

Greater New Lodge Community Magazine


Ashton Community Trust
December 2015

Ashton Centre, 5 Churchill Street, Belfast BT15 2BP Tel: (028) 90742255 email: leo.morgan@ashtoncentre.com

Community Outrage Housing Redevelopment Halted



Section of the large crowd at the protest vigil

Extortion

Work that was due to begin on the first phase of the new housing development at Stratheden Street and Spamount Street was dramatically halted after the demolition contractor suddenly withdrew. It is believed he was ordered to pay so called 'protection money' by a local gang of extortionists.

Community Anger

At a public meeting in Upper Meadow Street on Wednesday night 28th of October hundreds of residents turned up to express their resentment and disgust at those responsible. Speaking at the protest vigil were political, community and statutory representatives who called on anyone involved in the extortion to desist from their activities in order to allow the much needed housing development to take place. Fears were expressed that the entire scheme could be put in jeopardy. There was a palpable sense of anger amongst residents gathered at the protest vigil with some calling for those responsible to be publicly named and shamed.

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Criminality

The most recent incident is unfortunately not the first time where contractors involved in local social housing projects have been threatened. At the former Girdwood

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Learning Language for Work



Learning Language for Work is a new and dynamic course provided by LEMIS+.

The course aims to address the barriers to employment experienced by migrant workers and other minority groups who need support to learn the English they require for employment.

LEARNERS ARE SUPPORTED TO:

- Improve their ability to complete the application process in English
- Improve their performance at selection interviews
- Identify and target jobs that match their skills
- Increase their use and application of written and spoken English

Contact a Mentor at the Ashton Centre on: 02890 742 255

Belfast Works
LEMIS+ Project

The LEMIS+ Project is part funded by the Northern Ireland European Social Fund 2014 - 2020 Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme



Community Contact Numbers

174 Trust - 9074 7114
 Ashton Centre - 9074 2255
 Bridge of Hope - 9074 6737
 Bridges Sewing Group - 9074 2255
 Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain - 9032 2409
 Camberwell Fold - 9096 0552
 Cancer Lifeline 9035 1999
 Carrick Hill Community Centre - 9023 1602
 Carlisle Day Centre - 9023 1227
 Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain - 90749 688
 Employment Outreach - 9020 2440
 Glenravel Local History Project - 9032 2289
 Holy Family Primary School - 9035 1023
 Holy Family Youth Centre - 9087 5150
 Indian Community Centre - 9024 9746
 Kinder Kids Day Care - 9074 2255
 McSweeney Centre - 9032 2289
 New Lodge Safer Streets - 07564 938276
 Newington Credit Union - 9035 1773
 New Lodge Arts - 9074 2255
 New Lodge Youth Centre - 9075 1358
 New Lodge Housing Forum - 9074 2399
 North Belfast Family Centre - 9024 7580
 North Belfast Social Enterprise HUB - 95 609 521
 North Queen St. Community Centre - 9032 3945
 Smile SureStart - 9075 6654
 St. Patrick's Primary School - 028 9035 1206
 Star Neighbourhood Centre - 9074 0693
 Tar Isteach - 90746665 / 90754967

OCN Childcare Class Level 1

Have you always been interested in a career in Childcare but don't know how to go about gaining the necessary skills? Our short introductory course is the perfect starting point.

Contact a Mentor at the Ashton Centre on: 02890 742 255




PATHWAY OPTION:
Applicants have the option of progressing to a Level 2 qualification

Belfast Works
LEMIS+ Project

The LEMIS+ Project is part funded by the Northern Ireland European Social Fund 2014 - 2020 Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme



BRIDGES SEWING

Mon - Fri 1.00pm - 3.00pm
 Curtain Making, Formal Dresses, Alterations Etc.
Ashton Centre
5 Churchill Street
Belfast, BT15 2BP
Tel: 90742255



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Community Outrage

Housing Redevelopment Halted



Continued from page 1

Barracks and North Queen St. Barracks sites where social housing schemes are being constructed, contractors there have also been intimidated for money by criminal gangs. A clear pattern has emerged with different groups, each claiming to be republican, and each competing with the other, attempting to impose their will on the local community. Their activities have included the so called 'taxing' of alleged drug dealers. The media has reported that a number of people have already been shot, beaten and exiled for refusing to share their drug monies with the gangs.

Lining Their Pockets

Various press sources have also reported that the money from such activities doesn't go into charitable things like drug rehabilitation schemes or anything like that but instead it helps to line the pockets of the gang members. Their various protection rackets also include the taking over of security at building sites. It is believed that in the past some of the people associated with some of these groups have encouraged young people to build bonfires and to riot and destroy their own community. However more recently young people involved in building bonfires have been threatened by armed groups.

Republicans?

Whilst the various gangs operate under extravagant

republican labels and titles many people are left wondering what is remotely republican about their activities. Indeed they appear to be no different from other criminal gangs that have persecuted working class communities in places such as Dublin. People in Protestant working class areas of Belfast know full well how their communities have also been undermined by gangsters using the cover of so called loyalism to try and justify their criminality.

Housing Shortage and Inequality

For decades there has been acute housing shortage and stress in areas like the New Lodge with many people living in poor conditions. These problems are exacerbated by the nature of life in North Belfast where communities are highly segregated along religious and political lines and because of the lack of available land to build suitable new housing. This is made even worse again by inequalities in housing allocation which has impacted most severely on the Catholic community. For many years residents and community activists have campaigned for better housing and equal rights. However we are now entering a different kind of territory when those that claim to be republican are the ones that are denying their own community that basic right to housing. It is high time that such disgraceful anti-people activity was brought to an end.

Public Inquiry into York Street Interchange

The Public Inquiry into Belfast's York Street Interchange, commenced on Tuesday 10th November at the Fisherwick Place Assembly Buildings, Belfast. The Department of Regional Development's (DRD) planned upgrade to the motorway is estimated to cost between £125 and £165m and will take three to five years to construct. The scheme will directly impact on the New Lodge area. This includes road widening and associated works that will have considerable implications particularly for residents at North Queen Street, Little Georges Street and other nearby streets.

The proposed scheme has drawn criticism from various quarters including urban designers as well as community, environmental and other interest groups with 53 letters and emails received, the majority of these were objections.

Residents Attend Inquiry

Residents and community workers from the local area attended the Inquiry. This included Brenda Murphy and Lily Torbitt (Little Georges Street), Bernie Caughey (Molyneaux Street) Brendan Callan (Southwell Street) and Jason Heron (Thomas Street) all of whom raised various concerns including the scale of disruption, health and safety, privacy, noise and air pollution, right to light and proximity of added traffic lanes. The rights to compensation and mitigation measures for the wider community were also raised.

Brenda Murphy, "It is already a bit of a nightmare living beside the motorway with the noise, vibration and traffic fumes. It is often hard to get to sleep and when the wee ones are out in the back garden it can be scary for them with the sound of huge lorry's driving past."

Lily Torbitt, "Things will only get worse if the road is moved even closer to our homes. Our general quality of life will be badly affected and the value of people's homes will decline even further".

Bernie Caughey "The current plans for the Henry Street/York Street junction could result in the creation of an anti social behaviour hot spot if not properly redesigned. There can be no excuses if they get this wrong as we have repeatedly made them aware of our concerns".

Brendan Callan, "Many elderly residents in particular suffer from various breathing, heart and nervous disorders. With 3 – 5 years of disruption and noise during the road construction it's bound to make matters worse. All that we are asking is that our concerns are taken on board and local residents treated with respect".

Jason Heron, "The thing that struck me during the Inquiry was that DRD didn't spare any expense they had all sorts of highly paid technical and legal experts making their case. The only technical assistance that we as residents had was from Mark Hackett architect who provided his services free of charge. In



Members Of Residents Group Study Plans

fact the DRD experts took so long that I couldn't get speaking even though I had taken time of work to attend. The Inspector apologised and I accept it wasn't his fault".

