



We are delighted to bring you our latest newsletter which brings you a flavour of our work over recent months. The launch of our research report on Wind Farms and Community Benefits has been one of a number of very important developments. The education landscape is constantly changing and we know the local schools involved in the Trusts Shared Education can make a positive contribution to this debate at both a local and regional level. Finally we are delighted the Fermanagh Youth Bank is now open for applications and look forward to our new Partnership working with Youth Action NI and the Right Here Project in implementing the Fermanagh Youth Bank.

Lauri McCusker, Director

WIND FARM DEVELOPMENTS—MAXIMISING COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

Research launched at a seminar held in the Manor House on Friday 27th January 2012 by The Fermanagh Trust – the county's community foundation – has found that communities in Northern Ireland are being financially disadvantaged by wind farm developments in comparison to the rest of the UK. Other models of community benefit, such as community ownership, have also not been made available locally. The report has implications for government and the onshore, wind industry – with some of the same companies operating and/or owning wind farms across the UK. The research findings – the result of a three-month study which was supported by the Building Change Trust – found that the higher levels of payments into community funds in Great Britain have generally not been achieved at approved wind farms in Northern Ireland. In Great Britain for example, amounts attaining and exceeding £2,000/MW, per annum have increasingly been . Only one of the fourteen community funds identified by The Fermanagh's Trust's research in Northern Ireland was found to offer £2,000/MW per annum – and this was a recent development which occurred during the lifetime of the research project, offered for a wind farm which has yet to be built. In Great Britain average levels of payments being paid into community funds have been found to be increasing through time but in Northern Ireland there appears to be a mixed picture. Whilst some wind farms have seen higher levels of payments in recent years, substantially low levels of payments are still being made into community funds for recently approved wind farms. In Great Britain, there are numerous examples of wind farms where developers have taken very innovative approaches towards the provision of community benefits, and have incorporated community ownership into the development. In Northern Ireland, there are no instances of community ownership in a commercial wind farm development, or similarly innovative approaches. **A Copy of the Report and Summary Report is available to download now from our website: www.fermanaghtrust.org**



Graeme Dunwoody, Researcher for the Fermanagh Trust who was armed with the vital stats to compile the report & lead proceedings



RESEARCH INTO WIND INDUSTRY WELCOMED BY DARD MINISTER

The recently launched Fermanagh Trust report "Maximising Community Outcomes from Wind Energy Developments" has been welcomed by DARD Minister, Michelle O'Neill, on a recent visit to Fermanagh. The report, which found disparities in both the level and types of funding available in Northern Ireland in comparison to the rest of the UK, has yet to be commented on publicly by the wind energy industry. However, The Fermanagh Trust understands that some companies are still intending to offer as much as £5000 per Megawatt per annum in other parts of the UK while funds in Northern Ireland are still as low as £1000 per turbine or £600 per Megawatt. Michelle O'Neill, who visited Fermanagh on Wednesday, 29th February said in response to the report: "I am very conscious of the implications of commercial wind energy developments including the potential benefits & impacts on local communities. It was most interesting to learn how the report has highlighted good practice from elsewhere, which can present significant opportunities for rural communities which host these developments through the provision of community benefits & community ownership models." The Minister went on to say: "We in the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development understand our responsibilities in this area & I have outlined our commitment to explore the potential for the Department to take a more proactive approach in relation to community engagement, community benefit & ownership models." Lauri McCusker, Director of The Fermanagh Trust, who presented a copy of the report to the Minister said: "The report has made a number of recommendations for the Northern Ireland Executive, the wind industry & local communities. We are pleased that the Minister has taken on board the points we made and that she sees that the future of the wind industry must be linked to community outcomes & vice versa. We look forward to hearing from the cross-Departmental group when it reports and we believe this research challenges how the industry engages with host communities."



