

*****Book Week Scotland 2022*****

Adult Learning Journeys

Saturday 19th November 10.30am to 1.00pm Howden Park Centre

Programme - timings are approximate

- 10.30am Welcome and housekeeping
- 10.40am Introductions
- 10.55am What is Adult Learning for you?
- 11.15am Learner journeys

Title	By
Mother's Day	Mandy Postians
Summer	Mandy Postians
The Bus Stop	William Krendler, presented by Colin McGuire
Destination	William Krendler, presented by Colin McGuire
The Colours	Garrion Johnston, presented by Colin McGuire
The Image	Garrion Johnston, presented by Colin McGuire
1st Learning Journey	Kim Murphy
The First Dreamcatcher	Adapted by: Christopher Ball, Edward Murphy, James Ellis, Mandy Postians, Zoe McKay presented by Colin McGuire
Life	William Krendler
2nd Learning Journey	Gill Gillies
3rd Learning Journey	Jo Hogg

- 12.30pm Presentation
- 12.40pm Summing up and a final performance by Colin McGuire

Mother's Day.

What is a mother?

She cares for you.

Whatever you feel she is always there.

You maybe be good or bad.

She will always stand by you.

So, make your Mother's Day turn out great.

You only have one mother.

So, take care of her.

She stands by you through thick and thin.

So, tell her that you love her for the rest of her life.

Written and Performed by Mandy Postians

Summer



Summer is coming very fast. The trees are turning green.
We all feeling brighter with rays of the sun.
The smell of summer is Rosemary.
The green green grass is fair of green.

We hope this summer is going to be hot and warm.
We hope to see places that we have not seen before.
Summer makes me think of ice cream. What is your favourite flavour?
Let me think.
Mine is vanilla.

Written and Performed by Mandy Postians.





THE BUS STOP

Standing at the bus stop just looking around.
Waiting at the bus stop just waiting around.
Thinking and waiting with my own thoughts around.
Got this funny feeling that the bus will be on time.
And as a was waiting just out of the blue my bus
turned up right on cue.

Written by

William Krendler

Performed by

Colin McGuire

Destination - William Krendler

Everything is clear when I am looking out of the window.

Seeing people walking outside with their dogs
and maybe even the neighbours.

Cars going to their destinations with caution and focus on the task
at hand.

Don't forget the life of a dog walker and their journey. Their early
rise to get the dogs out so they can do their business.

I am lucky that I don't have a dog, as sometimes I like a lie in just
thinking.

I am refreshed and all ready for the day.

It looks like a busy world out there.

People getting by each morning.

Getting ready for which ever destination.

Written and Performed by William Krendler

The Colours - Garrion Johnston

The trees

The colours on the trees

The days that make the trees change within the arms of the
seasons

Discover this

From spring to summer to autumn and winter

This always changes within the season

To create brighter and vibrate surroundings

For everybody to admire

Written by Garrion Johnston

Performed by Colin McGuire

The Image - Garrion Johnston

The image that we can see

The image that we create

The image that we admire

The image that's special

The image that lasts for a long time

The image that never goes away

Written by Garrion Johnston

Performed by Colin McGuire

My learning journey by KIMBERLEY MURPHY, presented by Colin McGuire

Something you can never guess about me is that I have a dog called Bella and hamster called Archie. However today I am not talking about my pets. Today I am going to talk about my learner journey.

I am going to start at where my learning is at the current time. I am currently doing a speaking qualification in literacy in adult learning. This will become one of many qualifications I have achieved in adult learning.

I have been doing adult learning classes for the past five years. I started doing adult learning to improve my confidence and gain new qualifications that would help me in my future career.

Since doing classes I have gained qualifications in writing and reading in, Scottish studies; during covid I took part in online courses which were cookery course, money management and driving theory. Through doing driving theory I managed to pass my driving theory test in August. I am saving up to start my practical lessons.

During adult learning classes it gave me confidence to go to college and gain my level four in mathematics a couple of years ago. It also gave me confidence to now do an online course in level two in Certificate in Introducing Caring for children and young people. My job involves working with kids; so it is good to know about laws, relationship and keeping them safe.

