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GREATER NEW LODGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



June 2016

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Social Media Links:  facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust/

 twitter.com/ashtoncommtrust



The Ashton Community Trust has produced a new Directory of Services that has been designed with local people in mind. As Ashton Community Trust grows and our services expand, we want to make sure that local communities have a good understanding of what we do and more importantly how to access the services we deliver. Members of the public will be able to access hard copies of the Service Directory at the Ashton Centre. In addition to this PDF versions of the Directory can be acquired on request by emailing leo.morgan@ashtoncentre.com or telephone 90742255. Ashton Community Trust is currently constructing a new website and in the immediate future people will also be able to download copies from the site.

Across Ashton and its departments (Bridge of Hope, Employment & Training Services, Kinderkids, FabLab Belfast, New Lodge Youth Centre, Community Development, Culture & Arts and Social Enterprise) we have a suite of services that can educate, support and empower individuals and families to improve their lives and achieve their goals. More details about these services are outlined in this Directory.

Our mission to improve the life of the North Belfast community remains the same. Led by the community, we started with that goal in 1991 and now more than 25 years later that mission is unchanged.

As an award winning social enterprise, it's no surprise that growing the local economy is a top priority for us. The local social economy sector has a long and rich tradition of providing quality services to disadvantaged communities and with your help, we are in a unique position to grow that further. That's why lots of our staff come from the local area, have been trained through Ashton and our offices and centres occupy land that was once derelict. We now have eight locations in North Belfast that are now thriving social hubs that work to make a difference to everyday lives.

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Good governance is also really important to us. It drives the quality of our services and ensures others know that we work to agreed levels of best practice. Our latest achievement gained in early 2016, the EFQM Ireland Excellence Award, is recognition of how we meet those high standards.

I hope that this Directory is a useful resource to those seeking to learn more about what Ashton Community Trust does and how to access our programmes. I wish you every success in your future endeavours.

Ashton Chief Executive Paul Roberts

The community magazine is produced by Ashton Community Trust

Belfast Works

LEMIS Project

Are you unemployed?
FREE COMPREHENSIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMME AVAILABLE

Industry Recognised Qualification
 No Experience or Qualifications required
 Guaranteed Interviews for Live Vacancies

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



The LEMIS+ Project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 - 2020 and the Department for the Economy



Belfast Works

LEMIS Project

Health & Social Care Course

Health and Social Care Awareness
 Protection and Safeguarding
 Person Centered Support
 Communication
 Career Preparation and Planning

Recognised Qualification
 No Experience or Qualifications required
 10 Week Course

To sign up or register your interest in this course contact a mentor on:
 02890 742 255



The LEMIS+ Project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 - 2020 and the Department for the Economy



Ashton Community Trust

Employment & Training Services

Community Family Support Programme

Our employability programme is here to help families make life changing decisions to enhance and improve their everyday lives.

Eligibility
 Families must reside in the Belfast Area and have:
 A young person aged 16-24 years who is NEET
 Multiple needs to be addressed (employment, educational, training, health, social and economic)

Some of the programmes available

- Basic DIY
- Conflict Management
- First Aid
- Anger Management
- Shape Your Health
- Life Coaching
- Healthy Eating
- Colour Breathing Relaxation Therapy
- Stress Management
- Smoking cessation
- Cook It
- Youth Development
- Safe Social Media
- Money Management
- Positive Parenting

For more information call: Jeanette Burns: 028 9560 9522 or email: jeanette.burns@ashtoncentre.com

This project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014-2020 and the Department for the Economy.



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

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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Public Meeting on Latest Student Accommodation Plan

Following an application by a private developer to build high rise apartments to house students on York Street directly adjacent to local homes and Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain, a public meeting was organised by the Greater New Lodge Safer Streets Committee on Wednesday 13th April in Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain Lancaster Street to provide local residents the opportunity to discuss the proposal. The previous day community workers leafleted homes in the area and conversed with residents to listen to their views and concerns.

At the well attended public meeting there was general consensus that housing so many students so close to a residential area and a school is unsuitable and insensitive. Given the ongoing student controversy in the Holy Lands in South Belfast, local people are worried that similar anti social problems could emerge on their doorstep. Other concerns related to potential devaluation of local homes, the scale and mass of the building, reduction of sunlight, noise and disruption, unease that as time passes the building might be re-designated for high rise housing for families. The potentially negative impact on teaching and learning at the Bunscoil and encroachment on the small play park were also discussed. It was unanimously agreed that a letter should be written to the developers to make them aware of these concerns.

Paul O'Neill, Ashton Community Trust said,

“Residents are not trying to stereotype students as trouble makers but are fearful that so many young people living away from home in such a concentrated fashion are likely to bring problems. As a community we have lived with extensive high rise housing for decades and are aware of the various physical, social and psychological problems caused by high rise living. It does not help build a sense of community or togetherness but creates separation, disconnection and isolation and increases the possibility of associated negative or dysfunctional behaviours. What we need is more good quality, spacious street level housing to address the existent social needs of our community and certainly not more high rises. Residents genuinely fear that this proposed development will only add to the multiple problems already affecting the community.

In response to the concerns raised, the developers have said that they;



- Will reduce the building from 14 to 11 storeys, to minimise the light impact.
- The number of rooms will be reduced from 390 to 307.
- A professional company with experience of managing student accommodation will manage the building with increased CCTV and security presence.
- Mature students (post-graduate) would be attracted to live in the building.
- It would not be possible to house families in this building due to the studio nature of the accommodation.
- It will be built in a ‘modular’ way, constructed off-site and then put together on site, ensuring rapid completion, minimal disruption to the local area, and a cleaner, safer construction site.
- In any area where a university is in close proximity to residential housing, it has long been the case that the value of housing increases.
- The play park will in no way be affected by the new building and they are open to suggestions for enhancing the play park.

As we go to print further public community meetings are being planned and all residents living in the vicinity of the proposed development will be informed by leaflet drop.

Ashton Community Trust Services Information Session

The Ashton Community Trust will be holding a number of information sessions that will be open to the public. The Information sessions will allow people to drop in, enjoy a cuppa and chat with staff about the services that the different departments of the organisation provide.

