

Scéalta Chiarraí

Adult Literacy
Pilot Programme

REVIEW REPORT
December 2025



Project Co-Ordinator:
Louise Lynch
Kerry Writers' Museum

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Programme Overview & Aims	2
Programme Activities	3
Participants & Engagement	4
Learner Outcomes	5
Evaluation Summary	6
Showcase Summary	7
Participant Publication	8
Conclusion	9
Appendices	10

Sample Evaluation Form
Programme Outline
Showcase Invitation

Executive Summary



1

Executive Summary

The Scéalta Chiarraí Creative Writing Programme was delivered as a 12-week pilot initiative in Kerry Writers' Museum. Developed in partnership with Kerry ETB's Adult Literacy Service. The programme invited adult learners to explore creativity, storytelling, and literacy through a relaxed, culturally rich approach.

The pilot demonstrated strong engagement, high learner satisfaction, increased confidence, and meaningful personal, social, and literacy outcomes. The collaboration between facilitators, museum staff, and learners proved highly successful. Recommendations for future iterations include expanding the duration, offering tiered levels, and integrating more cultural experiences.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Programme Overview



Programme Overview

Programme Title: Scéalta Chiarraí – Creative Writing for Adults.

Delivery Partners: Kerry Writers' Museum & Kerry ETB (Adult Literacy Service).

Funding: Collaboration & Innovation Fund, Adult Literacy for Life (Government of Ireland & European Union co-funded).

Duration: 12 weeks.

Format: Weekly 2-hour facilitated sessions.

Location: Kerry Writers' Museum, Listowel.

Programme Aims

- To build confidence in reading, writing, and storytelling.
- To provide an accessible and enjoyable introduction to creative writing.
- To support adult literacy through creative, non-formal methods.
- To connect participants with local culture, heritage, and literary tradition.
- To promote social connection, wellbeing, and creative expression.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Programme Activities



Description of Activities

The programme blended creative writing exercises, local storytelling heritage, and group collaboration.

Weekly Themes Included:

- Introduction to storytelling.
- Character development.
- Memory-based writing.
- Creative expression through place and heritage.
- Writing prompts and free writing.
- Reading aloud and building confidence.
- Peer sharing and supportive group feedback.

Cultural Enrichment Activities:

- Guided tour of the Writers' Room with Angeline O'Donnell.
- Storytelling sessions incorporating music and song.
- Engagement with Kerry's literary legacy, including the works of John B. Keane and Bryan MacMahon.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Participants & Engagement



Participant Profile (General)

- Total enrolled: 10.
- Average weekly attendance: 7–8.
- Age range: Adults of mixed ages.
- Backgrounds: Varied learning needs, interests in creativity, heritage, and building confidence.

Participants joined for a wide range of personal reasons, including improving writing confidence, meeting people, exploring creativity, and reconnecting with storytelling.

Attendance and Engagement

Attendance remained consistent across the programme, with a core group engaging fully each week.

Engagement Strengths:

- Participants contributed actively to group discussions.
- Confidence reading aloud grew steadily.
- The group dynamic was warm, inclusive, and supportive.
- Several participants began writing short pieces between sessions.

Attendance Barriers:

- Health appointments.
- Transport availability.
- Family commitments.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Participants & Engagement



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Learner Outcomes



Outcomes & Impact

Learning Outcomes:

- Increased confidence in reading and writing.
- Improved ability to structure ideas into written form.
- Greater familiarity with creative writing techniques.
- Increased willingness to share written work with others.
- Improved digital and print literacy.

Personal & Social Outcomes:

- Strong sense of belonging and group connection.
- Increased motivation and enjoyment in attending weekly sessions.
- Enhanced wellbeing through creative and social engagement.
- Pride in personal achievements.

Cultural Outcomes:

- Stronger connection to local heritage.
- Greater understanding of Kerry's literary traditions.
- Inspiration drawn from cultural stories, music, and place.

Participant Reflections (selected):

"This is the first time I've ever read something aloud."

"I feel more confident now, even outside the class."

"I never thought I could write a story — now I want to keep going."



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Evaluation Summary



Evaluation Summary

Participants completed evaluation forms in Week 11.

Key Themes in Feedback:

- The relaxed, friendly approach made writing feel accessible.
- The museum setting added inspiration and pride.
- The cultural tour was a highlight, especially the storytelling session.
- Participants wanted the course to continue for longer.

Facilitator Feedback:

- Small group size (8–10) worked very well.
- Participants responded strongly to hands-on, interactive exercises.
- Cultural elements significantly enriched the learning experience.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Evaluation Summary



What Worked Well

- Warm, supportive learning environment.
- Clear structure balanced with flexibility.
- Cultural immersion through the Writers' Room tour.
- Songs and storytelling added emotional and creative connection.
- Opportunities to read aloud increased confidence.
- Participants built strong peer connections.

Challenges & Areas for Improvement

- Some learners faced attendance challenges due to external commitments.
- A 12-week period felt short given the momentum built.
- Mixed literacy levels required differentiated support.
- Additional one-to-one support would benefit future participants.

Recommendations for Future Programmes

- Extend programme to 15–20 weeks.
- Offer follow-on Level 2 programme for returning learners.
- Expand cultural components: visits, guest storytellers, music.
- Provide printed writing packs for home practice.
- Offer optional one-to-one literacy support.
- Host mid-programme sharing circle to encourage confidence.
- Ensure early clear communication regarding attendance.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Showcase Summary



The Scéalta Chiarraí pilot programme concluded with a celebratory showcase at Kerry Writers' Museum on Wednesday 17th December 2025, marking the end of the 12-week Creative Writing Programme.

