



Aoife McCormack County Adult Literacy Organiser

Another busy term flies by! This newsletter gives us all time to reflect on the past number of weeks. It was great to see all of you and your learners back in September with the usual enthusiasm and drive. There is a great buzz around any of the centres I have visited and great pride in the work that is taking place.

This term saw many changes and many new initiatives. In mid October the Tralee centre hosted the launch of the '*Kerry Adult Education and Training Course Directory 2012*' booklet for KES. This is the first information booklet of its kind in the country, bringing together courses offered by KES, FAS and ITT. The booklet was launched by Minister Ciaran Cannon, Minister for Training and Skills. He generously gave of his time to meet with learners and ALOs before the launch and listened attentively and actively to all comments made. The learners told their stories, described what it is like having a literacy difficulty and the difference that tuition has made in their lives. The ALOs had an opportunity to tell him about the quality tuition that is provided and what else could be done if we received more funding from the Department of Education and Science. He also viewed some samples of learners' work and writings and was particularly taken with poetry written by a learner from Listowel. Both were positive, open and constructive meetings.

The term also saw the publication of the Educa-

tion and Training Bill 2012 which proposes the establishments of the Local Education and Training Boards. Kerry is a 'standalone' board in this Bill. The Committee of KES met to consider the Bill and give some feedback.

In October we had a visit from Mary Kett and Marian Lynch who were conducting a *Review of Adult Literacy Services*. Kerry was lucky to have its own focus group session, being only one of five that have taken place in the country. The Review will inform the Department on its future Adult Education policy.

FETAC has now changed its name. It is now known as Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). QQI replaces the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI), the Further Education and Training Awards Council of Ireland (FETAC), and the Higher Education Training and Awards Council (HETAC). It will also take over functions of the Irish Universities Quality Board (IUQB). In a recent press release it was at pains to stress that the qualifications formerly awarded by FETAC will continue to be recognized.

Eighteen new volunteers were recruited to deliver 1:1 tuition and will have completed their training before Christmas. The training took place this year in Eden Court, Tralee. Energy and noise levels were high every Saturday but a lot of good learning and sharing took place! It is great to welcome all of these volunteers to the service.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all of your hard work this year, the high quality work that you do and your continued care of learners. I hope you have a very peaceful and relaxing Christmas break!

Minister Ciaran
Cannon's visit to
Tralee Centre in
October 2012



Cahersiveen Centre News

Deirdre Fitzgerald
Adult Literacy Organiser

Cahersiveen ABE was delighted to hear the news of their success in obtaining funding for 4 DEIS projects. All projects commenced in October 2012 and all will be completed by early December.



Enjoying their tea break in
Kenmare Adult Education Centre

Project:	Tutor:	Venue:
DEIS Food & Nutrition	John Casey	S.N St. Iosef
Léitheoireachtle chéile	Róisín Ni Chionnfhaolaidh	Scoil Mhuire
Dads & Lads Woodwork *2	Susanne McCarthy	O' Connell Centre
Paint Tionscadal Murial (Paint a Murial Project)	Róisín Ni Chionnfhaolaidh	S.N Cillín Liath
Dads & Lads Woodwork	Susanne McCarthy	Tech Amergin

*"DEIS Léitheoireachtle chéile" To promote and Foster an appreciation of the Irish Language by creating Flashcards on topics in the home i.e. Kitchen (Rooms/Fruit/Vegetables) and reading Irish books.

We are very grateful to the O' Connell Centre and Tech Amergin for the use of their Woodwork Rooms for the delivery of our Dads & Lads projects.

NALA Student Development Fund 2012:

Our Cahersiveen group went on their excursion to Kenmare on Thursday 25th October along with ABE students from Killorglin. The first stop for students from both Cahersiveen & Killorglin was the Kenmare Adult Education Centre at which we were greatly welcomed. We were given a tour of their wonderful Organic Garden. All students, along with students from ABE Kenmare, participated in a Relaxation/Breathing session delivered by Darina O Shea. After lunch the group departed for Gleninchaquin Park in Kenmare which boasts beautiful walks and scenery. It was an enjoyable and memorable day for all.

Cahersiveen Centre News (cont'd)



The Indoor Glass House



Outside Beds



Scenery & walks at Glenginaquin!

Thank you to all tutors involved in the delivery of Literacy/ITABE & DEIS programmes and thanks to our 1:1 tutors also.

Have a lovely Christmas and I wish you all a Happy New Year for 2013!

Castleisland Centre News

Deirdre Fitzgerald
Adult Literacy Organiser

NALA Student Development Fund 2012:

Castleisland Students along with their tutors Rosaleen Kennedy & Elaine Barrett travelled to East Cork on October 17th. The itinerary for the day was:

Pick up Castleisland	-	8.45am
Cobh Heritage Centre	-	10.30am - 2.00pm
Midleton Distillery (incl lunch stop)	-	12.30pm - 2.30pm
Ballymaloe Shanagarry	-	3.00pm - 4.00pm
Mahon Point	-	4.40pm.
Depart Mahon	-	5.30pm.
Home to Castleisland	-	7.00pm

Castleisland Centre News (cont'd)



In Cobh!



