

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.

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Bird indoors

In the dining room with the view of waves,
a small bird I can't name.

Blue chest beating wings,
a duster of panic and feathers
in a space it cannot
rise above.

Someone talks of an omen.

I gather the pecking
splutter of fear
in a cloth wet from drying dishes. Staff fear
I will kill it,
or lose it from my trembling grip.

Let it loose is what I do. Outside.
It soars,
past the trees planted by Quakers,
over the bell
that sounds me awake, twice a day,
to contemplate
the space between
Intimate and fearful,
Neighbourly and nosey,
Religion and a rope-burn,
Hope and a long-told
soothing lie.

Paul Hutchinson, Centre Director, Corrymeela Ballycastle

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Dear Friend

AS WE LOOK FORWARD to the Christmas season of goodwill to all and the celebration of the birth of Christ, we pause to look back at a busy year for Corrymeela.

During the summer we welcomed families living in very difficult circumstances. Families living in conflicted areas where violence and tension are commonplace, families struggling with everyday life because of financial problems, bereavement or the care of a very ill child.

We also welcomed those who either by accident of birth or life circumstances have been set on a course of conflict and anger. We have hosted two very successful Youth Workers conferences and at the end of the summer brought together a young adult group from Jerusalem with Catholics and Protestants from Northern Ireland.

We celebrate the success of our Facing our History, Shaping the Future Project, which provides educators with essential training for history and civic education and works directly with pupils both residentially and school-based, all on a cross community basis.

We have brought people divided by racism, sectarianism and hatred to a place where they are free to talk and have the opportunity to take the first steps to determine a shared future for themselves. We offer you our thanks for your generous support and our hopes and prayers for a more reconciled world.

Angela Saunders Editor

National Corrymeela GB Celebration March 2014 in Manchester

Saturday, March 15th 2014, 10.30am – 4pm.
Theme: A Shared Future – And Reconciliation For All?

This will be held in the Chaplaincy of the University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester (by kind invitation of the Reverend Dr T. Biddington).

This conference will explore the theme through the experience of conflict and reconciliation in Northern Ireland but also look at the many divisions and possibilities in GB as well.

A Corrymeela Sunday Service

will be held at
St Peter's Chaplaincy
Centre, Manchester
at 11.00 am on
Sunday March 16th 2014

Further details on both these events will be available on the Corrymeela website in the coming months
www.corrymeela.org and via e-mail to Friends and Supporters.

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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.

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Tweet, tweet

Bill tweets

Bill Osborne is the Interim C.E.O. of the Corrymeela Community, he is married to Wendy, they have two grown up children and one granddaughter. Bill is never stuck for words so it was quite a challenge for him to restrict his answers to 140 (max) characters allowed by Twitter. He didn't quite manage it.

What is the most interesting thing about working for Corrymeela?
The people of course!!

If there was one place on Earth you could go for one day only, where would it be and why?
Having been on earth for 60 years I really would like to go into space and look down on earth – looking up at the stars makes me realise how much more there is out there. I think it would be great to view earth from the perspective of just a dot in the tapestry of the sky.

If you had chosen not to work within the voluntary sector, what might you be doing now?

A baker, my father worked all his life in a bakery responsible for pancakes, soda bread, potato bread and wheaten farls. I spent my Saturday mornings and summer vacations working in the Sunblest Bakery, so no doubt if I had not had the opportunity to go to University I would have ended up working with my dad. By the way, I still like pancakes!!

Who is or was the single greatest influence in your life?

The cynic within me has never allowed me to settle on one individual but if I have to choose it would be my grandmother. After my grandfather died, I lived with her from age of 13 and she nurtured, encouraged and supported me to shake off the dust of daily toil and strife and look at the opportunities that life presented. She was a spiritually and emotionally strong woman who always had time for me.

Apart from friends and family, what is the thing closest to your heart?
My dog Ben the Basset Hound.

Which books are on your bedside table right now?

The Basque History of the World by Mark Kurlansky and The Elusive Quest by Norman Porter.

Do you always tell the truth or does the occasional white lie slip out?

I always tell the truth - but that is a white lie of course!!

If you were stranded on a desert island, what is the one luxury you would miss most?

Ice cream.

Inderjit tweets

Inderjit Bhogal is the Leader of the Corrymeela Community, he is married to Kathy and they have two grown up children. He is the author of several books including A Table for All (2000); On the Hoof (2001); Unlocking the Doors (2002); Pluralism and Mission Today (2007) and Becoming a City of Sanctuary [2009]. He just about managed to keep his answers to the 140 characters allowed by Twitter.

What is the most interesting thing about working for Corrymeela?

I engage with an immense diversity of people to achieve equality, inclusion and reconciliation.

If there was one place on Earth you could go for one day only, where would it be and why?

I love hill and mountain walking and I'd love to take a day on the final reach to the summit of Mt Everest.

If you had chosen not to work as an ordained minister, what might you be doing now?

I'd be a carpenter, I love working with wood and have made furniture.

Who is or was the single greatest influence in your life?

Jesus Christ

Apart from friends and family, what is the thing closest to your heart?

Working to achieve equality and inclusion.

Which books are on your bedside table right now?

There are about twenty, including: The New Testament; Gitanjali by Rabindranath Tagore; Sermons of Martin Luther King; Letters and Papers from Prison by Dietrich Bonhoeffer; The Church is all of you, thoughts of Oscar Romero; Siddhartha by Herman Hesse and The Alchemist by Paolo Coelo.

Do you always tell the truth or does the occasional white lie slip out?

White lies slip out in the interests of equality and inclusion!

If you were stranded on a desert island, what is the one luxury you would miss most?

Ras Malai, this is a mouth watering Indian dessert.

