

Forum Open Day

The Forum held a successful 'Open Day', on Wednesday 30th September, in Donegall Pass Community Centre,



Forum Chairperson, Harry Todd, at the NIHE stand. Apsley Street - supported by fifteen organisations (from a total of 16 invitees) in addition to the Forum, itself. The Forum is grateful to all residents, and others, who turned up - including Carmel Hanna MLA, Cllr Alex Maskey



Katrina Stafford looks at what Women's TEC has to offer. MLA and Dr Alasdair McDonnell MP, MLA. The Forum thanks: Belfast City Council, Belfast Education & Library Board (Area Youth Project), Belfast Metropolitan College, CODA Project, Consarc Design Group, Contact Youth, GEMS NI, Gingerbread NI, Inner City South Belfast Sure Start, Northern Ireland Housing



Aileen from GEMS NI gives advice and guidance to Kelly Ann Watson Executive, St Mary Magdalene's Church of Ireland Parish Church, South Belfast Partnership Board, Ulster People's College, Women's Information Group and Women's TEC - for their support.

The Forum, in partnership with the above organisations,



Louis Wasson and Martha Armstrong (Residents' Group) doing the rounds. successfully disseminated a great deal of information about the services available to the community - including training, education and other self-improvement courses.



Kelsang Drolkar (right) of the Potala Buddhist Centre visits a stand. The food and refreshments were good too!



A client talks to Sure Start's Julie-Anne Scott (who's also a Forum member). Forum Launchpad for Lifeline Website Donegall Pass Community Forum's offices were chosen to host the launch of Northern Ireland's Lifeline Helpline service's website, on Friday 4th December 2009. The web address is: http://www.lifelinehelpline.info and, as stated on the website's home page: "Lifeline is the Northern Ireland crisis response helpline service for people who are experiencing distress or despair. No matter what your age or where you live in Northern Ireland, if you are, or someone you know is, in distress or despair, Lifeline is here to help. "People living in Northern Ireland can call Lifeline on

0808 808 8000. Deaf and hard of hearing Textphone users can call Lifeline on 18001 0808 808 8000. Calls to Lifeline are free to people living in Northern Ireland who are calling



(L to R.) Dr Eddie Rooney, Chief Executive of the Public Health Agency; Norma Patterson, Director - Contact Youth; Michael McGimsey MLA - Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety; Elaine Mansfield, Forum Development Manager. from UK landlines and mobiles. Lifeline counsellors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to listen and help, in confidence.



(L to R.) The Forum's Harry Todd, Chairperson, Michell Bostock, Secretary, Elaine Mansfield, Development Manager, Pauline O'Neill, Finance Officer; Dympna McKeown, Lifeline Counsellor and Dr Eddie Rooney, Chief Executive of the Public Health Agency.

"Lifeline counsellors are experienced in working with trauma, suicide, self-harm, abuse, depression and anxiety. You will receive immediate help on the phone. Should you need further support we can provide a face-to-face counselling appointment or complementary therapy in your local area within seven days. "Lifeline also provides support and guidance to families and carers, concerned friends, professionals, teachers, youth workers, clergy and communities. Remember, Lifeline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Just call. "The Lifeline helpline is funded by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety." Anyone who is worried about someone else and who needs advice about what to do next can also call Lifeline, in strict confidence, and a counsellor will work with you to try and resolve the crisis - which might include helping you to seek immediate support from a family member, friend, trusted adult, community worker, GP, social worker, hospital or the emergency services. Additionally, you

will be offered guidance on how you can be a valuable support to the person you are worried about. If the reason you are calling is not an immediate crisis you will be offered the opportunity to refer the person you are worried about to Lifeline. Lifeline will call the person who you have referred within 24 hours. Lifeline will not call the person you are referring unless you have made them aware of the referral and they are in agreement to being contacted.



Dympna McKeown and Seamas Twomey Lifeline Counsellors.

Donegall Pass Community Forum has been contracted with Contact Youth as a Lifeline Services Provider since January 2009 and, to date, has handled, and facilitated, some 170 referrals.

Employability Outreach Service

Donegall Pass Community Forum's offices is the place to go if you're looking for employment opportunities and careers advice.

