



Ireland's EU Structural and Investment
Funds Programmes 2014 - 2020
Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union

Inside this issue:

<i>Buncrana's Busy Summer Programme</i>	2
<i>Ballyshannon Visit Art Exhibition</i>	2
<i>Masterchef Final 2015</i>	3
<i>Lifford & Letterkenny Poetry Book Entries</i>	3
<i>Pat Morgan Retires</i>	4

Welcome... to the third edition of our 2015 newsletter! Since our last newsletter, Pat Morgan has retired as Coordinator of Gortahork Youthreach after managing the programme for more than fifteen years. We welcome Cíaran O'Brien as the new Gortahork Coordinator! Letterkenny Youthreach has also just celebrated its 25th birthday and had great fun doing so. The next edition of the newsletter will be available in December. In the meantime you can keep up to date with us on Twitter (@DonegalYR), Facebook (Donegal Youthreach) and YouTube (Donegal Youthreach Programme). Happy Halloween!

Dr Sandra Buchanan, Youthreach County Coordinator



Happy 25th Birthday to Letterkenny Youthreach!

Letterkenny Youthreach marked its 25th anniversary this month. In preparation, the Centre underwent some considerable cosmetic work, with a newly cleaned and painted building, new signage and perimeter fencing. The celebrations include a wide range of activities. On Tuesday 20th October, the Centre hosted a coffee morning for senior citizens, members of the public and guests. On Wednesday 21st they held their QQI Award ceremony where a range of major and minor certificates were awarded to successful learners and presented by comedian Conal Gallen, whilst on Thursday 22nd the centre hosted the annual county Masterchef Final (see p.3). Finally, an open day was held on Friday 23rd when past learners, staff, general public and dignitaries were invited to come along to reminisce, look forward and celebrate the achievements of the programme over the past twenty-five years. Other events planned in the year will be a charitable Christmas fair, school playground project with local primary schools, an art exhibition, various information sharing events, sporting activities and trips. You'll find details and photos of these events throughout the year on our Facebook page (Donegal Youthreach) and Twitter account (@DonegalYR).



Top l-r: learners and staff with the new signage they created for the building in September; learners who received QQI certificates with special guest Conal Gallen.

Bottom l-r: 25th birthday cake; TD Pádraig MacLochlainn, Letterkenny Mayor Gerry McMonagle, Acting Coordinator Gillian Kennedy, Minister Joe McHugh, AEO Cróna Gallagher and Donegal ETB Chairperson Bernie Mulhern at the open day.



Buncrana & Glengad's Busy Summer Programme

The Buncrana and Glengad Youthreach centres had a very busy and successful summer programme this year. The photos give a small flavour of what they got up to including MUSO (previously known as Songcraft) working with the learners to create their own song, having an environmental clean up in their area, holding their annual open day which included learners receiving a range of awards, hosting a barbeque in the Glengad centre for special needs students from the Little Angels school and promoting Youthreach at the annual Inishowen Agricultural Show.



Ballyshannon Visit *Magnetism* Contemporary Art Exhibition



In September Ballyshannon learners visited the contemporary art exhibition *Magnetism* in the old Snia/Saehan factory in Sligo. The exhibition was presented by Hazelwood House, Sligo. The exhibition was curated by Vaari Claffey and brought large-scale sculptural works by a group of Irish and international artists together with a video programme, compiled to reflect the history of the factory at the site where magnetic video tape was manufactured from 1987-2005.



factory at the site where magnetic video tape was manufactured from 1987-2005.

Lifford Completes Community Project

As part of our community development project with Donegal Youth Service, we decided to do some work with our local resource centre in Lifford. They have a small garden centre and charity shop as well as the resource centre and we decided to paint the surrounding fences and walls (*see before and after photos*). We have part of the project finished and are due to finish

the rest in a couple of weeks. The whole group really enjoyed the couple of days working and the centre looks really good. Loads of people came up talking to us, saying that it really brightened the old building up. The whole project was a great idea and should look really good when it's finished.



Successful First Summer Games!

On 30 June, all six Donegal Youthreach centres (Ballyshannon, Buncrana, Glengad, Gortahork, Letterkenny and Lifford) came together to hold our first annual summer games in Gartan OETC. We wanted to provide our learners with their own 'sports day'. Teams completed a variety of tasks, culminating in a raft building competition and race. The winners, based on participation and attitude, were Team Ballyshannon. We're looking forward to next year's games already!



Letterkenny Wins Masterchef Final 2015!

On 22 October the annual Youthreach Masterchef final took place in Letterkenny. Teams of two from each centre competed to create a main course and dessert on a budget of €20. The final was judged by ETB Chairperson Bernie Mulhern, Highland Radio Breakfast Show DJ John Breslin and Ian Orr, Head Chef, Browns Restaurants. The winning dishes were made by Eddie Curran and Sheridan O'Callaghan who cooked mozzarella stuffed burger with roasted rosemary and garlic potatoes and homemade coleslaw followed by chocolate brownie with a warm toffee sauce. The runner-up team was Team Gortahork (Emma Mc Mahon and Roisin Clark) who cooked warm duck, pomegranate and mint salad with grilled flat bread followed by Tunisian orange cake and mascarpone ice cream. The remaining teams were Team Ballyshannon (Joe Fee and Aaron Heraty) who cooked beef and vegetable stir fry followed by black forest muffin; Team Buncrana (Mandy Doherty and Jodie Farrell) who cooked deep fried goats cheese salad followed by apricot apple rose; Team Glengad (Emer O Conner and Nadine Porter) who cooked cracking burger with fries followed by double chocolate moose and Team Lifford (Adam Doherty and Josh Mc Bride) who cooked baked chicken and pesto on a bed of bacon mash followed by lemon meringue pie. You can view more pictures on our Twitter account (@DonegalETB) and Facebook page (Donegal Youthreach).

