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GREATER NEW LODGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Ashton Community Trust

October 2016

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Now in its seventh year preparations for North Belfast Lantern Parade Festival 2016 are under way. Organised by New Lodge Arts this increasingly popular event is set to take place over a two-day period on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th October. The theme for this year's event will be Roald Dahl who is often referred to as one of the greatest storytellers for children of the 20th century. 2016 marks 100 years since Dahl's birth.

Alexandra Park

On Wednesday 26th October 2016 between 11.30am – 3.30pm various activities including circus performers, lantern making, music, visual arts, storytelling, etc., will take place in Alexandra Park, followed at 6.00 pm -8.00 pm by an Outdoor Cinema showing Charlie & the Chocolate Factory. Similar activities will also take place in the park on the following day Thursday 26th from 11.30am – 3.30pm.

Lantern Parade

The Lantern Parade itself will take place on Thursday 27th October departing from Girdwood Community Hub at 6.45pm and make its way to Alexandra Park for a huge carnival event including a fireworks display.

Good Relations

Cecilia Heron Good Relations Officer with New Lodge Arts said, "We are encouraging as many people as possible to come and watch the parade before entering the park. The parade route will be: Cliftonpark Avenue, down Cliftonville Road, up Antrim Road, down Limestone Road and into Alexandra Park via Mileriver Street. Each year hundreds of children from schools and community groups right across North Belfast come together to prepare for the event. The Lantern Parade creates a fantastic opportunity for communities to get together and for thousands to participate in a genuinely feel good occasion. In the process this helps to build better relations between people across a broad spectrum of cultures and communities".

The North Belfast Lantern Parade is part of the North Belfast Community Pride Programme which is funded through The Executive Office Good Relations Programme and led by Ashton Community Trust.

New Lodge Arts is a project of Ashton Community Trust.

For further details about how you can participate in this great event see Page 3.

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Community Contact Numbers

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

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NORTH BELFAST LANTERN FESTIVAL

New Lodge Arts

New Lodge Arts is currently planning for this year's North Belfast Lantern Parade Festival which will take place in Alexandra Park! - This is the biggest annual event in North Belfast.

The theme this year will be Roald Dahl as 2016 marks 100 years since the birth of Roald Dahl. Young people will have the opportunity to make various things for the park/parade over 4 sessions such as Mushrooms, Sweets, Dream jars, Lollipops, Candy Canes, Puppets, Giant Caterpillar, Animation, Projection etc.

The workshops have already started but will continue until:
Friday 21st October 2016

We are very keen to encourage cross-community participation. If you are currently working in partnership with another community group, it would be great to organise joint workshops. We will provide all materials needed. If you would be interested, please contact Ceciila Heron at New Lodge Arts on 90742255/07927885704

Wednesday 26th October 2016 – Alexandra Park
11.30am – 3.30pm - Activities will include circus performers, lantern making, music, visual arts, storytelling etc
6pm-8pm - Outdoor cinema showing Charlie & the Chocolate Factory

Thursday 27th October 2016 – Alexandra Park
11.30am – 3.30pm Activities will include circus performers, lantern making, music, visual arts, storytelling etc

6.00pm – Lantern Parade meets at 6.00pm, leaves Girdwood Community Hub at 6.45pm and make it's way to Alexandra Park. We are encouraging as many people as possible to come and watch the parade before entering the park. The parade route will be: Cliftonpark Avenue, down Cliftonville Road, up Antrim Road, down Limestone Road and into Alexandra Park via Mileriver Street.

6.30 pm-9.00 pm – Main event in Alexandra Park. There will be an array of performers, music, food stalls and of course fireworks. Gates open at 6pm. Entrance via Mileriver Street (side of Currie Primary).

If you are going to the event in the park and are not a parade participant you will need to purchase a wristband. These cost £1 and are available from the Ashton Centre, 5 Churchill Street. Wristbands will go on sale on Monday 3rd October.

For more information please contact Cecilia Heron at New Lodge Arts on 90742255 or via email: cecila.heron@ashtoncentre.com
Entry to Alexandra Park on the evening of Thursday 27th October will be via Mileriver Street only!

Scoil Samhraidh Mhic Reachtain 2016

After much preparation and anticipation the 2016 McCracken School opened on 24th July with a drama about a Methodist Irish Language activist, and closed with a European flavoured concert on Saturday 30th July, to the venue filling voice of a performer akin to playing opera houses, Christine Bovill. We managed to pull off what turned out to be the busiest and most successful McCracken Summer School to date, with up to 260 adult learners participating in Irish classes daily throughout the week, hailing from all over Ireland, Scotland, England, from Canada and even from New York! Over 60 children took part in the workshops, youth club and the summer camp, organised with the use of the new facilities at Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin on the Cliftonville Road - so a big thank you to them.

We had the privilege of witnessing some of Ireland's finest singers, musicians and entertainers perform to a full house on the Barr a' Tí stage in Áras Mhic Reachtain, from Gráinne Holland and her highly acclaimed accompanying musicians, to Clann Mhic Ruairí, John Spillane, Kíla, and Aodán & Irial Ó Ceallaigh.

As always we received glowing feedback from all those who participated, with some requesting that the summer school be extended to two weeks they enjoyed it so much! We put this down to the high standard, quality and differing styles of the teachers taking the classes each day, the work and dedication of the volunteers from the surrounding area and of those associated with Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain, the hard graft and hospitality of those at the coal face providing tea and coffee to the masses three times a day, the kindness & understanding of residents in the local vicinity, and of course to the outright enthusiasm and commitment of the learners themselves.

If you feel you've missed out, don't worry as we run events in Áras Mhic Reachtain, 283-289 Antrim Road, BT15 2GZ regularly and of course the summer school will run again next year. Our Irish classes for all levels have started Monday and Wednesday nights from 7pm-9pm, and our coffee mornings run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10.30 - so contact us on telephone; 02890 749688, email; eolas@mhicreachtain.com, facebook; Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain, or call in any time to sign up or take part. Classes are free of charge, donations welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

Ashton Community Trust Services
Public Information Sessions

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

Tuesday 8th November 12.00 - 2.00 - Lemis+, Michael McCluskey (Ashton Centre Boardroom)
The Lemis+ Project is a citywide, employability programme that will help clients enter the workforce. Each Lemis+ client gets a personal mentor who will work alongside them to map out a pathway back into employment. Clients will get help overcoming personal barriers, produce a quality CV, get help with job searching and preparation for interviews. In addition clients can take part in training courses run by the project and enter pre-employments where they can be guaranteed an interview if they complete the programme.

Wednesday 9th November 12.00 - 2.00 - Core Project, John McCrea (Ashton Centre Boardroom)
The Core Project is an employability programme designed to work with young people 16-24 who live in North Belfast and who are not in education, employment or training. The young people will get a mentor to help them work through the steps necessary to get a job and have access to training and other forms of support. The programme specialises in helping young people who have few or no qualifications and may have little work experience but can support clients with any level of experience and qualifications.

Wednesday 9th November 12.00 - 2.00 - Co-Ment Programme, Tracy McWhinney (Ashton Centre Boardroom)
The Co-Ment Programme works with a small number of young clients aged 16-24 to help them build their employability. Clients receive mentoring, training and soft skill development so that they become more employable. The Co-Ment Mentor will also help the client gain employment or move onto another positive destination such further education or training

Thursday 10th November 12.00 - 2.00 - CALL/ICT, Hilary Adair (Ashton Centre Boardroom)
CALL/ICT is an essential skills programme that offers people living in Lower North Belfast the chance to do courses to improve their English, Maths or ICT skills. Courses are designed to be built around the needs of learners and use everyday experiences to help clients build their essential skills. The recent introduction of the Revised Essential Skills Strategy

Monday 21st November, 12.00 -2.00 FAB Lab, Paddy O' Hare (Fab Lab Aston Centre)
A 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. FabLab came into life as an outreach project from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Centre for Bits and Atoms (CBA).

