

# Greater New Lodge Community Magazine



Ashton Community Trust

September 2015

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

## ASHTON SECURES £10 MILLION FOR TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT ACROSS BELFAST



Ashton Training & Employment Team

The Training and Employment Service within Ashton has been successful in securing two major new projects and renewing three programmes that will support North Belfast residents into employment. The new projects which are worth an estimated £10 million from the European Social Fund and the Department of Employment & Learning over a 3 year period, include Lemis+ a citywide partnership project led by Ashton that will work with people who are unemployed or economically inactive and the Core Project which will specialise in working with young people who are seeking employment. In addition to these new projects we welcome the continuation of the Community Family Support Project which will work with families reducing their barriers to employment and the CALL/ICT Project which will provide Essential Skills and ICT training to North Belfast residents. Also new to Ashton will be, the Co-Ment Project a youth programme being headed up by Gems NI and delivered through Ashton Community Trust.

Commenting on this success Pat Boyle, Head of Training and Employment Services, said, "This funding represents a significant investment in the future of people living in North Belfast. Ashton will ensure that it will take full advantage of these programmes to improve the quality of lives of North Belfast Residents and that it makes a significant contribution to creating a vibrant local economy where people can expect to get our full support in helping them into employment and in sustaining real jobs".



Pat Boyle

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

The community magazine is compiled & supported by Ashton Community Trust



**Motivational & Personal Development Training**

Let the Lemis+ Project help you

For more information contact Arlene at the Ashton Centre on: 02890 742 255 or email: arlene@ashtoncentre.com

**WHICH WAY WILL YOU CHOOSE**



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
- Bunscuil 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

## Lemis+ Programme

Are you unemployed and looking for work?  
We can help by providing the following services:



- One to one job search
- Help with writing a CV
- Job application support
- Interview skills
- Benefits advice
- Careers, education and training advice
- Ongoing advice and guidance from a mentor
- Essential skills qualifications in English and Maths
- Basic computer qualifications

If you would like some more information please contact the Ashton Centre on 028 90 742255



## 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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# North Belfast United Youth Programme



*Richard Morrison, Sean Campbell, Caroline McCreight, Sean Breen, Paddy Doyle*

North Belfast United Youth Programme is an exciting new pilot programme for young people aged 16 – 24 years who are not currently in employment, education or training and living in the Inner North Belfast and the Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership areas. The pilot programme, administered by DEL, is one of thirteen programmes funded within the community and voluntary sector through the Northern Ireland Executive's 'Together: Building a United Community' Strategy.

The programme is being led by Ashton Community Trust and delivered in partnership with Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum, Ardoyne Youth Providers Forum and Loughview Community Action Partnership. One Youth Outreach Mentor will be hosted with each of the organisations.

The main focus of our work is:

## Mentoring

- Support from youth workers through one-to-one mentoring
- Support to access specialist services where necessary which will be based on the young person's needs
- Co-design with young people individually tailored action plans that identifies their goals, addresses barriers and explores values and aspirations
- Support young people to access specialist services to address need

## Group work

- Good relations is a primary focus of the group work sessions and young people will engage in a range of good relations training
- Participants will also have the opportunity to engage in a menu of personal development training
- Gain recognised qualifications
- Participate on a community relations focused team building residential

## International Visit

- An international visit will also be part of the programme

## Employability

- Volunteering opportunities
- Work placements

Young people can also avail of financial incentives on top of their benefits of up to £40/ week as well as travel and child care costs.

We are currently recruiting for young people who live in the Inner North Belfast and the Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership areas. If you would like any further information about the programme please contact:

Caroline McCreight: North Belfast United Youth Pilot Programme Coordinator

caroline.mccreight@ashtoncentre.com

028 9560 9521

Mobile: 07802879828

Sean Campbell: Youth Outreach Mentor, Loughview Community Action Partnership

sean.campbell@ashtoncentre.com

Mobile: 07802879831

Paddy Doyle: Youth Outreach Mentor, Greater New Lodge

paddy.doyle@ashtoncentre.com

Mobile: 07802879838

Richard Morrison: Youth Outreach Mentor, Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum

richard.morrison@ashtoncentre.com

Mobile: 07802879553

Sean Breen: Youth Outreach Mentor Ardoyne Youth Providers

Email: sean.breen@ashtoncentre.com

Mobile: 07802879561

# Christy Moore Visits Tar Isteach

Christy Moore is one of the greatest folk singers the world has ever known, loved and revered throughout Ireland and beyond, he has iconic status. He is a man with deep compassion for people which he transmits through his music. Throughout his life he has unflinchingly stood with the underdog against the powerful especially when it wasn't the easy or popular thing to do.

During our long years of conflict Christy's support for the republican prisoners made him a hero within the jails. His words, songs, music and public support provided a bright shining light that radiated through the darkness of prison life and helped strengthen the resolve of the prisoners, their families and communities. It was through Christy Moore that songs such as 'I Wish I Was Back Home In Derry' and 'McIllhatton' penned by the heroic Bobby Sands in his bleak H Block cell, were introduced to the outside world. Christy Moore is a genuine legend in his own life time and to say that I admire him is a massive understatement.

So when my good friend and Tar Isteach colleague Tommy Quigley told me a few weeks ago that Christy wanted to meet with us I was totally gobsmacked. Tommy explained that Christy had heard about the work of Tar Isteach and had expressed concerns that the service was now threatened due to funding cuts. The fact that he not only knew about us but was prepared to take the time to meet with us came as a huge surprise. Through Tommy's brother Frank, himself a republican ex-prisoner and well known artist, the meeting was then arranged.

Last Wednesday night Christy arrived at the Tar Isteach offices on the Antrim Road to be greeted by staff, volunteers, committee members as well as some of the ex-prisoners and relatives that use our services. Some of our assembled group Christy recognised and he embraced them as an old friend would do. It would be the beginning of a truly magical and unforgettable night.

For over two spellbinding hours Christy engaged with us through song, verse and conversation. There was banter and laughter as well as serious conversation, reflection and even some tears. He shared some of his recollections with us about the hunger strikes and the struggles of the women prisoners in Armagh. In return he listened intently to some of those present that had been in Armagh and the H Blocks including Kathy Stanton,



Christy in Tar Isteach

Ann Walsh, Tom Boy Louden and Joe Barnes as they recalled the hardships, sacrifices, degradations, humour, love and comradeship experienced during those historic times.

