



...a better place to live and work

Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of The Learning Community's Newsletter.

The Learning Community (TLC) is a new and exciting project working to develop a vibrant and thriving Learning Community in Cam and Dursley. We are managed by the GL11 Community Project based in Fairmead, Cam.

BACKGROUND

TLC is a Government initiative that is being piloted in only 28 areas in the Country. Cam and Dursley was chosen because of the recent decline in the manufacturing industries – Listers, Mawdsleys and Bymacks, and because of the new development of the former Listers' site – Littlecombe.

There are lots of things TLC is making happen in Cam and Dursley, and we are always looking for more ways to improve learning opportunities for local people and employers, either by putting on new courses or reorganising existing ones.

The Learning Community is giving more people the chance to benefit from learning and training opportunities in their local community, from being able to help your children with their homework, taking a course to help you do your job better or just having a go at something you have always wanted to do such as **pottery, gardening or using a digital camera**. Please get in touch with us if you have any ideas or would like a course put on in the area.

Telephone: 01453 547329

info@thelearningcommunity.org.uk

www.thelearningcommunity.org.uk

Learning Health Check

At the end of last year we undertook a Learning "Health Check" to find out what local employers, individuals and young people from Cam and Dursley thought about learning, what they wanted to learn and what was stopping them. From this we developed the first part of a Learning Plan for the area.

Local organisations including **Dursley Education Centre, GL11 Community Project,**

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Rednock School and Stroud Valleys Project have put in proposals to try out projects aimed at meeting the needs identified through the Surveys.

NEW COURSES

We have lots of new, local courses, ranging from healthy living, parenting skills and African drumming, to various computing courses, survival skills and how to start your own business. Please contact us for more information.

Learning Champions

We are currently recruiting local people to become "Community Learning Champions" to help us promote TLC, recruit students onto new learning programmes and help people think about their options.

Learning Champions are local residents, including young people, who have been involved in some kind of learning (this could be anything at all) which has had a positive impact on their lives and who want to help other people become involved in learning.

Our Learning Champions have recently finished their initial training, which will take them to Level 2 'Learning in Our Community' Award. The training has helped them identify barriers to learning and understand their role and responsibilities as learner supporters. Each Champion has received a laptop for their work.

If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more about becoming a Learning Champion, please contact Marion Lloyd, Community Development Worker at the TLC.

Can Do Exchange

Visit "The Learning Community Cam Dursley" **online** at the "Can Do Exchange" website:
www.candoexchange.org



This is an exciting on-line directory that is kept constantly up to date with details of local learning courses, venues to hire and upcoming events in the GL11 postcode area. To find out more, go to **www.thelearningcommunity.org.uk**

"Give it a Go" Road Shows

We are planning a host of **FREE** fun events over the Spring/Summer to give local people a chance to try something new. Everyone is welcome!

The events will take place at the **school summer fetes** and the **Dursley Town Festival** encouraging people to have a go at anything from making fruit cocktails and cartoon drawing, to dance, music, community art and DJ'ing. You could even learn some circus skills, or take a chance to catch up on computer skills.



"Get the Learning Bug!"

TLC Manager Jane Manning said: "We will also be giving people the chance to find out more about new, local training and learning opportunities to help them boost their work skills, support their families and get more involved in their community."

Saturday 14th May – 12 noon
Dursley C of E Primary School
Highfields, Dursley, GL11 4NZ

Saturday 18th June – 5.00pm
Cam Everlands Primary School
Birch Road, Dursley, GL11 5SF

Saturday 25th June – 12 noon
Cam Hopton Primary School
Hopton Rd, Upper Cam, GL11 5PA

Saturday 2nd July – 2.00pm
Cam Woodfield School
Elstub Lane, Woodfield, GL11 6JJ

Saturday 16th July – 1.00pm
Dursley Town Festival
Recreation Field, Dursley
(Including the presentation of the Local Community Learning Awards 2.30pm).

Please come along and give us your support!

TLC Membership Scheme

We are in the process of developing a simple TLC card membership scheme for local people undertaking certain targeted college courses and TLC-funded courses. The scheme is aimed at recognising, encouraging and rewarding people who are committed to learning. Among other things, TLC card holders will be entitled to

discounts in selected Cam and Dursley stores and a **free swim** at Dursley Pool!

We are aiming to launch the scheme by early summer.

By Definition – Dursley & Cam

This project will celebrate what is special about Dursley and Cam by asking local people to help create community art and share their memories. We want to produce artwork which can be displayed around the town, village and on the heritage trail through the new Littlecombe site - everyone living in Cam and Dursley will have the opportunity to join in.

We also want to know why people came to Cam and Dursley, what it feels like to live here now, what is special about the area, what you would like changed, and why some people have left. We want people of all ages, backgrounds and experiences to contribute to this project and hope to produce a DVD and interactive website. Rednock School, Dursley Education Centre, the Library and Vale Vision are all involved in this project.

We are currently looking for volunteers to play an active role in moving the project forward. Please contact the Project Co-ordinator, Alison Ruddick, for more information:

allieruddick@lineone.net

Get in touch!

We would like to keep you in touch with TLC news and relevant course details. To be added to our emailing list, please send your **EMAIL ADDRESS** to info@thelearningcommunity.org.uk

Alternatively, contact us at TLC, GL11 Community Project, Fairmead, Cam, Glos. GL11 5JS. Tel: 01453 547329

Website: www.thelearningcommunity.org.uk

Next Issue

If you would like to contribute to our next issue, please send your copy/photos/stories etc to:

louise@thelearningcommunity.org.uk

For more information about TLC, please telephone Jane Manning on 01453 547329 or email jane@thelearningcommunity.org.uk



Thank you for your support