



"Putting people first"

ISIS Interactive

The newsletter of
ISIS Training
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Every Learner Matters

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve Economic well-being
- Enjoy and achieve through learning

In this Edition

- ISIS Awards dinner.
- Christmas quiz and features.
- ISIS Training in the community
- ISIS Staff news
- Current training opportunities

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**Merry Christmas and a Happy New year
From all the Staff at ISIS Training
To all our Learners Employers and Customers**



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Welcome to the 2011 Christmas edition of ISIS Interactive, which is packed full of news and seasonal articles for your enjoyment. This is the last edition of ISIS Interactive in its current format and from early 2012 we will have a fully interactive news section on our new updated web site www.isis-training.co.uk which is currently under development. Thanks to everyone who has contributed articles to ISIS Interactive and I hope you have enjoyed reading it as much as I have enjoyed editing and producing it. **Mick Gilroy**

ISIS Training has had another very successful year, which was celebrated at our recent annual awards dinner (see page 2 for a full report and photo's). We have recently been awarded three new learning contracts and we are currently taking on a number of new staff as part of our expansion plans, something we are very proud to be able to do in these times of austerity and high unemployment. We have also got some very exciting plans to further increase and develop our use of technology in learning to improve the both the learning experience and the training we offer to employers.

There are updates on all our news, success and achievements in this issue. Thanks to all our learners, employers and customers for your support once again over the past year and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



The ISIS Awards Dinner 2011

The annual ISIS Awards dinner was once again held at the Sir Admiral Rodney Hotel in Horncastle on the 25th November. The awards dinner celebrated another excellent year for ISIS Training. The event nearly didn't happen as it was very much on the back burner following a very busy year, where like everyone else, we are keeping a careful eye on our finances. However once the decision was made to go ahead, the event was organised extremely well and at very short notice by **Mary Turnor**. The evening consisted of a 3 course meal followed by the presentation of the awards and then a bar and disco until midnight. Around 45 members of staff, plus their partners and guests attended. The evening was a tremendous success and thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended.

Game of the night was "Blow up the Balloon" where everyone tried, some with more success than others, to blow up and launch the torpedo balloons that were on all the tables. This ended up with lots of red faces and exhaustion from the effort put in. PS the Sea Bass wasn't rubbery; you were trying to eat a balloon!

The awards were presented by our new head of ISIS, **Carol Smith** and the ISIS Training Operations Manager, **Mary Turnor**. Awards were presented to a number of staff in various categories, for their hard work, efforts and success over the past year. We also formally welcomed the new **Programmes for the Unemployed team**, who have been transferred from Lincoln College to ISIS Training. They are integrating well into the organisation and no doubt will be in the running to receive awards themselves next year.



Missing Monologue

Unfortunately due to a lack of time to prepare as he has been so busy, **Colin Ashmore** was unable to deliver one of his famous funny monologues, which are normally aimed at Mary! However he has promised to repeat one of his more popular ones (If Mary was a dog!) at the next opportunity and will have a new one ready for next year. We look forward to it Colin.

News Flash - Russell makes it on Time!

Russell Epton, who runs a number of courses for ISIS Training, is notorious for his habit of being late, so for a bit of fun, **Sandra Portess** organised an impromptu sweep stake to bet on his time of arrival. Most people expected him to arrive after dinner had started as usual, but he shocked us all by turning up at 7.23pm, a full 7 minutes before we all sat down. The lucky winner of the pot was **Flick Scott**, who got the time spot on and received a tidy sum, which she no doubt spent at the bar.



The most stupid Xmas presents of all time

- A 12 year old boy received a set of shot glasses from his grandparents!
- 14 year old American girl asked her grandparents for money and received \$50 all in pennies wrapped up in cling film!
- A man bought his wife a 10 pound sack of Himalayan rice!
- A teenage boy got a box about three feet cubed. It was enormously heavy, and didn't do anything when he shook it. Christmas day came along, and it was filled with tightly packed newspaper. At the centre of the newspaper was a brick with "Don't spit on the sidewalk" written on.
- A young boy got a single volume (the letter P) from a set of encyclopaedias. Perhaps the person who gave him it thought they had his presents sorted for another 25 years!

And Other People's Views of Christmas...

- Christmas is a race to see which gives out first – your money or your feet.
Anonymous
- I once bought my kids a set of batteries for Christmas with a note on it saying, toys not included.
-Bernard Manning
- About all you can do is dream of a white Christmas because for most of us it leaves us in the red!
- Let us be naughty and just save Santa the trip!
- "Christmas is like being on your summer holidays abroad. You can start drinking in the morning and nobody minds"! – A BBC Newsreader.
- And remember, nothing's as mean as giving a little child something useful for Christmas.

