



# Blue Star Programme

**School Report**

**2015**



## **School Details**

**Name of School: Rahara National School**

**Address of School: Athleague Road, Rahara, Co. Roscommon**

**Roll No: 17100V**

**No of Teachers: 2**

**Principal: Ruth Costello**



## Report

### 1. Historical- World War 1

The senior pupils (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class) studied World War 1 in class. The pupils chose an area of interest in WW1 and completed a research project on this area of WW1. Projects included 'Women during WW1', 'Uniforms of WW1', etc.

Our History Field-Trip to Cavan County Museum and Trench Experience took place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The pupils tried on WW1 uniforms and visited a WW1 billiting station. Following this the pupils visited the outdoor WW1 Trench Experience. The pupils participated in a 'gas attack' and wore brown paper 'gas masks'. This was a fantastic opportunity to explore the real life experience of WW1 soldiers. We learned that 333 soldiers from fighting during WW1.

Furthermore the pupils learned about the sinking of the Lusitania and on the anniversary of the sinking pupils watched a documentary on RTE Player called 'Lusitania- 18 minutes that changed the world'.

Junior pupils (Infants-2<sup>nd</sup> class) learned about famous italian artists including leonardo Da Vinci. They also learned about Florence Nightengale. The teacher incorporated the Aistear methodology of teaching into this theme of Florence Nightengale and taught the junior pupils vocabulary associated with 'doctors and nurses' though imaginative role-play.



*A 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupil dressed up as an Allied soldier in Cavan County Museum*



*Learning about living in the trenches during the World War*



*A mock gas attack in the trenches*





## 2. Geographical

Pupils in all classes completed projects on EU countries. The Junior classes learned all about Italy and famous Italian landmarks. Junior pupils created an individual A2 project on an EU country.

Senior pupils studied the 28 EU member states and each pupil was assigned a country to complete an in-depth study of that country. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils completed a PowerPoint project which were presented orally to parents and pupils on the Europe Day celebrations. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> class pupils 'fact-file' projects on their EU country. Junior

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class Country Fact Files





*5<sup>th</sup> Class pupil presenting his PowerPoint project on Spain to parents and pupils.*





