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Highland Adult Literacies
Library Support Unit
31A Harbour Road
Inverness IV1 1UA
Telephone 01463 251276/7
Email mary.rhind@highland.gov.uk or
christina.mcintock@highland.gov.uk
Website www.halweb.co.uk

Literacy Matters

Funding Awards



Literacies Award

Skye & Lochalsh Learning Centre Network has been awarded £8,280 to

work with ABE to provide a unique learning programme in each of its 5 learning centres. Divided into two 6-week phases, 'Getting Started' and 'Moving On', the programme is flexible and can develop to suit the needs of the individual learner. The project runs from September 2007 to June 2008.

Lairg Local Learning Centre Association has been awarded £16,565 to spread provision throughout Sutherland by employing an ICT/literacy tutors for 10 hours per week in each of the four Sutherland learning centres. The project runs from November 2007 to June 2008.



ESF Challenge Fund

The **Workers' Educational Association** has been awarded £14,646 to continue with its English at Work project which provides English language classes, including some SQA accredited courses, in the workplace. Based mainly in Inverness and Ross-shire, the project runs from September 2007 to February 2008.

Funding Deadline



The closing date for the next funding round is **Friday 16th November**.

ESOL Funding

from the Scottish Government

We are currently awaiting a generous allocation of funding for ESOL work from the Scottish Government in response to the ESOL Strategy. This will be added to the Challenge Fund and people will be able to bid into it. As the timescale for spending this is short (by March 2008), rather than wait for a specific bid application date, organisations and community groups will be able to apply for this funding at any time. We hope that this will be particularly useful for small projects and we also plan to pilot an immersion course in the New Year.

'Literacies Connections' Conference



*Marriott Hotel,
Inverness
Thursday 4th
October 2007*

We are now finalising the arrangements for the 'Literacies Connections' Conference, and programmes and booking forms will be available shortly.

There will be presentations on the CD-ROM version of 'the Wheel' and on the successful Rag Tag n Textile project. Delegates will also have a choice of 3 morning and 3 afternoon workshops/discussion forums. For further information and to book your place, please contact the Adult Literacies Office.

Rag Tag n Textile

Opens In Balmacara Square



Rag Tag n Textile opened its doors to the public on 2nd July. David Bryant of Community Recycling Network Scotland (CRNS) did us the honour of cutting the ribbon. Now we are rapidly getting down to the business of running the workshop. The main aim of this emerging social firm is to divert textile waste and to produce new items that can be sold. Everything has to be weighed and recorded (in kilos) as proof of successful waste diversion!

The HALP project started in February and has contributed to making a lot of the establishment of this social firm possible through funding the literacies project, which is being delivered in partnership with TAG NHS Highland. This post enabled the initial opening one-day a week of the workshop and continues into early 2008.

As literacy and numeracy skills are fundamental to good business and entrepreneurship and to the practical creative skills needed to produce the goods, it is a

straightforward way in which to deliver such a project. Two volunteer craft trainers are also in place and they are helping to spot learning needs and embed literacies in all aspects of the workshops activities.

There are now five trainees on the books and we are currently open one day a week with plans to be open three days by the end of the year. This will allow support for 3 more trainees and offer a progression to attending more often.

90% of trainees have identified a need for support with numeracy and literacy at various levels. This has been surprising in some cases but reinforces the ongoing need for this support.

Apart from the challenges of setting up as an emerging social firm and putting the literacies programme in place, there have been a variety of activities that have given key volunteers the opportunity to network. In May there was a visit to Slovenia, which looked at “women, equality & entrepreneurship”

In March we were short-listed for a Scotland-wide “Innovation Award” by CRNS, and in June there was a visit to the Social Firms conference in Edinburgh. We were recently selected as a case study by Learndirect as a model of good practice in the field of enterprise development. This paper will soon be published on the Learndirect website. Coming up in early December there will be an open day and we will be selling our Christmas range of products – and there will be a few surprises for your entertainment.

You can contact us for more information on 01599 566793, www.ragtagntextile.org or call in at Balmacara Square by Lochalsh.

Rosie Somerville
TAG Trainer

Highland Adult Learning Forum

Following the very productive initial session when a good number of organisations involved in community learning met to look at working together and looking at progression options, the agreed second meeting is to be held at Inverness Town House on November 22nd. Formal invitations will be going out to those who came to the last meeting but it is open for any organisations to join. If you would like to send a representative from your organisation, please can you give you name to this office and we will send you out the details nearer the time.



Youth Highland

Youth Highland is a registered charity formed in 1977 (formerly the Highland Association of Youth Clubs), with an office based in Dingwall.

There are currently 64 clubs affiliated to Youth Highland, involving 550 youth leaders and over 3,000 young people.

To support youth groups, the partner organisation Youth Scotland has produced two resource packs, *Safe and Sound* and *Up and Running*, that encourage best practice, and aim to ensure that all young people have access to safe and efficient youth work environments.

One of the calendar highlights is the annual competitions day, attended by groups from Raasay to Durness, competing in sports and activities.

Discussions began in 2005 with Highland Adult Literacies (HAL), Youth Link Scotland, and Adult Basic Education in order to create a post to support youth literacies, specifically with young people aged 16-25, and to offer support, guidance and training to those who work with them.

I was appointed as Youth Literacies Worker in January 2006, and the post is currently in the second year of HAL funding after a successful second bid.