The Sounds of Christmas Disappointments!

On Christmas day homes all over Britain will be ringing with the sounds of disappointed people opening their Christmas presents and it will sound something like this.....

- The cries of thousands of grannies and elderly ladies saying "Oh no! Not another Daniel O'Donnell CD"!
- The shrieks of hundreds of young brides and girlfriends screaming "Not more ***** red underwear and it's not even my size".
- The sighs of their husbands/boyfriends as they say "Just what I needed, another pair of socks and a woolly jumper with a reindeer on it"
- The shouts of anger of those wives married for 15 years or more who get a new iron or Hoover as they wrap it around their husband's heads.
- The groans of disappointment of their Husbands as they receive the Argos 200 piece screwdriver set they hate just as much as she hates the new iron/Hoover
- The wailing of thousands of kids bitterly disappointed at getting a JPAD Tablet complete with a range of useless and incompatible apps from a discount supermarket instead of an IPAD from Apple!
- Same applies to any MP3 player they receive that isn't an IPOD
- The howls of embarrassment of the overweight or unfit people who get a subscription to slimmer's world or a gym membership.
- This also applies to soap dodgers and personal hygiene neglecters who get body cleansing products, aftershave and deodorants.

Meanwhile in the Kitchen the conversation goes like this!

- "I swore we weren't going to have Turkey this year so why am I struggling with this 20 pound monster"?
- Whilst vegetarians will swear they won't have a nut roast next year and then realise there is nothing else *FOR them to have!*
- "How did I know your new girlfriend was allergic to the cinnamon in the mince pies"?
- "Those chips taste like Parsnips"
- "No, white spirit on the Xmas pudding won't do the same job as Brandy"!
- "Are the sprouts done yet? – "Yes I've had them on since Halloween just to make sure"

Christmas Point to Ponder!

Why is the song "**The Power of Love**" by **Frankie goes to Hollywood**, classed as a Christmas song? There is not one single word or reference to Christmas, Winter, Snow, Santa Claus, Baby Jesus, 3 wise men, Religion or anything else that could be remotely associated with Christmas in the song. Yet it is dragged out every year added to Xmas playlists, Xmas CD Compilations, TV Adverts and Supermarket piped music without fail, alongside the terminally tedious "Last Christmas" by Wham and Noddy Holder screaming "Merry Christmas"..... Unless of course you count the extremely tenuous connection of the lead singer's name, **HOLLY Johnson!**



Christmas Wordsearch



E H S S V H S G N B B E I Y C
 L P G E M O P N L P M Y E A C
 V L F O E L J I N L J K N R K
 E O W T X L M D K I N D Z K S
 S D N E E Y Y D Q O L B A S M
 V U M L D B V U D E N T T C S
 U R C T P E L P S V A O N F T
 Z W N S K L N L Q W C I A Y A
 Q S S I W L J E B K S T S E R
 A E J M S S T S I C T J Q S C
 N T L G Z N E N H T A E R W Y
 G B Z G E G G I C N W M T H M
 E M N V Z S W T O M K Y I R F
 L D D R N L Q G W M Q Z N U S
 S A O K F U X Y T I V I T A N

Advent	Nativity
Angels	Pudding
Bells	Rudolph
Candles	Santa
Donkey	Star
Elves	Stockings
Holly	Tinsel
Mistletoe	Wreath



How ISIS Training are contributing to the community

Age UK Spread the Warmth: By Sandra Portess

Most of you will have heard of Age UK, the Age UK Group works to improve later life for everyone by providing life-enhancing services and vital support. Age UK is the only UK charity to focus its research funds exclusively on how we are in later life. They go on to explain 'That's because we believe that we should all be able to enjoy good health in later life, free from the diseases and disabilities associated with growing older and the consequences that they can bring about, such as social isolation, anxiety, frailty and loss of independence.'

Their website is excellent providing as you would expect relevant advice and support. There is also something on there worth taking a look at, a little section, part of their **Spread the Warmth** campaign. Visit the site and follow the links to the videos called **Warm Stories**, like they say sometimes it is the smallest things that can make us feel all happy and warm inside. Have a look and watch the videos to see some of the things that have made a difference to people.

And while you are on the site, check out the keeping warm winter tips, they are useful for all; did you know that air is colder at floor level and therefore putting your feet up will keep you warmer?

