



...a better place to live and work

## Welcome!

Welcome to the fourth edition of The Learning Community's 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. We are a project of 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 decline in the manufacturing industries – Listers, Mawdsleys and Bymacks, and the new development of the former Listers' site, 'Littlecombe'. We are working hard to raise the profile of learning, engage local people as learners and 'Learning Champions', and to put on courses relevant to the needs of local residents and employers. Contact us for more information or if you would like a specific course put on in the area.

Telephone: 01453 548189

info@thelearningcommunity.org.uk

www.thelearningcommunity.org.uk

### NEW FREE COURSES for Spring / Summer 2006

#### Brush up your English and/or Maths!

Gain a nationally recognised qualification equivalent to GCSE level. (Suitable for all levels).

**NVQ units** in Customer Service, Business Administration & Management, ECDL and CLAIT.

Courses running at Dursley Education Centre and other venues across Cam and Dursley.

## TLC move to The Library

The fantastic new library for Dursley is now open offering a wide range of services including many more books, local information, CDs/DVDs to hire, an internet café and 12 computers with free internet access. The upstairs offices house a wide range of partner



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organisations including The Learning Community, Citizens Advice Bureau, Dursley Volunteer Centre and Connexions. If you would like to come in and meet us for advice on learning and training in the area, our office is open on Thursdays 10am-4pm.

## Test a real success

**Test the Town has been a big success with residents, local teachers and the local MP all contributing to a 100% pass rate at a range of local events.**

**TEST THE TOWN**

Cam and Dursley was selected to take part in this national pilot scheme as part of a drive to raise awareness of Skills for Life courses and encourage as many people as possible to take the National Tests in English and Maths. These free qualifications (equivalent to GCSE level) are relevant for everyone to take. They could help plug a gap in your CV opening career or training options, help you to assist your children with their homework, or just refresh your knowledge and get your brain working again! Read some of the comments from those who took up the challenge:

*"I have to say that I approached the tests with some nervousness having been pre-warned that they would not be easy and given that I would be there with others, one's competitive self-worth is always put under threat. Anyway I took the two tests and though I performed rather better at the literacy than the numeracy I managed to acquire my certification for both, something which I am now rather proud of."* David Drew MP

*"I can't wait to tell our grandchildren that we passed!"*

*"I was pretty nervous at first and thought I would be terrible. But I surprised myself at passing the practice test and will definitely go on to take the real thing."*

Events Organiser Jane Manning said:

*"I think a lot of people were surprised by the tests, some found them easier than expected, others harder. They all realised that adult learning was worthwhile though".*

A whole range of short brush up courses in Maths and English have been arranged at various times and venues across Cam and Dursley. To find out more, visit our website for course details or telephone 01453 548189.

## Click on-line!

Visit [www.thelearningcommunity.org.uk](http://www.thelearningcommunity.org.uk) for lots of up-to-date course information, news stories, contact directories and useful links as well as some fun games and quizzes. Since the site's official launch last summer we have had more than 1,200 hits.

## More benefits to learning!

**The Learning Community's membership card scheme is FREE to join** for learners undertaking certain targeted college courses and TLC-funded courses. Since the scheme's launch last year, our 170 Card Holders have received a range of incentives including a free swim at Dursley pool, a 7-day pass to Stratford Park Leisure Centre, "hire one/hire one free" on DVDs and videos at the library and discounts in selected Cam and Dursley stores.

**Sign up for one of our "Skills For Life" courses in Maths or English and you will automatically receive a Silver Reward Card offering even more!** Together with a free computer memory stick, you can claim "buy one, get one free" entry to Slimbridge WWT, a 30% discount off Stroud College Courses 2006, and a range of FREE taster courses at Dursley Education Centre including an Intro to Web Design, Desktop Publishing and Digital Imaging.

## Construction Skills Course

**Look out for a FREE training course coming soon based at a new Construction Skills Centre on the Littlecombe site in Dursley.** With 15 hours of training per week over six months, you can choose from bricklaying, plastering or painting and decorating. Please contact us if you would like to learn more or put your name down for a free place.

*Real skills for real jobs...*

## Lone Parent Support Group

A new lone parent support group has been established for people living in and around Cam and Dursley. The Group meets every Monday at Cam Congregational Church from 6pm-7pm. Lone parents, both mums and dads, can share experiences and make new friends. All ages of children are welcome. For more information, please telephone Diane on 07950 382940.

## Invitation to employers

**A range of free training opportunities are currently available to benefit small /medium businesses around Cam and Dursley.**

The Learning Community has joined forces with a number of partners including Stroud College, Gloscat, Cirencester College, Business Link and the Parklife Business Parks project, to offer a free event to enable local employers to find out more. The event will take place on **Thursday 27 April** from 12noon-4.00pm at the Parklife Learning Zone on the Stroudwater Business Park in Stonehouse. Following lunch and networking, there will be a series of advice and information sessions including:

- **NVQs for your business** (what's available, what's free and how it could benefit you).
- **Communication and Numerical Skills** (free short courses tailored to meet your needs, e.g. report writing, budgeting).
- **Business Link** (what this free service can do for you).
- **Hands-on Web Design Taster Session** (how to use a website to increase business and how to make your website secure).

To find out more, please email Jane Manning ([jane@thelearningcommunity.org.uk](mailto:jane@thelearningcommunity.org.uk)) or telephone 07816 381498

## Celebrating Cam & Dursley

Visit [www.camanddursley.com](http://www.camanddursley.com) to find out more about this exciting new project. Reminiscence, community art and local heritage will be the main ways local people can have an input. A book of local walks will also be created – please send us details of your favourite walk for inclusion! To get involved, please contact Allie Ruddick on 07855 716883.

## Next Issue

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

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

For more information about TLC call Jane Manning on 01453 547329, email [jane@thelearningcommunity.org.uk](mailto:jane@thelearningcommunity.org.uk) or write to TLC, GL11 Community Project, Fairmead, Cam, GL11 5JS.

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

