

July to September 2008: Issue 18

## Literacy celebration

**The benefits of returning to learning were obvious to all at a recent celebration of learner achievements organised by Sunderland Health, Housing and Adult Services.**

Certificates were presented to learners on an Independent Living Skills Programme which included embedded literacy skills delivered on a WEA Health and Safety course, enabling learners to progress to an NVQ course in horticultural skills.

Shaun Donnelly, Manager at Bishopwearmouth Horticultural Nursery, thanked WEA tutor Diane Holmes and support worker Susan Heptinstall for the course. "The learners have gained so much, including the confidence to travel independently, be able to take an active role in health and safety at the Nursery and the skills to progress to the NVQ course", he said.

It was an emotional moment for tutor Diane as all her learners received their certificates. She said, "When some of my students first joined the course they said they wouldn't be able to do it because they couldn't read or write". Literacy skills are embedded in the Health and Safety course and learners have made exceptional progress with their literacy levels.

Presenting the certificates, Phillip Foster, General Manager, Provider Services, City of Sunderland

said: "This event is about more than celebrating the achievements of learners who have gained a qualification, it is also about recognising the wider skills, knowledge, and confidence of everyone who has achieved an award today, and the contribution that learners, staff and partners have made to improving our City...It is an example of real community partnership in action that has benefited the people of Sunderland."

Many thanks go to Donna Utterson, WEA Course Organiser, who built up the partnership with Social Services over a number of years. Mike Rugg, Quality Assurance Manager for WEA North East Region, described the event as "one of the most rewarding afternoons I have had while working for the WEA."



**WEA award winners from Adult Learners' Week: pages 4 and 5**

## Pitmen Painters: book now

*The Pitmen Painters*, the Lee Hall play about a group of working class painters who attended a WEA art class in the 1930s and went on to form the renowned Ashington Group, is returning to the National Theatre in January following a sell-out run this summer.

Tickets are already on sale for the run in the Lyttelton Theatre, which starts on 27 January 2009 and finishes on 17 February. Tickets can be booked from the National Theatre via their website [www.nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk) or by phoning the box office on 020 7452 3000 (normal bookings) or 020 7452 3010 (group bookings).

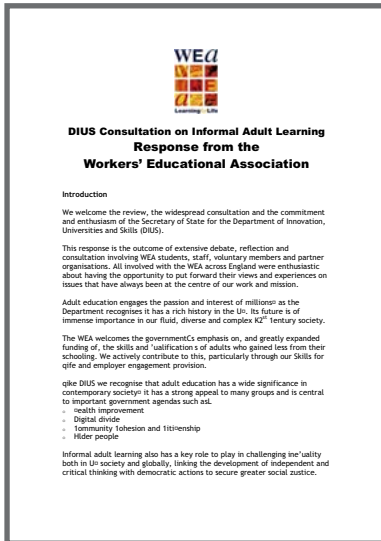
See WEA News issue 17 for more about the play. For an interesting review see the New Yorker at [http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/theatre/2008/06/23/080623crth\\_theatre\\_lahr](http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/theatre/2008/06/23/080623crth_theatre_lahr)



# DIUS consultation on adult learning

The WEA's response to the government's consultation on Informal Adult Learning was submitted in June. We await the next government paper on the issue, which is due to be published on 12 September, after which time it should be available at <http://www.adultlearningconsultation.org.uk/>

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) consultation provided a platform for WEA students, members and volunteers to share their hopes for the future of government-supported adult education in England. After the launch of the consultation in January, the WEA joined other educational organisations in setting up events and comparing notes on the subject of the consultation: the public funding of informal adult learning.



Throughout the consultation period, the term 'informal adult learning' – and the need for a widely understood definition of the term – caused as much debate as some of the questions that the government asked the public to consider as part of the consultation.

Alongside a national event held in London, the WEA in Yorkshire and Humber collaboratively produced a regional response, which was handed over to a DIUS Senior Policy Officer, while WEA Newcastle, South Tyneside and Berwick Branches staged a local 'Right to Learn' campaign with the Centre for Lifelong Learning. The result was a petition of 1,400 signatures - which was completed at the WEA North East Region Spring Conference when Nick Brown MP, Minister for the North East, added his signature to the list, saying to the audience: "I live here too and I care about this?"

