

Trav Times

Newsletter of Donegal Travellers Project • Summer 2021 • Issue 34



Annie Mongan and other DTP staff members share their reasons for getting vaccinated against Covid-19. See page 4 for story.

DTP highlights role of education in Traveller empowerment

THE KEY role that education can play in promoting Traveller empowerment is highlighted by DTP in this edition of *Trav Times*.

Featured in a “Special Career and Education Section” that starts on page 5 are six Travellers from all over Ireland who discuss the work that they do and the educational journeys that helped to make it possible.

The six Travellers featured are:

- David Friel, Social Care Leader;
- Rosaleen McDonagh, Writer and Irish Human Rights and Equality Commissioner;
- Margaret McDonagh, Health Development Worker;
- Stephen Moriarty, Secondary School English Teacher;
- Michael Power, *Travellers’ Voice Magazine* Editor; and

- Owen Ward, NUI Galway Access Centre Coordinator.

This edition also highlights ways in which Travellers of all ages have embraced educational and personal development opportunities offered by DTP during Covid-19, including through Zoom.

These include: Stress Control Workshops, a Count Your Steps Fitness Challenge, Cookery Skills Classes, Baking and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths) Workshops for Young People, and the DTP/Involve Men’s Football Programme.

This edition additionally highlights the achievement of ten Traveller men who recently passed the SafePass safety course required for anyone interested in working on a construction site.

DTP support is available with
Covid-19 vaccinations

Including registering online or setting up a GP appointment to be vaccinated

Ring Ann on (086) 145 3429 or Rose on (086) 145 3428

DTP Education Supports

for students and parents

School Registration
Back to School Allowance
Homework Club
and more!

Ring Barry on (083) 012 5403

DTP/Involve

Men’s Football

Tuesdays and Thursdays
in Letterkenny

New members welcome

Ring Hugh on (086) 145 3426 or Martin on (083) 174 7694

Employment Assistance

and

Accredited Training

Ring Maeve on
(087) 130 5866 for details

DTP/Involve

Youth Activities

Fun, educational, and safe programmes for boys and girls, 10 to 18 years

Ring Martin on (083) 174 7694

Online Intercultural Training

is available from DTP for individuals and organisations

Details available at
www.donegaltravellersproject.ie

Donegal Travellers Project is a partnership of Travellers and settled people working for Traveller rights through the five principles of Community Development:

- 1) *Collectivity;*
- 2) *Community Empowerment;*
- 3) *Social Justice and Sustainable Development;*
- 4) *Human Rights, Equality, and Anti-Discrimination;*
- 5) *Participation.*

Everyone's a winner in Men's Football Programme run by DTP/Involve and LYFS

EVERYONE'S a winner in a Men's Football Programme run jointly by DTP/Involve and Letterkenny Youth and Family Services (LYFS).

The programme meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12.30 to 1.45 p.m. at Letterkenny Community Centre and is open to new members. It is run in strict observance of Covid-19 safety guidelines.

"Taking part in the football has benefits for everyone involved," said Hugh Friel, DTP Men's Health Worker. "It helps to stop isolation, builds relationships, improves health and fitness, and opens doors

to other activities and programmes." "It's not just about the football," said Garry Glennon, Manager of LYFS. "The football is only the vehicle that we use. We're all on a journey, working together in partnership, building bonds and developing relationships between different cultures."

DTP/Involve and LYFS have run the Men's Football Programme together for a number of years, and always hold a Challenge Match as part of it. The DTP/Involve team recently won the Challenge Match for the second year in a row.

"Well done to everyone who took part in the match," Hugh said. "And thanks to LYFS for their participation in a fantastic programme."



Francie Boyle and Barry Ward with the Challenge Match trophy won by the DTP/Involve Men's Football Team.



