

# Festive fun

**A Family Learning group was established last year at Shevington High School.**

They met on Friday mornings at the school's Adult Education Centre to follow a course which had been advertised as *Visual Arts Family Learning* with the title 'Creating Christmas'. Tracey Fairhurst, a visual arts teacher at the school, ran the course in the Visual Arts Suite. Parents and children worked together to decorate the tree and make cards and other festive novelties.

The highlight of the Shevington

venture was captured on camera. In liaison with Danielle Molyneux at the Shevington Children's Centre, a group of people who attend the Toddler's Group dropped in to receive presents from Father Christmas in the 'Creating Christmas' grotto. Working with the Active Learning Team, a healthy festive buffet was enjoyed by mums, dads, children, grandparents and staff.

The course was very successful and it has continued this year in the form of a new Family Learning Course entitled 'Fun on Friday'.



# Learning something new

By Ilva Rollason

**As Assistant Service Manager at the Broadmead Day Centre, I wanted to expand our adult courses.**

I approached Lowton's Centre Manager, Stephen Toole, who agreed to start a craft course to enable our learners to create a variety of paper craft projects. Course tutor Marion visited Broadmead for 15 weeks and introduced a variety of skills and techniques to staff and learners.

Some learners had previously found it difficult to concentrate on one task for long periods of

time but with Marion they stayed focused. This was due to her projects being designed for all levels of ability. Marion helped the group to produce wonderful objects including greetings cards, picture frames, canvases and jewellery boxes, all made using simple but effective techniques.

Everybody enjoyed showing off their work to staff, family and friends and a scrap book was made with photos of the sessions and art work. The group thoroughly enjoyed the project and will use the techniques in future craft projects. Many thanks to Marion and those who ensured we were able to provide this fantastic opportunity for our learners.

# On course to qualify!

**Tyldesley Community Education Centre has developed a working partnership with the Shakerley Centre.**

The partnership, requested through the management of LES, was developed to enable us to offer a selection of adult education courses and qualifications. These were to help people in this part of the community to learn new skills, to engage them back into education and to help with job prospects.

The Introduction and Intermediate computer courses which we ran were very successful and well attended and the learners wanted to progress into further learning opportunities. For this academic year we offered learners, who had previously completed an IT course, the chance to gain an OCR qualification - Clait Level 1 in IT.

We had 8 learners enrolling on the 20 week course and they worked through 3 modules

with an exam at the end of each module. They worked extremely hard to achieve this qualification and many of them came to the Centre on other days for extra study.

The aim of the course was to give them a qualification that would help with their employment prospects, build up their confidence and gain new skills. It has been a success, with several learners going on to gain employment or work as a volunteer. It has also motivated them to look at other courses and areas of education which they can now access.

**\* Pictured is tutor Keren Livesey with some of the learners.**



# It's all about you!

**Bedford Adult Learning Centre's brand new course 'First Steps to Success' has been designed to help you to focus on you!**

At certain times, through sickness or changes in our work and personal life, we can lose confidence and self-esteem. We have the desire to make a change and are unsure of which direction to take. Through attending this 6 week course, you will gain a basic understanding of the 4 personality types and become more confident in who you are and how to relate to others.

You will identify and apply principles in caring for yourself and others holistically (mind/body/spirit) and you will discover the colours and style that enhance your personal appearance.

Take that first step within an informal, relaxed learning environment and you never know where it will take you! It may open new doors and opportunities, as Jimmy and Sui King found (see the article 'Nominated for Award'). For further information, please ring Pauline on 01942 486379.

# Learner of the Year

**Linda Holland has received the award of Working Wonders Learner of the Year.**



As part of her job as a Nursery Assistant, Linda was required to gain an NVQ Level 2 qualification. She wanted to brush up her English skills before starting the NVQ but was reluctant to do so because she was concerned about attending a large class.

Her employer told her about Working Wonders and Linda found the courage to enrol on a 6 week Literacy course, aimed at building confidence and literacy skills. She worked on a 1:1 basis with a tutor and enjoyed the sessions and the friendly informal atmosphere. She soon gained enough confidence to join a group and is now working towards a qualification.

Linda said: "I'm so glad I had the courage to enrol with Working Wonders. The tutors are wonderful - so helpful and friendly. I never thought I could do it."

**\* Pictured is Linda receiving her award from Working Wonders' Manager Joyce Hanlon.**

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