Thursday 24th November 12.00 - 2.00 Community Development, Paul O'Neill (Ashton Centre Boardroom)
Community Development involves empowering communities to identify actions that can address their needs. This can relate to various issues such as: community safety, education, employment, health & well-being, housing, human rights, urban regeneration and the environment, etc.

Bonfire Problems

For the fifth year in a row a bonfire was lit on Victoria Parade. The fire on Monday night 8th August attracted crowds made up mostly of young people many of them not from the local area. As in previous years the bonfire was accompanied by drunkenness and anti social behaviour into the early hours of Tuesday morning. Much under-age drinking was clearly in evidence. As the 'Big Night Out' proceeded there was fighting and brawling on the street. It should be noted that the crowds that gathered at or near the bonfire were not exclusively younger people. It was also obvious that adults from the local area some accompanied by their children also participated, showing total disregard for the residents that live nearby.

Statutory Failure

As in previous years the statutory authorities including the PSNI failed to address this problem with any real effect. Indeed had it not been for the individual efforts of local Councillor JJ Magee the bonfire would have been much bigger and would have posed an even greater threat to nearby homes. This is not scare mongering, readers will be aware of recent events in the Shankill Road area where homes went on fire because of their proximity to one of these bonfires.

Internment Commemoration???

Any pretext that this was an 'Internment Commemoration', is without any credibility whatsoever! In a survey last year the vast majority of ex-internees totally rejected the bonfires as regressive behaviour. Furthermore, it is well known that in the bonfire aftermath some of the bonfire builders have continued to engage in ongoing anti- community behaviour in the area.

Some people have been reported in the media as describing bonfires in nationalist areas as an act of defiance against the so called 'establishment'. What is this supposed to mean? Are residents who simply want to be left in peace and quiet in the privacy of their homes now to be seen as the 'establishment'?

Immature Behaviour

In reality the bonfire and everything associated with it is nothing more than a destructive act against an already hard pressed community. Those involved have spurned offers of alternative activities, conversations and engagement with them has thus far been unsuccessful. Saying that 'loyalists have bonfires too' hardly amounts to an argument. It is perhaps to be expected that some immature young people when left to do whatever they want will engage in such behaviour, after all in their young and inexperienced minds burning and wrecking stuff is probably regarded as great fun. What is totally reprehensible however is the fact that some parents support or excuse this type of behaviour. If this includes you then you should ask yourself what kind of community do you want your family to live and grow in? Better still, you should grow up, wise up and try to set a better example.

New Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator for Inner North Belfast

A New Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator for Inner North Belfast has recently been appointed. The new Co-ordinator is Cailin Hardy and she will be responsible for covering communities in the whole of Inner North Belfast. Cailin will be based in the Ashton Centre.

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

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

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

Cailin Hardy Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator

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

Ashton Community Trust
Community Bursary Awards 2016

This is the 7th year of the Annual Ashton Community Bursary Awards. The purpose of the Bursary Awards Scheme is to enable the Ashton Community Trust to use some of its resources to provide help to other community led projects in the Greater New Lodge area especially where there is clear evidence of voluntary input and where financial resources for a group are scarce. To date over 80 bursaries have been granted to local groups involved in activities such as sport, outdoor pursuits, art, music, health, housing, culture, history, remembrance, safety and well being. Ashton has now distributed over £35,000 in Bursary Awards.

Bursary participants from last year.

In providing financial support Ashton Community Trust is recognising the fantastic voluntary input from a wide range of individuals and groups at grass roots level in the Greater New Lodge area.

To be eligible for an Ashton Bursary Award, groups must meet the following criteria;
- Is working in the Greater New Lodge area
- Is inclusive and non party political
- Is meeting local needs and providing local services
- Has modest resources and would find it difficult in accessing funding

If you have received a grant in the past you must provide some detail about how this was used for the benefit of the local community.
Maximum grant available is £500
Total grant fund available is £5,000

For a Bursary application form contact Paul O'Neill or Louise Hunter at the Ashton Centre 5 Churchill Street. BT15 2BP Phone 90 742255

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

Walk @ Park Run

Be a part of Northern Ireland's first 'Walk @ parkrun' event, a FREE, FRIENDLY, WEEKLY 5km walk in the park. Taking place alongside Waterworks parkrun, Belfast, the event will run eachSaturday at 9:30am
Meet us at the start line where there will be lots of friendly faces to welcome you when you arrive. A great way to improve both physical and mental health this event is suitable for all levels of walkers, from mums & dads with prams to those looking to take a step in the right direction improving your fitness. With tea/coffee and plenty of chat at the finish line this is a great opportunity to get out into your local community and meet others.
It is a 'walk in the park' to register online for your unique time code. Selecting #ParkRun as your club when registering (www.parkrun.co.uk/register/form)

Every Saturday at 9.30am
For any other information for your website/ e-newsletters etc. please contact: Jayne Woodrow
Email: jayne@outdoorrecreationni.com
Phone: 028 9030 3930

Housing News

The Upper Long Streets Residents Committee have conducted a survey of the upper section of the long streets to gauge the level of support still felt for the need to redevelop the area. Over three nights the committee gained access to over 150 homes and of these 100% were in favour, in fact there was surprise at the need for a survey at all as most people assumed the houses above Lepper Street were for them. There was also a fair amount of anger that this should be in doubt.

Meeting With N.I.H.E.

St. Patrick's & St. Joseph's Housing Committee had asked for a meeting with the Housing Executive's Chief executive on a number of issues and members of the Long Streets committee were to be present to discuss this particular one, in fact I had asked that the publication of this magazine be delayed to allow me to report on the outcome. Unfortunately the meeting did not take place as the H.E. failed to show citing a misunderstanding of the time, however, the meeting has been rescheduled for Oct 3rd and a report will be in the next magazine. In the meantime this committee will continue to work on the assumption that redevelopment will continue and if necessary will seek to meet the Communities Minister and if necessary begin a media campaign. If this opportunity is lost then the possibility of completing redevelopment in the next thirty years or more is very remote.

Seven Towers

Members of the Seven Towers Residents were also disappointed that the above meeting did not take place as the issue of

the concierge/new fob system was also on the agenda. The introduction of new fobs and the upgrade of the cameras has led the H.E. to suggest that we could do without concierges at certain times, particularly during the day. This is not the case, several times in the past week or two I myself have seen security breached in Maeve House. Young people knowing there is no concierge wait for someone to exit and leap over the fence and enter the building. Technical teething problems and genuine security fears need to be separated and addressed for the full impact of the new system to be successful. We are meeting the H.E. very soon to discuss the initial impact on the residents of Maeve house and other issues and as usual will keep people informed.

New Homes In North Queen Street

On a happier note all the houses at North Queen Street are allocated and the next month or so will see tenants moving into their new homes, it seems a long time coming but the scheme is almost complete and we have had only positive feedback on the houses and the layout. An open day will be held, probably in the Recy, for Newington H.A. to meet their new tenants and to welcome them. It will also be an opportunity to discuss any worries tenants may have and to be made aware of other services available. Tenants will be made aware of the open day in the coming days but in the meantime the Housing Forum and Upper Long Streets Residents Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all the residents a long, happy and peaceful tenure in their new homes.