I am glad that adult learning has taught me that I am not unteachable and that I can learn new skills that help me in daily life such as speaking to people Confidently and not feel shy when speaking to other people I do not know.

No one is unteachable; they just learn in their way.

I would recommend adult learning classes to anybody who feel they cannot be taught new skills. Adult learning has the ability to teach someone how to improve their English and Mathematics or even learn about the history of where they live.

Throughout my school years I struggled with mathematics and English but I was good at drawing objects on paper. I was in one of the lowest classes throughout Comprehensive school; so maths was never taught properly by the teachers. They were too busy trying to teach the kids that did not want to learn the subject.

Overall doing adult learning classes, has taught me a, lot about myself and what I can do in my career and what other qualifications I can gain for both myself and my future career. Thank you for listening. Hope you enjoyed my talk today.

The First Dream Catcher

Long ago an old Lakota spiritual leader was on a high mountain when he had a vision.

In his vision, a spider appeared and spoke to him.

It spoke to him about the cycles of life, how we begin our lives as infants, move on through childhood and on to adulthood.

Finally, we go to old age, where we must be taken care of again, completing the cycle.

"In each time of life there are many forces, some good and some bad. If you listen to the good forces, they will steer you in the right direction.

But, if you listen to the bad forces, they will steer you in the wrong direction and they will

hurt you. Your dreams will guide you", the spider said.

The spider then picked up the elder's willow hoop which had feathers, horsehair, beads and offerings on it, and it began to spin a web on it. The finished web was a perfect circle with a hole in the centre of it.

"This web will filter dreams - good forces will pass through the hole and the bad ones will be trapped in the threads. It will steer your people on the journey of life," the spider told him.

The elder shared this story with his people and the dream catcher was used by all his tribe.

Adapted from: [Dream-Catcher History & Legend | Dream-Catchers.org](http://Dream-Catcher-History-&-Legend/Dream-Catchers.org)

Adapted by: Christopher Ball, Edward Murphy, James Ellis, Mandy Postians, Zoe McKay

Performed by: Colin McGuire

Learning Journey - Written and Presented by Gil Gillies

Good morning. My name Gil Gillies. I'm a volunteer Adult Literacies Supporting Tutor. I'd like to tell you a bit about my journey.

I had not studied formally since 1993. Even then it was an Access to Social Science course, and of course this was because I hadn't bothered putting in any effort to study and left school with 2 'O' levels in Music and 1 in Religious Education.

Returning to education then was a big blow to me. I struggled with attendance and very low educational confidence. I did somehow manage my required grades to get accepted for a place at New College in Edinburgh. However, due to my personal situation I was unable to begin study.

I suffered a serious head injury, then became homeless, making any idea of going to New College just impossible.

I lived in the wilderness for a few years, physically and mentally.

Eventually I managed to get a volunteer post working with young people. My life was about to change.

I had worked as a youth worker in Northern Ireland before I left in 1990. It always set me on fire and that fire was rekindled by the young people I began working with.

At that time the energy, questions and challenges of young people pushed me on.

I realised one of the biggest lessons in my life: to make real change you need to be honest and sincere; you must be the proof of your own pudding.

Volunteering led me to a job. An actual paid job! I couldn't believe that I was getting paid to do this work! It felt cheeky!

Over the next few years my path progressed, and I managed to forge a career in Youth & Community work for some 20 odd years.

It was easier then, than it is today. References and experience were sufficient for getting jobs then.

Life was great for many years then I began to realise.

I'd hit a ceiling. I did not know or understand the current buzz words or jargon. I couldn't be taken seriously.

How could I work better for my young people without being at the table. Jobs now required qualifications.

What am I going to do??

I saw an advert in a youth magazine for a Foundation course in Youth work. I was very nervous of the formal education, but signed up and found that I not only could I manage it, it rekindled my fire!

Who knew studying could be so good.

It was liberating. It gave me a drive. It gave me a direction. It gave me discipline; it gave me deadlines. IT GAVE ME CONFIDENCE.

