

2011



Dublin City
Baile Átha Cliath

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO BE INCLUDED

Happy Christmas & New Year from the Corporate Social Inclusion Committee

The Corporate Social Inclusion Committee consists of the following representatives

Bernadette Cogan	(Libraries)
Esther Hickey	(Roads & Traffic)
Fiona Richardson	(Engineering)
John Egan	(Housing)
Monica Murphy	(Housing)
Tom Hogan	(Facilities Management)
Veronica Plunkett	(Human Resources)
Robert Bambrick	(Access Unit)
Emma Deane	(Planning)
Máire Twomey	(Representing the five areas)
Coilin O'Reilly	(Culture , Recreation & Amenity)
Bernie Doherty & Hugh Fahey	(Social Inclusion)



Our role was to draw up a Social Inclusion Plan for the organisation to ensure that Social Inclusion is embedded in the thoughts and processes of every department.

We have met throughout the year and our plan for 2012 will be available in the New Year on Dubnet and www.dublincity.ie

If you have any query in relation to Social Inclusion, contact your departmental representative or the Social Inclusion Unit. You can phone 222 3139 or socialinclusion@dublincity.ie

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Social Inclusion and Integration

Intercultural Dublin

“Dublin declared an Intercultural City”

Intercultural Cities Project: A joint action of the Council of Europe and the European Commission

The Office for Integration in Dublin City Council (OFI) in association with Intercultural Cities Project, which is an initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Commission are delighted to have received formal status of Dublin as an Intercultural city.

The OFI has been working with the Intercultural Cities project for a number of years. As communities across Europe grow increasingly diverse, the way they manage diversity becomes a key challenge for the future. Successful cities and societies of the future will be intercultural: they will be capable of managing and exploring the potential of their cultural diversity to stimulate creativity and innovation and thus generate economic prosperity and a better quality of life. Diversity can be a resource for the development of a city if the public discourse, the city's institutions and processes, and the behaviour of people, take diversity positively into account.

Working with many organisations and community groups in the last five years, the OFI have developed and organised many projects, conferences, festivals and community actions that have worked to ensure the achievement of this status. “Towards Integration – A City framework” was the first key strategy for Dublin on addressing integration and intercultural issues. A number of key campaigns most significantly One City One People have continued the important work on preventing discrimination and racism and promoting human rights and interculturalism in the city.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin Andrew Montague with The Council of Europe Director of Culture and Heritage Robert Palmer formally launched Dublin as an Intercultural City at a special ceremony in association with Temple Bar Cultural Trust & Culture Night in City Hall, Dublin on Friday 23rd September with a celebration of intercultural music and celebration.

“One of Dublin’s strengths is in engaging citizens in its intercultural efforts. All possible means are being used to reach out to the greatest number – debates, festivals, art, street encounters, facebook...What makes it work is the genuine openness of the leadership to new ideas and initiatives from the grassroot” – Robert Palmer, Council of Europe.



Dublin 4th out of 29 cities on the Intercultural Cities Index!



Congratulations to the Office of Integration in Dublin City Council for achieving 4th out of 29 cities on the Intercultural Cities Index for the city of Dublin. The Intercultural Cities programme is a joint initiative between the Council of Europe and the European Commission. The new intercultural city index has been designed as a new benchmarking tool for designated Intercultural Cities taking part in the pilot phase of the programme as well as future participants. Dublin is ranked 4th out of 29 cities on this Intercultural Cities Index.

The 29 cities that have undergone their intercultural policies analysis using the Intercultural City Index are: Amadora (Portugal), Barcelona (Spain), Coopenhagen (Denmark), Donostia-San Sebastian (Spain), Dublin (Ireland), Duisburg (Germany), Geneva (Switzerland), Izhevsk (Udmart Republic, Russia), Limassol (Cyprus), Lisbon (Portugal), the London borough of Lewisham (United Kingdom), Lublin (Poland), Melitopol (Ukraine), Mexico City (Mexico), Montreal (Canada), Munich (Germany), Neuchâtel (Switzerland), Neukölln (Berlin, Germany), Oslo (Norway), Patras (Greece), Pryluky (Ukraine), Reggio Emilia (Italy), Rijeka (Croatia), Sechenkivsky (District of Kyiv, Ukraine), Subotica (Serbia) Tilburg (The Netherlands), Turnhout (Belgium), Vasteras (Sweden) and Zurich (Switzerland).

