



Catriona MacInnes and Julie Duff



Nila Joshi



Sarah Allan



Nancy Wilson

All Write in South Edinburgh Writing Lives – Local Learners – Writing Communities

THE LAUNCH of *All Write in South Edinburgh* took place on 22 June at the City Chambers, Edinburgh. About 120 people attended the event. Students, their friends and family, volunteers, support tutors, tutors, Community Learning and Development (Children and Families Department) and CLAN staff gathered together in the Main Council Chamber to celebrate the achievement of the community writers. The contributors were all participants in adult learning groups in the local area.



Catherine Jamieson, Senior Community Learning and Development Worker for South Edinburgh, hosted the event, introducing invited guest speakers who included Karen Geekie from Learning Connections, Communities Scotland (pictured left), Soozin Rogers and Elaine Wastle (Project Workers for All Write) and Vicky Petrie from Woodhall at the Inch (Challenge Fund Project).

The highlights of the launch were the contributions from Julie Duff, Nancy Wilson, Nila Joshi and the Plant Identification Group – Sarah, Hughie and Steven – who had met with Catriona MacInnes from TrickTales to choose extracts from the publication to read. The learners also spoke about their experiences of learning through life including looking back at some negative aspects and celebrating the positive.

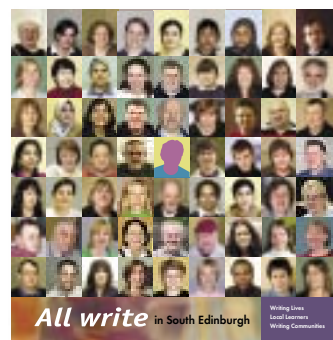
Everyone was thanked for their involvement in the publication, particularly the sixty or so contributors, tutors, volunteers and Community Learning and Development support staff.

'Nice feeling of being part of a larger community. Six months to achieve this was fantastic.'


'Well done, such a lovely event, very moving.'

'I appreciated listening to each speaker ... brought home all the work and effort that's gone into making this gorgeous book ... to share the words around is fantastic.'

All Write in South Edinburgh has been really well received by everyone so far and there have been many requests to receive copies. We managed to have 2,000 copies printed so we should have plenty for distribution. We expect the CLAN Resource Base at McDonald Road Library to keep a fairly large stock. Email: resources@clanedinburgh.org or merlyn.bell@educ.edin.gov.uk



Student publishing For a more detailed report of the project or information about working on student publishing projects in Scotland visit the Communities Scotland website at www.lc.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/cs_009060.hcsp



Jewel & Esk Valley College offers CLAN funded evening classes in both Everyday English and Maths

In both classes, students discuss what they want to learn with the tutor and set their own goals. Everyday English and Maths skills are then taught alongside the requirements for the SQA unit which students complete at a level appropriate for them. Both classes are for people who are returning to education and are therefore not already enrolled on a full-time course.

Some people who come to the classes use them as a stepping-stone between Community Education (Community Learning and Development) and coming to college on a full-time course. Because the classes are small and informal and the college is quiet in the evenings, it is a good opportunity for learners to acquaint themselves with the college.

Other people attend either one or both classes as a way of brushing up on their skills to help with everyday tasks or getting a job.

As a result of joining the course learners will

- improve their confidence and skills in English and/or Maths
- gain an SQA unit in Communication and/or Numeracy
- be re-introduced to studying
- be introduced to the college and gain access to the facilities (libraries, computers, gym and swimming pool)
- meet and study with other students

Everyday English

This class gives learners the opportunity to brush up on any areas of reading, writing or talking that they choose, e.g. spelling, punctuation, grammar, getting ideas down on paper, planning work, reading for understanding, talking in groups – the list goes on! They will also be assessed in reading, writing and talking when they are ready.

More class details from Amanda Reynolds (Lecturer)
Tel: 0131 654 5329. Email: areynolds@jevc.ac.uk

Everyday Maths

This class gives learners the opportunity to brush up on any area of number skills that they choose, e.g. adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing whole numbers, percentages, fractions and working with graphs. They will also be assessed in reading graphs and scales, drawing graphs, and arithmetic, when they are ready.

More class details from Geoff Mainwaring (Lecturer)
Tel: 0131 654 5329. Email: gmainwaring@jevc.ac.uk

CLASSES START IN SEPTEMBER

Both courses start during the week beginning 5 September and will run for 18 weeks at the Milton Road Campus, 24 Milton Road East.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|---------------|
| • Everyday English | Tuesday | 5.30 – 7.30pm |
| • Everyday Maths | Thursday | 5.30 – 7.30pm |



I learned a lot of spelling, writing essays, paragraphs ... and the meaning of words that sound the same.

Doing the class has restored my faith in my ability to do Maths!

The evening classes are the best thing that anybody could do as a starter. I'd recommend them to anybody. Before I started these classes I thought I was stupid, but now I know different. Anyone who feels that way should come and give it a shot.

LAST MONTH'S SNAPSHOTS



Homeless World Cup 2005 in Princes Street Gardens. Italy beat Poland to win the cup, Scotland came fourth.



Some players of the new Family Learning board game 'A Jungle Adventure' mimic the animal characters.

RaPAL CONFERENCE

CLAN Project Worker, Siobhan Cavanagh recently attended the RaPAL (Research and Practice in Adult Literacy) Conference 2005 at the University of Sheffield. The theme was 'Creativity in Adult Literacies Learning'.