# Blue Star Programme

### 3. Cultural & Creative

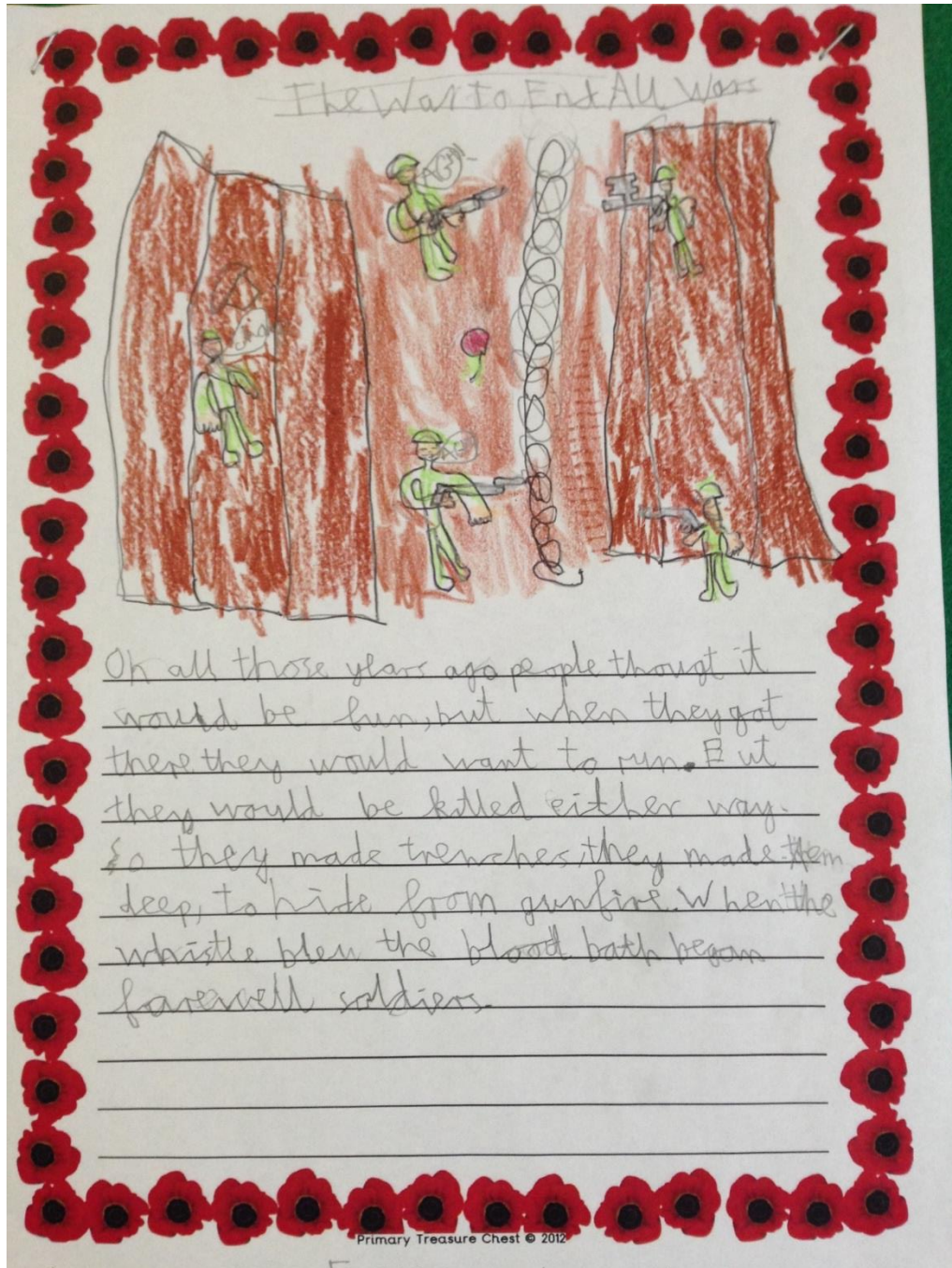
The teacher incorporated the Aistear methodology of teaching and set up an 'Italian Restaurant' in our GP hall. Pupils learned new vocabulary associated with Italian food and used this new vocabulary in their role-play.

Senior pupils composed individual poems about WW1 on Remembrance Day on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and displayed them in our school.

#### *Our Remembrance Day Poems*



**A sample Remembrance Day poem composed by a senior pupil**



Oh all those years ago people thought it  
would be fun, but when they got  
there they would want to run. But  
they would be killed either way.  
So they made trenches, they made them  
deep, to hide from gunfire. When the  
whistle blew the blood bath began  
farewell soldiers.

Junior EU projects



Junior Art Work on EU artists



***Pupils using 'role-play' techniques to learn new vocabulary about an Italian Restaurant***



## Role-play in an Italian Restaurant



### Vocabulary that was taught to Infants about the theme 'Italian Restaurant'



## 4. Institutional

Senior pupils of Rahara NS invited our local MEP, Luke Ming Flanagan, to our school on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The pupils composed questions for the MEP and interviewed him about the day-to-day life of an MEP.





## Transcript of Interview with MEP Luke 'Ming' Flanagan

What is your job as MEP about?

My job is about making good changes to our lives.

What is your favourite thing about your job?

My favourite thing about my job is the fact that I am never bored.

What did you want to be when you were younger?

I always wanted to be a politician. When I was 9 years old my mother caught me watching the results of the US presidential elections at 4am on the telly!

Who is your favourite historical figure?

Fr. Michael O' Flanagan, also known as the 'turf cutting priest', is my favourite historical figure.

What was your favourite subject at school? Do you still like it?

Maths was my favourite subject and yes, I still like Maths.

Why did you become a politician?

I wanted to become a politician because I want my children to be able to live and work in Ireland and not emigrate.

What did you study in college?

In 1989 I studied Science for one year in GMIT. After that I studied Mechanical Engineering in Sligo IT. A few years later I studied Journalism in Ballyfermot College.