Also present was Terry O'Neill who performed as Christy in the play about his life 'Paddy on the Road' which toured throughout Ireland, Britain and the USA. Christy reflected with Terry on the passing of two great artists Brian Moore who had written the play and Pam Brighton who had directed it.

On a lighter note we conversed about his earlier days with Planxty and Moving Hearts. When asked about his influences outside of Irish music he cited Ewan MacColl, Woodie Guthrie and Bob Dylan amongst others.

As the night progressed he was in fine voice going through a repertoire of famous songs. Agnes Fraser got in with the first request, 'Ordinary Man', this was followed by 'City of Chicago', 'McIllhatton', 'Back Home in Derry' and Jimmy McCarthy's beautiful 'Bright Blue Rose'. He also sang

'Natives' and when he had finished that haunting melody he said that although having performed it on countless occasions, it now had added meaning to him given what he had learned about the historical context and everyday work of Tar Isteach.

At the end and only after he had endured endless individual and group photos we made our goodbyes. For days after we were still speaking about the experience and we are thinking about it still. Christy Moore is and has always been a true champion of the downtrodden and oppressed, his songs have inspired hope and given strength and voice to the powerless and voiceless. For Tar Isteach to be honoured by him in this way is an enormous privilege and a tribute to our work. His visit has boosted our morale at a difficult time and provided us with renewed motivation and determination to continue on with our mission despite all of the obstacles and challenges that are placed in our way.

Thank You Christy!

Paul O'Neill Chairperson Tar Isteach



# Another Funding Blow for Tar Isteach

Crucially important Council funding for a number of political ex-prisoner support groups including Tar Isteach has been withdrawn following a vote by Belfast City Councillors. Although Council funding had previously been approved, an amendment at a full Council meeting on September 1st resulted in monies being withdrawn. The motion opposing the funding was proposed by the SDLP supported by the DUP, Unionist Party, Alliance and Greens. Only Sinn Fein, PUP and People Before Profit wanted the funding to be allowed. Councillors voted by 36 to 22 that, "No funding for groups be allocated until the committee has considered and agreed an open and transparent process under which such applications for funding are processed". In media interviews DUP councillor Brian Kingston indicated that the widely publicised murder of Kevin McGuigan had played a role in their decision to oppose the funding.

## European Funding

Following the conclusion of the European Peace III Programme in March 2015 Tar Isteach had run out of funding for all 9 of its staff posts including management, finance, administration, welfare rights, counselling, training and employment and youth development. Since then the organisation has been operating on an almost totally voluntary basis. Support from Council was therefore critical in enabling it to retain a skeleton service and cover basic running costs allowing it time to try and access funding from elsewhere including the future European Peace IV programme.

Tommy Quigley who spent 20 years of his life in prisons in England and Ireland is Manager of Tar Isteach, "The reasons given for this funding withdrawal are highly suspect. For example

when it comes to openness and transparency our organisation has a solid reputation. We have long experience of managing all forms of funding including Council funding. We have well tested financial systems and controls which have been rigorously scrutinised and which have served us well for many years. Other organisations have received this type of funding without any controversy including the Ulster Orchestra. We are also at a total loss as to why the terrible murder of Kevin McGuigan has any bearing whatsoever on this. Perhaps Councillor Kingston would like to explain what any of this has got to do with Tar Isteach"?

## SDLP Role

Welfare Rights Advisor, Agnes Fraser said, "This decision is obviously motivated by prejudice. They are simply hiding behind a smokescreen of bureaucracy to justify it. Once again it is the political ex-prisoner community that is being used as a convenient scapegoat. I suppose we can expect this type of approach from hardline unionists however it is particularly disheartening to see the SDLP playing such a lead role in all of this. It should be remembered that although we are a political ex-prisoner support group we have a long and well established open door policy that enables many people from all communities to access our services. This is particularly so with our welfare rights service, indeed the SDLP often refer people to us. It is therefore a bit rich to hear these same politicians condemn cuts and austerity whilst actively obstructing a project such as Tar Isteach. Although they talk big about helping the poor we are actually working in the poorest communities confronting poverty on a daily basis by providing much needed help to the most needy and vulnerable. Every Councillor that voted against this funding should hang their heads in shame".



# New Lodge Festival 2015

This year's Greater New Lodge Community Festival was held over a two week period in August and consisted of 38 separate events which included Arts, Crafts and Photographic Exhibitions, Boating Sessions, Carnival Parade, Community Clean Up, Concerts, Family Fun Days, Film Shows, Historical Tours, Information Days, Lectures and Discussions, Literature Events, Street Parties, Sporting Sessions, Treasure Hunts, Trips, Quizzes, Bingo Night and more. Paul O'Neill of the Ashton Community Trust who had responsibility for coordinating the programme said, "On behalf of the Festival Organising Committee I would like to thank everyone involved. The programme this year was bigger and better than the previous year and this was largely down to the huge efforts of local community groups and volunteers. This is a small neighbourhood with limited resources and to be able to stage a programme of such quality and quantity is a testament to the energy, dedication, talent and generosity of spirit that exists in this community. Thanks also to Feile An Phobail's Outreach Engagement Coordinator for all of his assistance with this year's programme. We look forward to building our partnership further with Feile in the future. Everyone involved can now take a well deserved break from Festival work but not for too long as we will be making ready again very soon to prepare for next year's Festival".





# HOUSING NEWS

The housing situation in Greater New Lodge has moved forward in leaps and bounds in the past couple of years, with the completion of houses at Limestone and Parkside, the imminent opening of Girdwood, the progress at North Queen Street Barracks site and improvements on the multi stories it's nice to have something positive to report.

While acknowledging that the housing waiting list in this part of the North is still dire and a lot more needs to be done, I want to use this article to concentrate on these positives.

The opening of Limestone/Parkside and a thriving new community in place has allowed the emptying of old homes in the upper long streets. This in turn will see the demolition of phase one of this area thus freeing up another site for new housing. We expect this to begin very shortly. We also hope to begin discussions with the Housing Executive as to the future of the rest of the long streets as complete redevelopment was always the aim of the Upper Long Streets Residents Association.

Girdwood/Kinnard is nearing completion and some offers have already been made and this is proving to be a popular location. Progress is also ongoing at North Queen Street and should be complete next year, judging by the interest being shown at our office this is also going to be a desirable site.

