Welcome to the summer term edition of Our News Your Views. As we head towards the end of another year, this is the perfect time to showcase a stunning celebration of the breadth of our learners’ creative achievements.

We have again had the pleasure of reading many well-written and intriguing entries in our Creative Writing competition. This year’s theme was ‘festivals and celebrations’ and not only were the entries entertaining, they were also informative: I’ve learnt a fair bit about local Cornish celebrations and I never knew we had such an accomplished rapper among our tutors! Congratulations and thanks to everyone who entered for making this something of an exceptional year in terms of both the quantity and quality of entries. We hope you enjoy reading extracts from the prize winning entries on the following pages.

This year the standard of learners’ work in art and craft courses has been exceptionally high across many different disciplines: photography, glasswork, jewellery making, children’s book illustration, painting, printing, ceramics, sewing…the list goes on. We are pleased to be able to share some examples and hope that you feel as uplifted, inspired and charmed as we have been.

During this final half term of the academic year many learners are either sitting exams or putting final touches to portfolios and preparing for external assessments. I’d like to wish you all success in achieving your qualification and also for your next steps. Perhaps you are staying with us to continue to a higher level, or moving on to employment or a different qualification elsewhere such as our Access learners who will be progressing to university, the next stage in their journey towards achieving their dream of becoming perhaps a nurse, midwife, paramedic or social worker.

All that remains is for me to thank everyone who has contributed to our newsletters this year because without you there would be no news or views. Also to thank Vicki for picking up Fran’s mantel and producing the final copy – well done Vicki and thanks.

Debbie Buckland, Quality Coordinator
Writing Competition Results!

A huge thank you to everyone who entered this year’s creative writing competition, themed as always around ‘diversity’. This year we attracted around 50 entrants, which was very exciting. For the first time, we invited staff to have a go; you can see extracts from their work at the end.

First, however, the winning extracts from our learners:

Other Courses Category

1st Prize Christine Mazouni
We sat down and enjoyed some street food - salt beef bread rolls – reminiscent of an East End heritage. We set about to discover Bath – investigating the diverse cultural stalls of the Christmas market. There was a stream of wooden hand carved mice coming out along the street from one shop – they reminded me of the rats that the Pied Piper of Hamelin in Germany lead away by his music – even though they were only small mice – I bought one as a souvenir to take home. As the evening drew in, we heard the melodic haunting sound of African music – a Kora player tall and striking in the early evening twinkling light.

2nd Prize Sylvia Shipley
On Mazey Day there are stalls in the street selling food from around the world and other stalls selling art and craft all handmade. There are jewellery stalls with handmade jewellery. When you look at the people’s faces lit up with happiness and joy it is so nice to see these happy people in the street. There are musicians playing and the whole town is electrified with the excitement.

Creative Writers Category

1st Prize Ella Walsworth-Bell
I loved Guy Fawkes night when I was a kid. The all-enveloping darkness, the frisson of danger as sparklers were lit, the oohs and aahs at the fireworks. Back in my day, there was a community bonfire down by the Scout Hut. The whole village turned out to see if the Scouts could light it. Or whether they’d mooch around in their shirts and neckties, shoving firelighters grimly into a wet pile of wood.
Writing Competition Results!

English for Speakers of Other Languages Category

Joint 1st Prize Elena-Alexandra Padurean
Thousands of people gather in Constitution Square and wait for the festive parade to start. You can see all generations here, from babies to old people excited to see the parade. It’s a cold day, but no one minds about that. The sky is clear and blue, so we can see clearly all the plains that will fly above us and we are so excited about it. 10 o’clock. The parade starts with the President’s honor salute of the military. The military band starts to sing. We all try to see the military better and we try to move closer and closer. The anthem starts, sung by the military band and we all start to sing it with them. This is a moment full of emotion. From far away you can see and hear a helicopter, holding the Romanian flag.

Joint 1st Prize Timea Varga
I would like to guide you to back in time, where the story of Buso Festival started. In 1687 the villagers of Mohács were under Turkish occupation. The legend says that the natives were stuck in local marshland and one night they decided to wear scary masks and take noisy tools to come across the Danube and to scare away the Turkish people from their land. We don’t know if the legend is true; however, residents still welcome the spring season and chase away winter every year. Are you curious: how does a “buso” look, why do they make a huge fire and how can you spend your time at the festival? I will tell you more!

