

the Corrymeela community

embracing difference • healing divisions • enabling reconciliation



Corrymeela will donate to Northern Ireland's Carbon Footprint Tree Planting Scheme, to offset the environmental impact of this magazine.



Volume 13
No 2
Summer 2013
www.corrymeela.org

[the]north[ern][of]ireland

It is both a dignity and
a difficulty
to live between these
names,

perceiving politics
in the syntax of
the state.

And at the end of the day,
the reality is
that whether we
change
or whether we stay
the same

these questions will
remain.

Who are we
to be
with one
another?

and

How are we
to be
with one
another?

and

What to do
with all those memories
of all those funerals?

and

What about those present
whose past was blasted
far beyond their
future?

I wake.
You wake.
She wakes.
He wakes.
They wake.

We Wake
and take
this troubled beauty forward.

Pádraig Ó Tuama
from "Sorry for your Troubles"
Canterbury Press, Norwich
Published August 2013

Corrymeela magazine
Volume 13 Number 2
Summer 2013

Corrymeela magazine
Corrymeela House
8 Upper Crescent, Belfast
Northern Ireland BT7 INT

Tel: +44 (0) 28 9050 8080
Fax: +44 (0) 28 9050 8070
Email: belfast@corrymeela.org
Web site: www.corrymeela.org

Corrymeela magazine is published by the Corrymeela Community.

The Corrymeela Community is a dispersed community of people of all ages and Christian traditions who, individually and together, are committed to the healing of social, religious and political divisions in Northern Ireland and throughout the world.

Corrymeela magazine is sent to all 'Friends of Corrymeela'. To become a 'Friend of Corrymeela' and receive the magazine send your name and address to the Belfast office. Friends subscription is £26 (waged), £13 (unwaged), (€33 / €16, US \$50 / \$25) per annum. The magazine is published three times per year.

The articles in Corrymeela magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Corrymeela Community. The acceptance of advertising does not imply editorial endorsement. Corrymeela magazine is protected by copyright and nothing may be reproduced wholly or in part without prior permission. All extracts are reproduced with the permission of the original publisher/author.

Corrymeela Belfast
8 Upper Crescent, Belfast
Northern Ireland BT7 INT
Tel: +44 (0) 28 9050 8080
Fax: +44 (0) 28 9050 8070
Email: belfast@corrymeela.org
Web site: www.corrymeela.org

Corrymeela Ballycastle
5 Drumroan Road, Ballycastle
Northern Ireland BT54 6QU
Tel: +44 (0) 28 2076 2626
Fax: +44 (0) 28 2076 2770
Email: ballycastle@corrymeela.org

Corrymeela is a company limited by Guarantee. Registered in Northern Ireland No. NI6823. Corrymeela is recognised as a charity by the (UK) Inland Revenue. Inland Revenue Reference Number XN 48052A

Editor: Bill Osborne
Design: TatchDesign. Tel: 9260 1832
Printing: GPS, Belfast

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|-------|
| [the]north[ern][of]ireland | 2 |
| Reconciliation: Endless Pilgrimage | 4 |
| A Date with The Elders | 5 |
| Fifteen Years On | 6-7 |
| Volunteers BEST BITS | 8-9 |
| UP Standing | 10-11 |
| Restoring broken relationships | 12 |
| Listening to the Small Voices | 13 |
| Community News | 14-15 |
| GB Conference – London / Corrymeela Art Competition | 16 |

Acknowledgements

Corrymeela would like to thank the following for images used in this edition of our magazine: Tiffany Wyse-Fisher, Angela Saunders; Marie-Louise McClarey; Inderjit Bhogal; Becki Fulmer; Susan McEwen; Jayne McConkey and The Elders

Strategy to Action

"WE DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE the challenges that remain and our journey is not yet complete" - the violence and riots in Belfast on the 12th and 13th July 2013 make these words from the First and Deputy First Ministers seem somewhat prophetic. More importantly the ease in which we as a community resort to violence places greater emphasis on the delivery of the strategy from which they are taken, Together: Building a United Community.

Strategies the world over are rightly bedecked with wonderful words and aspirations for a better more successful future but it is the steps taken on the journey of implementation that will overcome the "challenges that remain". In this edition of the Corrymeela magazine a number of the contributors talk of first steps in the journey of reconciliation and peace

building and how difficult it is to take those first steps, but in taking them they confront the challenges and move forward to a better place from whence we came. Life is an engagement in a human process the dynamic of which is the building of relationships. These can be built on understanding, compromise, respect, debate and dialogue or by endless conflict, violence, strife, pain and hatred; where fractured relationships are afforded the space to be reconciled or where past relationships dictate the nature of future encounters. Consequently the first steps in delivering Together: Building a United Community Strategy need to be boldly taken to inspire people with a direction of travel for a shared society that is affirming and constructing positive human relationships.

