



Highland
Adult
Literacies

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Issue 40

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Literacy Matters

LOOP Conference

Friday 19th February



As part of our literacies network project – Literacies Opportunities for Offenders in Partnership (LOOP), a multi-agency offender literacies conference is being held in Inverness on Friday 19th February 2010. The venue is Inshes Church, Inverness.

This is an opportunity to raise awareness and discuss the issues surrounding literacies work and related provision and support involving offenders and ex-offenders, in prison and in the community. There will be a variety of workshops and a keynote speaker.

Details and a flyer will be sent out shortly. If you are interested in attending please pencil it in your diary and email Norman Ross on norman.ross2@highland.gov.uk and he will send you a registration form in due course. Please cc Chris Mcclintock on Christina.Mcclintock@highland.gov.uk.

Learners' Conference

Nairn, Saturday 6th March

A learners' conference is being organised by some learners in Highland, along with others across the north of Scotland. This will take place in Nairn in March. There are a number of places being reserved at this conference for Highland learners.

The conference will be mostly on Saturday 6th March but there will be some activity on the evening of Friday 5th for people who can arrive then. There is the option for people to stay overnight if they wish.

The conference itself is FREE and travel will be paid for. If you need childcare, please let the HALP Office know by 5th February with numbers and ages of the children.

The programme for the conference is still in the final stages of production but will include a choice from

- ICT
- Craft
- Literacy hunt
- Music work shop
- Sign language
- Creative writing
- Numeracy

The full programme with more details will be available soon. Please contact us if you would like a copy. A booking form can also be obtained from the HALP office.

Weaving with Words Wallhangings



In the late summer of 2009, TAG Highland celebrated the Year of Homecoming by producing a series of wallhangings depicting various aspects of Homecoming. A group drawn from TAG Inverness and TAG Easter Ross worked together and began by collecting scrap textiles and remnants suitable for recycling. While this was going on they spent three weeks doing some creativity exercises, discussing what was meant by Homecoming and drawing up story-boards to evaluate possible designs.

For six weeks some practised old skills and all learned new skills (for some this was using a sewing machine, for others it was how to thread a needle!) all the while discussing colours and textures, words and pictures, scenes and stories. The black and white storyboards were adorned with coloured samples and developed into mood-boards, while the pile of

material shrank and was transformed into a dozen wall hangings. With the assistance of some colleagues in the picture framing group, the wall hangings were mounted and framed and ready to be displayed in TAG's Inverness premises.

However, more was to come and all this work was rewarded by being displayed outside the main Highland Council chamber in November. A group of staff and clients visited Glenurquhart Road on 17th November and after viewing the exhibition, had a tour of the Council building followed by tea and coffee in the lounge. There they met some councillors who expressed admiration for the work done and said the wall hangings had been much admired during a recent conference hosted earlier in the Council chamber. Isobel, from Invergordon said "It was nice to hear that the finished articles were getting admired by visitors to the Highlands"

Joanna from Inverness spoke for all the participants when she wrote "I enjoyed the Weaving with Words course!"

Alan Crombie
Tag Highland



ABE
News

ITALL Courses

If you are interested in becoming an adult literacies tutor, ITALL courses are planned to start on the following dates.

Portree 24 February
Dingwall 27 February
Inverness April

Please get in touch with the local co-ordinator to book a place. The Dingwall course will also offer the PDA as part of the programme. In addition, Mark Richardson would like to hear from existing ITALL trained tutors who are interested in doing the PDA, as he hopes to promote this training opportunity shortly.

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Quick Reads



On World Book Day, 4 March 2010, Quick Reads will celebrate their fifth anniversary with the publication of 10 new titles, including novels by Andy McNab, Alison Weir, Cathy Kelly, Peter James and Bernardine Evaristo, plus another Dr Who adventure.

Non-fiction titles include 'Magic Money' by Alvin Hall, a guide to making money work for you, 'We Won the Lottery' by Danny Buckland, in which 5 lottery winners share their experiences, 'Life's too Short' true stories of life at work and 'Buster Fleabags', Rolf Harris's childhood memories of his much loved pet.

Details of these, plus the 33 other titles still available to buy, can be found on the Quick Reads website on www.quickreads.org.uk.

Quick reads are ideal for regular readers wanting a short, fast read, and for those who have lost the reading habit or who may find reading tough.

Quick reads also produce promotional materials which include posters, bookmarks, mugs and pens. These are available free and can be ordered from the Quick Reads website.

Funding Awards

Following the exceptional demand for ESOL classes throughout Highland, **Adult Basic Education** has been awarded £12,960 to continue to run these classes throughout Highland until March 2010. Part of the funding is also earmarked for using innovative ways of delivering literacies groupwork.

The **Highland Council's Interrupted Education Unit** has been awarded £4,010 for a new project which aims to embed literacy and numeracy into the learning of sewing and craft skills by a small identified group of Gypsy/Traveller women. The project, based in Inverness, will run until April 2010.

