

Lifewide Education Community Newsletter

JUNE 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

Lifewide Education continues to grow steadily and attract new international members. The readership of Lifewide Magazine has substantially increased and now includes readers from over 40 different countries. Our development work this year has focused on the themes of 'wellbeing' and 'learning ecologies' and piloting and developing tools and practices for the lifewide development award. We have contributed to conferences and workshops in the UK, China, Saudi Arabia and Spain. Lifewide Education responded to a call for vision papers by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, Institute for Prospective Technological Studies. Our submission for an EU-wide Lifewide Development Award was deemed one of the winning entries and the Director was invited to contribute to a Foresight Workshop in Seville. Lifewide Education is working collaboratively with Southampton Solent University to try to develop a range of approaches to lifewide education in the curriculum.

1. COMMUNITY & TEAM NEWS

Community Membership: continues to grow steadily and now stands at just over 300 we now include a significant number of overseas members.

Team News: We are delighted that Mona Alkhattabi agreed to become Lifewide Education's champion in Saudi Arabia, and Afifuddin Husairi agreed to be our champion in Malaysia. Building a network of champions in different countries will help spread our ideas, attract new members to our community and help us understand whether LWE is relevant in other educational and cultural settings.

2 LWE DEVELOPMENT WORK

Our development work continues to focus on ideas that have relevance for lifewide learning and education. What we discover is disseminated through our magazine and e-book and feeds into practices that support our lifewide development award.

1. Wellbeing: We identified wellbeing as a theme that we needed to examine. Between March/June 2013 we undertook three surveys of wellbeing, produced an Issue of Lifewide Magazine on the theme of exploring wellbeing and produced two e-book chapters all of which examined the relevance of wellbeing for lifewide learning and related educational practice.

2. Learning Ecologies: To support our bid for funding to the Higher Education Academy in

collaboration with Southampton Solent University, which was formed around the idea of an ecological curriculum, we began examining the idea of learning ecologies. An essay was produced to support two workshops on the theme of learning ecologies (see below) and the August issue of Lifewide Magazine will address this theme.

3. Lifewide Development Award: Team member Yalda Tomlinson continued to pilot the tools and practices for the award experimenting with audio blogs and recorded mentoring conversations.

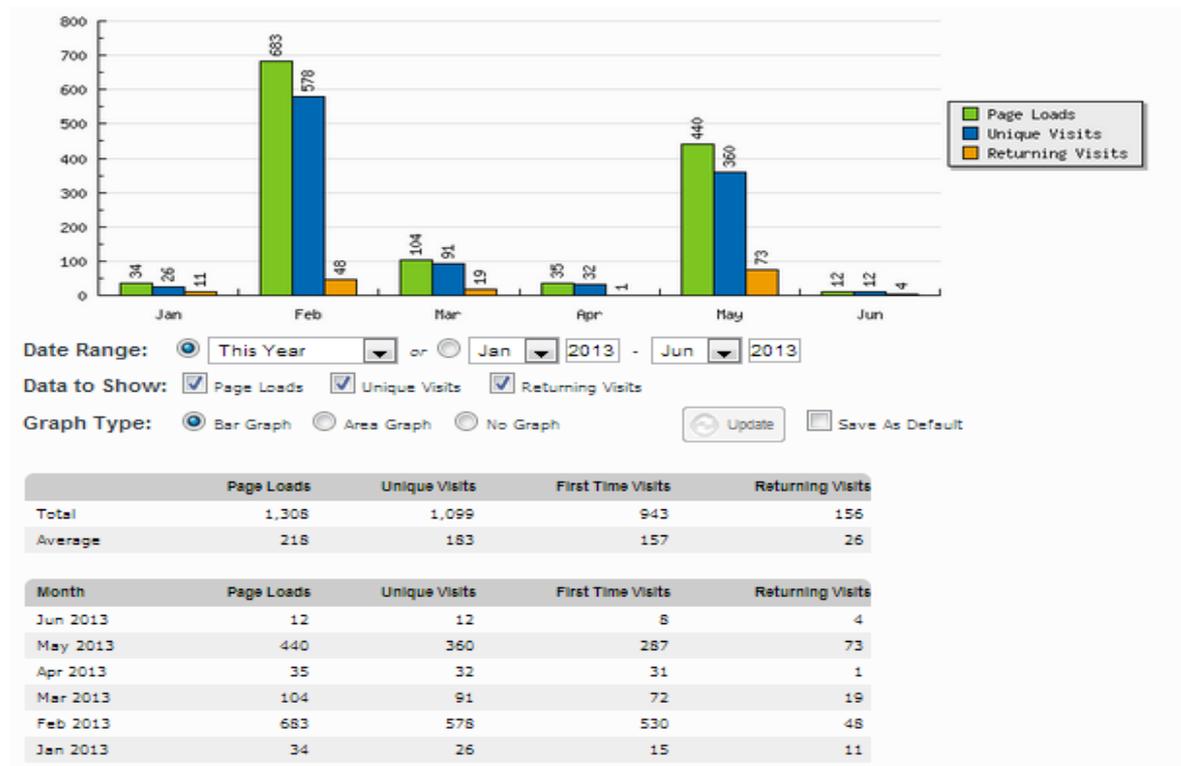
In collaboration with Georgina Andrews and colleagues at Southampton Solent University a bid was made to the Higher Education Academy's Teaching Development Grants Fund to support the introduction of Lifewide Learning at the University. Unfortunately it was not successful. The Southampton Solent team also submitted a bid for funding within the university to support the introduction of the lifewide development award. There is real interest in the university to pilot the award in 2013-14.