2nd Prize Camelia Anghel
I went to Adult Education in Falmouth for my English class on 21st February and we learnt about Shrove Tuesday. We watched a very interesting video about a pancake race. It was really funny and this was a new idea for me. The people tossed pancakes. Our teacher showed us how to do it because we didn’t know that word before. We had lots of fun and we laughed. It was a sunny day and the teacher took us all outside for our own pancake race and we all tried to toss the pancakes which she had made for us.

3rd Prize Quan Ho Minh CHAU
In March 2017, after Lunar New Year, I took a trip to the Da Nang province in Vietnam with my family. Da Nang is famous for marble mountains, beautiful beaches and well-known bridges. Fortunately, it gave us a chance to participate in the International Fireworks Festival as bystanders...the most prestigious and largest competition with many different countries in the world. Several pyrotechnic companies from many nations presented a 30-minute long pyro-musical show. They were boisterous.
Writing Competition Results!

Entry Level Category

1st Prize Natalie Thomas
I still remember arriving and the taxi driver apologising for the cold evening. It has always amused me as compared to home Malta was so warm and welcoming. We got there in the evening so it wasn’t until the next day when we took a look around that I noticed how war torn it was. Some buildings were barely standing and the look of devastation of war was still very present. Lots of buildings were in the process of being rebuilt. We learnt that Malta was a war base and although a small place, it was the casualty of many bomb attacks. Malta was almost beaten in the war time but the heart of this small country kept it going and it is still going today.

2nd Prize Emma Crookes
On the night of New Year’s Eve I saw fireworks and a wonderful display of lights and projective holograms over Cinderella’s castle to celebrate the midnight bells. There were drinks and dancing. I met a lovely man who asked for a dance and we did. I met a lovely Jamaican lady called Carolina who was there with her grandchildren for the holidays. I then woke up to the sound of my alarm clock ringing. Realising it was all a dream it made me miserable to know that I have never been. From the day I had that dream, I made a pact to myself that one day I will visit the resorts to fulfil my dreams. I will visit all six parks. That to me will be a celebration as I know I will have made my dreams come true, and be able to find a new dream. Maybe travel America. Maybe, who knows, the world is my oyster.

3rd Prize Marian Foy
The heroes of the day are the members of the Helston Town Band who play the traditional tune. Many of them process with the dancers on four occasions during the day around the four mile route, maintaining the rhythm, beat and sound that comes and goes throughout the day. The Flora Dance melody is said to date back to pre-Christian times. The words were added in 1911 by London composer, Katie Moss; the lyrics are allegedly based on a true incident when, whilst visiting Helston Flora Day, Moss was grabbed by a stranger who enticed her to join in the dancing. The streets of Helston echo to the sounds of enjoyment and happiness in celebration of a tradition steeped in history.
Writing Competition Results!

Level 1 and Above Category

1st Prize Ann Sutton

Today I stand grounded. Looking up I can see a beautiful blue sky and the billowing white clouds. The quintessential English summer’s day. It is August and I am in Brighton awaiting the start of my first LGBT celebration. My senses are flooded. My eyes take in the large crowd. The banners fluttering in the breeze. My eye catches a large rainbow flag its eight colours reflecting the diversity of this wonderful community. The air is alive with anticipation. I concentrate on my breath in an attempt to allay the bubbling excitement mixed with the ever nearby thought inducing anxiety. Thoughts, thoughts, thoughts. I attempt to implement Eckhart Tolle’s statement: ‘What a liberation to realize that the ‘voice in my head’ is not who I am. Who am I then? The one who sees that.’

2nd Prize Judith Tesselaar

It was a beautiful sunny morning where villagers, dressed up as farmers, were parading in the early hours, while the fanfare continued playing their cheerful tunes. Children waved their little flags while standing on the back of an open truck, jolly (already mellow) adults enjoying clog dancing on the back of a tractor’s trailer, children cycling on decorated bicycles. The “orange madness” on the 27th of April was undoubtedly the most colourful day of the year. Consequently, if you wore black, you would be seen as dull and mournful, and therefore would have been cheered up by your friends – who would spray your hair with a can of bright orange hair spray paint and you would be forced to blow and carry an orange whistle.

