

UK Government Department Visits Health & Literacy Project

THE HEALTH & LITERACY PROJECT was recently visited by representatives from the Scottish Executive's Social Inclusion Department and the UK Government's Social Exclusion Unit. Both parties were keen to find out how the project worked successfully alongside the NHS to target and reach people with high level and complex needs, for example, people experiencing chronic ill health, alcohol dependence, mental illness as well as those on the child protection register.

CLAN Health & Literacy Worker Elspeth Hosie and Kate Burton, from Northwest Edinburgh Local Healthcare Co-operative (NWLHCC) explained that working with this client group initially required intensive one to one support in informal settings, before individuals felt confident enough to be able to join a group. They gave examples of how the project had supported individuals and families to develop their literacy and numeracy skills despite their poor physical and/or mental health.

The Scottish Executive had first become aware of the success of the project via Malcolm Chisholm MSP, when he was Minister for Health.



The Minister had been invited to attend a NWLHCC Protected Learning Time event at which he saw the CLAN exhibition, organised by Fiona Holmes and he had the opportunity to discuss the Health and Literacy Project with Kate Burton of NWLHCC. Following this, the Minister suggested that contact should be made with the

Scottish Executive's Health Department and it was through these contacts that the Social Inclusion Unit became aware of the project's achievements.

Feedback after the meeting was extremely positive as both the Scottish and UK civil servants reported finding the work of the project very interesting and relevant to developing their current projects.

For more information about the Health & Literacy Project contact Elspeth Hosie or Jo Aitkenhead on 0131 537 4230.

Learning Advisors

Rose Gibson and Janette Mckee have been appointed as the new Learning Advisors within the Health & Literacy project for North East Edinburgh and South West Edinburgh respectively. The posts were created following the success of the partnership between the NHS and CLAN in North West Edinburgh.

Rose will be based at Leith Community Treatment Centre and Janette will work from Sighthill Health Centre and Platform Adult Learning Centre in Wester Hailes.

The role of the Learning Advisor is to promote learning as a means of enhancing health and wellbeing and support people to find appropriate learning opportunities. Recognising that literacy levels have been identified as a key detriment of health, health workers are encouraged to refer clients to the Learning Advisor.

Rose and Janette will be making themselves known to health workers as well as developing strong links with local community based adult learning teams and hope to hear from other learning advisors.

Please contact Rose or Janette if you would like to know more about this innovative service or just want to introduce yourself.

Rose on 0131 536 6219
rose@clanedinburgh.org

Janette on 0131 537 7215
janette@clanedinburgh.org



The Bean's Interview

Lorraine Borwick recently spoke to Literacy and Numeracy tutor, Rosemary MacDonald about the '**Supporting Learners with Reading**' training which took place at CLAN recently.

LB - What was the training like?

RM - A relaxed atmosphere, a sprinkling of good humour, washed down with supplies of tea, coffee, and water, generated a lively exchange of ideas and experiences gained, successful or not, from helping students to develop their reading skills.

LB - How was the training delivered?

RM - We started with a quiz that identified our approach to teaching reading, e.g. was it top down, bottom up, interactive, etc? In the large and small groups we spoke about motivating students, working with mixed level groups, encouraging students to be 'active' readers, and what steps we could take to improve our tutor skills. We were learning through sharing.

LB - Did it relate to your tutoring?

RM - Yes, because it is about the practicalities of how tutors can approach the way they deliver reading programmes in mixed ability groups. I would describe it, as looking through the other end of a telescope, getting a different perspective through exchanging ideas. There was a lot of emphasis on how we learn from the students and how they direct, in many cases, their own learning. It reinforced for me the importance of taking time to listen to the student, taking time to reflect on what they are telling me, and being aware of what they will take back to their environment.

LB - What did you think of it overall?

RM - It was instructive and fun!

LB - What would you say to other tutors about training opportunities?

RM - Hmm ... from my perspective there was a period where not much seemed to be available - possibly due to the relocation of resources to McDonald Road Library. I found the Training Opportunities for Literacies Practitioners booklet useful and it indicates a willingness to be flexible about class times, etc. Ultimately it is down to us, the tutors, to let the trainers know what sort of topics, subjects, etc. we want. It is well worth finding time to attend the Edinburgh Literacies Forum.



Jackie Matthews

In the January edition of Beans we reported that Jewel & Esk Valley College student, Jackie Matthews, had received the CLAN Award for Achievement in Learning at the JEVC Graduation ceremony.