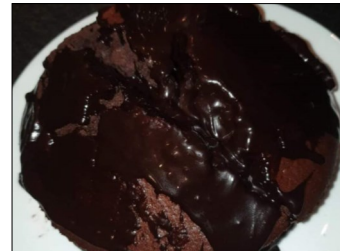
Traveller women share culinary successes as part of DTP's online Cookery Skills Classes

DELICIOUS dishes were on the menu this Spring as part of Cookery Skills Classes that DTP ran for Traveller women through Zoom.

Participants from all over the county were able to safely attend the workshops in the comfort of their own homes during the Covid-19 lockdown.

The classes were led by Jacqui Gallagher, a cookery tutor who demonstrated the steps of a number of sweet and savoury recipes in her own kitchen.

Participants then got to work in their own kitchens, preparing the same dishes and then taking photos of the mouth-watering results (see below) to share with the rest of the group during the following class.



Young Travellers enjoy kayaking, surfing, hiking and more at DTP/Involve Summer Camp

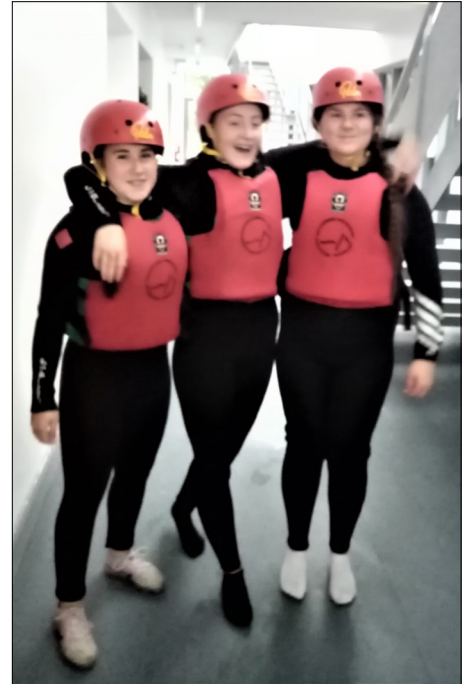
KAYAKING at Lake Gartan, surfing at Rossnowlagh, beach activities at Ards, and more were enjoyed in June by participants in a DTP/Involve Summer Camp for 13- to 17-year-olds.

“The camp was brilliant,” said Martin Mongan, Involve Youth Worker. “We picked activities that got young people outdoors and active again after all of the restrictions caused by Covid-19.”

Summer camps for younger children featuring age-appropriate activities followed in July.

The camps were only the latest educational, healthy, and safe activities run for young Travellers by DTP/Involve this year.

Bingo, Baking, Self-Care, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Workshops were all recently on offer via Zoom.



DTP's Count Your Steps Challenge boosts fitness and wellbeing for Travellers all over Donegal

TRAVELLERS from all over the county took part in a “Count Your Steps Fitness Challenge” run by DTP this Spring, improving their fitness and wellbeing in the process.

The Challenge highlighted the benefits of walking, an exercise that has been shown to be excellent for both physical and mental health.

At the start of the Challenge participants set goals for the number of daily steps that they wanted to be taking by the end of six weeks.

They then used step counters provided by DTP to count the steps they walked as part of their daily routines and by going out for walks.

As they increased the number of steps taken each day, participants were able to reach their goals.

At the end of the Challenge the names of all participants were put into a draw for two large hampers

filled with healthy foods. The winners of the draw were Francie Crumlish and Melissa Mongan.



Melissa Mongan



Francie Crumlish

DTP encourages and supports Travellers with getting vaccinated against Covid-19

TRAVELLERS who would like to get a free vaccination against Covid-19 are encouraged to contact DTP for assistance and support.

The DTP Facebook page contains a number of posts which provide information about vaccination, including a video made by DTP Community Health Worker Annie Mongan after she and other DTP staff members were vaccinated.

“I went for my vaccination three weeks ago,” Annie says in the video. “I had no side effects. I had no problems at all.

“I would advise everybody out there, when they get offered the vaccine, to take it.

“Do it to save your own lives and to save the community and other people.

