



Inside this issue:

Buncrana Explore Easter 1916 2

Lifford Leads Centres' Sports Leader Award 2

Letterkenny Crafts 2

LYIT Taster Days 3

Ballyshannon Democrat Writer 4

Welcome... to the first edition of our 2016 newsletter. Learners are currently busy working towards their QQI assessments for Level 2, 3 and 4 awards. Additionally they've been getting involved in various other projects related to literacy (2016 Read DL initiative), numeracy (Have You Got Maths Eyes? competitions), history and art (Sackville Street Art Project) as well as health promotion and confidence building (Girls Active, Sports Leader Award). The next edition of the newsletter will be available in June. In the meantime you can keep up to date with us on Twitter (@DonegalYR), Facebook (Donegal Youthreach) and YouTube (Donegal Youthreach Programme).

Dr Sandra Buchanan, Youthreach County Coordinator

Gortahork & Lifford Win Maths Eyes Competitions!

Congratulations to Gortahork Youthreach learner Daniel Moran (*left*) who won the Lifelong Learning Centres section of this year's Maths Eyes competition in Co Donegal and to Lifford's Niall Brennan and Joshua McBride who are the short listed winners of the Adult Education Section of the national *Have You Got Maths Eyes* competition!

The theme of the competition in Donegal was '*Maths is Everywhere*' and entrants were asked to



take a picture of an everyday event/object/place and ask a mathematical question associated with the picture. There were three categories - Primary, Secondary and Lifelong Learning Centres. Daniel is pictured right with his winning entry which asked 'How old is this church?'. The church is across the road from the Gortahork Youthreach centre. Pictured below are



learners and staff members from Gortahork Youthreach with Daniel's entry which was displayed on a billboard at the Ballymacool roundabout outside Letterkenny (Glenties Road approach). His work will be included in an ebook to be published shortly.



Niall's entry asked 'What percentage of colours make up pink?' and Joshua's entry asked 'What are my chances of ringing the correct doorbell?' Their entries will be exhibited in Dublin in April, where the overall winners of their section will be announced.

Maths Eyes aims to empower people and build their confidence

in their own maths knowledge and skills. Further information on this initiative can be found at:

<http://www.haveyoutgotmathseyes.com/>



Buncrana & Glengad Involved in 1916 Easter Rising Art Project

As part of the 1916 Sackville Street Art Project, the Buncrana and Glengad centres are creating a 'Dutch Billy' style house (see photos below) typical of houses in Dublin during the time of the 1916 Easter Rising. Sackville Street was the name of O Connell Street at this time. This art project allows learners to find out about what happened in the Rising through art. The aim of the project is to commemorate civilians who were killed in the 1916 Rising; they're concentr-



trating on the life story of Joseph Donohoe, 98 Marlborough Street, who was 19 when he was killed. A total of 262 civilian houses will be made by educational groups, youth groups and individuals to represent the civilians who were killed at this time. The artwork will be exhibited in the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin during Easter which they are looking forward to attending. The learners work on the project in their woodcraft class, when they work on the house, and their communications class, when they work on Joseph's life story. You can check out more on Twitter @1916sackvillest.

Lifford Lead Centres on Sports Leader Award



Last year Lifford Coordinator Aidan Callaghan completed Sports Leader Award training through the Donegal Sports Partnership and will now roll it out to learners from across the county. The course is designed to give learners the opportunity to learn and develop the skills required to help take charge of a sporting or exercise group. It includes communication skills, decision making, what is leadership and what makes a good leader?, adapting to change, developing a coaching plan and health and safety. Learners will work alongside qualified coaches to develop leadership skills and take charge of exercise sessions, designed to meet the needs of the group they are working with. Learners will also work with local primary schools and groups to develop skills and qualities required to complete assessments towards the end of the course. If successful, learners will be able to volunteer at their local sporting clubs and assist qualified coaches in developing and taking charge of sports sessions. Progression from this course includes learners gaining Level 1 coaching certificates in a sport of their choice.

Gortahork Review 'Blood Upon the Rose' (Read DL)



We are reading a comic as part of The ReadDL project in Youthreach Gortahork. *Blood Upon the Rose* is a comic book about the 1916 Easter Rising in Ireland, it was written and drawn by Gerry Hunt and is approximately 48 pages long. The book itself is in memory of the author's father, Patrick Hunt who served in