Key Issues

Mark Hackett is a highly respected architect and urban designer who has been providing pro bono advice and assistance to local residents for the past year. Mark presented alternative road plans to the Inquiry. "DRDs proposed design does not address key physical and social issues. I genuinely believe that the alternative plans that I have presented to them could work, would minimise the negative impacts and vastly reduce costs. There has been a history of poor planning and design decisions resulting in severance, disconnection and exclusion for many urban neighbourhoods in places like inner North Belfast so if we are ever to improve the social and economic development of these communities then this pattern of flawed planning has to stop. Creating an appropriate design for this Interchange project which takes into full consideration the needs of local communities would be a good place to make a fresh start".

Inquiry Inspector Visits New Lodge

Following the closing of the Inquiry, the Inspector Jim Robb accompanied by DRD officials visited the homes of some residents in the area to see for himself the potential impacts should the scheme go ahead. He will now consider all the evidence put before him before he produces a report containing his findings sometime in the New Year.

Paul O'Neill acts as Chairperson for the residents group, "I would like to applaud the efforts of our residents group over the past year or more. A lot of work went into this including regular meetings, lobbying, writing submissions as well as making preparation for this Inquiry and I believe that we have made a very strong case on behalf of our community. Whether or not we have been taken seriously or not is yet to be seen, however we sincerely hope that we have had some positive influence".

Inner North Youth Platform - Update

In September our Inner North Youth Platform, attended a team-building and planning residential in Todd's Leap, Co. Tyrone. The Inner North Youth Platform is a group of 14 young people, aged 13-17, all from different communities across Inner North Belfast. The purpose for this trip was to do some planning for the future. The main goal for the Inner North Youth Platform will be to deliver an event for young people from north Belfast; to discuss issues they face, challenge these issues and make changes. During this residential the team discussed issues that they & other young people in their community face, ideas of activities & workshops

related to this – that can then be used at their 'consultation' style event for young people.

The group have currently been working on a qualification that, when completed, will give them a Level 1 Award in Peer Mentoring for Young People. This qualification will equip the young people with everything they need to be a peer mentor. Also along with this they have learned transferable life skills that they can use throughout their lives, in school, in youth/community centres, at work etc. It is great to see young people taking a step to help themselves and other people.

In partnership with Loughview Community Action Partnership (LCAP), Orla Hawkins New Lodge Arts

Ashton Community Bursaries



Ashton Salutes Community Volunteers

The sixth Annual Ashton Community Bursary Awards took place on Wednesday 25th of November 2015. The scheme is designed to provide assistance to other community led projects where there is clear evidence of voluntary input and where access to mainstream funding sources is very limited or non-existent. Representatives from 16 local groups attended the ceremony at the McSweeney Centre in Henry Place where they were presented with cheques. In the past six years Ashton Community Trust has now granted over 80 Community Bursaries to a wide range of volunteer community organisations from the local area. So far this has amounted to around £36,000. John Fleming is a Director on the Board of Ashton Community Trust,

“It is an honour to be able to acknowledge the great work of the many community volunteers that give up their time on behalf of local people in the Greater New Lodge. We at the Ashton Community Trust know how difficult it is to sustain this work particularly without regular funding so we are delighted to be in a position to help these groups through

providing them with some direct financial assistance”.

The groups that received bursaries this year were;

- Belfast Kronk Boxing Club
- Community Christmas Party Committee
- Dockers ABC
- Families at The Waterworks
- Greater New Lodge Safer Streets Committee
- Newington ABC
- Newington FC
- New Lodge Commemoration Committee.
- New Lodge Housing Forum
- North Belfast United FC
- O Neill Allsopp Memorial Flute Band
- Pearses GAC
- Saint Patrick's FC
- Saint Patrick's Parent Teacher Association
- Star ABC
- TAHMI

Family Support Hub

In April 2015, Ashton Community Trust was awarded the lead for the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub. The Family Support Hub opened for referrals on the 24th August 2015. Since August the Hub has received over 30 referrals for family support services for families living in the New Lodge, Duncairn, Waterworks, Castleview and Bellvue areas. The referrals have come in from a range of sources, some families have called into the Ashton Centre and completed a referral form themselves, schools have

referred families as have GP's, community organisations and youth groups. Families are requesting a range of support to include, counselling, parenting support, one to one family support within the home, advice and support with managing children's behaviour. The Hub has over 30 organisations signed up to deliver services to families living in the catchment areas.

If you would like more information about the Lower North Family Support Hub contact Christine Mckeown at the Ashton Centre 028 90742255 or Edith McManus, Hub Co-ordinator 028 90 749986



Winter Fest Events 2015



Date	Info	Venue
Saturday 5th December	General Church Sale - many pre-loved items and bric a brac	Fortwilliam & Macrory Presbyterian Church, Antrim Road, Belfast @ 10am - 12noon
Saturday 5th December	Christmas Event	Duncairn Community Centre 6 - 8pm
Sunday 6th December	Christmas Fair	Cliftonville Community Centre, 60 - 64 Manor Street, 1 - 4pm
Sunday 6th December	Santa on the Vintage Bus	Cliftonville Community Centre, 1 - 3pm the same day
Monday 7th December	Cross Community Carol Service, with pupils from Holy Family Primary School & Currie Primary School	11am - 12noon Cityside Mall, Yorkgate.
Tuesday 8th to Thursday 10th December	New Lodge Arts will spread some Christmas cheer by taking the Event Management Team to do some Care Home Visits.	Various Centres across North Belfast @ 6 - 7.30pm
Friday 11th December	New Lodge Arts Charity Coffee Morning - The money raised will go to St Vincent De Paul	Culture Shop - Next to New Lodge Arts @ 10am - 2pm
Friday 11th December	Events for All are holding their annual Santa's Grotto. This is a free family event. Come along and see Santa and his reindeer. Includes refreshments, photograph Christmas Cards and Christmas craft workshops.	Macrory Church @ 2pm - 6pm
Saturday 12th December	New Lodge Arts presents a Christmas Panto: Buddy The Elf	Duncairn Arts Centre (174 Trust) @ 2.30pm. Tickets are £3 and are available from New Lodge Arts office.
Saturday 12th December	Artisan Christmas Market. This will feature 35 stalls with artisan crafts, handmade goods, local foods and homebaked goodies. Contact Veronica Holland 07795 164 059.	Fortwilliam and Macrory Presbyterian Church, Antrim Road, Belfast, @ 10am - 4pm
Saturday 12th December	New Lodge Arts presents a Christmas Panto: Buddy The Elf	Duncairn Arts Centre (174 Trust) @ 7.30pm. Tickets are £3 and are available from New Lodge Arts office.
Saturday 12th December	TASCIT Christmas Party, come along and meet Santa and join in the various activities on offer.	1 - 4pm Hillview Retail Car Park, Crumlin Road
Sunday 13th December	New Lodge Arts presents a Christmas Panto: Buddy The Elf	Duncairn Arts Centre (174 Trust) @ 2.30pm. Tickets are £3 and are available from New Lodge Arts office.
Monday 14th December	Carols For All, a carol service for all the community. This service of Christmas music and readings will feature local schools, musicians from the City of Belfast School of Music and Cavehill Community Choir. Rev Chris Hudson will be the guest speaker, with the offering for NICRAS (Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers). Contact Robert Briscoe 07762 762 884	Fortwilliam and Macrory Presbyterian Church, Antrim Road, Belfast - 7.30pm
Saturday 19th December	Christmas Party: Come along and visit Santa and receive a photo and a gift. This includes arts & crafts workshops and much more.	New Lodge Youth Centre 1 - 4pm
Sunday 20th December	Carols by Candlelight. The guest speaker is Glenn Jordan - broadcaster, author and Director of the Law Centre NI. Contact Robert Briscoe 07762 762 884	Fortwilliam and Macrory Presbyterian Church, Antrim Road, Belfast @ 7pm

Community Christmas Party

Every Christmas time local community and youth workers and volunteers in the Greater New Lodge area are busy organising activities within the area that allow people of all ages to come together to celebrate the festive period. One such event is the Annual Community Christmas Party organised by a collective of people from different local groups. Paul O'Neill of the Ashton Community Trust is Chairperson of the Christmas Party Steering Committee, "Given the expense that parents are put to at this time of year we know that every little bit helps. So in organising this Christmas Party each year we ensure that everything is free of charge including selection boxes, photo with Santa, food, refreshments and all games and activities. The party seems to attract bigger crowds each year so it is really, really important that all children are accompanied by their parents or an adult guardian. We hope that people will once again turn out in big numbers and enjoy a great day".

