

YOUNG LEARNING BUDDIES, an exciting project which aims to encourage young people to return to learning, has been developed by CLAN's Youth Literacies Workers, with funding from Clydesdale Bank.

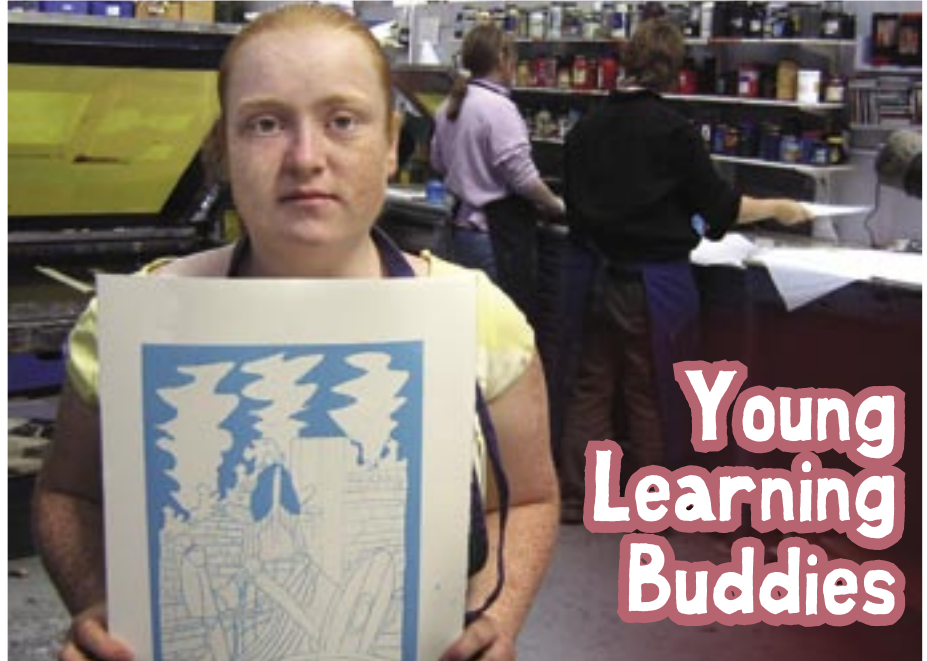
The Young Learning Buddies are current literacy and numeracy learners aged between 15 and 21 years old. By integrating literacy and numeracy learning with arts-based skills such as photography and screen printing, they aim to show other young people that learning can be done in an informal way and can be fun.

As part of the process in creating their screen prints, the group visited Stills Gallery and used the facilities at Edinburgh Printmakers.

Sixteen-year old Young Learning Buddy Paula Graham (pictured) from West Pilton said, "The screen printing was excellent. I'd like to be able to teach other young people how to do this".

Ruth Nay, Youth Literacies Worker in North Edinburgh, explained, "The screenprinting workshops provided an opportunity for the learners to develop their literacy and numeracy skills by encouraging them to calculate the quantity of mixture needed for printing, work out potential profit if they sold their work, measuring, budgeting and developing time management skills.

"The facilities at Edinburgh Printmakers Workshop were excellent and we hope



that young people will continue to get access to these facilities. We'd like to thank screenprinter Gillian Murray, Alistair Clark from Edinburgh Printmakers and Maria Harper from Stills who were all a great help to us."

Irene Swankie, Community Affairs Manager for Clydesdale Bank commented, "The Bank has supported the Learning Buddies programme for two years. Using the arts-based approach was very innovative and it's great to see young people engaged in an activity which not only improves their numeracy skills but also their financial capability."

The screen prints that have been produced by the Young Learning Buddies will go on display at various venues around the city.

They hope that by encouraging other young people to attend the exhibitions, these other young people will be inspired to take up a similar activity and at the same time improve their reading, writing and number skills.

For further information contact Steve Hamilton. Tel: 0131 558 3545. Email: stephen.hamilton@educ.edin.gov.uk

Outlook: Annual Art Exhibition



An exhibition of work by Outlook students was shown at St Bride's Centre from 3 to 13 October. The exhibition included paintings, sculpture, jewellery and photographs produced by the students attending Outlook courses during the year.

Outlook is an adult education project that enables adults who access mental health services to take up a variety of educational opportunities within the community through offering individual guidance, information and support.

Outlook courses are run to provide students with an opportunity to learn about new subjects or develop existing skills and interests and to gain the confidence to pursue these interests further.

The annual report was also launched on the opening night and it includes student's stories and experiences. Copies of the report can be obtained from Outlook, Springwell House, Ardmillan Terrace, Edinburgh EH11 2JL. Tel/fax: 0131 537 7571. Email: outlook@ceceducation.fsnet.co.uk

Bits and Bobs Scrapstore is an Edinburgh-based training and recycling project providing reused materials for arts, crafts and creative play – and training opportunities for adults with learning disabilities.

Bits and Bobs has been providing training, work experience and supported employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities for almost five years.

