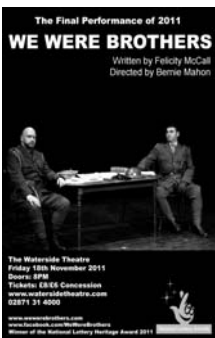




CRC e-Bulletin

WE WERE BROTHERS



James Lecky and
Gerry Dorrity

Eleonore Perrin describes a drama project funded by the Community Relations Council which has been successful in exploring the issue of shared heritage.

“Remembering [...] is not neutral in Northern Ireland” and the First World War is no exception to the rule. While it is commemorated as a British heritage, the contribution of Nationalists to the war has long been overlooked. Despite their reluctance to wear a British uniform, thousands of Nationalists enlisted in the Irish Volunteers and fought alongside the Ulster battalions as a combined force at the battle of Messines (1917). Political divisions and an anti-British feeling within the Nationalist community prevented their story from being told.

That is why the theatre company Handful Productions set up a project aimed at empowering families to take ownership on commemorating their history. Encompassing a play, a book, an interactive website and outreach programmes, *We Were Brothers* recounted the story of soldiers who were “sworn enemies in Ireland, [but] brothers in arms on a foreign battlefield”. It focused particularly on the 4000 men from Derry who joined the British army between 1914 and 1918. Alongside the professional theatre team, groups of students performed an adapted version of the play within schools and professional theatres.

The reactions to the project were amazingly positive. Both the professional and youth performances served as an eye-opener for both communities. They achieved the goal of stimulating people to commemorate their heritage. Many participants felt encouraged to look back at their own history and share it. It had also a positive impact on the unionist community as Felicity McCall admitted: “the bit I had not expected was the number of people who had been to Protestant schools or State schools and who came to me and said ‘we were never told this at school’, ‘we were never told that Catholics fought in WW1’”. *We Were Brothers* subsequently won the UK’s Best Heritage project Award (National Lottery) in 2011.

Issue 35

February 2012

Inside this issue:

We Were Brothers	1
Measuring Peace in Northern Ireland	3
Marking Anniversaries—Lecture Series	4
CR Week 2012	5
Policy Update	5-7
New Publications	7-8
CR Groups Register	8
Events	8-12

WE WERE BROTHERS (CONTD)

'It's just a play that makes you think because it hits you from what happens in it; but then afterwards, it hits you because there is so much more to it'

Peter McDonald, member of the professional cast



Steve Wakeley (youth program), Tanya Wakeley, Caroline Doherty, Peter McDonald (actor), Bernie Mahon (director), Felicity McCall (playwright) and Malcolm Granville at the National Lottery Awards.

In particular, the youth project received a lot of attention. Due to a strong enthusiasm from the community, students toured in Ireland and the UK in 2010 and 2011. Felicity McCall declared: "I was stunned by how the young people took it to their hearts; [...] It just seems to touch something". According to her, "[...] the youth production [...] hits you because it gets across a message that there you have sixteen, seventeen, eighteen year-olds playing the role of people who were sixteen, seventeen, eighteen in the war."

Students performing the play. Picture on the right: David Doherty and Steven Graydon



Moreover, the youth performances led to post-show interactive discussions with the audience often including the community groups. The historical accuracy of the play (based on Felicity McCall's extensive research) was successful in enabling a real dialogue to take place. Issues such as the symbolism of the poppy, the commemorations of the war, or contemporary warfare were discussed. Steve Wakeley, responsible for the youth programme, explains: "it was almost as if the adults felt free to explore their history as well. [...] the youngsters coming back to school and talking openly about it. It just created a really positive atmosphere about history and looking back at shared history".

Handful Productions did more than just honouring the memory of the WW1 soldiers. They instigated a cross-community, cross-border and intergenerational scheme which developed far beyond its first remit and far beyond the walls of Derry.