The WEA response is available from the address on page eight, or at:

[www.wea.org.uk/pdf/WEA\\_response\\_to\\_DIUS\\_Consultation.pdf](http://www.wea.org.uk/pdf/WEA_response_to_DIUS_Consultation.pdf)

The WEA's national response took into account the views of all those who sent responses to the Association throughout the consultation. Many of you made valuable points which proved extremely useful in drafting the WEA's own formal response. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to send their thoughts and responses to this important public consultation to the WEA.

## Forty years and counting for Jan

Jan Driver, Regional Admin Officer for WEA Yorkshire and Humber Region celebrated forty years of WEA service on 22 July. To celebrate the landmark, colleagues planned a not-so-surprise party and were treated to a lunch-time buffet by Jan and husband Malcolm.

Coincidentally, Jan's joining date of 22 July is the same as that of two other long serving colleagues in the Region, Deb Collins and Gill Dean, who joined on the same date but in 1974 and 1988 respectively.

Jan was recruited to the WEA as a junior shorthand typist in 1968 by then Yorkshire North District Secretary Fred Sedgwick and office manager Rita Weaver. Her appointment brought the number of District staff to four in total (the other being Jackie Wilder).

Jan's stories reflect a very different WEA from today, with manual typewriters and 'state-of-the-art' copying thanks to an electric Roneo duplicator. Jan's daily tasks included taking dictation and typing and weighing post using brass weights. Regular trips to the tax office to take membership covenants were enhanced by the presence of Rita's baby David, who was a regular fixture in the office and whose care often fell to Jan - despite not being reflected in her job description!

Tutors were paid 3d a mile for travel to classes and Jan was given the important job of calculating tutor expenses using a Ready Reckoner. She had to manually record all payments to tutors in the District's record books.

Jan says her fondest memories are of the colleagues and volunteers who over the years have added so much colour and character to life at the WEA. She remembers Miss Artis of Bridlington Branch who lived in a caravan and who often requested duplicate AGM papers thanks to her geese having eaten previous issues. She also has a clear mental picture of a young Deb Collins nervously awaiting interview in blue and white print dress, black jacket and wedge-heels.

Jan's overriding memory of her years at the WEA so far are of the Region's voluntary members, and the time, dedication and effort they invest in the WEA.



From left to right:  
Jan holding baby David, Rita Weaver, Jackie Wilder, Fred Sedgwick.

## The Great Create

The WEA Yorkshire and Humber Region held a Great Create debate on 9 July at the Millennium Gallery in Sheffield.

The event brought together a range of practitioners and learners involved in the arts and adult education to share concerns about the status of creativity in contemporary adult education.

Three panel members - Ann Collins, Head of Development for Yorkshire, Arts Council England; Clare Bland, a WEA learner and a writer and broadcaster, and Ian Clayton, one of the founders of Yorkshire Art Circus - gave their responses to some central questions, before opening up the debate to the floor.

The discussion was chaired by Rony Robinson of BBC Radio Sheffield, a long-time advocate of creative learning and arts activity.

The publication *Created* was also launched at the event. It celebrates the inspiring activities held across the region during June 2007's Create07 festival, which was



organised by the WEA and included over 100 public events across the full range of the creative arts. A limited edition print run of 2000 copies of *CreateED* was printed for contributors and others who were involved in the festival.

Ann Walker, Regional Director of WEA Yorkshire and Humber Region, said: "The debate was very stimulating, and it's great to see *CreateED* reflecting the variety and vibrancy of Create07."

Visit [www.wea.org.uk/yh/](http://www.wea.org.uk/yh/) to find out more.

## A chance to represent learners

The National Learner Panel (NLP) is recruiting members for the academic year 2008/2009. The deadline for applications is 10 October 2008.

The NLP was set up by the government to provide a learner perspective on emerging further education policies and initiatives. The Panel would like to hear from learners of all ages, in all different types of further and adult education. You don't need to be an expert in how education policy works, you just need to be willing to share opinions based on your experiences.

