



Public Theology: A New Model of Engagement

David Steven's Memorial Lecture

Issue 91 May 2018

Dr Johnston McMaster—Adjunct Assistant Professor, Irish School of Ecumenics

CRC held the David Steven's Memorial Lecture on the 27th March in the Duncairn Centre, Dr McMaster was invited to give the address.

I am grateful to Jacqueline Irwin and the Community Relations Council for the invitation to give this year's David Stevens Memorial Lecture. It was an invitation I could not refuse. I count it an immense privilege to be able to honour David in this way. We knew each other well, worked from the same building in Elmwood Avenue for some years and our paths crossed in a variety of ways over a long time. We shared some exciting adventures together. On one occasion we even slept together! Let me quickly explain. We set off to a conference in the Romanian city of Sibiu, arrived first in Bucharest airport expecting to be met, taken to a hotel and then travel on by train the next morning. There was no one at the airport and we had no contact numbers and it was late at night. We thought perhaps the railway station was the meeting point, so we went outside and took a taxi. We were ripped off because we ought to have used the official airport taxi booked from the airport desk. Now we were at Bucharest Central, almost penniless, and no meet and greet Romanians. There were just guys offering to drive us to Sibiu, which would have probably meant re-mortgaging our houses in Belfast. So we slept together on a bench in a deserted Bucharest Central Station, with lots of pigeons for company. It was a relief around 6am when a little huckster of a stall opened selling very bad coffee, but coffee! At 8am the train left for Sibiu, a 4-5 hour journey, with David and I at our least charitable towards Romanians and each of us running out of expletives in both English and Romanian! We arrived in Sibiu, unwashed, unfed and unimpressed. We then discovered that Sibiu was also known as Hermannstadt, and that the name you used depended on your interpretation of history and your ethnicity and identity politics. We felt at home. We had Derry-Londonderry Stroke City and it was not unique after all. I have many other fond memories of David, and especially of his work and commitment to peace, reconciliation and good relations. I count it a great privilege to be able to give this lecture in his memory today. To read the full text of the lecture [click here \(external link\)](#)

'Buddy Up!' Wins Place in Top 3 for Innovative Peacebuilding at Prestigious International Awards



Lisa Dietrich—Director of Community Relations in Schools (CRIS) receiving the award

The 'Buddy Up!' initiative engages children, parents and families to build meaningful relationships and friendships while learning and achieving together. 'Buddy Up!' uses an intergenerational engagement model to promote shared activities for 'buddies' (pupils) and their families who- despite living on either side of one of Northern Ireland's most divided interfaces- wish to support 'everyday peacebuilding.' It is an alternative story of life along interfaces in North Belfast.

Quote from Lisa Dietrich, CRIS Director

"We believe that schools are the ideal meeting places to grow a community of togetherness and compassion," said Lisa Dietrich, Director of Community Relations in Schools (CRIS). "Our partnership with Holy Cross Nursery School, in Ardoyne and Edenderry Nursery School, in the Shankill is already creating the conditions for the removal of barriers. We hope we can expand this work further in North Belfast by engaging more families and share this model across Northern Ireland with the support of the Intercultural Innovation Award.

Commenting on the work of CRIS, Jacqueline Irwin, Chief Executive of the Community Relations Council, said:

"This is a huge honour for all partners of the Buddy Up! Programme. The Community Relations Council would like to congratulate the Board and staff at CRIS and all those associated with the Buddy Up! programme at Edenderry and Holy Cross Nursery School on being nominated for this global peace-building award. We see daily the enormous contribution Buddy Up! makes to school and family life for many children across North Belfast so it's wonderful that this important work being recognised on a global stage."

CRIS is grateful to all its funders who help support this important and worthwhile peacebuilding programme. Primary project funders for 'Buddy Up!' are the Community Relations Council (CRC), the Irish Government's Fund for Reconciliation administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFA), and the Shared Education Signature Project (SESP).

