

# Introduction to Scots Literacy

## *Guid Fer a Laugh*

*Level 1- Pack 3*



## **Introduction to Guid Fer A Laugh**

We are part of the City of Edinburgh Council, South West Adult Learning team and usually deliver 'Guid Fer a Laugh' sessions for community groups in South West Edinburgh. Unfortunately, we are unable to meet groups due to Covid-19. Good news though, we have adapted some of the material and we hope you will join in at home.

## **Development of Packs**

Following feedback from participants we plan to develop packs from beginner level 1 to 5 with 4 packs at each level. This will allow participants to gradually increase in confidence, recognising and understanding Scots. By level 5, participants should be able to: read, recognise, understand and write in Scots.

## **Distribution During Covid-19**

During Covid-19 restrictions we are emailing packs to community forums, organisations, groups and individuals.

## **Using the packs**

The packs can be done in pairs, small groups or individually. They are being used by: families, carers, support workers and individuals. The activities are suitable for all adults but particularly those who do not have access to computer and internet.

## **Adapting Packs**

The packs can be adapted to suit participants needs. For example, we had feedback from a volunteer who used some of the activities when phoning isolated adults. Another worker photocopied the pack to put into their goodie bags. Tell us how you are using the packs.





## Aims of the Session – **Whit’s it a’about?**

it’s about learning Scots language and auld words

- takes a look at Scots comedy, songs, poetry and writing
- hae a guid laugh at ourselves and others

### **Scots Language**

Scotland is a nation of over 5 million people has a range of regional accents and dialects, each with their own sayings and jargon, ranging from Doric to Lallans and Urban Scots. We want you to share your Scots words, it makes the packs more interesting and gives examples of the wide range of words used in different areas of Scotland.

### **Some Feedback fae Packs 1 & 2**

The first two packs have gone out and Kim Sibbald, Healthy Lifestyles Officer, Edinburgh & Lothian Greenspace Trust who used the pack with her walking group in Oxfangs, Edinburgh, sent us this photo.



## Mair feedback from previous packs

“We really enjoyed it”

“We liked looking and talking about the old words”

“It was really good”

## Here’s the feedback in Scots

1. “We hud a rer time wi it”
2. “We hud a guid blether about a ra wurd”
3. “It wisnae sae bad, no bad at a”

## *Favourite Wurds?*

Whit are sum of yer favourite Scots wurds that yer grannie/mammy used to use? If you can, have a go at writing them here:

Here are some of ours:

**bonnie, guid, braw, couthie, sonsie**

How would you use these words? From this list, what’s your favourite.



# Whit's the Wurd?

Listed below on the left are some words in English, but do you know what the words are in Scots. Here's an example to get you started 'around is aroon' in Scots. We've put some letters in the answers to help 😊

English	Scots
Donkey	_ u _ d _ _
Crown	_ _ _ o _
Drop	D _ _ _
Noise	_ _ _
Armpit	_ x _ _ r
Undershirt Shirt	S _ _ m i _
Do Not	_ i _ n _ _
Nose	_ _ b
Over	_ _ e _
Shirt	S _ _ _

How did you get on? Answers on the next page.



## English

## Scots

Donkey

Cuddie

Crown

Croon

Drop

Drap

Noise

Din

Armpit

Oxter

Under Shirt

Semmit

Do Not

Dinnae

Nose

Neb

Over

Ower

Shirt

Sark

Now have some fun using these Scots words 😊



***Put the Wurd In***

Put the right Scots wurd into the sentences below, again select from the list below.

**Jacksie    Stramash    Guid    Sicht    Bogle**  
**Heid    Sneck    Haddie    Ane    Tummelt**

1. He was off his \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Stick your job up your \_\_\_\_\_.
3. There was a \_\_\_\_\_ in the pub.
4. Just \_\_\_\_\_ the door behind you.
5. He had a \_\_\_\_\_ fur his tea.
6. He has \_\_\_\_\_ out of bed.
7. She had a pram o' her \_\_\_\_\_.
8. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ out tonight.
9. He was an awful \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Have a \_\_\_\_\_ day.

## ***Answers***



1. He was off his **heid**.
2. Stick your job up your **jacksie**.
3. There was a **stramash** in the pub.
4. Just **sneck** the door behind you.
5. He had a **haddie** fur his tea.
6. He has **tummelt** out of bed.
7. She had a pram O' her **ain**.
8. There is a **bogle** out tonight.
9. He was an awful **sicht**.
10. Have a **guid** day.

What word do you like and why? I like the word stramash because it's a good descriptive word for a fight in the pub.



