

CHANGING IRELAND

WINTER '07

ISSUE 23 The National Newsletter of the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - funding 180 CDPs & 10 Support Agencies

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INSIDE



**Dungarvan's
No. 1
community
woman**

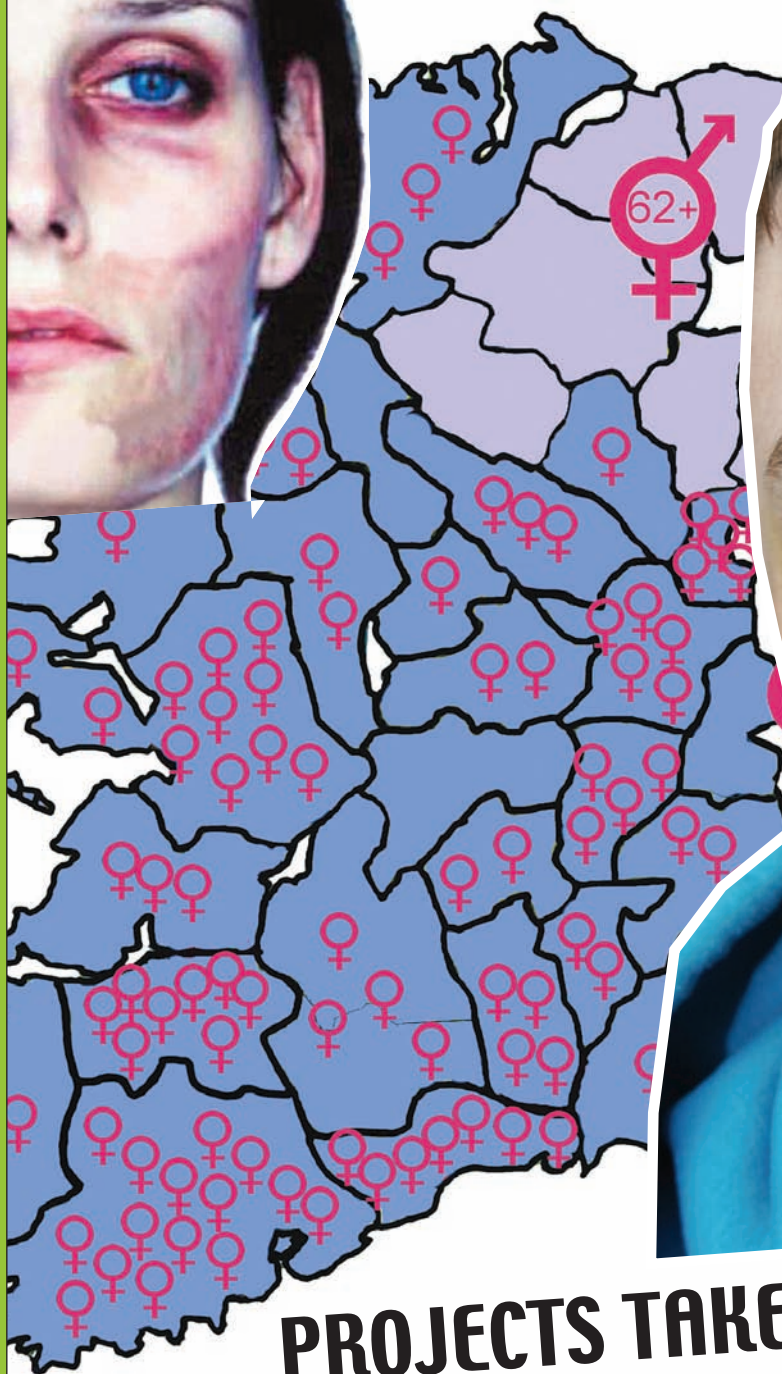


**East Wallers
overcome urban
isolation**



**Prevent violence
with a
programme for
perpetrators**

Domestic Violence IT'S PRETTY SERIOUS



PROJECTS TAKE ACTION

ISSN 1649-5985



This publication and most projects featured inside are part of the
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

EDITORIAL



Domestic violence is a crime

NEARLY 2,000 people died from alcohol-related problems between 1995 and 2006. The Irish have long been viewed as a nation with a problem with drink. While the figures are overwhelming and represent incredible pain among broken-hearted families, nobody will be too surprised.

