
If we value independence, if we are disturbed by the growing conformity of knowledge, of values, of attitudes, which our present system induces, then we may wish to set up conditions of learning which make for uniqueness, for self-direction, and for self-initiated learning.

Carl Rogers

Welcome to the fifteenth edition of *Connect Sector Learning Gazette* – 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@prospect.org.uk

What's New?

Golden Opportunity

Workers on the Olympic Park were invited to down their tools and improve their computer skills and take part in a range of free courses at the launch of the Community and Trade Union Learning Centre, on 21 January. Tessa Jowell, the Olympics minister, Lord Young, minister at the Department for Business, Innovations and Skills, Brendan Barber, General Secretary of the TUC, Quick Reads author Lola Jaye and John Armitt, chairman of the Olympic Delivery Authority, were there to celebrate the opening of the centre.

For the full article go to: <http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/centres/learn-3175-f0.cfm>

Right to Request Time off to Train

Employees, employers and the economy all stand to benefit from the new right to request time off work for training.

Tom Wilson, director of unionlearn, said: 'This new right could transform learning at work. Employers can, of course, say no but will need to show good reason. The similar right to request flexible working resulted in millions of employees making requests with over 90 per cent being agreed by employers. Knowing that they have the right to ask will encourage millions of employees, putting pressure on employers who don't train to think again and helping all employees get a fair chance to improve their skills.'

To read more on this go to: <http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/initiatives/learn-3161-f0.cfm>

Learning at Work

Learning at Work Day

National Learning at Work Day 2010 will take place on 20 May as part of Adult Learners' Week on the theme of '**Creating Connections**'. The Day is about workplaces making a public commitment to learning and skills by holding events and activities for their employees.

Visit: <http://www.campaign-for-learning.org.uk/cfl/WorkplaceLearning/lawday/index.asp>

Six Book Challenge 2010 in the Workplace

The Reading Agency's Six Book Challenge invites adult literacy learners and less confident readers to read six books and record their reading in a diary in order to receive a certificate and incentives along the way. Nearly 9000 adults across the UK took part in 2009, more than 1000 in workplaces through the support of union learning reps.

The Challenge use books such as the Quick Reads series to bring adults back into reading, or picking up a book for the first time. It's a great way to engage people in informal adult learning and develop their skills at the same time. (Read more on the Quick Reads initiative in the article below).

There will be a new prize draw just for workplaces that run both Learning at Work Day and the Six Book Challenge in workplaces in 2010. Organisations that involve a minimum of 50 employees in the Six Book Challenge, in addition to marking Learning at Work Day on 20 May, will be eligible for a national prize draw with a deadline of **30 June**.

For the full article and to find out how to get involved go to:

<http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/initiatives/learn-3180-f0.cfm>

More Quick Reads for World Book Day

Quick Reads are short, sharp shots of entertainment - brilliantly written books by bestselling writers and celebrities.

To mark Quick Reads fifth anniversary on World Book Day 4 March, The Employer Pack for 2010 features ten fantastic new titles from authors such as Andy McNab, Rolf Harris and Cathy Kelly.

Hundreds of employers have used Quick Reads to improve the skills of their workforce and have experienced remarkable improvements in attendance, productivity and morale.



For more information on the Quick Reads Initiative visit: <http://www.quickreads.org.uk/>

To find out more about how to order The Employer Pack for 2010 and receive the new books at a considerable discount, as well as free promotional material for your workplace go to:

<http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/initiatives/learn-3182-f0.cfm>

Adult Learners' Week

Adult Learners' Week is the UK's largest and longest running learning campaign. Held each May, it encourages thousands of adults, whatever their age and background, to give learning a go. Adult Learners' Week will take place from 15-21 May 2010.

The organisations and individuals who get involved each year in promoting the benefits of learning are central to the success of Adult Learners' Week.

From music, sport and dance, to food, fashion and languages, the variety of events held during Adult Learners' Week continues to encourage thousands of people each year to take up learning activities.

To find out more on how to get involved go to: <http://www.alw.org.uk/>

Beyond Learning

Going for Growth

Britain needs a strategic approach to building the foundations of low carbon industrial competitiveness to boost the UK's public finances through sustainable growth, says Business Secretary Lord Mandelson, publishing the Government's UK growth strategy.

The strategy, entitled Going for Growth, describes how the Government has implemented the agenda set out in New Industry New Jobs in 2009. It signposts how it will now build on those foundations in seven key areas:

- Supporting enterprise and entrepreneurial activity;
- Fostering knowledge creation and its innovative application;
- Helping people develop the skills and capabilities to reach their personal and economic potential;
- Investing in the infrastructure required to support a low carbon modern economy;
- Ensuring open and competitive markets allowing business to grow;
- Building on our industrial strengths in sectors where we have expertise and investing to foster new comparative advantage;
- Understanding and employing the right strategic role for government in markets enabling us to capitalise on new opportunities.

To view the full article visit:

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/clientmicrosite/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=410170&NewsAreaID=2&ClientID=431>

Diamond Jubilee

An extra bank holiday will be part of the celebrations to mark Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, Lord Mandelson, President of the Privy Council, announced today.

The Government is planning celebrations to mark this historic occasion which include:

- An additional bank holiday in June 2012:

The holiday will involve moving the late May Bank Holiday to Monday 4 June and **adding an extra bank holiday on Tuesday 5 June** to form a long weekend of celebration.

- A Diamond Jubilee Medal:

In keeping with the Queen's Silver and Golden Jubilees, a Diamond Jubilee medal will be issued to mark the occasion. This is currently under consideration, including the likely recipients, and further details will be announced in due course.

For more, go to:

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/clientmicrosite/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=410141&NewsAreaID=2&ClientID=431>