



### Re-launch of ECA website

The new ECA website is now live and looking better than ever. The site is punctuated with more regularly updated news articles and has increased functionality.

Use the following link to visit the site:  
[www.e-c-a.ac.uk](http://www.e-c-a.ac.uk)

### Citizenship, Consumer Protection, and Sustainability

Early in December ECA National Chair, Bernard Godding, represented the ECA in Latvia at the European Association for the Education of Adults, EAEA. The Riga event coincided with a Comenius and Grundtvig contact seminar for partnership projects entitled "*learning by doing*". Bernard reports here on a chilly week spent in Riga attending both events:



### Arts, Crafts and the ECA

The theme of this year's AGM was *Innovation and Inspiration: the Crafts in Adult Learning*. It therefore is appropriate that this is also the theme of this issue of the ECA News, where:

\*Paul Devlin talks about funding for the Arts in Adult Education and his work with Voluntary Arts England

\*We look at the "Inspired by...." initiative

### Sad loss of Mary Babris

It was with great sadness that we learnt that Mary Babris had passed away on 9 January after a protracted and intermittent period of surgery. Bernard Godding says,

"Mary was an accomplished needlewoman and regular member of adult education classes. There is no doubt in my mind that without her the ECA would have ceased to exist 10 years ago when all the then Officers resigned en bloc without any planned succession. Mary's contribution in founding the Eastern Region Committee in 1994 was key to the Association's survival and she worked tirelessly on its development in the ensuing years. In the early days the Regional Committee used to meet around the dining table of her Cambridge home and these meetings acted as a springboard for a new National Executive to be formed in 1998.

On the NEC where she served for all of this time she was an indefatigable member and later made a major contribution both to the conference team and as an assiduous Membership Secretary who maintained close personal relationships with key individuals.

She will be remembered with great affection by everyone. We offer her husband Ted our deepest condolences"

"Hoping to develop an intergenerational learning partnership as a successor to our acclaimed Teddy Bear project I joined a group wanting to focus on parent education as a means of reducing risks to the children through affirmative actions, hence our working title became 'POSITIVE'. On my return Children's Minister Ed Balls was proposing similar policies, making writing a joint bid with partners from Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania & Spain in the spring of 2008 all the more interesting.

At the EAEA meeting we heard EU Consumer Protection Commissioner Kuneva link her specialist field to the importance of education for citizenship and sustainability."

#### Inside this Issue of the ECA News:

- Arts and Crafts special (look left)
- Celebration for new deaf teachers
- Sustainability & consumers as Citizens

#### New Feature:

- A dedicated Every Action Counts page

## Celebration for new Deaf teachers



One of ECA's newest members, the Alban Neve Deaf Association (ANDA) celebrated enthusiastically on the 10<sup>th</sup> November at its Luton centre. The Centre held a special event to thank family and friends for supporting them in two years of study to achieve the Oxford and Cambridge RSA (OCR)'s Level 4 certificate in FE Teaching. This will enable the 4 Deaf and one Hearing candidates (pictured) to qualify to teach in FE colleges and Adult and Community Learning Centres.

ANDA is a brand new charity, with a new Board of Trustees taking over from Luton Borough Council's control. In celebration of the event, Bernard Godding, ECA's Chair, sent a special message of congratulations and best wishes, and is looking forward to working with this new partner in the future.

## NEC Regional Elections: The results

Nominations have been received to fill most of the vacancies on the committee. Following the change to the constitution last year, the ECA conducted its first postal ballot in November, and it was a huge success.

The following people have been duly elected to serve for a term of 2 years:

**East:** Graham Eldridge, Barbara Isherwood

**North:** Walt Crowson, Jane Inman

**West:** Paul Olver, Christianne Wakeham

Vacancies still exist for London and South, President, and Vice Chair. Congratulations to all new committee members, and we look forward to their input.

## New Members

Welcome to all the new members that have joined the ECA since our last newsletter:

- Alban Neve Deaf Association
- Veronica Shearer

And welcome back to Pauline McDermott.