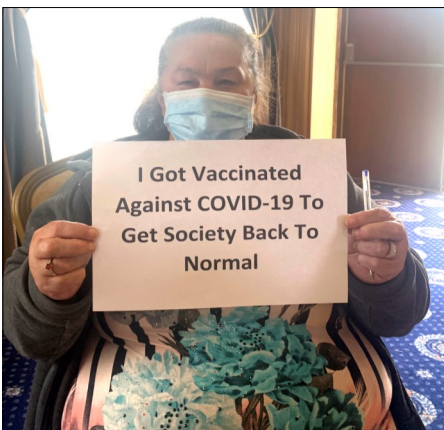
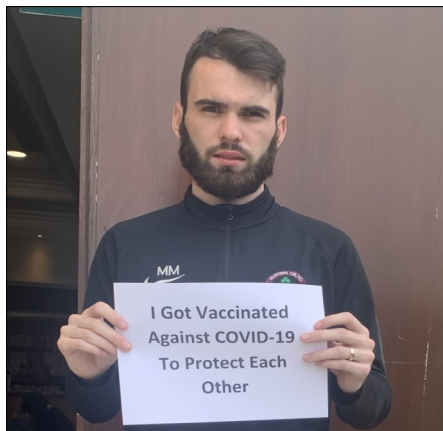
“It’s nothing to worry about. You

might hear different stories about it, but don’t take them seriously.

“Go ahead and take the vaccine.”

“Do it to save your own lives and to save the community and other people.”

– Annie Mongan



Shown in the photos above are DTP staff members (top row, from left) Brigidmarie Mongan, Michael Mongan, and Ann Friel; (bottom row, from left) Aggie Boyle, Hugh Friel, and Margaret Ward.

DTP Stress-Control Workshops on Zoom attended by Travellers all over Donegal

TRAVELLER men and women from all over Donegal took part in recent Stress-Control Workshops run by DTP on Zoom.

The hour-long workshops gave participants a chance to learn about the best ways of dealing with stress, including the stress caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

“The workshops started by looking at the mental and physical roots of stress,” said Ann Friel, DTP Primary Health Care Coordinator. “The focus then turned to what you can do to reduce stress levels, including getting a good night’s sleep, exercising, and not letting negative thoughts take over your thinking.”



Special Career and Education Section: OWEN WARD

1) What type of work do you do? I am a Programme Coordinator at the Access Centre, NUI Galway. Currently I coordinate the Educational Transition Project, which is a multi-disciplinary project designed to support Traveller students, both School Leaver and Mature Students, to achieve their desired educational goals. This programme represents an important intervention in ensuring Traveller students access to further and higher education.

In addition I am a member of a number of different committees, including: the National Anti-Racism Committee (creating a National Anti-Racism Plan for Ireland on behalf of the government), the Royal Irish Academy Higher Education Futures Committee (exploring framework options for the future development of higher education across the island of Ireland), the University of Sanctuary Initiative, Places of Sanctuary Ireland, and the European Roma Rights Centre, as well as numerous Irish Traveller and community organisations.

I was also a Committee member of Údarás na hOllscoile (NUI Galway Governing Authority), the first Irish Traveller elected to a University Governing Authority in Ireland.

2) What are the main steps you took to pursue this career? Like my siblings and peers I became an early school leaver, with no Junior Certificate or Leaving Certificate, at 16 years. Following some short courses in further education I successfully completed the NUI Galway Access Programme, and then graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree with Honours and a Master's degree in Post Primary Education (PME).

3) What role did education play in preparing you to do the work that

you do? Education has had a transformative effect on my life, particularly within the context of employment and supporting others. I've transitioned from an early school leaver to a secondary school teacher. My teacher training has enabled me to adopt an evidence-based approach to my professional practice and to respond to the complexity of teaching and learning. Also, it has broadened my skill set for my work in education within the post-primary, further, and higher education sectors, and has empowered my passion for supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds in education.

“Education has had a transformative effect on my life, particularly within the context of employment and supporting others. I've transitioned from an early school leaver to a secondary school teacher.”