We will continue to keep residents updated regularly through the medium of this magazine.

Liam Wiggins, Chair, New Lodge Housing Forum.

Greater New Lodge Community Festival 2016

This year's Greater New Lodge Community Festival Programme contained a host of activities including street parties, family fun days, theatre, literature and art shows, music gigs and concerts, exhibitions, lectures, debates, sports events and more. The programme was a fantastic success with large numbers of people in attendance at various events. Paul O'Neill Chairperson of the Festival Committee congratulated all of the local community and youth workers and volunteers that helped organise the festival and thanked those that directly provided funding towards the staging of events.

Paul said, "The festival programme is the product of the collective efforts of many great people. It creates an opportunity for celebration and enjoyment but it also provides an important platform for local people to promote and to demonstrate the great pool of talent, creativity and positivity that exists here in the New Lodge. It is this that reflects the true spirit of our community".

New Lodge Youth Centre

Building Walls Breaking Walls International Youth Exchange

Over the summer young people from New Lodge Youth Centre and Newtownabbey Antrim Cultural Network took part in the 'Building Walls Breaking Walls' international youth exchange project. The first exchange took place on Cape Clear Island, County Cork and the second in the Swiss Alps. The programme involved young people from Switzerland, Ireland, Israel and Palestine.

Kerri Leigh Bright from New Lodge Youth Centre said "This was an amazing opportunity and a life changing experience. It was hard work as we were building stone walls and it was very challenging learning about different cultures and living and working together but it was great fun and the memories will last forever. The exchange has given both myself and the young people the desire and motivation to get involved in more international work. We built amazing friendships with young people and youth workers from countries like Switzerland, Israel and Palestine and hope that we can work with them again in the future. The project has enabled the young people that took part to feel a sense of who they are and what they want to be!"

Cheerleading in New Lodge Youth Centre

New Lodge Youth Centre Cheetahs Cheerleading for young people aged 5-14 years of age starts back on Monday 19th September. Cheetahs meet every Monday and Wednesday at 5pm. For more information on Cheetahs please contact Mary or Kerri Leigh in the youth centre. New members are welcome to try out.

New terms starts at New Lodge Youth Centre

After a very busy summer scheme and a short break for staff the Youth Centre has started back. The Centre is opened at the following times:

- 6.00 – 7.00 pm for children in P.2 – P.4
- 7.00 - 8.30pm for young people in P.5 – P7
- 8.30 - 10.00pm for young people in secondary school and above.

New members aged 8+ years are welcome. Come along and try out activities, hear about the programmes planned for the coming months and meet the staff and volunteers.

The year ahead is shaping up to be very busy with one group planning their second trip to Romania and another planning a trip to Poland. Other programmes taking place include drug awareness, an intergenerational programme with young people visiting care homes, leadership development, the second Irish history programme, two cross border programmes, various arts and sports programmes and ongoing street outreach. Call in to the centre and speak to Mary for more information.

Irish History Programme and DVD Launch

Over the past six months young people from New Lodge Youth Centre have been working on a project exploring the situation in Ireland in 1916. The programme, delivered in three parts, studies the 1916 Rising in Dublin, the Battle of the Somme and World War One. It then looks at the present and future prospects for young people living in Ireland from both sides of the community. Throughout this project the young people have documented their journey through film and photography. Some of the places visited were Derry's Walls, the Bloody Sunday Museum, the Apprentice Boys Museum and other sites of interest in Derry City. The young people also visited Dublin's GPO, Kilmainham Jail, Arbour Hill, Collins Barracks and Glasnevin Cemetery. Also, as part of the programme, they reflected on the Rising in Ireland the Proclamation and the leadership styles of the men who signed the document. Young people went on a residential to Newcastle Co Down were they produced a DVD and Magazine. Discussion groups were held in the youth centre with MLAs and ex prisoners from Belfast. Mary Madine from the Youth Centre said "The young people engaged in every aspect of the programme showing the speakers and tour guides the greatest respect and their feedback was phenomenal."

The first part of their video diary was launched in the New Lodge Youth Centre on the 11th of August. Speaking at the event was the Deputy Lord Mayor Mary Ellen Campbell, Mary Madine Youth Leader in Charge, Louise Maguire volunteer at the youth centre and Paul O'Neill from the Ashton Community Trust. Young people from the youth centre facilitated the launch of the DVD dressed in period costume. This event was well attended by community representatives and parents. Young people from the Hub Resource Centre in North Belfast will release the 2nd diary in October. The third and final part of the project will be launched in February 2017.

Inclusion Leadership Programme

Young people from New Lodge Youth Centre involved in an 'Inclusion Leadership Programme' that will include a trip to Romania in February 2017 have been busy this summer supporting homeless outreach and volunteering with the 174 Trust Disability Project. The young volunteers took to the streets in the city centre providing those sleeping rough with hot food, drinks and conversation. They also supported events around mental health and suicide prevention and volunteered at an event in the Waterworks Park on World Suicide Prevention Day. This event saw families pay tribute to loved ones lost to suicide and speak about the issues across Belfast relating to suicide. Some of the young people in the project also took part in a six mile cycle against suicide to raise awareness of the issue. The young people continue to volunteer with the 174 Disability Project on a weekly basis supporting other young people with disabilities through the provision of activities and events. Whilst this all is going on the young volunteers have shown great dedication in ensuring their trip to Romania happens through fundraising initiatives. The young people organised and ran a youth fun day where over 100 people attended, undertook a bag pack and also attended a fun day at Academy One Gym to raise much needed funds. For all of their efforts the group won an award for Positive Change and Courage at the Gala Awards in Ardoyne Chapel.

Summer Programme

New Lodge Youth Centre had their annual summer programme for seven weeks in July and August. The summer programme catered for those aged 5-19 with a variety of programmes across the different ages. Over this period we had eight residential opportunities including two international exchanges to Cork and Switzerland, three intervention residentials delivered in partnership with New Lodge Arts to Newcastle, Armagh and Ballintoy and two additional residentials to Castlewellan and Newcastle. Junior members' daily trips included Belfast Zoo, the Adventure Play Ground, Crawfordsburn Beach, day trips to Bangor and Newcastle and the Cinema. The senior members' programme included the cinema, banana boating, snow tubing, go carting, mini-golf, high ropes and low ropes with Colin Glen Trust and outdoor activities with Belfast Activity Centre. The youth centre continued to be opened for drop-in, relax with friends or join in many of the indoor activities and sporting games. Feedback from the young people was positive.

Ashton Training and Employment News

It used to be said that the summer months were quiet but that no longer seems to be case as it has been exceptionally busy in the Training and Employment Department. We have dealt with hundreds of clients, started lots of training courses and continued to place large numbers of people in jobs throughout the summer months.

However, first some great news from across the projects.

Lemis+ Project
The Belfast Works LEMIS+ Project, led by the Ashton Community Trust, has been going from strength to strength in North Belfast. Debbie Watts and Samantha Edgar who attend the LEMIS+ outreach at Alliance Road were among participants who benefited from the project, having been awarded Childcare Level 1 and Essential Skills Level 2, which is equivalent to a GCSE in English and Maths.

Their LEMIS+ mentor, Suzanne Toner said: "When I met Debbie and Samantha neither of them were working or looking for work. I think at that point they just didn't believe

they could do anything. They signed up to the LEMIS+ programme and started doing the level one childcare course. This helped them to realise that they could survive, and even thrive, in an education setting. They then went on to do further qualifications that would set them up for jobs.

