

Beans for Breakfast

CLAN Edinburgh recently held a highly successful planning meeting involving twenty-seven learners from different parts of Edinburgh. Learners shared their own experiences of learning and came up with excellent ideas for a larger event in June.

The June event will be a great opportunity for CLAN to bring more learners together from all over Edinburgh. Some ideas for the big feast in June include:

- small group discussions
- learners displaying their own work through slides, video and photography
- learners talking about their achievements

and much, much, more ...

More information about the June event will follow. To find out how you can involve your learners, contact Lorraine on 0131 270 6072 or email: lorraine@clanedinburgh.org

You can see photographs taken from the planning meeting on the Web at www.clanedinburgh.org/involvinglearnersday

“

small groups were really good ... getting name badges as you came in was excellent planning ... it was a chance to meet new people ... it was a good idea to go around the group so that everyone could have a say ... the event was very good ... it was good to talk about all the learning I, and other people, had done ... I liked the small groups as I do not like speaking in front of people I do not know ... I was treated as an equal ... good to mix with other people ... in June it will be great to talk about the things we do in a fun way

”

Some comments from the learners who came to the planning meeting.

Learners' Event on Saturday 12 June



For those who are receiving Beans for the first time and may not be familiar with CLAN, here's a guide to the Partnership.

CLAN EDINBURGH

city literacy and numeracy



CLAN Edinburgh (*City Literacy & Numeracy*) is a partnership project funded by the Scottish Executive and led by the City of Edinburgh Council.

The partnership's key objectives are to increase the number of people confident about using English and Maths in their everyday lives, increase choice for learners and improve the quality of learning opportunities in the City of Edinburgh.

The funding we receive from the Executive is used to employ project workers in all parts of the City, working in Community Education and the Further Education Colleges as well as others with specialist briefs such as Workplace Learning, English as a Second or Alternative Language, Health & Literacy, Young People and the Voluntary Sector.

We prioritise work with

- people with limited initial education, particularly young adults, including 15-year olds no longer in school
- unemployed and workers facing redundancy
- people with English as a second or additional language
- people who live in disadvantaged areas
- workers in low skill jobs
- people on low incomes
- people with a health problem or disability affecting learning, speech, sight or hearing

We also aim to work with hard to reach groups of learners.

Challenge Fund

The Challenge Fund supports bids to run innovative literacies projects. Any organisation can apply for a grant and there are application submission dates several times a year. Amounts vary: a small project might be awarded up to £5,000, but there is scope to £10,000 and some room for phased bids.

RECENT CHALLENGE FUND PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- **Driving Theory Test:** A practical integrated literacy course for 15-25 year olds using the driving theory test as the tool for literacy development.
- **Pilton Youth & Children's Project:** By working closely with youth organisations in greater Pilton, this project delivers literacy integrated into various topics attractive to young people, i.e web design, music and football.
- **Suntrap Garden:** Literacy & numeracy in horticulture to include people who have learning difficulties or who are unemployable because they have little or no literacy and numeracy skills.
- **Deaf Family Workshops:** This project is aimed at deaf adults who have no history of post school learning and limited initial education and who require a supportive learning environment.
- **Edinburgh People's Stories:** The aim of the project is to use the medium of reminiscence/oral history/social history to engage adults in residential care settings and sheltered housing developments across Edinburgh in learning programmes.

Our partners

The City of Edinburgh Council. Margaret Jessop. Tel: 0131 469 3373. Email: margaret.jessop@educ.edin.gov.uk

Edinburgh's Telford College. David Thomas. Tel: 0131 315 7627. Email: david.thomas@ed-coll.ac.uk

Jewel & Esk Valley College. Ruth Hendery. Tel: 0131 654 5275. Email: rhendery@jevc.ac.uk

Stevenson College Edinburgh. Jackie McFarlane. Tel: 0131 535 4657. Email: jmcfarlane@stevenson.ac.uk

WEA Scotland (*Workers' Educational Association*). Elizabeth Bryan. Tel: 0131 225 7772. Email: e.bryan@weascotland.org.uk

2nd Chance to Learn. Nick Flavin. Tel: 0131 650 9522 or 226 1283. Email: nick.flavin@ed.ac.uk

NHS Lothian. Kate Burton. Tel: 0131 459 7248. Email: kate.burton@lpct.scot.nhs.uk

For Challenge Fund and general enquiries

Angus Whyte, Coordinator. Tel: 0131 270 6076. Email: angus@clanedinburgh.org

Richard Terry, Operations Manager. Tel: 0131 270 6071. Email: richard@clanedinburgh.org

Mags Morgan, Administrative Assistant. Tel: 0131 270 6072. Email: mags@clanedinburgh.org

Fiona Holmes, Marketing & Press Officer. Tel: 0131 270 6073. Email: fiona@clanedinburgh.org

Gillian Lawrence, Training Officer. Tel: 0131 270 6070. Email: gillian@clanedinburgh.org

Catherine Macrae, ICT & Literacies Officer. Tel: 0131 270 6034. Email: catherine@clanedinburgh.org

All staff listed above based at CLAN Edinburgh, 1-3 Canon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5HE. Fax: 0131 270 6074.