Social Inclusion and Integration

One City One People Dublin Says No to Racism and Discrimination

Dublin City Council's Office for Integration (OFI) led the initiative of "One City One People" for Dublin city. The focus was on the city's immigrant population to promote inclusion, integration and to combat racism and discrimination. The **One City One People** Campaign used a variety of media to promote the message that Dublin is an open city, a city which respects and embraces difference, is accessible, safe and equal and does not accept racism and discrimination.

The OFI with the support of the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration within the Department of Justice and Equality together with the participation of the city transport companies Veolia, Dublin Bus, DART Irish Rail promoted this campaign for a month. Along with these organisations museums, libraries, galleries, and open spaces promoted the message "Dublin Says No to Racism and Discrimination". A strong focus this year has been an examination of invisible and hidden discrimination and racism and uncovering of areas where such practice occurs.

For further information see **Facebook** at [Intercultural Dublin](#)

And the website <http://www.dublin.ie/arts-culture/one-city-one-people.htm>

Chinese New Year 2012

The Year of the Dragon

20th January – 3rd February 2012



Building on the success of recent Festivals we are delighted to welcome the Year of Dragon in 2012.

The year of the Dragon will see the second Chinese Film Festival including new venues and European premieres of films to include modern epics, martial arts, drama, documentaries and animation. A special seminar in Dublin City University will include Robert Hamilton a senior lecturer on Chinese cinema at Manchester Metropolitan University

A new Arts programme will include a focus on traditional Chinese culture - lion and dragon dancing, tai chi, martial arts, a children's arts programme with craft workshops and storytelling, a Peking Opera multi media project, Opera in the Open, a special photographic exhibition "China Through the Lens of John Thompson 1868 – 1872" at the Chester Beatty Library, a Chinese violin soloist in concert and musical performances.

Our annual DCNYF lecture series will see a focus on Dublin as the City of Science with a seminar in TCD Science Gallery, and other lectures on art, history and contemporary China. A business seminar will focus on the expanding economic engagement between Ireland and China and a special Chinese porcelain antiques road show will take place in the city.

A sports programme with badminton and table tennis will build up towards the London Olympics 2012 and a special carnival on Chinese New years Eve will take place in Temple Bar Square welcoming the Dragon and the mythical 'quilin'.

All information at www.cny.ie and facebook - Dublin Chinese New Year Festival.

facebook

Social Inclusion & the Lord Mayor



Ballymun Music Project Photocall—Beijing Visit



Akidwa book Launch "Home and Away"



Skyride in September



SARI Soccerfest Phoenix Park



Intercultural City with Council of Europe



Pat Murphy Community Garden

Social Inclusion and RAPID

South East Area Halloween Multi- Sports Programme

Dublin City Council South East Area Office, Sports and Community Teams worked together with the FAI Development Officer Jonathan Tormey to deliver hugely successful Multi-Sport Programme over the Halloween period in three venues, The Cabbage Patch, Pearse Area Recreation Centre and Irishtown Stadium. Over 70 children in the South East Area participated in a range of sports which included Football, Boxing, Cricket, Tag Rugby and Ultimate Frisbee.

A big thank you should also go to the staff in Pearse Area Recreation Centre for their work in organising and assisting the coaches to deliver the programme.

For further information contact Carol Finlay : carol.finlay@dublincity.ie



Finglas Community Hub Opened

The Finglas Community Hub was officially open on Wednesday 19th October 2011. The opening of the Community Hub represents a great example of how the local Community and agencies coming together can meet identified needs within their area. The basic idea behind the Community Hub is to provide much needed space for community activity in the Barry/Plunkett/Northway/Casement areas of Finglas. The types of activity that will take place in the Hub include the following:

- A breakfast Club
- Resource facility for St. Kevin's School
- Adult Education
- After Schools Clubs
- Youth Clubs
- Older Persons Clubs.



Pictured opening the facility are Mrs. Joan Smart Community Representative, Mrs. Noleen Griffiths Principle St. Kevin's BNS and Mr. Fergus Finlay CEO Barnardos.

Many thanks to all those involved in getting the project up and running.

