

GREATER NEW LODGE CEP MAGAZINE



June 2014

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

Martin McGuinness Visits Ashton Centre's FabLab



Katrina Newell New Lodge Youth Centre, Paul Roberts Ashton CEO, Adam Wallace FabLab with Martin McGuinness in the FabLab.

Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness recently came out to visit the Ashton Centre and in particular to have a look around the FabLab. During the tour the Deputy First Minister paid glowing tribute to the work of the Ashton and said that he was particularly impressed by the FabLab. Paul Roberts, Chief Executive of the Ashton said, *"I think it is fair enough to say that Martin was very impressed at the level of achievement and sheer enthusiasm on display here at the Ashton. He was absolutely fascinated by the FabLab. He made special comment about the level of technical skill, sophistication, and innovation involved. He said that it was absolutely fantastic that this type of project was operating at grass roots level in an area such as the New Lodge that has experienced so much hardship as result of the armed conflict and social deprivation"*.

See Page 7 for what's happening in the FabLab

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The community magazine is compiled & supported by Ashton Community Trust

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- Help with job searches & job applications
- CV Building
- Help with interview skills

If you would like to arrange a meeting call or email us on
For under 25's email brian.wells@astoncentre.com
Over 25's email donnchadh.murphy@astoncentre.com
Tel: 028 90 742 255

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 2892
- 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
- Neighbourhood Watch - 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 Queen St. Community Centre - 9032 3945
- Smile SureStart - 9075 6654
- Saint Patrick's Primary School -
- Star Neighbourhood Centre - 9074 0693
- Tar Isteach - 90746665 / 90754967

BRIDGES SEWING

Mon - Fri 1.00pm - 3.00pm
Curtain Making, Formal
Dresses, Alterations Etc.

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Learner Access Engagement Programme

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GROUPS OF 10-12 LEARNERS TO TAKE PLACE IN VARIOUS OUTREACH CENTRES WITHIN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Classes Ongoing Enrol Now

If you are interested contact:
Corinna McErlan, Ashton Centre,
028 90 74 22 55
or email: corinna@astoncentre.com






Ashton Community Trust



Bridge of Hope provides services to victims and survivors of the political conflict. We provide complementary therapies, life coaching, accredited training and personal development courses as well as legacy and conflict analysis. Nearly 6,000 individuals have accessed our services since we were established in 2001. Bridge of Hope also carries out important research relating to the conflict of the past and has interacted with various community groups, academic institutions and agencies including the Transitional Justice Institute. For further information contact: 9074 6737



Employment & Training Services has long track record of working closely with the local community. The organisation has developed strong links with local community groups, schools and employers. We are a recognised training centre for a wide range of qualifications. For the past 20 years Employment & Training Services has been delivering training and employability initiatives to the unemployed. These services are provided through 19 plus outreach centres across North Belfast to ensure that all sections of the community have access. For further information contact 9074 2255



In 2012 the management of the New Lodge 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

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.



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



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



Provide high quality, affordable day care and after schools services to local children, thereby supporting their development and improving parents' access to education, training, employment and support services.

Ashton Community Trust (ACT) believes that learning begins at birth and has a profound affect on life long development and adult wellbeing. ACT acknowledges 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

New Arts and Culture Centre Opens at 174 Trust

The Official opening of The Duncairn Arts and Culture Centre took place on Thursday 1st May when Dr Adrian Johnston (Chairman of The International Fund for Ireland) did the honours. A number of prestigious guest speakers took part in the event including Róisín McDonough, CEO Arts Council NI and Mayor of Belfast Máirtín Ó' Muilleoir.

Speaking at the opening, 174 Trust Director, Rev Bill Shaw, said that he was thrilled to open the first purpose built Arts & Cultural Centre for the people of North Belfast and hoped that it would provide the opportunity for everyone to have access to the arts. He also expressed his vision that the Duncairn Centre for Culture & Arts would become a shared creative space where all would feel welcome and have a voice.

Ending the event, Bill read a special message from one of North Belfast's most prominent exponents of the arts, the internationally renowned actor Ciaran Hinds who wrote:

"Greetings from Singapore and apologies for this rather late reply to your email. I've been on the hoof and shoveled from pillar to post over the past fortnight or so, with the result that I have been somewhat remiss in dealing with mail. I'm aware of your commitment to peace and social justice over the past fifteen years and more, and I am deeply respectful of it. The opening of the Duncairn Cultural Arts Centre is a terrific



Bill Shaw left with invited guests at the launch

accomplishment, a great step forward in the furtherance of reconnection and reconciliation - may it become a powerhouse of creativity and stimulation to the people, of all ages and of all beliefs, in North Belfast and beyond. My very best wishes to all concerned, sorry I couldn't be there in person to lend support but maybe I'll get to stick my head through the door when I'm back home".



Ciarán Hinds

For information on upcoming events visit: www.theduncairn.com

Greater New Lodge Summer Events Programme

A new committee made up of representatives from community groups within the Greater New Lodge CEP has come together to deliver a programme of events this August. The 'Summer Events Group' has been busy putting together a programme that they hope will contain something of interest for everyone in the community. It is intended to run the Summer Events Programme from Thursday 7th - Sunday 10th August 2014. Paul O'Neill of the Ashton Community Trust has responsibility for coordinating the programme. Paul said, "Some funding has been acquired to carry out certain aspects of the programme, including the more mundane but essential things like insurance cover. However these funds are very limited and we are therefore asking each individual group that wants to participate to be responsible for organising and funding its own event. I have been in touch with a range of local groups and individuals including, community and youth organisations, sports clubs and historical societies. So far there has been a very good response and we are confident we have the basis for an exciting and memorable programme that will appeal to people of all ages. Ultimately this is about generating a feel good atmosphere in the area where we can project our own positive sense of community identity".

Some of the events that are planned include the annual Tar Isteach Carnival Parade and Fun Day. Two days later another massive street party is being organised for Lepper Street beside the Ashton Centre. Other events include, Mod/Rocker Fancy Dress and Musical Night, Youth Talent

Show, '1974 Internees Tunnel Escape' Event, Pearse's GAA Day, Health and Relaxation Day, Historical Tours, Area Clean Up and much more. A programme containing a full breakdown of all events will be produced and delivered to every household closer to the time.



New Temporary Community Garden at New Lodge Youth Centre



Opening of Community Garden at Upper Meadow Street

Staff and young people from New Lodge Youth Centre have been working in partnership with a number of agencies to come up with ideas about how to transform a piece of waste land beside the Centre. As a result a new temporary community garden has been created. The land, which will be included in the wider redevelopment of the Upper Long Streets, has been transformed with the help of Princes Trust (Team 24 Students) into an oasis of plants, vegetables and seating. Children and young people from the Youth Centre also worked in Ashton's FabLab where they were able to create a 3D model of how they would like the space to be re-imagined. The Princes Trust students then took their ideas and helped make them become a reality. Support for the project also came from Murdock's DIY, ASDA Living, Housing Executive, Belfast City Council Waste Management, Belfast City Council Parks and Leisure Department and

Clifford Magill's Recycling. Katrina Newell, Manager of the New Lodge Youth Centre said, "We hope by improving this particular empty space people will get ideas about how other open space could be better used within the wider area".

The New Lodge Youth Centre is a project of the Ashton Community Trust.



Aishling Allsopp – Cambodia & Malaysia Journey Of A lifetime

Ash Allsopp is a member of New Lodge Arts Youth Advisory Group.

My name is Ash Allsopp and I have recently taken a trip to Cambodia to help the people of the town build houses, teach in schools and build fresh water wells. I had to apply for this amazing opportunity and I got accepted through an interview process put together by the BELB (Belfast Education Library Board). When I got told I was accepted to go I was totally gob smacked and very proud that I achieved something so life changing. I would like to share my story of my time there and this is how it went.



Ash Allsopp

I endured a 29 hour journey from Dublin to Malaysia and then onto Cambodia. This was a hectic journey but it was all worth it in the end. For the first 3 days in Cambodia we camped out – we did this to really get a feel of how the people lived with no electricity or luxuries. I was extremely taken aback at how much I actually realised that I didn't appreciate the little things in life. After our time in the wilderness we travelled to the city where we were staying but travelled in and out of the under privileged areas. Seeing everyone being so poor was very emotional, seeing everyone without homes and food was really shocking. The family that I was working with only had a car battery to power their hut that they lived in.

For the first 5 days, we started to build houses for the locals. This was a very tiring task that I had to endure but as the entire group pulled together we achieved so much. After we built the hut for a family we made them a candle lit meal which was home made by the group, we also had traditional dancers and musicians from the local community who showed us their culture and traditions. They were all so friendly and very thankful for what we were doing and when I thought of back home with people lying in their warm beds with Ipads, phones and other gadgets and still would be unhappy I thought to myself it just wasn't right.

At the end of the first week we took a trip into the schools Cambodia. Half of the group worked on building part of the school whilst the other half taught English lessons. I taught English lessons and played games with the children which I thought was very rewarding and I treasure the memories and the people there. I took heat stroke as it was near 50 degree weather so I was sent into the working room to cool off and because of this I got to experience the local people building toys for tourists who were visiting. It was very sad as they just sat there and sowed toys all day in the blazing heat.

Towards the end of our time there, we took a trip to see the floating villages - where the poor people live. It was basically huts on water. I asked about where the young people play and I found that there was a floating basket ball court. I was shocked because this was the only way teenagers could socialise when not working. We travelled to Malaysia on the 8th day of our 2 week journey so we said our goodbyes to the Cambodia locals (Khmer People) and off we set. Malaysia was a completely different place to Cambodia. It had sky scrapers, shopping centres and a proper traffic system. I just couldn't understand how these places were so close but yet Malaysia had so much more.