Everyone will have seen the transformation in Cuchulain House and although the project has had its ups and downs is now down to the last few floors, already many comments have been made in regards to the change in the Belfast skyline. Imagine the look if all seven towers had that distinctive coloured light around their tops. We are still confident that Eithne house will be next. Apart from the cladding other improvements are planned for the blocks in the coming months, already Housing executive staff have been visiting residents to advise them of the fire door scheme which will see existing doors replaced by modern P.V.C. doors. This will also include the bin chute doors.

The security of the towers is also being stepped up, a new fob system is being introduced and cameras are to be updated with an upgrading of the entire project. It is hoped the camera scheme can be extended to other sites so that potential problem spots such as the 11 block in Carlisle can be kept an eye on.

The New Lodge Housing Forum are in constant contact with the Housing Executive and most Housing Associations and we would encourage residents and tenants alike to use the Housing Office if they have any housing problems. We are at 23 New Lodge Road and the phone number is 90742399. No appointment is needed but please note our opening

hours are 9.00am to 1.00pm Monday to Friday.

**Liam Wiggins, Chairman, New Lodge Housing Forum.**

*Cuchulain House*



  
 Ashton Community Trust

**'NI Hospice  
 Big Coffee Break!'**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October  
 at 10.00 am in  
 Ashton Centre boardroom**

 Northern  
 Ireland  
 Hospice

# Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub

As we reported in our previous Greater New Lodge Community Magazine the Ashton Community Trust has been awarded the Lead in the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub.

The Family Support Hub provides early intervention services to families and young people requiring support. The Hub brings together organisations that deliver services to children/young people (0-18 years) and their parents/carers. This includes community, statutory and voluntary family support services.

Since August 24th 2015, Ashton Community Trust has been co-ordinating and receiving referrals and working to connect families to the services they need at a time when they need them. The Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub covers the areas of New Lodge, Duncairn, Fortwilliam, Castleview, Waterworks (part of), Chichester Park (part of), and Bellevue.

The Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub can help your family at many difficult times whether it is dealing with the challenging behaviour of children, debt, stress/depression, alcohol/drug misuse or social isolation. Any adult family member can refer themselves to the Hub simply by completion of a referral form or you may give your consent for another organisation with whom you are involved such as your child's school, your doctor or health visitor or a local community group to make a referral on your behalf. The Co-ordinator of the Hub will then contact you in order to help match appropriate services to your family's needs. At all times your details will be kept confidential until you agree that you would like to avail of a particular service whether it is youth support, advice and guidance or services that offer emotional and well-being support. Your information will only be shared with the organisations who you feel will be of help to your family.

There is now no need for families in our area to struggle through life's difficulties because the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub is here to help through these times and work in partnership



Christine McKeown (Chair) and Edith McManus Co-ordinator

with families to improve outcomes for all the people who live in Lower North Belfast.

Should you have any queries about the Hub or should you wish to refer your family to the Hub please contact Edith McManus, the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub Co-ordinator at the Ashton Centre 02890 749986.

## Training and Employment Information Morning

Are you interested in finding work, accessing training or simply want to find out more about the services then come along to our Training and Employment Information Morning.

New Lodge Youth Club,  
Upper Meadow Street  
Friday September 25<sup>th</sup> 2015  
10.00am – 1.00pm



**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**

# Duncairn Culture and Arts Centre

Beginning on Monday the 21st of September, the new programme at Duncairn Centre for Culture & Arts (174 Trust) offers our widest variety of arts and craft events to date with 18 workshops, classes & events taking place each week. The new programme includes fiddle making classes, music workshops, free Irish language classes and a wide range of arts and crafts courses.

At the Duncairn it is extremely important that our programme offers all members of the community the opportunity to participate in the arts whether that is attending a performance, viewing an exhibition or joining one or more classes. We have kept registration fees to a bare minimum and we also offer free places. So if you would like to take part in the programme please do get in touch with our events team who will be more than happy to provide you with full information as to how you can join in the fun.

The newest addition to The Duncairn is the award winning Café Krem who have wasted no time in bringing their unique catering style to North Belfast. So please drop by for a delicious lunch, fresh baked breads and amazing tea/coffee.

Described as Belfast's most beautiful cultural centre The Duncairn is an ideal location for meetings, seminars, training events and conferences with a variety of spaces for hire.

If you have an idea for a class or event that you would like to see at the Duncairn please do let us know. Printed copies of the full programme will be available at reception.

For further information you can call us on 02890 747 117 e-mail [reception@174trust.org](mailto:reception@174trust.org) (Ask for Úna) or simply call in for a chat, we'd be delighted to meet you. **Úna Brady**

## Great coffee on the Antrim Road



Café Krem are now operating the cafe in the Duncairn Community and Arts Centre on the corner of Belfast's Antrim Road and Duncairn Avenue. Operating cafés in Queens University and Newry they are delighted to be working with the 174 Trust to bring quality coffee to such a beautiful venue. A super location for private meetings for coffee or for lunch. Come visit the gallery and see what's happening in the heart of your community.



Úna Brady Corporate Services Manager at the Duncairn Culture and Arts Centre

# New Community Hub Opens in Harbourview Sailortown

Residents at Clanmil Housing's Harbourview apartments in Sailortown recently enjoyed a Family Fun Day to celebrate the launch of a new Community Hub at their scheme.

Kids living at Harbourview enjoyed a bouncy castle and rodeo ride as well as face painting and lots of arts and crafts.

A range of local partner organisations who are planning to deliver programmes and initiatives from the Community Hub were also there to introduce themselves to the residents. They included Women'sTec, Smile Sure Start, New Lodge Arts, The Ashton Centre, TAMHI and Family Support NI.

Thanks to these partners and to the new community space, people living at Harbourview now have direct access to a range of the support and services that are currently available to the wider North Belfast community.

A great day was had by all!

Clanmil would like to thank the partner organisations involved and is looking forward to continuing to work with them to further develop the range of services and support available to Harbourview residents.



Clanmil staff with residents and community providers



Fun day at Harbourview

# Ashton Community Trust Community Bursary Awards

This is the 6th year of the Annual Ashton Bursary Awards. The purpose of the Bursary Awards Scheme is to enable the Ashton Community Trust to use its resources to provide help to other community led projects especially where there is clear evidence of voluntary input and where resources for a group are scarce. To date 65 bursaries have been granted to local groups involved in activities such as sport, outdoor pursuits, art, music, health, housing, culture, history, remembrance, safety and well being. To date Ashton has distributed over £30,000 in Bursary Awards.