Dates and Times of Information sessions are;

- New Lodge Arts, 15th June 12.00 - 2.00pm , Ashton Centre Boardroom
- New Lodge Youth Centre, 16th June - 12.00 - 2.00pm – New Lodge Youth Centre, Upper Meadow Street
- Community Family Support Programme- 29th June 12.00 - 2.00pm Ashton Centre Boardroom
- Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub and Kinderkids Daycare - 26th July -12.00-2.00pm – Ashton Centre Boardroom
- Bridge of Hope 27th July- 12.00- 2.00 – Ashton Centre Boardroom

For further information contact Christine McKeown, Ashton Centre 028 90 742255

500 People Attend Family Support Hub Launch

In September 2015, the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub was one of a number of similar Hubs established in the Belfast area. The Hubs were funded under OFMDFM's 'Delivering Social Change' framework. The key purpose is to provide early intervention support services to families and to children/young persons aged up to 18 years. The official launch of the Lower & Upper North Belfast Family Support Hubs took place on Wednesday 23rd March in Girdwood Community Hub. Speakers at the launch outlined to a packed audience the importance of having family support hubs in the community and the very high level of referrals that have happened since their establishment in north Belfast. Christine McKeown, who is Chairperson of the Lower North Belfast Hub, thanked all the community organisations involved for their ongoing commitment to the joined-up working approach which has been so well in evidence in both Hubs.

available to families in North Belfast. There were also health checks available for parents as well as massage and reflexology. The infants of families were also looked after



with baby massage provided by our local Sure Start staff. For the rest of the children there were craft activities, balloon modelling and face painting provided by New Lodge Arts, technical demonstrations by the Fab Lab, a reading corner provided by Marnie Kennedy, a puppet show and magic show and a special appearance by the NI Fire and Rescue Service with their fire engine. A brilliant day was had by all our families- approximately 500 people in total-and we received many requests to organise a repeat event.

Co-ordinator of the Lower North Belfast, Edith McManus said, "The work of the Lower North Family Support Hub is going from strength to strength. Since our establishment in September 2015 we have worked with over 100 families to provide support to meet their individual needs. We use our knowledge of local organisations from the statutory, community and voluntary sector to match services to help families when they need it. Should you wish to avail of this service or would like further information please do not hesitate to contact the Family Support Hub, Coordinator Edith McManus on 02890 749986".



Christine McKeown Family Support HUB Chair (3rd from left, Edith McManus Family Support Coordinator (far right)

The launch also included a Family Fun Day that saw the main hall in Girdwood Hub turned into a hive of activity. Over 30 stands from various organisations were present providing information and advice about services that are

Welfare Reform Information Session New Lodge Youth Centre Monday 4th July

Everyone has recently received a booklet through the letterbox on the Welfare Reform changes that are due to start for some people in the immediate future. If you have any questions, worries or concerns about how this will impact on you or if you need further information about what protections you will have through the 'Mitigations Package' then come to this information session in New Lodge Youth Centre on Monday the 4th July from 12.00-2.00.

Ashton Centre, 5 Churchill Street, Belfast, BT15 2BP, Tel: 02890742255
 Wolfhill Centre, 148 Ligoniel Road Belfast BT14 8DT Telephone: 028 90391225
 Email: advice@ligonielvillage.com

12.00noon – 2.00pm



Ashton Community Trust

North Belfast
**Advice
 Partnership**



New Lodge Arts – Artist in Residence

The Artist in Residence is a new annual programme that started January 2016 led by New Lodge Arts and funded by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation.

Our Artist “Charlotte Bosanquet” studied at the Glasgow School of Art and has a BA (Hons) Drawing and Painting. She has a fascinating background in Visual Arts working with PS2, The Golden Thread Gallery and Catalyst Arts including various experiences in similar schemes such as Museum of Ulster & Mockingbird Bakery, Mississippi, USA.

This is an artist based programme with the aim to diversify what community arts practice can be or lead to!

On the 25th January 2016, we kicked off the project with an “Introduction to the Artist in Residence” event. The aim of the evening was to introduce Charlie to the community and focus on developing and building relationships. It was a great success which provided Charlie with numerous ideas and conversations to work on.

With the New Lodge in its state of

re-development and undergoing major visual changes this provided Charlie with the idea of “How Cities Develop?” She has established a great project to build a “Drone” in collaboration with the Youth Justice Agency, the aim to take photos of the ever changing area and illustrate these changes as they happen.

Engaging with other groups and discussing the idea of the drone has also encouraged ideas of alternative housing such as caravans, boats etc and types of new age living which Charlie would like to research further. The concept of “privacy” has also been communicated out of the Drone idea and further discussions about being watched, how modern day technology can monitor our every movement and how this can affect our personal lives in all matter of shapes and forms.

The project began in late April with the Youth Justice Agency. Charlie and the group will plan, research and build a Drone over a period of 2 months.

Next few months the Artist’s aim is to:

- Research and build a Drone



Charlotte Bosanquet

- Discuss alternative variations of living
- Explore the concept of “Privacy” and the effect of modern technology on our personal lives
- Continue to engage with the community and develop relationships

For any further information feel free to call into New Lodge Arts on 028 90742255 to speak with the artist.

Greater New Lodge Community Festival 2016

Community workers and volunteers in the area have been very busy preparing the way for the next Greater New Lodge Community Festival Programme. The programme which will begin late July and run until mid August contains a multitude of activities including street parties, family fun days, theatre and art shows, music gigs and concerts, exhibitions, sports events and more besides. A full programme of events will be delivered to all homes in the area when ready. Paul O’Neill chairperson of the Community Festival Committee said, “This year’s Festival promises to be really good. We are pleased to announce that the renowned Brassneck Theatre Company will be staging two plays in the Duncairn Culture and Arts Centre. They bring with them two unique pieces of theatre in the form of ‘1981’, that tells the story of the epic Hunger Strikes in the H Blocks of Long Kesh as well as ‘Man in the Moon’ a darkly funny play about the trials and tribulations of a West Belfast man. We are also delighted to include events this year in venues such as Sailortown, the Girdwood Hub and Lansdowne Hotel, all of which demonstrates how the New Lodge Festival is spreading its wings. As always we would like as many residents as possible to participate in and support the Festival”. Anyone interested in volunteering or assisting in any way with the Festival Committee can contact Paul O’Neill at the Ashton Centre phone 028 90 742255



Ashton Training & Employment Services Core is also Sweet!!

Our Training & Employment department has a lot of news to report on this month, the pilot of a new programme for young people, our awards ceremony and the expansion of the Lemis+ service are a few of the highlights.

The Core Project hosted its first SWEET programme of the new grant period. The SWEET programme is our response to the needs of young people who need the extra support contained in an intensive group work setting. It is an 8 week programme that will work mostly with the younger end of the age spectrum that are furthest away from the labour market. A great deal of emphasis is placed on developing their soft skills such as confidence building, personal development and life mapping but all eventually pointing in the direction of employability.

