

JUNE 2015

# TUTOR NEWSLETTER



Adult Literacy



and Basic Education

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

I would like to thank you all for the wonderful work that has taken place in the past year. You have all done tremendous work with learners and I am sure you have benefited greatly from seeing the progress they have made over the past year. This is a most satisfying aspect to our work, seeing changes taking place for learners.

Our business is in the realm of change, our work gives learners a chance to transform their lives, to achieve more than they thought possible, to aim for things that they would not have considered before. The kind, open, fun and focussed environments you create for your learners all help create an atmosphere for positive change.

This academic year has also seen much change for us in Adult Literacy and Basic Education. New funding request processes and new reporting mechanisms have created another layer of administration. This affects us all in our work and I just want to say that I very much appreciate the work you do as tutors to help in providing the statistical information that is frequently requested from SOLAS. You keeping up to date with your attendance registers, learner commencement forms, evaluation reports etc is a very important part of this process.

QQI is upon us again, and I would like to commend you and your learners for the excellent standard of portfolios that are presented for Internal Verification and External Authentication this year. Many of you have put certification within reach of learners by working through the Level 2 programme. It is wonderful to see such a great range and depth of knowledge and skills on display in portfolios throughout the county.

A lot of effort was put into helping you develop your professional practice this year. Six in-services and three WIT modules were delivered locally. Those attending the WIT modules have told me about how useful they find it in their own work practice and how it has helped to enhance teaching practice. It is very clear that those who attend these modules are most interested in the work, in the learners and in developing themselves professionally. I very much commend this and want to recognise the effort you have put into this over the past few months. Many of you also expressed an interest in being involved in the Erasmus Plus mobilities. This is a wonderful opportunity that we have due to the funding provided to us by Leargas. We are extremely fortunate to have access to this funding in Kerry ETB.

I hope that you enjoy the summer and I look forward to seeing you in the Autumn term.

## Cahersiveen Centre News

Deirdre O'Shea Fitzgerald,  
District Literacy & Education Organiser

Thank you all for your commitment and dedication to our service. I hope you all have a lovely summer break and I look forward to seeing you all for our Autumn term. Below are some notes from our Cahersiveen centre:

### **Tig An Oilean**

**By Karis Goggin**

Over the past number of months I have worked with a group of adults from Tig an Oilean, Valentia and Cunamh Iveragh in Cahersiveen. Our group is comprised of seven, all of whom have learning difficulties. We have had great fun completing two Level 2 modules; Non Verbal Communication and Writing. Exercises included a miming game and CV cover letter. They look forward to their tea break and love nothing more than tea, chat and something homebaked! This is a huge achievement and we are very proud of them and to have worked with such enthusiastic learners.

### **Career Preparation**

It was very insightful to learn about everyone's work life history and hopes for the future. Completing this module and portfolio is a huge achievement; especially for those who had returned to education since leaving school, maybe forty years ago. All the participants had a simulated interview. Even though they were nervous, they were well prepared and all got the job! (Thanks to Brian PLC Co ordinator for assisting Deirdre with the simulated interviews)



Deirdre & Brian with learner Angela

### **One to One Tutor - Derek Walsh**

I have been working as a volunteer tutor for around 18 months in Cahersiveen ABE. I am currently working one to one with two students. Getting to know about their interests and learning goals was an important first step and set the ground for their tuition. I am enjoying working with my current two students who have different needs and expectations; the variety of work we cover keeps things interesting in terms of preparation and approach.

## Castleisland Centre News

Deirdre O'Shea Fitzgerald,  
District Literacy & Education Organiser

Thank you all for your commitment and dedication to our service. I hope you all have a lovely summer break and look forward to seeing you all for our Autumn term. Below are some notes from our centre.

### One to One Volunteer Tutor

**Nick Coveney**

Hi - my name is Nick Coveney and I live near Castleisland in a little village called Knocknaboul quite close to the border with Cork. Although I am British, originally from Manchester, my partner of 25 years was born here. We decided to take early retirement from the NHS after 30 years and move to Kerry to renovate and extend a cottage on the family farm with glorious views to the McGillycuddy mountains, Castlemaine bay and the Dingle peninsula (when it's not raining!). We are so lucky to live in this wonderful place.

As I wasn't born here and wanted to get to know the local area better, I was looking for voluntary work opportunities. I saw an advert for volunteer tutors in the local Castleisland outlook free paper and rang for more information, after completing an application form and going through the interview process I got a place on the tutor training.

I was a bit apprehensive about doing the training course but found this was so much fun and really looked forward to it each week. It was great to do a course

that challenged your assumptions about why adults had difficulty reading and writing and gave you the skills to work with people who wanted to improve their skills. It was also a great way of meeting people from a huge range of backgrounds. The sessions were always very interactive and enjoyable.

Once I had completed the training I looked forward to meeting with a student and working together. Again I was quite nervous about this but needn't have been as there is a lot of support available and the first few sessions are really about getting to know each other and understanding students needs. It was so good doing the training first and understanding that everything needs to be student focused and it's the students in the driving seat in that they determine what they are learning. I now have 2 students who have very different needs which gives a great contrast and I think I am learning as much as them in each session. I try and make sure every session is relevant to each student and is interesting and fun whenever possible - something we learnt during the volunteer training.