For further information contact Larry Dooley by email larry.dooley@dublincity.ie or tel: 086 8150358

Social Inclusion & the Access Office



Tall Ships in Dublin August 2012 Access for All



The arrival of the Tall Ships in Dublin in 2012 will be a great opportunity to promote access for all. The participation of the Lord Nelson in the race is a shining example of what can be achieved in the area of accessibility. It is one of only two Class A Tall Ships that has been purpose built to enable people of all physical and sensory abilities to take an active role in sailing. It shows what can be achieved in a very confined space to provide access and should be seen by all designers of buildings and the built environment to show what is possible.

On a tour of Tenacious on 14th Sept 2011 the following features on board were noted

- Signs in Braille and Braille book
- Lifts between decks for wheelchair users or those of limited ability
- Vibrator pads fitted to bunks to provide emergency warning to people from the deaf community or those that are hard of hearing
- Power assisted steering to enable those with limited mobility to easily manoeuvre the ship
- An induction loop in the mess to assist those that are hard of hearing
- Wide aisles below decks
- Low level fittings
- Guidance track on deck to help blind and visually impaired navigate around ship
- Speaking compass to enable blind or visually impaired voyage crew to steer the ship
- Fixing points throughout the ship for wheelchairs in rough weather
- Bathrooms include full facilities for all physical abilities

36,000 people to date have sailed on the Lord Nelson or the Tenacious. Of these 12,500 have had disabilities including 4,500 wheelchair users. This should be an example to us all, as we strive to make Dublin an accessible city and allow all our tourists, visitors and citizens to enjoy a city which has access for all.

For further information contact Tom Johnson at 222 3468 or email tom.johnson@dublincity.ie or access www.accessdublin.ie



Social Inclusion and Age Friendly Cities

Dublin Declaration for Age Friendly Cities.



Dublin's Lord Mayor Andrew Montague welcomed colleagues, Mayors and Civic Leaders from some 32 cities around the Globe to Dublin to co-sign the Dublin Declaration for Age Friendly Cities. This unique gathering of City Leaders, took place in City Hall on the 28th September. Cities such as New York, Oakland (California), Mexico City, and La Plata (Argentina) joined with European Cities like Manchester, Bilbao, Bern (Switzerland), Barcelona, Ljubljana, Lyon and Udine(Italy) and with Asian Cities such as Seoul, Akita(Japan), Chia-Yi(Taiwan) in signing up to a new Global Network of Age Friendly Cities cemented together through the Dublin Declaration. The Declaration was also signed by the participating Irish Counties in Dublin's City Hall.

The aim of the Declaration is to solicit support for a range of actions that are broadly based on the eight domains identified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in its Global Age-friendly Cities Guide. It was developed following extensive consultation with a wide range of experts in the field and a number of cities across the world.

The core principles of the Declaration can be summarised as follows;

- Ensure awareness of older people, their rights, their needs, their potentials.
- Develop processes of citizen-centred engagement to ensure that older people have a meaningful involvement in decision making.
- Develop urban and other public places that are inclusive.
- Include housing for older people that is of the highest quality.
- Provide public transport systems that are available and affordable to older people.
- Promote the participation of older people in social and cultural life.
- Promote and support the development of employment and volunteering opportunities
- Ensure community support and health services are available to older people

The signing of the Dublin Declaration was held in association with the *1st* International Conference on Age-Friendly Cities which was held in Dublin from 28th-30th September 2011. The conference was co-hosted by the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities, the Ageing Well Network Ireland and the International Federation on Ageing.

Social Inclusion & You

Digital Inclusion for people who are over 55 years of age.



According to recent research, over half a million Irish people over the age of 55 don't use the internet on a regular basis. This group is in danger of being "digitally excluded", cut off from access to services and sources of information and communication which are only available online. As part of Dublin City Council's policy of promoting digital inclusion in the city, the Community Development Section, in partnership with Age Action, offers free computer classes in venues throughout Dublin city.

The classes are based on Age Action's successful "Getting Started" programme in which trained volunteer tutors work 1-to-1 with a learner. The classes take place in 18 Sheltered Housing Complexes (SHCs) in different parts of the city. Classes are open to residents and also to members of the surrounding community. The majority of classes are aimed at helping absolute beginners take their first steps with computers. However a variety of other activities are aimed at encouraging sustained use of ICT. These include: running "improvers" classes; organising "drop in" times when learners can practice outside formal classes; mobile phone classes; help in setting up and maintaining websites; guidance on acquiring and using personal ICT equipment.