I think since my return home I would do more with different ethnic groups and the under privileged countries of the world. I have started appreciating all that is done for me and all that I have. Next year I will apply to go back to Cambodia and also apply for Africa because I just feel that these places are neglected so I want to do all that I can to help these people achieve dreams and goals just as I did.

Ashton Community Trust Outstanding Contribution to the Community Award



Ashton Community Trust



Elizabeth Anderson won Ashton Community Trusts annual Outstanding Contribution to the Community Award. The Award Ceremony took place in the Lansdowne Hotel on the 28/3/14

Elizabeth has worked alongside ACT for 4 years to help improve the skills, qualifications and employment opportunities for those living in the North Belfast area. Within these 4 years Elizabeth has worked closely with our Employment and Training Department to run essential skills programmes such as basic ICT, ES ICT, ES Literacy and ES Numeracy as well as offering an outreach service for those wanting advice and guidance towards gaining employment.

Elizabeth is very good at identifying the needs of her service users and through partnership working with Ashtons Employment and Training Services delivers the appropriate training to build the skills of the North Belfast Community.

FabLab News



Things are moving fast in FABLAB Belfast at the Ashton Centre, we are delighted to announce the appointment of two new members of staff funded by The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure; Steven Hunter and Maria Chompitaki are the S.T.E.A.M officers for FabLab Belfast. The S.T.E.A.M initiative, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths, is a programme designed to get young people more actively involved with these subjects.

For those who don't know, a Fablab is a digital design and making facility in which products are made in a 2D or 3D on computer software. Once they have been made "on screen" and we are happy with the design, the products are sent to one of our various machines to be made, these include a laser cutter and 3D printers.



One of the questions that we are asked on a daily basis is "What can you make in the FabLab?" We can make so many types of things in FabLab we have created some simple introduction programmes to help people get started, these include furniture, personalised gifts, T-shirt printing through to nightlights and remote controlled cars.

Don't worry though if you have no experience whatsoever of this stuff! Our highly trained staff are on hand to guide you through the entire process, the only thing that we asked is that the user is keen to learn and improve their own skills. We operate Open access Fridays and Saturdays where you

can book an appointment to see what we do, meet the team and have a cup of tea!

Open Access @fablab – FabLab welcomes you to come and discover the world of digital making, why not book an appointment to see what is being designed and made on your door step!

Friday's 9.30am – 4.30pm

Saturday's 9.30am – 12.30pm

Please check: www.fablabni.com for up to date open access dates

FIX IT @fablab – this is a fun way to learn how things work and look at how you might begin to fix them! Maybe you have a computer that doesn't work anymore, a lamp that won't switch on or a piece of broken furniture that isn't being used. At FIX IT you can learn how these objects work and explore with the FabLab team a possible solution, we can promise a fix first time but you'll have a good time trying!

- 18th June 2014 at 6pm



SUMMER PROGRAMME

We are excited to announce our summer programme aimed at the local community to become actively engaged with the FabLab. Below is a list of activities and dates that have been confirmed so far: (All events begin at 10.00am and end at 3.30pm unless stated differently)

- Tuesday 1st July Torch making workshop
- Wednesday 2nd July T-shirt making workshop
- Thursday 3rd July Introduction to making things in Fablab
- Wednesday 9th – Thursday 10th July Remote control car making and racing workshop
- Thursday 24th July – Furniture design day
- Tuesday 29th July T-shirt making workshop
- Wednesday 30th July Design and Build a custom made lamp

All events will be advertised locally and in the Ashton Centre, if you or anyone else is interested in taking up a place at one of the workshops please register your interest by speaking to **Paddy on 028 9075 5412, or email patrick.ohare@ashtoncentre.com** Please register as soon as possible as there are limited places available in each workshop and places fill up very quick!

Starmount To South Africa 2014



In April 2014 Star Neighbourhood Centre and Fortwilliam Youth Centre Youth Group Starmount travelled to George in South Africa with 'Out of Africa Mission' for fifteen days. 15 young people in total participated in a year long programme that developed their skills as young leaders, undertaking various training in leadership skills, communication and play skills to name a few. The group had a £30,000 fundraising target to meet before they got to South Africa, this started a long fundraising drive with young people from New Lodge and Mount Vernon giving up their weekends to get involved in bag packing, sponsored walks and stay awakes in centres. After 32 hours of travelling the group went straight to work. On the first day the group went into Blanco which is the Township in George to let the locals get used to our faces. Walking up to the field we were greeted with smiling faces and waves from residents. Once in the field it was obvious word had spread that we were here as we were met by children running into our arms. The experience was emotional for many of the young people, I suppose it was the trust that these children gave the group within moments of meeting them. The following two weeks seen the group working to restore roofs of homes in the township, building boundaries in the local park for young people to play in, along with painting and cleaning it. We also did food drops to homes in the township to families that may not have eaten from three days previous, visiting medical clinics to provide a food service for people needing to take medication but not having the food needed to keep the medicine down. The group visited care homes for the elderly, the young men in the group went to the young offender's centre, while the girls went to Kids Stop which was a youth facility for young people that did not go to school or had issues with drugs and or alcohol. Most of these young people within Kids Stop had not been outside of George let alone a different country, this put a few things into perspective for the group seeing we had just travelled half way around the world for this opportunity and the young people in Kids Stop who many were the same age as our group couldn't do the same. This trip helped develop our young people into positive role models within our communities, as a youth worker nothing gives me a better sense of pride than seeing the young people you work with grow and develop and this is what this programme did. I would like to thank all the local businesses and community that supported us throughout our programme and a big thank you to the Stars committee for believing in us. For more of the group's blogs and photos you can see them on our Facebook page Starmount South Africa 2014. Sarah Kelly Youth Worker Star Neighbourhood Centre

New Victims and Survivors Family Support Worker at the Bridge of Hope

Jean Fox is the new Family Support Worker with Bridge of Hope. The following is a brief introductory statement from Jean to the local community.

"I have worked in the community for over 12 years. My training and background is in trauma and counselling. My new post in Ashton Community Trust is Family Support Link Worker for Bridge of Hope. As part of my role I will oversee the support plans of victims and survivors and advocate on their behalf to Victims Services. I am looking forward to working



closely with the community and I will be based at the Mc Sweeney Centre Henry Place, BT15 2BB, 02890/322289".

Bridge of Hope is a Project of the Ashton Community Trust



Culture Shop, Pop-up Art Space Ashton Centre

Would you be interested in using the space for creative projects or events for young people, their families or the local community? If so, we would like to hear your ideas!

Please contact anne@newlodgearts.com 02890742255 to discuss your ideas further.



Ashton Centre Development Limited
AGM
Monday 23rd June 2014 @ 5.00 in
Ashton Centre.

Girdwood Forum Discussions Continue

Construction work worth a total value of £11.7 million has begun at Girdwood aimed at developing a community hub with leisure and community facilities under one roof. The Hub is funded by the EU's PEACE III Programme, and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), the Department for Social Development and Belfast City Council. The Council is leading on the development of the Hub, and will manage it on completion, while DSD is responsible for the wider development of the Girdwood Park site, which will transfer to Council ownership in April 2015.

Despite the political controversy and negative media attention about the Girdwood development, community groups from surrounding neighbourhoods have continued to engage in dialogue to try and find solutions that reflect the needs of their communities. This is being done through a mechanism called the Girdwood Forum. In the context of North Belfast, finding cross community consensus is no easy thing. Amidst political tensions, changing population demographics, huge housing need in the Catholic community and concerns expressed by the Protestant community about being squeezed out, finding an agreed way forward is problematic to say the least.

However, notwithstanding these contentions one thing is agreed, i.e. that the development of Girdwood should positively contribute to the wider regeneration of North Belfast as a whole. At the Forum meetings there is a clear cross community consensus that the site should become community owned and be a well managed, safe, shared site that can appeal to people of all backgrounds and ages. In relation to potential local job creation it has been further agreed that an Advisory Group be established to try and maximise local benefits.

Besides the Community Hub there are also proposals for the development of business units and an indoor sports arena. However while we await these developments it has been agreed that the zones in question should be temporarily utilised for other things. There have been suggestions that this temporary use might include a sports pitch, city farm, space for community events, trim trails, nature walks, cultural and/or arts focussed use, mobile police station, pop-up shops/restaurants and a large cinema screen.



Meanwhile it has also been agreed that the plots under consideration be grassed out and that the plot of land bordering Kinnaird Street be banked to provide proper access onto the site. There is consensus that the boundaries of the site should be open, green, and sympathetic to the needs of local communities. There was a suggestion that defensible planting schemes and low fencing be implemented around the site perimeter and that there should be adequate lighting to ensure the site is a welcoming place in the evening as well as during daylight hours.

Apex Housing Association is responsible for building the 60 new social housing units at the site and concerns have already been raised with them relating to the design and tenancy issues. Local residents have also complained to APEX that the consultation in relation to this has been of an extremely limited nature. Discussions with APEX are continuing. The people of nearby Thorndale and Kinnaird have also raised concerns about traffic flow issues and unnecessary disruption caused by builders.

It has been agreed at the Forum that an action plan for implementation should be developed and presented to communities which hopefully can achieve the absolute maximum support of the people. The Girdwood Forum will continue to meet on an ongoing basis and all further discussions and developments will be reported in this magazine.

Girdwood: TDK Residents Express Concerns

The following article expresses concerns about the nature of the engagement between statutory authorities and the residents of Thorndale Avenue, Duncairn Avenue and Kinnaird Street (TDK). The TDK group is a member of the Girdwood Forum which consists of City Council, government departments and local community groups from the neighbourhoods surrounding the Girdwood site.

