



Le Chéile

THURSDAY 20th MAY 2010

News hot off the press is that the Adult Refugee Programme is arranging an exhibition and performance day on the above date. Exhibits will include paintings, photographs, metalwork, clay models and many other 'expressive pieces'.

The day will also feature some dramatic and musical performances as well as a fashion show. Further details will be available very shortly.

NEW RECRUITS!

Since the last Newsletter the Adult Refugee Programme is delighted to welcome Monaghan VEC and South West County Dublin Adult Education Service, part of County Dublin VEC, into its Programme.

Monaghan VEC will look after the recently arrived Congolese and South West County Dublin are running a special course for a number of recently arrived refugees who came to the country independently, not part of a large group, and therefore did not attend Ballyhaunis.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

The ARP is delighted to announce that it has established a large library resources facility at its administrative offices. Many reference books, course books and readers are available for everyone on the programme to use. A lending service is being established and details will go out to everyone shortly.

MESSING AROUND IN BOATS

Lisa Mulvihill City of Galway VEC recently lead a trip to Lough Corrib

'There's nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.'

So said Ratty in *The Wind in the Willows*! With that in mind we abandoned the confines of the classroom and headed for the beautiful river Corrib on a crisp and sunny October day. It was time to become a tourist for the day.

Our vessel was the Corrib Princess and we sailed from Woodquay in Galway. On the way upriver we saw ruined castles and a Franciscan friary. In the distance we could see the blue haze of the Maumturk range, Joyce country and the mountains of Connemara.

The beauty of the countryside was plain for all to see. When it got chilly we went inside to have tea and scones with jam and cream. There was much talking and laughing. It felt good to be a tourist!

Here are some student comments about what they liked about the trip.

Duong - "Being with friends and the view from the boat".

Qi Lin - "It was very relaxed and comfortable on the boat".

Yan - "The view and the chance to chat with friends".

Jing Yi - "I enjoyed it very much. I took many pictures".

Hope - "There was a very good atmosphere on board. I hadn't seen some of those places before".



Lough Corrib



Getting set to sail



Refreshments ahoy!

GARDENING

KAREN GARDENING PROJECT IN CASTLEBAR

By Marcella Fitzpatrick

Earlier this year the Karen group in Castlebar expressed a huge interest in gardening and growing vegetables. This is not surprising as many of these refugees came from a farming background in Burma.

Norita Clesham who is based in the South West Mayo Development Company Ltd applied to the Department of Justice for funding for an allotment project to be set up in the Castlebar area under the International Agency. This she successfully secured and under Horticulture Instructor Sue Fry the project was commenced in spring.

The refugee contingent was very excited with the project and they got plants and seed ready for the spring planting. A lot of discussion took place in the classroom as to what they could grow in the Irish climate. This facilitated the use of the English language and they were keen to learn through this medium as it had specific relevance to them. After the

initial seed beds were ready the day finally came when the first seed were planted. This was very exciting and rewarding for both the refugees and instructor. Sue kept a close eye on the fertilizing and watering of plants as the climate was so vastly different here than in Burma.

Sue and Norita liaised with myself on the gardening terminology that needed to be used when referring to equipment for the project and this I built into our English classes on a weekly basis. In this way I felt the discussions we covered using gardening terms enhanced the vocabulary and had a particular relevance to the group and captured the interest of the entire class.

In early summer we had a visit the Department of Justice to get an overview of the project. They were very impressed with the amount of work and effort put in by the entire group. The Karen people here in Castlebar have a fantastic work ethic and put

a huge effort into growing vegetables and fruit that they were familiar with. Sue and I had lengthy discussions with them on what they would normally grow in Burma and with this in mind plants and seed were sourced and planted in the very much revered allotment in Castlebar.

A massive effort was put in by Kwe Kwe, Sa Nga, Thetnyine Oo, Pyonya Naw, Ta Kyi, Htoe Det, and Paw Mui. All their efforts were rewarded with a bumper crop of Tomatoes, Peas, Potatoes (several varieties), Cabbage, Lettuce, Onions, Chillies, Garlic, Marrows, Beans Beetroot, Radishes and many more. A massive amount of herbs such as Parsley, Thyme, Coriander, Chives, and Tarragon to name a few were grown. The "fruits of their labour" were then shared out amongst all the Karen refugees here in Castlebar.

