

Annual Report



2013

Warrenmount CED Centre Ltd.

Mill Street

Dublin 8

Company Number 357738

Charity Number 14856

Contents

Foreword.....	3
Introduction	5
Achievements for 2013	6
Vision.....	7
Mission Statement	7
Values	7
Centre Structure and Staff	8
Management Structure 2013	8
Board of Directors	8
Centre Staff.....	8
Tutors.....	9
Counselling/Therapy.....	9
Voluntary Tutors –Literacy Tutor, Buddy Reader, Computer Buddy.....	9
Buddy Readers	10
Literacy/ Mentoring.....	10
Links	10
Funding for Staff and tutors	10
Statistics	11
Database 2007 – 2013	11
FETAC Folder Submissions 2006 - 2013.....	16
Back to Education Initiative (BTEI).....	17
Exploring routes to learning.....	18
Programme Co-ordination	22
Learning Journey	23
Resource Worker	24
Gardening 2013.....	26
Literacy Walking Trail.....	27
My Experience as a Literacy Tutor	28
My second home.....	29
Community Education Reflection	30
Warrenmount Centre Café	31
Community Employment Programme	32
Funding Support.....	35

Foreword

Margaret M. Healy
Chairperson BOD

Recent controversies over the use of public funds have shown the potential for serious gaps between the expectations of funders and the use of the funds. These controversies have also highlighted the importance of good governance.

The key purpose of good governance is to ensure an organisation is run well and effectively. It is about instilling confidence and trust as well as preserving credibility and reputation among stakeholders.



The **Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland (The Governance Code)**, was adopted in February 2012. The Governance Code makes numerous references to the duty of the Board to agree a strategic plan that contains key performance indicators and commits the Board to a monitoring and evaluation system and a mechanism which ensures regular reporting on performance.

The Governance Code is based on the following five principles



In keeping with these five principles, Warrenmount CED Centre Ltd has revisited its Mission Statement and checked that its vision, purpose and values are still relevant.

Steps have been taken to ensure that Board members, staff, learners and volunteers understand clearly their respective roles and responsibilities. We have engaged Quality Matters to guide us in the production of a Board Handbook outlining roles, legal duties, and delegated responsibility for decision-making. Each Board member has signed up to this and has declared his/her interests.

As an organisation, Warrenmount CED Ltd is committed to the standards expressed in the five principles of the Governance Code. An annual review will take place to ensure ongoing compliance.

As a Board, we are committed to the key attributes of good governance:

- transparency
- responsibility
- accountability
- participation
- responsiveness (to the needs of the people)

I thank the members of the Board of Directors and the staff who have engaged wholeheartedly in the planning and developmental processes outlined above.

The ongoing support of Presentation Sisters continues to be a significant factor in the development of the Centre.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I congratulate all who teach and learn at the Centre. I express our gratitude to Pauline and her staff for their ongoing support and enthusiasm, which ensure that the red door is always open to welcome those who wish to take another step on the path to life-long learning.

Introduction

Pauline McGaley
Centre Director



The long awaited *Education and Training Boards Act 2013* came into effect in July, replacing 33 VEC's and bringing an enormous change in structure to this sector in Irish education. Warrenmount Centre is closely aligned to the new City of Dublin Further Education and Training Board. The CDETБ allocates our funding streams for staff and tutors. While the Centre operates its own FETAC/QQI Quality Assurance to run and validate certified programmes, it is indefinite if this will continue into the future. Further changes will emerge when SOLAS reveals its strategic plan that will complete the developments in the further education and training sector. The work of AONTAS Community Education Network is an extremely effective conduit in keeping voluntary community education centres informed and ensuring that the contribution of community education is given the voice it deserves at National level.

In January 2013, Warrenmount Centre re-opened, ready to face the challenges of the year with its own *Strategic Plan 2013 – 2016*, forming the focus of our work in the Centre under the following four objectives:

Objective 1: To promote quality community education that responds to the needs of learners

Objective 2: To ensure that the learning environment is respectful, safe, supportive and inclusive

Objective 3: To influence adult and community education policy and practice at local, national and European level

Objective 4: To promote the Centre as a centre of excellence in adult and community education

The actions flowing from each objective carry best practice from our past experience coupled with a new energy capturing what is needed in the coming three years to ensure that Warrenmount Centre lives up to the aspirations of our *Mission Statement* in meeting the needs of the learners attending the Centre.

With four new members joining the Board of Directors in 2012, it was a timely opportunity to reflect on our aims and objectives. Board members and staff pooled their collective experience and expertise to draw-up a strategy for the ongoing work of the Centre in a changing education landscape. It was a positive and supportive experience for staff and Board members to come together to draw-up the plan.

The four objectives above form the headings under which the Work Report is submitted to the monthly Board Meeting. Staff members are encouraged to contribute to the report, keeping in mind the *Implementation Plan* and the *Key Performance Indicators*.

Achievements for 2013

- ✚ Work on the Governance Code
- ✚ Aims and objectives of the Strategic Plan on track for year 1
- ✚ We continued to provide relevant programmes and courses in spite of a reduction in funding
- ✚ The Garden Project further developed to include a polytunnel erected in June
- ✚ Successful hosting of final meeting of Exploring Routes to Learning – EU project

Challenges for 2014

- ✚ Formal compliance with the Governance Code
- ✚ Continue development of the Strategic Plan for year 2
- ✚ Continue to develop new shared programmes under QQI validation
- ✚ Employ a part-time manager of the Garden Project to pilot a small market garden project.
- ✚ Liaise with NUIM and other established Colleges and Universities to facilitate students on teaching placement
- ✚ Seek opportunities for further links with European Partners
- ✚ Continue to find ways to attract learners to the Centre
- ✚ Develop social media as a means of connecting with learners and providing them with up-to-date information through the Centre web page, App and Blog

Vision

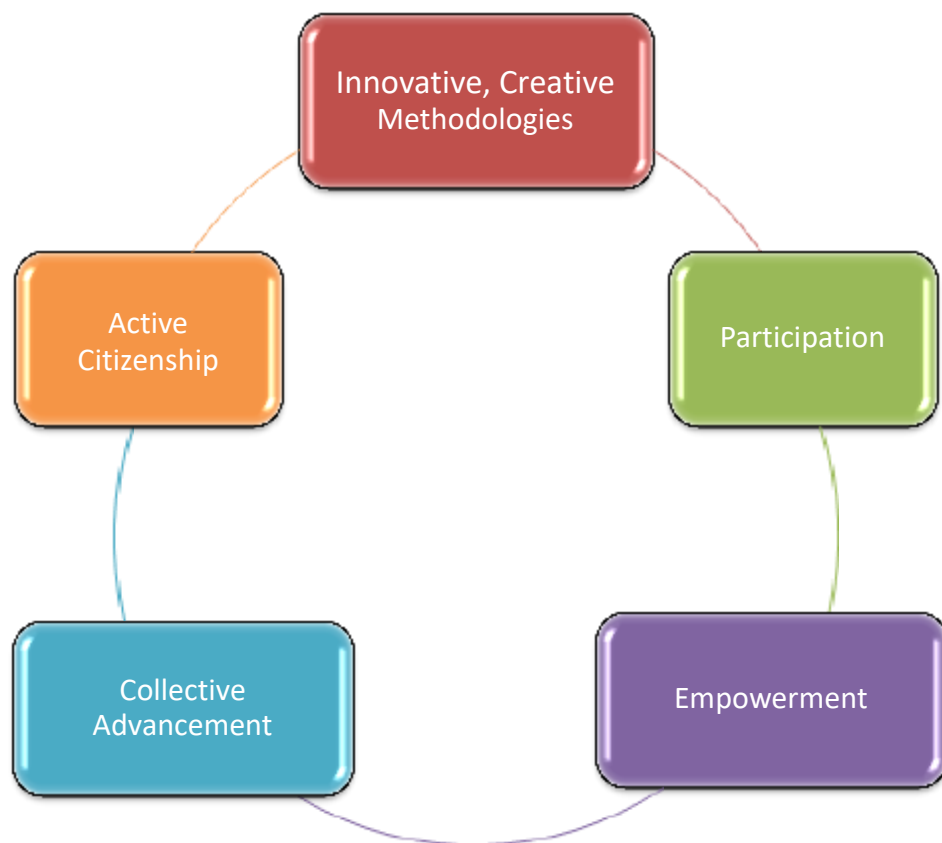
Our vision is that Warrenmount CED Centre will be perceived as a Centre of Excellence in the provision of community education.