And before you leave the site, check the link to **Donate a Coat**; this is the second year for this vital campaign that aims to spread the warmth by selling good quality donated winter coats in their shops, all the profits made are ploughed back into their winter warmth projects. Big names have already donated such as Dame Helen Mirren and Stella McCartney, so have a look in your wardrobe; last years fashion to you could be just the pre-loved ticket for someone else.

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/>

Children in Need – How ISIS Learners have Contributed

- This year Lincoln Foundation Tier Learners have raised money for Children in Need in a number of ways. Firstly we had a bake sale. Learners brought cakes in from home and sold them to staff for 20p each. Josh went around the offices with his tub of cakes and collected money for the charity.
- Over the last month Meg has had a Pudsey the bear competition going in the office. Staff had to pay £1 to put their name to a cake on the Pudsey wall chart, the winner will be revealed tomorrow.
- A leg wax-a-thon will take place on 12th Dec in our Lincoln centre. Josh Wilkinson, Chris Brodigan, Jamie Lyon, Martin Lawrenson, Lee Johnson and Daniel White have all raised money from family and friends to have a leg waxed each!
- Apprentice Sam Frisby of Blue Castle in Long Bennington came into work wearing Pyjama's and paid a £1 for the privilege. He says it was the most comfortable day at work ever!
- Apprentice Allie Ross of Cool Milk Lincoln, helped his company raise £527.88 for Children in Need by serving a Breakfast Barbeque and a buffet lunch.



The Lincoln Food bank

Our Foundation Learning teams are currently collecting donations for the Lincoln Food bank. They have placed collection boxes for donations of non-perishable foods, i.e. tins and packets in all our centres and welcome any donations. The food will be distributed to needy people in Lincolnshire through the Lincoln Community Larder. Hopefully their efforts will help improve Christmas for some of the more needy and vulnerable people in society.

Food bank provides emergency food parcels for people who, for whatever reason, find themselves with empty shelves and no money to spend. Food is kindly donated by people from the local church community, from schools and through collections outside supermarket entrances. This food is then arranged into hampers to suit the requirements of the individuals and families in need. In the first 6 months of operations, Food bank, along with partners Lincoln Community Larder, helped over 1,000 people. Food bank in Lincoln is hosted at The Bridge in partnership with Lincoln New Life Church. Go to

http://ecclincn.org.uk/bridge_foodbank.html for further information



Every Learner Matters
"Make a Positive Contribution"

Useful tips for white vinegar.

By Kelly Ann Dickinson

Vinegar is amazing, astounding, and in some cases just plain fun. We hope you enjoy some of the interesting tidbits we've gathered about this versatile product



Timeless

- Vinegar has been used for 10,000 years. It just might be the world's oldest ingredient!
- The main uses for white distilled vinegar are cooking/food preparation and cleaning/disinfecting.

World Renowned

- The International Vinegar Museum is in Roslyn, South Dakota.
- The International Vinegar Festival is held every June in Roslyn, South Dakota.

The Pride of the South

- Consumers in the South buy and use more white distilled vinegar than in any other region of the country.

There she blows!

- Adding vinegar to baking soda produces a chemical reaction that produces carbon dioxide. This combination is often used to make a do-it-yourself erupting volcano.

Pets:

Humans aren't the only ones that can enjoy the many uses for white distilled vinegar-even our four-legged friends can benefit.

Give your dog a gleaming coat. By spraying or rubbing with a solution of 1 cup white distilled vinegar to 1 quart water. As a bonus, you save the cost of an expensive shine product used on show animals. (Works even on a horse!)

Keep a dog from scratching its ears. By wiping them out regularly with a soft cloth dipped in undiluted white distilled vinegar.

Discourage a cat from sitting on a certain windowsill or other surface. Or from scratching upholstery, by spraying white distilled vinegar on the item. Test first on an unnoticeable area to be sure there won't be a discoloration.

Keep a cat out of a garden area. By placing paper, a cloth, or sponge there that has been soaked in white distilled vinegar.

Get rid of the deposits and water lines that form in aquariums and fish bowls. By wiping them down with white distilled vinegar and following with a good rinse. For stubborn deposits, soak for several hours or overnight.

Keep the birdbath clean. By scrubbing it often with undiluted white distilled vinegar. Rinse well.

Remove cat litter odour. By pouring ½ inch of white distilled vinegar in the empty litter box. Let it stand for 20 minutes, swish it around, then rinse with cold water.

Kill fleas. By adding a little white distilled vinegar to your dog or cat's drinking water.

