



NIRWN NEWS

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SOUTH ARMAGH RURAL WOMEN'S NETWORK ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The management and staff of South Armagh Rural Women's Network were treated to a very special day to celebrate their tenth anniversary - an invitation to attend a Garden Party hosted by President Mary McAleese and Dr. Martin McAleese in Áras an Uachtaráin, Dublin on 8th July 2009.



Management and staff from South Armagh Rural Women's Network who attended the Garden Party at Áras an Uachtaráin

NETWORKING EVENT IN BALLYCLARE

On 27th May NIRWN and Ballyclare Community Concerns hosted a networking event for women from Ballyclare, Forkhill and Crossmaglen. It was a social occasion where the women had the opportunity to chat and exchange information and ideas.

There was also an interesting demonstration on scarves and fashion by Patience Bradley who had brought along her Chihuahua who proved to be the star of the show.

The event was a good opportunity to develop friendships and links and an invitation has been extended by South Armagh Rural Women's Network for a return visit to Crossmaglen in September this year.



Ladies from South Armagh and Antrim who enjoyed Networking in Ballyclare

During her speech the President paid tribute to community workers when she said "Many of you here today are involved or have been in some way or another with community, local or grassroots organisations. You

have done so to fill a need that you saw existed and to fulfil a desire to reach out and help out, to give of yourself, to lend your arm to help another in their struggles. This is a noble impulse and it is, I'm glad to say, a great and proud tradition in this country. ...

Your work has brought people together, has created a sense of belonging and camaraderie which has helped turn neighbours into friends and prevented us from becoming strangers to one another.... No one is in it for reward or glory, no one joins or forms a community organisation for thanks or recognition, instead it is the simple human virtues of care and kindness that bring people together in a spirit of generosity and decency to meet the needs of others who are in need of our help and who deserve our help."

Speaking after the event Marie Grant, Chair of SARWN and Director with NIRWN said; "This event was special for us. We have been working for the benefit of rural women in this area for years and to be given the opportunity to celebrate our 10th anniversary with such a visit is a real credit to the work of many women in South Armagh who have gone to such great lengths to improve the quality of life for women in this area."



CALLING ALL CHURCH OR FAITH BASED GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS

Did you know you can access the Inter Church/Inter Faith Confidence Building Programme

The programme aims to increase the confidence and ability of individuals and communities to explore Church/Faith issues and to support faith based groups and networks to explore sectarianism and racism through a bespoke programme of learning, group development and bottom up initiatives.

The programme will run from September/October 2009 to November 2010. At least 200 people will be encouraged to participate across all of the six council areas.

Participation will be through 24 local groups each accessing 5 sessions of development support delivered through a dedicated facilitator. In addition each participating group will be able to access a small grant to undertake a project of their choosing that will help them develop confidence in the Church/Faith community. It is anticipated that the above 24 groups will also include a small number of cross border groups.

The Confidence Building Programme will be delivered over the winter months and culminate in a conference event in September 2010 and a Celebration Round Table event in November 2010.

If you are a church/faith based group in the North East Cluster area covering the council areas of Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Larne, Limavady or Moyle then contact Tony on 07841 999 350 for further information.

THE TURKINGTON FUND

The Turkington Fund is being established in recognition and celebration of the contribution of older people to our society. It aims to offer funding for locally based community projects that are run by, and for, older people.

Amount of Funding available

Grants will generally range between £200 - £3000 maximum. The Fund will allocate some £60,000 each year in a range of small grants.

What the Fund will support

While not exclusive, the Fund welcomes applications that address:

- The promotion of interaction between older people and other sections of the community
- Activities to address shared concerns amongst groups of older people
- Activities that focus on the positive contribution of older people within the community
- Projects that enhance the active participation of older people in decision-making and policy influence
- Encouragement of older people to engage with a range of social, educational, health and cultural activities

Who can Apply?

Priority will be given to those applications that show a clear involvement of older people in the design and delivery of a project. The project does not need to be new or particularly innovative in nature, but its programme must be realistic and clearly thought through. An emphasis will be placed on locally-based self-help groups that are working in disadvantaged areas.

What the Fund cannot support

The Turkington Fund will not normally fund the following: salaried posts; trips abroad; individuals; vehicles; major capital building programmes; running costs of large organisations; holiday schemes; or promotion of religion. In addition the funding will not support applications from statutory organisations.

Closing Dates

20th October 2009 (Submitted to December meeting)
23rd February 2010 (Submitted to April meeting)
11th May 2010 (Submitted to July meeting)

For further information please contact:

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UPDATE

WCRP SECURE BIG LOTTERY FUNDING



The Women's Centres Regional Partnership will use a grant of £994,671 awarded by the Big Lottery Fund to run the Women's Centres Learning Partnership. The WCLP is an exciting and innovative project that will offer families and communities a chance to develop skills and improve their lifestyle.

The project will bring together 14 women's organisations across Northern Ireland to deliver a wide range of courses and programmes from ICT and Arts to Aromatherapy and Stress Management. Women will be able to access specialist support such as high quality affordable childcare provision and one to one mentoring at the centres which will make the idea of education and learning a more realistic option for many.



