

# Events coming up – mark your diary!

CALCAG events in the next few months include ... ..

## **Telling the Government what we think Have your say!**

The Government is currently undertaking a consultation into the future of adult education. We are holding a special event to consider a response on

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008 • 5pm at Grey Friars**

Everyone welcome. There will be a short explanation of the consultation, followed by an open forum. CALCAG will then produce a written submission ready for the closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> May. (Individuals may also respond – details will be given at the meeting.)

## **Celebrating Grey Friars • Say Goodbye !**

It would be a pity if Grey Friars were simply to fade out of the lives of Colchester people.

We do not want Grey Friars to close without some kind of celebration of the part it has played in the life of generations of local families.

The two events below are open to members and the general public so please tell family and friends. These promise to be enjoyable and stimulating days in pleasant company.

### **The Grey Friars site and buildings: History and Architecture**

A repeat of last year's popular Heritage Weekend event.

Exhibition on the history of the site from Roman times; occupants and uses of the site for over hundreds of years.

Memorabilia, sales stall, refreshments.

**FREE ENTRY**

Includes guided tours of the buildings featuring the architecture and stories of occupants.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2008  
11am - 4pm  
Grey Friars**

### **Celebrating Adult Education in Colchester**

The last event in the life of Grey Friars as an adult college!

*An open-house "at home" drop-in event with refreshments, opportunity to meet past students and staff in an informal atmosphere.*

Exhibition on the history of adult education in Colchester; lots of memorabilia (some available to take or buy) including photos and old prospectuses going back to the 1960s.

*Please inform old friends, colleagues and fellow students*

**FREE ENTRY**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2008 11am - 4pm**

### **What is CALCAG? Please spread the word**

This is still the main question the Trustees are asked.

We are the Colchester Adult Learning Continuing Access Group, which grew out of the Grey Friars Lift Fund.

In the process of applying for registered charity status, the Charity Commission stated that the single aim of the provision of a lift in a public building was not - in itself - a sufficiently charitable cause to warrant registration. So we widened our remit to include all aspects of ACCESS to adult learning - physical, social and choice of curriculum.

This still included the original purpose of getting better physical access to upper floors (i.e. via a lift) but widened our remit to help in other ways. These have included acting as a representative, lobbying and advisory group, including for the continued inclusion of older people in learning. Essex County Council had already installed a lift at the Wilson Marriage Centre before they announced the closure of Grey Friars.

We look forward to participating in the life of Wilson Marriage Centre when it becomes the new headquarters for adult education in Colchester and being able to support, help and assist access to adult learning for all.

Our latest purchase is a hoist to assist people out of wheelchairs for their classes. We are also launching a website to include listings of classes of all kinds, especially those not available through the normal system, such as those continued privately by their tutors.

# What you said • Results of our survey

In a very pleasing 49% response, CALCAG members gave a very clear indication of their current participation in adult education as well as their likely future involvement in learning and CALCAG activities.

Trustees heard the results at their meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March and were most appreciative of members' current involvement and their enthusiasm for the future. The results will be shared with the Essex County Council Adult Community Learning Service through their local managers and the Area Governors through the Colchester Consultative Committee.

## **Current Learning:**

At present 37% of members responding are attending classes at Grey Friars, 33% are not currently learning, 29% are learning elsewhere and 23% are attending Wilson Marriage. These add up to over 100% as some members are attending classes at more than one venue. 'Elsewhere' includes WEA courses and private classes. Overall, 66% of respondents are still taking part in learning activities.

37% said that they were likely to go to a class at Wilson Marriage next year, 43% said they were not and 20% were not sure.

## **CALCAG activities planned for this year:**

When asked about these events, 77% said they would definitely be interested in a repeat of last year's Heritage Weekend history and architecture days. 71% said a definite 'yes' to interest in a celebration of adult education in Colchester in the summer (see over).

## **Possible activities in the new HQ at Wilson Marriage Centre:**

Respondents felt that by far the most successful would be events that celebrated, shared (and also perhaps offered for sale) the achievements of people in their classes. Exhibitions and demonstrations of work scored the highest support (66%), followed by art and craft sales at 60%. General activities such as table top sales (57%) and quiz nights (46% - some people suggested daytime as well for older people) were less popular. Therefore people by far preferred co-operative activities sharing the fruits or joys of learning. CALCAG feels that this would be a valuable way of engendering a community spirit at the new HQ.

*The Chairman, Trustees and committee members would like to thank all who took part, especially the large number who offered practical help and/or donations for future fundraising activities. A large number of comments and suggestions were also gratefully received.*

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## **Take some memories with you ... ..**

**We hope to secure permission to have a range of memorabilia for sale at bargain prices in Grey Friars during May and June.**

**Copies of the book celebrating the achievements of the college and its people from the 1960s to the 1990s – "Grey Friars: opening the door to adult education" will be on sale, along with Christmas cards, pens and anthologies of creative writing.**

### Committee and Trustees

Diana Angell	Doris Bishop*
Frank Brown*	Jill Butcher*
Joan Gurney*	Libby Hammond
Diana Hargrave*	Helen Ingram
Barbara Jefferiss*	Sue Keffler*
John Knight*	Charles Mower
Sue Tye*	* = Trustees

### *Officers:*

<i>President:</i>	Mr R Russell MP
<i>Chairman:</i>	Dr J Knight
<i>Vice Chairman:</i>	Mrs D Bishop
<i>Hon Treasurer:</i>	Mrs S Tye

**So watch out for a CALCAG table in the Grey Friars foyer in the near future, or speak to our committee members out and about in the corridors or canteen next month.**