

# Adult Learning Services

Strategic Adult Learning Services Newsletter

May 2021

**H**i, we hope our third newsletter reaches you safe and well. Since our last letter, lots has been happening, like the Adult Education Programme running a wide range of outdoor sessions. Also, the Resettlement Project has held interactive family storytelling sessions.

**1**

## Adult Education Programme

We're currently offering an online programme as well as running outdoor groups

**2**

## Adult Literacies

As we can't hold face to face groups, free online learning, digital support and over the phone learning are being provided to learners

**3**

## ESOL

Weekly online classes at various levels are available to adult learners for whom English is a second language

**4**

## Family Learning

We offer ways for parents to create strategies which help support their children's learning and development

**5**

## Outlook

As face to face classes aren't possible at the moment, we are holding online sessions and sending newsletters

**6**

## Resettlement Project - ESOL and Family Learning Services

For refugees resettled in Edinburgh (as part of the UK Resettlement Scheme)

**S**cots has been chosen as this month's newsletter theme. Scots has been spoken in Scotland for many centuries, it was once the dominant language of Scotland, spoken by around 70% of the population, including Scottish kings and queens. It originated with the tongue of the Angles who arrived in Scotland about 1,400 years ago. Pictured below on the left is the Ruthwell Cross from Dumfriesshire, which dates to c.750. The Northumbrian Anglo-Saxon poem the 'Dream of the Rood' is carved into it. The poem is widely viewed as one of the earliest writings in the northern language which later evolved into Scots.



King James VI had once recognised differences between English and Scots. However, after 1603, he saw himself as an 'imperial' ruler over a British empire. So he sought the union of his kingdoms, setting in motion a trend towards the Anglicisation of Scottish society. As a result, 17th century Scotland witnessed a decline in literary activity. Then in the 20th century, a radical renaissance in Scots poetry pioneered by Hugh MacDiarmid took place. Today, around 1.5 million, or 30% of the Scottish population speak Scots, showing the language is still alive and well.

If you would like to learn some Scots, then monthly Scots language packs are being made and are available for free. If you'd like more information or to receive the packs, please email Lydia at: [lydia.markham@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:lydia.markham@ea.edin.sch.uk)



# 1

**Edinburgh's Adult Education Programme (AEP).** In the last newsletter we mentioned that we are currently running online classes and that some outdoor sessions were planned to start in early May, we are delighted to say these are now underway.

The new term of adult education online courses began during week of 26th April with a very wide range of courses on offer, from poetry writing to dress making and pennywhistle. The courses have proven themselves to be very popular again, with some people preferring the comfort and convenience of learning directly from the kitchen table, studying in dressed down or dressed up style. Students, tutors and all the people behind the scenes are all growing in confidence with using the virtual classrooms.

We have even managed to offer cookery courses online, with the Spanish Tapas students watching online and cooking concurrently. The Tai Chi course provides half an hour of pre-recorded exercises for students to use in their own time throughout the course dates, plus an online meet up for half an hour to check in with the tutor and make sure the style and poses are all safe and correct.

Since May, the Adult Education Programme has ran some other refreshing and interesting courses, such as: Techniques in Self Care for that feel good factor, Penny Whistle for Beginners (open to complete musical novices), Violin, Languages such as Italian and Japanese, History through School Stories and various Art courses.

From May, we have also been running the first actual face to face sessions in over a year, by offering a host of outdoor courses that comply with government guidelines. The courses have included: sketching, walking, foraging, wood work, photography, archaeology, Tai Chi and bird watching. The chance to enjoy warm, fresh air whilst learning has been welcomed by students.

For more information on our upcoming courses, please go to: <https://bit.ly/382uyLd> or you can contact us at: [adult.education@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:adult.education@ea.edin.sch.uk)

**You can also follow us on social media:**



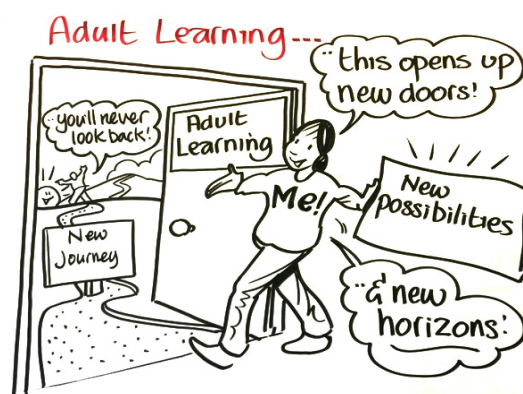
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**2 Adult Literacies:** Adult Literacies' groups and courses are free for all adults who want to build skills and confidence in reading, writing, spelling or numbers. Learners decide what they want to work on and can learn at their own pace. Each person will be working towards a different goal. They may want to help their children with homework, write better work reports, manage money or work towards SQA qualifications. Small, friendly groups run in community centres and libraries across Edinburgh. Each group has a tutor and where possible has access to computers with support from a volunteer tutor.

Due to Covid there are no face-to-face groups running just now. Adults can continue learning online with digital support available to them or they can work with a tutor by phone and post.

