

Welcome to the 83rd BBC Active language Teachers' Newsletter

...and welcome back from Easter holidays and Language World adventures. This newsletter carries the exciting news that *Mi Vida Loca* has been nominated for a Webby Award, and YOU can get involved to make sure it wins! Just follow the simple instructions below to register your vote, and win *Mi Vida Loca* the recognition it deserves!

In other news, the DIUS have finally published their white paper on Informal Adult Learning, although John Denham has not made encouraging comments about his opinions of 'holiday Spanish' classes; there is a 20 % discount on some of our best-selling titles at John Smiths' bookshops; and there are film festivals and events galore to look forward to in the coming months.

Susie

Contents

News from BBC Active

50 % off our interactive CD-ROM course, *Get Into*; 20 % off BBC Active's *Get By, Phrase Book and Dictionary* and *Quickstart* at John Smith's; and there's still time to request your Teachers' catalogue!

News from the BBC

Mi Vida Loca is up for a Webby Award - and you can vote!; new *Ma France* pages; new tutors' pages; advanced Learning Zone schedule.

National News

The Learning Revolution - Government finally publishes IAL white paper; CILT bids farewell to the Comenius Network; the GCSE oral 'scripting' debacle; football and languages; and much more...

Events

Italian and Romanian film festivals; ALL events; CILT Community Languages Conference; CILT AE and SSAT Chinese Network conferences; and more...

Resources

Joe Dale's latest technology round-up; resources on the fall of the Berlin Wall; Japanese resources; papers from Language World; and more...

Surveys and Competitions

CILT survey on the new NVQ; Language Box competition.

Websites of Interest

Featuring YOUR blog!

NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE



50 % off *Get Into French* and *Get Into Spanish*

Our engaging interactive CD-ROM-based courses take your students round a virtual French or Spanish town, and allow them to learn and revise vocabulary on a number of topics, or practise what they have learned in an interactive role play.

For a limited time only, we are offering the *Get Into* packs, including the CD-ROM, a course book and an audio CD, at half price when



you order through our website.

All you need to do is go online to

<http://www.pearsoned.co.uk/bookshop/subject.asp?item=9088&affid=582> to receive 50% off these items and free postage and packing on orders anywhere within Europe. This takes the

packs down from £34.61 to £17.31.

If you would like to try before you buy, you can try our fun demo online at www.getinto.com.

20 % off at John Smith's bookshops

From 1 May, you will be able to claim 20 % off at all John Smith's bookshops on the following BBC Active books:

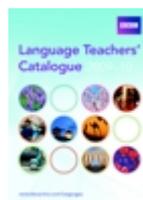
All 12 of our *Phrase Book and Dictionaries*, currently available in Arabic, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.

Get By In Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish (CD+book packs only).

Quickstart Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.

All these products are crammed with useful holiday and travel vocabulary and cultural information. You can find your nearest John Smith's store at:

<http://www.johnsmith.co.uk/shop/>.



New Language Teachers' Catalogue

The latest version of our Language Teachers' Catalogue is now available!

If you would like to request your copy, just email me at

susanna.jones@pearson.com with your name and address. Feel free to ask for more than one copy if you would like to pass them to colleagues.

NEWS FROM THE BBC



Mi Vida Loca up for Webby award - Vote now, before April 30th!!!

Our popular Spanish learning drama, *Mi Vida Loca*, has been nominated for a prestigious Webby People's Voice Award! If you're a fan of our flagship course we'd really appreciate your vote. Go to:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/mividaloca/webby.shtml> to find out how to vote.

Hurry! Closing date is 30th April 2009.

Vote for *Mi Vida Loca* now!: <http://pv.webbyawards.com>.

'For every language that becomes extinct, an image of man disappears'. - Octavio Paz, Mexican writer

New Tutors' pages

Check out the new Tutors' and TV pages - a guide to our resources by topic and grammar point. This newly-launched one-stop shop lists our materials for eating out, travel, adjectives, verbs and more:

Tutors' pages: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/tutors/>

TV pages:

French: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/tv/>

Spanish: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/tv/>

German: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/tv/>

Italian: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/tv/>

***New* Ma France email tips**

Have you signed up for the new email tips for this interactive post-beginners' French course yet? Stay motivated with weekly reminders giving you help and encouragement whilst guiding you through Ma France:

Subscribe to the tips: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/tips>

Languages on TV - BBC TWO Learning Zone

Languages programmes on the Learning Zone are now on a break until 22nd June. However, we have the advance LZ schedule for June:

Tuesday 23rd June 0400-0600 Mi Vida Loca (Learning 1-2; Drama 1-2)

Wednesday 24th June 0400-0600 Ma France (1-4)

Tuesday 30th June 0400-0600 Italianissimo (1-8)