The Report from the Fermanagh Trust welcomed by DARD Minister Michelle O'Neill



PARENTS EDUCATED IN RESPECTING DIFFERENCE

The Fermanagh Trust has announced that training on respecting difference for parents, which forms part of the Shared Education initiative in county, will be rolled out again in 2012. This is on the back of a very successful parent workshop programme in 2011, where 230 parents received training delivered by the Early Years organisation. The Respecting Difference Programme (RDP) is a highly acclaimed initiative providing first-class professional development and capacity building for teachers. Research has found robust evidence that the programme is effective in improving outcomes in young children in relation to their social and emotional development and awareness of and attitudes towards cultural differences. Rolling out the training to parents, Principals, teachers and classroom assistants has also been an extremely important part of Shared Education. 109 Principals, teachers and classroom assistants from Fermanagh primary schools attended training in January, April and October 2011. Some of the previous participants commented: "A very informative, worthwhile course which fits into the Foundation Curriculum so well." "One of the best, most relevant and most enjoyable professional development training courses I've ever participated in." "I feel the course was excellent and is relevant to my work in school. It is an excellent way of extending the curriculum." Schools that participated in the 2011 parent workshop programme were Florencecourt PS, St. Mary's PS, Mullymesker and St. Mary's PS, Killesher, St. Martin's PS, Garrison and Killbarron National School, Ballyshannon, Ballinamallard PS and St. Paul's PS, Irvinestown, Enniskillen Model PS and St. Patrick's PS Mullanaska, St. Eugene's PS, The Knocks and Brookeborough PS, St. Joseph's PS, Ederney and Kesh PS. Parents that participated in the training previously found it extremely beneficial saying: "This has given me a clear understanding of what my child is going to learn and see in the Shared Education Project." "It is great to have this, it is much needed in this society as a lot of time discrimination is there but under the radar as such and good for our children to grow up in an inclusive society." Schools that have signed up for 2012 parent training include St. Patrick's Derrygonnelly PS, Derrygonnelly P.S, Killyhommon P.S, St. Joseph's PS, Donagh, Newtownbutler P.S, St. Mary's PS, Newtownbutler, St. John the Baptist PS, Belleek and Belleek PS – with more schools to follow.

SHARED EDUCATION GROUP PERFORMS AT IFI ANNIVERSARY EVENT

A primary school from County Fermanagh – St. Martin's Garrison – & its partner school under the Shared Education Programme, Killbarron National School in Ballyshannon, County Donegal, were the only schools invited to perform at the recent 25th anniversary celebration of the International Fund for Ireland. The glittering event, which was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Europa Hotel on Friday, 24th February, saw 250 guests celebrate the work of the International Fund for Ireland over the last quarter of a century. Fermanagh was also represented through The Fermanagh Trust which had a display stand show-casing Shared Education. The St. Martin's & Killbarron Folk Group came together over the last number of years & have performed in the past for parents, grandparents & the wider community at various events. This was the first time they performed to such a large audience, which included Ministers from the Northern Ireland Executive, local councillors from all over Ireland, the Board of the International Fund for Ireland & other government & community & voluntary sector representatives. Dr. Denis Rooney, CBE, Chairman of the International Fund for Ireland thanked the schools saying: "I wish to thank the pupils and staff from St Martin's Primary School, Garrison & Killbarron National School, Ballyshannon for providing the music at the special event held in the Europa Hotel in Belfast on Friday to mark the Fund's 25th Anniversary of peace building across the island of Ireland". Geraldine Higgins, Principal of St. Martin's Garrison, said: "There was a lot of excitement in the run up to the event & having been the only schools asked to perform on such a prestigious occasion, we felt very honoured. Everything went very well & we received thanks & praise from the International Fund & The Fermanagh Trust for our hard work & performance." Priscilla Leslie, Principal of Killbarron National School, Ballyshannon, said: "The folk group has been practising & performing for a number of years now & on the back of our CD, which was a huge hit, we can now claim we have shot to national prominence having been asked to play to such an audience. The children from the two schools mix really well & we see this Shared Education partnership as adding incalculable strength to the children's experiences."



Dr Denis Rooney CBE joins the St Marin's Garrison & Killbarron National Schools Folk Group.

A 1st FOR FERMANAGH FEIS WITH SHARED EDUCATION CHOIR



For the first time in its 50 year history the 2012 Fermanagh Feis played host to a Shared Education choir. The Shared Education Choir from Killyhommon Primary School & Derrygonnelly Primary School not only made history by taking part but actually came away from their section of the competition as overall winners! Putting on the joint performance on Wednesday, 29th February were Key Stage 2 pupils (P5-7) who had started to work together three years ago under the Shared Education Programme and one result of that has been this joint choir. Participating in the Choral Singing Small Primary School Choir category, the group/band/choir competed against four other choirs emerging overall winners after a compelling performance. Eileen McKenzie, Principal of Killyhommon Primary, said: "We first started working together on a number of Shared Education projects three years ago and this success shows that we can do better if we work together rather than separately". Joan Cathcart, Principal of Derrygonnelly Primary, said: "Shared Education offers pupils the opportunity to get to know one another through a curriculum-based programme but to also participate in important county wide initiatives such as the Fermanagh Feis." A Feis Fermanagh spokesperson stated: "The Feis encourages participation from all sides of the community. We were delighted that Killyhommon PS was able to participate for the first time by joining forces with Derrygonnelly CPS to form a Shared Education choir & wish to congratulate them on their success."