The Corrymeela Community

see transforming relationships as a critical issue in the process of reconciliation and building a united shared community. Key to this is the ability to spend time together, share a meal, to discuss and explore multiple narratives in a safe space, to play and have fun together, to challenge and be challenged without the use of threats and violence. So we particularly look forward to an involvement with the delivery of the new strategy on how our Ballycastle residential centre can be a space used and developed to "move away from division, and instead establish a new, reconciled and shared society."

Bill Osborne

Bill Osborne is the former Director of Voluntary Service Belfast and the Interim CEO of the Corrymeela Community.

Reconciliation: Endless Pilgrimage



ALMOST FIFTY YEARS from the foundations of Corrymeela, and fifteen years on from the Good Friday Agreement, what can we discern within the “Peace Process” in Northern Ireland? What are the biggest challenges that face us?

The 2013 Peace Monitoring Report of the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council reveals “conflicting messages”.

The deeply symbolic handshake between Martin McGuinness and the Queen in June 2012 was followed twelve months later by the G8 Summit taking place in Fermanagh and a visit by U.S. President Barack Obama to Belfast. Up to the beginning of December, the year 2012 was one of the most peaceful years for forty years. The “Flag Protests” have shown that below a surface level sense of peace there is an undercurrent of unresolved conflict, and a sense of being left behind in those who feel the peace process has brought them little benefit. Divisions and inequality persist. There is work to be done.

Corrymeela welcomes the

recent emphasis being given to what a shared and united society might look like. The work of reconciliation is unfinished business.

At a recent Members meeting in our Ballycastle residential Centre we explored the theme of reconciliation and politics. We were reminded by visiting politicians that the contribution of Corrymeela to the work of reconciliation is considerable, and that for Corrymeela there is yet much work to do. Reconciliation has been and remains at the core of the work of Corrymeela. Ray Davey’s vision leaves us no option.

He constantly reminded us that “sooner or later the penny has to drop that if we Christians don’t speak about reconciliation, we have nothing to say”.

Reconciliation is rooted in the stories of faith. The Bible records and reflects God’s continuing reconciling work in the history of a people on a journey, constantly desiring nothing less than a restoration and renewal of the relationship with God, within their own being and relationships,

and ultimately the renewal of all creation.

The New Testament claims that this journey reaches a climax in the decisive revelation of God in Jesus Christ, following which God’s work of reconciliation moves to a new level towards renewing and building a “new heaven and a new earth” realising the fullest potential of all creation.

There is an inseparable link between reconciliation and the stories of creation, crucifixion and the consummation of all creation. Reconciliation is not an event in this theology. God continues the work of reconciliation and calls us to share in it [2 Corinthians 5:18-19].

The Biblical theology of reconciliation lifts reconciliation above the level and limit of being a time-tabled project of any one individual, organisation or nation. It reveals endless pitfalls, set-backs, frustrations and enormous costs, commitments and sacrifices involved. It requires repentance, forgiveness, the willingness to change, to restore and renew relationships, and to live with more grace and generosity without giving up.

Within this breadth of reconciliation, we are all called to make a modest contribution and play our part, and to value the contribution others make however small.

In practice then, reconciliation is an on-going, endless pilgrimage and process.

We can dare to hope for and dream of a different society,

a decent society in which all people can be safe, flourish and have equal opportunity, and enjoy the fullness of life.

A reconciled society will not be one without differences and disagreements but it will be one where division is not destructive because there is a shared commitment to the enhancement of life for all.

The Community Relations Council sponsored a David Stevens Memorial Lecture in May this year. The Lecture was delivered by the former Leader of Corrymeela, Bishop Trevor Williams. In the Lecture Trevor affirms that “there are many obstacles and challenges to the path of reconciliation that can only be overcome by taking small steps”. Corrymeela is a significant step in the pilgrimage and process of reconciliation.

I would like us to achieve an agreed process of reconciliation to accompany the agreed Peace Process. This can be part of the contribution of Corrymeela.

Inderjit Bhogal

Inderjit Bhogal is the Leader of the Corrymeela Community

Bishop Trevor Williams lecture is available for download from our website www.corrymeela.org

City of Sanctuary

What would Belfast City of Sanctuary look like? How does a civil society engage with civic authorities and political leaders to build safe and harmonious communities in which all residents are equally welcome and valued?

These were among the questions tackled when Duncan Morrow and Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, the Lord Mayor of Belfast launched the Belfast City of Sanctuary Working Group. Addressing such issues is an important part of the on-going work of Corrymeela. For more information on Belfast City of Sanctuary contact Inderjit Bhogal leader@corrymeela.org

International Peace Day 2013

**Peace Walk in Belfast on
21st September.
See our website for details:
www.corrymeela.org**



The Elders

A Date with the Elders

ON THE 10TH OF MAY, my fellow One Year Volunteer Helen McLoughlin and I took an early morning train from Belfast to Dublin. Representing Corrymeela, we were there to meet with three of The Elders, a diverse and renowned group of political figures and social activists who aim to work together for peace and social justice. The venue was the Institute of International and European Affairs and on the agenda was a youth led discussion of the idea of Northern Ireland's Shared Future. The dialogue was chaired by the former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland. She was joined by her fellow Elders, Former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari and the 'female Gandhi,' founder of the Self-Employed Women's Association of India, Ela Bhatt.