In fact, Jackie wasn't able to attend the ceremony but instead was presented with her award in a small intimate gathering at the College in February. The event was attended by members of her family, JEVC staff and staff at the RNIB Centre who have supported Jackie.

CLAN tutor Eleanor Symms spoke about the tremendous achievements Jackie had made despite losing her sight three years ago and it was Jackie's son Scott who proudly presented the award to his mother.

Jackie commented,

"I feel that improving my Communication skills really improved my confidence in myself and that I achieved a lot. When the certificate came through the door I felt even better, especially when I think back to where I started from!"



Community Treasure Chest

Treasure hunters gather around the CLAN stall at the annual Broomhouse and North Sighthill Community Treasure Chest held last month.

Getting Started in Adult Literacy and Numeracy

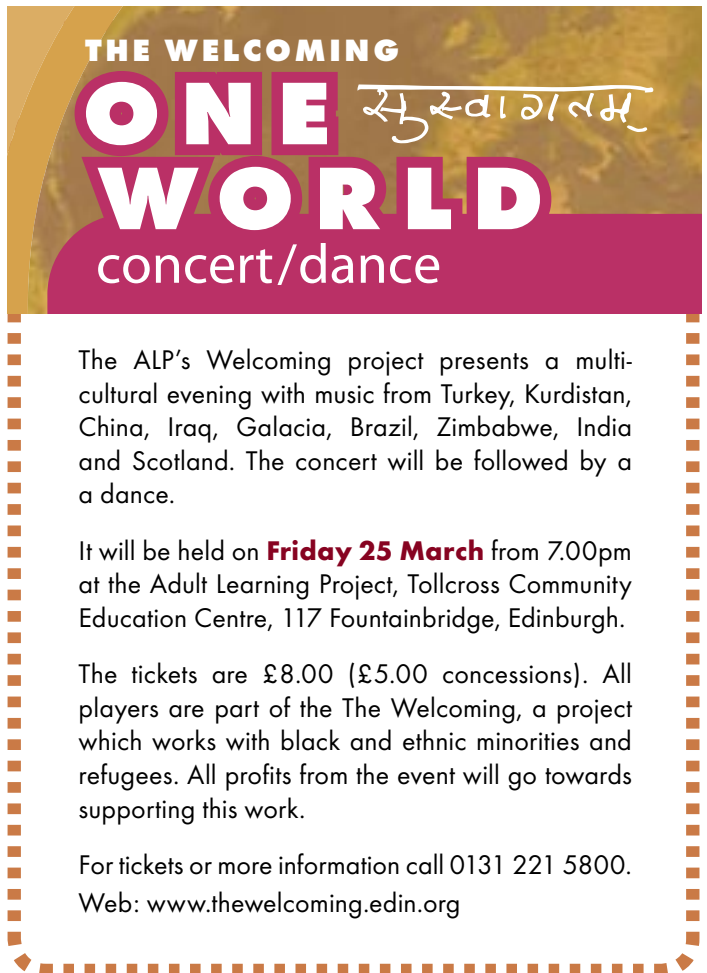
This introductory course will run over three days on Tuesday 24 and 31 May, and Wednesday 8 June. The purpose of the course is to enable participants to:

- identify how their work and organisation could become involved in the Adult Literacy and Numeracy initiative for Edinburgh
- support potential literacy or numeracy learners within their own settings
- consider how they might integrate learning about literacy or numeracy within other learning programmes
- attract new learners from target groups identified in the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan for Edinburgh

Evaluation comments from participants on the last course included:

"Thanks for delivering and preparing an excellent course ... I am now more confident about approaching a literacy and numeracy learner displaying difficulties in my work setting ... Has given me an awareness of how I can engage potential learners".

Please contact Gillian at CLAN if you would like to find out more:
Tel: 0131 270 6070. Email: gillian@clanedinburgh.org



THE WELCOMING
ONE WORLD *Հայրենիք*
concert/dance

The ALP's Welcoming project presents a multi-cultural evening with music from Turkey, Kurdistan, China, Iraq, Galacia, Brazil, Zimbabwe, India and Scotland. The concert will be followed by a dance.

It will be held on **Friday 25 March** from 7.00pm at the Adult Learning Project, Tollcross Community Education Centre, 117 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh.

The tickets are £8.00 (£5.00 concessions). All players are part of the The Welcoming, a project which works with black and ethnic minorities and refugees. All profits from the event will go towards supporting this work.