In roughly the same period, around 200 women throughout Ireland were killed, most of them in their own homes and often by a partner or ex-partner. It would add little to our international reputation if we became known as a country of women-killers, but as it happens tens of thousands of women die in domestic violence incidents internationally every year.

In Ireland, as abroad, 99% of the victims are females. With rare exceptions, the killers are male.

So, every year, around this time, the (female) victims are remembered through the international 16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women. Many CDPs in our Programme engage in action to mark the event and 'Changing Ireland' has catalogued events down through recent years. This year, we focus on a ceremony taking place in Ringsend, Dublin.

(We also look at solidarity work between CDP people here and their counterparts in Tanzania).

Very good work has been carried out within the Community Development Programme by Women's Aid and projects nationwide to make domestic violence an issue. However, as at least one project within the Programme has pointed out, we must not lose sight of another fact – males are also sometimes victims.

And while the focus in this issue is on domestic violence, we should remember that domestic abuse can include emotional, financial and other means. Also, studies have found that – apart from being killed or seriously injured – emotional abuse can hurt the most. There are possibly as many male victims as female, or perhaps more male victims, depending on what study you read. The government has set up a new body COSC which may help to bring minds together on this matter.

It is good to debate the ins and outs of this issue – the more communities talk about domestic violence and abuse, the more likely we are to do something to help the victims, all of them.

What CDPs are:

'CHANGING Ireland' highlights the work of Community Development Projects (CDPs). There are 180 CDPs, each of which is locally and independently-managed. They are funded by the government's Community Development Programme.

The projects:

- Have an anti-poverty, anti-exclusion focus and promote the participation of people experiencing poverty and exclusion at all levels of the project.
- Work from community development principles and methods.
- Provide support and act as a catalyst for community development activity.
- Act as a resource in communities.
- Provide co-ordination between community, voluntary and statutory groups in their areas.
- Involve representatives of groups which experience poverty and social exclusion in their management committees.

Location:

The projects in the Community Development Programme are based in disadvantaged communities within:

- inner-city areas;
- rural area;
- small towns.

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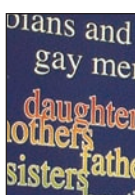
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Tanzania: We offered to buy the children shoes,
but it was more complicated than that.
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'On The Ground' in East Wall, Dublin, with Nascadh CDP.
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First Travellers run Dublin City Marathon

PATRICK Cawley became the first Traveller to run in the Dublin City Marathon when he ran last year. The Garretstown, Co. Dublin, man made history when he ran for Crumlin Children's Hospital and, this year, a volunteer with a Traveller CDP in north Dublin decided to follow literally in Patrick's footsteps.

Hughie Maughan from St. Margaret's Park Halting Site in Ballymun flabbergasted neighbours when he declared a year ago that he wanted to run the 26-mile race.

The Ballymun man was all set to run on October 29th, but would he cross the finish line: even Hughie himself wondered. Age, a lifetime illness and the general scepticism from members of his community about his ability were among the obstacles facing him.

Hughie and his wife Kathleen are well-known members of the redevelopment sub-committee of the local CDP, St. Margaret's Travellers Association.

They work voluntarily to get what is due to them – electricity, better accommodation, hot water – under Ballymun's regeneration. They also recognise the residents of St. Margaret's Park have to take responsibility too and pay their way. The group have campaigned ceaselessly on this issue.

But if Hughie has one other great passion, it is running.



Hughie Maughan, from Ballymun.

In the lead-up to the 2007 marathon, Hughie could only hope and pray his fitness, diet regime and faith would see him through, as well as thoughts of his nephew Tommy who is receiving special medical care.

"Tommy Maughan is 13 and he has a metabolic disorder. I know two sisters who have died from the condition. Tommy has great courage and his illness never stops him from trying. I will wear his name on my t-shirt when I run," declared Hughie.

'Changing Ireland' interviewed Hughie in his home in Ballymun three months before the event. His big concern was water. Drink too much during the run and he could get a colic pain and drop out. Drink too little and he could faint.

"Funny but I've to train myself in how to drink water. Some people are saying I am mad to be doing the marathon, that I'm going to drop out, but I'm training since last November for this. I've had an illness all my life too, Wilson's disease, which makes it harder because it effects my heart, muscles and kidneys and so I'm on a special diet. But it won't stop me. I hope to run it in around four and a half hours."

