

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

ULRs Letitia Sheridan and Bridgeen Rutherford have done great work in the North West, with a second computer class starting on Tuesday 16th February. The class is run in conjunction with North West Regional College and is held in the Glendermott Valley Business Park, L/Derry, from 6pm-9pm. A few spaces are still available, so if anyone is interested in joining this **FREE** ICT ES class please contact the Project.

A third computer class, running from 6pm-9pm begins in Glendermott on Monday 15th March and again there are a few spaces still available. Remember, these classes are **FREE** and are being run by PCS and NIPSA ULRs to help staff gain new skills and qualifications.

**The second ULR Conference** will be held in Malone Lodge Hotel, Belfast on the 31 March 2010. If any ULR is interested in attending, please let the Project know as soon as possible.

***“Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.”***  
*unknown*

### Did you know?

The Chinese New Year started on *14 February 2010*, and it marked the start of the *Year of the Tiger*. The date of the next Chinese New Year will be *3 February 2011* when it will be the *Year of the Rabbit*.

### Quiz

1. In the TV soap, EastEnders, who killed Archie Mitchell?
2. In American Football, who won the 2010 Super Bowl?
3. Saoirse Ronan played Susie Salmon in which 2009 film?
4. Where were the 2006 Winter Olympics held?
5. Which former lead singer of The Clash, died on 22 December 2002?
6. In which novel, published in 1726, do we find the term ‘Yahoo’?
7. What is an archipelago?
8. Which American state is nicknamed The Lone Star State?
9. What is the county town of Co Tyrone?
10. In Irish history, what was ‘The Emergency’?

## Essential Skills Update

Two reports published in December 2009 highlighted the depressing fact that nearly one quarter of the N Ireland population still lack basic qualifications. Whilst acknowledging the success of the Essential Skills Strategy to date, the NI Audit Office in its report - Improving Adult Literacy and Numeracy emphasised the importance of ensuring that more adults are encouraged to take up further learning opportunities. Of a total of just under 100,000 enrolments, just fewer than 70,000 were in the 16-25 year age bracket. ([www.niauditoffice.gov.uk/pubs/onepress.asp?arc=False&id=232&dm=0&dy=0](http://www.niauditoffice.gov.uk/pubs/onepress.asp?arc=False&id=232&dm=0&dy=0))

According to new analysis by the University and College Union, N Ireland is bottom of the UK tables measuring employment rates and people with qualifications. In N Ireland, **21.8%** of people have no qualifications: the UK average is **12.4%**. For more information, go to - <http://makeeducationcount.org.uk/?p=215>

## Quick Reads 2010 Campaign Launched

Quick Reads are bite-sized books written by celebrities and bestselling authors. They are aimed at any adult who wants a short, fast paced read, adults who have lost the reading habit and adults who want to brush up their reading skills. Ten new books will be launched on **4th March 2010** - which is **World Book Day**. To find out more about the books and how to order promotional materials, visit their website at [www.quickreads.org.uk](http://www.quickreads.org.uk)

## Historic Day

**February 27 1933:** The German Reichstag building was destroyed by fire. The Nazis used this as an excuse for suspending constitutional rights and a pretext for repression.

### Quiz answers

1. Stacey Slater; 2. New Orleans Saints; 3. The Lovely Bones; 4. Turin, Italy; 5. Joe Strummer; 6. Gulliver's Travels, by Jonathan Swift; 7. A group or cluster of small islands or an area of sea in which there are many small islands; 8. Texas; 9. Omagh; 10. Term used by the Irish Government to refer to its position during WW2, when it was officially neutral.

### Did you know?

During the reign of Pharaoh Ramses III in ancient Egypt in 1152 BC, the artisans of the Royal Necropolis at Deir el-Medina organised the first known strike in recorded history. The event was reported in detail on a papyrus at the time, which has been preserved.

### Dates for your diary

**March 4th – World Book Day.** This is a worldwide celebration of books and reading. The origins of the day we now celebrate in the UK and Ireland come from Catalonia, where roses and books were given as gifts to loved ones on St George's Day – a tradition started over 80 years ago.

**March 8th - International Women's Day** is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future.

Published by:

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