Would you like to be Taoiseach some day?

I would but I would have no private life.

How would you rate your job out of 10?

7 out of 10 for some things but mostly 10 out of 10.

Do you have to do a lot of paperwork?

I don't anymore as an MEP because I have six people working for me.

What do you wear every day for your job as an MEP?

Mostly I wear a shirt and a pair of runners and jeans or depending on mood a suit. My suit is made of Hemp and was made by Louis Copeland! It will last for 1000's of years.

Why did you want to become an MEP? To tell Ireland to start thinking and I'm not there for the turf!!!

How do you get to and from Strasbourg?

Good question! It's hard to get to Strasbourg. I can fly to Frankfurt and get a bus which takes 3 and a half hours or I can fly to Paris and get a bus that takes 6 and a half hours!

How do you travel around the city?

I travel around Brussels on a bike or a taxi.

What is your favourite food in the canteen in the European parliament?

The food in the European parliament is rubbish. There is lots of white bread!

What is the best part of your job?

I never get bored and I get to change things.

**What is the worst part of your job?**

The worst part of my job is being away from my family.

**How do you keep in touch with your family when you're away in the European Parliament?**

I keep in touch with my family by texting and ringing using Facetime and What's App.

**How do you keep a good work-life balance when working as an MEP?**

I like to run to try and think straight. I am about 3/5ths work and 2/5ths normal life.

**Are you good friends with the other Irish MEP's?**

I am friends with some people. My favourite friend in the Parliament is a guy called Emmanuol Glezos who is 92 and from Greece!

**Do you have lunch with Phil Hogan, our EU Commissioner?**

No.

**Where do you stay when you are away in Europe?**

In an Apart-Hotel but in January 2015 I am moving to an apartment in Brussels.

**Where do you sit in the parliament?**

Seat number 728

**How does the headpiece work?**

I press button 2 for English translation

What time do you get up at every day?

At 7:30am

How big is the European parliament?

The European parliament is enormous! It's about 5 times bigger than Roscommon pool!

How are you addressed in parliament?

MEP

Can you eat or drink inside the parliament?

No because there are a lot of electronics, only water.

How many hours do you work for each day in Europe?

15 to 16 hours per day!

Do you own a big house?

No, I live in a 4 bed-detached house.

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## 5. Europe Day Celebrations

Our Europe Day celebrations took place in Rahara NS on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015. We invited our local MEP, Luke Ming Flanagan, to the celebrations but he was unable to attend and we received a lovely email from him wishing us well on the day. The parents, family members and members of the Board of Management were all invited to our school that afternoon. Firstly 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils presented their EU PowerPoint projects to the audience. Following this we all participated in a 'Handshake for Europe'. After that we had an EU food tasting fair. We showcased food from 8 EU countries. Parents and members of the BOM sampled food from around the EU. The most popular food was belgian waffles drizzled in warm Belgian chocolate. The least popular food was vine leaves from Greece. The Infants and 1<sup>st</sup>& 2<sup>nd</sup> classes displayed their EU projects and art work inspired by European artists. Overall it was a wonderful afternoon of celebrations. We used social media, text messages and school newsletter to inform parents of our Europe Day celebrations. Check out our Facebook page on [www.facebook.com/RaharaNationalSchool](http://www.facebook.com/RaharaNationalSchool).  
Europe Day 2015 in Rahara NS