In providing financial support Ashton Community Trust is recognising the fantastic voluntary input at grass roots level in the Greater New Lodge area.

To be eligible for an Ashton Bursary Award, groups must meet the following criteria;

- Is working in the Greater New Lodge area
- Is inclusive and non party political
- Is meeting local needs and providing local services
- Has modest resources and would find it difficult in accessing funding

If you have received a grant in the past you must provide



Bursary organisers Paul O'Neill, John Fleming and Louise Curley

some detail about how this was used for the benefit of the local community.

Maximum grant available is £500

Total grant fund available is £5,000

For a Bursary application form contact Louise Curley at the Ashton Centre, 5 Churchill Street, BT15 2BP

Phone 90 742255

## Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain

The Annual McCracken Summer School came to a close on August 1st this year with a Cabaret Night at their new Centre on the Antrim Road. The Cabaret Night which also featured as part of this year's Greater New Lodge Festival was a roaring success and was completely sold out! Revellers were treated to great night of entertainment that included an eclectic mix of music and dance from all over Europe and Ireland.

Upcoming events and classes

- Craobh Naomh Pádraig Classes – 23rd September 7pm – 9pm (Wednesday – all levels)
- Coffee Morning – 10.30am – 12.00 pm Every Wednesday morning in Áras Mhic Reachtain. Free
- Beginners Morning Classes 10.30am – 12.00 pm Every Tuesday and Thursday Free
- Irish Singing Classes with Doimnic Mac Giolla Bhríde – Wednesdays 9.00pm – 10.00pm. Free



For further information Contact: Niamh on 02890749688 or eolas@mhicreachtain.com to register. Le meas, Niamh McCann Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge- Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain Áras Mhic Reachtain, 283-289 Bóthar Aontroma, Béal Feirste, BT15 2GZ

Fón: (028) 90749688 Guthán Póca: +447809473872

# ASHTON SECURES £10 MILLION FOR TRA

Continued from front page

## Lemis + North Belfast at Work



The Lemis+ Project is a partnership of employment service providers working collectively to deliver across Belfast. The partnership is led by Ashton Community Trust working in North Belfast in conjunction with GEMS NI (South Belfast), Upper Springfield Development Trust (West Belfast), Impact Training/ Greater Shankill Job Assist Centre (Greater Shankill) and East Belfast Mission (East Belfast). In North Belfast alone the Lemis+ project will work with 800 clients per year for the next three years. At least 200 of these clients will gain employment with many more being supported into further training and education.

In North Belfast a team of 11 Mentors will be available across the area to provide 1-2-1 advice, guidance and support to individuals from one of our premises at Ashton Centre or premises from one of our 30+ outreach centres right across the North Belfast area. The highly skilled Lemis+ Project Mentors will offer careers advice, education and training and give people the support they need to progress into employment. If you want to speak to one of the Lemis+ Project Mentors contact Arlene Moody on 028 90742255 or email: [arlene.moody@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:arlene.moody@ashtoncentre.com) Or for information on training contact Debbie Mc Quillan on 02890742255 or email [debbie.mcquillan@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:debbie.mcquillan@ashtoncentre.com)

Having been only operational from 1st April 2015 the Lemis+ Project has been able to start supporting almost 240 people begin their journey back into employment. One of those 240 people was Pamela who came to Lemis+ looking for support to get a job. Pamela is a single mum and had no qualifications but had great ambitions to become an accountant. However while she was studying for her accountancy exams she also needed to work to put bread on the table. Helped by a Lemis+ mentor Pamela is now working in a local Hot Food Shop and going to night school to study. Jenny, Pamela's Mentor, said "I can see a real change in Pamela, when she came to us her confidence was low and she was worried that she would not be able to get back into work. Now she is a real go getter not only working but also studying at the same time".

Another Lemis+ Project client who was long-term unemployed was supported into a placement with Royal Mail and is already being considered for temporary work from September 2015. Prior to the intervention of the Lemis+ Project this client had issues with confidence and commitment but his Mentor now reports that he is a totally different person.

Over the next few months, participants on the Lemis+ Project will be able to undertake a range of training in areas such as ICT, childcare, health and social care, and GOALS (a personal

development programme). A range of pre-employment courses will also be available where a clear employability outcome will be achieved as a result of undertaking this training.

Add to the above the Lemis+ Project has its own dedicated Employer Liaison Service (ELS) which will be working with employers, from right across the City, to secure job opportunities for people on the Project. This service is also working very closely with Belfast City Council in helping them achieve their "Social Clause" objectives that are now being written into all Council contracts. These clauses aim to encourage contractors to employ local unemployed people on the delivery of these contracts.

**The Lemis+ Project is funded by the European Social Fund, the Department of Employment and Learning, Belfast City Council and the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister. It is also partly matched funded from the Lemis+ partnership itself.**



Ashton Lemis Team

## Core Project – Creating Opportunities and Real Experience



Ashton Core Project

Ashton Community Trust has also been awarded funding for a new programme through the European Social Fund and the Department of Employment and Learning. The CORE Project is a new programme aimed at those who are aged 16 to 24 and who are not in Education, Employment or Training within the North Belfast area. The project will work with over 300 young people per year for the next three years. Over 50 of these young people will find employment with a further 150 progressing to further education and training. In addition all clients will be offered the chance to complete courses and gain qualifications.

The CORE Project stands for Creating Opportunities and Real Experiences and our team of expert mentors will ensure that the young people we work with will get opportunities to gain employment and the chance to develop as people through the

# TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT ACROSS BELFAST

experiences they gain on the programme. We will do this by offering advice and guidance, training and work placements that will help the young people into employment or further education and training.

The CORE Project is located in Ashton's newest building on the Cliftonville Road which has been selected to provide young people with a base to drop in and avail of the services. We have dedicated staff based within the building to provide mentoring for young people who are unsure of what direction to take in life or for those who just need a helping hand with applications or sourcing training. The CORE team also provide an outreach service across North Belfast for those who are unable use this centre and are happy to meet young people in a venue suitable for them. Some of the training that we will have on offer will be:

- Employability
- Construction
- Retail / Customer Services
- Design
- ICT
- Childcare

This training will provide young people with the basic qualifications to progress onto further education or employment. The CORE Project also has an Employment and Education Officer who will develop close links with various employers and education providers to make it easier for young people to get the opportunities they seek.

