

## **Welcome to the 80th BBC Active Tutors' Club Newsletter**

Welcome to the historic 80th newsletter! You may have noticed that the newsletter is coming from a different email address; please could you add this email address, [BBCActive@response.pure360.com](mailto:BBCActive@response.pure360.com), to your contacts or 'safe' list, as it will be sent from here from now on. You can still send all your thoughts and comments to me at [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com).

Because we have been 'away' for two months, there is an awful lot of news and resources to catch up on, and I hope you find it all interesting and useful. In particular we are asking you for your ideas for language posters to brighten up your classrooms. Email your thoughts to me at [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com). I look forward to hearing them, and to receiving all your top teaching tips...

Susie

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### **News from the BBC**

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### **National News**

CILT Language Trends survey; Germans defend German, but love English; latest travel trends; speed dating to learn languages; and much more...

### **Events**

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### **Resources**

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### **Surveys and Competitions**

Russian Essay competition and other Russian competitions; Le Grand Défi; and more...

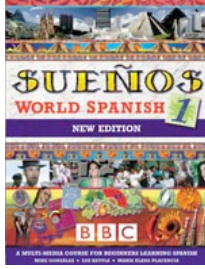
## **NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE**

### **BBC Active classroom posters - we need your help!**

From talking to you, we know how much you love bright and colourful posters to help inspire your students. We are planning to produce some bold and beautiful multilingual posters in the New Year, but we would like to hear what you would want to see on them. Rooms of a house? Parts of the body? Animals? Seasons? Email me at [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com) and let me know what would be on your ideal poster for the classroom. Your opinion matters!

### **New BBC Active website in development**

We are in the process of updating our website, so it will be far easier to find the resources and free tutors' support you need. There will be a dedicated tutors' homepage where you can download free resources, order evaluation copies and access useful links to other websites, including BBC Languages. We would like you to be able to share your ideas for teaching with BBC Active language courses. Do you have any brilliant techniques or methods for using our courses in the classroom? If so, email your ideas to me at [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com), and your idea could appear on our new website when it launches in April.



### **Due to popular demand: teachers' notes for The French Experience and Sueños World Spanish - coming soon!**

There have been numerous requests for the now out of print French Experience Tutor's Guide and the Sueños World Spanish Instructor's Manual. As a direct result, we will be making these guides available to download for free from our website in the next few weeks. You will be able to access these resources to help you make the most of these classic courses in the classroom from the BBC Active website at the following locations:

The French Experience: <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/french/5.asp>  
and

Sueños World Spanish: <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/spanish/22.asp>.

### **Get Into French and Spanish**

Our engaging and interactive French and Spanish courses are being updated and relaunched for the New Year. This CD-ROM-based course takes your students round a virtual French or Spanish town, featuring key locations including a railway station, a hotel, a bar and a department store. Your students choose where they want to go, and then have the chance to learn relevant vocabulary, before practising what they've learnt in an interactive role play. See for yourself with our online demo, available at [www.getinto.com](http://www.getinto.com).



Get Into offers your students:

- thorough progression from presentation to practise to simulated communication
- a database of cultural information to promote intercultural understanding
- fully interactive activities that allow your students to practise role plays in a fun and familiar environment
- great games and learning resources online at [www.getinto.com](http://www.getinto.com)
- a fun, interactive experience, either in the classroom via the IWB or for individual or pair work in the computer lab.

The new and improved Get Into will be fully compatible with Windows Vista, and available to buy from February 2009. It can be bought on its own or with accompanying audio CD and course book.

'In a year in which the multimedia entries were more technically sophisticated than in previous years Get Into French made the most imaginative and effective use of the interactive technology. It is a tribute to the producers that this complexity is never obtrusive - indeed the programme appears deceptively simple. It makes exceptionally good use of graphics, is visually engaging and has excellent support material. A fun way to learn French'. Praise for the IVCA award-winning Get Into French. Please visit [www.ivca.org](http://www.ivca.org) for further information.

