

December 2013

# TUTOR NEWSLETTER



Adult Literacy



and Basic Education

## **Aoife McCormack** **County Adult Literacy Organiser**

This is a particularly busy time of year for everyone and marks the end of, not only a calendar year, but also of our first academic term.

Yet again you have all shown how you have such high expectations of, and care for, your learners. I see the results of that every-day when learners come week after week with a smile on their faces, their heads and shoulders held high. You have all demonstrated attitudes and behaviours that have created welcoming atmospheres in each of our centres.

The sense of achievement, progress and fun is evident everywhere. I want to thank you for this and for all you have done for the service over in 2013. Each of you brings a unique contribution, gifts and talents. I am learning from you every day.

With the establishment of the ETB and SOLAS there are changes afoot. I am confident that the values you live through your work will continue in the future in adult literacy. We will all continue working together in these times of change. While there may be challenges ahead, there are also great opportunities and I look forward to meeting them together with you all.

I hope during the Christmas period you will have time to relax and unwind and do the important things in life with your family and friends. I look forward to working with you all in 2014.

Wishing you great peace, hope and cheer over the coming weeks.

Nollaig Shona,

### **Farewell Celia**

This year we are losing a valued colleague and friend, Celia Blinkhorn.

Celia is retiring in late December and will start a new life filled with adventure and new beginnings. She will be greatly missed by all in the Adult Literacy and Basic Education Programme.

Celia has contributed so much to developing and shaping the Adult Literacy and Basic Education Programme. Her quick thinking and creative mind has got us out of many situations and helped spot many great opportunities! Her flexibility and willingness to roll up her sleeves and get stuck in has led the way for teamwork in our countywide team.

On a practical level without Celia none of us would get paid, get our contracts, have ink cartridges for printers and photocopiers, have papers and pens. This Tutor Newsletter will also be missing an interesting column; her contributions on Gardening were always popular and informative.

Celia you will be missed greatly by us all. You are a wonderful colleague and a great friend to us all.

We wish you all the very best in starting the living of your next life chapter. I hope there are many exciting, fulfilling and fun days ahead for you and Phil.

With Best Wishes!

## Cahersiveen Centre News

Deirdre O'Shea Fitzgerald,  
District Literacy & Education Organiser

Greetings All,

Below are some highlights from our Cahersiveen centre. Thank you to all our tutors and 1:1 volunteer tutors for your continued excellence in the delivery of tuition in Cahersiveen ABE. I look forward to working with you all again in the New Year.

### Meitheal Amergin

By Eileen O' Flaherty - Tutor

I began delivering a Literacy and Numeracy class to the Meitheal Group in Tech Amergin at the end of January this year. The learner-centred approach works very well.

By this, I mean that we use examples drawn from real-life situations to incorporate improving on literacy and numeracy skills.

We covered areas such as listening skills, creative writing, form filling, reading and following instructions for DIY jobs, Have you got Maths Eyes? With this module, the learners were surprised at the amount of maths they actually use in everyday life without realising it. This term we concentrated on the 'Eurowatchers' programme. The Learners found this very interesting and beneficial as they learned how to exercise more control over their income, expenses and the skills necessary to draw up a personal budget specific to their needs.

I really enjoy working in Tech Amergin with this Group, as there is a great 'Meitheal' atmosphere - a sense of friendliness, cooperation, great interest in learning, respect and wonderful participation in class.

## DEIS Projects

### DEIS Dads & Lads Woodwork

Suzanne McCarthy (Tutor) commenced this project in November in Tech Amergin. Thanks to Susan Walsh for the use of the woodwork room in Tech Amergin. This project has positive learning outcomes and thanks to Suzanne for the knowledge and expertise in the delivery of this project.

We look forward to the delivery of our remaining DEIS projects in the New Year



### NALA Student Development Fund

Thanks to Jenny O' Reilly & Sinead Geary for inviting students from our centre to join them on their trip to Dublin where they visited the National Museum of Ireland on the 17<sup>th</sup> October. It was a very welcomed invitation.

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### NALA Better World Books Fund



We were successful in our application for funding and we received €370 which will go towards resources/materials for our centre.

## Castleisland Centre News

Deirdre O'Shea Fitzgerald,  
District Literacy & Education Organiser

Hello all,

It's that time of year again where we are all looking forward to the Christmas Break after a busy term. A big thank you to all our tutors and our 1:1 volunteer tutors for the dedication and energy you bring to the service. Look forward to seeing you all for our coffee morning get together on December 9<sup>th</sup> ..... 😊

### Oiléan Beo:

Students of Oiléan Beo, St. John of God's Castleisland have just completed projects based on a subject of their choice. For this, each student picked their own topic of interest, researched it both on the internet and in books, extracted the relevant information, typed it up and printed off pictures. This was then placed in collage form on a large chart. When completed each learner gave a presentation to the class on their particular project. This undertaking provided an opportunity for the class to reinforce their literacy skills, introduce research skills, practice typing skills, learn new computer skills and develop their oral skills. Such maintenance of literacy skills is an important part of lifelong learning for adults with an intellectual disability.

Well done to all for a very successful and enjoyable learning experience.

Rosaleen Kennedy - Tutor

### ITABE:

On Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup> our ITABE group visited the Kerry County Museum in Tralee and enjoyed afternoon tea in Mary Anne's tea rooms on Denny Street. The students enjoyed the excursion and the opportunity of learning that it created.

