

Ian

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To: info
Subject: From Rona Membury[Scanned]

Culture has always seemed to be elitist

The book festivals are great at bringing in names and setting up courses for the non-elite to pay for. I do not see much of this translated to the wider public.

In school a child, very imaginative is told to write a story and given the characters name, its pets name, the scenario, the outcome...obviously the child bores easily and gets a mind block. Another child has the additions she has put on a picture for art, taken off because the teacher did not like it.

I see art and writings in special needs places, adult as well as children and despair at it never being seen as real art, real story writing but therapy.

I would like to see people showing "their " culture and in all its forms, not thrown out because the spellings wrong- you can edit without having to rewrite.

Art and culture should be everywhere and those who do not access it in the usual way should be buddied or encouraged.

In schools the prescription drawings and writings should make way for real self expression, teach the methods not how to potray, show the tools, do not make the first mark yourself. There are opportunities to back the young and those with needs by backing community displays, bringing back the fayres in schools where they can make celebratory goods and sell them to the local community instead of the usual buy and throw culture we have gained from stores, help train and develop adults with needs whether they be in centres or at home to make, display, inform, sell. Many councils spend thousands on corporate logos to accompany their many discssions...they could show their local centres some belief to be creative and give back rather than see them as a burden to throw grudged funds at.

I would also like recognition for all the cultures within scotland not just the central belt. Caithness has a wealth of writers, artists, crafts, as well as its own identity but it feels as if you come from places like this you are only a token because to be believed you have to move south. There are also many races, 40 languages spoken in the Highlands, so we are diverse and the usual sums sent up here do not take this into account thus funds have to have a common goal and knock out the different thus growing the elitism.