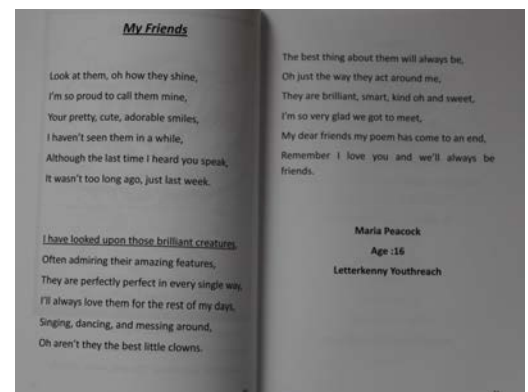
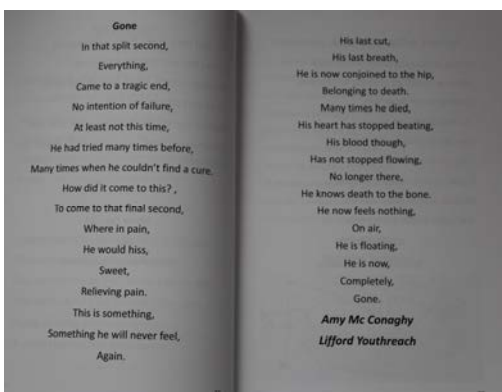


Top l-r: Team Letterkenny, Team Gortahork, Team Buncrana and Team Lifford.

Bottom l-r: Team Ballyshannon, Team Glengad, and judges Ian Orr, Bernie Mulhern and John Breslin.

Lifford & Letterkenny Poetry Entries Included in New Book!

Earlier this year Sligo Youthreach held a creative competition to celebrate the 150th birthday of the poet W.B. Yeats. While there were no winners from Co Donegal, we were delighted to see the two entries from Lifford (learner Amy McConaghy) and Letterkenny (learner Maria Peacock) included in the book containing all the entries.





CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

WWW.DONEGALETB.IE/YOUTHREACH

WWW.YOUTHREACH.IE

FACEBOOK: DONEGAL YOUTHREACH

TWITTER: @ DONEGALYR

YOUTUBE: DONEGAL YOUTHREACH PROGRAMME



Goodbye & Good Luck!

Pat Morgan retired from his position as the Gortahork Youthreach Centre Coordinator on Friday 04 September after managing the centre for over fifteen years. Originally from Belfast, Pat has been with the centre since it first opened its doors in 2000 and has overseen the development of the programme in the Gortahork Adult Education and Training Centre from the start.

In that time he has witnessed much change from the centre starting out as a twenty-five place centre and eventually becoming a thirty-one place centre, starting with a small staff team of three to a team of nine today, changing education provision from NICVA to FETAC to QQI accreditation, management changes from Co Donegal VEC to Donegal ETB, funding changes from the Department of Education to SOLAS, the introduction of inspections to Youthreach (including the completion of a successful centre inspection), not to mention the transformation of the centre from the 'old tech' to one of Donegal ETB's eight Adult Education and Training Centres today, including the addition of a state of the art crèche and an extension to the building a number of years ago. He has taken all of this change in his stride with his own brand of Northern humour! More importantly, Pat has supported so many young people who attended the programme since it first opened. Gortahork Youthreach is a thirty-one place centre but because Youthreach operates a continuous intake policy all year around, this has meant that around 400 early school leavers have passed through its doors in Pat's time.

Managing a rural Youthreach centre in the Gaeltacht saw Pat build relationships with local schools, HSE personnel, Gardaí, employers and voluntary and community groups in order to support the programme and services offered to its young learners. As the programme Maths tutor, Pat was innovative and creative in his teaching of a subject that many of the Gortahork learners struggled with in school.

The staff of Gortahork Youthreach and staff and Coordinators from Youthreach across the county wish Pat all the best with his retirement.

Welcome!

We'd like to welcome Ciaran O'Brien as the new Coordinator of Gortahork Youthreach! Ciaran was born and reared in Sligo, where he was involved in sports education from a very young age. He started his professional career working with Gartan Outdoor Education and Training Centre, where he was an instructor for a number of years: "All this experience was, in the main, working with young people. The nature of adventure sports forces you as the instructor to have the ability to engage and build relationships with groups quickly. You must also be flexible and creative. All key attributes to working in Youthreach." A number of years ago Ciaran took a career break from Gartan to work with young people in care which led to him returning to college to re-skill. He returned to Gartan after almost three years and the majority of his time was spent working on the Outdoor Instructor Traineeship Course (QQI Level 5).

Ciaran is looking forward to building a relationship with young people and staff in Youthreach Gortahork and "trying to figure out how we, as a team, can have the most impact in providing education and training for our learners." He feels the Youthreach Programme gives learners a chance to improve their confidence, challenge themselves, overcome hurdles and hopefully leave wanting to learn more.

The staff and learners in Youthreach Gortahork, and in the wider ETB community, wish Ciaran every success in his new role. For more information on the Youthreach programme in Gortahork, contact Ciaran on 074 9135218.