Toni Lambe from University College Dublin and Bonnie Soroke from Queen's University Belfast gave a workshop on the LEIS (Literacy and Equality in Irish Society) Project. This is a joint North/South initiative run by the two universities. It aims "to develop teaching and learning resources for literacy tutors that focus on issues of equality and to make available new and exciting methodologies/ways of working with students and learners." Toni and Bonnie took delegates through the sort of text-free creative workshop that they use with literacy practitioners.

Gill Britten from Yale College Wrexham talked about her experimental work with a group of students in developing the Language Experience Approach to writing into the Life Experience Approach, a group exercise rather than an individual one. She focused on the methodology that she developed and the students' evaluations of the project, as well as the unexpected turns that the project took and her interpretation of these. Gill recently won an excellence in teaching award.

Niki Culligan from Massey University, New Zealand, described a community-university partnership to explore issues around literacy and employment in the Wanganui district. Her paper described "how co-creative relationships are developing within this emerging community of practice."

Anne O'Grady from the University of Nottingham is in the middle of her PhD and is currently studying "the implications of current government policies that require specified groups of learners to attend adult basic skills provision." She discussed the reasons that learners gave for engaging and the impact of mandatory attendance.

Julie Collins was the only person presenting at RaPAL who brought along a group of learners which made for a far more informative session. Julie has been working on creative teaching and learning strategies with learners in a homeless hostel. She uses a range of media such as ceramics, painting, photography, storytelling, poetry and IT to help students progress from a negative self-image towards a positive one.

RaPAL Conference 2006

Next year's conference will be at the University of Glasgow on 23 and 24 June. The theme of the conference is 'Transforming Literacies: Examining the impact of literacies practices, critical perspectives and action research on our literacies work.'

www.literacy.lancs.ac.uk/rapal



Margaret Jessop,
this is
YOUR LIFE!

When I was just a little girl
I asked my mama, "What will I be?
Will I be famous? Will I be rich?"
Here's what she said to me

Que cera, cera
Your future looks bleak to me
You'll never again be free
Go to ABE¹

When I grew up and fell in love
I crewed for my sweetheart out on the sea
But never was tempted to have a career -
I went to ABE

ABE's for me
It filled up my life, you see!
Learn to Learn was the best for me
Good old ABE

Then when the Region² bit the dust
Some of my colleagues walked out the door
For fame and for fortune I didn't lust
ABE boom and bust

I worked in ABE
South Bridge³ was the place for me
Where colleagues sat knee to knee
ABE's for me

Reorganisation meant HQ⁴
I thought I'd been busy before - now I knew
Stats from my colleagues that never arrived
Meetings and write-ups too

Good old ABE
We now call it literacy
The CLAN tartan's made for me
Here's to literacy

Now that I'm leaving WC⁴
Saying goodbye to all that I knew
Scottish Exec and HMIE⁵
They meant so much to me

I gave it my all, you see!
The future is mine to be
And now that I'm free - I'm free!
NO MORE LITERACY!

FOOTNOTES: 'Song on the occasion of Margaret's
retiral' performed in July at Riddles Court

¹ Adult Basic Education

² South Bridge Resource Centre

³ The Lothian Regional Council

⁴ Council Headquarters; Wellington Court

⁵ Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education

Adult Numeracy **Energiser Training**

12 noon on Friday 11 November until lunch on Sunday 13 November
at Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld.

This residential training course is designed for practitioners who may be experienced literacies tutors but who do not feel as confident when working on numeracy. It is not intended for managers, trainers or experienced and well qualified numeracy tutors.

Delivered by NIACE (National Institute for Adult & Continuing Education) for Learning Connections, Communities Scotland. NIACE writes, "The Energiser will provide participants with the opportunity to -

- develop some confidence in their own mathematical thinking and numerical skills
- acquire some methods for helping learners with varied backgrounds, perspectives and experiences of Numeracy/Maths
- have some fun - yes, fun! - while doing the above".

To book a place, contact Gillian Lawrence by FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER.
Tel: 0131 270 6070. Email: gillian@clanedinburgh.org

Future ideas for CLAN ...

CLAN is organising a PLANNING DAY to bring together learners, practitioners, tutors, volunteers, the action group and partners who want to have a say in the development of CLAN's work for the period 2006-2008.

Before the planning day, we are organising 'Having a Say' meetings for practitioners and learners. Ideas from these meetings will be fed into the planning day and form part of the research to be considered. You are welcome to come to all of these meetings and get involved:

- Come to the **Practitioners' Having a Say meeting**
Wednesday 24 August, 2.00-4.00pm
Resource Base, McDonald Road Library, 2 MacDonald Road
- Use the enclosed poster with your group and let them know about the learners' meeting
- Tell learners about the **Learners' Having a Say meeting**
Saturday 10 September, 9.30am-12.00 noon
Nelson Room, McDonald Road Library, 2 MacDonald Road
- Come along to the final **Planning Day**
Wednesday 21 September, 10.00am-2.00 pm
Update, 27 Beaverhall Road (off Broughton Road)

The planning day contact is Mags. Tel: 0131 270 6072.
Fax: 0131 270 6074. Email: mags@clanedinburgh.org

For more information contact Gillian Lawrence, tel: 0131 270 6070,
email: gillian@clanedinburgh.org or Lorraine Borwick, tel: 0131 270
6072, email: lorraine@clanedinburgh.org

MORE BYTES

The next edition of Beans will be out in September.

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