Anyone interested in becoming a representative on the panel can read the NLP yearbook for 2007/08 and apply at:

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/national-learnerpanel>

As a result of the WEA raising awareness among members and branches this time last year, the WEA was represented on the NLP during 2007/08 by Dr Kevin Wood. He says, "My experience with the NLP has been positive and inspiring. It has been delightful to make friends and share each other's stories"

## Glowing matrix assessment

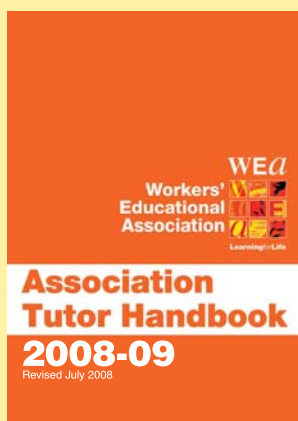
The WEA Yorkshire and Humber Region recently passed a matrix assessment with flying colours, and is now considering applying for the matrix excellence awards on the advice of the assessor.

The matrix standard is a unique quality framework for the effective delivery of information, advice and/or guidance on learning and work. Over 2000 organisations across the country, including several other WEA Regions, have been accredited.

The commitment to Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) was singled out for particular praise by the assessor, especially the training for administrative staff, which included role-play about IAG and the people-centred focus of the WEA.



Regional Director Ann Walker welcomed the award, adding that: "This is a particularly good outcome as the assessor was being assessed herself throughout the process - so we had a double-dose of rigorous assessment. I'd like to thank all the colleagues, partner organisations and learners in the region who contributed to the process, especially Nicky Reed and Jenny Major, and also Ruth Gould of the WEA Education Strategy Team and Pearl Ryall of WEA Southern Region, for their help and support"



All WEA tutors should receive a copy of the newly produced *Association Tutor Handbook* prior to their first course of the academic year.

Any tutor who has not received their copy should request one from Audrey Stewart ([astewart@wea.org.uk](mailto:astewart@wea.org.uk) or 020 7426 3488).

# Top award for the Ozzies



**The Ozzie Wooden Tops, a Leeds-based group who turned their woodwork hobby into a successful social enterprise with the help of a WEA course, have won a national Adult Learners' Week Award from the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE).**

The group attended a WEA woodwork course at Leeds City Council's Osmondthorpe Resource Centre, which works with around 40 disabled people at any one time and specialises in helping people who have become disabled through head injury.

The 11-strong team completed the course, then joined the 'Amaze Yourself' enterprise training programme at Leeds University to learn skills including market research, marketing, business planning and presentation skills.

They then established the Ozzie Wooden Tops, manufacturing wooden garden furniture and picnic tables and trading at a Leeds market stall every month. Now there is a waiting list for people wanting to join the Ozzie Wooden Tops and a book full of orders from school suppliers, play projects and the local council.

One of the original students, Simon Mort, said: "When we enrolled on the woodworking course, we never imagined for a minute we would be running a business. We have all suffered serious brain injury and feared we would never return to work. Now we have the skills and confidence to draw up a business plan and design, manufacture and market our own products. More importantly, we have regained our self-esteem."

The group were presented with their award by WEA General Secretary Richard Bolsin, in his capacity as a board member of the Quality Improvement Agency.

## **Congratulations to Joanne Bilton, who won an award at an Adult Learners' Week event for nextstep clients nominated for outstanding achievement in their working or learning life.**

Joanne was nominated by WEA Eastern Region, which holds a substantial contract to provide free, face-to-face advice on learning and careers for nextstep (a government agency making such services available across the country).

When Joanne was first interviewed by Jane Babbage, the WEA's Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) advisor for Essex, she was feeling, in her own words, that she could not achieve anything. Joanne was bringing up three children alone and had recently lost her brother to cancer; she has since said that at that point in time she could have easily given up.

