

Welcome to the latest joint PCS-NIPSA Newsletter. If there are no contact details listed for any events or courses mentioned here please contact your Branch Secretary, ULR or Project Worker. We do not accept responsibility for the content of any website listed here, and please bear in mind any policies your workplace may have on accessing the Internet and on the use of a computer.

***If you attend any event or course it is also important that your ULR and Project Workers are kept informed so we can monitor the success of the project.***

## **ULF update:**

### **FREE computer classes:**

FREE computer classes: Ongoing work has resulted in more members and colleagues taking up learning. In Belfast two separate computer classes have started in Belfast Metropolitan College whilst in Enniskillen a computer class has already started this month. In the North West members who successfully completed computer classes last year have enrolled in other classes, such as French, Spanish and Irish language; D.I.Y. and creative writing.

### **Union Learning Reps Network:**

At a meeting in September, a number of ULRs spoke of an unexpected but positive outcome of their work. While looking for guidance some parents also asked for advice on courses on behalf of their children. It is encouraging that colleagues recognise the value of the advice provided and hopefully they too will be encouraged to take up learning.

### **DEL NI:**

Congratulations to twenty staff from DEL who between March and June this year undertook a computer course, and obtained ICT ES qualifications. This was achieved when their employer provided a training room in which to run two classes each week, with tutors provided by Belfast Metropolitan College. All students completed the course and due to the success of this pilot, further classes have been arranged.

## **Quiz**

1. Which Irish county is nicknamed the Banner County?
2. In America, what is the name of the day on which the behaviour of a specific animal is said to predict the onset of Spring?
3. Who recently published an autobiography called "A Journey" ?
4. Who had a number 1 hit in September 2002 with the song "The Tide is High"?
5. What is the capital city of the Philippines?
6. In which city did the 2010 Commonwealth Games take place?
7. In 1005, which Irish king proclaimed himself Emperor of the Irish?
8. Darfur is a region of which African country?
9. In what year did the Cuban Missile Crisis take place?
10. Who is the President of France?

## **Did You Know?**

Did you know? The first nationally formal rules of the game Rounders were drawn up by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) in Ireland in 1884.

## **NICS:**

Building upon the success of DEL's pilot ICT ES classes for staff, the Project is working with a number of Departments to set up similar computer classes in the workplace. It is expected these classes will start within the next few months and we would encourage members and colleagues to embrace this great opportunity to gain a level 2 qualification. If you are interested in joining a class, please contact your ULR or Office Secretary to see if your Department is involved in this initiative.

*"In today's employment market, very few jobs remain untouched by technology. The response to my Department's free Essential Skills ICT training programme has been impressive, with over 4,000 learners signing up for classes since it was first introduced in August 2009". Sir Reg Empey*

## **Race Equality Month - November:**

The Equality Commission is holding an Information session in Lisburn City Library on 26 November between 2-4pm. The session aims to provide information to anyone who feels they have been treated unfairly at work or refused services because of their nationality, race or ethnic background.

## **Irish Travellers:**

Suffolk Library, Stewartstown Road, Belfast is exhibiting contemporary photographs of Irish Travellers taken by photographer Derek Speirs. The exhibition will be on display throughout November to mark Race Equality Month and will remain for this year's Traveller Focus Week which takes place from 29th November to 3rd December.

## **Open University in Ireland:**

The Project was pleased recently to receive an award for its partnership work with the OU. If you haven't studied with the OU before, or you have had a few years away from study, why not contact an OU representative to get answers to your questions about courses, study methods and other aspects of learning with the OU. For further information contact Ally Hill on T: 028 9024 5025 or click [www.open.ac.uk](http://www.open.ac.uk).

*Quiz answers:*

1. Clare: 2. Groundhog Day, Feb 2nd 3. Tony Blair 4. Atomic Kitten 5. New Delhi, India 6. Manila 7. Brian Boru 8. Sudan 9. 1962 10. Nicolas Sarkozy.

## **W.O.W.: Call For Entries!**

As part of the May Day Festival, the NI Union Learning Fund will be running an exhibition in collaboration with the Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast from the 29th April to the 24th May 2011. The exhibition will bring together a wide variety of your creative thoughts exploring 'work', and showcase the value of trade union learning. The theme is WORLD OF WORK which we have broken down loosely into categories:

*your experiences or recollection of the early years: preparing for work  
your working life: your relationships and work  
your retirement: lessons learned, experiences shared.*

At this stage we are looking to compile raw materials (rough outlines, concepts an insight into your thinking) which we could then work with to develop for the exhibition. Please submit examples of your creativity to Gillian Belch at the Irish Congress of Trade Unions by the 10th December 2010.

To find out more about the project contact:  
Gillian Belch, Irish Congress of Trade Unions Tel: 028 90247949  
email: [Gillian.Belch@ictuni.org](mailto:Gillian.Belch@ictuni.org) and  
Ruth Graham, Golden Thread Gallery -  
Tel: 028 90330920 email: [info@gtgallery.co.uk](mailto:info@gtgallery.co.uk)

## **For your Diary...**

**Thursday 25th November:** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

## **Historic Day 22 November 1922**

The tomb of Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun, commonly known as King Tut, was discovered by archaeologist Howard Carter. King Tut died in 1323 BCE.

Armagh Prince's Trust Team Programme

- Have you 12 weeks on your hands?
- Aged 16-25?
- Want to get on in life and gain a qualification?

The next programme starts 17th January 2011 and will run in Southern Regional College, Armagh. For further information contact Frances Murphy on M: 078 09 75 65 69.

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