Wednesday 1st July 0400-0600 Italianissimo (9-16)

Thursday 2nd July 0400-0600 Italianissimo (17-20)
Italy Inside Out (1-2)

Friday 3rd July 0400-0600 Italy Inside Out (3-5)
Eurografters: Italy

Tuesday 7th July 0400-0600 Deutsch Plus (1-8)

Wednesday 8th July 0400-0600 Deutsch Plus (9-16)

Thursday 9th July 0400-0600 Deutsch Plus (17-20)
Deutsch Plus 2

Friday 10th July 0400-0600 Germany Inside Out (1-4)

Please remember to set your recorder the night before. Please note that the above schedule is provisional only and may be subject to change. For up-to-date details of all programmes to be shown on BBC Learning Zone, check the online schedule at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/>.

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

NATIONAL NEWS

Government White Paper on Informal Adult Learning

The long-awaited white paper on Informal Adult Learning (IAL) has finally been published by the DIUS. Based on the consultation which many of you responded to last year, the White Paper is called 'The Learning Revolution', was launched on 23 March 2009 and sets out the Government's strategy for informal learning. Download it and read it at:

<http://www.dius.gov.uk/learningrevolution>. You can also read NIACE's response at:

<http://www.niace.org.uk/niace-welcomes-dius-strategy-for-informal-learning>.



Hasta la vista, Denham

Unfortunately, the Skills Secretary is gunning for classes of holiday Spanish, and was met with appropriate approbation by the thousands of adult learners attending the CALL lobby of Parliament in February: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/mar/03/evening-classes-adult-education>.

CILT says goodbye and thank you to Comenius Network

The beginning of April saw the official end of the Comenius Network, which has provided regional support for language teachers across England since 1992. The network has provided an invaluable service, gauging the state of languages education in the regions, bringing together and supporting local authorities, schools, colleges, universities and helping in the delivery of an extensive CPD programme

In the last year alone, the Network has been responsible for delivering 200 courses, seminars and conferences which have addressed the KS2 and KS3 Frameworks, transition, intercultural understanding, the new secondary curriculum, foreign language assistants, using ICT, literacy, singing, dancing, community languages, training for teachers of adults and many more.

Comenius Managers have played an invaluable role, using their contacts to disseminate national initiatives from CILT and other organisations. They are hugely knowledgeable, experienced and respected individuals representing local authorities and universities and their varied backgrounds have been a great asset to CILT's work.

The 'scripting' GCSE oral exams

A story causing absolute uproar on the forums is this one, revealing how an ex-exam board official runs seminars in which he advises language teachers to "script" pupils' GCSE oral exams: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8005405.stm>.

You can read what teachers think about this on the various forums, but also on Alex Blagona's blog at: <http://alexblagona.blogspot.com/2009/04/are-we-following-script.html>.

Will web users join forces to break the online language barrier?

A new Wikipedia-style project will rely on users to upload translations of blogs and newspaper articles: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2009/mar/26/internet-translation-project>.

Japan talks its way into trouble with Georgia

Japan's way of pronouncing 'Georgia' has created a minor diplomatic incident: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article5974247.ece>.

Lost Aboriginal language revived

Dharug is brought back to life in a classroom in suburban Sydney: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/7992565.stm>.

Similarly, endangered Aramaic language makes a comeback in Syria: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/apr/14/aramaic-revival-syria> and <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article6074571.ece>.

Saving Native American languages

More than 2,400 languages around the world are in danger of extinction, according to Unesco, and the US is second only to India in having the highest number of endangered languages: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/7964016.stm>.

Arsenal's language lessons are pitch perfect

Arsenal coaches use the universal language of football to teach children languages: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/mortarboard/2009/apr/02/language-lessons-arsenal> and http://www.language networks4excellence.org.uk/news.php?news_id=64.

Websites recommended by users on the Linguanet forum to support the teaching of languages through football include Soccalingua: <http://www.soccerlingua.net/> and the UEFA website, which you can read in ten different languages: <http://www.uefa.com/index.html>.

EVENTS

Italian Film Festival

Just to remind you, the Italian Film Festival is taking place at various locations around the country until 27 May. You can find out more at: <http://www.italianfilmfestival.org.uk/>.

The Romanian Film Festival in London

This will be taking place 1-4 May 2009 at the Curzon Mayfair. Find out more at: <http://www.romanianculturalcentre.org.uk/filmfestival/>.

ALL Essex and East Anglia

Saturday 9 May 2009 at Woodbridge School, Suffolk, from 9.30am-3.30pm. Barry Jones is the main speaker and he will give a talk on languages in the Primary School with particular reference to using the medium of the foreign language to teach other subjects in the Primary School (examples in French). The afternoon will include workshops based around the KS2-KS3 transition and developing a new curriculum for MFL in Year 7.