"Debbie is among the LEMIS+ participants who have gone on to start the Childcare Level 2 qualification at Belfast Met. It's hard to envisage the difference in Debbie since she started with us – she is newly confident, and has been able to push the boundaries of her comfort zone to open up a new future for herself. As the mother of an autistic child, she has started working with her community group to source funding to set up a parents' group for autistic children. Her drive and attitude is incredible - it's like nothing can stop her now!"

The LEMIS+ Project gives support, advice and training to help people who are unemployed to get back into work. We provide people of all ages and backgrounds with one to one support from skilled mentors who offer careers, education and training advice to help them get into employment.

Lemis+ has a number of very exciting opportunities coming up. We are planning to launch a Hospitality Employment Academy which give clients a high quality intensive course and qualifications and will guarantee interviews in the industry. The Academy is still being finalised but may start at the end of October.

If you interested in joining the Lemis+ project contact Michael on 90742255 michael.mccluskey@ashtoncentre.com

Core Project
The Core project has been busy working with young people across North Belfast and has welcomed a new co-ordinator in John McCrae. John is no stranger to Ashton as he previously worked in one of our partner organisations, East Belfast Mission.

One of the highlights of this period has been the latest run of our SWEET programme. SWEET is designed to work with young people who are very far from the job market. Many of the young people involved have no job experience and no or very low levels of qualifications. They might also have self esteem and other personal problems that have made it hard for them to get on the road to work.

We recently held an Awards Event to celebrate 17 of our young people completing six weeks of training on the 'SWEET' Programme. During this programme they completed modules on employability skills, confidence building, team building days, sexual health, and drugs and alcohol. The mentors who took the programme said that they witnessed an enormous change in the young people who took part. The young people gained enormous confidence and new skills and many of them are now entering work or further education. At the awards ceremony we had Gary Hamilton as our guest speaker. Gary is a world champion kick boxer. Gary gave an inspirational talk where he spoke about his own experiences and how he turned his life around through dedicated hard work and development of his personal skills and abilities.

In October 2016 within the CORE Project, we have FREE training commencing in Retail, Customer Services, Construction, First Aid Employability and Product Design. Call the CORE team on 028 95 609522. The Core Project at Ashton Community Trust is based at 20 Cliftonville Road, Belfast. We work with 16 -24 year olds, not in education, training or employment. We deliver employability services across a range of training, with 1:1 mentoring support from our team of experienced staff.

Community Family Support Programme

How does learning to wire a plug help you find a job? The answer can be found on our Family Support Programme. Families on the programme are currently taking part in a basic DIY programme. In this fantastically practical programme, the families will be learning skills to complete simple DIY tasks such as fitting and maintaining latches, replacing fuses, painting and decorating tips and of course wiring a plug.

Many of the people that join our programme are young mums who have little experience of working and might have very few or no qualifications. Programmes such as the DIY course are designed to give them a start back into education, increase their confidence and sense of achievement by gaining new skills and, of course, by learning something useful that can actually save them money.

The next step is to support the family members to go further by looking for work or taking on a more formal education or training course. All of this takes place in a supportive environment where the whole family is welcome.

You can get involved in the Community Family Support Programme by contacting Jeanette on 9560 9522 jeanette.burns@ashtoncentre.com.

In addition to the programmes above Training and Employment are still running the Co-Ment programme which is an employability programme for young people (contact Tracy 9074 2255 tracy.mcwhinney@ashtoncentre.com) and CALL/ICT which is offering Essential Skills courses in English, Maths and ICT (contact Hilary 90322289 hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com).

Greater New Lodge Safer Streets Committee

Bonfire Related Vandalism

An upsurge in anti social behaviour and vandalism in the New Lodge is being linked to the same people responsible for the bonfire in the New Lodge in August. In the immediate aftermath of the bonfire there were numerous incidents of anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the area. This included the burning of a mini-bonfire that damaged street lighting at North Queen Street Steps, pedestrian traffic lights were also deliberately burned on the same street a few days later, furniture was set alight on the main New Lodge Road, fire-fighters on their way to an emergency were attacked, crowds associated with the bonfire continued to gather regularly to blast loud music beside the homes of elderly residents into the early hours and threaten anyone that dared challenge their behaviour. The list goes on and on.

Intimidation

There is a general sense within the community that those involved in this behaviour have been given a free ride to do whatever they want. This perception is very understandable as year after year certain very well known individuals can continue to harass, intimidate and bully residents apparently without fear of legal sanction or punishment. The parents of some of these young people seem totally unwilling or unable to control them. Youth and community workers and elected representatives have engaged in dialogue with a significant proportion of those involved in order to encourage a change of heart from them, without much success.

MLA Speaks Out

The Safer Streets Committee has been in meeting after meeting with various statutory agencies to ensure that they do their job properly and put the health, safety and well being of residents at the top of their agenda. In a recent newspaper article local MLA Caral Ni Chuilin expressed her deep anger and disappointment at the failure of statutory agencies to deal effectively with bonfires and the negative behaviour associated with them. The Safer Streets Committee shares these concerns.

A Right To Safety

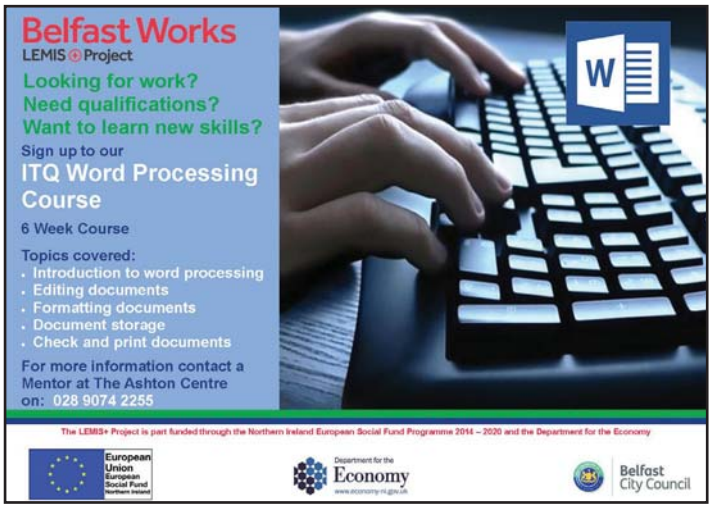
We want positive action and not excuses from those tasked with upholding the safety of citizens against the actions of thugs and bullies. The Safer Streets Committee is there to promote the right to safety for residents by holding statutory agencies to account. It is not there to provide cover for these agencies or to act as a go-between to convey lame excuses to the community. We understand that these agencies can often be faced with resource problems. We also acknowledge the genuine efforts of individual staff members. However there can be no excuse for those in senior positions of authority who have failed to get to grips with a problem that now plagues the people of the New Lodge every summer. This community deserves better.

The PSNI have stated that incidents are often not reported to them. It is important that you report any incident where you are a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour. If there is no official record of an incident it's as if it hasn't even happened. If you can't or won't report to the police then you can contact Safer Streets at - 0756493 8276 if no one is available leave a message. Another community number you can ring is, Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI) - 028 90 753043

The Greater New Lodge Safer Streets Committee is totally voluntary and is not funded.

Traffic Lights Destroyed

Street Lighting Destroyed



Ashton FabLab

Fablab has been very busy in the last few months. We have just finished our BBC mural project with a working title 'Jobs for the Boys'. The project which involved working with three young men from East Belfast, was about re-imagining their area and removing the old style paramilitary murals that are prevalent there. Working with the BBC, Fablab took the three young men through an intensive course of design and manufacturing education, in which they received an OCN Level 2 qualification and designed and built the first 3D mural in the North. This was a very rewarding project to work on, so to see the three young men's journey and the final product, tune into the BBC in March 2017 to see the 30 minute documentary.

