

Bridging the Digital Divide



'In the digital age, a successful country will be one in which everybody has the opportunity to get online and is able to join the many benefits that the internet can bring. As we build a world class Digital Scotland, we are therefore determined to ensure that everybody has the skills, confidence and opportunity to benefit from digital technologies'.

Digital Participation, A National Framework for Local Action, The Scottish Government.

In close partnership with Citizens Online and the Digital Highland Project, Adult Learning is delivering iPad/Tablet sessions throughout Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey. The initial six week courses are designed to assist and support learners with getting online and making the most of their digital device. Courses have taken place in Nairn Community Centre and Adult Learning Base, The Ben Mhor Hotel in Grantown, 'The Hub' in Aviemore, and the Badenoch Centre in Kingussie. Learners have gained such skills as online shopping, booking, using Social Media, Skype and much, much more. Learners attending the Beginners' courses can then progress on to our sessions for Improvers. The courses have proved popular, and have ignited in learners the desire to learn more about the digital world.

"The course was really good. I now can Skype my friend in New Zealand. Before the course I didn't even know what Skype was!"

(Learner in Grantown-on Spey).

"My confidence in using my iPad has increased since I started. Now if I want to do something new I usually try it at home by myself first then come to the session armed with questions!"

(Learner in Nairn).

"I was surprised at how quickly I picked things up. I really enjoy using the iPad and connecting with old school friends on Facebook. I now am in touch with an old friend who I lost contact with years ago, it's brilliant!"

(Learner in Aviemore).

Likewise we also offer our tutors continued support to improve their digital skills. In partnership with Citizens Online we can provide 1-1 support or workshops for tutors wishing to gain more confidence, enabling tutors to pass on their newly acquired skills to their learners. In order to ensure our learners receive the best support in improving their digital skills, it is vital our tutors have the confidence and knowledge in delivering this subject. Everybody should have the opportunity to access modern technology, and the benefits that these opportunities can create.

Digital technology is transforming our society and changing the way we live. In Adult Learning we want to embrace the digital age, and ensure everybody has the opportunity to share the benefits technology can bring.

Our sessional tutors have also been promoting 'Your Online Library', allowing those with a library card free access to digital newspapers and other online materials.

Adult Learning in Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey

Music + Literacy



Learners in Kingussie have recently completed our first Music + Literacy course. Literacy begins with an awareness of sound, our ability to understand and respond to sounds. There is a natural connection between lyrics and literacy. Lyrics are the words in music and if you take lyrics to your favourite songs and recite them, you have poetry. In many cases a song is a form of storytelling. Working in partnership with the Caberfeidh Day Centre, learners took part in an eight week course, learning about different instruments, lyrics, and the connection between words and rhythm. Establishing a sense of rhythm can be used to increase a learner's awareness of alliteration and rhyming patterns in reading and writing. The course was greatly enjoyed by the participants. We hope to run another Music + Literacy course soon.



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ESOL

English for Speakers of Other Languages



ESOL groups in Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey now take place in the Nairn Adult Learning Base, Grantown Community Centre and in 'The Hub' in Aviemore. Learners have the opportunity to improve their everyday English, and gain an SQA ESOL qualification. The groups are informal and a great way for learners to practice their English in a relaxed and friendly setting. For more details or information on the classes, please contact Jenni.



Highlighting Adult Learning and Support for Literacies.

We have taken part in local Learning events, and have spoken with groups to highlight the work we do, and to reach the wider community. We work closely with partners to enable us to reach a wider group of people and attract new learners and tutors.

Coming Soon!

- Employability Group
- Everyday Budgeting
- Healthy Cooking for Parents
- Literacy and Crafts
- Intercultural Women's Group
- The Reading Circle