As a result of the IAG interview, Joanne found the confidence to believe she could do something with her life. She attended a confidence-building course, which helped her to attend other WEA-provided courses, including Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for beginners and the computer skills certification programme European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL). Joanne also attended Digital Photography and Art and Design courses; she found there was always advice and encouragement available about future progression and other courses, which the WEA was able to provide via funding from the nextstep contract. Her studies continued with an interior design course, which led to a foundation degree. In May 2008, Joanne received two offers for a place at University and she will begin her Digital Art degree at Writtle College in October 2008.

Joanne (left) is pictured with WEA IAG Adviser Sally Ridealph.

Visit [www.wea.org.uk/eastern/news/index.html#essexart](http://www.wea.org.uk/eastern/news/index.html#essexart) to see artwork by Joanne and fellow members of the Farthing Centre Art Group.





## The Trade Unions Congress' (TUC's) unionlearn has awarded the WEA North West Region a Quality Award for its work in Cumbria.

The Quality Award is given to providers that demonstrate that union learners are considered in the design, development and delivery of courses and programmes. This is the first unionlearn Quality Award received by the WEA, and was given in recognition not only of the quality of provision but also how closely the union learning representatives in the county are involved in the work.

Chris Thackrah (middle), WEA North West Region's unionlearn Course Co-ordinator, is pictured accepting the award at unionlearn's annual conference from John Denham, the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (right). Also pictured is the WEA North West Regional Director Greg Coyne, who described the award as "A tremendous achievement".

John Denham said: "The WEA is playing an important role in raising skills levels in Cumbria and through that is helping individuals to develop their full potential, which can also benefit their families, their communities and their employers."

You can read more about the award at: [www.unionlearn.org.uk/about/learn-2263-f0.cfm](http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/about/learn-2263-f0.cfm)

## Older Learner Award for Norman

Last year Neil Kirsch from WEA Barnets branch won the NIACE Adult Learners' Week Older Learner of the Year Award for the East of England. This year another WEA learner, 84 year old Norman Mann, won the same award.

Norman was nominated by Essex-based charity InterAct, which has a longstanding partnership with the WEA. Many InterAct clients move on to WEA courses or other community adult education courses.

Norman first went to InterAct to take part in activities to help him to cope with the death of his wife. He attended a WEA confidence-building course, and then moved on to attend an Expert Patient Programme, a self-management course for confidence, skills and knowledge to manage chronic health conditions.

Norman now volunteers on the Expert Patient Programme, helping others to cope and develop new skills.

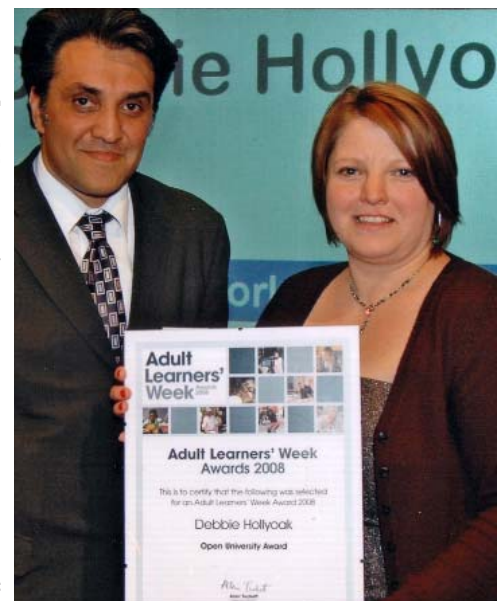
## Debbie Hollyoak from Selby, North Yorkshire is pictured receiving her Adult Learners' Week Open University (OU) Award, which she won after attending OU Openings courses with tutor support delivered by the WEA.

The Openings courses are designed to help learners work on study skills, build up confidence, get a taste of a chosen subject and decide what they want to study in the future. Openings courses are also available directly from the OU, with telephone support from an OU tutor.

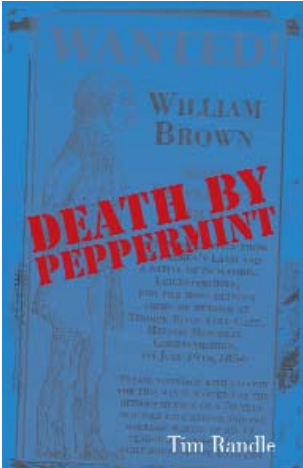
Debbie's initial impression of the OU was that it was "for posh people who were really rich. I didn't think I'd ever do a course. I didn't think I was intelligent enough to do one."

