

ALDinHE Bulletin

Newsletter of the Association for Learning Development in Higher Education

Chair's Comments

Christine Keenan—Chair of ALDinHE



Welcome to the new ALDinHE newsletter, as you will see as you read through this issue, the Association's Steering Group and various Working Groups have been incredibly active over the past months and have made significant progress in the work of

the Association.

ALDinHE gave a response to the HE White Paper, and we were also invited to offer a response to the UK Professional Standards Framework. We would like to thank everyone from the network who helped with this by giving us their views, the responses that we forwarded are now on the Association's website.

You will see that we are currently working on a new and improved ALDinHE website, and in an effort to increase our institutional membership we are busy contacting all UK HEIs and developing new and improved promotional material.

I am sure you will have already seen regular messages from the LearnHigher and Professional Development working groups, watch out for exciting upcoming news from the Research and Development group.

Our now established and active working groups are making real progress on the Association's objectives and we believe they are a perfect way for learning developers from the wider community to become more closely involved in our day to day activities. If you would like to get involved, your contribution (no matter how big or small) would be greatly appreciated. All you need to do is contact any of the Steering Group members or working group leaders.

Finally ****Don't forget to get your proposals in by 21 November and be part of the 2012 ALDinHE Conference at Leeds.****

The work of the Association is going from strength to strength!

Steering Group Residential

Membership, sustainability, branding and continued development all took centre stage at the recent Steering Group Annual Residential which took place in Plymouth in early September.

After welcoming new Steering Group member Steve Rooney to his first residential Chris Keenan (new Chair) quickly took the reins and the team got down to two days of hard reflection and action planning.

Notable items of discussion and debate included reflection on the successful year of CPD events and initial planning for the 2012 events calendar, the enhancement of institutional membership benefits and first stage discussions of developing additional membership strands to include student membership. Updates on the work of LearnHigher and the Journal team were presented and a healthy budget forecast was tabled with careful planning made for the funding of future projects and association sustainability.

With a healthy amount of banter and exquisite surroundings this year's residential proved, as always, to be extremely successful and highly productive.

My Steering Group Perspective

Steve Rooney—New Steering Group Member



"I didn't admit it at the time, but I have to confess that – as I boarded my train in Leicester and headed for 'the edge of the land' (Hilsdon, 2011) - I felt a little daunted by the prospect of my first ALDinHE Steering Group residential.

Within moments of arriving, though, any reservations I might have had disappeared altogether. What followed were two hugely enjoyable, inclusive and, above all, energising days of lively discussion and planning - all helped along by the idyllic Devon setting.

It was fascinating for me to learn more about how the Association works – in particular about the various Working Groups responsible for all

the great work ALDinHE does. As a newcomer, I was made to feel incredibly welcome – so much so, the term ‘newcomer’ became redundant pretty much from the off.

I’m really pleased I decided to put my name forward to join the Steering Group and – having sampled my first Resi – would warmly recommend others to do the same.”

9th Annual Conference (April 2012) **"Learning Development in a Digital Age: emerging literacies and learning spaces"**

This conference theme seeks to consider Learning Development and learning environments as a whole – including non-digital aspects of learning – and the notion of ‘learning spaces’ in the widest interpretation of that phrase.

We are pleased to announce this year’s keynote speakers as:

Professor Gráinne Conole, Director, Beyond Distance Research Alliance; University of Leicester.

Paul Andrews, Head of Centre for Digitally Enhanced Learning (CDEL); University of Wales, Newport.

Got something to share? We are now inviting proposals for paper presentations, workshops, and posters. Contributions should address the conference theme and focus on the many ways in which learning development operates in a digital age.

Call for Papers Closes Monday 21 November

Further details, including a brief programme outline and an online proposal form can be found on our website at <http://www.aldinhe.ac.uk/leeds12.htm>



But most importantly... Who will take away the coveted **Conference Spoon** this year? Start your general knowledge studying now in preparation for the extravaganza that is the Conference Dinner Quiz.

LearnHigher

The popular LearnHigher website is currently undergoing a redesign and review to maximise its usefulness and ease of navigability for users. We hope to have the new site in place early next year, with a full re-launch taking place at the ALDinHE conference in Leeds in April.

Regional Meetings

If you would like to get more involved with the work of LearnHigher why not consider attending one of our regional meetings:

- 29 November (Reading)
- 2 December (Leeds)

LearnHigher Animation Challenge.

Entrants are invited to produce brief animated learning development resources using simple and freely available technologies. We will be looking for creativity and appropriate use of the medium. Anyone working in the field of learning development is welcome to enter, whatever their technical expertise - basic training and examples will be provided via the LearnHigher blog <http://learnhigher.wordpress.com/>, where you can also find more details of the Challenge.

Winners of the challenge will be announced at the Annual Conference in Leeds (April 2-4)

Developing Your Digital Literacy

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded £10k from JISC for the Association’s work in contributing to the Developing Digital Literacies programme over the next two years, both through LearnHigher and our professional development networks.

The programme includes a number of innovative projects being run in universities from around the country. Further details of which can be found on the JISC website at: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/elearning/developingdigitalliteracies.aspx>

Professional Development

New events for 2012

Hot on the heels of their inaugural events at Reading and Leeds and the highly successful Specific Learning Difficulties training day at Aston, the Professional Development Working Group are now finalising programmes for three new events set to take place in 2012.

These will be single day events with reduced price and priority booking for ALDinHE members. Check the **Dates for your Diary** section for details and look out for further updates via the LDHEN list and association website.

Journal (JLDHE)

The fourth edition of the Journal of Learning Development in Higher Education (JLDHE) is currently in preparation and publication is scheduled for February 2012.