If you would like to order the new Get Intos, you can do so at any good bookshop. Don't forget to specify which edition you would like. The ISBNs for the new editions are as follows:

French – pack: 978-1-4066-5223-9

French - CD-ROM only: 978-1-4066-5222-2

Spanish – pack: 978-1-4066-5218-5

Spanish - CD-ROM only: 978-1-4066-5214-7.

**NEWS FROM THE BBC**

'Tell me and I'll forget, show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand' - Chinese Proverb

### **Ma France Vodcasts**

We've improved the quality of the videos in our mini French language lessons and added a new functionality so you can add them to your blog or your class website. The up-to-date language that you'll learn will help you deal with topics such as directions, ordering food and house-buying: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/podcast/>.

### **Mi Vida Loca**

Have you tried this new thrilling video drama yet? Immerse yourself in the interactive mystery and pick up some essential Spanish along the way. New email tips coming soon - watch this space. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/mividaloca/>

### **A Touch of Polish Challenge**

Thanks to everyone who participated in voting for the storyline of Polish ex-pat Bogdan and English divorcee Sarah. If you haven't already tried the challenge, guess the meaning of the sentences you hear and pick up some Polish.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/polish/soap/challenge/>

### **\*\*New\*\* Learning Pages/Learning Zone Clips**

Check out the brand new learning pages for online learning, support and advice for adult learners and parents, along with classroom resources for teachers, who may also find the new Learning Zone Broadband Class Clips useful.

Learning pages: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/>

Learning Zone clips: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/>

"Having another language is having another soul." Carolus Magnus

### **Déjà Vu**

Recorded on location in Paris and London, Déjà Vu is a bi-lingual play in French and English about a love affair between London-born-and-bred Claire and Paris-based French-Algerian Ahmed. Listen to this unique co-production between BBC Radio 4 and ARTE radio.com on Wed 4th Feb 2009 on Radio 4 at 14.15. Watch this space!

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/deja\\_vu/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/deja_vu/).

### **Mi Vida Loca - \*New\* email tips**

Sign up for the new weekly email tips for this thrilling, interactive drama course to help you learn basic Spanish in just 12 weeks: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/mividaloca/>.

### **Valentine's phrases**

Impress your intended with downloadable chat-up lines in French, Italian or German. Learning Spanish? Read the story of expat Dave and Spanish beauty Carmen in our online soap, Costa Amor:

French: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/cool/pulling\\_flash.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/cool/pulling_flash.shtml)

Italian: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/cool/pulling\\_flash.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/cool/pulling_flash.shtml)

or German: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/cool/pulling\\_flash.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/cool/pulling_flash.shtml)

Costa Amor: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/soap/>.

### **Carnival quiz**

What's Fat Tuesday all about? Discover how Carnival is celebrated and join the party by testing your knowledge of the colourful celebrations and traditions around the world:

Quiz: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/carnival/>

### **Your Say & homepages - new look coming this month**

Enjoy other people's mistakes with Lost for Words or pick up some Learning Tips when we give a fresh look to the ever popular Your Say this month. Keep an eye out, too, for the new homepages and let us know your thoughts by emailing us at [languages@bbc.co.uk](mailto:languages@bbc.co.uk)

Your Say: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/yoursay/>  
New look site: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/>

### **Languages on TV - BBC TWO Learning Zone**

17 Feb: set video on the evening of Mon 16 Feb  
04:00–06:00 Ma France 1 & 2  
18 Feb: set video on the evening of Tue 17 Feb  
04:00–06:00 Ma France 3 & 4  
19 Feb: set video on the evening of Wed 18 Feb  
04:00–05:30 Talk Spanish 1-6  
05:30–06:00 Eurografter: Spain  
20 Feb: set video on the evening of Thurs 19 Feb  
04:00–05:30 Talk French 1-6  
05:30–06:00 Eurografter: France  
24 Feb: set video on the evening of Mon 23 Feb  
04:00–05:30 Talk Italian 1-6  
05:30–06:00 Eurografter: Italy  
25 Feb: set video on the evening of Tue 24 Feb  
04:00–05:30 Talk German  
05:30–06:00 Eurografter: German  
26 Feb: set video on the evening of Wed 25 Feb  
04:00–06:00 Talk Greek 1-6  
27 Feb: set video on the evening of Thurs 26 Feb  
04:00–05:30 Talk Portuguese 1-6  
05:30–06:00 Brazil Inside Out

See the full schedule: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/langtravel/>.

