

June
2020



Ballymun Adult Read and Write Scheme

Summer Newsletter

The Adult Education Centre has been closed since 12th March due to the Covid-19 virus. As a result of this closure, we haven't been able to run any of the events we had planned, because our main concern was the safety and health of our students and tutors. As a result, we have very few photos of our students enjoying events in this issue. We are trying to keep in contact with our students during the Centre closure and we hope you enjoy reading the shorter version of our Summer Newsletter.

Horticulture Keeps Growing

A new Horticulture class began in March. The seeds were hardly planted before schools were closed. Tutors Mary and Dee took broad bean and nasturtium seedlings home and look what happened.



Seedlings planted by the Horticulture class in March



April – Mary is taking care of the plants at home



May – beginning to flower



Tutor Mary is also taking care of the beautiful nasturtium.

Before classes were cancelled, our horticulture students were given the task of planting a baby spider plant. Students have now re-potted these at home. Here is student Mary C's plant looking very well in its new home.



My Allotment

Allotments were first started to provide people with no gardens the opportunity to grow their own food. They were in every suburb around the city and they were literally a lifeline for people. During war time unemployed people were given a few basic tools and seeds to get them started.

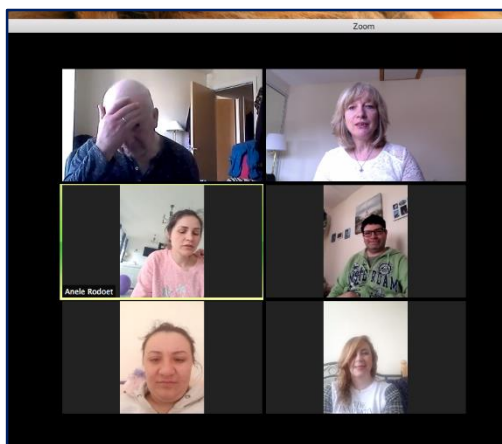
The allotment field is marked out in plots of 50 and 100 square metres. They differ from community gardens in as much that in an allotment everyone has their own plot and can grow anything they want. The council provide water taps around the field as well as two huge poly tunnels which we all share.

In the 1960s, allotments grew out of favour with the importing of cheap food from around the world. In recent years they have become popular again with the growing interest in organic food grown without any nasty chemicals. The local horse stables are more than happy to gift us with loads of you know what! The local allotment field is up in Meakstown at the back of the airport.

Pat F.

Zooming Around

While face-to-face classes were cancelled, tutors Áine and Joanne did Zoom classes with some of their students. Zooms technology allows groups of people to video chat online.



Áine's English language class and Joanne's Health and Fitness class on Zoom.

Students said:

"The Health and Fitness course, which is given by Joanne, has been greatly enjoyed by the group since last September. It was with great disappointment that it, along with all the other courses at the Centre, fell victim to the Covid-19 lockdown.

I really felt that something was missing on Wednesday mornings so it was great that Joanne came up with the idea of running virtual classes, using the Zoom meetings platform, for our course. Each Wednesday, since April 29th, we log into the Zoom session for an hour. For me, it is nice to see all the familiar and friendly faces once again. We have our chats and get some course work done. The sessions work well with Joanne being able to share course audio and video clips. It has also put a structure back into my Wednesday mornings. Many thanks to Joanne for continuing the course."

Brendan T.



"When it was suggested we do the health and fitness class on zoom I was delighted but very nervous, I am not the best when it comes to computers, but it turned out fine thanks to our tutor. I'm so glad I decided to take part in the Zoom class, it has given some routine to my week and it's lovely to see everyone and have a chat, after the class of course. I hope everyone has a good summer. Stay safe and hopefully we will all be together again in September.

Patricia L.

Visit to Farmleigh House by the Work Options Group



In November last year some of our Work Options students, along with their tutor Christine and support workers, visited Farmleigh House in the Phoenix Park. The house used to belong to the Guinness family, but was purchased by the Irish Government in 1999. It is now the official Irish State Guesthouse.

