



This Issue

- 1** Adult Literacies Funding Award
- 1** Funding Deadlines
- 1** ESOL Tutors
- 1** Foreign Language Books
- 2** Workplace Literacy
- 2** SFEU Communities of Practice in Adult Literacies
- 3** Literacies at Calman
- 3** METODA Grundtvig Project
- 4** BBC RaW Campaign
- 4** Big Plus Resources
- 4** Training Courses

Literacy Matters

Adult Literacies Funding Award

Eden Court Theatre has been awarded £1,305 for a project for ESOL learners based on their previously successful Literacies through Theatre Arts Workshops. Located in Nairn, the project will provide 6 weekly sessions for up to 10 learners between this November and Christmas.

Funding Deadlines

The next deadlines for Adult Literacies Funding applications are:



Friday 2nd December
Friday 3rd February
Friday 21st April
Friday 18th August

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

If you have an idea for a project but you are not sure how to carry it forward, please contact us at the Adult Literacies Offices as we would be very happy to discuss this with you. An updated application form, available in both hard copy and electronic formats, was issued in January and is available from the Adult Literacies Office.

ESOL Tutors

We have started compiling a database of tutors who have a professional ESOL qualification, for example CELTA or Trinity TESOL. It may be possible that some of the literacies partners

will be looking for tutors in this field and there may be freelance work available. If you would like to be included on our database and would like to hear about ESOL teaching opportunities in Highland, please get in touch.



Foreign Language Books

in Highland Libraries

Inverness Library is about to take delivery of a collection of fiction books in Spanish, French, Russian and Polish. There will be 50 titles in each language, which will be changed 3 times a year (that's 200 new books every 4 months!). The books will be available for borrowing from any other library in the Highlands, and will also be available for booking through the online library catalogue

(<http://highlandlibraries/TalisPrism> - click on 'items recently added').

This is a pilot project to see how great the demand is for books in other languages – the popularity of the material will help inform future stock levels and which languages prove most popular. The books will be on the shelves in Inverness Library by the end of November. For further information on this and how Highland Libraries is supporting ESOL learners, please contact Carol Hart (Stock Co-ordinator) at the Library Support Unit on 01463 251255 or email carol.hart@highland.gov.uk.

Workplace Literacies

by Sheila Maher, Workplace Literacies Tutor Organiser, WEA

I am delighted to be able to begin this article with news that our very first project is the winner of the Chairman's Award in The Highland Council Quality Awards 2005. The ceremony took place in Carbisdale Castle on 1st November. Five members of the project gave a presentation to a judging panel on 31st October and attended the awards ceremony to receive the award from Muriel Gray.

This Project was set up to develop ICT skills to produce a Newsletter for residents and staff in Duthac House Care Home, Tain and ran for 10 weeks from February to April and then for a further 10 weeks from July to September. Seven students completed both ten week courses. A further 7 members of staff developed a second Newsletter and two of the original group have successfully completed their SQA in Communications. Staff at Duthac House are now on the hunt for a suitable computer to

allow them to produce further editions of the Newsletter on their own.

Elsewhere we have delivered courses in Inverness, Skye and Kingussie to students working in both the public and private sector. Courses are tailored to the needs of both the employer and employees. Pre-course learning needs are assessed and agreed prior to developing the course. This has resulted in tailor made courses varying in length and course content. Computers are used to deliver all our courses. This can at times be quite a challenge, creating some interesting movements of resources.

Our workplace tutors need to have experience in IT, basic literacies and group work within a workplace setting. Twelve people completed the 2 day WEA training course in 2004. Three of our regular tutors have also now completed their ITALL training.

All our courses are evaluated by the students and the other stakeholders including employers, managers and trade union officials. This gives us a real insight into how well our courses fit into the needs of a modern workforce.

Meeting with my WEA colleagues and our co-ordinator, Liz Beevers 3 or 4 times a year provides very useful support from the WEA network throughout Scotland with a sharing of ideas, resources, contacts and good practice. I am collaborating with a Glasgow colleague just now on using games and puzzles for numeracy learners.