While working in the allotment the refugees met many Irish families who were growing vegetables and fruit for their own families and they made many friends in Castlebar through the mutual love of gardening.

The entire project was a fantastic success and it is something that both the Irish and the Burmese community here in Castlebar are extremely proud of.



Left to right Kwee Kwee, Pal Say, Theineoo, Ta Kyi, Nay Sui, Gay Na Sui, Paw Mui, Pui Gui



Putting down roots in Mayo



Bridging the divide across the language barrier

GARDENING IN CLARE

Tom Barry, ARP Clare VEC takes a group of participants for two hours every week for the horticulture class. At this time of the year there is only so much that can be done in the garden. The classes have so far planted bulbs, seed trays and taken hard-wood cuttings.

All learners understand the concepts of gardening and the classes give them the specific language for EFG, i.e. English for Gardening! Learners particularly enjoy the practical aspects of gardening that we have been able to carry out. We all look forward to the spring when we can begin work in the allotment. The Adult Education Centre has

rented two allotments for 2009 and half of one of these is being allocated to the Adult Refugee Programme. Some of the plants and bulbs sown so far this term include garlic, spring cabbage, daffodils and aloe vera. Cuttings taken include blackcurrant, dogwood, escallonia, willow, olearia and gooseberries.

An interesting part of the programme is the sharing of information from the learners from all over the world. Learners have suggested how we might use seeds and plants from their home countries in our allotment.

ARP STUDENTS IN BALBRIGGAN LEARN ABOUT THE LOCAL AREA

The following is an account of some of the interesting information which the students learned from a local historian who visited them

In 1659 only thirty people lived in Balbriggan. The name of the town Balbriggan in Irish is Baile Bricin, meaning the town of the small trout or Baile Briggin, meaning the town of the small hills.

Balbriggan was an industrial town. It had a gas works, a coal yard, a tan yard, and brick works. Salt was made on the harbour. Today there are many factories. Wavin, a Dutch factory which makes pipes came to Balbriggan in 1958.

The people of Balbriggan exported wood and corn. Wood was sent to Wales, where it was used in the coal mines. Slate was imported from Wales and Cornwall for building.

Fishing was popular in Balbriggan. In 1829 there were 863 fishermen. Many fishermen came from Scotland for fishing. Today local people fish for prawns and razor fish, but it is not a big industry.

The Hamilton family built the town of Balbriggan. They built the harbour, the fishing fleet, the lighthouse, the houses and the cotton mills. They built Smyth's factory in 1760 and that created jobs for people in the town. Smyth's factory made stockings for rich people in Dublin and worldwide. The Smyth's factory won awards in London, Paris, and Vienna.

A local man called Thomas Mangan made stockings for Queen Victoria. John Wayne also wore "Balbriggans" (long johns) in his films. "Balbriggans for sale," means stockings for sale. The word Balbriggan is found in the dictionary. It means a kind of fabric used to make stockings. The factory closed in 1980.

Ireland's first train station opened in Dun Laoghaire in 1834. The second train station opened in Balbriggan in 1853, to bring goods and tourists to and from the town.

Sunshine House was founded in 1951 in Balbriggan. It is used to accommodate children, to give them a holiday every summer. Sunshine House is for children between eight to twelve years. They play on the beach and enjoy their holiday, far from the city.

The modern credit union movement started in Germany, to help poor people save money. The Credit Union opened in Balbriggan in 1967. It was one of Ireland's first credit unions.

In 1920 Balbriggan was a famous town but the British burnt down many buildings to avenge the death of a policeman in the 'Sack of Balbriggan.' This was a sad time in the history of Balbriggan.

WORD SEARCH HISTORICAL BALBRIGGAN

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

show	fish	lighthouse
building	fisherman	mill
coal	fleet	policeman
cotton	gas	queen
credit union	harbour	stockings
dictionary	town	town
factory	leather	train station

ARP TALLAGHT VISIT THE CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY

Recently, we went to the Chester Beatty Library with our teacher, Dee Doyle. It was my first visit to go some place in Dublin since I came to Ireland. When we got there, we met with a very warm welcome from the receptionist who gave us leaflets in Arabic, but they also have leaflets in other languages.

