



Due to the clash with the Assembly election, the 4th T:BUC Engagement Forum Scheduled for Thursday 2 March 2017 has been cancelled by the TEO.

We appreciate the interest these forum meeting generate and we will contact you again as soon as possible with details of the next event

Issue 80

Community Relations Exceptional Achievement Award

Fr Gary Donegan, who was priest at Ardoyne's Holy Cross Church for over 15 years before recently moving to the Tobar Mhuire in Crossgar, was presented with the Annual Community Relations Exceptional Achievement Award



The prominent and much-loved cleric ministered in Ardoyne parish during some of its most turbulent years. The parish lost 99 people during The Troubles – the largest loss of life in any parish. He was also Rector during the now infamous blockade of Holy Cross School in 2001 as well as the suicide epidemic which saw 13 teenagers die in Ardoyne in the space of six weeks in 2004.

The Community Relations Council Award recognises exceptional achievement of an individual in promoting community relations, intercultural work or peace building in Northern Ireland.

Fr Gary Donegan, who is originally from County Fermanagh, has received death threats after speaking out against violence. He has also played a key role in negotiations and talks. Fr Donegan was ordained in 1991 and spent ten years at the Graan in County Fermanagh. He was appointed to Holy Cross in early 2001 and succeeded Fr Aidan Troy CP as Rector in 2008.

Community Relations Exceptional Achievement Award contd

Very Rev Dr Norman Hamilton OBE, who has worked with Fr Donegan in North Belfast for many years and presented him with the award, said; “Fr Donegan has shone brightly in an area which has endured much heartache, pain and conflict. His work and his life are marked by humility, self-sacrifice, love, grace and courage. He has not strived to be popular, but rather has strived to be faithful to God and to the people of Ardoyne and it is this that has won him enduring respect and admiration.”

Accepting the award, Fr Donegan said, “For me, the last 15 years in North Belfast have been challenging but also deeply enriching. Hope is so much part of faith and I’m thankful that North Belfast has been a place of great change and hope in recent years. I’m honoured to receive this award from the Community Relations Council. It is so important that community leaders work in the nooks and crannies of the streets to help people who are dealing with so many difficult issues related to legacy, economic, social and generational challenges.”

The award was presented at the David Stevens Memorial event. Very Rev Dr Norman Hamilton OBE delivered the David Stevens Memorial lecture on the topic of ‘Reframing Reconciliation’. The lecture has been organised over the last four years in memory of David Stevens, a founding member of CRC and a leader of the Corrymeela Community, who died in 2010.

David Stevens Memorial Lecture

Patricia O’Neill, CRC

Very Rev Dr Norman Hamilton OBE delivered the David Stevens Memorial Lecture, on the subject of reconciliation he said:

The events of the past month and especially of the last few days have taken the need for civic reconciliation to a completely new level. Events have reframed it in a very public way, for no longer can it be largely confined to community relations work, public policy as in T:BUC, or dealing with the past. We now have the obvious need for reconciliation to be put at the heart of restoring government. I find it striking that the language and tone of public and political discourse in recent times has been that of aggression, disillusionment, despair, scandal, horse trading, blame, counter blame, and the likelihood of weeks, perhaps even months, of negotiation. Maybe I have missed it, but I have heard little or nothing about the common good, about apology, about trusted relationships, consensus or generosity of spirit. That is deeply worrying – even if we accept that there is a measure of ‘rough and tumble’ in our particular brand of adversarial politics.

So what might ‘reconciliation reframed’ look like? Obviously I don’t have all the answers, indeed I am very conscious that my contribution may be very small, but a million small steps, as well as few big ones, could take us a long way.

To see the full text of the lecture go to <http://www.community-relations.org.uk/2017/01/rev-dr-norman-hamilton-obe-delivers-david-stevens-memorial-lecture/#sthash.HmEyrUIK.dpuf>



Making sense of our contested past

Article by Fionola Meredith in the Belfast Telegraph, 28 January, 2017

We are mid-way through the Decade of Centenaries, with some of the most contested anniversaries - such as the creation of Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State - still to come. The positives and pitfalls of commemorating the events of 1917-23 were the subject of a public meeting in Lurgan this week. Fionola Meredith went along.

We are now halfway through the Decade of Centenaries. The Home Rule crisis, the Ulster Covenant, the Battle of Jutland, the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme: all these historical events have been marked, acknowledged and commemorated, some with more dissent and debate than others. But there's still another five years of the Decade of Centenaries to go.

A public discussion, organised by the Community Relations Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund, was held in the Jethro Centre in Lurgan this week. One of three planned meetings across Northern Ireland, the workshop was an opportunity for museums, libraries, councils, community groups, funding bodies and other individuals and organisations to reflect on progress made over the first five years and to anticipate the commemorations still to come.