The event opened with a welcome from Louise Lynch, Project Co-ordinator, who outlined the aims of the programme and acknowledged the commitment and progress of the participants. This was followed by contributions from project partners Cara Trant, Executive Director of Kerry Writers' Museum, and Paula Tiller from Kerry ETB's Adult Literacy Service, who both spoke about the importance of creative, learner-centred adult literacy programmes and the value of partnership working.

Workshop facilitators Marian Relihan, Godfrey Coppinger, and Sonia Elston then shared reflections on the programme, highlighting participant engagement, creativity, and the supportive group dynamic that developed over the 12 weeks.

A highlight of the showcase was a special contribution from renowned local poet Gabriel Fitzmaurice, who recited two poems written especially for the occasion, Christmas Puppy and The First Christmas. His readings were warmly received and added a celebratory and reflective tone to the event.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Showcase Summary



Following this, each participant introduced themselves and read a selected piece of writing they had developed during the programme. For many learners, this marked their first experience of sharing their work publicly and represented a significant milestone in confidence and self-expression.

Each participant was then presented with a small gift and a copy of their work compiled into a book created by facilitator Sonia Elston, providing a lasting record of their creative achievements and encouraging continued writing beyond the programme.

The showcase concluded with a festive afternoon tea, offering an opportunity for informal conversation and celebration among participants, facilitators, project partners, and guests.

The event successfully celebrated learner achievement, reinforced confidence, and highlighted the positive impact of combining adult literacy with creative and cultural engagement within the museum setting.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Showcase Summary



7



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Showcase Summary



7



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Showcase Summary



7



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Participant Publication



Scéalta Chiarraí Miscellany – Participant Publication

As part of the Scéalta Chiarraí Creative Writing pilot programme, participants collectively produced a publication titled Scéalta Chiarraí Miscellany. The book brings together writing created over the 12-week programme by Bernadette Stack, William Baynham, Dan Kennedy, Helen Ryan, Francis (Lal) Browne, Maurice Lynch, and Nora Anne Quilter.

The publication includes a diverse range of writing forms and themes developed during the workshops, including personal reflections, childhood and Christmas memories, imaginative pieces, film and book reviews, and autobiographical stories. Each participant's work reflects their individual voice, interests, and lived experience, demonstrating increased confidence in writing and self-expression.

Facilitator Sonia Elston curated and designed the publication, compiling all participant work into a professionally presented book. The publication also includes short introductory profiles for each participant, recognising their contribution and celebrating their creative journey throughout the programme.

Each participant received a copy of Scéalta Chiarraí Miscellany at the end-of-programme showcase. The book serves as both a tangible outcome of the programme and a lasting resource that encourages continued engagement with writing beyond the pilot.

The creation of this publication supported key programme outcomes, including learner motivation, confidence-building, literacy development, and a strong sense of achievement. It also provided meaningful evidence of learning for participants and project partners, and contributed to the overall success and impact of the pilot programme.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works

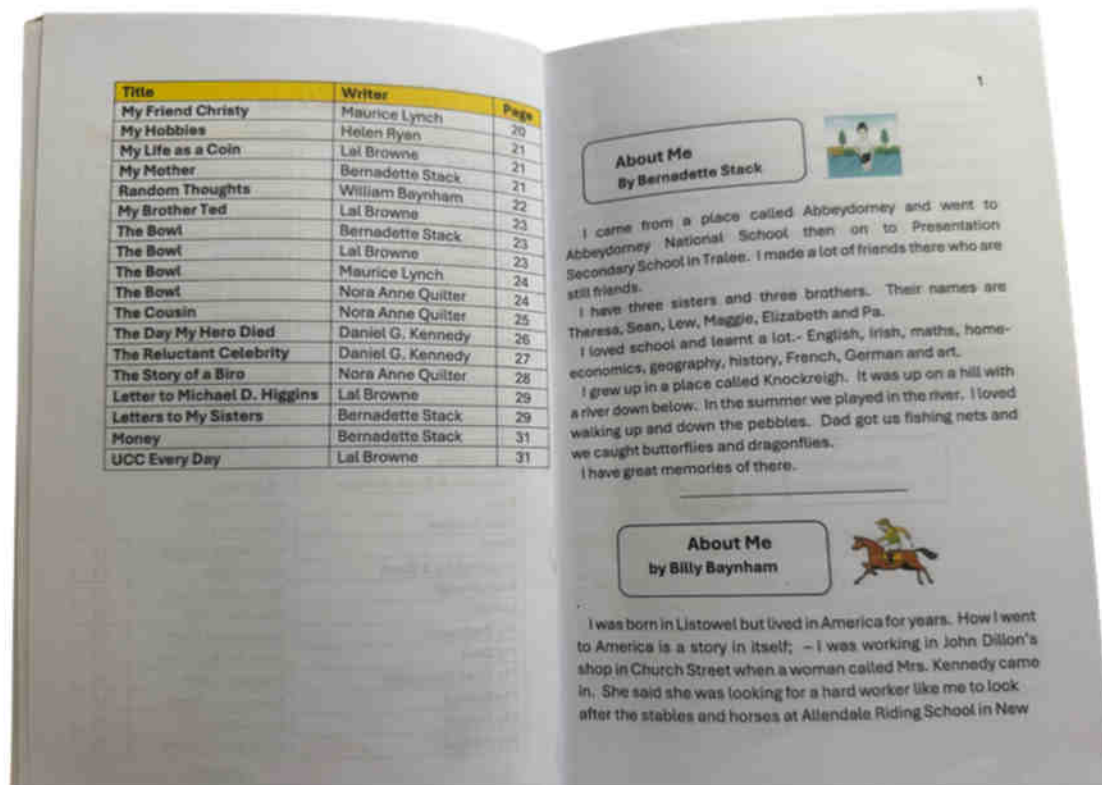
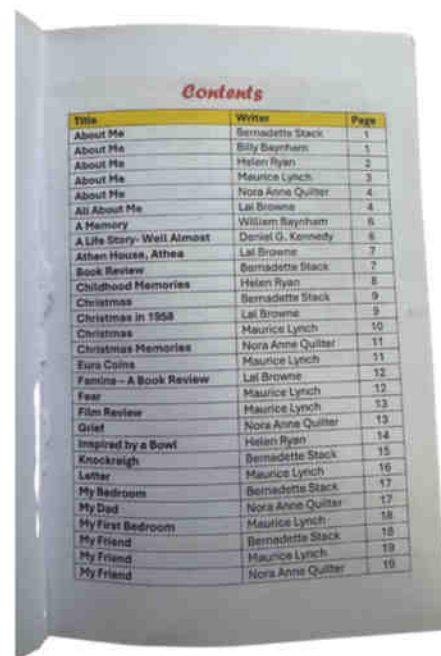
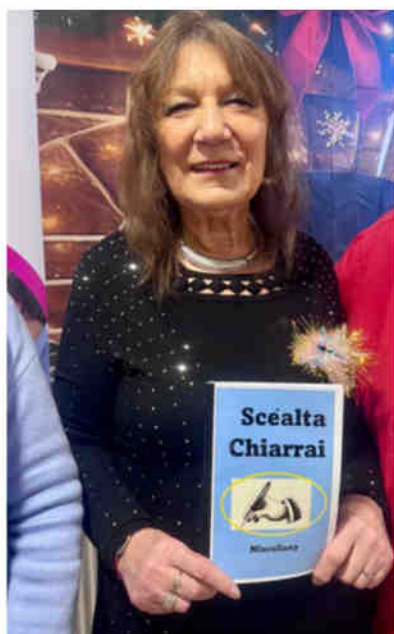