Mission Statement

At Warrenmount Centre, we aim to meet the needs of the local community by creating opportunities, building confidence and developing skills. We do this through a learning style that is **person-centred**, **participative** and **informal**. Through this, we hope to give people a voice enabling them to create a better society.

Guided by the charism of the Presentation Congregation the Centre is committed to providing an open, friendly, welcoming atmosphere where people are respected and valued.

Values



Centre Structure and Staff

Management Structure 2013

Board of Directors

Membership of the current Board of Directors of the Company Limited by guarantee is as follows:

Margaret Healy	Chairperson	Presentation Ed Office
David Corrigan	Secretary	Trustee representative
Gerard Long	Treasurer	Trustee representative
Georgina Wright	Local representative	
Liam Kilbride	Presentation	Ed Office, CE Sponsoring Group
Marie Stella Mangan	Presentation nominee	
Eamonn Hunt	Trustee Representative	
Eddie Harkness	Local representative	
Julie Fenton	Trustee representative	
Victoria Durrer	Trustee representative	
Tom O'Brien	Trustee representative	
Donal Egan	Trustee representative	

Pauline McGaley, Director of the Centre, attends monthly meetings and submits a work report.

The Board meets each month with the exception of July and August.

Centre Staff

Administration	Pauline Mc Galey	Director
	Stephen Flitton (July)	Development Worker
	Patricia Gellon (Sept)	Development Worker
	Lia Clarkson	Programmes Co-ordinator
	Audrey McCann (P/T)	Centre Secretary
	Anne Flynn (P/T)	Administrator
	Marion O'Raw	CE Supervisor
Centre Café	Liz Deegan	Manager
Resource	Stephen Flitton (July)	IT Resource
	Richard Galvin (Sept)	IT Resource

Tutors

All these tutors work on a part time basis

Tutors	Course	Accreditation
Stephen Flitton	ICT Programme	FETAC L3 FETAC L4
Bernie McCarthy	Maths	FETAC L3
Margo Kelly	Horticulture Local History	FETAC L3
Pamela Jordan	Life Skills Work Skills ICT Programme	FETAC L3
Helen O'Keeffe	Life Skills Work Skills E R L (EU Project) FIT Level 3 and L4	FETAC L3 FETAC L3, L4
Mary Moloney	Art & Design Quilling	FETAC L3 FETAC L3
Orla Ni Haonigh	Book Club / Creative Writing	
Anna Marron	Life Skills Work Skills ICT Programme	FETAC L3 FETAC L3
Lia Clarkson	Spanish FIT Level 4 ICT Programme	FETAC L3 FETAC L4 FETAC L4

Counselling/Therapy

Counselling/Therapy is available on request in the adjoining building

Teresa Ryan

Accredited

Voluntary Tutors –Literacy Tutor, Buddy Reader, Computer Buddy

Lia Clarkson Co-ordinator Volunteer Programmes

Gerard Long

Francis Lawlor

Julie Lordon

Alicia Byrne

Eileen Murphy

Elizabeth Synge

Esther Herron

Brian Cushen

Jean Collolly

Anna Marron

Marie Green

Rosalie Prendergast

Aileen Le Brocquy

Eileen Brosnan

Aine Dempsey

Angela Moylan

Peter Bodie

Maria Biggs

Ann Boland

Buddy Readers

The very successful 'Buddy Reading' group takes place every Wednesday with language learners taking the opportunity to read a book with their 'Buddy'. The session includes conversation and comprehension. We continue to build our team of Buddy Volunteers.

The voluntary tutors are available for two hours each week

Literacy/ Mentoring

Many learners availed of one-to-one tuition for two hours per week during the year. Fifteen students worked online for **FETAC Level 2** certification. This is a blended learning course with assisted learning if needed.

Links

The Centre has links with NALA, DALC, AONTAS, FIT, FAS/SOLAS, CDVEC/CDETB, the Wheel and the Department of Social Inclusion. It also links with Liberties College and other projects with a similar ethos operating in the area.

Funding for Staff and tutors

Funding remains a challenge. To keep within our reduced budget, staff members continue to accept two weeks unpaid leave in July. Reducing classes is a difficult choice particularly when it is the non-accredited classes that are vulnerable, because they do not show 'progression' onto other courses. The funding received through CDVEC/CDETB is allocated specifically for staff salaries and tutor payment for classes.

Support of Volunteer Tutors

Our volunteer tutors contributed a staggering 870 support hours to our learners attending the Centre in 2013.