As Corrymeela volunteers we were one segment of representatives who stand for peace and change in Northern Ireland, with other representatives ranging from public advocacy to community grass roots; we embodied a wide range of opinions. This helped ensure that the event

The Elders seemed impressed with what we had to say...

would not be a talking shop where everybody agreed with each other, and nothing of value was learnt, accordingly, it had the potential to be a genuine platform to discuss Northern Ireland's future.

Out of context, the ninety minute dialogue would have made the future of Northern Ireland appear to be hopeless. Views expressed community suspicions about the police, concerns about paramilitary groups, and perhaps most concerning of all - highly mistrustful attitudes towards the political system with many participants doubting the commitment of politicians to the idea of a 'shared future' at all. There was a real feeling that the tribal politics of 'green' and 'orange' overshadowed important societal issues.

During the dialogue, I personally took the chance to define

integrated education to Ela Bhatt and to also outline why I feel it is important for the next generation of Northern Irish youth. This led into a wider discussion of segregated areas and how fifteen years on from the Belfast Agreement, people are still reluctant to cross into the area of 'the other.'

Despite the negativity, there were definite signs of hope. Although our comments tended to focus upon the problems of Northern Ireland, our passion demonstrated that we do not think that the country is a lost cause; rather our discussion showed that we think that Northern Ireland is a country with problems, rather than a problem country.

In summary, The Elders seemed impressed with what we had to say. Martti Ahtisaari encouraged us to continue with

The Elders didn't have to be there..... but instead chose to be there

the discussion and to use the resources we have to help form solutions. He encouraged us to meet often as young people to help do this and made a personal promise to come back once a year, for the next five years to help track our progress as community activists and to offer support.

Overall, I would say that valuable conversation occurred during the day. Trying to summarise the value of the event I would say that The Elders didn't have to be there, as politicians at panel events often do, but instead chose to be there. Whether these influential figures have the passion and the patience to try to follow through with structural solutions and political influence is in their hands. As indeed it is with ours, as the next generation of young people and community activists.

Mark Stevenson

One Year Volunteer, Corrymeela

Fifteen Years On –

I REMEMBER THAT WEEK in 1998: the tension in the air, Tony Blair flying in to save the day, George Mitchell and Mo Mowlam, Ian Paisley marching up to Stormont and being stopped at Carson and the snow and the icy wind.

It felt as though as a Community we were holding our collective breath. Could these Troubles, this War, this Conflict really be over?

Fast forward 15 years, the Waterfront Hall and the most powerful political figure in the world U.S. President Obama talks to the young people of Northern Ireland urging them to

be hopeful. He recognises the distance we have come while acknowledging that peace is much harder to achieve and maintain than war. We still have a way to go.

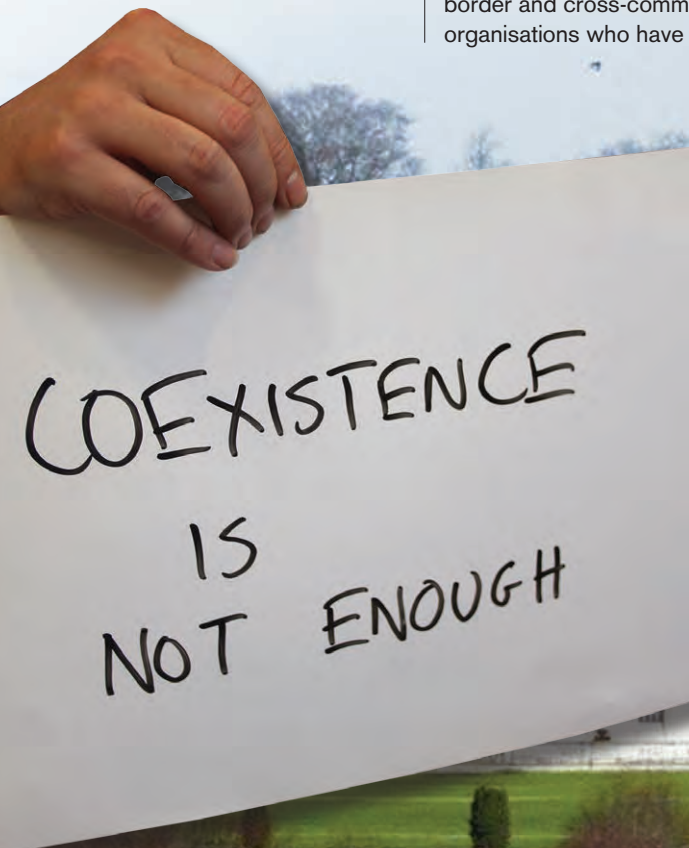
Since late 2012 I have been part of the 15 Years On Group. We are a group of individuals working in peace building, peace research, cross-border and cross-community organisations who have come



together to discuss how we might use 2013 to reflect on the successes and failures of the 15 years since the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and how we might learn from those experiences to do better in the future. For more

information please see our blog the 15 Years On blog (<http://15yearson.com>)

