

BALLYMONEY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE NEWSLETTER

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NEW DISABILITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



Darren Gribben has recently been appointed as Disability Development Officer at the Ballymoney Community Resource Centre. He began working with the team at the Resource Centre at the end of September and is keen to ensure that people with disabilities and their carers make full use of the centre's Disability Programme.

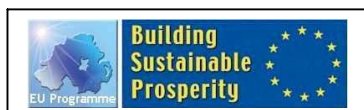
Darren's post is funded by Lloyds TSB. His role will include advising and supporting in the continued development of the disability carer/user forums within the area. He will also initiate awareness and independent skills training programmes which seek to increase the understanding of disability to those without a disability.

Darren will also work in co-operation with similar service providers in the area to develop programmes of work for those with a disability, and lobby on behalf of those with a disability and their carers to ensure that disability remains on the agenda in the development of services.

Darren works on a voluntary basis with the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH). Over the past two years he has taken part in Information Days on Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, and Information/Support Days specifically for parents/carers. He has given talks on dealing with the conditions to children/young people and their parents/carers, trying to create an awareness of the need to see the person behind the disability.

Darren has completed the first year of a two-year postgraduate law degree. He is undertaking a dissertation on disability, education and the law, and intends to work in the area of human rights and disability.

The next meeting of the Ballymoney Disability Forum will take place on Tuesday 20th October at 6pm in BCRC offices. New members always welcome.



NEWS

Hi everyone, and welcome to the October newsletter. September is usually associated with a new term and new opportunities for learning.



(Above) Community Participants from the Ballymoney Borough who took part in the a2b training 9 September 2009

Ballymoney Community Resource Centre has been quick of the mark with their training course in association with Access to Benefits.

Every week, thousands of people over 60 miss out on their share of unclaimed benefits in Northern Ireland. A2B is a not-for-profit organisation working to improve benefit uptake for people of retirement age. People can already use A2B's Benefit Calculator on this site. www.a2b.org.uk

This service was developed to help older people work out what benefit entitlements they're due. With advice and age sector organisations, A2B is developing an Older Person Advisers' Course to provide advisers with the specialist skills and knowledge needed to work with older people.

This was well attended and we are looking forward to running further training sessions, including an Anti-social behaviour session which is scheduled for Thursday 15 October and Friday 16 October later this month.

FUNDING

CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Applications for Measures **3.3, 3.4 and 3.6** will open on the **1st September 2009** and close at 5.00pm on the **23rd October 2009**.

Applications for **3.1 and 3.2** will re-open on the **28th September 2009** and close at 5.00pm on the **27th November 2009**.

Applications for **3.5** will open in early 2010.

There will be further calls for applications in all measures in 2010.

Axis 3 of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013
across Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Larne and Moyle Council

This information updates the publicity material contained in the publicity packs. It also further outlines details re opening and closing dates for the various measures. There is also some guidance on the eligibility of projects. Changes to the measure sheets in the packs are outlined below.

Measure 3.1 **Diversification into non-agricultural activities**

Food processing and associated projects should apply to Axis 1 of the Rural Development Programme.

Measure 3.2 **Business Creation and Development**

Food processing and associated projects should apply to Axis 1 of the Rural Development Programme

Measure 3.3 **Tourism Activities**

Training is not eligible for applicants; this applies to a specialist project run directly by NER. The marketing focus activity and the regional food initiative are also specialist projects, which will be delivered by specialist agencies. Individual self-catering accommodation is eligible but is extremely competitive, with a very limited number of grants.

Measure 3.4 **Access to Basic Services**

As per the measure sheet. The rural transport provision and rural research activity will be delivered by specialist agencies.

