



Highland
Adult
Literacies

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Literacy Matters



ESF Funding

The Highland Adult Literacies Partnership has been awarded funding from the European Social Fund through the Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme to use to develop provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in Highland and the Western Isles. As part of this initiative HALP is able to offer a Challenge Fund for ESOL which partners can bid into for funding for provision which is in line with this development. A partner is any properly constituted organisation or community group who would like to get involved in this development.

Application forms are available from the HALP office and the closing date for the first funding round is Friday 19th January and for the second round Friday 9th February.

Funding Award

Youth Highland has been awarded a grant of £34,999 to continue to employ the Youth Literacies Worker for another year. The project aims to continue and develop innovative ways of working with the 16 to 25 age group, building on its success with partnerships already in place. The project, based mainly in Inverness and Ross-shire, runs for a year from January 2007.

Funding Deadline

The next deadline for Literacies Funding applications is:



Friday 9th February

Learners' Voices

The WEA has published 'Learners' Voices' a collection of writing by English language learners. Beginning initially as a group exercise to encourage discussion, it has culminated in a publication with many insightful contributions from over 50 learners. As well as snippets of advice, it deals with the themes of where learners come from, first impressions of Scotland, what brought them here and their feelings about life in the Highlands. Copies are available from WEA, Adult Literacies and Highland Libraries.

The Grundtvig METODA Project

Methodological Exchange between Teachers of Disadvantaged Adults

The Grundtvig METODA Project on peer mentoring, in which Highland Adult Literacies is a partner, has just held the first meeting of its second year in Salzburg. Three full days gave the opportunity to assess and analyse the work done by the six partner nations - Denmark, France, Spain, Austria, Italy and ourselves - over the previous year. There were also some train the trainer activities. The meeting with all the young people which was held in Milan in the summer was evaluated and plans were made for the next meeting next May when the young people of the various organisations will gather again in Denmark. From Highland, young people from Calman are taking part in this project.



Sandstone Press

Vista Series Ideas Pack

All teaching is a conflict – conflicts of time, conflicts of resources, conflicts of perception; individual learners need individual attention but there is only so much time and effort available. Efficiency requires planning and re-use of materials, yet learners make unexpected leaps – sometimes ahead, often off at a tangent and occasionally backwards. Learners can't grasp a point as you struggle to find yet another explanation! We can never be totally confident where the emergent reader will emerge but we can be sure they will need customised resources - now! Whatever happens, the tutor has to react and exploit the situation, utilise any advantage, reinforce any gain and minimise anything problematic. This is where this book really scores – well laid out, well indexed and well printed on loose-leaf pages ready for photocopying, ready to use.

At first glance, it is a set of ready-to-use lesson ideas - a set of tried and tested resources aimed specifically at supporting learners using the Vista Series of books from Sandstone Press. Developed and tested in Essex, some of the ideas are already well known and well used – for example “come up with an alternative ending” - happy where the author's ending is sad (or vice versa) or “being interviewed in character” - playing the detective or the suspect..... These cover core literacy skills, reading with intent, thinking and talking about the story and who is telling it and why and how.

There are good interesting exercises supporting grammar, punctuation and skimming and

scanning. There are materials here to support discussions on options and choices for the future not just exercises for here and now. These work straight off the page (as long as you have really read the book yourself) and give the confidence that you can support (and stretch) the learner as far as they want to go. All based on specific ideas or topics in specific books in the series and referenced down to chapter and pages (in case its been a while since you read the book). A great resource when planning the next couple of sessions and time is short.

Professionally designed and beautifully produced, like the Vista series itself, it has developed from work done in Essex and the non-Scottish perspective does show through from time to time. This is no bad thing as it reminds us that the setting of 20th century industrial Glasgow or Greenend may be as exotic as medieval Spain to some of the readers.

However the real beauty of this book is that, though tightly integrated to Vista Series the ideas are not bound to Vista. They are easily adapted and extended asking about more general learning. There are topics on learning styles, topics that involve the learner in using the internet and reflecting and evaluating what they find. They will not be relevant to all learners but they can be powerful tools in the right circumstances.

It is handy to have “just in case” ready to be dipped into whenever required. The pack costs £30 and although it is something every tutor should always have at hand, it is more likely there will be one per organisation and tutors will be able to access it in that way.