Is it bad manners, poor memory or blatant exclusion that the families young and old of Thorndale Avenue, Duncairn Avenue and Kinnaird Street are the last to avail of the latest information leaflet entitled 'Regeneration of Girdwood Park April 2014'? Despite our immediate proximity to Girdwood not one of these information leaflets has landed on our doorsteps, yet I was able to pick up a copy posted to a family member living on the Cavehill Road. Work has started at the site and has already caused major disruption in Kinnaird and Thorndale with the use of mega-trucks for picking up and

delivering building materials. This was pointed out by us at a Girdwood Forum meeting in the Vine Centre, Crumlin Road a few weeks ago. At this meeting we insisted that the main gates to the site be opened to try to minimise disruption and as a result of our efforts the gates were eventually opened for use. The information leaflet in question gives an update of building works and details about what is to be built in Girdwood. There is also a list of three viewing sites where plans can be seen and evaluated by the public. Not one of these viewing sites is in our vicinity. The TDK community group has spent two and a half years of attending meetings and working groups apparently to no avail. It would appear that we are not really being listened to or is it a case of Belfast City Council saying, "Who Cares Luv"?

Mary Connor
TDK Community Group

Young People From North Belfast Embark On WW1 Historical Trip To London, Belgium & France



Young people and youth leaders in Ypers, Belgium

Twelve young people from North Belfast recently embarked on trips to London, Belgium and France to increase their knowledge of the Great War to mark the centenary. The group completed the National Memory - Local Stories, a nation-wide project led by the National Portrait Gallery, in partnership with the Ulster Museum, to help young people uncover personal connections with the First World War. The group travelled to London in March to attend the launch of the digital exhibition in the National Portrait Gallery. Visit www.npg.org.uk/nationalmemory to view the exhibition.

New Lodge Arts secured additional funding from the Heritage Lottery Project and worked in partnership with the New Lodge Youth Centre and Glenravel History Project to bring the young people to Belgium & France to explore the local and international contexts within which the war was fought, how it affected their local area and the realities of life for those involved in the war.

During their trip, the young people visited Battlefields, War Memorials, Graveyards, Museums and Monuments gaining an insight into the devastation and destruction of the War which resulted in the death of over 16 million people and left 20 million wounded, ranking it among the deadliest conflicts in human history.

Anne Delaney, Arts Programme & Operations Manager at New Lodge Arts, says: 'We are delighted to receive financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund for this project. The young people have gained an understanding of the Great War and benefited greatly from the experience of visiting battlefields, graveyards and memorials. We hope that this project goes on to inspire others in developing their own response to historical anniversaries.'

One participant from North Belfast described the project as 'Overall an outstanding experience, I have been given the opportunity to be shown a range of new facts that I had never come across in my experience with the topic of history, generally a heartfelt trip seeing how many soldiers risked their lives during the war, such an amazing experience that I am glad I was able to be a part of.'

The group are currently working on a piece of theatre exploring stories of real people involved in the War which will be performed in June 2014. A photographic exhibition and new mural will also be created and displayed in the New Lodge.

A Shining Light & Beacon of Hope, Inspiration and Encouragement



Jim Pierce

Jim was taken from us on 28th April and on that day Annemarie, Jolene, James, Joseph & Gary Pierce lost their father. Lauren, Ryan, Stephen, James, Gary, Rachel, Kevin and Sarah-Louise lost their grandfather and very soon a little boy or girl will have lost it's great grandfather. Kathleen, Teresa, Geordie & Eileen (Twins), Geraldine, Marie, Michael and Roseanne and John lost their brother. Their children have lost their uncle and their children have lost their great uncle. The husbands and wives lost their brother-in-law. And a father-in-law was also lost that day.

Many, many people around the world who knew or worked with Jim lost a true and genuine friend.

Lighthouse (A Beacon of Hope), the board of directors, staff, volunteers and services users and every person Jim came into contact with, both inside and outside of Lighthouse, in his role as first service user and then volunteer, will never let the light of hope, inspiration and encouragement that he gave, go out. Jim Pierce represents and epitomises the very meaning of the Lighthouse logo – a true Beacon of Hope. He will never be forgotten by his respective families and all who had the privilege to be in his company in whatever capacity and I, Frankie Corr, have organised a night in the **Dockers Club on Friday 20th June** 8pm sharp for myself, and others, to pay tribute to Lighthouse, Jim Pierce and many more.

This is not a fundraising event for family, Lighthouse or anyone else. There will be tickets for the night with a fee of £5.00. Any and all costs incurred for the night will be paid for by the ticket fee and any little money left will go to The Children's Hospice and a Donor's charity, both of which were very close to Jim's heart. On the night tickets for ballot prizes will be given free of charge to each person on entry and absolutely no money from Lighthouse funds will be used for any part of this night or after it. This is a tribute night, organised and facilitated by Frankie Corr. This night is a personal and collective recognition of and tribute to Lighthouse, on its 10 year journey, with myself, Jim and many others and what we got and gave to each other on that journey. I sincerely hope everyone who attends has a reflective and enjoyable night. Tickets can be obtained at Lighthouse, 187 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GF - **02890755070**

Yours in appreciation
Frankie Corr

Equality Can't Wait

Participation and Practice of Rights Project (PPR)

On the 6th May 2014 North Belfast residents from the Seven Towers, Harbourview Apartments and other areas in the New Lodge brought their campaign for equality in housing to the heart of government at Stormont.

The event 'Equality Can't Wait – Residents tell their stories' was the latest call for a resourced, time bound strategy to tackle religious inequality impacting the Catholic community in North Belfast.

Every year for the last 8 years New Lodge residents have met with and provided the Housing Executive and the Department for Social Development with evidence that their right to an adequate home is being denied.

Thousands of residents' surveys, temperature readings, audio testimonies and pieces of photographic evidence have been presented. The evidence has consistently shown cold, damp, wet and hazardous conditions, which leave residents in ill health and despair, which rob children of opportunities to grow and develop and which strip parents of their dignity.

In the face of constant denials by decision makers that their problems exist, residents have forced change for the better for themselves and their neighbours. They have used their real life experiences and those of their families, friends and neighbours to force those with responsibility for housing into action – to move families to better housing, to carry out repairs, to clean up pigeon waste, to fix unsafe balconies, to modify plans to suit resident's needs, or to compensate residents for the destruction of their possessions and the disruption to their lives.

They have all spent countless hours on the phone being passed from pillar to post, written letters which get the same reply every time and attended countless protests when decision makers developed plans without them that continue to deny their rights and compound their problems.

They have engaged at length with three separate Housing Ministers to put forward their case. They have met with elected representatives in North Belfast and many from beyond. They have worked solidly to bring the cream of the crop of international and domestic experts in health and housing to consistently back their reasonable requests on the basis of their rights.

Their campaign for housing rights has

MLA's sign pledge



MLA's, residents and PPR representatives at the event

galvanised the international community to call for action on the problem. The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2009, the former Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe in 2012 and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing in 2014 have all backed the residents call.

But the elephant in the room is the unanswered question of religious inequality.

It is because housing is not being built in the areas which need it most that residents are forced to suffer such conditions and waste away on waiting lists that never shorten.

In recent months the Minister for Social Development, Nelson Mc Causland has further compounded the failures to tackle inequality by denying it even exists and dismantling the long standing human rights monitoring group which allowed the residents to deliver their evidence to the Department and housing decision makers for years.

Recent investigations by award winning journalists at The Detail.tv have pointed to his intervention in north Belfast housing operational matters to direct that housing is built in areas of little or no demand, to discourage housing in areas of high demand and to misrepresent the figures on the need for new housing in North Belfast.

The Minister's statements also ignore Housing Executive figures which show that the demand from the waiting list in Protestant areas is largely already being met by the housing already there, whilst new social housing is required in Catholic areas as the current stock there is unable to meet the demand.

It is inescapable that the overwhelming demand for new build social housing supply is within the nationalist community in north Belfast – no matter what set of figures are used.

The failure to present the full picture has further sectarianised the issue. There is nothing to fear from inequality being addressed in our society and everything to lose from the allocation of public money where there is little evidenced need. This will serve only to compound existing inequalities.

The residents campaign has now secured the commitment of the Alliance party, Sinn Féin and the SDLP who have signed up to a pledge to use all of their powers to deliver a time bound resourced strategy to tackle the problem.

It is a good start, but until bricks and mortar hit the ground, until families find homes, until residents feel its delivery - it will remain another promise in a long line.

Sean Brady
PPR Project



North Belfast Housing Inequality

Say No to Racism



In historical terms racism evolved as a tool for creating, promoting and maintaining power hierarchies. During the 17th and 18th centuries a mythology was deliberately promoted that proposed that a “natural” difference existed between races, in which some are superior to others. The British and other European Empires were built on this basis whereby racist ideas were used as justification for colonialism and the slave trade. It was much easier to colonise, oppress and enslave people if you could depict them as sub-human, uncivilised and inferior in every way. As Joseph Conrad famous author of Heart of Darkness explained it, “The conquest of the earth, which mostly means the taking it away from those who have a different complexion or slightly flatter noses than ourselves, is not a pretty thing when you look into it too much.”

As everyone knows by now, the recent remarks by Peter Robinson about the Muslim community caused a storm of controversy. This has brought back into sharp focus issues of racism, sectarianism and raises serious questions about the future of community relations and wider politics here. However even before these remarks were made there already had been a serious increase in reported attacks on ethnic minorities particularly in Belfast. This has included brutal physical beatings, attacks on homes and property including the use of pipe and petrol bombs, hate graffiti and racist letter and poster campaigns. Such is the level of concern that community, media and police sources are now beginning to describe the systematic nature of these racist attacks as a form of “ethnic cleansing”. The PSNI has said it is in no doubt about the involvement of loyalist paramilitary groups. Undoubtedly the wave of attacks is causing increased levels of fear and tension amongst ethnic communities.

