

# ECA News

## Spring 2004



National Conference March 25-27 2004  
Quality Hotel Birmingham

### Treasure Houses For Adult Learning

Linking museums and heritage sites with adult education centres and FE colleges  
"Improving access to learning requires new partnerships and new approaches. It means working with people to establish what they want from museums ... involving them ... and ensuring that this process is itself accessible to all who wish to participate. This way of working needs to be integral to any organisation supporting learning ... and is fundamental to *Inspiring Learning for All.*"

Resource 2003

Details 0870 161 0302  
[conferences@e-c-a.ac.uk](mailto:conferences@e-c-a.ac.uk)



A "hands-on" future for the 'traditional' programme?

## Highway Robbery?



Three member centres clubbed together and secured funding to provide a mobile classroom to take learning out and about. So do many others across the country - so what's special about their case?

The problem is, they have been told that under the 'Best Value' plans of their LEA, the vehicle now belongs to the Transport Department, who want to lease it back to them - despite the fact that it was fully paid for by the centres. And the department won't be buying it from them either!

If any other members have experienced such events - and more especially know how to deal with them - the ECA would love to know! (Contact details on page 4)

## Bury Arts to get new Home

Building work on a new £1.2m centre combining Bury Museum with Bury Archives will start in February 2004. Scheduled to open in 2005, the centre is funded by a £900,000 Heritage Lottery Fund Grant and £300,000 from Bury Metropolitan Borough Council. The building, which also houses Bury Art Gallery, will become fully accessible in compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act.

*Museums Journal, October 2003*

Footnote -

Our next newsletter (Summer 2004) will report on the heroic fight of recent students of Bury Arts & Crafts to save it from closure as an AE Centre and the ironic change of fortunes that might now see it resurrected as a heritage lifelong learning centre. Could it be that the scrapping of the student committee & other forms of user involvement will be the biggest net loss? Let us hope not!

The ECA conference programme is grant-supported by department for

**education and skills**

creating opportunity, releasing potential, achieving excellence

## The ECA – A Brief Overview

Founded in 1920 as the Educational Settlements Association, we shared contemporary beginnings with the British Association of Settlements ('*bassac*') with which we have an ongoing relationship.

Both bodies had an initial concern to bring an enhanced quality of life to people in disadvantaged communities. The Educational Settlements' focus was on providing a 'hearth & home' where adults would feel comfortable and confident in taking part in shared learning.

The strongly egalitarian roots placed great emphasis on mutual regard between teachers and students and their role in the management of the settlements was seen as true evidence of an active citizenship. It was also reflected in the focus on liberal and therefore non-work-related education.

In the ensuing period and particularly after 1944 when LEAs were given new powers and funding, there was a growth in ECA membership from this sector and also from university departments of adult education.

The benchmark applied to applicant centres was always whether there was a members' committee. During the 1980s and early 90s, lean years for adult education, this test was less rigorously applied and a significant new voice was added from FE colleges.

The last ten years have again reflected national trends and the move to strengthen our regional structures has accorded well with devolution in Wales and the new funding arrangements in England.

Our regional groups provide an active forum for sharing perspectives across a range of institutional types and they interact with their counterparts in the strategic, funding and development agencies.

Current work at the national level focuses on liaising with members and responding to circulars from Government and other public bodies, as well as contributing to focus groups on specific issues; most recently Information & Learning Technology (LSC), Leadership College (DfES) and Learner Participation in Inspection (Estyn).

## Regional Conference ECA South & East of England

*All welcome*

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2004 – Bassingbourn

## Adult Learning in Local Communities – Towards a positive future

In association with Village College Golden Jubilee Celebrations  
Professor Brian Johnson; Professor Brian Groombridge  
and contributors from the LSC, LEAs, Community  
Renewal Network East, and learning partnerships  
- in the company of **Andrew Fairbairn** and  
members of the **Henry Morris Memorial Trust**



An uncertain future for the 'traditional' programme?

## Active Citizenship

The ECA is bidding with European partners in a project concerned with the teaching and resourcing of Active Citizenship programmes. Other partners include Finland, Denmark, Italy, Hungary, France, Cyprus and possibly Greece.

In the process, a great deal of material (and networking) on the subject has been made available, including many recent articles on the topic of citizenship (usually in English).

Members wishing to access such materials or having a special interest in such a project can contact the ECA (address on page 4).

## New members for the ECA

Worcestershire County Council Lifelong Learning; Acorns to Oaks, Ledbury; WRVS King George VI Centre; Shropshire LEA Adult Community Learning; Leicestershire County Council Community & Lifelong Learning; Caroline Mean (North region), Christianne Wakeham (W.Midlands region); Leesbrook Community Sports College; Roger Giles (East Midlands region); Sutton College of Learning for Adults; Church of England Education Division, London; Open College North West; North Lincolnshire County Adult Education Service.