In May, as part of the International Rotary Peace Conference in Derry/Londonderry, we facilitated a



UP Standing

Stories of courage from Northern Ireland

On Wednesday 1 May, 2013, the Corrymeela Community launched their film 'UP Standing - Stories of courage from Northern Ireland'. Sean Pettis, Co-ordinator of the Facing our History, Shaping the Future' project explains the background and purpose of the film. 'Ten diverse accounts from people who stood up to violence, discrimination or prejudice in Northern Ireland. It has been produced as part of 'Facing our History, Shaping the Future' a collaborative project between Corrymeela and Facing History and Ourselves, with funding provided by the International Fund for Ireland (IFI).

OUR WORK supports educators and young people to link lessons from the past to the moral choices we make today. We do this through Teacher Training and extensive follow up support as well as cross community learning opportunities for young people both residentially and school-based. Our approach has been centred on understanding how to build and strengthen peaceful democracies. We do this by using historical case studies where there has been deep

rooted violence, with our main focus being on an exploration of the events leading up to and including the Holocaust. But we do more than study these events. We also think deeply about the human behaviour that animates them. What choices did people make, and why? What can we learn from their decision-making? Or put another way, what questions does an exploration of critical moments in history inspire that are as relevant for us in the here and now, as they were then?

One area of focus when exploring such histories is to think about the people that made a choice to stand up to the violence and injustice around them. Why in societies which rely on huge levels of obedience and conformity, do some people make a choice to counter this? We have a plethora of resources that focus on this elsewhere, but as we sought to explore who were the UP Standers in Northern Ireland, we found a lack of documented stories. So thanks to the support of IFI we embarked on a journey to produce a film and accompanying book that captures these stories and gives us a new window into the past in Northern Ireland.

The primary function of the film and book are as educational resources for classroom use and to support this we are creating an accompanying educators guide. We strongly believe

they have use well beyond the classroom. Corrymeela will be actively seeking public broadcast of the film, as we feel it has much to offer the general public. In our community and faith based work we will also be seeking opportunities for adults to wrestle with the issues emanating from this film. Too often, the burden of the past is left on the shoulders of young people. We tell them that they are the future, and in doing so we are implicitly telling them that they are somehow responsible for facing the violent past and the tensions of the present. This is a task for everyone. It is a difficult task; as Archbishop Desmond Tutu said "The past has a way of returning to haunt you. It doesn't go and lie down quietly".

We have been overwhelmed by the positive support received both at the launch event and at screenings since. But of course none of this would have been possible without the story contributors trusting us and sharing their courageous stories with us –we are deeply grateful. What follows is an excerpt of Duncan Morrow's speech at the launch event, when he was invited to reflect on the film and its significance.

Sean Pettis

Facing our History Project Co-ordinator, Corrymeela Community

(Funding for the Facing our History, Shaping the Future project is provided by the International Fund for Ireland under the 'Sharing in Education Programme', managed on behalf of the Fund by the Department of Education. For more information on the Facing History project visit www.fohstf.co.uk)



Pictured at the premiere of UP Standing outside the Queen's Film Theatre in Belfast are Inderjit Bhogal, Corrymeela; Sean Pettis Facing History Co-ordinator, Corrymeela; Billy Gamble, IFI; Susan McEwen, Corrymeela.



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

An excerpt from Duncan Morrow's speech at the launch event, when he was invited to reflect on the film and its significance...



BY THEIR NATURE, these were small acts by ordinary people. In the world of political power, they are quickly written off as 'ineffective', 'marginal' and irrelevant. But I think in our heart of hearts we all know differently. Part of the power of these stories, is their ability to make us humble about ourselves and the limits of our effectiveness. But for each of us, it is in these decisions that the rubber hits the road. Thankfully most of us are not required to make them. But it is important to know that should it be asked, all is not lost.

This film is about moral as well as physical courage: people who acted rightly in the face of popular opposition, shame, scandal and discouragement. It is the disturbing evidence of something we do not always understand; that humanity sometimes depends on the upstanding of one person against the moral indifference or depravity of the crowd. It tells stories of people holding out against the normal collusion with the abuse of power, sometimes alone. Because the deepest opposite of courage is not cowardice, it is conformity. At its most extreme these people seem like the only humans in an inhuman world. Just because 'Johnny' is out of step does not mean that he is always wrong. So, this is a film about

small people and big themes. It is about small impact and huge importance, it is about grace under pressure.