Foundation Course led to PDA; PDA led to HNC. I continued and have achieved several Level 6 awards and a couple of level 8's.

So where does WLC come in?

For the last 4 years I've been working with the Gypsy/Traveller Community in Scotland. On sites, in houses and on the roadside.

These folk, fine folk by the way, tend to have very little education formal or non-formal. Young people usually leave after primary school, some up to maybe second year.

The school systems overall aren't suitable for or have much understanding of Gypsy/Traveller culture and how it has a hold on many aspects of GT life. Not suitable to work for the benefit of young Gypsy/Travellers.

It also became very clear that adult literacy levels within the community are very low. Many older folks relying on their young people to help with reading, writing and numbers.

You may think this is a sad situation, and you'd be right, but it's not just a Traveller thing.

1 in 4 (26.7% / 931,000 people) adults in Scotland experience challenges due to their lack of literacy skills. (literacytrust.org.uk)

I wanted to see if I could do anything to help this situation. It occurred to me that I'm on sites, anyway, wouldn't it be great if I could offer Adult Literacies to folks.

I had a lightbulb moment.

I contacted WLC's Adult Learning Team and arranged a meeting.

I met up with Aileen and explained what I wanted to do. Aileen explained to me the process, the qualification, and what I would need to do.

I spent the time from November to June working with Margaret and her Tuesday afternoon group. I worked with two students throughout my time there, with great support from Margaret and continuing in the background with Aileen to keep up with my course work.

I found the whole process fantastic. It was great for my learning and my discipline. It was wonderful to have deadlines to meet, preparation to do and best of all to see the achievements and the progression of the students I worked with.

I felt that the qualification with the adult literacies team was proper. They sure dotted the i's and stroked the t's and to that end I was able to feel extremely confident in what I was doing.

You know, I was seriously impressed with my learning, with the Adult Literacies Team at west Lothian council.

I'd like to thank Aileen, Margaret, and the Students. I would highly recommend working with them to anybody who may be interested in entering in this field.

I currently volunteer on a Tuesday night with Aileen at Whitburn Partnership Building.

In fact, my first official student concluded his SVQ in Computing last week by passing his assessment.

What a great moment for him, what a great moment for me. What great moment for the Adult Literacies Team.

Adult Learning Works. I am evidence of that fact!

- Self-Direction
- Learning by Doing



- Relevance
- Using their own experience
- Practice
- Involvement
- Personal Development

Adult Literacies is a success story. Everyone in this room makes it happen.

What a power we have, to change lives, to support people into jobs and further study.

What a privilege it is to be involved in this great work.

Thank you for your time.

Learning Journey - Written and Presented by Jo Hogg

Good morning, my name is Jo and I live in West Lothian, I'm originally from Cornwall, which makes me Cornish.

At school I had problems with spelling, But I was able to read well. In the 70s class sizes were big, 30 plus, very few people had heard of dyslexia, so I was called thick, stupid and a dunce, and left to get on with it. School was a bit of a nightmare for me and I got lost in the system and couldn't wait to leave. On leaving school I had very few qualifications, but I was able to get a job as a nanny and saw a lot of the world with the families I worked for.

Aged 19 I took an evening class in psychology, which is what I had an interest in. The tutor asked why I wasn't going to take the exam at the end of the course, I told her it was because I was too thick, because of my poor spelling. She said that she didn't think me thick, as I was one of her brightest pupils and asked if I had ever been tested for dyslexia? I told her no. She put me in touch with a friend of hers and low and behold I was dyslexic. I no longer thought of myself as thick, but dyslexic.

Family life got in the way about doing anything about it. 3 grown-up children later, now aged 60, I discovered the west Lothian adult learning group, and I am loving it there. I was a little slow at first and asked a lot of questions, and I mean a ton of questions. My tutor was very good and I am now racing through all the exams she can throw at me; I have 12 to date. I'm now enjoying writing short stories, and have even had one published. Which is a start, bring it on I say.

My children now don't make fun of my shopping lists I have in the kitchen. No more "strewberries", or misspelt items, well very few now. This has changed how I look at things in life, I don't look back I try to look forward.

Thank you all for listening to my story.