A series of workshops for larger groups of improvers on internet shopping have proved popular since the bad weather last winter. The project has proved an effective approach in promoting digital inclusion. Since it start in 2008, over 1200 learners and over 150 volunteer tutors have taken part.



For more information on the project see www.bit.ly/gs-dcc or contact Robert Carroll at 087-9231126 or rcarroll@ageaction.ie.

You can also contact Peter Dee, Dublin.ie at 222 2196.



Eager tutors and students on first day of recent class in Heskin Court, Merrion Road.



Students, tutors and certificates on last day of class in Fr Lar Redmond Centre in Drimnagh

Social Inclusion & You

HEADWAY

Bringing **positive change** in the lives of those affected by Acquired Brain Injury

Headway provides support and services to people affected by brain injury. Founded in 1985, Headway works to heighten public and political awareness of acquired brain injury and the impact it has on individuals, families and carers. Headway's mission is:

To bring about positive change in the lives of those affected by an acquired brain injury.

Pictured at an art exhibition combining with Halcion Street Arts, St Audeons Adult Education Pearse Street and Headway are Annemarie Durcan, Pat Langan and Martin Taylor.

This exhibition was run in the Atrium of the Civic Offices, Wood Quay in November 2011.

Brain Injury and Support Line 1890 200 278 see also www.headway.ie



Pat Murphy Community Garden.

Lord Mayor Andrew Montague opened the Pat Murphy Community Garden on 20th September 2011. This Garden in Newcomen Court was developed under the Larkin Centre's Community Education Programme. This site was previously a derelict site and DCC donated a section of the site under a licence agreement. The Botanic Gardens also assisted and a large number of people in the community were also involved. This garden evolved from the Men's Health & Wellbeing programme, an initiative developed to encourage men to take better care of themselves. They started the garden and grew their own vegetables and noticed a knock-on effect on their weight and health. The garden also includes recycling projects including reusing discarded election posters to line the boxes or raised beds to minimise moisture loss.

Photos of some Dub



Dublin City Events



Social Inclusion and Community Development

Positive Ageing Week 2011 23rd September - 1st October 2011

Positive ageing week is a festival which highlights the positive aspects of ageing. It celebrates the contribution older people make in their communities. The aim is to dispel the negative perceptions that surround ageing and to transform attitudes towards ageing and older people. We need to celebrate the fact we are living longer, that ageing is not a burden but an opportunity.



Positive ageing week within Ballymun, Whitehall, and Santry has been organised by a wide variety of community, voluntary and statutory agencies and aims to provide something for everyone. The steering committee has been awarded "Positive Ageing Week Town" status and the area has been chosen as one of 15 towns nationally to be a Positive Ageing Week Town. Dublin City Council Community Development Section plays an active role in the organisation of Community activities for older adults in this area, and is proud to be a part of such a vibrant programme of activities.

Dublin City Councils Community Development Section, Ballymun, hosted a special evening on Friday, 30th September 2011, to celebrate Positive Ageing in Ballymun, in association with Ballymun/Whitehall Partnership. This year, the Ballymun Civic Centre catered for over two hundred people. The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Andrew Montague was in attendance on the night, and it was a very lively evening with music and dance to the sounds of the Artane Senior Band.

For further information please email Brian Mongey at brian.mongey@dublincity.ie

Otherworld 2011

The Ballymun Otherworld Festival took place during the month of October culminating in an event that attracted over 5,000 people from the local area and beyond on Halloween night. The organising committee arranged art, drama and dance class's for all the children in 3rd - 4th class as well as transition students in the local Secondary school and all the local youth clubs in the area in the lead up. On Halloween night the Civic Plaza was transformed into a festival village with an exciting choice of entertainment for all ages and tastes. The festival closed with a massive fire works display. The event was streamed live on An Lár TV and attracted an audience from countries around the world.

For further information please email Brian Mongey at brian.mongey@dublincity.ie

Dublin take Top Prizes in All-Island Pride of Place Competition

A Dublin project took top prizes in the annual Co-operation Ireland All-Island Pride of Place Awards announced at the gala ceremony in Gorey, County Wexford on Saturday (5 November).

The Carmelites in Whitefriar Street won top accolade in Category 1 of the Cities Competition. The judges said, "The name of this inner city area is synonymous with the group that operates there. Their facility provides a wonderful resource for the local community. It is a focal point for a special community spirit. Social, recreational and economic services are all provided under the auspices of this landmark centre".



