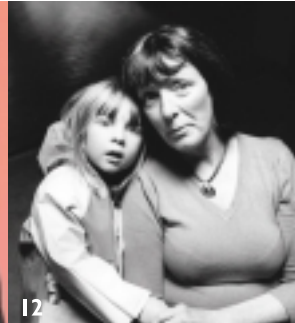




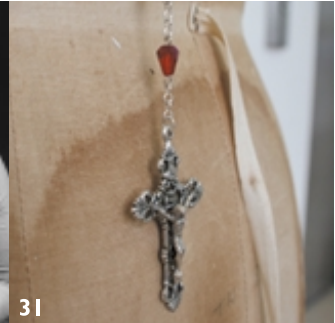
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Unfinished journey

“

The outsider has become insider.

*The man **who always said no has said yes***

”

ONE OF THE FIRST Corrymeela conferences was at Easter 1966 with the then Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Terence O'Neill, speaking. Outside was a certain cleric protesting about sell-out to the enemies of Ulster. This person was the Revd Ian Paisley – the embodiment of Ulster Says No. Paisley sat down on 26 March 2007 with the Leader of Sinn Féin, Gerry Adams, to announce an agreement which led to the sharing of power between Unionists and Republicans on 8 May. Ian Paisley became First Minister. The outsider has become insider. The man who always said no has said yes.

Easter 1966 also celebrated an important event – the 50th anniversary of the Easter Rising. The Republican movement had to learn, over 30 destructive years and 3,700 deaths, that violent insurrection didn't work. There had to be accommodation.

Ray Davey recognised that something had to change in the Ulster that he knew and there had to be new imaginations, new conversations, new meetings, and new journeyings. Paisley resisted new imaginings, new conversations and new journeyings – and it's over. The Republican movement's campaign of violence reached a dead end – and it's over. Of course the reconciliation journey goes on – and we are only now in the foothills.

Ray Davey was a prophet and the founding of Corrymeela was a prophetic action. We can see reconciliation work – which starts on the margin, may look small and insignificant and can be costly – as prophetic activity. What we see is the importance of vision – and the incarnation of that vision – and we may only know about the authenticity of the vision decades later.

There is, of course, a feeling of unfairness in seeing the DUP and Sinn Féin reaping the rewards of the tireless efforts and self-sacrifice of those who laboured longer and far more consistently in the vineyard of peace politics than these two parties. At least in the parable of the labourers (Matt. 20:1–16)

in the vineyard everyone got the same reward for their labours. In the Northern Ireland version of the parable those who come last get the most reward and get to thrust the others aside and into the dustbin of history. Politics is a cruel activity; losers tend to go unrewarded. So let us remember Terence O'Neill, Brian Faulkner and David Trimble. Let us remember the SDLP who kept the cause of constitutional non-violent nationalism alive in dark times. John Hume provided many of the ideas for the Good Friday Agreement and was the first to state that the Republican movement was ready to negotiate seriously about an end to violence. Let us ever remember the Alliance Party who embodied a politics of Protestant and Catholic working together. And let us not forget those in Loyalism – David Ervine, Billy Mitchell and others – who sought to move in a non-violent direction. And then there were the peacemakers like the Feakle clergy and Father Alec Reid – subject to abuse and misunderstanding. And finally let us remember British and Irish politicians who worked away at the problem – often in discouraging times.

Yes, this is an historic moment. But it has to be seen as only another step in a long journey. It is not the end of the journey – reconciliation and a shared future have not arrived. And how devolution will work remains to be seen. The central challenge in Northern Ireland is to change the historic pattern of community relating – of distrust, fear, exclusion and violence – and to create a shared future of inclusiveness, equity, diversity and inter-dependence. The working of a DUP/Sinn Féin dominated Executive has to be measured against that goal.

The Corrymeelas of this world – independent, alternative voices – are going to be more than ever needed in this strange new world that is opening up. An unfinished journey indeed.

David Stevens



David Stevens is the Leader of the Corrymeela Community.



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With a little help from my friends

AS I WAS PUTTING TOGETHER the stories for this issue I was touched by the many varied examples of friendship that link so many of them. We are saying goodbye to a much loved, loyal friend, Anna Glass, and then reading of Rachel Craig, our Family Worker, who was making new friends in Kenya. We are thinking of having to say goodbye to hard-working staff such as David Price, Madeline Donnelly, Jimmy Gordon and Beverly Newton whilst looking forward to welcoming the new staff who will come to join Corrymeela. I think of the Friends Weekend held recently at the Centre and how I made new friends in the easy, relaxed Corrymeela way and my journey to New York for the Fitzpatrick Memorial Fund Golf fundraiser, meeting the many Irish-American friends who, just like our Friends here, are united by their support of Corrymeela. At the same time we still have stories to report of new peace walls and living within segregated schooling and housing in Northern Ireland, where to have the chance to make friends from the other side of the wall is just as relevant today as it was in 1966. Recently we sent you a request to renew or to become a Friend of Corrymeela; if you haven't had the chance to reply yet please do, we need your support and your friendship.

Your friend, Jo

Jo Watson, Editor

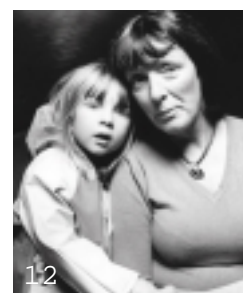


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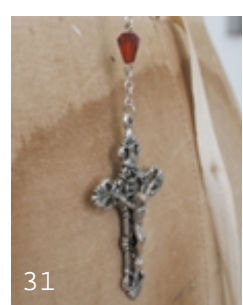
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Sad news

OUR DEAR COLLEAGUE and friend Anna Glass passed away on Tuesday 8 May 2007. Anna worked at the Corrymeela Centre from 1966, showing love and care for staff, volunteers and visitors. Here Derick Wilson writes movingly about a very special person who was at the heart of Corrymeela.

I knew Anna as a friend, as a Corrymeela Community member and as a colleague since 1966.

Anna Glass worked as Cook at Corrymeela from 15 March 1966 until her retirement. I met her in April of that year and, in the many groups of children, young people, families and conference groups I brought to the Centre, I experienced her wonderful, unflappable and complete support.

After retirement Anna did voluntary work for three days a week and this continued up to the week before she went into hospital last year. Since starting her treatment she still continued to go up to the Centre.

Anna often spoke of people 'just having to do their bit' – it was just that in doing her bit she set a very high standard for each of us to attain.

Anna knew instinctively about the central importance of those biblical themes of welcoming strangers and of giving shelter and succour. She knew deeply that the practical ways in which Jesus went about his task were fashioned around

shared meals and good food on tables around which strangers met and, often, became unexpected friends.

One of her first tasks, in 1966, was to cook for the then Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Terence O'Neill, and 60 other people, when he argued, in the end unsuccessfully at that time, that it was time for Catholics and Protestants to be in Government together.

We sometimes wonder why she never wrote down the special mixture she put in the food that day to get people saying such things, especially since it has taken until this week, 41 years later, for this to be secured.

One of her other tasks in the 1960s was to cook for hungry students who were digging trenches, mixing cement and building foundations. She loved cooking for us and we loved her: Mind you, we were still shocked to find out that this diminutive, yet powerful, woman had cycled or later 'mopeded' into work at 6.30 am just to get everything right and taught in Sunday School and ran a cub pack and many, many other activities.

Anna met many people who were in the public gaze; primarily however she met many others who just were seeking friendship, encouragement and acceptance, people like you and me. She met all with the same attentive manner. To Anna, all were important, all were

potential gifts to one another. The small caterpillar poster that used to be in her kitchen said 'Be patient, God isn't finished with me yet!' This resonated with Anna – she wished everyone to have the opportunity to fly as gracefully as butterflies.

Just for the record, from the 1960s onwards Anna Glass met and served: people who had risked their lives helping Jewish people find refuge in World War 2; children and families intimidated from their homes in Northern Ireland; Mother Teresa, George Mitchell and Desmond Tutu to the Dalai Lama and Prince Charles.

Catering for 7,000 people a year, with her many colleagues who will miss her dearly, her work involving wonderful wheaten bread and dropped scones; cooking the minces and making the salads were central in generating atmospheres where experiences of enemies becoming friends grew; where hope trumped despair and where new beginnings became possible.

I and many others used to book in a group of 40 children only to then turn up with 60, because that was the number that turned up, all with parents' permission. She did not turn anyone away.

She melted the tough exteriors of many a, shall we say, 'difficult bunch'. When one group agreed that they had never had home cooking like it and were amazed that 'that wee woman there that did it all for them', it led to one of the lighter-fingered members being warned off from touching those shortbread and scones in the middle of the night. 'Anna has made those especially for us for tomorrow and you are not to touch them!' their mates pressured.

Anna's many qualities included her integrity, her humility, her absolute trustworthiness and dependability, her compassion, her patience and her love.

Anna Glass was a mighty person in a small frame;

She was no bystander but an active participant in changing this world;

She was a locally rooted person yet carried a vision for the wider world;

She was a determined person who, to the end, lived her life fully;

She was a person of faith who knew that faith could move hearts and be an instrument of change in all our lives.

I am honoured to give thanks for Anna and do so on behalf of the founders, Ray and Kathleen Davey,

and members and friends of the Community and everyone who enjoyed her very special hospitality. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Derick Wilson
Corrymeela Community member

*There are still copies available of the very popular **Anna's Cook Book** £2.50 +p&p, available from our Belfast reception and our shop in the Ballycastle Centre. Telephone orders welcome on Tel No 028 9050 8080*

Taking small steps to reduce our carbon footprint

Corrymeela is paying a small premium on its printing costs to cover the carbon emissions produced during the manufacturing and shipping of the paper used in the production of this magazine. The remaining emissions associated with the printing of our magazine are covered by our printers, GPS Colour Graphics. To balance out these emissions GPS Colour Graphics is supporting a variety of forestry and energy efficiency projects which save equivalent amounts of CO₂. The projects they are involved with are located in Jamaica, Chiapas (Mexico), and Crossroads (UK). GPS Colour Graphics works with The CarbonNeutral Company to help reduce its impact on climate change. The CarbonNeutral Company is the leading full service carbon management provider. For more details on how they work visit www.carbonneutral.com

'We are very proud to be the first CarbonNeutral® printing company in Ireland. It reflects our ongoing commitment to leading the way in environmentally responsible printing. Corrymeela is one of our very first customers to offset their magazine carbon emissions.' Helen Bell, GPS Business Development Director. www.gpscolour.co.uk



Anna Glass and Ray Davey

Highly Commended at the Youth Council Northern Ireland

CORRYMEELA'S YOUTH in Community Reconciliation Project (YICR) has been highly commended in the Peace-Building Award category at the Youth Council for Northern Ireland Youth Awards 2007.

The awards, which are now in their second year, were set up to recognise the achievements, talents and energy of young people and those who work with them. Sponsored by the Department of

Education, Youth Council for Northern Ireland and the Health Promotion Agency, the awards were open to both individuals and groups in the seven categories of Volunteering, Peace-Building, Innovation, International work, Inclusion, Health Promotion work and Outstanding Achievement.

Our YICR programme has worked with 29 young adults in this Youth Achievement Award. It is an innovative youth-led project, engaging marginalised young adults from 18-25 in a programme of personal

and social development.

Corrymeela's Youth in Community Project Co-ordinator, Tara McHugh, provides the young adults the opportunity to be involved in designing, developing and facilitating their own modular-based community relations/good relations programme, focused on the Section 75 agenda (1998 NI Act) based on the principles of equity, diversity and interdependence.

The diverse group of young adults who participate relate to a number of identities – young adults who are employed, unemployed, physically disabled, parents, living with a learning disability, students and living in care.

Congratulations go to Tara and all her hardworking participants!

If you would like to know more about this innovative programme or would like to get involved please contact Tara McHugh Tel. 028 9050 8080 email: taramchugh@corrymeela.org

Corrymeela's Youth in Community Reconciliation Project based in Ballycastle were Runners-Up in the Peace-Building category of the Northern Ireland Youth Awards 2007. Pictured are some of the participants along with Tara McHugh, Corrymeela Project Co-ordinator, and Mary Gormley, former Miss Ireland.



Day of private reflection

THURSDAY 21 JUNE 2007 was set aside as a Day of Private Reflection; a time for people in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Great Britain, and all over the world to pause and reflect upon the Northern Ireland conflict and the possibilities for the future.

The Day of Private Reflection was proposed by Healing Through Remembering, a cross-community organisation that has spent the last five years grappling with Northern Ireland's past. Individuals were encouraged to reflect upon the tragedy of the past and to

consider how each might personally enhance the quality of others' lives for the future. The summer solstice, 21 June, was selected to symbolise this looking forward and backward simultaneously as nature pauses at the peak of daylight hours. This was decided after extensive research discovered that every day of the calendar year was the anniversary of a death in relation to the conflict.