I am really enjoying the volunteer tutor work and am so pleased I responded to the advert I saw. It is a real contrast to what I did in my own career and it's great to learn new skills as well as hopefully supporting other people in developing their literacy skills.

**Continued on Page 15**

## Dingle Centre News

Bill McConnell  
Adult Literacy Organiser

Hello agus fáilte ón An Daingean (Dingle).

Our classes are winding down as I write and another Spring term comes to a close. The Internet Skills course through Irish which was based in Ventry and tutored by Sharon Ní Chonchúir, has moved to Dingle and we plan to continue this course when we start back in September. This will be along with the Communications QQI level 3 and ESOL Level one and two courses being tutored by Andrew Duggan. And our one to one's are going along nicely with the use of IT becoming more and more prevalent.

A number of tutors have taken advantage of In-service training during the term and have had training around Dyslexia, ESOL, Understanding Learning Difficulties and delivering QQI at level one and two. So, September is set to become the term when a good deal of our learners will be putting forward portfolios for assessment in QQI. We wish them all the best of luck.

The NALA Student Development Fund has awarded Dingle €600.00 and the learners are very excited about this. They will be feeding back to NALA on the use of 'Plain English' on official forms and information. The event decided upon by both the Communications and the ESOL groups is a two-hour trek in the hills around Dingle on horseback. None of the learners have ever been on a horse before so this should

be a really interesting and exciting event for all concerned. The plan is then to have a light lunch where both groups can integrate a little more in a social setting. The event will also form part of their group work in class.

Another social event which took place in Dingle was the 'Global Food Event'. A small group of learners got together in the Monastery and brought along a dish which they cooked themselves and shared with the rest of the group. Some brought their children and the event proved to be a relaxing and new experience for most of us. All of this goes to show, of course, that learning can be a fun and interesting experience.

We are still awaiting official news on the sale of the Monastery to the Sacred Heart University (SHU) in America but a little bird told me that the deal is in it's final stages and that building work will soon commence on the roof with further improvements taking place over time. We believe that the intervention of the SHU will have a hugely positive impact on the Dingle peninsula as their intention is to work with the local community in developing the culture, language and heritage of our community.

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from our free and confidential service, please do not hesitate to contact: Bill McConnell - Adult Literacy Organiser- An Mhainistir, An Daingean. 086 815 9881 or 066 915 0933.



