

SUNNYSIDE off Easter Road in Edinburgh is home to the headquarters of LGBT Youth Scotland. It was here that I met up with Gemma and Ollie who are both learners on the 'Driving Forward' course funded by the CLAN Challenge Fund and run by Ann Marriott, Participation Worker with LGBT Youth Scotland.

'Driving Forward' aims to help people to learn the driving theory test in a fun, informal way, whilst also helping them with their reading, writing and number skills. There are group activities and an opportunity to practice the whole test each week.

The group use a SMART Board instead of flip charts to record information and perform different activities. The SMART Board is an interactive whiteboard which combines the simplicity of a whiteboard with the power of a computer. Ann feels that the SMART Board has been an excellent interactive tool and has really helped the group when carrying out more visual tasks.

Gemma and Ollie are both incredibly enthusiastic about the course. They enjoy the fact that they are able to try out many different activities and numerous games to help them memorise and understand the test questions. They both feel that their confidence has grown and Ollie has volunteered to help out on the next course. Ollie commented, "I used to have a problem with mixing up numbers but attending this group has really helped. I couldn't have attempted the theory test without it. I would definitely recommend it to other young people".

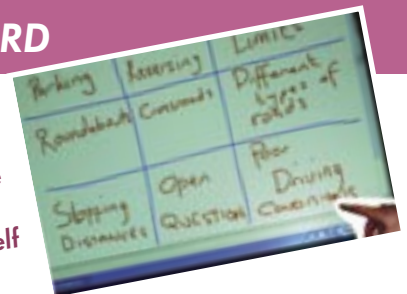
The group have been nominated for an award at the Scottish Adult Learning Partnership Awards Ceremony, so watch this space to see how they get on ...



DRIVING FORWARD

Gemma & Ollie's Test Tips

- Revise – don't panic
- Don't rush – take your time
- Read the question
- Have confidence in yourself



LGBT Youth Scotland is a national youth organisation committed to the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people in Scotland.

For information on LGBT Youth Scotland or to find out more about the 'Driving Forward' course call Ann Marriott on at 0131 622 2266 or check out the website at www.lgbtyouth.org.uk

Fiona Holmes



The Celebration of Adult Learning day in April at the Adult Learning Project (ALP), Tollcross Community Education Centre was developed from an action point contained within the City Centre of Edinburgh Community Learning Plan (CLP).

The purpose of the event was to highlight the broad range of adult education choices available for potential learners in the city. It was an opportunity, moreover, to enthuse adult learners by introducing them to the Ulster Peoples College, and the adult learning journey of Rosie Kane MSP. The afternoon session was a chance for adult learners to 'say their word' and participate in ceilidh dancing and learn the Brazilian rhymes of the Samba using percussion instruments.

Adult learners explored the future of adult learning in the city of Edinburgh, highlighting the need for strong strategic alliances between voluntary sector, and adult education agencies.

A-Z for Leith Families with Under 5's

The guide was written by parents for parents and is available in Leith through nurseries, health centres, etc. The booklet was launched on 19 May with Tricky Ricky's Magic Show at Leith Community Education Centre. This Challenge Fund project involved North East Working Together, Communities That Care Leith and Community Education (Children & Families).

NEW PROJECT

Do you know any learners who would like to get involved in the production of a booklet of learning opportunities?

CLAN is planning to produce a booklet of learning opportunities and useful information for people who wish to take their learning forward (e.g. from learning in the community to learning at college or vice versa) or would like help and advice in finding work.

We would like to involve learners in this as much as possible and are therefore looking for your support to get learners involved.

Please tell learners about the proposed booklet and ask them if they would be interested in coming along to an initial planning meeting (date to be confirmed). Refreshments will be provided and we can pay for transport costs.

At the planning meeting we will:

- look at other examples of booklets
- talk about the kind of information that should be included
- discuss the design and style of the booklet

We would like to know the names, addresses and phone numbers of learners who are interested. Please phone Fiona Holmes on 0131 270 6073 or Lorraine Borwick on 0131 270 6034. Email: fiona@clanedinburgh.org or lorraine@clanedinburgh.org

Bethany - Book Launch



The Writers' Museum in Edinburgh was a fitting venue for the launch of *Sharing Lives*, a collection of work by individuals who use the services of Bethany Christian Trust. Some of the contributors to the book, which was funded by Learning Connections, have been writing and drawing for many years. Others have discovered through the project that they can share their lives in words and pictures.

