

Learner Voice

Manchester Adult Education Service

Mary shares her learning journey

I returned to education when I was 37 years old. I wanted to become a teaching assistant, but I didn't have the correct qualifications. I will admit I felt quite apprehensive about returning to a learning environment after so many years. However, after my first appointment with the careers advisor at my local MAES centre, I felt so positive.



On the day of my enrolment I was pleasantly surprised to see so many people of different ages. I thought I might've been the oldest! The best thing was that everyone was in the same position, and just wanted to learn.

In my two years of studying with MAES I have achieved: Maths Levels 1 & 2, English Level 2, Teaching Assistant Levels 1 & 2, Mentoring Level 2 and Computers Level 1.

“Studying with MAES is one of the best decisions I have ever made.”

Obtaining these qualifications has given me the knowledge and confidence to pursue a career in teaching. Alongside obtaining qualifications you get so much support and guidance from the tutors and meet lots of new and interesting people along the way.

Studying with MAES is one of the best decisions I have ever made. I am a much more confident person than I was - who knows, I might even give university a go!

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Manchester Adult Education



@ManAdultEd

Why do we have bank holidays?

When you're relaxing on your day off from work or college, do you ever wonder why we have bank holidays? Maryem El Affafi from Greenheys found out.



In the United Kingdom and Ireland, a bank holiday is a public holiday when banks, many other businesses and schools and colleges are closed for the day. Bank holidays are assumed to be so-called because they are days upon which banks are shut, but days that banks are shut aren't always a bank holiday!

Bank holidays were created in the Victorian era, but they are rooted in traditions which run far deeper than the holidays themselves. Before 1834, about 33 Saint's days and religious festivals were celebrated, but in 1834, it was reduced to just 4: 1st May, 1st November, Good Friday and Christmas Day. In 1871, Sir John Lubbock introduced the Bank Holiday Act. He designated 4 paid holidays in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and 5 in Scotland. The act did not include Good Friday and Christmas Day as bank holidays in England, Wales or Ireland because they were already recognised as common law holidays.

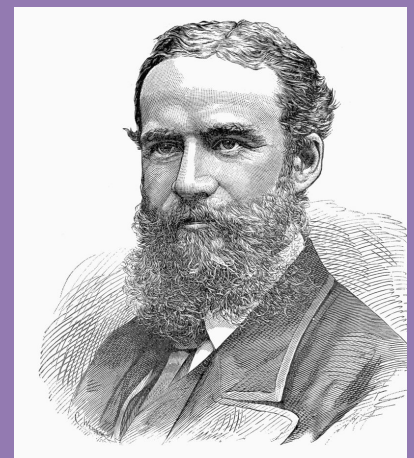
A century after the 1871 Act, the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 was passed, so the majority of the current bank holidays were specified: Easter Monday, Whit Monday, the First Monday in August and Boxing Day.

People were so thankful that some called the first bank holiday St Lubbock's Day for a while!

Who was John Lubbock?

John Lubbock was the son of a London banker and a banker himself. In 1870 he was elected MP for Maidstone in Kent.

One of the Liberal MP's aims was to ease the pressure on workers by securing shorter working hours and an extra four days off. So if you've been out in the sunshine, maybe relaxing on the beach or watching your favourite film on the TV, it's this banker you have to thank!



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

DAYS OUT ON THE TRAM



With the bank holiday and school holidays coming up, our learners and staff have been recommending places to visit and things to do using the Metrolink tram network. Here are some of their top picks!

National Football Museum, Exchange Square

A great one for football fans and it's free to get in!

"We looked at the football shirts. There are exhibitions of the olden days. We watched a video of when England won the World Cup in 1966. The lift is amazing. We bought some gifts in the shop." Timmi & Rehed, Forum Learning

Wythenshawe Park, Wythenshawe Park

Get out in the fresh air in one of Manchester's most historical parks - a farm, play areas, sport facilities, horse riding, horticultural centre and more!

Heaton Park, Heaton Park

Famous for being the biggest municipal park in Europe, Heaton Park in north Manchester boasts acres of parkland, a boating lake, farm, tramway, golf course and more.