## ECA Celebrates the Life of Andrew Fairbairn

Former vice president of the ECA, Andrew Fairbairn, has died, aged 85. Andrew had a passion for Lifelong learning and a strategic approach to developing his concept of the Community Centre/College.

Andrew saw the importance of arts and crafts in Adult Education; introducing training for teachers of dress, embroidery and allied crafts to adults, in conjunction with Nottingham University and Loughborough College of Adult Education in 1972/3.

Andrew was instrumental in shaping the 'new Leicestershire' and its innovative education structure. Despite his retirement in 1984, he continued to be involved in Adult Education until the end of his life, participating in an ECA conference in 2004 when he represented his continuing engagement with the work to which he had dedicated himself, by attending Bassingbourn Village College's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

Visit the website at [www.e-c-a.ac.uk/news/8/](http://www.e-c-a.ac.uk/news/8/) to read this article in full.

## Head Office team expands

In November, the ECA expanded its Head Office team when Tor Brierley joined as public relations assistant on a 6 month contract.

Tor is a Post-graduate student at the University of East Anglia and has previously worked in online fashion media. She has a passion for textiles and aesthetics and will no doubt bring this interest to her work. We look forward to her contribution to the team.

## Stay in touch with the ECA

ECA, 21 Ebbisham Drive, Norwich,  
NR4 6HQ or 0870 161 0302 or  
[eca@e-c-a.ac.uk](mailto:eca@e-c-a.ac.uk)

**NEWS AND VIEWS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER:** Send your comments to "ECA NEWS EDITOR" c/o above contact points.



VIEWS IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND ON THE WEBSITE ARE THOSE OF THE VARIOUS CORRESPONDENTS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE ECA

## The AGM 2007- *Innovation and Inspiration: the Crafts in Adult*



The ECA held its AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> September at the Victoria and Albert Museum. This coincided with the ECA Autumn seminar, *Innovation and Inspiration: the Crafts in Adult learning*.

The Keynote speakers were Paul Devlin from Voluntary Arts England, who outlined findings from a national survey, (see below) Eithne Nightingale from the V&A, who spoke on the museums current "Inspired by...." initiative (see right) and a fascinating demonstration from Gemma Khawaja, a talented Norfolk puppet making student (pictured above).

The Seminar was attended by a widely representative group of members plus City and Guilds Product Manager Edward Gee. Norfolk Adult Education Service, in conjunction with the Norwich Puppet theatre, is the only adult education facility in the country which offers a City and Guilds qualification in Puppet Making, the syllabus for which was written by ECA Chair Bernard Godding.

The seminar was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. A full copy of the annual report is available on the website at: <http://www.e-c-a.ac.uk/publications>

\*As we go to press the Puppet Theatre is under threat from Arts Council Cuts \*

## Inspired by.....

Inspired by... is the V&A's annual art competition for adults on part-time courses. Participants create a work of art or craft inspired by the collections of V&A South Kensington, the Theatre Collections Online or the V&A Museum of Childhood. Entries are judged by a panel of curators and the winners and other selected works are displayed in the museum of their inspiration. Winners in their category also receive a prize.



### Inspired by...

Create a work of art inspired by the V&A or the Museum of Childhood's collections

A competition for adults studying art, craft or design part-time  
Application deadline: 15 February 2008

Information: [www.vam.ac.uk/inspiredby](http://www.vam.ac.uk/inspiredby) or 020 7942 2131

Display of selected entries and winners at the V&A and at the Museum of Childhood in early Summer 2008

For more information visit the National Institute of Continuing Education website at [www.niace.ac.uk](http://www.niace.ac.uk)

Helped by: [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)



Inspired by... celebrates Adult Learners Week and is supported by NIACE, the National Institute of Continuing Education.