Every story or poem printed in the book expresses something of the person who has written it. The hope is that by reading their stories, others will be inspired and encouraged to share their own.

Malcolm Brodie, one of the contributors said, "I enjoyed doing the art because it gave me a challenge but I feel weird seeing my work in a book. I've never had anything published".

Copies of *Sharing Lives* are available to borrow from libraries. You can also enjoy the poems, stories and artwork at an exhibition which is currently at Dunfermline Library until the 6 June and then at Haddington Library in East Lothian from 6 -24 June. For more information about the work of Bethany contact 0131 467 3030 or visit the website at www.bethanychristiantrust.com



Celebration of Scottish Writers and Writing

Saturday 25 June, 10am - 3pm,
Riddle's Court, 322 Lawnmarket,
Edinburgh

A free, informal, fun day for adults to learn more about Robert Burns.

- enjoy poetry readings and recordings
- use computers to search information
- visit the nearby Scottish Writers' Museum
- discussions and group writing

This is a CLAN Challenge Fund project organised by the WEA (Workers' Educational Association). No previous knowledge or experience is needed. A buffet lunch will be provided. We can help with childcare and travel expenses. Contact Mark at WEA to find out more or book your place. Tel: 0131 225 7772. Email: lothian@weascotland.org.uk



All Write - Book Launch

South Edinburgh learners will be launching their book on Wednesday morning 22 June at the City Chambers. The project was funded by Learning Connections with additional funding from CLAN and Community Education (Children & Families)

Over sixty learners from fifteen groups (including Challenge Funded projects) have contributed to the book as well as taking part in a digital photography workshop to take photos for the book. Some learners have worked on illustrations to accompany their writing.

Priority to attend the launch will be given to the learners, their guests, tutors and volunteers. However, we will have some space for others who might like to celebrate this learners' achievement with us. If you would like to attend the launch please email: mags@clanedinburgh.org



Using the Web to create realistic, problem solving tasks offers a valuable way of enabling learners to apply their literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills in meaningful ways.

Tasks can be completed by learners working in pairs or threes, before they compare their solutions with others in the group. In the best examples, there is not one correct answer and learners develop and practise their skills for real purposes. Here are some sites that would allow you to offer web based tasks.

● Recipes

www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes

On the BBC's website's food pages you can find a recipe section. It allows you to find a recipe by searching for those using a specific ingredient, or by programme or chef. It could be used to find ways to try out a new ingredient (e.g. butternut squash) or find a new way to cook a familiar one (e.g. chicken). Once you have found a recipe you like you can print it out, email it to a friend or save it in your own recipe folder. You could use the latter tool as a way of learning about favourites and folders when using ICT. You can also click on a link to go to weights and measures converter as a means of developing maths activities. An advantage with this site is that all BBC sites work with Browse Aloud (free software that reads web pages out) which is available from www.browsealoud.com

● The Scottish Parliament

www.scottish.parliament.uk/msp/index.htm

You can find out about your MSPs via the Scottish Parliament's website Members' Pages. By following the link (on the left hand column) You and Your MSP, you can type in your postcode and get a list of your MSPs. You can then click on the links to find your MSPs' biography, a video clip of them talking about themselves, details of their political activities and which committees and cross party groups they belong to.

● Hairstyles and Makeovers

www.ukhairdressers.com/hair_move/index.htm

The following site allows you to explore hairstyles using onscreen images where you can click and drag hair into place, change the colour and length and get 'expert' advice on styles to suit your face shape. There are also links to 'virtual makeover' pages where you can experiment with hair, spectacles and make up using images of models or a 'celebrity'. You can practice clicking and dragging skills to move hair into place and print off images to compare effects. There is also the option to use your own image, so the site provides another way of using digital cameras (which are available from CLAN Resource Base). It is good fun and would provide plenty of discussion.