The Bits and Bobs trainees help to collect, sort, price and display reused arts and crafts scrap materials for Scrapstore members, including schools, nurseries, students and community groups. Trainees also help run the business and are responsible for health and safety, minute taking, project administration, opening up, cashing up and helping at events.

The majority of trainees have never had a paid job before and want to improve their confidence, gain practical experience and access help looking for jobs, interview skills and creating CVs to access the job market.

We work closely with our trainees to make sure they move on into a position that fulfils their ambitions and potential, where they can play to their strengths.

The CLAN connection

Over the past year Bits and Bobs has been working closely with CLAN to improve the literacy and numeracy of the trainees, by developing practical exercises that are integrated into work, i.e. helping balance the petty cash to help with counting skills and producing

new shop signs to help with reading. The practical basis of the work keeps the trainees enthusiastic as they see the real benefits of learning.



Alec Hannigan

One of our trainees has been with the project for 18 months and has recently fulfilled his dreams.

Alec Hannigan is a 43-year old man who had some voluntary work experience before he became a Bits and Bobs trainee.

Alec has a speech impediment, he can't write and he can only read basic words, and when he started working he was very quiet and withdrawn.

During his time at the Scrapstore it became evident that Alec's strengths lay in numbers and till work, and as he became more comfortable working, his self confidence improved and he began to speak out more and more, especially in meetings.

The one-to-one literacy and numeracy work helped to further improve his skills and he relaxed, confident in his ability to do his job well.

The project staff also discovered his love of rock music as he began to sing to the radio! He is now always chatting to the other trainees and customers whilst standing behind the counter. He is now a different man to the one who had first walked into the Scrapstore.

When he was ready to move on, Luca Pornaro, Supported Employment Officer at Bits and Bobs helped Alec do his vocational profile, and he and Alec came to the conclusion that a job that involved more till and customer service work would be ideal.

Alec said that he would love to work in a music shop and when a position came up for a volunteer to work in the Oxfam shop, Alec jumped at that chance. Luca assisted him with the application and interview, and he is supporting him through his first few weeks at the music shop.

Alec's story is a huge success for himself, and his progress shows the benefit of working with CLAN in a real working environment such as the Scrapstore.

Alec said: 'I like working with the customers at Bits and Bobs and helping people out. I really like being part of a team.'

"For my new job I am looking forward to working on the till, meeting people, pricing the music and stocking the shelves. My number 1 choice has always been to work in a music shop and I am very happy to have achieved it."

For more information visit the website: www.bitsandbobsscrapstore.org.uk





Robert Watson

My name is Robert Watson and I am 48 years old. A bit old to be finally learning to read but who cares? Before she died my mother used to read things for me.

I am a cleaner in a primary school and community centre during the day and in the evening I go to work on my reading in Stevenson College Edinburgh. My work knows that I come to the class and they are happy about it.

When I started at Stevenson I was very shy and embarrassed about not being able to read but people were friendly so I settled in. I am learning to read by sounding the letters and that works for me. I tried in other places but didn't get on so well.

I can now read bits in the paper, and even use my computer at home to write things.

This week I read this correctly in class, 'She cooks apples with sultanas and adds crumble for the top and I just adore it.' Also, 'You must accept that we do things differently here and you must agree to behave like the rest.'

I could never read like this before this Clan class. This summer I even got a Clan award in the college.

Robert attends the reading/writing group at Stevenson College on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He was recently awarded with the Clan New Learner Award 2006.



Celebration of Learning *Inch Community Centre, Summer*

Learners from South Edinburgh who attend daytime CLAN groups at Burdiehouse, Gilmerton and Inch Community Centres, Gilmerton Library and Woodhall at-the-Inch, joined Community Learning and Development (CLD) staff, tutors and assistant tutors to celebrate their progress and achievements.

Alice Robertson, Vicky Petrie, Tania Dignan, Simon Abramovici and Bill Jameson who tutored on the Woodhall at-the-Inch project joined staff from Woodhall in congratulating students on achieving SQA and Borders College certificates. The partnership (Enable

and CLAN) project, funded through two phases of Challenge Funding, which has an integrated horticulture and literacies focus, has now moved on to another phase.

Alice and Vicky who coordinated the project with John Balloch (Enable), Merlyn Bell (CLAN) and Woodhall staff, were thanked for their contributions by Anne McCulloch (Senior CLD Worker).

Thanks also to the assistant tutors, students on placement, Estelle Taylor and Inch Community Centre staff for their support and assistance over the last four years.

Learning Strategies *at Platform Adult Learning Centre*

Do you know of a learner who would like to take that next step and go on to college or university? If so, the Learning Strategies course at Platform may well help them reach their goal.

In a relaxed, informal group, tutors will help with everything from research, note-taking and essay-writing, to doing a presentation and time-management.

Platform teams up with Napier University for the Learning Strategies course, so students who finish the course get a Higher Education certificate which is recognised by all Scottish colleges and universities.

