

ESOL meeting with Lynn Norris

Thursday July 3rd

We have four classes per week - two on Mondays and two on Fridays. They are ESOL Café for Beginners to Intermediate level and Just Talk for the advanced learners. The ESOL curriculum is based on the 25 most difficult words that international learners of English find difficult to pronounce; “th” words and words with “gh”. The group was tested at the beginning of the course in April on the pronunciation of these words and made sentences to show understanding. Following the course which focused on these words, they will be tested again to assess progress. Just Talk topics have included discussion of the Montessori teaching method, the environment, modern architecture and creative writing.

There are over 50 learners over the two days ranging from students, au-pairs, parents, scholars, short term visitors and those seeking employment.

We have 8 men!

We have 7 volunteers who make an invaluable contribution to both groups. They can offer one-to-one tuition, suggest resources, support those who most need it and listen to problems from members.

We also have trips and coffee mornings for members of the groups and visitors. This term we are going to the Botanical gardens and Kettles Yard.

We have made connections this year with other external bodies: the careers service, Cambridge library, the Hungarian Society, Bangladeshi ladies exercise group and Bar Hill English class.

Five members have got jobs this year, some have found volunteering work, one of our volunteers has found a full time job in their chosen field and one has been inspired to go to China to teach English!

Next term we want to run the same classes as well as new class - Speaking English for Work which will culminate in an exam to be taken in Cambridge.

We hope to continue to grow in numbers, offering confidence building opportunities and preparing our learners for work, offering them the chance to live a fuller life and more inclusive life in Cambridge and make new friends.