There are many important centenaries to mark in the years up to 2023, both on the island of Ireland and beyond: the end of the First World War, the War of Independence, the foundation of the Irish Free State and, of course, the establishment of Northern Ireland itself.

It's going to be complicated and challenging and it will inevitably involve many difficult conversations. The idea of the three public meetings - in Lurgan, Belfast and Londonderry - is to allow both the public and practitioners to think ahead and get ready.

In Lurgan on Thursday morning, the event opened with two dramatic extracts from Kabosh Theatre Company. "Elizabeth Corr", by Maria McManus, was part of the Short Strand community project to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising.

As an old woman, Corr talks about the events of that extraordinary weekend, her experiences on returning home and her hopes for the future of Belfast. "July 1st 1916", by Seth Linder, was originally commissioned to be staged in Shankill Library for the Shankill Stories community project. It recounts the story of Mrs Dowell, a local woman, who lost seven sons at the Battle of the Somme. The play consists of two reflections by this stoical mother and her eldest son as they reflect on the horrors of war.

It was interesting that the event began in an engaging, theatrical manner, because it's all too easy to approach the Decade of Centenaries with great trepidation, as a source of potential controversy and, consequently, something to dread.

Jacqueline Irwin, of the Community Relations Council, said that people were sometimes concerned about engaging with these fractured parts of history, fearing that to explore them too deeply could impact on the ability to maintain a shared future.

So, the function of discussion events like the one held in Lurgan was to provide reassurance, she said, as well as to build confidence and capacity.

Making sense of our contested past contd

As Paul Mullan, of the Heritage Lottery Fund, pointed out: "There are not two histories, but a multi-layered, complex and ultimately enjoyable history for people to discover." This should be promoted, said Mullan, and people should be asked, "to open themselves up to history and see what they find".

"We are halfway through the decade and now we are really beginning to hear each other," said Deirdre MacBride, of the Community Relations Council. "It's about listening in a respectful way and taking stock of what we're learning.

"We have the anniversaries of some very challenging times ahead, which led to the formation of Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State. Today is also an opportunity to acknowledge the work done by museum services, local councils and grassroots groups." At the centre of the Decade of Centenaries is a set of four key principles: start from the historical facts; recognise the implications and consequences of what happened; understand that different perceptions and interpretations exist; and show how events and activities can deepen understanding of this period.

"We think it's important that the principles are tested in the context of our experience," said Mullan, "and in anticipation of the next period in which we may have a multiplicity of anniversaries that are within living memory." He pointed out that in assisting people with dealing with the recent past, it was important to take account of hurt, trauma, loss and the challenge of political change.

"As we have seen here with Kabosh, the arts are a perfect vehicle for capturing both the immediacy of traumatic past events and the simple power of the human experiences behind them. That tends to make people a little less disposed to hasty judgments," said Damian Smyth from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, another agency also engaged in the Decade."

The historian Eamon Phoenix gave a short, but compelling talk about Ireland in the period from 1917 to 1923, providing a historical context for the discussion. He described the "afterglow of 1916", the rise of Sinn Fein and the way that "republicanism swept the land like a prairie fire" in 1917.

He reflected on the need to look beyond our own shorelines to see the bigger picture in Europe at that time. It was to become a post-war world, with new borders being drawn, great changes ahead and "the Irish question" still to be solved. Lloyd George spoke of "struggling with a series of Ulsters all over Europe". Phoenix also discussed the War of Independence, partition, and the shocking sectarian violence which erupted in Belfast in 1922.

"People have long memories," he said, "and the wounds are raw. Compared to the first half-decade we have looked at, this one will be more challenging."

Phoenix sits on the Taoiseach's expert advisory group on centenary commemorations in Dublin and he said that there was "a sense of 'put it all out there' and let the people and the general public mull over it".

It was, he said, all about "seeking the many-sided nature of the truth".

Following the speakers, participants were given the opportunity to divide into small groups to discuss what they had heard, to share experiences and to plan for the future. Afterwards, spokespeople for each group fed back the responses.

Making sense of our contested past contd

Emer Lyttle, of Co-operation Ireland, talked of the need for shared history education and the importance of reaching out to the most marginalised. "You can't force education and you can't force progress," she said.

"The more voices of people's experience, the better," said Fiona Byrne, of National Museums Northern Ireland, adding that "we need to get more people involved".

Mary McAnulty, of Metis Initiatives CIC, said that people were aware of the "murkiness" and violence of some of the imminent anniversaries in the Decade of Centenaries and she spoke of the need to address the idea of shame, as well as the benefits of linking our own stories to wider, international stories, in order to make sense of them.

