

## Donegal ETB

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

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

**WWW.DONEGALETB.IE/YOUTHREACH**

**WWW.YOUTHREACH.IE**

## Gortahork Kick Off ETB Week with Open Day

As part of Donegal ETB week, an open day was organised on Saturday 19 October by Youthreach and the other programmes in the Gortahork Adult Education Centre. The many visitors were treated to visits around the centre, food, crafts, face painting, story telling and bouncy castles amongst much more. The photos below give a flavour of the day.



## Plant Excavation in Gortahork

In May, four learners from Youthreach Gortahork undertook digger driver training with 'Top Training Solutions' in Derry. This initial training session was organised to familiarise learners with all aspects of working with plant excavating equipment. Two learners, Neil McTeague and Kyle Brennan, went on to complete their red card in plant excavation and their CSCS Safety Training. This training was intensive and required a huge amount of dedication and commitment from Neil and Kyle. They are now both fully qualified to operate plant excavators. Well Done!



## Letterkenny's New Counselling Room

Letterkenny Youthreach learners decided that our counselling room needed a makeover. About four weeks ago, learners started painting. They chose magnolia and *stay calm* as the colours and themes of the room. Tutors Andy and Thomas supervised the painting, which was done by Letterkenny's FETAC groups. Gillian, our Coordinator, discovered some beautiful appropriate transfers on Amazon. With the help of Dolores and other learners, we have transformed the room into a tranquil, restful, relaxing environment for counselling to take place. Well done to all involved!



October 2013  
Volume 11, Issue 3



**etb**

Bord Oideachais agus  
Oiliúna Dhúin na nGall  
Donegal Education and  
Training Board

Youthreach is co-funded by the  
Irish Government and EU under  
the National Development Plan  
2007-2013.



Ireland's EU Structural Funds  
Programmes 2007 - 2013  
Co-funded by the Irish Government  
and the European Union

### Inside this issue:

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Lifford Visit County Courthouse | 2 |
| Jigsaw Training                 | 2 |
| Ballyshannon Models             | 3 |
| Literacy Week in Lifford        | 3 |
| Gortahork Open Day              | 4 |

## Donegal ETB



*Welcome...* to the third edition of our 2013 newsletter. With summer programmes behind us and half way through the new term, we've been getting used to our new name of Donegal ETB (Education and Training Board). Learners and staff alike have also been busy with a range of activities including ETB week which took place from 21-25 October with the highlight for Youthreach being the final of our annual Masterchef competition (see below) and Letterkenny also coming runners up in the Enterprise Education event. The next edition of the newsletter will be available just before Christmas.



*Dr Sandra Buchanan, Youthreach County Coordinator*

## Letterkenny Win Masterchef Final 2013!

On Tuesday 22 October teams from the five Youthreach centres held their annual Masterchef final. This year, it formed part of Donegal ETB week. Teams of two from each centre competed to cook a main course and dessert on a budget of €20. The teams were James Kelly and Aaron Fee from Ballyshannon (who made a main course of creamy chicken and vegetable korma served with coriander rice and homemade garlic naan bread and a dessert of rich chocolate brownie served with chocolate and strawberry sauce and mixed berries); Mairtin og Shiels and Christopher Doherty from Buncrana (who made a main course of chicken korma with long grain/wild rice and homemade naan bread and a dessert of toffee/chocolate chip brownies with chocolate sauce); Katie McShea and Rosie McHugh from Gortahork (who made a main course of seafood paella and dessert of beetroot brownies and homemade ice cream); John Murray and Christopher Brogan from Letterkenny (who made a main course of oriental chicken stir fry and a dessert of chocolate profiteroles) and Annalise Patterson and Rebecca Doherty from Lifford (who made a main course of chicken roulade (chicken wrapped in bacon and stuffed with cream cheese) in a white wine sauce on chilli mash and dessert of sponge drops with strawberries and cream). The final was judged by Adult Education Officers Cróna Gallagher and Dr Martin Gormley. They had a tough job but the eventual winners were Letterkenny Youthreach with Gortahork Youthreach runners up. Well done to all the teams!



