

2005



Warrenmount Centre joined the millions on the World Wide Web

In January 2005 Warrenmount Centre joined the millions on the World Wide Web. The Newsletter will be added to the Web page on a monthly basis.

Learner Profiles as on the website



"My ambition is to run my own flower arranging shop. I am going to get work in a florists to learn the business properly".



"Warrenmount will give you 100% support but you have to be willing to learn and put your heart into it. The Centre has given me a life that I enjoy. My children now have a good role model that they can be proud of".



"I didn't know anything about MI before I came to the Centre but now I know that you don't just have to be good with your head. You can also be good with your hands."



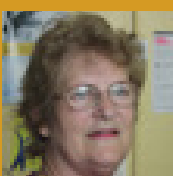
"If anyone had said to me six years ago that I would be teaching Tai Chi, I would never have believed them".



"The tutor asked would I be interested in doing computers. I didn't know how to plug one in never mind use one, but I thought, 'well since I am here I might as well give it a shot' ".



"The centre gave me my first teaching experience with a computer class. I found I could now give something back to the centre by teaching some of the skills I had developed here. This led on to doing a Teacher's Diploma. Without the centre I would never have had the confidence to do that".



"I thought it would be like school, but I settled in within an hour or two".

Another programme designed to encourage others to come to the Centre and to initiate participant involvement was the Come and Bring a Friend Week. Each morning a tutor presented a "taste" of the programme that would be available during the coming year.



The Taster Programme included Interior Design, Relaxing through Movement, and a Different Ways of Learning Workshop. The week ended with an Intercultural Food Morning.



A Teddy Bear's Picnic formed part of the Bring a Friend Week. This was an initiative connecting specifically with the parents of the Early Start Programme in the Primary School.

Premises:

New Child Care Facility;
Training Room and Coffee Shop

Participants:

260

Programmes:

Creative Developmental

Second-Chance Education:

FETAC - Foundation Level, Level 1 and Level 2
Living in a Diverse Society
Junior Certificate
Computers
ECDL
Literacy/Mentoring
ESOL
Counselling/Therapy
Bring a Friend Week
The Evolving Quality Framework
Final Year of Grundtvig Project

Staff:

Director
2 Administration Staff
Resource Workers
11 Tutors
4 Literacy Tutors
2 Counsellor/Therapists

Management:

Board of Directors

Funding:

CDVEC
Dept of Education & Science
Dept of Social & Family Affairs
Dept of Community Rural & the Gaeltacht
Hall Rental

2006

Milestones of the Year

2006 was a year of national prosperity, with low unemployment figures. The challenge facing the Centre was up-skilling, enabling people to access the job market. Computer Literacy, Language competency, Intergenerational Learning, Citizenship, Justice issues, Communications, Child-care – these were our core subjects. In keeping with our Multiple Intelligences approach to learning, Art, Crafts, Design, Book Club, Gardening, Local History remained key elements of our curriculum.

While responding to learners' needs, we continued to ensure the quality of our programmes and methods, through staff development and in-service. Our very successful Learners' Day gave valuable feed-back, new insights and helped us to stay focussed. We adapted the NALA Evolving Quality Framework to suit our own purposes, making it a valuable evaluation tool.



Our concern for the earth was evidenced in our "absolutely organic" Café, where top quality food was served and both customers and staff were encouraged to recycle.



The story sacks from this project were presented to the Primary School.

We were successful in accessing NALA funding to run a "Story Sacks" project. The original Story Sacks concept was developed in the UK, as part of the Basic Skills Agency Family Literacy development work in 1990. Parents lacking confidence in their reading skills were encouraged to choose a child's book, create the props and backdrops to bring the stories to life invent relevant games and make an audio tape. All the materials were assembled in a sack (pillow case) and then shared with the children.

2007

Milestones of the Years

"Access, quality, flexibility, responsiveness" – the blue-print set out for us in the White Paper on Adult Education 2000) – continued to guide us. The "needs of our learners" was still our focus as we developed the Family Learning Programme, recognising how low levels of education militate against accessing employment. With education comes a sense of responsibility for one another, and so, with funding from Irish Aid, we ran a Justice, not just Us programme, endeavouring to engage people in the decisions that shape their lives, and making them aware of human rights and ecology...



Family Literacy

2008

Milestones of the Years

The downturn of the economy, with funding cuts flagged by the VEC, presented serious challenges this year, as we set out to meet the ongoing demands of FETAC and quality assurance.

Facilities dominated much of our planning:

- The future of the crèche, with planning permission due to expire in 2010
- disability access
- the demolition of Nagle Hall
- best use of the additional space given to us, with the vacating of the old convent.

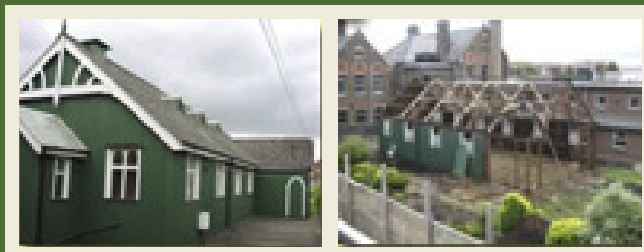


EU Project – Storybags in Germany



Challenge to Change

These problems, however, did not have a negative effect on the life of the Centre. New courses included Gaeilge, Spanish, Local History, Introduction to Workplace Training. We presented our Story Sacks Project at a Grundvig Seminar in Germany. Our learners attended the Challenge to Change (Justice Workshop) in Kilkenny.



Nagle Hall

Nagle Hall Demolition

2009

Milestones of the Years

The national recession, with its economic gloom, did not succeed in casting a cloud over the life and enthusiasm of the Centre. We developed our involvement with NALA and Aontas. We linked with FIT (Fast-track to Information Technology) and ran Computer Courses aimed especially at facilitating access to the workplace. One of our tutors also devised the 'Get a Grip' programme for the "over 50s", unfamiliar with computers and other media. A really energising aspect of this programme was the Transition Year "Buddy Programme", where the secondary school students worked on a one-to-one basis with the "over 50s".

Funding received from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, provided us with 10 laptops and a "laptop cabby".

Renovations of facilities continued apace, painting, floor coverings, toilet facilities and gas central heating in the former kitchen area. A major setback was a burst pipe in the attic in December.



Get a Grip on IT Group



The FIT (Fast Track to IT) Programme



Mary Kennedy & learners in the Nagle Room



The new Nagle Room