"Heritage can be very dangerous," admitted Paul Mullan, after the event was over. "The past can throw up so many pitfalls. But that's why it's really good to bring out resources that people at community level can use. The past doesn't need to be a fearful thing. It can get people talking."

A further two events —Decade of Centenaries Reflection and Years Ahead – Structured Discussions

The Decade of Centenaries has seen the Home Rule crisis, the Ulster Covenant, the rise of the labour movement, women and suffrage, the events leading up to outbreak of the First World War, Jutland, the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme – all acknowledged or commemorated in a respectful and thoughtful way.

How we mark, or commemorate the centenary events in the years to 2023, with the end of the First World War and continued turmoil in Europe, the War of Independence, Civil War, violence, the extension of franchise and the foundation of both the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland will be complicated and involve us in difficult conversations. It is timely to think ahead.

We held a discussion in January on 'Grassroots Activity' and are holding a further 2 discussions click on the links below to register (takes you to Eventbrite)

[District Councils & Museum Services](#)

24th February 2017

PRONI

2 Titanic Boulevard

Belfast

BT3 9HQ

[Education, Outreach & Creativity](#)

23rd March 2017

DiverseCity Partnership

8-14 Bishop Street

Derry~Londonderry

BT48 6PW

Each will finish at 1pm with lunch and networking.

Building Communities Resource Centre

Michaela Mackin, Consultant

Building Communities Resource Centre (BCRC) is the new name of Ballymoney Community Resource Centre. Established in 2001, BCRC was the successor of a Community Empowerment programme established in 1999. BCRC employs 11 members of staff across five main areas: community development and community education, community cohesion and community relations, support for older people, disability development and ethnic minority support.

Whilst BCRC is based in Ballymoney, it has for many years worked throughout the north east and further afield, most recently in Craigavon, hence its change in name.

BCRC's vision is for a 'vibrant, sustainable and cohesive community underpinned by respect and equality' and its strategy is built on three key pillars – equality, integration, development and capacity building and active citizenship and engagement.

BCRC works with over 250 associate groups and organisations made up of members of their Community Network and other service users with beneficiaries across the North East, including BME groups and individuals, victims and survivors of hate crime, women, socially isolated older people and people with disability. BCRC also work closely with the local Bands Forum, Loyal Institutions, churches for a and sports groups.

Core funding from CRC supports BCRC's two Community Outreach workers to coordinate, develop and provide support for member groups and deliver themed projects including 'Silent voices, Hidden Truths', issues based dialogues initiatives addressing rural isolation and Protestant alienation as well as exploring shared history and cultural expression.

As Lyn Moffett, Manager at BCRC pointed out 'Core Funding provides vital support for building cohesion, better relations and improved understanding between communities which is fundamental to addressing issues which can contribute to community tension, such as parades, bonfires, flags and emblems.

As well as working closely with groups on the ground and supporting them to develop initiatives of their own, BCRC offer a number of community education opportunities. Dialogues, seminars and conferences in the last year have focussed on civic engagement, the rights and responsibilities of freedom of expression, cultural fusion, visible manifestations of identity, discrimination, leadership and intimidation – all have attracted a diverse group of participants.

To read more about the group go to <http://www.theresourcecentre.org/>

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.

The VOX PIX Media Project

Taken from <http://theverbal.co/blog/story/2016/vox-pix-media-project>

VOX PIX has enabled young people aged 16+ to explore attitudes to civil society and policing in post-conflict communities, from the perspectives of their own experiences and that of their respective communities.

St Mary's College students studying GCSE Learning for Life and Work took part in the project which was showcased at a special launch event in the Verbal Arts Centre on Friday, February 05 2016. Developed by the Verbal Arts Centre with support from the Community Relations Council Media Grants, the films will be distributed to schools throughout Northern Ireland to act as a resource for cultural diversity, and to encourage further debates involving young people's voices on civil society and policing.

The VOX PIX project involved local students filming face-to-face interviews with speakers including PSNI Chief Inspector Tony Callaghan, Foyle Area Commander; Catherine Pollock, Vice Chair Partnership Committee on Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSP); Roger McCallum, RUC George Cross Trustee and Charmain Jones, Community Development Officer for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration, Rural Community Network.

To watch the videos go to <http://www.community-relations.org.uk/2016/12/vox-pix-media-project/>

VOX PIX has been supported by the Community Relations Council.

Shared Learning Forum

Paul Killen, District Council Good Relations Programme Development Officer, CRC

23rd January, Braid, Ballymena

The third Shared Learning Forum event for the 2016/17 District Council Good Relations Programme took place in the Braid, Ballymena on the 23rd January 2017.