I also like 'jacksie', can you imagine saying to a horrible boss, 'Stick your job up your jacksie' 😊

## ***Sum Scots Sayings***



The Scots have many wise and couthie sayings. Complete the Scots sayings below, select from the list here

“Oot the windae”

“Winnae go bye ye”

“Richt fu o himsel”

“Hud his chups”

“Fu o mince”

“Daft as a brush”

“Bile yir heid”

“ A man or a moose”

“ Fu o wind”

“Talk and nae action”

1. His head is \_\_\_\_\_

2. His bum is \_\_\_\_\_

3. She is as \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is for \_\_\_\_\_

5. Away and \_\_\_\_\_

6. He is \_\_\_\_\_

7. Are you \_\_\_\_\_

8. He has \_\_\_\_\_

9. She is \_\_\_\_\_

10. He is all \_\_\_\_\_

How did you get on? Answers on the next page.

## Answers

1. His head is **fu o mince**.

2. His bum is **oot the windae**.
3. She is as **daft as a brush**.
4. What is for **winnae go bye ye**.
5. Away and **bile yer heid**.
6. Hi is **richt fu o himself**.
7. Are you a **man or a moose**.
8. He has **hud his chups**.  
She is **fu o wind**.
10. He is all **talk and nae action**.

Talk about what these sayings mean. Have some fun. Play about with them. What are some of your Scots sayings?

I like “His bum is oot the windae.” You’ve finished with your boyfriend and got a new one, you’d say of your ex, “His bum is oot the windae.” 😊



## **BAFFIES**

The word comes from baffs first mentioned in 1923. The word baffies come from Fife and Angus and first appeared in the Sunday Post in 1956.

For us baffies comes from our Grannie Clara, pronounced Grannie Clerra. Grannie Clerra used to refer tae cauld dreich November days as 'Baffie Days' We all have a grannie Clerra or should have one. Grannie Clerra hud a smile like a shepard's warning sunrise in November, bricht wi licht. On cauld days she would licht the fire and get the griddle really hot. Next a smell of flour and dough would waft through from the scullery. On to the griddle, an in a flash you would be tucking into hot pancakes, butter and jeely. Grannie Clerra would say,

“Settle doon, ma loon and lass and hae a Baffie Day”.

Warm as toast, you always fell asleep sound and warm.



So, what's your word o' the week and do you have a cosy wee story to tell?

## *Corona Virus in Scots*

It is very important to make sure that we all stay healthy and well. To make sure you remember what to do here is some standard advice. Select a Scots phrase from the list below that models the English phrase.

- Bide at hame oan yer ane
- Dae as yer telt
- Be guid tae ane anither
- Dinnae mak us ask, wear a mask
- Gonnae no come sae close

1. Please wear a mask \_\_\_\_\_
2. Please social distance \_\_\_\_\_
3. Self-isolate \_\_\_\_\_
4. Be kind to each other \_\_\_\_\_
5. Follow the advice \_\_\_\_\_

Answers on the next page.

## Answers

## English

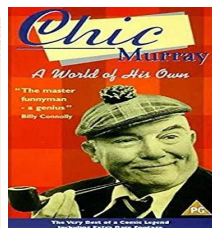
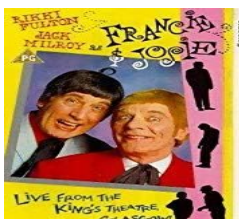
1. Please wear a mask
2. Please social distance
3. Self-isolate
4. Be kind to each other
5. Follow the advice

## Scots

Dinnae mak us ask, wear a mask  
Gonnae no come sae close  
Bide at hame, oan yer ane  
Be guid tae ane anither  
Dae as yer telt

# STAY SAFE, HEALTHY AND WELL

**“Dinnae be daft,  
mind an wear yir mask”**



## *Joke fae the Poke*

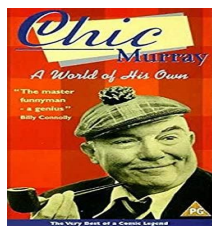
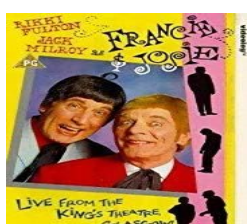
**It time for a wee chuckle. We usually ask people to pick a joke from the bag and share it with the group. As you are in your house, we have added a few for you to read. It might help if you read out 😊**

I telt ma girlfriend tae slip intae something cool.  
Ten minutes later found her in ra fridge.

If I gie up drink, tobacco, and sex doctor will I live longer?  
“Naw, it’ll on seem longer”.

Twa fall aboot drunks were stopped and questioned by the polis.  
“A richt, that’s enough” said the officer. He said to the first drunk  
“Yer name and address please”.  
“Hamish Finlay, no fixed abode”  
The second drunk replied “Ian Black fae the flat above”.