First Ray Davey Bursary awarded

We are delighted to announce the first bursary from the Ray Davey Youth Fund has been awarded to Leah Judge.

I HAVE RECENTLY had the honour of being awarded a bursary from Corrymeela to study towards an Academic Post-Graduate Certificate in Conflict Transformation with St. Mary's University in Texas. My husband and I lived in Northern Ireland for a short while in 2006-2007; during that time we gained a deep love for the country. We longed to see Northern Ireland continue towards a greater level of peace and reconciliation. It is largely due to our experience then that we will be moving back with our two young girls next summer. I desire to play a part, be it big or small in the peace building process and to discover creative ways in which I can help build bridges. I began the course four weeks ago and I have loved being challenged, it is broadening my horizons and my understanding.

I am very grateful and feel privileged to have received the bursary from Corrymeela to be able to study this course. My prayer is that through it I will gain more understanding and experience to benefit not only myself, but also the people I will work with in Northern Ireland.



Fitting in

FOR THE LAST YEAR

Corrymeela has been involved in a cross-border networking project along with Co-operation Ireland and the Nerve Centre. As part of the project, the Peace III Funders were keen that there would be a legacy over and beyond the relationships developed between the twenty groups.

From the start, we wanted the legacy to be something different. With support from the groups we began working towards three complementary ideas: a DVD charting the journey of the project, a resource book generated to support the groups taking this work forward and a piece of art capturing the learning of the project.

The piece of art was commissioned and created by the artist Genevieve Murphy. She was working to a remit

developed by the group in that it was to convey the idea of a jigsaw. The jigsaw theme reflected the groups' thinking about trying to fit, being part of a bigger picture, having jagged edges, not seeing the bigger picture until the picture is complete and the intergenerational nature of the relationships.

We are truly delighted with the end piece that Genevieve has created and even more delighted that it will be homed at our Ballycastle Centre where the groups came together and felt that they had truly connected.

Susan McEwen
Development Director,
Corrymeela

This project was supported by the PEACE 3 Programme managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by the North East Peace 3 Partnership.

Through the lens of faith and banking

At a recent conference in Belfast Jon Snow of Channel 4 made the comment that when he started as a journalist you had to know two things: the politics of East/West and the politics of Left/Right. In current times he went on to say this has changed to the politics of Faith and the politics of Banking.

We asked Dr Gareth Higgins, the Director of Wild Goose, a festival that looks at justice, spirituality, music and art to comment. Gareth is originally from Northern Ireland and cites Corrymeela as one of the key influences in the development of Wild Goose.

JON SNOW'S RECENT REMARKS suggested that our culture has shifted from one set of binaries to another - where once journalists were told they could get by with a passing knowledge of the politics of east/west and left/right, now the axes of global power centre on the fault lines in faith and banking. Either could 'tear us apart', which is a good reason to study them, though not the whole picture of course. It would be a welcome change if mainstream media evidenced serious attempts at understanding the human depth in religion and money, which often seem relegated to puff pieces: You have to get up really early to witness live substantive broadcast discussion of religion and ethics in northern Ireland, while the rest of the time the public space for religious voices is often occupied by rent-a-fundamentalists or pop-up-hand-

wringing alike, or handled by 'experts' too close to the wheel of financial power to really ask the hard questions. There are exceptions, of course, but they should be the rule.

As for the notion that the politics of faith and banking could tear us apart, Jon Snow is right of course - but it would be easy to fall into the trap of denouncing the shadow before re-examining

the light. The US American satirist John Fugelsang made the point in a recent debate that John Hinckley's attempted assassination of Ronald Reagan, done to 'impress' Jodie Foster, did not lead to anyone blaming Ms Foster. God has even more fans than Jodie, and the very human impulse to connection with divinity contains the paradox of both humble awe, and the possibility of a God complex.

It's not that much different with banking - sure there are good and selfish bankers alike, and the role of money in healthcare, environmental stewardship, and conflict transformation is undeniable. But the lords of money work in an industry whose purpose and parameters easily lend themselves to a messianic belief in self-propaganda.

So God and money shouldn't be blamed for the behaviour of their worst fans, but we should be wary of ignoring the places where each of us manifests the shadow side of religion or commerce. It is possible to begin to discover the liberating power of acknowledging that, in faith, none of us knows everything, and that, in commerce, money is supposed to be stewarded for the common good. This is what I think we mean by 'commonwealth', and there's a reason a word exists that holistically joins the concept of love and money. Commonwealth is what we are invited into as human beings. It's the way things function best. It's the antidote to when shadow religion and shadow commerce seek to trump human flourishing. It's within the reach of everyone.

How?
First of all, by telling a better story.

As the experimental psychologist Steven Pinker says, human beings predict probability based on how easily we can recall examples.

So if we fill our minds with stories of greed and religious extremism, we will over-predict their likelihood in real life. Senior citizens in the UK have been estimated to predict the probability that they will be the victim of violence at 25%; crime statistics show that the actual probability is closer to 1%. Something - or someone - is multiplying the fears of the elderly twenty-five times over. The world is actually getting more peaceful, according to Pinker. And telling stories of peace actually helps reduce violence itself. So here's a modest proposal in response to Jon Snow's new and wise provocation: how's about we commit ourselves to an ancient and wiser navigation: look for better stories about religion and money, and start telling them.

Louder.

Better.

More often.

Today.

Gareth Higgins

Gareth is a northern Irish writer living in North Carolina.