To learn more about CRIS [click here](#) (external link)

Spotlight on work supported by CRC's Core Fund

Rural Community Network (RCN) Core Funding Programme

Patricia O'Neill, Communications Manager CRC & Charmain Jones, Good Relations Officer, RCN

Charmain Jones started as Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Officer in RCN, in 2010. Since then she has devised and co-ordinated a varied range of projects building capacity and good relations in rural Northern Ireland. Now as a Good Relations Officer for RCN, Charmain delivers a wide range of projects including:

Cultural expression: community relations preparatory work with PUL communities through the Confederation of Ulster Bands and other relevant community groups and organisations.

Addressing the legacy of the past: responsible for the design and delivery of training (accredited and non-accredited) on shared history, good relations, rural institutions, the development of a conference examining the role of women 1912-1922 in partnership with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, (planned for March 2019) the development of a rural men's peacebuilding programme in partnership with TADA and the delivery of an OCN Level 2 in Understanding Commemoration in conjunction with Craig Barr, International School for Peace Studies.

Community safety and sectarianism: activities include the development of a peacebuilding summer school in Armagh in conjunction with Diversity Challenges, West Armagh Consortium and Reconciliation, Education & Community Training (REACT), roll out of a women's development programme across four rural communities in partnership with Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN), Building Communities Resource Centre and REACT, a youth development programme based on community/good relations in partnership with Gaslight Productions.

Shared spaces and contested spaces: continue to expand the work of the Beyond Belfast rural practitioners' forum, engage in research focusing on shared spaces/barriers to shared space, engage in a number of regional and local fora to enhance the policy agenda of rural community relations.

In conversation Charmain explained that without Core Funding from CRC, RCN would not have been able to sustain the Beyond Belfast work, which derived from extensive research on contested spaces. This provides the opportunity to link grass roots rural community groups with Government and Policy and to ensure the voice of rural communities is at the table and is being heard in relation to good relations, peacebuilding and reconciliation.

Because of her expertise and wide knowledge of rural affairs, statutory body Good Relations Officers regularly work in partnership with Charmain to access help, advice, programme design and programme delivery. In October 2015 CRC together with representatives of partner community relations organisers, including Charmain, delivered a presentation in Dublin to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. More recently Charmain along with Director Kate Clifford, met Michel Barnier to discuss local issues of significance to rural communities in relation to Brexit. Charmain is on right of Monsieur Barnier.



To find out more about RCN and their work [click here](#) (external link)

Project News

Reflected Lives

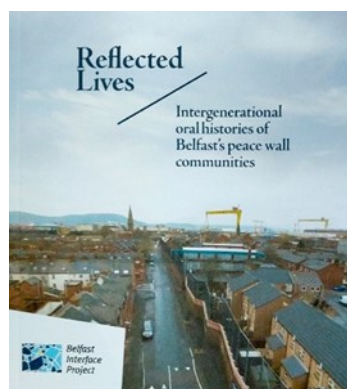
Joe O'Donnell—Director, Belfast Interface Project

'Reflected Lives' is a unique oral history project that has captured the everyday experiences of people living either side of the interface barriers or peace walls in Short Strand/ Inner East Belfast. Significantly the project is not just cross community but inter-generational. The project has uncovered fascinating stories of those who lived in a shared community before the peace walls were erected, those who were segregated as the walls were built and those who have never experienced life without them.

This publication presents, for the first time, the results of the oral history project. Throughout the publication, interviewees are quoted verbatim and identified by gender, age and community affiliation. During the project, both archival and contemporary images of the area were collated from a range of sources, including the personal archives of some of the interviewees themselves. These images are included within the publication and they help to bring the stories of the participants to life.

