

inSight

Magazine

VOL. 21, No. 1. Spring 2018



NCBI

Working for People
With Sight Loss

Head Office



NCBI
Working for People
with Sight Loss

NCBI BURSARY AWARD

Peter Moore

NCBI
Working for People
with Sight Loss

NCBI BURSARY AWARD

PRESENTED TO
Marianna Watchorn

For the academic year 2017 - 2018

Recipients of the NCBI Bursary, Peter Moore and Marianna Watchorn who were presented with their bursary awards by Minister for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor, T.D. — See story page 4.



People with sight loss participating in the Fujitsu workshops — see page 14.

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**St. Andrews —
Register your team today!**



NCBI inSight

(Incorporating *The Blind Citizen 1923*) is published four times a year by: NCBI, Whitworth Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. Tel: 01 830 7033 Fax: 01 8307 787 email: info@ncbi.ie website: www.ncbi.ie

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Printed by: PB Print Solutions Tel: 353 86 2511640.

SIGHTLINES

As we enter into March, we are pleased to be well settled into the year 2018!

Looking forward to the year ahead, we aim to continue providing life enhancing services to individuals experiencing varying degrees of sight loss across the entire country.

Each year we work with 8,000 people. Many come to us for the first time, as they deal with a recently acquired eye condition that has seriously affected their sight, or perhaps a significant deterioration in an existing eye condition, which is causing problems in their daily lives.

Fulfil their potential

Our aim is to enable people to lead independent lives so they can realise and fulfil their potential. This means something different to everyone we work with. Our dedicated team of Community Resource Workers develop tailored plans to meet the individual needs of everyone using our service.

We are there when it matters most, as peoples circumstances change, NCBI provide the right supports at the right time. In 2017, we supported 115 individuals with sight loss and their companies in retaining them in employment.



Marion Maloney, who uses our services at NCBI Galway.

We are there for people during any changes in their lives, from educational transitions to moving house; we have the practical solutions individuals with sight loss need. None of this would be possible without our supporters. In 2018, NCBI supporters and service users will join forces to both raise awareness and vital funds so we can meet demand for our services. We will run our second annual Cycle of Light in August of this year and hope to have over 100 people participating. We will also complete the Camino in September and Dine in the Dark will run for the entire month of October this year. Along with many other events which we will keep you up to date with here in inSight Magazine, and on our website and social media.

NCBI would like to thank you all for your committed and continued support. We look forward to working with you throughout 2018.

Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor presents the NCBI Bursary



Left to Right: NCBI Bursary Award winner Peter Moore, Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor, T.D., and NCBI Bursary award winner Marianna Watchorn.

On Wednesday the 31st of January, Minister for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor visited NCBI head office to present the NCBI Bursary awards to Marianna Watchorn and Peter Moore. This is the introductory year of the annual NCBI Bursary award.

Our annual bursary is to the value of €3,000 per annum, with €1,500 available for a male student and €1,500 for a female student. This sum will be paid annually for

up to four years, giving the students a total contribution of up to €6,000 towards their education.

In addition, we will offer a 6-month internship to the bursary recipients annually, helping them to gain work experience and giving them a chance to further prepare for employment.

For further information on how to apply for next year go to www.ncbi.ie.

Becoming a Regular Donor To NCBI

By donating to NCBI regularly, you will be contributing to the provision of NCBI's life changing services.

Our practical and emotional advice and supports help 8,000 people and their families face their futures with confidence every year.

We help people deal emotionally with the diagnosis of an eye condition and the impact it will have on different aspects of your life, from family to work to education, now and into the future. One of the first things we do is provide information and advice about how your vision has been affected and how you can maximise the vision you still have.

We help people like Katie. She says this about our services:

"My brain tumour came as a bolt out of the blue and had a serious effect on my sight.

I was suffering from blurred double vision. I turned to the NCBI for help and guidance. NCBI has been a Godsend; they have given me help, support, information and a network of contacts. My family has benefited too, as we all feel supported. I am very optimistic for the future and this, in no small part, is down to NCBI."



Make a regular donation through our Direct Debit forms. The Direct Debit forms are available by contacting Roisin on the details below, from our retail shops and regional offices, or print the form from our website www.ncbi.ie.

roisin.walsh@ncbi.ie or call (01) 830 7033.

Connie's Birthday Gift to NCBI

Connie Lydon of Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo kindly requested donations to NCBI in lieu of gifts for her 50th birthday, as she uses NCBI Services.

In December, Connie's friends and family raised an amazing amount of €1,515. Thank you to all of her family and friends.

Pictured: Back, left to right Patrick Lydon, Saoirse Lydon (daughter) and Connie. Front, left to right, Aoife Quinn (niece), Clodagh Quinn (niece) and Ciara Lydon (daughter).



NCBI Children's Services Calendar of Events — 2018



We are delighted to announce our children's services calendar for 2018. Our dedicated children's team recognises that early intervention is key to independence and participation and our enhanced calendar aim to provide expert rehabilitation services to children nationwide.

