,
Uckfield Community Technology
College, Downsview Crescent,
Uckfield TN22 3DJ**

To help us provide the very best service to our students we need your feedback. So please keep a look out for the survey, complete and return it as requested. You'll be helping ACRES shape its offering to students for years to come!

In personal praise of an ACRES Wood Carving Course



I have just completed the first term of an ACRES' Wood Carving course at

Heathfield Community College.

It is fantastic. As someone who recently lost their job due to stress and depression, my Psychiatrist advised that I take up a hobby, and this has been an overwhelming success. It has given me a new interest in life, a feeling of ability and achievement, and I've made some friends.

The tutor, Martin, is superb he lets everyone work at their own pace, try and find their own solutions, before stepping in to show the best method. For those couple of hours every week,

I'm completely absorbed and motivated. They should put these courses on the NHS, they're better than medicine.

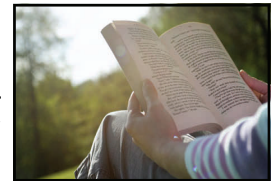
Thank you so much.

ACRES'
Student

(Name of Student withheld)

Time to join the Six Book Challenge!

Since 2008 when the Reading Agency first launched the innovative Six Book Challenge an estimated 29,500 people have registered for the scheme and 12,000 have completed it, including a number of ACRES' students.



Last year four of our literacy groups joined the challenge

and students said it helped them develop an interest in reading, encouraging them to read and giving them something to aim for. Discussing the books people had read each week meant that sometimes they tried books they wouldn't otherwise have read.

It is time for this year's challenge and our literacy groups are gearing up for it again. If you are not so confident in your reading then why not take up the challenge, record your efforts in a diary and receive incentives, a certificate and a chance to enter a national prize draw!

Call



01825 761820
for further
information

Growing success of ACRES' Students



ACRES' Students are building on what they have learned and taking it into the wider environment. Below is a selection of feedback from those Students who expressed an opinion on their learning experience.

IT Students

One of our Students has gone on to develop Spreadsheets to aid his research projects, another is now editing the newspaper of a local group and produces a 56 page journal for the Dexter Cattle Society using CLAiT Level 1 and Level 2 skills.

A third Student feels their confidence has grown in the workplace and another has been inspired to study to achieve a Diploma in MS office.

Exams Students

Eight of our exam Students went on to further learning/courses and a further three intend to. Six students have said that their learning has directly improved their employment/career prospects, whilst the remaining six have all said it has helped them in their lives in general, for a variety of reasons.

Five students have said their skills have been useful in terms of their involvement in local clubs, social groups etc.

Fun Corner

A man walks into a bar with a roll of Tarmac under his arm and says to the barman 'Pint please, and one for the road'.

*

Police arrested two youths, one for drinking battery acid the other for eating fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off.

*

A man decides to get fit and joins a gym. He asks the instructor to teach him the splits, 'How flexible are you?' asks the instructor, 'I can't make Tuesdays' the man replied.

A Personal tribute to a Computer course

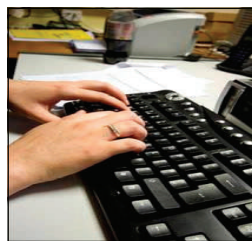
I have recently taken part in an ACRES Community Partnership Computer Course at Maresfield Village Hall and would like to put on record how useful I found this. As a senior citizen with no knowledge of computing, but realising that I should rectify this, I was very pleased to discover that a course was being run at Maresfield, I was apprehensive of joining a larger class at an adult learning centre. I know there are a number of people my age who feel the same!

Not only was this course tailored for a small number (six) but the tutor (Candice McEntyre) was very competent, patient and extremely charming. The tuition fees were so reasonable that it seemed foolish not to enrol.

We each had a laptop and a mouse and for two hours on Friday Mornings for ten weeks (two of which were free) we had great fun learning the basics, many useful things including venturing on to the Internet and exploring all its possibilities and sending and receiving emails with or without attachments, eg photos.

I am so pleased I enrolled and would encourage anyone who might be in two minds to 'go for it'. You certainly won't regret it.

Wendy Fowler
ACRES' Student



Now have your say....

Don't forget we would welcome your contributions, letters of interest and feedback. Just drop us a line on email to:

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ACRES offers more BBC First Click Computer Courses!

BBC First Click is a two year BBC Learning campaign to encourage people who currently don't use the internet to understand and enjoy its benefits. The BBC is working with a range of partners including Libraries, UK Online and Age UK.

The courses are aimed at people aged 55 and over.

As part of its ongoing commitment ACRES will be offering further beginners courses this spring.



To find out more call
**01825
761820**
now!

FirstClick

A new service from the Skills for Life Development Centre...

The Skills for Life Development Centre is now able to offer free confidential careers advice at various locations across Sussex and Kent.

All adults are entitled to at least one careers advice session and depending on their current situation they may be eligible for further support. The centre staff have been trained to deliver quality careers advice which could be beneficial to students.

For further details of the support on offer please call the Skills for Life Development Centre on
01273 704530

 **Skills for Life
Development Centre**

Did you know....

There are 206 bones in the adult human body and there are 300 in children (as they grow some of the bones fuse together).

*

An inch of rainwater is equivalent of 15 inches of snow.

*

The first electronic computer, called ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator) was developed in 1946 and had over 18000 vacuum tubes.