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **German down, Spanish up, numbers steady**

The latest CILT Language Trends survey on language teaching in secondary schools has been published. You can read the report, including details of the survey and the statistical breakdown here: <http://www.cilt.org.uk/research/language Trends/2008/secondary.htm>. This link also takes you to CILT's round-up of press coverage on the report, but here are a few of them: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/dec/03/languages-gcses-secondary-schools>; <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/education/article5281809.ece>; <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/3545416/Nazi-history-programmes-fuelling-decline-in-German-lessons.html>; <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/spanish-overtakes-german-as-languages-decline-finally-halts-1050588.html>; <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7763454.stm>; <http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6006037>.

Mike Baker's call to action following the results of the Language Trends survey: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/dec/16/primary-schools>.

### **Germans fight to save language**

Germans are apparently so worried about the safety of their language, particularly in the face of the onslaught of 'Denglish', that they want it safeguarded in their constitution. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/sprechen-sie-deutsch-germans-campaign-to-safeguard-language-1128218.html>; <http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/leading-article-ach-mein-gott-1128224.html>.

### **Holidays affected by weak pound**

The latest Travel Trends report from ABTA and the FCO details the winners and losers as consumers clamp down on expensive holidays: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/moneybox/7808385.stm>, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/jan/04/uk-holiday-resorts-recession>.

Download the report from: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/3052790/abta-travel-trends-301208>.

### **MP shows value of language skills**

An article about Meg Hillier MP, and how, at her surgeries, she often communicates with her constituents in French. [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/7760333.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7760333.stm)

### **'Students must broaden their horizons'**

An article calling for students to look to languages to increase their employability... <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/dec/09/malcolm-mcvicar-university-central-lancashire> ...including by studying in Europe: <http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/management/mba/article5232899.ece>.

### **End of the road for groundbreaking school scheme**

Walker Road Primary School is forced to end their successful French language scheme following withdrawal of funding from the Scottish Government. <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article5295601.ece>

### **Pupils 'speed date' to find their perfect linguistic match**

Speed-dating techniques have been adopted by a Cheltenham school to give pupils a taster course in languages. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/gloucestershire/7749618.stm>; <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/7750621.stm>.

### **Make French fun and start them young**

Another example of teaching toddlers French: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/3541562/French-is-a-game-for-tiny-tetes.html>.

### **There are 91 languages spoken in Swindon...**

...it's a fact, it's a thing we can't deny. Swindon PCT discovers sharp rise in the number of community languages spoken in their city. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/wiltshire/7765570.stm>

### **Germany's love affair with Britain**

The Telegraph claims that even though our leaders may be at loggerheads, the Germans are still Anglophiles: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/3743978/Britain-ich-liebe-dich.html>.

### **Lost in translation pt. II**

A respected journal has been embarrassed to find that the 'classical Chinese poem' that it printed in its special Chinese edition was in fact an advert for a Chinese brothel... <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/china/3687483/Advert-for-brothel-mistaken-for-classical-Chinese-poem.html>

### **More than just a dialetto**

An article extolling the fine heritage and complexities of the Venetian dialect: [http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts\\_and\\_entertainment/the\\_tls/article5329001.ece](http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts_and_entertainment/the_tls/article5329001.ece).

### **British Airways shows the sky's the limit as Business Language Champion**

British Airways with Dormer Wells High School in Southall, West London, have been named Business Language Champion Partnership of the Year 2008. The prize is awarded for inspiring students and demonstrating the real life relevance of language skills. You can read more at: [http://www.cilt.org.uk/news/latest/2008/04\\_12\\_blc.htm](http://www.cilt.org.uk/news/latest/2008/04_12_blc.htm).

## **EVENTS**

### **CILT Primary conference**

Come and see the latest offerings from BBC Active at the CILT Primary language Show. Running from 6-7 March 2009 at ACC Liverpool, the show features talks and seminars as well

as an extensive exhibition that gives you the chance to talk to publishers and other service providers. Book your place or just read more at <http://www.cilt.org.uk/pls/>.