A recent success for the CORE project was with William a young person who was recently made homeless and had lost his job. This resulted in William feeling very low and lacking in confidence. With the support of one of our mentors we organised a "better off" check with a benefit advisor who attends the centre each week and then advised and guided him with finding employment. We also supported him with interview techniques and sourced funding for clothes and shoes for his interviews. William was then able to gain employment in a local shop and this also helped him find housing and boost his confidence.

If you would like more information on the programme or would like refer someone onto the project, please contact Laura on 9560 9522 or [laura.odonnell@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:laura.odonnell@ashtoncentre.com)



Ashton Core Team

The Core Project is funded by the European Social Fund Northern Ireland and the Department of Employment and Learning. It is also partly match funded by Ashton Community Trust itself.

## Community Family Support Programme:



This project will work with families in North Belfast who have a young person not in employment, education or training. The programme offers a blend of family centred training such as the cook it programme, personal development and parenting skills along with an employment mentoring service to help family members find work. To find out more contact Jeanette or Eileen 95609522. The Community Family Support Programme is funded by the European Social Fund Northern Ireland and the Department of Employment and Learning.

**Co-Ment:** This is a programme for young people not in employment, education or training. This programme will provide a blend of mentoring, training and advice for young people seeking to move into employment. Contact Tracy or Gemma to find out more 90322289. The Co-Ment project is funded by the European Social Fund Northern Ireland and the Department of Employment and Learning.



Co-Ment

**CALL/ICT:** This is a programme of courses and support in English, Maths and Computers to help residents of Lower North Belfast improve their Essential Skills or ICT skills. Contact Hilary to find out more about English and Maths support 90322289 and Diarmuid about ICT classes 90742255. The CALL/ICT project is funded by the Department of Social Development.



# NEW LODGE ARTS UPDATE

## Summer Fun Day – Waterworks Park

New Lodge Arts Event Management Team recently organised and delivered a summer fun day for the North Belfast community. The group of young people (aged 13-16 years) helped apply for funding, which was successful and then worked together weekly to plan the event. The young people had complete control of everything from booking the artists and performers to sorting first aid and equipment, basically co-ordinating the entire event.

The event took place on Saturday 1st August from 11.30am – 2.30pm, opening the Greater New Lodge Community Festival. The event was free and catered for people of all ages and backgrounds. There was a range of activities for people to get involved in and enjoy. These included; a family treasure hunt, balloon modelling, face painting, art workshops, walkabout street performers, sports day style games and carnival games (that young people made up and designed themselves).

The event had a great turnout and had a steady flow of people enjoying the activities throughout. The treasure hunt was a great hit and a great opportunity for families to do something together.

The event was enjoyed by everyone that attended, as well as New Lodge Arts staff and Event Management team. People were personally thanking the young people that delivered the event and staff as they were leaving, saying their children 'had a ball'. We were asked to keep people informed of our future events.

Caoimhlin O'Neill, 15, is a member of the Event Management Group. She said 'In my opinion I think our event went really well as it was our first event. Usually I just go help out at these events on the day but you don't realise how much planning goes into it. But I'm glad after all the stressful planning, it turned out really well. I'm really proud of my achievement and I can't wait to plan more events in the near future.'

## Junior Arts Academy 'Cats New Lodge Style'

New Lodge Arts Junior Summer Arts Academy took place from Monday 3rd August – Friday 7th August 2015 with 22 young people participating in the programme. Led by Brona Jackson and Sarah Davies, the young people devised their own piece of theatre based on Cats the Musical. The programme provided dance, drama and singing workshops for young people from the Greater New Lodge and surrounding areas aged 6-11yrs.

The young people had a fantastic week – all getting into their characters of either the House Cats and the Alley Cats. They devised their own songs and choreographed some dance moves to create a highly entertaining showcase for parents and friends which took place on Friday 7th August in the North Queen Street Community Centre.

Brona Jackson, Dance Tutor said 'This was a great week for the young people – they loved the cats theme and inventing their dance routines – Sarah and I had a ball!'



## Summer Arts Academy

For this year's Summer Arts Academy, New Lodge Arts were delighted to welcome Youth Music Theatre UK to the New Lodge to deliver a week long musical theatre project. Youth Music Theatre UK (YMT:UK) is the leading UK based musical theatre company for young people. Previous participants include **Ed Sheeran and Sam Smith**.

Participants took part in a range of singing, acting and dance classes with a team of highly skilled artists during a week long programme held in the North Queen Street Community Centre.

The participants worked towards a performance in the Duncairn Culture & Arts Centre on Friday 14th August 2015. Family and friends were invited along to see the fantastic showcase of Teenage Dreams. The script and songs were devised during the week and it was a high quality, energetic performance by the 20 young people.

Anne Delaney, Arts Programme & Operations Manager said 'This was a fantastic opportunity for our young people to work with top level musical theatre tutors and the quality of the performance was testament to the hard work and commitment of the team throughout the week. We would love to continue this relationship with Youth Music Theatre UK and bring them back in the future.'



## New Lodge Arts –Summer Street Party

As part of this year's New Lodge Festival, New Lodge Arts were excited to bring back the 'Street Party' in Lepper Street. The event took place on Saturday 8th August 2015 with an array of activity including Street Theatre, Circus Acts, Bouncy Castles, Street Games, Music, Drawing and a variety of Arts & Crafts. There really was something for everyone and it was fantastic to see the local community, young and old, united together to celebrate arts and culture.

Anne Delaney, Arts Programme & Operations Manager, New Lodge Arts was delighted with the event: 'It was exciting to bring the street party back again this year. There was a great mix of activities on offer. A big thank you to all the staff, volunteers, artists and performers who all made it a great success.'



Magic show in Lepper Street

## 'Acting Up' Summer Camp

This Summer Camp was funded under the OFMDFM TBUC programme and aimed to engage young people with a passion for drama in a cross community project with good relations at the core. The group included 20 young people New Lodge Arts and Newtownabbey Arts & Cultural Network Theatre Company. The project included Drama Workshops, Team Building and Outdoor activities.