Guess which tutor dressed up as Tom Crean



Elaine & Student posing for picture with the 'Liberator' in the Museum



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## Dingle Centre News

Bill McConnell  
Adult Literacy Organiser

Hello agus fáilte ón An Daingean

This year has been a very successful year for the Dingle Adult Basic Education and Literacy Service. We hosted the 'Deiseanna' event early in the year which drew together all of the community and voluntary organisations which operate on the Dingle peninsula and had a number of themes which included health, employment, training and education. The event was hosted in An Disearth and was successful enough to warrant a similar event taking place early in the New Year. The last Deiseanna bore the fruit of a number of new learners joining our classes. Some of these learners have achieved FETAC accreditation in Computer Literacy and will continue to complete their core subjects in the coming year through the excellent tutelage of Laurence Jones. The event was also an excellent opportunity for the various organisations to show their wares and to network with one another - the first time an event of this type has happened in Corca Dhuibhne (Dingle Peninsula).

We have had classes in An Clochán (Clahane) with our Irish for Parents class attracting growing numbers and the 'Computers for the Terrified' gaining momentum. The 'Computers for Older People' continues apace in Ceann Trá (Ventry) with participants learning the skills required to keep in e-contact with friends and relations abroad and to use the computer for many purposes. Both of these classes are taught by Sharon Ní Chonchúir.

Closer to home, our ESOL class, run in An Mhainistir (Monastery) taught by Andrew Duggan continues from strength to strength. Classes are small but form the basis with which people from other countries can integrate with the local community. The Communications FETAC Level 3 course should reach

a conclusion in the near future enabling the learners to continue completing their core subjects for a Major FETAC Level 3 award.

Our DEIS programme got off to a flying start in Scoil Iognáid Rís during the last weeks of November and will finish in early January 2014. This course, also aimed at parents of early school-going children, is a creative approach to literacy tutored by Carmel Gibson using cookery as a tool. It's not too late to sign up so if you want to learn how to 'cook fish in a flash' get in touch.

Plans for 2014 include more FETAC computer classes with other core FETAC modules being undertaken by our growing numbers of learners. The plan is to integrate classes and facilitate the learners to achieve qualifications which will increase their chances of progressing to further education or training or gaining useful employment.

Finally, our one to one programme is to be enriched with three new tutors - Noelle Barrett, Fiona Ní Mhurchadha and Kristina Collins - coming into the Dingle literacy fold. They have just completed the Tutor Training course run in Tralee and will meet the other tutors at our 'Tutor Gathering' taking place here on the 14<sup>th</sup> December.

We wish them well in their new, voluntary endeavours and welcome them to the valuable and multi-skilled tutor team here in An Daingean.

Béir bua.

If someone you know would benefit from our free and confidential services, please do not hesitate to contact:

Bill McConnell  
Adult Literacy Organiser  
An Mhainistir, An Daingean  
086 815 9881 or 066 915 0933.



## Kenmare Centre News

Maggie O'Sullivan Graham  
District Literacy & Education Organiser

The long sunny autumn has been a very busy term at the Kenmare Adult Literacy and Basic Education Service, with higher learner numbers than ever. We have a great team of tutors all working together to meet this need, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for their great work all year.

Between group tutors and volunteers, I am so lucky to have such a range of talent around me in the Centre. Our learners give me consistently positive feedback about their tutors, and there is no greater barometer than that.

And what have we been up to? Well, winter is a great time for crafts, staying in from the colder weather, and our ITABE group has been learning lots of new skills in this area as part of an entrepreneurship project. A great many people in the Kenmare area work more than one job, and often this includes working for themselves. Our learners met a couple who run a craft workshop in the Black Valley during the summer term, and really enjoyed trying their hand at crafts. This experience was the basis for this term's project.

Thanks to the NALA Student Development Fund, they were able to attend a further workshop, and have been busy putting their skills into action. They have made a range of handcrafts, including bath bombs, bath salts, beeswax candles, cards and bookmarks. These have all been priced, packaged and

labelled, and will be for sale over the coming weeks at Christmas markets.

It has been a very engaging project, with lots of learning and teamwork. I can't wait to try out the products!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the tutors across the county.



### DID YOU KNOW!

[www.did-you-knows.com](http://www.did-you-knows.com)



Rabbits like licorice.

An ostrich's egg is bigger than its brain.

The three most common languages in the world are Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and English.

Switzerland eats the most chocolate equating to 10 kilos per person per year.

## Killarney Centre News

Mary Concannon  
Adult Literacy Organiser

Happy Christmas to you all!

Another busy term and year comes to an end. At present all of our voluntary tutors are fully engaged and our group learners fill the centre daily.

I am delighted to welcome our newly trained volunteer tutors to the team. I hope that you will find your role enjoyable and rewarding. In truth, I am delighted with the work that is done in the centre and I have no doubt that you will follow the outstanding example set by the tutors that went before you.

Celia Blinkhorn is retiring shortly. Celia was the lynchpin of the operation that is Kerry Adult Literacy & Basic Education. Celia was always helpful, efficient and a friend whenever needed. Celia will be greatly missed. On behalf of everyone at Killarney ABE, we would like to wish Celia a very happy retirement. Enjoy your travels.

