

## REPORT OF THE GRUNDTVIG OPT-in EXCHANGE MEETING IN MILTON KEYNES, ENGLAND (17<sup>TH</sup> June 2011)

### Morning session



The meeting began with partners from Scotland and the Netherlands arriving at the Open University's Berrill Café to be greeted by partners from England. After coffees and hellos everyone headed round to the Music Computing Lab where Simon Holland introduced the workshop sessions available for learners to choose from. There were three different streams of indoor activity, and one outdoor activity.



In the Music Research Studio, there were energetic games using the Microsoft Kinect and a large display screen.



In the Relaxation Area, Sam Leicester demonstrated two memory augmentation devices, the Looxcie, and the Senscam, which use wireless video and camera technology.



Upstairs in the Music Computing Lab, a mixed team including older learners and younger volunteers worked together to perform various popular songs and to make up music of their own using a collaborative whole-body interaction technology developed at the Lab, called Song Walker.

Outdoors, there was a treasure trail using iPhones to follow clues and locate 'treasure'. This started well enough, but the technology could not keep up with the pace of discovery, and then it started to rain heavily – so this activity became a bracing walk around the green OU campus instead.



### Afternoon session

After a buffet lunch at the Open University, the worker partners held a video conference meeting with partners in Germany, to discuss how the project had gone generally, the final report of the project, and potential further work together.

Meanwhile the older learners headed over by minibus to Peartree Bridge, the headquarters of AgeUK Milton Keynes. Here the English older learners hosted an afternoon cream tea, and Jane Palmer and Stewart Jones talked about the work of AgeUK.



### Evening

The evening's social events started with a brief visit to a traditional English pub in the village of Olney, just north of Milton Keynes.



Then we all went for dinner at the Olney Wine Bar. This was our final international cultural exchange of the Opt-in project, so there were thanks and presents – followed by dancing to the disco!



The next morning, partners and learners from Utrecht also managed to slip in a bit of shopping at The Centre, Milton Keynes, before heading home.



Thanks to Pim van den Toorn, Utrecht, and Peter Holland, Milton Keynes, for the photographs of this exchange.