The Pride of Place competition was established in association with Co-Operation Ireland 9 years ago to acknowledge in a meaningful manner the selfless work being done by people in communities all over the island of Ireland. It is recognition of the work being done to create communities for tomorrow while respecting the heritage and culture of the past. It is also about giving local authorities an opportunity to participate in the heart of their communities because we have a responsibility to build complete communities.

For further information contact Bernie Lillis at 01 222 4243 or 086 6060012.

Social Inclusion and Community Development

Halloween for Adults



Workshops on the world of Sheridan Le Fanu were held in Canon Troy House, Chapelizod Hill on the 24th and 25th October. Organised by Dublin City Council's Arts Office these workshops were attended by local residents and members of the local heritage groups. The workshops opened with open discussion about Le Fanu and his work, in the context of influences within Chapelizod during the late 1800s. The discussions were lively and a springboard for the use of some drama exercises to reflect the themes discussed.

On 26th October, there was a Halloween evening reading performance by Actor Gerard Byrne of "*The Spectre Lovers*" a Chapelizod Ghost Story. This reading included cellist Jane Hughes. The event was most enjoyable with a full house in attendance. Those who attended the drama workshop exploring the Victorian period expressed the view that it had enriched their experience of this reading event. Thanks to those who participated and indeed to the Arts Office and the local Community Development Team who organised these events.

Green Loop Trail

An Environmental awareness workshop took place, on October 2nd along the Banks of the Canal at Killeen Road, adults and children from the local area participated in educational games and activities around biodiversity. This event celebrated national Trail Day.



Ballyfermot Environmental Awards

Judging of the local environmental competition took place during the summer months, results and presentation to winners took place in the Ballyfermot Leisure Centre last November. Congratulations to the winners and all who participated.



Riverview Court

Residents of Riverview Court Chapelizod stood and danced in the rain at their Summer Garden party last August. Music was provided by *the group Pastimes* who had the crowd on their feet and singing along within minutes of their arrival. Due to our summer weather the garden party was quickly relocated indoors to the community room.



For more information contact Mary Noonan at 01 621 5939

Drimnagh Community Festival:

Former Olympic champion Michael Carruth officially opened the Drimnagh Community Festival that ran from 23rd to 25th September 2011. There was a Boxing Exhibition by the Drimnagh Boxing Club. Traditional music sessions took place in Good Counsel G.A.A. Club. Art and Storytelling Workshops were held in Our Lady's Hall. A soccer blitz took place in Brickfield Park. There were tours of historic Drimnagh Castle, a Battle of Bands in the Bosco Youth Club, a Residents Association Dinner Dance in the Red Cow Hotel and a 60's / 70's night in the G.A.A. Hall and many more events. All these events were free with support from the Crumlin Area Office, Dublin City Council Arts Office, Events Section, Children's Services Unit and Community and Voluntary Groups in Drimnagh as well as local businesses.



For further information please contact Carmel McCartney tel: 2225507

Social Inclusion and Community Development

Ceannt Fort

A group of residents from Ceannt Fort contacted the Community Staff in the Kilmainham Area Office of Dublin City Council looking for support for an environmental improvement project following a recent tragedy in the area. Their proposal was to improve the entrance to Ceannt Fort at an area locally known as the 'triangle' with low maintenance planting in remembrance of a young local man. Local community staff worked with the group throughout the summer months, and the project was completed on the 17th of August. Local residents are very happy about the improvement. The picture shows the completed work and we are very grateful to Christina Geraghty and the local resident's group in the area.



Contact
Robert
Chester at tel:
086/8150932

Volunteering to do a Clean Up !

The Kilmainham Area Office and Dublin City South Volunteer Centre worked together for this year's National Volunteer Day and co-ordinated volunteers in their drives to support the residents of our older person's complexes in Bulfin Court, La Touche Court, Memorial Court and Bernard Curtis Court in a Spring Clean Campaign. The volunteers cleaned, swept, polished, vacuumed and most of all uplifted the spirits of the residents as they worked. 35 kind hearted, hard working and fun loving volunteers participated and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the initiative. It is hoped that this program may run on a continuous basis as the need arises.



