



£372,893

BIG LOTTERY AWARD COMES TO GLEADLESS VALLEY

LOTTERY FUNDED

Valley Online workers and volunteers at Valley Online Centre, 181 Blackstock Road, Sheffield, S14 1FX

Gleadless Valley Community Forum's Valley Education & Skills Project has been successful in winning one of this year's biggest awards from the Big Lottery - Reaching Communities fund, to make sure that community learning and employment support continues to be available for everyone in Gleadless Valley.



After 9 months of a gruelling selection process, Valley Education & Skills Project workers are over the moon with this success. Not only does it give the staff some job security in harsh times, but more importantly it means they can continue to work with the hundreds of local people who access the project every year and will be there for those they are yet to meet. Employment Support Worker, Anne Smith commented: 'I am just so relieved, the project has helped so many people find work and improve their skills and I am now looking forward to helping many more'. Anne can be found in Valley Online Centre, 181 Blackstock Road along with Cheryl Alvey who volunteers her time and support in the Centre. Cheryl says: 'For me it's that we can still offer free access to computers and the internet and free courses for everyone to learn how to get online. All this in a safe and friendly place nearby'.

The award is for 3 years ensuring that you will be able to take advantage of free and low-cost learning along with free employment support right here in the heart of your community. Project Manager Maxine Groobey says: 'This is a fantastic result for local people, especially in times of recession when the support we offer needs to be free and accessible to everyone.'



The last word should come from one of the many regular users of our service, Gina: 'I have been coming here for years now and have made lifelong friends. I started just coming to learn a bit about computers, now I do crafts with the local craft group, help out at events where I can, regularly email my son who lives away, have learned genealogy and much more. Nothing is too much for the staff and volunteers to help you with. It really has changed my life.'

For more information about what you can get involved with check out the back page of this edition. Find out what the Learning Champions Jo & Helen think and what they have been up to and what short courses are on offer this summer. Hope to see you soon.