

New Housing and Environment Officer

South Belfast Partnership Board has appointed Lucille O'Neill as its new Housing and Environment Officer. Lucille will be supporting the Partnership Board's work with communities across south Belfast on addressing issues around housing and the local environment.

Botanic Urban Village

South Belfast Partnership Board secured funding from NIHE to employ two postgraduate students from Queen's University Belfast, over the summer, to develop a masterplan for the regeneration of the Botanic area. The masterplan includes a range of proposals for the Botanic area including a mix of social and affordable housing, as well as some private housing and work units on the Posnett Street site. While the masterplan has no statutory authority it will be of great use to Donegall Pass Community Forum in developing plans for the development of the Posnett Street site.

Strategic Regeneration Framework

There has been a range of programmes focusing on regenerating areas of south Belfast. To date, however, there has been no overall development plan for the south of the City. South Belfast Partnership Board, through funding from Department for Social Development, is in the process of developing a Strategic Regeneration Framework for South Belfast. The framework will provide a context for the future development of the south of the City and will address issues such as health, employment, education, public services, and public spaces, as well as how south Belfast connects with the rest of the City. As part of the process the Partnership Board will be consulting with local people through community groups in their area to ensure their views influence the development of the Framework.

The "Pass In View" Project

On Monday 26th March 2007 the Forum was delighted to receive a letter from *Lloyds TSB Foundation for Northern Ireland* offering 100% funding for a proposed "Pass In View" project. The grant enabled the Forum to purchase digital cameras, together with necessary accessories, and to engage the services and expertise of *Daniela Balmaverde* as tutor. One of the project outcomes is to enable women to learn digital imaging and photography skills ('journalistic' and creative) through digital camera training and image rendition techniques in I.T. - focused on local women's lived experiences, views and perspectives.

The training element of the project has now been completed (not the overall project, however) - so, in the interim, the Forum has decided to 'showcase' some of the women's work on its website (go to www.donegallpass.org and, on the home page, click on the Lloyds TSB logo).



Low-resolution monochrome reproduction of a colour photograph taken by a "Pass In View" participant.

At the forthcoming Forum AGM (scheduled for 20th February 2008, in the Community Centre), a selection of the photographs taken by the women will be displayed. In the meantime, if any women who, for whatever reason, have not taken part in the project consider that they have some ideas for taking photographs that reflect life in the Pass (good or bad aspects) - please contact Ken at the Forum (90326256).

Regeneration Issues In The Pass

The Forum has now received a copy of the Botanic Urban Village masterplan. This includes the Posnett Street site.

The next step in the process will be for the community to engage with the Housing Executive as to the best way forward. This will be done through the Forum and the newly established Donegall Pass Community Development Company. The Forum will consult ALL of the community before they engage the Housing Executive.

The Community Development Company has also had dialogue with Belfast City Council to explore the possibility of the community taking ownership of the Community Centre. This is still in its infancy but a successful outcome would open new possibilities for the centre.

Funding applications have been submitted for a feasibility study to be carried out on the 'IncluZion Zone' building. If successful, the Community Development Company will be seeking funding to build a "One-stop-shop" Community Resource Centre on the site. One major funding body has already expressed an interest in the concept.

Major developments in the area proceed - even when the community strongly objects. The planners have given permission for a 7-story build of apartments on the old McGonagle's site at the back of Coyle's Place. The developer has also ignored the community and refuses to contact or consult with them. So much for the much-heralded "Shared Future" and "Shared Space" propaganda, which does not apply, it seems, to those with money.

Seniors' Silver Surfer Club

The Forum is very interested in starting a 'Silver Surfer' Club for Seniors. The idea revolves around getting a group of Seniors together during, say, an afternoon (or two) every week in the Forum's computer suite to surf the Internet and, should they so desire, set up email accounts so that they can maintain contact with friends and relatives living overseas (or, nearer at hand).

Ken will be on hand to 'show you the ropes' and get you off to a good start - so don't worry, you'll enjoy yourself!

During the sessions, of course, Seniors will have the opportunity to chat among themselves and have a cup of tea or coffee.

Any Senior who's interested should contact Ken at the Forum (90326256) or have a word with Leanne Mills (90326256). We're looking forward to hearing from you!

The Shared History Project

The 'Shared History Project', facilitated and co-ordinated by the Ulster People's College - involving residents from Donegall Pass, members of the Polish community and the Chinese community - first met together during September 2006. The project was instigated as part of the South Belfast Roundtable on Racism's wider strategy of promoting good relations and identifying programmes that can effectively tackle racist attitudes.

After their initial meeting, the individual groups researched and collated written and photographic material - before coming together to share their work verbally. By examining and sharing 'who we are' and how various peoples came to live together in Belfast - it is hoped that diverse cultural groupings can build relationships of understanding and trust to enable us all to work together to make Belfast a better, and safer, place for everyone.

The project display has been shown at numerous and various venues (including Belfast City Hall).

