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Potty decision leads to fulfilling career

by Rebecca Younger



Su Rogers from Aldershot who teaches pottery at ACL in Guildford and Woking.

A FORMER office worker, who took up pottery as a hobby 12 years ago, is now teaching at the Surrey centre where she first learned her skill.

Su Rogers first attended an open evening at Surrey Adult and Community Learning (ACL) in search of a pastime to help her cope with a bereavement. Little did she know the hobby would turn into a life-long passion that would free her from her desk and set her life on an exciting new path.

"I was working in an office, not fulfilled, and knew I had a creative streak that needed to be unleashed. When my sister died I began looking into classes as a way of staying calm and giving myself focus," the 51-year-old said. "I'd always been intrigued by pottery, so joined the evening class and made a simple sculpture. From then on I was hooked."

"I kept progressing at ACL and was eventually asked to teach a few of classes of my own. It made me realise this was what I wanted to do, so I left my job, studied for an honours degree and now I

make a living doing what I love."

Su now teaches part-time at the Woking and Guildford ACL centres, as well as producing and selling her own work from her home studio. Her students' creations were showcased in an exhibition at the Harvey Gallery in July, where more than £1,000 worth of work was sold in just two weeks.

"I like to give my students the freedom and support to create whatever they want. The classes are designed to pull out people's hidden creativity in a way that's fun, not fixed," Su added. "A few of my students have set up their own home studios and I'm currently mentoring another ACL student as she works toward her degree."

"You only live once, so I would encourage anyone to make the most of it by taking up a hobby and continually learning. It helps to expand the mind and can open a lot of new doors."

Join pottery taster session at the Guildford ACL Centre on Saturday October 8. For information and bookings, visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/adultlearning or call the centre on 01483 518 528. To find out more about Su and take a look at her own work visit www.surogers.com.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL / ADULT & COMMUNITY LEARNING

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