



Fly a Kite for Scotland

A group of adult learners put their creative talents to the test at the Scottish Parliament last month when they attended a kite making workshop with Les Hodge from Outlook, and Iyahh Warren, freelance Community Education and Development Worker.

The learners who attend groups at CLAN, Edinburgh University Settlement, Outlook and the Workers' Educational Association (WEA), expressed their own political views and visions for the future of Scotland in statements and symbols that they applied to the handmade kites, before flying them outside the Parliament, where they were joined by Robin Harper MSP.

Grace Jordan who attends a writing group at the WEA and CLAN learner Greta McPhail, were both very enthusiastic about the workshop,

"It's been fun and informative and the tutors have been very inspiring."

Fiona, a learner from Outlook echoed their comments when she said, *"It's been wonderful, really inspiring. I feel genuinely hopeful."*

Elizabeth Bryan of the WEA added, *"This was a wonderful opportunity for learners to find out more about the Scottish Parliament and have their say through arts-based activities."*

The event is one of three workshops that are being held for adult learners in the run up to the local and Scottish Parliament elections in May.



Look out for a feature on the final two workshops in next month's Beans.

London Calling Edinburgh! Do you want to be our pen pals?

We are an adult literacy/ESOL class in London. We are seven women and one man, from 24-65 years old. We want to practice writing letters. So we are looking for pen pals in Scotland. Do you want to get letters through the post from us and write back? We can all practice our reading and writing, while also learning about life in our different cities. Please contact us through our teacher, Sam Duncan, on sduncan@candi.ac.uk or phone 020 7704 7237.

Tutors, please pass on this request to your groups!

Thank you!

PASSPORT to Work

The Passport Project, a new service to assist vulnerable people into education, was launched at the Scottish Parliament last month.

'Passport', which is the work of Edinburgh charity **Access to Industry***, will employ a team of case workers who will assist, challenge and support individuals who are moving on from care, prison, drug use or homelessness, to progress toward and into education, training and employment.

Each person will be supported individually and encouraged to take up courses, attain qualifications and make real progress toward employment, in partnership with agencies across Edinburgh.

Sian Fiddimore, Passport Manager, said, *"This project is about doing more to assist and challenge vulnerable people to move forward. For example, roughly speaking it's still the case that only 1% of those children who have been in care make it to University. We need to do more collectively to remove this disadvantage."*

The new programme will be a partnership with Edinburgh's Telford College, Jewel & Esk Valley College, CLAN Edinburgh, the City of Edinburgh Throughcare and Aftercare Team and ultimately all the agencies across Edinburgh working with vulnerable people.

Angus Whyte, Chair of Access to Industry and CLAN's Co-ordinator, said, *"Over the last three years we have had great success supporting recovering substance users into education and employment, through the Transition project, and this simply builds on that good work."*

"Over the next two years we would hope that we have contributed considerably to improving the lives of hundreds of vulnerable people within Edinburgh". ▼

* Access to Industry is funded by the South East Wider Access Forum, which is a collection of all the colleges and universities in the South East of Scotland working toward widening participation in education for under-represented groups.



Angela Shearer receives a SQA certificate from Margo MacDonald MSP and Angus Whyte

TRANSITION



Transition was recently awarded the Scottish Adult Learning Partnership Good Practice Award for 'Expanding Community Participation'.

Transition provides a daily educational programme of structured learning for recovering drug and alcohol users to progress them out of addiction and into further education, training and employment.

Through its committed partnership with Jewel & Esk Valley College and Edinburgh's Telford College, Transition has created a mini college environment in the city centre of Edinburgh, where the curriculum is designed and delivered to suit the needs of this marginalised client group and offer access to SQA accredited qualifications.

One of the unique aspects of the project is the roll on roll off enrolment that allows the client group to commence the programme when they are ready to join. This is vital in order to meet the needs of recovering substance users.

During the development of the programme it has become clear that by establishing requisite roles for the Further Education tutors and Transition staff the students can achieve beyond access level qualifications.

Last year, between July and December twenty-eight Transition students achieved fifty-one SQA qualifications: thirty five of these were at Intermediate Level 1, nine at Intermediate Level 2, five at Higher Level and two ECDL.

These clear partnership roles have allowed the programme to assist students who have more extensive learning needs including dyslexia, under developed literacy skills, memory loss, attention and retention issues. Transition also provides classroom assistant support through volunteers which encourages an environment of learning and enables volunteers to develop their own teaching and delivery skills.

In addition to this on-going teaching support, further partnerships have been pursued. For example, CLAN has provided a literacy worker to assist with the learning needs of the students and identified appropriate resources to enhance the learning experience.

By providing accredited qualifications, students are also able to build a portfolio of achievement that is recognisable and accepted by both Further Education Institutions and employers and so demonstrably assists their moving on, particularly since most students will have little or no formal qualifications prior to starting at Transition. ▼

ISOLATED POLISH WOMEN DEVELOPING SOFT SKILLS IN CONFIDENCE BUILDING AND SELF ESTEEM

Agnieszka Kwiatkowska and Olga Wojciechowska, Polish volunteers, with the cooperation of Douglas Bishop, South Edinburgh Community Learning and Development Worker, have decided to organise workshops for Polish people based in Edinburgh.

The 5-week pilot course will take place in May in South Bridge Resource Centre, Infirmary Street.

The main aim will be to provide Polish people with an opportunity to develop their psychological skills (assertiveness, ability to cope with stress or gaining self-confidence) using both Polish and basic English.

Agnieszka and Olga are running a survey among 300-400 Poles in Edinburgh. The results will inform which skills are most sought after.