As noted in the penultimate chapter, the intergenerational perspectives are particularly revealing, capturing something of the difference in attitudes between younger and older residents. Again the picture here is far from black and white, with some young people expressing depressingly negative views and others suggesting that sectarianism is abating with the passage of time. Whether readers are inspired or concerned by the scenes depicted, they will hopefully be assured of the value of capturing the individual stories, in all of their messy complexity. In the detail of everyday experience these interviews offer important snapshots of the emotional, social and physical reality of what it is like to live on either side of a peace wall.

To learn more about BIP [click here](#) (external link)



If you would like to comment or submit an article for this bulletin or advertise a community relations event or publication, please contact Ellana etomasso@nicrc.org.uk.

Integrate my School (IMS)

Jill Caskey—Parent Engagement Campaign Manager, IMS



As a key part of the Integrated Education Fund's (IEF) mission to increase the number of places available to families who want integrated education, we support schools wishing to adopt an integrated ethos and change their status through the official "transformation" process.

At the centre of our campaign is a website, www.IntegrateMySchool.com, where parents can register support for their child's school to transform to an integrated one, kick-starting a process which research has shown would be supported by most parents in NI. A LucidTalk poll earlier this month found that there is strong support for structural change to the NI education system, with equally strong support for increased integration. An independent Sky News poll published last week revealed 69% of people in NI were in favour of integrated education.

We are engaging with communities across the region to discuss education at a local level and to ensure that communities and parents are aware that the option of integrated education is available to them. We are happy to meet and discuss this further, or organise an event in your area. We also have a grant available for community groups who want to organise an event to explore transformation in their local area.

If you would like more information then please contact Jill by emailing jill@ief.org.uk or call 028 9097 2910.

The Next Chapter

Taken from their website

On 24 October 2017 Politics Plus in partnership with NICVA and Irish Rural Link announced their success in securing almost €1.5million for The Next Chapter project, which is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The Next Chapter is a new project targeting women to develop their ideas, build communities and support the transition out of conflict. The Next Chapter aims to improve the representation of women in public and political life and contribute to a more gender-sensitive society in Northern Ireland and the border regions of the Republic of Ireland.

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The Next Chapter continued

The project will be delivered in partnership by Politics Plus, Irish Rural Link and Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA), and is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). The Next Chapter will contribute to SEUPB's overarching programme output of regional level projects that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities. Match funding for the project has been provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland and the Executive Office in Northern Ireland.

The Next Chapter will include the creation of a network of people working together to support peace and reconciliation, mobilising social change in their own communities and nurturing aspirations on a shared future.

This will be achieved over the next 24 months through;

- Developing 10 Chapters across the region with up to 400 women helping mobilise social change in their areas through a range of initiatives including community projects
- Delivering a Capacity Development training programme for 200 participants
- Coordinating 10 cross-border peace and reconciliation networking events
- Hosting two Ambassadors' Forum events and a Stormont Symposium to showcase the programme and facilitate learning and development on a cross-community and cross-border basis
- Creating a Young Female Leaders Advisory Panel
- Empowering 150 women to contribute to legislative reform and policy consultation exercises.

To find out more [click here](#) (external link)

Ulster GAA, Irish FA & Ulster Rugby to deliver joint peace programme

Ulster GAA, the Irish Football Association and Ulster Rugby have launched 'Sport Uniting Communities' an EU PEACE IV funded programme which aims to promote peace and reconciliation. The collaboration project between the three bodies hopes to reach 17,000 people of differing backgrounds, particularly across the political divide, with the aim of changing perceptions and building sustained relationships.

Research has shown that sport delivers its most positive impacts on behaviour when it incorporates integrated mentoring, training, volunteering and work experience programmes. Based on this research the project partners have designed a range of activities based on education, training, empowerment and leadership directed to volunteers and clubs.

The launch, at Queen's University's Dub playing fields, was attended by Northern Ireland football manager Michael O'Neill, Northern Ireland's Jonny Evans and Women's captain Marissa Callaghan who were joined by GAA All Ireland winning Manager Pete McGrath, Monaghan GAA's Conor McManus and Down GAA's Jessica Foy along with Ulster Rugby's Operations Director Bryn Cunningham, Ulster and Ireland International Darren Cave and Ulster's Eliza Downey.

