

OLC Newsletter

January 2023



Welcome

It is still January (just) so we just want to wish all our Champions a Happy New Year. We are very excited to keep working with you all in 2023 and hope that things have started well - in the Johnstone house we are about to get a wee kitten (cute picture alert) and my daughters are beside themselves with excitement!!



In this newsletter you will find:

- Some new courses
- A brief summary of our most recent coffee morning, and the accessibility & digital inclusion information/resources we decided to highlight following this
- Details on how to register for our next coffee morning
- OpenLearn Scotland Hub
- Spotlight on OpenLearn Create
- Employability Skills - definitions and suggested courses

New OpenLearn Courses

As ever you can find new courses via the '[Latest From OpenLearn](#)' page - below are a few we wanted to highlight.

- [Kickstart health & Fitness](#)
- Learn to say some [Chinese New Year greetings](#)
- If any of you work with secondary school stage learners, you might be interested in the specially curated [Resources for Schools](#)
- Introduction to Coaching Skills - some champions have expressed an interest in coaching as an area of CPD - a good introduction to some fundamental skills can be found via the 2 hour introductory course "[Three Principle Of A Coaching Approach](#)"

Language, Accessibility and Digital Inclusion

I cannot tell you how much we have enjoyed the last few coffee mornings, and not just because of the delicious cake!! The energy, enthusiasm, knowledge and openness in the virtual room has been fantastic. At the most recent coffee morning, we had some time in small groups sharing experiences. We had some useful discussion about accessibility in terms of learners who have a first language other than English, and the barrier of access to IT equipment and paying for data. Below is some information and resources, many of which came from the discussion – so thanks for sharing.



Google Translate

As you may work with learners who do not have English as a first language it is also worth being aware that you can use Google Translate to translate OpenLearn web content into around 50 languages. Most content will be translated with the exception of videos. You may also be able to translate documents embedded within web pages as well.

Instructions on how to use Google Translate from your computer and mobile devices can be found on this [google support help page](#)

Where to find support / funding for digital inclusion activity

- Libraries (also acting as warm spaces)
- Information from Connecting Scotland (which has finished in current format)

[Device refurbishment projects](#): these projects will have very limited capacity, but it may be worth checking them out to see if they are able to help (scroll down to view the list of projects). This is a non-exhaustive list and there will likely be other projects in your local area.

[Charities.connected](#): Connectivity support from Vodafone for charities running digital inclusion projects. Charities can apply for free Vodafone SIMs, each loaded with 20GB data plus unlimited calls and texts to be used over 6 months.

[National Databank](#): An initiative from Good Things Foundation that provides data through their [Online Centre's Network](#).

[Funding Scotland](#): for all the most up-to-date funding opportunities for organisations in Scotland.

- [Ace IT](#) – help for people over 50 to access the digital world.
- [People KnowHow](#) – Edinburgh based Social Innovation charity – a Champion recommended them as an organisation that campaigns around data poverty and may be able to help identify support around cost of data usage.

Some accessibility focussed websites

[My Computer My Way](#) - Provides guidance on changing the settings on multiple

devices. You can search for a specific adjustment or filter adjustment by category based on your needs.

[Diversity & Ability](#) - A helpful guide to several applications to help you study better on screen. Use the filter to see the applications that will be most helpful for you and your learners.

Champions Coffee Morning - 22nd March

Our next champions coffee morning will be on **Wednesday 22nd of March 11:00 - 12:00**. More details about what this coffee morning will be about will be shared in our next newsletter.

As usual, we will be sending out cake for you to enjoy so please do let us know your dietary requirements when you register. If you would like to receive cake, please ensure you register by 8th of March so we can get in contact with you to receive your cake choices.



[To register for the event click here](#)

Sharing your stories

We would still love to hear your recommendations, stories of success or approaches to practice. If you would like to share your stories please submit via [this form](#) and we can feature this in a future newsletter if you are happy for us to do so.