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

MEASURING PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

In 2011, Northern Ireland made the headlines for a variety of reasons. The international successes of local golfers told the world a new, positive story about the region, while the visit of Queen Elizabeth II to the Republic of Ireland pointed towards a new phase in relations between Britain and Ireland. Yet, as the summer progressed, rioting in Belfast once again featured in the news. The pictures of Rory McIlroy's triumphant homecoming gave way to images of masked rioters in East Belfast hurling petrol bombs at police. With such variation in the events taking place, the Northern Ireland peace process can be difficult to read; at times it appears to be moving forward, at other times it seems to be going backwards, and most confusingly, it can sometimes appear to be doing both at once.

In order to build a clearer picture of the movements of the peace process, a new project has been launched under the title of the *Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report*. The sponsors of the project are:

- the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, a charity with a strong tradition of social research;
- its sister organisation, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, which has invested heavily in peace-building in Northern Ireland;
- and the Community Relations Council.

A high level advisory board helps to steer the project, the aim of which is to issue an annual 'state-of-the-nation' style report on the peace process. An indicator framework has been created that will not only track political violence but also social cohesion, equality and political progress. Particular attention is being paid to the 'sharing or separation' issue – that is to say, has Northern Ireland bought its peace at the price of entrenching nationalist and unionist cultures, or is the society genuinely moving towards some form of reconciliation? A deep analysis of trend data may help provide an understanding of whether the Agreement is delivering a permanent peace, or simply a generational truce in a centuries-old conflict. The first report will be issued early in 2012.

Paul Nolan, Research Director, Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Survey

All enquiries to: pnolan@nicrc.org.uk

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Compiled and edited by Patricia O'Neill and Ellana Tomasso

MARKING ANNIVERSARIES 2012-2023 'REMEMBERING THE FUTURE' LECTURE PROGRAMME

The Community Relations Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund are holding a series of 10 weekly lectures covering the critical historical period 1912—1923. The format will be symposium style with one hour for speakers and one hour discussion based on questions from the audience. The principal speaker will provide the overview for about 30 minutes, followed by two experts giving different perspectives who will speak for 15 minutes each.

The primary purpose of the series is to produce resources and to stimulate wider interest in marking these anniversaries in keeping with the principles of:

- 1 Start from the historical **facts**;
- 2 Recognise the implications and **consequences** of what happened;
- 3 Understand that different **perceptions** and interpretations exist; and
- 4 Show how events and activities can deepen **understanding** of the period.
- 5 All to be seen in the context of an 'inclusive and accepting society'

We are targeting people at community level from local organisations, culture and heritage groups, historical societies, educationalists, political activists, local museums and cultural centres, councils and departments, artists and arts organisations, dramatists, poets, musicians and those within the public who are interested a journey of exploration and discovery through this period.

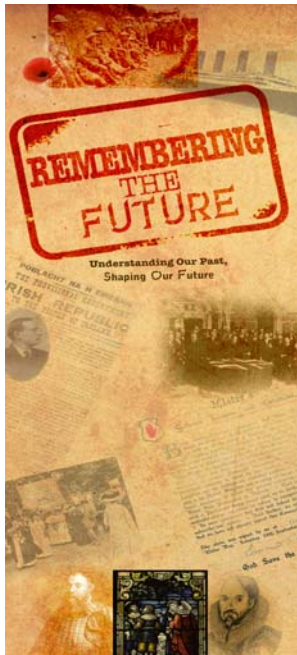
The resources will be available in the form of DVD, material for YouTube and podcasts that can stimulate group discussions and local events; and provide a body of information that is historically accurate and engages with a wide range of interpretations and perspectives. So the series will be recorded by audio visual and we aim to start the web based dissemination after the first week's event. We also aim to produce a publication.