January			
Independent Living Skills Workshop	Age: 13-15 yrs	Date: 05/01/2018	Location: Cork Cost €10

February			
Independent Living Skills Workshop	Age: 14-16 yrs	Date: 15/02/2018	Location: Cork Cost €10
Independent Travel & Living Skills	Age: 9-13 yrs	Date: 13/02/2018	Location: Dublin Cost €10
Independent Living Skills Workshop	Age: 12-15 yrs	Date: 14/02/2018	Location: Dublin Cost €10

March			
Spanish exchange Hosting Residential (4 nights)	Age: 15-17 yrs	Dates: 25/03/2018 to 29/03/2018	Location: Co. Meath
Camp Abilities Sports & Leisure Residential (4 nights)	Age: 10-14 yrs	Dates: 26/03/2018 to 30/03/2018	Location: Co. Kerry Cost €175

April			
Independent Travel & Living Skills	Age: 9-15 yrs	Date: 05/04/2018	Location: Dublin Cost €10
Independent Living Skills Workshop	Age: 12-15 yrs	Date: 06/04/2018	Location: Dublin Cost €10
Assistive technology Information Seminar	Parents Teachers Students	Date: 28/04/2018	Location: Galway Cost €10 pp €20 family/group

May	
Preschool Readiness Workshop	Age 2½ to 3½ yrs
Independent Living Skills Workshop	Age 12-15

June	
Assistive Technology Camp Residential (2 nights)	Age 15-18
Assistive Technology Camp Residential (2 nights)	Age 10-14

July	
Independent Living Skills & Introduction to Independent Travel	Age 12-14
Preparing for Independence Residential (4 nights)	Age 10-17
Independent Living Skills (2 day)	Age 6-9 yrs
Independent Travel & Living Skills (3 Day)	Age 16-18
Independent Living Skills (2 day)	Age: 8 + Primary Students



s	Date: 02/05/2018	Location: Dublin Cost €10
4 yrs	Date: 08/05/2018	Location: Cork Cost €10

7 yrs	Dates: 06/06/2018 07/06/2018 08/06/2018	Location: Limerick Cost: €10pp per night
ys	Dates: 27/06/2018 28/06/2018 29/06/2018	Location: Limerick Cost: €10pp per night

4 yrs	Dates: 31/07/2018 07/08/2018	Location: Cork Cost: €20pp
ys	Dates: 23/07/2018 27/07/2018	Location Roscommon Cost €60
rs	Dates: 11/07/2018 12/07/2018	Location: Limerick Cost: €20
ys	Dates: 11/07/2018 18/07/2018 25/07/2018	Location: Cork Cost: €30
	Dates: 17/07/2018 24/07/2018	Location: Cork Cost: €20

August

Independent Travel & Living Skills (2 Day)	Age: 9-13 yrs	Dates: 16/08/2018 17/08/2018	Location: Dublin Cost: €20
Independent Travel & Living Skills (2 Day)	Age: 12-14 yrs	Dates: 23/08/2018 24/08/2018	Location: Dublin Cost: €20
Independent Living Skills & Independent Travel (2 Day)	Age: 14-16 yrs	Dates: 01/08/2018 08/08/2018	Location: Cork Cost: €10

September

Assisitive Technology Information Seminar	Parents Teachers Students	Date: 22/09/2018	Location: Dublin Cost: €10pp €20 per group/family
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November

Independent Travel & Living Skills (2 Day)	Age: 9-13 yrs	Dates: 16/08/2018 17/08/2018	Location: Dublin Cost: 220
Independent Travel & Living Skills (2 Day)	Age: 16-18 yrs	Dates: 01/08/2018 02/08/2018	Location: Cork Cost: €20

Some activities will require a minimum number of participants to run. Please see www.ncbi.ie, for updates, amendments or additions to the calendar of events.



For all enquiries and applications please contact:

Margaret Bousquet, Programmes Coordinator
tel: 01 4056950
margaret.bousquet@ncbi.ie

In association with:



Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

NCBI volunteers are a vital part of the organisation. Six of NCBI's long standing volunteers were recognised and thanked for their great work and contribution to NCBI Charity Shops.

A huge Thank You to:

Paul Williams - NCBI Charity shop Crumlin
May Pullen - NCBI Charity shop Ringsend
Tommy Pullen - NCBI Charity shop Ringsend
Jim O'Donald - NCBI Charity shop Finglas
Sally Lyons - NCBI Charity shop Walkinstown
Theresa Kelly - NCBI Charity shop Walkinstown.

Combined they have volunteered for an outstanding 60 years in NCBI! The group visited NCBI Head office in Whitworth Road for a celebratory lunch with Chris White, (CEO of NCBI), Finbarr Roche, (Head of Retail and Property), Ruairi McGinley, (Director of Corporate Services) and Janet Kavanagh (Area Manager).

Assistive Technologies provided by NCBI

The Volunteers were given a look into the services that are provided thanks to their contribution. They were given a tour of the training centre, and learned all about Braille and the different assistive technologies provided by NCBI and that are available to people who are blind and vision impaired.





The volunteers who received their Certificates of Appreciation from NCBI. Left to right: Chris White, NCBI CEO, Jim O'Donald, Finglas shop, Sally Lyons, Walkinstown shop, Tommy Pullen, Ringsend shop, Mary Pullen, Ringsend shop, Paul Williams, Crumlin shop, Janet Kavanagh, NCBI Area Manager, Teresa Kelly, Walkinstown shop, Finbarr Roche, Head of NCBI Retail and Property, and Ruairi McGinley, NCBI Director of Corporate Services.

