



OBITUARY—JOE LAW

On 28th September the Board members and staff of the Community Relations Council were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of our colleague Joe Law. Joe was a valued member of the Board of the Community Relations Council. As many of you will know he was also a Co-Director of Trademark, having previously worked as an educator and mentor with Counteract where he played a vital role over many years in bringing resolution to community and work-based sectarian disputes.

When Joe talked about his earlier life he would often refer to his time working in heavy engineering industries but also how his experiences in South Africa, where he went as a young seaman, had first influenced his thinking about injustice in the world, leaving him committed to the international effort to defeat apartheid and determined to show solidarity with the powerless in confronting prejudice and inequality. Joe believed that people without power needed to organise to overcome injustice. He was a member of the Communist Party of Ireland and active in the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union for 30 years. With his own unique style and unwavering commitment to confronting sectarianism and racism, Joe had a message to give about reconciliation and social justice and was perhaps best known to many of us in later years for his work in Counteract, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions' anti-sectarian unit before taking up his role with Trademark.

Throughout his working life Joe was passionate and constant in his work for social justice and peace. He will be sadly missed by those of us who had the opportunity and privilege to work with him. The Community Relations Council extends its deepest sympathy to his family circle and to his colleagues in Trademark where the legacy of his work will continue with them and with all who shared his vision for peace, equality and social justice throughout the world.

Jacqueline Irwin, CEO, CRC

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Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week 2016 took place from 19—25 September and on behalf of the Community Relations Council I want to thank all the groups and individuals that organised or took part in events across the region. As you know our theme was “Building the Future Together” based on the idea that the best way to predict the future is to get involved in creating it because we all have a part to play. The week was proof, if proof were needed, of the many ways in which people from all backgrounds are shaping the future together in a positive way right now.

In the end there were almost two hundred events during the week – arts and culture, exhibitions and launches, awards, films, food, tours, drama and music performances, sporting events, workshops and discussions. One of the largest events was “Amazing the Space” a youth-led peace-building initiative bringing around 3,500 young people together to celebrate International Peace Day on 21st September. The event included a range of musical and arts based performances, as well as input from across the globe and live streaming to a further 2,000 young people across the region. The positive messages of peace from our young people were an inspiration to continue the work of “building the future together”. As I said in the introduction to the programme for Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week, young people may have the greatest stake in the future but we all have a responsibility to co-create the context in which they will live, work and play.

As always Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week was an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of our culture and heritage, promote cultural diversity and tackle sectarianism and racism. It was about inspiring new ideas, promoting understanding, respect and engagement between and amongst all sections of our community and encouraging new people to get involved. Thank you for taking part and for everything that you will continue to do to build the future together until the next Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week.

Jacqueline Irwin, Chief Executive
Community Relations Council

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.

REPORTS ON SOME EVENTS FROM CRCA WEEK 2016

Articles by Patricia O'Neill, CRC

Together Building a United Community Engagement Forum



Young People at the Engagement Forum

The keynote event of Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week 2016 was Together: Building a United Community Engagement Forum held in The Junction, Dungannon and involved over 170 representatives drawn from a wide range of community organisations and public bodies.

The forum is an Executive Office led initiative 'to provide positive and constructive collaborations and interaction between those directly involved in peacebuilding'. This event concentrated on 'Our children and Young People' which is a key priority of the T:BUC strategy.

Speaking at the event, Junior Minister Alastair Ross said: "Over a third of our population is under the age of 25. It is essential that we promote good relations amongst our children and young people to help equip them to build a peaceful, multicultural and tolerant society.

Junior Minister Megan Fearon said: "More than 4,000 have taken part in our Summer Camps, demonstrating the appetite of young people across the North to take an active role in shaping a society we can all be proud of".

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REPORTS ON SOME EVENTS FROM CRCA WEEK 2016

“Those I’ve met have really embraced the spirit of these camps. They have broken down barriers, shared experiences and built positive relationships. By challenging the divisions and prejudice of the past, our young people will be at the forefront of creating a society which is inclusive, diverse and full of opportunities.”