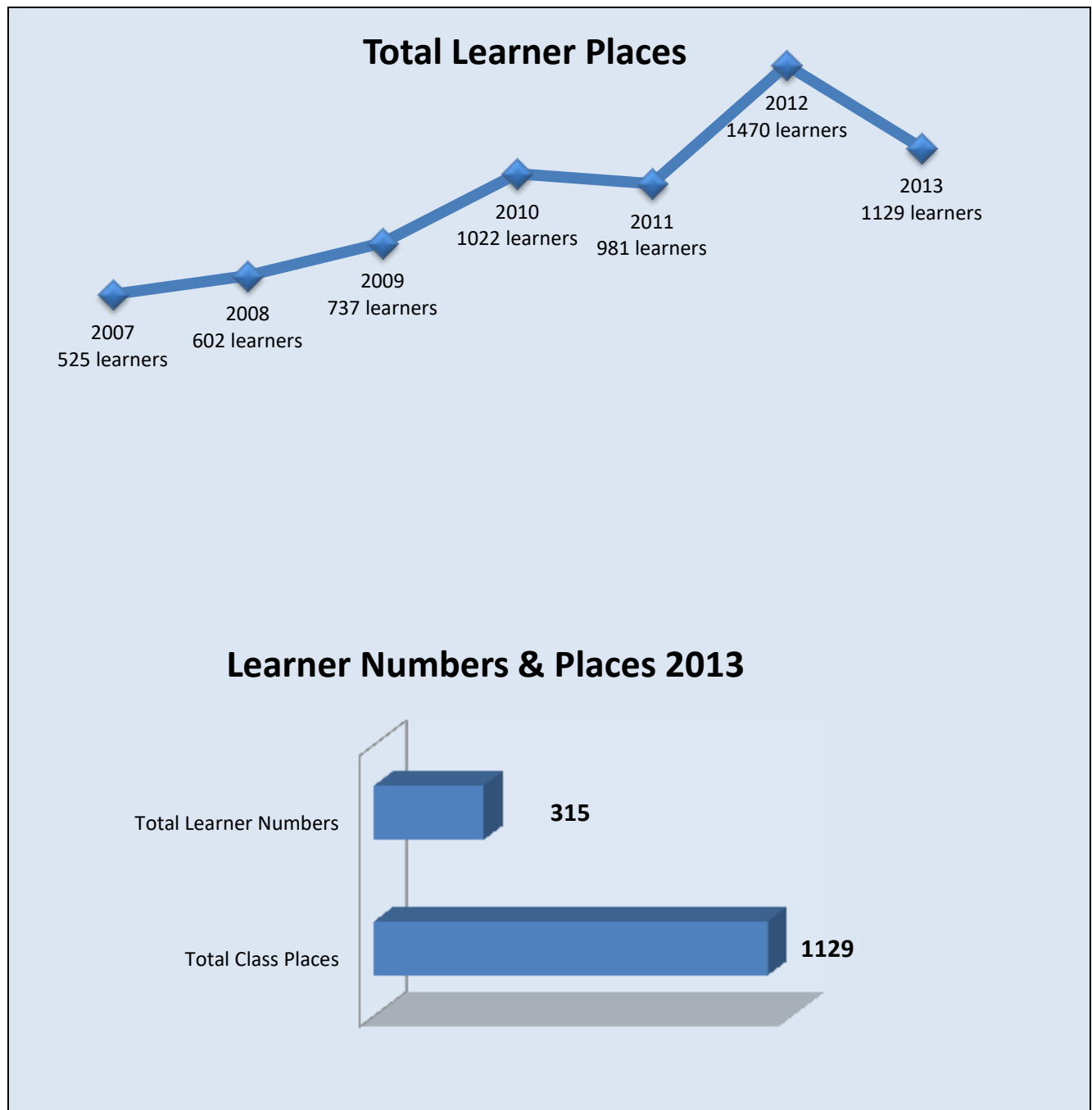
Utilities

The Centre would be unable to meet the everyday cost of heat and light if it were not for the support of the Presentation Sisters.

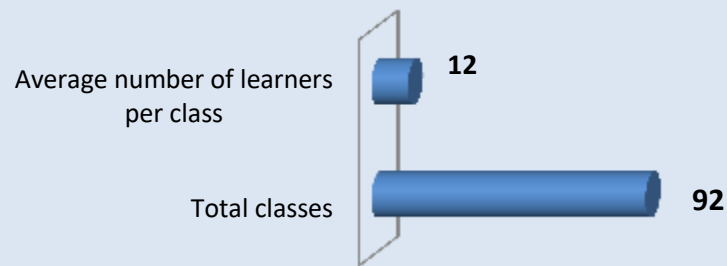
Statistics

Database 2007 – 2013

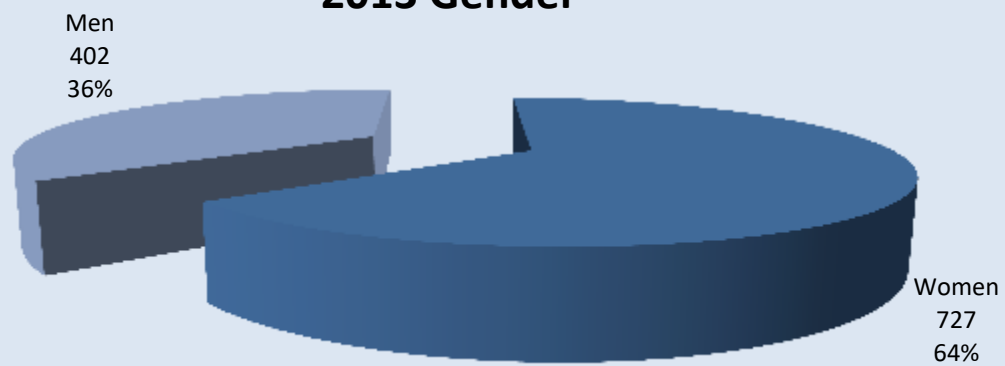
The chart below illustrates the learner places for the past seven years peaking to **1,470** places in 2012. There is a slight decrease in 2013, which may be due to the limited number of FETAC Level 5 classes open to the Centre and the cancellation of two non-accredited classes. However, the Centre will continue to make every effort to respond to the needs of learners.



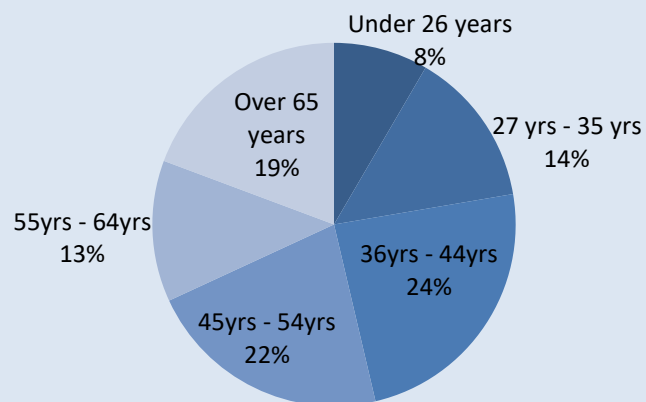
Class Numbers 2013



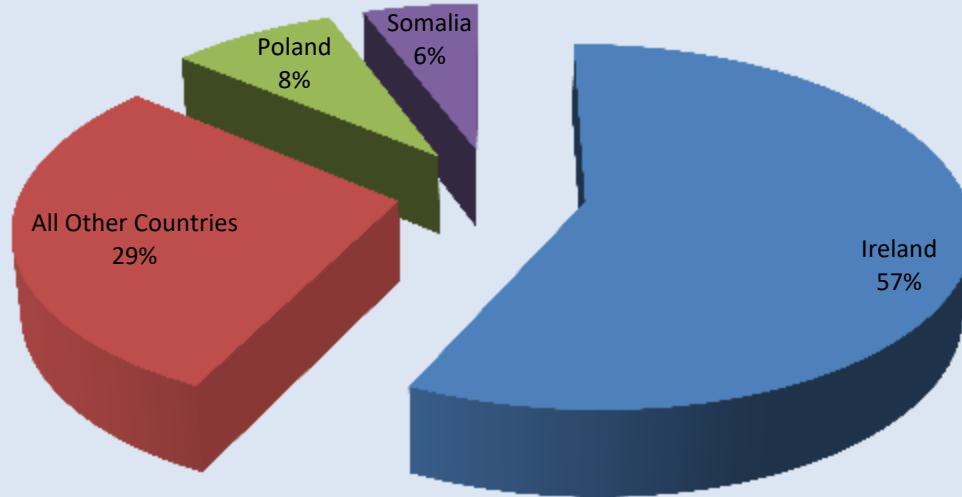
2013 Gender



Age Profile 2013



Learner Nationalities 2013



All Other Countries (34):

Afghanistan	2
Albania	3
Algeria	8
Angola	1
Congo(Dem Repub)	2
Egypt	3
India	2
Libya	2
Nepal	2
Nigeria	3
Pakistan	8
Moldova	3
Russia	1
Senegal	1
Sierra Leone	1

Sudan	2
South Africa	1
Thailand	3
Turkey	1
Ukraine	2
Czech Republic	1
English	1
Hungary	3
Latvia	4
Lithuania	5
Malta	1
Portugal	1
Romania	10
Spain	1
United Kingdom	4
Bulgaria	1