International Conference

Recently Fab Foundation Ireland were invited to Dublin Castle to exhibit at the 3 day conference of the Small Advanced Economies Initiative. The event was attended by members of governments from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Holland. Feedback was very positive and the Minister of Foreign affairs for Ireland stated that the Fablab Exhibition was the highlight of the conference. Fablab highlighted how digital design and technology can be used to promote the economy of a small country in terms of design and manufacturing, while also using it to promote peace in a post conflict society.

Ashton Open User Sessions

Fablab is continuing to run its open user sessions On Fridays to let people come and have a go at digital design and fabrication. If you are interested in trying some of these techniques call Paddy on 02890755412 to book a slot.

The team are looking forward to commencing a six week project in partnership with Youth Space at Girdwood Community. Hub Young people using the Fablab equipment will design and fabricate signage to create a positive, inclusive and stimulating environment that can be used by all members of the community hub.

Fablab is a project of the Ashton Community Trust

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)

Lighthouse Flower Arranging Day

Jo Murphy of Lighthouse thought it would be a lovely gesture for the organisation to give a gift of flowers to families on Friday 9th September for world suicide prevention day on the 10th September. Famlies came along on the day to create a special arrangement, they got involved themselves in arranging the flowers. We had a lovely day filled with lots of support and love for each other. As in our mission statement we like to promote and support positive mental health for those affected by suicide.

New Lodge Arts Programme Update Summer 2016

The Little Mermaid - Girdwood Hub

New Lodge Arts was delighted to work in partnership with C21 Theatre Company to deliver 'The Little Mermaid'. The project ran from 25-29 July 2016 with 27 budding young performers who took part in a range of Dance, Drama and Singing workshops. Led by an artistic team of Aaron Cathcart and Jess Dane, the young people had a fantastic time working on this project. The final performance took place on Friday 29th July to an audience of family and friends.

One parent said 'My children enjoyed everything about their time at the project. They enjoyed the interaction between all the children & the fun they all had together. They loved all staff members as everyone of them had taken time to get to know the children and most importantly talk to the children. They also loved performing & showing off all their hard work!!'

Junior Arts Academy - 'Alice in Wonderland'

New Lodge Arts Junior Summer Arts Academy took place from Monday 1st August – Friday 5th August 2015 with 24 young people participating in the programme. Led by Brona Jackson and Sarah Davies, the young people devised their own piece of theatre based on Alice in Wonderland. During the week, the young people took part in workshops in singing, acting and dancing in preparation for the showcase on Friday afternoon. The performance was fantastic and showed the tremendous talent of the young people involved. Parents were impressed by what their child had achieved during the week. One parent said 'both girls were full of enthusiasm going to the drama course every day, the tutors were so encouraging . They loved meeting new friends and never got bored.'

New Lodge Arts –Summer Street Party

As part of this year's Festival, New Lodge Arts delivered its third Summer Street Party. The event took place on Lepper Street on Saturday 6th August with an exciting array of activities. Highlights included street performances from Miss Shell, The Magilligans and The Morris Men. Audiences had the opportunity to take part in Weird Science Workshops, W5 - Our Food, Our Health, Our Planet workshops and an array of arts and crafts. There really was something for everyone and it was fantastic to see the local community, young and old, united together to celebrate arts and culture.

Anne Delaney, Arts Programme & Operations Manager, New Lodge Arts was delighted with the event: 'Our third Street Party was a definite highlight of this year's Summer Festival. The sun shone all day and the audiences were impressed by the fantastic variety of activities available'.

The Jungle Book

We were delighted to work in partnership with C21 Theatre Company again on this weeklong programme in Girdwood Community Hub. The young people worked hard throughout the week learning their parts, practicing dance routines and singing the familiar songs such as 'I want to be like you' and 'The Bare Necessities'. There was great talent in the group who all thoroughly enjoyed the week. The showcase in Girdwood on the Friday afternoon was enjoyed by family and friends.

Anne Delaney, New Lodge Arts said 'The young people really gave it their all this week and pulled out all stops to make the

performance happen! Working in partnership with C21 Theatre Company brought new dimension to our programme and gave the young people a chance to work with new artists. We look forward to further collaboration in the future.'

Summer Arts Academy – Hairspray

For this year's Summer Arts Academy, we were delighted to stage a production of the hit musical – Hairspray led by Sean Mullan (Artistic Director) and Rochelle McParland (Choreographer).

The rehearsals were held during the weeklong residential in Lorne House, Holywood. The young people were immersed in a busy schedule of singing, acting and dancing in preparation for the Saturday night showcase.

Over 200 people attended the performance in Girdwood Hub on Saturday 13th August which showcased the talent of the young people.

Anne Delaney, Arts Programme & Operations Manager said 'A 5-night residential was an ambitious programme for us but it definitely paid off. The young people were committed to making the showcase a success and worked very hard during the week. The participants had a fantastic week – and were extremely well looked after by the New Lodge Arts staff team!'

Mena Singh, 16 from North Belfast said 'This was an amazing experience for all us young kids and it's brought different cultures and beliefs together it and the best part was knowing cared about their different backgrounds we all got along together as a big family.'

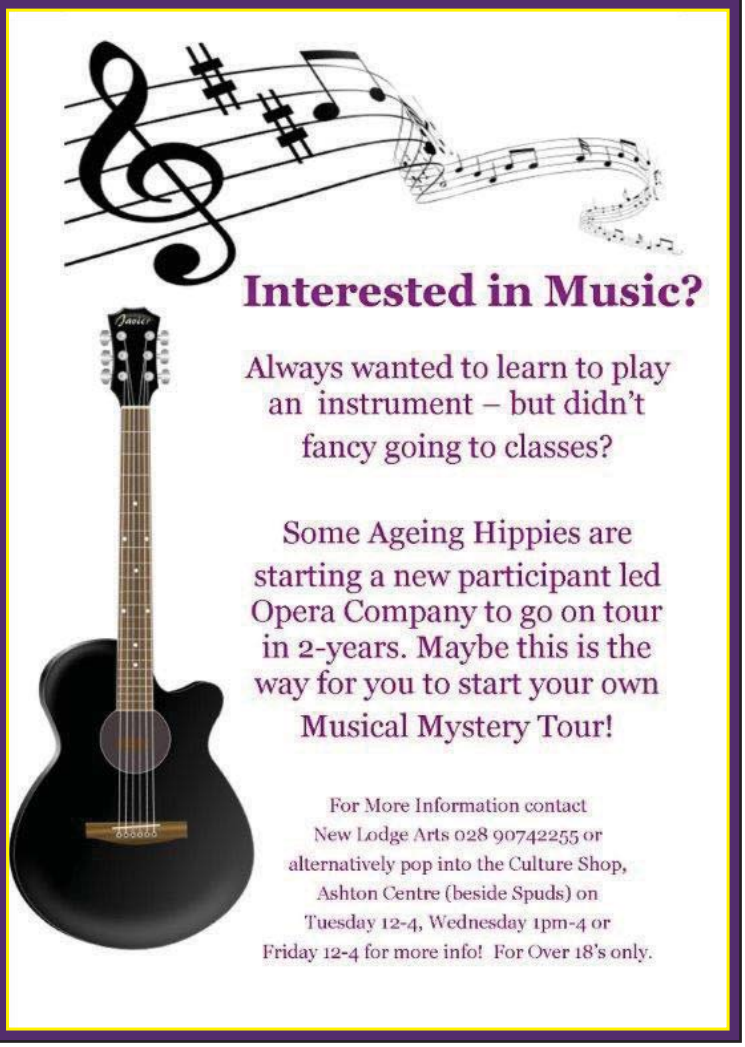
'Acting Up' Summer Camp

We were delighted to work in partnership with NACN Theatre Company in Rathcoole on this year's TBUC Summer Camp – Acting Up funded by The Executive Office. The group included 20 young people New Lodge Arts and Newtownabbey Arts & Cultural Network Theatre Company. The project included Drama Workshops, Teambuilding and Outdoor activities.