Mark Browne, Accounting Officer for the Executive Office and Chair of the Forum gave an update on the T:BUC strategy to date covering shared neighbourhoods, urban villages, shared education and summer camps. He was followed by Dirk Schubotz, Access – Research – Knowledge (ARK) who presented a snapshot of the Young Life and Times Survey which showed that there was some progress over the last decade in terms of cross community friendships. The NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Youth Forum who are involved in the ‘co-design’ process with the Executive Office gave an overview of their involvement. Tim O’Malley, Clanmill Housing introduced ‘A River Crossing’, the story and production has been developed by Primary 7 pupils from Holy Rosary, Rosetta and Forge Integrated primary schools and reflects different traditions in Northern Ireland and the children’s hopes for communities to grow and thrive together. The final contribution was an interview with Ghaith Hanna, a Syrian refugee, by Denise Wright of South Belfast Round Table on Racism. This was a particularly moving interview by someone, just learning the English language, who has left family and life behind to try and build a new life in Northern Ireland.

The second half of the event involved workshops on identity, culture and enabling young people to engage more inclusively in building the future. It was a very busy but interesting day, feedback suggested more time was needed for the Engagement Forum to explore solutions to the remaining issues around peacebuilding in Northern Ireland.

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REPORTS ON SOME EVENTS FROM CRCA WEEK 2016

Articles by Patricia O'Neill, CRC

Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week 2016 Launch

14th September saw the launch of Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week, "Building the Future Together" at Girdwood Community Hub. Peter Osborne, Chair of the Community Relations Council opened the proceedings by welcoming the audience and Junior Ministers, Alastair Ross and Megan Fearon.

The Junior Ministers both stressed the importance and benefits of learning from each other and the value of including young people in building our future. Orchestra des Réfugiés et Amis, (a Beyond Skin project) featuring Joby Fox began the performances on the morning followed by artist Norma Beggs who explained her photo-textile project 'The Space Between' an intercultural project. Grainne Woods and David Calvert spoke about 'Kids in Control' a professional theatre company which offers programmes for 'community groups who are delivering activities in areas of need and disadvantage.' They work 'in solidarity with youth and community groups in sectarian interface communities.' David stressed the challenges of the work, one of which is that most children are still educated separately.

Tracey McRory, four times all Ireland fiddle champion, gave a moving performance of her original composition commemorating her Great Uncle, an army Chaplain who served in WW1 until he was injured at Passchendaele in 1917. She emphasised the importance of acknowledging our shared history.

The launch finished on a high note, with all attending, including the Junior Ministers, taking part in a lively drumming session facilitated by Joe Laughlin, The Gathering Drum.



It was an excellent introduction to a varied and interesting catalogue of events to come in Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week 2016.

To see an overview of the launch [click here](#)

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REPORTS ON SOME EVENTS FROM CRCA WEEK 2016

It Is Nothing New - John Baucher

(Taken from John's statement at the exhibition)

This is the second series of 12 photographs in John Baucher's examination of subject of immigration. Baucher asked immigrants to hold an item that reflects the journey their family undertook to arrive here in Northern Ireland. The viewer is deliberately drawn into the photograph by the placement of Baucher's camera.

Working closely with the participants Baucher places his camera to produce an unusual and lesser seen point of view, that of the immigrant as they look upon an item or artefact in their hands. The resulting photographs are a benign contemplation on the subject and viewers are asked to think of the journeys and people involved in the photographs. These are not clichéd photographs of forlorn subjects, staring out of frame inviting pity but rather a thoughtful and humanising series that invites the viewer to take the time to look at the subject of immigration from another angle.

By listing the countries that the participant or their direct descendant family have lived in, Baucher has created an ambiguity and questions that the viewer is invited to answer for themselves. The country listings serve to show that immigration is, as the declarative title of this exhibition states, 'nothing new'. People have moved since time started and the current fear mongering and divisive posturing serve to separate people and communities rather than to bring together. This exhibition is intended as a balm to that.

24 countries are represented in these 12 photographs. Of the 24 photographs produced in total, 36 countries are represented (37 including NI). This illustrates the diversity and commonality of travel, movement and immigration for whatever reason.