Although the reflecting was centred on private reflection, a public art memorial was erected in the Croí at our Centre in Ballycastle to encourage participation on the day of reflection. Belfast-born artist Lycia Trouton installed her Irish Linen Memorial, a site-conscious piece of work consisting of white linen handkerchiefs on which the names



Linen Memorial

of every man, woman, and child killed in the conflict is printed and then embroidered. The list of names is taken from the book *Lost Lives: The Stories of the Men, Women and Children Who Died Through the Northern Ireland Troubles* by David Mc Kittrick.

In the next issue of *Corrymeela* we will be featuring this remarkable memorial and its journey.

For those wishing to find out more about the Day of Private Reflection, visit their website www.dayofreflection.com.

Marian Hornan

Emphasis is placed on the private and individual nature of the day of reflection



Here comes the sun

THE SUMMER PROGRAMME 2007 commenced on Friday 29 June and everyone at the Ballycastle Centre was anticipating the usual mixture of fun, sun, magic and maybe a little summer madness.

We are hoping to build on the success of last year's Summer Programme. Who can forget the Italian High School group witnessing Italy's World Cup triumph in the Village (arranged in advance by Corrymeela, of course), or Rachel's outfit for the Adults' Special Meal in Week 5, or all the fun and laughter at the weekly concerts.

This year, we will be greeting some familiar faces, but also working with some new groups and making new friends. Along with the usual mix of family and youth groups from across Northern Ireland, we will be hosting groups from such exotic

places as Denmark and Glasgow.

We are also pleased to again be hosting Visions 4 Tomorrow, SELB's annual youth conference, now in its fifth year as part of the Summer Programme.

As ever, as well as the hard work from staff, Community members and our long-term volunteer team, we will be supported by a number of summer volunteers who will be travelling to the Centre from all over the world. We are looking forward to welcoming the people who help make the Summer Programme what it is (and hoping they might bring some good weather with them).

"All in all, we are sure that this summer will be exciting, sometimes chaotic and hugely rewarding for all involved" said Jimmy Gordon, Short-term Volunteer Co-ordinator, Ballycastle Centre.

Children sing out to celebrate diversity

CHILDREN'S VOICES OF IRELAND is a new and exciting project dedicated to bringing young people from diverse backgrounds together to explore and celebrate diversity, encourage personal development, and foster goodwill within and between our communities through the medium of music. The project was launched by bringing together young people from Dundalk and Ballycastle on a residential weekend of music workshops, team-building activities and cultural excursions at Corrymeela. The weekend culminated in an afternoon concert performed by participants to celebrate the official launch of Children's Voices of Ireland. The concert was conducted by the Boston City Singers Artistic Director, Jane Money. Jane said 'These young people represent today's diverse Ireland and within two years we hope to have 400 children participating.' Ronnie Millar, Corrymeela Centre Director, said 'We are delighted to be chosen by Children's Voices of Ireland Choir as the venue to host the first performance of the choir. We see the Children's Voices of Ireland Choir as an innovative way to bring children and young people from diverse socio-economic, religious and ethnic backgrounds together to celebrate diversity.'



Eithne & Paddy Fitzpatrick Memorial Golf Tournament

NOW IN ITS 14TH YEAR, it was my great pleasure as Fundraising Director to join John Fitzpatrick and his sister Eithne in New York this May for the Eithne & Paddy Fitzpatrick Memorial Golf Tournament. The fund was established in honor of their parents, Eithne & Paddy Fitzpatrick. Over \$1,000,000 has been donated to charitable and humanitarian causes over the past eleven years by The Eithne & Paddy Fitzpatrick Memorial Fund.

The American Ireland Fund was one of the key sponsors of the event and they have been supporters of Corrymeela for many years. We are indebted to John for his support over many years, for the generous participation of his friends and business associates and especially for their support of our Capital Campaign.

John said 'My personal knowledge of our beneficiaries confirms the tremendous difference we can make in the lives of less fortunate families — especially children. I know no better way of turning our great day of golf into a truly good deed'. **Jo Watson**



Our thanks

Our thanks to the USA Presbyterian Committee for Northern Ireland who have awarded a grant to Corrymeela in recognition of our peace work. For many years their Irish Summer Institute participants have visited Corrymeela, Rev. Dr. James G Macdonell said "Participants have always provided rave reviews about their visits to your Centre."

Farewell

Beverly Newton, Corrymeela Primary Schools Worker, was with us from January 2005 until April 2007. She has recently moved to Newcastle upon Tyne with her husband and has gone back to teaching in the classroom. We wish both of them every success in their new home.

Latest news

We are pleased to announce that Jill Stringer will be our new Primary Schools Worker. Jill has just finished her teaching degree at Stranmillis Teacher Training College and will take up her post with Corrymeela on 1 August 2007. We look forward to introducing her to you in our next magazine.

Corrymeela Member Derick Wilson recognised for exceptional achievement in peace building



ONE OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S most influential community relations activists was rewarded for his 37-year career at the epicentre of efforts to build a shared future during Community Relations Week. Derick Wilson, who began his career in 1970 as a youth worker in Sandy Row and went on to pioneer the intellectual framework for today's community relations activity, was presented with the CRC annual award for exceptional contribution at the CRC policy conference held in Belfast's Stormont Hotel.

Derick spent eight years with the Corrymeela Centre in Ballycastle between 1977 and 1985, where he worked through some of the most difficult days of the Troubles, including the hunger-strike period and the Anglo-Irish Agreement. He is currently a deputy director at the UNESCO Centre at the University of Ulster and has also been chairman of the Northern Ireland Youth Committee as well as centrally involved in ground-breaking community relations initiatives such as the Understanding Conflict Project and the Future Ways Project. He has also been an Equality

Commissioner since 2003.

Community Relations Council Chief Executive, Duncan Morrow, said that no one had been more fundamental to the path community relations activity has taken.

'Having worked at the sharp end of community relations work in some of Belfast's most troubled areas during the 1970s and early 1980s, Derick went on to become the architect of the concept of community relations as we know it today.

With Corrymeela he was involved in creating and developing dynamic projects to build relationships across the divide, including between the loyalist Rathcoole and republican Twinbrook estates. With the Understanding Conflict Project he helped create the Counteract anti-intimidation initiative and as co-director of the Future Ways Project he created the concept of Equity, Diversity and Interdependence – the absolute intellectual foundation of all community relations work in Northern Ireland,' Duncan said.

'Derick is a truly deserving recipient of the award and his

passion, innovative ideas and determination continue to impact positively on the lives of many today. It is fitting that we present Derick with this award at a time of considerable progress in our community as he, more than anyone, has helped bring us to the point where a shared future seems genuinely achievable,' he added.

The Community Relations Council award for exceptional achievement was introduced last year to recognise individuals who have made a valuable contribution to peace-building in Northern Ireland.

Last year the inaugural award was won by Eamonn Deane, the director of L'Derry based community organisation the Holywell Trust. Eamonn was central to the establishment of the Bogside Community Association in the early 1970s and has been involved in the establishment and development of various other community relations initiatives. He was also a member of CRC.

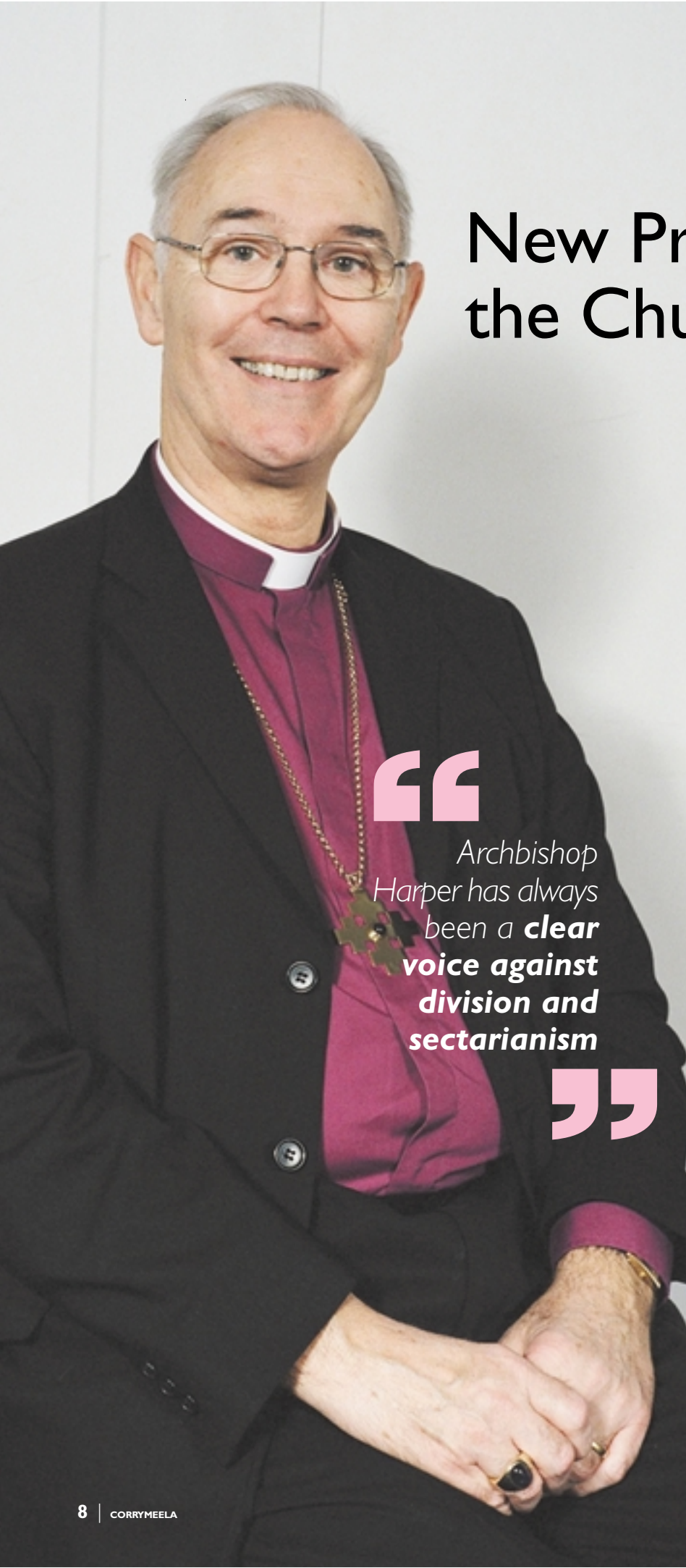
Article first printed in CRC magazine June 2007



Peggy

Terrific fundraising from St Peter's and St Paul's

THE SAINT PATRICK'S WEEKEND was a busy one for Peggy and Frank Owens, their parish priest, Father Tom Quinn and the parishioners of St Peter's and St Paul's, Ealing, London. The Saint Patrick's and Mother's Day celebrations on 17 and 18 March, in addition to two Baptism celebrations, didn't deter these folk from supporting Corrymeela Sunday, as they have been for over 10 years now, and giving up their time and their funds to raising over £1,200 for Corrymeela. Richard and Yvonne Naylor received wonderful hospitality and the opportunity to share news and stories about Corrymeela at no fewer than four packed masses on the Saturday evening and Sunday morning. 'It was great to be there, to meet some of "Christ's ambassadors in the work of reconciliation", and to witness the commitment that some of our Corrymeela Friends have for our work – thank you everyone,' said Yvonne and Richard. Corrymeela is very grateful to Peggy and Frank for their continued hard work and commitment every year. Fundraising events like these are a testament to the generosity and support of our Friends in Great Britain, especially the kindness of Father Quinn.



The new Primate of the Church of Ireland, Archbishop Alan Harper, is determined to make his own mark on the office which was held for more than two decades by his predecessor Archbishop Robin Eames.

New Primate of the Church of Ireland

THE NEW PRIMATE of the Church of Ireland, Archbishop Alan Harper, is determined to make his own mark on the office which was held for more than two decades by his predecessor Archbishop Robin Eames.

Speaking to the *Belfast Telegraph* on the morning after the announcement of his new appointment, he said: 'You will see a new person with a new face and someone with a somewhat different experience in the ministry. If that were not so it would be a bad thing.'

It is good to be able to have known your predecessor and to identify with his work, and yet to have enough initiative and independence to do new things.'

The warmth of the congratulations offered to him bodes well for the future, particularly in furthering his rapport with his Catholic counterpart in Armagh. Primate Sean Brady said: 'We have attended conferences and served on delegations together, and Archbishop Harper has always been a clear voice against division and sectarianism. Wherever he has served he has won affection and respect for his calm, incisive leadership both in ecclesiastical and civic matters.'

Significantly, his appointment was also warmly welcomed by Archbishop Eames, who said that 'his deep spirituality will equip him to provide the Church of Ireland with prayerful and wise leadership'.

The new Primate has spent most of his ministry in Northern Ireland, with a short period at Moville in Donegal, but as a former professional archaeologist, he has formed personal and professional relationships with people across the island.

THE MOST REVEREND ALAN EDWIN THOMAS HARPER O.B.E., B.A.