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Ulster GAA, Irish FA & Ulster Rugby to deliver joint peace programme continued

On the day, players from the Ulster Ladies Gaelic Football Colleges All-Star team, Northern Ireland Under 19 ladies team, Ulster Rugby Team, Dungannon Team and Syrian Team had the opportunity to participate in a range of 'Have a Go' activities in each of the three sports. These activities were delivered by Community Sport Development Officers from the three governing bodies whose responsibility it will be to deliver the programme across the province.

To learn more about this programme [click here](#) (external link)

The Detail

Patricia O'Neill – Communications Manager, CRC

Paul Nolan, who compiled the first three *Peace Monitoring Reports* has written a piece for *thedetail* entitled 'The cruel peace: killings in Northern Ireland since the Good Friday Agreement' The introduction to the piece states:

ENDING the Troubles in Northern Ireland stopped large scale violence, but lower level activity has lingered. Earlier this month, loyalists renewed their opposition to criminality. Now Paul Nolan reports how killings didn't entirely stop after the Belfast agreement in 1998, while few perpetrators have ever been convicted

To access the article [click here](#) (external link)



Open Library of Humanities Taken from the [Agreement 20 website](#)

April 2018 will see the 20th Anniversary of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement, the central protections of which are currently under threat from the Brexit negotiations, special elections and the RHI Scandal. This special collection examines the impact and legacy of this Agreement on social, political and cultural life in Northern Ireland. The Agreement has proven strangely resilient. It has suffered many challenges, from inside and out, for the last 20 years but at the time of writing remains enshrined in UK and Irish law.

Culturally, engagements with the agreement itself have been rare, as artists prefer instead to seek out depictions of a 'post'-Peace Process society or to excavate the past for their subject matter. Some writers have found themselves freed from the subject matter of the troubles, and this has led to a rise in genre fiction. There has also been a relative explosion of visual art, drama, poetry and plays by women and people who identify as LGBTQ. However, the place of race and disability in this 'new' Northern Ireland has not been widely explored in culture or scholarship, and the editors would particularly appreciate critical essays on this topic. The aim of this OLH Special Collection is to draw out those perspectives which were not widely heard during the Agreement negotiations or subsequent responses.

For many outside Northern Ireland, the Agreement is framed as a 'bookend' to the conflict, a neatly wrapped peace accord ending the violence. This false bill of goods allows for the conflict to be pitched as the ideal model for 'talking to terrorists' rather than acknowledging the Agreement as one of many on the path to peace. Existing volumes on peace-building often prioritise an economic model of "peace dividends".

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Open Library of Humanities continued

In political science, the concepts of peace and prosperity are held to be mutually reinforcing. The reality, however, is somewhat different. Those on the margins of society – often due to class, gender and race – are obscured by the growing expectation that international economic aid is an essential underpinning for peace processes. As Colin Graham has argued in relation to the gulf between the agreement and the people it putatively represents, it sets in train a means for ‘the already marginalised to become more marginal still’.

By returning to the negotiations for peace this special issue seeks to redress this balance – exploring how the peace process evolved to create a document that has occluded much of Northern Ireland, while also giving voice to those silenced by the process.

Articles were invited that addressed a range of approaches, including: the social, cultural and political legacy of the Agreement; new perspectives on the politics of 1998 and beyond; the consequences of the Agreement from different perspectives e.g. gender, race, sexuality and disability; how literature and culture have changed in Northern Ireland in the past 20 years; decommissioning and paramilitarism; Brexit, borders and renegotiations; language (Irish and/or Ulster Scots); legal ramifications of the Agreement; representations of the Agreement, Peace Process or ‘post’-conflict moment in the arts (broadly defined); perspectives on the Agreement from within and without Northern Ireland; and the impact of peace-building initiatives and reconciliation organisations.