This is important on at least three levels. Firstly this is not a film for preachers but a film for doers. It is the power of showing not telling, of acting not theorising. It has nothing to do with 'do-gooding' and everything to do with doing good. Secondly, it reaffirms the real meaning of hope. Hope is too often reduced to a kind of vague optimism about the future. In this film, hope for the future of humanity is actually made plausible by the continuing acts of bravery and humanity even where they might be thought impossible. The evidence of things seen is the ground of our faith in things as yet unseen. Thirdly, it gives flesh to the idea of ethics and morality. Through this film about specific actions by ordinary and no doubt flawed people we are invited again to consider what matters, what we can and could be, and also that humanity depends less on the guarantee of success than on people willing to put themselves forward at times when it seems hopeless. This is no utilitarian calculus, but a series of acts of madness through which we might all be saved.

Their story involves endurance in the face of fear

Yet it is also enormously important on a political level. It reminds us that participation in the violence of the past is not limited to soldiers and victims, but extends to a wide circle of those in its orbit. The film rescues the contribution of the ordinary and the humane from the obscurity which is the result of our obsession with violence and the violent. By rescuing some of the real heroes it also re-establishes the proper moral order. More than the calculators, the killers and even the political heroes, actors who took the plaudits, these are the people who saved the future by keeping alive a flicker of human spirit. And we are reminded that this

contribution was not confined to people from one side or another of a conflict or community at war, but was a response that goes far deeper than superficial 'sides' to the heart of what we shared together. Through these kind of stories we are rescued from the romanticism that 'we' were human, and 'they' were not.

On a more sobering level, we are also reminded of the scale of trauma in violent conflict. None of the abuses of power and threat recorded in this film were made amenable to the law. The death threats, the stress of a poster, the cost of standing up in a bus or standing with a fire extinguisher in the face of a mob do not 'count'. What this film tells us is that the measurable and the measured are but the surface of the damage of violence, and that the scars and their impact are immeasurable.

This is a wonderful film. Its champions, participants, makers and sponsors are to be congratulated. Its easy access nature allows us to hope that it can be used in the classroom, in communities and in youth clubs. Above all, it allows us to hope with Maya Angelou that "History, despite all its wrenching pain cannot be un-lived, but if faced with courage it need not be lived again."

Duncan Morrow

Duncan Morrow is Director of Community Engagement at the University of Ulster, responsible for developing the University's partnerships with groups and organisations across the community.

To obtain a copy of the UP Standing DVD please contact our Belfast Office on 028 9050 8080 or email us at belfast@corrymeela.org



Volunteer BEST BITS...

AS OUR VOLUNTEERS come to the end of their time volunteering at Corrymeela, we asked them to reflect on their time at Ballycastle and describe what they thought were their **BEST BITS**, what they enjoyed most and what they got out of the whole experience, this is what they had to say...

I arrived in late October 2012 and immediately felt like one of the team. All the volunteers were participating in the Ballycastle Halloween parade and despite having only just arrived, I hadn't been forgotten and someone had organised a costume for me. I had no choice but to get stuck in and go along with it! For me that's the nature of Corrymeela. It's a welcoming place where you have no option but to throw yourself into whatever situation arises.

Elizabeth - England

Living with this house of international volunteers has really opened my eyes to new friendships and my new found friends' cultures. Sharing stories about our cultures and homes has been incredible; I love just sitting around chatting to everyone. Knowing that I have met friends for life puts a smile on my face every day.

Getting to work alongside so many different groups has been mind blowing. Working with them has really opened up my eyes not just to the conflict in

Northern Ireland but also the world. Each group I work with is an amazing experience. There are always ups and downs, laughter and reflection and the odd time my favourite - fancy dress!

Corrymeela has taught me so much which will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Jamie - Northern Ireland

I had the chance to work with a variety of groups and I had many wonderful experiences

and memorable days. Regarding the "best bits" of my time at the centre I can proudly say that the best moments for me are always the moments in which a group leaves realizing that they came as strangers and leave as friends. I think this is what Corrymeela is about: creating a space where relations are built, connections are made and friendships start.

Maria - Germany

It's difficult to choose a highlight about this year, there've been so many, but I think the biggest experience that I can take is the life in community, the way we have been building our community. In the good moments and even in the not too good, we have been supporting each other, working with each other,



linking with each other and creating a friendship that I think will be for the rest of our lives.

