



Highland
Adult
Literacies

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Literacy Matters

February Conferences



Partners in Practice 3

The Partners in Practice 3 event which was held on 6th February proved to be stimulating and inspiring for those who attended. All of the projects which HALP has funded over the past 2 years showcased their activity and people were able to share good practice. In addition Jane Jones gave an excellent presentation on the opportunities for everyone to get involved in politics and John McGrath, funded by Learning Connections, demonstrated how websites could be used to enhance learning. Thanks go especially to all the partners who delivered workshops and shared their good practice with partners and practitioners. A report from the day with details and contacts for projects will be available in due course.

Tutors Day

Literacies tutors gathered together in February from all the airts of Highland to share good practice. Thanks go to the several partners gave of their expertise and time to run workshops and shared their

ways of working with colleagues. HALP is fortunate to have such an expertise to draw on. John McGrath, funded by Learning Connections, also demonstrated how tutors could create websites to use with their learners.

Feedback showed that tutors also enjoyed the networking aspect of the day.

Funding Awards

Adult Basic Education has been awarded £150,350 to maintain the increased hours of the Area Co-ordinators and to continue to employ the Literacies Workers in Ross & Cromarty and Inverness. ABE will continue to provide a wide range of literacies and ESOL learning opportunities across Highland and will provide awareness raising and training to other organisations.

It has also been awarded £35,682 to continue to employ the **Prison Literacies Liaison Officer** to undertake work both in Porterfield Prison and with former prisoners after release. The Officer will also provide support to other agencies working with this client group.

In addition, in a joint project with the **British Army**, ABE has been awarded £6,209 to deliver 9 SQA courses in literacy, numeracy and ESOL to soldiers stationed at Fort George whose education level is below Intermediate 1.

The **Workers' Educational Association** has been awarded £35,095 to continue the work of the Workplace Literacy Co-ordinator who will develop contacts with employers, sector skills councils, trade unions and other existing providers to delivery adult literacies skills in the workplace.

In addition, they have been awarded £2,738 for family ESOL at **Crown Primary School**.

Apex has been awarded £32,106 and will work with other agencies to identify individuals requiring literacies support to help them maintain motivation to change and gain and sustain employment, training or further education. Learners will also have the opportunity to take part in 2 community based challenges for which they will be fully involved in the planning and preparation.

Lead Scotland has been awarded £22,198 to offer the opportunity to engage in literacies learning for those, often referred by health professionals, who have difficulty with speech, cognitive function, and communication because of acquired disability.

The Meeting Place has been awarded £17,993 to continue to deliver a range of literacy, numeracy and ICT courses to adults with complex learning needs until September 2009.

Youth Highland has been awarded £8,898 to expand on the work achieved by the Youth Literacies Worker and increase the involvement of young people by developing innovative ways of providing integrated literacy.

Rosebank Primary School, on behalf of the 5 Nairnshire schools, has been awarded ESOL funding to provide English classes at various levels to support migrant families.

Funding Deadlines

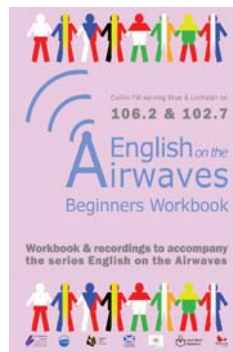
The closing dates for the next funding rounds are:



12th May
14th August

English on the Airwaves Project

Cuillin FM 106.2 or 102.7



Following on from the success of our initial project for helping migrants in the area learn and develop

their English Skills, we have been busy re-launching our workbook and CD which will be ready for distribution very shortly.

The group followed up on feedback and ideas received on the first phase of the project and have further developed the workbook & CDs to a more user friendly version.

The project aims to broadcast programmes for ESOL Learners in the Skye & Lochalsh area through our local radio station, Cuillin FM 106.2 or 102.7. We always have a huge challenge trying to reach migrant workers whose work shifts make it difficult for them to attend classes held locally and from living in a rural area there are

constant transport issues, hence the reason to broadcast and produce the workbook and CDs.

Alistair Danter, Highland Opportunities, Mary Mackenzie, Isle of Skye Language Centre, Angie Murphy, Sienna Design and Iain Copeland, Phat Controller Productions and I have all played key parts within the making of the project, along with ABE volunteer tutors who helped with the recordings. We are really proud to say, the whole production has been completed locally in Skye from scripting, recordings, graphics, printing, advertising to distribution.

The first show was aired on Cuillin FM on Saturday 11th April and the lessons will follow on for six weeks and will be repeated periodically throughout the spring/summer months. You can listen in live to the programmes and download the workbook from www.cuillinfm.co.uk We also have the support of our Local Libraries who will assist in the distribution of the workbooks and Alasdair Macrae, Springboard Scotland who advises all new workers of the project.

If you would like further information on the project please contact me on joey.graham@highland.gov.uk telephone 01478 614064 or Mary Mackenzie on macmary@skyelanguagecentre.co.uk telephone 01478 613753.

Joey Graham, ABE Co-ordinator, Skye & Lochalsh

Quick Reads



World Book Day, 5 March 2009, saw the publication of a brand new series of Quick Reads titles, including books by Ian Rankin, John Boyne, the Dragons' Den team, *Coronation Street* star, Sherrie Hewson and many more. The Quick Reads initiative, now in its fourth year, is a major collaboration between, amongst others, authors, publishers, government bodies, educationalists, the BBC.