Adult
Literacy
for Life

Participant Publication



8



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works

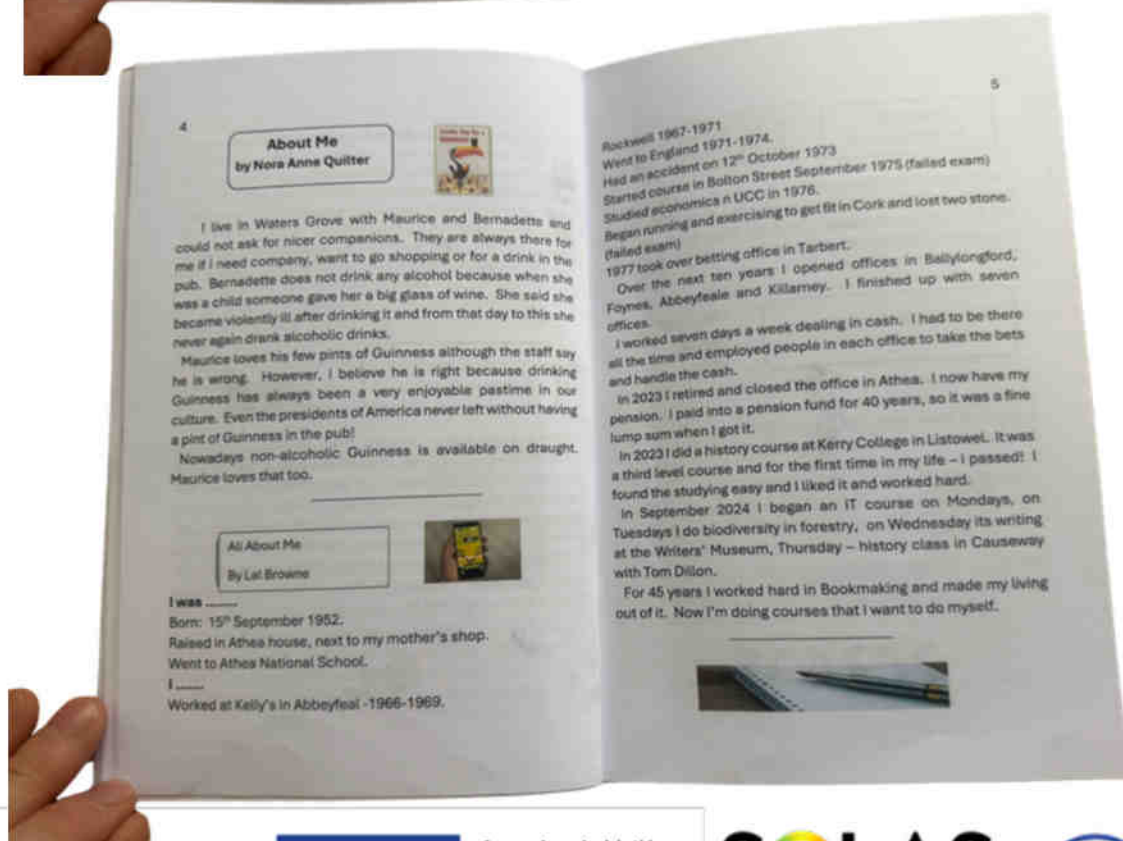
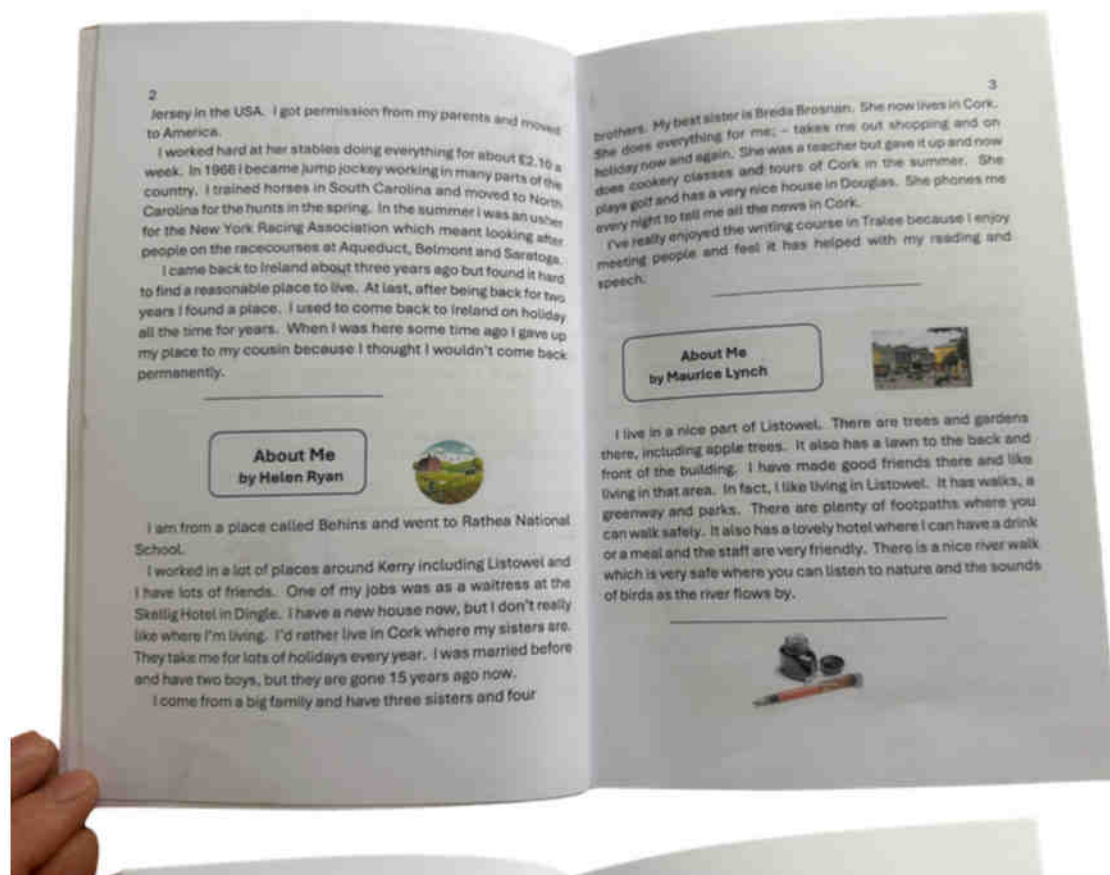