As Irish people we should all understand what it is like to be attacked because of our ethnicity. Historically the Irish have faced prejudice not only in Ireland itself but as an immigrant people in various locations across the globe. In places like Britain, the United States and Australia the Irish were hated and labelled as poor, uneducated, superstitious, dirty, criminals, and thieves. As a result they suffered oppression, exclusion, segregation and terrible living conditions. They had great difficulty finding decent jobs and accommodation. Signs were often posted saying, No Dogs! No Irish! The overcrowded slums they were forced to live in encouraged the spread of diseases. The Irish faced grinding poverty and were social outcasts, even portrayed as ape-like and sub-human.

Today, although anti-Irish racism still exists, the status of the Irish in places like the UK, Australia and the USA has improved. Now they are often praised for their positive, historical and contemporary contribution to the social, economic, political and cultural life of those countries. Indeed the Irish have made their mark throughout the world and have become an integral part of the societal fabric and popular culture in many countries. One has only to think about the wide acclaim enjoyed by many artists and celebrities that are Irish or of Irish descent. Irish music and culture has an ever growing international appeal. St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated on a multi-national basis. All of this in itself indicates how ridiculous and contradictory the concept of racism truly is.

It was also during this period that the American colonies used African-American slaves to help build the economic foundations of the new nation. The legacy of slavery continues to influence western societal attitudes and practices to the present day. Racist ideas have continuously been applied and re-adapted to protect and promote white privilege, affluence and power over black and other minority ethnic communities.

Yet, every time we hear someone within our own community make a racist comment it is a sad reminder that even we as Irish people have not learned the true nature of racism and still fail to understand it as the evil and ignorant concept it truly is. When we currently hear immigrants being regularly accused of stealing our jobs, our homes, taking our benefits this is to ignore the fact that inequalities in things like employment, housing, education, health, etc, are very much the product of unjust historical, political and economic forces and absolutely not the fault of immigrants. In fact, today’s immigrants are similar to our own ancestors that fled Ireland to make a better life. Many are trying to escape poverty and/or violence and oppression. Many others are making a very positive contribution bringing with them skills, knowledge and commitment adding to the betterment and enrichment of society.

In the final analysis, we are all part of the same species, white, black, brown, traveller or settled. We all have our good and bad points. However as human beings we all expect and are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect. This means everyone regardless of ethnicity or shade of skin must be protected from the evil actions of racists. That is why all of us should SAY NO TO RACISM!

Paul O’Neill



Tar Isteach Youth Supporting Ethnic Minorities

Members of Tar Isteach Youth Group that live in the Whitewell area recently brought to the attention of their Management Committee that there had been a number of racist/hate crime attacks directed at Polish and Lithuanian residents. It is believed that these attacks were carried out by racists from a nearby loyalist area. In response, Tar Isteach Youth workers who operate across North Belfast facilitated a number of workshops with young people from the area and they came up with the idea of showing solidarity with people from ethnic minority backgrounds by creating a mural that would reflect the cultural diversity that existed within the Whitewell community. On Saturday 3rd May there was a community event that included the opening of the mural. The mural depicts children from different backgrounds holding balloons that say 'welcome' in different languages and children wearing Cliftonville and Crusaders football kits playing together. All of this is set against the beautiful backdrop of the Cavehill which can be clearly seen in the mural. The mural also reflects an intergenerational theme with an older gentleman showing young people how to plant flowers. Martina Anderson, who has since been re-elected to the European Parliament and Tommy Quigley Manager of Tar Isteach spoke at the event where they praised the progressive efforts of Tar Isteach Youth Group to tackle racism head on.



Tierna Cunningham, Deborah Donnelly (local resident) Mary from Conservation Volunteers, Martina Anderson MEP and Tommy Quigley Manager Tar Isteach

FREE
Ladies Boxercise
NEW LODGE YOUTH CENTRE
Wednesdays, 12noon—1pm
Starting Wednesday 20th May, 2014

New Lodge Housing Forum Anti-Social Behaviour And Excessive Noise



Over the past few weeks several people have called at our office asking for Housing Executive transfer forms, these people, mostly from the tower blocks, do not wish to transfer but feel they are being driven out by unacceptable noise caused by constant all night partying. We realise and accept that everyone has a right to celebrate now and again but constant and prolonged exposure to this kind of excessive noise levels should not and will not be tolerated.

Some complaints have come from a block which has been designated over 35 so no one under that age should be living there, this block was seen as a flagship when the concierge and security systems were put in place several years ago resulting in a waiting list of people waiting to get in, now sadly through the actions a few this trend seems to be reversing. This must be stopped, if we are to prevent the towers reverting to the slums they were many years ago both residents and the Housing Executive must take steps now.

One of our biggest problems is reporting, residents have called at our office on Monday complaining of an all night party on Saturday, with no way of verifying or proving this we can do nothing. There is a procedure residents can follow and this can be done confidentially. First step is to buzz the concierge, we do not expect he or she to put themselves in danger but you can demand that the time and nature of the complaint be logged so as it can be followed up. Also very important and again confidentially you should ring Belfast City Council noise control, the number is **02890373006**, these people will respond up until 4.00 am and have proven effective in the past. Reporting and recording is vital so we would ask complainants to also ring the safer streets/ community watch number on **07564938276**, this may be an answering service if it is very late but please give time and nature of complaint and if possible an address. This can be then discussed at the next inter agency meeting.

Although we are concentrating on tower blocks we realise the problem occurs everywhere and would urge all residents to use the numbers above. Constant and prolonged partying is inconsiderate and shows total disrespect for neighbours, we would urge anyone having a party to just think about those around them and keep noise to a minimum.

Liam Wiggins New Lodge Housing Forum

VICTORIA BARRACKS AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Sometimes how an area gets its name can be quite obvious. For example the New Lodge area gets its name from the road which runs through the middle of it called the New Lodge Road. This in turn got its name from a new mansion house which was built in what is now the Cliftonville area and which was called The Lodge. This replaced the old lodge which stood in Old Park and the road leading to that became the Old Lodge Road. Once completed the road leading to the new house became known as the New Lodge Road.

Another example is the name of the area within the New Lodge and which is known as The Barrack. This is for the obvious reason that on this site once stood a massive military base called Victoria Barracks.

Its history goes right back to the early 1790's when a new barrack was built to replace the old one which stood at what is now Barrack Street. Once complete this base was called the Artillery Barracks and stood roughly at the North Queen Street end of Victoria Parade.

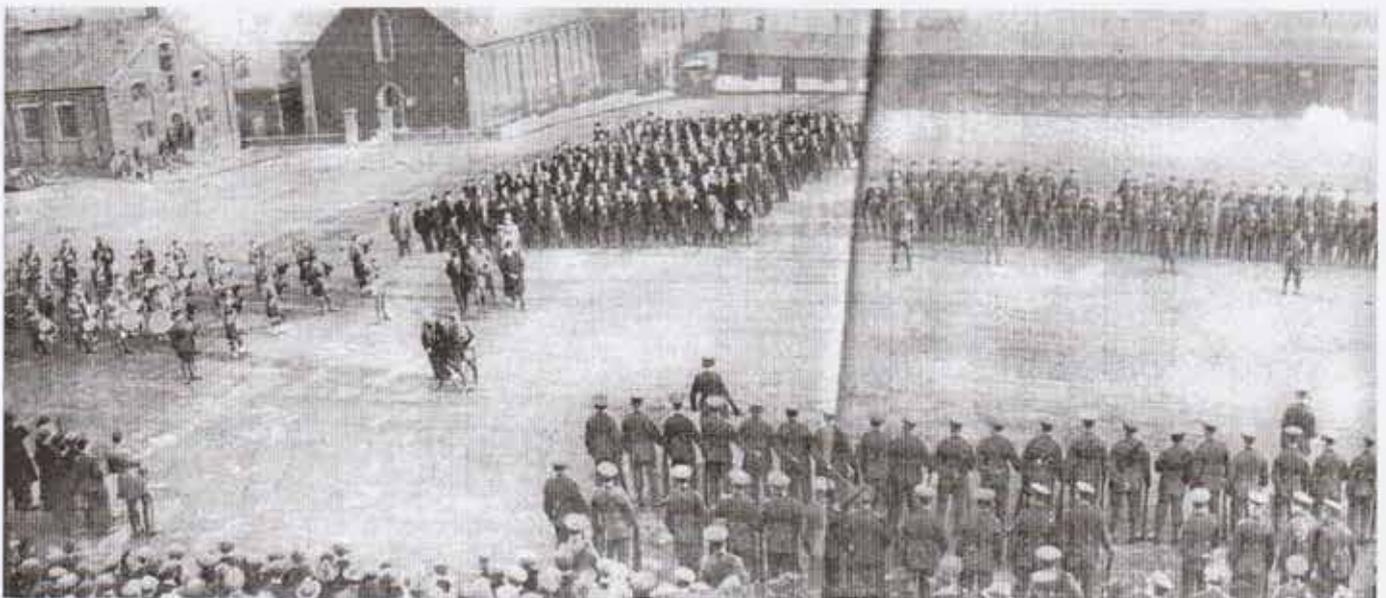
A few decades later a new barrack was built next to the old Belfast Poor House (today's Clifton House) and when complete was simply named the Infantry Barracks.