I would advise starting by watching the audio-visual presentation which gives the background of Sir Alfred Chester Beatty (1875-1968), who assembled the great collection of manuscripts, miniature paintings, prints, drawings, rare books and decorative arts which are now housed in the library. The Chester Beatty library was named Irish museum of the year in 2000 and was awarded the title of European Museum of the year in 2002.

I think some of the readers are wondering how much it costs to visit that brilliant museum. The answer is nothing - admission is free! The Library is located behind Dublin Castle in the city centre. I hope you will visit there and will enjoy the amazing things in it.

*The Pen of Abdulaahi Nuur,
Tallaght Adult Refugee Programme.*

ADULT REFUGEE PROGRAMME - PR

KILKENNY ADULT REFUGEE PROGRAMME Christmas in Sudan and Uganda v Christmas in Kilkenny

Christmas in Ireland is very different to our Christmas in Sudan and Uganda. In Africa, we celebrate for three days. We all meet in the early morning because the weather is warm and dry. We have a big party, we eat lots of lovely food, like meat and chicken. Some people drink alcohol, you can buy it or make your own. We dance, sing and play the drums. We give each other presents of sweets. We collect money during the year for the party.

In Ireland, people stay in their homes. The weather is very cold and dark. Last year, we made Christmas cards and gave them to our friends. We had a Christmas party in our school. We had lots of lovely food. Margaret made a big cake. We sang African songs and some Christmas Carols. One day we went to the shopping centre and heard the school children singing Carols and playing music. We saw Santa Clause. It was fun.



Kilkenny group enjoying their Christmas Party

WESTMEATH ADULT REFUGEE PROGRAMME



The Kurdish students in Mullingar enjoyed a celebration in The Annebrook Hotel where they were presented with certificates for their participation in the Adult Refugee Programme.

Christmas Card making with the Congolese



Sarah and Selina measuring their card

Above is a picture of some of the Congolese who recently arrived in Co Monaghan making Christmas Cards in St Joseph's Parish Hall Carrickmacross. They used a variety of different materials including coloured card, stickers, markers, glue and glitter. The finished pieces were displayed on a notice board so that other students could see. The group learned about Christmas greetings and Irish Christmas traditions. They even learned a few traditional Christmas Carols like "We wish you a Merry Christmas" and "Silent Night".

THE CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY AND NEWS

VISIT TO DÁIL EIREANN - CLARE ARP

On 16th December 2009, a group of twenty learners and four staff visited the Houses of the Oireachtas. This was part of the socialisation element within our language programme. Deputy Pat Breen T.D hosted the group. We also met the other Clare representatives in Dáil Eireann, Junior Minister Tony Killeen, Deputy Joe Carey and Deputy Timmy Dooley. The main objective of the visit was to familiarise students with the workings of the Dail and the Seanad.

We were very fortunate that on the day we visited a very lively debate on the Budget was taking place. We witnessed several votes and divisions

There was a full sitting of the Dáil so the group witnessed the Taoiseach, Tanaiste, all the ministers, the opposition leaders and the Ceann Comhairle at work. Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern was present and interestingly, he was the Deputy which all



Visit to the House of the Óireachtas

of our group recognised most! The experience proved very useful in that it enabled students to make comparisons between how their own countries are

governed and the Irish democratic system. This will benefit them in their work on the FETAC Level 4 Cultural Studies course now running in Ennis.

MONAGHAN VEC

Monday 30th November '09 was a significant day for our group of new arrivals from the D.R.Congo. Having arrived in Monaghan the previous week from Ballyhaunis, they faced yet another 'beginning' in the form of their first English class.

The newly-built YWCA hall on North Road Monaghan is fast becoming a second home for the adults (old and young) of the group. Fourteen students are now divided into two classes according to level, and serious study has begun. Attitudes towards the language are very positive and progress is being made by all.

Alongside regular English classes several other lighter activities have taken place. These include a class outing with a team of volunteers to a local craft exhibition

(finishing up in a coffee shop with a 'bun tasting' session!), making Christmas decorations and a Christmas party with our friends in Carrickmacross. We have also made sandwiches and birthday cards, though not on the same day! Class studies

in the area of food and shopping have been made practical with forays into our local Supervalu and neighbourhood butcher. A guest speaker, himself a non-native of Ireland, has told us how he learned English and gave some helpful tips on the same.