Below are some comments from the students about Farmleigh:

"I loved the painting in the Entrance Hall. Especially the way the colours were mixed." **Conor**

"I really liked the Ballroom. The way it was done up and the fabulous chandelier." **Eamonn**

"I loved everything about our visit to Farmleigh House. I loved the different chairs and books in the Library." **Graham**

"The Boudoir was my favourite room because it reminded me of my Aunt's room; large, clean and elegant" **Siobhan**

"My favourite room was the Blue Drawing Room, the ceiling was amazing." **Terry**

"The Conservatory was the room I liked best. The music playing in the background was like opera music." **Vivian**



BARWS takes part in EU Project

Since September 2018, the Scheme has been taking part in a transnational project '*Back to Learning*'. Adult education agencies from six EU (European Union) countries are taking part in the project; Hungary, Germany, Estonia, Malta, Spain and Ireland.

The members of the group spend two days visiting Adult Education Centres in each of the six countries and learn how other countries deliver Adult Education. They spend time discussing ideas for Adult Education which may benefit learners in their own centres. The first meeting was in Germany and the second visit took place in the Adult Education Centre in Ballymun where the visitors shared a special extra-long coffee break with students and tutors in the hall. This gave the visitors a chance to meet and chat with students and tutors. Christine and Jean represent the Scheme at these meetings and so far, they have seen Adult Education Centres in Germany, Malta, Estonia and Spain. Each host country organises a walking tour of the city where they visit historical places of interest. The meeting in Spain was in early March and the photo above shows Christine and Jean outside a bookshop in Valladolid.

To the Youth of the Day

They're riddled with history we cannot atone,
For what lays beneath our cobbled stone.
For hundreds of years and rivers of tears,
To untold cruelty and untold fears.
From revolution and strikes to the famine years,
The memories still ring out in our ears.

To the youth of today
You cannot relate to what went on before your day.
Ask your elders and listen well
To all that they have to tell.

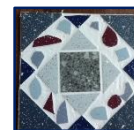
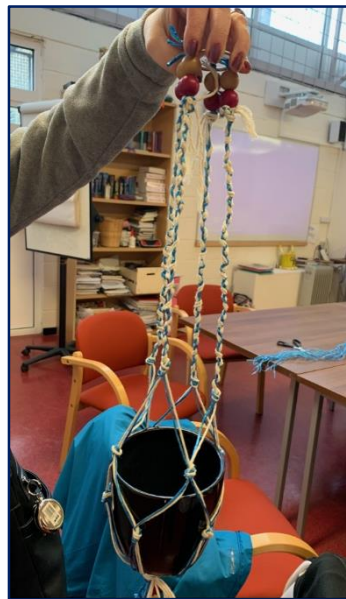
Some were there at the heart,
While their elders were there from the very start.
What you have today
They paved the way,
So who are we to stand in your way.
So speak out and have your say,
But don't dismiss what they went through.
Because someday your kids will come to you.

They will be young and you will be older
And will want to cry upon your shoulder.
That is when reality kicks in,
That you should have listened to your elder kin.

For life is a cycle that comes around
And only through history can the future be found.
So look out for today and have your say.
Your challenges today are different to ours.
Like Covid 19 and climate change.

So life will never be the same again
Only in the eyes of honest men. **Eugene H**

Getting Crafty



Macramé and colourful Mosaics
made in the Craft Class.



June is making masks

Priscilla is making
beautiful skirts for
her daughters



Keeping a Routine

During this difficult time I have found myself getting in to a good routine such as exercising two times a day. I go for a walk in the afternoon and evening. I take long walks around my area by myself and with my dog, Prince in the afternoon. Then in the evening I go with my other dog, Kody and my sisters. I also find myself eating more healthy foods such as lasagne, brown bread, fajitas and lots of fruit. This is all helping me feel great in myself.

Edel M.

Live And Let Live

Jimmy Gorman shuffled restlessly and wished for the umpteenth time that the door would open and let him into the warmth that he knew lay beyond. All around him the murmur of voices ebbed and flowed. Now and then a rasping cough sounded up from the crowd behind him, a harsh noise, grating both the air and his nerves. It had been raining. The crowd of men and women pressed closer together and huddled into the wall as if by doing so they would be impervious to the biting wind whining over the Liffey wall. They were a motley crowd and wore a motley assortment of garments. A peculiar smell, composed of rain on wet wool, rancid sweat, cigarette smoke and stale piss rose off the crowd and assailed his nostrils with each shift of the queue. Jimmy wondered how long more he would have to endure it before gaining admittance to the food hall.