New York Times
Archived Article

RE: Sinking of the
Titanic



Midleton Distillery

Child Play & Development L3:

Jacqui Hall delivered this programme and as part of the module the students had to make a play item.

Below are some of the pieces created by the students:



Thank you to all tutors involved in the delivery of Literacy/ITABE & DEIS programmes during the term. Also, thank you to our 1:1 tutors.

**I wish you all a very happy
Christmas and peaceful New Year
2013.**



*You can never be overdressed or
over educated*

-Oscar Wilde-

*Education is not preparation for
life; education is life itself.*

-John Dewey-

Taken from www.goodreads.com

Dingle Centre News

Bill McConnell
Adult Literacy Organiser

The Cuas group are learning how to use computers for the first time and they now have email accounts, are surfing the web and learning how to use word processing packages. This group consists mostly of men and they help each other learn while having a good time. This group is set to expand in the coming year with their tutor Caitriona Ní Cathal seeing them through their lessons.

In Dingle, we have our English Using Multimedia class with Andrew Duggan and our Read Write Spell class which is aiming for Communications Level 3 under the tutelage of Joanne Ní Shúilleabháin. We hope to be able to deliver these classes again in the new year.

We can't forget our one to one tutors and learners. There are a number of these sessions going on for two hours each per week and the dedication and commitment of our tutors and learners is heart-warming. We will certainly be continuing with these sessions in the coming year as they are the back bone of the literacy service.

Nothing left for me to say except 'Nollaig shone daoibh' (that's Happy Christmas to you all!)



Computer Group in Ventry



DID YOU KNOW!

- Horses cannot vomit.
- S.O.S. doesn't stand for 'Save Our Ship' or 'Save our Souls'. It was just chosen by a 1908 international conference on Morse Code because the letters *S* and *O* were easy to remember and just about anyone could key it and read it.
- A donkey will sink in quicksand, but a mule will not.
- Crows have the largest cerebral hemispheres relative to body size of any avian family.
- Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks, otherwise it will digest itself.

Taken from www.kellys.com/

Killorglin Centre News

Jenny O'Reilly
Adult Literacy Organiser

What was the single most significant change over the past year in Killorglin? It has to be the noticeable increase in men engaged in basic skills tuition at this centre...but we are not alone. All over, men are weathering tough times by investing in education. Hitherto, women outnumbered men three to one but a change is taking place. Whatever challenges lie ahead in 2013, we welcome the men and this new gender balance.

More change is afoot. There is a renewed interest in maths and we aim to give it a new look. There will be more hands-on and some real life problem solving.

So it will be out with the old and in with the new for 2013. I thank you all for your hard work and dedication over the past year and wish you a joyous Christmas, peace and prosperity in the coming year.



Geraldine O'Sullivan (left) and Margaret Clifford with tutor Alan Robinson at the FETAC Awards ceremony, Killorglin Community College in October.

37 ABE students along with others from BTEI (Back to Education Initiative, VTOS and Youthreach received FETAC awards.

Welcome to our newest volunteer recruit Helen Murphy who has just completed training and has already started tutoring. We wish her success and fulfillment with us at the Lodge. Best wishes for a full recovery to Josephine Hogan after her accident during the summer. She is having a well earned break in London after four years of dedicated service to us and her numerous students.



Killorglin ITABE students who went coasteering in South Kerry on an Irish chilly summer's day last June with their brave tutor Sinéad Geary (on right).

Christmas Closure

The Lodge will close on
12.30 p.m. Thursday, 20th December
2012

Reopening
Monday, 7th January 2013

Listowel Centre News

Mary Swaine
Adult Literacy Organiser

A big thank you to all tutors for their dedication and hard work this term. I wish ye all a very happy Christmas and a happy new year.

We had our FETAC certification night on October 26th 2012 and a great night was had by all. Minister Deenihan was here to present the certificates.

It was a very busy term. Lots of groups and one to one sessions happening. We had two ITABE programmes running this year. As part of their course, they both studied First Aid and they also completed a genealogy project

They went on an educational trip to Tralee County Library and Cork Gaol. In Tralee county Library the group visited the archive section where they got a tour of the genealogy records and was advised how best to continue researching their family trees. They also visited the Cork Gaol where they received a guided tour and they learned the history of the gaol. They all enjoyed the day.

They also took part in the Christmas shoe boxes appeal. They gave very generously and their boxes looked amazing going off.

Some feedback from the ITABE learners at the end of their programme "No pressure", "Very good for memory", "Not having fear like when we were growing up in school."



Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world

-Nelson Mandela -

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

-William Butler Yeats-

Taken from www.goodreads.com

Tutor Support News

Isabelle Dumont

Initial Tutor Training Programme

Eighteen tutors from around the county completed their training in November. They were a very energetic and enthusiastic group, and I wish them well as they begin their teaching and learning journey.



