



Highland
Adult
Literacies

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Literacy Matters

'Literacies Connections' Conference



A very successful conference entitled Literacies Connections was held on October 4th to mark International Literacies Day. This was funded by Learning Connections. The HALP Working group decided that a day for tutors would be very useful. Various tutors volunteered, or were asked, to facilitate discussion groups on various topics ranging from learner engagement, particularly the harder to reach groups, and confidence building, to family literacies, creativity and progression routes.

Lynda Wilde, of Lead Scotland also gave a lively presentation of the Wheel CD ROM, and the Rag Tag n Textile TAG project in Skye and Lochalsh demonstrated the creativity which has made

their project such a success. A report of the day, incorporating the workshop notes will shortly be available and will be distributed to all who attended. If you would also like a copy, please can you contact Chris in the HAL Office.

Funding Awards

Literacies Award

The Highland Council's Deaf Communication Project has been awarded £3,020 to pilot a course of 10 two-hour language and literacies sessions working with 6 deaf sign language users. The approach will be learner centred and it is envisaged that the project will evolve in response to the issues identified by the pilot group.

Over the course of the sessions, the Deaf Communication Project will investigate and document the common areas of difficulty in English encountered by deaf people. They will also pilot training strategies and resources to find out what learners find most effective. Outcomes will be measured both formally and informally, discussed with expert partners and disseminated to national interested parties including CLAN Edinburgh.

The project, based in Inverness, will run from January to March 2008.

ESOL Award

Isle of Skye Language Centre has been awarded £1,424 to provide English classes for parents with the aim of helping them to develop and gain confidence in their language abilities so that they can better participate in the education of their children. The project, based at, and in partnership with, Portree Primary School, will run from January to March 2008.

Funding Deadlines

The closing dates for the next funding rounds are:



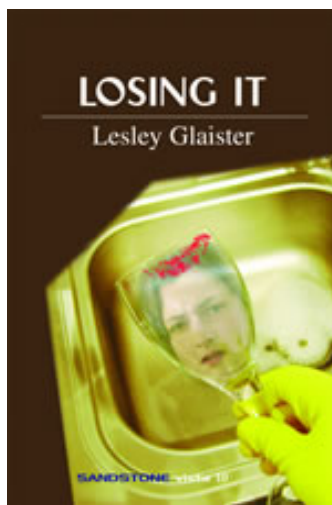
Friday 25th January
Friday 4th April

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

Organisations and community groups may apply at any time for a grant of up to £3000 from the ESOL Challenge Fund for Special Target Groups, rather than wait for a specific bid application date.

Sandstone Vista

Fourth Issue



The Fourth Issue of the Sandstone Vista Series was published on 3rd December 2007.

They have three excellent books all written, edited, printed and bound to the same high standard that learners and tutors have come to expect.

The 3 books are:

Losing It by Lesley Glaister, a story of suspicion and relationships which will keep readers turning the pages and fascinated until the final sentence.

The Sin Eater by Deborah J. Miller, Sandstone's first venture into fantasy fiction which comes from one of Britain's most fertile imaginations.

Hegarty And The Doleful Dancer by Leon Murphy is a comedy crime thriller that will have the readers guessing and smiling until the final question is posed.

For more on these and other books published by Sandstone, please visit their web site www.sandstonepress.com

Adult Dyslexia: Understanding the Difference.

A CD Rom on Dyslexia has been produced by Communities Scotland's Learning Connections Team. It aims to give adult literacy tutors and other professionals a greater understanding of dyslexia and advice on how to work with students who may be dyslexic.

Dyslexia affects around one in ten of the population and is a frequent cause of reading and writing difficulty. It is therefore essential that those who work with adults with literacy needs understand the nature of the condition and how it can affect learning.

This interactive CD Rom offers an insight into how dyslexia can affect people and provides information on the ways in which even simple techniques can reduce the barriers to learning and improve working life.

The films describe the nature and impact of dyslexia from the point of view of dyslexic adults and from those experienced in supporting adults with dyslexia. We are particularly indebted to Donnie and Cecilia, both from Highland area, who tell of their own experience and offer advice and encouragement to others who might find that they are dyslexic.

We have a few copies of this CD in the HAL Office which we will happily post out to anyone who would like to borrow one.

ILA Scotland?

Have you ever heard of ILA Scotland? Did you know that you can get up to £200 a year to spend on learning or training?

Colin Reed, ILA Partnership Development Officer for the Highlands & Islands, tells us that, “there’s never been a better time to get yourself an ILA: there are more courses than ever in more places than ever.”

ILA Scotland is a Scottish Government scheme which helps you pay for learning that you can do at a time, place, pace and in a way to suit you. If you are over 18 and living in Scotland, you can get up to £200 towards the cost of learning new skills with an individual learning account from ILA Scotland.

