



The Fermanagh Trust has the pleasure of supporting a wide range of initiatives and projects involving people from across Fermanagh. Our newsletter gives a flavour of the Trust's grant making and community support programmes. Please contact us if you are interested in finding out more on the Trust's work. We are delighted Charlene Black, Executive Secretary and Anne Monaghan, Communication and Support Officer have joined the Fermanagh Trust team in recent months. *Lauri McCusker, Director*

Shared Education goes from strength to strength throughout Fermanagh

The demand from schools to participate in Shared Education has exceeded all expectations & it shows no sign of waning. The Fermanagh Trust has approved a greater number of applications from the cross-community School Partnerships for the third year of the Programme (2011- 2012). **Shared Education in the Primary Schools** – Approximately £440k in grant aid has been approved for primary school collaborations in Fermanagh in year 3, with 42 primary schools (including 3 Church of Ireland schools in the Republic of Ireland) benefiting from Shared Education. Over 2,600 pupils will be involved – that is 46% of all Fermanagh primary pupils, participating in joint cross-community classes with another school on a regular basis. Parents & members of Boards of Governors from the cross-community school partnerships, are also coming together for joint meetings, events & training. The collaboration between the schools is reaping many benefits, both educationally & socially for all involved. The initiative is helping build bridges between the school communities & this is clearly having a ripple impact in the communities. The pupils are learning respect for others, regardless of what community they come from. One of the P7 pupils said, **'It doesn't matter what religion you are, you can still get along. And it is not fair to leave someone out because of their religion'**. Parents have shown their support & welcome the opportunity that their children are being given to interact with others from a different community background. Feedback from parents included: **'A great opportunity for the children to visit another school in the locality'; 'It is great for all schools working together as a community'**. Principals & teachers also commented upon the many benefits of Shared Education, with the feedback from school staff showing the Programme is breaking down barriers between our communities. One primary school principal said that **'Pupils & staff from both schools have bonded & formed better working relationships. The children & staff have had the opportunity to find out about each other and the community in which they live through fun & practical activities ... & because of this interaction the children have a more positive attitude towards their partner school – reducing fear & suspicion'**

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Pupils from St Columbans PS Belcoo & Ballinamallard PS, educational visit to Stormont with Tom Elliott MLA

Fisher Foundation Supports Voluntary Work Overseas This Summer



Ernie Fisher, Chairman of the Fisher Foundation with Emma Hamilton (recipient of the awards) who is carrying out overseas missionary work with U.C.C.F-The Christian Unions.

The Fisher Foundation recently held a special presentation event awarding grants totalling over £15,500 to twelve organisations including Livability Ireland, The Development Media Workshop, St Michaels College – Habitat for Humanity, The Church Missionary Society, Trocaire, Leprosy Mission Ireland, Niall Mellon Township Trust & the Presbyterian Church. The awards event held in Fermanagh House was attended by

representatives from the organisations receiving awards along with representatives from the Fisher Foundation & the Fermanagh Trust.

This year's grants will support 12 organisations work & a range of projects involving over 26 people from Fermanagh & from further afield, & they all will make a major contribution to work in 11 different countries. It is a privilege for the Fisher Foundation to be able to support these efforts'. Fr Brian D'Arcy a member of the Fisher Foundation & an advisor to the overseas element of the Foundations work, along with Rev Paul Hoey congratulated the award recipients & wished them every success in their endeavours, 'The Fisher Foundation is committed to helping voluntary work overseas & your projects make that possible. We wish you all every success in your work & congratulate you on your endeavours'

Lisa Carlin from St Michaels College is leading a team of 16 students & staff to work for Habitat for Humanity in Malawi and she thanked the Foundation for its support; 'On behalf of everyone at St Michaels & the team of 16 students & staff we greatly appreciate the support of the Fisher Foundation. Our team will help build houses with Habitat for Humanity outside the capital Lilongwe in Malawi & the resources provided by the Foundation is making a significant contribution to our endeavours in carrying out this work''

Sarah Quinn from Irvinestown, is planning to visit Mozambique along with colleagues from Jordanstown Christian Students Union group in Partnership with Overseas Mission

Lauri McCusker, Director of The Fermanagh Trust, which manages & administers the Fisher Foundations work congratulated each of the 12 award recipients & wished all the projects every success in the coming year. Lauri also thanked the members of the Foundation especially Rev Paul Hoey & Fr Brian D'Arcy who played a leading role in the overseas awards on behalf of the Foundation.

Approximately £240,000 has been given out by the Foundation since it was established & began giving out grants in 2003, the Foundation continues to support Voluntary work overseas & the development of Motor Sport Safety Initiatives. If you are interested in finding out further information on the awards contact Lauri McCusker, The Fermanagh Trust or by visiting <http://www.fisher-foundation.com>

How are local communities benefiting from the Wind Farm Developments?

