

# connect learning gazette

Issue fourteen | December 2009

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*Learning is not compulsory... neither is survival.*  
**W. Edwards Deming.**

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Welcome to the fourteenth edition of *Connect Learning Gazette* – the learning and development resource dedicated to Union Learning Reps.

As always we value your feedback. If you do have any feedback and/or you come across any interesting information that you would like to pass on, please email [kacie.ashford@connectuk.org](mailto:kacie.ashford@connectuk.org).

## What's New?

### Government funds community learning projects

A Government initiative has awarded funding to 36 projects across the country, to run community learning activities, under the Community Learning Champions' Support Programme - delivered by NIACE, unionlearn, WEA and Martin Yarnit Associates.

The Community Learning Champions' Support Programme helps volunteers promote learning in their homes, workplaces and communities. It provides training and development opportunities for Community Learning Champions, has set up regional networks and a website for exchanging good practice and has also created a branding and badging scheme to raise the profile of Community Learning Champions across the country.

The winning projects - representing all nine of the English regions - will reach out to different groups of vulnerable and socially excluded people including those who are homeless, people with learning difficulties and disabilities, families, older people, ex-offenders, unemployed people, refugees and people from minority ethnic backgrounds.



For the full news article, go to: <http://www.niace.org.uk/news/government-funds-community-learning-projects>

### NIACE Responds to employment white paper

Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment proposes to combat the effects of the recession and work towards an employment rate of 80%.

NIACE welcomes the continued commitment to active labour market policies and the continuing integration of employment and skills support, especially around the training of unemployed people.

In particular NIACE supports the direction of travel towards more personalised services in Jobcentres with greater sensitivity to users with mental health needs; improved services for people

with disabilities and recognition of the role of volunteering in keeping people connected to the labour market.

Although the paper's focus on the position of new entrants to the labour market is understandable, since the recession has hit younger adults hardest, there is also welcome sensitivity to the position of people over the age of 50 with proposals for flexible work opportunities and better access to support.

Despite these positive developments, NIACE does have some concerns that Building Britain's Recovery makes so few references (just three) to the new skills strategy, Skills for Growth.

For the full article go to: <http://www.niace.org.uk/news/niace-responds-to-employment-white-paper>

### **Places of worship engage in adult learning**

Cathedrals as Partners in Adult Learning (CPAL) has developed a website which includes a toolkit offering a wide range of resources to support adult learning opportunities in Cathedrals, Greater Churches and other Places of Worship. CPAL enhances informal learning opportunities in these settings through working - and promoting partnerships - with a range of organisations across sectors.

For more information, visit: <http://www.niace.org.uk/news/resource-helps-places-of-worship-engage-in-adult-learning>

## **Dates for the Diary**

**26-27 January:** YPN Learning Seminar. "Future 2020, tomorrow's skills today"

This event is concentrating on getting young people to look at what skills they have today and what skills they will need to acquire in the future. For more information please contact Anne O'Connor ([anne.oconnor@connectuk.org](mailto:anne.oconnor@connectuk.org)) (020 8971 6052).

**02 February:** The joint day for ULRs and Career Coaches.

We'll be looking at how to get motivated in the work place, as well as where the boundaries of both the ULRs' and Career Coaches' activities lie. For more information on this event please contact Anne O'Connor ([anne.oconnor@connectuk.org](mailto:anne.oconnor@connectuk.org)) (020 8971 6052).

## **What Is Out There?**

### **Seasonal learning**

I thought that in this edition, I would remind you that there is some seasonal learning that may interest people.

### **Ice skating**

There are numerous Ice rinks offer private Ice skating lessons at various prices.

To see some of them go to:

<http://www.yell.com/maps/MapAction.do?keywords=ice+skating+lessons&companyName=&location=uk&scrambleSeed=33519782&searchType=advance&M=1&lastKeyword=ice+rinks&lastClarifyIndex=&lastClarifyOptions=&lastSearchall=&lastSearchallTax=&lastbandedclarifyResults=&bandedclarifyResults=&ssm=>



## Skiing

To see some locations that offer skiing lessons visit:

<http://www.yell.com/maps/MapAction.do?keywords=skiing+lessons&companyName=&location=uk&scrambleSeed=21076820&searchType=advance&M=1&lastKeyword=ice+skating+lessons&lastClarifyIndex=&lastClarifyOptions=&lastSearchall=&lastSearchallTax=&lastbandedclarifyResults=&bandedclarifyResults=&ssm=>

## Ice Sculpting Workshop

If you would like to know where and how to attend an Ice sculpting workshop, visit this site:

[http://www.chillisauce.co.uk/corporate-events/london/ice-sculpting-workshop/productid\\_3100/](http://www.chillisauce.co.uk/corporate-events/london/ice-sculpting-workshop/productid_3100/)

## Any Other Business

### Seasons Greetings

Hope you all enjoy the festive season. As the new year approaches, I cannot think of a better time to remind people to learn something new! Ask people if they have considered making it one of their “new year resolutions”.

### Will it be a white Christmas?

For many a white Christmas means a complete covering of snow, ideally falling on the 25th. However, the definition of an official white Christmas used most widely, notably by those placing and taking bets, is for a single snow flake (perhaps amongst a shower of rain and snow mixed) to be observed falling in the 24 hours of 25 December.

The last official white Christmas was in 2004, when snow was widespread across Northern Ireland, Scotland, parts of Wales, the Midlands, north-east and far south-west England.

The odds on there being snow on Christmas day are as follows (based on William Hill odds):

Aberdeen – 11/10, Belfast – 2/1, Birmingham – 2/1, Bristol – 2/1, Cambridge – 2/1, Cardiff – 2/1, Dublin – 3/1, Edinburgh – 2/1, Exeter – 9/4, Glasgow – 6/4, Leeds – 13/8, Lincoln – 7/4, Liverpool – 7/4, London – 2/1, Manchester – 7/4, Newcastle – 13/8, Norwich – 2/1, Nottinghamshire – 2/1, Oxford – 2/1, York – 13/8.



### Office Closure

This year Connect will be closed from 25<sup>th</sup> December. The office will re-open on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

### New Year, New Union

Just to remind you all that from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010, Connect will have merged with Prospect and will become the Connect Sector of Prospect.