These barracks remained until the 1870's when it was cleared for the construction of a major new base on the same site. This new base was to be greatly extended

and was to stretch from the New Lodge Road to Clifton Street Cemetery and from Lepper Street to North Queen Street. It was a massive complex which many buildings and when complete was called the Belfast Garrison. The garrison was to remain the way it was with the exception of a few changes in the early 1930's when a new block of officers houses were constructed and which remain to this day (incidentally this row of houses remains known as Victoria Barracks). Another change occurred in 1901 when the British Queen Victoria died. When this happened the Belfast Garrison was renamed Victoria Barracks in her honour.

The next major development occurred in Easter 1941 but it was far from a welcome one. Britain and Germany were at war and the German Luftwaffe (air force) carried out the first of their bombing raids on Belfast. Victoria Barracks was a prime target for obvious reasons. Many buildings received direct hits and many soldiers and volunteers were killed in the bombing raid which went on for several hours.

The Belfast Blitz signalled the end of Victoria Barracks and after the war it was decided to move it to new sites in Lisburn and Holywood. What remained of Victoria Barracks was then used by the T.A. up until the 1960's when demolition work began. When this started the first of the high rises went up and a small section of the Barrack remained until the new housing development was complete. This remaining section



Military parade in Victoria Barracks in the mid 1920's. The barrack gym can be seen on the far left. Today that building remains as The Recy



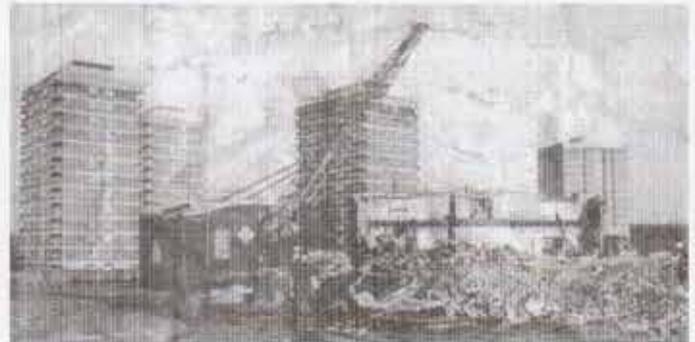
Victoria Barracks following the German Luftwaffe blitz in April 1941. This photograph is looking towards Churchill Street

of the Barracks then moved to nearby Girdwood Park and the present Carlisle Estate was built on its site.

Today most of the Barrack is gone but evidence remains. A lot of the wall which surrounded the Barrack can still be seen at North Queen Street (now old police station wall), the side of Clifton Street Cemetery, St Patrick's School, Lepper Street and alongside The Recy. This building was the old

gymnasium of the military base and, as mentioned above, the officers block built in the 1930's still remain as family homes.

Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund young people from the area are able to carry out a major scheme looking at the history of Victoria Barracks and its role in major world events. Called Our Area - Our History the first event they will be looking at will be the Barracks role in the First World War with a major exhibition put on in The Recy in August. They will then look at the Second World War and the Cold War as the scheme goes on.



The final section of the Barracks being demolished in the mid 1960's. The crane would be sitting on what is now Carlisle Road

VICTORIA BARRACKS AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR



**A Major Photographic
Exhibition
which explains the history
of Victoria Barracks and its
role in the First World War**

The Recy

(North Queen Street Community Centre) Victoria Parade

Friday 22nd August - Saturday 23rd August

3pm - 8pm

Admission Free • All Welcome

Training Opportunities

Are you interested in a career in Health & Fitness?

If you are unemployed, living in the Belfast Area and claiming benefits you could qualify for a free Diploma in fitness.

The Active IQ Level 3 Diploma will allow you to qualify in level 2 & 3 Fitness Instructing & Personal Training. We will also assist you with opportunities to progress to work on a self-employed basis and / or offer employment support.

To apply for this training you must be physically fit and have good communication skills both written & application of numbers.

Please call Mary Loughran on (028) 9075 3868 or email mary.loughran@ashtoncentre.com

Free Locksmith Training

Are you interested in a career working as a Locksmith? Are you currently unemployed and living in the Belfast area?

3 x Day Locksmith Training

1 x Day CSR Health & Safety

Transport provided to and from the training centre.

Advice and support offered to help you work towards Self-Employment opportunities.

Day 1 - Understanding various types of locks in use today

Day 2 - Picking 2 & 3 lever mortice locks

Day 3 - Gaining access to high security uPVC cylinder

Day 4 - CSR Card 1 day

Due to the nature of training offered a full Access NI security check will be required.

Criteria to apply : Claiming benefits such as Income Support, DLA, ESA, Incapacity or not claiming. If you are aged between 16-24 you will automatically qualify for the course as long as you are not in Education, Training or Employment.

Please call Mary Loughran on 02890753868 or email: mary.loughran@ashtoncentre.com

New Lodge Youth Centre Job Club Services

Every Monday 10 -12pm

- Lemis Employment Programme
- Are You Unemployed?
- In Receipt Of Benefits/not Claiming
- On JSA More Than A Year
- Live In North Belfast

We Are Offering

- One To One Support And Advice
- Cv Skills
- Job Search
- Help Filling In Job Application Forms
- Interview Skills
- Free Training Subject To Availability
- Benefits Advice

CONTACT MAIREAD (02890 742255)

New Lodge Arts Easter Event 2014

By Ryan McMahon, Young Person's Story



Last month, I had the privilege of leading the New Lodge Arts Event Management team to create this year's Eggstastic Easter Fun Day in the Waterworks Park on Saturday 19th April 2014. The funding was secured from Belfast City Council - without their support, this amazing day would not have gone ahead.

It was a glorious on the morning of the event, and I did not expect the weather to be so good. We were setting up the event and I was nervous as I didn't know what to expect. We were rushing about and I was making sure everything was in place. People started to arrive and the sun was gradually heating up the spring air. Everyone had roles and I had recruited the younger groups of New Lodge Arts involved in Volunteering for experience, I thought they done an exceptional job, WELL DONE to them all! I glanced around the park all the way from the face painters right around to the Petting Farm and the Easter Egg Hunt, there was about 700 people from what we had counted (we were only expecting about 400).

As it was such a fantastic day people were bringing their own blankets and food and just relaxing on the grass, I loved that this was happening as it brought a Summery atmosphere. The children seemed to really love the petting farm with all the different animals, I know I loved it! The pony rides were something else let me tell you. The performers walked about the park and I thought they worked really well with the children when they were playing with them, all seemed to be having a ball.

The egg hunt itself made me laugh, watching all the children scramble about the park for the polystyrene Easter eggs that they then could exchange for chocolate. I just stood there looking at everyone running about having fun and I said to myself, "Ach goodness, this is hilarious". Watching the parents run about trying to get eggs for their kids - I think they had more fun than the children if I am being honest!

Overall I think the event was a success and I think everyone who came had an amazing day out. I was dressed in the big white bunny suit and I know I had fun just running about talking to everyone! I'm excited for next year because I know I will be back to do it again... BIGGER & BETTER!

New Lodge Arts

Events For All Senior Citizens St Patricks Event

On Monday 10th March a St Patrick's event was held in Midland Boxing Club. Around 40 senior citizens from Midland, Westland and New Lodge attended this enjoyable evening. Leanne Marshall from Tigers Bay Concerned Residents said *"The evening was filled with plenty of entertainment and the highlight of the night was the Irish and Ulster Scott's dancers who put some of our ladies through their paces"*.

Events For All Senior Citizens Easter Bonnet Event

On Wednesday 16th April Events For All held their annual Easter Bonnet Event in North Queen Street Community Centre (Recy). Prior to the event Senior Citizens from North Queen Street Community Centre and Midland Club worked with artists Sally Young and Leanne Crozier to decorate their Easter bonnets. A total of 80 senior citizens from across North Belfast attended this event. Kate Clarke North Belfast Interface Network said *"It was a lovely evening filled with plenty of games, music, food and of course a visit from the Easter Bunny who made sure everyone receiving an Easter Egg"*.

Events For All Easter Fun Day

On Friday 18th April an Easter Fun Day was held in Macrory Church, Duncairn Gardens. This event was well attended with over 300 participants who came along to meet the Easter Bunny, get their face painted, visit the petting farm and make some Easter crafts. Cecilia Heron New Lodge Arts said *"This is one of my favourite events as Easter is a much more relaxing and enjoyable time for families and of course the sunshine helped. Events like this are a great example of communities working together to promote good relations and maximise the use of shared space"*.

Events For All will be holding a FREE family fun night on Tuesday 17th June 6 – 9pm in Macrory Church, Duncairn Gardens. There will be a free bbq, face painting, play bus, magic show, disco and much more. Hope to see you there!

If you would like more information on any future events please contact Cecilia Heron 07927885704, Kate Clarke 07793258006 or Leanne Marshall 07989293620.



Water Charges Rumour Quashed By Local Councillor



Sinn Fein's JJ Magee has welcomed the ongoing work to improve the mains water system across the city, the New Lodge Councillor said,

"This £10 million investment to upgrade the mains system will improve the quality and pressure of water supply and reduce leaks. We have been in regular contact with contractors to reduce disruption for residents but if anyone is experiencing problems they should contact our office on 02890740817.

Unfortunately, there have been rumours spread maliciously in the run up to the recent election that this work was for the introduction of water meters.

To be totally clear on this matter there are no water meters being installed nor will there be additional water charges during this mandate and that is the fact.

Those involved in spreading this nonsense and those involved in a recent attack on equipment owned by contractors are actively damaging much needed investment in our water system for their own selfish short sighted ends.

The community want this upgrade to go ahead and this work will improve the quality of life of local residents with a better water supply."