The first run of the programme started in May with 15 young people based in the Core building up in Cliftonville. The programme facilitators said that the young people were quite quiet on the first two days but soon the ice was broken and now they cannot stop them from talking. The programme has been very busy and already they have looked at areas such as sexual health, substance abuse and equality and diversity. They also spent a week in the Fablab and have already earned themselves a qualification in digital fabrication.

The programme will continue until the end of June and for those that stay the course they will be rewarded with £100. The next programme will start in June and although it will run for a shorter period it will also be packed with useful and enjoyable activities. If you are interested in joining a future run of this programme or simply want to avail of help in finding a job then contact the Core Project 95609522 or email laura.odonnell@ashtoncentre.com

Training and Employment Awards Ceremony

The annual Training and Employment Awards Ceremony took place in Belfast Castle on 25 March this year. The ceremony was not as big as in previous years simply because the changeover in programmes meant that fewer people gained qualifications than normal. However what it lacked in numbers it more than made up in quality. The audience was addressed by Colin Jack from the Department of Employment and Learning (ESF Managing Authority) who congratulated Ashton Community Trust on its hard work over the last year and looked forward to further success in the year to come.

We awarded employer of the year to EA Cleaning for going the extra mile with our clients to make sure they got the best opportunity to get a job.

Young client of the year was awarded to Sandy Grajek. Sandy undertook an ECL customer care qualification with LEMIS+, passed an interview at the end of the course and got a job almost immediately. However the panel was also impressed that along the way she had also helped her mum improve her English, as this was not her first language, and then went on to help others in a voluntary capacity.

The outstanding client of the year was awarded to Joleen Watson. Joleen registered with LEMIS+ after being made redundant from a local primary school as a clerical officer. Joleen came to the project devastated and still coming to terms with the job loss. Joleen had no CV but had a lot of experience and sound qualifications. Her mentor compiled a tailored CV for Joleen



Awardees at Belfast Castle Event

which displayed her skills and Joleen also completed an ITQ Level 1 in Spreadsheet Software to brush up on her IT skills. As a result Joleen's confidence rocketed and she felt ready to re-enter the labour market. She started being invited to interviews but was terrified of an interview scenario. After a few interview preparation sessions with her LEMIS+ mentor, Joleen felt more assured and prepared for upcoming interviews. Joleen has recently gained employment with Belfast Health and Social Care Trust as an administrative worker in the Children's Cardiac Unit. She is enjoying every minute now and is very relieved to be back at work.

In addition many certificates were handed out to individual clients who had completed qualifications with Training and Employment.

Ashton Training & Employment Services LEMIS+ Project

LEMIS+ finished its first year on a high after engaging nearly 2500 clients and finding work for over 600 of them. Considering the slow start we had to the year this was a great success and we hope to exceed these figures next year now that many of the teething problems with new programmes have been sorted out.

However going into year two the partnership that runs LEMIS+ is not content to rest on its laurels. The project will be piloting a new initiative aimed at Economically Inactive clients most removed from the labour market. There are much higher rates of economic inactivity here than in the England, Scotland and Wales and the rates in some parts of Belfast are exceptionally high. LEMIS+ already works with a range of groups but there are many more who do not come forward to a voluntary programme. Many of these people have physical and mental health issues and that is where we will concentrate our efforts. Our plan is to work closely with health providers to target those people whose condition would actually benefit from being in work and by giving the client intensive coaching/mentoring support we hope to change mindsets that currently rule out work as a possibility.



LEMIS + staff

In addition to the above new initiative LEMIS+ will continue to roll out its programme of training and employability mentoring across the city in the coming year. If you want to know more about LEMIS+ contact: Kevin Donaghy 90742255 kevin.donaghy@ashtoncentre.com

Other programmes

We are glad to announce that our Essential Skills Programme will continue to provide Maths and English support for residents of North Belfast for another year. Contact Hilary Adair if you are interested 90322289 hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com. The Community Family Support Programme is currently recruiting families for the next run of its project. The programme is a really exciting mix of employability training and family support and is always highly rated by its participants. If you are interested contact Jeanette Burns 95609522 jeanette.burns@ashtoncentre.com. The Co-Ment programme continues to offer a wrap around service for young people aged 16-24 who are looking for work. Contact Tracy McWhinney for more information 90742255 tracy.mcwhinney@ashtoncentre.com.



Essential Skills Session

Cheetahs Cheerleading Squad

Cheetahs cheerleading squad started up in April for children and young people aged between 5-14 years. Cheetah Girls have been dedicated and working extremely hard but at the same time have lots of fun. We are aiming to apply for national competitions in the future. Cheetahs will also be holding a benefit night which all the community will be invited to, where they can show off their routines and cheers. For further information contact Kerri Leigh in New Lodge Youth Centre.

*We're heading for the trophy, We're taking over the floor
We are the mighty cheetah girls, You're gonna hear us roar*



Build Homes Now goes from strength to strength



MLAs support Equality Can't Wait Campaign (photo before last election)

The Equality Can't Wait families have spent a whirlwind few weeks rapping doors, hanging signs, delivering leaflets, painting murals, lobbying political parties and gathering public support for the #BuildHomesNow campaign.

There are over 12,000 on the social housing waiting list in Belfast. Over 6,000 are in 'housing stress and Catholic families in north Belfast still suffer religious inequality in housing in 2016. Yet, only 542 homes were completed in 2015.

The families have identified empty land at sites like Dunnes/Hillview on the Crumlin Road which could be used to build at least 1,000 homes. They are calling on MLAs and Councillors to use their powers at Stormont and Belfast City Council to ensure new build social housing is maximised on these sites. Public support has been tremendous.

5,000 leaflets have been delivered and almost 1,000 signatures collected on the doors in New Lodge, Ardoyne, Oldpark, Cliftonville, Ligoniel and Whitewell in just four weeks. Shops, clubs, employers and community centres have put up posters, stickers, leaflets and petitions. Five political parties who ran for election on May 5th - Sinn Féin, SDLP, Alliance, Green Party and People Before Profit - have already signed up to support #BuildHomesNow.

Equality Can't Wait activist Mary from north Belfast said; "The support has been great. Everyone we have met, both politicians and people on the doors, have supported our campaign. Now we need to see that support turned into actual homes for families on these sites. Dunnes Stores/Hillview is a potential game changer. It's one of the last sites in north Belfast capable of addressing the housing crisis".

The families' campaign for equality has secured the support of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, the UN Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner.

Locally, the Human Rights Commission, the Children's Commissioner and most recently the Equality Commission have called for action to tackle religious inequality in housing.