*Pictured l-r: Winners of the 2013 Youthreach Masterchef final, Christopher Brogan and John Murray from Letterkenny Youthreach, with judge Cróna Gallagher, Adult Education Officer, Donegal ETB; The 2013 finalists with their tutors; Runners Up of the 2013 Youthreach Masterchef final, Katie McShea and Rosie McHugh from Gortahork Youthreach.*



## Lifford Visit Council Offices

Learners from Lifford Youthreach were the invited guests of Donegal Mayor Cllr. Frank Mc Brearty during a recent visit to County House Lifford. The learners were in the public gallery during a full council meeting and on arrival were introduced by the Mayor to the elected representatives and received a round of applause. They were then escorted by the Mayor on a tour of the entire council building and visited the various council departments and staff. They also met County Manager, Seamus Neely, who explained the various activities of Donegal County Council. All in all it proved to be a most interesting experience for our learners and we extend our sincere appreciation to the Mayor, County Manager and the many other council staff that facilitated us on the day.



*Pictured above l-r: Darren Gallen, Paddy Friel, Evan Mc Glynn, Mayor Frank Mc Brearty, Emma Crawford, Alanna Colhoun, Michelle Kelly and Rebecca Doherty.*



Since June forty-seven staff from all centres have undertaken Jigsaw's Level 1 training—Understanding Youth Mental Health. Jigsaw works with communities to better support young people's mental health and well being. The Jigsaw programme has been developed and supported by Headstrong, the National Centre for Youth Mental Health. The Jigsaw project, with it's Hub based in Letterkenny, opened it's doors last September and is extremely busy. Youthreach has been involved in its planning since the start nearly two years ago and now sits on its management committee on behalf of Donegal ETB. This universal training is very important as mental health issues affect a high percentage of the young people attending Youthreach in Co Donegal.

## Ballyshannon Prepare for Masterchef Final

Pictured below are learners from Ballyshannon Youthreach practicing for the 2013 Masterchef Final which was held on 22 October. Pictured below left-right are Rebecca Timoney, Christina Jameson, Shane Gilmartin and Joey McDonagh.



## Glengad's Busy Learners



Glengad Youthreach learners restarted visits to the local library from September (*below left*). New learners got the opportunity to register with the library and will soon be issued with library cards valid in a network of public libraries in Co. Donegal. Other, previously registered, learners were

updated on their card numbers and are now ready to access various library services and resources and explore what it has to offer. Glengad Youthreach learners have also been preparing for the upcoming FETAC assessment, to



## Letterkenny's Margaret Fundraises for Childline



There was great excitement in Letterkenny Youthreach on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> of October. As part of Margaret McKnight's Leaving Certificate Applied task, she took it upon herself to organise a full breakfast for all learners and visitors with the proceeds going to Childline and with sponsorship from Cheerios. Everyone enjoyed sausages, bacon, etc. cooked by Margaret and her team of helpers. She raised €180, which goes



straight to Childline to facilitate them to answer more urgent calls from children. Well done, Margaret!

## Ballyshannon's Top Models!

Pictured right are Ballyshannon learners Shane, Georgina and Becca modelling their new Ballyshannon Youthreach/Donegal ETB hoodies, created especially for ETB week!



## Literacy Week in Lifford

Last week the students and staff of Lifford Youthreach celebrated literacy week, an event which aimed to encourage students to improve their literacy skills. There was a daily spelling contest held for each class within the centre and also a creative writing contest in which the theme was murder mystery. There were also various trips organised throughout the week such as a tour of the Old Lifford Courthouse dungeons on Monday and a Road Safety show on Tuesday at which over 1,000 students and tutors were present. Wednesday and Thursday involved a lot of word based games such as Stop the Bus and Hangman. We ended our celebrations on Friday by announcing the winners of the various contests held throughout the week and holding a literacy-inspired quiz. The winning

team of the literacy quiz were students Michelle McGavigan, Shannon O'Loughlin, Tammy McMenamin and Rebecca Doherty. Most improved spelling prize went to Michelle McGavigan and the overall best spelling prize went to Tammy McMenamin. The winner of the creative writing contest was Rebecca Doherty and runner up was Tammy McMenamin.



## Restorative Practices Continue in Buncrana

Pictured left are parents of Youthreach learners in Buncrana who attended an information session on Restorative Practices on Wednesday 9 October. The session was facilitated by Restorative Practice practitioner Paddy O Connor.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to six members of staff from across three centres who graduated with a Postgraduate Certificate in Restorative Practices from the University of Ulster in July! These were Gillian Kennedy and Aidan Callaghan from Lifford Youthreach, Julie Brown from Buncrana/Glengad Youthreach and Breda Rodden, Priya Mendes-McMenamin and Mary McDermott from Letterkenny Youthreach. This was part of the two year Peace III funded Restorative Practices project.