All in all a good start has been made, we look forward to feeling at home in Monaghan and with the English language soon

WARM CARLOW WELCOME FOR BURMESE ROHINGYA COMMUNITY

On December 9th thirteen families from the Burmese Rohingya community were officially welcomed to Carlow with a colourful and entertaining civic reception. Hundreds gathered in the Seven Oaks Hotel for the welcome reception and 'intercultural exchange event'.

Each member of the community was individually welcomed by name to a rousing cheer from the crowd. After the official business was over a banquet was served of Halal prepared dishes. A joyous evening of Irish and Rohingya dancing and music was enjoyed by all. The evening was a resounding success with many new friends made and memories to cherish.



Mohammed Rafique with volunteer Pat



Official welcome with Irish Dance



Mohammed Yasin with his sister Gul Sahar, niece Asma Bibi and brother-in law Shah Alam

SOME STUDENTS WRITINGS - WATERFORD VEC

To celebrate AONTAS Adult Learning week and specifically 'Green Learning Day', the ARP groups were taken on a guided tour of the grounds of Mount Congreve Gardens in Waterford which consist of seventy acres of intensively planted woodland garden and a four acre walled garden.

The students were then brought to Kildalton Agricultural College in Kilkenny which specialises in horticulture, horses and farming. Each of the 3 ARP groups were given projects to do and tasks to perform about the trip and about green learning - here is a sample of some of the great work produced by the ARP Waterford students.

MY LAST DAY TRIP TO MOUNT CONGREVE AND KILDALTON COLLEGE

On Thursday of February 2010 it was my last Day Trip. I went to Mount Congreve Estate and Gardens are situated in Kilmeaden, Co. Waterford. The Owners name is Mr Ambrose Congreve who is almost 103 years old.

Mount Congreve Gardens were first created some 80 years ago and they continue to grow today. We went inside the Gardens together. A man came with us and said welcome with open hands. He talked about the History of the Owner and the gardens. The one thing that was wonderful which I saw yesterday was many trees of different kinds. Some of those trees are really tall and also huge. I took pictures of those trees and green places.

After when I finished I went to Kildalton College it was an Agriculture, Horticulture and Equine College. I met one of the Tutors in Kildalton College. He gave me a lot of information about the College and what they do. Kildalton College is situated in the Village of Piltown, co Kilkenny in the picturesque Suir valley. The main part of the campus is the Bessborough House, which was built in 1745.

I visited many different places such as where Horses are trained in the Equine centre, Agriculture grounds, and Horticulture grounds. I saw flowers, strawberries, rhubarb, apples, plants and herbs, and small constructions of buildings for landscape gardening. I also saw fish in a pond.

It was a nice day trip.

Mohamud Ahmed

GREEN LEARNING DAY

Yesterday we went on a day trip to Mount Congreve and Kildalton College. The main part of the campus is the Bessborough House which first opened as an Agricultural college in 1971.

The main Agricultural and horticulture enterprises are produced on the farm. I saw flowers, strawberries, rhubarb, apples, plants and herbs yesterday, I took some pictures it was very beautiful green garden with construction of building for landscape gardening.

There are 220 ewes which are divided into early and mid season lambing flocks. There are 55 Hectares of Tillage which includes wheat, oats barley, sugar, beet, maize, potatoes, oilseed. There are 50 horses available for practical work with equine students.

The college offers a wide range of courses including certificates and degrees in Agriculture Equine studies, Food, Forestry, Horticulture and Machinery

I am very interested in where we went for our last trip it was a nice day trip.

Qaasin Mahamed

SLIGO ARP MAKING ST. BRIDGET CROSSES

The first day of Spring was celebrated by Sligo's Refugee Programme by making the traditional St Bridget crosses. Our teacher collected the green rushes that morning before class in a field near her house. Lots of us had never seen them before and we didn't know what we were going to do with them.

We read an article about a man in Donegal called Jim Conaghan who makes crosses every year and teaches children to make the crosses to keep the old tradition alive. The article explained that traditionally people made the crosses every year and hung them in their houses for protection against fire, lightning and disease. We also read about how the person who collects the rushes would lay them outside on the doorstep and knock the door. They would then walk around the house clockwise 3 times and after his third time he would enter with the rushes.

