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Literacy Matters

Saughton Stories



This series of seven books was sponsored by Learning Connections, the Scottish Prison Service and Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature. The stories were written by CLAN (City Literacy and Numeracy) learners at Edinburgh Prison and illustrated by students from Edinburgh College of Art. The stories, written from the authors' own experiences, are titled: *My DJ Days*, *Boxing*, *Citizens' Band Radio*, *Robert*, *Looking Back*, *Waiting* and *The Smoking Ban at HMP Edinburgh*.

After the stories were written they were read by other CLAN learners who made a few editing suggestions. Tim Turnbull, the Writer in Residence at HMP Edinburgh, then approached Edinburgh College of Art and invited third year students to submit illustrations for each of the stories. Storytelling groups were set up and they voted on which illustrations best suited each story. Seven of the students were then asked to illustrate a book each.

The result is a set of attractive books which will be a useful resource for both literacy and ESOL learners. We have sets of these books at the Adult Literacies office, so if you wish to borrow them, please get in touch. CLAN would also appreciate feedback from tutors who have used Saughton Stories as a reading resource. Email Karen.riddell@sps.gov.uk.

Assessment and Training

HALP has been fortunate enough to be awarded funding from Learning Connections to enable us to provide training sessions for literacies tutors in assessing and measuring learners' progress. This is an important skill for tutors to develop and we plan to put on sessions in various places in Highland to allow as many tutors as possible to attend.

We also have further funding to look at the possibility of matching any general activity against the core skills criteria so that groups may be able to attain accreditation for work they are already doing.

Information about both these training opportunities will be sent out at the beginning of October. If you would like us to send you any tutor training information directly, please send us your email address, otherwise it will come to you through the usual channels in your own organisation.

Everyone has a history

and we've got a bit of yours...

The Highland Council Archive Service is going through a period of development with the expansion of the existing service throughout the Highland area, and now offering a dedicated education and outreach service.



The Highland Council, in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund, has undertaken to construct a new purpose built Highland Archive and registration Centre at the Bught, Inverness.

This centre, which will open to the public in Autumn 2009, will have secure and environmentally controlled facilities for the storage of paper and parchment documents, and specialised storage for photographs, audio visual and electronic records. Facilities include a public Searchroom and a dedicated Family History Centre including on-line access to genealogical resources, and microfilm and microfiche readers.

A Learning Centre will be established for use by school and college groups, and local heritage and family history organisations, and we encourage you to come and use the Learning Centre for activities with adult learners. There will also be exhibition space. An Archive Conservation Studio, staffed by trained archive conservators, will preserve and conserve the archival heritage of the Highlands for the benefit of future generations.

As well as the centre in Inverness, the Archive Service has an

established North Highland Archive in Wick, the recently opened Lochaber Archive Centre in Fort William, and we are developing an Archive Centre in Portree covering the Skye and Lochalsh area. The local centres have trained staff available to offer advice and support to visitors.

We aim to reach the widest possible audience and engage in community based projects and activities and work to bring as many people as possible into contact with archives. We also offer services to allow more people to learn and make discoveries about archives and what Highland Council Archives can offer.

Talks and visits to the Archive Service can be arranged to introduce new and potential visitors to the service, alongside more detailed and specialised activities for more frequent visitors and people with specific needs.

The Highland Council Archivist, Susan Beckley and Education and Outreach Co-ordinator, Morag MacLean are available to advise and support groups keen to work on projects involving archives.

Adult education tutors are very welcome to bring groups and individuals into Archive Centres and we are keen to support people from across the Highlands to improve their literacy, numeracy and information literacy skills, and encourage personal confidence and lifelong learning. We welcome users who speak English as an additional language.

So whether your interest is in finding out more about your ancestors, or discover the history of your house we should have something to interest you!

In November we will be taking part in the annual 'Archive Awareness Campaign' that aims to celebrate and uncover the amazing wealth of material contained within archives to a wider audience. We will be offering

events in local venues throughout the Highland area to encourage and welcome people into our fascinating centres. Events will be advertised in local press.

For more information or to get more involved with archives, please contact Morag MacLean, Education and Outreach Co-ordinator on 01463 703218, email morag.macleane2@highland.gov.uk or look at our website www.highland.gov.uk/archives.