Remove pet odours. After cleaning, cover the area with baking soda. Let it stand overnight. The next day vacuum up the baking soda and wash the area with white distilled vinegar. Rinse and let dry.

Cats hate the smell of vinegar. If you have a cat that is marking its territory around your house, spray the area with white distilled vinegar then rinse with a hose.

Follow this link www.vinegartips.com to get more tips for cleaning, laundry, health, automotive, pets and cooking.



★ ★ ★ The 2011 Entertainment Awards ★ ★ ★



A light-hearted look at the good, the bad and the ugly in the world of entertainment during 2011

Most Disappointing TV Shows

1. **Billy Connolly's Route 66** – Driving down Route 66 is on my personal “bucket list”, so I watched this every week, hoping to pick up some ideas and hoping the programme was going to get better, but it never did. He went to the most uninteresting places and met the most boring people during the trip and missed all the really good places to visit. Example: Who is really bothered about someone who stands wrecked cars on end in a field, invites anyone passing by to spray graffiti on them and then calls it art? Mind you, he'll probaly win the Turner prize now.
2. **Pan-Am** – I was expecting a semi-biographical account of the famous American Airline. I got a soap whose story lines were worse than Emmerdale's, including the Air Hostess who is spying for the CIA – utterly ridiculous.
3. **Downton Abbey** – I watched it once to see what all the fuss was about, it was basically Upstairs, Downstairs revisited, with far too many annoying ad breaks, which stretched the programme to 1 hour 15 mins, 15 mins over my normal TV programme attention span of 60 minutes (unless it's sport or music)

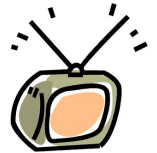


Best Comedy on TV

Same as last year. **An Idiot Abroad 2** (Sky 1) Karl Pilkington presenting, or being forced to present, his bucket list, closely followed by the latest series of Benidorm, which wins the award for the funniest one liners on TV.

Worst Comedy on TV

Mount Pleasant – (Sky 1) A so called comedy drama about a woman and her family and friends living in the “Affluent North” that wasn't remotely funny. Also Ricky Gervais's contribution to An Idiot Abroad 2, as bad as his contribution to the first series and again, most of the BBC's attempts at Sitcoms (I. E. My Family and other outdated rubbish which follow the standard BBC middle class, home counties suburbia format)



Worst Gig of the year

Status Quo at Lincoln showground: 2 -300 people turned up on a freezing cold night to watch Quo go through he motions and it cost an extortionate £30.



Best Gig of the Year

A bit of toe-gazing nostalgia at the Manchester Carling Academy, packed to the rafters, with those 90'S Indie Rockers “**The Wedding Present**”, playing their Bizzaro album in its entirety, followed by the best of the rest of their back catalogue.

Best comeback announcement

The Stone Roses - Re-forming for 3 shows in Heaton Park Manchester, which sold out in minutes (I've got my ticket!) and then a new album and a world tour, to show the rock and pop world what they have been missing.



Worst comeback announcement

Adam Ant going on a comeback tour which includes Lincoln Engine shed (I won't be buying a ticket)!!

Most annoying sports commentators of the year

All football commentators who insist on referring to the Italian Football League Series A (i.e their 1st division) as “**Serry ARR**” or “**Serry AHH**”. The Spanish League La Liga as “**La Leega**”. But mysteriously refer to the German Bundesliga as “**The Bundesliga**” probably because mimicking a German accent is politically incorrect , but they think it is OK to do it in Spanish or Italian.

Worst Film

Well there was plenty to choose from such as **Abduction, Zookeeper and Big Mommas: Like father like Son**, but the winner is **The Hangover Part 2**, which is basically the Hangover Part 1 repeated, but a lot cruder and unfunnier than the first one. Comedy sequels rarely ever work and even the few successful ones spoil it by making a part three (The American Pie films for example), because basically all the jokes have been done the first time around. So the producers try to get around this with Hangover Part 2, by making it more shocking and crude and it doesn't work. Anyway how can you have part 2 of a Hangover? When its gone its gone!



The ISIS Team

Head of ISIS Training
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Mary Turnor

WBL Managers
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Nicky Bush

Quality Manager
Pip Whiteman

E-Learning Manger
Mick Gilroy

Foundation Learning Manager
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Meera Chauhan
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Vicky Mitchell (Team Leader)
Hannah Parker
Flick Scott

Foundation Learning Newark
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Business Development Lincoln
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Business Development Boston
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ISIS Staff News

Arrivals, Departures and Movements

There have been no arrivals or departures over the last 2 months, but this will radically change over the next 2 months as ISIS Training expands and takes on new staff. The recruitment campaign for our 9 new vacancies, which closed on 9th December, is going well and we are now sifting through the applicants and short listing people for interview. In these times of high unemployment we are very proud, as a relatively small organisation, to be able to offer so many job opportunities.