High above the river grey clouds scudded across the sky. Idly he looked at them. They were dark and ominous looking. Once upon a time he used to look up and see clouds of a different hue. Pleasant clouds drifting lazily across endless blue skies. Some looked just like castles in the air and he had thought how pleasant it would be to live in one. But the problems of life would not be solved by castles in the air. Gulls wheeled and swung overhead, squawking and crying under the sullen sky. There was more rain on the wind. His stomach rumbled loudly reminding him that he had not had anything to eat since he had left the Hostel early this morning. At one time a rumbling stomach would have embarrassed him. Now, he didn't give it a second thought. His concentration was focussed on getting hot food into his stomach.

Idly he started wondering about the crowd around him. What circumstances had led them here? Had some been orphaned and left in convents or farmed out to unfeeling relatives where love was in scant supply and where one didn't talk about feelings but kept a stiff upper lip.

He supposed that some were just like him, born losers, unable to cope with life in any way at all, and not able to form worthwhile relationships with others. So they dropped out of normal society, losing family and friends through shame.

In the homeless community of modern Dublin nobody questioned or poked their nose into another's business. There was an unspoken rule among them to live and let live. It was enough to be here, grateful for what was given with kindness and without judgement by those who did Christ's work among Dublin's Derelicts.

At last a pool of light signalled the opening of the door ahead. The crowd surged forward with cries of 'Thank Jaysus we're going in, I'm feckin' freezing' Jimmy hoped that there would be loads of grub because there were so many in the queue. He thanked God as he allowed himself to be carried forward with the crowd, savouring the warmth and smell of hot food glad to be in out of the biting wind and rain. Tomorrow could take care of itself. For now, this was enough.

Cora M.



Jokes What do you call cheese that's not yours? **Nacho cheese!**

Did you hear about the two people who stole a calendar?
They each got six months.

What sits at the bottom of the sea and twitches? **A nervous wreck.**

Why did the three-legged dog go in to the saloon?
He wanted to find the man who shot his paw.

History Class Trip to Abbey Theatre



In February the evening time history class visited the Abbey Theatre for a historical backstage tour. The class was looking at the period 1900 – 1916 and they visited the theatre as part of their study of the Gaelic Revival which happened at that time. Tour guide James studied history and drama and by all accounts he was excellent. The tour included the stage, the dressing rooms and the seating area called ‘the Gods’ at the very top of the theatre. Here is what the students had to say about the tour:

“I really enjoyed the Abbey tour. The guide was excellent. He described all the aspects of how the theatre was run and the importance of the part it played in the prominence of Irish culture and history.” **Herbert.**

“The portraits on the walls were beautiful. We were brought backstage into the dressing rooms. He told us all about the actors getting ready and how they hire out the costumes to make income for the theatre”. **Ann H.**

“This was my first time in the Abbey! Even though I worked across the road from it in T. P. Cummings. It was a great tour and the guide James was great. There is a lot of history attached to the theatre. It was burned down in 1951 and reopened in 1966. The founding playwrights were William Butler Yeats and Lady Gregory. I will now have to go to see a play in the Abbey for the very first time.” **Robert E.**

“There is a wonderful mirror in the foyer which was made by fishermen when they could not get out to sea. There were two mirrors presented to the Abbey for the opening. Unfortunately, one was lost in the fire when it was destroyed. The Abbey opened in 1904 and the fire was in 1951. The theatre moved to the Queens until the building was restored. James was a wonderful guide and I really enjoyed my afternoon with my class. I look forward to my history class every Tuesday. I have learned so much”. **Ann M.**

“The History class has come up trumps again. Our guide was James, what a knowledgeable man! He had the ability to make us hang on his every word. A really enjoyable day”. **Pauline.**

“From the minute the tour started it was great. James the guide gave us interesting facts about the beginning of the first Abbey. It’s great to think since it first opened in 1904 that it’s still going strong.” **Kay O’N.**

“...from such a lowly beginning and in such difficult times it was a great triumph over all adversities to see what has become such a proud institution we can all enjoy today. A most informative and enjoyable afternoon”. **Michael.**

“The last time I studied history I was in school. It was always my love. History is such an interesting subject. Doing the history class is your past, present and future. Everyone in the class loves the history too. It’s made me go back and revive my interest in the Irish revolution, it gives you the hunger for knowledge”. **Richie.**