Web: www.clanedinburgh.org

The Literacies Action Plan for Edinburgh 2004-06 is available at www.clanedinburgh.org/actionplan

Web Links by Topics

City College Manchester provides very useful lists of links to web based activities by topic (e.g. *spelling, poetry, fractions, time*). Literacy links are at www.citycol.com/basic_skills/activities%20english.htm and numeracy at www.citycol.com/basic_skills/activities%20maths.htm

PROS: The links take you directly to the web page, so if you click on Plurals under the Spelling heading, you go directly to the activity.
CONS: Apart from the topic and subtopic names, there is no indication of the page level or format.

Interactive Games and Tools

Ambleside Primary School provides a collection of interactive games and tools for numeracy at <http://ambleweb.digitalbrain.com/ambleweb/ambleweb/ambleweb/numeracy.htm> and for literacy at <http://ambleweb.digitalbrain.com/ambleweb/ambleweb/ambleweb/literacy.htm>

PROS: Many of the items are lively and interactive, such as 'What's My Angle?' in the numeracy collection or 'Look, Cover, Write, Check' in the literacy one.

CONS: Some of the material can have a childish appearance but much is quite neutral.

Free Spelling Programme

A free software program you can download is RnR Spelling. Based on the Look, Cover, Write, Check method, this application helps the learner to practice words he or she is learning. N.B. Lists of words need to be entered. You can find it at www.freenetpages.co.uk/hp/khughes/RnRspelling

PROS: The program checks the spelling and tells you whether it is right or wrong. Students with access to a computer outwith their class can get a copy for free.

CONS: The presentation is very simple and it does not highlight the wrong letters within words as software you can buy usually does. N.B. If you are new to downloading and installing software, you can find the process clearly explained at <http://newbieclub.com/download>

Learning Styles Quiz

Find out your preferred learning style using a simple cartoon style quiz which also explains the characteristics of theorists, reflectors, pragmatists and activists.

www.mathemagic.org/styles/index.html

PROS: Many learning styles activities on the Web charge for use but this is free.

CONS: The cartoon style may not appeal to all.



RNIB Scotland (Royal National Institute of the Blind) opened a new, purpose-built Employment and Learning Centre beside the Milton Road Campus of Jewel & Esk Valley College in December 2003.

The Centre aims to improve employment, learning and training opportunities for blind and partially sighted people in Scotland and the north of England.

Entry is by referral from the Disability Employment Advisor to the five-day Enhanced Assessment Programme or the nine-week Work Preparation Programme (*residential or non-residential*).

The College is working in partnership with RNIB. This partnership includes the development of specialist Adult Literacy and Numeracy screening and assessment and tuition within the new Centre.

During the five-day Enhanced Assessment Programme topics covered may include: keyboard skills, adaptive technology, numeracy and literacy, Braille and communication skills, low vision assessment, I.T., orientation, mobility and independent living skills.

Following this initial week, some clients may return for a further nine weeks, where they will follow an individually tailored learning and training programme. This programme may also include manual skills development, access to counselling, personal development, job search, a work placement and the option of 'tasters' of different courses within the College.

For many clients, their new learning and career goals may include improvement of literacy and numeracy. The CLAN-funded Adult Literacy and Numeracy lecturers at Jewel & Esk Valley College have been working closely with the Employment and Learning Centre staff, RNIB Scotland to develop and deliver:

- an initial screening tool to be used by staff in the Centre as part of the one-week assessment process
- initial assessment interviews with potential new learners
- development of individual learning plans and negotiated learning programmes
- delivery of tuition within the Centre, making full use of PCs and specialist software and equipment, such as Closed-Circuit TVs (CCTVs) for enlarging text

Student's reflection

Alan has been a client at the RNIB centre for nine weeks. As part of his learning at the Centre, he identified that he would like to improve his literacy so that he could maximise his use of I.T. This is his reflection on the learning experience, typed by him at the end of the nine-week course:

"I am more than happy in what I have achieved. I can now use a Supernova Computer, which I could not do before. I have also learned all about commas, question marks and conjunctions and when to use them. My writing used to be very bad as it was just word after word without any break in them. Now I can use commas and conjunctions, my writing is a lot better and people can read it."