Our end of term Get Together will take place on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 from 12.30pm to 2.30pm. The theme is 'Sharing of Resources'. Light refreshments will be served. Hope to see you all on the day.

Finally, I thank you for your hard work and dedication over the past year. I wish you a joyous and peaceful Christmas and prosperity in the coming year.

The following are some of the highlights from this term.



### Better World Books Fund

We received a grant of €500. The funding was used to purchase an iPad and material for the Six Book Challenge. Tutors and learners are delighted with the iPad and as you know education must always keep up with the times. My sincere thanks to Elaine Clifford for doing all the research on the projects.

The Six Book Challenge invites less confident readers to pick six books (or other reading material - magazine/newspaper article, poems, story) and record their reading in a diary in order to receive a certificate. The key benefits of the Six Book Challenge are:

- Engages people in an enjoyment of reading - often for the first time.
- Opens up communication between readers and kick starts reading group activity.
- Supports skills development and progression to further learning.
- Encourages use of the library.

Killarney Library and Killarney ABE launched the programme in October and already thirty learners have signed up for this challenge. Killarney Book Shop has kindly sponsored two book vouchers for the competition. The learners will write a piece about their experience. The staff at Killarney Library will judge the pieces of writings and presentation of prizes will take place on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.

As a result of this initiative, we started a 'Book Exchange' box in the centre for tutors and students.

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## Killorglin Centre News

Jenny O'Reilly  
Adult Literacy Organiser

Merry Christmas from the Lodge as we call our centre in Killorglin. Another year draws to a close as we reflect on the highlights and challenges of the year. A few of those highlights are displayed here. It is our mission at the Lodge to give our learners an educational experience that will benefit them in all aspects of their life and to greater things when they leave us. We encourage them to have dreams and to set goals. While Christmas is the time for magic we all know that there is no magical formula and learners succeed on their own study, and the conscientious input of our course and volunteer tutors who teach, encourage and inspire them. Thank you to all our tutors for your dedicated service and hard work throughout 2013. It is noticed and much appreciated. Good health to you all in 2014 and may all your wishes be granted.



James Ladden, Eileen O'Sullivan and James Foley at the FETAC awards ceremony at Killorglin Community College where they received FETAC Level 3 Communications and IT awards. (Missing Margaret Lynch)

James Ladden is now pursuing further studies at Killorglin VTOS.

Welcome to our newest volunteer tutors Patricia Tyther, Anne McGillicuddy and Kathleen O'Connor who have completed their training.



Family Learning in Killorglin  
School DEIS Co-ordinator Donal Brosnan and tutor Mary Kay Galvin (second right) with some parents and their projects from the 'Measure Up with Sewing' at Killorglin Community College.



Killorglin and Castleisland students who used the NALA Student Development Fund to visit the National Museum Collins Barracks in Dublin recently.

### Christmas Closure

The Lodge will close on  
12.30 p.m. Friday, 20th December 2013  
Reopening  
Monday, 6th January 2014

A very happy and peaceful  
Christmas season to all our tutors!



## Listowel Centre News

Mary Swaine  
District Literacy & Education Organiser

### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

I wish to say a big Thank You and a Happy Christmas to all tutors for their hard work this term. It was a very busy term. Lots of good things happened.

Our ITABE learners finished their programme in late November and they really enjoyed the course. This year the learners had an outing to Dingle which they organised themselves.

Other courses they undertook were literacy through woodwork, CV and interview skills and personal development.

Please let your learners know about our ITABE programme. It is intensive tuition for six hours per week. Also, please let me know if any one to one learners are ready to join our group tuition.

We were successful with the application for the NALA Student Development Fund. We held a Learner's Day in the Listowel Arms Hotel which was a great success. Learners from both the Listowel centre and the Castle island centre attended. We had a guest speaker giving a talk on health, followed by music and singing. A lot of tutors gave their time willingly on the day to make this day a day to remember.

Congratulations to our new volunteers who are graduating in early December. We welcome them all to the team.

On behalf of all tutors at the Listowel Centre, we would like to congratulate Celia on her upcoming retirement. We will miss your cheerful voice



Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.  
-Anthony J. D'Angelo --

Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army.  
- Edward Everett -

He who opens a school door, closes a prison.  
- Victor Hugo -

Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.  
- Gilbert K. Chesterton -



## Tralee Centre News

Maeve Tuohy  
Adult Literacy Organiser

Hello from Eden Court

I am delighted to welcome new volunteer tutors who finished training this month. I have students for you all and I look forward to working with you in the coming years. I'd also like to say thank you to all tutors at Eden Court who do fantastic work with their students and who go the extra mile to help them achieve their goals. I would also like to say that the support and kindness shown to me by all tutors is much appreciated. Everyone likes to feel valued and you certainly do that for me.

We are coming to the end of a hectic year at Eden Court. Not only has it been hectic but it is bringing change with it as we are saying farewell to three valued colleagues. I am sure that most of you will have met Mike and Anne Kiely at some time during the last ten years. They trained as volunteer tutors in 2003 and have been with the service ever since. Mike also became involved in Initial Tutor Training and worked as the anchor tutor throughout several Tutor Training courses. His calm approach to everything was balm to the soul and you knew it was time to leave the building if Mike showed any worry or panic! Anne was a group tutor as well as taking several one to one students throughout her time with us. She delivered Office Procedures, Career Preparation and Communications. Anne also co-ordinated our pilot programme, Stepping Stone, this year. Talk about the right person being in the right place at the right time ....Anne was perfect for this role and brought added value to the programme due to her wide variety of skills and her professionalism. Both Anne and Mike had a

great sense of humour and a balanced approach to everything they did in ABE. We will miss them and we wish them both happy times as they return to the UK.