4) What do you enjoy most about your work? I'm very fortunate that I work in a very supportive environment with a great team of colleagues.



What I enjoy most about my work is supporting and empowering students from disadvantaged backgrounds to overcome obstacles and succeed in education. It's great to be a valued and respected member of a team that works to tackle and remove barriers that obstruct the advancement of the equality, diversity, and inclusion agenda in Irish society.

5) Do you have any advice for other Travellers who might be interested in pursuing a similar career path or educational journey? There is a lot of advice that I could give to Travellers; however, the most important is to be proud of you and your journey. As a Traveller you have overcome a lot to be in the position of pursuing higher education and, with time, your chosen career. While progressing on your path, please ensure that you reach out and ask for advice and support, while also taking time to look after you. Additionally I'd recommend that students and parents make contact with the following: career guidance teacher; local and national Traveller organisations; and the Access and Career Offices at your chosen college and/or university.

Special Career and Education Section: MICHAEL POWER

1) *What type of work do you do?* I am the editor of *Travellers' Voice Magazine*, Ireland's national Traveller publication, which aims to highlight the positive contributions of Travellers to society as well as to highlight the inspirational individuals within the community.

I am also the Manager of the Community Services Programme, which employs a team of seven people.

“Education played a huge role in the development of my skills, which in turn opened new prospects for me within *Travellers' Voice Magazine*.”

2) *What are the main steps you took to pursue this career?* I came into my position with a passion for community development and a desire to be part of a greater social change. My background wasn't in Journalism, although I have since received qualifications in creative writing for print and online journalism. I began my career with *Travellers' Voice* as a volunteer before going on to become a reporter and then Manager/Editor of the project.

3) *What role did education play in preparing you to do the work that you do?* Education played a huge role in the development of my skills, which in turn opened new

prospects for me within *Travellers' Voice Magazine*.

I am an advocate for education among the community; it certainly goes towards levelling the playing field when it comes to having opportunities in employment. However, there are also Access routes to employment for those who find formal education a challenge.

4) *What do you enjoy most about your work?* I really enjoy the creative element of my role. The magazine forces us as a team to think outside the box when it comes to highlighting issues in a non-confrontational way, which our

readers appreciate. Through the magazine we have a platform to challenge the misconceptions often associated with the Traveller community. The magazine also provides a space to address internal conflicts and views.

5) *Do you have any advice for other Travellers who might be interested in pursuing a similar career path or educational journey?*

My advice would be to research the types of jobs you may be interested in, and if you don't have the



skills yet for this job, look for volunteering opportunities until you are ready to apply for a position in your chosen field.

Sometimes the best place you can start is at the bottom and work your way up, learning and developing as you ascend.



Special Career and Education Section: ROSALEEN McDONAGH

1) *What type of work do you do?*

My work varies. My primary job is as a playwright and writer. As a Human Rights Commissioner, my work involves reading, writing, and preparing criticisms and contributions referring to aspects of law and where human rights law has been ignored, eroded, or violated.

2) *What are the main steps you took to pursue this career?* My education, my degrees, and PhD. Working in Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, where the community development ethos was very much part of how we did our work. My personal life, a lot of reading and reflecting. Practising my writing and spending a lot of time on my own to develop and think about ideas. Apart from my family and a few close friends, and due to my speech impediment, mixing with people is quite difficult. I enjoy my own company and I value the small circle of friends that I have.

The issue of commitment is very strong. Commitment to myself. This involves taking care of myself. Improving myself by way of education and courses. As a Traveller woman with a significant disability, being ambitious for myself is really important. Surrounding myself with excellent mentors who constantly challenge and support me and my work.

Other things like sleeping, eating, and a lot of exercise. Removing myself from racist, sexist, and ableist conversations. Learning how to compromise. Being open to being wrong. Learning to work alongside people that maybe have different opinions to

me or have skills that are beyond my reach. Being able to say sorry. Recognising how important it is to create an environment where we welcome forgiveness without anything in return.

