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Literacy Matters

ESOL Information Day



An Information Day was held in the Town House in Inverness on the 22nd May. The day was held as a marketplace for organisations and groups to display what services and provision they had to offer to people who were new to the area and whose level of English language skills might mean that they found some information about the local community difficult to access.

The emphasis was on English language provision but other information useful for living in the community was also available. 33 groups and organisations took part and nearly 200 people visited and all commented on how helpful a day it was for them. The event was opened by Maureen Macmillan MSP, and Stuart Black, Chief Executive of Inverness and East Highland Enterprise.

It was run by Highland Adult Literacies in partnership with WEA, ABE and Inverness College as part of the Hi Hopes Project for the EQUAL in Scotland Initiative, funded by ESF, which aims to provide equal opportunities to all for living in Scotland

Adult Literacies Funding Awards

Calman Trust has been awarded £35,000 to continue to provide a programme of literacy support to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. They will continue to employ a Literacies Officer and aim to train and support a young person who will co-deliver group literacy activities and act as a mentor to other young people participating in the sessions at Calman.

Ross & Cromarty Community Learning has been awarded £16,300 to continue, expand and diversify literacies provision in East Ross. The project will run from August 2006 to July 2007.

The Workers' Educational Association has been awarded £9,500 for community based literacy and ESOL provision. They plan to run Improvers' English courses and at least 3 new groups which will integrate literacy within a topic based course. It is hoped that each of the groups may work towards completing a Communications – Intermediate 1 SQA unit. The project based in Inverness and Ross-shire will run from May 2006 until April 2007.

Funding Deadlines

The next deadlines for Adult Literacies Funding applications are:



Friday 18th August
Friday 17th November
Friday 9th February

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

Training



We will soon be planning our next round of training and awareness raising sessions to start this autumn. We will be circulating a new training needs analysis form shortly. This will give people the opportunity to request any training that they would like and inform our plans for future training sessions.

ESOL Resources in Highland Libraries

Update by Carol Hart

As well as the bilingual dictionaries and World Language books (adult fiction in Polish, Russian, French and Spanish – housed in Inverness Library, but can be sent to any Highland library), we now offer the following:

Reading Group Books

Sets of books on a common theme, e.g. mystery and crime, horror, etc, which can be borrowed by any ABE tutor for use with ESOL/ABE groups.

Learn Together Sacks

Sets of red drawstring sacks, which contain a parent and child book to share – these are housed at the following libraries – Inverness, Dingwall, Nairn, Thurso, Wick, Dornoch, Portree and Alness. The idea behind these sacks is that parent and child can share books on a common theme, e.g. seasons, families, etc and discuss and develop language skills.

Dual Language Story Books

We are also adding to our growing collection of children's dual language story books, in response to the increase in children for whom English is not their first language.

We are producing a range of bilingual leaflets outlining the ESOL materials available to learners in the following languages: Polish, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and Bengali.

For further information on any of the ESOL material, or to book a set of Reading Group materials, please contact Highland Libraries Stock Co-ordinator, Carol Hart on 01463 251255 or email carol.hart@highland.gov.uk

RaW Quick Reads

Second phase



The second phase of the RaW Quick Reads was launched on Thursday 18th May with 12 new titles. These new titles are now available in Highland Libraries and at Adult Basic Education.

Check out the RaW website on www.bbc.co.uk/raw/quickreads/ for details about the books and the authors. The site also gives you the opportunity to listen to and read the first chapters of all 24 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.

Have you read a 'Quick Read'?

Have you got something to say about it? The website also gives readers the opportunity to leave a comment about a book they have read. The comments will be reviewed by the RaW team and the successful ones will be published on the site.



ABE News

InSco Launch

As part of the national celebrations for Adult Learners' Week, a book of learners' writing was launched at Tulloch Castle in Dingwall on 23rd May.

Funded by a grant from Learning Connections, the book is called inSco, short for "in Scotland" and is illustrated with the writers' own photographs. The 14 writers, who have all attended ABE ESOL classes, come from many countries, including Poland, Lithuania, Germany, India, Taiwan, Estonia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and the Ukraine, and have written about their lives since moving to the Highlands.

Tulloch Castle was chosen for the launch because one of the items in the book is about the Castle's ghost. Other topics include Highland weddings, wildlife, food and the Scottish weather. All the authors are justly proud of their achievement and are looking forward to sharing their book with family and friends both here and overseas.

Copies will be available to borrow from Highland libraries. For further information contact Julie Simmons on 01463 251278

Curriculum Framework

Work is continuing on a version of the curriculum framework which will be available on-line. This will be of interest to all tutors who have previously undertaken ITALL training as it underpins literacies work in Scotland and is based on the Social Practices approach.