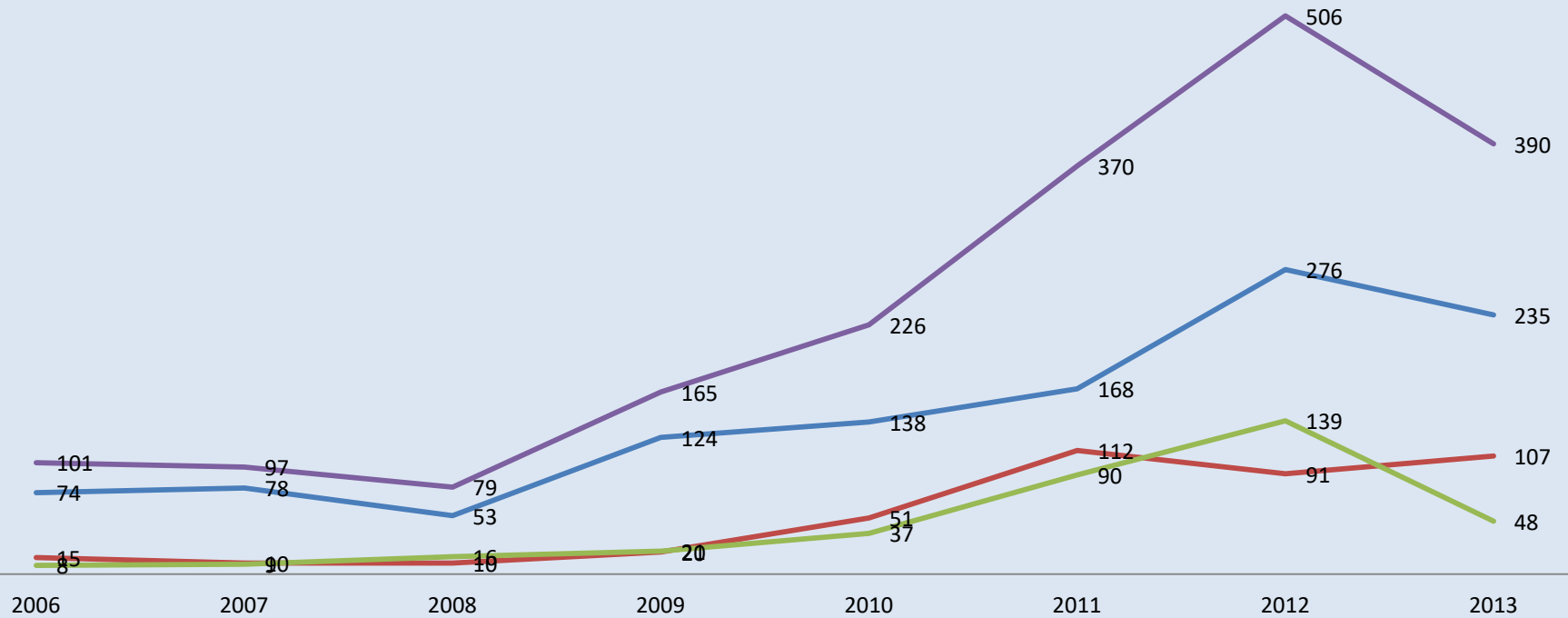
The Centre provided an average of **30** classes per term in 2013, mainly accredited at FETAC Level 3. In general, FETAC Level 4 and Level 5 programme follow in the January term.

Class numbers were slightly lower in 2013 with **315** individuals taking up **1,129** places. As noted earlier, this may be due to the reduction in classes particularly as we have fewer FETAC Level 5 programmes. We continued to be concerned with the narrow focus on 'education for employment' as proposed by the Government. We believe that this reduces the possibility of running non-accredited courses that may provide the initial step for learners enabling them to ease gently into education. In the present economic climate, we are meeting people who are under pressure to up-skill in order to secure a job.

The Centre has now validated three **Major Award** options at **FETAC Level 3 - Employability Skills, General Learning and Information and Communications Technology**. One Major Awards at **FETAC level 4 - General Learning**. We expect to be able to avail of **Level 4 and ICT** through a shared programme available through CDVEC. We have one **Major Award** at **FETAC Level 5** in **Childcare**

FETAC Folders Submitted 2006 - 2013

Level 3 Level 4 Level 5 Total



FETAC Folder Submissions 2006 - 2013

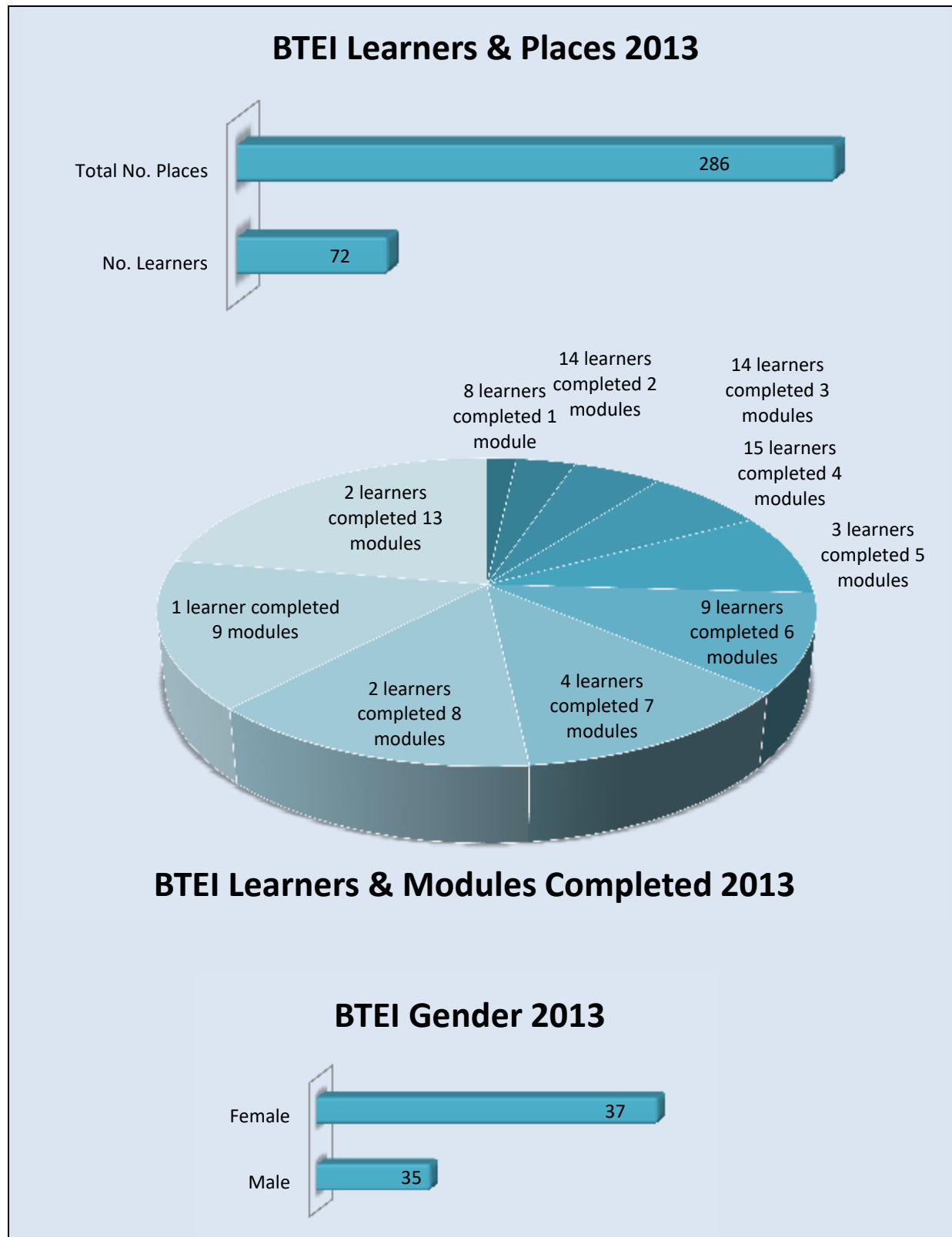
<i>Year</i>	<i>Level 3</i>	<i>Level 4</i>	<i>Level 5</i>	<i>Total</i>
2006	74	15	8	101
2007	78	10	9	97
2008	53	10	16	79
2009	124	20	21	165
2010	138	51	37	226
2011	168	112	90	370
2012	276	91	139	506
2013	235	107	48	390

The total number of folders submitted for FETAC accreditation peaked considerably in 2012 with 139 folders at Level 5 compared with 48 in 2013. In general, Level 5 modules are not available to us but we continue to provide Childcare at Level 5, this programme is validated under Warrenmount Centre. In 2013, we saw an increase in Level 4 folders validated but overall there is a decrease in folders assessed in this year.