The main element of this programme was a 4-day residential to Newcastle. During the trip, the young people took part in a range of activities including Bouldering, High Ropes, Laser Tag, Team Building games, Drama Workshops, Dance Workshops and Physical Theatre.

The group had an amazing experience on the residential and it was clear to see the positive impact of using arts as a tool for bringing people from different cultures together.

The group are currently working towards two showcase events at Culture Night Belfast and Culture Night Glengormley in September.



CATS

# OUTREACH WORK



Paddy Doyle and Cecilia Heron

During the month of July and August Detached/Outreach Youth Work was carried out in the New Lodge Area twice a week by Good Relations Arts Worker for New Lodge Arts Cecilia Heron and Youth Worker for New Lodge Youth Centre Paddy Doyle.

Cecilia Heron said "We were able to obtain some money from Belfast City Council to carry out this valuable piece of work. We thoroughly enjoyed chatting with the 153 young people we met and lucky enough the weather wasn't too bad. We got a warm reception from the young people who were just enjoying the summer holidays and being able to get outdoors. Many were availing of the new MUGA facility in North Queen Street Park which was great to see. Unfortunately the funding has now finished but I would hope that future funding is obtained for this much needed resource in our area." By engaging with these young people we are able to see what issues they face and help signpost them in terms of training and personal development needs".

Paddy Doyle from New Lodge Youth Centre said "It was brilliant to get out on the street and work with young people where they felt most comfortable. Although there was great feedback and discussions between youth workers and young people, some young people still felt that they didn't have much of a say in their community and that they would like to get involved in more youth and community projects with the support from residents and youth providers. The young people are open and willing to take part in positive projects and other lines of communication in the hope to better community relations".

Because some young people felt there was less for them to take part in during the summer, local young people from the New Lodge Youth Centre's Youth Impact group (Ciaran Murray, Liam Davey, Liam Brophy) came together to form a small committee to plan and run a youth event as part of the New Lodge Festival. This event was aimed at young people aged 14-18 years old in the hope to give other young people more opportunities to get involved over the summer months. This group will meet regularly throughout the year and give their input to the overall New Lodge Festival for next year.

# Girdwood Developments

The Belfast City Council has recently distributed a newsletter to provide an update of information about the development of Girdwood. The following is a summary of the information contained in the newsletter.

## Ongoing Development

Work to regenerate the former British military barracks site at Girdwood Park is continuing with Belfast City Council and other partners spending around £20 million on the current development.

## Community Hub

A key part of this is the construction of a Community Hub with work now in its final stages the first facilities are expected to open later this year. The Hub will contain a gym, sports hall and changing facilities, event and activity rooms, community space for after-schools, crafts and other activities, Belfast Metropolitan College classrooms, youth space and an outdoor piazza with seating. Greenwich Leisure Limited GLL will run the new Community Hub. (GLL now operate all Council leisure facilities in Belfast)

## Sports Pitch

A synthetic pitch, suitable for football, rugby and Gaelic games, is expected to be open for bookings in late 2015 for individuals, schools, groups and clubs. To register your interest, email [girdwood@gll.org](mailto:girdwood@gll.org)

## Housing



Community Reps Visit Girdwood

60 new housing units are under construction, near Kinnaird Street. Led by Apex Housing Association, these will be ready for allocation by early 2016. Call Apex on 028 7130 4800 to find out more.

## Plans for Indoor Sports Facility

Belfast City Council is continuing to work with the Department for Social Development, Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure, Sport NI, Belfast Metropolitan College and the community to progress plans to include an indoor sports facility. The council has set aside £6 million for the development of the sports facility. Another element of work currently being explored is the building of mixed use economic units on the site.

A housing development along Cliftonpark Avenue is likely to be the final element of the plan when completed.



Judith Thompson Victims Commissioner second from the right

## New Victims Commissioner Visits Ashton Centre

The newly appointed Commissioner for Victims and Survivors, Judith Thompson, has met with representatives of the Ashton Community Trust. The meeting took place on 14th September. Irene Sherry Head of Victims Services & Mental Health Services with Ashton said, “The meeting was extremely useful as it provided us with an early opportunity to present our views to the Commissioner on the way forward. We gave her our perspective on how Inner North Belfast in particular was so badly impacted by the armed conflict. She listened very carefully as we outlined the services that we provide to address the legacies of that conflict. We wish the Commissioner well and look forward to working and meeting with her again in the future”.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning**

New Lodge Youth Centre,  
117 Upper Meadow Street  
On the 21<sup>st</sup> of September  
from 10 30am until 4.00pm.

This year Rosh Mulholland will be fundraising with us in what will be a great event. Why not call in for a tea/ coffee and support this good cause.



Macmillan give so much it is good to give something back.

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING LET'S MAKE IT THE BIGGEST EVER



**Ashton Community Trust**

**Essential Skills Training & Employment Services**

**Ashton Centre**

**Attention All Parents!**

**Do you want to help your children with homework?**

**Do you need to update your reading, writing and maths skills?**

Essential Skills are the necessary skills for everyday life and employment  
Employers will look for qualifications in the Essential Skills – English, Maths & ICT  
The Ashton Centre offers **FREE** courses in English, Maths & ICT  
Classes are available at Entry Level up to Level 2 (equivalent to Grade C at GCSE)

For more information contact:  
Hilary Tel: 028 9032 2289 or email: [hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com)



**North Belfast Social Enterprise hub**

**Business Clinic's**

Make an appointment on:  
028 95 609 521, 028 95 609 522 or via email: [nbsehub@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:nbsehub@ashtoncentre.com) or just drop into the HUB at 52 York Street, Belfast BT15 1AS

Visit our Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/NorthBelfastSEHUB](http://www.facebook.com/NorthBelfastSEHUB)



**Ashton Community Trust**



**Northern Ireland Executive**  
[www.northernireland.gov.uk](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk)  
DELIVERING SOCIAL CHANGE

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

**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)

# New MUGA For North Queen Street Park

Belfast City Council has completed a significant improvement to North Queen Street Park by installing a new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). Local Sinn Fein Councillor JJ Magee has been in ongoing contact with Council Officials in relation to the work. He said, "Although the completion of the work took a wee bit longer than anticipated I think most people will agree that the finished job is a huge improvement. This will provide a much needed facility to the local community".