The Financial Services Authority states: “An industrial and provident society is an organisation conducting an industry, business or trade, either as a co-operative or for the benefit of the community, and is registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965”

The Price of Peace

WHY MONEY, AND MORE THAT JUST MONEY MATTERS as we contemplate the reality of a shared future: The dominant rules of our global economic system actively persuade us that all we need is more money to purchase what (we perceive) we desire in order to achieve future freedom. As an individual, I face captivity to this way of thinking in my daily choices and I observe the same pattern at work in others.

I am convinced that money is not the sole solution to many of the challenges that we face in the 21st Century. Money is a powerful tool that has the potential to enable the realisation of embracing difference, healing divisions and enabling reconciliation. Money like all resources requires stewardship if we are to optimise the possibilities that finance can offer.

On a global level, money can be used well to bring about change, justice and freedom. It is also true that it is hoarded and hidden by the few for their sole gain. Too often, we are encouraged to scapegoat the 1% rather than struggle with how to practically approach making responsible decisions that challenge established ways of being and offer new possibilities. Possibilities where our neighbours' good is the motivating factor in how and why we do, what we do.

As I imagine the peace of transformation in Northern Ireland, or in any place, my sense is that money alone will only take us so far. Peace is priceless and indeed it cannot be bought with Euros, Sterling or Dollars. Finance is fundamental but it is only a factor in strategically approaching a shared future.

Ray Davey is quoted as having reminded us previously that if we “tell our story the money will come!”

2012 was the International Year of Co-operatives; at the very end of that year I was privileged to hear a story about the recent founding of the Belfast Cleaning Society at a Community Relations Council event in Belfast. This story captured my imagination; six ladies from the Shankill started a different kind of business with a view to providing employment for themselves and a future for their families. These six ladies had 90 years cleaning experience between them and together they re-imagined a “new” kind of co-operative structure based on the Industrial & Provident Societies Act, 1965. Since that time, their membership has grown considerably and ladies from the Falls Road have joined them.

What has been bought with the millions spent here in Northern Ireland since 1998?

Much good to be sure, I am not suggesting the money given and spent did no good, but I observe that a culture of “peace money” has created an expectation and reinforced a belief that what we need to achieve sustainable peace is simply more free cash.

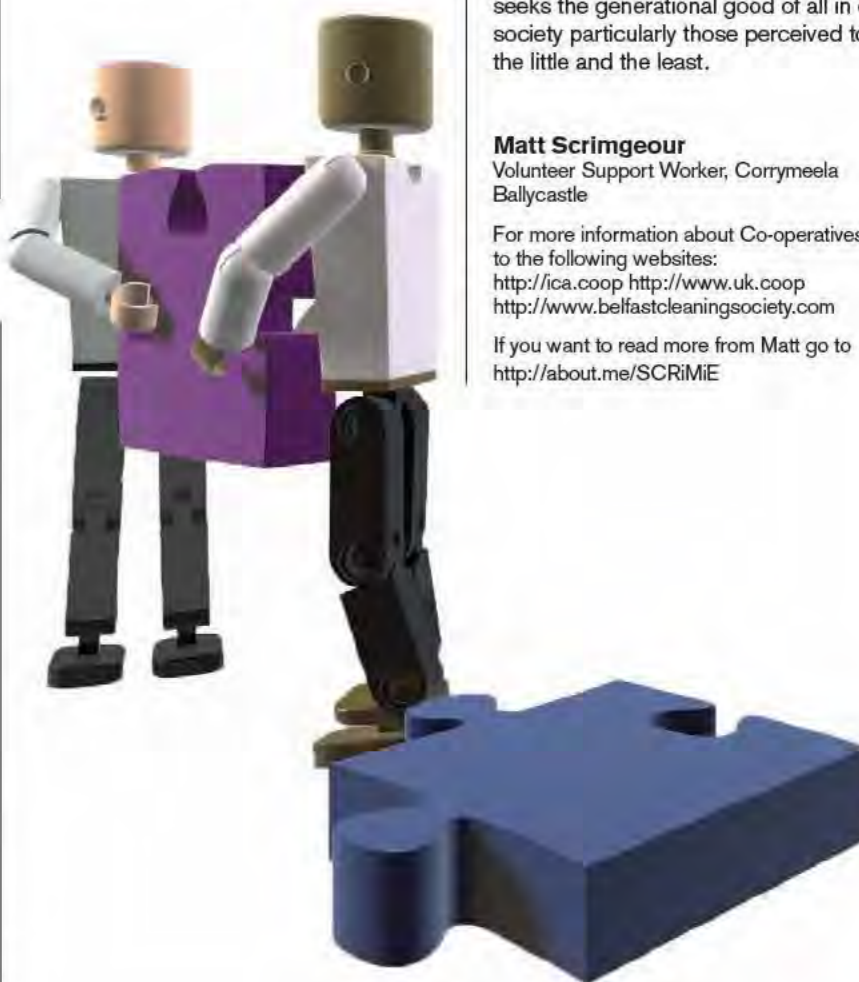
Can we afford to perpetuate this kind of thinking?

For me the coming co-operative revival is one example of people collectively finding creative alternatives to the profit and cash driven activity of our default economics.

Co-operatives like the Belfast Cleaning Society are not the only innovation that we need, but they are a model of an alternative way any enterprise, charitable or otherwise, can approach being legally constituted.

The Co-operative movement internationally is more significant than I realised: Ed Mayo, Secretary General of Co-ops UK was quoted in the Guardian in September 2013 as having clarified that “Globally Co-ops employ over 100 million people, 20% more than multinational businesses, whilst the largest 300 Co-ops in the world have an annual turnover of over \$1 trillion”.

That we need to buy and sell, and that we are all free to redistribute our resources for the benefit of the different other is a given, but the structures, values and principles that inform our activities are all factors that ultimately inform the likelihood that our activity will be sustainable and therefore capable of contributing to lasting peaceful change



Finance is fundamental, but it is only a factor in strategically approaching a shared future.

