

Need some help?

We don't want anyone to be excluded from learning. Richard Cooper, who works at Grey Friars, helped us put together some tips. Please pass them on to family and friends as appropriate.

No qualifications: Don't worry! Few adult education courses have entry requirements - and where they do, there's probably help available for you to get them. Advice and guidance is available from the Learning Shop (see next column).

Unpleasant past experiences: Not all learning is the same! Adult education staff aim to support you - slowly but surely helping you to build up confidence. See the course leaflet, but if still unsure ask to talk to someone.

Financial problems: We don't want you to be stopped from learning due to money problems. Check the fee information in the current prospectus to see if you qualify for concessions. If in doubt - do please ask!

Adults with mobility, sight or hearing difficulties: Don't assume you are excluded. There are often ways to overcome barriers. Do not hesitate to declare a difficulty and ask what can be done to allow you to take part.

Adults with learning or communication difficulties: Call Richard Cooper on 01206 244291 if there is a need for additional support to allow you to take part in learning.

Whilst on your course: The first person to ask for help is obviously your tutor. You will find them not only willing to help you with your course, but also keen to encourage you to progress to other learning. Of course, they are not all experts in all fields, so they will refer to appropriate colleagues.

The Learning Shop

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

How to help CALCAG

We'd be delighted to welcome your help! You could:

help raise funds,
help us run the charity,
volunteer your expertise,
or just join and keep in touch!
You may even:

name us in your will,
or give a cash donation now

Other people have done all of the above!

Please contact CALCAG Secretary Dr John Knight c/o Grey Friars if interested.

CALCAG News

June 2006

Registered Charity no.1095713

What is CALCAG?

Colchester Adult Learning Continuing Access Group was set up to help make education open to all adults, especially those with specific needs. Started as the 'Grey Friars Lift Fund', we had to register as a charity to stay independent from Essex County Council.

What has CALCAG done?

As well as acting as an 'action group' to open up adult education, CALCAG funded:
A **£450 survey** of Grey Friars to identify improvements
A **£4,000 set of plans** to improve the building **including locations for a lift**
£2,000 worth of hearing loops and a p.a. system

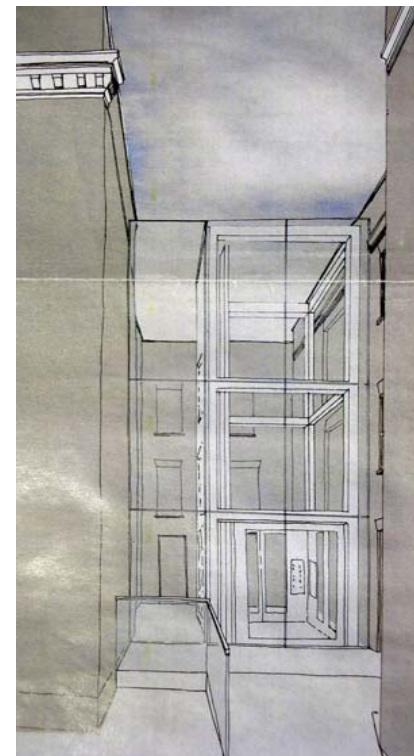
Wilson Marriage Improved

We are delighted there is now a lift to ten first floor rooms. Not all rooms are accessible, but it's a great improvement.

Grey Friars Future?

The latest from Essex County Council is "the building is still being reviewed by County Asset Management". Our Chairman Janet Fulford has written to the relevant Essex County Council person (Cllr Mrs Iris Pummell) and new/re-elected Borough Councillors asking for support.

CALCAG's plans for Grey Friars



Glass lift in the yard by back door

This design for a glass atrium and lift (stopping at mezzanine levels) and giving access to **ALL** classrooms, was agreed between CALCAG, English Heritage, Colchester Borough and Essex County Councils before the project was withdrawn by Essex.