Josue - El Salvador

We all arrived here as strangers, but we are now connected together as an eclectic, global family. Some of my favourite moments at Corrymeela have been hearing stories from ex-prisoners from both sides of the conflict. One of my groups was retired Army and Garda from the Republic meeting ex-IRA prisoners, some of whom they had personally arrested. One of the ex-Garda men told me afterwards that he could see how easily it could have been him that ended up as an IRA prisoner had he lived through the same experiences in the North. That truly demonstrated to me the importance of sharing our personal stories with other people. Sharing stories and listening with an open heart is the first step towards understanding, empathy, and later reconciliation. Another of my favourite moments occurred during a residential of cross-community mothers whose children went to schools on opposite sides of an interface. Corrymeela has a unique ability to provide a sense of safety so that people can allow themselves to be vulnerable in order to confront their truest selves. There is no better gift than this.

Kara - USA

I developed skills which I never knew I had. Prior to Corrymeela, the thought of standing in front of a group and delivering a workshop absolutely terrified me. However, throughout the volunteer year I have been gradually developing skills and every day I am becoming more comfortable in the role of facilitator. Facilitation, programme design, housekeeping and kitchen - these are real and practical skills that I can apply to whatever I do next.

I love the energy and often

Corrymeela has a unique ability to provide a sense of safety so that people can allow themselves to be vulnerable in order to confront their truest selves. There is no better gift than this

random atmosphere that comes with spending a year within a lived Community. There is something truly special about a team who you do not know journeying through a year together and becoming close friends.

Mark - Northern Ireland

As an older volunteer some of the best bits have also been the most challenging. I have loved sharing space with very energetic, enthusiastic, creative, caring young people who at the same time fill my head and heart space when I am a person who appreciates less busy space of both kinds. The stories and laughter that comes from living in a building with many others – up to 20 – is priceless.

Martha - USA

I think the most interesting thing I learned at Corrymeela was how to deal with people in an international place; it taught me how to deal with different types of people and how to deal with conflicts inside the house. It also let me see my conflict at home

They came as strangers and leave as friends



in another perspective. My best day was when I met a lot of people from all around the world and spoke more about politics than when I was at home.

Mohammad - Palestine

Meeting different people with totally different accents, hearing new stories, new perspectives, living in a house where there are people from 10 to 15 different countries, the special click with some individuals, having a conflict and resolving it with a dialogue and so on (I can keep on going) are the things that makes my life at Corrymeela worthwhile and interesting.

Pradeep - Nepal

One thing that Corrymeela has taught me is that each role has its unique importance. It doesn't matter if you're working in the kitchen, housekeeping, or you're working with a group, you're always part of the mission of Corrymeela.

Robin - Germany

What isn't a 'best bit' at Corrymeela? The moment you arrive, the whole community gathers to give you the warmest welcome that could be given. There are signs on the walls, music, tea (lots of tea), food, flowers, smiles, and, in everyone's eyes, a look of excitement at meeting yet another new person.

However, the day I'll leave I'll remember that moment when... "Hands on knees! Hands on shoulders! Hands on mouths for good silence! Hands on ears for good listening! Kids, we'll have to say goodbye now...!" And a child that looks up to his mum and sobbing says: "Mom, I don't want to go".

Victor - Spain

The work has been so wonderful, peaceful, refreshing and exciting. The Community Members, Staff, Co-Volunteers and the groups who visit us at Corrymeela have given the Organisation the name, face love, togetherness, peace it has in Northern Ireland. Dream more, Aspire more, don't limit yourself.

Benny - Nigeria

The "best bits" of my experience here so far all comes down to one (gigantic) thing: the people. It is my team of volunteers, now scattered about the globe again, but whom I carry with me every day around this site. It is generations of other volunteers with whom I share a connection simply through a unique shared experience.

Kelsey - USA

For more information on volunteering go to our website www.corrymeela.org



Restoring broken relationships



ON THE 24TH APRIL 2013, certificates were presented to seven amazing young women – seven amazing young men had also participated, but had not attended the event.

It was a source of huge pride on my part and also one of deep sadness.

The Having a Say group was ending.

Since October 2011, this group (originally 15) have been exploring:

What is my relationship to the police?

What is the police relationship to young people?

It began with the phrase hard to reach, a description one adult gave to young people. It ended with a group of young people

who knew more about law and order than most adults.

It began with Moyle Council and the police naming an issue. It ended with youth and police in a new and healthy relationship.

Corrymeela staff and volunteers were the guides on this journey – encouraging, creating, holding to account, learning all the way.

It began in a storm of expletives and distrust.

It ended in new ways of thinking and looking at relationships with and between police and young people.

In the middle, people told stories – of how they were treated by the police and how they wanted that to change.

In the middle, people were blindfolded and led into a dark wood,

hoping, trusting.

In the middle, young people “interviewed” the police in the local station – with questions like –

Why don't you like young people?

What was the hardest thing you have ever seen?

and,

Where do you put my drink when you confiscate it?

This programme began with poor relationships, and ended with an advisory group where young people and police officers could come and safely discuss issues of law and order – an Independent Advisory Group.

It ended with high praise from the Police and the Council, and

the recognition that only a lack of funding had closed the chapter on this particular adventure.

