



# Workplace values never age

A DIAMOND Valley workplace trainer is encouraging businesses to value the knowledge and experience of the over-50s workforce.

With National Career Development Week now on, until May 22, Aspin Group director Margaret Aspin said experience was an "undervalued commodity" and employers should take advantage of workers not yet ready to retire.

"It's really unfortunate that some people hold significantly outdated beliefs about what it means to be a worker over 50 years of age," Ms Aspin said.

"Times have changed and we're a lot fitter than our parents and grandparents were at our age.

"More people are working longer; many still want to learn new things and, let's face it, getting old isn't what it used to be."

Ms Aspin, 53, said training older workers had many benefits, particularly as they could then pass their skills to younger employees.

"To develop the careers of people over the age of 50 has many follow-on effects," she said.

"It doesn't just benefit the worker in question, but means that person

will be better prepared to act as a mentor to younger members of staff.

"It comes down to being able to share sometimes decades worth of knowledge, and that doesn't just help young people on the team but the future of the business itself," Ms Aspin said.

Margaret Aspin is helping older workers retrain for alternative employment.

N47DV208