A big change is on the horizon for us all as Celia is retiring at Christmas. I could fill the newsletter outlining all the skills that Celia has. The ABE service has been blessed to have had Celia as administrator for the last fifteen years. The service was small when Celia started but even then she put systems in place that laid the foundation for the fantastic support systems she developed over the years. But Celia is not just about systems. Her professionalism, courtesy and ability to find solutions to problems of all types have been consistently amazing. The problems ranged from blocked up drains, printers not printing, deciphering information we gave her and I won't even mention the franking machine and dealing with Pitney Bowes! Celia treated the budget better than any Minister for Finance - she got the best deals when purchasing for our Centres. We have also had some great laughs throughout our fifteen years working side by side - we even had two dogs named after us. A dubious honour! I will miss her greatly. I wish Celia and Phil a long and happy retirement and bon voyage for their forthcoming trip.

*Student trip* - we ran an ITABE Programme (Intensive Tuition in Adult Basic Education) this year at Eden Court. As part of the programme, the students visited the Titanic Exhibition at Cobh. One of the students wrote about her experience and I hope that you will enjoy reading it as much as I did.

Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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## Tutor Support News

Isabelle Dumont



Do you ever wonder where the time is going? I suppose one could argue that time is relative, so technically it doesn't exist, but I think we could all agree that the term has flown by. All I remember is summer, a little bit of cold weather and now it is Christmas.

An Initial Tutor Training programme has just finished with 20 new volunteer tutors receiving their Certificate of Completion. We welcome all the new volunteer tutors to the service and wish them well with their learners. Some of the participants have already been placed with a learner; the need for volunteers in all centres has increased, so for that reason we will be delivering another Initial Tutor Training Programme starting in February 2014. If you know of anyone who you think may be interested in completing the programme and volunteering two hours per week, please ask them to ring us at 066 71 24114 for an application form. Training begins in mid February so we would need to receive applications very shortly after the holidays.

I will keep you informed along the way about in-services and events through emails and texts. Please check your spam folders from time to time in case some of my emails end up there. If you don't have an email address, I send a text advising that you check the bulletin board in your local centre.

I would like to remind you all that funding is available for workshops through Grundtvig. This is a good opportunity to travel *and* learn. If you are confused about Grundtvig and Leargas please read my article on Page 24.

As you probably know by now, Celia is leaving us this year and will begin *Chapter Three* of her life with Phil travelling the world and enjoying her grandchildren. We all wish her well and lots of happiness.

Graduates of our 2013 Initial Tutor Training Programme  
Along with Jim Finucane, Chair of Kerry ETB & Rico Stein (front row)  
Deirdre Fitzgerald & Maeve Tuohy (second row)



## Relating maths concepts to a relevant, every day life context

Submitted by: Jenny O'Reilly, ALO, Killorglin

### Terry Maguire

The way a particular problem is posed to learners will influence the way that they respond. Consider for example how adult learners might respond to the following problem.

'You have gone out for pizza with two your friends and are going to share the costs lets say the pizza cost € 18 20, how would you and your friends pay for it?

There are many real life answers to this question for example, Some might do an approximate calculation, some might work this out precisely, some do a rough estimate to a convenient current note and get one person to pay the extra, others might decide to pay because they had money that day, alternatively one friend might take their turn to pay as is the custom within the group, Most importantly some learners might find the problem does not relate to them as the do not like pizza in the first instance!

The question could also be posed in the following way.

Three friends went out for a pizza and shared the cost equally. The total cost of the pizza was €18.20 how much did each person pay?

This question is not a real life problem but a mathematics problem. Adults often recognise these problems as school mathematics problems and respond accordingly i.e. provide an exact answer. Some adult learners are interested in abstract mathematics for example many learners associate fractions with being failed in school mathematics and feel that personal success is associated with developing mastery. Others want to avoid abstract mathematics altogether. Real life problems allow learners to solve problems in arrange of ways that would be available to them in their everyday lives are more relevant to these learners. Tutors should develop materials to suit the different needs of both types of learners.

In designing worksheets and activities tutors need to ensure that they pose the question so that learners interpret them in the way intended. If real life problems are posed in the wrong way tu-

tors will not be able to determine whether learners can solve these kinds of problems in their every-day lives. What they are doing instead is seeing if adults can solve school mathematics problems.

*Dr. Terry Maguire is Director of Adult Education at the Institute of Technology Tallagh.*

### Alison, the free online educational site

Mike Feerick, Irish founder of **Alison, the free online educational site.**

'The range of courses is expanding and the company has started to align much of its free content with the Irish and UK school curriculum. With the help of Project Maths teachers in Ireland, we have aligned a series of 300 maths videos to the ordinary and higher level maths Leaving Cert curriculum. Already, many hundreds of teachers and students are using these resources.'