Sponsorship began to come in for Hughie's run. Local Gardai contributed a of thousand euro, a friend threw in €20 and the ball began to roll, with all funds going to St. Brigid's Ward at Temple Street Hospital.

"I'm told that every pain and trouble in my

life is going to come back to me from 20 miles onwards," commented Hughie bleakly. Kathleen grinned the way the wife of someone married to a climber with eyes for Mount Everest might.

"I think he'll do it," she said. "He's mad for running."

Time ticked on, Hughie stepped up the training and stuck rigidly to his diet. On October 29th, he set off with thousands of others.

"And I finished it," he beamed afterwards. "It took me four and a half hours. It was easy first, then hard up to 20 miles, then easy from 20-23 miles, then I ran out of steam. Only thoughts of Tommy

helped me through the last three miles. I gave him my t-shirt when I crossed the finish line."

Tommy was always going to be Hughie's inspiration. Now Hughie's example should inspire others to follow him next year.

"I raised over €10,000," Hughie added matter-of-factly. "Next up is a triathlon."

Patrick – who inspired Hughie – said he was delighted Hughie made it, but is unsure if other Travellers will follow their lead.

"They say we must be mad. Some laugh and say it would be a challenge to drive 26 miles, never mind run it."

*** The first Dublin City Marathon was held in 1980 and had a total of 1,420 finishers from an entry of 2,100. This year, around 11,000 people took part.**

Famous Travellers

Some famous Travellers include:

Music: The Fureys - Eddie, Paul, George and Finbar - from Ballyfermot in Dublin, and their father Eddie. Fiddler and banjo-player Pecker Dunne from Wexford. Uilleann pipers and brothers, the late Felix and Johnny Doran.

Film: Winnie Maughan and her family, stars of 'Pavee Lacken'. Francie Barrett in 'Southpaw'.

Sport: Boxer Francis Barrett from Galway represented Ireland as in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Politics: Councillor Martin Ward has twice been elected as an independent member of Tuam Town Council.

Autobiography: Nan Joyce for her book 'My Life On The Road'.

Volunteer profile: Michael Gorry

- Interview by Morgan Mee

Michael Gorry is a Voluntary Management Committee member of Tuam Community Development Resource Centre, County Galway.

What are you reading at the moment?

I'm not reading anything at the moment (apart from CDP material).

What's the last film you watched?

Die Hard 4.

Person you most admire?

It's not somebody famous. The person I most admire is Anne Collins. She is a member of our Voluntary Management Committee here and she is also a member of at least 10 other organisations in the area. As long as I've known her she has been a tireless worker. She is a great lady for getting things done without any fuss or bother.

The top 4 issues in Ireland today?

1. The disappearance of our public representatives once they've been elected.
2. Funding agencies need to promise less and deliver more. For example We have opened a new Childcare Facility which we are very proud of, but we are not

getting any support either financially or through any of the social employment agencies for the staffing of this facility. It leaves us in a catch 22 situation: We need the staff to cater for the number of children and we need the number of children to make the crèche sustainable into the future.

3. Education is key to the future but all second level schools that I know have at least some pupils in prefabs. You don't see too many government agencies working in prefabs.
4. The forgotten West. The West still gets the crumbs from the master's table.

We need more . . .

Medical people in the health service

We need less . . .

Management people in the health service

How long are you working with the CDP?

Five years



How and why did you get involved?

I was thinking about activities for people who were retired. A tutor on a VEC course I was doing was involved. She introduced me to the Project co-ordinator and she sold me on the idea.

What difference has been involved made to you?

It has taught me a lot. I have a much better understanding now of the different types of people there are in Tuam. I've also picked up a lot of skills. I left school at the age of 16 with the teacher's words "you'll never amount to anything" ringing in my ears. Through my involvement in the CDP I have a gone on to do a diploma with NUI, Galway. Graduating from NUI, Galway, with the hat and gown on, was a great day for me.

Have things changed in Tuam as a result of the Project?

Oh yes. Lately, the biggest change in Tuam has been all the new nationalities that have arrived. The Centre is doing a lot to connect these people.

What motivates you as a volunteer?