Archbishop Harper was ordained deacon in 1978 and priested in 1979. He began his ministry in Northern Ireland undertaking his curacy at Ballywillan in Connor diocese from 1978-1980. Archbishop Harper's passion for archaeology and history led him, in 1980, to be appointed a member of the Historic Monuments Council for Northern Ireland and to become its Chairman from 1986-1995. In 1996 he was appointed an OBE for Services to Conservation in Northern Ireland. On 09 January 2007 he was elected as Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland by the House of Bishops. Archbishop Harper is married to Helen and they have four children and one grandchild.

“

Archbishop Harper has always been a **clear voice against division and sectarianism**

”

Religion Correspondent Alf McCreary talks to Archbishop Robin Eames, who retired on New Year's Eve, and also to his wife, Lady Eames. Since his retirement Lord Eames is taking a much more active part in the House of Lords, where he is a Life Peer.

Making time for peace...

and now quiet!

I HAVE MUCH MORE TIME to take part in debates, and in this way I do what I can to further the interests of the people of Northern Ireland,' he explains. 'I also take the opportunity to introduce to other arenas the Christian faith which has been the basis of my life.'

Dr Eames has been one of the longest-serving Archbishops in the past century and also one of the most distinguished Primates in the world-wide Anglican Communion. He has been a confidant of three Archbishops of Canterbury – Dr Robert Runcie, Dr George Carey and now Dr Rowan Williams – and he was recently honoured with the Archbishop of Canterbury's Special Award for Outstanding Service. The only other such award was given to Archbishop Desmond Tutu some years ago.

He has no major regrets about his career, including his handling of the vexatious Drumcree dispute. 'This was my personal Calvary, and one of the toughest periods of my career,' he admits. 'It was demanding not only to react to what was happening, but also to try to explain it to a wider audience. A simple, quick "fix" would only have

made matters worse, and the bigger challenge was to try to bring about a permanent solution.'

The biggest challenge facing the Church at large, he believes, is 'to communicate the Gospel and the work of the Church to a new generation who are not a captive audience'.

Dr Eames pays tribute to his family for their unflinching support throughout his career. He and Lady Eames celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary earlier this year, and he says: 'If she doesn't know my failings now, she never will, but we still get on very well!'

Eames have remained very close throughout their 40-year marriage. 'Robin has taught me much, including how he uses his time so extremely well,' she adds. 'He also has a wonderful sense of humour, and he is the same person at home as he is outside. There is no question of a public smile and then a private frown.'

He also deals with your concerns just as if they were as important as major matters of state. I would marry him again in the morning, if not even today!

“...no question of a **public face** and then a **private frown**”



Alf McCreary

Stop Press

In the month of June, the Secretary of State announced the formation of an independent consultative group to seek a consensus across the community in Northern Ireland on the best way deal with the legacy of the past.

The group will be co-chaired by Lord Eames, the former Archbishop of Armagh and Denis Bradley, the first vice-chairman of the Policing Board.

The full membership of the Group is Jarlath Burns, former GAA captain of Armagh and GAA analyst, Rev Lesley Carroll, Presbyterian Minister, Willie John McBride, former captain of the British and Irish Lions rugby team, James Mackey, former lecturer in philosophy at Queen's University Belfast and visiting professor at Trinity College Dublin, Elaine Moore, alcohol and drugs counsellor at Northlands, based at Magilligan Prison and David Porter, Director of the Centre for Contemporary Christianity in Ireland.

In addition, Martti Ahtisaari and Brian Curran have agreed to act as international advisers to the panel to offer impartial advice on any lessons that might be learned for Northern Ireland from their wide-ranging experience of addressing the aftermath of conflict in other countries.



Alf is an award-winning journalist and author, who is currently Religion Correspondent of the Belfast Telegraph



Food for thought



Shea O'Hara and Frances McBride



Moyra Fleming and Marian Loftus

FOR OVER 40 YEARS Corrymeela has always placed a high emphasis on providing quality meals for the thousands of visitors who have made their way through our doors. This tradition of warm hospitality through an engaging yet relaxed and comfortable meal experience is part and parcel of the safe and friendly environment we strive to maintain. The sustenance and nourishment in our dining rooms provide an important foundation for the continuing work of programmes and the group's session. Indeed, many would concede some of Corrymeela's 'miracle moments' have happened over a cup of tea or a shared meal.

The focus on this meal experience has never been more important than now with rising expectations across the culinary spectrum, such as the need to provide our guests, staff and volunteers with healthier, more nutritious food on one side versus the unflappable demand for chips, chips and more chips on the other!

In the Autumn of 2006, we set up the Food Experience Task Force within our ranks to deal with these and other issues surrounding our food production and service. We immediately set to work on how to improve and raise the profile of the meal experience through brainstorming suggestions, broad discussion, decision-making, and eventual detailed fine-tuning. During this time several recommendations were made and have indeed been implemented. One such recommendation was the

Menu Planning System.

In essence this involves an all-new six-weekly rotated menu which is updated seasonally. Six to eight weeks prior to a group's arrival at the Centre, we will send out a small information pack outlining our menu options for their stay. We also encourage our groups' organisers to get in touch with us with any alterations or dietary requirements they may have so we can tailor the menu to their needs.

We focus our new menu on the balance of healthy and nutritious food, coupled with tasty, exciting and more popular dishes that people of all age groups will enjoy. Vegetarian options are always available.

Some of the main aims and benefits of this new system include:

- To generally raise the profile of the dining experience as an integral part of the overall holistic Corrymeela visit.
- To increase creativity in the kitchen with progressive and constantly evolving menu ideas.
- To improve prior contact with group leaders, building stronger relationships and ensuring more successful residential stays.
- To become more economical through planned stock control and rotation, and portion control.
- To encourage seasonality with more fresh produce served.
- To naturally create a balanced, healthy and varied diet for our long-term volunteers and staff on-site.



Since launching the new menu in April 2007, we have already received some great feedback from our groups. Here's a taste:

'The menu sounds delicious. I am sure we will enjoy whatever you provide. We are looking forward to meeting everyone involved at Corrymeela.'

'That looks great. Thanks so much. Nice to see the tantalising dishes in store. Can't wait.'

'How times have changed, the menu used to be a surprise and now we get it sent weeks before the residential, now I am starving!!! Menu looks lovely.'

And here's a few samples of our dishes now available,

Classic style beef steak stroganoff served with fluffy wholegrain rice

Italian style chicken cacciatore (mixed pepper and tomato sauce) with penne pasta and fresh breads

Lemon and ginger lamb chops served with roast potatoes and cook's vegetables

Parsnip and cheddar soup, homemade breads and cook's selection of fillings

Find more information on our website
www.corrymeela.org

Bon Appetit,

Shane O'Neill

House Manager and The Kitchen Team.

The Kitchen Team members are Moyra Fleming (Head Cook), Marian Loftus, and Shea O'Hara

Food Experience Task Force members are Marian Brady, David Mark, Rachel Craig, Ronnie Millar, Kate Pettis, Catherine Vincent, Moyra Fleming, Helen Hughes, Shane O'Neill.



IN A YEAR IN WHICH THE CORRYMEELA CENTRE is hosting more groups than before, and one in which we are undertaking good work, constructive programme development, and having a lot of fun, there have been a number of occasions when we, as a community, have slowed down to pause and reflect on our journey.

I wonder how the 'Angel of History' will view the dramatic chain of events of the past year in Northern Ireland politics. I fear that if we don't slow down from time to time and do the quiet work of reflection and reconciliation, all the political progress we have made will not bring us to where we want to be. It may even cost us to "walk slow in the parade of ages" but it will pay off in the long run (A.W. Tozer).

Northern Ireland's recent Day of Private Reflection was a sober reminder of lost lives – our mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, aunts, uncles, grannies, grandas, cousins, and neighbours. Corrymeela hosted Lycia Trouton's Irish Linen Memorial on this longest day, and a constant flow of visitors silently moved through the Croí studying the names that had been lovingly embroidered on hundreds of linen handkerchiefs. We are reminded that we cannot turn our backs on history and rush towards reconciliation in haste.

Another event that slowed us down was the St Patrick's Day weekend, when Fr Laurence Freeman and Brendan McAllister led us in a retreat of Christian meditation. We were reminded of the need to balance our social action with contemplative reflection

On a recent visit to the Corrymeela Centre, Dennis Bradley encouraged us to enjoy the summer months – to get out the BBQ and hit the beach – because we have a long road ahead of us. Well, I think we are all ready for summer. Hope you have a good one.

A few updates:

In February David Price and the volunteers hosted a residential weekend and inaugural concert of the Children's Voices of Ireland. It was wonderful to see, and hear, how quickly children from Dundalk and Ballycastle bonded, and performed in concert for the public, friends and family.

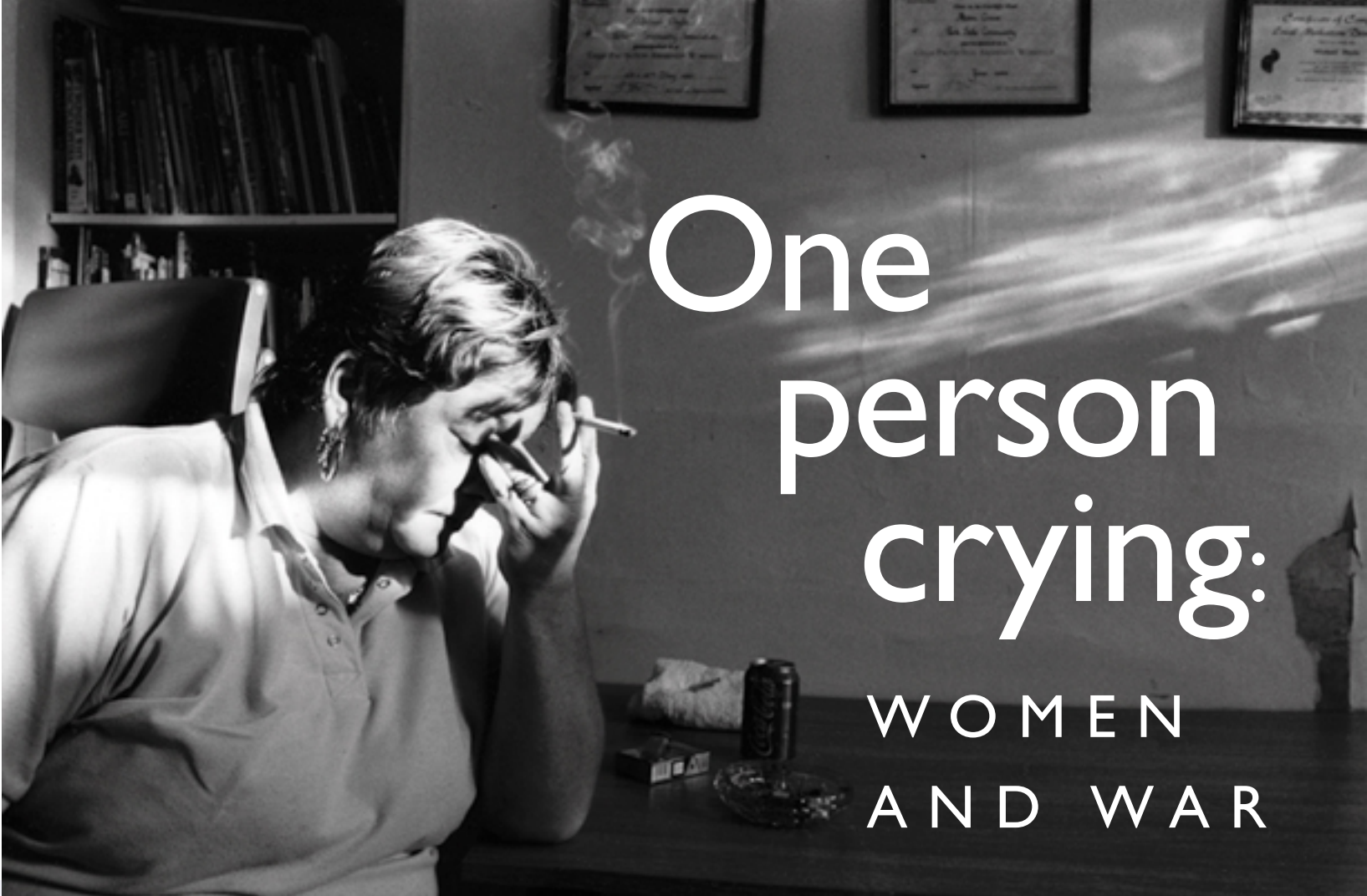
David Price and Ciara McFarland recently piloted new programme work during their Sixth Form Conference, using new Facing History and Ourselves resources (www.facinghistory.org). We are excited about further developing this work and our partnership with FHAO.

Another success story was our support for the International Church and Peace Conference which focused on where we can find true security these days – the theme was 'Not by Power, nor by Might, but by my Spirit'. It was wonderful to see the Centre firing on all cylinders and for staff and volunteers to enjoy a full site conference, leading and entering into sessions – not to mention some crazy dancing during the celebration ceilidh.