A new and very challenging project has just been completed in Haven Products, Inverness. Haven is a not for profit organisation and employs 163 people in its 4 sites across Scotland, 82% of whom are disabled. Twelve of the 14 students who embarked on one of two 10 week courses have successfully completed the course and discussions are under way on how to take this initiative forward. Invaluable support with this group of students has been provided by Jill Crawshaw, Inverness ABE Co-ordinator and Jan Stephen of LEAD Scotland.

I'm always interested in new contacts so if you know of a workforce somewhere in the Highlands who may benefit from this project, then please do get in touch on 01463 710577 or email s.maher@weascotland.org.uk.

SFEU Communities of Practice in Adult Literacies

The launch of the new SFEU Communities of Practice website will now be on Thursday 23rd February and details of this will be available in December. The trialling of the website is now running, allowing tutors to exchange good practice and share challenges. If you are interested in taking part in this trial, please contact Jessica McKinley at Jessica.mckinley@sfeu.ac.uk. The SFEU website address is www.sfeu.ac.uk.



Literacies at Calman

Calman was formed in 1998 to provide housing support to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Since then we have developed an integrated service in Easter Ross and Inverness, providing a range of support options to more than fifty young people at a time. In addition to practical housing support, young people preparing to leave home for the first time, struggling to manage their first tenancy, or experiencing homelessness can join in lifeskills learning at Calman.

Joining up housing support with lifeskills learning gives added value to these two services:

- Young tenants using Calman housing support know our service well, and are more likely to maintain involvement in other programmes, such as literacy or employability.
- Young people who engage with the lifeskills programme at school or at our base are more likely to seek help when housing issues do arise, and are easily referred for housing support if they need it in future.
- Young people who drop in at Calman for housing advice can access lifeskills options and/or housing support if they need it.

We have been able to offer literacy and numeracy support as part of the Calman programme since January 2004.

Ann Gillies, our Literacies Worker describes her role in working with the young people she meets at Calman or through partner services, young people who are usually hard to reach:

Selling literacies to young people is not easy, especially when bad experiences at school are hard to erase. Where's the relevance when you just need a house?

I'm in the fortunate position of working with young people referred by support workers from Calman, with whom they already have a positive relationship. The partnership between support and literacies works well because we're all reinforcing the importance of bettering yourself.

One young student states:

"I wanted to learn because I was a nanny and I couldn't help the kids with their homework. My support worker told me about the Literacy Worker. I gave it a try and now I can help the kids do stuff, but I feel OK to say when I can't, but I usually give it a try... At school I was always getting kicked out of classes. I couldn't understand the work, but I didn't want to make it obvious so I played up. The teacher said I didn't have any concentration. As long as nobody knew that I didn't understand it - I didn't mind!"

At Calman we start by having a bit of fun getting to know each other and then we design an action plan around relevant topics as well as literacy focused activities. I start with the principle that any subject can be turned into a literacy/numeracy activity; it's the motivation that's hard to fire up. If you're learning something that is needed in your life right now, you're more likely to actively engage with the subject - even if the learning outcome might be: *we will learn when to use capital letters*; this can be done by reading up on child health for 1 year olds or answering questions from the encyclopaedia of fishing.

We then create a 6-week learning timetable around the action plan. We adjust it if the topics or outcomes aren't working for the learner. Two or three months on we look through

the learner's file - you can see the journey they've travelled. They're always amazed by the amount of work they've done, and usually a little impressed with their achievement. The motivation is reinforced.

After a while they usually suggest more focused activities around ideas such as learning to drive or getting a job.

"I missed out on a lot of stuff at school like spelling and punctuation and I still struggle with it. I realise now that I need to know how to spell to get a job. I'd probably be sacked if I just spelt like I do on my texts!"

