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# Literacy Matters

## METODA Grundtvig Project

Highland Adult Literacies has recently hosted a three day seminar of the METODA Grundtvig 2 Learning Project.

A group of young people from Calman gave an informative presentation on the reality of homelessness for young people in Highland, to the METODA group when they were in Inverness. The visiting representatives were also able



Funded through the European Socrates Programme, Highland Adult Literacies is partnered with 5 other countries, Austria, Denmark, France, Italy and Spain to look at peer mentoring with young adults. The acronym METODA stands for Methodological Exchange by Teachers Of Disadvantaged Adults and each country is looking at their peer mentoring in an individual organisation and comparing and exchanging good practice. In Highland, Calman Trust are representing Highland Adult Literacies, managed by Heather Pirie their Peer Mentoring Officer.

to visit the Calman House in Alness and speak with staff there. The next meeting of the group will be in Milan at the beginning of June when some practical peer mentoring will be carried out by young people from the various countries.

## ESOL Event

We are holding an ESOL event on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2006 from 10.00 am until 8.30 pm in the main hall of the Town House, Inverness. This will be an opportunity for many organisations in Highland to show what they can offer to people new to the Highlands whose first language is not English.

## Adult Literacies Funding Awards

**Adult Basic Education** has been awarded £136,00 to enable it to maintain the increased hours of the Area Co-ordinators. It is also able to keep the 3 part-time staff recruited last year, the Resource Room Assistant and ESOL tutor for Inverness and the Support Worker for Ross & Cromarty.

This year has seen a substantial increase in ABE provision; they have been able to provide tuition for 760 learners, run a number of ITALL courses and provide guidance and support to projects run by other agencies.

In addition to this, they have been awarded £31,500 to continue to employ the Prison Literacies Liaison Officer to undertake literacies work both in Porterfield Prison and with prisoners on release.

The **Workers' Educational Association** has been awarded £35,257 to continue the work of the Workplace Literacy Co-ordinator. In the coming year, they hope to expand the range of learning opportunities by targeting more employers, providing further training for tutors, developing course materials and working closely with existing partners.

**Lead Scotland** has been awarded £1,847 to explore how to ensure sustainable literacies provision in the care sector by raising literacies awareness in everyday living, identifying learning and support needs of paid carers, providing training and support and identifying possible progression paths for learners and ultimately supporting the development of an SQA for social care in linking caring and literacy.

## 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.

## Strategic Plan

We have recently had the good news that the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategic Plan 2006-2008 has been approved by the Scottish Executive. The Executive have awarded £788,000 to the Partnership to continue literacies work for this period.

## Numeracy Grants

Four literacies partners, have been awarded Learning Connections' grants of £500 to purchase numeracy equipment. The partners are Adult Basic Education, Workers' Educational Association, TAG Highland and Calman Trust.

## Tablet PC Research Project

The Tablet PC Research Project which Highland Adult Literacies has been carrying out funded by Learning Connections' *Innovations in ICT Initiative* will shortly be coming to an end. The project has involved the training of literacy tutors in the use of the Tablet PC as both a tool to use for teaching and an attraction to engage learners. The Tablet PC is similar to a laptop but has the added facility of being able to transpose letters written on the surface of the screen into typeset.

Heading the research has been John Nethercott who has developed and delivered training to tutors in Inverness, Skye & Lochalsh and Ross & Cromarty who in turn have been using the machines with their learners. The results of this research will be written up shortly and presented at the Innovations in ICT Conference later in the summer. If anyone would like to find out more, please contact Mary Rhind at Adult Literacies.



## ABE News

After many years of service with ABE, we are bidding farewell to

Isabel Duncan who is taking early retirement. Isabel has not only helped hundreds of learners but has also been a great support to her colleagues. We all wish her well but she will be missed.

## ITALL Courses

New ITALL courses will be starting shortly in the following areas:

Skye	March
Inverness	3 <sup>rd</sup> April
Dingwall	May/June

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

## RaW Quick Reads



To coincide with World Book Day on March 2nd, twelve high profile authors have published short, fast-paced fiction and non-fiction titles. Twelve more Quick Reads titles will be launched in May 2006. The aim is to encourage those who wouldn't normally read for pleasure to get hooked on books.

Check out the website on [www.bbc.co.uk/raw/quickreads/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/raw/quickreads/) for details about the books and the authors. The site also gives you the chance to have a taster of ALL of the Quick Reads books released in March. The Raw Reader gives you the opportunity to listen to and read the first chapters of the books. Just [launch the RaW Reader](#) and choose a book to explore. Some of the authors have taken the time to tell you why their book is the one to read.