Alison offers a large and varied range of courses. Check it out. [www.alison.com](http://www.alison.com)



Did I get the train timetable wrong again?

**PARALLEL LINES  
HAVE GOT  
SO MUCH IN  
COMMON.  
IT'S A SHAME  
THEY'LL  
NEVER MEET**  
FLYINGKIMCHISOLIP.CO.NR

**SigMath**  
BRINGING NUMERACY TO LIFE

<http://www.sigmath.eu/>

### Significant Maths for Adults:

SigMath is a European project which aims to improve access to formal Maths qualifications for adult learners, especially those with lower education levels, through innovative, informal blended e-learning approaches. The project will develop interactive online tutorials, videos and assessments to develop understanding of key Maths concepts.



## Cahersiveen Centre Notes Continued from Page 2

### Learning Through Gardening



Terry Cunningham delivered this creative course to a small group in our centre. Many skills were covered and each student kept a Garden Diary. Thanks to Shivaun for the use of the polytunnel in the O' Connell Centre: greatly appreciated. We have three students from this group who have progressed onto a Community Education course in the centre.



Congratulations to Karis Kelleher (Tutor) on the birth of her baby boy Brody on the 9th November from all in Cahersiveen ABE.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and Joyful New Year!

Míle Buiochas!



John Leahy teaches I.T. skills in the Tralee Centre. Every Christmas he gets numerous requests from tutors and students for advice on what to buy, how to buy, where to buy, best brands, latest trends in I.T. So, he decided to write down some of what he knows.



### John's I.T. Blurb



#### Tablets

Tablets come in many forms but the standard is 10 and 7 inch screen sizes and there are three main competing Operating Systems (see below). 1.7 to 2.2 GHZ CPU with 2GB of Ram is more than enough for most users. 1GHZ CPU (or less) and 1GB Ram is ok for a child but will leave the adult disappointed as things will become slow and sluggish.

**Android:** Quality varies greatly along with price. The advantage of this is that you can buy a budget tablet for as low as €50 or spend as much as €1000. Another big advantage is that the Android Operating System is free so manufacturers such as Samsung, Acer, Asus, Kindle Fire, Nook, Sony or HTC etc. do not have to pass the cost on to the customer and can focus more on a quality product. Nexus is the Google branded tablet. Google also own Android. "Android for free! Fair play Google"

**Apple ipad:** Just the one brand. Quality is very good but the same quality can be got on other brands for less. Apple's Operating System is locked down when compared to others.

**Windows Surface:** Just the one brand (Microsoft). Quality is very good but much too late of an entry in the tablet game and have too much catching up to do.



## John's I.T. Blurb



### Smartphones

The specifications, manufacturers, operating systems, pros and cons of today's Smartphones are the same as Tablets, only the screen sizes are smaller. Most are 4 inches, but a 5 inch screen size is the most popular user size at the moment. You can also get 6 inch screens known as Phablets (a cross between Tablet and Smartphone). The only real difference between a Smartphone and a Tablet is that the Smartphone is primarily designed to make phone calls. A Tablet can also make phone calls but not the wisest choice due to its physical size.

**Cameras** are standard features on Smartphones and in time probably will replace the general point and shoot camera. The quality of some camera phones outshine Digital Cameras. Yes, another mutation. This term simply means the Smartphone is geared towards photography. Will it ever end? The answer is NO! Nokia Lumia 1020's, Galaxy S4, iPhone 5S and my own favourite the LG G2.

**Apps:** Applications known as Apps are small computer programs designed to carry out a specific task. For example, Radio Player, Music Player, Games, Sat Nav, Booking Flights, News, Magazines and Shopping etc. The App Store or Play Store is where you would download your apps from and many are free. Google Play have approximately one million apps with more than 50 billion downloads to date.

## Kerry ETB In-Service Education & Training Fund

If you are planning on attending an in-service or completing a WIT module, you *may* be eligible for a 50% refund of fees .

Your application must be made within 12 months of starting the training or in-service and be accompanied by a receipt. Also, it must be approved by your centre manager.

For more information and an application form please contact:

Theresa Deane at KES Head Office: [tdeane@cokerryed.ie](mailto:tdeane@cokerryed.ie) or ring 066 71 21488.



## DID YOU KNOW!

[www.did-you-knows.com](http://www.did-you-knows.com)



The only continent with no active volcanoes is Australia.

The longest street in the world is Yonge Street in Toronto.

All insects have six legs

The Internet was originally called ARPANet (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network) designed by the U.S. Department of Defence.



## Useful Links and Resources

### [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com)

Good resource for teaching numeracy skills. Create your own calendar.

### [www.khanacademy](http://www.khanacademy)

Khan Academy is an award winning site with numerous demonstrations of how to practice maths, science and finance exercises. There are thousands of videos on everything from arithmetic to banking and money. This site is ideal for independent learners.

### [www.nala.ie/tutors/resources](http://www.nala.ie/tutors/resources)

A list of useful websites.

### [www.mathsonline.org](http://www.mathsonline.org)

This website provides lots of maths materials and puzzles

### [www.opendyslexic.org](http://www.opendyslexic.org)

Increases readability for readers with dyslexia.

### [www.moneycounts.ie](http://www.moneycounts.ie)

Moneycounts is a tool to facilitate learning of practical and sensible money management

### <http://etuitionnetwork.ning.com/>

An online community for Vocational Education Teachers who want to improve their ICT skills.

