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# Literacy Matters

## Adult Literacies Funding Awards

### 2 Successful Bids

**TAG Highland** has been awarded £22,221 to develop a programme of numeracy and financial literacy for its client group in the Caithness area. The project will run until October 2006.

Following the award from the Scottish Executive to the library at Porterfield Prison to buy books for prisoners to read to their children during visits, **Adult Basic Education** had been awarded a grant of £942 to purchase extra resources and storage for the books used in this project.

## Funding Deadlines

The next deadlines for Adult Literacies Funding applications are:



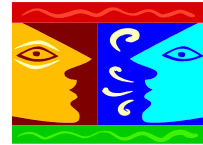
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August

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.

## A Break in Communication?

*“Communication is the key to good partnership”.*



This is a quote I heard from Dave Kelman, one of the inspirational speakers at the SETT Conference last year. It certainly makes sense and in the Highland Literacies Partnership we have always tried to ensure that communication was enabled. The recent independent evaluation that was conducted for us picked up that some of our Partners feel that, although there is good two way communication between the centre and those out in the field, communication between Partners in the field is not always so good. I would therefore welcome suggestions from everyone as to how we might address this. I know that there are already local area Community Learning Partnership meetings in which you are all involved and I am loathe to set up more meetings for specific networking between literacies practitioners for what are, I know, very busy people. However, if you feel that this would be useful please let me know. I would also welcome any other suggestions to improve communication. So answers on a postcard please ..... or by email, phone or whatever! Many thanks.  
Mary Rhind

# Hi Hopes

by Hilary Lawson, WEA

As we all are aware, an ever increasing number of migrant workers and incomers with English language and social integration needs are moving to the Highlands and current thinking suggests that presently demand for this provision outstrips the supply. Four organisations currently providing ESOL (English as a second language tuition) have joined together to consider how best to provide services which will improve the equity of access to lifelong learning for this group.

By working in partnership, Inverness College, Adult Basic Education, The Workers' Educational Association and the Highland Adult Literacies Partnership wish to offer new and innovative models of English language tuition and put in place increased resources to support this work. Activities will include the production of a film for ESOL learners, development of a new ESOL and Citizenship programme, new courses at Inverness College, multilingual leaflets, practitioner forums and learner days for ESOL students.

Already planned activities include an ESOL practitioners' forum which we hope will take place in March and an ESOL learners day on May 22nd during Adult Learners Week. Training for tutors who wish to become more involved

in ESOL will be offered this spring so if interested contact Hilary Lawson, WEA on 01463 710577 or email [inverness@weascotland.org.uk](mailto:inverness@weascotland.org.uk) Our thanks to the EQUAL 2 Hi Hopes programme, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Highland Adult Literacies Partnership and Inverness, Nairn Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise for their support of this work

## METODA Grundtvig Project

The Grundtvig Project METODA (Methodological Exchange between Trainers of Disadvantaged Adults) has now officially started. The inaugural series of meetings was held in Madrid in October when the six partners' representatives came together for the first time. The partners include Denmark,

Austria, France, Italy, Spain and the UK represented by Highland Adult Literacies. In the Highland Literacies Partnership, Calman Trust are taking the lead. The project is about peer mentoring and we will be looking initially at the various ways in which we already practice peer mentoring. Then we will exchange good practice and incorporate new practice into our current methods. All the partners are engaged with disadvantaged young adults and the young people will be fully involved in the carrying out of the project and in the evaluation. A website will also be set up to allow young people to exchange ideas as the project progresses.

We are now looking forward to welcoming the partners to Inverness in March as final preparations are made for the gathering with young people in June in Milan.





## ABE News

### ITALL Courses

There will be an introductory evening in Wick/Thurso on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February** and a new ITALL course will be starting shortly afterwards.

Further ITALL courses will be starting soon in the following areas:

Aviemore	6 <sup>th</sup> February
Sutherland	late February
Skye	March
Inverness	3 <sup>rd</sup> April

If you are interested in becoming an ABE tutor and would like to join one of these courses, please contact the relevant co-ordinator.