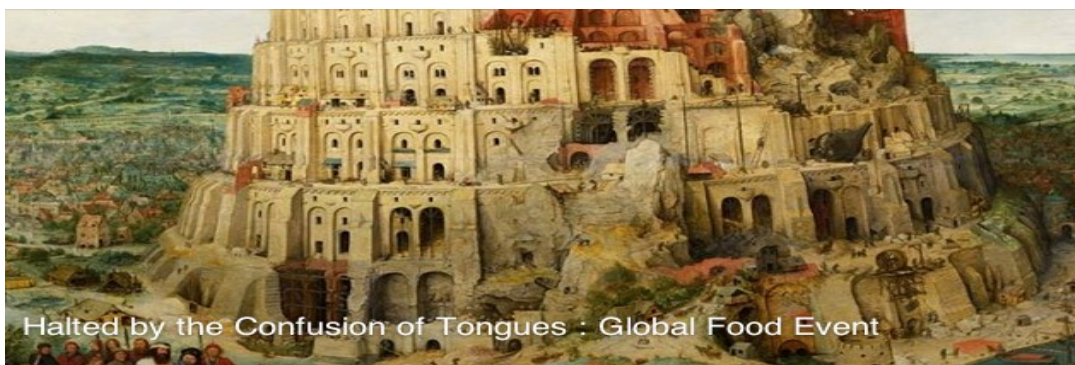


## Global Food Event Dingle

**Kerry ETB students from ESOL and Communications courses  
enjoyed a Global Food Event on May 12th.**

**Students brought and shared food from Ireland, Bulgaria,  
Romania and Slovenia**

**Photos Courtesy of Oisín O Dubhagain**



**Halted by the Confusion of Tongues**

## Kenmare Centre News

Maggie O'Sullivan Graham  
District Literacy & Education Organiser

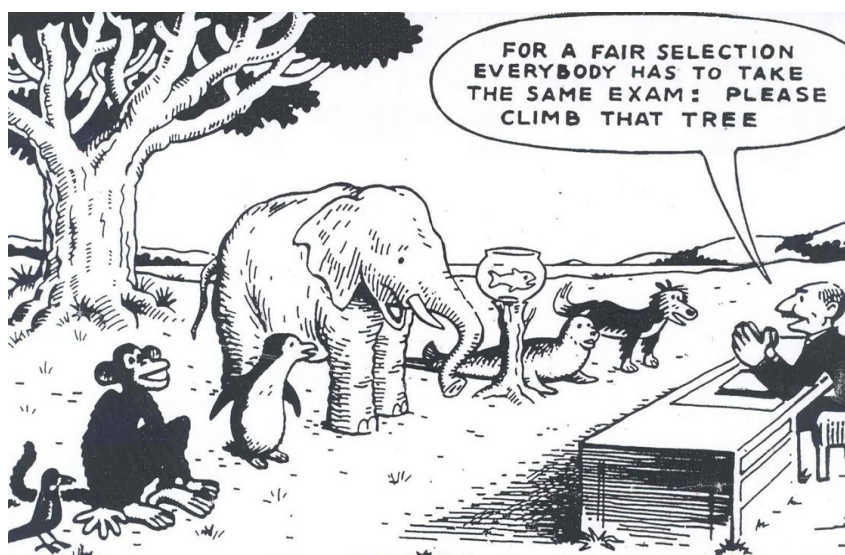
Well, another busy year rolls to a close. Our ITABE programme didn't start until April this year, so they are still hard at work. They are focussing on writing skills, and learning to type and spell using a computer package called TTRS (Touch, Type, Read and Spell). This package was designed specifically for people with a range of learning difficulties (including dyslexia) and it is going really well with our learners so far.

For one learner in particular, it has really unlocked his spelling difficulty and every time I meet him he tells me with a laugh the new word he has learned that day - "Urchin, Maggie, today it was urchin. Isn't that a hoot?" - it's lovely to see a learner knock some fun out of a subject that was really difficult for him so recently. Learning to touch type can give a learner a chance to start afresh with writing and spelling, as for some people, the amount of bad memories attached to picking up a pen can be hard to overcome. So using a keyboard, and learning

to spell using this new skill seems to be a new way for them to get around this obstacle.

The ITABE group are planning to travel to Dingle in early June, thanks to funding from the NALA Student Development Fund. A trip to the aquarium, and maybe even out to see Fungie, is on the cards. They're hard at work planning it all now.

The Kenmare Community Nursing Unit has a new daycare centre for adults with mental health difficulties. This has been a fantastic addition to the town, and it means that high quality care is now available locally for people with this type of challenge. The adults attending the centre spend the day together, taking part in activities like painting, crafts and gardening - and this term, for the first time, they completed a taster course in numeracy with David Kingerlee. The course was called Learning Through Gardening, as it drew on the QQI Level 2 course designed in Killarney over the last few years. It went well, and will hopefully continue next term.



## Killarney Centre News

Mary Concannon  
Adult Literacy Organiser

We are coming to the end of another very busy year at Killarney ABE Centre. I want to thank every tutor for their kindness, professionalism and dedication you have displayed towards the learners at the centre. The benefit of your work ethic and ethos is increasingly reflected in the learning outcomes and improved self-assurance of our students.

### AONTAS Star Awards - The Power of Partnership

Killarney Adult Literacy and Basic Education were one of the centres shortlisted for an AONTAS Star Award with their project '*The Power of Partnership*'. AONTAS Star Awards is an awards initiative to acknowledge the fantastic work undertaken by adult learning projects throughout Ireland. The partners with Killarney ABE are Lime Grove Recovery and Therapeutic Centre, Radio Kerry, Killarney Library and NALA's Student Development Fund. '*The Let Down*' came about as a result of a themed literacy programme, which was delivered to participants from Lime Grove Recovery & Therapeutic Centre. This programme allows learners enhance their literacy skills including reading, writing, numeracy, ICT, listening and speaking. Tom Crean was the subject of our programme. One of the learners wrote '*The Let Down*' which is about Tom Crean's disappointment of not being chosen to go to the South Pole. The shortlisted projects were judged in Limerick on the 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.



Elaine Clifford, Gerry Adams,  
William O'Sullivan, Mary Concannon  
and Neilus O'Connor

This play was recorded by John Herlihy, Radio Kerry at the Radio Kerry Studio.

Killarney Library provided the learners with valuable resources and information to help with their project.

'The Let Down' recording is an example of how organisations working together results in a positive outcome for the learners and the various people supporting these learners and the organisations themselves.

The AONTAS Star Awards ceremony took place in Ballsbridge Hotel, Dublin on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015. We did not receive an overall award, but we were presented with a certificate to mark our project being short-listed.

Continued on Page 17



## Killorglin Centre News

Jenny O'Reilly  
Adult Literacy Organiser

At this time of year we are reaping all the rewards of a year of hard work. We see students holding their heads high, proud of their achievements. Proud that they stayed the course. Proud that they got over their doubts. Proud that they learned about the benefits of making mistakes and of picking themselves up again afterwards. All this on top of the knowledge they gained. We are very proud of them. You, our professional and volunteer tutors, both make this happen. You are the ones who offer encouragement, who provide the safe space, who give the helping hand when needed and who make learning an enjoyable and worthwhile experience for our students. We are proud you and of the high standards of teaching and learning that are evident at the Lodge.



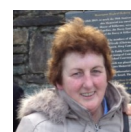
Joan Broderick, Kathy O'Connor, Joan O'Shea and Eileen O'Sullivan (L to R). New friends enjoying Muckcross gardens and one of the blinks of sunshine on the day.