Get to know us in NCBI

In this edition we speak to Lina Kouzi, Manager of NCBI Library and Media Centre.

Lina Kouzi, Manager of NCBI's Library and Media Centre says she knew she had found her calling when she began working for the organisation in 2000. She says "The minute I walked into the NCBI Library, I knew that I had embarked on a career that I was passionate about! It is a hugely rewarding job and we have a great team here."

Career in Librarianship

Lina graduated from Strathclyde University in Glasgow with a Postgraduate Diploma in English and credits this for her decision to pursue a career in Librarianship. She completed an apprenticeship with Kent County Council working in the Public Library Sector for 1 year as a trainee Librarian. Lina says she was placed in Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham Public Libraries, places she describes as "giving me excellent training in dealing with enquiries and working within a very busy public service." She then attended the University of Sheffield and completed an M.A. in Library and Information Studies.

It was during her studies at Sheffield, that Lina was introduced to the area of Specialist Libraries and found herself drawn to the expert knowledge that Specialist Librarians gain from working in a particular field or area.

Forward on a number of years and it is clear to see that Lina is now the 'specialist' in her field. As NCBI has grown over the years, Lina's role has also grown and developed in tandem.

She recalls that when she started with NCBI, the Library had 1 part-time assistant helping with the enquiries and 5 volunteers helping with the checking-in and issuing of the 4-track cassettes and Braille books. The collection included 750 audio titles and 2,000 Braille books.

Lots of positive changes

The service has increased hugely with a collection of over 600,000 titles in accessible formats now available as well as over 4,000 clients registered with the Library Service. Lina also credits technology as having made lots of positive changes to the way the NCBI Library and Media service is being delivered.

She explains "We have a fully functioning Library system with a MARC catalogue. We also have downloadable audio books and we are working towards making our Braille files available on demand. The Library now has 8 staff (part-time and full-time) and 8 Library volunteers. We also have 12 staff from the Drumcondra Project, which is a community employment scheme, working on the production and distribution of the magazine service. Our Library and Media Centre converts standard printed materials to accessible formats, including Braille, audio, large print and digital audio. In NCBI we are passionate about equal access to information and services to all. We work with all levels of Government, public libraries, educational institutions, banks and utility companies to ensure that their services

and information can be easily accessed by people with sight loss. We can also advise on improving the accessibility of standard printed material, through the use of clear print design principles. Clear print is a design approach for written documents which makes the overall text easier to read for everyone, including people with low vision.”

The most rewarding part of my role is retrieving or producing a book in accessible format for our Library members.” Given that only 4% of all printed material is accessible to people who are blind or vision impaired, Lina reiterates NCBI’s commitment towards working to change this, ensuring that people with sight loss are afforded the same accessibility to material as the sighted community.

As with all jobs there are challenges, the biggest being the constraints imposed by finances. Lina says that this is a commonality faced by lots of charities “The most challenging is budget restraints and trying to develop a modern library service similar to other library services for people with sight loss



in Europe, with little or no funding.”

However, Lina says that she and her team are not daunted by this, and are instead more determined to go on and provide the best service they can with the resources they have. She has many plans for the Library in the year and years ahead which include the digitalisation of the Library service, increase accessible book production and distribution and liaising with providers to produce accessible technical solutions.

“It’s all go and I love it, it’s a wonderfully satisfying job.”

DISS DISABILITY

Rex
Mullins

We catch up with Rex Mullins who is moving to a new job in the Civil Service with the help of NCBI.

27 year-old Rex Mullins is on top of the world. He and his wife of two years have a baby on the way and the recent confirmation that he has been accepted into the Civil Service couldn't have come at a better time.

"I am overjoyed, it's going to be a year to remember for all the right reasons," says the go-getting Dubliner who was diagnosed at 15 with Lebehrs Hereditary Optic Neuropathy. "It came on rapidly in both my eyes and while it was a shock, I determined there and then not to let it get in my way, I just wouldn't let it get the better of me."

Rex says that he adjusted and adapted as, "I loved doing the things I was doing and I wanted to continue living my life as best I could. I did all I could to ensure I would continue just the same as ever in so far as possible."

Some of the things that Rex loved doing included acting and writing and he has tread the boards in a number of plays at Smock Alley Theatre as well as participating in re-enactments on TV3.

During his student years he says he found ways of getting help and support when undertaking exams, and made use of any visual magnification aids and scribes to help him.

The NCBI was invaluable in this area, he says, both for hints and tips on what was the most useful equipment for him, and offering support in his quest to secure work.

A fantastic help

"Denis Daly, who works as the Employment Advisor in NCBI was a fantastic help to me. He pointed me in the right direction and let me know that I did have rights and I did have a future, and I could get work. He always said to me, 'just be yourself and don't give up, there is hope'."

Rex says that the NCBI also helped him get part time temporary work previously with the Department of Finance, as well as work on the switch in NCBI's head office in Drumcondra.