*Pupils participating in a “Handshake for Europe”*



*Our Europe Day Celebrations*

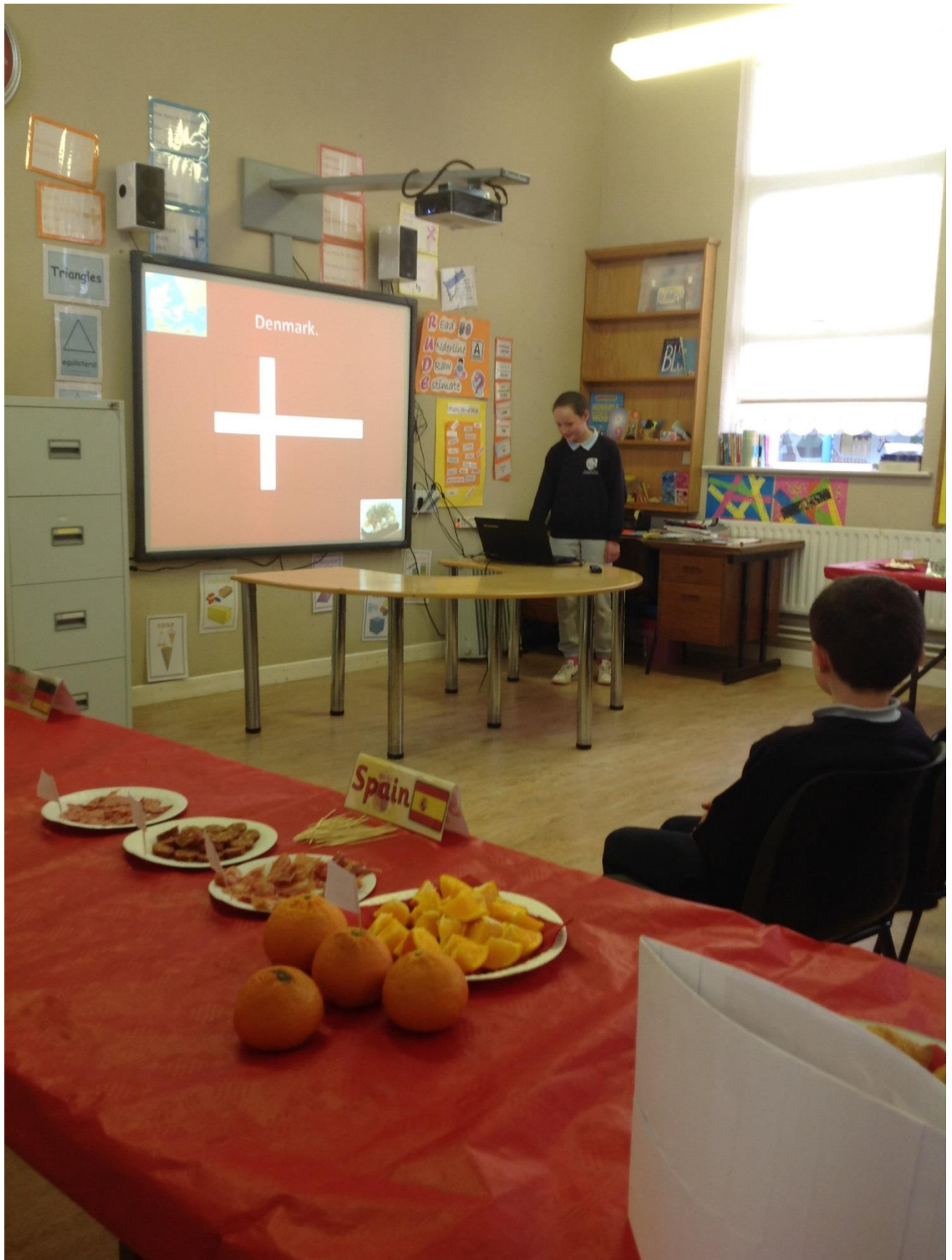


*5th Class pupil presenting her Cyprus PowerPoint to parents and pupils*





*Another 5<sup>th</sup> Class pupil presenting her Denmark PowerPoint project to parents on Europe Day 2015*



*A 6<sup>TH</sup> Class pupil presenting his Germany PowerPoint project to the audience*