FERMANAGH YOUTHBANK FUNDING SCHEME OPENS



Members of Right Here Fermanagh YouthAction NI joined by Lauri McCusker, Director Fermanagh Trust & some of the YouthBank Panel

Fermanagh YouthBank, which is a Fermanagh Trust Fund supported by YouthAction NI and the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, is back and is accepting applications from young people and groups aged 16 -25 who have ideas for projects in two areas – mental health and expressive creativity. 12 young people from across the County came together last year to form and manage Fermanagh YouthBank - their very own youth fund. Fermanagh YouthBank enables the committee, which is made up entirely of young people to take responsibility for making decisions over grants and to be accountable for how money is spent. The members also have the opportunity to gain a qualification through completing an OCN Level 2 in Grant Making. The Young people involved in Fermanagh Youth bank giving advice to other young people that wish to apply said: "As a group you will work together to come up with an idea that fits in with our two chosen themes Mental Health and Creative expression. "This is a great opportunity for all you young people aged 16-25 to help make a positive impact within Fermanagh. The programme must be youth led, meaning young people having an active involvement in the programme and it's planning; ideas must be clear and realistic; and it must be good value for money." "Mental health is one of our youth bank themes as it is one of the major issues among young people and isn't acknowledged enough. We want to promote positive

mental health and break the negative stigma towards mental health. We want young people to talk openly and to normalise mental health. We also want young people to access the services and agencies available to them." The participants in YouthBank have found the experience invaluable by providing them with the skills and experiences that have helped them develop their career and provide them with confidence to enter either education or the workplace. Fermanagh Youth Bank is supported by Right Here Fermanagh, which is a partnership project run by YouthAction N.I, The Fermanagh Trust and the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

POST PRIMARY 16+ SHARED EDUCATION PROJECT

Approximately 100 hundred young people have received certified qualifications in various activities as part of the Fermanagh Trust's Shared Education Programme. From September – December, 2011, the pupils from St. Fanchea's College, St. Joseph's College, Mount Lourdes Grammar School, The Collegiate Grammar School, Devenish College and Erne Integrated College participated in the Post 16 Personal Development and Skills Programme. This term, (January – June, 2012), 363 students from the various schools will participate in a range of activities at various locations as part of the Shared Education Programme. Without the sharing element, many of the students would not be able to participate in these accredited activities. Principal of the lead school in the Partnership, Mervyn Walker of Devenish College, said: "I am delighted that the post primary Shared Education Programme, now in its third year, continues to grow. Two years ago the schools involved made a commitment to the programme by timetabling a Friday afternoon slot for Post 16 students and this has helped ensure the success of the venture. "I know from talking to the students that they really enjoy the activities and value the opportunity to mix with students from other schools. The commitment of all involved contributes to the ongoing success and this year we are delighted that we have been able to increase the range of opportunities on offer." Jim Devine, Vice-Principal at Mount Lourdes Grammar School, said: "This is our first year to be involved in the Shared Education Programme. Our pupils are delighted to have access to such a wide variety of activities which no individual school could offer. Working with pupils from other schools in a new environment has only enhanced their experiences." Dave Rees, Principal of Erne Integrated College said: "It is wonderful that so many students are reaping the benefits of shared education. This shows clearly that educating together is a rewarding experience for those involved, that this project provides access to a broad range of subjects and enables students to build bridges with each other." Martha Smyth, Principal of St Fanchea's College said: "The Fermanagh Trust's Shared Education Programme provides our pupils with opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities on a cross sectoral / cross community basis. Pupils are given the opportunity to develop skills in different settings with pupils from different backgrounds." Kylie Noble, a pupil at the Collegiate Grammar School said: "I'm really enjoying the shared education programme and learning new skills" and Elizabeth Armstrong, Principal of the Collegiate Grammar School paid tribute to the work of Fermanagh Trust in supporting the schools in developing this collaborative programme for the benefit of their pupils. She said:



ECDL students after taking an exam for their accreditation which is part of the Shared Education Programme

"By enabling us to take this initiative forward on a shared basis, Fermanagh Trust has made a most positive contribution to the development of the curriculum for our post-16 students. Working in collaboration allows us to offer a wider range of activities." Mary McDaid, Head of key Stage 4 and 5 at St. Joseph's College said: "Students value the opportunity to work with and mix with students from all other schools especially within the school day. Most are filling in UCAS forms and it's a fantastic addition to their personal statement to be able to say they participated in the programme. The fact that it is accredited is also a huge bonus!"

USEFUL LINKS

GRANTS

The funding section, which gives regular updates on relevant potential sources of funding for community and voluntary sector groups in Fermanagh is a very useful tool to our local groups.



