



Highland
Adult
Literacies

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Literacy Matters

Every Picture Tells a Story 2012



Photograph courtesy of the Highland Photographic Archive

Following the success of last year's Every Picture Tells a Story Competition, we are launching another which will be judged in April.

This competition is open to anyone over 16 who is, or has been, a learner with any Highland Adult Literacies partner, whether or not they are currently in a class.

The competition is to select a picture, either a photograph, drawing or painting, and write up to 500 words from one of the following:

- A. A short story or poem using an idea from the picture
- B. What this picture means to me

Entries will be judged in two groups, one for native English speakers (**Literacy**) and the other for people for whom English is not their first language (**ESOL**).

An in-house panel of judges will decide the winners. There will be 4 top prizes of a £30 gift voucher and 12 runner-up prizes of a £15 voucher. We are planning to hold the presentation at a prize-giving event to celebrate Adult Learners Week which runs from 12th to 18th May 2012.

Entry forms will be circulated to partners shortly, or can be requested from the Adult Literacies Office. The closing date for entries is Thursday 5th April 2012.

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Lead Scotland's Learners Get Ready To Volunteer

Lead Scotland in the highlands has been funded by HALP, to deliver a one year project called Get Ready To Volunteer. The aim of this project is to provide disabled young people and adults, with a supportive environment in which to develop the skills and experience they need to become effective volunteers in their community.

The project, being learner lead, has evolved in response to the ambitions of its participants; which in all cases is a strong desire to be active and contribute in some way, and for one group in particular, a passion about computing. As a result an 'IT Group' has formed, met, mapped out its purpose and drawn up an Action Plan to realise its aims.

The group intends to go out in to the local community and help elderly and disabled people use their computers more effectively. This will include:

- sorting out problems and carrying out maintenance
- showing folk how to avoid future problems
- teaching good user skills and internet security
- Introducing adaptive equipment and software and coaching on its use

The Action Plan identified that although the group had a good range of skills and knowledge in the field, there were areas needing development, and training was required. The learning had to be local, hands on, meet the needs of the

participants and be up to date technically. A tall order that existing provision could not fulfil.

Happily, Highland Council stepped in and has provided funding to enable Lead to deliver a tailored course in the New Year.



Highland new Reporter Jenna MacCulloch hands over the computers to members of the IT Group. From left: David Lorimer, Ray White, Teresa Johnson and John Neil (from article in Highland News October 20th 2011)

For the course delivery, Lead has employed the talents of an expert from the telecoms sector who together with the Lead Learning Co-ordinator will deliver the course over 8 weeks from January to March.

In addition the Highland News Group has donated 6 computers that will be taken apart and rebuilt, forming an essential component of the learning.

During the course, key knowledge and skills inputs will be collated and drawn up in to a handy user manual that can be referred to by the participants once they go out into the community to volunteer. The group is keen that this manual will be accessible to all users

and it is planned that it will be produced in audio and visual formats, probably on DVD, that can then be handed out to new volunteers once they join.

The group is looking forward to the learning they will gain from the course and they already enjoy working and learning

together. We will report back in April and let you know how we got on.

Teresa Johnson, Lead Scotland

Adult Learners' Week

Learner Awards 2012

Scotland's Learning Partnership will again be celebrating the achievements of adult learners through the annual Adult Learners' Week Awards. The awards are open to learners over 21, living in Scotland who are either currently in learning or completed after 31st January 2009. Entry forms are available from the HALP office and the closing date for nominations is 24th February 2012.

Scottish Migrants Network Conference 2011

The Scottish Migrants Network Conference 2011 was held in Edinburgh on 13 October. The object of the conference was to share policy and practice on new migrant issues. There were eight workshops during the day with participants from the Scottish Government (John Finnie MSP), Universities, COSLA, Unions, Local Authorities, CAS, Police, Migrants' Forums and Action Groups.

I was invited to present to the Employability Workshop and talk about my experience in organising the English at Work Programme in the Highlands. This included the work undertaken by Marta Chaba from Unison and Renata Grove from Talent Scotland.

This successful programme, funded by the ESF through Highland Council, has been running for four years and helps migrant workers learn English in the workplace. The Workers' Educational Association has worked with over 20 different employers from hotels to hospitals. By making all the

arrangements for each class the work required by the employer is minimised. Many migrants are employed indirectly through employment agencies particularly in the food industries. Courses are now running for these workers for one of the agencies in Inverness.

Learners come from a wide spectrum of ages, skills and nationalities and they find the convenience of courses at work at a shift end suit their busy lives. Attendance levels at the courses are high. Tutors are well qualified and very flexible and are supported by WEA training courses and local material written in conjunction with the employers.

Networking with the Migrant Worker Coordinator from Talent Scotland/Highland Council and the Migrant Workers Fieldworker from Unison Scotland has been an important factor in getting information to migrants about their opportunities to learn with the Union and the WEA. However, the number of all the agencies working with migrants was large and sometimes made communication complicated and difficult.

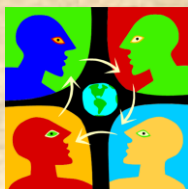
There was a group discussion regarding what it was in the programme that attracted employers. A direct and personal approach to employers yielded the best results. Using networks and partnerships built up over several years was a good source of leads to interested parties.

For further information on the English at Work Programme, please contact me on r.wylie@weascotland.org.uk

Robert Wylie, WEA Highland



WEA ESOL Tutor Workshops



WEA Highland have three ESOL tutor workshops planned for early 2012. The workshops, which will be delivered by Melanie Danet, are stand-alone and cover themes aimed at supporting tutors who are teaching ESOL learners in the area. They also provide opportunities for tutors to network.

Monday 16 January 13:00 - 15:00

Identifying ESOL Levels

This workshop aims to raise awareness of different ESOL levels and what learners are capable of at each level. Participants will also consider 'spiky profiles', i.e. learners who are at different levels in the 4 skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Monday 6 February 13:00 - 16:00

SQA ESOL Assessments

This workshop provides an overview of the SQA ESOL Assessments at different levels. Samples of candidates' speaking and writing assessments will be used for the purpose of providing marking practice. The majority of samples will be different from the previous workshop in May 2011. Suitable for tutors who are currently (or about to be) involved in SQA ESOL assessments.

Monday 27 February 13:00 - 15:00

Fuss-free Activities

Melanie will demonstrate short flexible ESOL activities that require minimum preparation. Participants will discuss how the activities can be adapted to suit different levels, interests and needs.

The sessions will be held at the Highland Homeless Trust meeting room, David Whyte House (basement) 57 Church Street, Inverness IV1 1DR

Please note that this venue is not suitable for wheelchair access – please let us know if required.

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