Every Thursday, from around 2.30pm, GEMS NI provides an Employment Consultant and Outreach Guidance Practitioner, Michelle McNally, who will be happy to give sound advice on employment skills training, help with writing quality, up-to-date CVs, an overview of the current job market and job opportunities, interview techniques, help with filling in job applications, advice on how a particular job's salary might affect benefits, and career guidance. This service is available as part of an 'open' job club atmosphere or on a 'one-to-one' confidential basis.

Telephone 9032 6256. for an appointment.

Women's Learning Group

Every Wednesday morning, a group of women attend learning sessions at the Forum's offices - to 'brush up' their reading and writing skills. During the new year they will be learning how to use computers (and the Internet) - in addition to improving their skills in maths. The women attending the learning sessions all have children enrolled with Sure Start and were made aware of this opportunity by Julie-Anne Scott. The course is being hosted by the Forum in partnership with GEMS NI's Learner Access Engagement Programme.

Women's Group Welcomes New Members

Donegall Pass Women's Group currently meets every Wednesday evening in the Community Centre at 6.00pm. All women are most welcome - especially new members. So, come along and join in!

Forum's Chairperson Gains Recognition

Harry Todd, Donegall Pass Community Forum's Chairperson (just one of his many jobs!) has been the recipient of a Merit Award to show appreciation of the work he does in, and for, the community of Donegall Pass.

The Committee and Staff of the Forum are delighted that Harry has received some recognition for his tireless efforts (over many decades) on behalf of his community - nobody is more deserving. (Harry is, of course, completely unaware that this piece is being written - in his usual unassuming and modest manner, he didn't tell us about this - we found out by accident!)

Harry had been attending the Housing Community Network's Twelfth Community Conference when he, and four others from around the Province, received the award.

Brian Rowntree, Chairman of the N. I. Housing Executive, stated, "It never ceases to amaze me how, year on year, you produce so many good and varied examples of the good work in your communities".

Harry had been nominated by the local Housing Community Network for going that 'extra mile' in his community activity roles and conference delegates applauded the untiring efforts and commitments of Harry and the other awardees. Congratulations, Harry!

Christmas Hampers

As we 'go to press', the Forum's staff, and a few Women's Group volunteers, have been 'beaver away' assembling Christmas Hampers for Donegall Pass residents aged 60 years and over. Staff will be delivering circa 180 hampers during 17th and 18th December - if you didn't get yours, let us know at 9032 6256.

This year, donors (in cash and 'in kind') included Alexander The Grate, Chinese Consultancy Agency, Charles Hurst Motors, Flour Power, Lee Foods, Marks & Spencer, North Stone, Oakland Antiques, Quinn Building Products, Rainey & Best Solicitors, Tesco, F. G. Wilson - many, many thanks to them all for their generosity.

The Forum donated £800 from its reserves, this year, towards the cost of the Christmas hampers. The Forum's application to the 'Community Chest' enabled it to contribute £100 to the Festival Committee's Children's Christmas Party and £160 to the Pensioners' Christmas Dinner (including a substantial contribution from Flour Power).

Michael M'Gimpsey MLA

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Talent Exhibition Show

Financed by Belfast City Council's 'Ur City 2' Fund, the Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership promoted performances by young people from Donegall Pass, the Lower Ormeau and the Markets at various venues in south Belfast.

On Wednesday 25th November 2009, girls, based at Donegall Pass Community Centre, performed a short compilation of dances entitled "The DP Dance Mash Up". The girls wanted to connect with children and adults of all ages and to show how much fun they have dancing together. They wanted to show how easy it is to dance and how much confidence they have developed through choreographing these dances.