The Crescent Arts Centre is pleased to announce that John will be exhibiting 36 new photographs in the Crescent Art Centre in February' The Crescent sees this exhibition as a perfect fit with the spirit and ethos of the centre.



John is looking for participants for inclusion in this new series of photographs and is proposing to make these collaborative photographs between now and mid-February for his third series of photographing this sensitive and topical issue. The exhibition will take place from 20th February - 5th March.

If you wish to be involved in the project you can contact John.

Email: johnbaucher@yahoo.com

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.

REPORTS ON SOME EVENTS FROM CRCA WEEK 2016

YouthLink—Launch of Remembering the Past – Shaping the Future and Reach Out-Enrich Within

On Friday 23rd September 2016 **Youth Link: NI** held the launch of two projects, **Remembering the Past- Shaping the Future and Reach Out-Enrich Within**.

Youth Link: NI were pleased to be joined by colleagues from across the community, faith and voluntary sectors. During the launch Leighann McConville, Research and Curriculum Development Officer outlined the four key themes of the Remembering the Past- Shaping the Future project: Ethical Remembering, Conflict Transformation, Civic Responsibility and Pursuing the Common Good. Participants engaged in reflection and discussion providing insights from their own practice as well as signposting to good practice and resources that already exist and could inform the development of the project. Leighann invited participants to contact her if they have resources and/or ideas that may be helpful in the development of the project.

John Peacock Academic Studies Manager, launched the Reach Out – Enrich Within: Guidelines for Contributing to Intercultural and Inclusive Youth Work in a Diverse and Multi-Faith Northern Ireland. John thanked all those involved in the development of the resource and highlighted the work carried out during the last year to develop the resource, ensuring that it is practical and will be a support to groups and organisations in developing Intercultural work in their setting. John took the opportunity at the launch to announce that Youth Link: NI are recruiting a Training Officer with a responsibility for supporting groups and organisations to implement the Guidelines.

Throughout the launch a number of ideas from the resource were used including a quiz and an intercultural lunch. The Intercultural lunch was a fitting conclusion to the morning both celebrating the work that has happened to date and looking forward to the next stage for both projects. John thanked the Community Relations Council and the Education Authority for the support they have given, financial and otherwise to Remembering the Past- Shaping the Future and Reach Out-Enrich Within respectively.

For more information on Remembering the Past- Shaping the Future please contact Leighann.

For more information on Reach Out-Enrich Within please contact John.

E: leighann@youthlink.org.uk or john@youthlink.org.uk

T: 028 90323217

REPORTS ON SOME EVENTS FROM CRCA WEEK 2016

Community Relations in Schools

The Art of Everyday Peacebuilding

During Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week CRIS launched “The Art of Everyday Peacebuilding” Exhibition at the Houben Peace Centre in North Belfast. To see the launch go to <http://www.nvtv.co.uk/on-demand/?filter=.tag-fpoint> and click on Focal Point Monday 26th September.

The Art of Every day PeaceBuilding Book

This book provides a visual record of the reflections and discussion about community, diversity and peace building that took place on CRIS’ tenth consecutive family Community Relations residential programme with Holy Cross and Edenderry Nursery Schools from North Belfast during the school year 2015 – 2016.

The beautiful illustrations detailed are the work of the artist Patrick Sanders who sat in on this year’s residential programme that took place at Corrymeela, a peace and reconciliation centre located on the North Coast of Antrim.



An Illustration from *The Art of Everyday Peacebuilding*

REPRESENTATIONS OF JEWS IN IRISH LITERATURE EXHIBITION

The Multi-faceted nature of Irish Identities: Representations of Jews in Irish Literature Exhibition at PRONI, Belfast

Dr Marie-Claire Peters, Exhibition Curator/Research Associate, Ulster University

Following two successful launches in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin and Armagh Public Library in June and August respectively, the Representations of Jews in Irish Literature Exhibition officially launched in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast on 2nd September. The exhibition is the first major output of a three-year research project, a joint venture between Ulster University and NUI Galway which has been funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). It reflects on the representations and portrayals of Jewish identity and culture from the medieval through to modern times as revealed in the Irish literary record.