Adult
Literacy
for Life

Participant Publication



8



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works

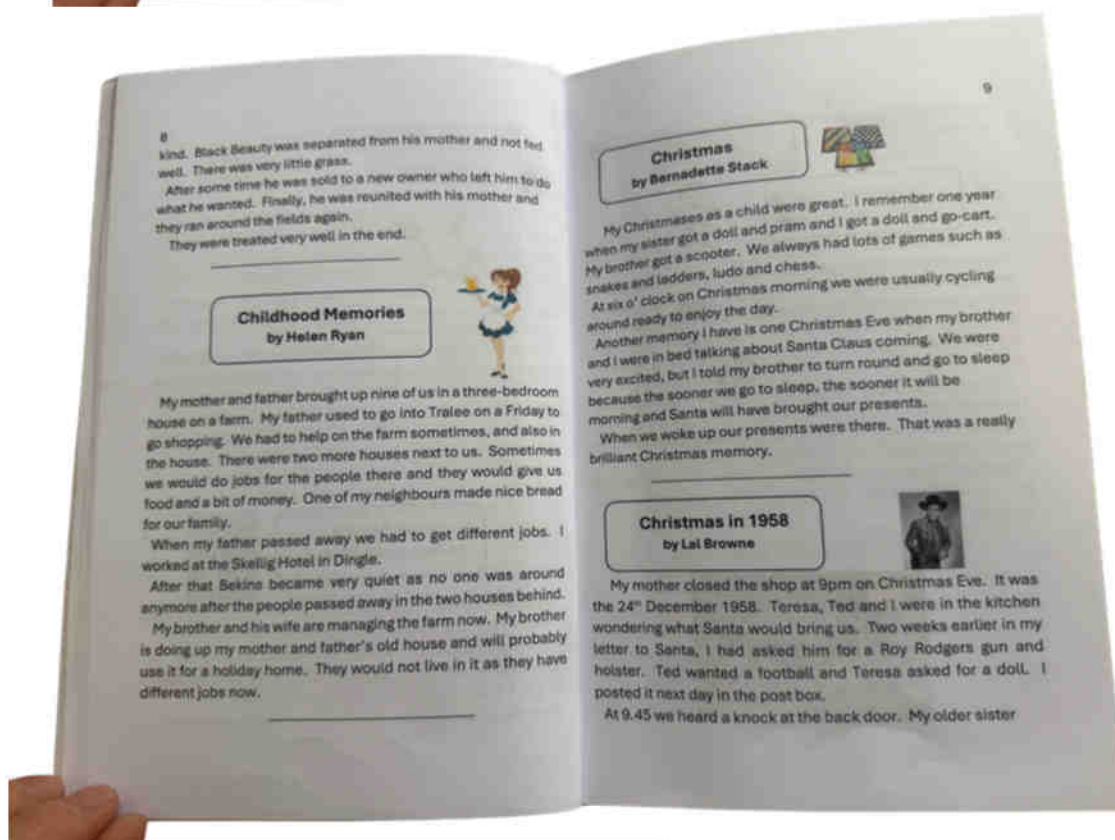
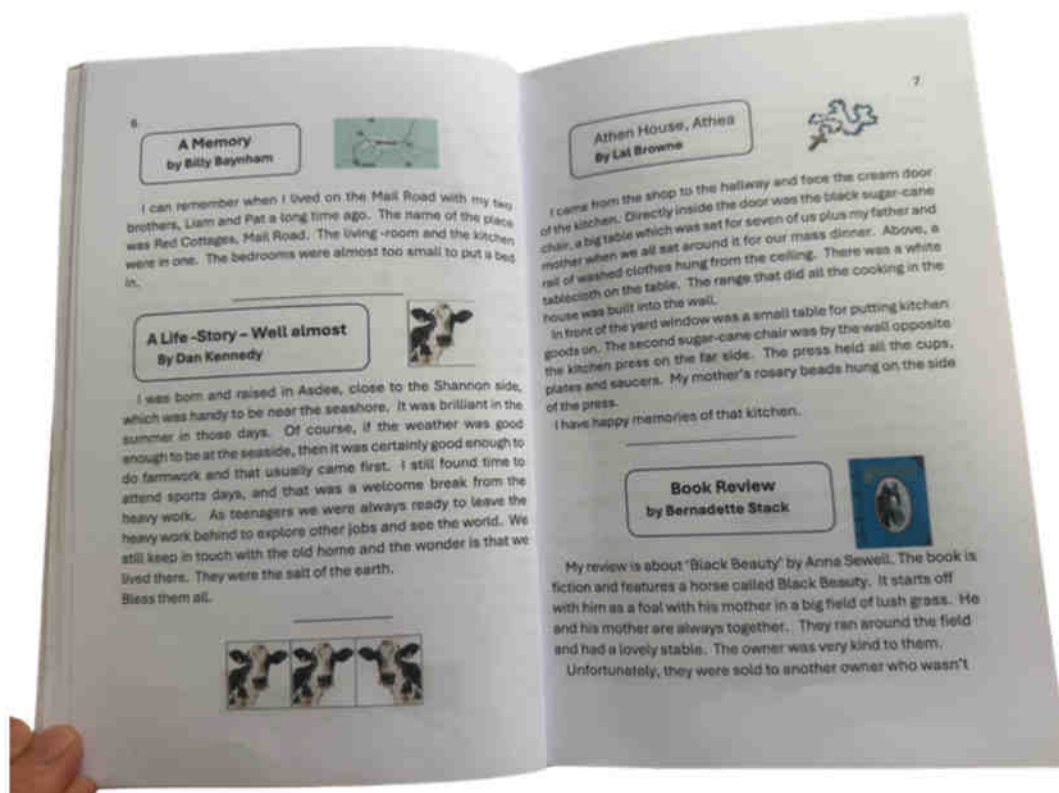