We are looking forward to hosting the Dialogue for Peaceful Change conflict transformation training course in September, and the Interfaith Youth Conference for young adults from the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum and Northern Ireland, led by Rev. Dr. Inderjit Bhogal.

Ronnie Millar

Ronnie is Centre Director at Ballycastle



One person crying: WOMEN AND WAR

Alice McNally

Alice McNally, 45, is a Catholic mother of 11 children, who lost five of them at a young age, and has lived in North Belfast her whole life. This area of the city has been one of the most violent, known as an interface, it straddles both Catholic and Protestant communities and continues to sustain sectarian strife. Photographed in Belfast, Northern Ireland in October 2006.

AS MY PERSONAL PHOTO ESSAY, *One Person Crying: Women and War*, continues to take me around the world, I try to highlight how women in different countries, cultures and communities have been directly impacted by war and conflict. When I chose to go to Northern Ireland, I started by laying the groundwork for the trip months before I actually boarded the plane in October 2006. I always hope that each trip will be fruitful in terms of meeting people, but always have some anxiety attached because of the nature of the story I am trying to tell.

Sean Brennan of the De Bono Foundation became my key contact in Belfast, and the first day

I arrived he drove me around the city so that I could get a sense of place. Keenly aware of my project, he said he has a friend who works with Corrymeela, and would I like to meet her. I said yes.

That first afternoon I called Susan McEwen, Corrymeela Project Worker, and she graciously invited me to sit in on a cross-community women's group from Parkside and Ballybeen that she was holding the following Monday

morning. She made no promises that the women would agree to meet with me after the session, but rather gave me the opportunity to present my project to the women who were participating that day. Susan guided the circle of about 20 women with admirable ease, and as they sipped tea and nibbled toast, the hour went by with poignant conversations, common experiences revealed, a few tears and a few more fits of laughter.

At Susan's urging, I presented photographs from my project taken in other countries around the world, answered questions that some of the women had, and hoped that a few of them might agree to meet with me later in the week. I spoke with the women at the end of the session and got the names and telephone numbers of a handful of those women who were willing to speak with me and let me photograph them. The photographs of most of these women from both communities that I met through Susan and Corrymeela ended up creating the foundation of my photo essay on Northern Ireland. I believe it was their trust in Susan and Corrymeela that led them to open up to me.

As a result of these introductions, I spent an afternoon in Parkside with Alice McNally, Margaret Hale and Allison Crowe. They generously opened their homes and their hearts, telling me the stories

“poignant conversations,
**common experiences
revealed**, a few tears and
a few more fits of laughter”

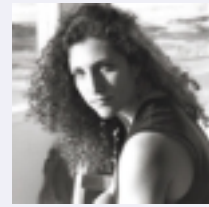
of their lives and how the years of the Troubles had impacted on them. I met some of their children and was able to make what I feel are strong and telling portraits.

I also met with Heather Woods, June Mahood and Karen Harvey in Ballybeen at the Dundonald Methodist Church on a rainy afternoon later in the week. They too opened up to me and I was able to get more photographs that were equally telling portraits. More than even the photographs, my experience of meeting these women was very profound, and one that has stayed with me these subsequent months since I've been back in Los Angeles.

In December, I spent a few weeks in the darkroom making silver gelatin prints of my photographs from Northern Ireland – I still work with black and white negative film for this project – and as I looked at the faces of the women I met and photographed, I was again moved by their strength and enduring courage, given all that they have been through in their lives.

Marissa Roth

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Marissa Roth has worked as a freelance photojournalist and documentary photographer since 1981. She is a graduate of UCLA with a B.F.A. in graphic design and currently works on assignment for the New York Times, among other publications. In 1993,



Roth was part of the Los Angeles Times photography staff that won a Pulitzer Prize for Best Spot News Coverage, for the 1992 Los Angeles riots. Roth's first solo book, *Burning Heart, A Portrait of the Philippines*, was published in 1999, and represents 10 years of photography in the archipelago. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions and a number of images are in museum, corporate and private collections. In 2000, she completed a documentary photography project commissioned by the Los Angeles Public Library, entitled 'Inside/Out: Downtown Los Angeles'. Her second book, *Real City, Downtown Los Angeles Inside/Out*, was published in August 2001, incorporating many of the images from the Library project. In June 2005, Roth was commissioned by the Museum of Tolerance/Simon Wiesenthal Center to photograph all of the Holocaust survivors who volunteer there. 'Witness To Truth', the resulting group of 58 black and white portraits, went on permanent exhibition at the museum in September 2005. A book of these images is currently in production for a 2008 release.

Roth is currently working on a long-term personal project entitled 'One Person Crying: Women and War', that addresses the immediate and lingering impact of war on women in different countries and cultures around the world.

Heather Woods

Heather Woods, with her grand-daughter Chloe Prentice, at the Ballybeen Methodist Church outside of Belfast. She is Protestant, but was forced to leave Ballybeen because her husband was a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. She said that every day that he went to work, she was afraid he'd never come home. He survived the Troubles.

Photographed near Belfast, Northern Ireland in October 2006.

Margaret Hale

Margaret Hale, a Catholic woman who lives in Parkside, North Belfast, was beaten severely one night by an unknown assailant outside her home in October 2001. Her left eye socket was crushed and her left arm was broken. As a child, her family's home was burned down in the New Lodge area of Belfast.

Photographed in North Belfast, Northern Ireland in October 2006.

Allison Crowe

Allison Crowe, with her daughter Kelly, in Parkside, North Belfast, where they live. She is Protestant, but the father of her two daughters is a Catholic. They never married and are now separated. Photographed in North Belfast, Northern Ireland in October 2006.



LIGHT OF CORRYMEELA SHINING STRONGLY

OVER FIFTY FRIENDS OF CORRYMEELA gathered at the Ballycastle Centre for the May 2007 Friends' weekend. This is Craig Cameron's reflections of this weekend of real sharing.

Rathlin Island is the thin land joining the sea to the sky when you look out from Corrymeela. You are mesmerised when the setting sun slides into the Sea of Moyle between Kenbane Head on the mainland and Bull Point on Rathlin. I had longed to revisit the island to view Corrymeela across the

Sea of Moyle. As I walked to the lighthouses on the island I remembered Ray Davey comparing Corrymeela to one of these great lights and I asked myself, 'Is Corrymeela's light still shining brightly?'

Back in Corrymeela we gathered from many parts of Ireland and England. Friends had come from Skibbereen, Dublin and Carrickmacross as well as Chester, Reading and Oxford. Unfortunately there were no Friends from Scotland and very few from Northern Ireland. We particularly valued the contribution of those who had come from 'the home patch'.

Ronnie Millar greeted us and explained that we would be sharing the site with members of the Northern Ireland Youth Forum, a group exploring Celtic spirituality and, on Saturday, an inter-church group in the Croí. After introducing us to each other, including the volunteers and members assisting us, Ronnie explained how the occupancy levels at the Centre were significantly higher, helped by schools' groups using the Centre mid-week from

Corrymeela is a thin place where heaven and earth come close together



September to May. We were all struck by the huge range of groups within the 220 who had used the Centre in the last year (6,000 residential guests). Worship in the Croí brought our first evening to a close.

After breakfast and worship next morning Tara McHugh (our Youth and Community worker) explained how she actively attracted marginalised young people to take part in the programmes she ran to assist them to explore their identity in society. Each programme, she said, had five aspects: educational, social, creative, recreational and spiritual.

Later in the morning, we heard from Honor Alleyne how some of the Friends groups in England were struggling to promote Corrymeela against a background of falling interest due to the assumption that 'the problem was over'. Then Jo Watson reminded us that volunteers are at the heart of Corrymeela. Over 400 volunteers stay at Corrymeela each year. She confirmed that the rebuild of 'Coventry' will start at the end of September 2007 and the rebuild of the Village will commence in September 2009 with a target completion date in 2010. Capital appeals for these projects were in place but Jo reminded us that 'people give to people'.

After lunch, with the sun streaming down, most of us walked either towards Fair Head or along the beach to Ballycastle, where some visited the exhibition on the contribution of the Boyd family to Ballycastle's coal and glass-making industries and then to the building of the church in the Diamond.

Back for a political update from David Stevens. Over the weekend we were becoming aware of the return to power in the Republic's general election,



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against all the forecasts, of Bertie Ahern and Fianna Fáil. David reminded us that Ian Paisley and the DUP had stated that they had been forced into facing the political reality of power-sharing in Northern Ireland. They claimed that 'this was a working relationship'.

On Saturday evening Daniel from Ballintoy and Jason from Canada (the two volunteers who had been working with us all weekend), took us through three of the team-building exercises they use with visiting groups. We were challenged, had fun and got a feel for how they work with groups.

The Agape breakfast in the light-filled dining room on Sunday morning was a deeply moving experience including our sadness at the news of the death, during the night in hospital, of one of the participants in the Celtic spirituality group who had collapsed on site the previous evening.

David Stevens then gave us a Corrymeela 'perspective' stressing that we need to review ourselves in a different world as the pattern of relationships between the two main communities in Northern Ireland changes. He confirmed that a decision had been made to move from Corrymeela House in Belfast to smaller, fit for purpose, premises in Belfast.

In our final session Alf McCreary described the process of writing his new book on Corrymeela – *In War and Peace* – which will be published this summer. He described it as a tough book asking tough questions; a book about people. 'What you have learnt is very important,' he said, and 'I hope it will make a contribution to world peace-making.'

We had enjoyed a weekend of real sharing, of ourselves, our work and our vision. I felt the light of Corrymeela shining strongly. As I left I looked across to Rathlin Island and was reminded of the feedback from a recent visitor to a programme at the Centre: 'Corrymeela is a thin place where heaven and earth come close together.'

Craig Cameron

Corrymeela Friend



Craig Cameron, a founder Member of the Community, lived and worked in Derry until 1980 when he moved with his work (DU Pont) and family to England. He has remained closely involved and highly supportive of the Community as a Friend.

NOW YOU HAVE READ all about our recent Friends weekend why not join us for the next one? We would be very pleased to see you, especially any new friends. This would be an opportunity to find out a bit more about Corrymeela and you would be very welcome!



This year's theme is:

Reconciliation, an Interfaith Perspective – the gift of the stranger

Honor Alleyne is working hard putting together a thought-provoking weekend, to be led by a variety of speakers involved in interfaith work, which will challenge us to look at what reconciliation means in our communities today. Some of the questions posed are, does reconciliation necessarily lead to cohesion and integration? And where do we start in seeking to relate to those whose understanding of the world seems so different from ours? Honor says 'This will be a lively and challenging weekend. Come and share your insights and ideas in an experience of community.'

There will be plenty of debate but also plenty of chats and Friends catching up with news. Having experienced my first Friends weekend I can tell you there is plenty of laughing too. So what's stopping you coming along and finding out a bit more about what is so unique about Corrymeela and the people involved? I, David Stevens, Leader of Corrymeela, and Ronnie Millar, our Centre Director, are looking forward to saying hello.

For our loyal Friends that already know about these enjoyable weekends – I look forward to seeing you there! We are especially keen for our Northern Friends to travel across and talk first hand about our changing times.

Jo Watson

Dates for your diary are:

6.00 pm Friday 2 November till 2.00 pm

Sunday 4 November

Place:

**The Community of the Reconciliation Centre, Barnes Close,
Nr Bromsgrove, Worcestershire**

Cost:

£90.00 per person for the weekend

Bookings:

Full details regarding speakers and programme will be available late July 2007. In the meantime please ring Anne McDonagh at Corrymeela House on Belfast 028 9050 8080 to reserve your place

Rachel Craig, Family and Community Worker at Corrymeela, was one of a team of four people who were invited to the KIKambala Peace Oasis in Kenya in June to train facilitators in trauma recovery, problem solving and life skills.

Healing in Kenya

THE BORDER COMMUNITIES of Kenya and Somalia have, for many years, experienced ethnic violence that has led to loss of lives, damage to property, and displacement. Added to inter-tribal rivalry there have been environmental disasters on an enormous scale. The impact of flooding and drought has added a complex dimension to fragile social relations. Over 10,000 families have been displaced and settled in rough urban centres without sources of livelihood or basic needs such as sanitary

facilities, utensils, shelter and clothing. As a result there have been increases in child labour, especially amongst girls; prostitution as a means of survival; child marriages; burglary, mugging, kidnapping and torture; loss of livelihood and loss of life; and psychological trauma, as most people cannot absorb the shock of

displacement.

Dehka Ibriham Abdi attended a Corrymeela international summer school on peace-building in 2000. Dehka is a consultant in peace-building and conflict management with wide experience and international recognition. I got to know Dehka and Margaret Adams, a massage therapist from Belfast, at the summer school, at which I gave workshops in creative art learning and massage, stressing the

importance of self-care for the practitioner.