A turn in fortune or circumstance can be a great motivator. If you've plenty of money you can be very comfortable and you might not bother getting involved in anything. Once you've experienced a turn in fortune you understand poverty a lot better and you want to do something about it. It is also great reward to see people happier because of the work being done in the Centre.

How do you get new volunteers?

I don't know. Sure, if I knew that . . .

[Why not](#)

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[Ireland's](#)

[website](#)

www.changingireland.ie



Project co-ordinator is Waterford's Deputy Mayor

ALLEN MEAGHER reports

TERESA Wright, Dungarvan CDP co-ordinator has been elected County Waterford's deputy mayor. In the mainly non-party political world of the Community Development Programme, it is rare for either volunteers or staff to also serve their communities as elected officials.

The Labour Party member was first elected in 1999 to Dungarvan Town Council, just after being appointed project co-ordinator of the local CDP. In 2004, she won a seat on Waterford County Council, and this year, Teresa was elected Deputy Mayor of the County. She previously served as Dungarvan's Mayor.

She sits on a range of influential boards and committees and, according to the local press, her political star is rising.

"Most management committees are women, they are running schools, CDPs, homework clubs... but they don't usually think of running their local authority. They say 'I wouldn't understand what goes on.' Well, they are under-estimating themselves.

"You don't need degrees to know whether or not a junction is dangerous, you'd know the answer if you live in the town. It's about you having an interest in your community.

"If you want to be in a place to influence local decision-making, isn't the local authority one of the best places to be?"

OUR MISSION

"Our mission statement and the Programme's remit is to challenge the causes and effects of poverty and disadvantage. Tell me if I'm wrong, but if you are living on a big housing estate and the issue is bad housing, then that is a local authority issue," says Teresa.



Teresa Wright.

"I think CDPs are getting stronger and the potential is there for them to become very strong, because when you are working at the coalface, you know best. And the Programme should have a national office: Projects in the South-East have put our case strongly to the Department on this."

POVERTY

"CDPs must be clever in their approach and logical and hard-hitting at times. Look at the principles of community development, you only get change through hard work."

"The Social Inclusion Measures (SIM) committees and County Development Boards are the places to make sure you are heard,"

"If you want to be in a place to influence local decision-making, isn't the local authority one of the best places to be?"

continues Teresa, a member of the SIM committee (as community development co-ordinator). "But I've noticed over the years that most of the power relating to community issues comes through the City and County Development Boards."

POLICIES

"And policies are important. Take education. Well, when you have a 16 year old experiencing problems with reading and writing then you have a problem with the educational system. I was very disappointed when the Department shut down the Programme's policy unit and left staff go."

Teresa's management committee received a letter from the Department, as did all CDPs, in the run-up to the election this year. It warned projects not to allow their facilities to be used for party-political purposes: "I was very annoyed with the letter, I queried the letter when it came because of my own personal position. I absolutely agree that party political work should not be conducted on CDP premises."

So what's it like being Deputy Mayor on top of everything else?

"It's nice! But you could be out four to five nights of the week at events."

Teresa's family are used to her being out and about:

"I have three children and my husband also works for the council in Dungarvan."

Party political people in the Programme

- **David Cullinane** is a Voluntary Management Committee member of Larchville & Lisduggan CDP and also a member of **Sinn Féin**. He was elected to Waterford City Council in 2004.
- **Chris O'Leary**, Project Co-ordinator, Faranree CDP, is a member of the

Green Party and a Cork City Councillor since 2002. (He was interviewed in Issue 20 of 'Changing Ireland').

- There must be many members of voluntary management committees who are also members of political parties. For instance, **Marie Dunne** of Southside

CDP in Drogheda, Co. Louth, is a **Fianna Fáil** activist. (Her voluntary work was featured in Issue 20 of 'Changing Ireland').

- There may be others not mentioned here who hold elected office and work as staff or volunteers in a local CDP.



Double-salary

TERESA Wright has three jobs, as town councillor, county councillor and CDP co-ordinator and she gets paid for two. (One salary covers the two councillor positions). She accepts it is not a bad position to be in, but insists she is not in it for the money and holidays are a rarity.

"I've experienced poverty. I was a ward of court from the age of 16 to 21 when I got married and in that time I never once saw a social worker. I am not saying you have to have lived through poverty to work in a CDP, but it helps, it means you are more likely to push harder at work," she remarked.