### [www.esoluk.co.uk](http://www.esoluk.co.uk)

An educational website for those who want to develop their English language and learn about different topics. Developed by ESOL tutors at Leeds City College.

### [www.etuitionnetwork.ning.com](http://www.etuitionnetwork.ning.com)

Useful resources and information. (Mary Swaine)

### [www.ginger.com](http://www.ginger.com)

Grammar and spell check. Free to download.



## Help My Kid Learn.ie

[www.helpmykidlearn.ie](http://www.helpmykidlearn.ie) is a new website for parents, guardians, family members and childminders of children aged between 0–12 years. The purpose of the website is to provide fun activities that parents can do with their children to help develop their child's literacy and numeracy skills.

Activities are split into five age groups and into five areas: Talk, Play, Read, Write and Count. The website provides parents with easy fun activities they can do as they are going along, in the house and when they are out and about together.

Developed by the National Adult Literacy Agency with 40 stakeholders (including the TUI). [www.helpmykidlearn.ie](http://www.helpmykidlearn.ie) is part of the National Strategy to improve Literacy and Numeracy among children and young people.

## Grundtvig In-Service Training: Leadership Skills for Effective Teaching and Learning

Elaine Clifford, Killarney Adult Literacy and Basic Education Centre

I am an Adult Literacy Tutor in Killarney Adult Literacy and Basic Education Centre. Earlier this year I attended a course entitled ***Self Leadership Skills as a foundation for Effective Teaching and Learning*** in Limassol, Cyprus.

I would like to thank **Léargas** for funding my attendance and I would also like to thank Mary Concannon, Killarney Adult Literacy Organiser, who supported my application to attend this course. As always, she goes way above and beyond her role.

The following is an account of the course.

This was my first time being involved in a European training programme. The course was excellent and one that I would recommend. The facilitator was composed and allowed the group to bond and grow while maintaining a professional attitude.

The course was attended by participants from a range of countries including Denmark, UK, Luxembourg and Malta.

The seminar programme included topics such as:

NLP (Neurolinguistic Programming) communication model

The art of goal setting and the role of subconscious mind in learning

How to give and receive feedback

Support language patterns

Self-motivation: how to do it effectively

Creating the learning state in others.

The teaching methods used were respectful of participants and were presented in a variety of ways which met the needs of the visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learner. My hope is that future partnerships will be developed which will allow local/regional/European awareness of other systems, ideas, resources and cultures. This will create a wonderful environment which will encourage learning, sharing and fun.



***Elaine Clifford and participants break for lunch***

## Know Thyself...



### BARSCH LEARNING STYLE INVENTORY

Learning styles influence how we teach. We generally have a preferred learning style, but it is useful to be aware of how to strengthen other, weaker styles. It is important to know your learning style as well as your learner's learning style, so that you can make adjustments in the way you plan a lesson. It is also important to understand learning styles to ensure you teach according to your learner's learning style and not your own. Using a variety of teaching methods enhance the learner's experience.

The questionnaire is designed to help you find your preferred learning style. Check the appropriate line after each statement and then calculate your score at the end of the questionnaire.

	Often	Sometimes	Seldom
1. Can remember more about a subject through listening than reading.	-----	-----	-----
2. Follow written directions better than oral directions.	-----	-----	-----
3. Like to write things down or take notes for a visual review.	-----	-----	-----
4. Bear down extremely hard with a pen or pencil when writing.	-----	-----	-----
5. Require explanations of diagrams, graphs or visual directions.	-----	-----	-----
6. Enjoy working with tools.	-----	-----	-----
7. Are skillful with and enjoy developing and making graphs and charts.	-----	-----	-----
8. Can tell if sounds match when presented with pairs of sounds.	-----	-----	-----
9. Remember best by writing things down several times.	-----	-----	-----
10. Can understand and follow directions on maps.	-----	-----	-----
11. Do better at academic subjects by listening to lectures and tapes.	-----	-----	-----
12. Play with coins or keys in pocket.	-----	-----	-----
13. Learn to spell better by repeating the letters out loud than by writing the word on paper.	-----	-----	-----
14. Can better understand a news article by reading about it in the paper than by listening to radio.	-----	-----	-----
15. Chew gum, smoke or snack during studies.	-----	-----	-----
16. Feel the best way to remember is to picture it in your head.	-----	-----	-----
17. Learning spelling by "finger spelling" the words.	-----	-----	-----
18. Would rather listen to a good lecture or speech than read about the same material in a book.	-----	-----	-----
19. Are good at solving and working on jigsaw puzzles and mazes.	-----	-----	-----
20. Grip objects in hands during learning period.	-----	-----	-----
21. Prefer listening to the news on the radio rather than reading about it in a newspaper.	-----	-----	-----
22. Obtain information on an interesting subject by reading relevant materials.	-----	-----	-----
23. Feel very comfortable touching others, hugging, handshaking, etc.	-----	-----	-----
24. Follow oral directions better than written ones.	-----	-----	-----



## DID YOU KNOW!

[www.interestingfacts.net](http://www.interestingfacts.net)



Luxembourg and Malta are smaller than Ireland.

The Mona Lisa does not have eyebrows.

At 188 decibels, the Blue whale is the loudest mammal of all.