— particularly in societies scarred by violence.

The possibilities offered by Industrial and Provident Societies represent for me a structural alternative, particularly when conceived and nurtured at a grassroots level. They offer divided communities real incentives to co-operate together and acknowledge our deeper interdependence. I'd like to see a future that encourages not simply the routine maintenance of the voluntary sector but a broader portfolio of programmes, grants and investment that are grounded and grown in a co-operative framework that seeks the generational good of all in civic society particularly those perceived to be the little and the least.

Matt Scrimgeour
Volunteer Support Worker, Corrymeela Ballycastle

For more information about Co-operatives go to the following websites:
<http://ica.coop> <http://www.uk.coop>
<http://www.belfastcleaningsociety.com>

If you want to read more from Matt go to <http://about.me/SCRiMiE>

Celebrating success

IN JUNE 2013 the Facing our History, Shaping the Future project held a special celebration event at Parliament Buildings, Stormont. This event marked the end of the current phase of the project and provided a platform for the Year 10 pupils from Friends' School, Lisburn and St Dominic's Grammar School for Girls to share the learning from their year long collaboration which

focused on two events in 1916: the Battle of the Somme and the Easter Rising.

Over the past 3 years, we have supported educator training and follow up support alongside direct work with pupils, both residential and community based. Our approach has been centred on understanding how to build and strengthen peaceful democracies by using historical

case studies where there has been deep-rooted violence. Although our primary focus has been on the Holocaust, we have also provided opportunities to critically reflect on local history and its legacies.

We asked two teachers and two pupils who were involved in the celebration event to reflect on their experience of participating in the project.

Iris Bradfield, History Teacher, Friends' School, Lisburn

When I first attended a Facing History course I was captivated by the enthusiasm of those leading the project, and the relevance the materials had to what I taught on the Holocaust in Year 10 and at GCSE. It was so good to meet with likeminded teachers and establish links with other schools and indeed countries. The focus on bystander behaviour was particularly interesting and caused me to look differently at how I taught my classes, especially when it came to the module on Northern Ireland.

My pupils responded with an encouraging enthusiasm and I have noticed more of them now continue to study History after Year 10. This past year however, was our most rewarding to date, as we linked

with another school from a different tradition to study the shared History of our divided country. Being able to take them on a residential to Corrymeela at the start of the project allowed some real friendships to develop, but more importantly real learning took place as the pupils relaxed and took the trouble to talk to each other and understand their viewpoints.

Darren Scott, History Teacher, St Dominic's Grammar School for Girls

Facing History has allowed me to feel more confident teaching controversial issues. It has given me access to a host of superb resources that support me to explore issues that bring History and Politics alive for my students. It has reminded me of the importance of process in teaching and that it is not just about product. I also connected with a number of other teachers from around the world, allowing a sharing of enthusiasm and resources.

The students love the process as they get to look at events from a range of differing viewpoints. I also think it has an impact on their appreciation of diversity and enhances their empathy for other perspectives. Corrymeela were the perfect partners for our work with Friends' School as their ethos of reconciliation supported our shared history programme.

Nicole and Courtney, pupils from St Dominic's Grammar School and Friends' School, Lisburn

We found that working together throughout the year was an amazing experience, we made a lot of new friends and some of the friendships we

“through the Facing History project we also learnt that we could all be together as one and that we should all work towards a better future.”



know will last. Also working together was very interesting as we learnt the opinions of others and it also made history a lot more fun in many different aspects.

We learnt a lot of things throughout the project including a lot of new things in history, but through the Facing History project we also learnt that we could all be together as one and that we should all work towards a better future. We also learnt a lot of things about ourselves!

We think it's important for young people to participate in programmes like Facing History because many people have stereotypes and through this project we think that our two classes have overcome those stereotypes and have also realised how much of a shared history we all have.

The Facing our History, Shaping the Future project was also externally evaluated by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). Whilst the full report will be available on the ETI website from mid-November onwards, it provided an important validation of our work, highlighting that...

'The project demonstrated that effective history education can be a transformative experience and can make a significant contribution to the process of reconciliation'

To learn more about the project, contact Sean Pettis via email seanpettis@corrymeela.org or visit www.fohstf.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

Goodbye Adele



In September, we said farewell to Adele Campbell from our Belfast office.

Adele has worked for the past two and a half years on the Facing History project and has been central to its success. We wish Adele all the very best in her future studies in Counselling.



Introducing this year's Volunteer Team

Our One Year Volunteer Team come from a wide range of backgrounds and experience. They have chosen to dedicate the next year of their lives working and living at our Centre in Ballycastle, sharing in the Corrymeela ethos, as part of the lived in Community.

Anna Ludvigsson, 20, is from a small town in eastern Sweden. Anna has been working with older people with dementia; she is looking forward to spending a year living in community.

Anni Ruf, 20, is from a small village called Glotteral in Germany. She has previously spent a week volunteering at Corrymeela and enjoys working with children.

Clément Barral, 21, is from Switzerland. He spent 3 months at Corrymeela as a Mid-term Volunteer; he is looking forward to spending a year getting to know new people.

Conor Johnston, 19, is from Northern Ireland. He has just finished studying a two-year extended diploma in music.

Deryk Godoz, 25, is from Brazil. He loves to cook (especially desserts), chat, drink coffee and read (a lot!).

Helen-Rose Owen, 21, is from Derbyshire in England. She has a degree in Theology from Queen's University, Belfast. She is looking forward to getting experience in peace-building and conflict resolution.

Jaeyun Jung, 26, is from the Republic of South Korea. She is an English teacher and wants to learn new things and share very different stories.