This year's Christmas Party will be on Saturday 19th December from 1.00 – 4.00 at New Lodge Youth Centre in Upper Meadow Street. For Health and Safety Reasons ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR AN ADULT GUARDIAN.

The Steering Committee would like to thank Ashton Community Trust, Newington Housing Association, Feile An Phobail, Clanmil Housing Association and Newington Credit Union for their generous financial assistance.



Christmas Party 2015

Ashton Community Trust

Santa, Photo & Gift
Saturday 19th December
1pm – 4pm

New Lodge Youth Centre
Upper Meadow Street

Free Family Event
 Christmas Masks,
 Face Painting, Christmas
 Decorations, Make Your Own
 Reindeer, Balloon Making,
 Music, Magic Show

Children Must Be Accompanied By An adult.
 For further information please contact:
 Paul O'Neill: 028 90 74 22 55

Logos for Ashton Community Trust, Newington Housing Association, Feile an Phobail, CEP, and Clanmil are visible at the bottom.

Harbourview Multi – Sports Project

As part of its commitment to increasing access to much needed services for residents of Harbourview Apartments in Sailortown, Clanmil Housing was delighted to announce the launch of its Multi-Sports Programme. The first 2 hour session took place on the 17th November and was attended by 25 young people.

Activities on offer included dodge ball, 5 a side football and street games. The next session will include table tennis, basket ball and badminton. Local resident Charlene Fryers said that "It was great to see the young people of the area involved in some organised activities, our children can only benefit from such projects".

The programme, which is funded through Sports NI, will run for 6 weeks and is open to all young people who live in and around Harbourview.

Clanmil's Community Cohesion Officer, Gerard Rosato, said; "This Multi-Sports Programme forms part of a bigger plan to involve the young people of Harbourview in a range of youth activities and to make links with the New Lodge Youth Centre".



Belfast City Council- Home safety

Book a home safety check

We offer free home safety checks for all residents within our electoral area.

The checks offer tips on all aspects of home safety, as well as specialist advice on topics like heating and energy saving.

A room-by-room inspection usually takes around 30 minutes and our advisors can:

- show you the potential risk areas in your home
- carry out minor repairs or modifications, free of charge
- arrange for safety equipment to be delivered to your home
- refer you for a free smoke alarm installation.

You can apply for a home safety check by filling in an application form:

- Download home safety check application form for families from Belfast City Council website.

Please return the completed form to us at: envhealth@belfastcity.gov.uk



Belfast Help at Home Service

If you are over 65 you can request a free home safety check, and avail of our Help at Home Service. We've worked with the Public Health Agency and Bryson Energy to develop this scheme which offers reduced handy-person repair rates and a selection of free "helping-hand" aids and equipment (subject to stock availability).

The handy-person may be able to carry out tasks such as

- fitting curtain rails
- door repairs
- fitting door-chains
- clearing paths
- fixing floor boards
- changing light bulbs

In the winter months they can also lay salt to prevent slips.

The reduced handy-person repair rates depend on each person's circumstances.

Eligibility group	Charges
Those aged 65 and over Home safety check only	Free
Those aged 65 and over in receipt of benefits- Home safety check and repairs	Free home safety check £5.00 per hour for repairs
Those aged 65 and over and not in receipt of benefits- Home safety check and repairs	Free home safety check £15.00 per hour for repairs
All materials to be supplied by the occupant. General items such as glue, nails and sandpaper will be provided free of charge	

You can email handyman@brysonenergy.org, or freephone 0800 14 22 865

NORTH BELFAST LANTERN PARADE AND MAGICAL FESTIVAL



Community Pride

The North Belfast Lantern Parade is part of the North Belfast Community Pride Programme which is funded through OFMDFM's Good Relations Programme and led by Ashton Community Trust. This programme is delivered by New Lodge Arts and supported by a steering group of various North Belfast based youth and community organisations. Other funders for this project include Belfast City Council, and Department of Foreign Affairs.

The North Belfast Lantern Parade and Magical Festival took place this year on Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th October in the Waterworks Park. During the day there was a range of activities involving music, magic show, circus performances and visual art workshops.

Community Outreach

The outreach programme for the lantern parade began in September. A total of 14 local schools/afterschools, 30 community groups and 3 open workshops were held during this period. Overall there were over 1,000 young people that got involved in the outreach programme in preparation for the parade.

Lantern Parade

The parade itself left Crumlin Road Gaol, went along Cliftonpark Avenue, down Cliftonville Road and up the Antrim Road into the Waterworks Park. There were approximately 700 children and adults taking part in this fabulous carnival parade along with performers from The Beat, In Your Space, and Arts Ekta.

Magical Evening

The Magical Evening in the Waterworks Park was filled with interactive performers, visual arts workshops, street theatre performers and a range of musicians. The night would not be complete without finishing off with a fabulous fire works display. The whole event was an excellent example of communities working together to promote good relations and maximise the use of shared space whilst being a great showcase for the positive contribution children and young people make to our communities.

New Lodge Arts

Cecilia Heron Good Relations Arts Worker for New Lodge

Arts said. "We are delighted at how our festival went this year. Over the two days we had approximately 4,000 people attend the Waterworks Park. Our Under The Sea theme worked really well this year and the range of artwork on display within the park was absolutely beautiful. Everyone seemed to have an enjoyable time". The feedback has been fantastic and we are delighted with the number of schools and community groups that took part in our outreach programme." I would like to extend my thanks to our staff, artists, volunteers, schools, community pride steering group members and the participants of our North Belfast Lantern Parade and Magical Festival.



Culture Night

New Lodge Arts

Culture Night is Belfast biggest cultural celebration with over 30,000 people attending this year's event on Friday 18th September 2015.

For this year's event, New Lodge Arts staged a Physical Theatre performance with the participants from the Acting Up Summer Camp programme. The performance was staged in Bouys Park.

The piece was devised by a group of young people from North Belfast and Newtownabbey who worked with local drama tutor Sean Mullan and was based on a range of youth issues, good relations and culture.

Anne Delaney from New Lodge Arts said 'This was an intense and exciting performance that pushed the boundaries of youth theatre. The project brought



together young people from different backgrounds and has a positive impact on building good relations.' New Lodge Arts Academy run a variety of youth art projects across North Belfast. For more information on our projects, please get in touch with Anne Delaney anne@newlodgearts.com or via www.facebook.com/nlarts

EU Commission and DEL Minister Visit Ashton

In an important endorsement of the work being carried out by the Training and Employment unit in Ashton Community Trust we were visited by a high level delegation including Department of Employment Minister Dr Stephen Farry and Mr Zoltán Kazatsay Deputy Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission.