My one concern is that there is no answer to the perennial struggle for the tutor; **Where to next?** It would have been nice to have some suggestions for more challenging work in the same

genre or by the same author to use as a follow up. I've had some success with using non-Vista books by Lin Anderson and Des Dillon as follow up to their Vista books. I would still appreciate some insightful comments on other books and authors which help the emergent reader into becoming a self-sufficient learner.

However, that's a quibble and I will use this pack now and for some time to come as relevant and appropriate material is key to making learning appropriable (and tutoring fun and productive!)

Alan M Crombie,
Project Co-ordinator
TAG Unit, Invergordon

Copies of the teaching packs are available for partners to borrow from the Adult Literacies office.

Highland Libraries

'Express Machines'



Highland Libraries are installing self-issue machines in several of its libraries. These Express Machines will allow borrowers to

issue books to themselves, thus freeing up staff time to help customers. The machines are to be installed in Tain, Achiltibuie, Mallaig, Lochcarron, Dornoch and Inverness Library. The installation of the Inverness machine is designed specifically to free staff time to help ESOL learners to get the best from the Internet, as this is a service which is in great demand in Inverness. The Express Machines are very easy to use, with on-screen instructions and animations showing borrowers how to use them, and are an innovative and exciting

development for Highland Libraries. The machines will be available in January 2007.

Membership forms now online!

To make joining the library even easier, potential members can now access the Highland Libraries membership form online. Adult and Under 16 versions are available to print off and fill in before going in to the library, and Polish versions are also available. It is hoped that this will help Adult and ESOL learners who can get help with filling in the form if they need to, in advance of visiting the library. The forms are on the Highland Libraries website at: <http://www.highland.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/yourlocallibrary/default.htm>

World Language Books



The collections of World Language books continue to be incredibly popular. Highland Libraries has extended the range of languages on offer, in response to customer demand – Inverness Library now holds collections of Czech and Latvian fiction, in addition to the existing collections of Polish, Russian, French and Spanish books. The collections are refreshed every 4 months, and titles can be viewed on the Highland Libraries online catalogue: <http://libraries.highland.gov.uk/TalisPrism/>

There is also a link to the collection of ESOL material available through the library service. Material can be reserved online and sent to your nearest library.

For further information, or for copies of the leaflet 'Learning

English? – Highland Libraries can help', please contact Carol Hart on 01463 251255 or email carol.hart@highland.gov.uk.

Are we all technophobes?

Marianne Ross, Youth Literacies Worker, Youth Highland

Recently, I attended a training session on technology and learning - at the Scottish Further Education Unit in Stirling with Sheila Maher and Mary Applegate (both WEA).

The training was on using digital cameras / mobile phones in learning (too extensive for this discussion but very relevant- email me or Sheila for details), and on how easy it is to set up a blog or WIKI online, and using this in learning.

No, I didn't know either – a WIKI is like a blog - a kind of online diary, but anyone can edit and change - think *Wikipedia* if you're on the net a lot.

So, returning to my original question; are we all technophobes? I don't know, but I'm going to try and find out. How about something like this for sharing our own news, or for use with learners: <http://highlandliteraciestest.wikispaces.com/>

I have some great links to really user friendly blog and WIKI creating sites, which I will post on the above site soon - and if I haven't, you can add a note to tell me to hurry up! You can set them up to email you any changes; the exact changes will be emailed to you. Sheila had sourced this training for potential for collaborative learning, and it has lots.

Which brings me nicely on to the two main uses for these, in my opinion (post if you have any other ideas – yes I know, I'm really pushing the *please log in and join in* bit now)

- as a good way for us partners to have a go, how about one of our own – I think I might have posted *went to great training, here are a few useful websites to look at* a lot sooner than I got around to writing this piece. It might be useful for seeing who's up to what, been to good / bad training, needs a lift to a conference etc.



However, would we keep it up? Look at the various literacies forums; they aren't used a lot. So, failing our own use, we should think about them:

- for learners – immediate uses I thought of were having a WIKI set up and appearing as a home page instead of the usual Google etc., maybe in a learning centre? Also, as WIKIs can be edited and changed by anyone, how about for a story / poetry / songwriting group? Maybe even just creating their own WIKI / blog? In particular for young learners, better than joining Bebo / MySpace?