The target group of young people furthest away from learning are often those previously unknown to the system, for differing and numerous reasons; eg chaotic lifestyles or family problems. All

of this is typical and to be expected of this young target group. An approach which tolerates a degree of erratic attendance is necessary. (Look out for me sitting outside various Highland locations on cold mornings waiting for said clients!)

Many young people are referred through other agencies, such as supported employment, housing, etc., and driving theory, songwriting, computing, CVs, and general drop-ins can feature in my typical week. I am always on the lookout for more people, so if you know a young person with a literacy need, please get in touch with me.

Marianne Ross
Youth Literacies Worker
youthlit@youthhighland.org.uk

The Grundtvig METODA Project



The Metoda Project has now come to a close and the final report should soon be ready for anyone who wishes it and will be available on the HAL Website. The young people who took part found it really exciting and enjoyed the newfound confidence they gained from developing and presenting workshops to their peers in Europe.

Resources Corner

Here are some more resources that people have found useful. Try the NIACE site www.writewhereyouare.org for useful ideas for writing classes.

Also look at the Learning Connections resources which have plenty in all types of literacy and numeracy work. New in particular are the sound tracks for ESOL learners, recorded in various Scottish accents which can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Strategic-Board/dg-education/Learning-connections> by going into Adult Literacies and then to Resources and then to Adult Literacies On Line.

Jim King and a Scottish Prison Service peer tutor group have also devised some templates for writing and other activities like playing Bingo or making cards. If you would like copies of these, please email the HAL Office.

It is good to share resources so if you find something you have found useful, please let us know and we can feature it in the next newsletter.



Big Plus Resources

Recently, we have received a another consignment of Big Plus merchandise. New this time are A5 spiral-bound notebooks and A2 and A3 posters featuring the footballers Paul Hartley from Celtic and Kris Boyd from Rangers. Also available is 'Football Academy', a CD-Rom which contains 7 enjoyable football games to help people develop their reading writing and number skills. If you would like a complete list or would like to order, please get in touch.



Training

Training Needs Survey

We are currently in the process of planning our training programme for the coming months. In order to facilitate this, we have circulated a training needs form to our partners and we would be very grateful if these are completed and returned. If you have not received a survey form and would like one, please get in touch.

WEA ESOL Tutor Workshops

The WEA is delivering three further workshops aimed at people who have just started teaching English to speakers of other languages.

The workshops will be held at the **Beaufort Hotel, Culduthel Road, Inverness** on the following dates:

ESOL Listening Practice

Tuesday 23 October 11 am – 1 pm
followed by a light lunch

ESOL Reading Practice

Friday 23 November
10 am – 12 noon

ESOL Writing Practice

Tuesday 11 December 11am – 1 pm
followed by a light lunch

If you would like to book a place on any of the workshops, please call **Gillian Scott on 07828 101987**
email g.scott@weascotland.org.uk

Tutor Database

We are compiling a database of tutors so that we can send any news of interest directly out to them either by post or email. If you are interested in this, please let us know in the HAL Office. We will also be asking who might be willing to take on further work so that when organisations approach us for a

tutor we can offer this to appropriate people. If you are interested in this, please let us know and we will ask you to fill in a brief form about your qualifications, experience and availability.



ABE News

ITALL Courses

An ITALL course is planned for Lairg in October. Courses will also be running in other areas later this year or early next year. If you are interested in becoming a literacies tutor, please give your local ABE Co-ordinator a ring. Alternatively, if you are a practitioner or part of a team which you think would benefit from the 2-day Adult Literacies Awareness Course, please give Norman Ross a call on 01462 251279.

Museum Partnership Project

Research shows there is a direct and positive connection between levels of cultural participation and literacy skills. With this in mind, ABE, Prison Literacies and Highland Museums are developing a partnership project aimed at making use of the museums' largely untapped literacies resources in Inverness Museum and the Highland Folk Museums in Kingussie and Newtonmore. Mark Richardson and Norman Ross are currently delivering adult literacies awareness-raising to museum staff in Inverness.

Night at the Museum

On the evening of 26th September there will be a *Night at the Museum* in Inverness where tutors will be invited to explore and discuss the exciting literacies learning potential in museum exhibitions and artefacts. Further events are planned for Badenoch

involving tutors and learners. Advance information will be posted in ABE Centres.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Adult Basic Education 01463 251278 | |
| Caithness | |
| <i>Libby Cook</i> | 01955~605423 |
| Inverness | |
| <i>Mark Richardson</i> | 01463~710013 |
| Ross & Cromarty | |
| <i>Norma Christie</i> | 01349~864579 |
| Lochaber | |
| <i>Ann-Marie Donoghue</i> 01397~707371 | |
| Nairn | |
| <i>Norman Ross</i> | 01463~251279 |
| Sutherland | |
| <i>Barbara Watson</i> | 01549~402050 |
| Skye & Lochalsh | |
| <i>Joey Graham</i> | 01478~614064 |

SCQF Project

Pilot Training - 5th October

Highland Adult Learning Partnership is involved in a project with North Lanarkshire and Aberdeen to look at how tutors might level learners' work while following the social practice model. As part of this, Prue Pullen, who is now an Independent Literacies Consultant, has devised a tutor training day which she will be delivering on Friday 5th October in the Beaufort Hotel, Inverness. We hope that as many tutors as possible will take part in this pilot training and use the training to enable them to level their learners' work so that they can take part in feedback at a future date to inform this piece of research. As the next End Year Reporting template for literacies will be asking us to report the SCQF level of all learners, this is a skill which all tutors (and/or those who conduct reviews of learning progress) will need to be able to do. If you are interested in coming to this initial training day, please get in touch.