The Minister and Director General visited the Fablab and spoke to clients currently involved in a design course and then visited the Jobclub where they launched the Northern Ireland ESF Project Directory. Minister Farry congratulated Ashton Community Trust on the Lemis+ project and said that he was particularly delighted that Ashton had not only been able to continue the good work carried out under previous Lemis projects but actually managed to expand the project by building a city wide partnership to deliver employment services. Mr Kazatsay also commended the project for their work and said that he was particularly impressed with the fact though the project was only 7 months old the partnership had already recruited over 1400 people and got over 340 into employment

Mr Katzatsay also spoke about future European funding and we hope that this visit will be one small part of building the case for continued funding so that we can provide much needed services for the people of North Belfast.



Dr Stephen Farry and Mr Zoltán Kazatsay with Paul Roberts in the Ashton Centre with FabLab participant Carla Maguire

NORTH BELFAST CHRISTMAS PANTO

New Lodge Arts

Auditions for our fourth North Belfast Christmas Panto took place the week commencing 19th October 2015. Auditions were held in 5 North Belfast venues to a total of 61 participants. Cecilia Heron Good Relations Arts Worker for New Lodge Arts said, "We had a high number of young people attend auditions this year. The talent as always was extremely high and after much consideration the artistic team have decided on 34 young people to take part. We are extremely excited about the Christmas Panto this year. Our young people have been working very hard with a new artistic team to bring you a Panto that is fit to be performed in the Grand Opera House. I am very proud of each young person for fully committing to this project and cannot wait to see them shine on stage."

There will be three showcases of our Christmas Panto Buddy The Elf in Duncairn Arts Centre (174 Trust) on Saturday 12th at 2.30pm & 7.30pm and Sunday 13th December at 2.30pm. Tickets cost £3 each and are available from New Lodge Arts office. Entry is by ticket only and all children must be accompanied by an adult. New Lodge Arts is a project of Ashton Community Trust.

New Lodge Arts Presents
Buddy The Elf
Duncairn Arts Centre (174 Trust)
 Saturday 12th December at 2.30pm & 7.30pm
 Sunday 13th December at 2.30pm

Contact - Cecilia Heron
 New Lodge Arts on 02890742255
 cecilia.heron@ashtoncentre.com

Tickets are available from
 New Lodge Arts office. Cost £3 each.
 All children must be accompanied
 by an adult.

Logos for Lottery Funded, Belfast City Council, Children in Need, OFMDFM, NDCP, and Tudor Trust are visible at the bottom.

Nine Nights

New Lodge Arts were delighted to be involved in Arts Ektas project – Nine Nights festival inspired by Diwali, the Indian Festival of Light. Produced by award winning outdoor arts experts Walk the Plank, Nine Nights is a captivating story of hope inspired by an ancient Indian myths and legends. We follow the devastation of a land torn apart by war and ruled by fear, only to be overcome by a true warrior goddess in an epic battle of good over evil. Staged across Belfast City Centre, Nine Nights took place on Saturday 24th October where family audiences will be immersed in a visually thrilling experience of music, dance, live theatrical narration, fiery pyrotechnics, light projections and sumptuous special effects as hundreds of community participants, dancers and musicians join together in the spirit of storytelling and contemporary celebration. Nisha Tandon, Director of ArtsEkta said the story which inspired Nine Nights is a much-loved classic, "even if you are completely unfamiliar with Indian culture" the festival would still have widespread appeal. The evening began with an 800-strong costumed procession departing from Custom House Square and making its way to Belfast City Hall that was specially lit up for the festival. The grounds of city hall were packed for the show which included original music, Indian dancers, lighting effects and dramatic pyrotechnics.



goalsuk CIC
 inspire : motivate : engage

Motivational & Personal Development Training
 Let the Lemis+ Project help you
 Contact a Mentor at the Ashton Centre on: 02890 742 255

Logos for European Union, Department for Employment and Learning, Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, and Belfast City Council are visible at the bottom.

New Lodge Youth Centre Jordan Exchange Programme



International Connections

Two staff and four young leaders from New Lodge Youth Centre and the North Belfast United Youth Programme took part in an International Exchange in Jordan from the 13th to the 22nd November. They were part of an international group of 25 young leaders from Ireland, Jordan, France, Czech Republic and Egypt who came together to participate in the Sim City Youth Exchange Project delivered by the Youth Spirit Centre and funded by Euromed. The aim of the exchange was to develop strategies for implementing simulation as an educational tool with young people across language and cultural barriers. Simulation enables young people to listen to the issue presented and respond with solutions that they can then try out and learn from the outcome. The group also discussed how issues affecting young people could be addressed through a youth Parliament and intercultural communication and created a vision of a world where the young people had to think for themselves and take charge.

Experiencing Other Cultures

The group had an experience of a life time first time. Daniel White said, "In travelling to Jordan I have had many new experiences. I was very nervous before I arrived in Jordan because it was my first time doing a youth exchange and also my first time outside of Europe. Visiting historical sites and the Dead Sea was the highlight of the training for me. It has been a good experience; one I will never forget and I want to thank Mary and Louise from New Lodge Youth Centre for giving me this opportunity."

Declan McCormick said, "Before I visited Jordan I felt scared about visiting the country and cautious about travelling to it. I have never been to this part of the world and it is also my first time doing anything like this but with Mary and Louise reassuring me and others in the group helping me I am glad I made the trip it has been a life changing experience."

Cassy O'Shaughnessy said "My experience in Jordan has been amazing. It wasn't at all what I expected. I got a complete culture shock however it has been brilliant. I have met people from all over the world and got to experience their culture and religions. The sightseeing has been unreal. Jordan is a completely different place to Belfast and I hope to be involved in many projects like this in the future."

Aisling Allsopp said "Before arriving in Jordan I was very nervous due to all the issues going on in the Middle East but I was also very excited because I love travelling and taking part in international exchanges. I have loved my time in Jordan and I have loved meeting new people and visiting the historical sites. I want to thank Mary and Louise for this experience."



Young People and Staff from New Lodge Youth Centre

New Lodge Youth Centre Latest News

Gender Equality Training, Jordan 2015: Sinead McKenna

On the 2nd November I was given the opportunity to represent New Lodge Youth Centre in Amman Jordan as part of Euro Med and Youth Spirit's Centre's training course on Gender Equality. This training brought together youth workers from six different countries to discuss and look at different methods that we as youth workers can use when discussing gender equality issues with the young people we work with. The training was very effective and encouraged me to explore gender issues. While in Jordan I was able to network with different organisations around the world and as part of the course we had to come up with a new project looking at issues that young people face. The programmes that my group came up with looked at how in conflict and post conflict countries we as youth workers can have a positive impact on young people. I feel this will be a fantastic and worthwhile programme that we are hoping will take place mid 2016. The most challenging thing I found in Jordan was communication as not everyone spoke English so for me I had to actively listen and also slow down my own speech as being from Belfast I speak very fast which people from here will know can be a challenge in itself. Jordan is a beautiful country. While there we travelled to the Dead Sea which you actually float in. This amazed me. I also tried a lot of different traditional foods; some which were lovely and some not so nice but the cultural experience was fantastic.

Building Walls Breaking Walls, Cork 2015: Louie Maguire and Jamie White

In August Louie and I had the opportunity to represent the youth centre in a cultural exchange in Cork. The project involved young people from Israel, Palestine, Ireland and Switzerland. While they were from different countries and religions they had one thing in common - their communities were divided by walls. During this programme we discussed the reason behind the walls and gave our own personal experiences on this. We took part in building a wall on Cape Clear Island off the coast of Cork. This wall was for agriculture purposes. This experience was brilliant as we got to meet new people and also being from an interface area we got to tell our stories and also hear other people's stories. We had to challenge ourselves to get up early and build a wall but seeing the wall in the end was our motivation to keep going.

Swim Around the City

A group of young people from the youth centre have been participating in a Swim Around the City project for the past eight weeks. During their project they have visited swimming centres around Belfast looking at their good points, what they didn't enjoy about the centres and also what they would change. This has improved the young people's confidence and also they have learnt about different areas of Belfast while also getting healthy through physical activity.