As a model it has huge potential – for young people and for the police. The issue of good authority in society is a key issue to be addressed. We hope to write up this programme, present workshops on it as a model of engagement, and look at new areas to develop it as a restorative approach to law and order.

It began in conflict and ended with smiles for the camera.

Click.

Paul Hutchinson
Centre Director, Corrymeela
Ballycastle

For further information, contact paulhutchinson@corrymeela.org

Listening to the small voices



WHEN PEOPLE WOULD ASK ME over the years why I am living in Northern Ireland instead of America, I would say to them that I chose to come here because of the opportunity I was given 6½ years ago to work on a brilliant project. For the past 4 years I have been the Co-ordinator of that same project, called The Forgiveness Education Programme (which is managed locally by The Corrymeela Community in co-operation with The International Forgiveness Institute in Wisconsin, USA).

Many people do their job because it pays the bills but I have been one of those fortunate people who also got to do something they love. It has been a delight to continuously discover with Teachers and Pupils the joy that can be found in sharing kindness and generosity and seeing the Inherent Worth in all people. I have heard countless stories from Teachers and Principals about how their decision to teach The Forgiveness Curriculum in their school has changed the way their school operates, transforming them into 'Forgiveness Schools'.

But for me, the things that I will take away from this programme will be hearing the small voices, those of the pupils who have truly embraced what it means to live a forgiving life. They are beginning to understand how important the simple words of 'I forgive you' or 'Will you forgive me' truly are. Here are a few thoughts in their own words:

"I think when you forgive you go back to being friends again. When I fall out with my friends I show them I have forgiven them by saying, 'I forgive you', or we mostly give each other a big hug and smile. Then we are friends again."

Courtney, Mount St. Michael's Primary School

"If someone hurts you and they say sorry, then you can forgive them and be friends again. If you didn't forgive you would lose your friend."

Darragh, Currie Primary School

"Forgiveness means a lot to me because it stops the world from great danger and war. I have to forgive my little brothers and sisters even though I'm in the right so it is sometimes hard. But then we say sorry, forgive each other and we're friends again."

Toby, Randalstown Central Primary School

"Forgiveness means that just because I fall out with my friend or disagree with them does not mean that our friendship is over. We can both calm down and then talk about our differences. We might realise that we miss our friend and all of the fun we have."

Elizabeth, Mount St. Michael's Primary School

Because of my involvement with this project, I have been given countless treasures through the words and insights of children as they learn about and begin to value things like kindness, generosity, caring and forgiveness. The wisdom I have learned from the thousands of children I have met throughout these past many years will stay with me forever. I think we would all do well to stop and listen to the small voices in our lives.

Becki Fulmer

Forgiveness Education Programme Co-ordinator, Corrymeela (2009-2013)



Connecting across the city

WE ARE NEUROLOGICALLY WIRED to connect.

A smile

A handshake

A hug

A kiss

A look

A word

As humans from the moment we are born we are looking to connect with an other.

Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, texting are all predicated upon this very basic human need to connect.

But

Conflict interrupts connection, disrupts connection, restricts connection, skews connection.

Violent conflict, such as that which we have experienced, breeds fear, mistrust, segregation, alienation and an exaggerated understanding of us and them.

It is hard to connect when there is a wall between you and me.

Connecting Across the City is a year long project funded by Belfast City Council. It uses an approach developed by Professor Theodore Zeldin from Oxford University and is very simple. You are seated in pairs with **someone you have never met**, or know only

very vaguely. On the table is an envelope saying Starter and it contains about 15 questions. Once you have introduced yourself to your dinner partner you move into the conversation. Each of you chooses a question, and when you have finished discussing it, the other chooses the next one and so you continue; with each course comes a new envelope full of delight.

We have had two Connecting events so far and it is amazing how quickly the conversations become animated, and there is a buzz and gentle laughter in the air. Connecting Across the City provides a safe and creative space where you not only get to know a stranger very well, but find that you learn a lot about yourself too in discussing such

topics as ambition, curiosity, fear, friendship, hopes for Belfast, music and love. One participant asked if they could take a copy of all the questions home as they wanted to do it with their partner and family. Another said **she had in just two hours made a friend** who knew more about her than many she had known much longer.

Alongside the conversations and the food we have artists who are gently recording what is happening through video, drawing, painting and photos. This is an element of the project that Corrymeela brings to it as our unique 'trademark'.

Connecting Across the City will have connected 60 people from across Belfast; 60 people will have spent 2 hours having a different type of conversation with an other. In a city still deeply divided, that is trying to emerge from conflict to become a United Community with a shared future we suggest that the first step is to understand that we are connected, deeply connected.

Susan McEwen
Development Director, Corrymeela



Belfast City Marathon

TEN CORRYMEELA VOLUNTEERS and staff participated in this year's Belfast City marathon. For some, training was quite vigorous, and it was regularly a topic of discussion at mealtimes. Being a part of the relay team meant that others ran farther than they ever had before.