The lecture titles are:

1. 'The Burden of Our History': The Historical Background to the 1912-1923 period
2. Nationalism in Ireland 1900-16: Home Rulers, Separatists and Protestant Nationalists
3. Carson, Craig, British Conservatism and the Third Home Rule Crisis (1910-14)
4. The Labour Movement in Ireland 1900-22
5. Overview of the 1916 Rising
6. Ireland and the First World War
7. The Women's Movement in Ireland 1910-22
8. The Irish Revolution: From Rising to Truce 1916-21
9. Partition, Treaty and Civil War
10. Trapped by the Border: Northern Nationalists and Southern Unionists 1916-25

They will take place on Wednesday evenings from 7.00 to 9.00pm. They will commence on 7th March in the Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens Belfast and conclude on 16th May 2012 in the Drama Studio Stranmillis University College Queens University Belfast.

The series will open for registration on Monday 6th February and registration forms can be downloaded from the Marking Anniversaries web portal by following the link <http://www.community-relations.org.uk/marking-anniversaries> and go to the *Up and Coming Events* page. It is possible to book particular lectures or the whole series. In order to maximise participation we can take a maximum of 5 bookings from one organisation/group. Further details will be periodically updated on the web portal.



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COMMUNITY RELATIONS WEEK

For the last ten years the Community Relations Council has co-ordinated Community Relations Week with events planned by a huge variety of voluntary and community groups, District Councils and other public bodies. Despite the difficult economic and financial environment the Community Relations Council believes that the need to build a more shared society and to challenge the segregation and division around us is more relevant than ever. Taking part in Community Relations Week is a good way to demonstrate that commitment. The theme this year will be “No More ‘Them and Us’ ?” In 2011 over 150 events were staged on community relations themes including exhibitions, festivals, cultural performances, debates and discussions. These attracted extensive media coverage.

In 2012 Community Relations Week will be held from Monday 14 May to Saturday 19 May. Those wishing to organise an event that could form part of the programme should complete an entry form:

<http://www.community-relations.org.uk/about-us/news/item/908/community-relations-week/>

This will need to be returned by 2nd April.

Voluntary and community groups should note that any additional costs relating to a CR Week event may be eligible for grant aid from the CR/CD small grants scheme which opens in April. Enquiries about the possibility of grant support for a CR Week event should be made to Paul Jordan or project officers in the Funding and Development team.

POLICY UPDATE

The policy team is currently responding to the Programme for Government consultation and reiterating our position on the Irish language through the Foras Na Gaeilge consultation. Our responses will be available on our website when they have been ratified by CRC’s Board.

We are currently hard at work planning CRC’s annual policy conference to take place during CR week. It is hoped that we will be able to pick up on issues, recommendations and comments made by community relations practitioners at the upcoming Live Issues conference.

Implementation of our advocacy strategy across the organisation continues, with the Policy and Development Team in the vanguard. We continue to influence Government policy through the representation of issues and promotion of community relations to our MLAs, Ministers, Councillors, private sector, community & voluntary sector and to the public.

We welcome and continue to work closely with local communities and government to create the conditions for the transformation of interface barriers and the regeneration of interface areas. We hope that this work continues to develop and accelerate so more communities can live with their neighbours, safely and securely, without the need for physical barriers.

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Compiled and edited by Patricia O’Neill and Ellana Tomasso

POLICY UPDATE (CONTD)

Summary of CRC's Consultation Response to the Social Investment Fund Consultation