Edited by Dr Caroline Magennis (University of Salford), Dr George Legg (King’s College London) and Dr Maggie Scull (King’s College London).

To read the articles [click here](#) (external link)

Hear my Voice—Queen’s Film Theatre, Belfast

18th May—19th May, 21 May—24 May

Hear My Voice, a short film by Brendan J. Byrne combines Colin Davidson’s stunning portrait collection, Silent Testimony, with the spoken words of the victims and survivors of the Northern Irish Troubles, featured in the paintings.



In **Hear My Voice**, Brendan Byrne focuses on the forgotten voices of his homeland, those still paying the price of Northern Ireland’s fragile peace. Whilst the events that dramatically changed their lives took place in the past, the film captures how our contributors’ loss continues to endure in a powerful short documentary that tells an uncomfortable and little heard narrative from the Northern Ireland conflict, 20 years after the guns fell silent. The experiences of the contributors are as relevant to those surviving loss today in cauldrons of conflict such as Syria, Iraq and Rohingya, or those individuals and families recovering from random acts of violence in Paris, Berlin or Nice.

Byrne uses Davidson’s paintings as the film’s visual spine, complemented by a classical score by composer Brian Byrne, the beautiful cinematography of Richard Kendrick and the skilful editing of Greg Darby.

To book go to [QFT website](#)

If you would like to comment or submit an article for this bulletin or advertise a community relations event or publication, please contact Ellana etomasso@nicrc.org.uk.

What is a Churchill Fellowship?

A Churchill Fellowship is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand your professional and personal horizons and, crucially, make a difference to communities and professions across the UK.

The Fellowship was one of the best experiences of my life and even after five years, the connections, the people, the learning and the feelings I met and went through still influence me today. - Mark Walsh, policeman, 2013 Fellow

It begins with a travel grant(external link) for you to spend up to two months overseas, researching innovative practice on a topic of your choice. This is not an academic study, it's a practical exploration of how things work in other countries, yielding global insights that can be brought back to the UK to influence change here.

On your return, we can support you with advice and further funding to spread your findings(external link) locally or nationally, perhaps to set up a pilot project or new organisation, and to meet key players in your topic area. We partner with key organisations in each of our project categories(external link), to enhance the reach and impact of the Fellows' work.

A Fellowship is for life, and you will be able to join useful networks of other Churchill Fellows in your topic or locality. Online you will have your own page on our website which can be used to promote your findings and activities. And we will keep you updated on events and Fellows' research.

Applicants come from all backgrounds, ages and levels of experience. No qualifications are required. You will need some knowledge of your topic(external link) area but you do not need to be a field leader. We are looking for dynamic individuals who are passionate about their project and can show how they will use it to make a difference in the UK.

Here are two examples of Churchill Fellows and the difference they have made:

Neil McIntyre, 2014 Fellow

Neil is a science teacher. He travelled to Estonia and Finland to study approaches to attainment in science education.

He has shared his findings widely, speaking at conferences and writing in national publications. He has received additional funding to take forward one of his recommendations around establishing better links between primary and secondary science education. Neil also took four of his pupils to a youth leadership summit in Washington DC, an opportunity resulting from friendships made during his Fellowship travels.

Zrinka Bralo, 2014 Fellow

Zrinka is Chief Executive of Migrants Organise, an organisation supporting migrants and refugees in the UK. On her Fellowship, she learnt about techniques similar organisations in the USA had used to secure changes to immigration policy.