INFO

Fermanagh's Community web portal continues to develop and grow, with new groups registering on a regular basis. Thanks to this, and some improvements, the site continues to attract a great deal of interest, particularly each groups own web page. If your group wishes to join this increasing community, you can register free on www.fermanagh.info.



Liking Tweets



Not yet Liked or Followed the Fermanagh Trust do it now!

With currently 184 & 173 Facebook Friends for Fermanagh Trust & Fermanagh House consecutively and 314 Twitter Followers you too can be counted as more than a number with daily updates and tweets as to what is happening in the Fermanagh area. We also could be an excellent resource for you if you have a group or are needing a meeting space for groups ranging from 2-50 people. At Fermanagh Trust we have a **if you like us, we will like you policy**. We will ensure coverage on both Facebook and Twitter for any upcoming events or seminars being held here by re-tweeting to our audience. So come on sign up today, **Fermanagh House Needs You!**

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETS COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Human Rights Commission recently visited Enniskillen and met with local community groups in the town. The range of groups that met with the Commission were the Fermanagh Trust, community representatives and users of Fermanagh House, Fermanagh Churches Forum, the Lakeland Youth Centre, the Citizens Advice Bureau and Women of the World. They met with local Councillors Bernice Swift and Thomas O'Reilly. Speaking after the visit to the Fermanagh, NIHRC Chief Commissioner Professor Michael O'Flaherty commented: "It was a great pleasure for the Commission to meet with local community groups and representatives in Fermanagh. They drew our attention to the human rights issues of the town such as the impact of welfare reform and particular rural concerns. I was struck by the dedication and hard work shown by all the groups we met, who are clearly committed to delivering community services on the ground" The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission is an independent statutory body first proposed in the Good Friday Agreement and established in 1999. It is answerable to Parliament at Westminster.



"Photograph Courtesy Raymond Humphreys Photography".

Professor Michael O'Flaherty (Centre) Chief Commissioner NIHRC, enjoying a light hearted moment with representatives from Shop Mobility, Women of the World and the Fermanagh Trust.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

On Valentine's Day February 14th, the staff within Fermanagh House held a very successful 'Love' themed fundraising Coffee Morning for the **Fermanagh Talking Newspaper**. The total amount raised from the event was **£175** which will go towards the purchase of Memory Sticks and resources for the Fermanagh Talking Newspaper. Mr Eugene Kelly Chairperson of the Fermanagh Talking Newspaper extended his sincere thanks to all concerned.

 On Wednesday 7th March 2012 a Cake Sale was held in Fermanagh House to raise funds for **Ovarian Cancer**, again this was a highly successful fundraiser with a total of **£316.76** raised.

GREG TURLEY RECIPIENTS ON THE RIGHT TRACK....OR LOUGH!

Following the allocation of our Greg Turley Bursary Awards at the end of 2011, we would like to update you on progress made by some of our local young sporting stars highlighted in recent Newspaper reports. **Lloyd Seaman (Rowing)** 16th Feb 2012 in the J18 category at the Irish Trials, put in a great performance to land just outside the top ten, and remains very much in contention for selection. Millar and Seaman showed that although individually they are strong, working together they are even harder to beat, as they won the junior boys pair by 18 seconds.

Holly Nixon (Rowing) 1st Dec 2011 Competing for the first time above Junior level, Holly put in a time of 7.02.9, coming in third overall. Holly was to prove the most consistent of the weekend, producing another brilliant time over the 5km course, once again coming third overall. 16th Feb 2012 Holly was out of the Irish Trials, but should be back on flying form in time for the last selection process having put in a massive effort at training all year.

Kelly and Kerri Taggart (Show Jumping) 8th Sep 2011 The sisters both claimed show jumping gold medals for Ireland back in July with Kerri triumphing at the European Championships and sister Kelly taking the top spot on the podium in Cavan.

Jordan Hylton (Athletics) 29th Dec 2011 Ulster Schools title for Jordan Hylton, who also represented Ireland at the Celtic U16 International Indoor Games in Cardiff.

Fermanagh House Opening Times:

Monday ~ Friday:
8.30am ~ 10.00pm
5.30pm~10.00pm
(Subject to Bookings)

Saturday: 9.00am ~ 6pm
(Subject to Bookings)

The Fermanagh Trust
Fermanagh House
Broadmeadow Place
Enniskillen
Co Fermanagh
BT74 7HR

Tel No: 028 66 320210

Fax No: 028 66 320230

Email:

info@fermanaghtrust.org

Website:

www.fermanaghtrust.org