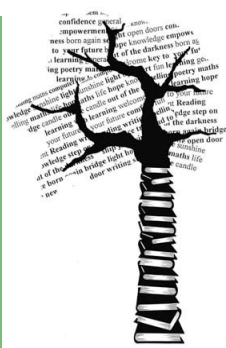


DUBLIN ADULT LEARNING CENTRE NEWSLETTER

EASTER 2011

ISSUE 4



The year in the Dublin Adult Learning Centre is almost over. Although it was a short term, we packed a lot in! The standard of the FETAC folders was fantastic and all who went for the certificate passed. It is wonderful to see the hard work pay off.

It has been an interesting time for those who like their writers and poets. We had the pleasure of welcoming Senator David Norris who entertained us with his knowledge of James Joyce and his hilarious version of an old lady singing very badly. There was also a trip to the home of the poet Patrick Kavanagh and the performance of Juno and the Paycock. There are student reviews of all these in the Newsletter.

The Queen came by, but unfortunately, couldn't stop.

We hope you have enjoyed your year and improved your skills and knowledge. Remember to sign up for the Summer Taster Courses. You can try out something new, such as learning to sew, learning about how your body works, brushing up on your history or doing more work on your Reading, Writing and Spelling. If you can't do a Summer Course, talk to your tutor about what you would like to do next year. Finally, good luck to those students who are about to sit Junior Certificate Maths and English and Leaving Certificate English.

A Trip to Kavanagh Country

In May 17th I went with a group from D.A.L.C. to Monaghan. It was to see the birthplace of Patrick Kavanagh. He was born in 1904 into a poor farming family. When he was older he went to work on the land and that was when he began to write about his experience. Patrick Kavanagh walked to Dublin in 1939 to pursue a career in writing. He died in 1967 in a hospital in Dublin.

The tour guide we had was very good. She told us all about his family and where he got his talent from. His Grandfather was a local schoolteacher. On the tour we saw the house where he was born and the school he attended. She also pointed out the fields where Patrick worked and the ones he wrote about in his poem "Stony Grey Soil".

On the tour we were shown the church and the graveyard where he is buried. The original headstone was erected at the time and then vandalised. Today, his grave is marked only by a small wooden cross with his name on it. The top of the grave is covered with flagstones from his home.

The trip was very enjoyable and we learned a lot about Patrick Kavanagh.

Maria Conway



The Cranky Man (1904 – 1967)

DALC woke up the quaint sleepy village of Inniskeen, the home of the poet Patrick Kavanagh. Our guide delivered her knowledge on Kavanagh with great pride and honour giving us the feeling she knew him personally. We stopped off at many places of interest, which was the source of inspiration for his poems and novels, which she would lovingly recite. She talked of the strong relationship he had with his mother, his lack of formal education (which didn't hold him back) and the simple food he ate. We learned all about his family, his very odd ways and his peculiar manner, from the hole in his trousers to the shilling in his pocket that he wasn't allowed spend, his long 3-day walk to Dublin to work and to mingle with like-minded literary figures and how his lack of social skills and his cranky demeanour hindered his love life.

We couldn't help notice how beautiful the landscape was, rolling stony hills with luscious green fields decorated with white hawthorn in abundance. The guide finished up our bus tour with her own ear-piercing version of Raglan Road. (Pure torture) We then went to view his final resting place.

Finally we got to see a video of him. Now we could get better acquainted with the poet observing his mannerism and listening to his croaky voice and a better understanding of the man himself. There's no doubt that cranky man was a peculiar genius and is now a national treasure.

Colette Springer

Juno and the Paycock: DALC 11TH May 2011

This play was a momentous reflection on the real Dublin. It is written in Dublin dialect of the time and gives an identity to the Dubliners, in an early period of time when there was conflict in a troubled Ireland.

In Juno and the Paycock, Sean O'Casey gave an insight into the poverty and the hardships that many people endured. Most importantly, it expressed how people lived in tenements, living in over-crowded dwellings, but they never lost their sense of humour or the witticism to lift the spirit of those who need reassuring and to laugh and look on the brighter side of life.

The language of Dublin was lyrical and poetic, a reflection of the true Dubliner in that period of time, but that has now faded and gone into decline. There are still traces of these wonderful tones as we have moved into a new sophisticated society of the present. This play was to show our young students the richness of the Dublin dialect and to remind older students who can still remember how exquisitely and elegantly it was expressed.

The play was presented under the direction of Tara. We the members of the Book Club 53 were delighted that the play was well received by our fellow students. To us it was great privilege to play the characters of Sean 'O Casey and our players gave a wonderful portrayal of the characters they played. We hope we have shed a light on the work of this very distinguished Irish playwright renowned for his plays and literature for other students.

Special thanks to Tara for directing this play of laughter, sentiment and unforgettable characters and for her efforts in making it a memorable occasion. Thanks also to the players who created an atmosphere of Dublin of the past by their characterization of those who lived then, if only in fiction.

Robert Bedford

Senator David Norris

David Norris was in the centre on the 16th May, Monday morning. David Norris spoke about a book called Ulysses and he also talked about when he was a kid. David Norris was here to talk about James Joyce and I remember he said something that this is the last time we can see him here. David Norris was fun and everyone was laughing. I didn't understand him much but I enjoyed the laugh.

David Norris was born 1st July 1944 in Leopoldville in the Belgian Congo. His father was English and worked as chief engineer for Lever Brothers. Norris attended school at St. Andrew's College and The High School. He then entered Trinity College Dublin to read for a BA degree in English Literature and Language.

