

Notizie in breve

Derek Aust
Torquay

ALL ITALIAN COMMITTEE

Adalgisa Serio and Ernestina Meloni have resigned from the committee because of their current work commitments. The other members of the committee would like to thank Adalgisa and Ernestina for their service and contribution, and we know that they will continue to promote Italian both inside and outside their respective institutions, as they have already done for a number of years. *Grazie mille e buon proseguimento!*

ITALIANO ALLA FIORENTINA

By Janice Brown, Havering Sixth Form College

Dal 18 al 27 ottobre 2007 si è svolto per la decima volta alla 'British' (Institute) di Firenze il corso per insegnanti d'italiano, 'Italiano alla Fiorentina'. Finanziato dal programma Comenius e organizzato dal CILT, questo corso fornisce un'ottima opportunità sia di rinfrescare e approfondire la conoscenza della lingua che d'incontrare altri insegnanti da ogni parte dalla Gran Bretagna e da altri paesi europei. Il personale del British Institute è stato molto attento alle nostre esigenze, e ci ha fornito un programma stimolante e vario. Abbiamo fatto, per esempio, un bel pranzo tipico della regione nelle colline toscane e una visita guidata molto interessante della città storica di Lucca.

Però, lo scopo principale del soggiorno era di sviluppare le nostre competenze sia linguistiche che didattiche. A questo fine, i corsi di lingua ci hanno ispirato usando una gamma di attività e materiali utili nell'insegnamento dell'italiano, e abbiamo lavorato in gruppi nel corso della settimana per produrre una mini-lezione d'italiano su un tema suggerito dal contenuto del corso. Abbiamo anche avuto l'opportunità di passare una mattina in una scuola o un liceo o istituto fiorentino, a scelta, per osservare in prima persona il funzionamento del sistema scolastico italiano.

Ma soprattutto questo corso ci ha offerto le possibilità di fare nel giro di dieci giorni l'essenziale 'bagno linguistico' d'italiano, di giorno con i colleghi e di sera con gli ospiti italiani, e, d'importanza uguale per tutti noi insegnanti d'italiano dispersi nella Gran Bretagna, di fare contatti e

scambiare idee. Senza dimenticare, inoltre, che lo sfondo di questo incontro istruttivo e interessante è la bellissima città rinascimentale di Firenze.

Quindi consiglio a tutti quelli che non hanno ancora sfruttato questa opportunità splendida di farlo in un prossimo futuro; ma spero che fra due anni ci sia posto di nuovo anche per me.

THE NORTH-EAST CONFERENCE

By Claire Dodd, Gosforth High School

On 6 December 2007 we were very fortunate to be able to hold the first Italian Day in the North-East at Gosforth High School in Newcastle. This event was kindly supported by the Ministero degli Affari Esteri (MAE). The participants came from local areas as well as other parts of the country.

The focus of the day was on interesting classroom practice, with an emphasis on the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. The programme content was relevant to a wide range of learners of all ages, to teachers in schools as well as AE and FE tutors.

As the conference approached, a number of unfortunate circumstances led to the withdrawal of some popular guest speakers. However, not wishing to cancel and therefore miss the opportunity to put on such an event, we were determined to go ahead with a changed programme. As host teacher, I felt that because we were holding the event in a school it would be an opportune occasion to invite pupils to offer some input during the course of the day. Thus a group of Middle School pupils put on a play, *Cappuccetto Rosso (con una pizza per la nonna!)*, and a group of Year 9 pupils performed a song with realia from the soon-to-be-published 'Italiano, Italiano' resource pack. This pack, produced by Carole Nicholl for The Language Factory, includes raps and other songs written by me and Judith Pascale. The audience, of course, found that they were expected to join in the singing!

Jean Itier (Gosforth High School) gave a very insightful, enthusiastic, non-specialist's perspective on teaching Italian using authentic resources. He explained and

described how his week in Florence following the 'Italiano alla Fiorentina' course at the British Institute (see above, and course information on the CILT website) had enabled him to make great progress in Italian and to collect masses of teaching materials and ideas for practical use in his teaching. One of the songs he brought back proved to be highly popular when participants were asked to do a gap-fill activity with a difference!

Kathy Wicksteed (ALL) presented a session entitled 'Lively Listening: some ideas to vary listening activities'. This proved a great success, and we all came away with ideas on how to tackle this very difficult skill area. Three teachers subsequently tried out some of the activities with very good results during the following week.