Book tokens entitling readers to £1 off any Quick Reads book can be downloaded from the site and are also available from ABE offices. The books are also available for borrowing from Highland Libraries.

## ESOL Materials in Highland Libraries

by Carol Hart

Highland Libraries are continuing to support the provision of ESOL materials. Bilingual dictionaries are now in the largest library in each Area. Reading Group materials are available for lending to ABE Co-ordinators, and the Learn Together Sacks are being added to our system.

After a meeting with several EAL teachers we have also added a selection of junior dual language titles. Inverness Library is adding a selection of junior story books in Polish, Latvian and Russian, and our fiction titles in Polish, Russian, French and Spanish continue to prove popular for adults. We have also produced an ESOL bookmark and are in the process of developing a leaflet which will explain everything we have to offer English language learners.

For more information on any of the materials that Highland Libraries provide for ESOL or World Languages, or to find out about booking Reading Group materials, please contact Carol Hart at the Library Support Unit on 01463 251255 or email at [carol.hart@highland.gov.uk](mailto:carol.hart@highland.gov.uk)



### Big Plus

The Big Plus is currently running another campaign and we have now received the latest consignment of Big Plus merchandise. We have A3 and A4 posters, leaflets, bookmarks and cards, notepads, rulers, mousemats carrier bags and coasters. If you would like any of these items, please call.

## Sandstone Vista Launch

Third Series

The Third Issue of the Sandstone Vista Series will be launched at Ross County Football Club, Victoria Park, Dingwall in the David Hamilton Lounge at 5:30pm for 6:00pm on Friday 31st March.

Come and hear international footballer, former Ross County defender, now Elgin City Manager, Brian Irvine read from his latest book *Winning Through*. Take the opportunity to ask questions and have your books signed.

Brian began his football career with Falkirk where he made his debut as an 18 year old. He moved to Aberdeen in 1985 and he represented Scotland nine times before illness interrupted his career. Later he played for Dundee and Ross County. When he retired from playing he became Football Development Officer with Ross County. He can often be heard giving his expert comment on radio. Most recently he has become Manager of Elgin City Football Club.

The other two books in the Third Issue are *The Highway Men* by Ken MacLeod and *Wicked!* by Janet Paisley

The Football Club has very kindly supplied two tickets for their following home game to be drawn at the event. All are welcome to attend but especially emergent readers and their tutors.

Other launches will take place in Elgin, Aberdeen, Dundee and Falkirk.

# Getting Together Tutors' Conference

*Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March*

Following the success of last year's event, we will be holding another Adult Literacies Tutors' Conference on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March at the Thistle Hotel, Inverness. This will be a useful opportunity to learning about good practice and to have a chance to meet and discuss common concerns and work interests.

The event starts at 09.30 with coffee and registration. Following that, the guest speaker will be the writer and broadcaster Mamie Lang. Those who have heard Mamie speak before will vouch that she is well worth listening to.

There will then be a variety of workshops to choose from, one morning and one afternoon, including Dyscalculia, Using Tablet PCs, Confidence Building, Dyslexia – Overcoming the Fear, Writing Book Reviews and Using Newspapers and Magazines.

A buffet lunch and other refreshments will be provided. Last year's event was enjoyed by all who attended and it is hoped that as many tutors as possible can attend this year. A full programme is available from the Adult Literacies Office. Please contact Chris McLintock with your details if you would like to attend.

## Training Courses



*These sessions are free and open to anyone who is interested.*

### **Scotland: a Crisis of Confidence?**

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

**10.00 to 12.30 followed by lunch**

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**

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

### **Using the Internet in Adult Literacies Learning**

**TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL and TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**09.30 to 15.30 lunch included**

How to show learners how to use the Internet creatively to develop a range of learning activities focused on reading, writing and numbers and enable them to search for, access and use the information they find.

This is a one day course that we are offering on a choice of two days.

**Presented by Norman Ross, Prison Literacies and Peter McCann, ICT Infrastructure Co-ordinator**

**Location: The Culloden Suite, Employee Development, Dochfour Drive, Inverness**

### **AbilityNet**

**TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY**

**09.45 to 15.30 lunch included (postponed from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March)**

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 themselves.

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

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

### **Using Digital Cameras with Literacies Learners**

**WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**10.00 to 12.30 followed by lunch**

A session exploring the uses of digital cameras with learners in a fun and practical way. Take away ideas that you can develop and use with your own learners.

**Presented by Ann Gilles, Calman Trust**

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

*To find out more or to book your place, please telephone or email Chris McLintock at the Adult Literacies Office.*