However, her early impressions have been shattered. When asked if she'd recommend studying with the OU, Debbie says: "Yeah, I'd drag everybody in. If you get the chance to do it, do it!"

Studying has given Debbie a new-found confidence in her abilities. She says: "I just want to get better. Until studying 'Understanding Children' I wouldn't have studied a lot of things. I'm doing four courses at the moment." Debbie's achievements show that with the right motivation and application, it's possible for anyone to realise their potential. That's why Debbie has now taken on the role of an OU Community Ambassador in order to help others do the same.



# Creative writing student in print



WEA creative writing student Tim Randle has had his first novel *Death by Peppermint* published recently, with another in the pipeline.

Tim is a member of the WEA Reigate Branch writers' group, and attended the Branch's creative writing courses with tutor Stella Stocker for two years prior to writing his book. He describes Stella as "very

experienced and supportive, with a wonderful way of getting even the most hesitant to start writing." Tim had previously written academically, but Stella was able to bring out his creative side and encourage him to write both prose and poetry. He is able to read chapters of his work in progress to other members of the group to get their thoughts and comments and finds this "always a great help and inspiration."

Stella suggested that students should write about subjects they really know well, so Tim researched the history of the tollgate house where his grandfather had lived. This research, along with stories his grandfather had told Tim during his childhood, provided the framework of facts around

which he was able to weave his fictional story. He estimates that the book is 10% fact, 90% fiction.

The result is a historical epic set in the Vale of Belvoir area of the East Midlands in the 1840s. The story concerns Peppermint Billy, who grew up in the poor social conditions of the time and is sent to a penal settlement in Van Dieman's Land for petty crime. He returns, seeking vengeance, to the tollgate house of the man who first sent him away.

Tim's next book, provisionally titled *Tuesday's Ring*, should be published in early 2009. It is a modern day detective story, again set in the Melton Mowbray area, starring a Detective Inspector of Polish descent. Tim was fascinated during his research for the book by the history of Polish immigration to the area during the late 1930s and the early years of World War II. The escape to Britain of the main character's grandmother is featured in the story.

*Death by Peppermint* is available in Melton Mowbray from Melton Bookshop and from the WHSmith store in the town. Readers further afield can buy their copy online from [www.arimapublishing.com](http://www.arimapublishing.com) (or from Amazon and similar sites) - or by ordering through their local bookshop. The ISBN number to quote is 9781845492458.

## WEA student wins national poetry award

Dorothy Pope, a retired English teacher who first attended a WEA course over 20 years ago, has been awarded the Elizabeth Longford Rose Bowl award for poetry from the Society of Women Writers and Journalists.

Mrs Pope, who lives near Harrow, decided to do something constructive with her time on her retirement at 53, and joined a WEA writing course. She says, "I wrote a poem one day in class. The tutor read it and just said to me: 'You're a poet'".

Her winning poem, 'Not Yet', was inspired by her husband, who passed away from a terminal illness two years ago. She says: "The poem talks about a widow and all of the things she cannot do yet...Grief is such a strong emotion and so is love".

Dorothy Pope's new book, *The Summerhouse Poems*, is available from good bookshops and can be ordered online from Amazon. She has previously won two other awards for her self-published poetry, including the Poetry Society's Hamish Canham Prize in 2007.

## Joseph Cowen House

The WEA North East Regional Office in Newcastle is to be renamed Joseph Cowen House after the nineteenth century MP and adult education advocate. The name is essentially on loan from the University of Newcastle following the demolition of the previous Joseph Cowen House as part of a campus redevelopment.

Cowen became the MP for Newcastle in 1874, succeeding his father as the Liberal member. On domestic issues, however, Cowen Jr was a strong Radical, and in speech, dress and manner he identified himself with the North East mining class. He rapidly became one of the best known public men in the country, largely thanks to his gift for rough but eloquent public speaking. He was re-elected in 1885 despite opposition from within the Liberal Party.