Building Walls Breaking Walls, Switzerland 2015: Rebecca Service and Jamie White



In August Jamie and I travelled to Grenchenberg Switzerland to participate in a cultural exchange on the impact "Peacewalls" have on young people who live in countries with them. During this exchange we met new people from Palestine, Israel, Switzerland and Ireland. We tried new food, embraced new traditions and faced challenges such as long hikes every day to build a dry stone wall. This exchange was both educational and rewarding and we would recommend it to anyone. We have made friends for life. It really was an experience of a life time.

Cookery

Over the past few months we have been busy getting settled in to our new kitchen by making yummy treats with the young people. They have been enjoying making different things from healthy option foods like fruit skewers, fruit salad and smoothies to some tasty sweet treats such as raspberry ruffles, cake pops and buns. The young people are also learning the importance of hygiene and also how to cook on a budget.

The Macrory Church Halls



The Macrory Church Halls on Hillman Street have been recently renovated with funding support from Belfast City Council's Local Investment Fund and Ulster Garden Villages. The vision inspiring the renovation was that this building, which forms part of the interface barrier, would be an attractive community hub for residents from both the New Lodge and the Duncairn area, and known as the Macrory Centre.

Working In Community Partnership

Fortwilliam & Macrory Presbyterian, who own the Halls, recognise their limited capacity in managing the Centre single-handedly. It is also their belief that they could better serve the wider community, if the Centre's management is shared with local community representatives. A partnership has therefore been growing between the church and local stakeholders like the Ashton Centre, Star Neighbourhood Centre, Lighthouse, and the Community Health Partnership over the past 18 months.

Celebratory Event

On Friday 27th November, the Macrory Centre marked its re-opening with a celebratory event, which created an opportunity for local groups and residents to connect across the divide through food, storytelling, music and song. If you would like to find out more about how to get involved please contact Richard Higginson: Richard@fmpci.com, 07402513432.

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Belfast Works
LEMIS Project



RECYCLING INFORMATION



As many of you will have noticed Belfast City Council has had a presence in your area since the recycling boxes and food waste recycling system was introduced. A major part of this has been the presence of recycling education officers knocking on doors and calling at schools and community groups. These visits are essential in getting across the changes that have happened to your bin collections and the additional services that you can get from your council.

Though, to be successful, we need the support of the community to ensure a lasting impact. Recycling may seem like an unnecessary chore but it has many lasting benefits to both your community and Belfast as a whole. Recycling saves money that is reinvested in your community. And recent studies have indicated that more recycling and reuse can create well paid jobs covering a range of differing skills, from fitters to plumbers to electrical engineers to catering.

When Recycling Advisers are in your area, they are there to help, please ask them if you have any issue with your bins or recycling boxes. We can help get replacement recycling boxes and ensure you know how best to use them.

We really need you to help with recycling and not just the obvious stuff like paper and plastics but with food waste, by using your kitchen caddies and green food waste bin. Food waste not collected for composting can still end up in landfills causing smells and greenhouses gases leading to climate change. But it also costs you at the till as well. We will be running a number of workshops for community groups on how best to reduce your food bill, providing simple recipes for using leftovers. Please contact us on 0800 032 8100 for more information.

As Christmas approaches we will start to have extra packaging and wrapping paper and this can put a strain on your bins. Big pieces of cardboard can easily take up all the space in your recycling boxes but Alexandra Park Recycling Centre of Alexandra Park Avenue has all you need to safely dispose of excess waste and recycling. By using this site you will have less recycling and waste to store with the added benefit of cleaner streets in the New Lodge area.

Ashton Lead £8.5 Million Project to Help Hundreds of Belfast Citizens Into Work

City Hall Launch

The launch of the Belfast Works LEMIS+ project took place on Tuesday 24th November in Belfast City Hall. The LEMIS+ Project is a partnership of employment service providers working collectively to deliver an employability project right across Belfast City. The Ashton Community Trust is the lead partner in the project. The project seeks to target those most removed from the labour market and get them back into employment. Speaking at the launch the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Arder Carson said “Belfast City Council is pleased to support the Lemis+ project in bringing services to the most deprived areas of our city. In a recent consultation the citizens of Belfast put employment as one of their top priorities and this project will help fulfill that need”.



Paul Roberts and Pat Boyle with Lord Mayor political reps and DEL officials

Ashton Mentors

There is a team of 11 Mentors based in North Belfast providing 1-2-1 support to individuals either in-house or in over 25 outreach centres. These highly skilled LEMIS+ Project Mentors offer careers, education and training advice/guidance and give people the support they need to progress into employment.



Joe Doherty



Ciara Stanton

Job Opportunities

For more information contact a mentor at the Ashton Centre on: 02890 742 255

Admin	Hospitality
Catering	Production
Call Centres	Sales & Retail
Care Work	Warehousing
Construction	And many more...

The Lemis+ Project is part funded by the Northern Ireland European Social Fund 2014 - 2020 Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme

European Union
European Social Fund
Northern Ireland

Department for
Employment and Learning
www.delni.gov.uk

Office of the
First Minister and
Deputy First Minister
www.ofmni.gov.uk

Belfast
City Council

In addition to the team of mentors the project also offers free training in a range of subjects including ICT, Childcare, Employability and Health and Social Care. New courses are added all the time and we will also be running pre employments which are training courses arranged directly with employers that normally offer an interview at the end. The project also has an Employment Liaison Service which seeks to match up Lemis+ clients seeking jobs with employers seeking staff.

Local Success

Speaking at the event Lemis+ client Ciara Stanton said “A year ago I was made redundant and was worrying about supporting my two young children. I joined the Lemis+ project and began working with one of the Mentors from the Ashton Centre Joe Doherty. He spotted a job which he thought I would be ideal for. The application form was daunting and without Joe’s help I am not sure I would have submitted it. I got an interview and Joe helped me by doing a mock interview and going over all the areas I should mention. I got the job and now can look forward to a great Christmas with my kids.”

If you want further information about the Lemis+ project please contact Kevin Donaghy 90322289 kevin.donaghy@ashtoncentre.com

Newington Credit Union Wins Social Enterprise Award 2015 Impact in your Community

Social Enterprise NI hosted the 2015 Social Enterprise awards on Thursday 22 October, at the Dunadry Hotel, Antrim and Newington Credit Union was awarded the Social Impact of the Year award. The award of Social Impact represents that an enterprise that can truly demonstrate and communicate their impact with their stakeholders.

Newington Credit Union is a not for profit, financial cooperative established in 1967 in Duncairn Gardens, located on the Antrim Road. People in the local community can avail of a safe place to save as well as obtaining loans.

People who work or live in the common bond of the BT15 area and some other areas, can join this credit union. Member's savings provide the memory to lend to other members. Members benefit because any surplus money generated is returned to members as a dividend or as a loan interest rebate.

Alternatively, the surplus can be used to provide enhanced services to members.

During 2015, Newington Credit Union has also successfully amalgamated with two other credit unions – Loughside and Greencastle. This amalgamation means that members can now use any of the three locations to conduct their transactions.

Newington Credit Union has been committed to combatting bad debt as well as teaching our younger generation the importance of saving and borrowing responsibly. For several years, Newington Credit Union



Newington's Mairead Gallagher Margaret Walsh

has been visiting schools and charities to promote the idea of thrift.

Paul Holbrook, a founder member of Newington Credit Union came up with the idea of helping those who went on to higher education. From this idea, the 3rd Level Bursary was implemented. This scheme means that every year, 10 lucky applicants can receive up to £1200 throughout their studies.

Juliet Cornford, Director of Social Enterprise NI said "Newington Credit Union are one of the best examples of how using your profit for community benefit has impact. Their 48 year history provided an entire community the ability to save and borrow responsibly. This is the kind of story that really helps the public to understand what Newington Credit Union does for their community and the social impact they have. A very worthy winner of the 2015 NI Social Impact of the year".

