

COMMUNITY EDUCATION NETWORK NEWSLETTER

“GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION”

“Skilful means for tutoring”

- **Generosity:** The desire to give the gift of competence to another person
- **Pleasing Attitude:** To ensure that others will be drawn to your words and find meaning in them
- **Purposeful approach:** The tutor applies him/herself fully to the task in hand, both in preparation and in the classroom
- **Confidence:** Good preparation will help to ensure the knowledge is transmitted with assurance
- **Impartiality:** Whatever affection the tutor feels for any pupil must be applied equally to all.

Sound familiar? They could be the guiding principles of community education but in fact are the set of instructions given, in 5AD, to followers of Buddha who had achieved Nirvana, as guidelines for helping others reach the same state. Reflect!!!

EDITORIAL

Telling the readers of the CENC Newsletter about the importance of Community Education is an unnecessary exercise; we have all seen its effects on the adults in our communities and on their families.

However, talking about making time for their own professional development meets, not quite with resistance, but with the familiar “Where will we get the time?” / “Where will we get the funding?”

We know that as adult educators, we have a responsibility to ourselves and to our learners to refresh our skills, learn new ones and be learners ourselves.

We are also increasingly aware of the demands that the Charities Legislation will put on us; in the absence of training, these demands assume enormous proportions and the perceived immensity of the task is in danger of sending good and talented people running from the sector. Governance, strategic planning, accounting, negotiation, full cost recovery, funding are just some of the issues, tasks and skills that are part of the job we do – but muddling along in the fervent hope that all will be well is no longer an option.

So the funding CENC has secured from The Wheel's Training Links scheme and C.R.A.G.A. is the best news so far this year. It makes essential training available to all of us who are lucky enough to be part of the Network; it means that the headache of how to provide professional development for our staff has been removed, and, better still, the funding of all of this is not our problem!

The Network has always given us the opportunity to collaborate with each other for professional development; now, with a Training Needs Analysis underway, will insure that our specific professional development is met and that shared understanding of these needs, together with the training necessary to meet these needs, will strengthen partnership within the network.

Our commitment to learner-centred education is evidenced by having the highest standard possible. Yet these are qualities that we, in community education tend to take for granted; by building and enriching our own skills, gives us the opportunity to demonstrate this commitment by ensuring we continue to adapt to our ever changing environments.



Crosscare is the social care agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin. It draws its inspiration from the example and teachings of Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person is created in the image and likeness of God. This places responsibility on us to work to the highest possible standards and to treat every person who uses our services and who works for or with us with the utmost respect, courtesy and love.

The Crosscare Community Adult Education Programme reflects the principles of the Crosscare organisation by advocating the value and quality of community adult education. It promotes empowerment, equality, leadership and celebration to help us to “Act Justly, Love Tenderly and Walk Humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8)

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FÁILTE BALBRIGGAN VINCENTIAN REFUGEE CENTRE

There is a new drop in centre in the Old St. George's School Building on Hampton Street in Balbriggan. "Fáilte Balbriggan" is an offshoot of the Vincentian Refugee Centre in Phibsborough which has been dealing with the needs of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and the immigrant community in general for the last ten years.

As its client group has started to shift from the city centre to other areas like Dublin 15 and Balbriggan (due to housing costs, quality of accommodation for their families etc.) it became difficult and costly for clients to access the Phibsborough service, so Fáilte Balbriggan was established as a dedicated point of contact in the local community. It's important to stress though that this drop-in centre is for everyone – Irish and migrants alike. As the jobless numbers were rising, Fáilte Balbriggan had been watching the lines grow outside the local social welfare office. Subsequently Fáilte Balbriggan had many conversations with the Community Welfare Officers who expressed concern about the impact the recession would have on the town. This office has since been closed down and now Social Welfare recipients must travel to Coolock!

Fáilte Balbriggan hopes that through the provision of information and social support it can be of assistance to people struggling through the economic downturn and to people adjusting to a new life in Ireland. For many, signing on to social welfare for the first time is a daunting and distressing experience as people don't know exactly what information is required of them. The new drop-in centre is designed so that staff and volunteers can spend time with people, give them the up-to-date information and to help them fill out official forms but also, and perhaps most importantly, to sit, chat and you can contact Matt Byrne. The outreach support people through whatever difficulties they are encountering. Fáilte Balbriggan aims to provide a back-up support service to the Citizens Information Centre in Balbriggan and the Fingal Leader Partnership.



The centre is an NGO and is strictly not for profit. It provides information, advocacy (for example if you need to appeal a social welfare decision) and support on: Housing, Health, Employment, Social Welfare, Education, Immigration law. It runs conversational English sessions and will soon expand them in collaboration with Fáilte Isteach. It runs a small but growing a men's group. It supports the WOMB women's group and the African women's group, and the ARIC support group for newcomers with disabilities. The centre aims to support and facilitate local community groups and invites them to use the centre for their meetings. Fáilte Balbriggan is also starting a homework club for primary children to be staffed by suitably qualified volunteers. Ultimately, as a place of welcome, the aim is to promote positive integration in a rapidly expanding Balbriggan.