### **CILT/SSAT's Flying High conference**

Flying High, run by CILT in partnership with the SSAT, takes place on Thursday 12 February 2009 at Holywell Park in Loughborough. This year's conference focuses on building on student's prior knowledge and understanding within and across key stages:

[www.cilt.org.uk/cpd/flyinghigh.htm](http://www.cilt.org.uk/cpd/flyinghigh.htm). To find out more about CILT's training opportunities for languages teachers and managers, visit: [www.cilt.org.uk/cpd](http://www.cilt.org.uk/cpd).

### **The London ALL February event**

You are all invited to ALL London's Spring Term event, which this year is taking place on Saturday 7 February 2009, 10 am-1 pm, at the London Met University. Full details, booking form and directions/map are here: [http://www.all-london.org.uk/february\\_2009.htm](http://www.all-london.org.uk/february_2009.htm).

### **CALLing all those who support lifelong learning**

Although not languages specific, you may be interested to read about the Campaigning Alliance for Lifelong Learning, who contributed extensively to the Government's consultation on Informal Adult Learning. Their website has a list of events, as well as links to other related campaigns. <http://www.callcampaign.org.uk/>. You can read more about CALL in this article from October: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/oct/14/furthereducation-classics>.

Don't forget, you can still read the Government's consultation documents and response at: <http://www.adultlearningconsultation.org.uk/download/>.

### **Language World 2009 - book your place now**

This year Language World will run 3-4 April in Leicester University. You can have a look at the provisional programme and book your place at <http://www.all-languages.org.uk/>. Come and say hello at stand 16 - I shall be there as per usual with the indefatigable Andrew McCallum, ready for a chat! It will also be an opportunity to see our brand new website and to let me have any feedback or ideas.

### **Head Start - Japanese From Scratch**

Monday, 23rd February 2009; Japan Foundation, London. Organised by the Japan Foundation London Language Centre, this is a free one-day course on introducing Japanese at your school, aimed at senior managers, secondary heads of MFL, primary language coordinators, and LA language advisors. Learn more about the specific issues for Japanese at primary and secondary level, including resources, accreditation and support available for schools. You'll also get to explore the resources in our specialist library and hear from teachers at schools successfully teaching Japanese. The course includes a Japanese language taster – no previous knowledge of Japanese is required!

To sign up, email [info.language@jpf.org.uk](mailto:info.language@jpf.org.uk)

### **London Flamenco Festival 2009**

This year's London Flamenco Festival will run from 14 to 29 March 2009 at Sadler's Wells, with complementary exhibitions on Antonio Gades.

Read more at <http://www.sadlerswells.com/show/Flamenco-Festival-09> or [www.antoniogades.com](http://www.antoniogades.com). General enquiries at Sadler's Wells can be made to 020 7863 8198.

### **Pittura Italiana in Italiano: Italian Paintings in Italian**

A workshop in central London organised by Succeed in Languages for intermediate to advanced speakers of Italian, at Living English, 1st Floor, 218 Strand, London WC2R 1AT.

1) La donna nella pittura italiana (Women in Italian Painting), Thursday 5th February 2009, 6:30 to 8:30pm.

2) La natura morta nella pittura italiana (Still Lifes in Italian Painting), Thursday 12th March 2009, 6:30 to 8:30pm.

3) L'influenza della pittura italiana in Europa (The influence of Italian Painting in Europe), Thursday 2nd July 2009, 6:30 to 8:30pm.

4) Letteratura e pittura in Italia (Literature and Painting in Italy), Thursday 1st October 2009, 6:30 to 8:30pm.

For further information phone 0208 874 5819 or 07976 564 501; email: [info@succeedinlanguages.com](mailto:info@succeedinlanguages.com)

### **Endangered Languages Week 2009**

This is based at SOAS and runs from 23 to 28 February 2009.

There are approximately 7,000 languages spoken today and half of them are under threat from larger languages. Endangered Languages Week 2009 presents a variety of displays, discussions, films, and workshops to provide a view of what is happening to languages and what is being done to document, archive and support endangered languages at HRELP and around the world.