Afterwards, Zrinka began shifting the focus of Migrants Organise from community development to community organising, with an emphasis on social change and injustice. Subsequently, Migrants Organise launched a programme on migrant and refugee voter registration, resulting in 6,000 new voters being registered for the 2015 General Election

For further information please go to <https://www.wcmt.org.uk/>

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Research

Rumours, mis- and disinformation in divided societies: Twitter and the Ardoyne parade dispute

Dr. Paul Reilly is Senior Lecturer in Social Media & Digital Society at the University of Sheffield. Dr Reilly's research focuses on the use of social media by citizens to share acts of surveillance, as well as how digital media can be utilised to promote better community relations in divided societies such as Northern Ireland. His work has been published in a number of journals including First Monday, Information, Communication & Society, New Media & Society, Policy and Internet and Urban Studies. He is currently completing his second monograph on Social media and contentious politics in Northern Ireland (contracted with Manchester University Press). @PaulJReilly

To access the article [click here](#) (external link)

Events

Ulster Scots course at Brownlow House, Lurgan

RCN, in partnership with the Ulster Scots Agency, is running an Ulster Scots course **at Brownlow House Lurgan every Thursday from 3rd to 31st May 7 - 9pm.**

The course is designed to provide a deeper, more detailed view of Ulster-Scots history and culture. Topics include:

- the 17th Century Plantation of Ulster;
- 18th-19th Century Ulster,
- Home Rule and the Covenant,

Ulster-Scots today.

It will be an interactive and lively programme. There will also be an option to achieve an OCN Level 2. Cost £10 per person.

Places are limited, please register with Charmain via email or phone RCN, Charmain@ruralcommunitynetwork.org 028 8676 6670

Victimhood and dealing with the past in Northern Ireland

This conference marks the end of a two-year AHRC-funded project on 'Voice, Agency and Blame: Victimhood and the Imagined Community in Northern Ireland', led by Dr. Cheryl Lawther (School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast) and Professor Kieran McEvoy (School of Law, Queen's University Belfast).

This one day conference looks at some of the most pressing issues regarding legacy.

This event is made possible with funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). It is free to attend, but please [register here](#). For further information, please contact Dr. Cheryl Lawther - c.lawther@qub.ac.uk

The Bomb And Bullet Legacy -

Organised by the Truth and Reconciliation Platform. 16 May, [Click here for registration](#)

If you would like to comment or submit an article for this bulletin or advertise a community relations event or publication, please contact Ellana etomasso@nicrc.org.uk.

Events continued

Stuart Bailie – Trouble Songs, Music and Conflict in NI

Trouble Songs is the story of music and conflict in Northern Ireland since 1968. It is told through the words of Bono, Christy Moore, The Undertones, Stiff Little Fingers, Orbital, Kevin Rowland, Terri Hooley and The Miami Showband survivors.



They tell how musicians from punk, folk, rave and rock have responded to violence, bigotry and shocking events. The soundtrack includes remarkable work by John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Sinéad O' Connor, The Pogues, The Cranberries and Elvis Costello.

Stuart Bailie, the Belfast-based music journalist and broadcaster, has conducted over 60 interviews and reveals many untold histories. *Trouble Songs* is an alternative hearing of the conflict and a testament to music's value as a persuader, agitator and peacemaker.

XSLF features Henry Cluney on guitar and vocals and Jim Reilly on drums. The two Stiff Little Fingers veterans are joined on stage by Ave Tsarion on bass. Expect to hear Barbed Wire Love, Nobody's Hero and Alternative Ulster along with new tracks from their album Arrup Bang.

Venue: Oh Yeah Music Centre, Belfast
 Date and time: Friday 11 May, 9.00pm
 Cost: Tickets £5.00
 Book Tickets: [here](#)

Book readings plus live music from XSLF and a Terri Hooley DJ set

GDPR & Volunteering

Thursday 17th May from 10am to 1pm

Venue: Volunteer Now ([view map](#))

Admission: £35 + VAT

Email training@volunteernow.co.uk

Getting GDPR right in relation to your volunteer records is essential for all charities.

This practical workshop will look at implementing the General Data Protection Regulations, giving an

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Events continued

overview of the regulations as well as looking at the direct impact on volunteer information.

This workshop will provide clear, practical guidance on ensuring you get GDPR right and help you understand your choices, provide resources and highlight the approaches others have taken.