Back row - l-r Fran O'Shea, Paul O'Flaherty, Carlos Carreiro, John McDonald, Peggy Beckett

Front row- r-l Geoff Hughes, Gillian Dawson, Alpha Gassama, Fred Trench

Marty Clancy 087 910 37 34

Kilmainham Arts Festival



The second Kilmainham Arts Festival took place on 26th and 27th of August and was a great success, thanks to the funding and support of DCC, local business and the many, many artists involved. At the festival launch Lord mayor Andrew Montague laid out the intention of the festival beautifully – to provide a focus and a connection point, not just between artist and public but within the community.

The festival was spread over several venues: The rails of the old Courthouse were used for an extensive outdoor exhibition of art. Art workshops for adults and children took place in the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA). There was a designated film and drama room in the Hilton. 270 pieces of art from children were exhibited. On the grounds of IMMA there was a main music stage and four tents with art, poetry, drama and workshops. World music and culture were very present in the festival, from the African drum and dance workshops to the world dance event in the Hilton. Tango, Iranian dance and tribal bellydance mixed with world music DJ Nigel Wood's ambient grooves, the vocal group *Chaos In Harmony* shared chants from around the world.

This free festival was set up by Kilmainham Arts Club. The tremendous support and energy behind this venture is an indicator of the desire for people in the area to connect with one another through the arts. A huge thank you to those who helped make the festival possible and to those who added their energy to the mix on the day. Hopefully next year we will be able to go ahead, improve on what we did and have some fun together in the process!

Kilmainham Arts Club <http://www.kilmainhamartsclub.com>

Download Free Templates & Forms at Speedy Template <http://www.SpeedyTemplate.com/>

Social Inclusion and Community Development



Christmas Craft & Games Fair

Saturday 10th December
12:00-3:30pm
Kilmore West Recreation Centre.

Christmas Craft Market,
Bric-a-Brac,
Lucky dip,
Spots v Stripes games
Toss Santa's Boot, Hoopla
& Much Much More.

A Christmas celebration
for all to enjoy!!!

All Proceeds in aid of
Kilmore West Afterschool Project

FREE ADMISSION - DONATIONS WELCOME

Social Inclusion, Children & Young People

Comhairle na nÓg AGM by Gillian Murtagh



The Dublin City Comhairle na nÓg AGM was held on the 13th October 2011, in Croke Park. I held the role of chairperson and I am delighted to be able to share my experiences with you. The purpose of the AGM is to elect new members to the Comhairle, and find out what topics are most effecting young people, so that the Comhairle will be able to address these problems in the future. But, we did not reach these final outcomes without hard work and preparation from the Comhairle and of course the staff of the Children's Services Unit of Dublin City Council.

The day kicked off by welcoming all the new candidates and members of the present Comhairle gave excellent presentations on Comhairle na nÓg and our work last year. Everyone broke into smaller groups to get down to business. The candidates once again broke into smaller groups, to decide on a current and important issue, that the Comhairle could focus on in their upcoming term. Later in the day, one candidate would be elected onto the Comhairle from each of these subgroups.

After a break with music, friendships were formed over cocktail sausages and orange juice. Then the time had come to elect new members onto the Comhairle. The organisers were bustling around, making sure that everything was running smoothly. Votes were counted, presentations were practiced and photographs were taken. The members of Comhairle encouraged candidates to take part in the Comhairle's latest venture - 'liking' the Comhairle's Facebook page, "Young Dublin".

When the votes had been counted, we welcomed 23 new members onto our Comhairle, and it was decided that our topic to work on for the year would be bullying and the action would be to create an anti-bullying club in schools to give information and work on involving teachers and the Gardaí. This club would give children a voice and a chance to be heard. The day gave the young people involved the opportunity to see what needed changing in their communities, and the inspiration to turn these ideas into reality. On behalf of Comhairle, I would like to thank everyone involved in the AGM, for making it the wonderful success that it was, and I look forward to working with the newly elected Comhairle in the future

For further information contact Nina Farrell at 222 5394 or email nina.farrell@dublincity.ie



Comhairle na Óg on the Radio

Myself and seven other members of Comhairle na Óg nation-wide were invited by our Comhairle co-ordinators to take part in a RTÉ radio programme on the 2nd of November 2011, called Before Their Time. Of course none of us would pass up the chance for a taste of fame, regardless of how brief it was and greatly anticipated our chance to take part in a show where reality is as bizarre, if not more so, than fiction.