Measure 3.5 **Village Renewal and Development**

This measure will be delivered on a strategic level with specific settlements being targeted. These will be selected in an open and transparent system. This measure will not open until early 2010. Groups can contact NER to discuss the programme but more information and details will not be available until early 2010. (028 2563 8263) www.northeastrdp.com

Measure 3.6 **Conservation and Rural Heritage**

As per measure sheet

FUNDING

RURAL CHALLENGE PROGRAMME 2009 BY 5.00PM ON FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2009

We wish to invite applications for funding for projects under our Anti Poverty and Social Exclusion Challenge Programme (referred to as the Rural Challenge Programme). The aims of this programme are :-

- to assist in tackling poverty and social exclusion within rural communities, and
- to provide project based evidence to inform future policy on rural anti poverty and social inclusion.

The “challenge” aspect of the Programme is for rural groups to identify issues and provide solutions that address the particular and distinct challenges faced by rural areas / communities in relation to their local poverty and exclusion issues

An application form can be obtained by contacting:

Rural Challenge Programme Section
Rural Development Division
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
21 Hospital Road
Omagh
Co Tyrone BT79 0AN

Telephone 028 8224 7727 Or on request by e-mail from rural.challengeprogramme@dardni.gov.uk It is your responsibility to ensure the completed application form reaches our Rural Challenge Programme Section not later than **5.00pm on Friday 30 October 2009**

DFID DEVELOPMENT AWARENESS MINI GRANT SCHEME

Applications are now invited for the DFID Development Awareness Mini Grant Scheme for Northern Ireland 2010.

The scheme is aimed directly at not-for-profit organisations working at a grassroots level in Northern Ireland. It aims to build public support for development by generating greater levels of awareness and understanding of international development issues, across different audiences within Northern Ireland. The Mini Grant guidelines set out how to apply for grants under the scheme and are available at www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Funding-Schemes/funding-for-not-for-profit-organisations/DAF.

The closing date for applications is 5.00pm on 30 October 2009.

IN KIND DIRECT

In Kind Direct provides a huge range of products donated by companies to be used by not-for-profit organisations across the UK. The recipient organisation only pays a handling charge which is roughly 10-15% of the items value. Tel: 020 7714 3930 E-mail: info@inkinddirect.org

TRAINING

STUDY BURSARIES FOR LONE PARENTS

Choices Plus is a bursary scheme which aims to support lone parents who want to start or are already following a further education course. Participants are given assistance towards fees and out of pocket expenses such as travel, childcare and meals. As Choices Plus is a regional project, participants can enrol for an accredited course available at a college of further education or a recognised training provider in their local town. Participants must be on Income Support and studying or about to study a part- time NQF Level 3 qualification or above. For more details on the Choices Plus bursary scheme please call 028 9023 1417 or email training@gingerbreadni.org

COMMUNITY FACILITATOR PROGRAMME

WRDA is currently recruiting its Community Facilitator Programme starting in October 2009. The programme is open to women from the Eastern Health and Social Services Board area and trains local women to be Community Facilitators (Peer Educators). Participants will:

- Develop facilitation skills
- Gain an NVQ Level 3
- Become a Community Facilitator
- Deliver sessions in the community
- Enhance their employment opportunities

If you are interested in the programme and would like to know more, please contact Sadhbh Branton on 028 9023 0212 or email sadhbh.branton@wrda.net.

FINAL CALL FOR NEXT LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME INTAKE

If your group is interested in the 2010/2011 Community Leadership Programme you need to be quick as the deadline for submission of expressions of interest is just over a week away on 8 October 2009.

What's involved?

The Programme aims to build the capacity of groups so that they will be able to work together to address issues, network with others, improve their community and influence policies that effect local people's lives. Groups will be allocated £2,500 (€2,750) to develop a project of their choice during the year, and individuals from the selected groups may gain a Certificate in Management Practice from the University of Ulster and a Level 5 accreditation from the Institute of Leadership and Management.

Not sure if it's for you?

Talking about their involvement in the Programme, Darryn Causby from PLACE Portadown said: "Our group is having a fantastic experience doing the CLP", while Debbie Graham from PAKT in Ballymena said: "We have learned so much since we started and are gaining loads of confidence".

Find out more at www.communityleadershipprogramme.org or call Nuala Muldoon at NICVA on 028 9087 7777.