3rd Prize Jamie Aggett

Have you caught St Ives Feast Day yet? Festivity fans take note. It’s an ‘ansome one to net, if a feast day floats your boat.

The day of our Patron Saint, Eia, she sailed to us by leaf,

A bit like that Saint Patrick fella, if that is your belief.

Sailing’s savvier these days, risks tend to raise complaints.

But those who took it on back then were generally made saints.
Writing Competition Results!

Staff Category

1st Prize Dominic Penny
From among the boys and young men, a slim-hipped, brown and white bull appeared, coming to a halt within a few yards of us. Excitement rippled through the onlookers as the untethered animal came close and the men warily challenged it. As we watched, the bull dashed toward the barricade. One man squeezed through the gap to get away from it, and there was a brief pause, before the bull pushed its pale-horned head through the same gap. Gradually, it squeezed the rest of its powerful body through and was free. I turned and ran, as did many of the spectators on our side of the barricade. My flip-flopped feet pounded the floor and I did not look back. For a moment, it was me, the bull and the scattered onlookers running for our lives.

2nd Prize Eileen Ginnelly
CELEBRATIONS THERE ARE SO MANY
HERE’S MY RAP FOR TRIED AND TESTED
SOME NOT YET BEEN QUITE DIGESTED
CELEBRATE DIVERSITY
TELL ME NOW CAN YOU SEE
HOW WE CAN ALL UNITE IN HARMONY...
CAN’T YOU SEE WHAT THE MORAL IS?
I HAVE BYSTOOD MANY A CULTURAL EVENT AND YOU CAN TOO...
EXPLORE YOUR SENSES
I HAVE AND LEARNT THE NON-EXHAUSTIVE LANGUAGE OF DIVERSITY OF LIFE

3rd Prize Janet Tatum-Honer
Philadelphia, 1995. A street party. It was a buzzing, dark Halloween night; the whole of Logan Street was throbbing with anticipation. The verandas, festooned with lights and bunting, tickled my eyes. The Jack-O-lanterns, glowing and flickering, were half-funny, half-freaky. The smell of cinnamon teased my senses, while excited, squealing children mingled anarchically, adorable in their tiny, witchy-ghoulishness.

If you enjoyed reading these, please do go to CALM where you can find all the entries in their entirety and enjoy them at your leisure.
Mums Shine at Tregolls School!

A group of mums at Tregolls Learning Academy in Truro have been working hard this year, not only gaining qualifications in literacy and maths but also encouraging each other and exploring topics around mental health and personal well-being. Family Learning tutor, Vicki Salvidge, has met with them nearly every Thursday morning since September and confirms what a keen, friendly and supportive group they are: “They are brilliant. If one member of the group is having a bad week, others cheer her up. There are always words of comfort and humour and everyone learns from each other.”

When school staff learnt that the mums had achieved their maths qualification, they asked if they could share this with the children. A special assembly was organised so that children could present their parents with their certificates. The lifelong learning message was clear: keep learning and be proud of your achievements!
Leach Pottery Visit

As part of the ‘enterprise unit’ of the NCFE Level 2 Creative Craft Certificate, learners from Falmouth attended a workshop at the Leach Pottery in April. Leach Pottery were fantastic hosts and went over and beyond to accommodate our learning experience.

The workshop was a Raku firing. We made the pots to be fired in class and took them with us to the workshop where we glazed the pots with the raku glaze prepared for us by Leach Pottery. Raku firing is a fairly simple method which involves bringing the gas kiln up to about 1000 degrees C with the pots inside; once this temperature is reached the pots are withdrawn from the red hot atmosphere of the kiln and plunged into a metal container full of either sawdust, or paper shreds. A lid is then paced on to the container, which excludes the oxygen from the internal atmosphere. This method is known as a reduction fire (combustible paper needs to take oxygen to enable burning, which it gets from the ceramic form and the glaze): it is this method that gives raku its unique results. Finally the work is plunged, while still very hot, in to cold water. The work receives a massive thermal shock and creates the classic "crazed" look associated with Raku ware.

