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Dear Richard,

Welcome to the new look newsletter. We hope you find it useful and interesting. We welcome comments and contributions so why not get in touch.

richard@tull.uk.net

Sincerely,

Richard Crook and Heather De Lyon

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10 years of TULL



Trade Union Learning Link (TULL) is celebrating ten years of support for learning in Norfolk, Suffolk and the wider region. We have been working with trades unions, employers, local learning providers and other key people and organisations to develop learning projects. If you would like to find out more, or how we can help you why not get in touch.

Featured Article

2 Norwich Events

Wise Up
Work Together
Step Up
to the future

Wise Up -

[Train to Gain and Apprenticeships in the public sector](#)

26th February 2009

This meeting is for employers, trades unions, managers and union learning representatives working in the public sector. It will focus on Apprenticeships, Train to Gain and partnership working. It is free to attend.

Step Up - Conference

24th March 2009

This conference will look at a range of activities and topical ideas and is a useful opportunity to network with others involved in learning. It is free to attend.

Suffolk STARS



Congratulations to Suffolk Fire Brigade Union (FBU), who have recently been awarded highly commended in the Workforce Development category of the

Quality Improvement Agency's National STAR awards. It is nice to see some national recognition for all the hard work of this team of ULRs with Adrian Mayhew as their learning coordinator and Steve Brinkley as regional learning co-ordinator.

Adrian said, "we have run a wide range of courses in the past and are now hoping to put on Deaf Awareness courses for all the watches. " Adrian got the idea when he attended a similar session this month run by Dave Cook and Gavin Murrell, ULRs for UNITE and the Communications Workers Union at Ipswich Royal Mail.

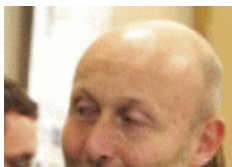
The other Suffolk project to reach the final ten places in the same STAR awards was the Schools Cleaning and



Caretaking team, led by John Davey, in partnership with UNISON. The team have worked really hard for their achievement and this project was chosen as the case study QIA used to highlight good practice in workforce development. Congratulations.

TULL have worked closely with these two projects. Nominations can now be entered for the 2009 awards. If anyone wants any help in making a nomination contact Heather at TULL.

Local Voice, National Panel



Graeme Brinded has been appointed vice chair of the National Learner Panel (NLP). Graeme is a CWU union learning rep at Norwich Royal Mail. He is one of 20

For more information about either event, please go to www.tull.uk.net.

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volunteers from around the country. The NLP is a reference group, set up by the government to provide a learner perspective on emerging further education (FE) policies and initiatives. It aims to put the learners' voice at the heart of the policy-making process. If you want to find out more click link to see their latest newsletter.

ULR Journeys

Union Learning Reps (ULRs) are a very diverse range of people, with a common passion for learning. It is interesting to look at the different progression routes they have chosen since taking up their ULR role.



At the TULL conference in March we will be talking to some ULRs who have moved on. Jenny Rouse began as a print union ULR at Tollitt and Harvey Ltd, in Kings Lynn. She is now works in community learning at the College of West Anglia. Steve Brinkley, from the Fire Brigade Union, has progressed to Regional Learning Co-ordinator, while Avril Brown (pictured) has developed her role within the company into a full-time union/learning support role at the Seven Sisters Food Group. Mark Hughes is the coordinator for the TUC Learning Centre in Norwich and Steve Walker who took up the ULR role at Trox UK in Thetford then became GMB Learning co-ordinator and is now a full time Train to Gain Broker. There will be a chance to hear more about some of their journeys at the TULL conference in March.

ULR Meetings



Meetings for ULRs and others interested in workplace learning have been held recently in Bury, Norwich, Ipswich, Kings Lynn and Lowestoft. The feedback received from these is that they are very useful for making courses viable by opening them up to employees and others from several different workplaces. This gets over the problems of achieving the minimum numbers required by learning providers to make courses viable. Feedback from new ULRs attending is that it is a good way of finding out what else is going on in their areas and making useful and helpful local contacts. Meetings were held in diverse locations to explore new opportunities that might be available, for instance we ran meetings in the museum in Bury, library in Norwich, the UNISON learnig centre in a the James Paget Hospital and CSV Media Centre.

If you want to be added to the mailing list for these meetings please click on www.tull.uk.net. If you want a particular topic

discussed at your next local meeting please let us know info@tull.uk.net.

Skills Accounts for All

The government is planning to introduce 'virtual vouchers' for individuals by 2010 and pilot programmes are already taking place in the east midlands and south east. It is not yet clear how these will work, but those who get Skills accounts will in theory have access to a £500 million government budget, so watch this space. Many who remember the Individual Learning Accounts will recall how useful they were to many people.

Read more:

[Guardian education article](#)

For further information contact:

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