



...a better place to live and work

## Welcome!

Welcome to The Learning Community's second Newsletter. **The Learning Community (TLC)** is an exciting project working to develop a vibrant and thriving Learning Community in Cam and Dursley based on the needs of local residents, young people and employers.

### 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.

The project has been very successful so far in raising the profile of learning, engaging local people as learners and 'Learning Champions' and putting on courses relevant to the needs identified in the local survey undertaken by the project at the end of last year.

Please contact us for more information or if you would like a specific course put on in the area.

**Telephone: 01453 547329**

**info@thelearningcommunity.org.uk**

**www.thelearningcommunity.org.uk**

### NEW COURSES

The Learning Community (TLC) brings together learning providers including Dursley Education Centre, Rednock School and the GL11 Community Project to offer a whole range of courses (for people of all ages) at local venues. We have lots of new courses starting in autumn ranging from art, health and fitness, languages, African drumming and gardening, to astrology, stress management, survival skills and coaching. Computing courses (from beginners to expert level) are available across the area, on different days/times to suit individual needs. Look out too for **FREE** English and Maths courses working towards a **GCSE** level qualification if you would like to brush up your skills – or just get your brain working again! Please visit our website for up-to-date course information:

**www.thelearningcommunity.org.uk**

# The Learning Community Newsletter September 2005

## TLC Membership Scheme

The Learning Community's membership card scheme is **FREE** to join for anyone living in Cam, Dursley or the surrounding area undertaking certain targeted college courses and TLC-funded courses. There are 3 cards to collect (bronze, silver and gold) depending on the number of courses completed. A whole range of incentives are available to TLC Learners including a free swim voucher for Dursley pool, a 7-day pass to Stratford Park Leisure Centre, "hire one/hire one free" on DVDs and Videos at the library together with discounts in selected Cam and Dursley stores. **New this autumn for Silver and Gold Card Holders** are a 30% discount off Stroud College Courses 2005-6, together with a range of **FREE** taster courses at Dursley Education Centre including an Introduction to Web Design, Desktop Publishing and Digital Imaging.

## Click on-line!

The Learning Community's website is now up and running displaying lots of information, local news, course details and useful links.

**www.thelearningcommunity.org.uk**

Why not also visit "The Learning Community Cam Dursley" **online** at the "Can Do Exchange" website: **www.candoexchange.org**



This is an exciting on-line directory with details of local learning courses, venues to hire and upcoming events in the GL11 postcode area.

## "Give it a Go" Road Shows

The TLC undertook a host of fun events over the Spring/Summer at the local schools fetes, Vale Vision Launch, and the Dursley Town Festival.



Our tutors were on hand to give people the chance to 'have a go' at anything from cartoon drawing, African drumming and community art, to plumbing, DIY, fruit cocktail making and circus skills. We met with over 1200 people at the events. Thank you to everyone who came along and gave us their support.

Keep a look out for more TLC events planned over the coming months!

*"Get the Learning Bug!"*

## Learn in your own home!

A new virtual learndirect centre offering a range of online courses is now available – learn from anywhere that has internet access. The **Avon Online Virtual Learning Centre** has a friendly and experienced team of Advisors available to help you make the right choice to meet your learning needs and provide the opportunity for you to learn at anytime, at your own pace. They can help you pick and mix from a wide range of **learndirect courses** to find something to suit you. Many of the learndirect courses are free, why not update your IT skills - or learn a new language?

Your course will be delivered 'online' and you'll receive online tutor support throughout the course. Please visit their website at [www.virtualcentre.org.uk](http://www.virtualcentre.org.uk) or ring 0117 9354555 for more information. Their advisors will work with you to complete the enrolment process and prepare you for this exciting new experience – Virtual learning!



## Job Centre Plus Phone

The Jobcentre Plus free phone is now functioning in the temporary Dursley Library. This phone line links to the nearest Jobcentre Plus office and also to Jobseeker Direct, the national vacancy bank. Jobseeker Direct service compliments the Jobcentre Plus website,

[www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk) where job vacancies can be browsed, you can find help with job search tips and find information on benefits. Access to computers in libraries is free.

## Free Computer Access



The Dursley temporary library currently has two computers, one as a drop-in for use for 15 minutes, the other can be booked

for up to 2 hours per day. Library Members can book sessions in advance, up to one week. It doesn't cost anything to join the library! The new Dursley Library opening at the end of 2005 will have 12 computers making computer access a lot easier for local residents.

## 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.

**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](mailto:allieruddick@lineone.net)

## Rednock School

Thanks to partnership with TLC, Rednock School in Dursley now has excellent audio visual facilities in its Drama Hall. These are used extensively by students and parents of the school and are also available for community use.

A selection of **NEW** evening courses for Adults will also be taking place at the school from October 2005. These include understanding Maths to help your child with their homework and also gain a GCSE level qualification, together with **FREE** courses in Computing for Beginners and Drawing & Painting. Please telephone Dursley Education Centre on 01453 542060 for more details.

## Next Issue

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

**[louise@thelearningcommunity.org.uk](mailto:louise@thelearningcommunity.org.uk)**

For more information about TLC or to join our free mailing list, please telephone Jane Manning on 01453 547329 or email

[jane@thelearningcommunity.org.uk](mailto:jane@thelearningcommunity.org.uk)

Alternatively, write to TLC, GL11 Community Project, Fairmead, Cam, Glos. GL11 5JS.

Website: [www.thelearningcommunity.org.uk](http://www.thelearningcommunity.org.uk)



Thank you for your support