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*Welcome...*to the fourth and final edition of our 2015 newsletter! Since our last newsletter, centres have submitted folders for QQI assessments and continued with teaching and learning alongside a range of other activities including fundraisers for local and national charities as well as learning and practicing new craft skills. The next edition of our newsletter will be available in March 2016; in the meantime you can keep up to date with us on Twitter (@DonegalYR), Facebook (Donegal Youthreach) and YouTube (Donegal Youthreach Programme). Merry Christmas from all of us in Youthreach!

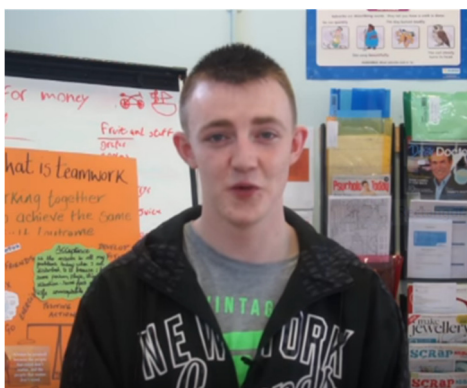
Dr Sandra Buchanan, Youthreach County Coordinator



Youthreach YouTube Stars!

Youthreach recently produced short promotional videos for each of the Youthreach centres which you can now view on our YouTube channel (Donegal Youthreach Programme): <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyAHVJrh39Z1WsW3fzr4UWA>

The learners (*pictured below*) who star in the videos had great fun making them and were delighted with the chance to promote their centre and show off their wonderful communication and presentation skills. Many thanks to Rainey Day Productions for the concept and shooting. Congratulations to all of them and we hope you enjoy watching them as much as we enjoyed making them!



The learners who feature in the videos are pictured clockwise from top left: Alan, Ballyshannon; Nicole, Buncrana & Glen-gad; Millie, Gortahork; Adam, Lifford and Domhnall, Letterkenny.



Lifford Enters *Have You Got Maths Eyes?* Competition

Lifford's Level 4 Maths group has entered the *Have You Got Maths Eyes?* competition. Maths Eyes is a fun and exciting way to show adults/teens/children that maths is everywhere. This new venture in Donegal asked schools/centres to encourage their learners and parents to take a picture of an everyday event/object/place etc and ask a mathematical question associated with the picture. Below are some photos of Lifford's work.



Ballyshannon Fundraise for Irish Guide Dogs

Ballyshannon learners and staff held their annual fundraiser for the Irish Guide Dogs on 27 November. They were very busy all week baking goods for the coffee morning and raised €150 for this very worthy cause. Fundraisers such as these are very important for introducing learners to the concept of citizenship,

volunteering, community spirit and raising their awareness of local and national issues.



Literacy Week in Lifford

Literacy Awareness Week took place in Lifford Youthreach from 30 November to 04 December. Literacy and numeracy were highlighted in the centre during the week through fun activities such as spelling bees, literacy games, reading classes, puzzles and brainteasers.



Letterkenny Fundraise for Jigsaw & the Donegal Hospice



Letterkenny Youthreach recently raised almost €1,000 for two very worthy charities in the county—the Donegal Jigsaw Youth Mental Health project and the Donegal Hospice. The money was raised through a stand in the Courtyard Shopping Centre, Letterkenny on Friday 27 November and at the An Taisce Christmas Craft Fair on Sunday 29th at the Mount Errigal Hotel.

Well done to all involved!

Learners Complete Work Experience



Work experience is an integral part of the Youthreach programme and in November and December learners from Ballyshannon, Buncrana, Glengad, Letterkenny and Gortahork completed work experience throughout the county.

We would like to thank all the employers who facilitated these valuable work experience placements.

Gortahork's Wonderful Community Project

'All aboard Train na Naoimh' at St Finians school last Friday, leaving the station at 1.30pm with Eamonn Duggan at the wheel and by his side his trusty fireman Ryan Quinn. 'All aboard' shouted the station master. Thirty screaming children ran on to the carriages. Quinn fired up the boiler and with a hiss and a blast of the whistle, the train moved slowly away from the station, as the children waved goodbye.



This was a wonderful community project undertaken by Youthreach and built solely by Eamonn, second year learner, as part of his Gaisce community involvement. Eamonn was filled with pride as the tape was cut and a blessing given by Fr Denis Quinn who spoke highly of the wonderful train that Eamonn had built and the significant involvement of Youthreach in the community. Well done Eamonn - good luck in the future and big thanks from everyone in Cloich Cheann Fhao-la.

Donegal ETB

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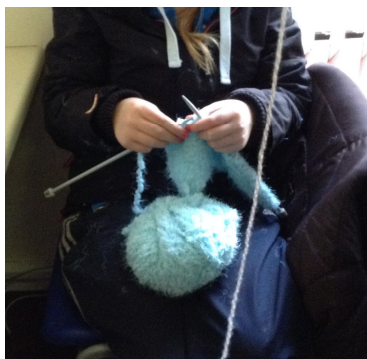
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Buncrana & Glengad Get Crafting!

Learners in the Buncrana and Glengad Youthreach centres have been very busy over the last few months learning and practicing new craft skills in a range of crafts including knitting, sewing, woodcraft, marble texture using acrylic paint and water, baking, icing and card making.



Youthreach to Participate in Read DL 2016!

All six Youthreach centres are looking forward to participating in the 2016 Read DL Initiative which begins next month. This year's book, *Blood Upon the Rose* by Gerry Hunt, depicts the events of the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin by Irish nationalists in comic form. It covers the Rising from its planning stages through to the executions of its leaders. This year's book, *Wonder*, was a big hit with learners and staff alike and we're delighted to be involved again next year. It's a great way to promote literacy in Youthreach, be part of a county wide initiative and, with the year that's in it, to also do something to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising.



Forthcoming Events

17 December 2015:

County Table Quiz

22/23 December 2015–4/5/7 January 2016: Christmas holidays (dates vary across centres)

January-February 2016:

Read DL Initiative

20 January 2016:

Donegal ETB FET (Further Education & Training) Fair, Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny

27 January 2016:

Young Drivers Cross Border Event, Bready, Co Tyrone

24-26 February 2016:

NAYC (National Association of Youthreach Coordinators) Annual Conference, Galway

22 March 2016:

County Blitz