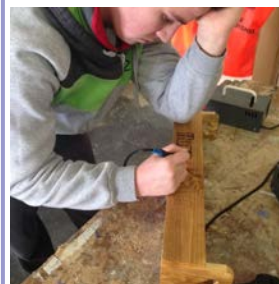
the Easter Rising and later in the War of Independence. The following is a summary of this comic. The plot of the book is set on the day of the Rising and showcased the struggle and seriousness of the event. The path the author took was in favour of the rebels and

pointed out the many divides in Dublin at the time, the rebels were referred to as "Shiners" by the public and demonized as they marched upon the GPO. The style of the book is not my cup of tea and I didn't enjoy the comic to be honest. The plot was rushed and many of the small "events" in the book were really subjective and were not factual. I enjoyed the fact that the author chose to include so many rebels and not just focusing on the main men like so many others. As it is a comic I would recommend this book for kids or the odd man child. It is a great book for

kids to get an understanding of the war without so much hate and political drama, so to that I'd say it does the job. *Paíras Dé Buitlear, Gortahork*



Letterkenny Easter Crafts



Letterkenny learners have been busy making these wonderful Easter Bunny Boxes incorporating craft, wood and art skills.



Ballyshannon, Buncrana & Letterkenny Feature on Donegal Youth Council *No To Homophobic Bullying* Poster



We're delighted that Donegal Youth Council and Donegal Youth Services included photos from the Ballyshannon, Buncrana and Letterkenny Youthreach centres in their new *No To Homophobic Bullying* poster. These photos were taken last year when learners participated in the national Stand Up! Week (organised nationally by BeLongTo) which each year aims to tackle homophobic and transphobic bullying by increasing awareness, friendship and support for LGBT learners by other learners.

Buncrana are March Focus of National ESF 2016 Calendar!

Youthreach is co-funded by the Department of Education and Skills and the European Social Fund (ESF). Each year the ESF Managing Authority produces a calendar of the best ESF funded programmes/projects in the Ireland. We're delighted to see Buncrana Youthreach feature as the March focus of the national 2016 European Social Fund calendar! Buncrana is the only Youthreach centre to feature in this year's calendar. The 2015 calendar also featured Gortahork Youthreach (again, the only Youthreach centre in the whole country to feature in it). For more information you can check out www.esf.ie



LYIT Host Taster Days for Youthreach

A number of learners from Ballyshannon, Glengad, Gortahork and Lifford Youthreach centres (pictured) attended a fantastic taster day in LYIT on 17 February. Activities included a talk from former Gortahork Youthreach learner Paul McEleney, who is now an LYIT student, some fun in the sports centre and a look around the campus. We're looking forward to more taster days over the coming months which are being arranged specifically for Youthreach learners who intend to apply to LYIT next year. A huge thank you to Brian, Kathleen and staff at LYIT for arranging and facilitating the day!



Donegal ETB

YOUTHREACH County Coordinator
24 Millfield Heights, Buncrana
Co Donegal Tel/Fax: 074 93 20908
Email: sandrabuchanan@donegaletb.ie



CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

WWW.DONEGALETB.IE/YOUTHREACH



WWW.YOUTHREACH.IE

FACEBOOK: DONEGAL YOUTHREACH

TWITTER: @ DONEGALYR



YOUTUBE: DONEGAL YOUTHREACH PROGRAMME

Busy Girls Active Programmes in Centres

All of the Youthreach centres are involved in the Girls Active programme once again this year. This programme is funded by the HSE and Donegal Youthreach centres first got involved in this initiative in 2010. Girls Active targets teenage girls in the Northwest (County Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim). It is a joint initiative between the Health Service Executive West (HSE), Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership, Donegal Sports Partnership and Youth Sport West. The programme is designed to increase the number of teenage girls involved in long-term regular physical activity through developing more supportive environments in schools, and now Youthreach centres. Staff from all centres undertook training in September 2015 to enable them to provide targeted sports programmes to female learners. Lifford for example, are pictured below at jiving lessons and go to the gym and play badminton on a weekly basis. The programme is supported and monitored by Lynda McGuinness the Physical Activity Coordinator with the local Health Promotion Unit.



Buncrana Staff Leads NAYC Conference Workshop on Using Minecraft to Teach

Buncrana and Glengad Resource Person Jennifer Delaney recently facilitated a workshop on using Minecraft to teach at the annual conference of the National Association of Youthreach Coordinators (NAYC) in Galway. Jennifer has been using Minecraft to teach maths for a number of years now and was invited by the NAYC to share this innovative teaching methodology with Youthreach Coordinators from across the country. The workshop received positive feedback from Coordinators, many of whom intend to now explore this as part of their centre teaching methodologies.



Former Ballyshannon Learner Writes in Donegal Democrat!



Former Ballyshannon learner Rebecca Timoney recently published an article in the Donegal Democrat's Women's Lives feature. Rebecca completed QQI Level 3 and 4 General Learning with the centre in 2013-2014 and then went on to complete a Level 5 PLC Business Studies course in Errigal College the following year. She completed her work experience for her PLC course with the Donegal Women's Network, part of which resulted in this newspaper article. Well done Rebecca!