Speaking at the launch, the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman Brian Kingston reflected upon the significant influence of the Jewish community in Belfast including the first Jewish Lord Mayor Sir Otto Jaffe, who contributed extensively to the social and economic development of Belfast having held the office twice between 1899 and 1904. He also spoke of his dismay at the recent desecration of Jewish graves in Belfast City Cemetery. These discriminatory attacks serve to highlight the continued prejudice and racism prevalent in Northern Irish society and draw attention to the need for greater education and awareness of cultural diversity and the multi-faceted nature of identities in Northern Ireland. This exhibition therefore offers the opportunity to engage and understand more about the role and influence of Jews in Irish life and in doing so will highlight a lesser-known aspect of Irish literature.

The exhibition looks at two aspects of the representations of Jews in the literary record. Beginning with an exploration of Irish writing about Jews, it reveals a deep affinity with the Jewish story within the Irish literary record but which also often exposes marked prejudice and misunderstanding of the Jew including stereotypical anti-Semitic representations of the Jew in literary and dramatic form such as the avaricious money-lender and the figure of the wandering Jew. However, it also charts the transformative nature of Irish-Jewish writers within the fabric of Irish literature exploring the influx of Jews into Ireland in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, many as a result of political destabilisation within Eastern Europe. The exhibition shows how these immigrant families found homes in major Irish cities including Belfast, Dublin, Cork and Limerick. In a period of political upheaval and difficult social conditions, many of these Jewish families like the Solomons of Dublin laid deep roots in their adopted homes and in doing so became part of Irish social, cultural and political life.

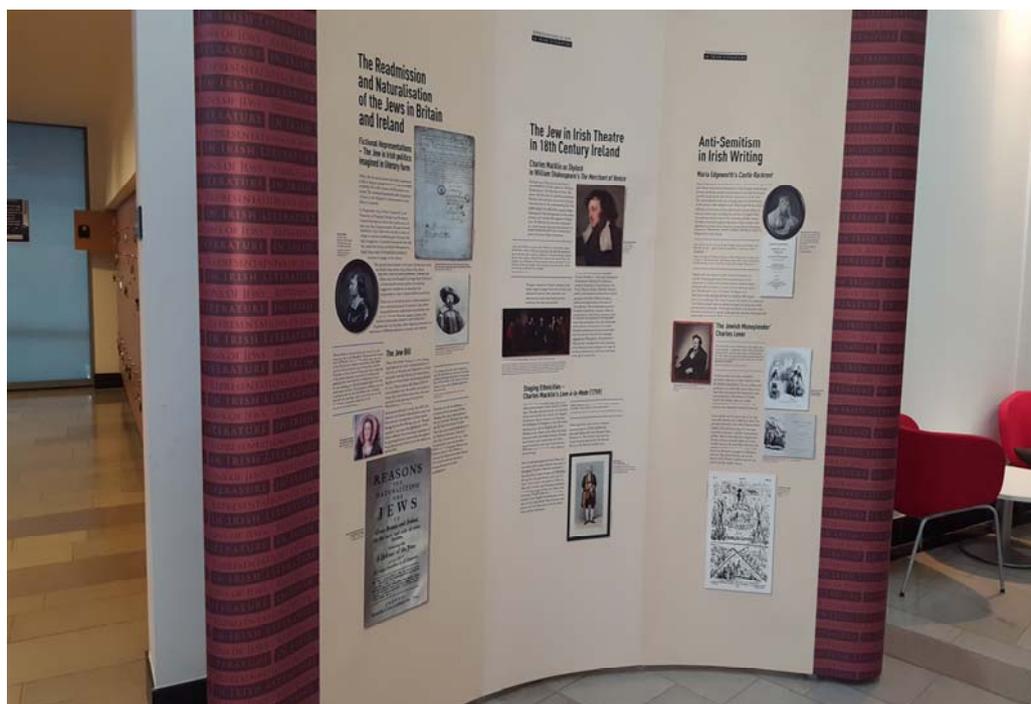
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REPRESENTATIONS OF JEWS IN IRISH LITERATURE EXHIBITION

