



Highlands and Islands ULR Conference looks to the future



The Scottish Union Learning Highlands and Islands ULR Conference on 21st June was the eighth annual H&I event supported by the European Social Fund. Forty-five participants including ULRs, providers and partner organisations took part in activities which reflected on the 10 years since the Scottish Trades Union Congress established an office in Inverness. There was also a strong focus on the challenges of the future with workshops on organising young people, accessing funding through ILAs and using digital technology to help ULRs identify learning needs and recruit for courses. In a new feature, 'Conference Spotlight', budding journalist 15-year-old Jade du Preez, explored different perspectives on union learning. Interviewees Angela MaLaren, who is studying for the Certificate of Higher Education with the Open University, Unite ULR John Evans and NUJ Project Worker Catherine Deveney provided fascinating insights into their diverse roles and journeys.

Is the Learner of the Year in the Highlands and Islands?

Unions are requested to submit nominations for the Learner of the Year Award by 2 noon on 6th September 2013. Does one of your learners represent the positive aspects of union learning? If so, why not nominate them to accept this award on behalf of union learners across Scotland. Further details at:

scottishunionlearning.com/learner-award.

Coming up soon...

Book Week Scotland 2013

The Scottish Book Trust is offering free books to unions to distribute ahead of Book Week Scotland which is from 25th November to 1st December 2013. The books are available in boxes of 140. Interested? Contact Wendy Burton at wburton@stuc.org.uk

H&I ULR Training - Online

An online ULR Stage 1 course will commence on 21st October, preceded by a mandatory 'Getting Ready for E-Learning' course (three hours per week for four weeks) commencing 30th September. A Stage 2 Online course, with the first day as classroom training in Inverness, will commence with the face-to-face meeting on Monday 9th September. Please contact Stuart Bell at sbell@tuc.org.uk.

Off on a different journey

The H&I Scottish Union Learning team were sad to hear that admin assistant Ann Irvine is moving on – literally – after over two years at the Inverness office. Envy replaced sadness when Ann revealed her plans for an adventure in her motor-home taking in Norway and Italy (to perfect her Italian) and not forgetting the exotic surroundings of the Western Isles! Thanks and warm wishes to Ann from all of us.



ULRs Tracey and Marjory tell it like it is



Tracey (right) with Eileen Dinning (left) Chair of the STUC Women's Committee

Golspie ULR Tracey Campbell (UNISON) and Inverness-based ULR Marjory Shane (PCS) featured on the panel of speakers at the 'Austerity Uncovered' session at the STUC H&I Conference on Saturday 22nd June. The women told how the impact of the cuts was worse for families and workers in the Highlands and Islands because of the underdeveloped infrastructure. Tracey told delegates of the challenges of ensuring her five children, whose ages range from primary school to college, were able to access sport and educational resources and how she combines her parental role with several jobs (including that of an active ULR).

Contact

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Autumn ULR Forum dates

The next round of ULR forums in **Inverness, Caithness, Orkney** and the **Western Isles** has now been arranged. Venues and agendas for all dates will be advised to ULRs and unions by email nearer the time.

If there is no Cross Union ULR Forum in your area, please feel free to come along to the one nearest to you. Contact Pam or Eleanor if you would like to suggest a speaker or an item for the agenda. Please note: you must have approval from your own union to attend STUC events.

September

Orkney – Tuesday 10th September 12-2pm, Skype or VC
Western Isles -Wednesday 11th September 12-3pm, Stornoway
Caithness - Thursday 12th September 11-2pm
Inverness - Friday 13th September 12-2pm

November

Orkney – Tuesday 26th November, 12-2pm, Skype or VC
Western Isles -Wednesday 27th November 12-3pm, Stornoway
Caithness - Thursday 28th November 11-2pm
Inverness - Fri 29th Nov 12-2pm



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