The group headed off to Greenhill YMCA in Newcastle and enjoyed a series of workshops, high ropes, bouldering, team challenges, drama sessions and teambuilding. The group had an amazing experience on the residential and it was clear to see the positive impact of using arts a as a tool for bringing people from different cultures together.

The group worked towards a performance at Culture Night in Belfast on Friday 16th September 2016.

Acting Up



Belfast Works

LEMIS+ Project

Live in Belfast?
Looking for work?
Need qualifications?

Why not sign up for our
ECDL Essentials Course

12 Week Course

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

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

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

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

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

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

NEW LODGE ARTS

Arts Academy

Starting back week commencing 19th Sept 2016

Monday's
Tiny's Drama (P1-P3) 3pm-4pm New Lodge Youth Centre
Junior Drama (P4-P7) 4pm-5.30pm New Lodge Youth Centre
Fancy Feet (Nursery-P1) 5.30pm-6.30pm Macrory Hall
Fancy Feet (P2-P4) 6.30pm-7.30pm Macrory Hall
Pop Video Dance (P5-P7) 7.30pm-8.30pm Macrory Hall
Hip Hop (10-13yrs) 7pm-8pm Girdwood Hub
Hip Hop (14-18yrs) 8pm-9pm Girdwood Hub

Tuesday's
Tiny's Art Class (P1-P3) 3.30pm - 4.30pm New Lodge Youth Centre
Junior Art Class (P4-P7) 4.30pm-5.30pm New Lodge Youth Centre
Junior Visual Arts (5-10yrs) 3pm-4.30pm The Recy
Adult Art Class (11am -2pm) Culture Shop, Ashton Centre
Youth Drama (1st—3rd Year) 6pm-7.30pm Duncairn Art Centre
Senior Drama (4th-6thyrs) 7.30pm-9pm Duncairn Art Centre

Wednesday's
Youth Theatre Class (13-18yrs) (audition only) 7pm-9pm Girdwood Hub

Thursday's
Ballet (Nursery-P1) 3pm-3.50pm The Recy
Ballet (P2-P5) 3.50pm-4.50pm The Recy
Tiny's Drama (P2-P5) 6pm-7pm Girdwood Hub
Junior Drama (P6-2ndyr) 7pm-8.30pm Girdwood Community

Register at the start of class - more info contact Anne on 07736389968

Ashton Community Trust | arts council LOTTERY FUNDED | Belfast City Council | BBC Children in Need | Ulster Garden Villages Limited

kinderkids

Kinderkids Daycare: High Quality Childcare, Local & Professional

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

The aim of Kinderkids Daycare is:

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

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

Play & Early Learning

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

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

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

For more information, contact us at:

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

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

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

Or call into any of our 3 Daycares

Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub

The Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub has now been operational for over one year and continues to go from strength to strength with the amount of referrals from schools, GPS, Community organisations or indeed self-referrals increasing every month. The Family Support Hub provides early intervention services to families and young people requiring support. The Hub brings together organisations that deliver services to children and young people from the age of 0-18 and their parents or carers. We are very fortunate in Lower North Belfast that we have more than 50 community, voluntary and statutory partners that provide a wide range of services to families.

The Hub can help families at many difficult times whether it is dealing with the challenging behaviour of children/ teenagers, if a family is dealing with debt, social isolation or a member of the family is dealing with drug or alcohol misuse or if a parent is suffering from mental ill-health-indeed any of the life experiences that negatively impact on a family's ability to be the best it can be.

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

Christine McKeown & Edith McManus

facebook.com/ashton.centre
facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust

Ashton Centre are now on Facebook, you can send us a friend request to keep up to date on all our services, we have also created a Like Page, where we will also post information on a regular basis about all of the Trust's services, please send friend request or like our page to be kept updated. Thank you

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

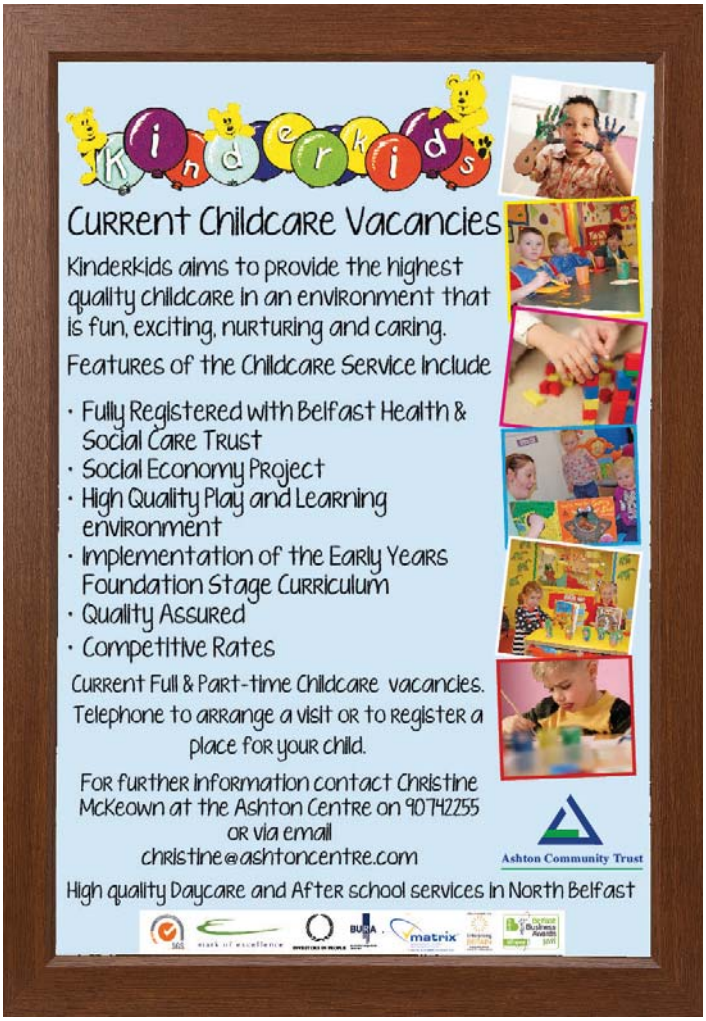
New Lodge Arts : Artist in Residence

On Tuesday the 20th September the Culture Shop, Ashton Centre opened to an evening art review session. This is a new project by the New Lodge Art Artists in Residence, Charlotte Bosanquet and the Tuesday Drawing Group (TDG). The idea is to bring artists to the Culture Shop and have an hour talk with food about their own artwork. For the second session North Belfast artist Roisin Robertson and Mitch Conlon were asked to talk. Roisin came to the TDG a year ago. She is a talented craftmaker that sells her work on Facebook under the name beadylicious. She makes colourful works about superheros and angels. Mitch is from Sligo and he has been living in Belfast for 3 years. He makes humorous performance and sculptures and is currently working with Clintonville Football Club. The next session is open to everyone and is on the 18th October from 6.30- 7.30 in the Culture Shop. For further information, please contact New Lodge Arts on 028 9074 2255.