*Pupils showcasing foods from around the EU to parents*



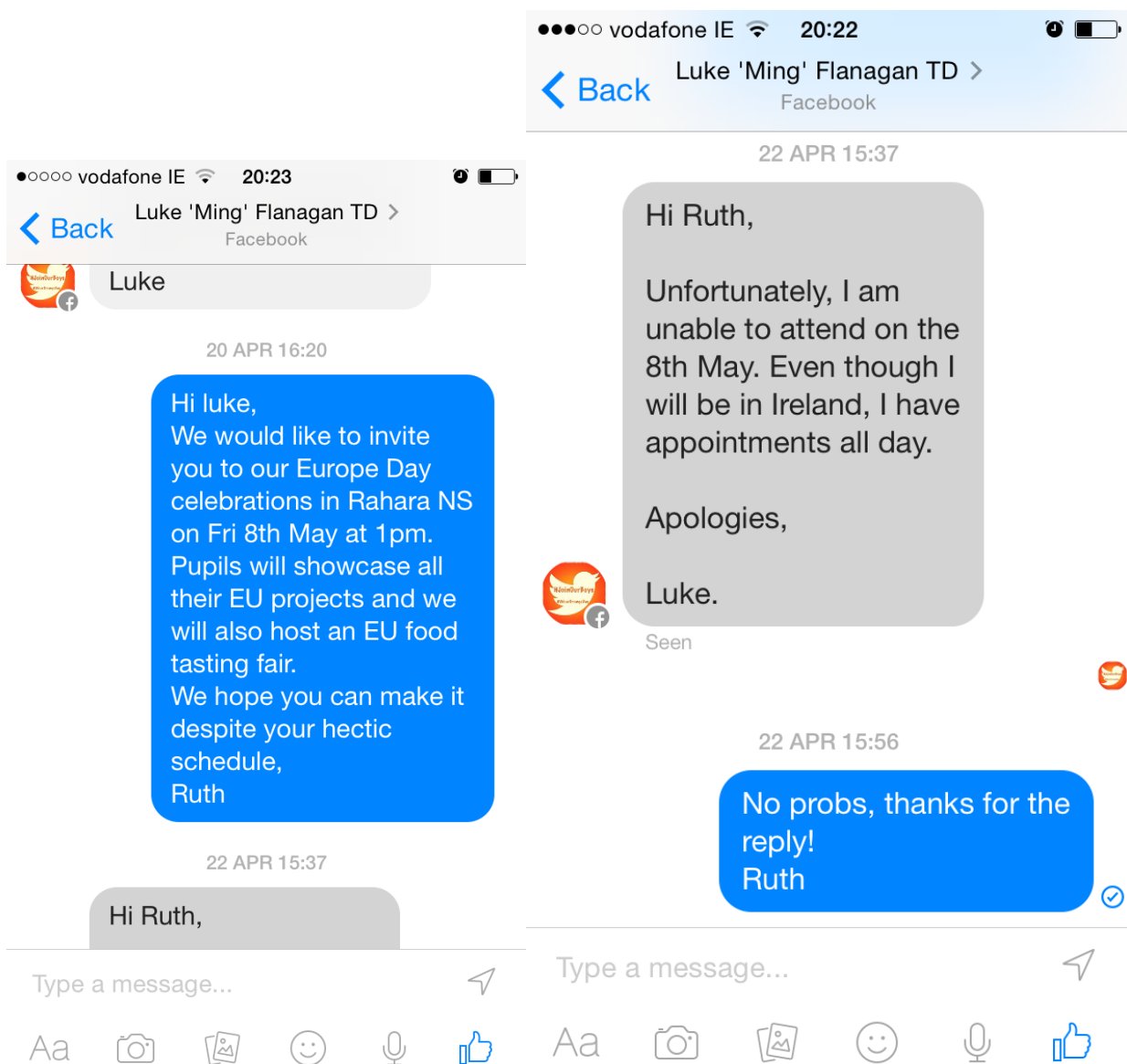








Invitation sent to Luke 'Ming' Flanagan and reply to invite





## 6. Feedback

Please include any additional thoughts or comments that you had about the Blue Star Programme: would you participate again, how could the Programme be improved, did you do anything particularly different as part of your Programme?

N/A

**Thank you very much for your participation in the Blue Star Programme and we look forward to working with you on the third year of the Programme next year!**

**Please submit this Report electronically by Friday 22 May 2015 to:**  
[bluestar@europeanmovement.ie](mailto:bluestar@europeanmovement.ie)

Feel free to call: 01 662 5815 with any queries.