High unemployment rate amongst people with sight loss

And so, while he was mindful of the very high unemployment rate amongst people with sight loss, Rex says that he was adamant that he could buck the trend and refused to allow himself "go under it and become just another statistic."

"It really saddens me that there is such a dismal unemployment rate amongst people with sight loss. Employers have to sit up and take notice of us and they have to give people a change. Technology and other advances continue to really level the playing field for visually impaired people, so there is no excuse any more. If employers don't know what we can do, then they can find out, they owe it to themselves to find

NCBI News Snippets

Run / Walk for fun with the NCBI

A 5k run / walk for people who use NCBI services, their friends and family has been organised for Friday 4th May. It will begin at 11am with all entrants asked to arrive from 10.15 onwards. It will be held in the beautiful Phoenix Park in Dublin with the meeting point being Papal cross.

Sponsorship cards and entry forms can be picked up from the Iona Centre or otherwise please contact Niamh in the Iona Centre on 01- 8304014. Refreshments will be available afterwards at the Iona Centre. There will be no registration fee required.

Killiney Music Night - A huge success

On the 27th of January a Music Night was held in The Druid's Chair in Killiney. The night was organised by Tony McDonald who was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa at the age of 16. Tony uses NCBI's services and organised the event to give back to NCBI. He is an avid musician and is the base player in the band Soul Agreed.

The night was packed with great entertainment, Soul Agreed and the Hindsight played on the night. There was food, a raffle and a great night had by all. A huge thank you Tony and to all who helped organise the event and to those who attended on the night. There was €700 raised from the night, a huge success and achievement.



out. They are missing out on prospective excellent employees who will prove themselves tenfold.”

That said, Rex feels that people with visual impairments have to “Get out of their own way. I know it’s not easy but it does get easier the more you try. My advice to others is just do it! Get up, and get out and learn the skills to build the confidence you need to make your lives better. You can do it!”

Rex says that he can’t wait to get in and get working full-time with the Civil Service. “I will now be financially stable which is brilliant, especially with the baby on the way. I am so excited about it all.”

NCBI and Fujitsu's Impact



We were delighted to be Charity of the year for Fujitsu Ireland in 2017. Fujitsu have brought a huge amount to NCBI in a short space of time and we are grateful for the wonderful support from Fujitsu and its staff.

Here we list some of the highlights of their involvement. Thank you to Fujitsu for their wonderful support towards NCBI's services for people who are blind or vision impaired.

Highlights:

- 11 people with sight loss attended Fujitsu Employment workshops.
- Four people who attended the workshops were employed.
- 10 Fujitsu staff received Disability Awareness training.
- 22 Fujitsu employees recorded an audio publication.
- 46 clothing donations for NCBI Charity shops valued at €3,450.
- 7 Fundraising drives.
- And finally, a total of €10,110.76 raised by Fujitsu employees.



ABOVE: Fujitsu staff getting stuck in to sorting donated clothes at the NCBI Retail warehouse.



ABOVE: The Fujitsu Team who ran for NCBI in the Women's Mini Marathon.



LEFT: THE Fujitsu leaders with NCBI service users at the CV and Interview Skills workshops.

NCBI Volunteer Perspective

Noreen Fahy volunteers in the NCBI Charity shop in Gort, Galway.

One of the Co. Galway stalwarts, Noreen Fahy from Kinvara, who lends her time and skills to the NCBI shop in Gort, urges people with some hours to spare to give them to the NCBI saying “It will be the best thing you will ever do and you will not regret a second of it.”

The 62 year old has been a constant support to the shop for the past 11 years and says “I look forward to the time I spend there. It is just one day a week but it gets me out of the house, out meeting and mingling with others and out of myself. We all have busy lives and busy heads and sometimes listening to other people is just the tonic we need. We can be so wrapped up with our own lives, and often trivial worries, but believe me, it is only when we pause to listen to others that we realise that things are actually very good in our lives. I have a good life, a very good life, and I am grateful for that and I like to show my gratitude by giving something back.”

Noreen says that she was first drawn to volunteer for the NCBI as she had worked in retail for many years and was familiar with that world.

“I loved the buzz of retail and all shops, charity or mainstream offer that buzz. I love doing the windows here and thinking ahead to what I will put in them to best represent what we have to sell. We have great solid and committed donors who bring us in amazing items and as much as I love to see them coming in, I am thrilled to see them

going out the doors knowing that the money spent will be spent so wisely by the NCBI.”

Noreen adds, “It is a wonderful charity proving solid consistent and vital services to people with sight loss in County Galway. There is great camaraderie in the shop here and I have to say that I have built up a great rapport with the Area Manager, Grainne Whiteside, over the years. Once I get into the shop I am welcomed by familiar faces and there is a lot to be said for that. People need each other and no matter how successful we are or how busy we are, and we should never lose sight of that. Look at the amazing work that the NCBI does for people who are blind or vision impaired in County Galway. I am humbled to be a small part of that.”



**Noreen
Fahy**

Fundamentals in Assistive Technology Course

In September of last year, NCBI launched its first ever online training programme, entitled 'Fundamentals in Assistive Technology'.

The course, an initiative of NCBI's Technology Specialist Team, was designed to provide a broad overview of assistive technologies used by people with impaired vision and ran over 12 weeks. Students learned how assistive and mainstream technologies can work together to provide access to solutions in environments including education, work and leisure.