David Norris is a resident of North Great George's Street in Dublin. He is a member of the Irish Georgian Society. David Norris told us about the story of James Joyce centre, how he saved the house from demolition by Dublin Corporation. His love of James Joyce is borne out in Dublin's annual Blooms day celebrations. He defended Ulysses when Roddy Doyle said it was overlong, overrated and unmoving.

Irene Omede

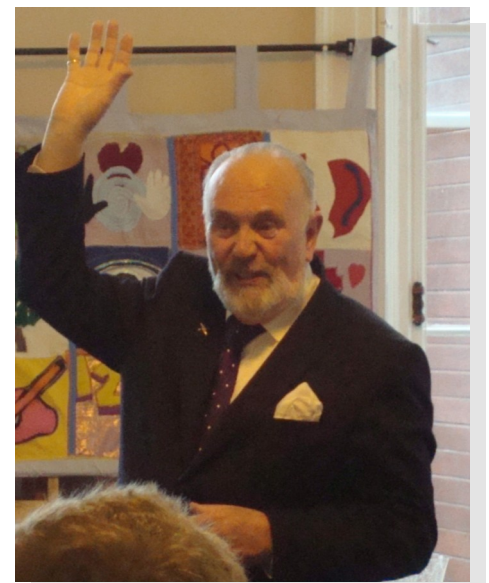


Senator David Norris's visit to the Centre

Today David Norris is a senator, human rights activist, former university lecturer and Joycean scholar. At this moment, David Norris is running for the office of president. He is a man with great wit, intelligence and compassion. To understand his love of Joyce you only have to listen to David's stories about Joyce and his father.

On the 16th of May David Norris attended the Dublin Adult Learning Centre and gave a small lecture on James Joyce. I was one of many who attended the lecture on Joyce. Mr Norris came over as a very nice, fun loving guy. He made everyone laugh with his wit and panache. I hope that Mary Maher will invite Mr. Norris back to our school soon because I really enjoyed him.

James Coughlan

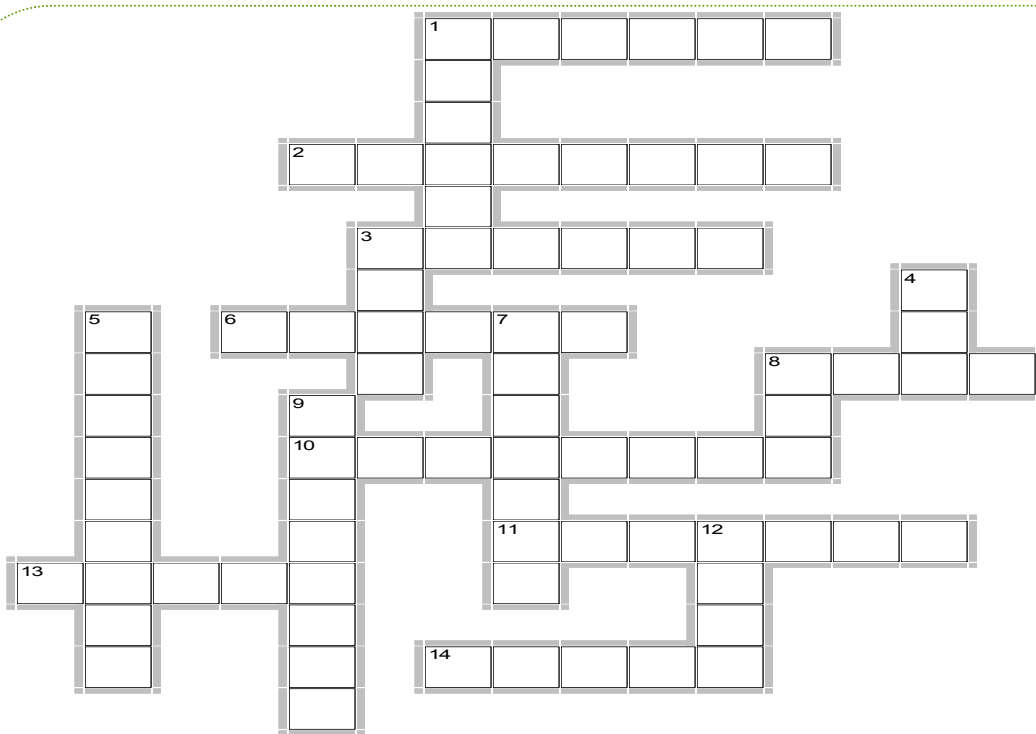


Maths Experiments

Thursday morning's maths class turned into a science lab recently when the students successfully demonstrated the 'rainbow in a glass experiment'

This **experiment** allowed the students to measure liquids and mass accurately as they created their 'density rainbow'.

It takes a keen eye and a steady hand to make a 'liquid rainbow' and the Thursday maths students proved they have what it takes.



Across

1. Every kid needs one at the seaside (6)
2. Going _____ is a popular thing to do in hot weather (8)
3. Outdoor eating (6)
6. A type of holiday wear (4)
8. Found by the sea and gets everywhere (4)
10. You might need this in rain or strong sunshine (8)
11. A danger if you aren't careful in the sun (7)
13. Popular place to go on a sunny day (5)
14. The friend of the bucket (5)

Down

1. Women's beach wear (7)
3. Holiday makers spend a lot of time here (4)
4. Sitting in the sun gets you one of these (3)
5. You need this to protect your skin in the sun (9)
7. Visitor to a country (7)
8. Nice to be near in hot weather (3)
9. What we all want but don't always get in Ireland in the summer (8)
12. A colour we like to see in summer (4)

Puzzle Corner

Words within words
Find two four letter words & four three letter words in the word:

POETRY

What is the 10-letter sport in the word below:

Abbelstakl

What countries in Asia are in the words below?

ANCHI
MANTIVE
DANLAITH
RAIN
AKERO
PELAN