What makes this project new is that it will reach out to those within the local communities who have not historically engaged in community activity. It is this aspect of the project that the Women's Centres Regional Partnership are most excited about and which will bring additional benefits to the 14 women's organisations in terms of delivering relevant and essential services to women living in some of the most disadvantaged areas across the north.

WCRP Chair Margaret Ward said: "There are a number of barriers that prevent women accessing education and gaining work such as lack of affordable childcare, poor confidence and self-esteem, the cost of courses and the lack of flexibility when it comes to the times they are held. The organisations involved in the project are well experienced and well placed to help women overcome these barriers."

The WCRP said that it was anticipated that the project could reach over 9,000 women in Northern Ireland. All the beneficiaries will be recruited from the local communities where the women's organisations are based. "The project aims to ensure that women are instilled with the self-confidence and self-esteem necessary for them to be able to take more control over their own lives," said Waterside Women's Centre Manager, Geraldine Compton, "Empowerment of women combined with recognition of the beneficial impact this will have on families and communities, is a central pillar running through the project" she concluded.

NIRWN DIRECTOR ATTENDS WOMENS NATIONAL COMMISSION EVENT IN LONDON

NIRWN's Director, Siobhan Doherty attended a recent event in the House of Lords to help celebrate the Women's National Commission's 40th Anniversary.

The Women's National Commission is the only official national body working on women's equality in the UK and has a special role to fulfil and an important remit within the equality machinery in the UK. The WNC is an independent voice and brings an informed voice for women to Government and particularly women who may not be represented by mainstream organisations.

Since 1969 the WNC have worked with all parts of the sector to bring views of women and their representatives together into a clear, coherent voice. They have working groups of expert stakeholders, who provide the specialist knowledge on leading issues that concern women, such as 'Violence against women' and migration and asylum issues.

The work of the WNC is valued and welcomed by the UK Government and their status allows them to present findings and reports directly to Ministers and senior officials.



l-r Baroness Joyce Gould, Chair of the Women's National Commission and Siobhan Doherty, Director of NIRWN

Speaking after the event Siobhan said, "I was delighted to be invited to an event of this kind and it allowed me the opportunity to represent NIRWN and rural women at such a gathering of women's organisations from across the UK. NIRWN as part of the women's sector have a valuable role to play in ensuring that the voices of rural women from NI are heard. This was another opportunity for us to be part of a celebration of the multiplicity of women working tirelessly for equality and to ensure that this is recognised by policy makers and Government."

ENJOY A 'SENIOR MOMENT' WITH TRANSLINK



NEW LOOK FOR CITIZENS' WEBSITE

Imagine the sound of an extra 330,000 tea and coffee cups clinking, voices laughing and chatting and people enjoying the social scene in Northern Ireland's villages, towns and cities.

That's the sound of a potential 330,000 seniors across NI getting out and about more thanks to a new initiative – 'Senior Moments with Translink' – launched on Wednesday 17th June, that compliments the 60+ and Senior SmartPass free travel scheme.

Developed in partnership with coffee shops and restaurants across NI, 'Senior Moments with Translink' is a special discount guide exclusively for those aged 60+, providing valuable money-off deals on drinks and dining on presentation of a valid SmartPass.

Running until 31st May 2010, copies of 'Senior Moments with Translink' can be picked up across all main NI bus and rail stations and online.

Some of the many great offers available include: buy one tea or coffee and get one free in Caffe Spice in Larne; a free pot of tea with any lunch in the Cookery Nook, Portadown; a free tea or coffee with any purchase at The Granary in Cookstown; 10% off in Mint Café bar bistro in Enniskillen; soup and a sandwich plus a tea or coffee for £4.50 in Cappuccinos in Derry and a tea or coffee for just 65p in The Streat cafés right across NI.



For information on how to obtain a copy of 'Senior Moments with Translink' contact Translink on 028 9066 6630 or log onto www.translink.co.uk.

There are changes to the look and content of www.nidirect.gov.uk - the new government website designed for the citizen.

The homepage has been redesigned to feature the newsroom, making it easier for you to access the latest news and public information campaigns.

There are new pages about hayfever and swine flu in the health and well-being section, offering useful information and advice for sufferers. You can also find out about attractions and events taking place across Northern Ireland this summer and you can watch online videos, highlighting some of the wonderful places to visit locally.

You can also get things done online at a time that suits you. For example, you can book your car in for an MOT, apply for or renew your passport or order a birth, death or marriage certificate.

With www.nidirect.gov.uk no-one needs to know how government works to find the information they need, as it is organised by easily recognisable themes. You can also use the search facility to get directly to what you're after – from online transactions, news, public information videos and useful advice on a range of topics.



NICVA and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation are holding a seminar on 9 September 2009 to look at attitudes

to poverty and how poverty is reported in the media. The seminar will look at two new Joseph Rowntree poverty research reports - *Poverty in the media: being seen and getting heard* and *Building public support for UK poverty eradication*.

This event will be your opportunity to find out more about this research; share experiences; and explore how voluntary and community organisations can help to increase public understanding about poverty and enable people on low incomes to shape the debate.

For further information please contact Cathy Breslin at NICVA on 028 9087 7777 or email: cathy.breslin@nicva.org.

NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL WOMEN'S NETWORK

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