

ADULT EDUCATION IN THE INTERNMENT CAMP

While they were in the internment camp, the women had a lot of time but not much to do. It quickly became obvious that many of them were becoming bored.



There were many well-educated women among the internees, and they decided to share their skills and knowledge.

In Port St Mary there were 30 different courses, including: German Literature, British History, Greek, reading Shakespeare, Life Problems and Mathematical training, plus practical skills such as glove-making and shorthand. Some of these courses were run in

the rooms above Cowley's Café (pictured left).

In Port Erin there were 17 different, more practical courses, including: dressmaking, music appreciation, weaving, spinning and a small orchestra. Many of these courses took place at Collinson's Café which was also where the women were able to socialise (pictured right).





A third building that was used for adult education was Dandy Hill Schoolroom in Port Erin (pictured left). Here there were 13 more courses: Spanish, Italian, Russian, English, Swedish, French, Latin, Philosophy, European History, Shorthand, Faust, Psychology and Phonetics.

However, many of the women were released within the first year of the camp (1940 – 1941), so some of these courses had to close, but as many as possible were continued for as long as there were internees to organise them.

In addition to the courses mentioned above, 40 of the women were registered at the Marine Biological Station (pictured right), where they carried out research and gave lectures to women who were suitably qualified. These women were allowed to use the Quiet Room and the Library and, in return they organised several thousand articles on marine biological research. One internee, Bridget Jacobs – a zoology student – was in charge of six women who collected seaweed for making agar jelly used in the research work.