- We welcome the investment of £80M.
- The Community Relations Council fully supports the high level aim of SIF to reduce poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration. We agree with the approach of SIF in achieving these objectives by tackling the causes of social problems using a cross-sector approach; to include health, education, training, housing and the environment.
- We believe that the available funding, while welcome and substantial, is insufficient to tackle all of the issues listed, at the scale to which it aspires. We also note the eradication of these social problems would require a highly ambitious programme with associated enhanced resourcing.
- We believe that the commitment to building prosperity and a secure economy must be understood as contributions to the ultimate goal of creating a shared society where everyone can live in freedom, equality and security.
- CRC reiterates the findings of the 2007 Deloitte *Research into the Financial Cost of the Northern Ireland Divide* report, commissioned for the NI Executive that £1.5 billion could be considered to be the upper limit of the cost of the divide in NI^{vi}. While some may be critical of the report, there remains a consensus that keeping communities separate is a substantial drain on the Northern Ireland economy.
- CRC believes that prosperity and economics will falter if we do not act to ensure that sectarianism and racism cease to define where people feel safe to live, work, play, travel to school, meet friends and access public resources. The ultimate aim of a stronger and vibrant economy should be to reduce our dependence on external funding and improve quality of life for all—ending division, duplication and sectarianism is fundamental to achieving this objective of the Executive.
- We also note that, in other funding programmes, taking a pepper pot approach to expenditure has diminished the impact of those programmes. A co-ordinated and focused approach is needed to ensure that positive outcomes are comprehensive and sustainable.
- A key principle of needs to be 'do no harm'. SIF should:
 - a. Not reinforce division;
 - b. Promote good relations;
 - c. Create shared space;
 - d. Bring added value to work on the ground including good relations work.
- There is no clarity/consistency as to how the investment zones were created.
- Several of the Investment zones contain interface/contested space areas which are, in themselves, symptomatic and causes of deprivation. This cycle of deprivation needs to be addressed.
- The consultation document does not make clear the extent to which SIF will:
 - a. Regenerate communities;
 - b. Deal with areas of greatest poverty and conflict;
 - c. Contribute to a shared space;
 - d. Provide connectivity by creating safe and sustained access for all to civic facilities, education, training and employment initiatives.

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POLICY UPDATE (CONTD)

- Delivery mechanisms must be established in a way that won't reinforce or create new gate keeping structures. They must also evidence community engagement opportunities for everyone in the zone areas.
- We welcome attempts to co-ordinate with existing structures, however, the relationship between SIF management structures and existing structures (such as Neighbourhood Renewal) is complex. Strong links need to be made to existing systems– providing they can prove that they are representative of the whole community. SIF could be a mechanism for rationalisation of community development management rather than development of alternative systems.
- There is little framework in place to ensure that, in the implementation of SIF, OFMDFM have “due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity for all s75 groups. We believe that good relations should be at the core of SIF structures.
- A monitoring and evaluation framework is needed to ensure that:
 - a) objective are met, in a timely manner;
 - b) issues of concern are highlighted to enable adaptation of the programme to react to these concerns;
 - c) ensure that learning from SIF is disseminated widely to stakeholders.

¹ <http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/issues/segregat/docs/deloitte0407.pdf>

NEW PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES

Connolly, P. (2011) Using survey data to explore preschool children's ethnic awareness and attitudes, *Journal of Early Childhood Research*, 9(2): 175-187.

This article presents the findings of a large-scale survey (n = 1049) of ethnic awareness and attitudes among three to four-year-old children in Northern Ireland. In drawing upon and applying Bourdieu's notion of habitus, the article demonstrates how, even at this age, the children are already beginning to embody and internalize the cultural habits and dispositions of their respective ethnic groups; namely the Protestant and Catholic communities. This is illustrated in the present article in relation to the children's attitudes towards particular national flags and awareness of specific sports associated with their respective communities.

Informed by the work of Bourdieu, the article concludes by arguing for the need for greater use of quantitative methods in conjunction with in-depth qualitative and ethnographic research to help further our understanding of the influence of ethnicity in young children's lives.

To receive a pdf of the complete article email: paul.connolly@qub.ac.uk

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NEW PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES (CONTD)

Belfast Interfaces—Security Barriers and Defensive Use of Space

Published by Belfast Interface Project

In spring 2011 the Belfast Interface Project commissioned a piece of research carried out by the Institute of Conflict Research to identify and classify the known security barriers and associated forms of defensive architecture in residential areas of Belfast. This document draws heavily upon the final research report produced by ICR and brings together photos and information from past BIP research projects including those undertaken by Frankie Quinn in 2005 and ICR in 2008.

