



## This Issue

- 1** Tutors Day and Partners in Practice 3
- 1** Funding Awards
- 1** Funding Deadlines
- 2** High Societies
- 2** Essential Skills Membership
- 2** Local Accents
- 2** WEA ESOL Tutor Training

Highland Adult Literacies  
Library Support Unit  
31A Harbour Road  
Inverness IV1 1UA  
Telephone 01463 251276/7  
Email [mary.rhind@highland.gov.uk](mailto:mary.rhind@highland.gov.uk) or  
[christina.mcclintock@highland.gov.uk](mailto:christina.mcclintock@highland.gov.uk)  
Website [www.halweb.co.uk](http://www.halweb.co.uk)

# Literacy Matters

## Tutors Day and Partners in Practice 3



*Thistle Hotel, Inverness  
5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> February 2009*

We are currently finalising the arrangements for our Tutor Day and Partners in Practice 3 to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> February. As well as presentations on current literacies issues, there will be a varied choice of workshops and discussion forums for delegates to attend. The events will also offer the chance to meet with other tutors and practitioners.

Booking forms will be circulated shortly. If you have not received a form by 14<sup>th</sup> January but would like to attend one or both of these free events, please get in touch.

## Funding Awards

Following its successful project earlier this year, **Highland Council's Deaf Communication Project** has been awarded £3,775

to work with a group of 6 BSL users on a weekly basis. Communication support between the hearing tutor and deaf learners will again be supported by signed interpretation.

Work on creating deaf-friendly training strategies and resources will build on what was achieved and reported on in the previous project. A range of both common and unique difficulties that deaf people encounter when trying to decode English will be documented. The project runs from January to March 2009

**The Meeting Place** has been awarded £12,280 to continue to deliver a range of literacy, numeracy and ICT courses to adults with complex learning needs until April 2009.

**Highland Libraries** has been awarded £4,275 to install the online 'Life in Great Britain' course on the 80 designated computers of the People's Network machines within its 40 library sites. The course has a Scottish content relevant to people living in Scotland. This is the first time that it will be available in Highland. The course offers an additional learning tool for people attending ESOL classes and will be particularly useful for migrants wishing to take the citizenship test.

## Funding Deadlines

The closing dates for the next funding rounds are:

**10<sup>th</sup> February 2009**  
**12<sup>th</sup> May 2009**





## High Societies

*New database*

Highland Libraries are compiling a database containing contact information for groups, clubs and societies across the Highlands.

Much of the information is already available in a range of websites, local publications, databases and card indexes but the **High Societies** project will bring together, on-line for the very first time, essential contact information about community life in the Highlands in an accessible and easily searchable format.

Adult Literacies and ESOL providers will be able to list details of their classes or provide links to their own websites. Learners can use the site to access information about what their community has on offer.

To be among the first listed on **High Societies**, you can obtain an entry form from your local library or service point. Once the database is launched, all groups wishing to be included will be able to enter their details on-line from the start at [www.high-societies.org](http://www.high-societies.org) and manage their own entries. They can upload images of their activities and promote events they are organising for free.

For more information contact your local library or email: [libraries@highland.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@highland.gov.uk)

## Essential Skills Membership

Highland Libraries are very keen to encourage learners who are working with tutors to develop their literacy and numeracy skills, to explore the resources which the library service has available.

In order to make the library service as accessible as possible to these learners, Highland Libraries has created a new category of borrower with the borrower code 'Essential Skills.' Borrowers in this category can borrow the same number of books and other resources as other adult borrowers, but they will not pay hire charges on the loan of Audio Visual items (DVDs, Talking Books, etc), and they will not pay overdue charges if items they have borrowed are returned to the library after their due date.

Learners will be assigned to this category of borrower when they are referred to the library with the appropriate referral form completed and signed by their literacies tutor. The learner will remain in this category of borrower for a period of **two years** after which they will revert to one of the standard borrower categories unless their tutor considers that they would still benefit from this facility.

For more information, please contact John Dempster, Senior Librarian on 01463 251254 [john.dempster@highland.gov.uk](mailto:john.dempster@highland.gov.uk)

## Local Accents

*Highland Listening Resource for ESOL Tutors*

Many ESOL learners experience difficulty in understanding local accents even if they have studied English for many years before arriving in Scotland. To address the need for published listening materials with Scottish accents, the WEA has co-ordinated a 'local Highland accents' project in conjunction with Sheerface Ltd and as part of the wider Learning Connections' SoundScotland project. They have produced a resource pack which offers ESOL learners the

opportunity to familiarise themselves with a variety of local accents. There are 30 sound based lessons each related to one theme which include day to day scenarios such as renting a flat, opening a bank account or registering with a GP. The pack contains teaching and learning worksheets, tape scripts and an accompanying CD. The materials can be used as the basis of a speaking and listening course or the tutor may choose to dip into them to supplement an existing course.

We have a number of these resource packs at the Adult Literacies Office so please get in touch if you would like one.



**WEA ESOL  
Tutor Training  
Beaufort Hotel,  
Inverness**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 10.00 – 12.00  
English Language and Grammar**

This session will look at different ways of teaching grammar points within the English lesson.

A pre-workshop assignment will be issued by e-mail on 16<sup>th</sup> January to all those who have expressed an interest in attending. These should be completed prior to the workshop to help delegates to prepare. They will not be handed in for any kind of assessment.

There will be a further workshops on the following dates:

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

Wherever possible, workshops will be linked in with the expected criteria for the SQA PDA in ESOL Tutoring so that those hoping to embark on this qualification will be able to recall some of the materials and subjects covered to assist with future preparation for assessment.

To be added to the mailing list, for more information, to book a place or to make suggestions for future workshops, please contact Shona Radojkovic on 07766 083813, email [shona@trytraining.co.uk](mailto:shona@trytraining.co.uk).