Young Children (5 - 7 year olds) from Donegall Pass put together a short play and dance routine based on the Wizard of Oz production. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Useful Numbers:

- Advice Worker (Marie - Tuesdays): 9032 6256**
- Age Concern (Advice Line): 9032 5055**
- Belfast City Council (General Enquiries): 9032 0202**
- Belfast City Council (Making a complaint): 9027 0270**
- Donegall Pass Community Forum: 9032 6256**
- Donegall Pass Community Centre: 9032 7661**
- GEMSNI (Employment Outreach): 9033 2313 or 9032 6256**
- Gingerbread NI (Lone Parents): 9023 1417**
- Help The Aged: 9023 0666**
- Housing Executive Main: 038448 920900; Repairs: 038448 920901; Housing Benefit Enquiries: 038448 920902**
- Job Centre (South Belfast): 9054 5432**
- Labour Relations Agency: 9032 1442**
- Lifeline (Depression, suicidal feelings): 0808 808 8000**
- P.S.N.I.: 9065 0222**
- Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre: 9032 9002**
- South Belfast Roundtable (On Racism): 9024 4070 (Ext. 15)**
- Sure Start (Inner City South Belfast): 9094 2525**
- Women's Aid (Help and Support): 0800 917 1414**

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a Happy New Year to all!

from everyone at the Forum



0808 808 8000



THE PASS FORUM NEWS

IFI AWARDS FORUM PROJECT £800,000

Donegall Pass Community Forum's proposal for a 'Shared Space/Shared Future' project, in partnership with the Lower Ormeau Residents' Action Group and the Markets Development Association, to be based in the former South Belfast Economic Resource Centre has been awarded £800,000 by the International Fund for Ireland. The money will provide the Project with the bulk of the capital needed to purchase and refurbish the building (located at Coyle's Place, at the end of Donegall Pass facing the Gasworks site). Combined with a further substantial six-figure sum awarded for the employment of an Inter-Community Development Worker (working title), this means that the Forum's efforts, over the past year, have yielded almost £1million in funding for the benefit of Inner South Belfast's interfacing communities.



Building at Coyle's Place, Donegall Pass - formerly "The South Belfast Economic Resource Centre".

"This very welcome funding, with the additional award of over £113,000 to enable us to employ an inter-community worker with programme funds, will allow the Forum, together with our partners, to deliver Peace and Reconciliation Programmes and Social Economy Projects within and between the three Inner South Belfast Interface Communities", said Elaine Mansfield, Donegall Pass Community Forum's Development Manager.

The Forum's Chairperson, Mr Harry Todd, expressed his delight and commented, "For the first time the residents of Donegall Pass community will own a share of an asset worth several hundreds of thousands of pounds and have access to a valuable income stream, independent of public funding. The employment of an interface worker will promote and drive this initiative's work in conflict transformation and support inter-community partnership work, community relations interventions and reconciliation. It will identify, secure and develop shared space and work towards a shared future, an embedded peace and inclusive community."

Elaine Mansfield added that "the Project will be an asset to all three neighbouring communities and will enhance the work being carried out jointly through our Neighbourhood Action Plan."

Support Across The Board

The Forum, and its partner community organisations, has, from the outset, enjoyed - and gratefully acknowledges - the support of such entities as Belfast City Council, Belfast Interface Project, Belfast Regeneration Office (DSD), Donegall Pass Community Development Company Ltd., GEMSNI, Inner City South Belfast Sure Start, NI Community Relations Council, Northern Ireland Housing Executive - South Belfast Social Cohesion Unit, South Belfast Highway to Health, South Belfast Partnership Board, South Belfast Roundtable on Racism. A number of these organisations has agreed to take up tenancies in the building.

The International Fund for Ireland's pro-active engagement, from the outset, and its retention of the invaluable services of Mr Derek Brown (of Insight Business Services) to conduct a feasibility study and economic appraisal of all aspects of the proposed project (provisionally entitled the 'Cromac Regeneration Initiative') has been immeasurably helpful. The positive result of this 'quality assurance' process has reinforced the Forum's confidence in the project's prospects for success.

Closing The Gap

The Forum, and its partner community organisations, will immediately begin negotiations with various bodies to set in motion application processes to secure a further £230,000 to bring the capital phase of the project to final fruition. "It's essential that the project, as soon as possible, is in receipt of match funding to enable us to 'close the gap' and to ensure that the project gets off to the best possible start - without any debt encumbrances", Harry Todd commented. Elaine Mansfield said, "After the Letters of Offer from the funder are examined, agreed and accepted by the partner community organisations, we will, at once, start the recruitment process for the employment of an Inter-Community Development Worker. The post will be open to anyone who is suitably experienced and/or qualified - and will be based in the Forum Offices."