

Welcome to the Open Learning Champions March Newsletter from The Open University in Scotland

NEWSLETTER

March 2022



Welcome

Welcome to the March issue of the Open Learning Champions newsletter. With the spring season in the full swing, crocuses head proudly blooming in the meadows – we hope that you've enjoyed the glorious sun these past few weeks.

In March we have celebrated Women's History Month, Neurodiversity Celebration Week and more. Find out more about how we marked these occasions below. Our March Champions Coffee Morning has been another success and we are busy planning for the next one.

If you have trouble opening this, please contact scotland-engagement@open.ac.uk and Ewe will send you a link to the online version.

Champions Coffee Morning - 11 May

Save the date for our next Champions Coffee Morning event: **11th May 11.00-12.00**. The next topic will be **Registering to study with the OU**. There will be cake again and a guest speaker that we will announce in our next newsletter. Please let us know your dietary requirements during registration.

We hope you'll join us for some peer support and coffee. This is a chance to talk with other champions, to share resources and tips, and to learn more about a topic you're interested in. Bring your own coffee for this informal, online get together.

[To register for the event click here](#)

Neurodiversity Celebration Week, 21–27 March

Neurodiversity Celebration Week is a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences. It aims to transform how neurodivergent individuals are perceived and supported by providing schools, universities, and organisations with the opportunity to recognise the many talents and advantages of being neurodivergent while creating more inclusive and equitable cultures that celebrate differences and empower every individual. The Open University joined the celebration of the week of events and it was fantastic.

Here are some of our free resources related to neurodiversity:

[Understanding autism](#) (badged course, 24 hours, introductory level)

[Neurodiversity: What is it and what does it look like across races?](#) (article)

[Understanding ADHD](#) (badged course, 12 hours, intermediate level)

[Understanding dyslexia](#) (badged course, 20 hours, intermediate level)

[Dyslexia Scotland](#) collection on OpenLearn Create: 3 courses designed for teachers and community educators (3 hours / 10 hours / 20 hours)

To find our more please click here

Young Carers Action Day

**CARERS
TRUST**
SCOTLAND



**Carer Aware
at University**



#CarerAwareUni

16 March was Young Carers Action Day organised by Carers Trust Scotland. It is a day for raising public awareness of young carers and young adult carers, the pressures, and challenges they face, and the incredible contribution they make by caring for their family members and friends. At the Open University in Scotland, we recognise the challenges that carers can face and the ongoing or unexpected circumstances that they may deal with.

[You can learn more about the support that the OU offers to carers here.](#)

You might be interested in our **Carer Aware at University course**. It is a [free online module for staff at all universities in Scotland](#), developed with Carers Trust Scotland to help improve support for student carers.

We also have some free resources on OpenLearn: [Who are young carers and what do they do? \(article\)](#).

Scottish Apprenticeship Week



Scottish Apprenticeship Week shines a light on the vital role apprenticeships play in supporting people, employers, and the economy. The Open University in Scotland offers Graduate Apprenticeships in Software Development and Cyber Security.

[To find out more, click here.](#)

You can also read more about it in the recently published blog on the OU website.

[To read the blog, click here.](#)

International Women's Day and Women's History Month



It's important to celebrate and recognise women, not only on International Women's Day but all year around. This year the theme is #BreakTheBias so we've put together some of our top free resources about women's history and gender equality.

[To find out more click here.](#)

