



CARRICKFERGUS COMMUNITY FORUM

SUPPORTING AND DEVELOPING CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES

ISSUE 63 JANUARY 2012



CARRICKFERGUS COMMUNITY FORUM WOULD LIKE TO
TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH ALL OUR MEMBER
GROUPS A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

CCF WEBSITE—GOES LIVE

We are pleased to announced that the CCF Website has now gone
live at www.carrickferguscommunityforum.co.uk

Please let us have any items you would wish to be included on our
website, especially any up coming events which we can place on our
Events calendar.

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ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION

The Carrickfergus branch of the Lifeboats would like to thank the local community for their support in 2011 and wish everybody a Happy New Year.

Your local branch would also like you to know that over £15,000 was raised in 2011 – quite an achievement in difficult financial times. These funds directly help and support the operation of the Lifeboats in Northern Ireland.



As Carrickfergus is very much a maritime town we are pleased to report that local support is still strong with most of the members of the local branch living in the Borough.

We did however go further afield for the Camra Beer Festival 3 day event in the Ulster Hall Belfast on the lead up to Christmas. Our Branch ran the souvenir shop and this event helped considerably with raising funds credited to Carrickfergus Borough's support for the Lifeboats.

Our local branch is always on the lookout for people willing to give some time to help with flag days- or the Souvenir Shop - so if you think you can give a couple of hours we would love you to get in touch with us. The local branch meets at Carrickfergus Sailing Club so if you drop us a line at the address set out below or email the hon secretary lucybosullivan@yahoo.co.uk with contact details your support would be of great help to the Lifeboats.

Also if you are running an event and would like to include the RNLI Souvenir Stall, please let us know.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution local branch Carrickfergus would like to take this opportunity to thank the Community Forum and the communities in the Carrickfergus Borough for their continuing help and support.

All the best for 2012.



BELFAST LOUGH SAILABILITY

Belfast Lough Sailability would like to wish all the communities and the Staff of Carrickfergus Community Forum a very Happy New Year.

We at BLS are looking forward to 2012 and the start of the sailing season around April. However our group is still very active out of season with sessions for volunteers for training and practice purposes to hone our skills for the year ahead.



As we are a voluntary organisation that is for people with disabilities it is important to note that

- ◆ BLS is locally based in the maritime area of Carrickfergus.
- ◆ 40% of our volunteers have a disability,
- ◆ All age groups are welcome
- ◆ Belfast Lough Sailability can also be suitable for young people who are participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
- ◆ No previous sailing experience is necessary

If anyone would like to volunteer or find out more information, please check out our website or contact us - details are set out below.

Address - Christine Harper, Hon Sec
Belfast Lough Sailability
Carrickfergus Marina
3 Quayside
Carrickfergus
BT38 8BJ
Email – belfastloughsailabilityni@gmail.com
BLS mobile – 075 9968 9280
Website www.belfastloughsailability.com



Looking forward to hearing from you.

BBC Children in Need next

deadlines for applications is 15 January and 15 April 2012

Don't forget the next deadline for BBC Children in Need is the 15 April 2012

BBC Children in Need provides grants to local projects that work with disadvantaged children and young people to make a real difference to the quality of their lives. In the last year over £3m has been distributed in Northern Ireland and some 300 projects are currently in receipt of a grant in rural and urban communities throughout the country.

They very much want to hear from groups who are helping children and young people to overcome disadvantage such as:

- living in poverty or situations of deprivation
- disability
- behavioural or psychological difficulties
- illness, distress, abuse or neglect

It is important that you are specific about the nature of the disadvantage in a request for funding, and clear about the difference your project will make. You can make an application at any time throughout the year to fit with your project plans. They operate 4 grant rounds with closing dates of:

- 15 January - notification by end of April
- 15 April - notification by end of July
- 15 July - notification by end of October
- 15 October - notification by end of January

All applications must be submitted online at www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey where you will find details of how to apply. You can also contact the local staff team at 028 9033 8221



MINISTER McCausland ENCOURAGES BENEFIT UPTAKE

Social Development Minister Nelson McCausland, is urging local people to take part in a benefit check to make sure they are receiving all the money they are entitled to. As part of this year's benefit uptake programme the Minister is writing to 25,000 people across Northern Ireland, encouraging them to take part in a full, confidential benefits check which will be carried out by Advice NI.

Nelson McCausland said:

"This year's Benefit Uptake Programme is vital, particularly with the continued rise in household costs across Northern Ireland.

"Last year over 1,300 people were better off by almost £50 a week following an entitlement check. This is a substantial amount that can make a real difference to the lives of the most vulnerable in our society."

