

July 2017

Learner Voice

Manchester Adult Education Service

Celebrating learning success and achievement

This month we've been celebrating our learners' successes and achievements.

At celebration events all over the city, around 500 learners got together with their classmates and tutors to recognise the amazing progress they have made with Manchester Adult Education Service.



“Congratulations to all our learners- you have achieved so much!”

This year, more than 8,500 people have engaged in adult learning with us. From confidence building courses in the community to gaining professional qualifications, each and every learner has been on their own, unique learning journey with us.



Manchester Adult Education



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Our Reading Ahead winner!

This year over 600 learners and staff took part in the Reading Ahead challenge with us, and one of our learners is the lucky winner of a weekend in London, thanks to the Reading Agency!

Tracey, a learner at Abraham Moss centre, completed her reading challenge and has also been encouraging friends and family to start reading too! She told the Reading Agency "Reading takes your mind off things. It takes you away from the stress of every day."



Tracey with her tutor Jo, and Karen, the manager responsible for Reading Ahead.

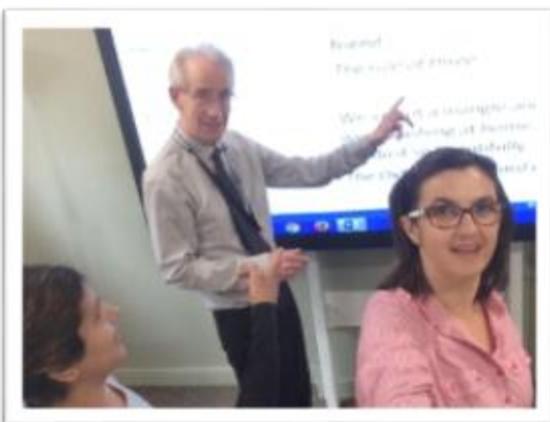
The Elizabeth Gaskell Experience

'Develop your Reading: the Gaskell Experience' is a new course for confident readers that focuses upon the rich literary and historical experience of Manchester in the age of 'Cottonopolis'.

This exciting course was held in the beautifully restored Grade II listed building, Gaskell House, once home to the famous Victorian writer, Elizabeth Gaskell. Learners developed their reading skills whilst exploring the historical experiences of Manchester people through the work of Elizabeth Gaskell and other 19th century writers, including Charles Dickens and Charlotte Bronte.



Mary Stoddart, one of the learners on the course told us: "I have learnt about Manchester through the eyes of its authors and I have also started to read books about writers connected to Elizabeth Gaskell House."



"It is such a joy to learn in this historic building which is the home of one of Manchester's great writers." Wendy Ngai

Who was Elizabeth Gaskell?

Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell was born in 1810 and lived at 84 Plymouth Grove with her family from 1850 until her death in 1865.

Her first novel 'Mary Barton' was published in 1848 and explored the difficulties faced by the Victorian working class in Manchester.



Read, rate, review, WIN!

In the last issue of the Learner Voice, we asked you to send in reviews of things you've read as part of your Reading Ahead challenge.

We are delighted to publish the winning review from Sharron Biszby- well done Sharron!

Congratulations also go to our runner-up, Carmen Bineata for her illustration and review.

The Lost Children by Mary MacCracken Reviewed by Sharron Biszby

This is a book about Mary's work in a special school for emotionally disturbed children. Mary MacCracken is, in my opinion, a patient, kind, loving woman. While I was reading this book I felt all sorts of emotions.

The children trusted her and by the time I finished this book, I did too.

She inspired me to carry on trying to pass my maths and English so I can work in a special needs school as a TA - something I wish I'd done when I was younger.

I recommend that if you haven't already read this book, make yourself a coffee and get the tissues out because it will make you cry and laugh.

Placements help learners land their dream jobs

This year over 300 learners have done a placement alongside courses in adult social care, childcare and education.