## ECA North Region conference

Tuesday 23rd March Heaton Hall

### Promoting and progressing learning with the Homeless – a multi-agency approach

*The conference is aimed at:*

- Policy makers** within the homeless families sections of local authority housing departments charged with the implementation of the Supporting People Initiative
- Learning Providers** from the statutory and community and voluntary sector wishing to engage with this so called "hard to reach" group
- Organisations already engaged** with and actively working with the homeless

Background papers for the day will include information from the Supporting People framework and the LSDA report "Crossing the threshold - Successful learning provision for homeless people" Participants will work in multi-agency groups to collectively explore the present barriers to learning, examples of good practice and the resource bank available at present for this work

£50 per participant - there will be a limited number of places - 20 per sector (max 60)

If you feel you can offer support in any way or would like to provisionally book a place contact Walt Crowson **0161 272 6258**  
**walt.crowson@ntlworld.com**

## Konrad Elsdon

The Association was saddened to hear of Konrad's illness and his subsequent death in January. A significant senior member of ECA, he joined our NEC in 1957 and later became HMI and Special Professor at the University of Nottingham. He will be very much missed for his academic research on adult learning as well as his enthusiasm for our work. His last book, only just published, and conceived whilst he was reviewing ECA archives, is about a long-forgotten conference organised by the ECA in conjunction with the Archbishop of Canterbury. It worked towards having adult education incorporated into the 1944 Education Act.

## Harry Batchelor

We had also only just heard at the end of 2003 of the passing of our long-standing friend and supporter Harry, who, as well as working tirelessly for the preservation of the Rugby Guildhouse, also made significant regional and national contributions to the ECA.

*We have many fond memories of both colleagues.*

## ECA website on way



## ECA West of England regional conference

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2004 - Hereford

### Lifelong Learning in Rural Communities – Putting the learner first

- neighbourhood learning • rural literacy •
  - mapping projects • learning ambassadors
  - promotional skills • funding • case studies
- 0870 161 0302 conferences@e-c-a.ac.uk

## The 46th "Salzburg Talks for Principals in Adult Education"

Two members of the ECA National Executive attended the 2003 event – the only UK delegates. The European Commission gave a report on the state of adult education in Europe. Information is on <http://www.vhs.or.at/info/aktuelles.htm> (click on the link to the English version) or contact ECA (page 4).

## ECA in Wales Cymdeithas Canolfannau Addysgol

**The Welsh are about to reconvene with three former stalwarts, Jimmy James, Vaughan Williams (both former Wardens of Oxford House, Risca) and Roger Houghton (ex-Warden of the Settlement, Pontypool) setting the wheels in motion.**

They would love to hear from supporters – old and new  
contact Vaughan on **01495 750974**  
**ebw@parkcottage.freeseve.co.uk**

## Consulting on Culture and Community

There is a February 27 deadline for responses to this document produced on behalf of DCMS. Can anyone spot an agenda for adult education? If you respond, please send a copy to the ECA. (address page 4) Many thanks.

## ECA News

Our new format will have a topical theme addressed in a keynote article, with additional news on sector issues, members and the ECA. The Summer edition will feature inspection of ACL as its main theme. If you have news, views or material for future themes please contact

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Aythorpe Roding, Gt Dunmow, Essex CM6 1PD  
peterboshier@compuserve.com**

## The ECA is ...

- **an inclusive organisation** which values the widest participation from all involved in adult learning in pursuit of a dynamic partnership
- **open to all who are actively involved in the education of adults** whether as learners, professional educators, voluntary workers or supporters
- **a registered charity devoted to all aspects of adult learning**, supporting the pursuit of quality, continuity, reliability, clarity and coherence across the curriculum, at all levels of study, in all sectors and across all ages and abilities
- **an active organisation** with a lively programme of national conferences, local seminars, publications and a track record of robust campaigning in support of adult learning opportunities
- **a democratic body** with a national structure supporting the formation of regional bodies
- **funded by** membership fees, donations and grant aid from bodies such as the DfES
- **open for membership** as an Individual Member, a Corporate Member (centre, college, or voluntary organisation joining on behalf of its members) or as an Associate – and willing to work reciprocally with other like-minded organisations, as we do with NIACE and the Community Sector Coalition
- **ready to respond to your interest -**

**0870 161 0302**

ECA, 21 Ebbisham Drive, Norwich NR4 6HQ

**eca@e-c-a.ac.uk**



REGISTERED CHARITY 313302

## ECA takes part in Learning Technology talks

ECA Chairman Bernard Godding has been involved in the DfES / LSC consultations on Information and Learning Technologies for adults. The ECA's clear stance on the need to ensure adequate and appropriate adult access to a wide range of learning outcomes - using a full range of technology - was well represented in the series of seminars and working groups.



## ECA Partnerships for Learning

Some time ago, the ECA North Region in partnership with the Blackpool & Fylde College and the Windmill Housing Association of Blackpool initiated an in-house Lifelong Learning project in Windmill's retirement complexes. A number of courses were put on including computer skills, on laptops provided by the college, Aromatherapy, yoga, and a special course for Christmas preparations. The course fees were met by the Housing Association. The success of this venture is largely due to the hard work of the college's adult education programme manager, Rona Blanchard, a former treasurer of the ECA North Region. These courses are now much appreciated by many of the residents; some of whom have graduated to other classes elsewhere.

Also last year, officers of the North Region met with officers of the Open College Of The North West, for a successful 'working lunch'. From the discussions at that lunch, it is hoped, with their co-operation, to form, for Lancashire, an Adult Learners Forum such as that successfully initiated and now working well in Greater Manchester.

### Late News: "EARLY SPEND"

In Manchester, an ECA-led consortium has just bid to the Home Office for £30K to be spent this summer. The Infrastructure Development project would identify ways to strengthen links between voluntary and community sector and other providers of lifelong learning.

Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Association