● Home Decorating

www.dulux.co.uk

Dulux have a site that looks at colour and design for home decorating. You can find paint colours by looking for ones that match or contrast with existing fabric or furniture and save these in your own scrapbook. You can then experiment with your colours in the 'projects' pages. Here you click on the paint a room link, then choose a room and style, then click and drag colours to walls and woodwork. There is also a paint calculator where you enter measurements and it works out the number of litres you need. You can register with the site but it can be used without doing so.

● Web Quests

<http://webquest.sdsu.edu/webquest.html>

This site shows you how to design web based tasks. The site explains the idea of 'web quests' as 'designed to use learners' time well, to focus on using information rather than looking for it, and to support learners' thinking at the levels of analysis, synthesis and evaluation. There are links by topic to ready-made tasks, and although most are for school pupils and are American, so prices appear in dollars, etc., it is possible to easily find adaptable material that is intended for adults.

FastTrack to Reading

FastTrack to reading is a complete course for teaching adult beginner readers. Written by teachers for teachers, its well-structured, sequential approach gives learners a solid foundation for developing reading skills. The pack comes complete with quality, custom-made teaching materials such as letter dice, alphabet cards, a pack of cards for sequencing and rhyming activities, and a reading guide.

CLAN project worker, Isabel Macrae has been using FastTrack to reading for over a year and has found it an excellent resource for teaching non readers. She recommends combining other methods with the pack rather than using it as a stand alone tool.



Isabel explained that she usually begins by asking the learner to dictate something that is relevant to them which she then types up. This is the beginning of a vocabulary book for the learner that they can develop at their own pace and which features words that are relevant to their everyday lives. Isabel also finds it useful to give learners sets of cards from the pack to take away and they can then make up words at home. She comments,

"The combination of activities is really good for people and the fact that learners tend to have success fairly early on is very encouraging for them"

The pack costs £150 and contains 60 plus photocopiable sheets. You can borrow it from the CLAN Resource Base. Tel: 0131 652 393. Email: resources@clanedinburgh.org

Two sugars please...



Thursday mornings are a busy time for four CLAN learners. Christine, Avril, Kenny and Jean, with the help of two volunteers run the café at Duncan Place Resource Centre in Leith.

The learners are able to develop their money, writing and communication skills by deciding on prices and by shopping for goods within a budget. Last term the group produced a photo sequence of the tasks involved in setting up and operating the café. With the aid of a computer they produced descriptive captions to accompany the images and a laptop loaned from the CLAN Resource Base allowed access for all the learners and proved a highly popular learning tool. Next term the group hope to be able to try out some creative software.

Kenny commented, "I enjoy coming to learn numbers, we take work home and bring it back the next week". Jean says, "The computer has been great ... I get help with my writing". Avril has tried out several new lifestyle tasks and is now a primary organiser in the setting up of the café, while Christine says she has had the chance to practice her writing and is now starting to write more clearly.

To help reinforce learning the group are given homework. This operates with input from the individual key workers and of course the students themselves. It is hoped that this part of the work can be developed in the future to include a plan that can be agreed between all parties. This would ensure that progress on individual goals is not just isolated to a weekly two hour session.

CLAN Learning Disability Group, City Centre & Leith

Children and Families Department

"The new department will introduce new ways of working designed to ensure that our services are firmly focussed on children and their families and designed to meet the needs of local communities"

Roy Jobson, Director of Children and Families

From April 2005, all of Edinburgh's education services and children and families elements of social work will be delivered by a new Children and Families Department. This includes: adult education, community centres, schools, childcare, child protection, children's residential care, fostering and adoption, pre 5 services, support for children with disabilities, youth justice and youth and children's work.

How services are organised and delivered will change gradually over the next two years – providing more local access to services and building stronger links with families, communities, carers and other agencies.

Look out for information leaflets in your local centre or school or check the website at <http://egfl.net/childrenandfamilies>

Children and Families Department, Wellington Court, 10 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh EH1 3EG. Tel: 0131 469 3000.

MORE BYTES

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

Learners' Barbecue

**Saturday
28 May
12pm-4pm**

St Columba's By-the-Castle, 14 Johnston Terrace

Please note that in the last edition of Beans we put the incorrect times for the barbecue. It is from 12pm-4pm (not 2-4pm). Apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.