However, there were strong disagreements at a recent political Hustings held in Girdwood about how to address the housing crisis, not least on how to tackle long standing religious inequality. Five of the eight parties, were happy to support a strategy to tackle religious inequality and the #BuildHomesNow campaign. Now they are elected and have the power to change social housing policy for the better in the new Assembly.



PPR Create Mural on New Lodge

<https://www.facebook.com/BuildHomesNow/>

Support the People's Proposal protect us from benefit sanctions



Last month the Right to Work: Right to Welfare group (R2W) released figures showing that in one year (Oct 2014-2015) 21,386 'sanctions and adverse decisions' were imposed by Social Security 'decision makers' on Jobs Seekers Allowance (JSA) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA) claimants.

These decisions reduced or suspended people's unemployment or sickness benefits for periods of up to 6 months.

Evidence collected at Belfast's Social Security offices by R2W shows that the flawed decision making processes are driving many into food poverty, homelessness and worse. 60% of those surveyed reported having their benefits stopped.

Last week, the group released figures from the Department for Communities obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. They reveal that in the North of Ireland only 51 Social Security decision makers are responsible for sanctions on the unemployed on JSA and only 88 decision makers for withdrawing the main sickness benefit; ESA.

R2W are calling on the new Minister for Communities to adopt the 'People's Proposal', which guarantees due process and protection from poverty in the sanctions regime. The Proposal was launched by the unemployed group in March after four years researching sanction and their impacts at the social security offices in north, south, east and west Belfast. The proposal is already supported by advice workers, food poverty campaigners, and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, including the NIPSA and PCS Trade unions which represent the decision makers directed to enforce sanctions.

The Peoples Proposal has received political backing from the Green Party leader, Steven Agnew and the newly elected People before Profit MLAs, Gerry Carroll and Eamonn Mc Cann as well as Sinn Féin Mayor of Derry and Strabane, Elisha McCallion.

R2W have written to the leaders of the five larger parties who will form the next Stormont Assembly executive.

PPR development worker, Seán Brady, works to support the R2W campaign said

He said: "Whether you think financially sanctioning the sick, disabled and unemployed is right or wrong isn't the point. Everyone has a right to defend themselves against allegations before being punished. These fundamental rights are guaranteed in the workplace and under the law but are denied to the poorest in our society when they are at risk of losing their social security

safety net.

R2W are calling on the NI Executive to adopt the People's Proposal in line with their commitment to protect the most vulnerable."

More info 1. www.pprproject.org 2. 3. https://twitter.com/PPR_Org

1916 Programme

Young people from New Lodge Youth Centre have been learning all about the history of 1916. They have visited Dublin and Derry and have had various speakers presenting on the Somme and Easter Rising. The group is working on a short film about events throughout 1916 which will be launched as part of the Greater New Lodge Community Festival in August.



Are you interested in Irish history and aged between 16 – 20?



Are you interested in Irish history and aged between 16 – 20? If so then we are about to begin a scheme just for you. Over the next two years we aim to train up young people as basic tour guides for the local Clifton Street Cemetery. Here they will learn about individuals ranging from the United Irishman Henry Joy McCracken through to Unionist leader William Ewart. You will also see one of Ireland's largest Famine Graves as well as learn about the horrific activities of the Belfast Bodysnatchers.

In addition to this you will also be taken to historic sites throughout Ireland ranging from Kilmainham Jail through to the ruins of many monasteries, round towers and historic graveyards.

The idea here is to show you how to do basic historical research and to present it in an interesting and factual manner.

We have three places left, so if you are interested please write out a short piece on your interest in Irish history and leave it, along with your contact details, with Joe Baker at the Ashton Centre before Friday 17th June.

Newington Housing Association Welcomes New Residents



To launch the opening of new homes at the Girdwood site, Newington Housing Association organised a Tenant Information Day in the Girdwood Community Hub on Friday, 29th April. The aim of the event was to welcome the new residents, provide them with tenancy and service standards information and to answer questions. The event also provided the opportunity to introduce the new residents to various community organisations that were on hand to give an overview of the services they offer in the local area. Recreational and play activities were provided for the children of the new residents by Belfast City Council and New Lodge Arts.

NEW LODGE ARTS

In partnership with **C21 theatre company**

Summer Drama Camp
The Jungle Book
 8th - 12th August 2016
 11am-4pm
 10-13 year olds

Contact Anne Delaney, New Lodge Arts on 07736389968 to book a place!
 No experience necessary. £10 per person

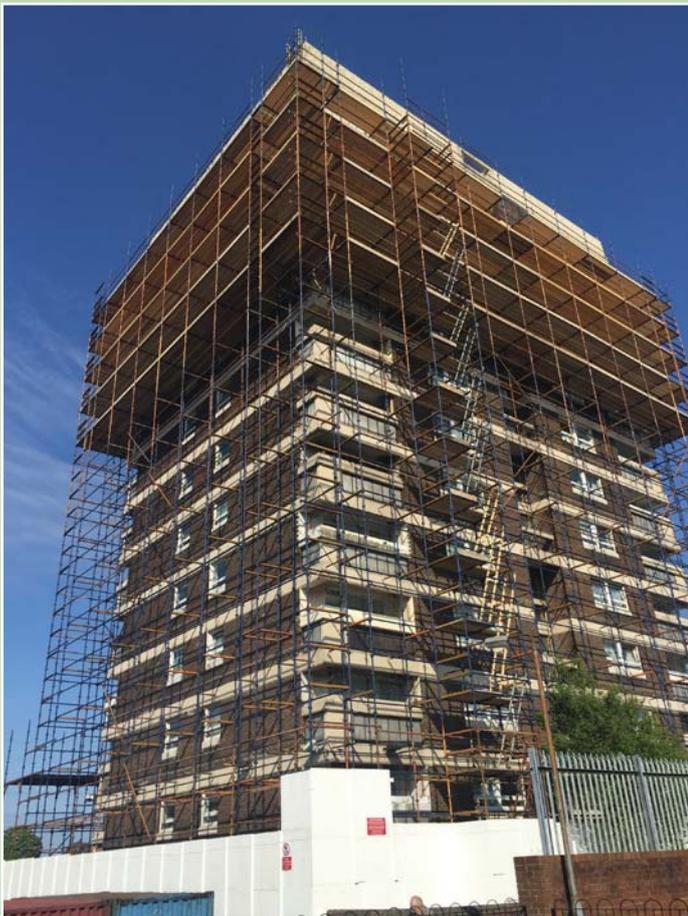
VENUE:
 Girdwood Community Hub, Cliftonpark Avenue, Belfast

Ashton Community Trust | LOTTERY FUNDED | Belfast City Council | Executive Office | DCAL

Housing News

As progress continues at a reasonable pace on both the Seven Towers and the Long Streets redevelopment we are, as promised, using this magazine to keep people updated as to progress. Most residents will have seen the new landscape in the Long Streets, in fact the project is so far advanced we are no longer talking about three stages but the one now that is more or less complete and a final one. As I write this article builders are due to move in on the site of phase one.