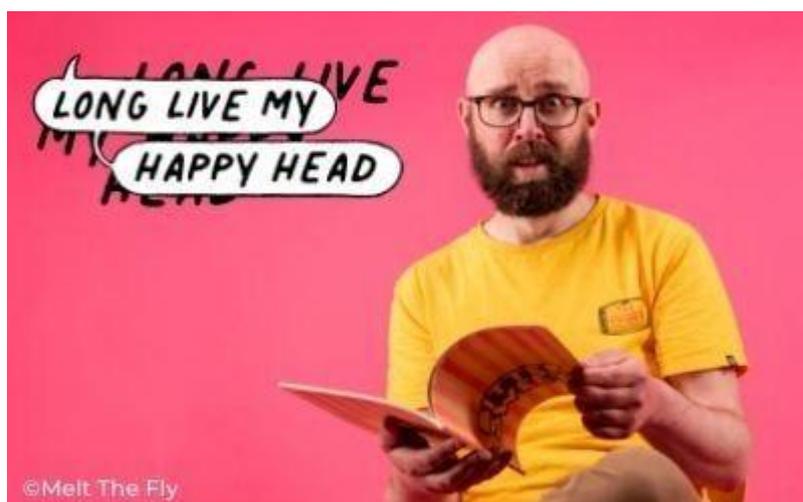
Throughout March, to mark Women's History Month, we celebrated important women for the OU on our social media, including Jennie Lee (pictured) who was the Scottish founder of the OU and who fought for a university open to all, regardless of previous qualifications or circumstances.

[To find out more about our story, click here.](#)

We also celebrated Annie from Aberdeenshire, an OU PhD researcher, who was the first to find a crater on Mercury and named it after the 17th-century Scottish poet & songwriter Lady Carolina Nairne.

[To read Annie's story, please click here.](#)

Long Live Happy Head



What would you do if you were told you had a dramatically life-shortening illness when you were 32 years old? Following its premiere at the British Film Institute's Flare Festival (London LGBTQIA+ Film Festival), *Long Live My Happy Head* is the heart-warming story of Scottish comic artist, Gordon Shaw, who has been living with an incurable brain tumour for nine years.

Diagnosed at the age of just 32, Edinburgh-based Gordon communicates his thoughts and reactions to cancer through his humorous illustrations, having nicknamed his tumour, Rick.

On Sunday (27 March), a new feature length documentary co-produced by the BBC, The Open University (OU) and Melt the Fly productions aired on the BBC Scotland channel and is available to watch on BBC iPlayer.

[To read more about the documentary click here](#)

New OpenLearn resources

Among the latest new additions to the site, have been more new articles added to our ever-expanding [COP26 Hub](#). Covering the economic incentives to decarbonise, and reduction in e-waste, this collection of articles created for the COP26 summit continues to offer fascinating insights into how we can look after the world around us.

World Maths Day took place in March, and the most popular [Succeed with Maths \(part 1\)](#) course was updated in time to be highlighted for that celebration.

We celebrated **St David's Day and St Patrick's Day** – the perfect opportunity to explore the [OpenLearn Wales](#) and [OpenLearn Ireland](#) hubs, and it would be simply rude to exclude [OpenLearn Scotland!](#)

We also celebrated **British Science Week**, with content ranging from astronomy to chemistry and environmental science... and happily there was plenty of crossover between the two themes, thanks to the likes of [Katherine Johnson](#), the renowned NASA mathematician.

You can see popular content on OpenLearn [here](#) and look forward to some upcoming new additions [here](#).

New FutureLearn resources

Explore the many moons of our Solar System. Find out what makes them special and ask whether we send humans to our Moon again. [Moons](#)

Understand how video can expand and enhance your organisation's communications and develop practical skills for your productions. [Low-Budget Video Production: Visual Communication for Small Charities.](#)

Find out about the philosophical fundamentals of phenomenology and how it can be integrated in qualitative research. [Introduction to Phenomenology and its Application in Qualitative Research](#)

Please note: FutureLearn courses are usually free to access but may charge for a certificate and other optional extras.



Open Learning Champions workshops

It may be a while before we can meet face to face but we are able to offer online Open Learning Champions sessions (1.5 hours). If your organisation would like to host one, [please get in touch](#).

Reminder

Remember to follow @OUScotland and @OUfreelearning on Twitter for updates and tweet us using **#OLchamps** if you have anything to share.

You're welcome to share this with your colleagues, learners and networks. If you

[More information on Open Learning Champions workshops here](#)

no longer wish to receive these mailings, you can [unsubscribe here](#) and we'll take you off the mailing list.

Keep well,

Gill and Ewe



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The Open University in Scotland

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