Quick Reads are short, exciting books by bestselling writers and celebrities, for adults who are new to reading, have lost the reading habit, or who just prefer a quick read. With no more than 128 pages, Quick Reads are a great source of enjoyment and a successful tool to increase the confidence of readers. These 10 new books plus a further 22 titles still available from the back catalogue, also offer sufficient variety to have something to appeal to every reader.

Quick Reads have made a huge impact on the lives of many adults who struggle with reading. Increased confidence and better

job prospects are just some of the benefits that were reported in a major survey of the initiative.

For more information and details of each of the books and their authors, please see the Quick Reads website at

www.niace.org.uk/quickreads.

Homeless Day Centre

Reading Room Opening

The opening of a reading room could empower homeless people to better their lives. People who are in emergency accommodation or sleeping rough can now use this new facility at Inverness Homeless Day Centre, which was officially opened on 5th March, and which aims to improve the literacy of homeless people so they can in turn help themselves.



A range of books are available and staff are on hand to help clients read and assist with the basics such as form filling. It can be a major barrier for some of the clients who attend the centre who have problems with their reading and writing skills. The reading room also gives clients a chance to get away from the bustle of the centre and relax for a couple of hours.

The reading room was funded by the Highland Adult Literacies Partnership who thought that the Read All About It Project was very exciting and

that it offered the potential to engage a very marginalised group into literacies learning. The funding was used to buy books including easy reading, fiction, biographies and short stories. It also covered the cost of two staff who have been undertaking ITALL training so that there would be a solid foundation for sustainability.

Links have also been made with Highland Libraries so that readers can easily progress from this project into mainstream use of the public library.



ABE News
ITALL Courses

ITALL courses are planned for the end of May in Tain and Caithness. Other courses will run later in the year, including one in Inverness where it is hoped to integrate the PDA.

If you are interested in becoming a literacies tutor and would like to be included on a course, please give your local Co-ordinator a call.

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<i>Joey Graham</i>	01478~614064
Prison Literacies	
<i>Norman Ross</i>	01463~251279

BBC RaW – Financial Literacy

The BBC RaW campaign www.bbc.co.uk/raw has a new strand – financial literacy. In these uncertain times, the ability to understand and manage money is an essential skill, which is why RaW has re-branded itself as a ‘skills for everyday life’ campaign. BBC RaW booklets on money management have been distributed to all Highland Libraries, and the new website contains lots of useful information on managing money, using computers and many other topics.

International Guidance Officer

Inverness College, in partnership with the Highlands and Islands Enterprise, have launched a new service, which is to help non UK nationals based in the Highlands and Islands region to progress in their careers. The International Guidance Officer Renata Grove has been working with clients from a number of different countries and has established working partnerships with employers, the voluntary sector, training providers and other partner agencies in order that any identified need can be met with an appropriate provision of support.

Individual clients benefit from receiving advice and information on career progression as well as from further signposting to local sources of employment, learning and training opportunities. Guidance that takes into consideration cultural differences is also offered with

regards to non-employment based activities promoting integration and employability.

Individual clients or partners can contact Renata Grove, who is based in Inverness College on 01463 273 261 or email: renata.grove@inverness.uhi.ac.uk

Life in Great Britain

Highland Libraries are now able to offer library members free access to the Life in Great Britain online resource. The website allows users to work through the course material for the Life in the UK Citizenship Test in a simple and accessible way. By using their library card number users can access the site from any internet-enabled computer (at home or for free in the library) and take mock tests to prepare them for the real Citizenship test.

For more details on how tutors can use the website with their ESOL learners, please contact Mary Rhind on 01463 251276 (mary.rhind@highland.gov.uk) or visit the site at www.220soft.net/highlands (the site is also listed on the eReference pages within Highland Libraries’ web pages).

Carol Hart

We are very sorry to have to say goodbye to Carol Hart who has ably represented Highland Libraries on the HALP Working Group for the past four years. Carol has been a much valued member of the group and has contributed a lot to meetings. The good news is that she is not moving very far as she takes up her new post as Learning Resource Centre Manager at the Longman Campus of Inverness College and we wish her well.



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

The workshops are stand-alone and cover a range of themes aimed at supporting tutors who are teaching ESOL learners in the area. They also provide opportunities for tutors to network.

Thursday 14 May **Assessing learner needs**

What situations do your learners face in their everyday lives and how can we plan our teaching around this?

Wednesday 3 June **Communicative teaching techniques**

Tips on how to make your lessons more interactive, involving and memorable.

Thursday 18 June **Learner language and providing feedback**

Relevant and sensitive feedback is at the heart of effective teaching and learning: this workshop explores typical ESOL learner errors and how to give appropriate feedback.

Tuesday 30 June **Try it, it works!**

A chance for everyone to get involved: demonstrate a short activity that has proved effective in your ESOL classroom.

All sessions are held from 10:00 to 12:00. Sessions are **free** and tea and coffee are provided.

If you would like to book a place on any of the workshops, please contact Gillian Scott, ESOL Quality Development Coordinator at the WEA, on 07851 413276 or email g.scott@weascotland.org.uk