It was primarily delivered online alongside a number of on-site contact days where students were given a chance to try out much of the technology featured in the course for themselves.

If you are interested in participating in the next Fundamentals in Assistive Technology Course set to commence in autumn 2018 please let us know. You can contact Stuart Lawler or JP Corcoran in NCBI on Tel: 018307033.

Technology Podcasts

NCBI's monthly Technology Podcasts take a look at the world of assistive technology for people with sight loss, but with an Irish slant. The podcasts feature interviews, product demonstrations, tutorials and occasional lifestyle segments with people throughout Ireland and abroad.



Monthly technology podcasts are available at www.ncbi.ie/technology



Stuart Lawler, recording for the Podcast.

Technology E-Newsletter

Join NCBI's quarterly technology e-newsletter, 'Tech News', to keep up to date with the latest technology trends and products for people with sight loss, listen to technology podcasts, stay informed about upcoming technology events, and much more! Email technews@ncbi.ie for more information or to subscribe.

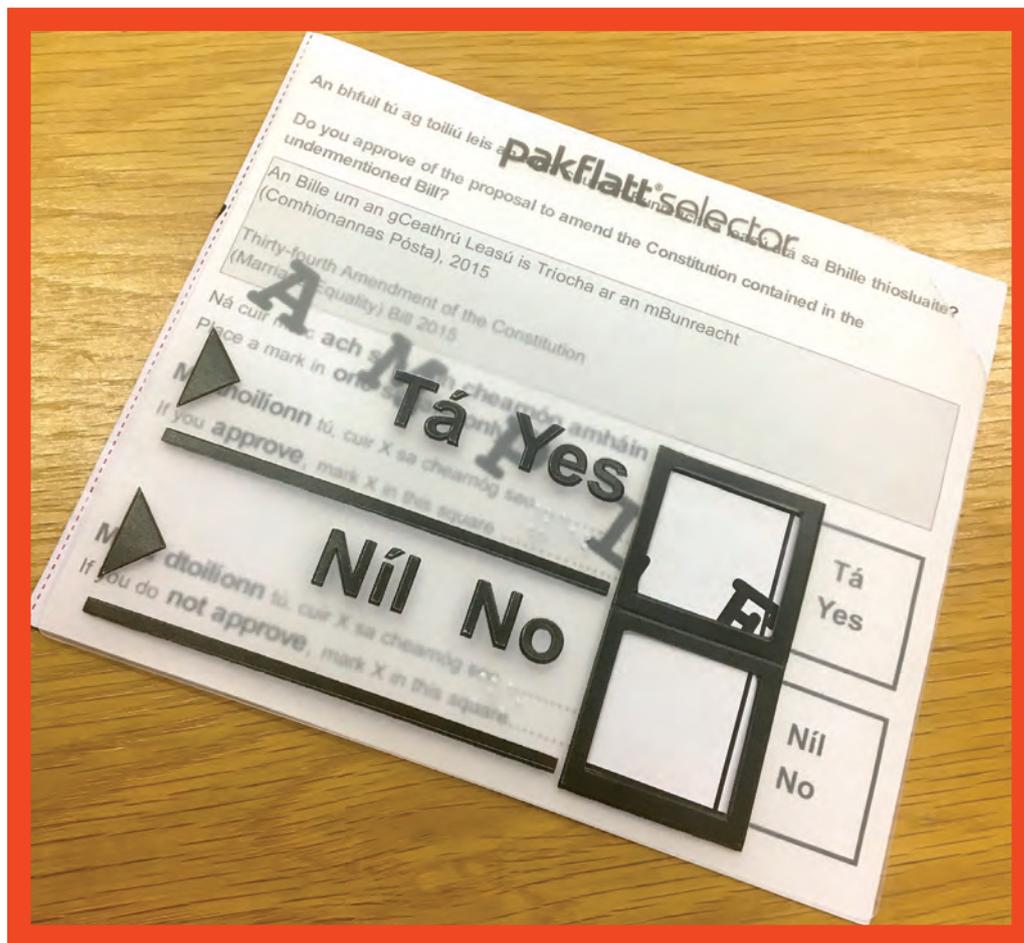
Tactile Ballot Paper Templates Available at Next Referendum

We are delighted to inform you that tactile ballot templates will be used in referenda from this year, allowing people with sight loss to vote in secret for the first time.

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government consulted with NCBI on the design of the template and we are pleased to say that they have taken on board our recommendations. People with sight loss were also consulted during this process.

The tactile template sticks onto the ballot paper and features:

- Clear and non-decorative lettering
- Large print
- Good colour contrast
- Raised up letters
- Braille
- The cut out sections have a black border in order to assist people to find where to mark their vote.



The template will be available on request at the next referendum. If you have a vision impairment, you can ask a polling station staff member to provide the ballot paper template and if needed, for assistance to use it. The Franchise section is providing NCBI will templates so that people with vision impairment can try them out in advance of the referendum. A sample template will be available to test out in each NCBI office nationwide.

Get in touch with your local NCBI office if you would like a demonstration of the new template.