That fateful day, we arrived in the RTÉ radio building in Donnybrook, and our team of teens from across the country got to know one another a little better before we faced our competitors. The show featured two teams of young adults, aged between 17 and 21, and asked questions with three potential answers. The questions are odd; the answers are stranger. Using our own abundant supply of logic, we had to decide in pairs which answer was the most reasonable – or, at best, the least unbelievable.

The production itself was brilliantly fun. With the option of mumbling into our microphone disallowed, many of us made ourselves as loud, ditzzy and ridiculous as possible, resulting in a huge amount of laughs from our live studio audience. Indeed, there will be such a time when our wonderful show shall reach the homes of people nationally. Keep an ear out Ireland – Comhairle na nÓg will be on RTÉ radio over the Christmas holidays, and we're a noisy bunch!!

By Elizabeth Nolan, aged 17

Social Inclusion, Children & Young People

Primary Playground Improvement Initiative 2010 -2011

Presentation Primary School, Warrenmount, Blackpitts, Dublin 8 is an inner-city school which caters for 310 pupils – boys and girls from Junior Infants to 1st class and girls only from 2nd to 6th. Pupils, teachers and parents contacted Dublin City Council and got involved in improving play opportunities for their children. The plan aims to encourage all agencies to play their part in helping make Dublin a more child friendly playful city. Presentation Primary Warrenmount, in consultation with DCC, examined their school play opportunities with a view to seeing how they could be improved and the learning shared, so that other schools could gain from the initiative.

Throughout the school year 2010 – 2011 small changes were made – some equipment was introduced such as blackboards, skipping ropes, balls. Improvements to the main playground were carried out during the summer holidays 2011 and the feedback is positive. Children have adjusted well to the changes and engaged readily in the activities. Children who in the past tended to spend a lot of time alone have a base to go to, something to play with and buddies to look out for them. Bickering and fighting have been reduced with teachers reporting on overall a better atmosphere. Of course there are also challenges such as the upkeep of equipment including cleaning / replacement and the ongoing organisation of the buddy system. However, on the whole taking this inclusive approach to playground improvements was very worthwhile.



For further information contact: play@dublincity.ie

School website: www.presentationprimarywarrenmount.com

School contact no: 01 453 9547

East Wall Recreation Centre Mid Term Break

East Wall recreation centre celebrated Halloween with a haunted house, fireworks display and a magician. Parents and children were also treated to a performance of "thriller" from boys and girls in the club. There was a football tournament and a pool tournament organised during the week. The staff in the recreation centre would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who volunteered during the mid term break. Their help and support ensured the midterm was enjoyed by the all the young people.

For further information contact Derek Buckley at eastwallplaycentre@hotmail.com



The Eastwall Recreation Thriller Club and the girls team who won the mid term soccer tournament again in Eastwall.

Play Development Officer Retires



Anne O'Brien, Dublin City Council's first ever Play Development Officer has retired. She inspired so many people to value play and recognise adult's responsibilities to protect and promote play opportunities. Anne has led the team that developed the City Councils Play Plan – Ready Steady Play and the draft Citywide Play Plan. She has been a passionate Comhairle na n'Óg coordinator, working tirelessly to raise the status of Comhairle and ensure members are supported to be the voice of young people in the city. Social inclusion was the backbone of Anne's work

Anne - best of luck for a long and happy retirement.

Social Inclusion & the Community Forum

Úna Uí Lachtnain

Chairwoman of Dublin City Community Forum

All my life I have been involved with voluntary/community bodies. Most of these deal with the Irish language/Irish culture, but having been married to Sean Dublin Bay Loftus it was inevitable that I would also be involved with environmental issues! I was involved with all of his work, but in my own right with the Bull Island Action Group. I have worked with organisations at local level but also with those at national level- I am Uachtarán Oireachtas na Gaeilge for 2011.



Ten years ago when I attended the meeting in Civic offices where representatives from voluntary/community groups in the city were introduced to the Community Forum, I welcomed the idea eagerly. The objective was to develop a fair and inclusive method for the representation of voluntary and community groups on the City Development Board, Area Committees, SPCs etc. I have been a member of the executive since then and am in my third year as chairperson. I spent five years as an elected member of Dublin City Development Board representing the Forum.