Margaret travelled to Kenya in 2006 to teach massage skills to women in Wajir. Following this, two rival communities from places of conflict and severe drought began to work on healing together, and in June of this year Dehka invited a team from Northern Ireland to Kenya to build on their skills. The team consisted of myself, Margaret Adams, Joan Anderson, massage practitioner and Gillian Hughes, counsellor. We used a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) framework drawing on creative learning, massage and body work to tackle trauma recovery, problem-solving and life skills. Three men and 36 women took part in this training, including nomadic young women from Wajir who were forced into gun-running and prostitution for their survival by the war lords in their area.

The four of us in the team knew each other and had worked together before in Northern Ireland. As Family and Community Worker, I had worked with Margaret and Joan on numerous residentials at the Ballycastle Centre, helping in the family work programme. Gillian was a long-term volunteer at Corrymeela in 1991–2 and has been a community member for some years. These experiences in Corrymeela helped us shape our work for the Kenya training project.

Our programme ran like this:

“The girls learnt to close their eyes without fear”



DAY 1

Day one began with a welcome and introductions followed by group-building exercises. We shared the story of how we all came here and concluded by building a group agreement. We then began the telling of our names and the sharing of our hopes, which were painted on a footprint drawn on a large sheet of paper. Creative images and symbolism were important, as many could not read or write.

Dehka Ibrahim Abdi told the story of our 'Different Tracks' – of how we came to be in KIKambala – from Corrymeela to Kenya. Our names were signed on the paper feet to welcome us all and a Corrymeela symbol was placed on the floor as a keepsake.

An Introduction to CBT in three languages followed. Briefly, CBT works with the idea that a situation creates a thought, which affects our feelings, which are expressed in physical symptoms in the body, which, in turn, affect our behaviour. The example was used of the fears of a little girl going to school for the first time. How might she feel? What goes on in her body when she feels this? How do you think she would behave?

After lunch the group learned about breathing techniques and relaxation through shared arm and hand massage



DAY 2

Day two started with a welcome greeting circle, sharing our names in different languages. The four trainers gave an introduction to our work as practitioners in Ireland. We focused on communication, team-work and fun. We expressed our feelings by making charcoal marks that helped us work at a deeper level in communication.

Puppets enable problems to be told with objectivity. Making the funny looking characters in the workshop also provided a fun, group experience, enabling an easing of the tensions that arose when addressing problems.

We explored our problems 'Stepping Forward' with small-group work. Topics included hearing our story and understanding conflict. In the afternoon there were more practical workshops on arm and hand massage. The girls learnt to close their eyes without fear.



**DAY
3**

During day three the team were taken to see the Peace Oasis and its development, the medicinal garden, vegetable and fruit garden and the local area.



Children collecting water from the new well at the Peace Oasis

www.peaceoasis.net

The Founders are two women, Kenyan and English, Dekha Ibrahim Abdi and Donna Copnall.

As independent consultant facilitators/trainers, they both often work voluntarily. Donna has supported human development for peace and justice in Afghanistan since 1990, and in Africa, Asia and Latin America since 1998. She has an MBA (Public Sector) International with Distinction, and is a Master Practitioner in Neuro-Linguistic Programming. Dekha started at her home in Wajir, North-East Kenya and the story is famous for its success, recorded in books such as Lederach's 'The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace' 2005; 'War Prevention Works: 50 Stories of People Resolving Conflict' 2001; and on video 'The Wajir Story'. Hence, in the first instance, the growing solidarity and support between Wajir and Kikambala

Dekha and Donna are both Core Group Members of Action for Conflict Transformation, a global network of practitioners, trainers and facilitators, with a registered Support Centre in South Africa www.action-global.org. Its 3rd International Forum was in Kikambala in 2001 after which it was decided to set up the Peace Oasis there.

**DAY
4**

On day four we used the height game, which is a fun way to focus on communication without words. This was followed by a daily song with the emphasis on fun, group participation, speaking out and confidence building. The afternoon workshop focused on relaxation: 'A new walk to the beach'.

Many of the young girls from Wajir had never seen the ocean before. It became a real highlight for them and helped them to overcome their fear, daring to touch and collect water for the first time. Each day closed with a summing-up reflection and songs and dances from the different tribal cultures.



**DAY
5**

Day five saw the participants drawing solutions on the other cut-out foot, symbolising our different tracks and keeping aware of the overall balance that we were seeking to achieve. We washed each other's feet – a powerful symbol of reconciliation in their culture. A new start.



It was our pleasure to award Certificates to the participants on the training who worked so very hard.

Rachel Craig



Rachel Craig, Family and Community Worker at Corrymeela

Legion

A poem by Sylvia Sands



‘Immediately Jesus had disembarked from the boat, there met him from the tombs a man in the grip of an unclean spirit. This man lived amongst the tombs. No one had ever been able to bind him with a chain, because he had often been bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been wrenched apart by him and the fetters shattered; and no one was strong enough to tame him. Continually, night and day, in the tombs and in the hills, he kept shrieking and gashing himself with stones. He saw Jesus when he was still along way away, and he ran and knelt before him. ‘What is your name?’ Jesus asked him. ‘Legion is my name,’ he said, ‘for we are many.’ Now a great herd of swine was feeding on the mountainside ... Jesus permitted the demons to go into them. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine and the herd – there were about two thousand of them – rushed down the precipice into the lake...

Full reading: Mark 5 v 1-20

Safe in psychiatric hospital,
I had placed four friendly plastic bags,
Which once held loving gifts of fruit,
Chocolates, magazines, flowers,
Firmly over my head
In the cloakroom of the locked ward.

Like Legion, I wrestled with the demons
Tramp, tramp, tramping through my brain.

A legion was a Roman regiment of
Six thousand troops.
Show me a more accurate picture of mental illness.

After my failed cloakroom debacle on the ward,
The self-harming (... razors, needles, fire)

Young girls, aged from fourteen to twenty one,
And I were drawn irresistibly together,
Our hollow eyes locked in a nightmare of
understanding.
They mothering my ageing self with
Hugs, toffees under my pillow,
Carefully drawn pictures,
The delicate offering of painting my finger-nails
In shocking pink.
Caught tears at two in the morning.

Legion, in among the tombs, watched his demons
Crashing via two thousand pigs over the Gadarene
cliffs;
The relief of it! Echoed later as he sits,
Clothed and in his right mind,
Calmly,
By the side of Jesus.

Who is to say that an echoing miracle was not begun
in my mind,
(But slowly),
By that small regiment of unlikely,
Oh-so-young, self-scarred angels
In the locked ward?

After all,
Here I am, sitting quietly, writing poetry once more.

Sylvia Sands

From 1971 to 1997 Sylvia Sands was involved in peace and community work, mainly in Belfast, and always with people on the margins. She has written two books and contributed 26 poems to a third. Sylvia has been an occasional broadcaster with BBC Radio for over 25 years. She has also been hospitalised three times with severe depression.

A first in Belfast

The eyes of the world looked towards Belfast during the first days of May 2007. Following decades of sectarian hatred and suspicion between opposing sides, so often labelled 'Catholics' and 'Protestants', a power-sharing government between politicians from both sides was coming to life on 8 May, almost 'miraculously'. Celebrations all round.

PEOPLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND are well aware that after four decades of violence that left almost 4,000 people killed and 45,000 injured, writing new pages of history needs more than an assembly. Many shattered lives, along with much heartfelt hurt, fear and cynicism, cry out for a spiritual re-weaving of the society's interdependent fabric of equality, trust and freedom as well as brotherly and sisterly love.

A hint of how this cry will find a response could be heard on 12 May when over 100 representatives of 18 Christian movements from seven different churches met together for the first time ever in Northern Ireland as part of the 'Together for Europe' project. Linking up with the Stuttgart event, participants from movements and communities such as Corrymeela, Cornerstone, L'Arche, Cursillo, Focolare, Koinonia, Charis and Restoration Ministry spent a remarkable day together in the Church of the Resurrection, Elmwood Avenue, Belfast, speaking 'a new language' as one veteran in inter-Church relations put it.

Not only did they link up via satellite with the events taking place in Stuttgart but they too got an opportunity to worship together (led by Corrymeela and Charis) and get to know each other's movements, each as a window onto the Gospel and a gift for the healing of wounds in the surrounding society. Young people from Youth Initiatives and Youth with a Mission provided an upbeat injection of youthful enthusiasm into the day. Particularly moving was the L'Arche contribution as the co-ordinator, Maria Garvey, together with Jillian and other companions, opened up their window onto the Gospel: 'God made all things good ... There is no such thing as disabilities ... We have all been created in the image of God ... Jillian is a gift, no one is a mistake.'

The words of the Founder of the Focolare, Chiara Lubich, relayed from Stuttgart, also resonated as she invited participants to recognise the face of Jesus Forsaken who cries out 'why?' in every division, darkness and trial. Yes, as someone commented afterwards in agreement, it's a time for 're-abandoning ourselves to the Father' like Jesus on the cross, 'and going outside ourselves to love'.

How? In each present moment and each person we meet, building up a culture of the resurrection, a culture of communion and fellowship. The Revd Ruth Patterson indicated ways of doing so. Particularly inspiring was her invitation not to forget all who had worked so diligently over many years to bring about peace and to make sure we expressed our gratitude.

Joyce Williams, from the Corrymeela Community that has for years been a beacon of reconciliation in Northern Ireland and beyond, witnessed to her community's multi-layered, honest and inspiring

commitment to reconciliation that involves constantly renewed 'inner' and 'inter' community relations.

In her input Isabel Hunter from Cornerstone shared the story of how this peace line community came to life. Recounted with evident conviction, it was the story of a personal vocation discovered leading to a new commitment with others in a common vision to be people bridging the divide.

From the Focolare, Kevin McKeague, Principal of St James Primary School, Newtownabbey and David McConkey, Principal of Whitehouse Primary School shared an experience of fraternity in building bridges between two schools linked to a further seven schools in Europe.

As the Final Message of Stuttgart was being read out and relayed around the world, the Belfast participants joined in with their 'yes' to its manifold commitments. It was a chance to breathe the European dimension and be part of that bigger picture. And that was important.

But the truly bigger picture was that 'score written in heaven' referred to in the morning's introductory session and whose melody of Agape-love the participants heard that day. The Belfast meeting had been planned for some nine months, initially through the co-operation of Charis and Focolare and then too with others. It had helped form a 'network of points of interaction' as David Stevens, Leader of Corrymeela put it.

And yet, the day itself went beyond expectations. Not that everything ran perfectly but there was something about the atmosphere. It was as if the Lord himself enveloped everyone in an atmosphere of freedom, joy and peace. As one person commented, it was as if we were taken into an ocean wave, turned upside down and then found ourselves now on the same shore ready to be together living words of the Stuttgart message. Afterwards, Maria Garvey of L'Arche commented that we go ahead as a community of communities.

Yes, 12 May in Belfast was also a new beginning, one of that week's 'days of light after years of darkness', as one participant put it. And so it was fitting that the day concluded with worship led by Gary McFadden (he had earlier shared the vision of Charis' mission of evangelisation). In the words of Michael Earle, executive secretary of the Irish Inter-Church meeting, reported in the *Ecumenical News Newsletter*, it was a 'brilliant day', one when we recognised anew 'that we need each other'.

Brendan Leahy

Prof. Fr Brendan Leahy is Professor of Systematic Theology at St Patrick's College, Maynooth



The publication of a new book on Corrymeela this summer will be 'most timely', according to the author, the award-winning journalist and author Alf McCreary, who is currently Religion Correspondent of the Belfast Telegraph. The book is titled *In War and Peace* and is being published by the Brehon Press.

'In war and peace'

– a new Corrymeela book - timely!

The publication of a new book on Corrymeela this summer will be 'most timely', according to the author, the award-winning journalist and author Alf McCreary, who is currently Religion Correspondent of the Belfast Telegraph. The book is titled *In War and Peace* and is being published by the Brehon Press.

Speaking recently to a meeting of the Friends of Corrymeela, he said 'This book was commissioned some two years ago and the final manuscript was sent to the publishers several weeks before the historic and unexpected Stormont Agreement took place this year between the leaders of the DUP and Sinn Féin. This marked, hopefully, the closing of one dark chapter in Northern Ireland's history, and the beginning of a brighter period. My book, which marks 40 years of Corrymeela, is therefore being published at a most opportune time.'

Alf McCreary said that the book was also timely because 'Nearly all of the major players in Corrymeela's development are still around and they have enjoyed the benefit of having had time to reflect

on the Community and on the part they played in its evolution. I am particularly delighted to have been able to talk to my old friends Ray and Kathleen Davey who played such a crucial role in Corrymeela, and to benefit still from their wisdom and experience.'

Alf said that a strong motive in writing the book was to tell the story in its full dimension. He said 'Some people think that peace-making is easy, but in my experience it requires toughness and resolution, as well as sympathy and integrity. I have tried to underline this in my story of the development of Corrymeela. There is a hard edge to this work, and it needs to be shown as well ...'