The document provides an overview of defensive architecture and associated blighted space in Belfast together with a comprehensive listing, with photographs and descriptions, of security barriers and defensive use of space throughout the city.

For more information email: info@belfastinterfaceproject.org

COMMUNITY RELATIONS GROUPS REGISTER

CRC are currently updating the 'Community Relations Groups' register on the website:

<http://www.community-relations.org.uk/services/community-relations-groups/>

If you would like your group to be included on the register or would like to have your details updated please email poneill@nicrc.org.uk

EVENTS

European Peace University—Private University

3 NEW MA study courses:

- Peace and Conflict Studies
- European Peace and Security Studies
- Peacebuilding

The application deadline for the academic year 2012/13 ends on **15 February 2012**, for further information on all the courses provided and application packs please visit the website www.epu.ac.at

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

EVENTS (CONTD)

Getting to know your Institutions

Derry City Council and the Rural Community Network Rural Enablers Programme would like to inform you about an upcoming Community Relations course, which takes place over 6 weeks during February and March 2012. The course aims to make people more aware of institutions such as the Orange Order, GAA, Churches, etc. It will involve a mystery tour of visits to these institutions in the Derry City Council area to find out about the history and importance of these institutions to their patrons.

Participants will get a chance to visit the premises of the institutions to take them physically into a space that they may not have been in before and it will give the institutions a chance to give different perceptions of their organisations and get rid of some myths surrounding them. Participants will not know in advance which institution that they are visiting each week to make sure that people are open minded about the course and not self selecting. Participants have to be able to attend all sessions which will be held on Monday evenings from the 6th February right through to 12th March. Transport will be provided each week to get people to the institutions.

Should you wish to find out more information about this course, please contact Angela Askin on 7136 5151 or Kate Clifford on 8676 6670

Cross Cultural Mediation and Community Relations Training

Commencing Tuesday 21st February 2012, Community House, Omagh

Time 10am –4pm

The training comprises of six consecutive Tuesday sessions, plus a further four sessions amounting to twenty—four hours, which will be dictated by the participants. Participants will be requested to take part in an awards ceremony upon completion of course.

This mediation course is designed to assist participants, especially those from different ethnic backgrounds, to become competent mediators in intercultural issues arising from different cultural backgrounds of conflicting parties.

Although conflict itself and resolving conflict is a part of every culture, the way conflict is expressed, perceived, and dealt with varies from culture to culture. Often conflicts can reach an impasse and become a conflict because of an unfamiliar cultural interest or a miscommunication between parties due to different styles of communicating, negotiating or decision making. As our community becomes more multicultural and the use of mediation increases, there is a need for more mediators from different cultural backgrounds to be involved in cross cultural mediation ensuring good community relations ensue. This accredited course aims to give participants the skills to become mediators and work with the various statutory and community organizations to overcome conflicts within different cultures and between cultures.

Applicants for this course must have a good standard of English and be committed to completing the training. If you are interested please call and register with Omagh Ethnic Communities Support Group on **028 8224 9750**. Places are limited so registration is essential.

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EVENTS (CONTD)

**The Company Youth Theatre group
present Shakespeare's:**

Julius Caesar



This new adaption of Julius Caesar is set on the Shankill Road in the early 2000's during a loyalist feud. The play uses Shakespeare's tragedy to explore some of the themes of our recent past including the relationships between those in power and the role of violence in society. This production is suitable for young people 15+ and would be useful for groups of young people exploring community relations themes.