The survey also investigates whether Polish people in Edinburgh feel isolated or alienated and how they generally feel about being here. Sometimes Poles come across situations where their rights are violated (e.g. at work). They are often not able to stand up for their rights,

because of either a poor knowledge of English or a lack of confidence.

The workshop initiative would aim to help them by offering participation in the training mentioned above. The workshops will be carried out in both English and Polish; there will be no fee involved.

Polish people would learn to express their needs in English and use these skills later in practice, in everyday life, e.g. communicating with their employers or co-workers.

Agnieszka, an educational psychologist, has lived in Edinburgh for four years. She works as a residential care officer.

Olga, a social psychologist, has been in Edinburgh for eight months. She works as an administrator for Continuing Professional Development.



They both work for the Children and Families Department and believe it will be a useful initiative for Poles, a lot of whom need psychological support being away from their home country and family. A poor knowledge of English and unsatisfactory jobs are all factors that may result in stress, low self-esteem and anxiety.

For more information contact Douglas Bishop. Tel: 0131 558 3545. Email: douglas.bishop@educ.edin.gov.uk

FAMILY LEARNING

Name that Mat!

Add wrapping paper, glue, the imagination of children, the encouragement of their parents and you have a 45-minute activity where name mats are created.

Family Learning Workers across the city have been using this activity to encourage parents to connect with their child's early year's literacy curriculum, by thinking about upper and lower case letter shapes, letter sounds and letter names.

At St Catherine's Primary School in South Edinburgh, Family Learning Worker, Jane Prowse, invited parents into the nursery to work with their child in creating the name mats.

Children had to find their 'first' upper case letter and parents then spent time encouraging the children to write the



rest of their name in lower case and decorate the remaining. The mats are then laminated. The result is a wonderful brightly coloured name mat which the child can take home and proudly display.

For more information email Jane Prowse at jane.prowse@educ.edin.gov.uk

Leith ABC for Kids

This is a book of local images that parents and children

can use as a fun family activity for children to learn their alphabets. The book was designed by parents in Leith as part of a Family Learning project at Fort Community Wing.

In creating the abc, parents got inspiration from exploring, taking photos and designing the pages together. They shared ideas and skills, learnt together, and most took up other learning opportunities following this project.

For further information contact Karen Buist, Family Learning Worker. Tel: 0131 555 6035. Email: karen.buist@educ.edin.gov.uk



Music & Literacy

Learners at EUS (Edinburgh University Settlement) have been making music together at a course run by CLAN Project Worker, Calum Nicholson.

During the course, learners wrote and recorded their own songs, found out what touring with a band is really like and worked on improving their literacy and numeracy skills.

"We also looked at a tour diary I kept of a short tour my band did of the Basque Country and did some comprehension questions on it", said Calum.

"This served to shatter the learners' illusions of any element of glamour involved in touring; with my band anyway! They really enjoyed this and it provoked a lot of good discussion."

Scott: *"I thought this course rocked because we wrote songs, listened to different types of music according to what was happening in the world at the time and we also performed to each other."*

"One thing that I have accomplished is I have more confidence with performing. We have also done a lot of literacy work which has helped with our song writing."

Shelley: *"I have met new people and some good mates. I have written a good song if i don't say so myself. Also I have been listening to music that I would not listen to normally."*

Alistair said, *"I enjoyed making music and writing songs. We got help from Calum and Neil with writing our songs and with our reading and spelling. One of the songs we wrote was called 'World in Fear'. It's about what is going on in the world today"*.

NEW COURSE A new Music & Literacy course starts on **Thursday 18 April.**

The course will run for 10 weeks until Wednesday 20 June. For more information contact Malcolm Lavery or Dan Gorman. Tel: 031 550 6801.

The World is Ending by Scott

There's danger in the air, there's lots of despair.
Tornadoes in the sky, a sad tear running from your eye.
The world is in hell, like someone cast a spell.
The ice caps are meltin and polar bears are burnin,
you need to cut down on all the fossil fuel.
The world is not the same and everybody is to blame, the world
is getting hotter and no one even bothers about the circumstances.

World in Fear by Alistair, Robert & Mark

Look at what's going on in the world today
Terroist attacks lunatics that's for sure.
For all you know they could be right next door.
World in fear
World in fear
The Government step up a gear.
World in fear
World in fear
Where does it go from here?

LEARNING AT DEAF ACTION

Do you work with Deaf or hard of hearing learners?

Deaf Action's 2007 learning programme boasts an exciting range of opportunities in Edinburgh for Deaf and hard of hearing adults. Learning Centre Co-ordinator, Sophie Driver and a team of tutors, some deaf themselves, are ready to welcome learners onto their informal and accredited free courses. Numeracy and Literacy courses, computing, arts and crafts and exercise classes are all on offer.



To find out more contact Sophie at Deaf Action, Head Office, 49 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3QY. Tel: 0131 550 0950
Email: sophie.driver@deafaction.org
Web: www.deafaction.org



Donaldson's College

Donaldson's College, Scotland's national school for hearing, speech and language impaired pupils have just launched their first ever comprehensive website. This brand new site contains sections on everything from pupil admissions, educational specialists, British Sign Language classes, residential facilities and Donaldson's brand new College currently being built in Linlithgow.

The staff at Donaldsons would welcome your feedback, please visit www.donaldsons-coll.edin.sch.uk

Looking for adult literacy & numeracy tutors?

New and experienced tutors on the Group Tutor Pool are looking for work. If you're looking for tutors, contact Gillian at CLAN. Email: gillian@clanedinburgh.org