Unlike 19 of her colleagues on the County Council, who last year claimed €85,000 between them for attending conferences, Teresa (and one other councillor) claimed nothing in expenses for conferences. She said she rarely goes to conferences, unless they are to do with community development.

Teresa receives allowances for attending meetings as is normal.

Deputy Mayor left school early

"TO this day, and I was first elected in 1999, people ask me the questions you're asking," remarked Teresa Wright when I enquired how she became a CDP co-ordinator and an elected Councillor at the same time. Not to mention Deputy Mayor.

Teresa's parents died when she was 16, she left school at that age to look after her two brothers and she went to work in Waterford Foods (now Glanbia).

Also, at the age of 16, Teresa was a founder member of Dungarvan Youth that ran every Friday night in the old town hall. Soon, the club wanted a new state-of-the-art premises, they asked the local authority for land, borrowed €76,000 and got what they were looking for.

Later, while a volunteer with the youth centre, she went back to the books and studied for and graduated with a Diploma in Youth and Community Studies from UCC.

"I always felt that if you didn't work with the parents, there was not much point working with the children or teenagers," she asserted.

In the late '90s, the youth club – much expanded and now also working with parents – were granted funding to join the Community Development Programme. So Dungarvan Youth resource became the sponsors of the CDP for two years. The change was to mark a transition for Teresa from decades of volunteering to paid work in the community sector.

Coincidentally, as the CDP began to advertise the co-ordinator's job (part-time), Glanbia made some of its workers redundant, including Teresa. After 25 years in the same job, she had to look around.

"I applied for the job as CDP

co-ordinator in 1999. In the same year, we were protesting about water charges and I became friends with Pat Rabbitte (former Labour Leader). He asked me would I for stand locally for election. Remember I did not have the job in the CDP yet.

"I thought why not, it would be good to have someone with an interest in community development on the council. We were always on the outside, with the council making decisions without consultation and I thought if I was elected that would change.

"When the interview for the CDP job came up, I had begun canvassing in the election, and the Department sent down two civil servants, which was unprecedented for

a co-ordinator's position, to join the interview panel.

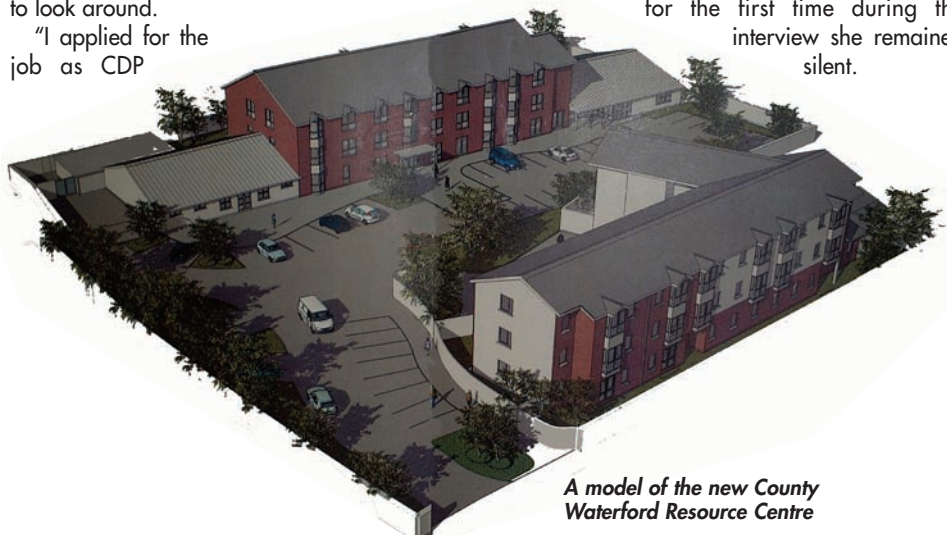
"It was a run-of-the-mill interview, except one of the Department people kept asking me how could I be in the council and do my CDP work at the same time. And would there be a conflict of interest. Well, I don't see any conflict because I am on the council because of my community interest.

"The CDP got €1 million for childcare recently and the new €5 million County Waterford Resource Centre is based in Dungarvan:

"Our management committee are very strong. Not one of them is in the Labour Party by the way. I never make a decision without talking to the management committee and they would be quick enough to tell me about it if I was going wrong."

Would Teresa run for the Dail?