*The MUGA in use during the Festival*

Councillor Magee works closely with North Queen Street Park Committee which is made up of residents, youth workers, sports providers, community workers and St. Patrick's Primary School. The Committee meets regularly to monitor how the park is functioning and has been central to the revival of the park. This has involved considerable effort and commitment resulting in the park's successful transformation which 10 years ago was an anti-social nightmare and an eyesore but today is a fine community facility. Members of the Park Committee are currently in touch with various youth and sports providers in the area to establish a 'Users Agreement' to ensure the facility is open and accessible to all including the use of the park for structured and non-structured activities.



## 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



## New Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator for Inner North Belfast

A New Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator for Inner North Belfast has recently been appointed. The new Co-ordinator is Kerry McIvor and she will be responsible for working with all communities of Inner North Belfast. Kerry will be based in the Ashton Centre.

As well as New Lodge and Duncairn, Kerry will also be working with community and voluntary groups that are based in Carrick Hill, Newington, Mount Vernon, Tigers Bay and the Shore Road. Her main role will be to oversee the implementation of the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan and to offer support to the Inner North Neighbourhood Partnership and its associated sub groups, i.e.

- Health and Well Being
- Children and Young People
- Physical and Economic
- Social and Community

Kerry will also be working closely with the various community and voluntary organisations of North Belfast as well as statutory agencies with the aim of promoting greater collaboration between voluntary and community organisations.

Over the coming weeks she will be meeting up with the various community and voluntary groups that are active in the area.



*Kerry McIvor*

## Neighbourhood Renewal and Local Government Reform

Neighbourhood Renewal first emerged as a government strategy in 2004 aimed at tackling the worst levels of disadvantage and deprivation in 36 designated areas across the North of Ireland. In North Belfast there are a number of Neighbourhood Renewal areas that have established partnerships. This includes Inner North Partnership which is made up of representatives from local community and voluntary groups, churches, statutory agencies, and government departments. The geographical areas covered by this particular partnership are Greater New Lodge, Carrick Hill, Tigers Bay and Shore Road.

### Local Government Reform

Under the Review of Public Administration (RPA), responsibility for community development is set to pass from central to local government. This will include funding and other areas of responsibility. In principle this is aimed at transforming the way that councils and other organisations engage with local communities.

### Planning

Belfast City Council will, take on responsibility for planning. This will include applications for small home improvements to large scale developments. Council will have responsibility for enforcement when breaches of planning permission occur.

### Community Planning

A major feature of the new transformation will be Community Planning. Council now has statutory responsibility for community planning which means that they have a statutory responsibility to engage with other agencies and communities about how they would like to see their communities and city developed. Local Government legislation also places responsibility on Council for targeting deprivation and social need, meaning that Council must develop its own anti-poverty strategies.



Regeneration- In April 2016 Councils are due to take responsibility for regeneration tasks from the Department of Social Development (DSD). This will include town and city as well as local area regeneration. Council will also have key responsibility for providing support to the community sector at local level.

### Community Development

In community development terms the purpose behind these new council powers, at least in theory, is to encourage greater citizen participation, create more effective service delivery and generally improve the quality of life at neighbourhood level. If appropriately applied and implemented, there is no doubt that new local area action plans can become powerful tools that enable local communities to ensure that their voice is heard and their needs properly identified and addressed. The real job is to turn the theory into practice and as the old adage tells us, "The proof of the pudding will be in the eating".

For more information on all functions of Belfast City Council see [www.belfastcity.gov.uk](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk)

# Launch of New Safer Streets Logo



*Belfast Mayor Arder Carson addresses community safety audience*

An event took place on Tuesday 8th September in New Lodge Youth Centre to promote the work of young people from the New Lodge and Limestone Road areas who have been involved in a process aimed at analysing and promoting community safety. The project which has been ongoing for some time now, created the space for the young people to reflect on their experiences and to give their views including how the police deal with safety issues in their areas. This included giving direct feedback about local police performance.

The programme has engaged an extensive number of young people aged 11 years and above through leadership training and mentoring activities, special away days and activities aimed at improving the local environment such as arts initiatives and community clean-up operations.

Youth Worker Kelly Campbell said,

“The young people themselves expressed how they felt a certain disconnection from what was happening in their area and wanted statutory agencies and community representatives to help them understand and maybe help change how community safety in the area was managed. We have been overwhelmed by the support and encouragement we have received from parents and community representatives in both the New Lodge and the Limestone Road area. This project has acted as a catalyst for further positive change in the area”.

The event also saw the launch of the new logo for New Lodge Safer Streets, designed by young people from New Lodge Youth Centre. The keynote speaker at the event was the Mayor of Belfast Councillor Arder Carson.



## Numbers To Help You Stay Safe.

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| FASA .....                                  | 028 90 803040 |
| Lighthouse.....                             | 028 90 755070 |
| PIPS.....                                   | 028 90 805850 |
| N.I.H.E.....                                | 0344 892 0900 |
| Noise Control .....                         | 028 90 373006 |
| Greater New Lodge Safer Streets.....        | 0756 493 8276 |
| P.S.N.I Non Emergency.....                  | 101           |
| Emergency Services .....                    | 999           |
| Lifeline .....                              | 0808 808 8000 |
| Childline.....                              | 0800 1111     |
| Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub..... | 028 90 749986 |



  
Ashton Community Trust

## 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.

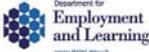
Psychology  
Development  
Health & Safety  
Child Protection  
Play



**Admission Criteria:**  
Applicants must be resident in South Belfast and currently unemployed.

**Contact:** Arlene Moody  
Tel: 02890 742 255  
Email: [arlene@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:arlene@ashtoncentre.com)

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



# NORTH BELFAST LANTERN PARADE AND MAGICAL FESTIVAL



Now in its sixth year the North Belfast Lantern Parade and Magical Festival will take place on Thursday 29th October 2015. 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, Community Foundation for Northern Ireland and Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. Cecilia Heron Good Relations Arts Worker for New Lodge Arts said, "This is an established event in North Belfast and is an annual event that families look forward to attending. We are very excited about the theme this year which will be "Under The Sea". There will be an array of activities in our Magical Garden section in the Waterworks Park on Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th October. This will be free and will include lantern making, street art performances and much more.

The main Magical Evening event will take place on Thursday 29th October 6pm - 9pm in the Waterworks Park. Like last year the event will be ticketed. Tickets for the Magical Evening will cost £1 each and are available from the: Ashton Centre 5 Churchill Street, Belfast, BT15 2BP, tel: 90742255, Tickets will go on sale on Monday 5th October. The one way system will also operate again within the Waterworks Park.