What Lies beneath

Frank Callery writes about the origins of the site of NCBI's head office in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The site of NCBI's head office at Whitworth Road has a colourful past and Whitworth Road was not always Whitworth Road, it was first called Belvedere Street and came about in this manner.

With the increase in population and the growth of north Dublin city, it was necessary make new parishes. Under an act of Parliament passed in 1698, the old parish of St. Michan's was divided into three separate parishes: St. Michan's, St. Mary, and St. Paul; each independent of the other, and to have parochial rights as separate parishes — as from the 20th November, 1697.

St. Mary's was again divided into the new parish of St. Thomas, and, in 1762, a newer parish of St. George's was formed. In 1793 an Act of Parliament was passed to take in lands in the north east district adjoining the City of Dublin which had been extra-parochial. By this act a piece of ground was laid out on the east bank of the bank of the Royal Canal a short distance north of Binns' Bridge and was vested in trustees, for the purpose of erecting a new church and making a cemetery for the new parish.

The trustees erected a temporary chapel on portion of this new site, and in the old Dublin Directories, from 1794 till 1809, this temporary chapel is described as the "Church of St. George, "Belvidere" Street. In 1802 The trustees abandoned this site in favour of the new Hardwick Street site and plans were prepared by Francis Johnston for the beautiful St. George's, as we know it today. Francis Johnston died on the 14th March, 1829, and was buried in

St. George's Burial-ground, east side, (Behind NCBI) where a sarcophagus monument was erected over his grave.

St. George's burial Ground, Belvidare Street

The plot of ground originally selected by the trustees for a cemetery, was situated on the north side of the Royal Canal, It was a narrow strip containing only three roods and four perches and it ran parallel with the Canal bank, from about a perch above the boundary, northward, of the present NCBI building, to the third lock above Binns' Bridge. It had formerly been laid out as a nursery garden by the Huguenot community of Dublin.

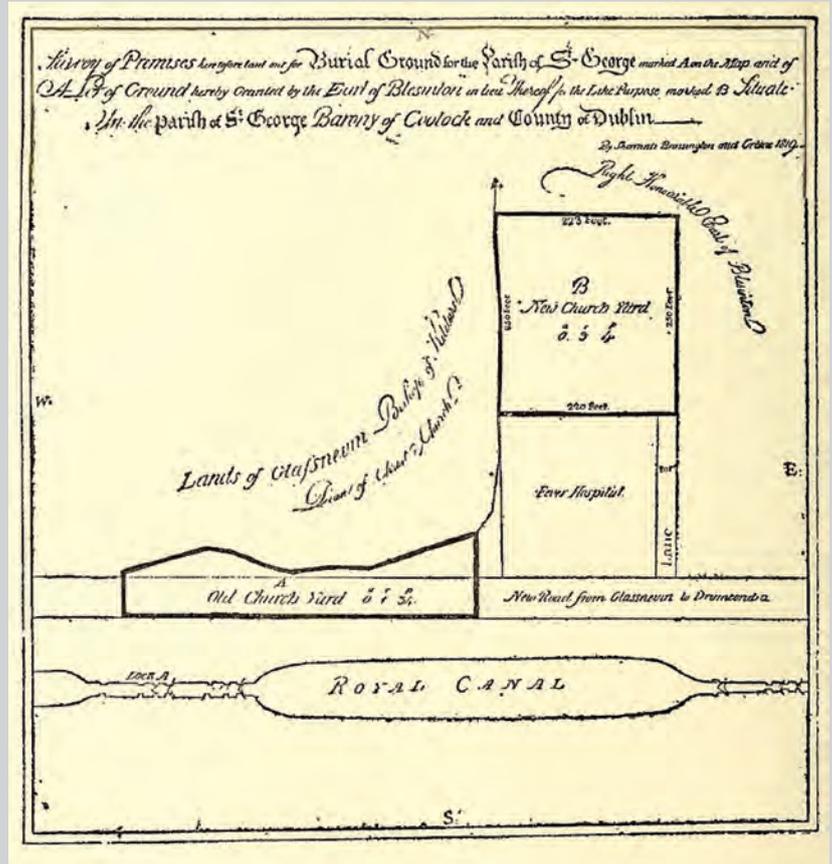
In the beginning of Queen Anne's reign, the Huguenots encouraged floriculture; and in George I's reign, they, together with other French citizens formed a club, called the "Florists' Club," for the purpose of furthering the cultivation of flowers in Ireland. They held their meetings for many years at the Rose Tavern in Drumcondra lane (now Dorset Street), where they adjudged premiums to the members who produced the most beautiful flowers.

"Whitworth Road", as we know it, was not then formed. Luke Gardiner (afterwards Viscount Mountjoy, created 1st Nov., 1795), whose lands adjoined those of the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church — had plans to open such a thoroughfare. With the Rebellion of 1798, this fell through. Viscount Mountjoy was killed at the Battle of New Ross, on the 5th June, 1798, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Charles John, 2nd Viscount Mountjoy (born 19th July, 1782), who was advanced to the dignity of Earl of Blesington, County Wicklow, on 22nd January, 1816.