If you are interested in presenting your or your organisation's activities as part of Endangered Languages Week, please contact Peter Austin ([pa2@soas.ac.uk](mailto:pa2@soas.ac.uk)) or David Nathan ([dn2@soas.ac.uk](mailto:dn2@soas.ac.uk)). For more information, see: <http://www.hrelp.org/events/elw2009/index.html>.

### **CRCEES - call for papers**

The Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies (CRCEES) will be holding its third annual Research Forum at the Gilmorehill Centre, University of Glasgow, on 14-15 May 2009. Their plan is to have a combination of research panels, plenary sessions and informal workshops in order to explore the five research themes within CRCEES. These are:

- Aspects of identity and culture and their social, political and economic implications;
- Economic and social transformation;
- Political transformation and international relations;
- Literary, cinematic and cultural developments in the area;
- The politics of language.

More information from Ann Mulholland at [mulholland@lbss.gla.ac.uk](mailto:mulholland@lbss.gla.ac.uk).

## **RESOURCES**

### **One to investigate further...**

Perennial Linguanetter Graham Davies has recommended the 'Language Investigator' website as a useful resource for KS3. You can judge for yourself at: <http://www.language-investigator.co.uk/>.

### **Japanese New Year song**

Another link from the great Linguanet community to a YouTube video, and a reminder that 'YouTube is a goldmine of material for teaching!': <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=dWsX-jeiwlk>.

### **Clips for the classroom from the BBC LZ**

Another Linguanet recommendation, this time for the clips bank available from the BBC TWO Learning Zone. Searchable by language and topic. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/>

### **Some links to French songs**

Recommended by the esteemed personages of Dani Bourdais and Marie-France Stevens: <http://fr.lyrics-copy.com/anne-sylvestre/la-vaisselle.htm> (for older pupils)  
<http://fr.lyrics-copy.com>  
[http://fr.youtube.com/watch?v=b0IyeWt\\_LwY](http://fr.youtube.com/watch?v=b0IyeWt_LwY)

### **Headbangers (French songs)**

A contributor to the Linguanet Forum recommended the following resource 'to bust those tricky partitive and definite articles on the topic of food': <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=DoJurORt0vY>. The karaoke version is at: <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=lyd2a9WgMxc>.

### **Nicolas Hulot**

Marie-France also flagged the following link to Nicolas Hulot's website, which tackles environmental issues in French: <https://secure.fondation-nicolas-hulot.org/ecoacteur/>.

### **Speaking the lingo**

An interesting site focussing on a corner of Germany, and its variety of local dialects: <http://sprachatlas.bayerische-landesbibliothek-online.de/>.

### **CILT - change of contact details**

CILT have recently changed their contact numbers:

Switchboard: 08456 12 5885

Enquiry line: 08456 12 4041

Fax: 08456 12 5995

These new numbers mean that you will only pay local rates irrespective of where in the country you're calling from.

### **Interactive dictionaries**

The head of languages at the University of Stavanger has recommended the following site: [http://www.bescherelle.com/dictees\\_liste.php?id\\_niveau=3](http://www.bescherelle.com/dictees_liste.php?id_niveau=3).

### **Using online video**

Another resource from a Linguanetter, this time on online video. Visit Nik Peachey's blog for more details: <http://nikpeachey.blogspot.com/2008/12/online-video-what-does-it-have-to-offer.html>.

### **Joe Dale's post-Isle-of-Wight round-up**

This week, I've published some of the sessions from The Isle of Wight Conference including talks by:

Lesley Welsh,

[http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating\\_ict\\_into\\_the\\_/2008/12/funky-flipcharts-and-primary-powerpoint.html](http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/12/funky-flipcharts-and-primary-powerpoint.html)

Mark Pentleton

[http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating\\_ict\\_into\\_the\\_/2008/12/teaching-the-world-through-podcasting.html](http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/12/teaching-the-world-through-podcasting.html)

and Drew Buddie.

