



Literacy Matters

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Adult Literacies Funding Awards

5 Successful Bids



Following the success of its pilot project earlier this year, **Eden Court**

Theatre will provide a further series of Adult Literacy Workshops based on exploring a variety of theatre topics. There will be eight weekly 2½ hour sessions in total for up to twelve learners. The project will run from October to November 2004. Award £2,420

Highland Libraries are planning Rhyme Time sessions with pre-school children and their parents/carers in Invergordon and Merkinch, Inverness. Invitations to take part will be sent to people identified by partners working with early years support agencies. Library staff will lead 8 weekly one hour sessions which will include action rhymes, stories and songs which parents could participate in with their children. The rhyme session would be followed by a variety of craft and play activities linking to a theme – 3 in total - animals, transport and seasons. An adult literacy tutor would be present at each session. The project will run from September to December 2004.

Award £2,738

Isabel Rhind Centre will adapt the successfully piloted 'Know your City' programme developed for adults with learning difficulties. There will be twelve weekly sessions, targeted at a group of eight learners, focussing on the town of Invergordon. Following the initial 12 weeks, staff involved will cascade training to other members of staff so that the course can be rolled out to other learners who attend the centre. The project will run from September 2004 to January 2005.

Award £1,451

Lochaber and Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Libraries aim to support adult learners with low literacy levels by purchasing appropriate library resources – the First Choice collection and Vista series. They will encourage usage with suitable displays and through promotion by ABE tutors. They will train staff to respond to the needs of emergent readers and they will undertake Vital Link training with the Reading Agency. The project will run from September 2004 to March 2005. Award £8,349

Sabhal Mor Ostaig plan to transfer the existing course materials for their previously developed course "Cuir Peann" on-line as an inter-active study pack, which could either be used for reference by learners or as a support pack for future Gaelic literacies' provision. An innovative support feature will be the introduction of an all-year round help line. Additions would be made to the existing course, including self-assessment, message boards and audio links. The project will run from September 2004 to March 2005. Award £10,000

Funding Deadlines

The next deadlines for applications for Adult Literacies Funding are:



Monday 4th October
Monday 6th December
Friday 25th February
Friday 27th May

Decisions will be made about a fortnight later and successful applicants informed as soon as possible after that.

If you have an idea for a project but you are not sure of how to carry it forward, please contact us at the Adult Literacies Office as we would be very happy to discuss this with you.

Application forms are available both in hard copy and electronic format from the Adult Literacies Office.

Eden Court Project

By Jill Crawshaw

A partnership project was funded by Highland Adult Literacies bringing together Adult Basic Education Inverness and Eden Court Theatre Outreach to provide a basic literacies programme using the context of drama and the theatre.



The aim of the project was to encourage learners to think creatively and work together to produce written work; thereby lowering the barriers which some folk encounter in producing creative written work on their own initiative. The project also aimed to introduce learners to drama and the theatre in an informal and non-threatening atmosphere.



The project sessions included plenty of ice-breaker and warm up activities which helped participants get to know each other and aid collaborative working

The sessions used creative interactive story telling activities as a means to contextualise writing tasks. Use was also made of video equipment and ICT software for producing 'comic strip' storyboards. Learners were invited to record these stories and

write short screenplay scripts in small groups.

The project received very positive feedback from the participating learners. The following are some of the positive comments which were recorded during our evaluation process.

'only one to go and I've enjoyed it. It has been very, very good.'

'... and we wrote the script of a western and gave the parts... and I came in with the gun and held it at everyone...and, right from the word go, I just thought it was brilliant.'

'Getting to meet people I hadn't met before was absolutely brilliant'

(Do you think you would feel happy about sitting down and writing a story yourself, if you wanted to do it?) *'I'd give it a try anyway.'*

Highland Learners' Stories

Earlier this year the Highland Community Learning Partnership published a booklet entitled 'Go for it!' featuring adult learners in Highland. The inspiring stories detail the experiences of 12 learners from diverse backgrounds who studied a variety of courses at a variety of levels; the one thing that unites them is that they embarked upon their courses as adults. If you would like to receive copies of the booklet, please contact us.

Stressed?

Big Plus Promotional Material



We still have supplies of stress balls, calculators, rulers, carrier bags, and key rings. We also have posters, leaflets, window stickers and cards with cardholders plus the Big Plus Promotional Film in VHS, DVD and CD Rom formats.

If you would like to receive any of these items, please give us a call.

Training Courses



These sessions are free and open to anyone who is interested. To book,

your place, please telephone or Email Chris McLintock at the Highland Adult Literacies Office.

**THURSDAY 7th OCTOBER 2004
11.00 – 13.00 followed by lunch**

The Power of Words. An International Perspective

A video session with international speaker Mary Hamilton comparing literacy delivery in Scotland with delivery in other countries. How the emphasis on literacy depends on government policy and how this can change. Opportunity for discussion of the issues this raises.

(Originally presented for the Learning Connections Practitioner Seminars series November 2003)

Location: Committee Room 3, Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness

**THURSDAY 9th DECEMBER 2004
Time to be confirmed**

Working with Gypsy/Travellers

An awareness raising session which will include real-life case studies focussing on Education issues and also dealing with equality and inclusion.

Presented by Karen MacMaster, Interrupted Learners Development Officer

Location: Ross County Football Club, Ferry Road, Dingwall

If you, or your organisation, would like arrange and stage any training related to Adult Literacies, outside the Inverness area, please get in touch as we may be able to fund this.