Alongside the statistics above there were also a total of 91 learners who attended the **Open Learning Class** during the year. This class caters for learners not ready to participate in a learning or group, but it also facilitates learners who come to the Centre after the term has started. These learners, with the support of a Computer Buddy begin the **NALA** online training. A total of 123 modules were certified at FETAC Level 2 and 10 learners achieved a **Major Award in General Learning at FETAC Level 2**.

Back to Education Initiative (BTEI)

The Back to Education Initiative is operating in the Centre since 2002. An application for funding in 2013 secured over €25,000, with an extra €7,500 under the Job Initiative BTEI programme. We are unsure of JI funding in the future. The breakdown for classes for 2013 is illustrated below, with an indicator of the numbers availing of the initiative.



Exploring routes to learning

Liam Kilbride

Education Development Officer



On 28th May 2013, all roads led to Warrenmount Centre, as our partners from Scotland, Austria, Finland, Estonia, Portugal and Majorca (Spain) joined us in this celebration of adult and community learning. This one-day conference, very aptly titled '**An Cruinniú**', took place in Warrenmount Community Education Centre. The conference title was inspired by the 2013 *Gathering theme*. It marked the last stop on a two-year EU Grundtvig Lifelong Learning project, '**Exploring Routes to Learning**'. Seven partner countries were involved in the project and over 50 people attended the event.



A True European Occasion!

This conference was of significant national interest as it occurred during the **EU Presidency**, and it brought the role of Adult Community Education in Ireland and across the EU into sharp focus. It showcased a European collaborative partnership in which project countries shared good practice and creative approaches and methodologies. It also afforded us an opportunity to celebrate the rich diversity of today's Ireland. Warrenmount Centre mirrors this richness, as its learners in 2012 hailed from no fewer than 35 countries.

This **conference and exhibition** included

- **A "European Street"** with representatives from the seven partner countries.
- **A "Living Library"** where people are the books and share their knowledge with international learners on a '**Voyage of Discovery**'.
- Our learners acted as **Buddy tour guides**, sharing local knowledge of the historical Liberties area using tours they have compiled themselves. The Buddy guides are range from people who have lived in the area all their lives to people who have moved here from other countries in recent years who have their own perspectives.

- The keynote address was delivered by **Berni Brady, Director of AONTAS**, the National Adult Learning Agency.
- **Denise Shannon**, from **Léargas, the Exchange Bureau**, presented the certificates.
- Each partner country provided a colourful display that represented their country, centre and work.
- The project **Lipdub** video, launched in Majorca in March, was screened at the Conference.
- As has been the case throughout the two-year project, learners were central to an Cruinniú.

Warrenmount Centre was honoured to host this, the final stop on a European voyage of discovery. An Cruinniú was captured on video which may be viewed on the project website.
www.exploringroutestolearning.eu



Now Let's Retrace the Steps on the Journey So Far

This EU Grundtvig 2 Lifelong Learning project had its origins in an EU Grundtvig 2 meeting in Palma, Mallorca in October 2010. The meeting was attended by Pauline McGaley and Liam Kilbride. The project that emerged from this initial meeting aimed at an engagement in collaborative strategies which followed the journey of learners and the methods used by partners to facilitate learning whilst identifying cultural and educational similarities, difference and shared goals. The project placed its focus on innovative approaches to adult and community learning. A multi-modal approach was adopted, with each partner 'playing to its strengths', as it were, selecting the methods and strategies which best reflected the specific learning experiences of its target groups. Blended and e-learning were key elements of the project, complementing other innovative best approaches to teaching and learning.

7 international partners participated in the project

The Adult Learning Team, Stirling Council, Scotland

Warrenmount Community Education and Development Centre, Dublin

Centre d'Educació de Persones Adultes CEPA, Arta, Mallorca

Universidade Sénior de Évora, Portugal

Ellela-Karjalainen Kansalaispisto, Lappeenranta, Finland

Vorumaa Keskraamatukogu, Estonia

The first Project meeting took place in Stirling, Scotland (September 2011) and this was followed by a meeting in Vienna, Austria. Both of those meetings were successful and fruitful – generating a project plan, partner responsibilities, a project logo and a meeting timetable. This timetable included meetings in all the partner countries throughout the two-year span of the project. All meetings were productive and enjoyable. They comprised a blend of work and culture. Days were long but satisfying. Between meetings, agreed tasks were undertaken at home by partner countries. In Warrenmount Centre the project was very ably facilitated by Lia Clarkson with her Spanish class and by Helen O’Keeffe with her Routes to Learning group. The face-to-face meetings were complemented by Adobe Connect video conferencing. Materials and resources were collaboratively created and flowed freely via email. Information was shared using Google Docs. Evaluations and reflective diaries were used to monitor project progress throughout.

Putting the Learner in the Centre of the Picture



Learner participation featured strongly in all aspects and in all stages of the ERL project. For learners it was indeed a voyage of discovery as they were included in all mobilities and visits. They engaged with fellow learners in a warm climate of peer interaction. Learning was shared, strategies were explored, and friendships forged. This was learning as it should be.

Feedback comments captured at the ‘Gathering’ in Dublin encapsulated this.

When asked to describe ‘something I learned from the project’ some learners reported that **“language is not a barrier”, “We are different but connected”** and **“Learning can be fun”**. Another learner recounted having **“found out about other cultures, food, language and love of learning”**. On a practical level, one learner observed wistfully of Dublin **“Each hour different weather”!**

Project Outputs

The raft of new resources which issued from the project is a measure of the productivity of the Exploring Routes to Learning Project. One-hour **City Tours** of seven cities were formulated. Exemplars and models of good practice were captured in the **Practitioners’ Support Guides**. **10 interesting Facts** about each partner country and **City Symbols** were the result of a collaborative sharing by learners and practitioners. Other resources included Soundscapes, Photostories, Drama productions and a Language Glossary. It is envisaged that such resources and materials will inform others working in the field of collaborative international partnerships.

The Project Website

Warrenmount Centre was charged with the responsibility of creating and maintaining the project website. This task was embraced with great enthusiasm by Lia and Valdamar and the high standard and informative and stimulating nature of the site bears testament to their hard work and professionalism.

Check it out at www.exploringroutestolearning.eu



Programme Co-ordination

Lia Clarkson



The Programmes at Warrenmount Centre fall into two categories FETAC/ QQI programmes & Volunteer supported programmes. I will outline below how I supported these programmes in 2013.

FETAC/ QQI programmes:

ICT Level 3 - LSWS Level 3 - FIT Level 4 - FIT Level 5 (to April 2013)

- Liaise with centre director, staff & tutors before, during and after each term to:
 - Clarify programme content / schedule etc
 - Review modules assessment schedules
 - Agree opportunities for module content / assessment integration
 - Review mid-term progress
 - Evaluate programme / learner participation at the end of term
 - Ensure the FETAC/QQI programme QA requirements are fulfilled
- Organise / facilitate learner induction before start of term
- Review / evaluate learner participation

Future plans:

In 2014, in addition to the induction workshop, we will hold mid-term, and end of term workshops for learners; the aim is to support learners in setting, reviewing and evaluating their personal profile, learning goals and team work skills. Learners who complete assignments and participate in these workshops will be able to put forward a Personal Effectiveness folder at FETAC Level 3.