Newington Credit Union
239-247 Duncairn Gardens
BT15 2GF
028 9035 1040

Loughside Branch
208 -210 North Queen St
BT15 3DG
028 9074 9432

Greencastle Branch
852-856 Shore Road
BT36 7DG
028 9077 5627

Belfast Works
LEMIS Project

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Why not sign up for our
ECDL Essentials Course
12 Week Course

Modules include:
IT user fundamentals
Using Email and the Internet
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Contact a Mentor on: 02890 742 255



The Lemsis project is part funded by the Northern Ireland European Social Fund 2014 - 2020 Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme.



facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust



Ashton Community Trust has a Like Page on Facebook, where we will post information on a regular basis about all of the Trust's services, please like the page to be kept updated.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



Sow Wild

Pupils from St. Patrick's Primary School's Garden Club, residents, and young people and youth workers from New Lodge Youth Centre have been busy developing a community garden at Dawson Street in to a wild flower haven. The Sow Wild New Lodge Community Garden Project received funding from Grow Wild. Supported by the Big Lottery Fund and led by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Grow Wild aims to inspire communities, friends, neighbours and individuals to come together to transform local spaces, by sowing, growing and enjoying native wild flowers. Katrina Newell from New Lodge Youth Centre, Ashton Community Trust said "We are delighted with the project and how the garden has developed. It was great to get to know local residents through the project and see all generations within the community get involved. We are

looking forward to seeing the fruits of our labour as the garden blossoms in Spring."

Stéphanie Baine, Grow Wild's Northern Ireland Partnership Manager said "We have a great line up of community projects across Northern Ireland of which Sow Wild is a great example. Grow Wild is all about bringing people together to brighten up their spaces, and that is precisely what is happening here."



Dawson Street Community Garden



Kinderkids Daycare: High Quality Childcare, Local & Professional

Kinderkids Daycare is a department of Ashton Community Trust that was established in 2000 as a social enterprise. Since then, Kinderkids has expanded in response to local need and now operates three childcare centres in North Belfast from Carlisle Circus to the Cliftonville Road. This long history of providing high quality childcare services means we understand that choosing the right childcare for your child is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Kinderkids wants to support you in making this decision and invite you to visit us at any of our childcare centres.



The aim of Kinderkids Daycare is:

To provide high quality childcare services to children, thereby supporting their development and improving parent's access to education, training, employment and family support services.

Kinderkids operates 50 weeks per year from 8am - 6pm and caters for children from birth to 12 years.



Play & Early Learning

Kinderkids understands that play is paramount to a child, has a purpose and is a step towards the learning and understanding of valuable skills.

At Kinderkids Daycare we implement the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) for children aged 0 to 5. The EYFS ensures that children are supported in their learning and development. The EYFS comprises of four main themes;

- A Unique Child
- Positive Relationships
- Enabling Environments
- Learning & Development

For more information, contact us at:

Kinderkids Ashton Centre - Manager: Wenda McNeill
Telephone: 028 90742255 Email: wenda.mcneill@ashtoncentre.com

Kinderkids Cliftonville - Manager: Fionnuala Black
Telephone: 028 90 749146 Email: fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com

Kinderkids McSweeney Centre - Manager: Sharon Rooney
Telephone: 028 90 333966 Email: sharon.rooney@ashtoncentre.com

Or call into any of our 3 Daycares



Star Neighbourhood Centre

The Star Neighbourhood Centre's Annual General Meeting took place 30th of October 2015 marking 25 years of service in the local New Lodge community. The organisation has developed immensely over the past 25 years and is not only a community development organisation and service provider but a small sized employment provider in the local area, currently employing 10 paid staff as well as a dedicated team of volunteers.

The Childcare services operate Monday to Friday morning and afternoons. The youth project continues to develop with increased participation of young people from across North Belfast. The senior citizens group continues to meet every Thursday evening where they enjoy a social evening or take part in organised programmes activities and events. Star's remit and scope for community development

and service delivery means that support for parents, women, and local residents, as well as the provision of training and educational opportunities, health, wellbeing and fitness programmes, continues to grow. Without doubt these are challenging times for us all. Recession, welfare reform and government policies continue to have a major impact on our communities and on the work of the Star. Currently the Star is still on stable ground but like others in the voluntary and community sectors, we face an uncertain future.

We believe quality services and provision is paramount to the success of the organisation and most importantly, being able to meet the needs of the local community. Many thanks to all who have helped the Star Neighbourhood Centre over the past years your support, time, advice and encouragement has been invaluable and a special thanks to our funders, big and small, it all matters.

Tommy Valente To Hang His Coat Up

Tommy Valente joined the Star in April 1999 on a 12 week government work program.

Tommy was the first and to date the only male childcare worker at the Star.

His first position was within the homework club every afternoon Monday – Friday.

Tommy settled in well and was a great hit with the children young people and staff.

When his work placement was completed Tommy stayed on as a volunteer and within a few months he became a paid full time worker at the Star.

As well as his stellar work at the Star Tommy was involved with a lot of other community activities. He carried out research into 'after school provision in the New Lodge area',

Along with others carried out a community audit of older people in the Greater New Lodge and was involved in a survey about access to local services for disabled people.

Tommy has manned many a bouncy castle, made many a school run and has maintained his sanity through many summer schemes. Now the time has come for Tommy to hang up his Star Coat.

Tommy will be sorely missed by everyone and we wish him all the best in his retirement.



Senior Citizens group

Star Neighbourhood Centre's Senior Citizens group have just finished an eight week older people's activity course. The course was delivered by the Healthy Living Centre and held in the Star. The aim of the programme was to demonstrate how healthy lifestyles are relevant and applicable to all ages. Congratulations to the women who received their certificates, they all had a great time and really enjoyed the course, especially the healthy food provided by Trish and Liz.



Stolen or Burnt Bins

There has been a noticeable increase in the numbers of wheelie bins being stolen or burnt in the local area over the past number of months. If you have been affected by this here are some guidelines.

Belfast City Council Guidelines

If you think your bin has been stolen, please contact the police. If it has been stolen or burnt as a result of antisocial behaviour, you may be entitled to a new bin free of charge.

You will need a PSNI reference number to order a new bin. Once you get this number, select the burnt or stolen option in the order a new bin online form.

Visit the Council website at www.belfastcity.gov.uk

- complete the order a new bin online form

If you need help, please phone us on 028 9027 0230.

Damaged bin

If you think your bin has been damaged by one of our lorries, we can investigate further.

To report a damaged bin

- complete the damaged bin online form; or
- phone us on 028 9027 0230.

If you think your bin has been deliberately damaged or vandalised you should report it to the police.

If the bin can't be used because of the damage you'll need to order a new bin. You will need a PSNI reference number to order a new bin. Once you get this number, select the burnt or stolen option in the order a bin online form.



Upcoming Events St Patrick's Primary School

Christmas Concert dates:



Year 1 Thursday 10th Dec 10A & 1CL @ 10am; 1MC & 1CB @ 1.00pm in Senior Site PE hall

Year 2 Wednesday 9th Dec @ 10am in Senior Site PE hall

Year 3 Prayer Service Friday 11th Dec in Junior Site PE hall

Year 4 - 7 Carol service in St Patrick's Church Wednesday 16th December @ 7.00pm

Open Day:

All new P1 pupils and their parents invited to Open Night on Monday 14th December from 7.00 - 8.00pm on Junior site and Tuesday 15th December from 9 .00am - 10.30am on Junior site.



Current Childcare Vacancies

Kinderkids aims to provide the highest quality childcare in an environment that is fun, exciting, nurturing and caring.

Features of the Childcare Service include

- Fully Registered with Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
- Social Economy Project
- High Quality Play and Learning environment
- Implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum
- Quality Assured
- Competitive Rates

Current Full & Part-time Childcare vacancies. Telephone to arrange a visit or to register a place for your child.

