

Family fun at Lowton

Families arrived at Lowton High School on a Saturday last summer, wide-eyed and ready for fun.

The day marked the start of the school's three week Family Learning programme, designed to allow local families to experience new activities together.

The Jo Jingles course, led by Fran Harrop, introduced parents of pre-school children to the enjoyment that comes from helping their children to dance, play music and sing.

Chris Perry of the Anvil Street drummers, based in Wigan, led the Samba Drumming course. The raw energy and passion of the African music filled the school with a rhythm that was instantly infectious.

Two coaches from Manchester United's community programme led the Footballing Families course that was designed to inspire children and their parents to learn the skills that would allow them to emulate their football heroes.

Families that preferred to explore their artistic skills were also well catered for during the programme, with a Papercraft course. The course allowed both young and old to decorate a framed mirror and to create two different styles of memory booklets. The course leader, Vivienne Hancox, created a wonderful course that proved that everyone can find the artist hidden inside themselves.

Learners' exhibition

Throughout the last academic year, Lowton High School provided painting and drawing classes that supported the interests of both beginners and more accomplished adult learners. The courses culminated in a joint exhibition of the learners' work in the newly constructed gallery at Golborne High School.

The opening night of the exhibition allowed the adult learners to bring their families and friends to view their work and that of their colleagues, in all its splendour.

The exhibition continued to attract a high level of interest after the opening night and plans are now in place to repeat the exhibition for the students who are starting in the painting and drawing courses this term.

New courses

This term sees the launch of Lowton High School's new Adult Education programme for 2008/9. Over the summer holidays, the staff at the school have worked hard to attract new tutors to broaden the range of courses available to local people.

New classes for this academic year include: Counselling Skills, Pottery, Hair and Beauty, Meditation, Beer Tasting, Chinese Cookery, Indian Cookery, Creative Writing, Book Club, Papercrafting. If you would like to request a copy of the

school's course booklet, please contact Stephen Toole, Director of Community at Lowton High School (Tel: 01942 767040 – Option 4 or Stephen@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk).



Raw writers

By Sylvia Kenyon, Marsh Green Class

The BBC has been running a project to encourage adults to read and write.

As part of the project, BBC Manchester held a Raw Story Writing Day and staff, learners and their children and grandchildren went from Working Wonders.

On arrival, the adults started creating the story while the children were coached in playing percussion instruments. We met in the Orchestral Studio where our story was narrated as the children were cued when to come in with their instruments. It was really intriguing to watch all the divided parts coming together professionally.

The rehearsal went very well and then came the performance. The red light came on - we were on air! It went extremely well and the whole day was a fantastic experience. We were all given a CD of the recording, which I shall treasure. The recording was broadcast on BBC Manchester.

Eggciting courses



The Eggcrafters Guild of Great Britain has recently staged its annual convention in the North West, at Shevington High School.

Wendy Dickinson (pictured) Administrator for Adult Education at the school and a keen 'egg crafter' is the Lancashire area representative. The Shevington Centre has offered eggcrafting as part of the Adult and Community education programme for twenty years.

Enrolment for the 10 week beginners' course is

Wednesday 17th September and classes start the following week 7-9pm. Our new tutor, Susan Jones, is an art and craft teacher who has been eggcrafting for twenty years.

Other courses include IT, Healthy Living, Languages, and Arts and Leisure. Courses may lead on to a vocational qualification which we also offer to learners. Family Learning courses include Family Badminton, You, Your child and IT and, after Christmas, we will be offering Family Cookery, and Dads and Lads Sports.

Classes in the community

Ground-breaking technology, developed in Wigan, is helping Working Wonders to deliver computer courses in new locations which were previously 'off-limits'.

MyTechie Solutions Ltd was asked to devise a system to enable IT courses to be run in venues with no internet connection. Joyce Hanlon, Manager of Working Wonders said: "This technology is a major step forward and enables us to take learning to the people no matter how little there is of e-learning facilities.

Internet computer courses can be run anywhere - hospitals, homes for the elderly, church halls, schools, community centres or any venue with no public internet connection. Even the most disadvantaged areas can now benefit from e-learning opportunities."

Dr. Stephen Hanlon, Director of MyTechie Solutions, said: "We're delighted that the system has been so successful. It can be taken anywhere, at a fraction of the cost of wireless broadband."