The Programme is managed by the Executive Office (TEO) as part of the wider Good Relations funding strategy in relation to the delivery of the Executive led Together: Building a United Community Strategy. The Programme's key aim is to improve good relations between and within Council areas and to promote local solutions to local good relations issues.

The Shared Learning Forum events are held quarterly over the course of the Programme's annual funding cycle and are an opportunity for Council Good Relations Officers responsible for programme design and delivery to meet up, discuss progress, and share examples of best practice in the projects they are involved in.

The meeting at Ballymena had a number of guest speakers – Dominic Bryan from the Flags, ICT (FICT) Commission discussed the current work of the Commission with the group. Speakers from TEO and Belfast City Council talked to the group about linkages between the Council programme and other funding streams, and presented examples of measurable good relations outcomes from programmes delivered in 2016/17.

Picture—From left: Jane Dunlop (Good Relations Officer), Councillor Audrey Wales MBE Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Council, Gavin King (District Council Good Relations Programme Manager, Janet Shearer (Good Relations Officer)



Linguistic Recognition in Deeply Divided Societies: Antagonism or Reconciliation?

Dr Philip McDermott, University of Ulster

Dr Philip McDermott (Sociology, Ulster) and Professor Máiréad NicCraith (Language and Intercultural Studies, Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh) recently gave a seminar at Ulster University entitled 'Linguistic Recognition in Deeply Divided Societies: Antagonism or Reconciliation?'

The seminar noted how the developing system of language rights globally suggests that there is a widening perception amongst international organisations and states that the application of language rights is crucial for the fostering of peace, stability and security. Language rights, the presenters argued, might then be considered even more salient for those societies that are deeply fractured along ethnic lines and which are transitioning from a period of conflict to peace. Even after conflict, language can continue to be a symbolic marker of competing groups with differing political aspirations. Indeed, language rights in deeply divided places have often been integrated into formalised peace agreements, treaties and/or new constitutions.

However, in deeply divided societies it is clear that questions around linguistic identity can be both a force for reconciliation but also antagonism. The seminar noted that even after conflict, language politics have been part of a 'zero-sum' game in places such as Rwanda, Guatemala, Bosnia-Herzegovina, South Africa, Ukraine, and Northern Ireland. Whilst language rights can prove problematic, the presentation argued that such rights can play a more significant role in promoting intercultural dialogue. Frequently language rights in post-conflict settings have been provided to a language community yet this has not taken into account how competing groups might react to this. Those applying language rights, therefore, require a more multi-dimensional approach which pre-empts particular sensitivities/antagonisms and actively aims to generate intercultural dialogue on linguistic diversity in post-conflict settings.

The research presented will be published in the "Palgrave Handbook on Minority Languages and Communities" in late 2017. The event was a joint seminar between Ulster University's linguistics Unit and the Institute for Conflict Research (INCORE)

Causeway Museum Service

Taken from <http://www.creativecentenaries.org/toolkit/case-study/causeway-museum-service>

Much of the work of the Causeway Museum Service (CMS) is outreach-based, working with local communities, as well as working with local museum collections. This approach to historical work engages participants by encouraging them to share their expertise, tell their own story and providing the means to assist communities do heritage work in a contested society.

Causeway Museum Service contd

Taken from <http://www.creativecentenaries.org/toolkit/case-study/causeway-museum-service>

As part of their mission and objectives, two aspects are worth noting. They seek to:

- Enable active citizenship by the widest range of people, especially our young
- Give context to the present acknowledging the contributions of the past

As part of the PEACE III Cultural Connections Programme 2009 - 2011, CMS engaged local community groups in exploring the legacy of 17th century Plantation across the Causeway area, which included participating in University of Ulster Centre for Maritime Studies archaeological excavations at Dunluce Castle. Activities supporting that work included exploring other archaeological sites at Dungiven Priory, Movinagher, Goodland and Coleraine and working with museums to co-curate an exhibition.

The emphasis on archaeology in the landscape as part of learning about the legacy of Plantation enabled a 'hands-on' approach for heritage education.

What worked well and what, if anything, didn't?

Projects like this can play an important role in challenging current perspectives, raising awareness and creating better understanding about the wider context of the past. Excavation of Dunluce Castle has shown that there are Irish, Scottish and English histories present in the building. For some participants, this helped them be able to understand that the history of the site doesn't belong to just one community; it belongs to us all. Archaeological exploration helps participants understand that there is still so much about the past that we don't know and how much of our historical understanding is based on assumptions or interpretations.

The discovery by community participants of items untouched for 400 years provided a visceral experience with a lasting legacy.

