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Literacy Matters

ESOL Challenge Fund



The Highland Adult Literacies Partnership

has heard that it has received funding from the European Social Fund to develop and expand the range, quality and amount of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision throughout the Highland area. The funding is part of a wider initiative over the HIE area to facilitate the integration of workers and their families from other countries who find the language barrier creates difficulties in accessing services and generally being able to live confidently in Highland. This initiative includes Community Safety, Citizens Advice Bureaux and Bilingual Community Assistants as well as the language training element.

Training Development Officer

For the ESOL branch of this Project, a Training Development Officer, working under the management of the WEA, has already been appointed. This is Gillian Scott, well known to many in the HAL Partnership, and she will be developing tutor training in ESOL at different levels over the coming year, so watch this space. Helping to support provision is Judie Holliday, WEA Workplace ESOL Organiser, who will be involved as the ESOL Co-ordinator for this project.

Challenge Fund

An ESOL Challenge Fund of £149,000 has been set up. Funding from HIE, IEH, Lochaber Enterprise, SALE, CASE has been added to that of HALP and the Western Isles to attract the match ESF funding for this project through HIPP. All Community Groups and Organisations are invited to bid in for funding where English provision is needed as long as it is new provision and is to be carried out before the end of January 2008. New methods of delivery will be especially welcomed. The HALP Working Group and representatives from HIE will take the decisions on the distribution of funding in Highland.

If you would like to discuss possible funding please get in touch with us here at the HALP Office from which the Application Form can also be obtained.

Funding Deadlines

The closing date for the next funding round is **Friday 16th March**. There will be further funding rounds and the deadlines are as shown below:



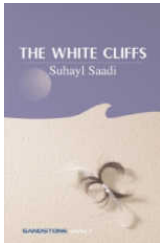
Friday 30th March
Friday 15th June
Friday 10th August

These last three dates also apply to applications for literacies funding.

Sandstone Vista

Learner Review

An adult learner with one of our literacies partners has written a review of a book in the Sandstone Vista series which they have kindly allowed us to reproduce.



“I have read *The White Cliffs* by Suhayl Saadi. This book was very gripping in the way he described everything, including the two

main characters Lily and Adam. Adam doesn't know what he wants from life but Lily on the other hand does; as time goes on they both want the same thing without realising it.

From the moment I started reading the book it captivated me into wanting to know more about them, their past and present.

The words in the book are straightforward and easy to understand. When I first started to make a bridge between children's books and adults' I found it difficult, but reading this book has helped in the first stage of making that bridge.

By the description of everything from the air to the ground, he makes you feel like you are in the story, not just a reader but also as an extra on the stage.

As I read the book, it took time getting used to a different layout from when I first started to get to grips with reading. It gave me the confidence to carry on and try similar books.

This book is great for people who have difficulty with understanding words and layouts; it also gets you back on your feet.

You feel that you know where the story is going but you get a surprise when a strange twist comes into play.

I'd tell you about it but I wouldn't want to spoil it so if you want to find out give it a read yourself and see what you think.”

Literary Awards

Also in the Vista Series is *The Highway Men* by Ken MacLeod which has been shortlisted for the British Science Fiction Association Award for Short Fiction. This comes on the heels of the nomination of Janet Paisley's *Wicked!* for the Saltire Award, the first such book to be so honoured.

Details of the Vista Series books can be viewed at Sandstone's newly launched website on www.sandstonepress.com.

Living in the Highlands

As part of the Hi Hopes project, the Workers' Educational Association has produced *Living in the Highlands: A Resource Guide for ESOL Tutors in Scotland*. The pack contains over 40 complete lessons, each containing several activities related to one theme under the broad topics of Education, Finance, Health, History/Culture and Housing. The materials can be used as a basis of a course or can be used to supplement existing courses. Copies of the pack are available from the WEA on 01463 710577.

Adult Learners' Week Awards

Each year the achievements of outstanding adult learners are celebrated through the Scottish Adult Learning Partnership's Adult Learners Week Awards. If you know a learner or a group whose learning achievements could inspire others, why not nominate them? Forms are available from the Adult Literacies Office and should be returned to SALP by 30th March 2007.

Get Connected to learning in the North

Nairn - 17th March 2007



There are still places available for learners from Highland to attend this Learners' 'Big Event of the Year' at the Newton Hotel, Nairn on Saturday 17th March 2007 from 10.30 am to 4.15 pm. The event will provide an opportunity to meet other learners and to find out about learners' forums. There will be a chance to join in a number of interesting workshops. If you, or your learners, would like to see the full programme or would like to book a place, please contact the Adult Literacies Office.

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework

HALP has recently been awarded £10,000 by SCQF to enable a pilot project to take place looking at how literacies tutors can identify learners' levels and use this to recognise progress while keeping to the social practice model. We are doing this in partnership with North Lanarkshire and Aberdeen Partnerships and will be advertising in due course how tutors may be involved in the process if they so wish.



ABE News

Appointment

Mark Richardson who is currently a employed as a Literacies Support Worker in Ross and Cromarty has been appointed as ABE Co-ordinator for Inverness and he will be taking up his post shortly.