Badenoch Learning and Resource Centre has been awarded £2,985 to continue to provide ESOL classes and to enable learners, where appropriate, to work towards accreditation. The project, based in Kingussie and serving the surrounding area, runs until April 2010.

Aviemore and Area Learning Project has been awarded £2,442.12 to continue to work with MacDonald Aviemore Highland Resort to provide ESOL courses for their employees. The courses which will also be available to employees from other businesses and will run in Aviemore until March 2010.

Funding Deadlines

The closing date for the next funding rounds is:



16th February 2010

The Big Plus Work Skills Academy



The Big Plus has sent us copies of their latest interactive CD-Rom, Work Skills Academy. It contains 8 enjoyable games, related to 4 workplace themes - construction, hairdressing, care and retail. It aims to build up literacy in areas such as listening skills, alphabetical order, spelling work-related vocabulary, homophones and punctuation. The numeracy games cover basic addition and subtraction as well as fractions, decimals and percentages.

We also still have copies of the Football Academy CD-Rom which contains similar games on a football theme. Both CDs can also be used as an introduction to computer skills.

Sandstone Vista Series

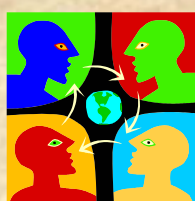
We also have the complete set of 12 Sandstone Vista books for emergent readers, available for borrowing. Details of all our resources can be accessed via the Adult Literacies website www.halweb.co.uk.

If you would like a copy of the Work Skills Academy or the Football Academy CD-Roms or would like to borrow any of our other resources, please contact the Adult Literacies Office.

ESOL Tutor Training Course

11 Week Pilot Programme

Ten Highland tutors have completed the new first-stage national professional development award



WEA ESOL Tutor Workshops

Tuesday 26th January

Setting a Context for Learners

Focusing on the importance of setting a context and creating interest in a topic or theme you plan to teach in a session. There will be an opportunity to practise setting up activities through peer teaching, using 'lead-ins'. 'Functional language' (eg giving advice, inviting, asking for permission) will also be revised.

Monday 8th February

Eliciting and Checking Vocabulary

This workshop will introduce and provide practice in techniques for eliciting vocabulary from learners. It will also explore ways of checking whether your learners have understood the target vocabulary (ie 'concept checking').

Thursday 25th February

Introducing Grammar in an Interesting Way!

How to present and practise new language points in ways that will involve learners and keep them interested.

All sessions take place at the **Highland Homeless Trust, 57 Church Street, Inverness** from **10.00 to 12.00**.

To book your place, please contact Gillian Scott, on 07851 413276 or email g.scott@weasotland.org.uk

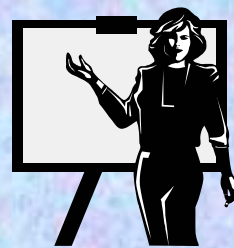
'Introduction to Tutoring English for Speakers of Other Languages'.

The Workers' Educational Association received funding from the Highland Adult Literacies Partnership, HIE and the European Social Fund to run the 11-week pilot programme from September to December 2009. The award is aimed at ESOL tutors, volunteers and tutor assistants and sits at Level 6 on the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework.

One of the guiding principles of the national ESOL strategy for Scotland (March 2007) is quality provision that is easily accessible, cost-effective and uses best practice in the teaching and learning of languages. The training is in response to this and the significant number of migrant workers and ethnic minority learners attending English classes in the Highlands.

The ten participants came from a variety of backgrounds, including mainstream teaching, training, nursing and the law, and are currently involved in tutoring one to one or small groups in Inverness, Ross-shire, Sutherland and Badenoch and Strathspey.

The WEA hope to offer another course in 2010. If you would like to register interest in a future course, please contact Gillian Scott, ESOL Quality Development Coordinator at g.scott@weasotland.org.uk Telephone 07851 413276



Training Courses

**Wednesday 27th January and
Thursday 4th February**

Getting to grips with the Curriculum Wheel

Have you had the opportunity to really explore what the Curriculum Wheel has to offer? If not, and even if you have, this interactive session is for you! Linked to the Curriculum Framework, the Wheel provides tutors and learners with an abundance of resources - from video clips of learners, to a variety of planning and review tools, information and links to useful websites. This hands-on session will help you to identify how the Curriculum Wheel can add value to your literacy and core skills provision.

Presented by Hilary Lawson

**Merkinch Community Centre,
Inverness** from **10.00 to 13.15**
followed by lunch

Thursday 25th February

Visual and Visual Perceptual Difficulties in Adult Literacy

This awareness raising session offers a basic introduction to the range and nature of visual and visual perceptual difficulties that can affect reading effectiveness. The training offers guidance on identification of adults who may be experiencing previously undetected visual problems and the type of information and support that should be part of learning provision.

Presented by Fiona Dickinson

Beaufort Hotel, Inverness from **10.00 to 13.00** followed by lunch

To book a place on any of these courses, please contact the Adult Literacies Office.