We ended up spending a good part of the day doing this activity, which was initially supposed to be a two-hour workshop! Because of the nature of such a firing, it has to be done outdoors, and while some days in April had been lovely and sunny, we did experience rain and bitter cold, but this did not dampen our spirits! Everybody had a fantastic time and came away with a real sense of achievement, as well as some very interesting pieces with a unique look to their work.
Photography Skills

Work from learners in Bude on a ‘Certificate in Photography’ course:
Children’s Illustration at Bodmin

A recent ‘Children’s Illustration for Beginners’ course at our Bodmin centre saw many learners discovering new skills! They thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and were proud to share their work with friends and family on their private social media accounts. One learner, Lorna, has been commissioned to illustrate a set of cards by a friend who saw her work on Facebook – a great result.

We think you’ll be impressed with their work:
Makaton at Bodmin

On the 1\textsuperscript{st} May parents from Beacon ACE Academy enjoyed a Makaton Taster workshop. The course was organised by Family Learning following a request from parents, and run by the Early Years Inclusion Service Tutor, Gill Holt. Participants learned that Makaton is always used alongside spoken language and can really help young children communicate early on before they can speak, thereby minimising the frustration of not being able to communicate their needs. Parents learnt and practised 50 to 60 core signs. All those who attended wanted to be able to communicate better with a family member. Two parents had children who are deaf. Feedback from the morning workshop was very positive.

This was one example of a variety of courses run by Family Learning at this Bodmin School this year. In addition to the Makaton, parents have explored how to support their children when learning to read, when talking about relationships and sex education, helping their children with spelling, punctuation and grammar among other topics. They are currently making “quiet books” out of new and recycled materials for their children...another really exciting and sensory project!
Recycled Jewellery

A learner on a Level 2 Award in Creative Craft course in Bude, Sarah Szaniszlo, has taken time to consider sustainability and environmental issues in her work and has used plastic waste in her final piece in an innovative way and to beautiful effect. The necklace shown here is made from recycled copper and plastic vegetable netting. Sarah told us:

“It was important to me to make my final piece out of materials that otherwise would be thrown away. Netting bags used to package fruit and veg come with ‘no recycle’ labelling and because of their bright colours I saw the potential to make in to something interesting and attractive. After experimenting with thermo-fusing/combining layers of the net with plastic bags, I managed to create a cone shaped flower. I wanted the flowers to hang from a copper chain, the wire for which can be sourced from flex on broken appliances. By combining these two recycled materials I managed to create a richly toned, colourful garland which would be fun to wear with a summer outfit. I have really enjoyed this course and with an inspiring tutor I hope I have been able to show that it is possible to turn trash in to treasure!”
My Adult Education Journey

by Timea Varga

New country, new life and new challenges

My curiosity brought me to England in October 2015. I was really curious about how life is abroad and I wanted to discover more! I thought: it will be a piece of cake to pick up the language. No, it wasn’t! When I arrived, I struggled so much to understand not just the language, but the ‘Cornish English’! So I decided to go to school and I joined Diane’s Entry Level 2 class in Bodmin. I clearly remember the first day - she was very kind and friendly and I felt I would be safe in Diane’s hands.

My shift rota at my workplace was changing every month, so I realised that I couldn’t go to the class regularly. I really wanted to make it, so Diane had the idea that I could visit another class, Juliette’s class.

So I was juggling my shift pattern with my English classes and I made my teachers’ lives a bit more complicated. They never knew when I was going to appear in the class and honestly, sometimes I didn’t either.

By this time I was improving and jumping up the levels, becoming more and more confident and open. I enjoyed so much meeting with new people from different countries and learning about their cultures, traditions and cuisine. I also acquired knowledge about Cornwall, England and many important things, which helped me get through the challenges of the new atmosphere. I find the language classes very useful; they inspire me to meet with people who want to improve and want to reach their goals.

Last year was a bit difficult, because I started up my own business in online networking, so I had way less time to prepare myself for the classes. I managed though, and I have just finished with the Level 2 class.

I will carry on with my learning and I would like to take the IELTS exam soon (it stands for International English Language Testing System), as I need the academic level to be able to work in my profession as a social worker. I am grateful for all the memories that I have experienced during the classes. Diane, I will miss you a lot - thank you for everything!
ReachOut Reaches the Capital!

Adult Ed in partnership with ReachOut – a Community Interest Company that offers informal education to young people in Cornwall.

