

This story was filmed and recorded during early February 2006 for 'Hear all about it!'

This campaign is a wonderful selection of inspiring adult learning stories told by the learners themselves. This is the transcript of Kym's interview. Highlights of all the interviews can be watched and read on (www.wmld.org/pages/hear_all_about_it/). The on-line learning champions would be delighted if their stories were used to promote learning in your organisation, college or charity. You can link your webpage to the West Midlands Learning Directory – Hear all about it! page www.wmld.org/pages/hear_all_about_it/.



Kym's mini story -

Got married; I had 2 children with him . . . Rocky relationship. Got divorced and they grew up slightly and I left a 7 year gap, started courses and had a 3rd baby. And I've carried on doing my courses because the child care is fabulous and I haven't had to stop doing anything.

I'm doing Maths, English, Food and Hygiene, art course – which is painting and drawing. And I've done . . . first aid in the past. Well I've always liked Arts and Crafts, things like that, and I've enjoyed doing it. Lots of people have told me that bits and pieces of what I do is nice and... I am doing a drawing and painting course at Adult Ed in Northfield Birmingham at the moment.

I was at school, I last had any formal education, but there were doubts whether I had dyslexia, or anything like that, but nothing was actually done about it, so I was just bottom of the class, basically. Left to catch up (it was in the 70's and 80's) and now I've just had a test for dyslexia and I am Dyslexic.

I've got a really good tutor and she recognised some of my symptoms for herself so she is very helpful. She'll explain it in a totally different way for me and now we're looking at different remedies, to what will actually help me. I've looked at different coloured sheets to put over the writing and things like that and we're just basically looking at the beginnings of it at the moment. I'm spoken to like I'm an adult now, whereas when I was at school you got things wrong 'go and do it again'. Don't explain why I've done it wrong. How I could've done it different and just not talking down to me – they talking to me, sort of thing. That's they way I see it, so it's made me feel a lot more comfortable with learning and doing anything.

Last year I was voted Learner Of The Year at the premises of where I do my courses and it's made me feel proud.

This project was managed by jo.knight@niace.org.uk - who can be contracted for more information. She works for NIACE (National Institute of Adult Continuing Education). Birmingham and Solihull Learning and Skills Council funded the project.

