

New Year, New Opportunities!

The start of 2013 will see the roll-out of the Ready, Study Go initiative, which aims to build confidence and study skills in individuals who would benefit from some support to take the first steps towards formal learning. The course is being delivered by a network of Union Learning Reps across the Highlands and Islands, who have been trained as Ready Study Go tutors as part of a pilot project for Scottish Union Learning, supported by the European Social Fund.

Details of the course, which include topics such as learning styles, career planning, formal writing and managing time, are being distributed to ULRs, along with posters, to help publicise the scheme. ULRs who need more information for their members can contact the Scottish Union Learning Highlands and Islands office on 01463 248 905, which will put them in touch with the relevant Ready Study Go tutor.

UNISON on the Learning Trail

UNISON's dynamic duo - Fieldworker Philippa Clark and Migrant Workers Fieldworker Marta Chaba - are on the road once again, following their recent successful ventures to Skye and Shetland to reach out to potential learners. As well as a follow up visit to Skye, Phil and Marta are heading to Wick, Dunoon and Argyll to spread the word about unions and learning.



Photo of Skye,
courtesy of
UNISON

What's on

The 6th Scottish Union Learning Highlands and Islands ULR Conference will be held on Friday, 21st June 2013. More details will be communicated soon.

Scottish Union Learning Everyday Skills Event

Thursday, 28th February 2013
10am - 4pm in the COSLA Conference Centre, Verity House, 19 Haymarket Yards, Edinburgh EH12 5BH (next to Haymarket Station). The theme is "Everyday Skills – Making a Difference". There will be opportunities for ULRs to find out more about digital skills, financial capability and English for non-native speakers. For more information, visit www.scottishunionlearning.com/events.

STUC Annual Congress

16th - 18th April 2013 at Perth Concert Hall.

Please note: you must seek approval from your own union to attend STUC events.

Red Carpet Event will Celebrate H&I Learning Reps

To mark ten years of support for lifelong learning in the Highlands and Islands, Scottish Union Learning will host a red carpet event to celebrate the contribution local Union Learning Reps have made in supporting thousands of workers in the region in accessing learning. All Highlands and Islands ULRs will be invited to the Highlands and Islands Union Learning Awards, which will be held on Tuesday, 19th March 2013 in Inverness College. Awards will be presented to celebrate learners' achievements in a number of categories and ULRs will shortly be asked to nominate learners who they feel are worthy of recognition. Please note that this event will replace the annual multi-link video-conference ULR Forum, usually held in March. The costs of the multi-link arrangements have risen considerably and, unfortunately, both events cannot be supported. This means there will be a long interval until the next Forums are due; however, if any ULRs would like a Forum in the interim, please contact Pam or Eleanor to make arrangements.

Thinking about retiring?

Scottish Union Learning is again working with financial advice providers to organise workshops across the Highlands and Islands to meet the needs of workers contemplating retirement for no-cost, no-obligation advice. ULRs will soon receive details of courses to be held in Inverness, Caithness and Orkney.

Don't miss your chance to "Get Online at Home"

Low-cost, refurbished computers are available to ULRs, complete with the latest Microsoft software. Find out more at www.getonlineathome.org or phone 03719 100 100.

Contact

Scottish Union Learning in the Highlands and Islands

UNISON Building
53 Shore Street
Inverness
IV1 1NF
Tel/Fax: 01463 248 905

Eleanor Adam
Development Officer
Email: eadam@stuc.org.uk
Mobile: 07876 260 412

Pam Urquhart
Development Officer
Email: purquhart@stuc.org.uk
Mobile: 07702 836 481

Ann Irvine
Admin Assistant
Email: ea Irvine@stuc.org.uk

Mairi Maciver
Admin Assistant
Email: mmaciver@stuc.org.uk

www.scottishunionlearning.com

Unions into Schools - Songs for Social Justice

The STUC's Unions into Schools project recently launched this year's Songs for Social Justice music festival at the 85th Women's Conference in Perth, with support from the Musician's Union, EIS, FDA Scotland and secondary school pupils. Schools have again been invited to submit songs for the festival which will culminate in a showcase event on 29th November 2013, where a panel of artists will consider each of the songs and provide feedback. Information packs were sent to secondary schools in January, with a request to confirm their intention to participate by **Monday 3rd June 2013**. ULRs are being asked to assist by raising awareness of the Songs for Social Justice Festival with family and friends. Contact Pauline Walker on pwalker@stuc.org.uk or Terry Anderson at tanderson@stuc.org.uk for more information.

Looking for Helen Dowie Award 2013 Nominees

There's still time to nominate a Highlands and Islands lifelong learning star for the Helen Dowie Award, which recognises individual commitment to lifelong learning and to the trade union movement. Nominations are welcome from all affiliates by the deadline of **Wednesday, 30th January 2013**, and must be signed by a full time official or authorised officer. Nomination forms and guidance area available on the Scottish Union Learning site at www.scottishunionlearning.com/support/helen-dowie-award.



www.facebook.com/scottishunionlearning



www.twitter.com/unionlearning