



WELCOME



Welcome to the second issue of Esol Life, where all the articles are written by Esol students. First of all – do you know what the words above mean and what languages they are? Find out in an article all about the English language on pages 3-4.

ESOL Life

Written by ESOL students for ESOL students

'Ipsa scientia potestas est'

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

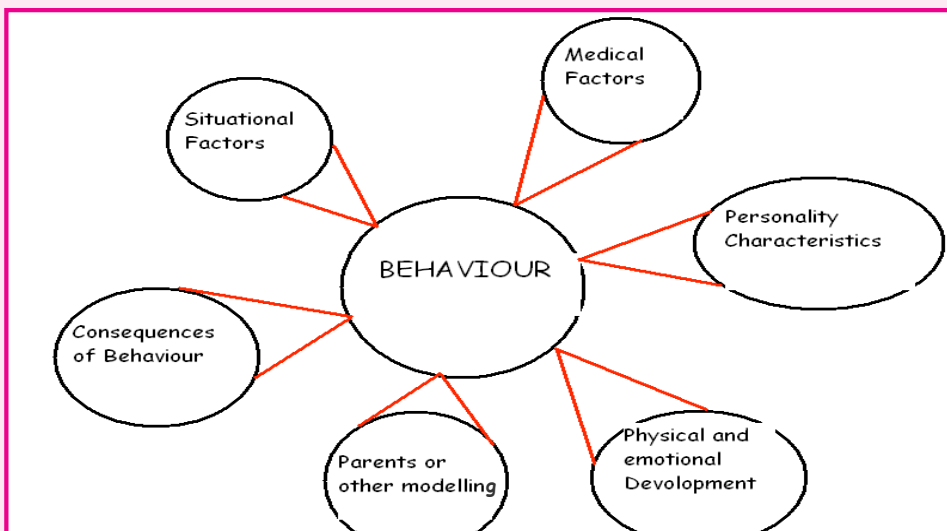
- What happened when Outreach students came to visit the Idea Store? Page 1-2
- Who is the Student Rep in your class? What is the Student Union? Do you think your views and feelings are heard? Page 5
- Have you been on a trip recently? Are trips difficult to organise? Page 6
- What is the future of ESOL in the UK under a new government? Page 7

INTRODUCTION TO PATHWAY TO CHILDCARE

How ESOL helps people's lives

On Wednesday 10th March we met some students in the Whitechapel Idea Store. They are from an Outreach class at Burdett Road Community Centre. We wanted to know about their Pathway to Childcare course.

Rabeya Hossain and Suraiya Akthar did some very interesting presentations for us about their course. One of the interesting things they told us about was the different reasons for child behaviour. (Spider gram by Rabeya Hossain)



Lastly, what do you know about the history of East London? Take part in the East End Quiz on page 7. This newsletter was written by students on the ESOL Communicate with Confidence course. The next courses start in September and are at either E3 or L1. If you are interested in joining them, please speak to your tutor.

Lawrence Leason, Tutor.

“We support each other in class as we are a women-only class and our teacher works hard to encourage us and give us lots of new experiences both inside and outside of class,” said Suraiya Akthar.

During our meeting we talked together about different questions.

Why are Outreach classes important? What difficulties do students have?

This is what we said:

Some students are shy, especially women.

For some students the college is far away from their home

**If you have no confidence, it's difficult to learn English.
That's why Outreach is important.**

**Outreach classes help students meet other people and
make new friends.**

Some students can't come to college without a crèche.

Before we met the students we didn't know what Outreach means. We found out how important Outreach is for students, especially students who are shy. We enjoyed chatting to them and we were also very impressed by their presentations.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE BY LEYLA LIBAN

Leyla Liban, Abdi Mohamed and Khadija Mezzi met Deborah Perry, an ESOL teacher from Arbour Square in the Idea Store Whitechapel. They wanted to find out about the English language. What did they discover?