3) *What role did education play in preparing you to do the work that you do?* Education was vital, but so was my job in Pavee Point. There are all types of learning, and people make various contributions in their own way.

Making mistakes is always a very important lesson. Having principles is a good starting point to work from; however, flexibility and being able to compromise were the best lessons of all. Being generous, passing the microphone to a younger generation. All these things make you a more rounded person.

I've made huge mistakes. There are things I wish I had done differently or I could have done better. There's learning in that. Lucky for me, my leisure time is about reading and writing, laughing, and listening to music. Those things help me to do my job better.

4) *What do you enjoy most about your work?* The variety. The intellectual stimulation. The challenge. The panic of a deadline. Spending hours and hours on my own, trying to make a sentence work. I was a nerd before the term was ever invented. Valuing my own reality and my life experience. Embracing the truth in all its forms. Mostly I value my independence. Independence of mind and of body. Without these two aspects I would never be able to do my work. Enjoying and appreciating the gift of being able to read. Laughing at myself, not ridiculing myself but recognising sometimes I'm very silly and stupid. I really, really love my Traveller ethnicity and how it has shaped and informed the work I do.



5) *Do you have any advice for other Travellers who might be interested in pursuing a similar career path or educational journey?* I'm very slow to give advice, and I don't necessarily believe in the concept of role models. We pay too much emphasis on what other people are doing or how they're doing it. Each journey is unique. The role model thing, for me, it always added an extra layer of pressure. It is important to recognise those who came before you and their contribution. Also, recognising what younger generations have to offer. The only advice I can offer is value yourself. Be ambitious for yourself. Learn how to dance, laugh, and live a life where you can take a day off from being an activist.

“There are all types of learning, and people make various contributions in their own way.”

Special Career and Education Section: DAVID FRIEL

1) What type of work do you do? I currently work in partnership with Tusla, the Child and Family Agency. I am a Social Care Leader working within the management team in a children's residential care home where I work with children between the ages of 12 to 18 years old.

My main duties include overseeing the work of the staff team and supporting the young people in developing physically, mentally, and educationally. As a Social Care Leader you need to demonstrate empathy, warmth, and genuineness. These are the characteristics that young people value when working with them.

“Please do not think that having a career or an education means losing your cultural identity. It's a struggle being the only Traveller in the classroom or the staff room; however, it will change your life.”

2) What are the main steps you took to pursue this career? In 2015 I began studying at Letterkenny Institute of Technology. I completed a Bachelor of Science in Health and Social Care in 2018 and graduated with Distinction; however, as a Traveller man this was not without its challenges. To enter a career in

Social Care it is a fundamental requirement to have a degree in a relevant discipline, such as Social Care, Social Work, or Psychology.

I would emphasise that anyone wanting to pursue this career must gain relevant experience, which can be achieved through volunteering. For example, I volunteered with Jigsaw and Donegal Youth Service on different initiatives that benefited my career and CV.

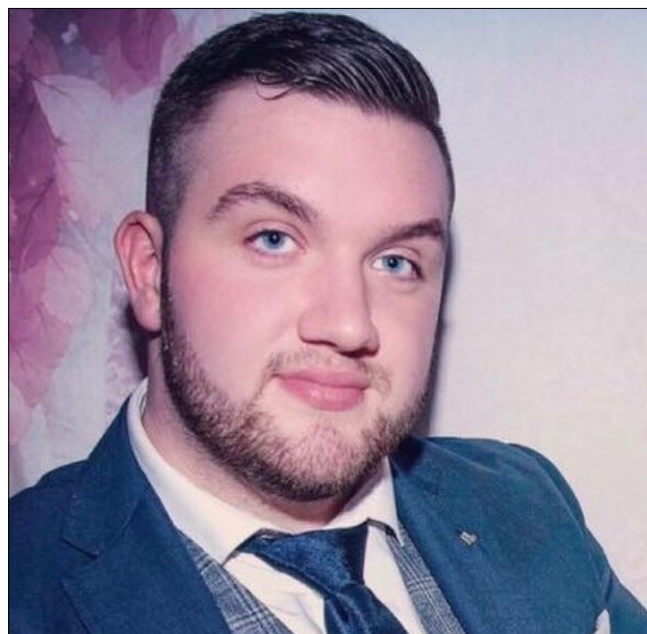
But remember, there are other pathways into employment, and I would be happy to offer guidance to any Travellers looking for support to enter the profession.