There was a sparkle in her eyes, but for the first time during the interview she remained silent.



A model of the new County Waterford Resource Centre

Goodnight Irene!

- Anne wants jail for sister's murderer(s)

ANNE Delcassian, whose sister Irene was murdered in her home in Dundalk on 6th April 2005, will read the opening address at a service in Ringsend, Dublin, on November 28th. The service has been organised by the local CDP, Ringsend Action Project, to commemorate the lives of the many female victims of homicide. Irene's murderer(s) have yet to be brought to justice. Anne spoke to 'Changing Ireland' before the event:

"Ireland for me has changed totally, it used to be known as the land of saints and scholars, now Ireland is the land of crime and murder. I believe the Minister for Justice, Brian Lenihan, should ask the Gardai to set up a domestic violence unit, like they have here in Britain. I'd also like to see the Minister ensure there is enough funding given to Women's Aid and the refuges. And there should be an immediate three years in prison for anyone caught carrying a knife.

"On November 23rd, at 11am, I plan to be outside the Dail and I would like to meet with the Minister for Justice.

"Irene and I were sisters and very close friends. Then one Wednesday afternoon in 2005 I got the phone call to say she was dead. She was found by my mother – who was 79 – she walked into the kitchen and there was Irene lying on the floor in a pool of blood. My mother died heartbroken afterwards.

"We have to get justice for Irene. I know who murdered Irene, there is a circle of people involved. She knew her life was in danger, that has all been documented. Now the file on her murder is building and I want it to go to the DPP soon, so that the people involved in the murder of an innocent women while she washed the dishes at her kitchen sink will be caught.

"The Gardai are very good, a lot of people don't realise that, and they have recently set up a Cold Case Unit to look into unsolved murders over the years.

"When Irene was born my mother named her after the song 'Goodnight Irene' and I have set up a website with the same name, www.goodnightirene.ie

"I have met the heartbroken parents of Sophie Toscan du Plantier. And I have spoken often with Peter Keaney whose daughter was murdered in Cobh last July. And now that lovely young Swiss girl is dead. It's awful.

"I am coming to Ringsend because I want to help highlight the number of ladies murdered in Ireland since 1996 and indeed those killed before Women's Aid began recording statistics that year. It is absolutely shocking that so many ladies have been murdered

"Would a man be willing, I wonder, to admit he has got a problem and deal with it? Maybe, but he'd get no forgiveness from me. Anyway, I don't think there's any real cure for someone who engages in domestic violence. My advice to any woman is, 'Pack your bag, turn the key, open the door and walk away'.

"One woman I met told me her partner nearly choked her to death a few times before she left. She was lucky. How do you know what night he's going to totally flip and you become another statistic on the Women's Aid list?



Ann Delcassian has set up a website: www.goodnightirene.ie

"In many cases, the murders are committed by a partner or ex-partner. I don't know how you marry someone, madly in love, and they change and become violent and turn into your enemy. In some instances, men text to say to their wives what they are going to do to them when they get home. It is a stupid thing to do because the texts might be useful as evidence, but imagine how the woman feels at the time when she gets the text.

"Women get battered on a regular basis and people get away with it. I can see women being abusive to women too, I know of women who have abused elderly women in their care.

"The only thing I will use against those involved in Irene's murder is vigils in Irene's memory and the power of the pen. I trust the Gardai and expect we will one day get the justice my mother cried for when she died.

"My message to anyone who finds themselves in my position is 'Never give up hope of finding justice, because if you do then you give up hope then in yourself.'

- in an interview with Allen Meagher

Opposing violence against women

Calling all CDPs nationwide to remember

MARY Black and two choirs will sing at the service organised by Ringsend Action Project, the local CDP, to remember the 136 women killed or murdered in the last 11 years.

"I think the service will make a difference. While we are unable to physically stop domestic violence, we are raising awareness of the issue. It effects our community and every community," said development worker, Aileen Foran.

Aileen and the volunteers working with her expect strong support from many of the other CDPs in the Programme. Every project has

been invited to take part.

"We are trying to involve as many families and communities as possible. The service will be filmed and it can then be used as a guide by whichever project wishes to organise the service next year. Any CDP could take it on and do a good job.