Like many countries, we are a country whose language has come from invasions of other people, so the English language has taken from lots and lots of other languages.

The word **English** came from the language that was spoken by the Anglo-Saxons who invaded this country about 1500 years ago. They came from Denmark and North Germany.

They called this country **Engla land**, which is where we get the word **England** from and lots of other words from the Anglo-Saxons like **sun**, **moon** and **water**. Lots of grammar is also from their language, like apostrophes, for example.

Original inhabitants

Before the Anglo-Saxons arrived in this country the original people of this country were called Britons. We don't know much about their language because it wasn't written down. The early Britons didn't have any writing until the Romans invaded this country about 2,000 years ago and brought

Latin. So, the first bit of writing we have comes from the Anglo-Saxons, as well as writing in Latin from the Romans.

More invasion

After the Anglo-Saxons we were invaded by the Vikings who came from Scandinavia about 1200 years ago. They gave us lots of words we have about farming and trade, like **shirt** and **skirt**, and also relationship words like **husband** and **sister**.

The Normans

The other big influence in this language is from the Normans who invaded from Northern France in 1066. They also brought a lot of words that come from Latin. Norman French

was the language of the rulers or people in power. That is why lots of words to do with authority and power come from the Normans.

A History of English

43 A.D. The Romans conquer Britannia

43 A.D. Rome

410 A.D. The Anglo-Saxons arrive

793 A.D. The Vikings start to raid Britain

1066 A.D. The Normans win at Hastings

43 A.D. Zeter ad Londinium Britannia victa

1066 A.D. Dieu et mon droit

793 A.D. ransack < Icelandic: rannsaka Danish: ransage

Beowulf

*hwæt we gar-dena in geardagum,
peodcyninga þrym gefrunon,
hu ða æþelingas ellen fremedon.*

*Lo, praise of the prowess of people-kings
of spear-armed Danes, in days long sped,
we have heard, and what honour the athelings won!*

English Today

Today about half of our language comes from the Normans and about half comes from the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings.

The Future of English

English is changing all the time so sometimes the meaning of words changes. New words are coming into the language all the time. Spelling has also changed. Deborah has some opinions about other ways that English will change:

- Spelling will become simpler.
- In 20- 30 years time we won't use the apostrophe so much.
- We will use words like colour and labour without 'u', which is the American spelling.
- In another 100 years time Chinese will be the language of the world rather than English, because China will become one of the dominant trade countries.

The Challenges of teaching English

Teaching English to people who don't have the chance of speaking outside classes is difficult because they are not able to practice what you are teaching them.

Deborah's Advice for students learning English

You must try and use English every day in some way or other. If you haven't got English friends you must try and watch TV or listen to the radio. Read and use every chance you have to use English. Try just 15 minutes a day. Learning a language is hard work and you have to put time in **outside** of class to look at what you learn **in** class.

P.S. The words at the beginning of the newsletter are in Latin and Anglo-Saxon.

➔ 'Salve' is the word the Romans used to greet each other. (It means "good health to you").

➔ "Wilcuma" means "You are welcome"

WOJTEK'S TOP FIVE PLACES FOR STUDENTS TO VISIT IN LONDON!

1. Courtauld Gallery in Somerset House. No.15 bus to Waterloo Bridge. FREE on Mondays 10 to 2pm. Small but amazing collection - Cezanne, Manet, Monet, Van Gogh, Degas, Goya, Fry, and lots of others... The quality is outstanding! Good café.
2. Sunday morning swim + walk - London Fields Lido (heated 50 metre open-air swimming pool in London Fields Park, Hackney). Then through Broadway Market and its farmers' market to Columbia Road Flower Market (in Hackney), south to Brick Lane and then to Spitalfields Market. Lots to see and buy!
3. National Gallery - No.15 bus to Charing Cross Station. FREE!!! Great paintings! Have a cup of tea in the crypt of St.Martin-in-the-Field next door. There's a brass rubbing centre there as well.
4. Natural History Museum - in South Kensington. Very close to South Kensington Underground Station. Fantastic for kids - dinosaurs a big hit!
5. Hampton Court Palace - Take the river boat from Tower Pier (No.15 bus) to the palace which Cardinal Wolsey gave to Henry VIII - it didn't save him, though... Get lost in the maze and have a picnic on a rowing boat...