Following the launch of the framework earlier this year, the material will now be embedded in the ITALL training. There will also be an opportunity to attend a training day later in the year.

SQA Accreditation

After successful visits by SQA moderators, ABE is now registered to deliver the PDA ITALL and ESOL units at Access and Intermediate 1 levels.

The PDA means that any tutors undertaking ITALL training can opt for accreditation. Three units need to be completed, including an observation of work with a learner. Those who have already completed the ITALL course and who are interested in the PDA can contact their local ABE Co-ordinator for more details.

ESOL units at Access 2 and 3 and Intermediate 1 can now be offered to learners. These units are in addition to others which ABE has previously offered.

ITALL Courses

New ITALL courses will be taking place in Skye and Dingwall in September. To book a place, please contact the local co-ordinator.

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

METODA Grundtvig Project

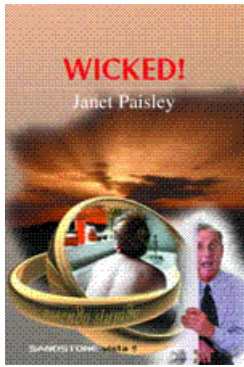
Two representatives from Calman Trust recently went out to Milan to take part in the final meeting of the first year of the METODA Project which is a Grundtvig 2 Learning Partnership. The project is all about looking at various methods of peer learning among young people. The two young people from Calman conducted a Scottish Country Dancing workshop for the young people from the other participating countries - Italy, Denmark, France, Spain and Austria.

They also took part in the workshops run by their peers from the other countries. – These included computer work, making a musical instrument, gymnastic training, graffiti writing, jewellery making, T-shirt printing and peg knitting.

The Scottish contingent were also presented with METODA T-shirts for winning the competition to design a logo for the project. Find out more about METODA by visiting the website at www.methoda.net.



Wicked!



SANDSTONE PRESS is delighted to announce that recently released Vista Series book, *Wicked!* by Janet Paisley has been nominated for the Saltire Society's Book of the Year Award.

This award may be given for any book by an author or authors of Scottish descent or living in Scotland. It may also be given for any book which deals with the work or life of a Scot – or with a Scottish question, event or situation.

Sandstone Managing Editor Robert Davidson says:-

'We are doubly delighted that *Wicked!* has received this nomination. Not only is it the first book in the Adult Literacy field to be so recognised, it is also the first for Sandstone Press as a company. Janet Paisley has done a wonderful job in producing a story that will be enjoyed by anyone with a sense of humour and that fits so seamlessly into the emergent reader scene. I feel it is an indirect honour for everyone who has been involved in creating and developing the Sandstone Vista Series, authors, the editor Moira Forsyth, and our friends in Highland Adult Literacies, Essex County Council Libraries, and Highland Council Adult Basic Education.'

Dolphin Tutor

Review by Norman Ross

I checked out this learning aid for students with dyslexia and other reading and writing difficulties over a 30 day trial period. It works in conjunction with Microsoft Word documents, Excel spreadsheets and Internet Explorer and claims to allow users to choose a way of reading and writing that suits them best. Words with different spellings or meanings that are pronounced the same (homophones) can be marked in a document along with alternative words and their meanings. You can select any on-screen text using the mouse and hear it read back to you at whatever speed you're comfortable with, or point the mouse at menus to hear what action they perform. Letters, words and sentences can be read back as you type. You can save the on-screen text as an audio file to play on your PC or portable audio players. I'm told that every copy of Dolphin Tutor is supplied with a free video tutorial which will help you to familiarise yourself with the product (English only). The video tutorial is supplied on CD ROM and can be played using your computer. I can envisage Dolphin Tutor being a useful learning aid for dyslexic learners and others – perhaps ESOL students might find the pronunciation helpful. Drawbacks are, as with a lot of software, cost, and the read-back voice does sound a bit like a spaced-out dalek. I believe it quite irritated some of my colleagues at LSU.

Crucially, I didn't get a chance to use it with a learner so the acid test is yet to come. To sum up – not for everyone perhaps but worth investigating.

On the Road

Adult Literacy Resource



'On the Road' has been jointly developed by Road Safety Scotland, Communities Scotland and the Department of Transport to address the concern of poor driving and road accidents involving young drivers aged 17 to 25. It is a literacies resource that encourages young people to develop a lasting awareness and understanding of central issues related to safe driving.

As well as giving information about driving related issues from speeding to seatbelts to alcohol and drugs, 'On the Road' offers the opportunity for learners to achieve an SQA Core Skill/Key Skills qualification. The pack can be used in a range of contexts and the activities have been designed to be appealing, interactive and fun while providing opportunities for learners to gain confidence in literacies practices which will be of value in all areas of life.

To get your copy

If you would like a copy of this resource pack, please contact us at the Adult Literacies office.