Funding Awards

Highland Council's **Homeless Day Centre** has been awarded a grant to help convert a room at the centre into a reading room and provide suitable reading material. It is hoped to create a relaxed, welcoming environment that will be conducive to learning and, in turn, encourage clients to move on to further learning opportunities.

St Mary's RC Church has been awarded funding to provide 10 week courses of English lessons, at both beginner and intermediate level for the Polish community in and around Inverness.

Funding Deadlines

The closing date for the next funding rounds are:



18th November 2008
10th February 2009

Terrence Higgins Trust

Agnes Boes of the Terrence Higgins Trust has offered to come and visit any class to discuss matters such as sexual health, safer sex and HIV support and prevention. As this is a necessary part of life but often a difficult topic for a tutor to raise or enable discussion on, please feel free to contact Agnes if you would like to take up her offer. She would also be willing to work with ESOL groups and to look at vocabulary that might be useful in discussion around this subject. Agnes' email is info.highland@ttht.org.uk

The Meeting Place

In January 2007, a group of people from in and around Inverness came together to form a committee to work towards realising a vision to promote and facilitate literacy, numeracy and ICT opportunities for adults with learning disabilities. They decided the best way to progress was to be able to deliver programmes in a fixed base in order to have all resources at hand.



In May 2007, the Meeting Place was granted charitable status whilst continuing to make applications for grants to funding bodies. Premises were located when two disused cabins in the grounds of the Smithton & Culloden Youth Centre became available, and members of the management committee and local volunteers worked hard to repair, redecorate and furnish the buildings which now have a computer room, a resource room, cafe area, and other useful facilities. Funding was granted by Highland Adult Literacies in July 2008 and from Highland Council's Common Good Fund for computer hardware in August 2008.

The Meeting Place had a very successful launch night on 19th August. Almost 70 people attended as Cllr Ford from the local ward conducted the official opening ceremony. Guests were treated to the pipes played by Angela Macrae who brought a sense of pride to all who had worked tirelessly on behalf of the Meeting Place.

The Meeting Place opened its doors on 25th August as a unique meeting place to benefit learners.

Over 30 adults now attend one of eight weekly programmes and a further 10 are on the waiting list. Five volunteers play a valuable role in supporting learners and are an integral part in the delivery of all programmes which have been designed for a variety of learning needs and include literacy and ICT, working with money, web site builders, preparing for work, self access and communication boards. Learners are already showing enthusiasm and commitment to attending sessions and are learning to save their work on memory sticks as well as adding hard copies to build their portfolios.

Gill Sutherland, Project Co-ordinator, explains, 'we bring to light the skills and abilities of learners as we recognise that skills learned have often become skills lost for many adults over the years. The opportunity to learn basic computer skills and combine these skills with literacy learning such as spelling practice using Microsoft Word or using specific CD learning discs is evidence of adults utilising a repertoire of skills.

The Meeting Place is open from 10.30 to 15.30 from Monday to Thursday. Gill says, 'we are not yet in a secure funding position and as such we allocate a few evenings a week for external administration and applications for funding. To find out more or to arrange to join us during one of our sessions, please give us a call on 01463 798535 or email makinglearningfun@hotmail.co.uk'.

Big Plus



The Big Plus TV campaign started again on 1st September. We have now received fresh supplies of Big Plus branded promotional items which include pens, pads, ruler/calculators, highlighters and mugs. Please get in touch if you require any of these items.

SQA Launch Event

PDA: Introduction to Tutoring ESOL (SCQF level 6)

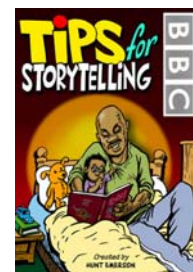
This new SQA tutoring award is aimed at those new to the field of ESOL, or experienced tutors who have no recognised ESOL teaching qualifications. It might also be suitable for teachers of other subjects who have ESOL learners in their classes.

The PDA will be launched at four events across Scotland including one in Inverness on **Tuesday 23rd September**. The aims of the events are:

- to showcase this new qualification to ESOL managers/providers and practitioners.
- to provide information for ESOL managers/providers seeking appropriate CPD opportunities their staff.
- to provide guidance on good practice and context for delivery of the award for experienced ESOL practitioners.