Ryan on New Lodge Arts

A young local man Ryan McMahon shares his thoughts about his involvement and work with the fantastic New Lodge Arts project.

I first began my new journey within New Lodge Arts by starting a new course. I am now in a full-time position whilst also being flung back into school also doing a diploma course in youth work.
I have flourished as a youth worker over the past few months. I often find myself going into a daze and thinking where I have come from and where I am now. I have matured and grown into a young man. I have been developing myself as a youth worker and gained lots of new skills. There were lots of projects run over the summer that I loved taking part in. I am optimistic for the future and where I will end up, but I know wherever I end up that my heart will always be in New Lodge Arts and with the young people I have watched growing over the past few years. I am enjoying my new role because I have experienced things that I could only dream of, meeting different people and going to different places… just different.



Thomas Devlin Foundation Bursary

New Lodge Arts were delighted to secure funding from the Thomas Devlin Foundation to support Aoibheann Henry to complete Titanic Creative Management Summer Prosthetic and Special FX course.

The Thomas Devlin Foundation which is managed by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, has now given out £70,000 in bursaries since it was set up by Penny Holloway and Jim Devlin in 2006 in memory of their son Thomas who was tragically killed the previous year.

Aoibheann who attended an event to celebrate the achievements of the participants said 'I was awarded a bursary from the fund this summer and used the funding to attend the Titanic Creative Management prosthetic make-up summer school. I wouldn't have been able to take up the opportunity if I hadn't received funding from the Thomas Devlin Fund.

"I plan to use the skills I have learned to help out with school productions and New Lodge Arts. Someday I'd love to get involved in creative writing and film directing. Getting the bursary just makes it seem so much more possible,"

Anne Delaney, New Lodge Arts said 'This fund provides opportunities for young people to engage in specialist training in a variety of art forms. Aoibheann has a talent in Special FX make-up and when I saw the course provided by Titanic Creative Management which was facilitated by Brian Kinney, a top Hollywood MUA, I knew it would be ideal for Aoibheann. Without the funding secured through the Thomas Devlin Foundation, Aoibheann couldn't have taken part. I look forward to seeing Aoibheann test out some of her skills on future projects'

Aoibheann Henry Far Right

For more information visit:
http://www.communityfoundationni.org/thomas-devlin-community-arts-fund

Tar Isteach AGM 2016

Sponsored Walk Fundraiser Divis Mountain

Tar Isteach held its Annual General Meeting on Friday 26th August. The following is a abridged version of the Annual Report from a management perspective.

Management Report

The past year has been a very challenging time for everyone involved in Tar Isteach. Not least due to the ending of Peace 3 funding and the difficulties this presented. Since our last AGM we have lost funding for posts in our Training and Employment, Youth Development, Welfare Rights and Financial Administration Departments. All of our departments have lost resources of some description putting intense pressure on our service capacity. It is a measure of the commitment of those staff that lost their jobs with Tar Isteach that they continue to volunteer for the project in their spare time.

Despite these setbacks we have been able to maintain certain core services. This has been made possible by overwhelming support from the local community including fundraising activities and events. It indicates the high regard in which our project is held and has been crucial in enabling us to retain our Advice and Counselling services. Both of these services have maintained their high level of provision despite reductions in support staff and resources. However all of this has undoubtedly placed extreme strain on our staff.

In response to these challenges the management and staff are working hard to put the organisation in a better place. Funding processes are difficult and competitive with no guarantees of success. The only thing that we can guarantee is 100% effort on our part.

Tar Isteach continues to lobby and campaign against ongoing criminalisation and discrimination against political ex-prisoners. This includes advocacy and research. Our latest project for example involves a Needs Analysis which is a follow up to a study conducted on our behalf by Queens University in 2015. The findings of this research will be used to demonstrate the needs, issues, concerns and barriers that still exist for political ex-prisoners. This latest analysis indicates increasing isolation, ill health and financial hardships faced by many political ex-prisoners particularly as they enter into older age. It is clear for all to see that the continuing mistreatment of the political ex-prisoner community remains an unresolved legacy of the conflict.

To the republican ex-prisoner community we promise that our management committee and staff will carry on working to secure the necessary resources needed to sustain all services and to return them to their full capacity. We will continue to respond to the best of our ability to the needs articulated by our political ex-prisoner constituency and their dependants.

Tommy Quigley Manager

Locality Planning Coming to New Lodge!

Belfast City Council officials met with a number of community representatives from Greater New Lodge Community Empowerment Partnership at the Ashton Centre on Friday September 16th. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Belfast Council's intention to introduce a Locality Planning scheme for the New Lodge. The basic idea of locality planning is to identify and address local issues by engaging and working with local people, community groups and organisations. Through such an engagement the aim is to enable local people to identify what they feel are the local issues and priorities and how they think these should be addressed. The idea is to then use this information to influence the development of a local plan for the future delivery of actions and services for a locality. This might involve developing a partnership approach including a range of people and organisations who would have responsibilities and expertise in dealing with the priorities that have been identified. Further meetings are planned to discuss how the process could be rolled out with local residents.

North Belfast Housing Inequality Highlighted

North Belfast Families intervene in planning process to fight for social housing at Dunnes/Hillview – Crumlin Road

Families from the Equality Can't Wait (ECW) campaign recently hand delivered a proposal for social housing to TSA Planning Consultants, Killultagh Properties and Belfast City Council planning service. The proposal was also sent to MLAs, Councillors and Assembly departments responsible for planning and housing.

In June Killultagh Properties and TSA Planning Consultants began a consultation on proposals to develop 6 retail units, a car show room and a drive through café at Dunnes / Hillview on the Crumlin road. The previously failed retail venture has been lying vacant for years while waiting lists for social housing have exploded. Despite this, the plans brought forward by developers exclude social housing.

Political Support
ECW are campaigning for the right to housing an end to religious inequality in housing impacting the Catholic community in North Belfast particularly. ECW protested at the site in June with the support of Sinn Féin, the Green Party and People Before Profit. The Alliance Party and SDLP have also signed the group's petition calling for social housing at the site.

Housing As A Human Right
Kelly Mon from ECW explained: "Our report shows that the current developer's plans fail thousands of families. They also fail to meet the Council and Assembly's strategic objectives to tackle the housing crisis. Dunnes/Hillview is nearly twice the size of Girdwood and there is plenty of space for housing and shops or other things. One of the basic human needs is shelter, not a drive through restaurant and a car show room."

The site is located in the middle of areas experiencing some of the highest demand for social housing. It is one of the last big opportunities capable of addressing housing need and religious inequality in North Belfast. The latest figures from the Housing Executive (March 2014) outline a need for 666 new and additional social homes in Catholic communities across North Belfast, and a surplus of 72 social homes among the Protestant community.

Petition
The families delivered their petition with over 1000 signatures with their counter proposal. The proposal details the range of human rights and local policy failings in the developer's plans and offers a sustainable alternative to create jobs and homes.
Working with PPR and Mc Cartan Muldoon architects, an alternative plan has been drawn up for the site. It would include social housing, and amenities, as well allowing for the economic potential of the site to be realised. Such a plan would help the NI Executive, the Department of Communities the Department of Infrastructure and Belfast City Council to meet their obligations and realise their strategic objectives in terms of housing and planning.