Nathalia Biscarra, 22, is from Arizona, USA. She has just completed a degree in Justice Studies and was a Mid-term volunteer at Corrymeela two years ago.

Rhian Clarke, 18, is from Bristol in England. She is excited to be going to Corrymeela and looking forward to living with volunteers from all over the world.

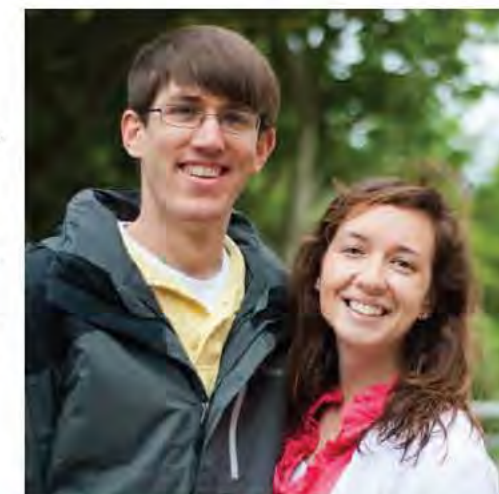
Seán Harvey, 21, is from the Republic of Ireland. A Dubliner he has studied Youth Work and Community Development and hopes one day to take a Masters degree. He can play the ukulele and classical piano, paint and draw and is looking forward to living at our Centre.

Seán Mackey, 19, is from Antrim in Northern Ireland. He has just finished his A levels and was previously an Extended Summer Volunteer at Corrymeela. A keen footballer, Seán's goal for this year is meeting loads of new people and having a good laugh along the way.

Zik (pronounced Zeke) **Nsonwu**, 18, is from Greensboro, North Carolina, USA. He is using his gap year with Corrymeela to learn from others, he intends to study environmental engineering at University.

And finally – Our Resource couple **Andrew and Jessie Garnett**

are from Alabama, USA; they have made a two-year commitment to Corrymeela as the Resource Couple. Andrew has worked extensively with churches and nonprofit agencies in the United States. He has also spent time in the Philippines working with Bible translators. He is interested in different expressions of Christian Faith particularly through worship. Jessie has worked in various non-profits for the past eight years including working with refugees from all over the world who resettled in the United States. It was through working with people from countries experiencing extreme conflict that she became interested in peace building and reconciliation.



Involve – Youth Worker's Conference at Corrymeela Ballycastle



VERY OFTEN marginalized young people have a perception of our society as one to which they have no input. Their life experience tells them that adults (Teachers, Parents/Guardians, People in Authority) make decisions for them, tell them what to do and how to do it. Corrymeela often finds itself working with young people who have had already low levels of self-confidence and self-esteem reinforced by

adults constantly inferring, or in some cases directly saying, that they are "failures" or "will not amount to much". Sadly, if one is constantly told the same message one begins to believe it.

Youth workers, in some respects can be one of society's main responses to marginalised young people, especially in terms of dealing with the negative aspects of some young people's behaviour. This becomes a negative cycle, young people are simply perceived as a "problem" and the youth worker becomes the vessel to help contain the "problem". For youth workers who are poorly supported and over stretched, innovative and

imaginative ways of engaging with young people are often not developed.

To date, the focus of youth work delivery has sometimes been based on individual youth work practice being delivered in "silos". Specific youth work organisations deliver "specialisms" in which there is very little crossover or connection. It is in this context Corrymeela's youth work is developing a more strategic cross agency approach. We are promoting areas of best practice and imagining a more inclusive model; one which shares knowledge, skills and information across the youth work sector. Corrymeela is acting as a

catalyst to bring together diverse agencies which in our economic climate are often in competition with each other or struggling to access an ever decreasing funding "pot".

Our approach is three stranded. Strand one in June 2013 brought 36 local youth workers and agencies together, both voluntary and statutory. Strand two in September 2013 involved 60 workers from all over the UK and Ireland, again from the voluntary and statutory sectors. Strand three will bring together diverse Youth Work Partners from the rest of the European Union and its neighbours. Strand three is awaiting a successful funding application, however in anticipation of this, we have revived links with Stiftsgarden (Sweden), Agape (Italy), Oikos (Holland) and further developed our work with Glencree (ROI), and Martin Kaiser

This becomes a negative cycle, young people are simply perceived as a 'problem' and the youth worker becomes the vessel to help contain the 'problem'.

from the Gustav Stresemann Institut (Germany). It is expected this third strand will be delivered in April to June 2014.

In an age when youth employment is at a record high across all of Europe what young people need are opportunities to increase their employability, boost their self esteem and value themselves. Quality youth work is a powerful experience to promote the well-being and interdependence of all young people. It is a tool that underpins future young citizens becoming actively involved in civil society.

This conference explored issues which prevented or hindered Youth Workers delivering fully participative and inclusive models of work within their own agencies and helped them compare and contrast other agencies' approaches. The overall goal was to work for a more just society and to challenge young people and those people and organisations working with them to reach out to different others. The model embraced was one of working in a compassionate manner, in solidarity with the young people who have experienced rejection, or who are scapegoated either for social, political or economic reasons.

Participants commented on the energy and vision that had been rekindled through meeting each other. Experienced practitioners were encouraged by recently appointed staff and trainees to engage energetically with these themes and draw on their wisdom and experience. Young staff spoke of the 'professional charge' gained by being with people who had experience, were willing to admit to mistakes and who were still trying to perfect their practice. The event had the character of a personal support and supervision culture; mistakes were critically reflected on and learnt from and the focus was on practitioners gaining personal and professional clarity about their practice.

The model embraced was one of working in a compassionate manner, in solidarity with the young people who have experienced rejection, or who are scapegoated either for social, political or economic reasons.