Further Information

Contact Helen Perry, Causeway Museum Service Officer at: cms@colerainebc.gov.uk or 028 7034 7234.

Paper-Trailers

Taken from <http://www.papertrail.pro/paper-trailers/>

Paper-Trailers is a legacy archive training, research and story-telling project funded by Good Relations Funding Programme and managed by Paper Trail.

The Paper-Trailers are people impacted by the recent conflict in the north of Ireland. Most will be family members who have lost loved ones or who were injured. Others will include former combatants, political and community workers and researchers with a deep interest in the history and context of the conflict.

Paper-Trailers contd

Taken from <http://www.papertrail.pro/paper-trailers/>

The project is also family-led. Project manager, Ciarán MacAirt, is an active family campaigner and legacy archive researcher, and Paper Trail's Board is made up by family campaigners (as well as legacy lawyers and case-workers):

"The face of the conflict has changed but families still live with the consequences. Today's battlefield is for information and, yet again, ordinary families are on the front line."

"The continuing failure by the state to deal with the past has done nothing but re-traumatize families who lost loved ones or people who were injured. Most who dared to hope that the likes of the Historical Enquiries Team or Police Service NI would offer fair investigation and truth recovery, were gravely disappointed."

"So it has been up to family members themselves, the great work of NGOs and battling lawyers to fight for the truth."

"Paper Trail has helped family campaigns and legal representatives over the last number of years to seek and discover information buried deep in archives. We will now be able to train Paper-Trailers like ourselves and empower them to seek information in archives across Britain and Ireland."

Follow the Paper Trail

Paper-Trailers seminars will include:

- Legacy archives and related evidence and information
- The thematic approach to legacy archive research
- Researching and targeting legacy archives in public records
- The use of Freedom of Information requests
- The Law, its processes and the importance of legacy archive research to legal cases

Sign-posting to where families can receive free and independent support
We will also lead trips to newspaper archives and public records in Belfast and Kew, London to gather legacy archive that Paper-Trailers target. Then we will hold workshops to discuss the material we have found and its uses for the various campaigns.

Paper-Trailers will avail of Life Story/Story-Telling training, and can, if they wish, present their work in either a project publication and/or video.

Further Information

Contact [Ciarán MacAirt](#), email info@papertrail.pro, Skype: papertrailpro



Sally Gardens Soccer Tournament

Anthony Kennedy, Deputy Chair of Poleglass Community Association @ Sally Gardens

The Sally Gardens soccer tournament will take place on Sunday 5th February and will be the first of its kind taking place on the new Sally Gardens 3g soccer pitch. There will be 28 under 9 soccer teams competing for 7 cups and medals to all the finalists in the tournament. The 28 teams come from across Colin area, greater Belfast, Carrickfergus, Dundonald, Lisburn, Larne, Coleraine and Derry City. (An additional 6 teams are on standby due to the high demand of this junior tournament.) The tournament will take place from 9am – 2:30pm ending with a presentation in Sally Gardens hall.

This tournament has been created as an additional project in Sally Gardens's cross community work with the PUL community. The rationale around the tournament is getting children and parents involved through sport and breaking down barriers of issues arising from culture and community identity. We at Sally Gardens believe tackling issues with children at a young age can help promote working, learning together and equality through sport. Having parents involved will support and promote our message of respect and tackle the issue of sectarian behaviour; this helps keep this message strong for the children and help them understand the importance of treating others how they want to be treated. We envisage the tournament will be a huge success and become a yearly event where these teams and others meet on a larger scale.

For this tournament to be a success we knew we needed to have a community development approach and have parents and residents heavily involved in the planning of the Sally Gardens cup. This ensured parents attended meetings and felt the tournament belonged to the community. The parents and residents have been at the core of planning the tournament knowing clearly the message of respect they are trying to spread with the help of Sally Garden's community development workers.

Throughout this process we have had support from Belfast City Council, Celtic Boys F.C, IFA, cross community groups, local primary schools and local businesses' who very kindly offered their car parks, sponsored food, soft drinks, medals and trophies.

Although this has been planned from November; this will be a heartening change from the negativity of recent incidents in the area. The tournament will be an extremely encouraging story for the community highlighting the positive work that goes on within Sally Gardens Community Centre in the Colin area.

For further information go to <http://sallygardens.org/>

Events

Visit my Mosque Day

NIMFA is taking part in the national **#VisitMyMosque** initiative and in the spirit of friendship and conversation we hope to give members of the local community an engaging insight into the life of the mosque and to promote greater understanding of Islam.

The event will be held on **Sunday 5th February 2017 [12:00-15:00]**.