In 1937, Time Magazine chose Adolf Hitler for *man of the year*.

Giraffes can go without water longer than a camel.

Many people who read the word yawn or yawning begin to feel the urge to yawn.

Cold weather makes fingernails grow faster.

The only animal with four knees is the elephant.

A lion can mate more than 50 times in one day.

There is no English word that rhymes with month.

## Contact Information

If you have recently changed your email address or phone number please inform your Adult Literacy Organiser and Isabelle.



Let us never be betrayed into saying we have finished our education; because that would mean we had stopped growing.  
-Julia H. Gulliver-

[www.inspirational-quotes.info](http://www.inspirational-quotes.info)

**Writeon.ie**



Write On is a programme developed by NALA that offers learners the opportunity to broaden their reading, writing, numeracy, computer and personal development skills. Learning is offered at Level 2 and Level 3. You can use the site as a teaching and learning tool with your learner or apply for FETAC accreditation at Level 2 or 3.

**Please note**, if you complete work with your learner and intend to apply for FETAC accreditation through NALA, before registering your learner on the Write On website, **please inform your ALO** so we can ensure your learner receives certification. A form will be circulated to you all soon to formalize this.

## Barsch Learning Style Inventory

continued from page 16



### SCORING PROCEDURES AND EXPLANATIONS

**OFTEN** = 5 POINTS

**SOMETIMES** = 3 POINTS

**SELDOM** = 1 POINT

Place the point value on the line next to its corresponding item number. Next add the points to obtain the preference scores under each heading.

Visual		Auditory		Kinaesthetic	
No.	Pts	No.	Pts	No.	Pts
2	_____	1	_____	4	_____
3	_____	5	_____	6	_____
7	_____	8	_____	9	_____
10	_____	11	_____	12	_____
14	_____	13	_____	15	_____
16	_____	18	_____	17	_____
20	_____	21	_____	19	_____
22	_____	24	_____	23	_____
_____		_____		_____	

When you have identified your style you need to build on your strengths and address your weaknesses. Most of us have one dominant learning style.



If you are a **Visual Learner** use charts, maps, filmstrips, notes and flashcards. Write out everything for quick visual review. It is obvious you learn best when you SEE things.

If you are an **Auditory Learner**, be sure to use tapes. Verbally review spelling words or notes.

If you are a **Kinaesthetic Learner**, you need to involve your body in the process of learning. Trace words as you say them. Facts should be written several times.

Killarney Centre News  
Continued from page 6

### Student Development Fund

On the 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2013, twenty five learners travelled to Tralee. Our first stop was a visit to the Tralee ABE Centre. We then visited the Kerry County Museum followed by lunch at Finnegan's. Some learners particularly enjoyed visiting the Tom Crean Room as they had spent time researching and learning about this Antarctic Explorer with their tutor. All the learners thoroughly enjoyed the outing. Sincere thanks to NALA for providing funding to allow us to go on learner outings. These outings are invaluable for both learners and tutors. It has enhanced our learners' experience and it is wonderful to see the learners engage in activities outside of the classroom environment.



Waiting for the train that never came...

### DID YOU KNOW!

[www.interestingfacts.net](http://www.interestingfacts.net)

Each time you see the full moon you always see the same side.

Koalas sleep around 18 hours a day.

Your foot has 26 bones in it.

The average human brain contains around 78% water.

Camel's milk doesn't curdle.

Education should bring to light the ideal of the individual.

J.P. Richter



Whatever is good to know is difficult to learn.

Greek Proverb

Whatever we have learned from other becomes our own reflection.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

### ITABE Learner Outing



On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October learners and tutors enjoyed a wonderful time as part of ITABE programme. The day started with a visit to The Blue Pool Gallery, Muckross where we painted a piece of pottery. It was decided to paint a quotation on each jug/mug and this proved a most enjoyable experience.

#### *Our masterpieces at Blue Pool Gallery, Muckross*

We then walked to Muckross Abbey and explored the abbey and graveyard. During our sessions we had researched about the history of the abbey. We had lots of photo opportunities here and thankfully weather was kind to us.



*View of graveyard from Abbey*



*Group relaxing in front of Abbey*

Muckross House and Gardens was the next item on our itinerary. We walked from Muckross Abbey to Muckross House. We all enjoyed our lunch in The Garden Restaurant before our tour of Muckross House. The tour of Muckross House was amazing and the highlight of our outing. Lots of photographs were taken which will be used for the group's PhotoStory projects and photographic evidence worksheets.



Castleisland Centre News  
Continued from page 3

NALA Student Development Fund:

On Friday October 25<sup>th</sup> Listowel ABE and Castleisland ABE hosted a joint "Student's Day" event in the Listowel Arms Hotel:

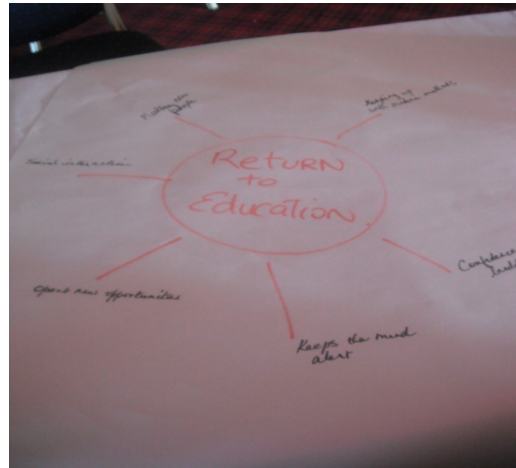
Brief Outline of Day:

10.30	Welcome and outline of the day
11.00	Health Talk - Nutritional Therapist - Maxine Brown
11.50	Discuss NALA & the Student Development Fund
12.10	Discussion Topic - Encourage someone else to return to education
1.15	Light lunch

The discussion topic **"How would current students encourage another person to return to Education"** was a very interactive session there was great learning from the feedback.