3 PUBLICATIONS

Lifewide Magazine 'Exploring Wellbeing'

Jenny Willis assembled, edited and published the sixth second issue of the Magazine (second issue 2013) was published in May and we marketed it through JISC mail lists. Readership statistics were good 440 page loads, 360 unique visits of which 73 were first time visitors.

The chart below shows the spikes for the two issues of the Magazine this year. We have had over 1300 page loads and visitors from 41 different countries. The Magazine is our most important vehicle for disseminating our work and our ideas.



EBOOK

Brian Cooper completed editing and published two chapters of the e-book and a third chapter written by Jenny Willis is being reviewed.

CHAPTER A4 Exploring Subjective Wellbeing and Relationships to Lifewide Education, Learning and Personal Development Norman Jackson

SUMMARY: The concept of wellbeing comprises two main elements: feeling good and functioning well. Feelings of happiness, contentment, enjoyment, curiosity, engagement and fulfillment are characteristic of someone who has a positive experience of their life. Equally important for wellbeing is our functioning in the world and the opportunities we have to be ourselves and become the people we want to become. Experiencing positive relationships, having some control over one's life and having a sense of purpose are all important attributes of wellbeing (Huppert 2008). These are important concerns for lifewide education with its focus on holistic self-directed personal and social development through all the experiences and opportunities an individual's life affords. Drawing on an extensive literature, the chapter examines what wellbeing means, considers key concepts and perspectives drawn from a range of disciplines, and offers a perspective on the relevance of these ideas for lifewide learning and how these ideas might be utilised within an educational process that encourages, supports and recognises individuals lifewide learning and development.

CHAPTER A3 To Each According to Their Needs: thoughts on dealing with emergent learning needs John Cowan

SUMMARY: This chapter concentrates on needs which emerge during learning, the various ways in which they are regarded by the learner concerned, and their constructive resolution. The writer distinguishes between needs which the learner has no difficulty in declaring; needs about which the learner may feel some embarrassment; needs of whose existence the learner is clear, but whose nature they cannot quite specify; and needs of which the learner is unaware, calling for helpful reporting of them by others. He offers suggestions about how to resolve each category of need, and outlines an example of a scheme in which self-managing learners might be assisted to cope with their learning needs as they emerge.

Readership stats are summarised below



Postings made on Lifewide Education website

Report of European Commission Foresight Workshop Seville

An EU-wide Lifewide Development Award

Open Badges for Lifewide Learning and Education

Care as a core capability

Exploring Subjective Wellbeing - implications for lifewide learning and education
Free Education and a Royal (?) College of Teachers

Postings on Linked-in

What Teachers Make ?

A Good School

A Short Story: Questioning the Authority

Class Size or Quality Teachers

Having a Vision

Teachers: Managers or Leaders

A Short Story: Studying Hard

What is the relationship between learning, development and wellbeing?

How much do we know ? How much should we know ?

A Short Story : Let me in

The Bed of Procrustes

A Short Story:Respect and Honour

4. EVENTS : CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS

Lifewide Education Conference. One of our objectives for 2013 was to organise the first LWE conference. Availability of key international speakers has made it impossible to organise an event in 2013 but we have now fixed a date Wednesday 26th March 2014 and a venue Clore Management Centre, Birkbeck, University of London

An initial proposal was put together in March. The proposal was revised several times and finalised in June. The title and theme **LEARNING LIVES CONFERENCE 'Encouraging, Supporting and Recognising 'Lifewide' Learning in Universities** are intended to appeal to people who are responsible for organising, leading and delivering support for extra- and co-curricular skills awards in universities and to promote the ideals of lifewide learning.

A website has been established to market the conference. <http://www.learninglives.co.uk/>

LWE presence in events organised by others: The Director participated in the International Forum of Innovators in University Teaching in Riyadh Saudi Arabia making a number of useful contacts. He also contributed a talk on lifewide learning and education at the 2013 BNU International Workshop on Large-Scale Assessment and Institutional Improvement, Beijing Normal University

In June the Director facilitated workshops on the ecology of lifewide learning at the CRA Recognising Lifewide Learning seminar and at Southampton Solent University.