Free refreshments

Guided tour

Q&A session

7 Rugby Road – Belfast BT7 1PS

No prior booking necessary

E: indiaros@hotmail.co.uk

www.nimfa.org

Northern Narratives of 1916 Rising & The Great War

Bann Maine West invite you to a talk by, Dr.Eamon Phoenix, Political Historian & Broadcaster

Wed 8th February, 7pm at

The Braid, Ballymena (optional tour of Museum at 6.45pm from The Learning Zone)

The evening will include an overview of Bann Maine West Community Relations Project and the opportunity to discuss your ideas for future projects

RSVP by Fri 3rd February to Joanne [Tel: 02825882281](tel:02825882281), Email: admin@bannmainewest.co.uk

No cost and refreshments provided

Funded by the Community Relations Council

The Quaker Meeting House

You are warmly invited to a presentation entitled, 'Human Rights' by Professor Colin Harvey at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 8th February in The Quaker Meeting House, Johnson's Row, Lurgan. Prof Harvey, Head of the School of Law at Queen's University, is a prolific author, lecturer, government advisor and administrator in the area of Human Rights and we look forward to hearing his overview of this very important subject.

7.30 pm on Wednesday 22nd February in the Quaker Meeting House, Johnson's Row, Lurgan

Daithi O'Ceallaigh, former Irish Republic ambassador to the United Kingdom, will give a talk entitled 'The changing relationship between the Irish Republic and the United Kingdom', a subject of considerable interest to our present-day society.

E: : kane.margaret@ymail.com

Events (contd)

Rural Community Network

Institute of Fundraising Introductory Certificate for Fundraisers

9th February 2017 - £20 (Lunch included)
10:00am-3:30pm in Rural Community Network

Rural Community Network in partnership with the Northern Ireland Environment Link is offering an accredited training opportunity for the delivery of the Institute of Fundraisers (IOF) Introductory Certificate to Fundraising. The course is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund's Catalyst Umbrella Programme. Northern Ireland Environment Link delivers the programme through its "Investing in Northern Ireland's Heritage" project.

There will be an Institute of Fundraising NI accredited trainer that will deliver the course which is particularly relevant for anyone new to funding or fundraising within their own group or organisation.

There is a fee of only £20 per person, (normally fees are approximately £200) and this fee covers all training materials as well as refreshments and lunch for the day.

Furthermore, participant attendees and groups will have an opportunity for a free 'one-to-one' consultation with an IOF member to offer fundraising advice and information that is specific for their project/organisation at a later date.

On successful completion of the course, participants will be able to complete the accredited process online with IOF, as well as become one of its members at a discounted fee.

Numbers are limited for this event so early booking is advisable.

Funding Information Event-Halifax Foundation for NI

16th February 2017 - Free Event
10:30am-12:30pm in Rural Community Network

This is an opportunity to come along and meet representatives of the Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland and hear about its funding opportunities for the forthcoming year. The overall aim of the Foundation is:

- To support charitable organisations within Northern Ireland to enable people, who are disadvantaged or with special needs, to participate actively in their communities.

The Foundation has two main target areas to which it seeks to allocate funds:

- Social and Community needs
- Education and Training

Groups applying must have charitable status or working towards charitable status.

We expect a high demand for this event and places are limited to 2 per group. First come, first served.

To book your place for any of these events or to find out more, contact Teresa on 028 8676 6670 or email teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

Events (contd)

Stronger Together Network Annual Conference

Thursday 23rd February at The Junction, Dungannon from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Background to the conference

The conference theme for 2017 is **'BME Voices in Shaping a Post-Brexit Northern Ireland'**. As the result of the last year's referendum has slowly sunken in and leaving the EU is imminent, Stronger Together would like to explore what Brexit means for our sector and what are the priorities and focal points that need to be brought forward in the negotiations to ensure the best possible outcome for BME communities in Northern Ireland. As in previous year we want to make the event engaging and interactive and encourage a positive debate about what 'Brexit means' and entails. The speakers and workshops will discuss its technical aspects, explore how rights and protections currently guaranteed by EU directives can be retained post Brexit, human rights implications and the unique position of NI in this process.

Who is this conference for?

The conference is aimed at

- the current 200+ members of the Stronger Together Network
- People working/volunteering with Black and Minority Ethnic communities across NI
- Health and Social Care Trust employees
- Minority Ethnic group representatives and individuals
- Staff representing government and statutory bodies
- People with an interest in human rights and anti-racism

How do I attend?

Please email info@strongertogetherni.org or phone 028 8775 0211 to register your interest.

There is no cost for attending as this conference is kindly funded by the Public Health Agency.

If you may have difficulty with attending due to travel arrangements/costs, please contact us to discuss the transport relief that we may be able to offer.