Steven Fawkes (ALL) delivered a very interesting session on 'Engaging the four skills through resources and approaches', providing us with valuable information about free on-line reference materials. He encouraged us to consider how teachers can use them effectively along with ways to promote interaction between learners. His talk is reproduced in this issue of *Tuttitalia* (pp.).

Nigel Vaughan, Director of World Languages North-East (Interactive Language Learning), delivered a hands-on session on 'EuroTalk Italian' (available at three levels: Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced), which participants felt to be a very useful resource.

The day concluded with a general update by Steven and Kathy on Foreign Language developments in England, which generated a discussion on relevant issues for Italian.

The AQA board kindly sent past papers and information about their Italian examinations, all of which were well received and appreciated, and Italian-style refreshments were kindly provided by some very keen Italianophile cooks from the school kitchen!

All in all (forgive the pun!) the day proved very successful despite the initial problems. Look out for details of next year's North-East *Tuttitalia* day, in December 2008, which will appear on the ALL website (www.all-languages.org.uk) under 'Events' and in your ALLnet message. If you wish to subscribe to ALLnet please send an email to info@all-languages.org.uk with the message 'Subscribe to ALLnet'.

A CONFERENCE ON THE TEACHING OF ITALIAN

By Derek Aust

On 5 December 2007 I was one of more than 100 delegates who attended the conference in London on the teaching of Italian, organised by The British Council in association

with the Italian Embassy. The organisers were overwhelmed by the response from teachers representing all sectors of the education spectrum, from primary to university. Given recent developments, it was particularly encouraging to see a good number of primary school teachers on the list.

The delegates were welcomed by Olga Stanojlovic, Director Schools in Education, British Council, who then handed over to Ministro Giovanni Brauzzi of the Italian Embassy. The Minister referred to the rationale behind the financial support of the Italian government for Italian in the UK, which was to sustain the language and cultural roots of the many thousands of Italians resident here – 150,000 was the figure mentioned! He provided other data to illustrate the extent of the human resources, e.g. Italian consulate teachers, and the funding made available to promote the teaching of Italian language and culture. The Minister acknowledged that the figures he provided for those studying or taking exams in Italian did not represent the overall picture. He was only presenting data held by the Embassy. To complete the picture of those taking exams in Italian one would have to have the figures from the various examination boards. It is difficult to find out the names of all the schools in the UK where Italian is taught, which would be invaluable to those involved in publicising and organising Italian events, and this point was raised during the course of the conference. In conclusion the Minister referred to the private project for the establishment of an Italian primary school in London.

Dr Lid King, National Director for Languages at the Department for Children, Schools and Families, spoke about the exciting times for languages in this country and Europe. One common theme was for the development of early language learning, and he mentioned the course in Lombardy for the training of primary school teachers. He went on to say that a number of important things have come out of the language review, amongst others the need for more language learning in schools post-14 and also in primary schools. If I understood correctly, he said that over 70% of primary schools are teaching a language, although mainly French and Spanish at this stage.

The last speaker to come under the 'official welcome' umbrella was Kate Green, Project Director of The Languages Ladder, and also at the DCSF. Most teachers are probably aware of the Asset Languages Scheme and the Languages Ladder. It is built on a 'can-do' accreditation scheme for all four language skills. Italian was one of the original languages on offer and Italian advanced – equivalent to A2 – is available this year. The Asset Languages Scheme is certainly building up a head of steam, and a ladder extension might soon be required, as almost 190 centres have already registered for it. Italian is on the increase, something to be considered by those

seeking an alternative form of accreditation. Those unfamiliar with the scheme and interested in finding out more should email: assetlanguages@ocr.org.uk or give them a ring on 01223 553998 and ask for their booklet entitled *There's a real Buzz about Asset languages*. The booklet acts as a hive of positive comments (I am sure that you too will be stung into action by the bees on the front cover) from those who have experienced this scheme, and on the back cover is a step-by-step guide on how to get started together with a useful list of relevant websites you can visit.

The main programme at the conference comprised three workshops, each of which was subdivided into three sessions:

Workshop 1: Bringing Italian into the classroom

- Session A: Italian in the secondary school – working with a partner school
 Session B: Italian in the secondary school – Language College case study
 Session C: Italian in the primary school – working with Italy in a Comenius project

Workshop 2: Language Learning

- Session D: Resources for teaching Italian from the Italian Consulate
 Session E: Using language assistants
 Session F: Teaching Italian in a primary school

Workshop 3: Professional Development –What can we learn from Italy?