Adult
Literacy
for Life

Participant Publication



8



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works

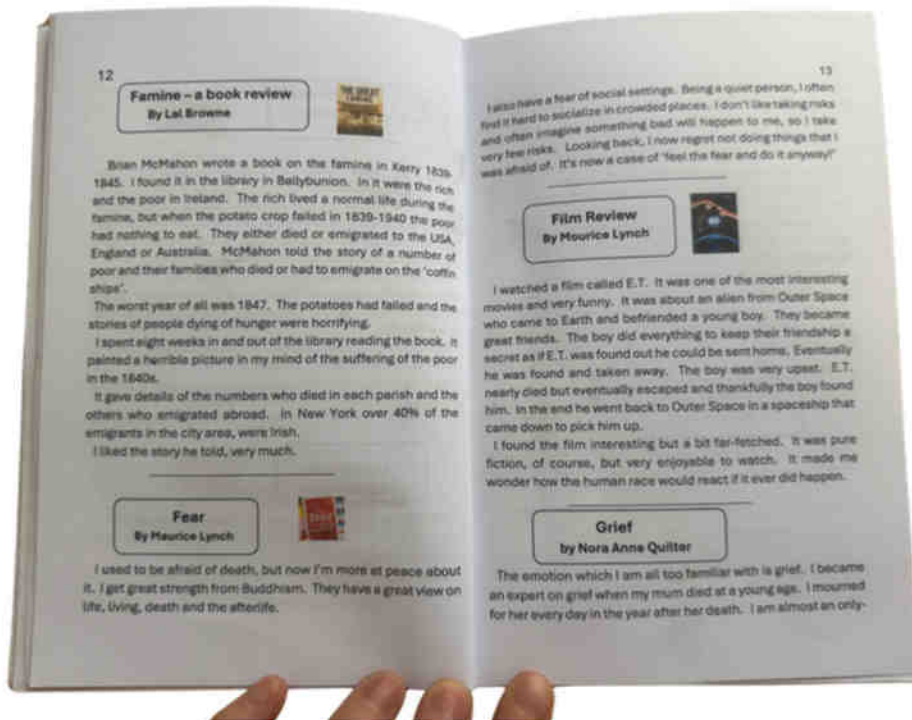
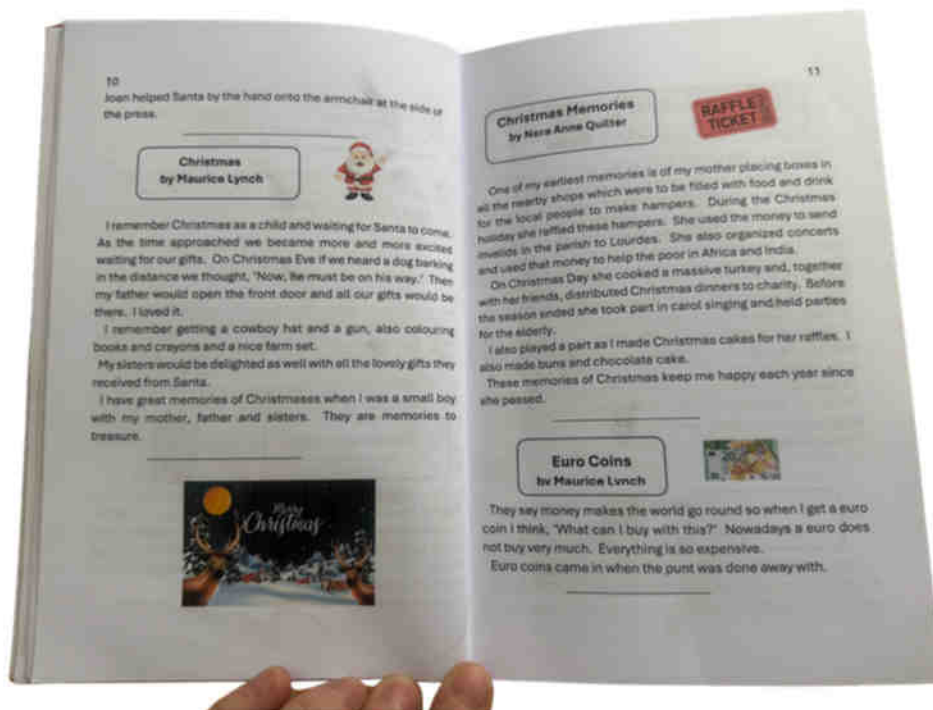


