

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, it was pointed out by the Charity Commission that the single aim of contributing to 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 with respect to 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, including acting as a representative, lobbying and advisory group.

Our latest purchase is a hoist to assist people out of wheelchairs for their classes.

Essex County Council had already installed a lift at the Wilson Marriage Centre before they announced the closure of Grey Friars.

Fee Concessions CALCAG challenges their so-called "illegality"

We have been researching the situation regarding the withdrawal of concessionary fees for older people. Some agencies have been calling them 'discriminatory' and have declared that as a result of this they are illegal.

Following correspondence with various bodies including Essex County Council, the Government and some national agencies, we decided to challenge this.

We have prepared a suggested approach to incentives and concessions to remove any suggestion that they could be illegal.

We call it our "**Strategy for an inclusive student profile in adult education**".

We have offered it to Essex County Council and have recently been invited to talks with other agencies.

We would be pleased to have any response to these matters from members or supporters.

• Copies will be available at the Open Meeting and AGM on 9th November (or by email from calcag@btinternet.com)



32 people per hour visit the Grey Friars Heritage Days

- *report inside*

CALCAG challenges the withdrawal of over- 60s concessions

- *strategy offered to ECC and Government agencies*

CALCAG requests refund of 'Lift Fund' money spent on plans for Grey Friars

- *progress report inside*

CALCAG boost from BT Community Awards

- *informative website a step nearer*

Open Meeting

(and 2007 AGM)

The Future!

Everyone interested in the future of local adult education is invited to our 2007 Open Meeting.

On Friday 9th November at 7.30pm you can come and hear about what we have done, what we are still doing - and tell us what you want for the future.

All are welcome - you do not have to be a member to attend or take part in the Open Meeting.

The meeting will also be addressed by a senior Essex County Council official, who will set out their vision for Colchester's adult education.

Questions and comments from the floor will end the open session.



Retiring Chairman Janet Fulford addresses a lively 2006 Open AGM

We apologise for this blank page on the web version of CALCAG News. We have permission from the Evening Gazette editor to reproduce the photographs for printed versions and exhibitions, but not for the internet.

Great Support for Heritage Open Days

A measure of how successful our Grey Friars open days were is that of all the venues open at the weekend, the Gazette gave us a full-page photo spread (*left*).

261 people visited at a rate of over 32 per hour; 250 adults and 11 children. Many took advantage of the tours of the buildings and enjoyed the architecture and the stories of occupants.

The exhibition described the development of the site since the Roman wall was built, through the Norman period to the major developments of the 18th century and beyond.

229 visitors were Colchester-based, 12 were from the surrounding villages, 12 from Tendring and 8 others were from other parts of England and abroad.

Some new members joined CALCAG as a result of their visits.

CALCAG claims lift plans money back from ECC Trustees' negotiations with Essex County Council have been progressing well. Requests to officials for the return to the Charity of money spent on the aborted plans for improvements to Grey Friars - including a lift - started in earnest after last year's AGM.

We hope to be able to report further on this at the 2007 AGM and indeed to offer Members the chance to guide Trustees in the use of any reclaimed funds.

CALCAG web boost from BT Community Awards

A computer provided by BT has now been installed in the Grey Friars resource room in a much-appreciated arrangement with local managers of the Essex Adult Education Service. It is soon to be connected to BT Broadband and will then be in a position to service the CALCAG website.

The Charity will then invite all tutors who are still running courses displaced by recent funding problems to publicise their facilities via the website, paying due regard, of course, to information on accessibility.