

WEA Update March 2018

Introduction



This is the second edition of the monthly briefs by WEA Scotland in which we celebrate and recognise the work of WEA adult learners in Scotland and acknowledge the contribution of staff who make such a contribution to each learner's achievements.

In the January edition we featured a number of successful projects and learner successes. These appear to have been really welcomed across the WEA. I am really grateful to everyone who has taken the time to write and say how much they enjoyed reading about the work of the WEA across Scotland. Hopefully this month's edition will strike a similar note. If this is your first time visiting the WEA Scotland website, then welcome!!

We hope you will enjoy reading about the work and achievements of WEA adult learners and the range of programmes the WEA offers across Scotland. We aim to improve people's capacities, capabilities and life chances through engagement with learning and this brief highlights our successes in delivering that.

You can find out more about the work of the WEA by also reading the January brief via the link at the end of this article and by reading about the range of projects the WEA offers in other sections of the website.

Media Highlights: Science for a Successful Scotland

The learning and teaching that the WEA delivers has seen the WEA featured in the national media through the launch of an innovative science resource for teaching and learning: Science for a Successful Scotland. Launched by the Minister for Further Education Higher Education and Science: Shirley Anne Somerville, this resource will enable learners to increase their knowledge of science and develop important skills such as communication and numeracy. The aim of the resource is to enable parents and children to learn about science together and help parents support their children in making subject and career choices in science and the STEM [science, technology, engineering and maths] subjects.

The resources were jointly developed by the WEA, Dr Heather Reid OBE, Daniel Sellers and Glasgow Clyde College. It is an excellent example of the effective partnership working that characterises so much of what the WEA delivers. The project launch was featured in a number of media outlets and the WEA Education Coordinator: Alison Mclachlan provided an excellent interview that was aired on BBC Scotland radio.

For those of you who are interested in finding out more about [Science for a Successful Scotland please click Here](#)

Media Highlights: Interview on BBC Alba

Mark Thomson: the Lead Tutor for WEA in Highland was also interviewed this month by BBC Scotland for a programme [Seachd La] that was aired on BBC Alba. This was an interview in which Mark talked about people moving to the Highlands and the challenges of them finding accommodation and work. During this interview Mark was able to mention the contribution the WEA is making to adult learning in the Highlands.

Media Highlights: CYPPIEF and ALEC Conference

This conference will take place on 15th March and is one of the major education conferences in Scotland. Throughout this conference photographs and video links for a range of WEA learning programmes

including our successes at the WEA Awards and showcasing education provision in areas as diverse as Food Nutrition, Sensory Training, Literacy Skills, Personal Development and First Aid. These will be showcased on a continuous slide show that will be shown on screens across the venue demonstrating to all delegates the quality and breadth of the WEA's education offer

WEA Highland

The last couple of months have seen significant development in the Highlands for the WEA. Warmest congratulations must go to Dr Susan Kruse: a local history tutor for the WEA, who was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List for services to community archaeology in the Highlands of Scotland. From an educational perspective projects in the Highlands continue to flourish and offer the potential for growth across the region. Women in the Highlands works towards giving women greater participation in their own communities and a six month programme of events and workshops is close to being finalised. Agewise: funded by the Gulbenkian Foundation, aims to help older people transition from work to retirement and better meet the challenges of later life. Finally the ESOL programme continues to offer opportunities for those learners who need help and support with their language skills and several businesses across the Highlands are considering this provision as part of their workforce development plans.

The WEA Highland Local Association is also offering a comprehensive programme of events and lunchtime talks across a range of diverse topics. Norman Newton or Pauline MacKay will be more than happy to provide more details on these. Finally, in the past month the WEA has moved offices to Academy Street on to the site of the former Inverness Academy which occupied these premises from 1792 to 1895, so after a gap of 123 years, the building is once again, a hub of educational excellence

ESOL Programme North Ayrshire

This WEA UK Award winning partnership continues to flourish and grow. A new Education Coordinator: Aileen Pollacchi, has joined the team to continue this expansion of provision and will work alongside Stewart Fraser to further raise awareness of the programme with stakeholders across the regions. The WEA EOSL learners in North Ayrshire are also making great strides with learners gaining work placement experience or progressing on to higher levels of learning at Ayrshire College.

The partnership with North Ayrshire Council continues to develop and in so doing will offer more and better opportunities for both learners and staff. Two training sessions for front line delivery staff have been planned and both are already fully subscribed and towards the end of March, there will be a joint Celebration of Learning Event for ESOL Learners at Ayrshire College

WEA on Educations Scotland National Improvement Hub

In the last monthly brief I made mention of the Screen Writing for Postal Workers project, led by Craig Finnie. This project aimed to improve the literacy skills to postal workers through the medium of screen writing and film making. The success of this project has now been recognised by its inclusion on Educations Scotland's National Improvement hub. This is a platform which showcases the best of education practice Scotland has to offer so it can be replicated by others. Craig Finnie would be happy to chat to anyone through the details of the project, but meantime the link below will take you directly to the [Education Scotland National Improvement Hub](#).

Film Making Equipment Available

On the subject of film making, the WEA has recently acquired digital film/video making equipment. This includes a hand held steady cam device, a high quality video mobile phone and a dedicated lap top with premier editing software. This is potentially an excellent learning and teaching resource. Craig Finnie is

happy to chat people through how it all works and would be delighted to collaborate on any joint projects with colleagues across WEA Scotland.

I would be delighted to chat to colleague's, partners or stakeholders about any of the above projects or to refer them to the Education Coordinators who lead this excellent work