For queries please contact Avril Black, Chairperson, ALL (Essex and East Anglian Branch) on: 01255/860629 or e-mail avrainblack@hotmail.com. See you there!

ALL London 'June Event'

This is taking place on Saturday 13th June 2009 at the Institut Français in South Kensington, London. You can register via the website at http://www.all-london.org.uk/june_2009.htm.

CILT Community Languages Show, Southampton, 15 July 2009

This national conference celebrates the outcomes of the Our Languages project, a 2 year DCSF-funded project from a consortium of CILT, the National Centre for Languages, the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education, the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and the School Development Support Agency.

Key themes:

- Partnerships between mainstream and complementary schools
- Family learning
- Initial teacher training opportunities
- Accrediting language skills, including within the 14-19 diplomas
- Community cohesion
- The learning continuum from primary to higher education
- Links with literacy.

Read more and register now: <http://www.cilt.org.uk/cpd/clshow.htm>.

The Ning thing: using a social network to support the year abroad

This event is taking place at The Foresight Centre, University of Liverpool, 1 Brownlow Street, Liverpool, L69 3GL on 8 May. You can read more at: <http://www.llas.ac.uk/events/3190>.

There are many other language-related events on the LLAS website - go to: <http://www.llas.ac.uk/e-bulletin.aspx> to find out more.

Is the world our oyster? Languages for life

Get set for the CILT Adult Education conference on Wednesday 8 July 2009. This year the conference is not only moving months (from June to July) but is also coming back down to London, and will be held at the Institut Français. Why not book your place today and wander over to chat with your faithful BBC Active exhibitor (me) and join the debate? You can book your tickets already via the CILT website, at:

<http://www.cilt.org.uk/cpd/aesummerconference.htm>.

SSAT Chinese Network Conference

This year, this highly popular conference will be taking place on 3 July (at the British Museum) and 4 July (at Lambeth Academy). The programme is yet to be announced, but the event promises 'keynote speeches, interactive sessions and hands-on workshops delivered by experienced Chinese teaching practitioners, practical sessions aimed at schools new to China, and an exhibition of educational resources'. Read more and find out how to book at: <http://www.ourlanguages.org.uk/news-events/events/Event401>.

GCSE 2009 – Delivering the New Specification in Japanese

The following Edexcel GCSE Japanese training days have been announced:

11th May 2009 – London (held at the Japan Foundation) – FULL

18th May 2009 – London (held at the Japan Foundation) – Open

1st June 2009 – Online Event - Open

13th June 2009 – Warwick – Open

To sign up for any these events, go to Edexcel's website at

<http://eiewebvip.edexcel.org.uk/TrainingBookingsPublic/>.

Workshop: Teaching Less Widely Used and Less Taught Languages

1 June 2009; CILT, The National Centre for Languages, London. Registration is now open for this workshop, organised by the Subject Centre for Languages Linguistics and Area Studies in collaboration with CILT, the National Centre for Languages. This one-day workshop is aimed at teachers of less widely used and less taught languages in Higher Education. It will also be of interest to researchers of community language pedagogies.

This workshop brings together expertise to share good practice in the teaching and learning of LWULT languages in the HE environment in a number of areas. For more information or to register, please visit: <http://www.llas.ac.uk/events/3196>.

RESOURCES

Joe Dale's technology update

'There was an interesting article in The Guardian on Wednesday concerning a leaked report about Sir Jim Rose's new proposals for the primary curriculum with particular emphasis on the use of ICT, namely blogs, podcasts, Wikipedia and Twitter:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/mar/25/primary-schools-twitter-curriculum>.

'On the same day I was asked to take part in a live interview with Phil Beadle on the PM programme on Radio 4. You can listen to the discussion for the next few days on BBC iPlayer or access the mp3 direct from my blog (published with permission from the BBC):

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2009/03/going-live-on-bbc-radio-4-pm-programme.html.

The fall of The Wall

Germany is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. You can read more about this on the German Embassy website at:

http://www.london.diplo.de/Vertretung/london/en/03/News__and__features/2009/Mauerfall__2009/Mauerfall__Seite.html. The Goethe Institut also has an article on Literature and the Fall of the Wall: <http://www.goethe.de/kue/lit/prj/lwe/enindex.htm>.

The new diploma in languages and international communication

Keep up to date with all the ins and outs of the new diploma by reading the latest newsletter, out in March 2009, at:

<http://email.ltconsulting.co.uk/t/ViewEmail/y/E2BC54B8B292D71C/A79B21E299CF8AC59A8E73400EDACAB4>.

The diploma's home page is at: <http://www.diploma-in-languages.co.uk/>.