Government has set ambitious targets in relation to energy sources with a target of 20% of all energy produced from renewable sources here in 10 years time. If this target is to be reached the consensus is onshore wind farms will be key to this target being achieved. Hence rural communities are likely to see more and more wind farm developments — What impact will these targets have on local communities? Will local communities benefit? Will local communities be stakeholders or will they be asked to host the wind farmers without any sustainable local community benefits?



These questions and potential opportunities for effective participation by local communities and where possible effective partnerships ensuring new local benefits are currently being explored.

To help local communities, companies and organisations involved in these developments now and in the future the Fermanagh Trust has initiated a research study on community benefits from wind farms with the support of the Building Change Trust.

This research will have potential implications for policy makers, government, developers and community & voluntary organisations especially rural development initiatives interested in sustainable developments, If you are interested in finding out more about this work please contact Lauri McCusker, Director, The Fermanagh Trust.



Portora Boat Club

Portora Boat Club has a fantastic record of working with young people, which has been enhanced in recent years with the expansion of the club's membership to involve young people from post primary schools across Enniskillen and further afield.

Building on this proud track record and meeting the challenges of being fit for purpose in the 21st century Portora Boat Club with the backing of Portora Royal School are embarking on a major capital development in order to provide state of the art facilities to meet the needs of young people today and in future generations. The Fermanagh Trust is pleased to be in a position to provide some financial support towards these endeavours and we wish all involved in this exciting initiative every success in the coming months.



Members and trainers from Portora Boat Club prior to the development of the Clubs new facilities

Fermanagh Trust helps unlock 'The Secret Garden'

An Irish medium pre-school facility in Fermanagh is celebrating a new outdoor resource area – a secret garden & play area. Naiscoil an Traonaigh which is a pre-school unit serving the larger Bunscoil an Traonaigh adjacent to them at Drumbroughas North, Lisnaskea, opened their £8,000 facility on Thursday.

The playgroup leader, Jolene Nig Uidhir, says the resource has come at a very good time for the 14 three to four year olds who attend. "In addition to the garden we have a sheltered area where children can enjoy outdoor play & they are enjoying these extra benefits" she said. "We are ecstatic about the opening. The children have been waiting for it for a long time.

"Funding for the new resource came from the Fermanagh Trust & from DARD as well as fundraising from parents through various schemes. The new outdoor area has various activities built into it such as underground telephones where children speak into a hole in the fence & a voice is heard somewhere else. "It's their secret garden" said Jolene. The ground has also enabled the playgroup to begin an allotment. They have been growing lots of carrots, lettuce and other vegetables.



At the official opening on Thursday 2nd June 2011, Lauri McCusker; the Fermanagh Trust; officials from the WELB & DARD.

"Photograph Courtesy Raymond Humphreys Photography"

Fermanagh Feis successful recipient of a Joan Trimble Award

Fermanagh Feis were the recipient of a Joan Trimble Award to facilitate a number of workshops for young people in both music and drama. The grant award builds on a successful relationship which has developed between Fermanagh Feis and the Joan Trimble Awards in recent years.



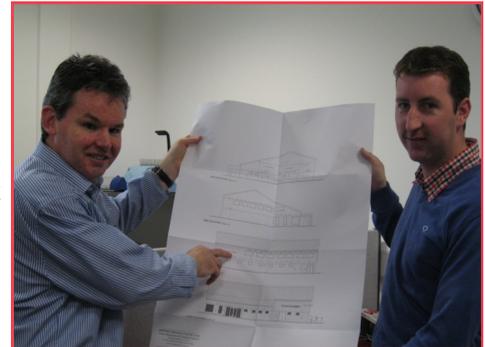
The Joan Trimble Awards support music & drama workshops

Young people from across Fermanagh participated in the workshops. These included a drama Workshop at the Ardhowen Theatre which was facilitated by the Blackbird Theatre group involving primary and post primary groups including participants from St Mary's Brollagh, the Collegiate, Devenish & Portora schools. As the workshop was open to all, participants did not necessarily apply through their school Drama Dept with applications via the children themselves or their parents. Over 30 children took part in the drama workshops which were ran over a recent weekend.

Kinawley receives funding boost

Kinawley Community Hall Association was established by a group of local people from the Kinawley area in 2008 with the aim of establishing much needed community facilities in the area for the benefit of the people of Kinawley and the surrounding areas.

Since the Association was established the group has made significant progress securing over £500,000 towards the costs and securing planning permission. This includes a substantial commitment of money from individuals and families from across Kinawley. The Fermanagh Trust has been delighted to support these efforts via the provision of advice and funding guidance. In addition the Trust has also provided some direct financial support. We wish everyone connected with the project every success in the coming months.



Damian McManus Director & Secretary of the Kinawley Community Hall Association showing the final plans to Lauri McCusker, Director of the Fermanagh Trust

Shared Education continued from front page.....

Shared Education is an effective way of delivering the curriculum commented another primary school principal. **'Key Stage 2 Citizenship project which included visits to Fermanagh District Council & the NI Assembly. The children's understanding of this has helped them take a more active role in the school council work & gain a better understanding of each other's political viewpoints'**. Children are not born prejudiced – it is learned. So it is important to engage young pupils in this initiative, during their formative years, where they learn to respect & celebrate diversity.