Alf McCreary wrote the first book on Corrymeela more than 32 years ago. He said 'It has been chastening to observe how the Community and I have changed during this time. I was honoured to write the first book on Corrymeela, and this will definitely be my last book on the Community. I was tempted to call it the 'Alpha and Omega' of Corrymeela but the title I have chosen more accurately reflects the story of the Community, *In War and Peace*.

Quote from *In War and Peace's* foreword by Ray Davey: "The Community has learned much over the years, not least from our individual and collective failures, and yet I believe that Corrymeela has much still to teach others and to contribute to the wider world. I am confident that the Community will continue to show the faith, hope, determination and open-mindedness which have marked out the journey so far, and which will enable it to make the best of the future."

“the title I have chosen more accurately reflects the story of the Community, ***In War and Peace***”



Alf McCreary is the Religion Correspondent of the Belfast Telegraph, and also an award-winning journalist and author. He graduated from Queen's University, Belfast with an honours degree in Modern History, and he is a part-time tutor in writing at the Institute of Lifelong Learning at Queen's, and also at the Irish Writers' Centre in Dublin. The first of his 35 titles Corrymeela – The search for peace was published in 1975. His recent books include the acclaimed biographies of Senator Gordon Wilson, published by Harper Collins, and Archbishop Robin Eames, Published by Hodder and Stoughton. He was appointed MBE in the 2004 New Year Honours List.



The End of an Era is an extract from Alf McCleary, the award-winning journalist and author's book 'In War and Peace' published by the Brehon Press.

The end of an era

IN HIS FINAL REPORT as Leader of Corrymeela, Ray Davey summed up the work and life of the Community from its establishment in 1965. He pointed to the achievements and the challenges of Corrymeela, as well as the limitations. He wrote, "Reconciliation was not only a much-discussed subject, but a very live issue in daily life. We have kept in existence, and we have established our role.

“

*He and the Community made mistakes, and **they had to learn as they went along***

”

Our identity, though we have continually to struggle with it and to clarify it, is a real one. We are an authentic Catholic-Protestant group, and we have become a symbol of hope for multitudes of people in this land and far beyond."

However, there were limitations. Davey wrote, "We have long since realised the limitations of what we can do. It's so easy in this sort of work to create false expectations, and I believe that we are learning to be much more realistic in assessing what we can and cannot do." It was important to work out clearly Corrymeela's aims and objectives, to cherish its independence and to safeguard the voluntary principle.

"We full-time workers are to be enablers, to help members fulfil the aims of Corrymeela. This is difficult, especially for us, as it is so often easier to do the particular job oneself, and very often I've done that. But it is one we have got to work on, otherwise we'll become a group of paid officials who do the work, and the Community concept vanishes."

Davey also laid out clearly the challenges of the future. He wrote that Corrymeela "must be involved in what is happening; supporting the positive and creative attitude; willing to take initiatives and at times risks as we steadfastly witness to the way of compassion and justice; facing challenges and

opposition and conflict. We must be willing at times to be a pressure group within the social and political order, and within the structure of the Church. To join Christ today in our world, means – as the Prior of Taize, Roger Schutz has said 'struggle and contemplation', and we must always remember the utter necessity of both."

It was a tall order, but not untypical from the man who had done so much to make Corrymeela what it was, and is. People tend to forget that Davey's entire career was lived "on the edge". He volunteered for what turned out to be his seminal war service as a young man, when he could just as easily have opted for the safety of an Ulster parish.

When he returned from the war, he broke new ground as the Presbyterian chaplain of Queen's, and he later helped to push forward the frontiers by working to establish Corrymeela.

Throughout those formative years, and during his time as Leader, his clear vision, strong personality and encouraging way with people, all helped to chart the right path for Corrymeela, through all the difficulties. He and the Community made mistakes, and they had to learn as they went along, but he helped to lay the foundation of something very important in the world of peacemaking; and, significantly, he knew when to quietly step aside and let go. On every level, he would be a hard act to follow.

Some of Ray's most enduring qualities were described by Kathleen, who throughout their long and happy marriage, has known him better than anyone. She said, "Ray always stood his own ground, and he was never afraid to go against the stream. If he was convinced of something, there was nothing that could stop him. I wouldn't say that he was stubborn as such, but he certainly was convinced."

He also had a highly-developed sense of fair play,





Wall to wall peace

even long before Corrymeela started. "In our student days my brothers and some others were fooling about on a camp site, and they decided to collapse a tent on one of their friends who had gone to bed early. "They thought that it would be hugely funny to do this and then to flee, so that their friend, emerging from the collapsed tent, would find nobody there.

I remember, however, that Ray was the only one out of that mad lot who went back to our friend and helped to put up the tent for him again. That is just a little picture of what I feel came later on.

Another of Ray's great strengths has been his ability to listen, and to give advice, even if people didn't necessarily have to take it. Also he has had a great sense of humour all his life, and that has taken him a long, long way. In fact I wouldn't have married him if he hadn't. He needed to have a sense of humour, to put up with me!"

Ray Davey was always young at heart, and his guiding philosophy for Corrymeela never wavered.

In an interview during his 92nd year he said, "Don't be afraid of change. Life is dynamic, not static. Try to be open to change, because it is important to have flexibility, and life and circumstances are changing all the time. Don't tie your tiller down. If you are not able to change, you may become shipwrecked. "Also you must try to be open to the acknowledgement of your own mistakes, including the relationships which you felt that you hadn't handled well, or in a positive way. It is important to be able to restore those relationships where you can, even if it is painful to do so. In the end, it is a healing thing. I don't believe that there is any situation that I have not tried to redeem, so to speak.

At this late stage of my life, I think I really can say that."

His abiding attitude throughout has been one of thankfulness. He said, "I often switch on my internal video and play back the good bits. My overwhelming emotion is one of gratitude for the immense help I've been given by so many people, and to be able to say that out of all the evil, such as my experience of war and the prison camps, so much good has come as well."

THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE is planning to erect a new peace line in Belfast – in the playground of an integrated primary school.

A 25-foot-high fence is to be built in the grounds of Hazelwood Integrated Primary School in north Belfast. The NIO has decided to proceed with a controversial plan to erect a towering security fence behind the Whitewell Road building – despite serious concern.

The plan has been confirmed just weeks after the Secretary of State, Peter Hain, insisted that the Government was committed to 'removing barriers' dividing communities in Northern Ireland, and as a new era of power-sharing gets under way at Stormont.

Michael Wardlow, CEO of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education explains their viewpoint: As a council we feel that this issue should be resolved in the context of A Shared Future (the Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations in Northern Ireland from OFMDFM). We are looking to a future with shared schools and more shared space, where sharing must take precedence over separation for social, moral and economic reasons.

However, we also recognise that we are emerging from conflict and even with the start of power-sharing, that we are in a huge period of transition. Northern Ireland society must create new ways of being together, and this requires courage and taking the initiative – as indeed many founder parents of Integrated Education did from the 1970s on to the present day.

Once they go up, so-called peace walls don't come down overnight. We acknowledge though, that likewise they don't go up overnight either, that they are a sad but nevertheless real reflection of the divisions and tensions in our society. Even if, or when, they do come down, very often the divisions and walls in our minds remain.

Before any new walls are considered there must be as much negotiation and discussion as is humanly possible. Only when that talking ultimately fails, and only if the security situation absolutely demands it, then we may have to accept that a wall does go up. It is vital however, that this is not seen as the end of the situation or as a final resolution. It is not. If it comes to this, it is imperative that even as the wall goes up ongoing discussions continue to take place. Again, any erection of a wall must not be seen as an end, but as a temporary expedient, one setback on a journey towards better community relations.

The proposed new wall will directly impinge upon Hazelwood integrated primary school and NICIE support whatever the school wants and feels is best in the interests of the school and the wider school community. We have to be sensitive to the past and history of North Belfast where the school is located, but we must also be stewards to the future.

Although the future is hard to navigate we have to see beyond old ways. The situation with this proposed new wall is a reflection of where we are at right now in Northern Ireland; it is a microcosm of our current situation as while there is a new co-operation and sharing in government at Stormont, the divisions on our streets remain and have yet to be resolved. If we can solve this problem, imagine what else we can solve within and across Northern Ireland?"

Michael Wardlow is chief executive of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education



Corrymeela's Community Partners Project launched its innovative and creative new resource, Outside In, at the Waterfront Hall last month. This project is now in its third year and this valuable resource pack has been supported by the Community Relations Council, the Sir Halley Stewart Trust and the United States Institute for Peace. The launch was attended by many guests including Duncan Morrow of the Community Relations Council and Eileen Bell (pictured, above right), former Speaker of the Assembly.

Outside in



THESE UNIQUE MATERIALS assist group participants in exploring living in Northern Ireland and what it means to them. For each of us the answer to this is complex and reflects the diversity of our experiences and encounters with those around us. Our values and attitudes have been influenced by our childhood, family, education and community; each plays a role in forming who we are and what makes us tick. The resource helps guide group participants through these and many more questions. The resource is made up of two parts; Through the Green Gate provides a model where participants meet first with those from their own tradition before engaging in an intercommunity context. The Pilgrim Trail provides a model that brings people from different traditions together from the beginning.

Susan McEwen, Corrymeela Project Worker, said 'Central to this approach of working has been the idea of creatively recording the sessions and encouraging the participants to contribute to the learning by bringing in items representative of the stories that they might share. It has been wonderful to see three exhibitions emerging from this project. These exhibitions have been displayed around the world from New York to right here in Belfast.' She went on to say 'To be able to pass on our learning through this unique creative resource gives me and

the project participants great satisfaction.'

The Chair of Corrymeela, Kate Pettis, said 'It is always hugely satisfying to see how work undertaken and knowledge gained by Corrymeela whilst out in the community can be shared locally, nationally and internationally. Through this unique resource Corrymeela continues to be at the forefront of reconciliation and community development.'

This resource is firmly rooted in practice and its aim is to create a framework whereby participants have the opportunity to explore the question: 'What makes me tick?' The pack provides the tools for facilitators to encourage participants to look at how life experiences inform who they are and how they think.



For further information concerning the resource and how to access a copy please contact: Susan McEwen (pictured, above left), Community Partners Worker, Corrymeela, Tel. 028 9050 8080 susanmcewen@corrymeela.org

More and more of us are beginning to change the way we think about energy. We are filling our homes with energy-efficient appliances, insulating them to reduce heat loss and trying to use less energy to save money.

Renewable energy for Corrymeela

THOUSANDS OF HOMEOWNERS and other organisations are taking one step further and installing their own source of renewable power. Here at Corrymeela we are looking at ways to be more energy efficient and are looking to find ways of reducing our carbon footprint.

Corrymeela is now taking that next step. We understand that global warming is a reality that threatens all our futures. On top of that, everyone is feeling the impact of rising fuel costs in a world where the security of our energy supplies is under increasing threat. It is time for action.

Renewable energy is no longer in the sole domain of the hippies and tree huggers. In fact, renewables have become so mainstream that planned amendments to the Northern Ireland Building regulations will make them mandatory in all new buildings from April 2008. So now is an ideal time to consider our options with the new build of Coventry and the plans for the new Village.

I have been chatting to Anita Gribben, a science communication consultant, who has been guiding the site development committee through the options available. Anita told me 'There are real benefits to be had from the technologies. Not just to the environment but also financial savings that will reduce ongoing running costs.'