The Donegall Pass group's section of the project is displayed on the Forum's website (www.donegallpass.org).

On the site's home page, click on the 'Shared History' button on the navigation bar.

A short account of the evolution of the 'Pass' during



Image from 'Shared History' project (low-resolution monochrome)

the past 200 years, or so, is given - together with links to a 'potted biography' of Mary Ann McCracken and pages which tell the stories of three Donegall Pass residents - where they came from, how they arrived in the Pass, their lives over the longer term and what they expect in the future. So, have a look - it'll be worth the effort.

South Belfast Highway 2 Health

A range of successful programmes has been delivered within the area over the past year by SBH2H, including the *Sexual Health Empowerment Programme and Residential, Cook-It* programmes for young people and the cancer screening provided by Action Cancer.

SBH2H works in partnership with key agencies to ensure the best quality service provision within the area, and the current activities of the project include:

- Fruit breaks for Surestart and Botanic Primary School (delivered weekly)
- Complementary Therapies: Mon 11am - 1pm - Community Centre
- Girls Dance: Mon 3.30 - 4.45 - Community Centre
- Women's Group: Wed 7pm - 9pm - Forum Offices
- Cardio Combat: Wed 7pm-8pm - Community Centre
- Men's Football Training: Wed 8pm -9pm - Queen's PE Centre
- Older and Active Programme: Thurs 10am - 1pm - Various Centres
- Surestart (Baby Dance): Thurs 11am -12.15 - Community Centre
- Seniors' Lunch Club: Fri 12.30 - 1.30 - Community Centre

Some new and exciting programmes will be starting in the New Year, so look out for the information coming to your door and I'll look forward to seeing you at the events. Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Leanne Mills (Health Development Worker)

Employability Outreach Support Service

This service (provided by GEMS NI) is available on Wednesday afternoons, from 2.30pm onwards, in the Forum offices. Andrew Snowdon, the worker assigned to Donegall Pass, will, among other services and advice, offer help and support with job application forms, CVs, Career Guidance and Occupational Information. If you need help with getting a job, or other employment-related guidance, contact the Forum for an appointment.

Kitchen Replacement Scheme, Phase 2

Phase 2 of the Kitchen Replacement Scheme is now near completion - so that the first 9 houses, under the scheme, can be signed off to the satisfaction of the tenant and the NIHE. The remainder of Phase 2 should commence from mid-January 2008.

Phase 3, which applies to Vernon Street, Vernon Court, Virginia Way, Posnett Street, Posnett Court and Elm Street, should begin during the first quarter of 2008.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner

The Donegall Pass Community Group would like to take this opportunity to thank the local business people who gave much-appreciated donations towards the Christmas Dinner for our Senior Citizens - who had a very enjoyable night. Our warm thanks to: Flour Power; Harrison Healthcare; Sean Graham; Hearth Housing Association; The Price Is Right.

New Application For Housing? Do It By Phone!

Housing Executive

Do you want to make a new application for housing?



Want to apply for transfer from your Housing Executive home?



You can now do this by telephone - you do not need to fill out an application



You will be asked for some basic information about your application



You will then be offered a morning or afternoon appointment with a housing officer who will call with you to assess your circumstances



If you wish to apply, please phone 0844 8920 900



Donegall Pass Community Jobs Club
Take the hard work out of finding a job! The Forum, through its work with the South Belfast Employability Forum and its partnership work with GEMS NI, is undertaking work to establish a Jobs Club for Donegall Pass. The Forum's conference/training room can be set aside for use as a Jobs Club, once or twice a week, for the

use of local people who are fed up being unemployed and are genuinely interested in finding, or training for, work. On offer will be: *career guidance*, help with *CVs*, *interview preparation*, *filling in application forms*, *benefits advice*, *money issues*, *training* and *searching job vacancies*.

The Jobs Club will offer informal 'drop-in' facilities for genuine job hunters. If you're interested - contact Ken at 9032 6256.

Don't Let Thieves Steal Your Christmas



Most burglaries are committed by opportunist thieves and can be prevented by thinking about the security of your home.

There are certain steps that **you** can take to reduce the risk of **your** house

being burgled:

- Secure your back yard - consider topping the wall with anti-climb paint.
- Fit good quality deadlocks to all exterior doors, plus window locks to all ground floor windows - and remember to use them!
- Lighting - install timer switches inside your home and sensor lights outside.
- Secure the keys to your house and car at night
- Be a good neighbour - report suspicious activity immediately to the police.

Remember - S.E.C.U.R.E.

S - Suspicious activity - report immediately to the Police.

E - Ensure all Christmas presents and valuables are out of sight.

C - Check that all doors and windows are locked and secure.

U - Use a bank or Post Office to keep your money safe.

R - Remember - Police are doing all they can to make culprits amenable.

E - Every step you take will help to deter the opportunist thief.