Our teacher then demonstrated how to make a cross. We all made different types of crosses and some people made a Brideog - a doll out of rushes. It was great fun and we put the crosses on top of the old fireplace in our classroom. A group of Irish students liked our crosses and they asked if they could make them the next day with their teacher. Next year we will be able to show our friends and families how to make the crosses on the first day of Spring.



Making St. Bridget Crosses at Sligo ARP

COOKING

ADULT REFUGEE PROGRAMME BLANCHARDSTOWN



The Adult Refugee Programme Blanchardstown as part of a Fetac 4 student programme, worked on "Food and Drink". This recipe was chosen for "Le Cheile"

by Lifang Chen.

Ingredients

- 250g Pork mince
(You can change it to lamb or beef mince)
- 100g Vegetables
(Carrot, celery etc. Use one or more that you like)
- 20g Spring onion
- 15g Ginger
- 1 litre Stock
- 2tbs Sesame oil
- 15ml Wine for cooking
- 2tbs Oil
- 20ml Soy sauce
(Can be replaced by salt)
- 10g Cornflour

MEATBALLS & VEGETABLE SOUP

Method

1. Chop the spring onion into small pieces. Pour a little oil into a pan and heat it. Fry the chopped spring onion until it smells good. Turn off the heat, put the cooked spring onion in a small bowl.
2. Grate the vegetables. Chop the ginger.

3. Put the pork mince in a pot. Add soy sauce, wine for cooking, the chopped ginger, cornflour, the cooked spring onion, and sesame oil, mix well and wait for about 15 minutes.

4. Make the mixture into small meatballs and place them on a plate.

5. Pour stock into a stockpot. Add chopped ginger, soy sauce and wine for cooking. Boil the stock at high heat. Then put the meatballs in it for about 3 minutes or until cooked. Meanwhile scoop the scum away.

6. Add the chopped vegetables and cook for about 2 minutes. Turn off the heat. Put some chopped fresh spring onion on the top.

Serve and enjoy!

CLARE ADULT REFUGEE PROGRAMME

Clare Adult Refugee Programme participants have access to two hours of cookery classes each week. This has proven to be one of the most popular courses as learners get to take something home and can also use the recipes at home. The classes aim to encourage team-work and cross cultural integration.

The learners have developed skills in recognising equipment, utensils and ingredients, sequencing, using scales for measuring, learning the concepts of amounts and quantities used in recipes, comparing the price of making something from a recipe and the retail price, e.g. a sponge cake. After a few weeks of class the tutor noted, "they started to come up with recipes of their own and began to feel comfortable offering advice to one another about quantities and ingredients. So from tentative beginnings we now have an enthusiastic, integrated cultural cooking class."

The cooking class also involves health promotion where learners are informed of the

value of vitamins, minerals and nutrients. They are told about the value of particular vitamins and foods for healthy bones, muscle development, curing coughs and colds, energy and food for good moods! Some of the recipes the learners have made this term include vegetarian bean curry, victoria sponge cake, chicken chow mein, sweet gur rice and cardamon tea, Irish vegetable soup, banana muffins, scones, popcorn and vegetable rice.



Galina, Saida, Francois, Badia and Jenny (tutor) making vegetarian bean curry

THE ARP WEBSITE

www.adultrefugee.ie



Above is a picture of the home page of the ARP website. A circular is being sent out to all highlighting the main features of the website. Le Cheile would however like to stress that the website can only be as informative as the stories and contributions it receives from ARP

classes around the country. Please use the website to access ARP news and also to help you find any information you may need in respect of integration issues. All contributions to the website are to be e-mailed to Ross Kenny at rosskenny2@hotmail.com



Karen O'Connor

THE FORTHCOMING ARP 'EXHIBITION & PERFORMANCE' DAY Thursday 20th May

At present many ARP classes down the east coast of Ireland are busy finishing their exhibits for the above day. Karen O'Connor, a graduate from the Dun Laoghaire School of Art and Design, is working with classes in Waterford, Kilkenny, Carlow, Dublin and Monaghan, each

class working in an area it chose itself. Because of space constraints, the ARP is concentrating this year on an exhibition by classes along the east coast and intends next year to exhibit work from ARP classes in Sligo, Mayo, Galway and Clare.