## Student Day out to Muckcross

Our student outing is certainly one of the highlights of the year and eagerly awaited. It is researched and planned by students with some help from tutors. This year they chose to visit Muckcross House and Traditional Farm courtesy of the NALA Student Development Fund to which we had made a successful application. The last Thursday in May turned out to be windy and cold but dry. They explored the gardens or walked to Torc Waterfall and had lunch at the Garden Restaurant—a light and airy space where they enjoyed good food and lively company. Later they toured the house and traditional farm before heading home on the coach.

## Our poet in residence

Eileen O'Sullivan



## The Bingo Birthday Boy

Oh Johnny O'Shea, you play those balls in your own honest way.

While we wait for a number, the balls go in slumber.

And I hear someone say, Oh those balls are waiting and waiting all night,

Oh what a fright you can't get it right.

It is one fine lady number 8 and she just can't wait.

Blind 40 you call and a check comes from the back of the hall.

Oh Johnny the balls are in slumber for we can't get the number.

I try to keep it as clean as I can but all of our numbers are there in the can.

And try if you can but Johnny the years are slipping along.

Give us those numbers and we will sing you a song.  
Happy Birthday Dear John and don't leave us waiting so long.



## Listowel Centre News

Mary Swaine  
District Literacy & Education Organiser



We are all now settled in our new centre here in Listowel. It is wonderful to have big spacious room and lots of light. A big thank you to Aoife for being so supportive and helpful during our move and always.

Here in Listowel, we are looking forward to our student day out on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Around thirty of us are off to Dublin by bus, to visit the DAIL. Hopefully we will have a fine day for the trip. We were successful with our Student Development Fund application and received €600.00. On behalf of all the learners and myself, I would like to give a big thank you to all tutors, both group and voluntary, for their commitment and dedication throughout the year.

Congratulations to some of our learners whom completed portfolios for submission to QQI for this year. Their hard work throughout the year will pay off when they will receive their QQI certificates. Our ITABE programme has commenced in the month of May.

This course will be running for seven weeks before the summer and commencing again in September for another seven weeks. As part of the course the learners are doing a project on a hobby of their choice.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer holiday and that the weather is good.

## THE LISTOWEL FRIDAY MORNING GROUP

We came together 4 years ago and we call ourselves "The Friday Morning Group".

The main reason we got together as a group was to overcome our fear of using the computer and to learn at our own pace as we were not born in the age of technology. While attending class we have made many new friends and had great fun along the way. Our Friday mornings have become an essential social outlet which we all look forward to every week.

Since coming together as a group our confidence has known no bounds! We now send emails, write letters, explore the internet to gain vital information for our passage in life. The computer class has given us the courage to enhance our education and the ability to combine our knowledge to make this journey most enjoyable for all.

We would like to thank Aoife McCormack and Mary Swaine for giving us a golden opportunity to take part in such wonderful courses i.e. Internet Skills. Word Processing, Digital Photography and Desktop Publishing.

We would also like to thank our wonderful tutor Stephen Keane for his endless patience and help.

Coming to the end of this term we are now fully focused and looking forward to next term and breaking down further barriers in the world of technology.

## Tralee Centre News

Maeve Tuohy  
Adult Literacy Organiser

Hi there! My name is Jasmin Stallard and I am the new Resource Worker in the Adult Literacy & Basic Education centre in Tralee. I have had the chance to meet a few of you so far but I thought I'd introduce myself and let you know where I've come from and what it is that I do!

I have been working as a literacy and numeracy tutor since 2007. I trained and began volunteering during 2007 in County Galway VEC (now Galway Roscommon ETB). I started taking groups later that year and spent seven years working there as a group tutor on different adult learning programmes like Return to Education and ITABE. My husband decided to go back to college in 2008 and this brought us to Tralee. We split our time and commuted until we finally moved to Kerry altogether in 2012. I started working for NALA as a Distance Learning Tutor in 2014. I continue to work with learners over the phone and online through the writeon.ie website.

In my new Resource Worker role I work 10 hours per week which I split between Tuesdays (9am-4pm) and Thursdays (9am-1pm). My main role is to assist Maeve Tuohy, and particularly since she has taken leave, to help out with day to day tasks in the running of the literacy service. I am also involved in the internal verification of QQI (FETAC) folders which will take place over the summer.

I can be contacted at the office 066-7124114, on Maeve's mobile 086-7969624 or by email at [traleeresourceworker@gmail.com](mailto:traleeresourceworker@gmail.com). I hope to meet you all soon!

## Tutor Support News

Isabelle Dumont



A number of in-services were on offer this term to new and seasoned tutors. John Leahy delivered an eight in-service in Tralee on the use of tablets with learners. Tutors, novices and experts alike, came away with a new skill and knowledge about mobile devices.

Aoife Comiskey delivered a QQI Level 2 in-service in March in Killarney, Killorglin and Tralee. Tutors learned how to use the Level 2 Programme in their current practice. Jillian Harrison delivered an in-service in Killarney and Tralee on how to understand and manage Learning Difficulties in a creative way. The HSE offered a safeTALK training session in Killarney and Tralee on how we can support people who may be at risk of suicide. Joan Barrett, who is retiring this year, facilitated an information session on the *Time for Me* course for tutors who will be delivering this course in the future.

