

Need some help?

We don't want anyone to be excluded from learning. We published some tips on breaking down barriers in our July 2006 newsletter (some still available from dispenser in Grey Friars). Please pass them on to people who may benefit.

The Learning Shop

And don't forget another adult learning local charity, **Colchester Learning Shop** St Nicholas St. (near Jack's) for impartial advice 01206 368444 learning@shop47.fsnet.co.uk www.thelearningshop.co.uk

Join us – it's free !

Free membership (giving access to our main meetings and a say in how we operate) is open to all who support our aims. We currently have over 50 people in membership. Just giving your name as a supporter can help! Free membership leaflets available from G.F. and W.M. or calcagcharity@btinternet.com We are also on the charities website www.guidestar.org.uk

ON THE NET? Sign the petition!

It's good to know that other people around the country are still trying to stop the decline of adult education. A nationwide petition started by Liverpool adult students and tutors is on: <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/EducationRights/>

There were 572 signatories at the time of printing. Let's help get it into the thousands!

Plenty said at AGM!

A lively AGM in November 2006 saw a packed room for our open discussion session on the future of Colchester's adult education.

There were over a dozen substantial contributions from past and present students and staff, local councillors, former Governors and members of the public to stimulate discussion.

A vibrant and eloquent debate resulted in a motion which we formed into a letter with a set of questions to Essex County Council about their future plans.

Shortly afterwards, in another interactive session with contributions from AE students, the full Colchester Borough Council sent a motion to ECC.

The CALCAG AGM also put together a number of issues for the Trustees to address, including some featuring in this newsletter and previous editions.

A full set of Minutes is available on request and will be issued prior to the next AGM, Nov 2007.

Next Trustees' Meeting

The next committee meeting is to be held on Wednesday 13th June 2007 5pm at Grey Friars (see p3).

Success stories ?

CALCAG is considering a new book telling the stories of those who have been successful in overcoming barriers to taking part in adult education. Please let us know if you can help us make contact with people who have inspirational stories to tell.



OUR LATEST PURCHASE

is a powered hoist to help people with profound disabilities get out of their wheelchairs for classes.



As a result, participants have already seen some dramatic improvements.

These include a new level of interaction with other people, making a marked difference to their lives and for people around them.

Classes include sensory activities and exercises to promote brain function, body & spatial awareness.

Many on the course had never been able to engage in physical activities before

continued on page 2

Heritage Open Days Colchester 2007 GUIDED TOURS of GREY FRIARS:

The first of CALCAG's events to bid a fond farewell to Grey Friars takes place in the Autumn.

As part of Colchester's "Heritage Open Days" on **Saturday and Sunday 8th and 9th September**, there will be free afternoon guided tours featuring the architecture, stories of Grey Friars' various occupants and historical events.



For those who valued their association with Grey Friars as a student or member of staff, this may be the last chance to look into all the nooks and crannies of this fascinating building.

There will be an exhibition and sales stand, plus refreshments. So why not

continued on page 2

the provision of the hoist and the special classes which resulted.

The course is called the TAC PAC (Tactile Approach to Communication) and is taught by Sharron Howard.



Sessions are carefully structured, using activity, music and objects to stimulate tactile response.

Further information is available from Richard Cooper at Grey Friars, tel 01206 244291 or email: richard.cooper@essexcc.gov.uk who can also advise on other provision for adults with physical or learning difficulties.

BT Award for CALCAG:

We have just won a bid to BT's "Community Connections" fund for a computer system and broadband connectivity to run our admin and website. More in the next CALCAG News.

mark your diary now -and make it an afternoon out with family and friends?

For details as they become available please email us at calcagcharity@btinternet.com write to us, or watch Grey Friars and Wilson Marriage notice boards & dispensers.

Our Busy Postbag:

We have been in contact with a number of agencies on a range of issues.

A major exchange of correspondence concerned our request to Essex CC for reimbursement of over £4,000 we paid out for plans for the abandoned Grey Friars lift. We are hopeful that negotiations will proceed satisfactorily.

On the issue of the withdrawal of over-60s concessionary fees, we are corresponding with ECC, the DfES, Help the Aged, NIACE, ECA and relevant Government Ministers.

We have also answered queries from members of the public and have issued statements to the media on a number of current topics concerning access to adult education.

Our Aims

The main aim of CALCAG is to promote adult education in Colchester and help towards classes being as open as possible to all who wish to learn.

We also keep a 'watching brief' on how accessible learning opportunities are - and, where possible, help by making grants for equipment or, as an 'action group' take up issues with relevant authorities.

How to help CALCAG

We'd be delighted to receive your help in

raising funds,
running the charity, or
volunteer your expertise,
or **simply keep in touch!**

You could even *make a bequest,* or *give a cash donation now*

Other people have already done all of the above!

Please contact John Knight 01206 540650 if you'd like to support our work.

Please see our Sales Leaflet for books and stationery items of interest to you, family and friends.

This edition is being sent to all members, plus others who have shown interest. We hope that new supporters may consider joining.
When you've read your copy of CALCAG News please pass it on to others.
Thanks

Trustees Committee:

Richard Cooper
Diana Hargrave
Joan Gurney
Barbara Jeffriss
Joan Nevard
Norman Williams

President:

Bob Russell MP

Hon. Treasurer:

Sue Tye

Hon. Secretary & "Access Books":

Alan Skinner

Vice Chairman:

Doris Bishop

Chairman:

Dr John Knight

Members are always welcome to visit the committee meetings of the Trustees.

Why not come along - you may be able to take part in discussions, help in projects, or even become a Trustee.

Meetings are announced on the Grey Friars notice board and leaflets in our dispenser.

Please see over for details of membership.

We are grateful to the management of Essex County Council's "North East Essex Area Adult Learning Service" for providing meeting space at Grey Friars.

Temporary address:

Whilst changes are taking place in admin arrangements at Grey Friars we are renting mailbox facilities. Our current address is:

**CALCAG
UNIT 238
COMMUNICATIONS HOUSE
9 ST JOHN'S STREET
COLCHESTER CO2 7NN**