A funding application is underway through the low carbon buildings programme who could fund us up to 50 per cent of the costs of installing solar water heating. By using solar panels on the roof of new Coventry and the existing buildings to provide

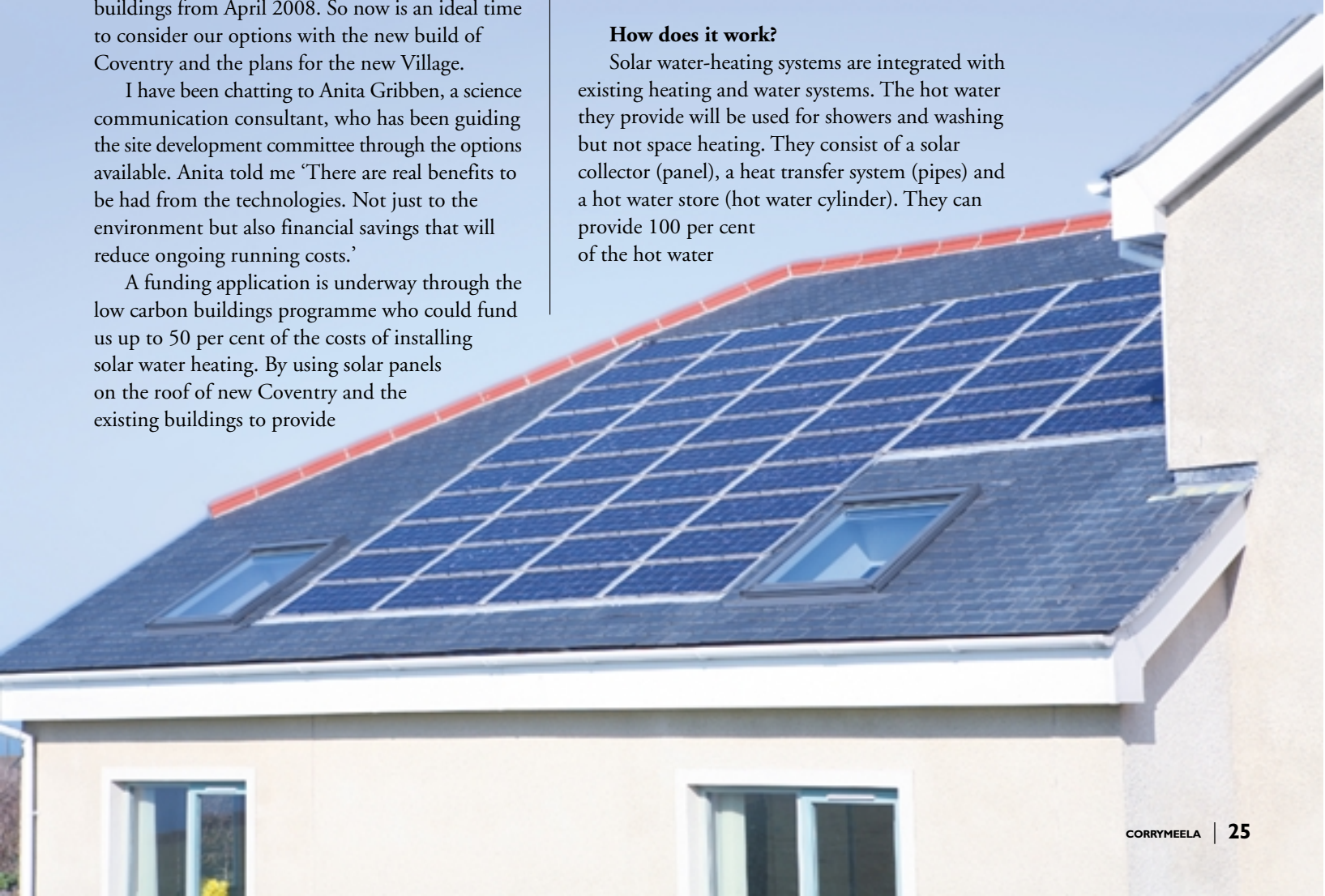
hot water, we will be saving money on fuel bills as well as playing an important role to help protect the environment.

But why solar power?

- It reduces fuel bills.
- Using natural alternatives like solar energy will cut emissions of the main greenhouse gas CO₂ that is produced whenever fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas are burnt.
- A solar water-heating system is capable of providing up to 60 per cent of our hot water needs every year in Northern Ireland.
- The solar panel is easy on the eye – it is compact and blends in with the roof.
- It demonstrates our commitment to stewardship of our environment.

How does it work?

Solar water-heating systems are integrated with existing heating and water systems. The hot water they provide will be used for showers and washing but not space heating. They consist of a solar collector (panel), a heat transfer system (pipes) and a hot water store (hot water cylinder). They can provide 100 per cent of the hot water





water demand in the summer months. In the winter the systems can help by taking the chill off the water before top-up heating. The technology has been available since the 1970s and is now well developed with a large choice of equipment. They represent the most cost-effective use of solar energy.

Anita went on to outline the other two options which are currently being explored by the site development team:

Wind

Wind power has been harnessed for over 2,000 years and is something that will never run out. It produces electricity without any harmful emissions to the environment. Northern Ireland has one of the best wind resources in Europe and is therefore well suited to wind development. Corrymeela has an excellent wind resource as many of you may have experienced on a visit.

Why wind power?

- Free, clean and renewable source of power.
- Will help to reduce electricity costs.
- Using wind power will cut emissions of the main greenhouse gas CO₂ that is produced whenever fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas are burnt.
- Demonstrates our commitment to stewardship of our environment.

How does it work?

Wind turbines have aerodynamic blades which face into the wind. The wind causes the blades to rotate, which turns a generator. This generator produces electricity which would then be used for all of our lighting and electrical appliances on site. Turbines come in many sizes to suit energy needs.

A second possible source of renewable energy is biomass

Wood is a versatile fuel that has been used for centuries to cook and produce heat. One of the most common biomass resources in Northern Ireland is wood. Wood fuels are regarded as carbon neutral as wood absorbs as much carbon dioxide when it grows as is released when it burns. When wood is taken from managed forests, every tree felled is replaced with two new trees.

Why biomass?

- It is a carbon neutral fuel.
- Wood pellets and chips are convenient and very controllable.
- Wood is a locally produced fuel that is not subject to the variations in price experienced by fossil fuels.
- As a locally produced fuel there are benefits to the local economy and employment.
- Using wood fuels demonstrates our commitment to stewardship of our environment.

How does it work?

The main types of wood fuel are pellets, logs and chips. The wood boilers can be used to heat the entire site or an individual building. They are usually located in a boiler house with the fuel store. Log boilers need to be manually loaded but pellet and chip systems can be fully automated and are as convenient to use as oil.

As you can see there is a lot to think about and a lot of feasibility studies to be undertaken but the decision has been taken to proceed with the solar water heating first. The other two options are currently being explored in more detail especially with regard to the building plans for the new Village complex and subsequent planning permissions.

We are applying for our maximum grant of 50 per cent of the costs of the panels, equipment and installation but need to raise the balance of £20,000. If you would like to show your support for our commitment to renewable energy and would like to help us buy the panels then please send your donation marked 'Renewable Energy Appeal' to Corrymeela, 8 Upper Crescent, Belfast, BT7 1NT or donate online using www.corrymeela.org. When donating online please also email me on jowatson@corrymeela.org to let me know the amount and that it is to be counted towards our Renewable Energy Appeal. Any amount that you could give will be very much appreciated towards helping us look after our Centre in the most conscientious way.

Jo Watson

Anita Gribben
Science Communication
Consultant
Tel: 078 21 800 567
Fax: 028 406 30403

The low carbon buildings programme will provide grants for microgeneration technologies to householders, community organisations, schools, the public and not-for-profit sector and private businesses.
www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk



Return of an old friend to Knocklayd

ON A CLEAR, SUNNY SATURDAY AFTERNOON of the Painting Weekend, 5 May, Liz Watson knocked on the door asking if it was alright for her family to show their father, William Rutherford, around the property.

William, a long-time Corrymeela member, served as a medical missionary in India for 20 years, followed by a return to Northern Ireland where he held a position as a consultant surgeon in Belfast during the height of the Troubles. William engaged in peace work through Corrymeela and his local church, and was a founding committee member of Corrymeela Knocklayd.

Naturally there was a flurry of excitement as word spread to all on site. Apparently William had become quite excited as their car turned onto the Glenshesk Road in Armoy and he continued to indicate the way up the hill to Knocklayd in his

own fashion. Once in the driveway William was impatient to unbuckle his seat belt and get out of the car. You can imagine the big smiles and hugs for everyone!

Liz and John walked him into the dining room for a cup of tea where he proceeded to eat the plate full of chocolate chip cookies. To those of us present it seemed he was enjoying the photo sessions and the celebrity status. John said it certainly was the most animation William had shown for a long time.

On the way back to the car he was taken past the new William and Margaret rose bushes and a view of the yew tree he had donated seven years ago for the millennium. A glorious occasion for all concerned.



William Rutherford

Jeannette and Don Sloane

Resident Volunteer Couple at Knocklayd



A change is as good as a rest

DURING THE SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER many of our long-term volunteer team planned and organised an "Initiative Week" and thereby gave themselves the chance to volunteer with another organisation. The volunteers put together exciting and ambitious plans for this opportunity and Corrymeela supported them by making a small financial contribution to their costs.

The organisations that the volunteers spent one week volunteering with were:

*L'Arche, London (Katharina Schilling)
Christian Peacemaker Teams, Jerusalem, Israel (Nicole Fehr)
Salvadorian Cultural Organisation, Obereo, Sweden (Christian Guevara)
Global Classe, Vesteras, Sweden (Alan Black & Daniel McShane)
Irish Seed Savers, Co. Clare (Jason Fehr)
North & West Belfast Health Trust (Helen Bermingham)*

Here you can read about Alan Black and Daniel McShane's great trip to Sweden. I would like to thank Billy Kane for helping Alan and Daniel make this trip such a success!

I would also like to congratulate all the volunteers on taking this opportunity to visit another part of the world and gain valuable experience with another organisation.

Robert Deignan *Volunteering Development Co-ordinator*

Taking the initiative

I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY of going to Sweden in May/June 2007 for my Initiative Week for five days with Corrymeela which was really good. Myself and Daniel went to see what Sweden was all about. We arrived in Sweden on 28 May at a place called Västerås to meet with host families that we were given from the Global Class from January/February 2007. They were here on a visit to learn about Northern Ireland's history and the conflict. These students from Global Class are connected with Billy Kane who is a community member here at Corrymeela. He was the one who helped me and Daniel go to Sweden.

So while we were in Sweden we were given a tour around the city of Västerås, and we met this year's Global Class participants to have a talk with them. We also met next year's Global Class so they could ask us questions about Corrymeela and what we do as volunteers here at the Centre. They are intending to visit Corrymeela in January/February 2008.

After Västerås we went to a place called Rättvik north of Stockholm. There is a place in Rättvik called Stiftsgården which is a place like Corrymeela. Stiftsgården has had big connections with Corrymeela over the years so me and Daniel were there to try to bring the connections between the two organisations back, because while I was there these people from there feel the connection to Corrymeela, but sometimes they feel that the connection with our Centre is falling away and they would like to bring that back. Their staff would like to see Corrymeela and I am sure that our own staff at the Centre would like to see people from Stiftsgården as well.

So Stiftsgården is more a residential centre that has a lot of confirmation camps and is also open to the public to come and stay a night and to come and have lunch and dinner anytime they like. The volunteers at the centre were really friendly but I feel that they have it hard because they don't get to work with groups as much as we do here at our Centre. They do more kitchen and housekeeping work with two people on at all times and that is catering for 220 people and that's a full site. Everything that was done in Sweden has helped me in a really big way because it has opened up my mind to think about going abroad to do volunteering.

I would like to say a big thank you to the staff at Corrymeela for helping me getting to Sweden, especially Billy Kane.

Alan Black (20)

Long-term Volunteer, June 2007



Here Daniel McShane, a long term volunteer at Corrymeela, tells us of his recent opportunity to join Facing History and Ourselves as they delivered a fascinating and often emotive three-day training course to a group of recently qualified History teachers at Queen's University in early June.

Facing history and ourselves

FACING HISTORY started as a grass-roots movement in the USA and eventually expanded to work throughout the whole country and in various other locations across the world. It is an academic framework that staff are working to promote in schools across Northern Ireland, with the objective of teasing out the powerful learning points of our history and forming meaningful connections to other parts of history and the modern world. The basis for this approach is simply this: if we cannot learn from history, then we are destined to repeat it. In these volatile transitional times in Northern Ireland, the pertinence of preventing a repetition of history is obvious.

Our training took many interesting forms as our trainers modelled classroom methodologies old and new. The notion of making classroom history more real to students of all ages was not just presented as an end in itself, but as a way to ensure that meaningful connections would be formed between the events of the past, and that students could see how these conceptualisations could also be relevant to aspects of their own lives. My own experience of secondary school History education was indeed the dry, factual learning that our trainers spoke of, and it wasn't a subject I continued beyond Year 10. Ten years on, I was pleasantly surprised to be experiencing a form of History education that was presented in an accessible and stimulating format.

The Facing History journey begins with an exploration of individual identity and a consideration of the role of wider society in shaping that identity by affecting our choices. This leads to a discussion of social memberships and feelings of affiliation, with particular reference to Northern Ireland. We then looked at examples of human behaviours in the wider sense, with extensive reference to Weimar Germany and the Holocaust. Our journey then veered towards an examination of why we choose not to act when we end up close to the core of a situation in which we could play a role. We also looked at some of the institutionalised aspects of Northern Irish society that reinforce the problems that we have, and we explored our feelings on these matters.

The course offered innumerable opportunities to focus on one line of thought, but kept moving



to give good broad coverage of each stage of the journey. I look forward to continuing my training with Facing History when I undertake their five-day Institute in London in July, along with our new Primary Schools worker, Jill Stringer.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Facing History and Ourselves and Corrymeela for the efforts that they have gone to in order to enable me to undertake this training.

Daniel McShane

Long term volunteer, Corrymeela.

Facing History

Since 1976, Facing History and Ourselves has offered in-depth professional development services; curricular resources; and ongoing support to educators and students in the areas of history, social studies, and language arts. They are dedicated to helping teachers around the world lead their students in a critical examination of history, with particular focus on genocide and mass violence.

Facing History's work is based on the premise that we need to—and can—teach civic responsibility, tolerance, and social action to young people, as a way of fostering moral adulthood.

www.facinghistory.org



The path to peace

I DON'T KNOW if you were as pleasantly surprised as I was when watching the evening news on Tuesday 8 May. There was Ian Paisley sitting down with Martin McGuinness, as a precursor to the two men going into government together.