Jenny Willis participated in the HEAR conference in Leicester and a CRA webinar on Open Badges.

EU Future of Learning: Open Education Foresight Workshop Seville:

In May the Director submitted a paper - An EU-wide Lifewide Development Award to a call for

visionary papers on Open Education put out by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, Institute for Prospective Technological Studies. The Lifewide Development Award. The paper was not only accepted and published but was deemed a winning entry by the organisers so LWE was invited to participate in a Foresight Workshop led by Christine Redecker in Seville at the end of April. The event provided a good opportunity to relate LWE's thinking and activity to ideas emerging through the EU's Future of Learning project and to add our voice to a European vision of future learning that is similar to our own.

World Federation for Mental Health biennial conference, August 2013, Buenos Aires:

As a contribution to the theme "Social Inclusion through Interdisciplinary Interventions", Jenny Willis will be leading a workshop on wellbeing, drawing from Lifewide Education Community research. She will conduct a further survey in order to gather comparative data on possible cultural differences in perceptions. She has written a complementary chapter for a book to be sold in Argentina, drawing attention to the work of LEC.

5. WORKING WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

In the last quarter we have collaborated with the following organisations

- Centre for Recording Achievement
- European Commission's Joint Research Centre, Institute for Prospective Technological Studies
- Southampton Solent University
- Beijing Normal University
- Values Exchange

6. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Bids for Funding

Three members of the core team (all RSA Fellows) made a bid for funding to the RSA Catalyst Fund, to help support a national conference on Lifewide Learning. Unfortunately the bid was not successful.

In collaboration with Georgina Andrews and colleagues at Southampton Solent University a bid was made to the Higher Education Academy's Teaching Development Grants Fund to support the introduction of Lifewide Learning at the University. Unfortunately it was not successful. The Southampton Solent team have also submitted a bid for funding within the university to support the introduction of lifewide development award.

New Values Exchange Website

In order to help an international member with a survey he wanted to undertake into the lifewide learning of students in Malaysia, LWE purchased a Values Exchange website.

<http://lifewide.vxcommunity.com/> The website links LWE to the international community of members of Values Exchange and also provides us with capability to host discussion forums and on-line surveys. We now have the potential to offer on-line surveys as a service with potential to attract revenue.

7. PROGRESS TOWARDS 2013 OBJECTIVES

1 Sustain what we are already doing including:	PROGRESS IN 2013
Production of 4 issues of Lifewide Magazine	2 Issues have been published
Production of at least six chapters of lifewide e book	5 chapters have been published
Maintain the website with regular discussion items	10 items published
Encourage/facilitate discussion in community forum	This in one area that we have not been able to make progress
Maintain LWE presence through social media (Facebook, Linked in, Twitter, RSA Fellowship)	Activity in all of these domains but Linked in remains the most important social networking site in terms of group members and activity
Promote LWE through conferences in the UK and overseas (LWE to participate in at least two international conferences and one UK conference)	The Director was involved in conferences and workshops in the UK, Saudi Arabia, Spain and China. Jenny Willis will speak to an international community in Argentina.
<p>2 Continue to develop and implement the Lifewide Development Award</p> <p>Identify potential organisational partners. Continue to develop the framework and tools to encourage and support lifewide learning and development.</p>	No direct progress with piloting the award but we worked collaboratively with Southampton Solent University to create a bid for HEA funding. Tools and ideas continue to be developed and tested by a LWE volunteer student so we have the ability to demonstrate how they work.
<p>Plan and organise one or more events (seminars, workshops or conferences)</p>	Plans for our first conference in March 2014 now in place. LWE collaborated with the Centre for Recording Achievement who organised a one day seminar/workshop on the theme of recognising lifewide learning.
<p>Engage institutions/organisations/ possibly politicians and their policy advisers</p>	<p>LWE continues to work with colleagues in the Business School at Southampton Solent University.</p> <p>The Director participated in an invited expert workshop in Seville organised by the EU. The event provided a good opportunity to relate LWE's thinking and activity to ideas emerging through the EU's Future of Learning project and to add our voice to a European vision of future learning that is similar to our own</p>
<p>Research & Development - to examine the relevance and potential application of LWL/E to</p> <p>a) identity b) 'wellbeing' and c) 'sustainability' (ecology of learning) d) frameworks for connecting, integrating and reflecting on co- and extra-curricular experiences and development 16-19.</p>	So far this year we have made progress in exploring the ideas of <i>identity</i> (through the winter issue of Lifewide Magazine) and <i>wellbeing</i> (through the spring issue of the Magazine), surveys and two e-book chapters. A further survey will be conducted and chapter for the Argentina conference has been accepted. We have begun to examine the idea of learning ecologies - ecologies for sustainable learning.

Lifewide Education Director 19/06/13