

# ADULT LEARNERS FESTIVAL

## Celebrate Learning

Monday, 22 February 2010

### About

The Adult Learners' Festival 2010 kicks off with a day to celebrate learning! Whether you are an adult learner or an adult and community education provider, Monday is the day for you to celebrate your successes and call attention to your achievements! AONTAS are encouraging learners and providers throughout Ireland to celebrate learning through exhibitions of work, performances, learning trees and presentation ceremonies. The Festival will be officially opened in Dublin at the STAR Awards Ceremony for Adult Learning Projects. The STAR Awards is an awards initiative coordinated by AONTAS to showcase teamwork and award recognition to innovative adult learning initiatives. The ceremony will see over 150 representatives from adult learning initiatives come together to celebrate and recognise the priceless contribution adult learning make to the economy, society and community.

### Event & Activity Ideas

#### Celebrate Achievements

Exhibit artwork, stage a drama, screen a DVD or hold a presentation ceremony! Celebrate the achievements of your learners and invite potential learners' along to discover how adult learning can change lives for the better! Why not host the event in collaboration with other organisations in your area such as the local library or arts centre?

#### Grow a Learning Tree

This initiative allows learners to reflect on what they have achieved through learning as well as providing inspiration for prospective learners.

- You can use a poster or a real tree to represent your learning tree
- Encourage learners to write or draw the impact adult learning has made on their lives and hang it on the learning tree.
- Collate all the contributions into a booklet or display the learning tree in your premises

#### Lights, Camera, Action!

Use your mobile phone or digital camera to capture what learning means to you! To celebrate learning encourage participants to make a short 30 sec video clip about what learning means to them. It might be footage of fellow learners, tutors, books, artwork, a building, a poem, a song! Why not edit the footage together and put it on your website or even You Tube!

#### Inspirational Speaker

Why not invite a celebrity adult learner to speak to learners in your centre followed by a question and answer session? You can hold this event as part of a coffee morning, achievement ceremony or exhibition!

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### **Past, Present and Future!**

Why not document the history of your organisation? This can be done simply by creating a poster timeline marking the major milestones e.g. the year your organisation was established, your first full time staff member etc. Don't forget to dig up old photos! You can launch the 'Timeline' on Celebrate Learning Day and invite local politicians and former learners and staff.

### **Blow the Dust off Your Trumpet courtesy of the National Concert Hall**

Rediscover the joy of making music! Why not invite people who had once played instruments, but then had to put them aside as life made other demands on their time, to take up those instruments again. From castanets to clarinets, guitars to glockenspiels, encourage players of all levels to come together during the Festival. Hold the event in a local library or school hall and blow the dust off your trumpet!

The initiative began in May 2009 as the National Concert Halls contribution to the Bealtaine Festival celebrating creativity in older age. The National Concert Hall wanted to empower older people to rise to the artistic and physical challenges of playing their instruments, and to give them an opportunity to enjoy the social and creative buzz of playing in an ensemble. [www.nch.ie](http://www.nch.ie)

### **Quick Fixes**

- **Hold a workshop on job seeking skills in partnership with local organisations**
- **'Meet the Tutors' Set up an information stand in your local shopping centre or canteen to attract potential adult learners**
- **Include a crossword or information on learning opportunities with staff payslips**
- **Organise a taster class or demonstration for potential learners**
- **Behind the scenes....at the museum / at the university / at the library / at the art gallery**
- **Launch adult learning research or statistics**
- **E-mail your local and national politicians about your concerns for the adult learning sector**

### **AONTAS Can Help!**

We understand that it's often difficult to find the time to hold an event or run an activity so AONTAS have put a number of resources in place to make it as easy as possible for your organisation to become involved in the Adult Learners' Festival 2010.

- An Event in a Bag jam-packed with everything you need to promote your event
- A local contact in each area to share their knowledge and experience
- Activity and Event ideas on [www.adultlearnersfestival.com](http://www.adultlearnersfestival.com)
- Calendar of Events at [www.adultlearnersfestival.com](http://www.adultlearnersfestival.com)
- AONTAS staff on hand for any guidance and assistance you might need

**Don't have the time to organise an event or activity from scratch? You can still be part of the Adult Learners' Festival by scheduling an existing event during the festival week.**

**Don't forget to keep AONTAS up to date on events or activities you have planned. Register your event at [www.adultlearnersfestival.com](http://www.adultlearnersfestival.com)**

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