In 2011-2012 the Benefit Uptake Programme includes the Make the Call advertising campaign which encourages older people to ring a Freephone Benefits Advice Line (0800 232 1271) to find out if there is money they may be entitled to, as well as an Innovation Fund for Increasing Benefit Uptake.

The Innovation Fund has already awarded contracts to the voluntary and community sector to test new and innovative ways of reaching and informing people to promote the uptake of benefits. The advertising campaign will run until March 2012. Innovation Fund Projects will run for up to 12 months.

For full details of the Minister's announcement visit www.northernireland.gov.uk

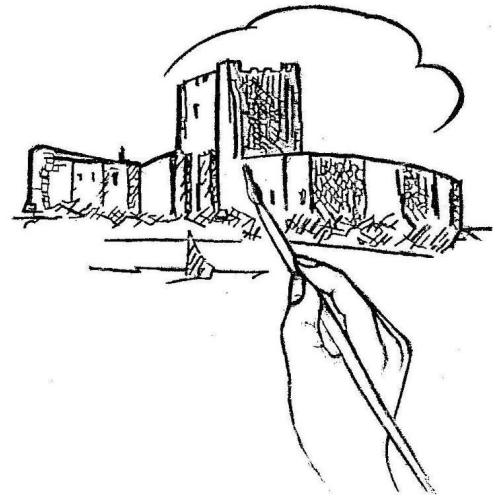
Source: NICVA eNEWS December 2012

2012 RECOMMENCEMENT OF CARRICKFERGUS ART CLUB

The Club will meet each Tuesday evening from 7pm until 9pm with a programme of demonstrations, workshop evenings, DVD nights and 'Specials'.

We wish to thank all who supported our Autumn exhibition and added to its success. This years winner was Helen Daniels with her Acrylic painting of a horse which can be seen on our website: carrickfergusartclub.moonfruit.com

Our next exhibition will be our 2012 Spring show which will be held in the Civic Centre from Friday 4th May (preview evening) until Saturday 19 May 2012.



FACILITATORS COURSE OCN ACCREDITED

To be held in the Dobbs Room

Old Town Hall

22nd February 2012 9.30am - 4.00pm

29th February 2012 9.30am - 4.00pm

7th March 2012 9.30am - 4.00pm

For further information please contact janicecherry@btconnect.com

or telephone 028 9335 9777



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Volunteer Now is inviting applications from local groups and communities to support the development of Timebanking. Timebanking is a framework which allows members of communities to tap into the abundance of untapped potential and skills that exist out there! Everyone is valued equally by Timebanks and for every hour that a member contributes by helping someone else they receive one hour of credit which enables them in equal measure to receive help from other members of the Timebank. Although Timebanks are open to everyone, this particular round of funding focuses on supporting older people to take a leadership role locally, or groups can use the funding to enhance or develop new or existing services for older people.

Grants of up to £3,000 are available to local groups and application packs can be downloaded from www.volunteernow.co.uk The closing date for completed applications is 27 January 2012.

MEASURING THE IMPACT OF VOLUNTEERING

Measuring the impact of volunteering activities is increasingly important as the demand for organisations to evidence the impact and outcomes from their work becomes greater. The **Volunteer Impact Assessment Toolkit** provides information and customisable tools which organisations of all sizes can use to measure impact and therefore evidence what is being achieved.

Volunteer Now offers a one day training course to supplement the written toolkit handbook. The aim of the session is to guide people through the handbook, using exercises and group discussion to help people to start planning their own assessment. The next training session will take place on **15 March 2012 from 10.00am - 3.30pm** at Volunteer Now's Office, Shaftesbury Square, Belfast. Book directly on to the training course at <http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training-events/view/83>. Contact Julie Aiken to find out more at Julie.Aiken@volunteernow.co.uk or call 028 9023 2020.

WOODBURN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES A PRODUCTIVE YEAR

OVER 2011

On Thursday 26th January 2012 the Woodburn Community Association will be holding it's annual AGM which starts at 7pm in the community flat at 17 The Hollies. Stephen Bingham out-going Chairman commented "This has been a challenging year for the Woodburn Community Association. Over 2011 we have assisted in the replacement of a par-amilitary mural and designed and had built a new entrance feature in partnership with the C.A.N Peace 3 Partnership and Carrickfergus Borough Council. We have ran a number of smaller programs, over 2012 and we hope to secure funding to allow us to fit the community flat out to the best specification that will allow us to deliver programs that the local community have asked for. We are planning a large community festival in partnership with the Carrickfergus Bonfire Forum to mark the 11th & 12th celebrations that are being hosted in Carrickfergus".

Anyone who would like any information about the Woodburn Community Association can contact us at woodburncommunityassociation@gmail.com

Carrickfergus, Antrim and Newtownabbey (CAN Partnership)



CAN PEACE III PARTNERSHIP SMALL PROJECT AWARDS

THERE ARE SMALL PROJECT AWARDS OF UP TO £2,000 AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS IN THE CAN - CARRICKFERGUS, ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY PEACE III PARTNERSHIP.