EVENTS/GENERAL INFO

THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY TO RAISE MONEY ... WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW

Short of ideas on funding sources? *How to get trusts to fund you* on 4 November 2009 will look at ways to gain funding from independent grant-making trusts and foundations. Find out more and download a booking form at www.nicva.org or contact Roisin Kelly on 028 9087 7777 or email roisin.kelly@nicva.org.

CONNECTING HEAD & HEART

Marking the 40th Anniversary of the start of Northern Ireland Political Conflict, 40 *Years On - Connecting Head and Heart* is Trauma Recovery Network's annual conference. The event takes place on 17 to 18 November in the Killyhevin Hotel, Enniskillen, and features 40 innovative contributions featuring dialogue, debate, demonstration, drama, dance, music and more. Please contact Colleen Symington to find out more at colleen@traumanetwork.org or visit www.traumanetwork.org.

OFFICE GIVEAWAYS

Got some furniture or equipment to donate (or going cheap) to a voluntary or community group? Use this space to let people know what you've got. You can also list these on the new communitybuyer.org website.

INTRODUCING THE EXPLORING ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME AT THE ACORN BUSINESS CENTRE

A FREE programme that helps you identify your business idea and take it to the next level. You will also achieve an accredited qualification to improve your CV and break down barriers to employment.

Acorn Business Centre offers support and advice from accredited business advisors with access to mainstream business support options.

For more information, please contact Cara at The Acorn Business Centre on 028 2766 6133 or email cara@acornbusiness.co.uk

NEED IT EQUIPMENT TO GET ONLINE?

TRY BT COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

BT Community Connections is an award scheme which enables community and charitable organisations to get online. Groups can apply for a laptop and a year's free broadband connection. Award packages will be given to groups that can demonstrate how an award will benefit their work and the local community.

Any organisation, working in any field of community benefit, located anywhere within the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland can apply. In the past, voluntary projects, silver surfers, conservation organisations, family support groups, sports teams and youth groups have all been successful.

To find out more and see case studies from past winners visit www.btcommunityconnections.com.

The deadline for postal applications is 5 January 2010 and the deadline for online applications is 7 January 2010.

EVENTS/GENERAL INFO

PROGRAMME AT FOCUS ON FAMILY

Tuesdays 6pm-8pm

NEW Massage Course starts Tuesday October 6th - Experience relaxing and invigorating massage therapies and then go on to learn techniques that you can use yourself. Only £2 per session.

Tuesdays 7pm-9pm

NEW Craft Night starts Tuesday October 6th - Organised by our own house-users, this is a night for anyone with an interest in any kind of craftwork (knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching, painting, etc) to come along and join in. FREE to all.

STARTING SOON

The hugely popular Flying Colours Image Workshop is now gathering up names for a new programme. Covering Colour Analysis, Face Shape & Hairstyle, Make-up, Body Shape and Scale, Wardrobe Planning and Future Plans. The complete programme costs £30 per person or can also be delivered to groups.

If you're interested in any of the above, give us a call, pop in for a chat, or simply turn up at the times shown to get started. Don't worry if you miss the start date, new people are joining all the time so come along when you can!

Contact: Susan Commerford on 028 7032 9550

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE FUND GRANTS AND LOANS

The Architectural Heritage Fund helps to repair and regenerate historic buildings by helping voluntary and community groups with grants, low interest loans and advice.

The deadline is 22 October 2009.

Telephone 020 7925 0199 or email ahf@ahfund.org.uk

The Housing Executive invites you to a conference for rural community groups on 13 November 2009 at Lough Neagh Discovery Centre

Is your community group interested in finding out about:

- how to get new housing association homes in your area?
- projects which support older and more vulnerable people in rural areas?
- funding opportunities for your community (eg through the Rural Development Programme)?
- the Housing Executive's plans for rural areas for the next three years?
- energy efficiency grants?

Places will be limited, so register your interest as soon as possible by contacting Maureen Kerr on 028 9031 8521 or Claire Carson on 028 9031 8524. There is no charge for attending this conference.