Volunteer Supported Programmes:

Literacy / Buddy Reading & Computer Buddy / Open Learning

In 2013 we had an increase in volunteers for the Buddy Reading/Literacy group to about 12 to 15 (depending on the term); some of these are former and current learners.

- Recruit new volunteers annually (internally and externally through Volunteer Ireland)
- Review and update volunteer policies / handbook etc
- Organise/facilitate induction for new and returning volunteers
- Liaise with centre director, staff & volunteers before, during and after each term
- Contact person for volunteers
- Maintain register / weekly records of volunteers and learners
- Communicate with volunteers re training / events etc
- Liaise with external stakeholders (NALA / Volunteer Ireland)

Future plans:

In 2014, we would like to facilitate a basic literacy training opportunity for the volunteers who do not already have the Volunteer Tutor Training (NALA / VEC) qualification.

Learning Journey

Sharon Conlon

This journey began for me when I approached Warrenmount Centre in January 2009. Due to the recession in 2008 I had become unemployed and was unable to find another job. This was a very difficult and stressful time and I decided that I should look at my other options. I had known of Warrenmount Centre for many years and decided to call in and speak to Pauline. Pauline was very sympathetic and could see that it was important for me to engage with some of the courses not just for academic purposes but also to help me rediscover the self-esteem I had lost through the rejection that myself and others were finding in the job market at the time.



I had always been interested in working with children and Pauline suggested that I enrol on three FETAC Level 5 modules in Childcare, I also did a module in Story Sacks which proved invaluable to me when I later embarked on an Honours Degree in Early Childhood Education. The tutors were supportive and encouraging and I really enjoyed coming to the centre for classes. The centre is a unique place, it not just a place of learning but is focused on the holistic well-being of all who attend there. Through doing these classes I realised that I could and would like to continue to achieve the full FETAC 5 qualification and a qualification at FETAC level 6 in Supervision in Childcare. Having successfully completed this stage of learning I applied to Liberties College of Further Education and was accepted on a two-year programme where I successfully gained three qualifications (FETAC level 5 in Childcare, Level 6 in Supervision in Childcare and a CACHE Diploma in Childcare and Education)

Part of these courses was mandatory engagement with placement supervision where I met Early Year's Professionals who had achieved a HETAC level 8 BA



Hons in Early Childhood Education. I felt that this is the qualification I should have to enable me to be a truly effective practitioner. I applied for the place on the degree programme in Dublin Institute of Technology and was offered advanced entry to year two. Study began in September 2011, I was nervous but Pauline was supportive and told me I could come back for a chat at any time. I was awarded a First Class Honours Degree in May 2013. My graduation in November 2013 was a wonderful experience for me. I am always aware that this achievement began in 2009 when I was fortunate to gain a place to study in Warrenmount Centre, here I gained the confidence and the encouragement which helped me to believe that yes I could study and achieve my goals. My thirst for knowledge hasn't diminished and I hope to continue on to a Masters Programme

hopefully in 2015. I was delighted to get a job in my chosen field in September 2013 working with children aged between two and a half years and four years old. I love my job and am always appreciative and aware of the fact that it all began with Pauline McGaley in Warrenmount Centre.

Resource Worker

Patricia Gellon

I became part of the Warrenmount Centre staff in August 2013 as a Resource Worker.

Since then the aim of my position was to promote the Centre Activities. We have a new Facebook Page with 150 likes and it keeps growing. We have been using this Facebook Page to inform our learners and friends of all that is happening in the Centre. We also updated the Location Map in Google adding directions to make easier for new learners to find our place.

Every new term we approach the Unemployed Services Offices and distribute leaflets with courses information to the people assisting every week. We promote our courses in the Credit Union offices, hanging posters to attract the interest of people in the area.

Among my tasks, I keep our photographs files, take pictures of every event in order to have a good record of the Centre Events and Activities, which we use in our Social Media and in the Coffee Shop for everybody to see.



We have also organised activities in the Community Education Programmes such as Cookery Demonstration and Craft Workshops. During Christmas time we ran workshops over three days. In order to meet learners in the



Centre I facilitated these workshops; they made Christmas Cards, Decoupage on glass and a table centrepiece.

People enjoyed themselves and during these three days, we started talking about ideas and activities that will take place next year. We decided to start a Craft Club one afternoon per week



from January 2014.

I believe that our more successful achievement this year in Promotion is the creation of the new posters, where the learners can visualise the progress in the Programmes we offer, helping them to understand their path through the different courses.



In the New Year I will be working to incorporate other Social Media tools such as a blog. We are planning to use the blog as a tool where learners, tutors and friend can participate and be heard. Our blog will be a two ways communication media therefore will be more interactive and interesting.

Gardening 2013



Literacy Walking Trail

Literacy Walking Trail



My Experience as a Literacy Tutor

Alicia Byrne

Having retired from work in 2003, I was in search of something of value to occupy my time. In conversation with a former work colleague, I heard about The Warrenmount Centre for the first time. He was already a volunteer “one to one tutor” here. It sounded like just the thing I was looking for. At his suggestion, I rang Pauline Mc Galey to arrange an interview, and before I knew it I was attending a training course at the centre. Not long into my training course there was a request for one of the class to volunteer to start as a tutor immediately. So there I was a volunteer tutor overnight.



Classes took place every Wednesday in the Old Nagle Hall. It was a delightful place for both student and teacher. One might have described it as corrugated iron shed, but to us it was our haven tucked away in the garden. We made our own tea in the little hatch (no fancy coffee shop in those days) Back then most of our students were from the Dublin 8 area, and came to the centre for the myriad of reasons one seeks a second chance of education. I remember meeting three generations of the one family who were students there at different times. It was quite a revelation and brought home to me the great work the centre does.

The centre is continuously reinventing itself and after two changes of location we are now back in the main house with a state of the art coffee shop. A great place to meet and chat with students and tutors. In recent years the centre has attracted a wide range of international students who are now living in the Dublin 8 area. In some cases they are people who have moved here with their family to make a new life here in Ireland, and while their children attend the Presentation School next door, the parents can avail of the wide range of classes available at the centre. One of the needs of our New Irish Nationals is a conversational class to improve their spoken word. Through this medium, I have had the great pleasure of meeting people from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Sudan, Egypt and Pakistan and have been able to glean a wealth of information of their countries and cultures. Countries that I have not had the opportunities to visit. It is a credit to the organisation within the Centre that some of these international students have now taken on the role of tutors themselves. A wonderful example of giving something back to society.

When asked by friends about my involvement in Warrenmount Centre as a volunteer tutor, I always speak about the great bond of friendship between students and tutors, and express the hope that the students might learn as much as we do. During my time here I have built up a wealth of knowledge from the students on such diverse subjects as brass bands, first communion designer dresses, and a vast selection of culinary recipes to name but a few. Here's to the University of Life. Long may it continue!

My second home

Francis Lawlor



I regard the Warrenmount Education Centre in Mill Street Dublin 8 as my second home.

I first started attending there in the Spring of 2001 and from the day I walked in to it I was made to feel very welcome and special.

It is partly for the friendship and social end that I returned again and again, year after year. My school days were far from good and in 1996 I returned to Adult education.

I was surprised and pleased how it was totally different. When I came to Warrenmount five years after that I really felt at ease going into a School atmosphere.

One of the things is the teachers; they do not create a barrier between the class and them.

I have attended many courses over the years and got numerous certificates. Among the subjects I studied were Creative Writing, Art, Computers, Photography, making Christmas ornaments, Book Club, Arithmetic, a folk group, Interior Design, Music Appreciation, Bookkeeping, Foreign Cultures, Spanish, Irish, etc.