Useful Numbers

- Advice Worker (*Marie - Tuesdays*): 9032 6256
- Advice Worker (*John - Thursdays*): 9032 6256
- Donegall Pass Community Forum: 9032 6256
- Employability Outreach (*Andrew - Wednesdays*): 9032 6256
- GEMS NI: 9033 2313
- Gingerbread N.I. (*Lone Parents*): 9023 1417
- Housing Executive: 08448 920900 (*Main*)
08448 920901 (*Repairs*); 08448 920902 (*Housing Benefit Enquiries*)
- Job Centre (South Belfast): 9054 5432
- Labour Relations Agency: 9032 1442
- P.S.N.I.: 9065 0222. *For non-emergencies, 'phone 0845 600 8000 ('phone Crimestoppers, anonymously on 0800 555 111).*
- South Belfast Highway2Health (*Leeanne Mills*): 9032 6256



THE PASS FORUM NEWS



Welcome to the December issue of 'The Pass' and a Very Merry Christmas to you all. We hope that we will be able to produce 'The Pass' on, at least, a quarterly basis in the future - so, 'keep an eye out'. In the meantime, your contacts at the Forum are: *Development Manager*, Elaine Mansfield; *Training, Education, Jobs*, Ken Orr; *Regeneration*, Jim McKinley; *Health*, Leeanne Mills; *Admin/General Enquiries*, Helen Killen - all at 9032 6256.



Donegall Pass Women's Group

Following the successful Women's Pamper Night - "Top to Toe" on the 27th September 07, a Women's Group was established that could represent the area. This will be a much needed addition to the progress of Community Development in Donegall Pass.

We would welcome anyone who feels they would like to be part of this new and exciting venture. Please speak to anyone of the Women's Group should you wish to join (contact the Forum if you don't know anyone in the group and they will pass your details on). The group currently meets on a Wednesday night 7-9pm in Donegall Pass Community Forum.

The group is currently completing Basic First Aid Training, and will be beginning a *Women in Leadership* course (OCN Level 2) after Christmas, as well as meeting with other Women's Groups and hopefully in the future we will be planning events for the local community.

Children's Christmas Party

Donegall Pass Community Centre, Apsley Street, is providing a Christmas Party for children on Wednesday 19th December 2007.

The festive fun includes:

Santa's Grotto which is open 2pm-4pm (for under 8 year olds) and 7pm-8pm (for children who are 8 years old or over). For a very small charge of £1 per child, Santa will be providing gifts for all *good* children - a photo with Santa is also included.

Elve's Party from 7pm to 9.30pm. All children under the age of 5 years old *must* be accompanied by an adult (no exceptions). There are lots of fun and games to be played - for all ages. Everyone welcome!

If you have any queries, contact Leeanne Mills at 9032 6256 or the Community Centre at 9032 6771.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Hamper Scheme

All Donegall Pass residents over the age of 60years will be able to avail of a small Christmas Food Hamper. The hampers will be delivered the week before Christmas.

The following organisations have all supported the initiative both by providing food and monetary donations to help purchase food: Hideout Bar, Water Margin Restaurant, PSNI, Fonezone, Flour Power, Harrison's Healthcare, Rubber Stamp

Co., Benedicts, Donegall Pass Community Forum and South Belfast Highway 2 Health. The PSNI will also be providing a safety alarm for each hamper. A huge thanks must go to all of the above organisations, without their support this project would most definitely not have been a success.

Ballots were sold to raise money and the draw took place in the Forum offices on 10th December at 2pm. The winners: *1st prize*, William Laverty; *2nd prize*, Sandra; *3rd prize*, John Dean; *4th prize*, Jake Harrison; *5th prize*, Anna Jess; *6th prize*, Rab Hollywood; *7th prize*, Sadie Taylor

Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership

Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership was established in 2005 to lead a co-ordinated approach to regeneration across the communities of Donegall Pass, Lower Ormeau and the Markets. Your representatives in Donegall Pass are Elaine Mansfield, Harry Todd and Ken Orr.

The Neighbourhood Partnership has been working over the past year to develop a Vision and Action Plan for the area, and this has now been approved by the Department for Social Development. The Partnership is now identifying actions within the plan that can be carried out quickly and will demonstrate action on the ground to those who live in Inner South Belfast. If you would like more information on the work of the Neighbourhood Partnership, please contact your local representatives or Jonathan Hodge at South Belfast Partnership Board - Tel. : 9024 4070.

Exploring Enterprise

Exploring Enterprise is a programme promoting self-employment as a viable career option to those at grass roots level. The programme gives the opportunity to explore the lifestyle, idea generation and introduce the processes involved in business planning.

The programme is FREE and is open to anyone who lives in the South Belfast area including employed, unemployed, lone parents, people with disabilities and marginalised people/groups. Courses are delivered *locally* in south Belfast, with the next course planned for January 2008. If you are interested in joining the course please contact Shane Smith on 9033 2313 (or Ken at 9032 6256).