All the new homes in Girdwood have now been allocated and our thanks to Newington Housing Association and the other statutory and community organisations who organised an open day at Girdwood Community Hub to welcome new residents and introduce them to organisations



available to help them feel secure and safe in their new homes. It's been a long time coming but I'm sure everyone will agree once work began progress has been rapid.

It is hoped North Queen Street will be ready in July and when allocations have been made only three residents will remain in the long streets. We still hold out hope that the



Demolition In The Long Streets

new houses being built on the site can be used to continue redevelopment further up the Long Streets, however, this is a decision for the new Communities Minister. Still on North Queen Street rumours, as usual are rife as to who has been allocated houses, West Belfast anti-socials, travellers, foreign nationals etc. etc. Let me take this opportunity to assure people that no one has been allocated a home on this site, houses have of course been promised to those in the Long Streets who professed a wish to move there, the remaining will be allocated to those on the waiting list with the highest points.

The Seven Towers are moving in the right direction with work well under way in Eithne House, in fact with the scaffolding now up to the roof the real work can now begin. The finish date is the end of February but hope is it may be before that.

With regards to the new fob system/security camera project Grainne House is now complete and work will begin in Meave, in a few weeks all seven blocks will be complete including the 11 block in Carlisle. This will greatly improve security in the blocks.

The forum has been made aware of a new E.C.M. scheme (external cyclical maintenance) to cover the area Antrim Road/Lepper Street, this should begin later in the year and we will of course keep everyone informed. As usual any questions can be answered by contacting the Housing Office 23 New Lodge Road Phone 90742399

Liam Wiggins, Chairman, New Lodge Housing Forum



New Homes Girdwood

New Lodge Youth Centre Romania Inclusion Project Year Two



Young people involved in the Romania Inclusion Project, Year One, volunteered with the 174 Trust Disability Project. The group organised a formal night which was a great success. Everyone had a great time and the young people dressed up for the event. New Lodge Youth Centre would like to give a big thank you to 174 Trust Disability Project, especially Linda Duffy, for making our young people feel so welcome.

A group of young people aged 15-17 from New Lodge Youth Centre are currently participating in year two of the Romania Inclusion Project. The project will see them tackle stereotypes of others living around them in Belfast. They will be volunteering with the 174 Trust Disability Project and Homeless Aware who tackle the issue of homelessness. The group will also be facilitating events for older people living in supported housing. The programme will finish with a trip to Romania where the young people will be involved in more charity work and gain the experience of a new culture and way of life. They will fundraise all monies needed for the project with activities such as bag packs and other initiatives.

Young people in the Inclusion Project have started a community clean up initiative with Rosemount House getting their garden ready for the summer. They will be giving the garden a fresh new paint job and also some new plants. The young people would like to thank all at Rosemount House for making them feel welcome and for all the nice food they provide.



Summer Intervention Residentials

New Lodge Youth Centre will be facilitating a range of intervention residentials over the summer in partnership with New Lodge Arts. The first will take place in June over the Tour of the North, two intervention residentials will take place from the 11th to the 14th July for those aged 8 – 11 years and 12 – 17 years and a fourth will take place from 8th to 10th August.



New Lodge Youth Centre Summer Scheme

New Lodge Youth Centre Summer Scheme will begin on Monday 18th July. A range of activities will take place on Monday to Thursday for junior members and all week for senior members. Please contact Mary Madine or Paddy Doyle in New Lodge Youth Centre for further information. Registration will take place from Monday 4th July to Thursday 7th July

5 – 7 years

This is open to current members of New Lodge Youth Centre and will run Monday to Thursday from 18th July to 4th August. The programme will include sports and arts activities, cookery, bbqs, trips to the cinema, zoo and adventure playground.

8 – 11 years

New members are welcome to register however places are limited. The summer scheme for this age group will run from Monday 18th July to Thursday 18th August. The programme will include sports and arts activities, cookery, trips to the cinema, zoo, adventure playground, bowling, swimmers, beach, Bangor Day Out and an overnight residential.



12+ years

New members are welcome to register. The summer scheme for this age group will run from Monday 18th July to Sunday 28th August. The programme will include sports and arts activities, pamper nights, cookery trips to the cinema, watersports, swimmers, beach, Bangor Day Out, ice-skating, bowling, overnight residential and camping.

Spring Festival - March 2016

Alexander Park was a 'hive' of activity this Easter thanks to a unique cross-community festival themed around the life of bees.

Led by schools and community groups from across North Belfast, children from schools such as St Patrick's and Seaview PS have been working with the local artists to design and construct giant bees, gigantic flowers, bee costumes and bee houses.

In preparation for the event, over 600 children and young people from 22 local primary schools and youth groups have been learning about bees and their importance within nature. And now their handicrafts and artwork will be put on display within a Bee Colony in the Alexander Park at the event.



This fun-filled event was free entry and took place 12pm-4pm on Saturday March 26 and included music, dance, bouncy castles and an Easter Hunt. It also featured eye-catching displays of circus skills, birds of prey, and dog shows.

Good Relations Officer with New Lodge Arts, Cecilia Heron said: "The Spring Festival is now in its second year, and we had such a great reception for our inaugural event that we were delighted to be back this year again. It was a fantastic day and provided a fun-packed adventure for children of all ages."

Family Support Programme

New Lodge Youth Centre has been facilitating programmes for children and young people as part of a Family Support Programme. Children aged 5 – 7 years, 8 – 11 years and young people aged 11 + years have been taking part in activities after school including personal development and confidence building, cookery, sports, single identity, bullying awareness and life skills. The programmes recently came to an end with a trip to Bangor. The Youth Centre is enrolling for young people interested in the next programme. Contact Mary Madine on 90751358 or via email mary.madine@ashtoncentre.com for more information.

North Belfast – Supporting Asylum Seekers

A damning report entitled ‘A Place of Refuge: A monitor of homelessness among destitute asylum seekers - A proposal for action’, was released this month. The research, involving 36 destitute asylum seekers, was carried out by the newly formed Housing4All campaign supported by the Participation and Practice of Rights (PPR) organisation.