- Session G: Teaching of infants – ideas from the Emilia-Romagna
 Session H: Foreign language teaching in Italy
 Session I: Teachers' International Professional Development

In session A Cathy McLaughlin, formerly of Cheney School, Oxford informed us of the exchange she has run with a school in Sicily since 2003. She took us through all the various stages of the process and, although she pointed to some of the pitfalls, she was in no doubt about the rewards and advantages that can be gained from taking part in a well organised exchange – the linguistic progress made by the participants, the motivational factor, cultural understanding, personal development of the students and the professional development of the staff, enduring friendships, new opportunities.

Session D was presented by Paola Dri on behalf of the Education Department of the Italian Consulate. The list she gave of websites useful in teaching Italian was extensive, and I am appending it below as a separate section. *Buon divertimento!*

Session G was given by Anne Comerford of the University of Kent. It was a lively, enthusiastic presentation of Nursery Education in the region of Emilia-Romagna and it was based on her own experience of visiting four schools, one in the centre of Bologna, two in Modena and one about 20km outside Bologna. These schools provide education from the age of three up to the start of primary school at the age of six. Anne spoke of the way the programme is set up, the involvement of the parents at all stages, the way in which the programme operates and her own very positive observations about the whole process.

In the pack of material to take home was a DVD entitled *Italia – Opera Unica*. This is what is written about it: *Un'opera unica con venti protagonisti: è l'Italia con le sue venti Regioni, piccoli e grandi scrigni capaci di custodire tesori diversi ma ugualmente preziosi. Tante tessere di un unico meraviglioso mosaico: l'Italia, bella come un film*. It looks as if it would be a good teaching and learning resource. It runs for 120 minutes and is available in omaggio (it was to the delegates anyway!) from ENIT – Agenzia Nazionale del Turismo – www.enit.it

WEBSITE RESOURCES

Paola Dri grouped these resources under four headings: Italian for Italians (authentic resources); Italian for immigrants (Italian as a second language); Italian as a foreign language; and Italian for schools in the UK.

Italian for Italians

For children:

- www.bambini.it (comprehensive categorised directory of websites featuring hundreds of searchable links).
www.provvbo.scuole.bo.it/ele (user-friendly educational software and learning materials from Bologna).
www.didattica.org
www.ivana.it
www.scuoladibase.it
www.softwaredidatticofree.it
www.fabbriscuola.it/hyfabri/alfabetiere/index.htm
www.fabbriscuola.it/scuola_primaria/percorsi_interattivi.html
www.filastrocche.it (Italian nursery rhymes and songs for children)m
www.logoslibrary.eu (multilingual library – also audio books)
www.logosdictionary.org (children's multilingual dictionary)
www.enchantedlearning.com/languages/italian/Aisfor.shtml (English–Italian picture dictionary)
www.pdictionary.com/italian/ (internet picture dictionary)
www.igiochidielio.it
www.infantiae.org/giocoindex310.asp
www.lannaronca.it

www.ufottoleprotto.com
www.markes.it/hymark/carte_mute/files/home.htm
(mute maps)
www.romaculta.it/it/roma_per_bambini.html#11
(pictures of Rome for children)
www.viaggiainpara.trenitalia.com/elementari/puzzle.html
(games for children on Italian regions)

For secondary students:

www.romazzini.it/free.php
www.dienneti.it/software/softteca/scuola_media.htm
www.dienneti.it/software/softteca/scuola_superiore.htm

For adults:

www.ladante.it (website of the 'Società Dante Alighieri' for the promotion of Italian worldwide)
www.accademiadellacrusca.it (website of the 'Accademia della Crusca' for the history of the Italian language)

Dictionaries:

www.educational.rai.it/lemma/
www.dizionari.corriere.it/dizionario_italiano.shtml
www.dizionari.repubblica.it/
www.demauroparavia.it/
<http://parole.alice.it/parole/>

Search engines for newspapers, magazines, radio and TV:

www.ipse.com/
www.ipse.com/quotit.html
www.ipse.com/tv.html
www.romanoonline.it/news/riviste/riviste.asp
www.segnalidivita.com/motoridiricerca/index.htm
www.segnalidivita.com/radioitaliane/index.htm
www.hlrnet.com/italiano.htm
www.mediatime.net/edicola/periodici.htm