“So, as long as you are over 18 and resident in Scotland you will get an ILA grant for learning – it’s that simple,” says Colin, “the amount you’ll get is dependent on what you have as a personal income: if you earn £18,000 a year or less, you’ll get £200 and if you earn *more* than £18,000 a year, you still get £100.” Best of all, the money is not a loan – so you don’t have to pay it back. You just need to pay £10 towards the cost of each course you do.

There’s a wide range of courses available – just give ILA a call on **0808 100 1090** for more details or take a look at the **Course Search** facility at www.ilascotland.org.uk to find out what is available in your area.

Colin says, “**0808 100 1090** is free to call and you’ll be speaking to real people. It’s not just a call centre – it’s a proper helpline where you’re free to call them any time to discuss any aspect of ILA from applications

right through to looking at what courses might be good for you.”

Remember, although many people use their ILA towards helping them either get a new job, or to help with the job they already have, you can if you wish choose to learn something for no other reason than because you want to.

If you’re looking for a catch – there isn’t one! No-one is looking over your shoulder at how you’re spending your ILA or who you’re spending it with. There is no impact on benefits, tax credits or any other kind of financial support you might be receiving – ILA Scotland is totally separate from all of that.

It’s important to stress that the income threshold that is measured is for each individual and NOT total household income. So, it doesn’t matter how much your partner or spouse earns – for your ILA we are only interested in you!

Learners across the Highlands are well served with courses that you’re able to spend your ILA on. Colin Reed says that, “a lot of folk just think it’s all about computer courses, but nothing could be further from the truth” Just a quick look at what’s available locally brought back hundreds of different options, including the following courses:

- Beauty Therapy
- Working with Wood
- Computers for the Absolutely Terrified
- Counselling Skills
- Customer and Drinks Service
- Holiday Spanish
- Elementary Food Hygiene
- Diet & Nutrition
- Introductory Mathematics for Engineering
- Supporting Children & Families
- Manual Handling

- Basic First Aid
- English Higher
- Safety Passport Training
- ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence)
- Industrial Plant Maintenance
- Ear Piercing
- Early Education & Childcare
- Gas Welding
- Animal Care
- Gaelic For Beginners

So, as you can see, it’s not just computers....! Take a look at the ILA website www.ilascotland.org.uk or call the free **0808 100 1090** helpline, or talk to the local college – you will be amazed at what there is out there.

The Big Plus Football Academy



This interactive CD-ROM contains 7 enjoyable football games designed to help people develop their reading, writing and number skills.

The games help to build literacy in such areas as capital letters and full stops, apostrophes, verbs, adjectives, and numeracy skills in the areas of addition, subtraction, whole numbers and decimals. The games are designed for confident learners but can also be enjoyed by learners who may wish to be supported by a tutor. The games can also help to introduce learners to using computers. If you would like copies of this CD-ROM, please contact the adult literacies office.

Quick Reads

New Titles for 2008



In the last two years, Quick Reads have firmly established themselves as the perfect books for people who have lost the

reading habit or who struggle to read long and complicated books. Above all, they have proved that reading can be fun.

Ten new books will be published on World Book Day, Thursday 6th March. Brand-new novels come from bestselling authors Josephine Cox and Adele Parks.

Decorated ex-SAS man and number one bestseller Chris Ryan provides an action thriller and original Doctor Who author Terrance Dicks brings us a new episode.

Non-fiction titles include a second installment of advice on success from *Big Issue* founder John Bird; a heart-warming East End childhood memoir from Gilda O'Neill and a special version of Gordon Ramsay's entertaining biography, *Humble Pie*. Two world-class sportsmen - the British Olympic medalist Colin Jackson and Welsh rugby player Scott Quinnell, who struggled with reading himself - have written autobiographical accounts of their lives and careers. Vanessa Feltz edits and introduces a gripping collection of real life stories from people around the UK.

Quick Reads was launched in March 2006, with the aim of reaching out to adults with reading difficulties and the one third of the British population that never picks up a book. They are specially written by bestselling authors and popular personalities for both reluctant readers and for enthusiastic readers wanting a short, fast-paced read. The response from emergent readers and practitioners has been extraordinary. For many emergent readers, a Quick Read has been the first book they have read by themselves from cover to cover and this has led them to go on to read further books.

SCQF

The Assessing and Measuring Learning Project funded by the SCQF has held a first session in Inverness with the training materials developed and delivered by Prue Pullen. The idea of the materials is to allow tutors to assess their learners' level or literacies so that they can show ability and progress if and when a learner asks for it without having the trauma of having to sit any kind of "test". Training sessions have also been held by our partners in Aberdeen and North Lanarkshire. Further sessions will be held in March when tutors from all areas will give feedback after they have had time to test out the training with their learners. The results will help to inform SCQF and Learning Connections about learner and tutor need in this area. The project is due to finish by the end of March 2008.



ABE News

ITALL Courses

ITALL courses are planned for Portree and Ullapool in February. Courses will also be running in other areas later in the year. If you are interested in becoming a literacies tutor, and would like to find out more about the ITALL course and when the next one will be running in your area, 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 available, please give Norman Ross a call on 01463 251279.

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