Asylum seekers are fleeing war, famine, tyranny and persecution all over the globe. While these problems may be considered foreign problems to us, there is rarely a serious conflict, like Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and many others, which does not involve major Western powers. Asylum seekers make perilous journeys at great risk to find sanctuary. They lose family and friends along the way. They cannot go home and must struggle to make new lives wherever they land. Yet, after their ordeals they face new ones in countries they hoped would be safe.

During their application to the UK Home Office to be allowed to stay here, asylum seekers can lose what meagre support that was previously provided to live on (£36.95 per week). This can happen because, for example, the UK Home Office wants them to provide more information about their claim – which is often difficult to get from their home countries they are fleeing. Contrary to many myths destitute asylum seekers are not entitled to any social security benefits or other assistance like housing. They are left destitute.

Housing4All’s research found that:

- 55% had been in the asylum process for over 2 years;
- 63% had been homeless more than once
- 87% of respondents stated that being homeless adversely affected their mental and physical health;
- Of the 77% who had approached social services for help not a single respondent said that the support was sufficient
- 93% had approached charities for help, with only 5% of these stating that the help was sufficient

Describing the situation facing destitute asylum seekers, Housing4All member, Fungayi Mukosera said:

“It just makes the human being invisible. People are left with no roof over their heads... It is abject destitution and they do not have any support.”

This policy is having a devastating impact on asylum seekers and their families.

Dessie Donnelly of PPR said:

“Homelessness usually happens when something goes wrong. However, for destitute asylum seekers homelessness is the deliberate and intended consequence of public policy. It is perverse that as a society we are consciously forcing



people - people who are in dire need of support and safety - into homelessness.”

“International law says very clearly that housing rights apply to every human being – regardless of status. Housing4All is calling on the Executive to take the position that it is not acceptable for any person to live in destitution here. Countries like Scotland have taken a different path from London, and so can we. The politicians here can do something – and the first thing is to acknowledge the problem, and then work with Housing4All and all others who are looking for a solution, to provide emergency housing for destitute asylum seekers.”

Housing4All is calling on the Executive to remove barriers to homeless hostels providing publicly funded accommodation for destitute asylum seekers and making it compulsory for social services to assess the needs of asylum seekers before they are made homeless by the UK Home Office.

The first politicians to come out in support of Housing4All’s proposals were north Belfast MLA’s Carál Ní Chuilín, Gerry Kelly and Nichola Mallon. The pending Deputy Mayor Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell also pledged support. The Ashton Centre, Star Neighbourhood Centre, the Belfast based Equality Can’t Wait housing campaign and the 40,000 strong public service union UNISON also endorsed the campaign’s proposals.

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- Editing documents
- Formatting documents
- Document storage
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For more information contact a Mentor at The Ashton Centre on: 028 9074 2255

The LEMIS Project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 – 2020 and the Department for the Economy

Tar Isteach Organise Public Meeting on Welfare Reform



Over 100 people attended a public information meeting about welfare reform in the Duncairn Culture and Arts Centre on Thursday 7th April. The assembled audience was provided with the latest update on the likely impacts of welfare reform and learned more details about the protections offered in the 'Mitigations Package' which was negotiated by Stormont with the Tory government in London. The meeting was organised by Tar Isteach and included contributions from Agnes Fraser and Kathy Stanton, (Tar Isteach Advisers) and Lee Hatton, (Law Centre NI). Tommy Quigley, (Manager Tar Isteach) was responsible for chairing the meeting. Tommy said, "This is the biggest change to the welfare system for 60 years. Thousands of individuals and households will be impacted - affecting all working age claimants aged 16 to 65. As an organisation that is on the frontline in delivering welfare advice and support to the most vulnerable we feel it is important to provide as much accurate and up to date information as possible. There is still vagueness and uncertainty about exactly how the welfare reform package will eventually play out. There is also a lot of rumour and speculation out there which adds to people anxieties, so we are trying to ensure that people are provided with as much factual information as possible. We are strongly advising all claimants that they contact a qualified welfare rights adviser to help them deal with any correspondences or when filling in any forms in relation to their benefits. This applies both when making new applications or renewing any existing claims. We cannot stress enough the importance of speaking to an adviser first".

Tar Isteach has also recently organised public information sessions on Welfare Reform in South and West Belfast. Anyone seeking advice or information about welfare issues can contact Tar Isteach - Phone 028 90 746664 or 028 90 746665

Tar Isteach Sponsored Walk

Because of funding shortages that have occurred in recent times Tar Isteach Republican Ex- Prisoner Support Project has had to make drastic staff and programme cuts and has struggled to keep it's much needed services going. However, thanks to a combination of smaller scale funding opportunities and unpaid volunteering the doors at 144 Antrim Road have been kept open to the public and some of our vital services remain in place. Yet none of this would have been possible at all had it not been for the tremendous level of support provided by the community including donations and sponsorships. Because so many people have been involved in this it is almost impossible to thank you all individually but to everyone that has helped we want you to know we will never forget you for your effort, thoughtfulness and kindness. Unfortunately however we are still faced with serious funding challenges and that is why we are organising another sponsored walk similar to one carried out last year. The walk is entitled, "Divis to Cavehill Challenge" and will take place on Saturday June 25th. If you would like to participate and/ or get sponsorship forms contact Tommy, Agnes or Kathy at Tar Isteach 90 746664/5

Sailortown New Mural

Over the Easter break the young people of Harbourview got together to design and paint a mural that reflected their ideas as to what the area means to them. With help from Seedhead Arts and Clanmil Housing staff, the young people have produced a creative piece of art that has brought a bit of colour to a space that they use as a play area. There is no doubt that all young people and parents who got involved experienced a real sense of achievement in what they had accomplished and took away with them a real sense of connection with the area.

a street festival in August which will be Sailortown's contribution to the New Lodge Community Festival. With active support from our residents, Harbourview as a community can only go from strength to strength.



Other activities being planned for Harbourview include a Family Fun Day to tie in with the Martime Festival, a gardening project which will be entered into the annual Clanmil in Bloom Competition, and

Rotary Club Visits Ashton Community Trust



“Members of The Rotary Club of Belfast visited Ashton Community Trust to hear about the Trust’s work with young people. New Lodge Arts was presented with the John Savage Award & Busary 2015/16 in February by the Rotary Club of Belfast and the Rotarians were keen to hear about the wider work of Ashton Community Trust. The Rotary Club members were very impressed by the extent of the programmes delivered by Ashton and look forward to continuing their partnership with the organisation in the future.”