Adult
Literacy
for Life

Participant Publication



8



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works

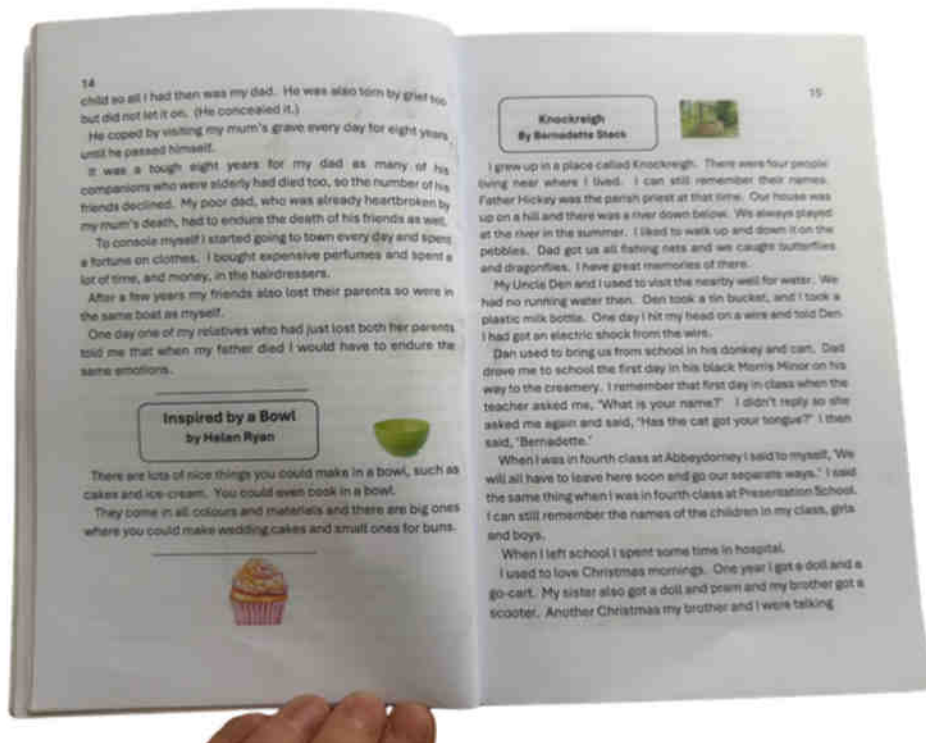


Adult
Literacy
for Life

Participant Publication



8



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works