Beach Items Wordsearch

R	D	O	O	F	A	E	S	H	E	E	B	S	L
S	S	K	B	W	N	C	C	C	W	E	S	S	R
K	E	S	C	S	H	R	K	P	A	R	D	C	S
R	A	O	W	O	S	A	O	E	V	T	R	S	N
A	G	S	S	S	M	B	L	T	I	M	A	N	I
H	U	D	A	N	P	M	G	E	I	L	U	E	H
S	L	H	S	I	F	R	A	T	S	A	G	E	P
U	L	T	I	D	E	S	K	H	A	P	E	R	L
L	S	D	N	A	S	E	W	I	T	O	F	C	O
S	E	V	A	W	O	I	T	A	T	C	I	S	D
O	S	W	I	M	S	U	I	T	I	E	L	N	C
P	E	T	W	R	E	I	P	C	L	A	C	U	F
S	L	L	A	B	H	C	A	E	B	N	L	S	S
L	S	U	N	B	U	R	N	H	A	A	L	R	S

Whales
 Waves
 Swimsuit
 Palmtree
 Ocean
 Crab
 Dolphins
 Tide
 Starfish
 Sunscreen
 Sunburn
 Sand
 Seagulls
 Seafood
 Lifeguard
 Beach Ball
 Pier
 Sharks
 Hammock
 Kite



Covid-19 Pandemic – My Story

Well, it was just a normal day, a sunny day in Ireland and everyone was doing their own thing. I was so happy getting back into a routine in college. I had been missing all my family and friends and most of all my fiancée. That was very hard because I did not see her in over three weeks. I turned on the TV and saw that something was happening in China. A virus broke out and it was really bad but we did not know how bad it was going to be. The biggest pandemic in the world in recent times! The virus soon started to spread.

As it spread, people were so sick and dying from the virus it was crazy, just so sad that this was happening to not only our people in Ireland but in the whole world. Shops, schools, colleges, workplaces all closed. Hundreds and thousands of people were affected. Kids and adults missing out on school and college are not able to do Junior or Leaving Cert. exams. We have to be thankful for our nurses and doctors. They are brilliant and we have to support them at this time.

It was hard for me because I was missing everyone but I got through it because I had not only my best friend but my fiancée to get me through this pandemic. I've had my ups and downs but I was able to stay so strong. We can get through this if we listen and do our bit to help each other and pray for those who lost their lives.

We have to think of it this way. This is not the end of the world. We will get through this and we will get by and keep going forward looking to a great future. We will be strong and will get our 'normal' Ireland back again. When that happens, we will all be heroes. We will prevail!

Glenda D.



Ballymun Adult Read and Write Scheme

Daytime and Evening time Courses for Adults

Daytime

- **Read Write Spell** – improve your reading, writing and spelling skills
- **Spellwell** – improve your spelling
- **Geography** – learn about the world we live in
- **History** – learn about 19th/ early 20th century Ireland
- **Introduction to Computers** – learn to use Microsoft Word, email and internet
- **Introduction to Maths** – improve your numeracy skills
- **Beginners ESOL** (English for Speakers of Other Languages)
- **Personal Development**
- **Technology** – learn more about using your iPad/ Tablet/ Smart phone
- **QQI Level 3 Communications & Personal Effectiveness**
- **QQI Level 3 Computer Literacy and Internet Skills**
- **QQI Level 3 Container Gardening**
- **QQI Level 3 Challenging Discrimination**
- **QQI Level 3 Child Development and Play**
- **QQI Level 3 Food, Nutrition and Healthy Options**
- **QQI Level 3 Health and Fitness**
- **QQI Level 3 Maths**
- **QQI Level 3 ESOL** (English for Speakers of Other Languages)
- **QQI Level 4 Information and Technology Skills**
- **QQI Level 4 Communications**

Evening

- **Read Write Spell** – improve your reading, writing and spelling skills
- **Spellwell** – improve your spelling
- **History** – learn about 19th/early 20th century Ireland
- **Introduction to Computers** – learn to use Microsoft Word, email and internet
- **QQI Level 3 Word Processing & Internet Skills**
- **QQI Level 3 ESOL** (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

Classes are free of charge and are held in CDET B Ballymun Adult Education Centre
For more details, contact Denise or Linda in our office in Ballymun Job Centre
Phone No. 01 8622402 or Email admin@barws.ie

At the start of this term who would have believed that we would all be staying at home because of a virus? How our lives have changed! We are making history while living through this very strange time.

The tutors and office staff are all hoping that the Covid-19 virus is under control and that classes will resume in September. We will let you know of the start back date and look forward to seeing you then.

In the meantime, we wish you a very happy and restful summer break. Stay safe and well.

Christine Carroll, Scheme Manager