3) What role did education play in preparing you to do the work that you do? In completing a degree you gain academic experiences and practical experience, which is important before embarking into the world of work.

For example, I undertook two work placements while doing my degree which equipped me with many skills needed for the field, such as communication skills, report writing, and, most importantly, listening skills.

Education is a lifelong process and a journey that I am still on as I am finishing my Master's degree in Social Care and Social Justice. Following this, I will then be progressing to begin work on a PhD Doctorate degree in September.

4) What do you enjoy most about your work? I would say working



with young people is my vocation. Supporting young people every day to reach their goals is very rewarding. I enjoy developing positive relationships with young people and being a support mechanism in their lives, enabling them to flourish to enter the world as valuable members of society.

5) Do you have any advice for other Travellers who might be interested in pursuing a similar career path or educational journey? Please do not think that having a career or an education means losing your cultural identity. It's a struggle being the only Traveller in the classroom or the staff room; however, it will change your life.

Travellers have faced high levels of social exclusion within society; however, if you obtain an education, you can gain formal employment. Employment can eradicate material deprivation and lead to secure accommodation which then can help you sustain health.

So education or a career can address the exclusion we face as Travellers.

Special Career and Education Section: MARGARET McDONAGH

1) What type of work do you do? I am a Health Development Worker with Balbriggan Travellers Project in Fingal, Co. Dublin. My work is to facilitate and support the ongoing development of Balbriggan Travellers Project to address health inequalities as identified in the All-Ireland Traveller Health Study (2010).

I support the Primary Health Care Coordinator in implementing the work of our Primary Health Care Project to the Traveller community in partnership with Traveller Community Health Workers. We deliver peer-led health education, health promotion, advice, and support, empowering Travellers to manage the wider social determinants of their own health and wellbeing and promoting positive health outcomes for the community as a whole.

I also sit on the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC), the National Traveller Mental Health Network (NTMHN), and various other committees and steering groups to ensure the Travellers I work with always have a voice within these spaces and beyond.

2) What are the main steps you took to pursue this career? I started in a Local Training Initiative (LTI) Programme when I was a teenager and progressed to become a Primary Health Care Worker. After a short time I realised I wanted to do more for my community, so I completed a diploma in Addiction Studies and interviewed for the position of Family Support and Addiction Worker within my organisation. After six years I moved on to work for a national organisation, then back to my local organisation in my current position of Health Development Worker.

3) What role did education play in preparing you to do the work that you do? When I was younger, I felt education wasn't for me or my community. We were never given equal opportunities in regards to employment and education, so why bother educating ourselves? As I got older, and a small bit wiser, I

realised that education is key when trying to create positive change for my community, when fighting for the equality we deserve.

I will soon be in my third year of my four-year degree in Community and Youth Work in Maynooth University, and I am loving every minute of it, even the assignments. It has not only benefitted me as a Traveller woman, it has benefitted my community through the work I do and, most importantly, the younger generation of Travellers, who will hopefully see that the barriers that seemed too high to break through actually aren't.

I believe that education is power and it is with that power we as a community can fight against the injustices, prejudice, and inequality we continue to face.

“I believe that education is power and it is with that power we as a community can fight against the injustices, prejudice, and inequality we continue to face.”

4) What do you enjoy most about your work? My beautiful people. I love the fact that I can work to support and create change within my own community, but at the same time I



can be kept grounded and not fall into the trap of working for them instead of with them.