Events (contd)

The Junction and Ethical and Shared Remembering

Empowering Women – How do women break the glass ceiling?

Sessions developed and delivered by Dr Cathy Higgins, Senior Research Writer and Educator, The Junction

Every Tuesday at 10.30am-12.30pm

7th February – The nature and history of women’s struggle in a man’s world

14th February – The history of women’s struggle in Ireland

28th February – The gender myth: more than two genders

7th March – Religion, patriarchy and violence

14th March – Beyond the Irish Constitution and gender politics

21st March – Women’s rights, human rights

Participants will explore the role of women over the last one hundred years critiquing the constraints of manmade domination systems that have disempowered women. Only when such systems have been dismantled can women and men together bring about the changes needed to build a rights based, respectful, inclusive and culturally rich society.

Understanding the roots of women’s repression provides the starting point for the creation of a truly just and equitable future.

Community Relations Forum, 230 Antrim Road, Glengormley, Newtownabbey, BT36 7QX

To register contact Kathy Wolff

Tel: 028 9084 9314

E: kathywolff1@aol.com

This course will also be delivered at The CRUN Centre, 1 Brook Street, Coleraine, BT52 1PW Every Wednesday, 10.30am-12.30pm

To register contact Maureen or Richie

Tel: 028 7136 1942

E: mhetherington@thejunction-ni.org

Funded by the Community Relations Council

WRDA

WRDA Present ‘A Woman’s Guide to Controversial Conversations’. These informative and interactive workshops will explore the issues of sectarianism, racism and peace-building and the gendered nature, and women’s experiences of these issues.

Workshops will take place at the following

Wednesday 8th & Wednesday 15th February 11-1pm

Glebe House, 23 Bishops court Rd, Kilclief, Strangford, Co. Down, BT30 7 NZ

Contact: Diarmaid

Tel: 028 4488 1374 info@glebehouseni.com

Events (contd)

Thursday 9th February 6pm- 9.30pm

Downshire Arms Hotel, Main Street, Hilltown, Newry, BT34 5UH

Contact: Kerri Morrow kerri.morrow@nmanddd.org or Suzanne Rice suzanne.rice@nmanddd.org

Tel: 0300 0132233

Wednesday 15th February 7.00pm-9.30pm

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Civic Building, Downshire Road, Banbridge, Co Down BT32 3JY

Contact: Wendy Shaw

E: Wendy.Shaw@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

Monday 27th February 11.00am-1.00pm

Portadown Town Hall, Edward St, Portadown, Craigavon BT62 3LX

Contact: Teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

Tel: 028 8676 6670

Thursday 2nd March 11am-1pm

Rural community Network, 38a Oldtown St, Cookstown, BT80 8EF

Contact: Teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

Tel: 028 8676 6670

Kabosh presents Green and Blue



- Duncairn Centre for Culture & Arts—Thursday 16th February | 7pm
- Short Strand Community Centre—Friday 17th February | 7pm
- East Belfast Network Centre—Monday 20th February | 7pm

At one point we took on a role that became an identity and that identity now defines us. We're a uniform, not real people. And rightly or wrongly we now view the world from that perspective.

Green & Blue explores the painful and humorous realities faced by the individuals who patrolled the border during the height of the conflict. Based on an oral archive of serving RUC and An Garda Síochána officers, the production fuses theatre and film to look at the person behind the uniform and the different experiences of two individuals on either side of a line in the ground. In this way it humanises the individuals in uniform and opens questions on how we are defined and how we define others.

Each performance will be followed by a facilitated discussion where audiences can share their experiences and thoughts on the themes of the play.

Watch the trailer here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJJpCV0P38o&t=1s>

Events (contd)

“A drama of substantial insight and revelation... a life affirming celebration of the end of the dark days of a hard border” – The Reviews Hub

Tickets are priced £8 and are available online at www.kabosh.net or phone 028 9024 3343.

We are also able to offer a number of free tickets to local community groups. If you would like to avail of these tickets please contact Dominic at Kabosh either by email dominic@kabosh.net or by phone on 028 9024 3343.

Facilitating Difficult Conversations

One day Workshop - Tutor Michael Doherty

Date	Friday 10th March 2017
Time	9.30am – 4.30pm
Venue	Rural Community Network Cookstown
Cost	£30.00 (includes a sandwich lunch and <i>The Peace Builders workbook</i>)

This one day workshop is designed to help facilitators working in the field of peace building to look at some of the skills and knowledge needed to facilitate difficult conversations when working with sensitive issues.

Part of the day will explore the need to do a lot of self-preparation work and consider different ways of making a group contract in order to establish a safe environment.