Three WIT modules were delivered locally (photos on Page 11) for tutors who are working their way to the Higher Certificate in Arts in Literacy Development.

both  
session

## Tutor Support News

Isabelle Dumont



### Teaching and Learning with Tablets In-Service

John Leahy delivered an eight part in-service for tutors who wanted to increase their competence with mobile devices and learn how to integrate educational apps into lesson plans.

## Waterford Institute of Technology Modules

Tutors below who are working toward a Higher Cert in Arts in Literacy Development



### Professional Practice Module

Facilitator: Dr. Maeve O'Grady

### Developing Literacies 1 and Thinking and Learning Modules

Facilitator: Eilish Roche





## Designing numeracy teaching programmes

Jenny O'Reilly

Teaching numeracy using an applied or investigative learning approach is always going to be much more demanding than teaching from a book. It requires planning and preparation if it is to be successful but then the learning for students is more engaging and broader.

Topics should be of interest to the entire group. Brainstorming provides a good way to investigate and document topics or issues. At this stage it is best not to worry about the maths content—this will come later.

Identify a starting point by asking some open ended questions to initiate a discussion. E.g.

- If you were given €10000 to buy a car, what car would you buy? Why? Describe the car you would buy and why you wanted it?
- How would you pay for a car worth €12000? (compare at least 3 different ways)
- Choose a car you like and work out what its running costs would be.
- Are young people more likely to die in car accidents than older people?
- How does blood alcohol affect driving?
- What does blood alcohol concentration (BAC) mean and how do different drinks affect BAC?
- How do global positioning systems work in cars?

In most cases only one or two of these will be chosen to follow up on.

Investigations and research is undertaken by smaller groups of 2 or 3 students.

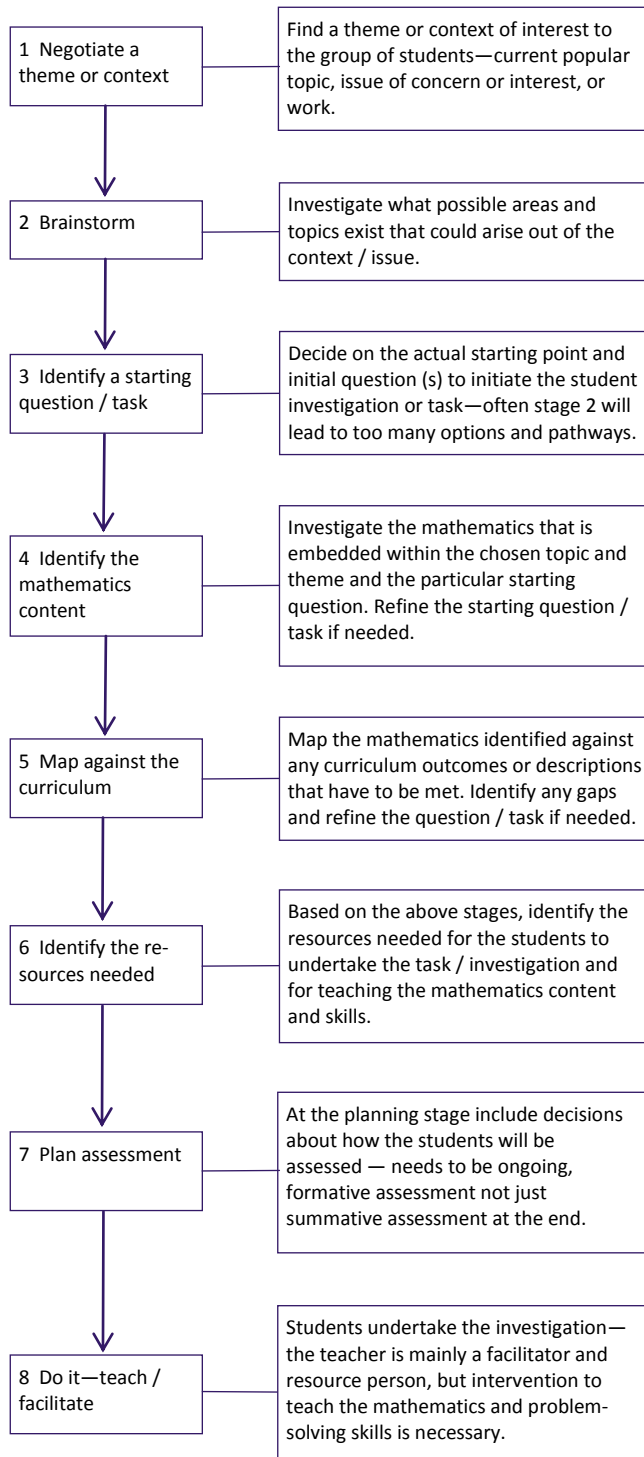
Identify the maths content embedded that lies behind the particular starting question. E.g. Understanding numbers and money—reading and writing numbers and money, comparing and calculating. Understanding measurements related to cars—capacity of engines, fuel economy, speed. If there is a requirement to map against learning outcomes for assessment purposes this is decided now.