Junior Arts Academy Showcase

A showcase event for our Junior Performers:

Tiny's Drama & Junior Drama
Fancy Feet 1 & 2
Ballet 1 & 2
Pop Video Dance

Thursday 23rd June 2016
7pm
£2 entry on the door

VENUE:
Girdwood Community Hub, Cliftonpark Avenue







London Cultural Trip – February 2016



Boating Down The River Thames

On the 16th February, 10 young people from New Lodge Arts and 10 young people from NACN Theatre Company, Rathcoole set off for a 4-day trip to London. The project built on the previous Acting Up Summer Camp which brought young people from both communities together for the first time with the aim of building good relations. The trip was tailored to meet the needs of the group and included educational visits, historical tours, movement and dance workshop and trips to West End Shows: The Lion King & Mamma Mia. The young people had a fantastic time and built strong bonds within the group.

Dee Crooks, Co-ordinator, NACN Theatre Company said 'London has been an experience. It has been very educational and most important it has shown all the young people that possibilities are indeed endless. It wasn't all that long ago 6 young people sat in a room and said one day it would be great to go to London to see a show and to experience West End London. From everyone in NACN Theatre Company, we would like to say the biggest THANK YOU that we can..... Cheers.'

Anne Delaney, Arts Programme & Operations Manager said 'The partnership with NACN Theatre Company has made a huge impact on the young people involved. They have made genuine friendships and dispelled myths of 'the other' community. The young people have formed strong bonds and we are excited about future opportunities to work collaboratively.'

Summer Musical Theatre Camp
Junior Arts Academy
 with Brona Jackson & Sarah Davies
1st - 5th August 2016
11am-4pm
6-11 year olds
 Contact Anne Delaney on 07736389968 to book a place! No experience necessary
£10 per person
 VENUE:
North Queen Street Community Centre

Ashton Community Trust LOTTERY FUNDED Belfast City Council The Executive Office

New Lodge YC Street Outreach

New Lodge Youth Centre is continuing to deliver outreach and detached youth work in the Greater New Lodge and surrounding areas. Youth workers are involved 3 nights per week in ongoing engagements with young people on the streets. As part of this 'On Street Engagement', Youth Centre staff have been speaking with and listening to young people in the area to establish what interests they might have. Just one of the programmes that has been made available to young people has been "Street Games". This involves sports sessions that are usually held in North Queen Street Park. The Street Games sessions have proven very successful and very popular with young people. And now that the summer months have arrived, more and more young people are beginning to use the park facility. As a result our Youth Centre Outreach Staff are currently engaging with over 100 young people.

As well as in the New Lodge itself our Outreach Team is focussing on the Antrim Road, Thorndale, Carlisle Circus, Girdwood Community Hub and Harborview. This outreach work is being delivered in partnership with the North Belfast Area Project and the Star Neighbourhood Centre.

If you are a parent in the area and you see New Lodge Youth

Centre staff on the street please feel free to stop them for a chat if you think your son or daughter could be interested in taking part in the activities that our staff are providing. If you want to know more about what projects are ongoing and what future plans there are for youth outreach in the area then please contact New Lodge Youth Centre on 02890751358 and speak to Paddy Doyle.



Paddy Doyle Youth Worker



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



Tuesday Adult Art Class

Massive congratulations to “Tuesday Drawing Studio (TDS)” who successfully launched a project on 16th April 2016 to fund 500 copies of their own Colouring in Book.

Over 4 months, nine contributing artists from the group designed 16 beautiful, fun, intricate and illuminating illustrations to make up the book.

Already raising 70% of the print costs themselves, the artists aim was to secure £250 through their online “Kickstarter” campaign. This was a great success and they managed to raise a whopping £301 which will aid production costs and materials.

We are so proud of TDS and the hard work they have put into this project and wish them all the best in the publication of their book!

For more information on this project please follow link:
<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1981949495/the-tuesday-drawing-studio-colouring-in-book/description>

The Adult Art class developed from New Lodge Arts “Temporary Places” project in 2013. Duncan Ross (Artist) facilitates the sessions that run on Tuesdays and Fridays 11am – 2.00pm in the Culture shop @ Ashton Centre.

This is a weekly drop in class where people come together to work



on a range of both personal and group pieces of Art. It’s also a great place to socialise, meet new people from the community and they also provide a great cuppa and the occasional bun.

We are so proud of all our members and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate William (and crew) on the unveiling of his Giant Chicken at the Peas Park event 19th March and also to Gerry for his billboard set up April 2016. Both stand proudly at the Peas Park Community garden for all to see!



Have a passion for Art? Interested in meeting new people?

The Adult Art Class is open to new members, drop by and see what it’s all about on Tuesdays and Fridays or call **New Lodge Arts** for further information 028 90 742255

Greater New Lodge Safer Streets Committee

If you are the victim or the witness of crime, drug dealing or anti social behaviour you can contact the number below. If no one is there to answer always leave a message on the voice mail.

Remember If You Don’t Report Then We Can’t Help You. Do Not Suffer In Silence

Greater New Lodge Safer Streets Committee - 0756 493 8276

Another community number you can ring is, Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI) - 028 90 753043

If possible provide the following details;

- Your name and contact number (If you feel comfortable doing so)
- The nature and location of the offence
- The date and time of the offence
- The name/details of the offender (If known)



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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

Write Club at the Duncairn



The Write Club is a free after-schools club for young people interested in creative writing. Are you destined to write the next big screenplay for the silver screen or award winning novel? Drop in and develop your story-writing skills with Fighting Words Belfast... A space for young writers to work independently on their own writing, with support from our writing mentors. Every Wednesday, 4-6pm in the Duncairn Culture & Arts Centre, suitable for 13-18 years old. Open ALL summer! Except June 29, Jul 6, & Jul 13. For more information call 028 9023 0660.

Local Young Writer Published In The The Irish Times

Áine Eastwood, 17, from Dominican College has had her short story, 'Neither Cautious Nor Careful' published in The Irish Times 2016 Fighting Words supplement of new writing by young people. Fighting Words was founded by Seán Love and Roddy Doyle in Dublin in 2009, offering free creative writing workshops for young people with trained volunteer mentors. Last year Fighting Words Belfast opened its doors, in partnership with Young at Art, Skainos and the 174 Trust. Its patrons are the acclaimed writers Glenn Patterson, Roddy Doyle, Nick Hornby and Dave Eggers.