For more information about, or to get involved with the initiative, visit the V&A website at: [http://www.vam.ac.uk/activ\\_events/events/inspiredby/](http://www.vam.ac.uk/activ_events/events/inspiredby/)

## The ECA supports Voluntary Arts England

Towards the end of last year, in conjunction with the ECA, Voluntary Arts England began looking at issues surrounding the arts and crafts in adult education. Information and Research officer Paul Delvin tells us more.

The threats to arts in adult education were highlighted to us some time ago firstly as they were, and are often seen, as the easiest thing to make a cut in due to many people's lack of understand of, or engagement with, the arts.

To explore where cuts are made that might impact upon people's participation we have taken a number of actions. Firstly we initiated an arts in adult education think tank which met for the first time last November. Representatives were invited to speak about the arts in adult education from their own perspective, highlighting any issues and possible solutions. The think tank consisted of about 20 national and regional organisations, including the Educational Centres Association.

Having tried unsuccessfully to get completion rates from learning providers, facing substantial resistance we decided to carry out our own survey of learners. We wanted to know learner motivations and the impact accreditation may be having on participation. The survey focussed on learner demographics, course fees, venues, completion rates and accredited course levels amongst other topics. I am currently compiling the final statistics which are showing some potentially interesting trends which will be revealed in a report later this year.

I would urge readers to think about what they could be doing to raise awareness of the role that creative arts and crafts play in life-wide learning and help us in the collection of information and statistics that would assist us in highlighting the benefits.



To read more about Paul and Voluntary Arts England visit the website at: <http://www.e-c-a.ac.uk/news/13/>



Supported by the Educational  
Centres Association



## Exciting Eco-Journey from Norwich to Paris

The ECA's environmental projects officer, Susie White, was one of the lucky passengers to travel on the first Eurostar train to leave the redesigned St Pancras station.

Every Action Counts was allocated tickets for this historic journey to highlight the trains' new eco-credentials. As an important member of the Every Action Counts team, Susie was one of the lucky invitees, along with other members of the Consortium.

This exciting trip was an excellent opportunity for networking and spreading the Every Action Counts message. To read more about Susie's day visit the news section of the website at: [www.e-c-a.ac.uk/news](http://www.e-c-a.ac.uk/news)

## Every Action Counts Achievements

Since the launch of the Every Action Counts initiative, the ECA have signed up 62 groups and 8 community champions to the scheme. In November Susie White was recognised in the Every Action Counts monthly programme newsletter as a champion recruiter of teams and clubs to join the organisation.

If you know a club or group that would be prepared to join Every Action Counts please visit [www.e-c-a.ac.uk/everyactioncounts](http://www.e-c-a.ac.uk/everyactioncounts) or contact us directly.



**Successful Outing:** Environmental projects officer Susie White at the Gressenhall Green Fair. 13 community groups and 1 community champion signed up to Every Action Counts, through the ECA, at this one-day event.

## ECA signs the Third Sector Declaration on Climate Change



A Declaration has been drawn up by Every Action Counts as a statement of intent from Third Sector organisations to tackle the issue of climate change by taking actions within our organisations and communities. The ECA attended the launch of this project in June, which was also attended by Ministers David and Ed Milliband, (shown signing the declaration). The ECA then signed up to the declaration in July.

For more information about the Third Sector Declaration of Climate change, visit the Every Action Counts section of the website: [www.e-c-a.ac.uk/eac](http://www.e-c-a.ac.uk/eac)

## Bernard Godding invited to Wildlife Trust Annual Conference

Every Action Counts consortium members The Wildlife Trust held their Annual Conference, entitled *Inspiring People*, on the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> November. ECA National Chair, Bernard Godding, was invited to attend and take part in the conference.

Bernard was asked to jointly present a *Sustainable Communities* workshop which focused on how to involve communities with the Every Action Counts initiative. This interesting presentation further cemented the strong environmental link between the ECA and the Wildlife Trust.

To find out why Bernard believes Every Action Counts visit the website at: [www.e-c-a.ac.uk/news/](http://www.e-c-a.ac.uk/news/)