Allotments Available



Do you have green fingers, are you interested in growing your own plants and vegetables but don't have the space at home to do so? If so the Ashton Community Trust is offering individuals or groups the opportunity to make use of allotment space at the back of the McSweeney Centre at Henry Place. Please contact **Ciara at 028 90 742255**.

All Systems Go at New Lodge Youth Centre



Young people from New Lodge Youth Centre have taken part in a project delivered by Queens University Red Cross Students.

As part of this programme young people looked at their own ability to achieve, understand connection between personal local and global communities, have confidence in communicating their concerns and interests. Examine the influence of the local and global issues on their lives and their communities, and have empathy for people from other cultures. The young people also undertook a first aid course and spent the day with Doctors and students at Queens University. Mary Madine Youth Leader said, *"This is the second year the programme has been in the centre and the programme is very popular with young people"*.

This month Mary Madine, Louise Maguire, and Conor Hamilton will take a group of young people to Krakow Poland. The group six girls and four boys aged 14 to 16 years have just completed a seven week course where they studied issues around hate and the effects that hate and war can have. Power points were used to give the young people a better knowledge of global issues increasing their understanding and respect of other cultures. Speakers from other communities



were invited to talk with young people and tell them about their experiences and the effects hate had on their families, communities and countries. When in Poland the young people will visit Auschwitz Camps one and two, Schindler's Factory and the Salt Mines. They will also travel to Katowice where they will meet with a Polish group and look at opportunities for a possible exchange. Young people are looking forward to this residential and meeting new people.

A group of young people and their grandparents from New Lodge Youth Centre and the Hubb got together to exchange stories of St. Patrick. Grandparents told the young people stories about growing up in Belfast and celebrating St. Patrick's Day. As part of the project an artist and young people

designed several pictures of the Saint and painted them on to canvas. Young people and their grandparents were treated to a day out at St. Patrick's grave and museum followed by a meal.

Everyone in the group is hoping to work together again very soon and loved the experience.

A group of young people from the centre have embarked on a local history project that has allowed them to explore the history of the local area as well as the history of the country. As part of this programme the young people have been on a tour of the New Lodge, Derry and also Crumlin Road Gaol. This group have gained the confidence to explore their own cultural beliefs and also had the opportunity to have discussion with members of different religions and cultures in order to



develop an understanding and awareness of other people's identities. Once this project ends the group will progress to take part in a community relations programme. Everyone is enjoying the programme and is gaining more knowledge as the weeks go on.

The Mother and Daughter Group had their first trip out on 1st May to Colin Glen sky trek to do high ropes low and zip line this programme was developed to increase communication between parents and their children.

This was first time that parents, youth workers and young people participated in activity together the feedback to Louise the youth worker received was of a positive nature and the parents are really looking forward to the next activity.

Seniors from the community relations peer mentoring youth facilitation programme are now into their seventh week. Twenty young people in total are involved in this project which looks at public order offences and its effects on communities. At the end of this stage of the programme the young people will be hosting a showcase event highlighting all the positive work they have achieved. These young people are also currently creating a public order DVD which will be used in schools and colleges to help them getting caught up in public order offences.



Youth Collective

Youth workers from across North Belfast and Shankill are building a communications network, to enhance the sharing of information and practice that could create better engagement with young people.

For example, arranged fights and more worrying the presence of weapons including knives, meat cleavers, chains and batons, attracting spectators of up to 100 young people, aged between 12 to 17 years old. We have also experienced some young people attacking people, property and vehicles, both within their communities and neighbouring communities, leading to an increase in tensions and retaliatory action in some cases involving some adults. Amongst other concerns highlighted, was the age of the young people who youth workers are encountering, in some instances under the influence of alcohol and in other cases drugs, some as young as 12 years old. We are also concerned with the increased sexualised language and behaviour of some young people. We have designed a 6 point check list for parents and guardians.

1. Talk with your child about their life style and safe choices! This can help parents identify issues that their child/children may be faced with. Familiarise yourself with youth clubs & centres that they may attend making sure you have contact numbers should you want to check they are safe and where they say they are going to be. Talk to siblings who may know more than you?

2. Check regularly if any kitchen knives or tools are missing from the home! We have seen and taken from young people household utensils such as: household meat cleavers, household knives, as well as, smaller / flip knives, sports bats, screw drivers, hammers, mallets, and, wire cutters from young people as young as 13yrs. Youth workers are also engaging with young people who are being offered drugs and frequently prescription drugs, check that your medicine hasn't gone missing?

3. Ask your child where they are going to be in the evening don't be afraid to check in on them!

It's become clear that young people as young as 14yrs are getting into local pubs / nightclubs and sometimes attending parties into the early hours with much older young people & adults. Parents might think that their child is staying over in a friend's house but might not know that they are drinking, in the company of others drinking or taking drugs, or even socialising with adults nearly twice their age?

4. Don't be discouraged to text or ring your child throughout the evening! If concerned about what they're doing, where they're going, or, with whom they might be with, go for a walk or drive around the area where they tend to be to ease your concerns. Familiarise yourself with others parents so that you can contact or ask for help if something arises, this should help them in contacting you about the safety of your child?

5. Be aware of the way your child is dressing! Take note of how much pocket money they have or ask for, whether they leave the house with backpacks or shopping bags filled with clothes. It's very common for young people to use other people's homes to dress up for the evening ahead. This is also the case with sleepovers as young people are sometimes in Free houses or going to nightclubs!

6. Take a greater interest on your child's internet activity, including phone, BBM, and, Social Media sites!

Many parents have their own Facebook accounts. Make sure that you can see what is being written by and to them by others and use this to help make sure that what they might be doing is what they tell you. Use their search History as a way of finding out about their interests and issues that your child might be having?

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

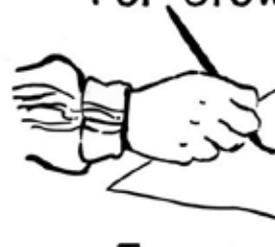
Another community number you can ring is, Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI) - 028 90 753043

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)

DRAWING CLASSES

For Grown-Ups



At The Culture Shop.
Next to the
New Lodge Arts office,
Lepper Street, Belfast

Every Tuesday, 11am - 2pm.

Drop-in as little or as much as you want. All Welcome!

Art materials, tea, coffee and buns provided...

Free



Facilitated by Duncan Ross

BRIDGE OF HOPE TRAINING PROGRAMMES

For more information contact:

MARY STANTON
Training Co-ordinator
McSweeney Centre
Henry Place
Belfast
BT15 2BB
028 9032 2289
mary@ashtoncentre.com

www.thebridgeofhope.org



Mary Stanton

An Oasis of Peace

- **SWAN** - is a one day workshop that focuses on your Strengths, Weaknesses, Ambitions and Needs. It helps you to understand your own nature and to accept yourself as you are. This course also looks at ways to improve how you deal with stress including breathing techniques and practical skills to improve the way you communicate.
- **EMPOWER ME** - is a one day workshop that aims to encourage you to make changes in your life to create positive, proactive and lasting changes, improved self-awareness, increased self confidence and a greater insight into the future. The workshop includes assessing where you are at in your life and ways to improve motivation and set goals to work towards.
- **UNDERSTANDING STRESS FOR PERSONAL GROWTH** - is a two day course that will help you to understand stress and the affects it has on your mind and body. The course will cover different types of stress, signs and symptoms and possible causes, as well as giving practical, effective tools to deal with your own stress and stress with others.
- **CONFIDENCE BUILDING** – is a one day workshop that will help you to increase confidence and self esteem, identify negative beliefs and transform them into positive attitudes. This workshop will help you to take back control of your life and thoughts and make you an all round more confident and assertive person.
- **COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP** - is a one day workshop that focuses on the way you communicate not only with others but also with yourself. It aims to help you to get your message across faster and more effectively.
- **MEDITATION** - This is a bespoke one day residential class. This course will teach you how to focus and quieten your mind, eventually reaching a higher level of awareness and inner calm. It will give you the ability to meditate anywhere and at any time, allowing yourself to access a sense of tranquillity and peace no matter what's going on around you. This workshop will introduce you to the basics of meditation, allowing you to begin your journey on the path of enlightenment.
- **LOVE YOURSELF HEAL YOUR LIFE** - is a two day residential workshop based on the best selling book 'You Can Heal Your Life' by Louise L Hay. It will help you to transform negative beliefs, release resentments and old emotions that may be holding you back. You will learn techniques for personal healing of all areas of life including mirror work, visualisations and use of affirmations to support you to experience a fuller understanding of self love and live a fuller happier life.
- **REDUCING STRESS FOR WOMEN** - is a six week course designed solely for women that will teach you strategies to help lead a more balanced joyful life. The course includes - stressors for men and women and how they are different, what is needed to have peace of mind and stress reduction techniques as well as improving time management and communication skills.

Reading Rooms at the 174 Trust

Stories @ The Duncairn is a literature project with a difference, based in the new Duncairn Centre for Culture & Arts in the 174 Trust Duncairn Complex on the Antrim Rd. The focus is on volunteer-led activity, with volunteers drawn from the local community.

Still in its early days, the project is having a great response to its two main strands - reading with under 5s (and their parents!), and its programme of shared reading, 'Reading Rooms'. Over time its scope will expand to include creative writing and storytelling.

Reading Rooms is for people of all ages and backgrounds. It's a space where people come together to read for pleasure. A volunteer facilitator reads a short story and a poem aloud and great conversations and connections take place.

In partnership with the Verbal Arts Centre in Derry, Reading Rooms' Belfast base at The Duncairn was launched on May 3rd. Speakers included James Kerr, Verbal Group Chief Executive, and Rev Bill Shaw, Director of the 174 Trust. Both share a vision of making the arts accessible to everyone.