Shared Education in Post-Primary Schools - Year 3 will also see a greater number of post-primary schools in the County involved in Shared Education. The majority of post-primary schools will benefit from £140k grant aid during 2011 / 2012. One of the new Shared Education initiatives in year 3, is a further development of the linkage between two schools in Lisnaskea – St Comhghall's College and Lisnaskea High School. During the current year (2010 / 2011) both schools, along with St Eugene's College, Roslea and St Aidan's High School, Derrylin delivered a very successful joint literacy programme, which led to a significant rise in the reading ability of the participating pupils. The two Lisnaskea post-primary schools plan to further develop their working relationship through joint art classes for Year 9 and Year 11 pupils. The joint initiative will enable the Key Stage 3 pupils achieve their ICT Accreditation and for the GCSE pupils, it will contribute to the building of Art & Design coursework portfolios, an essential part of the assessment process.

Feedback from post-primary pupils shows the Programme is helping to build better relations. One pupil commented that Shared Education is **'mind broadening, provokes open-mindedness, discourages ignorance and prejudice'**. Shared Education can help to overcome the legacy of the past, as another pupil explained, **'I think there is a lot of suspicion between young people of different backgrounds and I think that this project has started to help reduce tensions which is very important.'**

Now that the post primary schools have embarked on Shared Education and see the benefits, there is a desire for it to continue. As one post-primary Principal stated, **'I believe the concept of the Fermanagh Shared Education Programme is excellent and I would loathe to lose it. The challenge is how to keep it going'**. Schools across Fermanagh have experienced the benefits of Shared Education over the past two years and the schools wish to see this work continue and grow. By working collaboratively with a neighbouring school from a different sector, aspects of the curriculum can be delivered more effectively, enhancing the educational opportunities for pupils. Shared Education is supporting schools to 'think outside the box' to provide a more holistic and enriching educational experience for their pupils. Considering the many dilemmas facing education in Fermanagh, Shared Education provides an opportunity to look at new ways to provide the best education for our children.

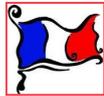


Choir members from Lisbellaw PS, Enniskillen Model PS, Jones Memorial PS, Florencecourt PS & St Pauls, Irvinestown at choral society's recent concert

Learn a new language in Fermanagh House

Fermanagh Language Centre are holding courses in Fermanagh House. If you are interested open evenings will be held on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th September 2011 with a wine and cheese reception.

Beginners—Intermediate—Advanced—Conversational—Exam Preparation



French

Courses to commence 26th September 2011



Italian

Contact—07837037123 French

07834321557 Italian

07596916259 Spanish



Spanish

All Welcome!; tous les bienvenus!; tutti benvenuti!; todos bienvenidos!

Info: fermanaghlanguagecentre@hotmail.co.uk

Child Protection Courses

There is a 2 day child protection course running on the 22nd and 29th September please register your interest by contacting Fermanagh House.

Funding advice and free Web Portal available



Free Training on www.fermanagh.info & Grant Finder Packages

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.

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.

If you wish to make contact with voluntary / community groups in Fermanagh and don't have an up-to-date list of contact details, if your group is looking for funding to carry out a particular project or you would like to promote your work free-of-charge then visit www.fermanagh.info

To avail of free training on the website or on how to carry out a funding search please contact Marilyn at Fermanagh Trust.



Fermanagh House celebrates 4th Birthday



Fermanagh House is now in it's 4th year and is going from strength to strength!

The Centre has been tremendously busy again over the past year, hosting a wide variety of meetings, conferences, workshops, seminars, educational courses and exhibitions.

The centre continues to be a base for a wide range of voluntary and community organisations who provide a wide range of services and support to people across Fermanagh and beyond. From counselling services to various training programmes; Fermanagh House offers a unique blend of the very latest facilities for meetings, seminars, workshops, conferences and educational courses. To this end the following is available: Laptops; Flipcharts; Overhead Projector; Lectern; Photocopying and Faxing services; Stationery; Catering Services. Whatever your meeting requirements, you can enjoy spacious and prestigious surroundings supported by modern technology provided with a personal and attentive service.

Range of Educational Courses to Restart in September 2011

The WEA in partnership with the South West College have organized a number of educational courses in Fermanagh House from September 2011 including;

- Literacy,
- Numeracy,
- Food Hygiene,
- Basic Computers,
- Basic First Aid.

To be eligible for a discounted place you must meet the following criteria: - Over 19 years of age, - Not in paid work or on a college course, - Not on a government scheme, - Have no qualifications at level 2 or higher, - Actively seeking or intending to seek employment. If you would like to book a place on either of the following courses, please contact Fermanagh House, Enniskillen.

Fermanagh House Opening Times:

Monday ~ Friday:
8.30am ~ 10.00pm

(5.30pm ~ 10.00pm
Subject to Bookings)

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

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The Fermanagh Trust
County Fermanagh's Community Foundation