Manchester Town Hall, Central Library and Manchester Art Gallery, St Peter's Square

The gallery, library and town hall are full of things to see and do! *"The Town Hall is an awesome building! We loved the mosaic of the worker bees on the floor."* Maura, Forum Learning

Festival of Learning nominations

This year, our successful fundraiser, Charitea has been nominated for a Festival of Learning Award! Thank you to all the learners who took part in this year's event, which raised over £1500 for We Love Manchester and the Ruth Hayman Trust.



Zareta, a MAES learner and Talk English volunteer has also been nominated for this year's awards. Zareta has successfully completed English, maths, ICT and teaching assistant courses with us. Most recently she completed the Level 3 Award in Education and Training.

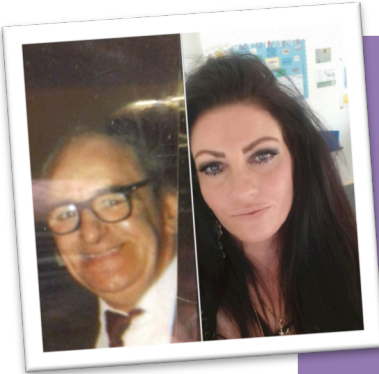
Emma was nominated for an award by her tutor for her abounding enthusiasm on the Science is for Parents Too course. Emma has fully embraced the course, doing science experiments at home with her children.



Creative writing competition winner

In the last edition of the Learner Voice we asked for entries for a creative writing competition. We had some fabulous entries and below is the winning poem, **My Grandad Reg**.

Louise Gee, our winner, received a Love to Shop gift voucher.



Louise, a literacy learner from The Avenue Library and Learning Centre in Blackley, describes her Grandad Reg as, 'A kind and funny man whose house was always full of laughter.'

Our judging panel particularly liked Louise's poem as it evoked memories of their own grandparents and they were all left with a lovely image of Grandad Reg waving from his lounge window.

Grandad Reg

Remembering my Grandad
The greatest of all
One of the best
He stood tall

Remembering the jokes he told
And the songs he sang
They would bring in the New Year
With a hell of a bang

Laughter around him and warmth too
I will never forget him,
Could you?

Seeing him every time I passed my Gran's
All I could see was his waving hands
And his face overlooking the window ledge
That's how I always remember my Grandad Reg!



The panel also chose 4 runners up who all received gift vouchers - Faiza Kulaten, Alexandria Roach, Maryem El Affafi and Mark McDermott

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to all who entered. We had a great time reading all your wonderful stories and poems.



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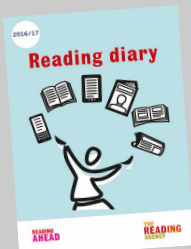
READING AHEAD



Reading Ahead is a challenge for all our learners and staff to choose six 'reads', then read, rate and review them. You can read anything you like - books, newspapers, poems, magazines, even this newsletter!

Why should I take part?

It's a great way to improve your reading skills and get into reading. Plus there are prizes for taking part and you will get a certificate.



Speak to your tutor or reception to get a Reading Diary and start your challenge.

You can also sign up online- go to <http://bit.ly/2mYp3EC> or scan the QR code.



MAES is good!

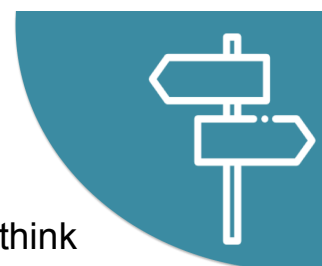


We are really pleased to be graded as a 'good' learning provider by Ofsted.

Inspectors visited in February and observed lessons. They looked at learners' work and spoke with learners. They said our courses helped many learners to get qualifications and get into work.

Thank you to all of our staff for the great work they do for and with Manchester residents!

What's next for me?



Now is the time to think about progressing onto another course.

To find out more and fill in a Progression Form, speak to your tutor or book an appointment with a learner adviser.

Competition time!

To link in with the Reading Ahead challenge, this month we have two competitions:

- Write a review of something you have read recently
- Design a book cover or illustration for something you have read recently

Send your entries to learner.voice@man-adulted.org.uk by Friday 30th June for the chance to win Love to Shop vouchers!

Bring stories alive with story boxes

Learners on the Creative Craft course have created story boxes as a way of developing children's literacy, imagination and vocabulary.