Volunteer facilitators receive training and support from Verbal Arts to deliver weekly shared reading sessions to groups that will include care home residents, mental health groups, disability groups, secondary school students, community gardeners, parents support networks – everyone can enjoy and benefit from shared reading.

A drop-in Reading Room takes place every Monday from 2 – 3 pm, beside the Refresh Cafe in the arts centre. It's been well-supported by local residents since the end of February. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Stories @ The Duncairn also celebrated reading with under-5s with a 'Bear Hunt' reading event on May 2nd. Attended by the 174 Trust Playgroup and Naíscoil Mhic Reachtain,

the children went on a sensory adventure through Michael Rosen's classic children's book We're Going on a Bear Hunt. With the support of Libraries NI, Booktrust NI and SureStart, there is a weekly Story Time for Little Ones in the centre, for toddler/babies and their parents or minders every Tuesday from 10 – 11 am. It's a relaxed way to enjoy favourite books and have fun with craft too.

If you are interested in the shared reading training, or know of an organisation that would like a Reading Rooms taster session, please contact Marnie Kennedy, coordinator of Stories @ The Duncairn on 028 9074 7114 or 07971 568 573 or via the Facebook page: Stories at The Duncairn.





Are you interested in working in childcare?




Do you have a childcare qualification (Minimum NVQ level 2 or equivalent) if so

Kinderkids Daycare is currently recruiting flexible workers to cover staff sickness, holidays etc.

For further information contact: Christine McKeown at the Ashton Centre, 5 Churchill Street, Belfast, BT15 2BP or telephone 02890742255

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- **Website Software** (8 week course)



Ashton Community Trust
 Employment & Training Services

To sign up to a course contact Debbie on: **028 9074 225**

Tar Isteach Annual General Meeting AGM 2014

The Tar Isteach AGM took place at the Star Neighbourhood Centre on Friday the 21st of March. The well attended meeting was able to hear at first hand the remarkable outputs and achievements over the past year. The project was established in 1998 to provide support to Republican Ex-Prisoners and their families but also reaches its services out to the wider community. It provides welfare advice, training and education, psychological counselling and emotional support and youth development. It also lobbies and campaigns on the various legislative barriers which hinder the process of achieving equality of citizenship for Republican Ex-Prisoners. These legal barriers are a product of the possession of a so called 'criminal record,' which amongst other things affects access to credit, insurance and mortgages, compensation claims, adoption and fostering and imposes restrictions on international travel and on employment particularly in the public sector. Tar Isteach is also involved in conflict transformation projects which focus on transitional justice, anti-sectarianism, anti-racism, truth recovery, outreach to other communities including victims groups, working with young people at risk and restorative justice projects. Tommy Quigley who is Tar Isteach Manager gave an overview of the outputs of the past year. The following is a brief snapshot of work carried out in 2013.

Welfare Rights: Agnes Frazer & Kathy Stanton

Each year the project's advice workers see over 2,000 clients and deal with more than 3,000 queries. They advise on all aspects of social benefits, employment, health referral, housing, homelessness, bereavement, money advice, debt, and outreach. In 2013, Tar Isteach assisted clients in claiming over £1 Million benefit entitlements.

The Welfare Reform Bill has also put an increased demand on our services. We continue to host seminars to update community activists and local people on the proposed Welfare Reform Bill and the time frame for the pending changes. We are involved with lobbying groups and are members of the joint ICTU and community and voluntary sector working group on welfare reform.

Counselling Report: Joseph Barnes

The Counselling service supports 40 to 50 clients per year. The counsellor also provides advice and support to groups working with bereavement, victims of the conflict, suicide prevention. Tar Isteach has also been busy gathering more feedback from the ex-prisoner constituency about the difficulties that are faced in their daily lives and the obstacles to equality that exist for them including barriers to healing. We have learned a lot in this way about what people are experiencing and now with the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross we are in the position to follow that up with a research project looking at the circumstances of former prisoners who are most marginalised. This research project will be completed by the end of 2014.

Training and Education: Ann O'Neill

Almost 300 people have participated in training and education programmes during 2013.

The main purpose of our training service is to improve the

well being of republican ex prisoners and their family members by helping them to develop skills, obtain qualifications and to enhance participant employability and personal development. Our service is user friendly as it provides a safe environment and it is locally based. Many of our participants have got employment through these training and education courses. These include the following:



CSR (Construction Skills Register), Driving Lessons, Fork Lift Training, SIA Security Licence Training, Information Computer Technology, Essential Skills, Health and Social Care Book Keeping and Coiste Education Bursaries for a number of people covering a wide area of studies.



Tar Isteach Youth Project: Tierna Cunningham

The Tar Isteach Youth Project was established to address issues unique to the children and young people from the political ex-prisoner community and this is our main priority. However Tar Isteach also operates an open door policy, as our youth also share life experiences common to all young people. Throughout the year we worked with a core group of 20 young people. This number greatly increases in the summer months when we have the summer programme and the Carnival Parade and Funday. The young people come from right across North Belfast. We delivered the following schemes and projects in the past year.

- Carnival and Community Funday
- Personal Development Courses
- Cyber Bullying Training
- Halloween Event
- Suicide Awareness Training
- Diversionary Activities
- Summer Schemes
- Draw Down the Walls
- Mural projects
- Leadership training



- Political Development
- Environmental Awareness and Community Pride
- Arts
- Team Building

Tar Isteach youth were also on the ground during times of heightened tensions in North Belfast during the summer months. We were able to in most cases to offer young people an alternative to anti social behaviour and rioting. We will continue to work with young people in this capacity.

New Youth Worker for Tar Isteach

As the new Youth Development Worker for Tar Isteach I will be aiming to promote the personal, educational and social development of young people. Some of the programmes I hope to bring to Tar Isteach will be aimed to engage the young people, redress inequalities, value opinions and empower individuals to take action on issues affecting their lives, including health, education, unemployment and the environment, by developing positive skills and attitudes.



My personal vision whilst working with Tar Isteach - I hope to be managing and administering youth and community projects and resources as well as assessing the needs of young people, and planning and delivering programs related to areas such as health, fitness, smoking, drugs, relationships and bullying, I also want to run arts-based activities, community environmental projects, residential activities, outdoor education and sporting activities.

A big part of what I aim to do is mentoring and supporting individuals to encourage social inclusion, but alongside this I would love to be working with the parents and community groups to win support for improved provision and acting as an advocate for young people's interests, but a lot of time will be spent identifying and pursuing sources of funding for projects to improve services and resources for the young people.

Ciara Stanton

Training & Employment Services

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

- ▷ The Ashton Centre provides free classes in English, Maths and ICT
- ▷ You can complete a Basic Computer Skills course and progress to Essential Skills accredited courses in ICT or ECDDL
- ▷ You can complete Essential Skills courses in English or Maths and gain the qualifications needed for employment

For more information contact:
 ICT - Debbie Tel: 028 9074 2255 or email debbie.mcquillan@ashtoncentre.com
 English & Maths - Hilary Tel: 028 9032 2289 or email hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com

"New Community Mural For North Queen Street"

For the past few months New Lodge Arts have been working in partnership with Belfast City Council to have a new community mural on North Queen Street. Consultations were held with users from North Queen Street Community Centre to find out what they would like the mural to look like. The theme agreed was "our time" and they wanted images and a few characters from the Greater New Lodge area put on the wall. They did mention the famous artist John Lavery who originally came from North Queen Street and also Olympic medallist Paddy Barnes who is an inspiration to our young people. Cecilia Heron from New Lodge Arts said, "We commissioned artist Ed Reynolds to work on this project and are absolutely thrilled at the final piece. It has been brilliant to see so many people stop and reminisce about some of the characters and old images that appear on the wall. We got most of the photographs from the New Lodge facebook page and the rest have been from members of the community who have stopped by while Ed has been painting. The mural has created a great buzz within the community and has been the topic of conversation".



The mural will be launched on Wednesday 18th June at 12.30 pm with lunch in North Queen Street Community Centre afterwards. For any further details please email to: cecilia@newlodgearts.com or phone 028 90742255

Vandalism Ruining Local Play Park

The play park at Carlisle Estate has recently been refurbished by Belfast City Council to the tune of £150,000. Last year, prior to the actual refurbishment taking place community activists with the Greater New Lodge CEP had advised Council officials from the Parks Department that before putting in new equipment its first priority should be to ensure that proper fencing and an adequate locking system be installed so as to counter anti social behaviour. However although the recommendations from the CEP were listened to by the Council they did not put these recommendations into action. Unfortunately in recent weeks there have been ongoing problems at the park with anti social behaviour and drinking taking place on a regular basis. Damage has been caused to fencing and play equipment including the swings. Local residents living in the vicinity have been extremely angered by this. As a result, the Greater New Lodge Safer Streets Committee has raised this issue with Council and other statutory bodies including the PSNI. The Safer Streets Committee also organised a meeting between residents and Council. Leaflets have also been distributed to nearby homes (See



leaflet on this page). The Committee is appealing to those involved to stop vandalising the park. Given the lack of play facilities in the area we cannot afford to have any of them destroyed. Meantime, discussions between community and the Council will continue in order to resolve these outstanding difficulties.