Work placements are a great way to gain the practical experience employers want. Carol, a care and education tutor says "an employer who sees a work placement on a CV is more likely to consider someone for a position. Performing well on a work placement often leads to a job offer at the end of it".



This is what happened for Haley, who completed the Level 2 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools at Newton House. She now works as a Teaching Assistant at Park View Primary in Miles Platting. "I really enjoyed my placement as a whole and particularly working with the children in small groups... I was able to learn such a lot from the staff."

Learners take part in a three-day workshop to make sure that they are fully prepared for their placement. This helps ensure that they benefit fully from undertaking practical work experience. Although learners are responsible for finding their own placement, our expert tutors are available to provide advice and support.

Good luck on results day!

Congratulations to all the learners who sat their GCSE Maths exams this year!



For the first time, GCSE Maths and English will be graded from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade.

“I seriously can’t believe just how much I am going to miss my maths class!”

Making connections with Bolton University

Maths learners at Abraham Moss Adult Learning Centre in Crumpsall have been involved in some research with Rebecca Woolley from the University of Bolton. Rebecca is looking at what people think of timed tests and exploring alternatives.

The learners who took part were really positive about trying out different ways of learning and assessment. They said that they enjoyed working together as a group and the activities helped them to understand which calculations are needed for different situations.

Thinking about doing a maths course with us?

Whether you’re a beginner or ready for GCSE maths, our expert tutors are here to support you every step of the way. But don’t just take our word for it—here’s what our learners say!

“He is very calm and always there to help students with patience.”

“She was the best teacher. I never used to like maths until I met my tutor. She has given me confidence and I have all the help that I need.”

“The quality and style of teaching is done in a way that suits and caters for everyone.”



“Our tutor listens to everyone and helps us out individually.”

**Got an idea for the next issue of the Learner Voice?
Let us know by e-mailing learner.voice@man-adulted.org.uk**

Re-building lives with The Medaille Trust

This year our Employability tutors provided a series of workshops for residents at The Medaille Trust.



The Trust supports people who have been freed from the human trafficking and the modern-day slavery industry in the UK.

During the workshops, learners spent time developing their CVs, learning how to tailor them to meet the requirements of employers. They also honed their interview skills and thought about the skills and qualities they could bring to a workplace.

Sue, the course tutor told us “The residents were very dedicated to this course and they were all keen to find work. One learner used to work as a gravedigger, or internment specialist, in his native country. When I explained to him, through his interpreter, that Manchester was home to the largest cemetery in the UK his eyes lit up and I gave him directions to Southern Cemetery.

The following week he told me he had been to the cemetery and was given a practical interview and assessment of his work. He was offered a job on the spot.”

Looking for work?

Our employability team offer weekly drop-in Work Clubs. Find out more at: www.manadulted.org.uk/employment

Jean's Story

Jean joined a computer course for beginners at The Avenue Library and Learning Centre in Blackley in September 2016. Read on to find out how learning with MAES has helped her.



“After completing the Digital Skills for Beginners course, I progressed onto the next level in January 2017. I learnt more skills in using Word, PowerPoint, Excel and the internet.

I learnt how to create posters and insert images from the internet, as well as creating spreadsheets and presentations and on-line shopping. I passed the Entry 3 exam and gained a qualification.

Attending these courses has built up my confidence a lot because when I first started I had little self-confidence. My new skills encouraged me to apply for voluntary jobs. I am currently now working as a volunteer cook at The Mustard Tree in Manchester. I have been offered to further develop my cooking skills by going on a training course at a hotel for two weeks.

I have made many friends on the courses and in my new job.

All the tutors have been very helpful and friendly and have taught me many new skills, which I will continue to use. I would highly recommend these courses to everyone.”

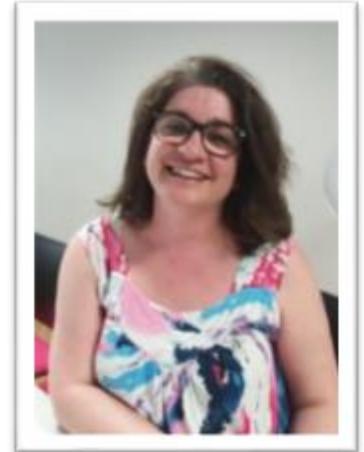
Congratulations Jean!