**For general enquiries please email: [ale@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:ale@ea.edin.sch.uk) | Adult Learning line: 0800 085 7672**

For more details contact Liz Highet - Adult Literacies Lifelong Learning Development Officer

**Email: [Liz.Highet@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Liz.Highet@ea.edin.sch.uk) | Tel: 07922416232**

**Find on us Facebook and YouTube:**

 Facebook - Adult Literacy Edinburgh - <https://bit.ly/3pM7oii>

 [www.youtube.com/channel/UC9N5k4EAIjTN9jy7ovaQrXg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9N5k4EAIjTN9jy7ovaQrXg)



**3 ESOL:** Adults who live in Edinburgh and for whom English is not a first language can apply to join one of our English (ESOL) classes. These classes are currently online using Microsoft Teams. Learners can improve their everyday communication skills, for example for their personal lives; for work and study; to help children with homework and to communicate with teachers, doctors, shopkeepers, neighbours and others. The classes also help learners understand more about life in Scotland and feel more included in their communities.

Weekly online English classes at different levels are available to adults for whom English is not a first language. New learners are invited to a language assessment meeting and then placed in an appropriate class or on a waiting list. New learners can be accepted into classes at the start of each term, provided there are spaces.

**For general enquiries please email: [ESOL@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:ESOL@ea.edin.sch.uk) | Tel: 0800 085 7672**

For more details contact Karen - [Karen.buist@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.buist@edinburgh.gov.uk)

**4 Family Learning:** We work in partnership with teachers and other colleagues to deliver Family Learning workshops, groups, clubs and events for parents, carers and their children. These encourage family members to learn together as and within a family. They are designed to support parents and carers to create strategies to help their children's learning and development. They shine a light for them on the learning opportunities in everyday life at home, in the community and outdoors. In addition, parents and carers are supported to actively and meaningfully engage in their children's learning and life at school.

Examples of some Family Learning courses and projects delivered online in the past year are:





**Time for a Story:** online videos with stories, songs and activities to do together at home

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCfyyf4R4ek\\_mXcRQL5rbYzA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfyyf4R4ek_mXcRQL5rbYzA)

**Help Your Child to Learn:** a series of 5 interactive online workshops for parents and children which use the Primary 3 Read, Write, Count resources. **Read, Write, Count bags Unpacked** will be launched very soon with video clips that can be accessed by families both in Edinburgh and more widely across Scotland. **"I think that all Dads should do this. It's opened my eyes to think of new ways to help my son's learning."** Fraser, parent from the Dads' Group.



<https://youtu.be/5z5K6Q921qM>

**Family Learning support for parents with children learning at home:** a series of 3 interactive online sessions for parents with children of primary school age who have been learning at home due to lockdown.

For more information contact Karen - [Karen.buist@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.buist@edinburgh.gov.uk)



## 5

**Outlook:** We offer individual guidance, information, classes and educational support. The service enables people who access mental health services to take up a variety of both local and City-wide opportunities. Short, free, beginner level courses are available in a range of subjects throughout the year, offering an informal way to try out new subjects in small groups. Learners are invited to meet with a worker when first accessing the service to discuss their interests, different services on offer and what to expect when accessing Outlook courses. People can both self-refer or be referred through an agency.

Face to face services have been suspended due to Covid-19, but we are offering guidance, some online classes, YouTube videos and supporting learners with our monthly newsletters. We also hope to start some outdoor classes soon. If you would like more information about the Outlook, please see our contact details below.

**Outlook general email** - [CLD.OP@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:CLD.OP@edinburgh.gov.uk)

**Alex Callaghan** - Outlook Project Worker

**Email:** [Alexander.Callaghan@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Alexander.Callaghan@edinburgh.gov.uk) | **Tel:** 07752 700754

**Fiona Dowie** - Outlook Lifelong Learning Development Worker

**Email:** [Fiona.Dowie@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Fiona.Dowie@edinburgh.gov.uk) | **Tel:** 07895 214243



## 6

**Resettlement Programme (ESOL and Family Learning):** Formerly we were called the Syrian Resettlement Project. The change in name reflects the fact that refugees, from additional countries are now included within the UK Resettlement Scheme.

In the immediate future however, the majority of families being resettled in Edinburgh will still be from Syria and the first language spoken by resettled refugees will continue to be Arabic & Kurdish. The scheme had been temporarily suspended due to COVID-19, but we are now very pleased to see new families arriving in Edinburgh again. We have already started doing ESOL assessments and we are looking forward to welcoming our new friends to our programme of online ESOL classes and Family Learning courses







We fully appreciate that Covid-19 has negatively impacted peoples lives and that the current situation is particularly challenging for various reasons. Here are some links, information and contact details for financial and mental health support services.

**Mental Health Information Station:** The service is lead by NHS occupational Therapists, input is drawn from health and social care staff, peer support workers, volunteers and third sector partners. The service is a one stop shop acting as a source of support, information and sign posting to ensure that people have access to the right support as early as possible.

**Tel:** 0131 537 8688 (Thursdays from 9.30am to 4.30pm)

**Email:** [MentalHealthInformation@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:MentalHealthInformation@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)

**Web:** <https://services.nhslothian.scot/mentalhealthinformationstation/Pages/default.aspx>

**The Advice Shop:** this is a free service provided by the City of Edinburgh Council which offers advice and support around welfare rights and reducing personal debt.

**Tel:** 0131 200 2360 | **Email:** [advice.shop@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:advice.shop@edinburgh.gov.uk)

**Web:** <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/benefits-grants/money-advice-help-debt/1>

**The City of Edinburgh Council:** For the latest Covid-19 guidelines and more information on the City of Edinburgh Council services, please go to: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/>

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