The more I learn about literacy teaching, the more I realise that there isn't a quick fix solution. Literacy learning is lifelong for everyone, but if you pitch it right and release the motivation the young people will do the lion's share.



METODA Grundtvig Project

The first meeting of the Grundtvig Partnership to progress METODA (Methodological Exchange between Trainers Of Disadvantaged Adults) will be taking place at the end of November in Madrid. Taking a lead role for Highland will be Calman Trust, and Heather Pirie the newly appointed Peer Mentoring Worker with Calman will be attended this preliminary meeting along with Mary. Once the project is underway it is hoped that there will be chances for other Highland Groups within the Adult Literacies partnership to take part in some of the activity and benefit from the experience and good practice from other countries.

BBC RaW Campaign

Launched at the end of September, RaW is a 3 year campaign which aims to improve everyday literacy skills in a user-friendly environment. With outreach activity throughout the UK and broadcast content across every platform, RaW will not only be the biggest adult literacy campaign the BBC has ever undertaken, it will be the first to have entertainment at its core. TV, radio and online commitment is growing day by day, with links into the UK's favourite drama and entertainment programming to support and complement the campaign. Further information about the campaign can be found on the BBC website at www.bbc.co.uk/raw.

Big Plus Resources

Youth Literacies

The new DVD *The Big Plus for Young People* was launched by Learning Connections recently at their Youth Literacies Conference. We can obtain free copies if you feel it would be a useful tool so, if you would like a copy, please can you let us know by the end of November.

Big Plus in Libraries

This promotion was launched on International Literacy Day on 8th September. It aims to ensure that there is a wide range of material available for learners and that library staff are aware of how best to support them. The first stage was to offer collections of books to libraries and to identify someone in the library service (the Big Plus Link) to co-ordinate activity. An information pack has also been produced.

For Business

The Big Plus for Business explains how employers can take steps to develop literacy and numeracy support for their staff. A resource pack including a video, dvd and booklets has been produced to promote this.

We have copies of the resources available for borrowing from our

resource bank in the Adult Literacies Office, so if you would like to borrow any of them please get in touch.

Website

Further information about the Big Plus Campaign can be found on their new website on www.thebigplus.com.

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 Adult Literacies Office.

FRIDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2005
10.30 to 12.30 followed by lunch

Prison Literacies

Have you ever wondered what working in prison is like? This workshop will tell you about the work of prison literacies and would be particularly useful to literacies tutors interested in working with prisoners in the future.

Presented by Norman Ross
Prison Literacies Liaison Officer

THURSDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2006
10.30 to 12.30 followed by lunch

Bookstart in Highland

This session will provide background and highlights of Highland Libraries' involvement in Bookstart, the national book-gifting scheme for children and their families. Research has shown that Bookstart assists in accelerated language development in children as well as promoting family literacy. As Bookstart relies on solid multi-agency partnerships, this presentation should be of interest to anyone working in family literacy settings.

Presented by Michelle Gowans
Young Children and Families
Co-ordinator, Highland Libraries

TUESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2006
10.30 to 12.30 followed by lunch

Understanding Career Planning

Using a mixture of fun activities and Labour Market myths, this workshop aims to stimulate an awareness of the effective career planning approach promoted by Careers Scotland and the importance of career planning skills in a world of change.

The workshop will include activities linking career planning to literacies which could be used with many different client groups.

Presented by Shona Laidlaw
Senior Advisor, I, N, B & S,
Careers Scotland

(This course was postponed from 8th November 2005)

The venue for all the above courses is: The Beaufort Hotel, 11 Culduthel Road, Inverness

USING TABLET PCS

Presented by John Nethercott,
Literacy/IT Co-ordinator, BaSIL+

Further courses will be held later in the year in **Ross-shire and Skye**. If you are interested in attending, please let us know and we will put your name on the waiting list and contact you with specific details when finalised.

These courses are primarily for adult literacies tutors who are planning to use the tablet PCs with groups of learners.