ISIS Staff get to grips with our new E-Portfolio System

We have recently introduced a new Electronic Portfolio, One-file, to replace the systems which we have been currently using as we continue to develop and improve our use of technology. This is the most complex system we have used to date, far superior to the previous systems and has required a lot of training and practice to get used to. After a few teething troubles, it is now established within our Work Based Learning Departments and we are now looking to fully exploit and develop all the capabilities of the system. This will greatly improve the learning and assessment we deliver and both learners and employers will benefit from the system.

Richard launches new E-Marketing Strategy

Richard Appleton, our Lincoln Business Development Broker, has been developing a new E-marketing strategy using readily available applications such as Twitter, Facebook and some very innovative programmes and Apps he has discovered himself. Having been given a preview of his plans, I can confirm they are very exciting and innovative and should once again highlight ISIS Training as one of the sector leaders in the use of technology.

Richard will be launching the new strategy at our final ISIS Staff meeting of the year on Friday 16th December. The tools will then be used to promote the products and services ISIS Training offers to as wide an audience of prospective learners, employers and customers as possible.

ISIS Training enter into new Technology Partnerships

As part of our plans for further developing our Information and Learning Technology strategy for 2012, ISIS Training have entered into two new partnerships arranged by Mick Gilroy, the ISIS Training E-Learning Manager, through the Learning Skills Improvement Service (LSIS)

The first partnership is with **MANTRA Learning** of Manchester, who we will assist to develop and support an integrated E-Marketing strategy and help build new tools and applications to maintain and promote contact with learners and employers. This is part of an LSIS Learning Improvement Technology programme, for which we have been selected as the chosen mentor for MANTRA Learning, but then agreed we would like to take a more active part in the project as it will benefit both organisations

The second partnership is as part of the new LSIS **Learning Providers Technology Network** which replaces the Technology Exemplar Network of which ISIS Training have been an exemplar provider member for the last 3 years. We expect both partnerships to be very successful and assist ISIS Training to remain at the forefront as one of the leading providers in the use of technology for learning.

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Putting people first

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About ISIS

As one of Lincolnshire's leading and most respective training providers ISIS Training can provide fully funded or very low cost training for new and existing employers. Most of our qualifications are work based to ensure minimum disruption to your business and are all tailored to your specific needs and work practices. At ISIS we utilise a wide range of technology in all our qualifications including electronic portfolios and assessment methods using digital cameras, voice recorders and laptop computers. These are enhanced with well proven traditional assessor visits and evidence gathering. We currently offer qualifications in:

- **Business Administration**
- **Team Leading**
- **IT User**
- **Accounting**
- **Hospitality and Catering**
- **Customer Service Management**
- **IT Practitioner**
- **Legal Secretary**

Become a progressive employer – take on an Apprentice!

AAT Programmes

ISIS are currently recruiting learners for AAT Qualifications

We are currently recruiting learners for our range of accounting programmes, all of which are fully approved and accredited by the Association of Accounting Technicians: We offer the latest QCF Standards in: -



- NVQ Level 2 Certificate (Foundation)
- NVQ Level 3 Diploma (Intermediate)
- NVQ Level 4 Diploma (Technician)
- Learning is delivered through small group tuition on a weekly basis with individual tutor support as required.
- Flexibility on start dates and exam dates.
- Excellent success rates at all levels – above the national average
- No prior knowledge or experience required
- Some funding available subject to certain criteria.
- We use the latest Electronic Portfolio systems and on-line testing

To further discuss accounting opportunities, please call us for an informal chat at either of our specialist centres listed below.

Boston (Pam or Nicky) 01205 354171

Lincoln (Richard) 01522 532225

Hospitality and Catering Opportunities

We also have a number of opportunities to take Hospitality and Catering qualifications. ISIS Training offer a wide range of City and Guilds qualifications at levels 1 – 3 which cover a variety of areas such as: Food and Beverage, Food Preparation and Cooking, Front Office, Housekeeping and Management

To further discuss Hospitality and Catering opportunities, please call us for an informal chat at either of our specialist centres listed below.

Boston (Pam) 01205 354171

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