Cowen retired from public life soon after his re-election, but continued to play a powerful part in forming North-country opinion until his death, not least through his newspaper, the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*. A fine bronze statue of Cowen stands in Fenkle Street in Newcastle, and his letters were published by his daughter in 1909.

Regional Director Nigel Todd welcomes the naming: "It offers an opportunity to reopen a relationship with the University and it confirms the WEA as the inheritor of the North East's distinctively radical, vibrant and democratic tradition of adult education." Professor Paul Younger of the University adds, "I am delighted that you are keen to perpetuate the memory of Joseph Cowen in this way".

# Find out more about the WEA

**“...to catch wild students, not to teach tricks to tame ones...”**

**Do you know the history of the WEA or do you honestly know very little about it? Have you ever wondered how branches and regions connect with national policies and decisions?**

Did you know that WEA had its first Women's Officer in 1910? That the principle of student democracy was enshrined from the very beginning by pioneering tutors, G.D.H. Cole and R. H. Tawney (author of the quote above)?

Now you can attend a free WEA Awareness Day to get to know more about the Association.

At an Awareness Day, staff, volunteers and students learn together in the best WEA tradition and can gain an appreciation of their own contribution as part of a larger association. New volunteers or members are particularly encouraged to attend.

Supporting materials, including activities and audio-

visual content, will soon be available online via the WEA Virtual Learning Environment (WEAVLE) and preliminary and follow-up materials will be added to complement the Awareness Days.

From September this year the induction process for new salaried staff will include attendance at an Awareness Day, while tutors are very welcome too, since they are uniquely placed to promote greater involvement and understanding of the WEA to their students. The WEA's Training Working Group is exploring ways to optimise this connection, making resources and the Awareness Days more accessible for tutors.

**For more information on how to attend an Awareness Day or how to access WEAVLE,** contact Chris Mollan on 0207 426 3491 or [cmollan@wea.org.uk](mailto:cmollan@wea.org.uk)



The 34th annual Levellers' Day, which is organised by a Committee affiliated to the WEA, was held in May. The event celebrates the Leveller movement's support for democracy, religious tolerance and human rights. The topic under consideration was 'Time for a Written Constitution?'. Tony Benn was amongst the speakers, while afternoon entertainment included Attila the Stockbroker and Robb Johnson and the Irregulars.

Levellers' Day has been taking place annually since 1975, when members of the WEA Oxford Industrial Branch went to Burford to reclaim a piece of history and commemorate the two Leveller soldiers executed on 17 May 1649 by Oliver Cromwell's men. The Levellers' day is a non-profit-making event and is still organised by a Leveller's Day Committee affiliated to the WEA.

Find out more about the Levellers' Day Committee and the Leveller's Day 2009 at [www.levellers.org.uk/](http://www.levellers.org.uk/)

## 2009 WEA Diaries

WEA pocket diaries for 2009 are available to order now. The burgundy Senator diaries feature a gold-blocked cover, week-to-view layout, world and UK maps and four pages of WEA information including regional contact details.

The diaries have proved popular with students and voluntary members in recent years and all orders will be despatched in late November in order to be received in time for the festive season.

Diaries are priced at £4.95 each (including postage to UK addresses). Please order your diary(ies) by sending a cheque payable to Workers' Educational Association to Diary Orders, WEA, 3rd Floor, 70 Clifton Street, London EC2A 4HB.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ 2009 WEA Diary(ies).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque payable to Workers' Educational Association for £ \_\_\_\_\_





# Arrivals, departures and exchanges

## London Region

A happy retirement and very many thanks to **Liz Carlin** who, after 36 years with the WEA as a part-time tutor (24 years), and Tutor



Organiser and Area Learning Manager (12 years), retired in August. Liz will be missed by all involved with the WEA in London, and was wished a fun filled retirement by branch members, staff and tutors at a farewell party on 15 July. All who met Liz will remember her self-deprecating sense of humour, generosity and enthusiasm, as well as her efficiency and integrity - as one office colleague says: "Liz is a big reason why WEA London has survived these past years, and why people working with her have stayed working with the WEA and happily too."