A special edition journal (**Developing skills for writing in the STEM disciplines**) is planned for publication in the autumn of 2012. A first call for contributions for this special edition will be published on the LDHEN list in December.

The current issue (issue three) is now available in hard copy and we will shortly announce details of how to order copies for display at CPD events or for sale to individuals at a cost of £12 each. The current print run is limited to 100 copies but members can still enjoy full access to content for this and all previous issues online via our website www.aldinhe.ac.uk/ojs.

If you are a budding writer, future editor or new to the whole thing and just interested in finding out a bit more about the JLDHE and how to get involved, the team would love to hear from you. Please email john.hilsdon@plymouth.ac.uk

Institutional Membership



Institutional membership runs from 1 September to 31 August each year. Full details of our membership benefits can be found on the ALDinHE website at:

<http://www.aldinhe.ac.uk/membership.htm>

The Association depends on an active membership to support its work on behalf of the Learning Development community and so we are keen to encourage and grow institutional

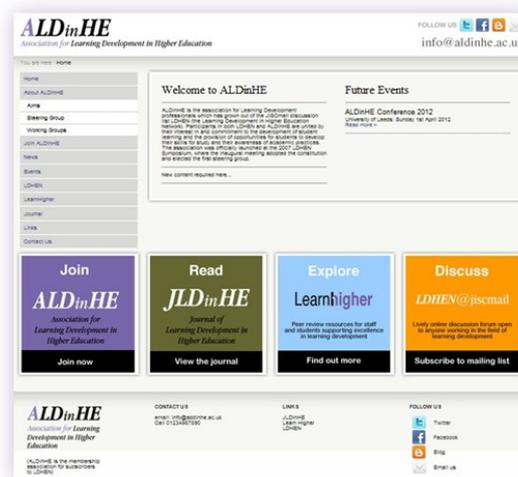
membership in order to demonstrate strategic commitment to learning development within institutions and give greater collective voice to impact on the political spectrum.

Look out for your institution's invitation to take out or renew their annual membership and please encourage your institution to respond. All institutional members will receive an official membership certificate for display along with all the other benefits associated with membership.

Don't forget to let our Secretary (David Bowers) know if there have been any changes to the details of the appropriate contact person at your institution so we can keep our records up to date.

Fresh New Website for Association

We are now entering the final design and development stages for a fresh new ALDinHE website. ICO3, our web design company, and the Steering Group have been working hard to draw together the key elements of the association so that they can be easily accessed from one location. It is hoped that the new site will launch in the new year and we are keen to hear your feedback when we go live.



New Promotional Materials Available



We are pleased to announce the arrival and availability of our fabulous new branded membership leaflets. Packed with lots of information about the association and the benefits of joining, a must for any event or staff induction.

Contact the Secretary (David Bowers) to get hold of copies for your colleagues or events and help spread the ALDinHE message.

Research & Development

If you're interested in research and development activities, have a keen eye for funding opportunities or just fancy dipping your toe into new waters we want to hear from you. Whether you're a candidate for Co-Chair or just want to get involved in a specific project drop us a line.

The Student Perspective

My experience—Belfast Conference

(Francesca Keirle: Final year student at University of Wales Newport)



"Before attending the conference, I was worried that I wouldn't have anything to contribute to the experience. I couldn't have been more wrong.

As soon as it became known that I was one of only a few student delegates, I became a sort of minor celebrity. Everyone was really interested in chatting to me and finding out my views about how students are engaged with and ways I thought we should be like to be engaged with in the future.

I was astounded that there were so many people working to improve my experience of Higher Education. I feel strongly that other students need to know that there are hordes of Learning Developers out there, all striving to improve the student experience, and all looking for feedback from students in order to do so. I felt that my contribution was valid and valued and feel that it was an amazing experience and opportunity.

Attending the conference has really inspired me to find out more about Learning Development and to share my new understanding with other students at my university."

Share your student experience

Are you a student or do you know someone who has something to say about their student experiences around Learning Development? We are looking for short pieces for future newsletters so contact the newsletter editor with your ideas (*approx 150 word limit*).

Member Hot Topics

If you have a **hot topic** or **top tip** to share let us know. Found new resources, advice on pitfalls to avoid, engagement techniques or perhaps a review of something thought provoking that you've read, we want to hear about it. Get involved, share your thoughts.

(approx 100 word limit)

And remember...

'If the person you are talking to doesn't appear to be listening, be patient. It may simply be that he has a small piece of fluff in his ear'
(Winnie-the-Pooh)

Dates for your Diary

21 November 2011	Deadline for conference papers submissions
29 November 2011	LearnHigher Regional Meeting (Reading)
2 December 2011	LearnHigher Regional Meeting (Leeds)
February 2012	Managing transitions and engaging students from STEM subjects
2—4 April 2012	9th Annual Conference (Leeds)
June/July 2012	Approaches to embedding learning development
November 2012	Evaluating the impact of your learning development service

Get in Touch

Christine Keenan (Chair) – Bournemouth University
Michelle Reid (Vice-chair) – University of Reading
Andy Hagyard (Treasurer) – University of Lincoln
David Bowers (Secretary) – University Campus Suffolk
Kerry Bellamy – University of Wales, Newport
Julia Braham – University of Leeds
Terry Finnigan – London College of Fashion
John Hilsdon – University of Plymouth
Steve Rooney – University of Leicester
Sandra Sinfield – London Metropolitan University
Pauline Ridley (co-opted member) – University of Brighton
Kim Shahabudin (co-opted member) - University of Reading

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