On-line libraries:

www.aib.it/aib/lis/opac1.htm
www.liberliber.it/home/index.php
www.segnalidivita.com/la_divina_commedia/index.htm

Tourism, weather forecast, curiosities:

www.italia.it/wps/portal/it
www.eurometeo.com/italian/webcam
www.guide.dada.net/italiano/alla_scoperta_dell_italia/

Film trailers, sound tracks, film reviews:

www.attori.com/dizione/Diz00.htm (Italian phonetics)
www.library.thinkquest.org/28490/data/italiano/index_i.htm (website on Neo-realism)
www.filmup.leonardo.it/trailers
www.mymovies.it/trailers

Recipe videos and TV advertisements:

www.barilla.it
www.cirio.it
www.aranciatasanpellegrino.it

Italian for immigrants

www.zanichelli.it/benvenuti/index.html (a presentation of the Italian school system)

www.iprase.g-floriani.it/italiano/index.htm
www.ild.rai.it/
(resources for Italian as a second language by RAI Educational)

www.centrocome.it
www.comune.bologna.it/istruzione/cd-lei/materiali.php
www.italianol2.info/
www.racine.ra.it/casadelleculture/kit_accoglienza/kit-accoglienza.htm
(multilingual presentations and resources from local authorities services for immigrants)

www.strarete.it/
www.italianoperlostudio.it/ita/default.asp
www.venus.unive.it/aliasve/index.php?name=EZCMS&page_id=298
(categorised directories of websites with simplified texts for learning different subjects)

www.bdp.it/eda/biblioteca/ali.php
'ALI per imparare' – teaching modules.

Italian as a foreign language

www.linguanet-europa.org/plus/it/home.jsp (language skills assessment)

Courses, lessons, grammar, exercises:

www.academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/modlang/carasi/site/pageone.html
www.italica.rai.it/lingua/corso.htm
www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/index.shtml
www.web.uvic.ca/hispanital/italian/italian100/vocab/index.htm
www.italicon.it/corsilingua/prindemo/corso/unita07/index.htm
www.webs.racocatala.cat/llengua/it/index.html
www.puntolingua.it/esercizi_intro_ita.asp
www.impariamo.com/forum/viewforum.php?f=8
www.chass.utoronto.ca/~ngargano/
www.locuta.com/classroom.html
www.marco delisi.com/testi/insegno.htm
www.icp.ge.ch/sis/lingua/giochi
www.venus.unive.it/italslab/quattropassi/uno.htm
www.scudit.net/mdindice.htm
www.uvm.edu/~cmazzoni/3grammatica/grammatica
(Italian grammar)



www.verbix.com/languages/italian.shtml (verb conjugator)
www.perso.univ-lyon2.fr/~consonni (TV programmes with related lesson plans)
www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/italian/italian.htm (free resources for language teachers and students from the State of Victoria, Australia)
www.dueparole.it (a simplified magazine, useful for people who are in the early stages of learning Italian as a second or foreign language)

Directories of useful websites:

www.fas.harvard.edu/~rll/resources/italian/students
www.dienneti.it/risorse/italiano/stranieri.htm

European Projects with pages on Italy and Italian culture:

www.elancenet.org/tasteof.php
www.euro-languages.net/italy

For teachers:

www.insegnoitaliano.indire.it/cosa_trovate.php
 (teaching resources for Italian institutions abroad on the website of The National Agency for Schools)
www.2000milia.it/
www.venus.unive.it/insegnare_italiano/ (resources from University Ca' Foscari)
www.initonline.it (magazine for teachers of Italian as a FL- Edizioni Guerra)
www.lend.it/rivista.asp (website of LEND, Association of FL teachers)

Italian for schools in the UK

Italian – Entry Level

CD produced by Cambridgeshire County Council as part of a TEACL project (Technology to Enhance Adult and Community Learning). The project was funded by the Learning and Skills Council and managed by NIACE (National Institute of Adult and Continuing Education).

Proprietary software made available free of charge.

Resources produced, collected and made available by Italian teachers working for our Education Department CDs for Primary and Secondary schools available on request.

www.it.groups.yahoo.com/group/londrabadford/