For further information about the work of the Employment and Learning Centre, RNIB Scotland, please contact Centre Manager, Sarah Littlewood on 0131 657 8200.

For information about Adult Literacy and Numeracy work within the Centre, please contact Eleanor Symms at Jewel & Esk Valley College on 0131 657 7368.



Adult Learners' Week is an opportunity to celebrate, promote and advance all forms of learning. During the week, CLAN staff will be promoting learning at various venues around the city.

If you know of a venue in your area, i.e. supermarkets, community 'hot spots', where we could do some promotional work, please let Fiona Holmes know. She would also be interested to hear from anyone who is planning an event around Adult Learners' Week.

Contact Fiona Holmes at CLAN Edinburgh. Tel: 0131 270 6073 or email: fiona@clanedinburgh.org

International Women's Day

Celebrations went on in style at this year's International Women's Day in South Edinburgh with three events offering great opportunities for local women and girls. 130 people attended the events starting with a morning of speakers, workshops, stalls and food at Gilmerton Community Centre. Storytelling for the younger ones followed at Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre in Moredun with another women-only event at Goodtrees in the evening.

During the day, women got the chance to sample activities as diverse as voice coaching, digital photography, life coaching, samba dance and creative writing. Morning speakers at Gilmerton included a Junior Archery Champion, foster carers and a Community Activist from Portobello.

If you would like more information on classes and courses for adults or activities for children and young people in South Edinburgh, please call South East Community Education on 0131 664 5101.



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Everybody has a story...what's your story?

What do you think is going on in this photograph?
Does it remind you of an event in your life?

'My Story' is a creative writing project which aims to compile short stories from West Edinburgh into a small book entitled 'West Side Stories'.

To launch the project a series of speakers will tell Their Story. On Tuesday 27 April in Clovenstone Community Centre from 7pm, Hugh Collins, artist, author and ex-prisoner, will tell His Story alongside Colin Fox, Scottish Socialist MSP. On Wednesday 28 April at Sighthill Community Centre, David McLetchie MSP for Edinburgh Pentlands, and Jess Smith, a member of the Traveller Community, will take the stage. Finally, on Thursday Audrey Jenkinson, author of 'Past Caring' - a book on her experiences as a full-time carer, speaks at Broomhouse Community Centre from 6.30pm. Come and hear Their Stories, and maybe write your own.

Further details from Grace Barnes at Pentland Community Centre on 0131 445 2871 or visit www.platform.edin.org/mystory



Edinburgh's Lord Provost, Lesley Hinds opened the World of Work exhibition at the City Chambers last month.

The exhibition, organised by Enable Scotland, brings together agencies that provide support for people with learning disabilities who wish to progress towards training, education and employment. It allows people with learning disabilities, their carers, parents and all other interested people easy access to the range of supports that is available in the city. It is also a valuable opportunity for networking between agencies.

John Balloch of Enable Scotland said, "This year's event was the most successful yet and we were particularly pleased that so many young people from the schools and colleges were in attendance. We were also delighted to see local employers exhibiting and we very much look forward to a successful event next year".



8am may not be an early start for support staff at Tollcross Fire Station, Ponton Street, but it certainly is for Vickie Hobson.

On Thursday mornings for six weeks four members of staff attended a Basic Introduction to Computing course at South Bridge Resource Centre. Although the group only met for a total of nine hours, they tackled the 'naming of parts' on the computer, using the mouse, keyboard skills, word processing, cutting and pasting, saving their work on a floppy disc, surfing the net, searching for information from particular websites, joining up to MyEdinburgh and sending and receiving emails. Other literacy tasks they tackled were writing different sorts of letters, making a poster, thinking about punctuation and spelling.

It was a bit of a whistle-stop tour, but as one of the students said in the final session, "We've learnt a huge lot when you look back to the first week. Before, I was frightened to clean or dust them, let alone use them (computers that is)."

Contributions for the next issue of 'Beans' should reach the Editor's desk by Monday 3 May.

Fiona Holmes, CLAN Edinburgh,
1-3 Canon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5HE.
Tel: 0131 270 6073. Fax: 0131 270 6074.
Email: fiona@clanedinburgh.org
Web: www.clanedinburgh.org