The piece of ground at the northeast corner of the new burial-ground, given for the site of the new church, was, in 1816, given by the Rt. Hon. John Ormsby Vandeleur for the purpose of erecting a fever hospital, which was opened 1st May, 1818, as the Whitworth Fever Hospital. The proprietors found that there was no convenient approach to it, either from Drumcondra or Glasnevin, except by a narrow lane leading as far as the hospital only, which, in former times, had been the only approach to the old nursery garden. To give a better entrance, the trustees gave their proposed new burial-ground ('A' on the above map) in exchange for the present one, and a new road was made, named "Bishop's Road," which was later changed to "Whitworth Road" — after Charles Earl Whitworth, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, 1813-1817.

The Earl of Blesington availed himself of the opportunity for carrying out the improvements which his father had planned and gave, in exchange, the piece of ground on his own estate to the trustees of the parish, in lieu of that which they purchased under the Act of 1793. This was conveyed by an Indenture of Agreement duly executed on May 14th 1818. It mentioned "All that parcel of ground within the said intended parish hereinafter described, that is to say, that piece of ground at the north corner of a new intended street to be called Belvedere Street.

"That piece or parcel of ground situate on the north of the new road leading from Glasnevin-road to Drumcondra-road and containing by survey three roods and four perches of land, in the possession of Mr. James Sullivan or his undertenants, on the west to ground belonging



Terliart or map of the two burial grounds and the hospital site.

to the Dean of Christ Church, and on the south by another part [now the Whitworth Hospital] demised to the Right Hon. John Ormsby Vandeleur and Thomas Burton Vandeleur, Esqs., together also with the use of the lane or passage, of twenty feet wide, leading from the said new road to the hereby granted and re-leased premises, situate lying and being in the parish of Saint George, Barony of Coolock, and County of Dublin, and are more particularly laid down and described in the map or terliart delineated on these presents, and marked 'B' on the said map". The new cemetery was opened for interments in 1817, but apparently not consecrated until the 20th of May, 1824.

The adjoining property (at North) was then known as "The Bishop's Fields," after the Right Rev. Charles Lindsay, Bishop of Kildare and Dean of Christ Church (1804-1831),

— CONTINUED ON PAGE 20.



An early photograph of Drumcondra Hospital.

to whom a lease of the lands was made on the most favourable terms. That part of the “Bishop’s Fields,” the northern boundary of the old Cemetery of St George’s, was later let during the small-pox epidemic to the Guardians of the north Dublin Union, for erecting hospital sheds. This Bishop, Charles Lindsey the last Protestant Bishop of Kildare, had given his beautiful house at Glasnevin to the Dublin Harp Society, (where the blind harper Patrick Quin was to be instructor). This harp school, which like that at Belfast (conducted by the blind harper Arthur O’Neill) was one of the early schools for blind people in Ireland.

Whitworth Fever hospital

The Hospital (erected on the proposed site of St. George’s Church and on which had been erected the temporary church) was opened on the 18th of March, 1818, for the reception of persons labouring under infectious fever, and residing in the north side of the city. It was built, and was entirely supported, by voluntary subscriptions. It was capable of supporting fifty patients. Mr. Thomas Burton Vandeleur of Gloucester Street, mentioned above, was on the management committee. The Vandeleurs were lawyers who had property dealings with Luke Gardiner. They were members of a prominent landowning family of Dutch origin who settled at Kilrush in the 1680s.

NCBI Virtual Technology Club

The Virtual Technology Club was launched in April 2017 in recognition of the fact that for many people with sight loss who rely on technology to live an independent life, it can be difficult to travel to access training or support, or to meet other users and share knowledge.

Our Virtual Technology Club takes place on line. Attendees can learn and share from each other in a space where knowledge and experiences are freely exchanged.

Since it was launched, the club has enjoyed participation from technology enthusiasts from all over the country and international sight loss community. Guest speakers regularly appear on the virtual club and new participants are invited to join the conversation at any time.

How does it work?

The Virtual Technology Club is using a meeting platform called Zoom to allow attendees to connect and speak together. Zoom has a software client for Windows, Mac, iOS and Android, and what’s really great is that you don’t even have to install the software to join the meetings.

For a link to upcoming meetings and or to be added to the virtual tech club mailing list please visit www.ncbi.ie/technology .

A Carlow woman's new-found love for running

Walking, jogging and running have positive health and wellbeing benefits, as Karen Kealy from Carlow has found.

Karen was born completely blind due to a retinal condition. She began her fitness journey in September 2017 with the Adare to Cahir 76k cycle with Today fm. She then started taking part in her local park run races, and has taken part in many other races including the Charlie Curran Memorial, The Lord Mayor Challenge and the Tom Brennan 5k Road Race, among others.

Taking part in the Charlie Curran memorial run in her hometown, Carlow, was momentous for Karen. "This was my first time to take part in community sports; it was a great experience for me."

Karen has met some brilliant people along the way, she expresses her gratitude for the guide runners who she runs with. She says "I first met my guide runner Deborah McArdle through a friend at the Lord Mayor Challenge in Phoenix Park on New Year's Day, she has been fantastic."

Karen also runs with Claire and Pauric who she met through her local park run group. Claire guided Karen in her first ever park run. Noleen is another lady who Karen runs with twice a week.