Small project awards of up to £2000 are now available from the CAN Peace III Partnership through The Bridging our Community Gap Programme which aims to actively support new communities and those affected by community tension to participate in appropriate peace building activities.

The small grants are available for groups within the CAN area to use in developing an activity or process which will help to improve dialogue and relationships in local areas and with other communities. This may include activities such as creative arts, training, facilitation, drama, sports, residential weekends or camps and internet or media technology.

Interested? If you would like further information or if you have an idea you wish to explore further, please fill in an expression of interest form or contact:

Laura Coulter, Bridging our Community Gap Officer, Tel : 028 90340213

SEARCH PROJECT

On Wednesday 14th December the South East Antrim Community Federation as part of its SEARCH project held a conference in the Clarion Hotel Carrickfergus to mark the achievements made to date. Philip Mannis SEARCH outreach worker for Carrickfergus & Greenisland commented "this was a fantastic event to be held in Carrickfergus, ex-combatants / ex-prisoners and their family's joined members of the statutory agencies including NIHE , Carrickfergus Borough Council officials and PSNI officers alongside members of the voluntary / community sector. Davy Hilditch, MLA handed out some of the over 500 certificates and other awards to participants of not only residents that gained qualifications from Carrickfergus but through-out South East Antrim.



SEARCH (South East Antrim Resourcing from Conflict to Hope) is administered by Community Foundation for Northern Ireland supported with part finance from the European Unions Peace 3 Programme for more information click online at www.communityfoundationni.org



SEARCH Outreach workers Philip Mannis & Willy Cameron with young adults that participated in some of the education programs ran through the SEARCH project alongside Aileen Marks Carrickfergus NIHE District Manager, Jackie Sheriff CBC Grants Officer, Inspector Tommy Mahood and Shaun Frazer from the PSNI

CUTSWATCHNI: REPORT YOUR CUTS



CutsWatchNI is a new project developed by NICVA which maps the impact of public sector spending cuts on voluntary and community groups in Northern Ireland. It is designed to highlight both the impact of cuts on the organisations and on the communities they support.

If you are involved in a voluntary or community group which has been told its statutory funding has been, or will be, reduced, you can contribute to this project by sharing your story. Just fill in the simple form at www.nicva.org/cuts/report to illustrate the impact the cuts will have on the people who use your services.

Your contribution will be crucial to building a wider picture of the scale of the challenge ahead, both in your local community and generally across the Northern Ireland. The details of cuts that you share here will be made available publicly and the information generated will be fed into the broader national picture, for example through the NCVO voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk project.

WINDMILL AND MINORCA RESIDENTS GROUP

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (SPEAKING) COURSE

TUESDAY 24TH JANUARY 2012

COMMUNITY FLAT, WESTMOUNT AVENUE, WINDMILL ESTATE, CARRICKFERGUS

CONTACT: **JIM WIGHTMAN ON** jim.wightman@btinternet.com



Advice NI's latest training calendar which is packed with lots of new and exciting courses and training programmes.

We offer training in the following areas:

- Debt/Money Advice
- Case Recording
- Age Awareness
- Age Issues (e.g. Health, Care and Housing)
- Start to Sign
- Tendering & Commissioning
- Benefits & Tax Credits
- Equality & Discrimination issues
- Advice and Guidance (NVQ's)
- Customer Service (NVQ's)
- Assessment & Quality Assurance (TAQA)

Our training includes accredited and non-accredited courses delivered via face-to-face, blended learning and e-learning methods.

We also offer bespoke and in-house training in the topics outlined. If you would like further information call Michelle McGreevy on 028 90645919 or e-mail training@adviceni.net.



8th Carrickfergus Company

Holy Trinity Church Prospect Road

Boys in P1 up to 19 years if you are interested in an action packed, thrill seeking, sport playing, friend making, skill gaining, award winning, pulse racing, ambition achieving, fear conquering, memory making adventure join 8th Carrickfergus Boys' Brigade.

8th Carrickfergus BB are in their 20th year and have 150 boys and officers.

We meet every Monday night from 6pm full details can be found at

www.8thcarrickbb.org.uk

MISKIMMON SUITE

EMAIL ADDRESSES

OLD TOWN HALL

ANTRIM STREET

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CARRICKFERGUS

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www.carrickferguscommunityforum.co.uk

We would love to hear from anyone who wishes to contribute to this newsletter whether it is to advertise an event or just to submit an article about what you do.

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter or have an event you would like to advertise, please contact Lucy at the office.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT EDITION IS

FRIDAY 27TH JANUARY 2012

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the CCF Committee and Staff.

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