I was particularly struck by Ian Paisley's demeanour. Here was the great Mr NO of Northern Irish politics saying 'oh go on then' and he seemed a different man altogether. He seemed like a snake, which had just shed his skin; a skin made up of anger and hatred and bigotry. And underneath it all, here was a man who appeared to be genuinely warm and funny. He was telling jokes; and they were quite good too. Most of all he seemed to be a lot happier all of a sudden.

I also remembered the times when I went to the Corrymeela Peace and Reconciliation Community near Ballycastle in the late 1980s and early 1990s. It was all so different then, with Ian Paisley perceived as the greatest of all stumbling blocks to peace and with Martin McGuinness, Gerry Adams and the Republican movement just behind him.

The next night, 9 May, I drove down to Hebden Bridge in West Yorkshire to speak about modern slavery at a joint meeting of the Calderdale Amnesty International group and Churches Together in Hebden Bridge. At the start of my talk I mentioned the previous evening's news and commented that surely here was proof that bad situations in the world (and I guess in our private lives) can be transformed; if the will is there to do it. I have never subscribed to the 'that will never get better' school of thought.

Even the most shallow study of world history can show that problems are solved.

65 years ago Western Europe was at war with itself, yet we have lived in peace for 60 years now. Thirty years ago most of Eastern Europe was under brutal dictatorships, yet now these countries are democracies, with acceptance of the kind of human rights we take for granted here. 20 years ago, P.W. Botha still led the grossly unjust Apartheid regime in South Africa, while a little over 10 years ago, it was still commonplace to turn on the evening news

and hear of innocent civilians being murdered in Northern Ireland.

This makes me sure that: the Israeli/Palestinian conflict can be solved, that an end to poverty in Africa can be found, a just peace can come to Iraq and with it an end to the major threat of terrorism, peace and stability can arrive to end the brutal civil war in Colombia in Latin America and democracy and human rights can be established in Burma. History has shown that it is neither idealistic nor naïve to suggest that if enough people work for justice and peace it can be achieved.

There is no doubt in my mind also that people from a Christian tradition have a major part to play, even a duty to play their part. Peace-making is not easy, yet surely that is what we are called to do. Nor is it always easy to do it without becoming self-righteous and seeing the speck in someone else's eye without worrying about the log in our own. As Jim Wallis, the American evangelist, in his thought-provoking book *God's Politics* puts it:

"No one has all the answers. But humility is a good trait for Christian peacemakers, while self-righteousness is both spiritually inappropriate and politically self-defeating. This much is clear: Jesus calls us to be peacemakers not just peacelovers. That will inevitably call us to face hard questions with no easy answers. In the end, Christian peacemaking is more a path than a position".

Northern Ireland is living through a new dawn, pregnant with hope, but still marked by great uncertainty. Two things however do seem certain.

Firstly, Ian Paisley is a much happier man for turning off the road of confrontation and taking his first steps down the path of peacemaking. Secondly, conflict resolution is not a naïve and worthless waste of time; rather it is a hugely important venture which history time and time again has proved can lead to lasting success.

Peter Sagar

Northumbria Corrymeela Group

Different Women Together

Beyond the cliché

DIFFERENT WOMEN TOGETHER, Beyond the Cliché was an exhibition at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast, which celebrated the journey undertaken by a group of women from Parkside, a small interface community in North Belfast and Ballybeen, a large loyalist estate in East Belfast. Here Corrymeela Community Partners Project Worker Susan McEwen tell us more.

The metaphor of a journey is in itself an often overused cliché, and yet there is no better way to describe the process which these women have undertaken. They have been meeting together in Corrymeela House, Belfast, for a year and during that time they have journeyed together through the landscape of their own lives. They have revisited their childhood and family life, school days, rites of passage; they have looked at celebrations and commemorations, music, love stories and their own personal experiences of the Troubles.

The women have shared together these stories, reflecting them through the lens of their community, tradition and culture. Their differences were not diluted nor their similarities overplayed, but rather they listened and learnt from each other and reached a new understanding of not only themselves, but those who prior to this experience would have been considered 'one of *them*'. One participant said 'I





Photographs taken at the launch of the exhibition by Ben Jones www.destinationdub.com





LETTER

from an old friend

I notice that I came for the first time to Corrymeela in 1967; that means 40 years ago. At that time, I was only 18 years old. It was a stroke of luck that our Protestant minister in Lyon, Pasteur Atger, knew Ray Davey, the founder of Corrymeela.

I took part in two international summer work camps in two succeeding years, each time for three months. It was a great experience for me. I was able to meet a lot of friends from Northern Ireland, Ireland, England, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Canada, USA, Italy, Greece, Czechoslovakia. I am still in contact with several of them.

The beautiful landscape of Ballycastle with the view towards Rathlin Island seemed to be a very appropriate place for Corrymeela. At that time, Corrymeela was a group of different chalets arranged as a very small village close but independent of the main house.

All the work campers had the enthusiasm of young people wanting to be useful during the summer. It was a good opportunity to speak with others of different nationalities and different Christian traditions and to learn from each other and to work together for the benefits of all.

Corrymeela is a place of peace, of discussions, of respect and tolerance. It is an excellent vision of relations between citizens from the same country and citizens from all countries around the world. Everybody participating is open minded, constructive, interesting and pleasant.

Now as a European lawyer, I am regularly in different countries, in France of course, and often in Germany, UK, Austria and Italy. I think often about Corrymeela, which is for me an important place of reference. In our complex, changing world, Corrymeela is a place which is a great example for all human beings in Europe and in the world, for now and in the future.

For my perspective at the end of the sixties, as a young French Protestant work camper at Corrymeela, I can summarise as follows this very enriching experience: for people of different Christian traditions, for people of good will, it is possible to work together usefully toward a common aim, for the benefits of all. It is possible to have personal convictions and to respect others mutually. The idea and spirit of Corrymeela follows the people who have been there.

I read always with great interest the Corrymeela magazine. Each time when I come back, I see with interest and pleasure the developing of Corrymeela, a place of freedom, reconciliation and hope. The recent events show that the future is moving in the good way.

I wish Northern Ireland a peaceful and successful future. I am very happy to belong to the Friends of Corrymeela.

With best wishes and very friendly regards,

Patrick SCHULZ

Dr in International Law, Lyon (France), Friend of Corrymeela

think what our exhibition is all about is showing how everyone had fun together, sharing good craic, whatever our background or religion.'

If the process that they have been on was a journey, then this exhibition captures some of the snapshots that were taken along the way. It does not attempt to show every step nor even pretends to highlight the major milestones; rather it reflects the mood and spirit of the journey. Their guide during this journey has been the Corrymeela Community Partners Project managed by Susan McEwen. This project is now in its third year although Corrymeela as a charity has been an active force within peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland for over 40 years. The map that guided this journey is an innovative and creative new resource called Outside In and has been developed from the learning of the Community Partners Project.

I am so proud of all the remarkable women who took part in this journey; we all learnt valuable things along the way and this exhibition is fascinating. My sincere thanks go to the women from The Treehouse, Parkside, North Belfast and Ladies Who Lunch, Dundonald Methodist Church, Ballybeen who worked together to such great effect.

Susan McEwen

Susan McEwen is from Belfast and was appointed Community Partners Project Worker in May 2004, although as a Corrymeela member she has been involved in Corrymeela for about eight years.

This Corrymeela Project has been generously supported by the Community Relations Council, Sir Haley Stewart Trust and United States Institute of Peace. The exhibition can be lent for workshops or for other exhibitions in a public venue. For further information on Corrymeela's Community Partners Project and this exhibition, please contact Corrymeela House, 8 Upper Crescent, Belfast BT7 1NT, Tel. 028 9050 8080 www.corrymeela.org

Ray's legacy... and yours



Ray Davey, in his new book, *The War Diaries* tells how, in a Prisoner of War camp, he could put in his time or make something positive of it. How easy it would have been to have passed up the opportunity to have thought there was nothing to be done.

Writing your Will is an opportunity too; and a necessity. Not only does it ensure that your assets are transferred easily to those whom you love, but it is also an opportunity to make something positive of your passing, by ensuring that the causes you believe in are supported.

Corrymeela needs long-term support. The job of reconciliation will go on for

as long as there are divisions between people, both in Northern Ireland and throughout the world.

When you write your Will, would you include a bequest to Corrymeela, to help carry forward the work that you believe in, after you have gone? If you have already written your Will, adding a charitable bequest is simple — just ask your solicitor, or ask for our explanatory leaflet.

Please let us know of your intentions, using the form below. Knowing that bequests have been written is an encouragement, knowing that we will receive legacies at some time in the future, helps us to plan.

My Will-writing intentions

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

- I have written a bequest to Corrymeela into my Will
- I intend to write a bequest to Corrymeela into my Will
- Please send me the explanatory leaflet, *A Future of Peace* ..

(If your circumstances change in the future, and you have to remove your bequest to Corrymeela, please do let us know)

Please return this slip to:

Corrymeela Community,
Freepost BEL 2317, BELFAST, BT7 1BR
tel: +44 028 9050 8080
fax: +44 028 9050 8070
e-mail: belfast@corrymeela.org



The Corrymeela Community is recognised as a charity by the Inland Revenue, Reference No. XN48052A



www.corrymeela.org

Corrymeela Christmas Cards

WHAT BETTER WAY to send Christmas greetings and support Corrymeela than sending Corrymeela Christmas cards this year. There are four designs to choose from and all cards come in packs of 10 complete with envelopes. Simply complete and return the order form with your payment to the Corrymeela Belfast office.



ORDER FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Please complete and return with payment to:
Corrymeela House, 8 Upper Crescent,
Belfast BT7 1NT

Design	Qty	£per pack[10]	Total
Descent of the Spirit		£3.35	
Hoolie Children		£3.25	
I saw three ships		£3.50	
Bethlehem		£3.50	
Sub Total			
Plus Post & Packing (see below)			
Additional Donation			
Total Enclosed			

Post and Packing
UK: 1 Pack 70p [additional packs 40p]
EU: add £1.00 to UK rates
Rest of World: add £2.00 to UK rates

Please make cheques / Postal Orders payable to the **Corrymeela Community**

Please debit my Visa / Mastercard / Charity Card / maestro / Switch (delete as appropriate):

Card Number

Expires _____ Start Date* _____

Issue No. _____ (Switch/Maestro)* * if applicable

Name on Card
(PLEASE PRINT)

Please ensure the Cardholder's name and address are the same as the details on the Order Form.

Volunteering



THE
CORRYMEELA
COMMUNITY

Make yourself proud...

People of all ages, from different countries and from many different traditions, come to volunteer at Corrymeela. Corrymeela is a registered charity that is committed to the healing of social, religious and political divisions that exist in Northern Ireland and throughout the world. Up to 400 volunteers support Corrymeela's programmes with over 7,000 participants and visitors every year.

For information or to apply visit our website
www.corrymeela.org

or contact The Volunteering Development
Co-ordinator, Corrymeela Ballycastle Centre,
5 Drumaroan Road, Ballycastle, County
Antrim, Northern Ireland, BT54 6QU

Tel: +44 (0)28 2076 2626

E-mail: volunteering@corrymeela.org

Charity No: XN48052A

Corrymeela's Welcome Awaits



Corrymeela is a community of reconciliation with two centres on Northern Ireland's beautiful North Coast – the perfect alternative for your next conference, retreat or group weekend.

Although easily accessible by road from Belfast (only 75 minutes away), from the ferry port at Stranraer, or Belfast International Airport, the centres at Ballycastle and Knocklayd are restful and secluded.

Our main centre in Ballycastle has been a safe place of meeting, encounter and dialogue since 1965. We are experienced in hosting thousands of youth groups, schools, families, community groups, churches, international groups and senior citizens.

At Knocklayd, we are members of the Quiet gardens Scheme. Knocklayd is available to individuals and groups who wish to organise their own programmes or simply have time for reflection and relaxation.

The Corrymeela Centre at Ballycastle is a great place to hold meetings, training, staff away days and team building events. We have excellent conference rooms and state-of-the-art AV equipment. Our accommodation in Ballycastle has 86 beds in two separate units; in addition we can cater for 40 day visitors at the same time. Knocklayd can accommodate up to 16 adults.

The Croi building is the heart of the Ballycastle Centre and has three separate spaces for smaller groups or can easily be adapted into a large conference area that can hold up to 155 people. It is a unique space designed for spiritual reflection, meetings and social activities.

COME TO CORRYMEELA FOR

- Experienced full time staff and volunteers
- Flexible, bright, well maintained accommodation
- Excellent catering facilities
- Meeting rooms, creative spaces, worship areas, team activities
- A wonderful coastline location

TO FIND OUT MORE
PLEASE GIVE US A CALL
ON BALLYCASTLE

028 2076 2626

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.corrymeela.org