At present, I am doing a one to one with a man who is recovering from a stroke and helping him to understand sentences.

The presentation of certificates usually takes place on the run up to Christmas and its usually Mary Kennedy on RTE who is there to present the awards. In fact I got so many certs that Mary knows me by name and by sight now!

I met some VIPs as well such as the former Lord Mayor Emer Costello and Brian Dobson of RTE.

In recent years the centre has added a coffee shop, which is a great idea from the social end.

The Presentation Order of Nuns runs the centre. The motto of the centre is 'Our door is always open to you' and truly everyone is given chances to improve themselves regardless of their backgrounds.

Looking back at my own schooling I see now I was quite clever but for several reasons I did not reach my potential by any means.

I often came home from Warrenmount sorry that the class was over. That's because I feel Warrenmount is my second home.

Community Education Reflection

Dr. Tom O'Brien

Many years have passed since I first set my eyes on Paulo Freire's book, 'The Pedagogy of the oppressed' at first it seemed to tease me, until I gave in and purchased it not realizing the journey I was about to start. Books can do that to us. They can turn us up-side down and inside out. They can inspire us to take the first step, the next step or to start over again. Freire's book nurtured my ability to think and to question. It was my first introduction to the field of adult and community education.



I was working in St. Teresa's Gardens, when I started my MA in adult and community education at Maynooth. It was during this time, that I first encountered Warrenmount Community Education and Development Centre. So when I bought an apartment in Dublin 8, nearly ten years later, I found myself drawn back to Warrenmount, with an invitation to join the board. Over the last year I continue to be inspired by the work of the centre director Pauline and her team. They bring to their work, a commitment and passion that lifts supports and inspires the learners, who fill the classrooms from every corner of the globe.

Like me, many of the learners in Warrenmount have a starting point on their learning journey. For some they need support to read and write, for others it is the FETAC qualification that increases their chances of finding a job. The common thread running through a centre like Warrenmount is the connections people make with each other and the wider community. Community education liberates us from our own isolation and by coming together in small groups we increase our collective ability to affect change in our community. Warrenmount provides that space for people from all sections of the community, to come together for the common purpose of strengthening our connections and building a stronger community.

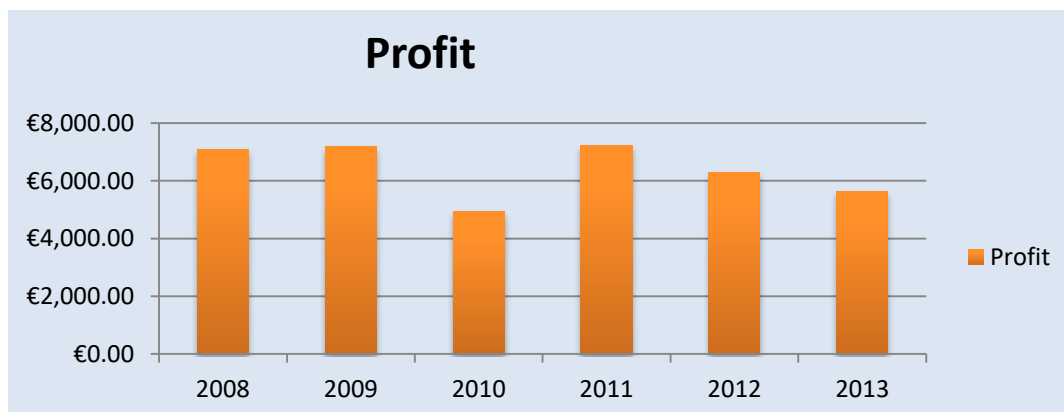
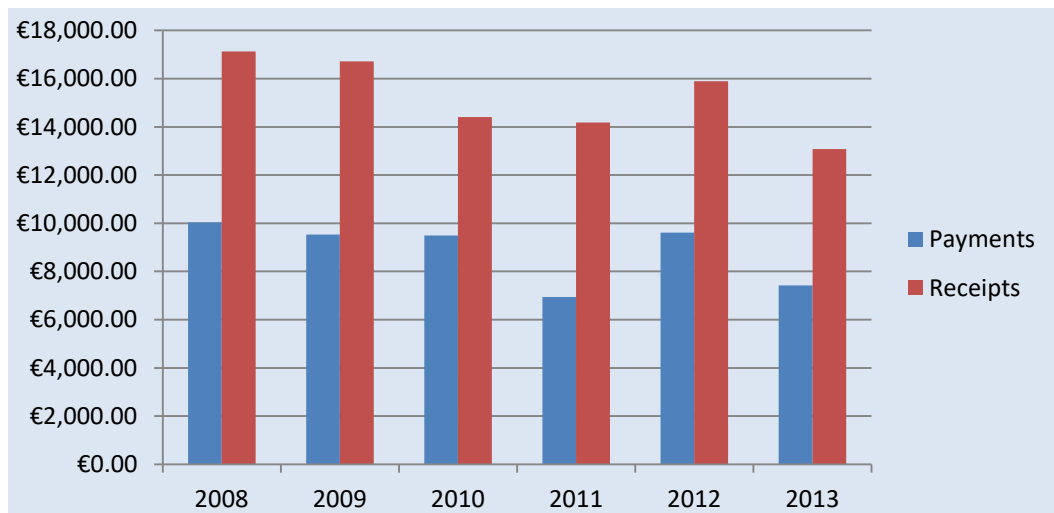
There are many problems facing us today, such as unemployment, suicide, racism, homophobia, addiction, depression and isolation. I believe adult and community education can help overcome these challenges. Warrenmount is providing leadership in the face of these challenges and is a source of hope and optimism on our doorstep.

Warrenmount Centre Café

Liz Deegan
Manager



Coffee Shop 2008 – 2013



The statistics above give an overview of the income and expenditure in the Café over the last six years. It is clear that there will always be need to supplement the income to provide for a salary for the Manager. The profit per year does not take into account the community aspect of the Café, the fresh food provided daily and the training that takes place for our CE participants by the very professional Manager. Liz works tirelessly to ensure that every aspect of the Café is operating to the highest quality standard.

Community Employment Programme

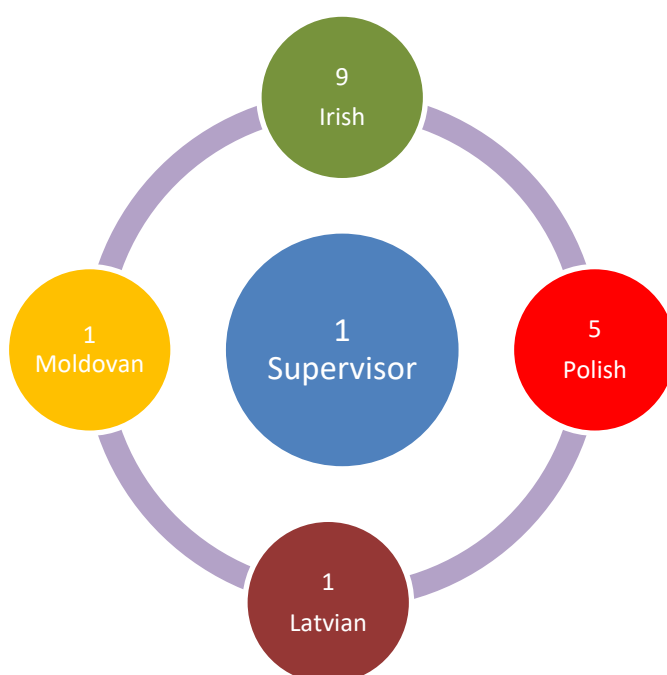
Marion O'Raw
C.E. Supervisor



Warrenmount CED Centre sponsors the Community Employment Programme since 1996. The C.E. programme is now under the Department of Social Protection. The overall objective of C.E. is to provide individuals who are long term unemployed and in receipt of a social welfare payment the opportunity to enhance their skills and develop new skills for future employment. This is achieved by providing C.E. participants with work experience (internal and external), in house training and courses within the local schools and colleges.