Focusing on issues of consent and legitimate interest, the workshop will illustrate the steps you must take when controlling and processing volunteers' personal data. The workshop will explore what you need to do with current and archived records to ensure your organisation is compliant.

Neil Irwin MInstF (Dip) will provide guidance on the recommendations for applying data protection principles and regulations in your work by drawing upon the best recommendations and helping interpret this for non-experts.

Resilience and Forgiveness

A Valued Voices/Towards Understanding and Healing event

Stephen Travers, survivor of the Miami Showband Massacre and founding member of the Truth and Reconciliation Platform (TARP), in conversation with **Archdeacon Robert Miller** (co-author, with Father Paul Farren of: "Forgiveness Remembers" and co-mediator with Michael Doherty MBE in Peacebuilding across Northern Ireland)

Chaired by Paul McFadden

Thursday 17th May 2018, 7.30 pm @ Holywell DiverseCity Community Partnership.

To book a place, please contact Amanda Clarke at 028-71261941

2017 KLT and YLT Results Launch

The joint launch of 2017 Kids' Life and Times (KLT) and Young Life and Times (YLT) survey results will be held on 23 May 2018. Registration will open at 11.00 and the presentation of results will run from approximately 11.30 – 13.00. The venue for this event is:

Room OG/007, Queen's University, 69/71 University Street, Belfast

KLT and YLT are annual surveys run by ARK (www.ark.ac.uk) that record the views of P7 children (KLT) and 16-year olds (YLT) living in Northern Ireland about issues that affect them. As in previous years the 2017 survey has collected the views of children and young people on politics, community relations and other social issues.

This event is predominantly for organisations and researchers who work with and on behalf of children and young people. Places are limited, so if you would like to attend the launch event, please contact Eileen Gray e.gray@qub.ac.uk or 028 9097 5906 before 16 May 2018.

If you would like to comment or submit an article for this bulletin or advertise a community relations event or publication, please contact Ellana etomasso@nicrc.org.uk.

Events continued

Advocating for Human Rights and Equality - 17 May 2018, Belfast

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement, the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission invite you to:

A life in Politics: Advocating for Human Rights and Equality

Lord Alf Dubs in conversation with William Crawley

Date: Thursday 17th May 2018; 4:30pm - 6:00pm

Venue: Riddell Hall, Queen's University, Stranmillis Road, Belfast

To attend the event [Register Online](#) or email: communications@equalityni.org / telephone 02890 500666

Public Conversations Dialogue Project

Along with Community Places RCN have been working on a Public Conversations Dialogue Project looking at the siting of renewable energy technology – an often contentious issue particularly in rural communities. We are in the second phase of the project which is funded by Building Change Trust where we are exploring testing the dialogue technique with other themes and issues.

One of the themes we would like to explore is the tensions and difficulties practitioner can encounter in local communities when discussing issues relating to community relations and good relations, such as display of flags and emblems. As part of the project we can offer free training /practical application of the PCP technique – it works best with a group of about 8-10 people and the session normally lasts between 2-3 hours.

We are running a demonstration workshop on the PCP technique and reflecting on how it may be used in this area of work on:

WHEN Friday 8 June from 10am to 12.30 light lunch provided afterwards.

WHERE Rural Community Network office 38a Oldtown Street, Cookstown BT80 8EF

TO REGISTER your attendance contact Teresa McKernan on 028 8676 6670 email teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

Abandoned; Not Forgotten?

28 June to 28 July

Stripping away the political agenda, the remit for all four artists for this installation was to promote and embrace both factions of our society, culturally and equally, to create an original body of work, which they best felt answered the question: The culture, heritage and language of our joint Irish and Ulster Scots history – is it abandoned; forgotten?

The reply by all four was a resounding no.

Dates: Thursday 28th June to Saturday 28th July 2018

Venue: Flax Gallery, Museum at The Mill ([view map\(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#))

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