It is hoped that the experience will cascade down through the Youth Worker's practice and also influence the organisation they work for.

Feedback from participants:

"The conference allowed me to reflect on the challenges we face in our work in relation to the topic of participatory and inclusive practice."

"Throughout the workshops I was able to share, learn and challenge myself through the diverse topics explored and through exploration into other participants experiences in relation to the conference topic."

"The conference allowed for me to explore hopes and expectations around the topic focus and through the different workshops I saw this being fulfilled."

"The impact of the different perspectives enabled me to learn how we can learn from the variety of shared stories and experiences, allowing for shared work to be done and networks to be created."



"Something that impacted me was being able to look at the context of variety in knowledge and experience within the group and look at how we can learn from this when contextually shared."

"The environment created throughout the conference allowed for people to have the space to share and explore, gaining a better understanding through deeper learning gained from the conference."

Having a three stranded approach to this work enabled a much broader networking opportunity, which in turn establishes long-term partners throughout Europe and has a much deeper social impact for marginalised young people. Our hope and expectation is that

this work of partnership building will offer opportunities for young people to volunteer and move (both within and between) these partner organisations. The overall goal is to heighten their levels of self-confidence and self esteem and enable them to envision a more positive future.

Derick Wilson
Corrymeela Member

Ivan Cross
Youth Work Co-ordinator,
Corrymeela.

Corrymeela acknowledges Maeve McLaughlin and Chris Foxall, Shona Bell and Sean Pettis for their help in delivering this conference. If you wish to know more about our Youth Work programme, please contact ivancross@corrymeela.org.

Resources on this project will be made available in the near future on our website
<http://www.corrymeela.org/programmes/resources.aspx>



Youth
in Action

ycni
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**BRITISH
COUNCIL**

Summer in Ballycastle



JULY AND AUGUST are always a busy time for the Corrymeela Centre in Ballycastle and this year was no exception. The Summer Programme is as always a vibrant mix of individuals and groups and we are delighted to have welcomed over 1,000 people of all ages and from all over the world to our Summer Programme. As the temperature rose, so too did the holiday atmosphere which we were able to offer the groups at our centre.

One of our core tasks in the summer is to provide a safe space for family groups looking for respite, fun and an opportunity to meet with other families from other backgrounds and other places. Through Corrymeela's many and varied contacts in areas within Northern Ireland, we frequently meet families with extraordinary needs for respite. Sometimes these families live amidst violence and paramilitary tension, have been forced out of their homes or are living in areas where there is on-going violence. Other times the tension exists within the family, due to addictions, financial troubles, bereavement, etc. This summer we welcomed

We have learned more about different communities and how we can live together in peace.

families and young people from Belfast, Craigavon and Derry/Londonderry. Many arrive at Corrymeela looking for a holiday and a break from their home space, but what they find is often far more meaningful. One mother commented: 'Corrymeela has made an impact – my children now have a different attitude to me. We have learned more about different communities and how we can live together in peace.'

Families need a safe space to relax, away from tensions in flashpoint areas and a safe space to get away from sectarianism, racism and poverty. For many children and their parents, Corrymeela offers the lifeline they need to begin to break destructive cycles in their lives. Our family residentials allow the children to make friends; deal with challenges; share and co-operate and feel part of a community. Families are encouraged to spend time as a family unit. Parents may

have been struggling to care for a severely ill child, or be stressed because of a move here from abroad, or parents may have returned from prison and therefore this time together is valuable. Children get the opportunity to be listened to by specialised facilitators and spend time with our international volunteers. Hundreds of children and young people participated in arts and crafts, games, songs, nature trails and trips to the beach.

Corrymeela was buzzing with concerts, graffiti, hip-hop dancing and filmmaking. Every area of the site was used and every person fully involved in creating opportunities for personal development and positive change.

Corrymeela was glad to provide positive youth activity in local communities this year during times of tension. The

talent of our young volunteers is invaluable for working with children and young people who may otherwise get involved in recreational disruption in their communities. It also enables our organisation to reach out to local communities who may have previously thought that Corrymeela was not for them.

In addition to direct youth work, we also supported two key training opportunities for young leaders. These are the leaders of the future and it is encouraging that their journey starts here. One of these programmes was a group from Switzerland that came to learn from our volunteer programme. As a result of their learning, they are leading Swiss Youth in a faith based residential activity back home. Yet another example that Corrymeela begins when you leave.

During a lunch this summer,

I was chatting to one of our guests and asked her what her time in Corrymeela meant to her. She said that Corrymeela had been 'a night's sleep away from the helicopters.' I felt that even if this was the very least we could provide, then Corrymeela still has a valuable role to play in peace building.

We would like to thank the 119 volunteers and 58 Corrymeela community members who worked tirelessly to create such a special space this summer. We also acknowledge the funders who made this summer programme possible. Should you wish to know more about our summer programme for 2014, please contact Shona Bell shonabell@corrymeela.org

Shona Bell

Programme Manager, Corrymeela

Marie-Louise McClarey

Fundraising Manager, Corrymeela





Slowing down to meet yourself

IN LATE SEPTEMBER, a Slowing Down to Meet Yourself event was hosted by Corrymeela and facilitated by Joe and Janet Campbell, Associate Members of the Community. The purpose of this one-day retreat was to provide a reflective programme for the retired.

Participants were invited to take time out in the relaxed and tranquil setting of the Corrymeela Centre to explore identity, relationships, opportunities and spirituality in retirement. As Joe and Janet put it: "We were born at the start of the welfare state and sadly it seems that we may well outlive it". Those of us in our 60's are politically powerful, rich and healthy. The term "late life crisis" seems invented just for us. We are fit; often using our

smart passes to go to the gym or the pool.