Milena, a learner on the course told us about her box: "My story box was inspired by my children, especially my 3 year old daughter. At the moment she is in love with Little Red Riding Hood. I decided to make character masks and finger puppets and also included colouring pages as I thought these could develop fine motor skills. I have really enjoyed this course. I cannot wait to take my story box home and perform it with my children."

For ideas and inspiration, see the story boxes at our Abraham Moss centre.

All about Nowruz

Have you ever heard of Nowruz? We spoke to some learners from Abraham Moss to find out about this special festival.

Nasrin, Bahareh and Marjan all come from Iran, where many people celebrate Nowruz. Meaning 'New Day', Nowruz is celebrated on the first day of spring in many countries, including Iran, Afghanistan and Albania.

To share Nowruz celebrations with their classmates, Nasrin, Bahareh and Marjan arranged a special table called a **Haft-Seen** in their classroom. The table featured seven items. Each item symbolises something different - rebirth, affluence, love, health, beauty, sunrise, old-age and patience.

People also put extra items on the table - you will see from the photo that the Haft-Seen at Abraham Moss also had a goldfish in a bowl, which symbolises life.

What happens at Nowruz?

On the 21st March, families gather around the Haft-Seen table to wait for the special moment when the new year starts- this year, it is 1396.

Thirteen days after Nowruz, people go outside to enjoy nature- in parks or the countryside - and put sabzeh (wheat) from the table into a river.

"Everybody changes their lifestyle- I choose to do my driving test and do more to practise my English."

Bahareh

A time for change

At Nowruz, people make positive changes in their lives. Nasrin explained that she liked Nowruz *'because everything changes in Nowruz - if you are angry, you should be kind, if you want to change home, you should do it at Nowruz'*.



Learning about local history

Our Technology, History and English (THE) course offers learners the chance to develop their English, technology and research skills to discover more about the history of their local area. Michelle Cowan spoke to learners from Forum Learning in Wythenshawe to find out more.



What made you want to join the course?

Irene: I thought I'd like to try something new. I never really liked history at school, but because it's about the area where I live, it's really interesting.

Anthony: To do something new and different.

What was the THE course about?

Irene: It was about the history of Wythenshawe. We looked at how Wythenshawe started housing a lot of people from Manchester in 1926 when they had to move from central Manchester because it was overcrowded. Wythenshawe was designed as a garden city to improve people's lives.

What did you like most about the course?

Irene: I liked learning about the people who have lived and worked here in the past and famous people too, like Caroline Aherne.

Anthony: I liked looking at Wythenshawe's part in the civil war and the role of Robert Tatton of Wythenshawe Hall who fought against Oliver Cromwell's parliamentary forces.

Would you recommend the course to other learners?

Irene: Definitely! I really enjoyed our trips to Manchester's Central Library. We looked at some really old records of births, deaths and marriages from Northenden (a small village in Wythenshawe). Some were written in the 1500s, so they were over 400 years old.

Anthony: Yes I'd recommend it because I found it interesting and it's different from other courses. You can find out new things about where you live and the history of it.

**Interview by Michelle Cowan,
Forum Learning**

"Learners were able to follow their own interests and developed their word processing and graphic skills, showing off their new knowledge by creating a bright and informative display for the foyer of Forum Learning."

Jennie, Tutor

Making maths fun in MAES Maths Week

Back in March we celebrated MAES Maths Week to raise awareness of the importance of maths skills in our lives. There were activities at our main centres, including activities led and supported by volunteers and maths learners.



“I had enough knowledge to be able to teach others - it was a good feeling”

At Longsight Library and Learning Centre, Abdi's class set up and delivered a variety of activities for learners of different levels, including matching, MyMaths and interactive whiteboard activities. The learners who delivered the activities were really positive about the experience, with words like 'inspiring', 'challenging' and 'proud' amongst the feedback.

Congratulations Ahmed!



Ahmed started volunteering as a Maths Champion at our Withington centre this year after successfully completing his Maths GCSE last year. He has also recently completed his Level 3 Award in Education and Training.

As well as supporting learners in classes, Ahmed is hoping to start a PGCE and offer his skills as a private tutor.

“I want to be as useful as possible for society. I am passionate about maths and like to share it with others.”

Thank you to all the volunteers who share their time and enthusiasm to help out in our classes!



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