The literary influence of this Jewish community in Ireland reveals a vibrant, vocal community at ease with its own hyphenated sense of identity as evidenced by the more recent modern reflections of Irish-Jewish life for example in the writing of David Marcus and the poignant holocaust memoirs of Helen Lewis, who rebuilt her life in Belfast after escaping the horrors of Auschwitz. The exhibition provides an opportunity therefore as an educational and community relations initiative to facilitate engagement between and within the different cultural, religious and ethnic communities in Northern Ireland in this transitional post-conflict period. Moreover, it is hoped that the exhibition and project will demonstrate the power of the written word to articulate the thoughts and emotions of a people who have made such a major contribution to Irish life and letters.

The exhibition will be in Coleraine Town Hall during the month of October where it will feature as part of the Literary Festival. It will also be in the Linenhall Library in Belfast in January.

For further information please contact Dr Marie-Claire Peters
mc.peters@ulster.ac.uk



CRC FUNDING SCHEMES NOW OPEN

Core Funding Scheme 17/18 now open

The Core Funding Scheme contributes towards the salary and running costs of organisations which are considered to have strategic importance in delivering community relations programmes in Northern Ireland. The organisations and the nature of work which has been previously supported are publicised in the Councils annual report. Examples of these include peace and reconciliation organisations; mediation and conflict transformation training; community arts based CR programmes; church-based work on reconciliation themes and interface projects. Please contact the Core Funding Officer fdennison@nicrc.org.uk if you require any further information on this grant scheme.

Please note there is now only one submission date for all applications.

The closing date for all applications is Friday 4th November 2016 at 4pm.

Applications received (even by one minute) after the deadline cannot be accepted

[Core Funding 2017/18 Guidelines](#)

[Core Funding 2017/18 Application Form](#)

Media Grant Scheme now open

The Media Grant Scheme of the Community Relations Council 2016 is available to support a range of media projects. The range of media products that may be supported include digital content projects, infographics, television, radio, video and podcasts. The scheme is primarily for the creation of new material but may include the diversification of existing resources to increase their use with appropriate audiences. The aim of the Media Grant 2016/2017 is to commission media projects which focus on the engagement of civil society to under-pin the peace process and/or support the development of a more diverse society and support the TBUC strategy.

For more information: <http://www.community-relations.org.uk/funding-posts/media-grant-scheme-2014/>

Deadlines

The Media Grant 2016 will **close on Friday 4th November 2016 at 12.00 pm.** The application form should be submitted electronically to dmacbride@nicrc.org.uk. In addition by **Tuesday 8th November at 4.00 pm** the following must be provided:

- one hard copy of the signed application form and accompanying documents must be provided to CRC; and
- one sample of previous work not exceeding 5 minutes.
- The sample may be embedded in an electronic version of the application form, in a CD /DVD or provided in a way in keeping with the proposed technology.

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EVENTS

CRAICNI launched Shared History OCN Level 2 Programme

The For Your Freedom and Ours OCN Level 2 training programme was officially launched at the International Portrush Air Show by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for County Antrim Joan Christie, Air Vice-Marshal David Niven with assistance from the Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Alderman Maura Hickey, Ulster Aviation Society Chair Ray Burrows, Director of Grafton Group Ken Belshaw and CRAICNI Chair Brian Caul.

This project provides a general introduction to historical links between the Northern Irish and Polish communities, mainly focusing on Polish airmen fighting in the Battle of Britain. It demonstrates how historical events can be combined with a modern learning approach to gain a wider understanding of shared history and to celebrate positive relations between communities.

The topics that are included will focus on the role of the Polish services in WWII; accounts of the experiences of Polish servicemen participating in the Battle of Britain; human stories of Polish airmen who served and died in Northern Ireland during WWII; and relations between Polish and Northern Irish community after WWII until present time.