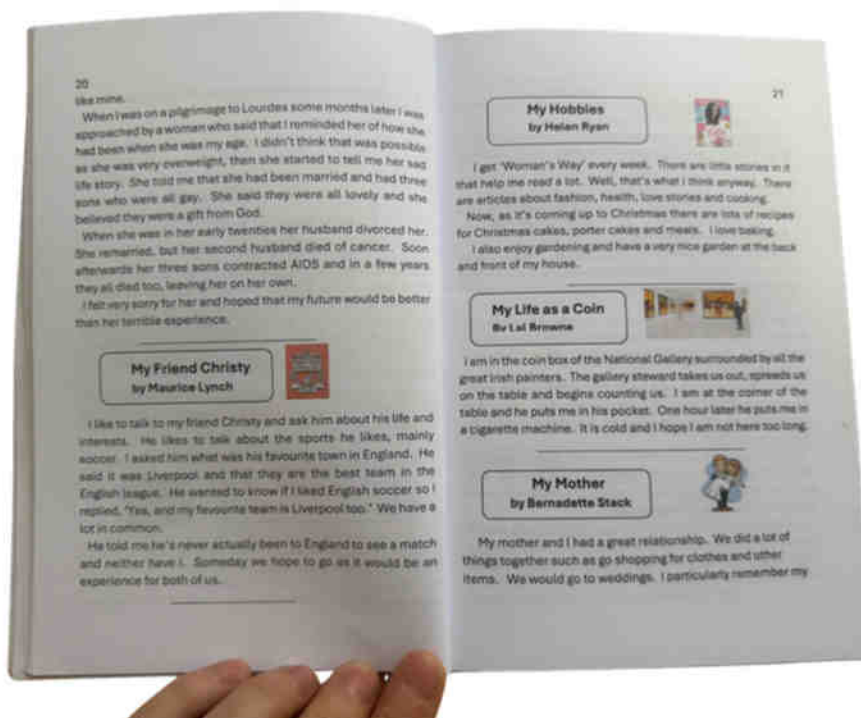
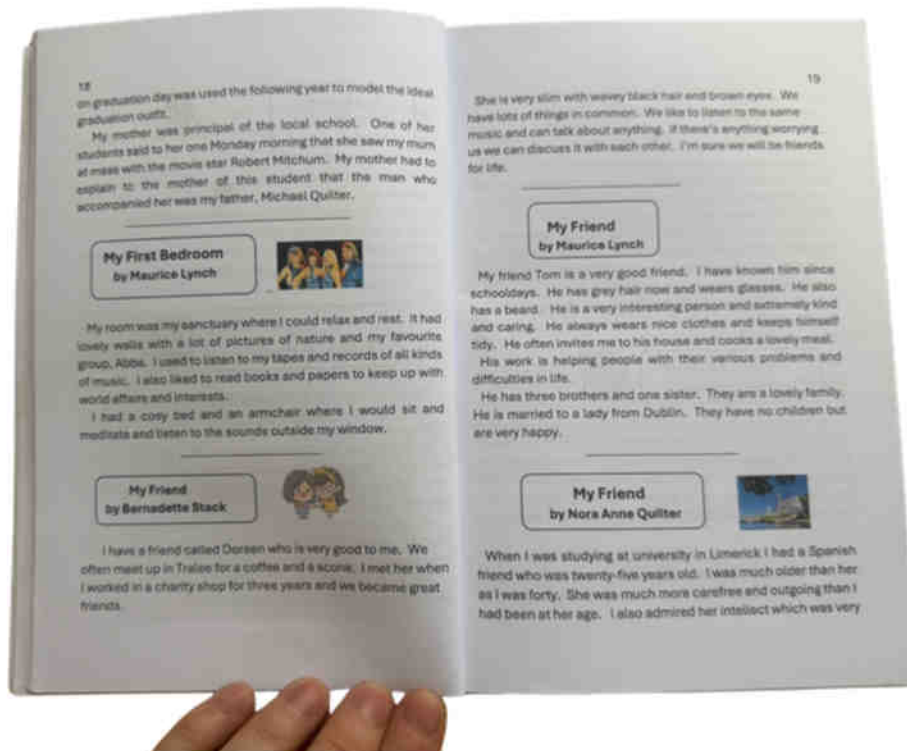


Adult
Literacy
for Life

Participant Publication



8



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works

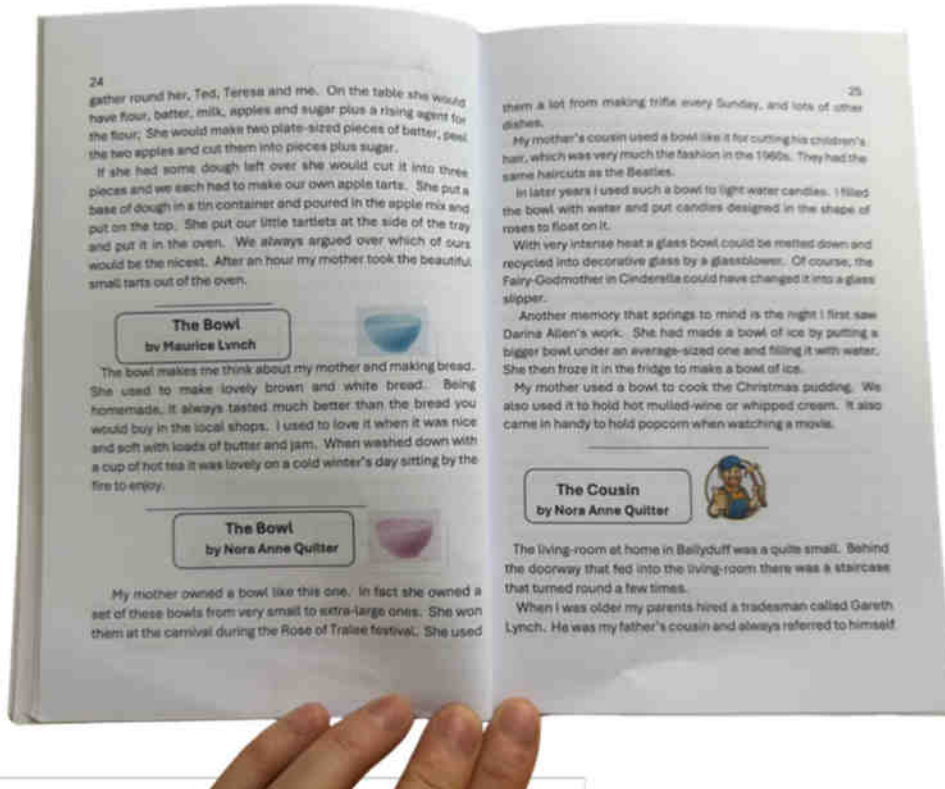
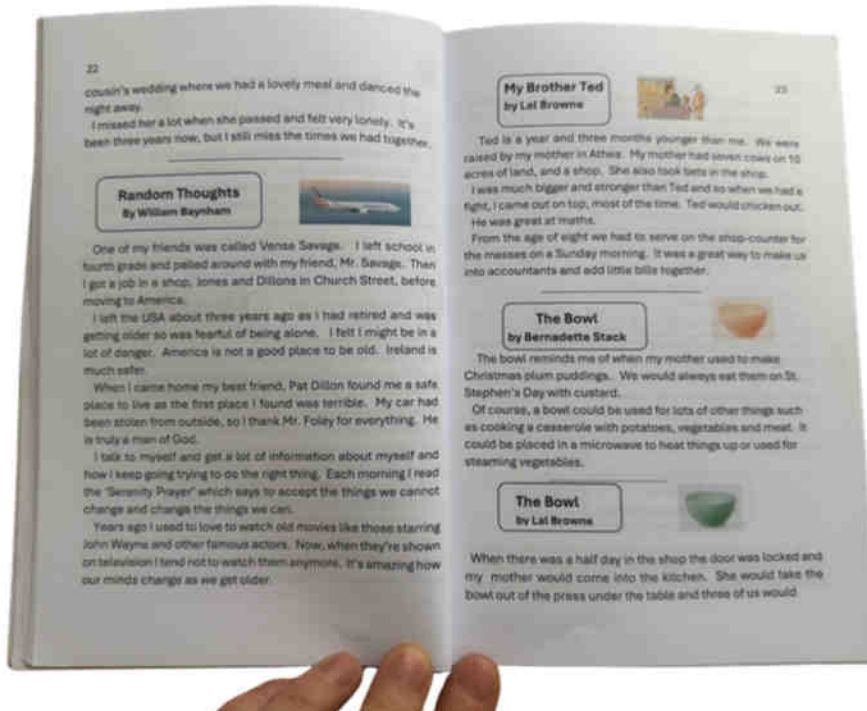