For more details, you can contact Matt Byrne, outreach worker with the VRC, or the manager, David Maganda, on 01 8102580.

"PERCEPTIONS OF MIGRANTS IN BLANCHARDSTOWN"

RESEARCH STUDY (FEBRUARY 2009)

The findings of a research project entitled "Perceptions of migrants and their impact on the Blanchardstown area: local views" was launched in the Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown. The study shows how in a short space of time Blanchardstown has a particularly high recipient of migrants—almost 22% being non-Irish nationals, double the national average. Unlike a smaller scale study conducted by the researcher in 2006, migrants were no longer considered as temporary but rather as a permanent feature of the Blanchardstown area.



**Dr. Brid Ni Chonaill delivering her presentation
at the launch of the ITB Research into
"Perceptions of Migrants in Blanchardstown"**

The findings that emerged relate to economics and resources, culture and identity with colour as a marker of difference. Both Irish & migrant participants identified economics as the driving force attracting migrants to the area. Migrant workers were not perceived as taking Irish jobs, rather occupying lower-skilled and lower-paid jobs the Irish did not want.

The data was collected between March & July 2008, before the country technically entered recession. Migrant participants traced changes in attitudes towards themselves in the wider Irish society, attributable partly to the declining economic situation. In keeping with standard economic theory, only those in competition for an insufficient supply of local authority houses and for welfare payments perceived migrants as a threat. Finally, colour was widely recognised as a signifier of difference, by both Irish and migrant participants. Black migrants were perceived as more 'visible' as opposed to the 'more invisible' Eastern Europeans.

However the issue of racism was raised on both sides with some Irish participants citing the government as its source. Both Irish and black participants spoke of a lack of voice to express what was happening. The recent funding cut-backs in the Equality Authority budget and the complete erasure of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Integration do not bode well for the fight against racism, regarding which the government cannot afford to be complacent, in particular in light of the current economic climate.

Dr. Brid expressed her gratitude for the positive response that she received to the study and was very appreciative of the cooperation received from local agencies and organisations in the Blanchardstown area.

NOTICEBOARD

The Launch of the Ballymun Whitehall Area Partnership

On Tuesday 23rd of February, the Ballymun Partnership morphed into the Ballymun Whitehall Area Partnership. This transformation was celebrated by all involved in the Community of both Ballymun and Whitehall and was opened by the Junior Minister John Curran with Damien Drumm, the Chairperson of the Partnership acting as M.C.

This extension of the Partnership's remit will find that greater support is on offer to those living in the areas of Larkin & Whitehall — two communities which have an ageing population.



The Launch of the Lantern Multi-Cultural & Faith Centre

The Lantern was launched in November as a place of hospitality to promote intercultural and interfaith dialogue. As part of the opening ceremony trees were planted and named after four children from four different countries— our photo shows young Achmud from Iraq (on the right) standing proudly beside his tree with his brother Ali and parents Geenan & Salaam.

Commencing on the 26th of February, the Lantern will be running a Symposium entitled "Be the Change". The symposium conducted over three Thursdays, helps us to come to a deeper understanding of where we are as a society, how we got here and what we must do to see an ecologically sustainable, socially just, and spiritually fulfilling approach to life on our planet.

The Centre is also running a conference for International Women's day on Friday 6th March. Dr. Margaret McCurtain presenting "Irish Women through the Ages" With Denise Charlton discussing "Experiences of Women Migrating to Ireland". Entertainment will also be provided including a choir from Slovakia, Middle Eastern Dancing coupled with a short drama.



Marie from the CENC with Mary Hanlon of DCC at the launch of the Lantern

D12 Domestic Violence

The management and staff of the Dublin 12 Domestic Violence Service are hosting a Domestic Violence Forum on Thursday 12th March between 10.00 –13.00 in St. Agnes Parish Hall in Crumlin Village.

There will be a presentation given by Margaret Acton—a Child Psychologist on the "Effects of Domestic Violence on Children", followed by group work shops, feed back and a Question & Answer Session.

CENC EVENTS



The Arklow Women's Group receiving Certs for the 3rd Age Personal Development course, delivered by Eilish Cullen.



Berni Brady, Director of AONTAS with Natasha Bailey, trainer to Women's Community Education.



Deirdre O'Dwyer with young mothers receiving their certificates in Parenting Skills delivered by Marie Kilbride.



Berni Brady, Director of AONTAS, with Natasha Bailey, trainer to coordinators of Women's Community Education.



Staff of Solas at the Closing Seminar of the Quality Assurance Framework.



Sean Haughey T.D. presenting Solas with their certificate.