Aims:

- ◆ To provide a shared history project
- ◆ Discover historical links between Northern Ireland and Poland
- ◆ Celebrate positive relations between communities
- ◆ Reduce level of prejudice

Objectives:

- ◆ Provide introduction to the role of the Polish services in WWII
- ◆ Provide accounts and recourses of the experiences of Polish airmen in United Kingdom and Northern Ireland during WWII
- ◆ Explore and explain what happened next, focusing on relations after WWII until present time

#FYFO Shared History OCN Level 2 programme is now available to be delivered to youth and adult groups across Northern Ireland. To get more information about this project including price and available dates, please get in contact with **Maciek Bator** at maciek@craicni.com.

EVENTS

National Museums Northern Ireland

<http://nmni.com/um/What-s-on/Events/Diverse-Voices>

Workshop 09:45 - 15:30, Tue 11 Oct 2016

The Ulster Museum has begun a project entitled 'Collecting the Troubles and Beyond' which aims to develop the collection to ensure that it can be used to represent the complexity of our recent past and support a full and inclusive narrative.

As part of the programming for the project we are holding a seminar day on the theme of 'diverse voices' to address the themes of diversity and pluralism in a series of talks and an afternoon workshop.

[The full programme for the day can be downloaded here.](#)

Speakers will include Professor Mike Hardy, who is the founding and Executive Director of the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University. Professor Hardy framed and led the British Council's global programme in intercultural and interfaith dialogue and has experience of working with UNESCO and the UN Alliance of Civilizations.

Representatives from a number of local organisations including the Community Relations Council, Towards Understanding and Healing, Ulster University and the Inter Ethnic Forum in Ballymena will also be taking part.

EVENTS

1916 Front Lines

Easter Rising & Battle of the Somme



1916 Blood Sacrifices

2016 is the year of the centenary celebrations of two monumental events, The Easter Rising and The Battle of the Somme.

The year 1916 evokes high emotion across the community in N. Ireland, with both main traditions looking back with reverence at the actions of the men of that generation from within their separate communities.

Who were the people involved?
 What were their motivations?
 What really happened?

What were the consequences of their actions?

Setting aside the Orange and Green tainted lenses '1916 Front Lines' takes you back to the time and places where these events occurred.

Ireland, Crisis & Volunteers 1912 - 1914
 Ireland, Easter 1916
 The Western Front, July 1916
 Post WWI, Ireland

When: 12th & 19th October 2016

Where: Market Place Theatre, Armagh

Time: 19:00 - 21:00

Sponsor: Community Relations Council

Host: REACT & RCN

EVENTS

Facilitating Difficult Conversations—Rural Community Network

THURSDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2016

9.30am – 4.30pm

(Note: it was originally Monday, 11th but now changed to 13th)

Rural Community Network, 38a Oldtown Street, Cookstown, BT80 8EF
Cost £30.00 (includes a sandwich lunch and The Peace Builders workbook)
One day Workshop - Tutor Michael Doherty

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@mediatени.com or Mob; 07714494258

Fermanagh Churches Forum/Irish School of Ecumenics

The Importance of Being Human Together—5 Session Course starting on Thursday 6 October and continuing weekly until 3 November 2016

Course Presenter: Dr Johnston McMaster

Course Facilitator: Eileen Gallagher

The course will run from 8—10 pm at Bridge Centre, 16 East Bridge Street, Enniskillen and is free of charge

For more information please contact: info@fermanaghchurchesforum.org or cenisec@tcd.ie

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

PRONI

PRONI are running a range of events throughout October on various topics related to the Decade of Anniversaries.

Please see <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni> for more information.

‘Celebrate Diversity – Together we make our work complete’

Canal Court Hotel, Newry

Saturday 15th October

9:00am – 4:00pm

This Early Learning conference is a collaborative event between Child Care in Practice journal, Early Years – the organisation for young children and the Pasco Hernando Early Learning Coalition. It is a celebration of good practice in early years settings across Ireland with views provided from colleagues in USA

You will hear from outstanding keynote speakers who have championed children's rights, researched the underlying factors in discrimination, considered and promoted best practice across diverse cultures and societies internationally and developed models for understanding and appreciating each other's models of the world.