For further information contact Christine McKeown at the Ashton Centre on 90742255 or via email christine@ashtoncentre.com


Ashton Community Trust

High quality Daycare and After school services in North Belfast









O'Neill & Allsopp
Memorial Flute Band
New Lodge, Belfast
Now Open For New Members



Memorial Flute Band
New Lodge Road
Belfast

Are you interested in joining a Republican flute band?
No experience necessary. All tuition & instruments will be provided.
If you would like to know more, visit us on Facebook.

We practice every Thursday night in the Recy (North Queen Street Community Centre), New Lodge 7pm-9pm
Call in and have a chat or contact us on 079 122 746 47



United Youth Programme



Camping in the Great Outdoors

Richard Morrison, Sean Campbell, Caroline McCreight, Sean Breen, Paddy Doyle, Youth Leaders

The North Belfast United Youth Programme has been really busy ever since it started its schedule of activities, group work, mentoring and residential. Two groups of our young people spent 3 days canoeing and camping along the River Boyne and another two groups have just returned from a 3 day residential with East Coast Adventure Centre participating in team building and outdoor activities. Young people have been involved in a range of other activities including the 'Cook It Programme', Good Relations Workshops, Team Building, Gardening Project, Football Coaching and Mental Health Awareness Workshops. Participants on the programme have also been doing workshops that focus on homelessness in Belfast with some of the young people making soup and doing outreach work with the Welcome Centre. We also have young people who have completed or are currently completing a range of courses including OCN Level 2 Diversity in Society, Level 2 Prejudice and

Discrimination, OCN Level 2 Vocational Skills, OCN Level 2 in Youth Work and Essential Skills Maths and English. Declan McCormick and Daniel White are currently in Jordan with staff and young people from New Lodge Youth Centre as part of an international exchange which brings together young leaders from Israel, Palestine, UK, Ireland and Jordan to explore ways of engaging their peers in discussions and activities around cultural diversity. If you live in North Belfast, aged between 16-24yrs, not in education, employment or training and would love to get involved in the programme please contact:

Caroline Mc Creight
Co-ordinator

North Belfast United Youth Pilot Programme
Email: caroline.mccreight@ashtoncentre.com
Contact: 02895 609521
Mobile: 07802879828

Arsenal FC Visit New Lodge Youth Centre

New Lodge Youth Centre hosted an "Arsenal in the Community Project" when 3 football coaches from the Arsenal visited the Youth Centre. The Coaches spoke to local young people about their experiences of growing up in London and of playing football with various clubs in different countries around the world. They also talked about some of the struggles and barriers they faced growing up in working class London estates. In return they listened to the stories of the young people and encouraged them to make positive life choices and to contribute positivity to their community.

Two of the Arsenal Community Coaches worked with two local young people Patrick Downey and Pearse McVarnock and delivered coaching sessions in North Queen Street Park involving 60 young people in total. Those that took part in the sessions enjoyed the skill drills and were clearly excited to be playing alongside the experienced coaches of the mighty Arsenal FC. The sessions ended with a friendly football match and penalty shoot out with Henry Davey in nets, who it must be said, came under serious pressure from some of the young New Lodge Alexis Sanches and Theo Walcotts of the future. As acting coaches Patrick Downey and Pearse McVarnock did themselves and their clubs proud and showed great maturity and leadership on and off

the pitch.

There was also a friendly community football match that took place in Crusaders Football Pitch where Newstar FC took on Limestone United with both teams been captained by local young people who did an outstanding job.

All young people and youth work staff who took part in the coaching and football sessions were left very excited and motivated by the Arsenal Community coaches and have already plans to make this a bigger and better project while giving as many local young people development opportunities where possible.



Arsenal Coaches in North Queen Street Park

Mobility Issues in North Belfast

Researchers from the Institute for Conflict Research met with community workers from Greater New Lodge CEP at the Ashton Centre on 30th of October to discuss the rolling out of a research project into issues of movement, mobility and accessibility for people living in the North Belfast area including the New Lodge. The nature of the built environment and general outdoor space is of central importance in shaping or influencing the psychology, health, well-being and quality of life of people and communities. The following article provides an outline of what the research will focus on and if you are interested how you can participate. The research is being supported by the Open University, Queens University and Lancaster University.

The Belfast Mobility Project: Call for Research Participants

Are you interested in helping to improve the quality of life in your area?

Do you want to inform policy aimed at ensuring the city's public spaces can be enjoyed by all? Do you have a few minutes to answer a quick survey? And an Android smartphone?

If the answer is yes to the above, then we need your help!

In the coming months, the Belfast Mobility Project will kick off a study of North Belfast, which will examine how divisions between and among communities impact people's daily lives and activities. The study is aimed at helping make the city more inclusive and accessible to all. To this end, we'll be exploring the factors that impact movement through the urban environment. Why do you go where you go? Why are some areas more attractive than others?

Where and when do you feel most at home? What makes an area feel less friendly? What constraints limit your ability to move freely? A team of researchers from Queen's, the Open University, Lancaster University and the Institute for Conflict Research (ICR) are leading this study, which is funded by a public higher education research council.

Volunteering for the project is simple: First, you'll fill out a short survey about yourself, how you use and perceive a range of public spaces in your neighbourhood (such as streets, leisure centres, playing fields, the local shops), and how your relationship with (and perceptions of) others affects what places you visit or choose to avoid.

Once that's done, you'll have the option of participating in part two of the study, which involves downloading an app to your smartphone. The app will record your movements as you go about your daily activities outside of your home and in public spaces like parks and shops. All information it records will be anonymised, strictly confidential and can be withdrawn on your request. Your participation will assist us in determining patterns of use and avoidance that affect everyone in the neighbourhood and, as such, will help inform research and policy aimed at promoting a safer, more open Belfast for all.

If you're interested in participating or if you have further questions, please contact:

Bree Hocking (Open University): bryanna.hocking@open.ac.uk
019 0865 3015

Brendan Sturgeon (ICR): b.sturgeon@conflictresearch.org.uk
028 9074 2682

PIPS Charity

PIPS Charity delivers Suicide Prevention and Bereavement Support Services, Counselling and Therapies across Belfast and throughout Northern Ireland.

The organisation began, and very much remains, a community led organisation with a strong grass roots led ethos to suicide prevention and self-harm.

PIPS provide support to individuals who are considering, or who have at some point considered, ending their own lives. The charity supports families (either at home or at the premises on the Antrim Road in Belfast) who have lost someone to suicide. PIPS have a small dedicated team of paid staff and volunteers supporting those in need operating a 'no appointment' service. The Charity provides immediate support without delay whilst providing a gateway and referral mechanism to a range of other specialist services in addition to facilitating family peer support groups.

PIPS offer a range of high quality services which include:

- Counselling
- Alternative Therapies
- Crisis Support
- Befriending
- OCN Accredited Training
- Outreach counselling for over 65's
- Family support group

PIPS opening hours:

Monday 9am-9pm

Tuesday 9am-5pm

Wednesday 9am-9pm

Thursday 9am-5pm

Friday 9am-9pm

Saturday 2pm-6pm

Sunday 2pm-6pm

If you would like any further information on our service, please feel free to contact us at:

0800 088 6042

028 90 805 850

281 Antrim Road, Belfast,
BT15 2HE

www.pipscharity.com

info@pipscharity.com

Tar Isteach

In recent times Tar Isteach has suffered a number of serious set-backs in relation to funding. This included the ending of the European Peace III programme and a dramatic U Turn by some Belfast City Council parties to veto previously agreed contingency funding following a motion proposed by the SDLP and supported by the DUP, Unionist Party, Alliance and Greens. All of this has led to tremendous pressure on staff to maintain the Republican Ex-Prisoner Support project and the services it provides.