So what do we think? That is in essence the point – what do YOU think?

Technology like this is allowing everyone to have a voice - surely we have to look at ways to use it?



Big Plus

For the current phase of its campaign, the Big Plus has produced a new collection of merchandise. This includes pens, pencils, coasters, highlighters, A4 and A5 pads, mousemats, carrier bags, key rings, stress balls and more. For a full list and order form, please contact Chris at Adult Literacies.



ABE News

PDA ITALL

ABE is now able to offer *The Professional Development Award (PDA) ITALL*. It is aimed at adult literacies tutors who wish to develop their ITALL training and it involves written reflective accounts of tutor practice as well as some observed practice. It is placed at SCQF level 6 and is being facilitated by Norman Ross and Mark Richardson. To find out more, please contact your local co-ordinator.

Literacies Awareness Raising 2 Day Course

Julie Simmons, Joey Graham and Norman Ross are currently re-writing the previously entitled *2 day Fast Track ITALL* course. This training, which will be available next May, will be aimed at those who are in a position to identify literacies concerns in their client base. It will raise awareness of the issues surrounding adult literacies and look at the latest strategies local providers utilise.

ESOL Survival Course

As part of the Hi Hopes project, ABE has produced a ten week ESOL Survival Course. Written and piloted by Isabel Duncan topics include Identity, Community, Work, Health, Health and Safety, Travelling and Transport, Money, Leisure and Recreation and Food.

This valuable resource was flagged up at the SALP Good Practice conference in Glasgow in September and as a result there have been requests for copies of the course from across Scotland.

2007 COSLA Awards

Highland's M-learning project has made the short list of this year's COSLA awards.

ITALL Course - Skye

A new ITALL course will be taking place in Broadford this January. If you are interested in becoming an ABE tutor and would like to book a place, please contact Joey Graham on 01478 614064.

Vacancies

The posts of Co-ordinator and Literacies Support Worker for Inverness have now been shortlisted and it is hoped to appoint soon. The Co-ordinator post for Badenoch & Strathspey will be re-advertised shortly.

Curriculum Framework

'An Adult Literacy and Numeracy Curriculum Framework for Scotland' is published by Learning Connections. The emphasis of the Framework is on the way that the curriculum is negotiated with learners and builds creatively on their existing knowledge and skills. It explains the processes undertaken by learners and tutors to identify, plan, carry out and review learning programmes, while recognising they may welcome guidance on possible contents of learning. Copies of the Framework are available from ABE Co-ordinators and from the Adult Literacies Office.

Partners in Practice

The Partners in Practice conference on the 17th November, attended by over 70 people, was a great success. With a varied range of presentations and workshops, delegates found the day interesting and enjoyable and many commented that they came away with practical ideas to use with their own learners. Once again, it provided an excellent networking opportunity and a chance to meet others from a wide variety of organisations. It was especially useful for new partners and practitioners to find out what is happening in other areas of literacies work.

Learners' Big Event

Nairn - 17th March 2007

Moray Adult Learners' Forum, supported by Learning Connections, are holding the 'Learners' Big Event of the Year' at the Newton Hotel, Nairn on Saturday 17th March 2007. The event is organised by learners for learners in the North and will provide an opportunity to meet and to find out about learners' forums. There will be a number of workshops and those planned so far include Fun with Numbers, Digital Storytelling, Poetry with Dundee poet Mark Thomson and Doric – fits it a' about. Accommodation can be arranged for people who have to travel a distance to the venue. Please let your learners know. Further details will be available shortly.

Training



This session is free and open to anyone who is interested. To book your place, please telephone

Chris on 01463 251277 or email christina.mclintock@highland.gov.uk

What happens next? Exploring progression routes

**Tuesday 27th February
12.00 noon to 2.00 pm
early lunch included**

The majority of our students enjoy a high quality supported learning experience. When it is time to consider further learning, what are the options? What practical steps can we take to encourage our students to move on? This interactive workshop will draw on the experience of partner organisations and explore some possible 'next step' progression routes for literacy students.

Presented by Hilary Lawson, WEA

**Location: Beaufort Hotel,
7 Culduthel Road, Inverness**