For further information, please contact Cait Morgan, Child Care in Practice childcareinpractice@qub.ac.uk

Law Centre NI

Litigating for Social Change Conference—19—21 October

With speakers from different geographic and legal settings, the conference aims to explore:

- Lessons learnt from the use of test case litigation to date
- Strategic litigation as a tool for promoting social justice
- Models and approaches to supporting strategic litigation

To book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/litigating-for-social-change-3-day-conference-tickets-27722386404>

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EVENTS

Belfast City Council

Life in Belfast during 1916 and screening of the Battle of the Somme film

Date: 25 Oct 2016

Time: 6.30pm - 9pm

Venue: Banqueting Hall, Belfast City Hall

Philip Orr will document the rise in cinema in 1916 and look at family life during the War, and the impact of war on everyday life. It will explore the freedom that young people and women had, recall the street games played by children and other aspects of life at that time. Afterwards, there will be a screening of the Battle of Somme film, a film comprising footage from the front line which brought home the realities of trench warfare in unprecedented fashion. Apparently, 20 million people saw this film and it held the British audience record for 60 years, until Star Wars was released.

Light refreshments will be served at 6.30pm.

Booking is essential, email goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk or call 028 90270 663 to register.

Irish History Course

Rebels, Radicals, Royalists and Loyalists

Venue: Richmount Rural Community Association Hall, Scotch Street, Portadown

This course consists of 6 workshops (7 – 9pm) and 2 study visits.

Participants will examine the following events and their impact on the Island of Ireland.

- Wednesday 26th October 2016 - Catholic Emancipation and Home Rule
- Wednesday 2nd November 2016 - Crises and Volunteers (Redmond and Carson)
- Wednesday 9th November 2016 - Blood Sacrifice: Easter Rising and WW1 - The Somme
- Wednesday 16th November 2016 - War of Independence and Partition
- Wednesday 23rd November 2016 - Irish Civil War and Civil Strife in Northern Ireland
- Wednesday 30th November 2016 - "The Troubles" and Course Evaluation
- Saturday 5th November 2016 – Study Visit 1 - This is a 1 day visit to Parliament Buildings at Stormont, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast and The Somme Museum.
- Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th November 2016 – Study Visit 2 - Dublin - This is an overnight residential which includes visits to Glasnevin Cemetery, Arbour Hill Cemetery, the Memorial Gardens at Island Bridge, the National Museum at Collins Barracks and St Patrick's Cathedral.

There is a fee of £20 for the course payable on the first night.

This course is open to participants who live in rural areas within the ABC Council Area.

Anyone interested in participating in the course should contact Marion at the REACT offices on 028 37526869, mobile 07720077570 or email marion@reactni.org, giving their expression of interest.

EVENTS

TOWARDS A DIVIDED ISLAND Ireland, 1917-23

A series of lectures and conversations about a period whose legacy still affects us all
174 Trust /Duncairn Arts, Duncairn Avenue, Belfast BT14 6BP

The series is devised with the aim of adding to public knowledge of this period of the past. It is also focused on how we might bring the past to mind in the public arena within a society that is still deeply divided.

So after each talk there will be ample opportunity for focused discussion on the topic in hand and how it may or should be invoked in the years that lie ahead.

The lectures are FREE, just turn up on the night.

Thursday 3rd November , 7.30pm - Guest Historian: Marie Coleman

The 1918 General Election

The first general election of the post-war era was also the last all-Ireland one. It took place with a greatly expanded electorate. It saw the rise of Sinn Fein to Nationalist dominance in southern Ireland and the consolidation of Unionism in the north. This was the first general election in which women could vote.

Thursday 10th November , 7.30pm Guest historian: Jim McDermott

The Irish Republican Army in Belfast

Between 1920 and 1922 the Irish Republican Army in Belfast was a potent force yet by 1923, with civil war still taking place in the south, it had virtually vanished. Who were the leaders and what were the strategies and operations of the IRA during these fateful years?

Thursday 17th November. 7.30pm Guest historian: Jonathan Bardon

James Craig and the Ulster Unionist leadership

Unionists modified their opposition to Home Rule, as expressed in the Covenant of 1912, to a quest for the exclusion of nine and then six northern counties. The role of the Unionist leader James Craig was crucial as was the impact of the Great War, the Rising, the electoral changes in 1918 and the Irish Civil War.