Pictured are Peter Calabrese, Aaron Gordon, Helen McLoughlin and Maria Nopper

Needless to say, it was quite the community-building event. Leading up to the race, the team raised funds to support Corrymeela's Volunteer Programme. The £1000+ raised exceeded our goal! This money will go to help future international volunteers cover their travel expenses to Corrymeela. A special thank you to everyone who supported the runners, and even if you weren't there to watch us, we know you were supporting us in spirit!

Dustin Wyse-Fisher

News from the South

FOR SOME YEARS NOW Corrymeela has featured in the curriculum for Religious Education in Junior and Leaving Certificates in the Republic of Ireland. In response to an increasing volume of requests, two Community Members David and Heather Godfrey have visited a number of schools and talked to students about Corrymeela. They spent two days in Villiers School, Limerick where they interacted with 270 students from all age groups. They were met with great enthusiasm and hope that in future this might lead to school groups coming to the Centre from many parts of Ireland.

This interest in Corrymeela is an example of the opportunities created by the new syllabus for RE in second-level schools in the Republic. Corrymeela is used to demonstrate a practical illustration of ecumenism and reconciliation at work.



Pictured are Mr Jackie McNair, School Chaplain, Mrs Heather Godfrey and Dean David Godfrey

Thank you

We want to thank all the staff, members, volunteers and friends of Corrymeela who supported and organised the following very successful fundraising events: a Street Collection in Belfast City Centre which raised £940, a Pub Quiz in Ballycastle which raised £196, Becky Dudley and Friends who raised £451 at a coffee morning during the Belfast Marathon.

Sad News

Legacies

We remember L G Gillett, the Ivan and Dorothy Wheeler Charitable Trust, J A B Mayne and William Glass

Gifts in memoriam

We also remember Desmond McBride, John Morrow, Marian Hay, William Rutherford, Piers Skidmore, Peter Hick and their families.

Share Corrymeela with your friends

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE who would be interested in becoming a Friend of Corrymeela? Perhaps a relation, a friend or a member of your Church?

If you think they might be interested in becoming a Friend of Corrymeela, please let us know, just send us a note with their names and addresses and we will send them a copy of our Magazine, invite them to become a Friend of Corrymeela and keep them informed about events at our Centre in Ballycastle and in the U.K.

If you would prefer to make a donation on their behalf we will send them our magazine and let them know about your generous gift, we recommend a Friends donation of £26.00 (€30.00/ US\$40.00) each year.

COMING UP

Silent Retreat at Corrymeela Ballycastle

4th – 6th October 2013

The theme for the weekend is Human Touch in the Gospel of Mark

These retreats are aimed at providing you with a place of rest, with good soup, nurture, heartspace, kindness and a place to join other voices in simple prayer, and to join yourself in simple rest, walking and silent conversation.

As usual the wonderful Jayne McConkey will also be at the weekend offering massage. More details for those that sign up. The cost for the retreats is £100, but if you come with a friend, it is £75 each. Please indicate when applying whether you wish to pay £100 or whether you are coming with a friend and paying £75 each.

We have space for 20-24 participants. Do come along, do bring a friend. To book, email Pádraig at retreats@corrymeela.org



GB Conference

London – November 2013

in association with
St Ethelburga's

Saturday November 16th 2013
St Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, 78 Bishopsgate, London, EC2N 4AG
10.00am (for 10.30am) until 4.30pm
Cost - £30 (to include lunch) with a reduced charge of £15 per head for unwaged, students etc.
The conference will be facilitated by **Susan McEwen** (Development Director, Corrymeela) and **David Price** (Corrymeela Community Member)

Confronting Terror and Violence: Stories of Conscience, Conviction and Courage from Northern Ireland (based on the DVD "UP Standing")

To book your place, please complete the form below and return before the 6th November 2013
by post for the attention of Honor Alleyne and marked "Corrymeela Conference" to 31 Tamarind Way, Earley, Reading, RG6 5GR. (Cheques should be made payable to the Corrymeela Community)
by e-mail to honoralleyne@hotmail.co.uk (payment to be made on the day of the conference)

I/we* wish to reserve ____ places(s) at the Corrymeela Friends Conference to be held on Saturday 16th November 2013

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Mobile: _____

Any special dietary requests/ additional information _____

CORRYMEELA ART COMPETITION

ATTENTION ALL YOUNG ARTISTS

[4-11 Years]

The theme for our competition is **MY FRIENDS!**

All entries will be exhibited at our Ballycastle Centre – prizes will be awarded to the top three
Entries should be on an A4 page and can be pencil, crayon or paint with
your name, age and primary school clearly printed on the back

The closing date for entries is 31st October 2013

Completed entries should be sent to our Belfast office –
Picture Competition, Corrymeela, 8 Upper Crescent, Belfast, BT7 1NT

Corrymeela acknowledges the support of the following