Áine is a member of Write Club, the after schools club for teens, led by Fighting Words Belfast. 'Neither Cautious Nor Careful' is about a young woman in New York, who takes risks in the jazz clubs of the Roaring Twenties. Write Club meets in the Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts every Wednesday, from 4 - 6 pm.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/fighting-words-2016>

For more information on free creative writing for young people and about volunteering, visit www.youngatart.co.uk/fighting-words-belfast

Kinderkids
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

goalsuk CIC
 inspire : motivate : engage

Motivational & Personal Development Training
 Let the Lemis+ Project help you

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

WHICH WAY WILL YOU CHOOSE

The LEMIS+ Project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 - 2020 and the Department for the Economy

European Union European Social Fund Northern Ireland | Department for the Economy | Belfast City Council

Ashton Youth Awards



Ashton Community Trust hosted its first Youth Awards on Thursday 24th March in Belfast Castle recognising the valuable contribution young people make to the Greater New Lodge and North Belfast community. Young people from New Lodge Arts, New Lodge Youth Centre and Fab Lab Belfast received certificates reflecting their achievements in various OCN training programmes and recognition of their commitment to volunteering through Millennium Volunteers. Several certificates of recognition were presented to young people including leadership, commitment, inspiration, outstanding achievement, performance and creativity. The Youth Awards also recognised the outstanding contribution made by volunteers to youth programmes.

Katrina Newell, Head of Arts and Youth Development with Ashton Community Trust said, "We are delighted to host the first ever Ashton Youth Awards recognising the valuable contribution young people make within their community. We have many incredibly talented and inspirational young people in North Belfast and it seems only fitting to acknowledge their achievements through an awards celebration. We are celebrating all that is good, positive and inspirational about our young people."

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The Ashton Centre
on
028 9074 2255

The LEMIS+ Project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 - 2020 and the Department for the Economy

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Contact your LEMIS+ Mentor for more information on: 02890 742 255

The LEMIS+ Project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 - 2020 and the Department for the Economy

North Belfast

Social Enterprise

Moving Premises

North Belfast Social Enterprise HUB are moving to McSweeney Centre (Henry Place). Contact 028 95 609 521, or via email: nbsehub@ashtoncentre.com or just drop into the HUB at Henry Place. Visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NorthBelfastSEHUB

Ashton Community Trust

The Executive Office
www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

"This project is funded by the Northern Ireland Executive's Delivering Social Change fund."

Scoil Samhraidh Mhic Reachtain / McCracken Summer School



It is that time of year again when the annual McCracken Summer School is due to take place. This event represents an immensely popular celebration and appreciation of Irish culture that brings people from many different backgrounds together year on year. Scheduled to run from the 25th to the 30th of July the McCracken Summer School will host a range of varying activities including Irish language classes for adults, a summer camp for teenagers, art and drama workshops for toddlers, singing and dancing workshops, nightly music concerts and much more.

Age range

- Teenagers Summer Camp (11-16)
- Primary School Summer Camp (7-11)
- Irish Medium Primary School Summer Camp (5-11).
- Irish Course for Adults - 10.00am – 4.00pm

Location: Áras Mhic Reachtain, 283 – 289 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 2GZ

For more information or to book contact,

Ferdia or Daithí on 028 90749688

E Mail eolas@mhicreachtain.com

Web Address: www.mhicreachtain.com

**25.07.16 -
30.07.16**

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(Gach leibhéal)
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do Dhéagóirí

Ceolchoirmeacha

Gráinne Holland

Clann Mhic Ruairí
agus Eve Belle

John Spillane

Oíche Airneáil

An Cabaret Craiceáilte

**Tuilleadh eolais:
ÁITEANNA TEORANTA**

Déan teaghmáil le Ferdia ar 028 9074 9688 nó eolas@mhicreachtain.com
Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain, Áras Mhic Reachtain,
283-89 Bóthar Aontroma, Béal Feirste, BT15 2GZ



NEW LODGE ARTS

Youth Theatre Group Showcase

Midsummer.com

This modern tale of Shakespeare Comedy *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, Titania and Oberon zap themselves and all the fairies into our very real world—right into the middle of a teen summer theatre camp!

Tuesday 21st June 2016
7pm
£2 entry on the door

VENUE:
Girdwood Community Hub,
Cliftonpark Avenue

Supported by **BIG children in Need**
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Ashton Community Trust

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Attention All Parents!

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 The Ashton Centre offers **FREE** courses in English, Maths & ICT
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For more information contact:
 Hilary Tel: 028 9032 2289 or email:
hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com




Ashton Community Trust
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CORE
 Creating Opportunities & Real Experiences

Free training available from the CORE programme



ICT	DESIGN	CHILDCARE	CONSTRUCTION
This will include: • Web Design • Word Processing • Databases • Spreadsheets	This will include: • Using computer software to design your idea • Knowledge on designing 3D drawings • 3D printers to bring your idea to life	This will include: • Childcare development • Develop language and communication • Role in early years • Protection and safeguarding	This will include: • CSR Card • Working at heights • Abrasive wheels • Health & Safety in the workplace • Forklift license
Health & Social Care This will include: • HSC Awareness • Roles of a HSC Worker • Safeguarding within HSC • Person Centred Approach • Communication in the workplace	Sports Leadership This will include: • Plan a sports activity • Develop leadership skills • Promoting a healthy lifestyle • Promote fair play in sport • Understand the role of the official	And many more... High street vouchers available on completion of courses	

Courses available for those aged 16 to 24, not in education, employment or training and living in North Belfast

Contact Betty for more information on 95 60 95 22 or betty.murray@ashtoncentre.com

This project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014-2020 and the Department for the Economy.



www.facebook.com/AshtonEmploymentServices

Bridge of Hope Moving Premises



Bridge of Hope (McSweeney Centre) will be moving to 16 Alliance Avenue, BT14 7PH, while building work is carried out in Henry Place.

Contact: (028) 90746737



"Black Mountain to Cavehill Challenge"

Tar Isteach

Sponsored walk

Saturday 25th June, Details to Follow

Meet at the Tar Isteach offices, 244 Antrim Road, BT15 2AR at 9.30 there will be transport to take us to the starting point on the Black Mountain.



Tar Isteach has been providing a Welfare Rights and Advice Service in North Belfast and further afield since 1999. Our funding ceased on 31st March 2015. The service has been operating on a mainly voluntary basis ever since, and we need your help to allow it to continue.

Enquiries to support or take part – 02890746665/02890746664

ASHTON '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

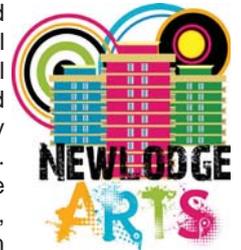


Ashton Community Trust
Employment & Training Services

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/newlodgears>

Website: <http://www.newlodgears.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