<b>Adult Basic Education</b> <b>01463 251278</b>
<b>Caithness</b> <i>Libby Cook</i> 01955~605423
<b>Inverness</b> <i>Jill Crawshaw</i> 01463~710013
<b>Ross &amp; Cromarty</b> <i>Norma Christie</i> 01349~864579
<b>Lochaber</b> <i>Ann-Marie Donoghue</i> 01397~707371
<b>Badenoch, Strathspey &amp; Nairn</b> <i>Isabel Duncan</i> 01479~811689
<b>Sutherland</b> <i>Barbara Watson</i> 01549~402050
<b>Skye &amp; Lochalsh</b> <i>Joey Graham</i> 01478~614064



## M-learning Update

A new project using mobile

phones to deliver learning to young people – m-learning - was launched at Highland Council’s Community Learning and Leisure Offices in Portree on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

This m-learning project follows the success of previous trials in Highland which were part of a pan-European 4.5 million Euro pilot. The previous project targeted sixteen to twenty four year olds who were not in education, training or employment. It proved very popular and many of the young adults who took part went on to take other courses and gain qualifications.

The advantage of m-learning is that it allows learning to take place anytime, anywhere, according to the learner’s needs, and in privacy. M-learning is portable as it is delivered through new “smart phones” which are a combination of mobile phone and personal digital assistant.

Highland Council’s Adult Basic Education Service and Portree Learning Centre are collaborating on this new project which is funded by

Communities Scotland, Learning Connections. It will be based on Skye but it is hoped that as the project develops other young people across Highland will be able to take part.

To find out more about the project, please contact Julie Simmons, Adult Literacies Strategy Officer on 01463 251278 or email

[Julie.simmons@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.simmons@highland.gov.uk)



## Glachbeg

Glachbeg is a new educational centre which has been custom built on an old croft near Artafallie just off the A9 at the Munloch turn off. While it has been designed to specifically cater for those who have a physical disability, it is also available to hire out for meetings and events. It can seat about 40 theatre-style and up to 30 for a meeting. There is “superb home catering” which I can vouch for and most equipment you might require for a meeting. To find out more look at their website [www.glachbeg.org.uk](http://www.glachbeg.org.uk)

# Celebration of Learning Event

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Following the success of last year's event, we will be holding another Celebration of Learning on 27<sup>th</sup> February which will take place at Ross County Football Club, Ferry Road Dingwall.

## Award Nominations

There will be an awards ceremony and the awards will be presented by Ken Kelman of Moray Firth Radio.

If you, or one of your colleagues, wish to nominate a learner or a tutor for an award, please contact us at Highland Adult Literacies for an Application Form. The closing date for return of forms is Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February. Successful applications may also be forwarded to The Scottish Adult Learning Partnership to be considered for their national award scheme.

We would like to invite as many learners and tutors as possible plus anyone else with an interest in Community Learning. If you, or any of your learners, would like to attend please let us know so we can advise the caterers of the numbers.

## Training Courses



**MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**09.45 to 15.30 lunch provided**

### AbilityNet

A demonstration of hardware and software adapted to assist those with physical disabilities, visual impairment or dyslexia. The session includes plenty of hands-on activities to enable those taking part to experience the equipment for themselves.

**Presented by Dionne Waltham and Ann-Marie Boyle, AbilityNet, Scotland**

**Location: The Beaufort Hotel, 11 Culduthel Road, Inverness**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY**

**10.30 to 12.30 followed by lunch**

### Career Planning and Literacies

This lively workshop will include fun activities linking career planning to literacies, which could be used with many different client groups.

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

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

(This course was postponed from 8<sup>th</sup> November 2005)

**Location: The Beaufort Hotel, 11 Culduthel Road, Inverness**

**THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**10.00 to 12.30 followed by lunch**

### Scotland: a Crisis of Confidence?

Find out about the reasons behind our lack of confidence as a nation and discover what is being done to address this.

**Presented by John Nethercott, BaSIL +**

**Location: The Beaufort Hotel, 11 Culduthel Road, Inverness**

*These sessions are free and open to anyone who is interested. To find out more or to book your place, please telephone or Email Chris McLintock at the Adult Literacies Office.*