[http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating\\_ict\\_into\\_the\\_/2008/12/using-web-20-tools-to-enhance-learning.html](http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/12/using-web-20-tools-to-enhance-learning.html)

I've also posted all 25 recordings from the last two MFL Show and Tell events in 2007 and 2008. They are well worth checking out.

[http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating\\_ict\\_into\\_the\\_/2008/12/mfl-show-and-tell-0708.html](http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/12/mfl-show-and-tell-0708.html)

You may be interested in hearing about the two recordings I made in Galway recently at The Modern Languages Symposium. See link:

[http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating\\_ict\\_into\\_the\\_/2008/12/blogging-in-the-language-classroom.html](http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/12/blogging-in-the-language-classroom.html)

[http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating\\_ict\\_into\\_the\\_/2008/12/explaining-the-podcasting-cycle.html](http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/12/explaining-the-podcasting-cycle.html)

### **Polish in translation**

A few newsletters ago, I featured a website of Polish Literature in English Translation. The owner of the site, Constance J Ostrowski, has since very kindly written to me to say that the address of her site has now changed. It can now be found at:

<http://home.roadrunner.com/~polishlit>.

### **Half price sale on European Day of Languages class materials**

CILT's European Day of Languages materials are now available at a 50% discount from the CILT online shop. Materials include badges, posters, stickers and T-Shirts, and are ideal for prizes in class competitions or quizzes, in both the primary and secondary sectors.

<http://www.cilt.org.uk/news/latest/index.htm#sale>



### **Nederlandse Taalunie**

The Nederlandse Taalunie is an organisation set up in 1980 by the Dutch, Belgian, and Surinam governments to promote the Dutch language for these three Dutch speaking countries. It is financed by the Dutch, Flemish and Surinam governments and each country's contribution is proportional to the number of Dutch speakers. In 2004, the Taalunie had a budget of approximately nine million euros.

Amongst other activities this organisation has been responsible for:

- The production of the official spelling guide for the Dutch language: het groene boek. This is a small green hardback book that list the spelling of most words in the Dutch language. It can be accessed online: <http://woordenlijst.org>
- Setting up the CNaVT examination organisation that offers Dutch language examinations and qualification to students of Dutch in over 40 countries. There are six different levels and types of exams. Further details at: <http://www.cnavt.org>
- Assembling an online library of Dutch literature as a reference for anyone interested in or studying Dutch literature: <http://www.dbnl.org>
- The provision of the Dutch language advice website that answers a wide range of questions relating to spelling, punctuation, and the Dutch language. For instance, it explains when and how to use apostrophes and abbreviations, how to write a business email, and how to write the plural for scampi! Or is it scampi's? <http://taaladvies.net>.

### **Greek clips and commentary**

A website offering video clips in Greek with vocabulary notes can be found at [http://berlin.cls.yale.edu/vision/pub/pub\\_index.asp?ProjectID=18](http://berlin.cls.yale.edu/vision/pub/pub_index.asp?ProjectID=18). It was recommended as a link on the University of Cambridge Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages' website, in the section on Modern Greek in TV and Film. Explore their other links at <http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/greek/onlineresources.html>.

### **TES web resource of the week**

This resource posted on the TES website was downloaded 4,762 times, and contains video clips of children speaking in 44 different languages. Read more at: <http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6005954>.

### **TOOL for Online and Offline Language Learning**

The TOOL project that is building A2 blended language learning courses in 5 European languages (Dutch, Estonian, Hungarian, Maltese, Slovene), has now reached a position where it is ready to offer teachers training in the use of its blended learning courses: <http://www.toolproject.eu/>. You can find out more information by writing to the responsible contact for each language. These are listed by language, name and email address on the TOOL website at: <http://www.toolproject.eu/index.php?id=45>.

## **SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS**

### **Japan-EU Mutual Scholarship Programme**

This programme is sponsored by Japanese government to encourage young people (16-17) from Europe to experience life and school life in Japan to have a good understanding of Japan and its culture. The deadline for applications is 6 February 2009; you can read more here: <http://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/en/study/Japan-EUmusp.html>.

