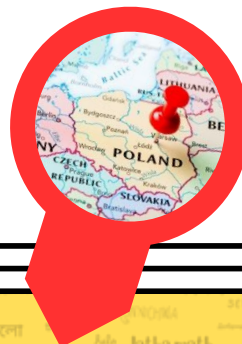




Anna

ANNA BUKALSKA

Anna is originally from Poland and moved to Aberdeen over twenty years ago. She is a regular volunteer at the Polish Association Aberdeen which provides social and cultural support for the Polish community, including language provision and a permanent Polish library.



Polish is my first language, and English is my second. I also speak a little bit of Russian. I have decided to speak Polish at home so that my son could continue to communicate in both languages. I know families who chose not to speak their first language at home, and as a result, their children lost the ability to speak more than one language. I think this is a mistake and can be a bit difficult when children want to maintain a relationship with non-English-speaking relatives.

Coming here with almost no language skills was very difficult for me. Because I knew I would be staying in Aberdeen and that it wasn't just a temporary decision, I understood I had to challenge myself. It was hard, and on top of that, the Aberdeen dialect made it even more of an effort.



I never lost my identity. I am proud of who I am, I am Polish. I love Scotland, Scotland is my home now, but my heritage and the language we always kept at home [was] Polish, even with our son. And thanks to that, he's bilingual [...] and he can switch from one to another whenever he wants.



I dream in Polish and in English. When I had the first dream in full in English language – I was like, ‘wow, that was an experience’. It was like watching a movie... And I was one of speakers and I spoke in English.



Aberlans
A CITY OF LANGUAGES

UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN
OILTHIGH OBAR DHEATHAIN