I feel very strongly about the saying “nothing about us without us”, and I feel it's something that should be the centre of any work done with the Traveller community.

5) Do you have any advice for other Travellers who might be interested in pursuing a similar career path or educational journey? Finish school if you're still in it; it may not feel like it now, but it will benefit you later on.

My advice would be to contact your local Traveller project and ask to go in and learn about the work they do with the community.

Always believe in yourself and that you are as capable as the next person. Just because people say negative things, it doesn't make them true.

College/university may seem like a scary place, but in all honesty it isn't. I have learned so much in the past two years about myself, my skills, and knowledge that I didn't think I had because I listened to the negativity for far too long.

My only regret is that I didn't do this years ago.

So if you want to do something, then go do it, do a course, a degree, or whatever it is that's right for you. There's enough education to go around, so get yours!

Special Career and Education Section: STEPHEN MORIARTY

1) What type of work do you do? I am a secondary school teacher, with my teaching subject being English.

2) What are the main steps you took to pursue this career? After I finished my Leaving Cert, I enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts degree in NUIG. English was one of my subjects. In 2018, after finishing the three years of that course, I started the Professional Master of Education degree. This is the two-year course that is required to be a secondary school teacher in Ireland. As of 2020 I am a qualified teacher.

3) What role did education play in preparing you to do the work that you do? It was very important to both finish out secondary school and continue on to college to be a teacher. My time in education gave me the knowledge to teach the English course and the teaching experience I needed to succeed.

4) What do you enjoy most about your work? My favourite thing about being a teacher is working with young Travellers who may not

have had a positive time in school. I find it amazing how intelligent these students are and am always impressed with the work that they are capable of when they see themselves in their teacher.

My goal is to help all students, but especially Travellers, to reach their potential, so I really enjoy when the young Travellers start to take a stronger interest in their schoolwork.

5) Do you have any advice for other Travellers who might be interested in pursuing a similar career path or educational journey?

Teaching can be a wonderful career. The easiest way to set yourself on the path to teaching is to finish the Leaving Cert, putting in your best effort, and continuing to university. SUSI will help enormously with the cost of college, as it usually pays the entirety of the fees and also gives you a grant.

If you have already finished the Leaving Cert, or think that your Leaving Cert grades may not get you to college, you can also do an Access course. This is a free course that starts you off in college. After a year of the Access course you will be able to start the regular Bachelor's degree. Most Bachelor's degrees are three to four years long.

Once you finish that you can start the Professional Master of Education degree, after which you will be a teacher.



If you have any questions about how to go about applying for college or SUSI, or any other things related to going to college or becoming a teacher, you can ask your local Traveller representative, who can then contact me or some of the other Travellers who have qualified as teachers in order to answer your question and start you off on the road to becoming a teacher.

“My goal is to help all students, but especially Travellers, to reach their potential, so I really enjoy when the young Travellers start to take a stronger interest in their schoolwork.”

Recent SafePass construction safety course success for 10 Donegal Travellers

TEN Donegal Travellers successfully completed the SafePass safety course recently and are now qualified to work on a construction site.

They include Mikey Kelly, 18, who – like the other participants – received a SafePass card with his name and photo on it which can be shown to employers.

“Accidents can happen in the blink of an eye on a site,” Mikey

said. “The course showed us how to keep different kinds of accidents from happening.”

The one-day SafePass training is required for anyone interested in working on a construction site.

Mikey is currently working in farming, but said that having the SafePass could open new doors.

“It’s a suggestion for the future,” he said. “Wherever I did go, at least

I have the SafePass.”

Information about SafePass and other types of training is available from DLDC Traveller Job Coach Maeve McIvor, (087) 130 5866.



A visit from Party Animals is among the treats for St. Gabriel’s Preschool students after lockdown

THE EXCITEMENT was unreal when students at St. Gabriel’s Preschool had a recent visit from the Party Animals Mobile Petting Farm.