Bonfire Builders Creating Living Hell For Residents

The Greater New Lodge Safer Streets Committee has been inundated with complaints in recent weeks from local residents about the anti social behaviour activities of young people involved in collecting bonfire material. A range of serious incidents related to the bonfire collectors have been reported. This has included residents being threatened for objecting to bonfire material being gathered near their homes, mass goers having stones thrown at them, traffic being attacked, threats made to stab residents, the playing of loud music on the street keeping families awake to all hours, graffiti painted near homes. In the latest incident a new community mural has been spray painted and a local nursery has been vandalised. There have also been fights amongst this group of young people, some of whom are not local, and it was reported that on one occasion a young teenager was badly beaten by one of his older mates. Drink and drugs are also in evidence, legal highs are being taken and even more ominously residents have reported that heroin is also being used by some of these young people. Despite last year's survey in the area which showed overwhelming opposition to these bonfires this group appears determined to make this summer a living hell for local people and are trying to create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation where no one will dare challenge them. Community activists in the Safer Streets Committee along with local Councillor JJ Magee are in constant contact with statutory agencies and the PSNI to try to have these matters resolved. However a mix of legal and bureaucratic obstacles and red tape in relation to lifting bonfire materials, as well as a lack of cooperation from some of the parents of these young people is making a bad situation worse.



New Lodge Play Park & North Queen Street Steps

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Belfast City Council, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and our community partners are committed to preventing and tackling antisocial behaviour.

We are aware that there has been an increase in the incidents of antisocial behaviour in the play park and the North Queen Street Steps area that are affecting your quality of life.

In order for us to deal with these issues effectively we need to work together, so we would encourage you to report problems to the most appropriate agency, using the contact details below.

If you are affected by antisocial behaviour:

- Tell us about the problem - contact the most appropriate agency below to make your complaint
- Give us details of what happened, by who, when, where and why
- Provide us with as much details as possible
- Tell us what effect this is having on you and your family.
- Is this an on-going problem, if so how long has it been happening?

Useful Numbers		
In an Emergency phone - 999		
PSNI	101	Non-Emergency line
	028 9065 0222	York Road Station – Ask to speak with your Neighbourhood Team
Belfast City Council (switchboard)	02890 320202	Contact Belfast City Council for advice on the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal dumping • Graffiti removal • Dog wardens • Pest control • Community Safety team • Parks
Belfast City Council Noise Team	028 9037 3006	Belfast City Council dedicated team for Noise complaints such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barking Dogs • Noisy Parties • Noisy Neighbours
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	03448 920 900	North Belfast Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak with your Housing Officer or Neighbourhood Warden regarding ASB or to make a Complaint
New Lodge Safer Streets	07564938276	Local group offering advice on Community Safety issues
New Lodge Housing Forum	02890742399	Advice on a range of issues including housing and community safety issues
Crime Stoppers Charity	0800 555 111	Report Crime Anonymously

North Belfast Social Enterprise Hub

Ashton Community Trust has successfully obtained a contract with DSD and Invest NI to run the North Belfast Social Enterprise Hub. This is a pilot project which aims to encourage social enterprise business start-up within the local area.

The project will be based at 52 York Street and open for business June 2014, Monday – Friday. There will be a series of community engagements to explain in greater detail the activity of the Social Enterprise Hub, the activity will range from best practice visits, ideas generation, various business clinics (book keeping, finance, business planning etc), peer to peer matching and much more.

Within the hub we will be able to offer hot desking facilities, manned workspace and services such as grant tracker, an information library, conference/training facilities and market research.

Ashton Community Trust is also part of a Knowledge Sharing Group (KSG) which involves four of NI's most successful social enterprises, as well as Ashton it also includes LEDCOM, ORTUS and East Belfast Mission. The KSG will

support each other's social enterprise hubs, this partnership will harness the learning, skills, expertise, business opportunities of all four members and strengthen the aim of future investment in the growth of social enterprises.

We believe that this is a great opportunity for the community sector to demonstrate the benefits of social enterprises, help to increase economic growth and provide learning for Government so that future economic strategies will include consultation and investment for social enterprises.

For further information please contact Ciara Rea on 90742255 or email: ciara@ashtoncentre.com

This programme is funded by the Northern Ireland Executive through Delivering Social Change Programme.

What is a Social Enterprise?

Social enterprises are businesses that trade to address social problems, benefit communities, improve the environment and enhance people's quality of life. Their social mission is at the heart of everything they do and all profits are reinvested towards achieving this social mission. Social enterprises can provide

- Stimulate and Engage
- Explore and Test
- Start and Grow



employment for local people, particularly those who have traditionally found it hard to enter the labour market. A social enterprise can be the ideal environment for such people to develop their potential - either as an employee or heading up their own operation. A core principle of social enterprise is that it addresses the social needs of people and is not about private profit. The Ashton Community Trust is a social enterprise.

New Lodge Housing Forum Seven Towers and Upper Long Streets Update

Seven Towers

Finally we see the scaffolding going up around Chuhullin House and the long awaited cladding project has begun. This project was first suggested many years ago when the original Seven Towers committee began their campaign to win back the towers from the criminal and anti social elements, which were controlling them. The first steps were the concierge and CCTV programmes to provide security and of course deter criminal activity; the project then was to improve the quality of life for residents.

It has long been established that the main problem in the blocks in relation to dampness, mould, heat loss etc. is the deterioration of the brickwork over fifty years of exposure to our weather; the solution is to protect the exterior and provide an "overcoat" to maintain heat and allow the blocks to dry out. The project will also include new double glazed windows.

This project was to have begun several years ago with funding secured for all seven blocks to be completed over a three year period, two the first year three the second and then the

remaining two however objectors and doubters forced the Housing Executive into a series of long drawn and unnecessary tests with the result the funding was withdrawn and now we are having to persuade the Department of Social Development (D.S.D.) to fund the project one block at a time. We are confident however, that the success of Chuhullin will win the argument for the other blocks, also the reason given for not replacing the expensive economy seven heating system was the amount of heat being lost and we believe this will no longer be the case.

Upper Long Streets

The redevelopment of the upper long streets is now well under way with many tenants already moved, however, several problems have cropped up in the course of moving the project forward. The main aim is to clear phase one for demolition and allow the scheme to progress at a normal pace, but some residents are reluctant to move. The Housing Executive ruling that if you move to a new house, for example Parkside, then the Executive have fulfilled their responsibility and will not allow you to move back to where you came from, also when the

houses were vested homeowners began paying a nominal rent. The feeling is that if a tenant decants to an old property, possibly in the upper part of the long streets they are doing so to accommodate the Executive in moving the scheme forward and should still pay a nominal rent until they receive a new home. The upper Long Streets Residents Committee have called for a development meeting as soon as possible, hopefully these are teething problems and can be sorted to allow progress to continue, we will of course keep you updated.

New Lodge Housing Forum



Photography Project, New Lodge Arts & 174 Trust

New Lodge Arts recently worked with the 174 Trusts Disability Projects - Junior, Senior and Adult groups on 6-week photography project. Led by Kelly Morris, the groups had the opportunity to learn the basics of photography including the use of both film cameras and digital cameras, photo editing and restoring old photographs.

The work was exhibited in the beautiful surroundings of the Duncairn Centre for Arts & Culture with over 100 family members and friends in attendance.

Linda Duffy, Co-ordinator of the 174 Disability Youth Group said: 'When I told the parents their young people would be taking part in a photography course I could see that they thought it will never work 'Our children won't understand'. During the six week course the young people, all of whom are disabled, learnt how to take pictures of landscapes, portraits etc. Our young people along with the tutor decided to put on an exhibition. On the night we had over 100 people attend the exhibition. It was priceless to see the parents faces when they saw the quality of the work produced by their children. Better still our young people got to take their framed pictures home with them. I am a great believer in giving our disabled young people every opportunity of reaching for the stars.' Anne Delaney from New Lodge Arts said: "This has been a

great project to be involved with and we have had a fantastic response from the young people. There was a great buzz at the exhibition and the young people and parents were very proud of what was achieved through the project. We look forward to our continued engagement with the groups.'

The project was funded by the Belfast City Council under the Ur City 2 scheme and aimed to give young people from Inner North Belfast a chance to explore new creative projects.



Official Opening and Blessing of St. Patrick's Primary School



Michaela Bell, Mark Taggart, Bishop Noel Treanor and John Devine

The official opening and blessing of St. Patrick's Primary School took place on Friday the 6th June 2014. Invited guests packed the assembly hall to hear the new Principal speak of his vision for the school. A spokesperson for The Edmund Rice School's Trust also spoke of the importance of working closely with the local community by promoting a school and community partnership. A special mass was celebrated by Bishop Noel Treanor to mark the opening of the school. Also in attendance at the event were past Principal's Michaela Bell of the Star of the Sea PS and John Devine of Edmund Rice PS. Following a review of education provision in recent years both schools were eventually amalgamated to become St. Patrick's Primary School.

Ashton Community Trust Entrepreneur Award



Kathie Knox won Ashton Community Trusts Annual Entrepreneur Award which was held in the Lansdowne Hotel on the 28/3/14. Kathie completed a dog grooming course with Smartpets International Animal Care College in Bangor. Compiled her business plan, went through the Test Trading (STEPS) option and has now started out on her own as self employed. Kathie has converted her back garden shed into a doggie parlour and now runs a successful business. Kathie was funded for the business by DEL and ESF.

Are you aged 16-24? not in Employment, Education or Training?

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This is a 3 days per week, 12 week programme that will help you:

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Eileen O'Pray
Threshold Mentor
Ashton Centre
5 Churchill Street
Belfast
BT15 2BP
028 9074 2255

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St Patrick's Kids Win Award

At the Big Bang @ Queen's University which celebrates the Junior Engineering Challenge 'Bridge that Gap', the Assessors from various industries awarded the Primary 7 pupils from St Patrick's Primary School Pim Street the IET Smart Energy Teamwork Award. Schools from as far as Enniskillen and Derry were competing for the coveted title. The pupils have been working on Renewable Energy and the importance of looking for alternatives to fossil fuels. With the help of engineers from Queen's University Belfast, the children designed and built vehicles that used solar power.

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