Widespread Community Support

Yet despite all of this its vital services have been kept in place. Thanks to the voluntary efforts of staff who continued to work without pay, and backed by tremendous community support including donations and sponsorships, the doors at 244 Antrim Road have remained open to the public. Tar Isteach manager, Tommy Quigley said, "The message from the community has been simple, "YOU WON'T CLOSE OUR SERVICES". This spirit of community solidarity has been exemplified in initiatives such as the Tar Isteach sponsored walk entitled, "Divis to Cavehill Challenge". 56 people turned up on Saturday morning the 19th of September to do the sponsored walk. As a result approximately £12,000 was raised which will help cover running costs and overheads for the coming months. To each and every one who participated in the walk and who donated we would like to give a personal thank you. The overall response from the community to the threat to our services has been truly heart-warming. Every donation received is greatly appreciated and has added strength to our campaign to retain these vital community services. Very notably this has also included support from people living in loyalist communities that have used our welfare services. You can be assured that whatever community you come from, when the Welfare Cuts arrive at your door you can depend on the Tar Isteach staff to defend and represent you and your family in the same way as you have shown your support for us".

Services

The vital services of Tar Isteach still functioning include; full time Welfare Rights and Counselling and Emotional Support provision, the youth group continues to meet and a training and employment scheme is also in operation from our offices. The



organisation also continues to lobby and campaign against ongoing criminalisation and discrimination against political ex-prisoners. In January of this year Tar Isteach launched an important research report with the support of the International Red Cross and Queens University entitled 'Political Ex-Prisoners – An Unaddressed Legacy'. This confirmed that large numbers of ex-prisoners continue to struggle with poverty, isolation and health issues. As a follow up to this, Tar Isteach is currently conducting a 'Needs Analysis' to enable ex-prisoners to explain for themselves the type of work and activities that they need carried out on their behalf.

Tar Isteach management and staff are constantly working to secure resources in order to re-establish and sustain all services and return them to their full capacity and will update the community on any developments. If you would like more information contact Tar Isteach at;

244 Antrim Road Belfast
Phone 90 746664 or 90 746665
info@taristeach.org

Musical Night

A musical night was organised as a fundraiser for Tar Isteach in the Duncairn Culture and Arts Centre on Friday November 20th. The audience were entertained by local traditional musicians Terry O'Neill, Jim Sherry, Manuel McFarlane followed by music from Pado Gilligan's Road Show. The entertainment and running of the event was provided on a voluntary basis. Once again Tar Isteach would like to thank everyone involved and our hosts the Duncairn Culture and Arts Centre staff for their support.

'serving North Belfast for over 25 years'

Ashton Community Trust is an award winning regeneration charity that has been delivering services in North Belfast for over 25 years. It employs over 160 people delivering a wide range of services. The Trust has a number of departments who have an online presence, please visit their websites, like their pages on Facebook or follow them on Twitter to be kept up to date on activities of Ashton Community Trust. Ashton's service delivery outputs are an important element in community and social development in North Belfast. In each of our service delivery areas we are constantly working to improve and grow the services we provide. Below is a brief summary of some of our key services.



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust>

Website: <http://www.ashtoncentre.com/>

Main Ashton contact number: 028 90 74 22 55

Bridge of Hope is a community based health and emotional wellbeing service that works with individuals, families and communities affected by the conflict. Our services include complementary therapies, life coaching, psychological therapies including trauma counselling, personal and professional development, legacy and conflict analysis, as well as accredited VTCT training. We take a person centred approach to all of the work we do. You can easily access support by self-referring or by asking your GP or health care worker to refer you into us. Our local clinics operate from the Ashton Centre and McSweeney Centre. We also deliver services in outreach locations right across the city of Belfast.



Bridge of HOPE

If you would like to take steps to better health and wellbeing please phone and talk to the team on: 028 9022 1022 or 028 9543 8707. You can read lots more about Bridge of Hope by checking us out on Facebook or logging onto our website.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeofhope.org>

Website: <http://www.thebridgeofhope.org/>

New Lodge Youth Centre

In 2012 the management of the Youth Centre in Upper Meadow Street, locally known as the Grey Gables, was officially handed over by the Belfast Education and Library Board to the Ashton Community Trust (ACT). The decision by ACT to take over management was based on the need to improve usage by local young people, increase programme delivery and maximise the overall potential. Some of the services provided include creative thinking skills, drama, arts and crafts, issue-based group work, cultural awareness, community relations, healthy lifestyles, positive behaviour and the 'Mind Your Mate' and 'Amazing Buddies' programmes. For further information contact 9075 1358



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NewLodgeYouthCentre>

Website: <http://www.ashtoncentre.com/youthcentre.php>

North Belfast Social Enterprise Hub is a pilot signature project of the Northern Ireland Executive through their Delivering Social Change Fund.



This project is based at 52 York Street, opening Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Within the Hub we are offering facilities such as hot desking, information library, conference/training facilities and market research. The Hub activity will range from best practice visits, ideas generation, business clinics, peer to peer matching, mentoring support to help produce business planning, marketing, legal structures and training on topics such as finance, governance, human resources all of which are tailored to your needs.

The Hub is a great opportunity for the community sector to demonstrate the benefits of social enterprises, help to increase economic growth and provide a clear insight for government into the benefits and potential for further developing the social-enterprise sector going forward.

If you wish to contact us please call 95609521 or 95609522 or email nbsehub@ashtoncentre.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthBelfastSEHUB>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NBSEH>

Website: <http://www.ashtoncentre.com/hub.php>

FabLab (Digital Fabrication Laboratory) is halfway between a laboratory and a workshop it's a place



FABLAB

BELFAST

where you can make (almost) anything, where both small children and inventors can turn an idea into reality. We can make products out of wood, acrylic, composite moulds, silicon, cardboard, sheet aluminium, plastics, copper foil and vinyl using various technological methods. FabLab works with young people, students, community and voluntary organisations, arts groups and individuals, schools, universities and businesses helping people to develop their creativity, skills and life opportunities. For further information contact: 9075 5412

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fablab.nervecentre>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FabLabNI>

Website: <http://www.fablabni.com/>

The **Employment & Training Service** has a 20 year track record of delivering training and employability initiatives to unemployed people in North Belfast. Unemployed clients get one to one mentoring, access to high quality training and help identifying and applying for work. The organisation has developed strong links with local community groups, schools and employers and operates from over 20 outreach centres across North Belfast to ensure that all sections of the community have access. For further information contact 9074 2255



Ashton Community Trust
Employment & Training Services

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AshtonEmploymentServices>

Website: <http://www.ashtoncentre.com/employment&training.php>

New Lodge Arts provides an exciting and packed programme for young people of all ages in dance, drama, film-making, carnival arts, visual arts, volunteer development and youth leadership. We work with approximately 2000 children and young people each year. Our key aim is to make the Arts accessible to all in our communities regardless of age, gender or background. For further information contact 90742255



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nlarts?fref=ts>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/newlodgearts>

Website: <http://www.newlodgearts.com/>

Kinderkids Daycare was established as a social enterprise by Ashton Community Trust in 2000. Since then, the daycares have



expanded in response to demand and now operate three daycare centres in North Belfast. Kinderkids provides childcare services to over 250 children aged from birth -12 years. Each daycare is committed to providing high quality, day care and after schools services to children, thereby supporting their development and improving parents' access to education, training, employment and support services.

Kinderkids believes that learning begins at birth and has a profound effect on lifelong development and adult wellbeing. They acknowledge that quality child care promotes healthy child development at the same time as it supports families, reduces child poverty, advances equality, and deepens social inclusion. For further information contact 9074 2255

Website: <http://www.ashtoncentre.com/kinderkids.php>

The community magazine is produced by Ashton Community Trust with support from Belfast City Council