If you have a group that wish to make lanterns to take part in the parade and/or make larger art pieces to go on display in the Waterworks Park then please contact me via email at [cecilia.heron@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:cecilia.heron@ashtoncentre.com) with suitable dates/times/age group etc and I will arrange?



## O'Neill & Allsopp Memorial Flute Band New Lodge, Belfast

### Now Open For New Members



**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**



 ECDL  
European Computer Driving Licence

**Live in Belfast?  
Looking for work?  
Need qualifications?**

Why not sign up for our  
**ECDL Essentials Course**

12 Week Course

Modules include:  
IT user fundamentals  
Using Email and the Internet  
Security for IT users

For more information contact a Mentor at the Ashton Centre on: 028 9074 2255

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










**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](mailto:christine@ashtoncentre.com)

High quality Daycare and After school services in North Belfast




# Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub

Ashton Community Trust has been awarded the Lead for the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub and I have recently been appointed as the Co-ordinator of this Hub. "I have been involved in community work for the past 15 years and being born and raised in North Belfast, it is a great privilege to be back working in the area.



For many years I have worked in Family Support and hope to bring the skills and knowledge that I have acquired during this time to my work in the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub.

The community of North Belfast deserves to have the best outcomes for its families and I hope that in my new role and in partnership with others that we can work to ensure this happens.

Please get in touch if you feel that you or your family could benefit from the work of the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub, we would be delighted to hear from you. I can be contacted on 02890 749986". *Edith McManus*

## Child Friendly Visions

A consultation process on Shaping Healthier Places for Children in Belfast which had been ongoing in Belfast until late June 2015 came to New Lodge Youth Centre on Wednesday June 17th. Children from KinderKids and young people from New Lodge Youth Centre took part in the consultation.

The children's and the young people's responses will be collated separately and will help shape next steps in the process. The purpose of the consultation process is to assist in the development of a child friendly vision for Belfast. The reports of the consultation will be fed into a cross-sectoral Child Friendly Places working group which is made up of various statutory and community representatives.

### NORTH BELFAST CHRISTMAS PANTO

Now in it's fourth year auditions for our Christmas Panto will take place the week commencing Monday 19th October 2015. Auditions will be held in up to 8 North Belfast venues. Check out our face book page for further information or contact Cecilia Heron at New Lodge Arts on 90742255 or via email [cecilia.heron@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:cecilia.heron@ashtoncentre.com).



*Children's Consultation, New Lodge Youth Centre*

# Make Your Home Warmer This Winter!

Free Insulation Schemes and Energy Saving Advice available

## Ashton/Bryson Partnership

The Ashton Community Trust is working with Bryson Energy to make it easier for families in North Belfast to access the free energy efficiency schemes and advice available to make homes warmer and reduce energy bills. Bryson Energy offer advice to all households on saving energy and reducing fuel costs in the home. They have knowledge of all the energy saving schemes available to support families and as a charity its advice is independent and focused on the family's needs.

Living in a cold damp home can be very damaging to our health and well being. In recent years as the cost of heating oil, gas and electricity has risen families are increasingly struggling to manage the everyday costs in the home on the household budget. As a result they are often unable to adequately heat the home particularly during periods of cold weather.

Last spring time we helped 50 families access Energy Saving Packs for the home and a number of these families also went on to receive free insulation through energy efficiency schemes. This autumn and winter we want to help more families access this support.

Angela McDonnell (pictured) from the area received a Pack and also had her loft insulation topped up at no cost with the support of Bryson Energy.

Angela explained

"I thought I had enough loft insulation but it needed topped up to the recommended 12 inches. My daughter's room upstairs is now much warmer. The process was very straightforward and the installers were in and out in a few hours".



Did you know families who own or privately rent their home and in receipt of an income less than £35,000/annum are eligible for a free home energy efficiency scheme? These offer loft and cavity wall insulation and possibly a new heating system at no cost.

Housing Executive tenants can benefit from a visit from one of our Heat Smart Advisors who advise on energy efficiency in the home and reducing condensation.

Any household can benefit from telephone advice on fuel budgeting, payment awareness including the different electricity tariffs available.

To access this advice and for more information contact the Bryson Energy Advice Line on 0800 1422 865 which is free from a landline or from your mobile phone 02866340782. Alternatively you can email [advice@brysonenergy.org](mailto:advice@brysonenergy.org). Please quote New Health Routes to the advisor.

## Motorway Interchange - Public Inquiry

Notice has been given that a Public Inquiry will be held into the proposal for the new Motorway Interchange which will run through Inner North Belfast including a road widening phase at North Queen Street. The Department of Regional Environment (DRD) has appointed Mr J A Robb as Inspector and Mr J Cargo as Assistant Inspector. The proposed works will include the provision of a grade-separated junction at York Street to provide direct links between the Westlink and the M2 and M3 Motorways. The Inquiry will take place at the Assembly Buildings Conference Centre, Fisherwick Place, Belfast BT1 6DW, starting at 10.00 am on 10th November 2015.

Following local public meetings last year it was agreed by residents living close to the proposed works that a Community Working Committee be set up to monitor and organise around this issue. The Committee, made up of residents and community activists has met on numerous occasions and has already engaged with Transport NI and made a submission to the DRD consultation on the motorway project outlining

a range of local concerns. Paul O'Neill acts as Chairperson of the Committee, "This Public Inquiry provides residents with another opportunity to outline their concerns and put forward proposals. We would argue that key to this process should be the principle of shared decision-making to ensure that the quality of life of our community will not be undermined. This project is costing government £130 million and with such a significant amount of public funds being spent it is hardly too much to ask that compensatory projects should also be undertaken in a co-design approach that clearly demonstrates that our community is being respected and treated in a reasonable manner".



# '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 victims and survivors service that works with individuals, families and communities affected by the conflict in North Belfast and beyond. Over 11,500 individuals have accessed our services since we were set up in 2001. Our goal is to tackle the legacy of the conflict through a variety of holistic approaches to trauma recovery. We do this through the delivery of complementary therapies, life coaching, counselling support, legacy and conflict analysis, as well as accredited training and personal development courses. Further information can be accessed via our Facebook page or on our website.



**Bridge of HOPE**

**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](mailto: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>