THE STUDENT UNION AND STUDENT REPS

A Student Rep meeting with Staff at the Idea Store Whitechapel



Hodo is a Student Rep for her class at the Whitechapel Idea Store. She also recently went to a Student Union meeting in Arbour Square. We interviewed her in Whitechapel and asked her some questions about the Student Union.

This is what we found out:-

A student union is the voice of the students. It exists to protect the rights and welfare of students. A student union considers all the needs of students and teachers believe it helps students to express their opinions freely.

Some students might find it difficult to tell the college what they

want and feel. Not all students understand what the Student Union at Tower Hamlets College is for and this can become a disadvantage for students.

Hodo told us the Student Union is very important for students as they are faced with a lot of challenges. Courses like 'A' levels and GCSEs are more recognised than ESOL, so the Student Union and Student Reps are useful to help us express our feelings about what we want. They can also help more people understand what ESOL is and how important it is.

ESOL students sometimes have particular difficulties and if we come together and work together in the Student Union with our Student Reps more people can know about our situation.

Hodo is from Somalia and she is a very kind person. She has lived in the UK for ten years and she has been a student at the College for five years. Before she came to college she couldn't speak, read or write English. She had to take her daughter with her wherever she went. Now she is able to speak and write and is confident and independent. She likes this country because it is peaceful here. Her hobbies include reading the Quran and cooking.

If anyone is interested in being a Student Rep or finding out more about the Student Union then talk to your class tutor.

Sharmin Haque and Dilwara Begum

ENRICHMENT

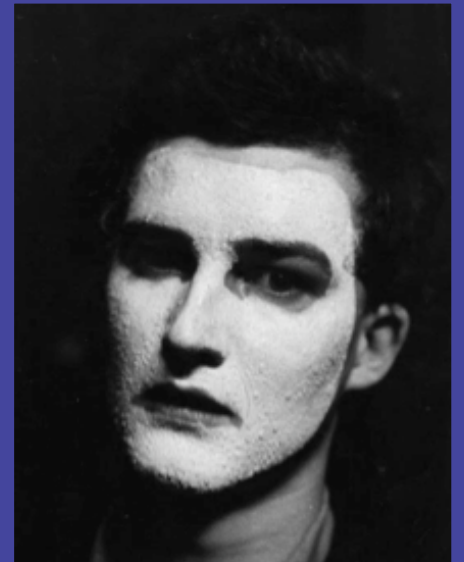
We went to Arbour Square to meet Esol teacher Wojtek Dmochowski to find out about Enrichment. The purpose of Enrichment is to extend students' knowledge and to have new experiences. We found some interesting ideas about trips. He explained nicely how important trips are for ESOL students. They expand the horizons of students so that they don't just come to classes to learn, but also use the world as a classroom. He remembers one student who said she had lived in London for six years and had never been on a bus.



He told us some other things about trips:-

- There is less money available this year than last for Enrichment and trips.
- If there is money involved it takes a lot of work to organise trips.
- Most trips cost money.
- You can learn about other cultures and history.
- Students can learn more about London.
- Sometimes there are opportunities to go to another country. (Last year he took his class to Paris for the day!)

Wojtek organises many trips and also recently started to organise Citizenship talks during Monday lunchtimes at Arbour Square. In these talks speakers come to the college and talk about subjects like Palestine, Israel, going to university, the history of Esol and also about Parliament. He told us that Enrichment should be more important in students' lives and that students should try to organise trips themselves. There are lots of places in London that are free and students should take advantage of this.