Let's Communicate

This website was set up to help language teachers in adult education 'use the target language more effectively in their teaching'. There are free resources available on the site at:

<http://letscommunicate.synthasite.com/>.

YouTube videos recommended by teachers of Japanese

Shunko Muroya has uploaded a list of YouTube videos recommended by the Japanese language teachers at the Nihongo Memo Web site. Go to Nihongo Memo and click on 'Recommended YouTube videos' under 'Sharing Resources' at: www.nihongomemo.com. Your contribution to this list is most welcome. Please send the URLs of your recommended YouTube videos to Shunko Muroya at: shunko.muroya@gov.ab.ca.

Click Japan

The Japan Forum has launched a new website, aimed at those interested in Japan and those involved in Japanese language education. It also offers class ideas for Japanese language study: <http://www.tjf.or.jp/clicknippon/en/index.html>.

Did you miss Language World?

If you did, then do not despair! A lot of the talks are already being posted online. Take a look at the ALL London round up, at: http://www.all-london.org.uk/2009_language_world.htm, and also to Vincent Everett's own special page: http://www.all-london.org.uk/vincent_everett.htm. Also, Joe Dale has posted recordings of his sessions on his blog, at: http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2009/04/grasping-the-nettle-at-language-world-2009.html.

Primary MFL - support site

Have you seen this website promising 'an interactive network for those teaching (or considering teaching) foreign languages in Primary school; a place to share your worries/successes with supportive colleagues'. Go to: <http://primarymfl.ning.com/>.

L'homme qui plantait des arbres

These resources have been recommended by someone on the MFL Resources Forum, who also has an interesting blog at: <http://mmehenderson.typepad.com/>. She encouraged people to investigate 'two wonderful links for a video and fiches de lecture for L'homme Qui Plantait des Arbres. The video is done in passé simple and imparfait but it's simple enough for students to understand'.

See: <http://dotsub.com/view/2d7b8a37-4f64-4241-8019-642e965d124f> and <http://ecoles.ac-rouen.fr/mesnil-jumieges/pages/enseignants/fiches/HommePlantaitArbre/index.htm>.

SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS

The new Qualifications and Credit Framework and CILT research survey into Languages and NVQ

The government is in the final stages of reforming vocational qualifications in the UK. A core element of this is the new Qualifications and Credit Framework, the QCF, which could have far-reaching implications for adult learning. All existing vocational qualifications are being mapped across to the new framework.

CILT is charged by government to develop the UK language qualification strategy and also to maintain the National Language Standards which underpin the increasingly popular vocational language qualifications such as the NVQ in Languages. The nature of the new QCF means that the existing NVQs must be mapped across, and this may incur some changes to the qualification. CILT is currently leading research on the Language NVQ to inform this process.

CILT sees this change as an opportunity rather than a problem, and is canvassing learning providers to find out what they feel are the advantages and disadvantages of the current qualification. In this way, CILT and the relevant awarding bodies hope to make the new NVQ-type qualification even better, making assessment even more flexible and yet still meeting the needs of learners, providers and employers.

By contributing to this research, learning providers can help CILT ensure that the NVQs migrate successfully to the new format, and continue to meet individuals' specific needs. To contribute to CILT's research, go to:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=oSLjhCNVI1tNcMuQsS0Zgw_3d_3d. To see UK Qualification Strategy for Languages and Intercultural skills, go to:

http://www.cilt.org.uk/qualifications/qualification_strategy.htm.

Language Box of delights (and prizes)

To celebrate the end of the Faroes project and all the hard work that was involved, the project are running a competition with £1,000 of prizes to be won. To find out how you can win, go to: <http://www.llas.ac.uk/news/3194>.

Open School for Languages

Active Linguanetter Graham Davies has been busy on the forums drawing attention to the recent tender for the Open School for Languages, won by RM Lightbox. You can read more about it on their website, at: <http://www.rm.com/Investors/NewsDetail.asp?cref=IN1416577>. There is also a survey on this, running at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=yx0N78Ylt_2f_2bwAmQd5hYgju_3d_3d. The survey closes on Monday 4th May.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

There are no websites featured in this section this month, but next month I would like to feature MFL blogs. I already have a number that I have discovered over the past few years, but if you would like your blog to be listed in this section and shared with your fellow Club members, just email me at susanna.jones@pearson.com.

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. 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 with your full name and educational institution with the message - or subscribe online at <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/tutors/emailclub.asp>.

NB You can **unsubscribe** at any time If you'd prefer not to go on receiving the e-mail club newsletters, please e-mail me at susanna.jones@pearson.com with your full name and educational institution with the message 'Unsubscribe' - or write to: Susanna Jones, BBC Active Languages, Mezzanine, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL.