

COURSE AND CONTACT DETAILS

Accommodation is with **host families**, who provide all meals, including packed lunch on course and departure days, and, where needed, transport to and from the centre each day. The course is greatly enhanced by the quality of our host families, who offer warm hospitality to guests and in the evening for relaxed conversation, maybe with a teacher from another country who is also on the course. It is an excellent opportunity to spend time communicating in English naturally - something that most teachers don't often get time for!

Application for any course can be made by letter or e-mail at any time to the address below. Once you have confirmed your ability to take part, we will send all details regarding payments, and an information sheet, which we will ask you to complete and return to us. This helps with the planning of the course, travel plans and placement with an appropriate host family. A 10% deposit is all that is required to book a place. We also have a DVD for you on request.

Travel to and from England is the individual's responsibility and is not included in the price, though advice can be given. SOL will organise all travel to Devon for **morning** arrivals in London on **July 8th, 22nd or Aug 15th**. Heathrow Terminal 5 is the meeting point, which is accessible from all London airports. Transport to Devon is included in the price plus all travel within the programme. At the end of the course, all will be taken to Heathrow and London Victoria by noon. Those with later flights will be able to have a short sightseeing in London.

This course is run by trainers who have current and considerable experience of both teaching and teacher training especially in central Europe, so you can be sure the whole course will be relevant to your needs. Each one is an intensive but very enjoyable course offering teachers of English a unique combination of new interactive classroom strategies, improved confidence in speaking English and a varied and well planned cultural experience. Our summer 2011 courses saw participants from twelve different European countries as well as Morocco!

The Daily Programme runs from 08.30 to 18.00 with normally at least an hour for lunch, Monday to Saturday. Sunday is a day with the family. Most of the time will be with the tutors but guided visits to local places of interest and a fieldwork approach will give added value to these. Time for discussion and independence plus social time in the evening when you are not with families won't be forgotten. For shopping, SOL is situated right next to the town centre!

Prices are set to only cover our costs. SOL has a policy not to make a profit out of teachers, because we know how under-paid you are! The second course is one day longer than the first.

COURSE A COSTS £465 PER PARTICIPANT AND IS 11 DAYS LONG FROM JULY 8TH TO 18TH

COURSE B COSTS £495 PER PARTICIPANT AND IS 12 DAYS LONG FROM JULY 22ND TO AUG 2ND

COURSE C COSTS £440 PER PARTICIPANT AND IS 11 DAYS LONG FROM AUG 15TH TO 25TH

For those with a Comenius, Erasmus or Gruntvig grant, a 14 day course July 8th to 21st is applicable. €990

Full Contact Details: SOL, 2 Bridge Chambers, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 1HB, UK
Tel: 00 44 1271 327319 E-mail: sol@sol.org.uk Web: www.sol.org.uk



Sharing One Language

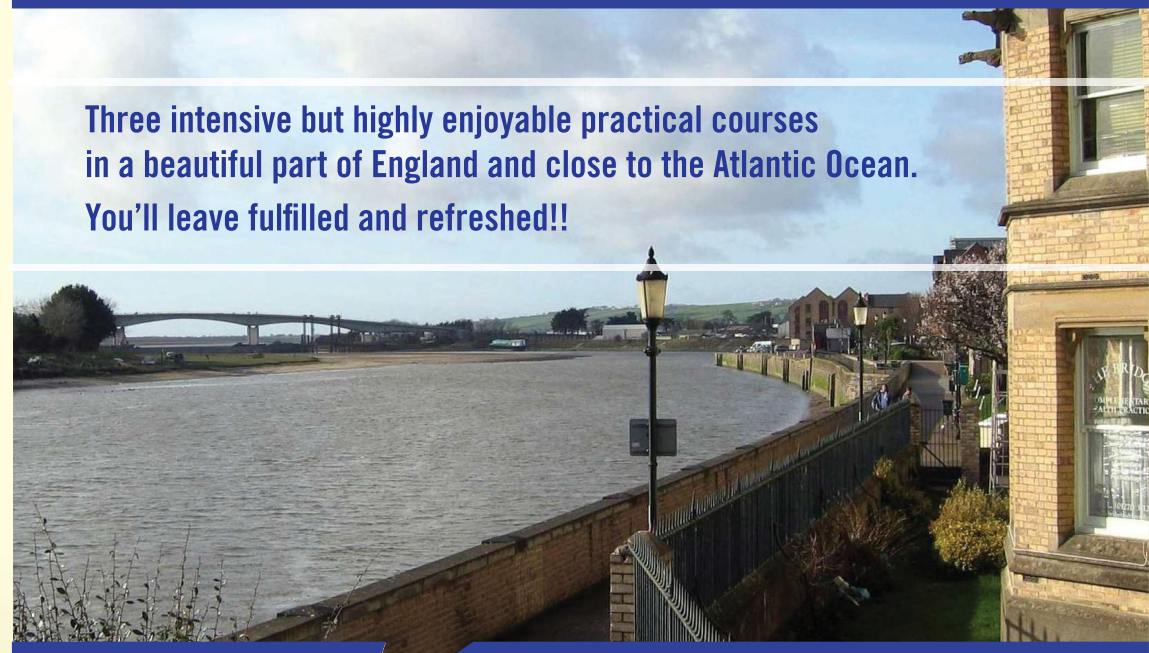
July / Aug 2012

**SPECIAL IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES
FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH**

in

BARNSTAPLE, DEVON, ENGLAND

**Three intensive but highly enjoyable practical courses
in a beautiful part of England and close to the Atlantic Ocean.
You'll leave fulfilled and refreshed!!**



ABOUT SOL

Since 1991 SOL has been supporting the teaching and learning of English in the countries of Eastern and Central Europe.

More than 38,000 students, plus their accompanying teachers have attended our short but intensive cultural and language experiences which are highly practical and are aimed at giving students a lot more confidence in using English in everyday situations.

We operate in three centres in Devon, all quite small market towns with populations less than 30,000, but full of friendly people. Our main Centre is in Barnstaple, the 'capital' of North Devon and just 12km from the Atlantic Ocean and this centre operates all year round. We also have centres in Bideford, also in the north of the county and Tiverton, nearer the centre.

More than 1,250 teachers have attended our special highly practical in-service courses designed to introduce them to the life and culture in Britain as well as develop language knowledge and confidence and to introduce fresh ideas for teaching and classroom management.

In addition an important part of SOL's work has been to recruit good native speaker teachers to teach in State schools in the countries of Eastern and Central Europe. Currently 16 such teachers are in post but in the past this has been as high as 70. This way many more students, who couldn't afford to visit the UK, as well as their teachers, have benefited from our work.

Grenville Yeo
[Executive Director]



MARK ANDREWS

Mark has been working on integrating language and culture in the language classroom for many years. From 1989 he was part of the highly admired team of British Council Advisers working in Czechoslovakia and then The Czech Republic. He now teaches courses at Eötvös Loránd University Budapest on integrating language and culture and intercultural learning in general and is a frequent tutor on teacher-training workshops and at ELT conferences around the region of central, southern and eastern Europe. Mark will be tutoring on all three courses

COMMENTS AND PICTURES FROM 2011 COURSES

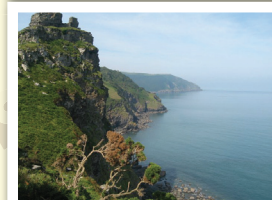
Comments:



"This is indeed a unique type of course. Being immersed in a culture as we were was very useful and inspiring. I had a most wonderful time and have learnt how to improve my teaching, not to mention the blossoming of my English. I can definitely identify with our teachers' principles, think on your feet and use a lot of different media, the lived experience, anything you can think of and arrange it in all sorts of interesting ways. Add some music and smile. I think we are all kind of kindred souls or else we wouldn't be here" **Lana from Croatia**



I enjoyed this course a lot; I had the best time ever. I was able to speak to my colleagues and get an insight into their experiences of teaching English. I saw all those places I would probably never visit as a tourist. I learned how to do fieldwork, enjoyed folk songs, social evenings and karaoke in English. It was a most memorable experience. **Ana from Croatia**



I enjoyed interviewing the lifeguards the most. They gave us lots of information about Baggy Point, what it took to become a lifeguard, the responsibility of their job and why they like it.

What I valued most about being in North Devon were the people, the countryside, the behaviour of local people, people's willingness to help, cute and small houses, charity issues, the smiles on people's faces and a feeling of citizenship all around. **Saňa from Slovakia**



This was a very enjoyable course, different from the ones I have attended before. It was very practical (doing fieldwork). I have gained a lot of interesting materials I can use in class with my students and have gained a good insight into British culture. We have scratched the surface and started digging. **Martina from Slovenia**



This has been the most pleasant course or training I've ever participated in! I will miss the people in charge of the SOL course as well as my fellow colleagues so much! **Daniela from the Czech Republic**

The course was a like a sea storm which activated a lot of dormant language **Mounir from Morocco**



I enjoyed the session on technology in the classroom a lot and can see the importance of recording/blogs/the use of mobile phones and digital literacy in general. **Edina from Hungary**

My host family were amazing people. We went to a car boot sale, the Atlantic coast at Hartland Point, Saunton Sands and had a barbecue on the beach. Nothing was too difficult for them and they truly enjoy life meeting new people and going to places. They are generous caring and have a great sense of humour. Perhaps they could be voted best host family! **Tamara from Serbia**

COURSE C

Course C: “Devon Unplugged”.

August 15th to 25th

“Success depends less on materials, techniques and linguistic analyses, and more on what goes on inside and between people in the classroom” Earl Stevick

Would you like to get to know Britain better through going to a beautiful part of the country by the sea, a place where you will have many opportunities to use your English and listen to English spoken by a wide range of people in the local community?

Would you like to get to know North Devon in an unplugged, materials-light, conversation-driven way?

Would you also like to take part in an experience which leaves plenty of space for teachers’ own decision-making regarding both the content and the process of the course?

This completely new SOL course is based on a methodology which values spontaneity, thinking on one’s feet and learner contributions. We will model a way of working that can be applied in many teaching situations and which is based on topics and language that emerge on the course.

Project work will be negotiated with the teachers and much of the course will involve interaction with local people. The classroom will be a place where we explore an unplugged approach, work with what participants have discovered while out and about in North Devon and discuss how this way of working might be integrated into teachers’ own classroom contexts.

The sea, lifeboats, lifeguards, surfing, beach life and holidays are key aspects of life in North Devon and an exploration of how these elements of North Devon are interconnected might be one area teachers concentrate on.

Both Luke Meddings and Mark Andrews have worked with teachers in Devon and are keen to break new ground on a course which values a “less is more” approach, breaks down the barriers between ‘inside’ and ‘outside’ the classroom, promotes choice and encourages teachers to help their learners to take more responsibility for their learning.

“The language I learn in the classroom is a communal product derived through a jointly constructed process” Michael Breen

ABOUT OUR TUTORS



UWE POHL

Uwe works as a teacher trainer at the Department of English Language Pedagogy, in Budapest, where he is currently head of department. For a number of years, he has also been involved in the design and implementation of in-service projects for teachers/teacher trainers in Hungary, Germany, Austria and Ethiopia. His professional interests and specialisms include the theory and practice of intercultural learning, classroom research, language awareness and trainer training and he has written much on this. Uwe will be tutoring on the first course programme.



SIMON PARKER

Simon was Head of School for Adult General Education at Runshaw College in Lancashire, where he developed his interest in teaching foreign languages and professional development. In 2003 he took up his first teaching post in Romania, in Bucureşti. He has also taught in Transylvania and worked with the Brasov County English Inspector developing staff development programmes. He is the author of the 'Teaching Today' staff training course. Currently he is based in Bucureşti and is in charge of the training programme for a massive new EU programme of teacher development in Romania. Simon will be leading the second course programme.



LUKE MEDDINGS

Luke has been working as a teacher, writer and teacher trainer in ELT for over 20 years. After training and teaching in London he worked as Deputy Editor on the EL Gazette, before leaving to manage an experimental language school. He was a co-founder with Scott Thornbury of the dogme ELT movement, and wrote a monthly ELT column for the Guardian online. His first book, Teaching Unplugged, co-written with Scott Thornbury, was published by Delta in 2009 and won a British Council ELTon award for Innovation in 2010. He now writes and trains on unplugged approaches. Luke will be tutoring on the third course programme.



TIM BROWINGS

Tim will be your guide on all visits in and around North Devon, even if it rains (though we hope it won't)! He has been with SOL since it started and no one has more knowledge or is more appreciated by visitors than Tim! A truly outstanding member of the team!

COURSE A : "AUTHENTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE".

July 8th to 18th

Do you feel you'd like to get to know Britain better through going to a beautiful part of the country by the sea and to a place where you will have many opportunities to use your English and listen to English spoken by a wide range of people in the local community?

Would you like to take part in a course which focuses on finding out about the language and exploring the country in deeper ways through engaging more actively with people in Britain instead of being just a tourist?

This exciting new course is designed to meet current needs and interests of Eastern and Central European English teachers. Firstly, it should help you to improve your own speaking skills, giving you more confidence in using your own English. Secondly, it will involve you in a comparative approach to exploring modern British culture and equip you with the tools to do the same with your own students in a safe environment and with tutors who will give you support and encouragement to do this.

Hopefully, by the end of the course, you will be more at ease with speaking to people in Britain and be more familiar with the values, beliefs and attitudes which underlie what people say to you. You should also be able to identify and understand better the differences and similarities between life in modern Britain and your own country. You will also have collected many materials, some of which we will work with on the course to develop into tasks which you might do with your students back home.

- Trainers will teach all topics interactively.
- 'Fieldwork' visits to local towns and the Atlantic coast are an integral part of the course, forming the basis for a range of project linked classroom activities.
- Homework tasks will be set to encourage you to discuss contemporary language and cultural issues with your host families.
- There will be opportunities to discuss British life with visitors from the local community. This, in the past, has included the local Member of Parliament, a fashion designer, a property letting agent, life guards on the beach, a Green candidate in the general election, a local primary school teacher and the manager of the Grand Hotel, Torquay, where Agatha Christie spent her honeymoon.

There is a 14 day un-subsidised parallel course running from July 8th to 21st. However this is eligible for EU grants, such as Comenius, Erasmus and Gruntvig.

Course B: "The Reflective English Teacher".

July 22nd to August 2nd

Hearing about new teaching ideas at conferences and in books and journals is one thing – applying to your own teaching is quite another! This is the ideal course for teachers determined to bridge the gap between theory and practice and improve their classroom teaching. Taking a strong 'evidence based' approach to professional development, the course will allow participants to experiment with new teaching strategies that they can use immediately when they return to their home countries. The course will naturally make full use of SOL's location in South West England to help develop participant's awareness of contemporary British language and culture.

By the end of the course participants will be able to use a focused range of interactive teaching strategies.

These will include:

- Drama and dialogue activities
- Preparing students to deliver formal presentations
- Use of images in the classroom
- Five minute activities
- Creative writing tasks
- Use of music and song lyrics
- Formative assessment strategies (Assessment For Learning)

Delivery

- Trainers will both demonstrate new strategies and, explain why they are effective in the classroom
- Where appropriate, links will be made with preparing students for specific exams commonly taken in Central and Eastern Europe
- The trainers will often differentiate to meet the needs of teachers teaching young learners, teenagers and adults at all ability levels.
- Throughout the course participants will be encouraged to reflect on their own classroom practice and critically evaluate new strategies, often through discussions with other participants on the course
- Participants will have opportunity to try these activities out in lesson planning and micro-teach activities