Wojtek in 1983 as a dancer

Wojtek was born in London, although his parents are Polish. He has worked at Tower Hamlets College for 8 years and he enjoys his job. For many years he was also a dancer in a group called the Blue Aeroplanes. He lives in Hackney and his hobbies are dancing, reading, gardening, listening to music and cycling.

We are glad to write about trips. It's very interesting and helpful for all ESOL students because we can learn more about places. Also it is enjoyable and it can extend students knowledge.

Wojtek was very friendly so we were delighted after our interview.

ESOL CAMPAIGNERS QUESTION COUNCILLORS ABOUT CUTS



Farid Bakht, Green Party Parliamentary Candidate; Saleh Ahmed, Esol tutor, Tower Hamlets College (Chair), Melanie Cooke

My name is Muhammad Turan Miah and I am an Esol student. I applied for an ESOL class last September 2009. At that time there was a strike by teachers and a demo took place at Altab Ali park against cuts. I attended at Altab Ali park to join the demo. It was a big demo on that day and the strike was four weeks long. Last January I enrolled on an ESOL E3a class at the Idea Store in Whitechapel Road.

ESOL campaigners organised a Question Time meeting for councillors on 4th February at the London Muslim

Centre in the East London Mosque about last year's cuts. Fears were raised that the Borough is facing more cutbacks this year. On the panel there were representatives from the Tory, Liberal Democrat, Respect and Green Party, as well as an ESOL researcher from King College. The most responsible ruling Labour party did not attend.

The panel spoke out against national cuts to adult education and they pledged to support members of the University and College Union in their fight against any further cuts.

The Council ruling party must think about the fact that Tower Hamlets borough is a multi-lingual community. ESOL is necessary for people's jobs, Citizenship certificates and daily life in the UK.

The next elections are very soon but Labour councillors do not care about it. It looks like their policy is to not attend any meetings where there is public interest.



Melanie Cooke, Esol researcher and lecturer, Kings College London.

If by chance you meet any Labour councillors on the street, ask them why they didn't attend the meeting. They are our representatives but are they really representing us?

Muhammad Turan Miah

THE EAST LONDON HISTORY QUIZ



1. What is the East End?
2. Who came to London in the 17th century?
3. When did the Second World War start and finish?
4. What happened on the 24th August 1940?
5. What do weavers do in their jobs?
6. In which year did the Bangladeshis first come to live in East London?
7. In which year did people from Ireland first come to live in East London?
8. What were the population figures of England and Wales in 1801?
9. What were the population figures of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 1811, 1931, 1961 and 2001?

Answers for East London History quiz:

1. The East End is the name for the eastern part of London in the UK.
2. At the end of the 17th century large numbers of Huguenot weavers arrived from France. They were asylum seekers escaping from religious persecution.
3. The Second World War started in 1939 and ended in 1945.
4. On 24th August 1940, an aircraft came to bomb Tilbury Docks but mistakenly bombed Stepney Green, Bethnal Green and The City.
5. A weaver makes cloths and the Huguenots were silk weavers.
6. Bangladeshis settled in East London from 1960 for jobs. Some people came before 1960, who were sailors or 'lascars'. (sailors from South Asia).
7. The Irish came to East London in the 18th century because of food shortages in Ireland. (The Irish Famine)
8. The population of England and Wales was 9 million in 1801.
9. The population figures of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets was 178,773 in 1811; 488,611 in 1931; 205,682 in 1961 and 196,106 in 2001.

Quiz researched and written by Muhammad Turan Miah

**Find this phrase in the newsletter
'Ipsa scientia potestas est'**

Q: Do you know what language this is?

Q: What does it mean?

A: Latin

A: It means 'Knowledge is Power', said by Francis Bacon (1561-1626).

Do you agree with him? Why not send in your responses to esollife@tower.ac.uk? Do you have a story or subject you would like to tell us about?