Yet, what's our identity now we don't have to go out the door every morning at 8 a.m.? How do we describe what we do now? We hang around the house needing to build a different life and new

In this type of discussion there are no right answers. The only right answer is the one that is right for you.

relationships. What do we talk about now? And who are those people down the street that we only ever waved to from the car as we hurried off to build and maintain our careers? Laws are being changed so that we can work longer but then there is real danger of stealing the future from the next generation. When do we move aside to allow succession, to mentor, to make new pathways and to listen to our own hearts?

Thirty participants explored together a number of retirement themes. Jenny Meegan gave this response, "Thank you for the Slowing Down retreat. I'm not retired yet but this was really helpful in encouraging me to think differently about this stage of life and it was all the richer

because of the experiences which Joe and Janet shared".

One challenge was not so much to slow down as to change course and do something new.

What were our dreams and wishes for this new time of life?

Are we ready to receive the new opportunities that present themselves?

I liked the quote we were given about this being "unchartered waters". There was the challenge of thinking about relationships in a new way and of discovering a new identity. The people there and their honest sharing and encouragement of each other made the day special.

Desney Cromey
Corrymeela Member

For future Open Events at our Ballycastle Centre visit our website www.corrymeela.org/events

In the midst of people wanting to learn a new language, or cross Europe on bicycles we could only think of getting to grips with Windows 8 on our new computer.



Making new connections

THIS SUMMER CONCLUDED with Corrymeela welcoming a young adult group from Jerusalem, they were joined by a group of young adults from all over Northern Ireland. This joint project between Corrymeela and ICCI in Jerusalem was funded under the Youth in Action 3.1 scheme, with additional support from Corrymeela and the Face to Face - Faith to Faith Programme.

Sixteen participants made the journey from Jerusalem, both Jewish Israelis and Palestinians from multiple faith backgrounds. The thirteen Northern Ireland

participants were from equally different backgrounds; former and current volunteers; SEED and F2F Alumni; children of Corrymeela members and some with no previous Corrymeela connection.

This diverse group of young adults made for a very rich, rewarding and memorable week. For many the highlights of the week were the difficult and emotive discussions. However, the group also had time to participate in different religious and cultural practices as well as spending a day at Stormont



hosted by Diane Dodds MEP, a member of the delegation for relations with Israel. They then took a tour of Belfast where they had a glimpse of both the past and the future of Northern Ireland.

The overall experience was a challenging one; the young people grew in their understanding of themselves and others and made new life-long friends. However, the most significant outcome of this exchange was that all of the participants recognised that reconciliation did not end with this week, but that the week was only the beginning. Both the Jerusalem and Northern Irish groups constructed action plans for achievable projects they could undertake together in the

before beginning Shabbat. As it was a bitterly cold and windy Ballycastle evening, I offered to drive him down to the beach, left the car running to keep the heat going, made sure that he had a towel and cautioned him to be careful not to go out too far.

I had thought of everything, everything except that for him, bathing in the sea required the removal of his swimming shorts. This immediately prompted me to leave my warm car and explain to the family standing next to me why there was a naked man on the beach.

The response was not what I expected; the father simply laughed and said, 'Aren't we all family anyway?'



coming months. The Northern Irish group who met as strangers at the beginning of the exchange have already actioned some of their joint plans including looking at undertaking a longer-term political engagement project.

On a lighter note.....a Cultural Misunderstanding

As facilitator of the groups, I was asked by the Jewish leader of the Jerusalem group if one of its members would be able to go and bathe in the rather cold sea on the Friday evening. This was his personal ritual

I will seek clarity next time someone asks to 'bathe in the sea' in Ballycastle.

Matt Craig
Programme Development Worker – Face to Face, Corrymeela





Your legacy

DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER "Remember a Charity Week" took place, this was a national campaign designed to draw public attention to the possibility of establishing gifts in wills.

Have you made a will or thought about leaving a legacy to an organisation?

If the answer to either of these questions is "no" then read on! Making a will can be daunting - it is after all reminding us of our own mortality - but it does provide clarity about our wishes for what is to happen after our death and who is to benefit.

For most people it is quite simple - the beneficiaries are family members.

However, for others, their life has been so physically, emotionally or spiritually enriched by organisations or small groups that they wish to provide support for them that will contribute to ensure that future generations have the possibility of similarly

benefiting.

Irrespective of whom the beneficiaries might be; simplicity and clarity of intent are the key components in making your will. It is advisable to seek help from a lawyer skilled in drafting wills. Although it is possible to buy a pro forma Will Form from the Post Office, a Will is too important a document to risk making mistakes. Legal fees are not exorbitant for drafting a Will, but do shop around!

So what needs to be done?

Decide on your Executor - the person(s) you want to be responsible for carrying out your wishes.

You may decide to choose a family member or someone who knows you and your family well. In any event choose someone who is likely to be alive and fit enough to carry out your wishes when the time comes. If you wish to appoint a professional person to act as Executor, your solicitor may agree to do this.

It should be noted that family members or beneficiaries are not excluded from being an Executor. Decide on who you wish to benefit and to what extent. This can be either individuals or organisations with the potential benefits being a lump sum, a percentage of your estate, shares, property, artwork etc.

Make provision for a contingency - what you want to do if an individual predeceases you or an organisation that you wished to benefit ceases to exist.

If benefiting children or minors, clarify the nature of the gift, at what age the gift is available and specify provisions for releasing money during minority if necessary.

If benefiting an organisation, specify whether your gift is of a general nature or for a specific purpose.

When you are clear in your own mind about your intentions, you can discuss the matter freely with your solicitor confirming your

instructions and resolving any outstanding issues. A competent solicitor will not only have your Will ready for execution within a few days, but will also arrange for independent members of his staff to witness it.