Students who have done this course over the last ten years say it made going back to learning much easier. It's particularly useful if learners are aiming for a social science, health or care course, as the Health Issues in the Community course materials will be used as subject matter.

The Learning Strategies course is a sure way to higher confidence, better skills and

more successful results, so pass the word on to anyone you know who might want to go to college. Best of all it's free, and a free crèche can be arranged if needed.

The course starts on 24 October. You can find out more and reserve your place by phoning Shirley MacIntosh or Jennie Geddes at Platform on 0131 458 5082.

This course is one of many offered by Platform. For a copy of the full programme of courses for September-December contact Shirley MacIntosh.

Power in Pictures

Learn about digital photography, take your own photos, write up your own views and help with group display. The new group starts on Monday 30 October, 1-3 pm and runs for six weeks at Clovenstone Community Centre. Contact Shirley MacIntosh.

Successful Challenge Fund bids

The Challenge Fund supports bids to run innovative literacy projects. Any organisation can apply for a grant. There are take-up dates several times a year.

Last year, CLAN recruited around 800 new learners through the Challenge Fund. Almost £100,000 was distributed to sixteen new projects aiming to recruit another 600 learners from some of the 'hardest to reach' client groups as identified in the national and local strategy plans.

Groups and organisations as diverse as the Criminal Justice Team, South Edinburgh Arts, Turning Point and Lothian Anti Poverty Alliance received grants from the Challenge Fund.

Successful applications for round 15

- Women Onto Work
- Intowork - Bits and Bobs
- LGBT Youth
- Nisus/Skillnet/Stevenson College
- Bethany Christian Trust
- Deaf Action
- Community Learning & Development - North Edinburgh & Leith (CEC)
- Criminal Justice Team/Muirhouse Social Work Centre
- Edinburgh Homelink Partnership

Overall, the amount awarded was £40,000 which aims to recruit 400 learners.

Next round

The deadline for submissions to the next round will be Friday 19 January 2007.

There will be a Briefing Session (date and time to be confirmed) for would-be applicants who have not previously applied to the Challenge Fund.

Download the latest Challenge Fund Application Form/Brochure as a Word, RTF or PDF document from the CLAN website: www.clanedinburgh.org

If you'd like to discuss any proposal you have, contact Angus Whyte on 0131 270 6076 or Richard Terry on 0131 270 6071.

Word Quilt event

Saturday 28 October, 11 am-3 pm, Hawthornden Court at the Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street.

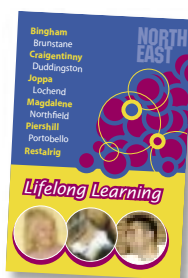
Draw inspiration from this NMS (National Museums of Scotland) collection and help make a Word Quilt with renowned author Zoe Strachan, the City of Literature Trust's Writer-in-Residence with the NMS.

This will be an open drop-in event that is free for everyone to attend, so please encourage your learners to come along.

It will be very informal and fun. Zoe will be around to give some advice and direction and Amanda-Lee Murray of NMS will be on hand to direct people to various parts of the collections for inspiration.

ALN Strategy Report

The Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy Report was launched on International Literacy Day, 8 September, in Glasgow. The report explores what progress has been made on implementing the Scottish adult literacy and numeracy strategy during the period April 2005 to March 2006. To obtain a copy contact Learning Connections on 0131 479 5494.



North East Lifelong Learning

Launched last month at the Portobello Festival of Learning, this leaflet lists venues

for lifelong learning opportunities in North East Edinburgh. To obtain a copy phone Portobello Lifelong Learning Forum on 0131 657 2607 or email: linda.kelly@educ.edin.gov.uk

Professional Development:

Shadowing

For Group Tutors, Project Workers and Managers in Adult Literacy and Numeracy provision

Shadowing can be a very powerful tool for improving practice. CLAN partners and non-strategic partners work in such a variety of roles, settings and target groups, there are a myriad of diverse shadowing opportunities in voluntary organisations, public sector and F.E. contexts.

Practitioners across the city may wish to shadow another colleague to observe good practice or to gain a better understanding of another area of work.

They can seek development opportunities within their own organisations' shadowing framework and also seek access to the wider opportunities available across the CLAN partnership.

If you would like to discuss offering areas of practice you could be shadowed in, or if you would like further information, application forms and advice about shadowing, contact Gillian Lawrence, CLAN Training Officer. Tel: 0131 270 6070. Email: gillian@clanedinburgh.org

Need literacies and numeracy tutors?

There are over thirty Group Tutors, several interviewed recently, who have been accepted into the CLAN/City of Edinburgh Council Adult Literacies Group Tutor Pool.

They are looking for sessional or more substantial pieces of work. Specialist interests tutors mention are: inclusion support, creative writing, numeracy and youth Literacies.

For a copy of the list of tutors, email: caroline@clanedinburgh.org

MORE BYTES The next Beans will be out in November. 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