



Schools have started back now and entries are coming in for all our **schools debating competitions**. More on the competitions next month. We are delighted to announce that Aissa Watson (pictured below) has joined us as our new **Head of Speech and Debate**. Aissa has been a member and supporter of the ESU for a long time, and as well as being a talented debater herself she has been involved with judging competitions, coaching, and the outreach projects. Welcome to the ESU team, Aissa!

English class at the ESU



The **EFL classes** are busy with students enrolling for the Autumn term. Congratulations to our students who took the Cambridge Advanced exam in June and all passed with excellent results! We are now preparing students for exams in October and December. The **International Coffee Mornings** on the 1st Friday of the month are popular. Thanks to our members who support these. We do need more native speakers to come along and help our students improve their English. Please come along and join us.

Aissa Watson



On 29th October at 7.30pm, which is also National Storytelling Day, we'll be holding our first **Hallowe'en Dinner** at the ESU. Come along to be entertained by Hallowe'en stories after a seasonal 3-course dinner. Tickets for the event cost £15 (BYOB) in advance. If you have some spiningtling tales to share let us know...we are looking for volunteers to tell their spooky stories. Broomsticks optional. For more information, please call Suzanne.

Hallowe'en fun



Our **Autumn Jumble Sale**, held on Saturday 18th September, raised over £200 towards ESU funds. Many thanks to everyone who donated things to sell, and particular thanks to those kind members who gave up their time on Friday and Saturday to help - we are really grateful. Our next jumble sale will be in the spring.



ESU Jumble Sale

Our **Creative Writing Group** will start up again in November after a break in October. We are always keen to welcome new members and we very much want it to be YOUR group. At the moment, the group meets monthly, but we are considering meeting fortnightly. The next meeting is on Thursday 4th November.

Summer Garden Party



RECENT EVENTS

We were fortunate to have glorious sunshine for our first **Summer Garden Party** on Sunday 15th August. Douglas Gardens, Edinburgh provided the perfect location for a buffet lunch and a wonderful afternoon with members and friends. The filmmaker, Murray Grigor, gave a fascinating talk. Special thanks to Jackie Lockett for the fabulous lunch. The **ESU AGM** was held on 31st August at 23 Atholl Crescent. Jon Dye was officially elected as Treasurer and David Torrance and Iain Whyte joined as trustees. All other trustees remain in post.



Inspired? Get writing!
winner (photo Alicia Bruce)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

In focus...

Inspired? Get writing!

Creative writing competition in partnership with the National Galleries of Scotland and the Scottish Poetry Library...

Enjoy creative writing? Not sure where to start? A look at some of the thousands of amazing works of art from the national collection is a great place to begin.

The **Inspired? Get writing! competition**, run as a three-way partnership between the National Galleries of Scotland, the English-Speaking Union Scotland and the Scottish Poetry Library, is now in its sixth year. Over that time almost 4000 people have entered, and last year's competition closed in January with entries from all over Scotland, and as far away as Hong Kong!

The competition is open to both adults and children with different categories according to age and experience. Entries can be in the form of prose or poetry but should be no longer than 1,000 words. The closing date is Friday 21st January 2011. An award ceremony with public readings of the winning works will take place on 21 April 2011.

Two volumes of *Inspired? Get writing!* featuring winning works from past years, have already been published by the National Galleries of Scotland. Who knows? Your work might feature in the next one!

For full details please see the ESU Scotland website or contact Suzanne Ensom.

PASSING PLACE

*Meet me in a fold of hills
with water greening stone,
and broken daylight following
the silver levels down.*

*We'll wash the morning into blue
and cloud the hills with sun;
then swallow dance on empty air,
my shadow child, my one.*

*We'll weave the grasses into hours
and when the hours are gone
I'll gather up my coat of earth
and walk the road alone.*

Lesley Harrison, *Special Merit, Published Adults, 2009-2010*
Inspired by *Hell's Glen* by Ian Cheyne

OCTOBER

■ Thursday 28th October 12.30pm
Edinburgh Branch Lunch
Sarah Miller, *Thyne Scholar*
Diversity in Legal Professions
ROSL, 100 Princes Street, Edinburgh
£12 for 2 course lunch with coffee
Please book in advance

■ Friday 29th October 7.30pm
Ghostly Hallowe'en Dinner
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
£15 for dinner (BYOB) please book

NOVEMBER

■ Thurs. 4th November, 5.00pm
Creative Writing Group
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
£3, free to ESU Members

■ Friday 5th November 10am-12pm
International Coffee Morning
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh **£2**

■ 15th November - 3rd December
Boyling Point
An exhibition of Frank Boyle's topical cartoons
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh

■ Thursday 25th November 12.30pm
Edinburgh Branch Lunch
Rev. David Beckett, *Former Minister of Greyfriars Kirk*
The National Covenant
ROSL, 100 Princes Street, Edinburgh
£12 for 2 course lunch with coffee
Please book in advance

■ Monday 29th November all day
St. Andrew's Day Debate
With debaters from schools and universities across Scotland
The Scottish Parliament
Tickets through the ESU office

DECEMBER

■ Friday 3rd Dec. 10am-12 noon
International Coffee Morning
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh **£2**
With Christmas mince pies!

■ Saturday 4th December 8.00pm
80s Disco
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
£15 for supper (BYOB) Please book in advance

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION SCOTLAND

23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 8HQ Telephone No. (0131) 229 1528 Fax No. (0131) 229 1533

ADMINISTRATION

Evelyn Banna
secretary@esuscotland.org.uk

SPEECH & DEBATE

Aissa Watson
debates@esuscotland.org.uk

EVENTS & ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Suzanne Ensom
development@esuscotland.org.uk