Adult
Literacy
for Life

Participant Publication



8



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Conclusion



Conclusion

The Scéalta Chiarraí pilot programme has been a highly successful and impactful initiative that brought creativity, culture, literacy, and community together in a meaningful and accessible way.

The positive outcomes, strong engagement, and enthusiastic feedback highlight a clear need — and strong demand — for ongoing creative literacy programmes at Kerry Writers' Museum.

This pilot lays a strong foundation for continued partnership, expanded offerings, and long-term development of creative literacy opportunities in North Kerry.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Appendices Programme Outline



10

Appendices

- Programme outline
- Sample evaluation form
- Showcase invitation

Programme outline

Weeks 1–4: Building Confidence & Foundational Literacy

Week 1 – Welcome & Storytelling Basics.

Week 2 – Exploring Personal & Community Stories.

Week 3 – Developing Descriptive Writing & Observational Skills.

Week 4 – Storytelling through Objects.

Weeks 5–8: Expanding Writing & Digital Expression

Week 5 – Writing with Emotion & Dialogue.

Week 6 – Writing for an Audience (letters, blogs, reviews).

Week 7 – Digital & Visual Storytelling (writing to video & illustration).

Week 8 – Public Speaking & Performance.

Weeks 9–12: Creating & Sharing Learner Work

Week 9 – Editing & Polishing Writing.

Week 10 – Publishing & Sharing Work Digitally.

Week 11 – Preparing for a Museum Showcase Event.

Week 12 – Celebration & Public Showcase.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Sample Evaluation Form



10

— Deenadotte

**Scéalta Chiarraí
Evaluation Form**

13

Scéalta Chiarraí – End of Course Feedback

We would like to know what you think about the Scéalta Chiarraí Adult Literacy Pilot Programme.

This will help us improve and plan for the future.

1. How do you feel about the programme overall?

☒ Very good *enjoyed every class!*
☐ Good
☐ Okay
☐ Not so good

2. What did you enjoy most?

☒ Writing my own stories
☐ Drawing/illustration
☐ Sharing stories with others
☐ Using digital tools
☐ Museum visits and objects
☒ Meeting people and working together
(Please tick all that apply)

3. Was there anything you found difficult?

☒ *Standing up in front of a class*

 **Rialtas na hÉireann**
Government of Ireland

 **Arna chomhchistiú ag an Aontas Eorpach**
Co-Funded by the European Union

SOLAS
learning works

 **ALL**
Adult Literacy for Life



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult Literacy for Life

Sample Evaluation Form



10

céalta Chiarraí
Evaluation Form

13

4. Did the programme help you with:

- Reading ☐ Yes ☒ A little ☐ Not sure ☐ No
- Writing ☒ Yes ☐ A little ☐ Not sure ☐ No
- Confidence ☒ Yes ☐ A little ☐ Not sure ☐ No
- Digital skills ☒ Yes ☐ A little ☐ Not sure ☐ No
- Speaking in groups ☒ Yes ☐ A little ☐ Not sure ☐ No

It sure did! helped loads. Debaty!
can talk and relate to people now

5. What would you change or add to make the programme better?

*Like to do it all over again next year!
Really enjoyed the course.*

6. Would you recommend this programme to others?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

— learned alot from it

7. Any other comments?

Gonna be sad leaving the group after meeting so many lovely people

Thank you for taking part and sharing your views! 🌟

This form is confidential. Your answers will only be used by Kerry Writers' Museum, Kerry ETB, and NEWKD to improve the programme and report on its impact.

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Arna chomhchistiú ag an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the European Union

SOLAS
learning works

ALL
Adult Literacy for Life



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Showcase Invitation



10



INVITATION

Scéalta Chiarraí SHOWCASE

Please join us for the Scéalta Chiarraí Creative Writing Showcase on **Wednesday 17th December at 11am** in Kerry Writers' Museum, Listowel.

Come celebrate the creativity and imagination of our creative writers as they share stories, music and more!

Family, friends, and supporters are all warmly welcome.

We look forward to celebrating this special occasion with you.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life

SEANCHAI
Kerry Writers'
MUSEUM



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union

SOLAS
learning works



Adult
Literacy
for Life