Below are some photos from some of our sessions and tutors receiving their certificates.



Have a peaceful and relaxing holiday and see you all in 2013!!

New grant available through NALA from Better World Books fund



Through NALA's partnership with Better World Books, they are delighted to once again offer their members funding to support a local literacy project or initiative in Ireland. It can be used to fund new resources, training or any initiative that supports adults or family literacy, to the maximum value of €500. All you have to do is tell them what you would like to use the funding for, how much it will cost, and how it would make a difference - it's that simple.

In case you don't know, Better World Books sells used books online to raise money for leading literacy charities around the world - NALA became their chosen charity partner last year and give all money received through the partnership to literacy programmes and projects. To apply, send details of the project you would like funding for to media@nala.ie. Closing date is 31 December 2012.

Global Citizens: Development Education Theory and Practice for Adult Literacy & Basic Skills Educators was an in-service training (IST) course delivered by the Kerry One World Centre (operated by KADE) under the Grundtvig EU adult education IST programme. Individuals from Finland and Holland were among the participants in addition to Irish adult education practitioners. Through lectures and participative workshops, participants gained knowledge, understanding and skills in the application of Development Education (DE) theory and practice in order to add a global dimension that enhances delivery of adult basic skills education. It also provided those attending a great opportunity to learn about the context for basic skills education in different European countries.

Tutors who are interested in participating in this year's (2013) in-service should contact Mary McGillicuddy, coordinator@kade.ie for information.



Chris Miley, Listowel, Denis Robinson, Listowel and Mieke Byrne, Killarney were three of our tutors who attended the in-service last

Food for Thought

By Anne Fitzgerald, Tralee Tutor



Some time ago while working with a group on Communications Level 3, I thought we might try a novel idea -- novel in that it wasn't strictly a requirement of the beloved S.L.O's. The group of four were keen enough, but wary and a little timid about joining in this small enterprise. Each member of the group would go for coffee - and a bun if they liked. They coordinated what their 'order' would be. This was to be a non-threatening, do-able piece of market research; a little look at consumerism awareness, if you like.

We drew up a one page form on which was our questions. Each cafe was to be assessed as to its:

Cleanliness
Courtesy/friendliness
Atmosphere
Value

We rehearsed in some detail, we chuckled at our acting, and we pondered and strictly defined our four points. All realised it was an exercise and what mattered was the learning. We spoke of customer politeness as well as staff courtesy. In the cafe, nobody was to brandish a questionnaire; the '*report*' was to be dealt with after the event. The students went forth.

The idea worked very well even though it was quite new to the learners and expanded existing horizons. The outcome? Two coffee drinkers found their drink was cooler than they would have liked. One sat too long before the table was cleared, and there was no sugar. Did they murmur about these small matters? Yes, they did, but politely and reasonably; they were treated well. This was good to hear, as if, otherwise, it would have been discouraging for students. They got a sense of achievement and understood that it was totally acceptable to complain, even about a coffee.

We discussed how customers/consumers should and could deal with bad service or unsatisfactory purchases, little or large. We talked of warranties and guarantees and the Consumer Association which we would frequently revisit. Filling the results form brought out enthusiasm, excellent communication skills and keen interest. Importantly, we had fun and enjoyed our attempts at becoming more aware as consumers. Whatever about the coffee, all of us had food for further learning.

The participants were as pleased and proud of their achievement as it was possible to be.

Useful Links and Resources



Free online lessons in computers, reading and maths.
Suitable for ESL learners as well.

<http://www.gcflearnfree.org/>

Good computer and internet use. Printable resources.

<http://www.btplc.com/Responsiblebusiness/Supportingourcommunities/Digitalinclusion/Majorprogrammes/BTInternetRangers/resources/index.html#beginners>

<http://www.btplc.com/Responsiblebusiness/Supportingourcommunities/Digitalinclusion/DownloadableResources/index.htm>

Irish Aid website. Good basic worksheets on Human Rights, Culture, Health and many more.

Information about people in developing countries.

www.justworld.ie

Real world maths made more visible. A resource for parents, learners and tutors. Some great activities and lots of visual material.

www.haveyougotmathseyes.com

NALA website that lists all the worksheets in the Read Write Now and Really Useful Guide books.

Also includes videos and worksheets and activities are printable.

www.resources.writeon.ie

Better World Books

www.betterworldbooks.com



Better World Books is a global bookstore that harnesses the power of capitalism to bring literacy and opportunity to people around the world.

They are committed to the cause of literacy. Every person should have the chance to achieve their potential and participate fully in society.

Better World Books uses the power of business to change the world. They collect and sell books online to donate books and fund literacy initiatives worldwide. With more than 8 million new and used titles in stock, they are a self-sustaining company that creates social, economic and environmental value for all their stakeholders.

They are breaking new ground in online bookselling. They believe that education and access to books are a basic human right. Books sold on *Better-worldbooks.com* help fund high-impact literacy projects around the world.

Every book purchased from Better World Books contributes to individual literacy throughout the world and the potential for a better life.