The resources / equipment needed to teach are identified. These may also include a talk or an outing to look at cars.

Outcomes across a number of modules may be possible making a more efficient use of the time investment. This will require team teaching.

Tutors should keep an observation sheet to monitor individual skills.

### A process for negotiating and planning what to teach under an applied learning approach



Tout, D. and Motteram, G. 2006. *Foundation Numeracy in Context*, ACER Press, Victoria



Kerry ETB prepared a successful application for Erasmus+ funding. The application was prepared in 2014 by Mary Concannon, Elaine Clifford and Mieke Byrne and proof-read by Aoife McCormack. Michelle Anne Houlihan ensured that Kerry ETB was fully registered with Leargas. This team approach was effective and late in December 2014 Kerry ETB received news that the application was successful and that Kerry ETB can support 30 mobilities in 2015 and 2016. A mobility is essentially a training programme or in-service that take place abroad.

An Erasmus+ Committee was established and the first meeting took place in January 2015. The Committee members are Mary Concannon, Elaine Clifford, Isabelle Dumont, Aoife McCormack, Michelle Anne Houlihan, Shivaun Shanahan, Eileen

Lenihan and Claire Lucid. This Committee is to oversee the development, implementation and evaluation of the Kerry ETB Erasmus+ project.

In April 2015 all tutors, ALOs, DLEOS and Resource Workers were invited to express an interest in participating in Erasmus + mobilities. 47 staff in the Adult Literacy and Basic Education programme expressed an interest in participating.

In the coming weeks and months all those who expressed an interest will be invited to apply for participation on a mobility.

Erasmus+ brings together all the current EU and international schemes for education, training and youth. For the first time, sports initiatives are included. Good practice will be shared through cross-cultural and cross-institutional learning in education and training institutions.

**Literacy & Basic  
Education Website**  
[www.kerryabetutors.ie](http://www.kerryabetutors.ie)



You can continue to access the Kerry ABE tutor website at  
**[www.kerryabetutors.ie](http://www.kerryabetutors.ie)**  
where you will find links to useful resources and information about our service  
AND

If you have a resource or a teaching idea you would like to share please contact your local centre organiser with the details for inclusion on the website.

## Cahersiveen Centre News

### Continued from Page 2

One element that I have really enjoyed in particular is watching their confidence grow over time; the change is most obvious in the way that once quite daunting exercises are completed confidently and easily just a few sessions later. It's great to see how this helps them in so many ways in their lives.

### Dads & Lads Woodwork DEIS Family Literacy Tutor - Susanne McCarthy

Certificates were presented to our Dads & Lads Woodwork group in Scoil Mhuire N.S. It was a lovely event with the Dads & Lads very proud of their participation on the project.



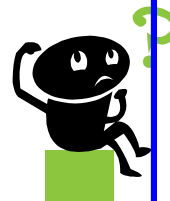
### ITABE Tutors Terry Cunningham & Karis Goggin

Our ITABE group are going on a learning excursion to Cobh on Monday May 25<sup>th</sup> to visit the Titanic Experience. We'll report on this trip in our next tutor newsletter.

Míle buíochas libh go léir

## DID YOU KNOW!

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



No two corn flakes look the same.

85% of plant life is found in the ocean.

The least used letter in the alphabet is Q.

About 90% of the world's population kisses.

African Grey Parrots have vocabularies of over 200 words.

Lightning strikes the earth 6,000 times every minute.

If you add up all the numbers from 1 to 100 consecutively (1+2+3...) it totals 5050.

The first sailing boats were built in Egypt.

The word *laser* stands for *Light Amplification by Stimulate Emission of Radiation*.

In a deck of cards the king of hearts is the only king without a moustache.



## Castleisland Centre News

Continued from Page 3

### Information Morning Castleisland:

On **Friday** March 13th an "Information morning" was held in the River Island Hotel from 10am to 1pm on local services & educational opportunities available in Castleisland and the neighbouring districts. The morning went really well and it was also a great opportunity to meet with fellow agencies in the Castleisland area.



### Numeracy for Everyday Life By Rosaleen Kennedy

A huge congratulation to our Oiléan Beo group, (St. John of God's, Castleisland) who have completed the Quantity and Number (M2N05) numeracy module. Eight learners submitted their portfolios last week ready for assessment in June. This is the final component they need in order to be awarded their Level 2 Certificate in General Learning (P2GLO). We had great fun during our classes and used a variety of learning mediums and everyday settings to make it practical and enjoyable. We all now look forward to the presentation of

The maintenance and development of numeracy skills for daily home and work life is an important part of life-long learning for adults with an intellectual disability.

### NALA Student Development Fund:

Castleisland ABE were successful in their application for this fund. We are teaming up with my colleague Maggie and her students in Kenmare. We are currently planning our excursion to Dingle early June.

### Joan Barrett: Tutor

Joan is retiring from tutoring at the end of our summer term this month. Joan delivered the "Time for Me" personal development course and "Power of Encouragement". Thank you Joan - you will be missed but we wish you the very best.