The events are designed for organisations who wish to consider delivering the award. They are **not** suitable for potential candidates.

To book a place, please contact Katie Hamilton, on 0845 213 5204 Katie.hamilton@sqa.org.uk For further information, contact Jennifer MacDougall on 0845 213 5596 or email jennifer.macdougall@sqa.org.uk or have a look on the webpage: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pdaesol>



RaW Campaign

The raw campaign has produced 3 booklets for learners in cartoon style. They are *Tips for Storytelling*, *Moving on Up* (about moving house) and *My Story* (about post-natal depression). If you would like copies of these booklets, please get in touch.

Farewell to Hilary



It was with a tinge of sadness that the HALP Working Group said farewell to Hilary Lawson at their recent meeting. Hilary, Tutor Organiser for the WEA in Highland, has been the Chair of the Group since its inception. Under her tutelage, the Group has benefited immensely from both her wisdom and humour and become a Partnership which is held up nationally as being an example of good practice which has initiated many projects which have been at the sharp end of the Literacies Initiative in Scotland. Partnership working has been one of Hilary's main focuses and she has encouraged us as partners to make

the links with each other which has resulted in a strong and vibrant partnership. We hope that our links with her will remain as she moves forward to new ventures and we welcome Sue Mitchell, who is coincidentally stepping into Hilary's shoes at the WEA, as Chair of HALP.

TQAL – 2nd Pilot

A second TQAL pilot is to be run from spring 2009 to autumn 2010 and people who are interested in having a place are asked to get in touch with Mary Rhind as soon as possible. Places are limited to 60 over the whole of Scotland. Participants in the first pilot found that the course was challenging but exciting and exhilarating, with the opportunity to work with other tutors throughout Scotland, totally revitalising their ways of working and deepening their knowledge of adult literacies and teaching methodology.

Building on the lessons learned from the first pilot, this course will be offered at SCQF level 10 as a Professional Graduate Diploma in Education and at SCQF level 8 as a Diploma in Higher Education. The course is based on a blend of work-based learning, face to face study centre groups, and online learning. We are hoping that if there are a good number from the north that some of the study centre groups can be based nearer to home. There is a requirement that those undertaking the course are working with Adult Literacies groups.

Further and more detailed information will be available in October. Meanwhile if you are a tutor please think about this. This will be the last time this course is offered free. Learning Connections are covering all travel and accommodation costs plus the University fees which amount to several thousand pounds alone. If you are interested but feel that there are barriers which may

prevent you taking advantage of this course, please get in touch with Mary Rhind and we can see if we can help overcome them.



ABE News

ITALL Courses

ITALL courses are planned for:

Nairn 26th September
 Inverness 16th October
 Lairg 1st November
 Lochaber Autumn


If you are interested, please give the local Co-ordinator a call.

Inverness Training Sessions

Training sessions, organised with other agencies, will be held at the Spectrum Centre this autumn. The Terrence Higgins Trust are doing awareness raising in ESOL and a session for staff, especially volunteer tutors, on **Saturday 18th October from 10.30 – 12.00.**

Autism Scotland are running an awareness raising session aimed at staff and volunteer tutors on **Saturday 25th October from 10.30 - 12.00.** Mark plans to run the ITALL PDA on Saturdays and hopes to integrate the autism training into this.

Tutors from other organisations are very welcome to attend these sessions. To book your place, please contact Mark Richardson.



ESOL Tutor Training Day
Friday 26th September
from 09.30 am – 3.30 pm
Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness

This free event, sponsored by Highland Adult Literacies and the Highland ESOL Providers Group, is aimed at ESOL practitioners throughout the North of Scotland and will involve talks about the migrant experience and provide a chance to attend 3 workshops.

Booking by 22nd September is essential

A booking form is available from the Adult Literacies office.

Adult Basic Education	
Strategy Officer	
<i>Julie Simmons</i>	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
Badenoch, Strathspey & Nairn	
<i>Mohamed Hamada</i>	01667~458556 01479~811689
Sutherland	
<i>Barbara Watson</i>	01549~402050
Skye & Lochalsh	
<i>Joey Graham</i>	01478~614064
Prison Literacies	
<i>Norman Ross</i>	01463~251279