Group listening to the Health Talk



Discussion topic feedback from students!

Finally, I wish Celia Blinkhorn a great retirement. I will miss you Celia.

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Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and joyful New Year.



## Our ITABE Trip Titanic Experience

By Frances Walsh

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2013, eight students, along with tutors Nigel Hull, John Leahy and ALO Maeve Tuohy, set off to Cobh in County Cork to go and see the Titanic Experience. We were safely driven there by Johnny O'Meara on his coach. To help the journey along we had a few games of bingo which was great fun. We arrived at Cobh at 11.15 a.m. The weather was damp and miserable so we sheltered in the Heritage Centre and had a cup of coffee before making our way to the Titanic experience.

We entered the Titanic Experience at 12.15 p.m. and we were all given a boarding card with a name of a passenger who boarded the Titanic on its fateful voyage to New York. We were shown around by a guide and also a cine film was shown to make us feel that we were actually on board the Titanic. We looked at the difference in 1<sup>st</sup> class to 3<sup>rd</sup> class cabins and were informed of rich and famous people who were on board. We then sat and watched a film that described the sinking of the Titanic on April 14<sup>th</sup> 1912 after hitting an iceberg. Over 1500 people died and only 750 people survived due to the Titanic not having enough lifeboats.

After we had finished the tour, we watched a film about a submarine team who discovered the Titanic's wreck and filmed it at the bottom of the ocean. We then could check to see if the person on our boarding card survived the trip. Afterwards we had a nice lunch in the Titanic restaurant.

When we had finished lunch we then had an hour to walk around Cobh town to buy souvenirs. The weather had brightened up and it was a lovely afternoon. We boarded the bus and headed back to Tralee arriving home at 6.30 p.m.

We all had a great day out and it was very interesting to learn about the Titanic and to get to know about the history of 123 passengers who boarded at Cobh. A big 'thank you' to Maeve, John and Nigel for making the trip so special, and I would highly recommend others to go and see the 'Titanic Experience' because it is a fascinating story and well produced.



## Grundtvig & Leargas

### Explained

Isabelle Dumont



A few weeks ago I sent you the **Grundtvig Workshops Catalogue** for **2013/2014**. The purpose of the workshops is to *provide training to Adult Education staff working on literacy issues exclusively*.

For those of you who may be confused about Grundtvig, and I completely understand why, I will try to simplify it here.

**Grundtvig** is part of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013 that focuses on adult education in the form of in-services, workshops, seminars, partnerships. There are more, but the type of programmes you would likely be applying for are workshops or in-services.

**Leargas** is a not-for-profit agency that operates under the Department of Education & Skills. It manages European, national and international exchange programmes in education, training and youth and community work. Grundtvig is only one of many of their programmes and the one under which we apply for funding, as its focus is adult education.

**Leargas** is our national agency. They receive funding from Europe and distribute this money for training. That is why you send a copy of your application to Leargas.

Are you following me so far? I hope so, but the glitch is that the Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-2013) is coming to a close. Starting in 2014, Erasmus+ will replace the existing Grundtvig Programme, placing all programmes under one umbrella. I shall keep you informed when I receive more information.

That is why you should have a serious look at the Workshops Catalogue — under Grundtvig this is the last year you can apply. Choose a few workshops that interest you, and complete the application process. Deadlines for applications are specific to each workshop, so you have to check with the workshop organiser individually.

There is no guarantee you will receive funding, but for an hour or so of your time it is worth the effort. You will have the opportunity to travel to a European country, meet professionals working in the field of adult literacy, and hopefully come back with new skills and perspective.

Take a look at the Catalogue I sent you OR you can have a look for yourself on the Leargas website at [www.leargas.ie](http://www.leargas.ie). Scroll down to *Programmes* and click on *Grundtvig*. Or, you can email or ring me and I will try not to confuse you even more.

## 9 Things that will disappear in our lifetime...

### The Post Office

Email and texting and courier have just about wiped out the minimum revenue needed to keep the post office alive. Most of our post is junk mail and bills.

### The Cheque

Plastic cards and online transactions will lead to the eventual demise of the cheque. This plays right into the death of the post office.

### The Newspaper

Many people read online.

### The Book

Kindle and e-readers are flooding the market

### The Land Line Telephone

Most people have mobile phones.

### Music

Over 40% of music purchased today is music that we are familiar with.

### Television

People are watching TV and movies streamed from computers.

### The Things that you Own

Our computers have a hard drive where we store our photos, music, and documents. But all that is changing. Everything in the future will be saved to the *cloud*—music, videos, books, photos, even our history.

### Privacy

Cameras on the street, buildings, computers and our entire purchasing and personal history stored on a zillion profiles.