Seán Brady from Participation & Rights Project (PPR) said:
"This proposal provides guidance for decision-makers at Council and the Assembly to ensure they meet their human rights obligations to the people of Belfast. In June this year, the United Nations issued recommendations on the performance of the Assembly in relation to the right to housing. Once again housing inequality in North Belfast was highlighted as an unresolved problem. The private developers and government decision makers alike need to listen to the calls of the United Nations and the thousands of families waiting for a place to call home."

Jog Belfast

Ten Week Training Programme for Beginners

Following the success of the first programme in North Belfast, Better and North Belfast Harriers Club will be starting a new programme commencing Monday 19th September at Girdwood Community Hub. Over the ten weeks, sessions will be every Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm.

The programme is for people who have not run before, to enable them to complete a 5K run at the end of ten weeks training.

Follow Jog Belfast on Facebook for more info:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jog-Belfast/113239722198530

Or register via:

http://activeni.org/193

BETTER the feel good place

North Belfast Harriers 1896

Active Belfast

Ashton Community Trust

Essential Skills
Training & Employment Services
Ashton Centre

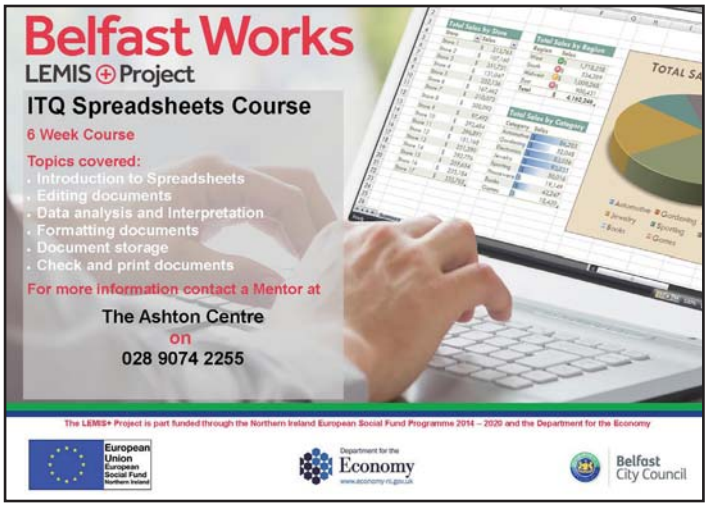
Calling all New Lodge Residents!
Do you have the Essential Skills for everyday life and work?
English + Maths + ICT = Essential Skills
New English and Maths courses are starting in September in your area. Computers (ICT) are used in English and Maths classes.

Courses are LOCAL + FREE

If you would like to find out more:

Department for Communities www.communities-ni.gov.uk

+ phone Hilary on 90322289
+ email hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com
+ call in person at the Ashton Centre



North Belfast Social Enterprise hub

Business Clinic's

Make an appointment on:
028 95 609 521, 028 95 609 522 or via email: nbsehub@ashtoncentre.com or just drop into the HUB at McSweeney Centre, Henry Place, BT15
Visit our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/NorthBelfastSEHUB

Ashton Community Trust

Northern Ireland Executive
www.northernireland.gov.uk
DELIVERING SOCIAL CHANGE

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

West Belfast vs Belfast Select

Boxing 4 Wellbeing Belfast City

Take5 steps to wellbeing

CHAMPIONS OF WELLBEING

Belfast City Council

Belfast Strategic Partnership supported by Belfast Health Development Unit

Date: Friday 7th October 2016

Venue: Girdwood Community Forum

Time: 6pm -9pm

FREE

ASHTON 'serving North Belfast for over 25 years'

Ashton Community Trust is an award winning regeneration charity that has been delivering services in North Belfast for over 25 years. It employs over 160 people delivering a wide range of services. The Trust has a number of departments who have an online presence, please visit their websites, like their pages on Facebook or follow them on Twitter to be kept up to date on activities of Ashton Community Trust. Ashton's service delivery outputs are an important element in community and social development in North Belfast. In each of our service delivery areas we are constantly working to improve and grow the services we provide. Below is a brief summary of some of our key services.
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust
Website: http://www.ashtoncentre.com/
Main Ashton contact number: 028 90 74 22 55

Bridge of Hope is a community based health and emotional wellbeing service that works with individuals, families and communities affected by the conflict. Our services include complementary therapies, life coaching, psychological therapies including trauma counselling, personal and professional development, legacy and conflict analysis, as well as accredited VTCT training. We take a person centred approach to all of the work we do. You can easily access support by self-referring or by asking your GP or health care worker to refer you into us. Our local clinics operate from the Ashton Centre and McSweeney Centre. We also deliver services in outreach locations right across the city of Belfast.
If you would like to take steps to better health and wellbeing please phone and talk to the team on: 028 9022 1022 or 028 9543 **8707.** You can read lots more about Bridge of Hope by checking us out on Facebook or logging onto our website.
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/bridgeofhope.org
Website: http://www.thebridgeofhope.org/

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

North Belfast Social Enterprise Hub is a pilot signature project of the Northern Ireland Executive through their Delivering Social Change Fund.
This project is based at 52 York Street, opening Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.
Within the Hub we are offering facilities such as hot desking, information library, conference/training facilities and market research. The Hub activity will range from best practice visits, ideas generation, business clinics, peer to peer matching, mentoring support to help produce business planning, marketing, legal structures and training on topics such as finance, governance, human resources all of which are tailored to your needs.
The Hub is a great opportunity for the community sector to demonstrate the benefits of social enterprises, help to increase economic growth and provide a clear insight for government into the benefits and potential for further developing the social-enterprise sector going forward.
If you wish to contact us please call 95609521 or 95609522 or email nbsehub@ashtoncentre.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NorthBelfastSEHUB
Twitter: https://twitter.com/NBSEH
Website: http://www.ashtoncentre.com/hub.php

FabLab (Digital Fabrication Laboratory) is halfway between a laboratory and a workshop it's a place where you can make (almost) anything, where both small children and inventors can turn an idea into reality. We can make products out of wood, acrylic, composite moulds, silicon, cardboard, sheet aluminium, plastics, copper foil and vinyl using various technological methods. FabLab works with young people, students, community and voluntary organisations, arts groups and individuals, schools, universities and businesses helping people to develop their creativity, skills and life opportunities. For further information contact: 9075 5412
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/fablab.nervecentre
Twitter: https://twitter.com/FabLabNI
Website: http://www.fablabni.com/

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

New Lodge Arts provides an exciting and packed programme for young people of all ages in dance, drama, film-making, carnival arts, visual arts, volunteer development and youth leadership. We work with approximately 2000 children and young people each year. Our key aim is to make the Arts accessible to all in our communities regardless of age, gender or background. For further information contact 90742255
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/nlarts?fref=ts
Twitter: https://twitter.com/newlodgearts
Website: http://www.newlodgearts.com/

Kinderkids Daycare was established as a social enterprise by Ashton Community Trust in 2000. Since then, the daycares have expanded in response to demand and now operate three daycare centres in North Belfast. Kinderkids provides childcare services to over 250 children aged from birth -12 years. Each daycare is committed to providing high quality, day care and after schools services to children, thereby supporting their development and improving parents' access to education, training, employment and support services.
Kinderkids believes that learning begins at birth and has a profound effect on lifelong development and adult wellbeing. They acknowledge that quality child care promotes healthy child development at the same time as it supports families, reduces child poverty, advances equality, and deepens social inclusion. For further information contact 9074 2255
Website: http://www.ashtoncentre.com/kinderkids.php

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