Future CALCAG activity

CALCAG will soon buy a hoist to help people get out of wheelchairs; will listen to more requests from centres for equipment to help access - **and as an 'action group' we will keep pressing ECC for a lift for Grey Friars!**

CALCAG Aims

The main aim of CALCAG is to work towards all adult community learning courses in the Colchester district being as open as possible to all who wish to study.

We started off by focusing on Grey Friars because not all activities are accessible to people with age-related or mobility problems. We organised and paid for an expert 'access audit' and 'feasibility study' from top architects Purcell Miller Tritton. This told us that it would be possible to make Grey Friars fully open to all.

We then met officials from Essex County Council (who own the Grey Friars and Wilson Marriage sites) to discuss lifts and other improvements.

We aim to continue to keep this 'watching brief' on how open the adult learning activities really are - and, where possible, help by making grants or, as an 'action group' taking up the matter with the relevant authorities.

CALCAG AGM

Come along, find out the latest and meet the people running the charity at the AGM 10th November 2006. All welcome: 7pm in Grey Friars. Questions welcome.

CALCAG Who's who

Trustees and Committee:

Barbara Jeffriss
Diana Hargrave
Doris Bishop
Joan Gurney
Joan Nevard
Jon Williams
Norman Williams
Richard Cooper

CALCAG President is
Bob Russell MP
CALCAG's "Access Books"
Alan Skinner

CALCAG Treasurer is
Sue Tye

CALCAG Secretary is
John Knight

CALCAG Chairman is
Janet Fulford

Membership (giving access to our main meetings and the opportunity to have a say in how we operate) is open to all who support our aims.

We currently have over 50 people in membership. Just lending your name can help!

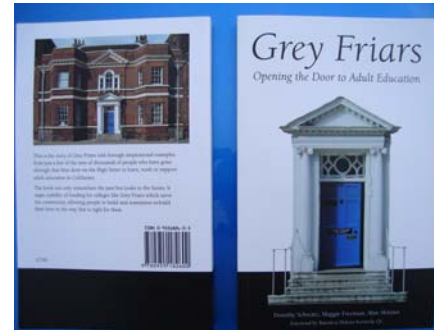
PLEASE RETURN THE ENCLOSED LEAFLET FOR FREE MEMBERSHIP. We are also listed on the charities website www.guidestar.org

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We are grateful to the management of Essex County Council's "North East Essex Adult Community Learning" who have provided accommodation at Grey Friars for our meetings.

CALCAG's "Access Books"

All income from "Access Books" goes straight into CALCAG's charity account.



"Grey Friars" tells the college's story from its early history to the present day. The 1730s family home became a school in 1903 and an adult college in the 1960s.

Historical facts and fascinating stories of people passing through as students and staff, plus colour photographs, make this a fascinating read.

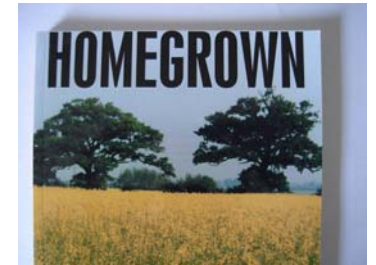
£7.99 from Red Lion Books and Waterstones - or Grey Friars and Wilson Marriage

"Ginny Saunderson" tells the story of a London family in the first half of the 20th Century. Ginny is followed from birth in 1925 to independence at the end of World War Two. Authentic period detail and a good heart-warming story.

£4.99 from Grey Friars and Wilson Marriage Receptions.

All CALCAG items can be ordered by email from access.books@btinternet.com Please state requirements, plus name and full address and you will receive the goods plus an invoice (incl post).

These beautifully presented books make excellent presents!



Also available is an anthology: "Homegrown", giving an insight into the work of local creative writing students, with different kinds of writing by over 30 people in a well-presented book for £2.50.

And don't forget our classy Christmas Cards - £5 for a pack of 6.



COMING SOON:

CALCAG Easy-Grip pens
CALCAG website