“There were lots of different birds, animals, and amphibians,” said Margaret McConigley, a teacher at the school, which is managed by DTP with an intercultural ethos.

“The children had a chance to hold the animals and listen to lots of fascinating facts about them.”

The visit was just one of the ways St. Gabriel’s staff made a special point of treating students to interesting and fun learning experiences after their return to school as the Covid-19 lockdown began to lift.

“After the Easter break we were outside in the different learning areas of our educational playground every day,” Margaret said. “The children planted fruit and vegetables in the garden area, and in the mud kitchen area they used their imaginations to make mud cupcakes using wee stones for sprinkles!”



Welcome to DTP Education Development Worker Barry Mooney

WELCOME to Barry Mooney, who recently joined the DTP team as an Education Development Worker.

“My overall role is as a link to the education system for parents and children from the Traveller and Roma communities,” Barry said.

“I can help with filling out school registration forms, applying for the Back to School Allowance, enrolling in new schools, arranging transportation to school, and more.”

This Summer Barry has been

helping to organise and run safe, healthy, and fun activities for primary and secondary school participants in DTP Summer Camps.

“The camps are a great opportunity for me to get to know the children and for the children to get to know me before the start of the school year,” he said.

In September Barry will start running a Homework Club for primary school students that also features sports, art, games, and music.



High tribute paid to Patrick McGinley (RIP) by his DTP colleagues

Aggie Boyle: Patrick was great to work with. I spent time with him working with the older people. Patrick was an incredible worker. We had great times at work and lots of laughter.

Katie Boyle: Patrick was a kind, caring, gentle-spoken man with a big heart. He was passionate about his work, especially working with older and vulnerable people. He would always help anyone in need and could turn his hand to anything. Patrick was a great friend to me personally and professionally. We had lots of laughs, and I'll always have good memories forever.

Derval Broderick: Patrick was my colleague, but also a true friend. He worked with passion, integrity, and energy. Patrick was a genuinely warm and wonderful individual – one I will miss greatly. My sorrow is lessened only slightly with the comforting thought that I had the privilege to have known him and worked with him.

Ann Friel: Patrick provided invaluable support and assistance to the older Traveller community in Donegal with whom he had built up a strong relationship over the previous decade. The loss of Patrick has been a huge loss to us all, both personally and professionally, and his smile, warm heart, dedication to his work, loyalty, and love for life will always be in our hearts. We will miss Patrick forever.

Hugh Friel: Patrick is sadly missed and the organisation has not been the same without him. You can feel the loss every day. We all miss him dearly.

Kate Hagan: Patrick could put his hand to anything. He was a gentle man and an incredible hard worker. His



empathy, care, and consideration for others will be missed.

Joleen Kuyper: Patrick was always willing to help, to listen, and have a chat. When I started in DTP he was so friendly and welcoming, and we all notice how it's not the same without him.

Philomena McGinlay: Patrick was an amazing, generous person who had compassion for his work, and I had many laughs and conversations with him about work and daily life. He was a great friend and co-worker who will be truly missed.

Chrissie McGinley: I worked with Patrick for so long. He took pride in his work and was a wonderful person to work with, always jolly and with plenty to talk about. Anything Patrick started he always wanted to see it through. He was a very dependable person, and you could always count on him. He was also very proud of his Traveller culture. Patrick was a great colleague and a wonderful person who will be very sadly missed by all.

Annie Mongan: Patrick was a true gentleman to work with. He drove us

everywhere and he was our busman. He was easy to get on with and we would have good craic. Patrick would always join in and have a good laugh. We miss Patrick so much in the group and in the Project, and it was so sad he left us so young. Lord have mercy on his soul.

Michael Mongan: I spent most of my time working alongside Patrick during the months of lockdown with the older people. Patrick had so much knowledge it was a great learning experience. Patrick was a great friend and colleague, and he is missed.

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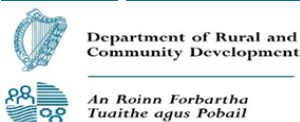
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