For tickets or more information call 0131 221 5800.
Web: www.thewelcoming.edin.org

write on

It's been quite a while since the idea for a CLAN Learners' magazine raised its head at the Learner's planning meeting in June 2004. It's finally happening – the first issue will be delivered to learners in April.

Claudia Esslinger says, "One of the reasons it's taken so long is that we wanted to involve as many learners as possible in decisions about the mag".

At a meeting in October at McDonald Road Library a group of learners looked at what the content of the mag should be, discussed who it was for and how it should be distributed. People were keen to see a variety of things, with learners' stories, reports on trips, poems and a 'what's on column' being the most popular.

In November a small but enthusiastic group met to take things forward. We decided the mag needed a name, and thought it would be good if more people than just our little group could have a say.

Seven CLAN groups sent in their suggestions, ranging from 'Jack and Jill' to 'The Magnificent Newsletter'. The Tuesday Group at Tollcross Community Centre clearly put in a lot of thought – they sent in seven titles!

Learners got the opportunity to vote for their favourite title at the CLAN Christmas party. 'Write On' was the clear winner with 'Re(a)d All Over' a very close second. We then asked learners to send in articles, photographs and anything else they would like to see published in 'Write On'. Again lots of people responded.

On what must have been one of the worst nights of the year, nine learners struggled through the snow to South Bridge Resource Centre to have a go at putting together the first issue. We looked at articles and decided on a red and yellow colour scheme and black print on off – white paper. The group also decided to include a short questionnaire for learners on content and layout of the mag.

So, watch out for copies of 'Write On' making their way to your groups in April!

For more information get in touch with Claudia Esslinger.
Tel: 0131 469 3000 ext. 4009.
Email: claudia.esslinger@educ.edin.gov.uk

web resources

Spelling games

Spelling games provide valuable practice for students. ICT-based ones using colour, animation or sound offer additional stimuli for storing new items in the memory. Here are some useful sites:

www.quia.com/hm/73775.html

www.quia.com/hm/68146.html

www.quia.com/hm/51247.html

These pages from the Quia learning support site offer an online version of the familiar hangman game.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary site has a range of spelling games that are free to play online or download to a Mac or PC. Although some are challenging at your first attempt, these games can help with phonic awareness. Most involve working out as many words as you can from a set of letters against the clock. The ability to recognise 'bl' as a common blend and then make blip, blot, bliss, block, etc. is a winning skill, as is the ability to use rhyme to find hope, cope, slope.

www.m-w.com/game/more.htm

SPECIAL DELIVERY!

To improve CLAN's services for practitioners, City of Edinburgh Libraries have offered to deliver and return CLAN Resource Base materials via their libraries.

You can now phone us for the resources you would like to borrow and then the books and packs you want will be delivered, by the next day, to the library most convenient for you. If you don't know exactly which materials you want, we are happy to make recommendations.

City of Edinburgh libraries are spread throughout the city: Balerno, Balgreen, Blackhall, George IV Bridge, Colinton, Corstorphine, Craigmillar, Currie, Fountainbridge, Gilmerton, Granton, Kirkliston, Leith, Moredun, Morningside, Muirhouse, Newington, Oxbgangs, Piershill, Portobello, Ratho, Sighthill, South Queensferry, Stockbridge and Wester Hailes.

When you are ready to return the resources, simply take them to your nearest library, in the envelope provided, and they will be collected and returned to the CLAN Resource Base for you.

We hope this new service will make life easier for busy practitioners and would like to thank all the staff at City of Edinburgh Libraries for their help and support (especially those at McDonald Road, CLAN Resource Base's home).

Contact Resource Base

To use this service phone CLAN Resource Base. Tel: 0131 652 3938. Email: resources@clanedinburgh.org

For library addresses and opening hours, phone or email CLAN Resource Base or use the links on www.edinburgh.gov.uk/Libraries/Libraries_and_Services/libraries.html

Learners' Barbie Coming in May!

Another exciting summer learners' event, the Learners' Picnic/BBQ, is coming up on Saturday 28 May, 12.00 - 4.00pm at St Columba's by-the-Castle, 14 Johnston Terrace (where we had the Christmas Party). Please tell learners about this event. More details to follow, but, in the meantime, you can contact Lorraine Borwick at CLAN.

Tel: 0131 270 6072. Fax: 0131 270 6074.
Email: lorraine@clanedinburgh.org

The next edition of Beans will be out in April. If you would like to contribute, send your material to 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

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