### **ALL 2009 RUSSIAN ESSAY COMPETITION IN THE UK/КОНКУРС СОЧИНЕНИЙ НА РУССКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ**

Students learning Russian at schools, colleges and universities in the UK, including heritage learners and adult learners, are invited to participate in the Third National Russian Essay Competition 2009. The competition has been organised by the Russian Committee of the Association for Language Learning (ALL), <http://www.all-languages.org.uk>. The contestants will submit their essays by 14 March and winners will be announced by 30 April 2009.

Winners in each category will receive prizes and their essays will be published on the ALL website, in Rusistika journal and in Angliya newspaper.

More information: [www.scotlandrussiaforum.org/essaycomp09](http://www.scotlandrussiaforum.org/essaycomp09).

### **Joe Dale has a question for you:**

I'd be interested to know how many of you download podcasts to listen to improve your own professional development. I find them an excellent way of keeping in touch with latest developments, listening back to conference sessions I've attended or catching up with ones I've missed. I've published hours and hours of such recordings and would like to know if any of you have downloaded them and found them useful. My blog has recently been nominated again in the Edublog Awards in the Best Educational use of Audio category. Last year it was in the Best EdTech category and came third out of five nominees. The link is <http://edublogawards.com/2008/best-educational-use-of-audio-2008>  
José Picardo's excellent blog Box of Tricks has been nominated in the Best teacher blog category. <http://edublogawards.com/2008/best-teacher-edublog-2008/>  
I'm delighted by the way to see more language teachers deciding to take the plunge and start blogging. As always, if you'd like a hand to get started just get in touch: [joedale@talk21.com](mailto:joedale@talk21.com).

### **Scottish Languages Review**

The most recent edition (Issue 18) of this is now available at <http://www.scilt.stir.ac.uk/slr>. They are also calling for contributions: if you would like to raise a language-related matter in education, report on a relevant research project or write a personal response to one of the articles, please contact the editor [hannah.dougherty@stir.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.dougherty@stir.ac.uk) or go to the 'contribute' page at <http://www.scilt.stir.ac.uk/slr/index.php?p=contribute>. Submissions are vetted by an editorial committee and deadlines for 2009 are 28 February (Issue 19) and 31 August (Issue 20).

### **Scotland-Russia Institute Library open soon and competition details**

The new SRI library will be opened on 12 Feb. The SRF hope it will provide a useful service to Russian speakers in Edinburgh. Most books will be available for loan and they also receive a small number of periodicals.

As part of the opening celebration they are inviting young Russians (or Scots!) in Scotland to send the SRF pictures of their favourite Russian writer/story/literary character etc. Pictures should be A4 and should reach them by 1 February. Age range 3-15. Small prizes will be awarded to the best pictures and they will display as many as possible at the Institute. Please post/deliver pictures to: Library competition, The Scotland-Russia Institute, 9 South College St, Edinburgh EH8 9AA. Any queries should be directed to [jenny@scotlandrussiaforum.org](mailto:jenny@scotlandrussiaforum.org) or tel. 0131 668 3635.

### **Le Grand Défi**

Le Grand Défi is an annual competition open to Year 7 students in England and Wales, P7 students in Scotland and Year 8 students in Northern Ireland. Its purpose is to help stimulate interest in the learning of French and to help identify and reward achievement on the part of students. Students are entered for the competition by their French teacher, and have to sit a 30-minute national test. Sponsored by Linguascope, the competition offers a range of fantastic prizes. Every participant will receive a certificate and a prize. For more information and to download an entry form, visit: [www.GrandDefi.com](http://www.GrandDefi.com).

### **USEFUL LINKS**

Do you have a language or topic you would like this feature to cover? If so, let me know on [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com). All suggestions gratefully received.

### **What do YOU think?**

We want to make this newsletter as useful as possible, so your opinions matter! What would you like to see in the newsletter? If you have any comments or feedback (good or bad!) then please let me know at [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com). It is your newsletter - have your say.

NB You can **subscribe** at any time - it's absolutely free! If you are reading this newsletter and are NOT yet a member of the BBC Active Language Tutors' Club, then you can contact me at [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com) with your full name and educational institution with the message - or subscribe online at <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/tutors/emailclub.asp>.

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