



LEAH

Newsletter No. 4
June 2011

Learn English At Home

“Through language we empower people to take an active role in the community.”

About LEAH:



The Queen's Award for
Voluntary Service 2008



Community Award
Winner 2008
Diversity Award

**Patron: Dame
Jacqueline Wilson DBE**

LEAH started in Kingston in 1982 and has been working in Richmond since 2007.

LEAH advances the English language and literacy skills of Kingston and Richmond residents from ethnic minorities who are unable to attend Adult Education Classes.

Recruits and trains local residents as volunteer home tutors, with three courses every year.

Runs health and wellbeing courses for residents who have English as an additional language.

This edition of the newsletter looks at the experience of some of LEAH's students and volunteer tutors.



Life as LEAH Tutor

I have been working with my student, Yasotha, since January 2010. She is a lovely lady from Sri Lanka, married with two children. She came to join her husband in Britain in 2008 and hadn't done much English since she was at school. Usually I see her once a week. Her main aims are to learn to speak English so that she can deal with her children's teachers and medical appointments, and cope with everyday life such as shopping. She also wants to be able to fill in forms and write letters where necessary.

I find teaching English a very interesting and challenging task. I may have carefully planned a lesson, but when I get to Yasotha's house, there might be something else that needs dealing with more urgently, such as a form from the school to fill in or a medical appointment for one of her children that she wants to discuss with me. So the lesson plan gets put to one side. It calls for a degree of flexibility. It can be difficult for me to find ways of explaining things simply, or to come up with alternative ways of approaching a subject if one way isn't working. My attempts at miming or drawing things can reduce us both to fits of the giggles,

particularly my sketches, as art emphatically isn't my strong point.

I find that role playing situations can be particularly helpful. I find the library resources at LEAH very useful for exercises and for ideas, particularly when these include illustrations or cartoons. I am very grateful for the help, support and suggestions that I get from the staff at LEAH. The ongoing training sessions are very much appreciated and give me the opportunity to discuss ideas with fellow tutors. I also download items from the 'Talent' website and sometimes adapt them. All in all, working for LEAH is stimulating, occasionally tricky, but above all it is great fun and I thoroughly recommend it.
By Bryony Bridges, a LEAH tutor

Learning with LEAH

I like speaking English and listening to it. I like making sentences. I also enjoy doing other courses. I have done cycling classes. I was scared at first. Then I learned to ride. I went to a baby massage course. My daughter liked singing and dancing. I went to a computer class. I learned how to send emails and make invitations. I know how to send photos and how to shop online and book tickets. I went to Kew Gardens with LEAH last summer. The gardens are very beautiful and there are many trees and plants and flowers. The glass house is very beautiful. Lots of people came. We had a nice time. I went to the Christmas party with my children and my teacher Bryony. My daughter played games and she won a toy horse.
By Yasotha Visayakumar, a LEAH student

Recent LEAH Events:



Dentists and Daffodils!

On 15th March, 10 LEAH students and their children attended a Student Coffee Morning at Kingston WelCare. Parents and children learned about oral hygiene from a visiting Dental Health Outreach Worker. They also had the chance to express their creative side, making daffodils from egg boxes and learning seasonal spring poetry.

6th May—27th May IT for Beginners Course (in partnership with Kingston Family Learning)

5th May Gardening Session at Strawberry Hill House

18th April Papier-mâché Session at Strawberry Hill House

29th March Immigration Tutor Workshop (in conjunction with RAK)

23rd March Mental Health Awareness Tutor Workshop

21st March Follow-up Training Workshop for New LEAH Tutors

2nd March—16th March Cycling Course (in partnership with RBK)

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Registered Charity No: 1057008

Up and Coming LEAH Events:

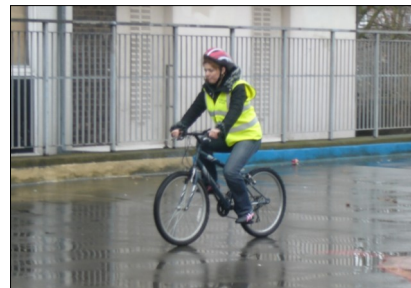
Relaxation, Positive Thinking and Meditation	A four week course for LEAH students, taking place at Kingston WelCare.	Starting Friday 3rd June 10am-11am
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LEAH AGM and Celebration of Achievement	LEAH's 29th AGM and Student Certificate Presentation Ceremony.	Thursday 23rd June 12pm-2pm
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Practical Support Session: Responding to your Student's Mental Health Needs	Training and Development Workshop for LEAH Volunteer Tutors.	Friday 8th July 12pm-2pm
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LEAH Sponsored Walk	A sponsored walk in Richmond Park to fundraise for LEAH	Saturday 24th September (TBC)
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Cycling Course - A Student's Experience



I went to the Cambridge Road Estate. I had 3 lessons, and 1 day we cycled from Kingston to Richmond. I enjoyed learning to ride, it's a little bit difficult in the street but in the park it's easy. I used the bike during the holidays. I rode in the park with my son. I always wear a helmet, and my son too. I know which arm signals to use but it is difficult for me to balance. I hope to use my bike more in the future.

by Vjollca Kola, a LEAH student

LEAH's work is possible thanks to our funders:



European Integration Fund

Richmond Children's Fund



Richmond Parish Lands Charity

