

Dyslexia Scotland Skye & Lochalsh Branch Events



Our mission as the Skye & Lochalsh Branch in partnership with Dyslexia Scotland is to encourage and enable people with dyslexia, regardless of their age and abilities to reach their potential. Events to raise awareness on dyslexia are held throughout the area during every term time.

Last Autumn, Anne MacAskill, her son's primary teacher and an "inspirational" teacher from High School came to our open meeting to chat about dyslexia and how it affected their parenting and teaching styles.

During Dyslexia Awareness Week in November, drop-in sessions were held in Portree & Kyle Libraries to showcase resources which were purchased through Commission Class Funding from HLH. The film, "Like Stars on Earth" was shown to the pupils in McDiarmid Primary School, if you haven't seen it, it is worth watching – get the hankies out though! Feedback from a pupil: "I want a teacher like that!"



The Spring time session was delivered by Eilidh Player, Dyslexia Scotland's Young Ambassador, she spoke with S1 – S6 pupils in Plockton High School and to the Staff in the School Hostel.



Eilidh is a first year student at SRUC, Aberdeen and she gave a powerpoint presentation to the S1 assembly, met pupils from S2-S6 and visited the residence in the evening.

She will be coming back to our area in June to speak with Portree High School pupils and Hostel staff.

Further information on the branch can be found on the **Dyslexia Scotland Website** :

<http://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk/our-branches/skye-and-lochalsh>

Please like our **Facebook** Page :

Dyslexia Scotland Skye & Lochalsh

or call for advice via the **National Helpline** :

Tel: 0344 800 84 84

Adult Learning in Skye & Lochalsh

Family Learning through Crafts

From the success of the YouTime activities we decided to promote personal development via a variety of techniques / activities. Ideally based within the High School campus, Portree Community Library has established a regular influx of adults to our facilities and to further integrate adult and youth work within our community we are keen to extend learning to those who are not yet engaged with HLH or who feel socially excluded.

From communications with YouTime participants and partner agencies, craft activities are one of the most effective ways of engaging participants from various backgrounds.

Learning together with an intergenerational approach which involves a supportive network inspires and motivates our learners to reach their potential.

Within this pilot "Learning through Craft" project, three weeks of 1.5 hour sessions of craft activities took place for Family Learning, two sessions of which were during the October School holiday.

The sessions included Origami and Lampshade Making, both of which are very popular activities and offer an inclusive approach for participants to support and develop each other throughout the process.



To develop the concept further, the adult learning tutors encouraged all learners to engage with future learning opportunities within our community facilities which will incorporate and increase the profile of all HLH services.

Classes will be held with Digital Themes: iPads / Facebook / e-books / digital newspapers / Learning a new Language.

Developing other classes within all our services encourages learners who currently feel socially excluded to join the Library or use the Archive Centre and Leisure facilities.

New classes will take place from May 2016.

Book Week Scotland

During Book Week Scotland our tutors and learners gave out a total of 41 books to encourage others to read and swap books. Everyone was delighted to receive a "freebie" and are looking forward to the next Book Week!

Drop-In Basic Skills Computer Class

The Adult Learning Tutor delivers sessions in Kyleakin and helps learners with basic computer skills i.e. using e-mail, attaching photos, using the internet, basic Word & Excel and Facebook.

There is a computer suite in Kyleakin Connections with adequate WIFI facilities for effective use with the group. Learners come in on a drop-in basis for one hourly visits to enhance their knowledge of computer skills.



During November to March learners can further enhance their learning via West Highland College to learn how to use Twitter, ebay, Basic Photography skills etc.

In addition, the tutor introduced sessions on Your Online Library to encourage participants to use the Library services i.e. e-books, ordering and borrowing books/DVDs, digital magazines, newspapers and learning a language plus showed them all how to use the HLH website and Facebook pages for gaining further local information.

PDA SALL: Supporting Adult Literacies Learning Qualification

Five volunteers have recently completed the above Adult Learning Tutor Training Qualification. The training took place in Portree Community Library and included three Library staff members. All tutors are now delivering sessions either on a 1:1 basis or in small groups to learners in our community including YouTime sessions within the Library.

Cooking Skills Class

In partnership with Social Work we delivered a Cooking Skills Programme for parents in West Highland College, Portree to break down barriers to attending further education and to increase their knowledge on healthy eating and budgeting. The sessions provided practical skills on budgeting, building knowledge on healthy eating to preparing and cooking affordable meals for their families. The learners developed their literacy and numeracy skills by following recipes and calculating their shopping budget.

Feedback from the learners, "The course was fantastic!"

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