Community Employment Staff

The C.E. programme consists of 16 participants and 1 supervisor. The breakdown is as follows:



Every effort is made to provide each participant with work experience and training in the area that they are interested in or have previous experience in, they also have the opportunity to explore other areas of work within the centre. Warrenmount CED Centre can provide work experience in the following areas:

Administration	Coffee Shop	Gardens / grounds
I.T. Support		Cleaning

External Work Experience

Twelve participants received the opportunity of external work experience during July 2013. This was achieved through contacting employers in various areas within Dublin. Each participant had approximately two and a half weeks experience in his or her area of interest. The companies who provide the experience are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| • The National Blood Bank Service | Administration |
| • Third Space | Catering |
| • Pichet Restaurant | Catering |
| • Our Lady's Hospice | Administration |
| • Classic Hardware Ltd | Warehouse Assistant |
| • Phoenix Motors | Administration |
| • Colaiste Bride | Maintenance |
| • ESB Branch of the Union | Administration |
| • Cherry Orchard – Auto Clinic | Car Mechanic |

Two participants were offered a part time position in Third Space however, one returned home to Romania and one is waiting for Third Space to open a new Cafe in early 2014.

It is hoped that we will be able to sort external work experience with different employers during July 2014.

Training

There is a limited amount of funds available to participants for courses while on C.E. Some participants can avail of the courses within Warrenmount Centre, while others go to the local schools / colleges. Participants can participate in various FETAC Level 3 and 4 programmes organised in Warrenmount Centre as well as English language and computer courses at different levels. All courses have to be FETAC accredited.

To support individuals on the programme, Warrenmount Centre organised an intensive five days English language course in February 2014. This was a great success for all learners. Another three days training is organised for April 2014.

Five participants are participating on the European Computer Driving Licence course started in January 2014. They will complete this training in June 2014.

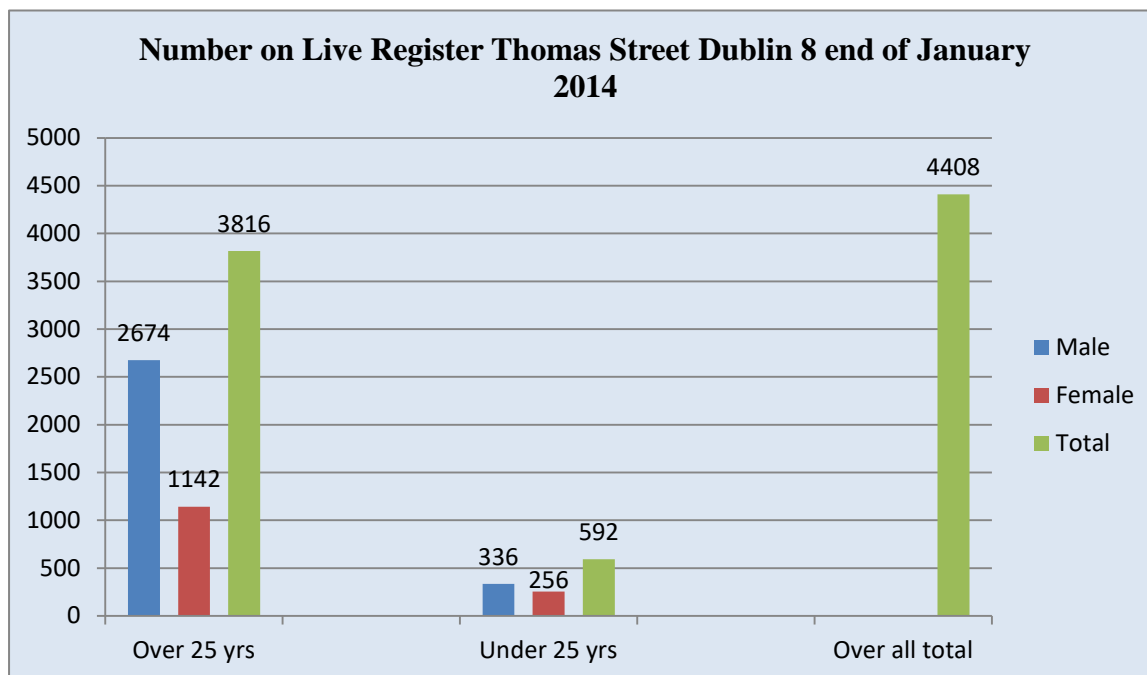
Four participants are involved in the gardening project. Under the direction of Rona Ward they have designed a plan dividing areas in the poly tunnel and surrounding areas for various crops and herbs which can be used in the coffee shop. There are two areas for waste disposal (compost) which will be used in the garden and an area for plants to be transferred into the baskets and flower beds in the front of the centre. They are learning about the type of soil needed for certain plants, herbs and vegetables as well as rotating the crop at different times.

Other courses organised during the year are as follows:

Manual Book Keeping	Sage 50 Accounts	Manual Payroll	Flower Arranging
Healthy Eating	Web Design	Microsoft Word	

Staff Progression

Progression into employment is slow due to the slow growth in the economy. According to the latest statistics figures there are 4,408 individuals unemployed in the Dublin 8 area (CSO 27/4/14). The breakdown is as follows:



In 2013 two participants found employment, one full time in a printing company based in Dublin 24 and one on a part time basis in Warrenmount Presentation Convent. There has been personal growth as the participant's English language and computer skills develop increasing their confident in seeking employment or going back to education.

Warrenmount CED Centre is fully aware of the needs of the participants on their programme and continues to provide support and encouragement for individuals through their FETAC courses. Participants are also encouraged to avail of the services from OBAIR.

Back to Education

Three participants are considering going back to education. One has secured a place on a Certificate in Database Development & Cloud Technologies course in the Dublin Business School through the Springboard Programme. His course commences 25th March 2014 for two evening per week until September. This will give him the opportunity to apply for a full time course starting mid September 2014 (Back to Education).

Two have applied to Greenhills College for a place on a P.C. Maintenance A+ Fastrack to Information Technology (FIT) course / Information Technology with PC Maintenance. They will have exams in July for a place on either course (Back to Education).

One has applied to Liberties College for a place on their Montessori course. This is a 1 year full time course FETAC Level 6 in Early Childhood Care and Education and a Liberties College Diploma in Montessori Education (2^{1/2} – 6yrs).

Funding Support

The Board of Directors greatly appreciates the ongoing support of the Presentation Congregation. The availability of this property in a prime location enables the Centre to operate in the midst of the local community. The recently renovated building is warm, comfortable and very conducive to learning. We do not take the automatic presence of heat and light for granted and are very aware of the ongoing costs met by the Presentation Sisters to cover heat and light.

The City of Dublin VEC/CDETБ has supported the Centre since its establishment in 1995 with teaching hours. We now receive core funding that meets the cost of staff salaries and teaching hours for tutors. We also secure funding through the Back to Education Initiative (BTEI) for other specific programmes.

We acknowledge the ongoing funding and support received for the Centre from:

- Presentation Sisters
- The Department of Education and Skills
- City of Dublin VEC/ CDETБ
- FIT (Fast track to Information Technology)
- The Department of Social Inclusion
- Léargas - European Project
- FAS – Community Employment Project
- AONTAS
- NALA

We acknowledge and appreciate the funding but also the ongoing support for community education in general.