OpenLearn Scotland Hub

On 25th of January many of us celebrated Burns Night, a celebration of the life and poetry of Robbie Burns. On the [OpenLearn Scotland hub](#) you will find some content on Burns and lots more on the nation's history, society and culture.



Spotlight on OpenLearn Create



OpenLearn Create works a lot like OpenLearn and will have courses that may be really interesting to you and your learners. A couple of key things that make it a little different:

- OpenLearn Create courses have been developed by a range of organisations making use of the functionality that allows you to create your own Open Educational Resources (for more information see the '[Create A Course](#)')
- Some courses start at level '0' which are designed for absolute beginners to online learning.

Short courses level 0 -

- [Climate change](#) - 2 hours
- [Energy options for the future](#) - 2 hours
- [Computers - bits & bytes](#) - 3 hours
- [Navigating and searching the web](#) - 2 hours
- [Introduction to autism and inclusive practice](#) - 3 hours
- [Introduction to dyslexia and inclusive practice](#) - 3 hours
- [How to help your child with talking](#) - 1 hour

Longer courses level 0 -

- [Digital skills](#) - 5 hours
- [Essential Skills for online learning](#) - 5 hours
- [Bounce Back - Positive Psychology can give a post pandemic boost to family wellbeing](#) - 5 hours
- [Planning a better future](#) (career related) - 15 hours
- [Caring for adults](#) - 15 hours
- [Supporting children's development](#) - 15 hours
- [Every Computer Skills: A Beginners Guide to computers, tablets, mobile phones and accessibility \(with Lead Scotland\)](#) - 16 hours
- [Caring Counts](#) - self reflection & planning course for carers - 10 hours

Employability Skills Development

Employability can mean different things to different

audiences - what it means to one of your learners may differ greatly from an employer or careers adviser. Words like 'career' and 'employability' may be alienating for some and no doubt you already adapt how you position employability and career planning, if it is even part of the ongoing dialogue you have with your learners.



Below you will find short descriptions of core employability skills, competencies, personal attributes and external awareness along with a link to an OpenLearn course that may be useful for development of the skill. These are just examples, and lots of courses will develop multiple skills.

Problem Solving - Analysing facts and circumstances and applying creative thinking to develop appropriate solutions - [Understanding Management: I'm Managing Thank you](#)

Communication - Application of literacy, ability to produce clear, structured written work and oral literacy including listening & questioning - [Talk the talk](#)

Collaboration - Respecting others, co-operating, negotiating/persuading and contributing to discussions - [Early Years Team Work & Leadership](#)

Numeracy - Manipulation of numbers, general mathematical awareness and its application in practical contexts - [You and Your Money](#)

Commercial Awareness - Understanding of the marketplace in which a business operates and / or understanding of a specific sector - [Understanding Your Sector](#)

Digital and Information

Literacy - Ability to find information, communicate & collaborate online. Have social awareness in digital environment along with understanding of online safety - [Presenting Information](#)

Initiative - Having ideas of your own which can be made into a reality - [Innovation in Health & Social Care](#)

Self-Management & Reliance

- Readiness to accept responsibility, be flexible, manage own time and seek to improve performance - [Developing Career Resilience](#)

Self-Awareness - Insight into personal goals, aptitudes and values and ability to articulate these - [Improving Your Own Learning & Performance](#)

Share your thoughts...

We are keen to find out what you thought of this newsletter. Did you find it informative, interesting and useful? Please click on the thumbs up or thumbs

down below.



Remember to follow @OUScotland and @OUfreelearning on Twitter for updates and tweet us using **#OLchamps** if you have anything to share.

You're welcome to share this with your colleagues, learners and networks. If you no longer wish to receive these mailings, you can [unsubscribe here](#) and we'll take you off the mailing list.

If you have any questions about Open Learning Champions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us at scotland-engagement@open.ac.uk.

Keep well,

David, Ewe and Kat



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