Thursday 24 November, 7.30 pm Guest historian: Pdraig Yeates

The Labour Movement

The First World War created unrivalled opportunities for the growth of the labour movement in Ireland as in many other places. Why did appeals for working class unity fail to transcend the sectarian divide, prioritise the war on poverty or break the affiliation of most Irish people to 'Orange' or 'Green'?

Thursday 1st December, 7.30 pm Guest historian: Margaret Ward

Irish women and political change

Despite the inclusion of women in the electoral franchise, there were many challenges facing Irish women in the period that had begun with the Easter Rising and ended with adjustment to the uncomfortable realities of post-partition Ireland. The women's movement found itself very much divided at this time – so what impact did this have?

Thursday 8th December Guest historian: Eamon Phoenix

The Irish Civil War

Though a major step forward for Irish Nationalism, the Treaty of 1921 fell short of the ideals of the 1916 Proclamation. It split every organisation from the Dail to the IRA and brought leaders such as Michael Collins and Eamon de Valera into conflict. The bitter war which followed left lasting scars behind

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EVENTS

The Prodger

Writer Tina Noonan tells the story of her Gran Uncle Johnny, a Catholic Irishman who fought at The Somme, woke up in a morgue and found his right leg amputated below the knee.

We meet him as an old man in an Irish country pub on a stormy, murderous night in 1964. The horrors of the Great War have never left him and he can no longer remain silent.

This one-act play highlights the plight of the Forgotten: the Irish men who fought in WW1, endured its horrors and survived, returning to a new and divided Ireland where they buried their stories, never breathing a word of them to a single, living soul. Except Johnny: the time has finally come for him to tell his tale and reclaim his past.

2nd November, Culturlann, Falls Road, Belfast - with post show conversation with Tom Hartley (former mayor & historian).

<http://ww.culturlann.ie/en/the-prodger-2u-samhain-20162-november-2016/>

3rd November, 8 pm The Market Theatre, Studio, Armagh

<http://www.marketplacearmagh.com/whats-on/the-prodger-873559399/>

Belfast City Council

Belfast, a hundred years on from 1916. How do we make a fresh start? The Conference will take place on the **3rd November in the Great Hall, at City Hall from 10.00am - 4.00pm.**

The conference will feature the play, *The Prodger*, by Tina Noonan.

It will also look at the year past and how we can use the learning from our Commemorative activity from 1916 to continue to navigate through the remainder of the Decade of Centenaries. Johnston McMaster will provide some insight into how commemorative activity can assist us in shaping the future.

We will also have input from the “What 1916 means to me” project carried out by University College Dublin.

The conference is free to attend and lunch and refreshments will be provided. Details on how to reserve a place are on the following web link <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/events/Event-61928.aspx>

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



We are pleased to announce the launch of our HMD 2017 Activity Packs. Each free pack contains advice and guidance for holding a Holocaust Memorial Day activity and is your first step for marking HMD 2017.

It includes a set of posters, a guide to how your activity can explore the theme to mark HMD, a sample About HMD booklet, a set of stickers, and a HMD badge.

Holocaust Memorial Day—27 January 2017

[Order or download your activity pack today.](#)

SENATOR GEORGE J MITCHELL WINTER SCHOOL 2017

The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice will run the third annual Winter School from 23 January to 27 January 2017.

The Winter School will explore how some of the main issues that have been identified by the United Nations as being central to the process of peacebuilding and conflict transformation have been addressed over the past twenty years, with special reference to developments in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland offers a unique opportunity to learn about process of conflict transformation, to hear from people with personal experience of conflict and with the opportunity to see the longstanding impact it has on the social and physical environment.

For further information and an application for the Winter School 2017, please visit the [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.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS— REMINDER

We have moved to

**2nd Floor
Equality House
7—9 Shaftesbury Square
Belfast
BT2 7DP**

**Phone numbers/email addresses—
remain the same**

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.