Continued on Page 16

## Castleisland Centre News

### Continued from Page 15



Some participants on the Sliabh Luachra Adult Learning Group receiving their full L3 General Learning Certificate at a presentation on Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> in Castleisland

In June 2011 ABE and BTEI agreed to collaborate on the delivery of the Sliabh Luachra Adult Learning Programme. The programme commenced in September 2011.

Thank you to all tutors involved in the programme!

### Diary of a Tutor

#### By Anne MacKenzie, Tralee Centre



Here is a story—a true story that I am now learning so much from.

Many years ago, I took part in the Initial Tutor Training Programme. I was relaxed and looking forward to learning new skills.

During the session when we were sharing suggestions about meeting our students, I faced a sudden new memory.

About 45 years earlier, I was a fearful girl aged 5. I had been absent from my class for a few weeks. When I returned, I discovered that *all* the others could read everything, and I, of course, could read *nothing*.

I was trapped in my cell of fear. Quickly I hatched plans to disguise the truth. I felt so worthless, and I was determined to disguise my ignorance.

I had neither the time nor the energy to learn. Only one thing was important: no one would ever find out that I was unable to read.

I recall how words became clear when my teacher seemed to be with me most of the time. She was able, slowly and carefully, to help me find my way. She was climbing a small ladder with me, step by step — no more fear of falling! We laughed together.



Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015 -  
AONTAS Star Awards Ceremony  
Ballsbridge Hotel, Dublin  
L to R: Elaine Clifford, Aoife McCormack,  
Mary Concannon

As part of **Adult Learner Festival week**, Killarney and Killorglin Adult Literacy & Basic Education Centres held a get together in Killarney on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2015. Margaret Scully, Learner Ambassador with NALA, welcomed our visitors from Killorglin and spoke about her experiences as a Learner Ambassador. The group visited the Hugh O Flaherty Statue and the new Tír na nÓg sculpture. The visit ended with a tour of Killarney Library. Learners completed worksheets about Hugh O'Flaherty and Nora O'Mahoney won the competition which was organised as part of this event.



I wish you a very pleasant summer break and look forward to seeing you all refreshed and ready for another busy term in September.



## Apps for Ipad

Squeebles Maths Bingo

IXL Maths

Maths Everywhere

Number Splat

Odds or Evens

What's the missing number?

Number Pieces

Chicken Vault



## Useful Links and Resources

## Numeracy Apps for Ipad

**Claire Lucid and  
Nigel Hull  
Tralee Centre**

Nigel retired this term after eight years of dedicated service.

We wish Nigel well in the future!



---

## WHY DO WE READ?

**By Isabelle Cartwright**

Why do we read? The simple answer is for pleasure. But what exactly is the nature of that pleasure? Reading removes us from the structure of our lives, from the routine, the sequential habits of our day-to-day living. We enter instead another time zone. The plot, characters and setting occupy us, and while we read we inhabit the others' reality. The pleasure therefore is derived from escaping our own small, limited and often repetitive lives and entering an exotic elsewhere.

But perhaps there is also the attraction of reserving something private for ourselves, something outside of the public world of relationship, family, work; something that is not encumbered by the stricture of time and self.

Some of us feel it necessary to read, that we read to see ourselves, and (to borrow from Heaney), "to set the darkness echoing". Wittgenstein says we can experience only that for which we have a language, so we read to expand our language. We look for the enabling metaphor and the resonant simile to recognise ourselves, to tell us what we think, how we feel and how we perceive the world.

I'm reading *Crooked Heart* by Lissa Evans, and Mattie, the old and eccentric godmother, tells Noel, our young protagonist, that "hobbies are for people who don't read books". We are bombarded by popular culture, by advertising, television, fashions and trends - to read is to build your own imagination and strengthen resistance to prevailing commercial forces.

We read to recognise what is true of human nature, and fiction most adequately grapples with what motivates us. Our values and assumption are challenged; we are invited to empathise with entirely alien points of view.

We read to feel less lonely, to feel more connected to the greater reality of what has happened or is happening or may happen outside of our direct experience. We read to assure ourselves that the search for meaning is relentless and that many creative minds have made all sorts of wild and wonderful sense of it all, or not - but even the chaotic, nihilistic texts are bound in covers and are structured into comprehensible stories.

---

## WHY DO WE READ?

Continued from Page 19

We read to discover the consequences of actions without bearing any of the responsibility. We read with Schadenfreude, with pity, empathically; we look for validation, catharsis and humour and find common sense, confusion, absurdity and righteousness. We read because we know instinctively that nature, books, music and love help us live life more intensely and in, dare I say it, truth. We read because we love the language, the images it evokes, the landscapes it conjures, the mire of human desire, anguish and beauty.

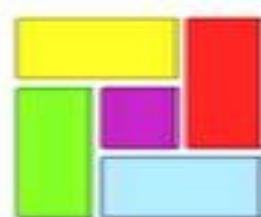
We read to send us to sleep dreaming of different sunsets and boulevards, oceans and bogs. We read to know that there is someone tracing a life very like our own, or not at all alike but recognisable all the same, and making of it a moment worth sharing. In Tim Winton's book *Breath* the protagonist says: "I liked books - the respite and privacy of them - . . . Whenever I sank into them I felt free."