Participants will also take part in an experiential learning process that will allow them to look at their own strengths and weaknesses as a facilitator when working with difficult issues.

Who For?

This workshop is more suited to those already working in the field of peace building who wish to enhance their skills in facilitating difficult conversations.

For further information email; michael.doherty@mediateni.com or Mob; 07714494258

The International Brigade Commemoration Committee (IBCC)

IBCC in association with Townsend Productions presents Dare Devil Rides to Jarma by Neil Gore in the Black Box, 18-22 Hill Street, Belfast on Monday 13 February. Doors open 7pm and play starts at 7.30. Admission £10, pay at the door tickets available.

Tel: 028 9024 3281 or 028 9024 4400

E: admin@blackboxbelfast.com

Office Hours Mon-Fri 11am – 5pm

Events (contd)

Healing the Hidden Menace

A two day course for those interested in the Building Communities Resource Centre's Intimidation Toolkit

Dates: Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th March 2017

Time: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Rural Community Network, 38a Oldtown St, Cookstown

This two day course is based on the Building Communities Resource Centre Intimidation Toolkit and will feature modules on defining intimidation, the root causes of intimidation, the effects on individuals and communities, the power dynamic, support services and mechanisms and techniques for addressing the issue.

The Toolkit is designed to act as a resource for those affected as a victim and survivor of intimidation, for community development/youth development and good relations practitioners and for providers of support services. Delivered by BCRC and RCN Staff

For further information please contact Angela or Shauna at BCRC on 028 2766 5068 or email info@theresourcecentre.org.

To register for the course please email teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org or ring 028 8676 6670. Cost £10 per person.

DiverseCity

Would you like to learn more about the people, places and communities that make Belfast? Are you interested in visiting different places of worship, understanding why different communities celebrate the events they do?

If so, come along to our DiverseCity events to learn more about the culture and traditions of some of the communities living in Belfast.

This is a year-long programme with free events happening each month.

You must reserve your place in advance by emailing goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk or calling 028 9027 0663.

Further details on each of the events will be provided when reserving your place.

Roma awareness workshop

Friday 17 February 2017, 10am - 12.30pm

The Roma workshop will enable participants to understand the history, heritage and cultural practice of people from the Roma community in Belfast and raise awareness of how to engage with Roma people and their families.

Events (contd)

Visit to Belfast Islamic Centre

Thursday 23 March 2017, 11am - 1pm

This visit will allow participants to explore the history of the Muslim community in Northern Ireland and to learn about aspects of Islam. An opportunity to observe prayer will be included in the visit.

Tour of Belfast City Cemetery

Wednesday 26 April 2017, 11am - 1pm

The tour of the City Cemetery is facilitated by Tom Hartley and will introduce participants to the history of Belfast going back 130 years. In the cemetery, the inscriptions tell the story of finance, empire, the rise of northern unionism and the golden era of industrialisation in Belfast. This cemetery also contains many family inscriptions of First World War dead.

Mural and Peace Wall tour

Thursday 18 May 2017, 10am - 12 noon

This event is a facilitated walking tour of some of the murals and peace walls in Belfast. It will provide an insight into the history behind the murals and walls, providing an understanding of Belfast's troubled past. Please note this is a walking tour.

Global Learning Programme Update



Just under 30% of schools in Northern Ireland are now participating in the Centre's formal education project, the Global Learning Programme (GLP). More than 80 schools sent teachers to the last GLP training days, which were held during November and December 2016. The GLP team was pleased by the high turn-out and the teachers were a delight to train as always. The next GLP training days will take place during the spring. Full details to be confirmed shortly.

In the meantime, email glp@centreforglobaleducation.com if your school is interested in participating in the GLP. More information on the GLP can be found by visiting www.globallearningni.com.

Events (contd)

Refugee Week 2017

Monday to Sunday of the week around **World Refugee Day on 20 June.**

The theme in Northern Ireland for 2017

Our Shared Future

Celebrating the diversity that makes our culture and communities stronger and more beautiful, as we build Britain's future together.

NICRAS (Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers) are the point of contact. The contact details are Justin kouame edjakouame@hotmail.com and see link to the website <http://www.nicras.btck.co.uk/>

Refugee Week is an umbrella festival, which means anyone can organise an event and call it Refugee Week. The only requirements are that the event happens during the week, and that it celebrates refugee contributions to the UK and/ or promotes better understanding of refugee experiences.

Note:

Link to Refugee week UK ideas and resources <http://refugeeweek.org.uk/events/advice-and-ideas-for-organising-events/>

It is really important to evaluate your event as this helps monitor the types of events that are taking place, the main audience attending and the quality of the event. This information can be used to promote good practice and share good ideas with other event organisers.