Two new staff have been welcomed to the Luke Street office: **Calogero Giametta** started work as Area Learning Manager for Cultural Studies in August, while **Rowenna Mortimer** has been appointed as Tutor Organiser for Humanities and Health, Fitness and Personal Development - Rowenna has been working for the WEA as a part-time tutor since early 2007.

Many thanks to **Dragana Jakovljevic** and **Olga Sanchez**, who have left the WEA after a year-long stint with the ESF Community Interpreting & Advocacy Project.

## Eastern Region



Congratulations to Regional Finance Officer **Jackalyn Grainger** (pictured) on her 50th birthday.

## South West Region

Congratulations to Finance Officer **Alex Herzog** on gaining the Diploma in Payroll Management from the Institute of Payroll Professionals (IPP) following a two-year home study course.

**Julie Cable**, Admin Assistant in Bristol, is leaving at the end of August after eight and a half years with the WEA. She will be sorely missed and we wish her luck in her new job.

## Yorkshire and Humber Region

**Chris Ward** retired from her post as Administrative Assistant at Sheffield Learning Centre at the end of May. Colleagues found Chris thoughtful, diligent and utterly reliable in her work and she always took an active interest in the educational provision she supported so efficiently. We wish her well in her retirement.

## Michael Standen, 1937-2008

Michael Standen, poet, novelist, teacher, WEA part-time tutor and much more, died suddenly on 1 June. Michael retired from the post of WEA District Secretary of Northern District (as the North East Region was then known) ten years ago. His very full life since did not seem remotely like retirement. He taught adults, he wrote and had published both prose and verse, was an experienced editor, and a leading figure in the cultural life of the North East - all right up until the day of his death.

His WEA career began in 1964 when he became a tutor-organiser in West Cumberland, his first experience of the North. He enjoyed West Cumberland until 1967, when then District Secretary Charles Hocking transferred him to Durham, still as a tutor-organiser. In the mid-seventies, his wife was offered a visiting professorship for a year at the University of Alaska. He applied for unpaid leave and accompanied her and their two young sons on the visit. The following year, he returned to the increasingly difficult life in the Northern District, which had a new District Secretary and was in the middle of a serious financial crisis. Michael, rather unwillingly, accepted the title of Acting District Secretary in 1976, after the resignation of the District Secretary. He then got down to the business of getting the District out of trouble.

He had to raise money, manage and support the demoralised staff, support the voluntary members, deal with debt and deliver an acceptable programme. He led the District until his retirement, nearly twenty years later. A main principle became "to make all information widely available to all". Michael never really delivered a financial surplus at the end of each year, but he managed in most cases to break even - or almost so. This is what he intended - he did not believe in putting money away. It should be used for the purpose for which it was intended, to provide courses for students. Learning activity was recorded in class meetings, not student hours. The curriculum was divided under four headings: i) Academic and liberal (the branch programme), ii) Industrial and TU, iii) Social and political, iv) The educationally and socially disadvantaged (women's education and work with people with physical disabilities). These last two stemmed from the Russell Report of 1973. The rise in unemployment of the eighties and the growth of the women's liberation movement made them increasingly appropriate.

Michael was always a man who loved his family dearly. This is clear from many of his poems. He is survived by his wife, Val, and his two sons.

**Amanda Bradshaw** also moved on at the end of May, to take up a full-time post with Barnsley Learning Net. During the 15 years she worked in various roles with the WEA, Amanda made a difference to many people's lives. With her natural enthusiasm, encouragement and people skills, it seems that she was born to work in community education. Fortunately, the WEA will still have a chance to work with Amanda as the Learning Net is a partner organisation.

Congratulations to **Ann Hudson, Course Administrator, and husband David** on their recent wedding (pictured).



## About WEA News

If you have an item for inclusion or would like to comment on the newsletter please get in touch.

It is not always possible to include all items submitted.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

WEA NEWS, c/o WEA, 3rd Floor,  
70 Clifton Street, London EC2A  
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or emailed to [news@wea.org.uk](mailto:news@wea.org.uk)

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