Here’s a great example of functional skills in action! As part of a session on current affairs the mixed ability ‘ReachOut’ group were asked to do some internet research about London. It turned out they knew very little about our capital, its importance, what was there or the fact it was the capital of England.

These learners became fascinated about the city and asked if they could go! What followed was a project to write a funding bid, doing all the costings as part of their maths, research what they wanted to see as part of ICT, and put forward a good argument as part of English. A bid was submitted to the Lottery Community fund and was successful! So at 5:30am on May 14th the group left Bodmin Parkway station...

The young people were so excited; actually, everyone was! The weather was wonderful and the day was wonderful. The five young people were a joy to be with, overcoming nerves and other barriers, and really supporting each other throughout the day. We were very proud of them.

The importance of visits like this cannot be underestimated: using functional skills to its full capacity; helping young people with high anxiety and mental health issues overcome barriers they thought they never would; opening their eyes to new experiences; listening to their expectations but also managing these by making them understand the work needed to make it happen; inspiring them to be better and work harder. But most importantly, letting these young people know they are cared for and that we were able to trust them enough to take them, and that we enjoyed the day in their company as much as they enjoyed the day.
Meet a Tutor – Julie Connelly

Tell us 3 key achievements in your life so far

Raising a child with a disability - challenging, emotional, hard work and so rewarding.

Having my own dressmaking alterations business – being able to help people through the simplest things, altering clothes or adjusting them to make their life easier, even being called to help alter costumes in films!

Teaching - sharing with people my sewing ability: something I have always had a passion for.

Explain how you come to be teaching for Adult Ed, in up to 5 steps!

I made a phone call to Adult Education asking if they would be interested in my services.
I had an interview.
I completed a Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS) course.
I was accepted.
I started teaching.
It looks quite straightforward on paper!

Describe a high point in your career with us: when I realised I actually made a difference in learners’ lives.

Best advice you were ever given: procrastination is the annihilation of your destination.

Your advice for anyone returning to learning now: don’t wait; sign up today.
Bye Bye Fran!

After 7 years with Adult Ed, Fran McClean, stalwart of our central admin team and chief formatter of this newsletter, has now left us to begin her new role of Finance and Exams Assistant with Callywith College. In those 7 years, Fran became a very highly valued member of the team, prompting a colleague to comment, “She was a massive asset to the service in many ways and will be hugely missed by us all, not only for her dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm (and of course her delicious cake baking) but as a bright and bubbly colleague who brought a smile to the office every day.”

Fran told us before she left: “I have met some lovely people during my time here and I hope to keep in touch with many of you after I have left. I start my new job at Callywith College as a Finance and Exams Assistant on the 30th April which will give me lots of new challenges I am sure! Thank you for all the support, kindness, help, friendship and laughs along the way. I have really enjoyed my time here, learnt many new skills and life lessons and I have some great memories!”

We all wish Fran every success in her new position.
On the 30th of April, a much-valued and well-respected colleague left the Falmouth Adult Education Centre after many years’ service. Georgie Connew joined Falmouth Link into Learning as a volunteer and gained employment as a clerk/typist in 1991. She continued working for Adult Education and after an admirable 28 years’ service, made the big decision to move to Dorchester to be near her family.

It was an overwhelming and emotional day at the end of April with colleagues past and present popping in to wish her well and say ‘goodbye’. We all wish Georgie and her family all the very best in the new chapter of their life. Thank you, Georgie, for all your hard work and support over the years. We will miss your office banter but most of all, we will miss you.

Goodbye and good luck!
Would you like to say thank you?

The staff at Adult Education work hard to make sure that everything runs smoothly for our learners.

If you would like to say 'thank you' to someone from the team, whether it's your tutor, the team on the front desk or 'the person on the end of the phone who took your initial enquiry', please log on to CALM, click on the ‘Thank you’ button and leave your feedback.

Useful links

Cornwall Adult Education Service website: www.cornwall.gov.uk/adultlearning
Staff Moodle website: http://staff.cornwall-acl.ac.uk
CALM website: http://moodle.cornwall-acl.ac.uk

If anyone has any problems accessing the Just4Staff or CALM websites, please contact Kay Edwards on kay.edwards@cornwall.gov.uk

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