Talk English volunteers share their experiences

Talk English trains volunteers to teach English in community venues and to help learners to access local facilities. We talked to three volunteers to find out about their experiences.

“I find myself coming away from each session uplifted.”

Sara has been volunteering since April at Levenshulme Inspire, running a very busy Talk English Cafe for around 20 learners. Sara told us that she found the sessions very rewarding and that she was volunteering to gain experience of teaching after completing a teaching qualification fourteen years ago that she has never used.



“I’m happy that the project exists.”

Tetiana (right) joined Talk English in January shortly after moving to the UK. Tetiana has found that taking learners to different museums and art galleries helped her to discover places to go with her children. She has enjoyed meeting people and strongly believes that everyone should have access to local facilities, regardless of their level of income or English skills.

Jennifer (left) found out about the project from her local library and decided it was something she could do after stopping work to look after her children. After completing a short course with Talk English, Jennifer has volunteered for nine months and is now thinking of enrolling for a Level 3 teaching qualification with us in September. She says that the learners are very appreciative, so she feels like she is making a big difference to their lives. Taking part has also made her feel part of the community and she feels that she knows her neighbours a lot better now.

“I love it - I look forward to it every week!”



Manchester Adult Education



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ESOL learners enjoy tea with the Lord Mayor

In March, ESOL learners across Manchester sold food and drink to raise money for the We Love Manchester Charity and the Ruth Hayman Trust as part of our annual Charitea event. Altogether, our learners and staff raised £1576.36 for the charities.

On Tuesday 4th July, learners from Abraham Moss, Greenheys, Longsight, Withington and Forum Learning visited the Lord Mayor of Manchester at Manchester Town Hall to present the cheque

“The Lord Mayor greeted us with kindness and appreciation. He spoke to us all individually and asked us about our work in our country and what we will do here in Britain, and urged us to look for good, appropriate work.”



“It was like the Queen’s house!”

“The Mayor is a very nice man. He told us many things. He told us the Town Hall history... it was made about 150 years ago. The Town Hall is old but very beautiful. I had a very funny day.”

How my ESOL course helped me

“Attending the course really improved my speaking skills and made me confident. It also helped me to understand the job systems in the UK, and I now have my own business.”

Basel Al-Khatib, ESOL for Work



Science is for Parents Too!

***Science is for Parents Too* is an exciting new Family Learning course all about science and how it is taught in schools today.**

This course was created in partnership with York University and run in schools and children's centres, with lots of parents and carers taking part. Read on to find out how the course has inspired mum-of-four, Emma.

Meet Emma

Mum-of-four Emma joined *Science is for Parents Too* so she could better support her children in school.

After a few weeks of attending the course, Emma started trying out some of the science experiments at home with her children. As the course progressed, Emma started researching more science and related activities to try at home – she even started a Science Club at home for her children and neighbours' children, leading experiments about pH levels, the weather and chemical reactions!

Emma's tutors, Andy and Mandy told us "Emma's enthusiasm is abounding! She comes into class bursting with ideas and tells us what she's tried at home- on several occasions she has taught her classmates too! Emma has shown a great commitment to the subject and has embraced exactly what we set out to achieve, and more."



Enrol on a course with MAES!

If you want to do a course with us, we have new courses starting in September.

You can find out when and where to enrol by contacting your local centre or find us online at www.manchester.gov.uk/adulted.

If you want to do GCSE English or Maths, you'll need to do an assessment. Call 0161 219 6735 to book onto a GCSE assessment session.

What do I need to enrol?
To enrol, bring proof of ID, proof of address, your National Insurance number, proof of any benefits you receive and proof of residency (if you have lived in the UK for three years or less).