Performances dates & venues:

27th February – 2nd March 2012

**Rainbow Factory Studio Theatre, College Square
North**

Tickets £5.00

**To book tickets contact Diane on 028 90 240551 or
email diane@youthaction.org**

16th April 2012

Naughton Studio, Lyric Theatre

Tickets £7 / £5

To book tickets please call 028 90 381081

3% charge for credit card bookings

EVENTS (CONTD)

Mediation NI ARE NOW REGISTERING FOR THE FOLLOWING 2 courses

Mediation Theory & Practice – Workplace Disputes x 8 days

Accredited Mediation Theory & Practice OCN Level 3 9 credits. A summary of the programme:

- Day 1: Understanding conflict. Recognising conflict styles, Recognising conflict skills
- Day 2: Conflict dynamics, Group dynamics and systems theory
- Day 3: Introduction to mediation and the five stage model
- Day 4: Working through the 5 stage process of Mediation NI
- Day 5: Case study Practice of the 5 stage model
- Day 6: Case study practice of the 5 stage model
- Day 7 Good practice matters for mediators
- Day 8: Skills practice

Group Mediation Skills

This course is available to those with proven experience in mediation and designed to assist the development of skills and strategies for more complex conflict intervention particularly large group situations. The course also builds strength as a “reflective practitioner” to foster further self learning based on practice.

- Reflection on previous practice
- Group dynamics and systems theories
- Organisational change
- Large group/complex conflict analysis tools and intervention techniques
- Opportunities for skills practice and practical case studies
- Good practice matters for mediators

NOW REGISTERING! NOCN Level 3 Accredited Foundation Training in Mediation - Workplace Disputes, beginning 5 September 2012. Spaces still remaining. Places are limited to 14. Please visit our website for further information <http://www.mediationnorthernireland.org/>

Upcoming Events: NICIE

Integrated Education Week! This celebration of our 30th year of Integrated Education will launch Friday, March 2 at Stormont, and will be celebrated at all schools throughout the week of March 5–9. The theme for 2012 will be ‘Journeys.’

The Integrated Peace Education Conference : To coincide with the 30th anniversary of Integrated Education in Northern Ireland NICIE and QUB are holding an Inaugural conference in Belfast on: **6-8 March 2012** to launch the **Integrated Peace Education: Global Network for Practice and Research**. For further information on either event, contact cstapleton@nicie.org.uk



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Promoting a peaceful and fair society based on reconciliation and mutual trust

WWW.NICRC.ORG.UK



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Facebook**

EVENTS (CONTD)

Cookstown District Council

Cookstown District Council Good Relations are holding their annual Cookstown Together Event 2012 on Sat 25 February 2012. Noon to 5pm.

The event is aimed at families from all backgrounds to come together at the Cookstown Leisure Centre and enjoy a fun day out. Last year we attracted over 600 people. This year we have the local radio Q106 doing a live broadcast.

The Big Lunch

The Big Lunch campaign in Northern Ireland (NI) is a simple idea from the Eden Project encouraging people to sit down and share food, friendship and fun with their neighbours and local communities. In 2011 we had 375 known Big Lunches in streets, community buildings and green spaces across NI, it is a very well received, low cost way to connect and collaborate. The Big Lottery funds this campaign, because it encourages integration and more sustainable communities.

This year the main Big Lunch date will be **Sunday 3 June**.

If you are interested in attending The Big Lunch regional launches and running your own Big Lunch on the day or on a date that suits or if you simply want to be kept informed of our competitions and news, contact Grainne.mccloskey@thebiglunch.com

INCORE 13th International Summer School 2012

INCORE (International Conflict Research Institute) at the University of Ulster wishes to invite you to the 13th International Summer School. The 2012 International Summer School will run from 18th-22nd June 2012. The Summer School will be based on the historic Magee Campus in the city of Derry/Londonderry, on the shores of Lough Foyle in the north west of Northern Ireland, easily accessible by road, rail and air.

For more information visit: <http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/courses/ss>

The INCORE Summer School provides a structured learning opportunity to analyse the dynamic and constantly changing field of conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Focusing on the latest research and concepts in peace and conflict studies and practice; participants are invited to compare, contrast and learn from different perspectives. The School offers a unique opportunity to create links between theory, practice and policy. Special attention is given to how the experience and research of both practitioners and academics can impact upon policy makers within the field of conflict resolution, peacemaking, peacebuilding and reconciliation.