Isabelle Cartwright is a member of the Association of Freelance Editors, Proofreaders and Indexers. She is compiling a book meant to console people living with depression. If you are a writer and want to contribute please contact her at [icartwright@eircom.net](mailto:icartwright@eircom.net).



If you have any books or resources at home that you signed out from your centre Resource Room, please return them before the summer holidays.

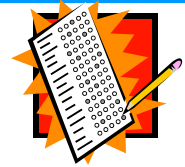
**Remember!**  
If your learner is having difficulty reading black on white, a set of coloured overlays is available in your centre.  
Ask your ALO if you would like to borrow a set to use with your learner.





## HOW GOOD IS YOUR GRAMMAR?

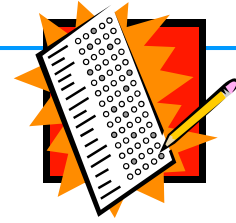
[www.syntaxis.com](http://www.syntaxis.com)



1. Neither Roberta's parents nor her husband\_\_\_\_\_going to be at the awards ceremony tonight.  
A. is  
B. are
2. Pat Connor,\_\_\_\_\_my uncle has always admired, was recently arrested for insider trading.  
A. who  
B. whom
3. Don't call Seamus and\_\_\_\_\_until tomorrow.  
A. I  
B. me
4. I knew I had to proofread the memo, but I had already been working on it all weekend and decided I needed to\_\_\_\_\_down for a few moments first.  
A. lie  
B. lay
5. Which of the following sentences is correct?  
A. Its not its most reliable product.  
B. It's not it's most reliable product.  
C. Its not it's most reliable product.  
D. It's not its most reliable product.
6. Six months\_\_\_\_\_too long to wait for approval.  
A. is  
B. are
7. Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?  
A. He worked all night, therefore, he was able to finish the report in time.  
B. He worked all night, therefore he was able to finish the report in time.  
C. He worked all night; therefore, he was able to finish thte report in time.  
D. He worked all night, therefore he was able to finish the report in time.

## How Good is Your Grammar

Continued from Page 24



8. Which of the following sentences is preferable?
  - A. The play was confusing, offensive, and a bore.
  - B. The play was confusing, offensive, and boring.
9. How many commas does the following sentence require?  
*The company introduced a revolutionary healthcare plan on May 23 2015 at its headquarters in Tralee County Kerry.*
  - A. 0
  - B. 1
  - C. 2
  - D. 3
10. Which sentence is correct? You have two business partners named Jim.
  - A. My partner Jim likes to read political biographies.
  - B. My partner, Jim, likes to read political biographies.

## Answers to How Good is Your Grammar

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1.  | A |
| 2.  | B |
| 3.  | B |
| 4.  | A |
| 5.  | D |
| 6.  | B |
| 7.  | C |
| 8.  | B |
| 9.  | D |
| 10. | A |

## Contact Information



If you have recently changed your email address or phone number please inform your local centre Organiser and Isabelle. as soon as possible.

## The pen and an intrepid pupil

By Lorraine Carey  
Tralee Tutor



Your journey to this room  
full of cornflower foamed chairs  
and graffiti less desks -  
devoid of inkwells where  
fear splashed -  
took your lifetime of dodging  
literary booms

signs and warnings  
garish pamphlets gulped  
by your letterbox  
and eyed by you with  
defeat and yawning.  
The pace, in your face  
your pen now firm,  
as you lean on the page  
swooping loops and capital letters  
verbs and bold nouns,  
the grammar budding  
in your tended garden  
where you strive to  
undo youth's beguilement.

Now, your ring binder fattening  
with each lesson's close and

you stand taller as confidence  
blooms,  
within yourself  
and the sanctuary  
of this room.

The beautiful thing about learning  
is that no one can take it away  
from you.

B.B. King

Education is the key to  
unlock the golden door of  
freedom.

George Washington Carver

It is the mark of an edu-  
cated mind to be able to  
entertain a thought without  
accepting it.

Aristotle

Submitted by Christopher Miley  
Listowel Centre

BRAIN STUDY: IF YOU CAN READ THIS YOU HAVE A STRONG MIND.

**7H15 M3554G3  
53RV35 7O PR0V3  
HOW OUR M1ND5 C4N  
DO 4M4Z1NG 7H1NG5!  
1MPR3551V3 7H1NG3!  
1N 7H3 B3G1NN1NG  
17 WA5 H4RD BU7  
YOUR M1ND 1S  
R34D1NG 17  
4U70M471C4LLY  
W17H 0U7 3V3N  
7H1NK1NG 4B0U7 17,  
B3 PROUD! ONLY  
C3R741N P39PL3 C4N  
R3AD 7H15.  
PL3453 F0RW4RD 1F  
U C4N R34D 7H15.**



Ireland's EU Structural and Investment  
Funds Programmes 2014 - 2020.

Co-funded by the Irish Government  
and the European Union.



EUROPEAN UNION

Investing in your future  
European Social Fund



QQI AWARD