Karen's message to people who are blind or vision impaired is to get involved in their local community fitness activities. She is currently training for her next big challenge in May, the great Manchester Run — an annual 10k run; it is the largest race of its type in Europe.



L-R: Pauric, Karen, Noleen and Deborah.



L-R: Claire, (guide for Karen's first park run) and Karen.

If you would like to get more active, why not begin training for the VHI Women's Mini Marathon this June Bank Holiday weekend. Training plans and advice will be available online at www.vhiwomensminimarathon.ie from March 7th. You can register to join Team NCBI online or contact us on 01 882 1970 / marathon@ncbi.ie.

Upcoming fundraising events

NCBI Tesco Bag Pack – Saturday 14th April 2018

We are looking for volunteers to join our 3rd Annual Tesco Bag Pack Day! If you have a couple of hours to give please contact Angela angela.levins@ncbi.ie / Collette collette.mcentee@ncbi.ie

Womens Mini Marathon for NCBI – Sunday 3rd June 2018

With the continual success of Team NCBI at the Vhi Women's Mini Marathon, Dublin, we are preparing for another day of fun and fitness! It is a total distance of 10km, there is no time limit and all abilities are welcome! Join us for this memorable day with friends old and new; register with Collette marathon@ncbi.ie

NCBI Cycle of Light – Friday 24th August 2018

NCBI Cycle of Light is back for its second year! This is a unique 85km night time cycling tour in and around Dublin city, shining a light for those living with sight loss and raising vital funds for NCBI's rehabilitation and children services. For people living with sight loss little things like better lighting or the application of brightly coloured markings can make life simpler and safer – things every cyclist knows. Will you be joining us for this special fun and light filled night? Feel free to get in touch with questions Collette at cycleoflight@ncbi.ie / 01 882 1970

NCBI Camino Way – Saturday 8th – Saturday 15th September 2018

Join NCBI for a 100km sponsored walk along the famous Camino de Santiago this September and help raise vital funds

for thousands of people with sight loss. All abilities are welcome. Smiles and support are a given! Register today & Start fundraising! For more info, contact Collette collette.mcentee@ncbi.ie

Sky Dive 4 Sight Loss - Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd Sept 2018

NCBI supporters will take to the skies in our annual Sky Dive 4 Sight Loss! Face your fears and fundraise! For more info, contact Collette collette.mcentee@ncbi.ie

For more info on any of the above / general fundraising queries and ideas, contact Collette at collette.mcentee@ncbi.ie / 01 882 1970.

Flipping Pancakes for NCBI

The annual Pancake Tuesday fundraiser was a huge success, raising €1,858.70! Thank you to everyone who dropped by to St. Agnes' Parish Hall, Crumlin and supported the morning! And of course a huge thank you to Netta Edgerton, who has been doing this for NCBI for many years and puts in so much work, with the help of her friends.



Netta Edgerton and her co-workers busy in the kitchen.

Digital Skills Training with NCBI

As part of the government's strategy to increase access and use of online platforms and services, The Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment launched a programme called Getting Citizens Online in 2017.

NCBI has been involved in the programme from the beginning and this year has partnered with Age Action in order to deliver training in Digital Skills to adults and older people living with sight loss.

2017 saw NCBI train over 400 people and we hope to provide training to a further 200 non-liners in 2018.

Classes are offered in small groups through our team of IT Trainers and Community



Resource Workers. Topics covered include; searching the web, use of Apps, online shopping, and email.

If you or a family member living with sight loss believe this type of support would be beneficial, please contact your regional office for further information.



LEFT, Ticket sellers and the goodies for raffle.

Supporters enjoying the fare.

Registrations now open for NCBI golf tournaments

The NCBI Specsavers HolmPatrick Cup

The NCBI Specsavers HolmPatrick Cup is a men's golf competition with over 140 clubs participating each year. It is the longest running and largest charity golf tournament in Ireland, raising funds for the NCBI. The competition can be organised as either a dedicated fourball competition or run in conjunction with an existing club competition. The qualifying event must be ran before the 30th June 2018.

To entry fee is €7.50 per person or €15 per team. Winners go forward to the county final and then to the regional final. The four regional winners then play off for the cup in the home of golf, St. Andrews.

You can register your club online at ncbiholmpatrickcup.com

The NCBI Granard Cup

The NCBI Granard Cup is a ladies golf tournament which will take place in Newland's Golf Club, Dublin on Monday 13 August.



NCBI Holmpatrick Cup at St. Andrews



NCBI Granard Cup

Entry is only €5.00 per player. The format of the competition is Foursomes Stableford. All funds raised from this event go directly to NCBI's Children's Services.

You can register your club online at: ncbigranardcup.com

A visit to Áras an Uachtaráin

Three 90 year-old people with sight loss who attend the Hill Street Wednesday club, Winnie, Vera and Tom were recently invited to afternoon tea with President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina.

Vera told the President he was an honourable man and got a big hug and kiss on the cheek from him. Winnie told him how she was from Galway and he said that us Galway people need to stick together. They had photos, tea and a singalong. The President and his wife gave a speech about



friendship. Our trio thought the President was very down to earth. Everyone in Áras an Uachtaráin were extremely helpful and couldn't do enough for us. — Antoinette Morley, NCBI.