What the Community Forum does is give a voice to the people at ground level, as members of particular interest groups (apart from their input as individuals into the democratic system) It is a question of "Ní neart go cuir le chéile" When working properly, the Community Forum enables the flow of information and the exchange of ideas from the ground up to where decisions are made and from the top down. It is an example of real democracy.

A review of the Community Forum, which was carried out two years ago, recommended that the Forum needed to become more area based. A number of meetings have taken place with the local Community groups/organisations throughout the city with a view to their involvement in supporting and developing Neighbourhood/Area based Fora.

To date we have set up three Neighbourhood Fora in D6W/Crumlin/Walkinstown and Drimnagh. They will in turn feed into an Area based Forum. Meetings will now take place in the following areas over the coming months- Kilmainham, Inchicore and Bluebell.

As meetings are continually taking place throughout the city with community/voluntary organisations to promote the Area based Fora, we are hopeful that organisations such as the Navan Road/Pelletstown Community council and the Artane/Montrose/Ardmore/Lorcan Community councils will have set up Neighbourhood/ Area Fora by the end of the year.

People often ask why I spend so much time working for voluntary bodies, but in fact it is not completely unselfish, one gets much more from the involvement than one puts in.



For information on Dublin Community Forum

phone Tony Hynes at 222 3259 or email communityforum@dublin.ie

Social Inclusion & the Community Forum



Dublin City
**Childcare
Focus
Group**

Dublin City Childcare Focus Group AGM and Annual Parents and Providers event took place on Wednesday 23rd November in the beautiful Wood Quay Venue's City Wall Space. It is also notable that the Childcare Focus Group was celebrating its 10th birthday.

Registration began at 6.00pm and light refreshments were available. Literature was available from both Dublin City Childcare Committee and Barnardos. At 6.30 pm the fully booked event began with Chairperson Teresa Quigley giving an overview of work carried out by the Childcare Focus Group since its establishment in 2001.

Nuala Harmeey was the guest speaker for the evening. Nuala is a social worker now working as bereavement coordinator in the Children's University Hospital in Temple Street and also works with bereaved children and their families. The presentation looked at issues that arise for children experiencing loss and how they can be supported and helped. Many of those present have had at least some degree of responsibility for children experiencing loss and the question and answer session was a wonderful opportunity to check things out. Many thanks to Nuala for taking some of the fear out of dealing with these issues.

The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all and finished up with everyone heading home with a piece of the 10th birthday cake.

In addition to the presentation, Nuala Harmeey and Bernie O'Donoghue (Vice Chairperson) recorded an interview with Joseph Keegan from NearFM for their regular health and lifestyle programme which airs weekdays from 9.30am -11.00am.



Upcoming Events



Christmas Events in Community and Recreation Centres

Hardwicke Street Community & Recreation Centre:

- 14th December— Carol Singing Supper Night for all Residents 7pm to 10pm donations will go to Temple Street Hospital.
- 15th December— Family Day to 7up on Ice in Kilmainham.
- 20th December— 4pm to 6pm Santa Clause's Disco Party. Visit Santa and his Elves in his grotto, lots of presents, entertainment and goodies.

Georges Place Community & Recreation Centre:

- 15th December— Family Day to 7up on Ice in Kilmainham
- 20th December— Santa Visits Georges Place Club.

Dominick Street Youth Community & Recreation Centre:

- 19th December— Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner, Karaoke, Raffle, 4pm until 8pm.
- 20th December— Santa and his elves will be in the grotto 4pm until 6pm.
- 21st December— Children and Adults will attend the Pantomime In the Olympia Theatre Jedward and the Beanstalk.

St. Paul's Queen Street Community & Recreation Centre:

- 14th December— Children will visit Santa's Forest, Lullymore Park
- 16th December— Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner Party, Music, Spot prizes. 5pm until late.

Lets Walk & Talk December 2011

'Let's Walk & Talk' will take a short break over the Christmas period. The final walk this year will take place on Tuesday, 20th December and walks will resume on Tuesday, 3rd January 2012. Walks do not take place during times of ice/snow/dangerous weather conditions.

www.letswalkandtalk.ie

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For the last 4 years Anna Brannigan has designed and produced the Social Inclusion Magazine for the Social Inclusion Unit. Anna is leaving her current post and will no longer be doing this job. A very big thank you to Anna for all her great work in producing this and past magazines.

Bernie and Hugh

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