It should be noted that a beneficiary must never act as a witness to a Will as this would render the bequest void.

Your Will can be changed at any time prior to death and as it is an important document it should be kept in safekeeping. Your solicitor will normally provide this service for you free of charge providing you with a copy for reference.

Hopefully you have found this information helpful and perhaps you may consider acknowledging Corrymeela in your own Will.

Denis D Humphrey LLB

Some very special Anniversaries

WE WANT TO THANK Douglas and Claudine McCreadie and their family and friends who very kindly decided to make donations to Corrymeela instead of gifts for their 40th Wedding Anniversary.

Douglas and Claudine have been active friends of Corrymeela since the mid-eighties. They started the Corrymeela Support Group in Kew, raising funds and holding an annual service on Corrymeela Sunday. Many thanks Douglas and Claudine.



AND A GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY for Rev Murray Hasler and his wife Kathleen. Murray and Kathleen have been supporters of Corrymeela since reading The Search for Peace many years ago.

As Minister of the Methodist Mission in Huddersfield, Murray introduced and encouraged ecumenical worship on Corrymeela Sundays. To mark their 50th wedding anniversary they asked their family and friends to make a contribution to Corrymeela's work. Thank you Murray and Kathleen.



Our Annual Christmas Open Day

JOIN US for our Christmas Open Day at Corrymeela Ballycastle on Sunday 15th December 2013 from 2.30 - 5 pm. Each year the Centre staff and volunteers look forward to welcoming all our friends from the local community and beyond to an afternoon of fun and fellowship. We will have delicious snacks; carol singing; Christmas Stalls and also welcome a very special guest to meet the children!!

No need to book - just come along and enjoy the afternoon in preparation for Christmas.

Advent Quiet Day in the Croi at Corrymeela Ballycastle

Saturday 23rd November • 10am - 3.30pm

THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY to reflect creatively with others about the season of Advent including workshops on the Jesse tree and other Advent symbols.

All are welcome but space is limited - to book your place call Yvonne on 028 2076 3381.

Cost £16 including lunch, tea/coffee (payment on arrival).



Here come the girls

Corrymeela is delighted to announce the recent arrival of two beautiful girls.



Alba Josie Anne Scrimgeour, a daughter for Matt and Heidi is pictured with her brothers Edan and Zack. Her father, Matt Scrimgeour is the Volunteer Support Worker at our Ballycastle Centre.



Grace Lily Wilkinson, a daughter for Liza and Wayne. Liza is a longstanding Member of the Corrymeela Community and a former member of staff.

We send Heidi, Matt, Wayne and Liza congratulations and very best wishes from all the Staff and Members of the Corrymeela Community.

Corrymeela Friends Weekend

The weekend will take place at the
Ballycastle Centre, 9 – 11 May 2014

Please check our website in the New Year
for details of how to book.



Pictured are Marie-Louise McClavey, Alexis Totten (NIE Staff Charity Fund) and Richard Naylor in Ballycastle with Angela Saunders on Skype in Belfast

We're all talk!

Northern Ireland Electricity's Staff and Pensioners Charity Fund have kindly funded Corrymeela's new Skype communications technology.

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1965, Corrymeela has developed into an internationally known organisation and maintains important links with the USA, Israel, Palestine, and South Africa. Corrymeela attracts volunteers and partner organisations from all over the world. We also have two offices in Northern Ireland and one in England. It is against this backdrop that telecommunications for Corrymeela is a high priority.

Northern Ireland Electricity's Staff and Pensioners Charity Fund have funded a dedicated Skype facility to enable meetings and communications, which will be cost saving for Corrymeela, and enable the charity to maintain links more effectively. This facility is now installed for local, national and international online meetings, volunteer interviews and video conferencing.



Belfast Half Marathon

CONGRATULATIONS to Matt, Aaron, Allison and Chris for completing the Belfast Half Marathon in record time and raising much needed sponsorship money for Corrymeela's Volunteer Programme. <http://www.justgiving.com/>



Chris, Allison, Aaron and Matt

International Peace Day, 21st September 2013

PEACE DAY WAS MARKED IN BELFAST by an Interfaith Pilgrimage Of Prayer For Peace. The Pilgrimage was open to people of faith, and to those who professed no particular faith. The Pilgrimage was joined by 35-40 people of different backgrounds: Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian (Catholic and Protestant), Hindu, Humanist and Jewish. The Pilgrimage provided an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and consider how best to work together to move on from cultures of violence and build cultures of hospitality and safety for all. Our thoughts were especially with Syria at this time.

Make a Christmas gift – share Corrymeela with your friends and make a donation

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION to Corrymeela instead of giving a gift to a friend or family member this Christmas, please send your donation with your (and their) details and we will send them one of our lovely Christmas cards thanking them for your generous gift. Corrymeela, 8 Upper Crescent, Belfast, BT7 1NT or call us to make a donation by credit card on 028 9050 8080.

Sad News

Legacies

We remember Josephine Duffy, Ann Helliwell, Kathleen Herron, Canon McAnuff, Ivan and Dorothy Wheeler Charitable Trust.

Gifts in memoriam

We also remember Roma Robertson, Jo Teaford and the grandparents of Mr E Byrne.

2014
Desk calendar

Design	Qty	£ per pack	Total
Dove		£3.50	
Friends		£3.50	
Three Wise Men		£3.50	
Star		£3.50	
Calendar		£5.00	
		Sub Total	
		Plus Post & Packing*	
		Donation to Corrymeela enclosed	
		Total Enclosed	

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For cost of additional packs and/or our Calendar, please email
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**Corrymeela
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Trouble the water. Heat the sun.