Two Americans in a Dundee café, one asks for two horse steaks.  
The waitress says, “We don’t eat horse over here”. The American  
says, “So how come that guy over there ordered mare soup?”  
**Sent by Evelyn Watson, Edinburgh**



## *Poem/Song O' the Pack*

The Boy on the Train is a poem suggested by **Rita Crombie, Volunteer, Seagrove Dementia Care Centre, Edinburgh** after she read our first pack. The poem/song is full of questionings – An excited boy is on his way to see his Grannie in Kirkcaldy. Kirkcaldy was known for the smell from the linoleum factories that dominated the town, it wis mingin.

## The Boy on the Train

Whit wey does the engine say 'Toot-toot'?  
Is it feart to gang in the tunnel?  
Whit wey is the furnace no pit oot  
When the rain gangs doon the funnel?  
What'll I hae for my tea the nicht?  
A herrin', or maybe a haddie?  
Has Gran'ma gotten electric licht?  
Is the next stop Kirkcaddy?

There's a hoodie-craw on yon turnip-raw!  
An' seagulls! – sax or seeven.  
I'll no fa' oot o' the windae, Maw,  
Its sneckit, as sure as I'm leevin'.  
We're into the tunnel! we're a' in the dark!  
But dinna be frichtit, Daddy,  
We'll sune be comin' to Beveridge Park,  
And the next stop's Kirkcaddy!

Is yon the mune I see in the sky?  
It's awfu' wee an' curly,  
See! there's a coo and a cauf ootbye,

An' a lassie pu'in' a hurly!  
He's chackit the tickets and gien them back,  
Sae gie me my ain yin, Daddy.



Lift doon the bag frae the luggage rack,  
For the next stop's Kirkcaddy!

There's a gey when boats at the harbour mou',  
And eh! dae ya see the cruisers?  
The cinnamon drop I was sookin' the noo  
Has tummelt an' stuck tae ma troosers. . .  
I'll sune be ringin' ma Gran'ma's bell,  
She'll cry, 'Come ben, my laddie',  
For I ken mysel' by the queer-like smell  
That the next stop's Kirkcaddy

### Scots

### English

haddie	haddock
Sneckit	locked
leevin	eleven
frichtit	frightened
pu'in a hurly	pulling a barrow
gey when	a lot
mou	mouth
tummelt	fallen

**Dae ye ken.....**Mary Campbell Smith wrote the poem. She was born in 1869 and died in 1960. Mrs Smith was the wife of the headmaster at Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh. Every year at Easter they travelled to Elle in Fife for their holidays. One year around 1912 they shared a compartment with a noisy excited wee loon. Mrs Smith was asked to contribute to the school's magazine in 1913. She remembered the boy and wrote the poem immortalising the wee lad. She also used some North- East Scotland words like "Whit wey" instead of why. – The poem/song is now famous

## Find the Scots Wurds



U H V D R A R M O O E G B V T  
 E U A N K L O P S P X N N L T  
 R E T X O U Y A O W E R E K X  
 V I Z R F O K R F Q C M R B H  
 A C R A S T R D M N M A H Q A  
 C R O H E Z H C D U S A N T X  
 R Y T H O J C S T I D C K T H  
 V H P Q E C U U D D N N J I K  
 O G C O I V D J I E I N I K P  
 O G W H V R D E N R O A A C E  
 J M S E M M I T S D N A K E N  
 N U V F S S E W B P A H Z N N  
 O C I J J W Q U H P I N C S M  
 Z V S H S K V R U O L Z O I D  
 E N F E X U B C G R W L D Q L

**CROON**  
**DINNAE**  
**MOU**  
**OXTER**  
**SNECKIT**

**CUDDIE**  
**DRAP**  
**NEB**  
**SARK**  
**TUMMELT**

**DIN**  
**HADDIE**  
**OWER**  
**SEMMIT**

**Mind noo, the 30th of November is St Andra's Nicht. Mind an raise a gless tae oor patron saint. The 14 November 2020 is Diwali, the Festival of Lichts which is celebrated by Hindu's.**



# Hae Yer Say



We are planning on developing more Scots Literacy packs and to help us do that we would like you to phone or email your favourite jokes, Scots words, sayings and anything else you'd like to see include in future packs. My email and phone are below.

1. Did you enjoy it? If yes, what did you like?
2. If not, why not?
3. Anything else you would like to see in the pack?

Course material developed by Derek Suttie, Scots Literacy Tutor

Send your Scots words, jokes, poems, sayings, suggestions to:

[Lydia.markham@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Lydia.markham@ea.edin.sch.uk)      **Mobile: 07719 420 424**

Lydia Markham, Lifelong Learning Worker (Adult Learning),  
SW Locality, City of Edinburgh Council