"It is such a serious issue – that women are not safe, that they are being murdered and often so violently," said Aileen. "Of the 136 women we will remember, 47% were killed by a current or ex-partner. Only two of them were killed by other women."



Around the country, dozens of CDPs will be engaged in their own local actions to mark the Annual 16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women that starts from the 25th November (International Day Against Violence Against Women) and ends on the 10th December (International Human Rights Day).

In most counties, at least one woman was killed in an incidence of domestic violence in the past decade.

Pope and President in solidarity with Ringsend commemoration

A NATIONAL Commemoration Service is being held in Ringsend, Dublin, on Wednesday, November 28th, in honour of the 136 women who have died violent deaths in Ireland since 1996.

The organisers - one paid worker and a team of volunteers - have received letters of solidarity from Pope Benedict XVI and President Mary McAleese for their initiative.

A key part to the ceremony will be that played by relatives of some victims: Anne Delcassian, whose sister Irene was murdered in her home in Dundalk in 2005, will give the opening address.

"This event will send a message of solidarity and encouragement to the families of the women who have died. We want the families to know that their loved ones have not been forgotten by the people of Ireland," said Aileen Foran, development worker with Ringsend Action Project, as the local CDP is called.

In preparation for the ceremony, the organisers wrote to Ireland's President and to the Pope, among others, and letters of solidarity from both will be read out at the Service. The Service will be attended by religious leaders from various denominations in Ireland.

The ceremony is designed to become an annual national event, quite likely moving around the country each year, with different CDPs hosting the event each time.

This first ceremony takes place at St. Patrick's Church, Ringsend, starting at 7.30pm and it was organised by the CDP in conjunction with a subgroup, the Ringsend & Irishtown Domestic Violence Working Group. St. Patrick's Church most recently made headlines in October as the funeral of homicide victim Amanda Jenkins took place.

In previous years, art work was erected on



the streets of Ringsend, including a full-sized door left ajar (to signal a route to escape). The group have campaigned outside the Dail, and inscribed stones have been laid into the street pavement as a permanent reminder to passers-by that domestic violence is not something we can step around.

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Ringsend Action Project,
28 Fitzwilliam Street, Ringsend, Dublin 4, Tel:
01-6607558.

Victims' groups need more funds, says Charlie Murphy

"WE are telling the Government that the groups looking after people who suffer domestic violence should be far better funded," states Ringsend Action Project chairperson, Charlie Murphy.

Charlie was one of the founding members of Ringsend Action Project in the early '90s when housing and unemployment were the big issues.

"At the time, the local communities had no power to fight these or any other issues," he recalled, explaining why he and others worked to start up the CDP in their area.

Ringsend Action Project nowadays invests considerable energy (about a third of the time annually of one of its workers, Aileen Foran) into highlighting the issue of domestic violence.

The Chairperson says it is essential work: "Domestic violence happens behind closed doors and we reckoned we needed to highlight it so victims will know there are people who will help and places they can go to."

Some of the women Aileen has worked with through local women's groups have become very empowered, he said.

"But a lot of women don't come forward, we know that, and there must be a lot of men who don't come forward too," he said.

16 days of action opposing violence against women



Last year, CDPs in Limerick attended a play to highlight domestic abuse.

Pampering day in Southill

SOUTHILL Domestic Abuse Project – which is supported by Southill CDP – is holding a Big Breakfast and Pampering Day on Monday, November 26th, at the CDP's premises in O'Malley Park, Limerick. The next day, Sexual Abuse Awareness Training will take place for local volunteers already involved with the abuse project. And on Wednesday, the project will open a display at the Holy Family Parish Church Hall, Southill, featuring shoes and personal items that belonged to murder victims of domestic violence. The display will take place at the Holy Family Parish Church Hall, Southill.

Exhibitions in Kerry

THE Open Door Network is "Kerry's Response to Violence against Women and Children" and for this year's 16 days of action, the network has an exhibition of 130 pairs of shoes, representing women and children who have died due to domestic violence in Ireland in the last 11 years. The exhibition is touring the county, visiting Tralee, Dingle and Waterville.

The network also organised a conference which Miriam O'Callaghan of RTE chaired on the subject 'Violence against Women: The Crime, Context and Concerns'.

The Open Door Network operates out of Tralee CDP's premises on Rock Street, Tralee. For more information, tel: 066-7185472 or email: opendoornetwork@eircom.net

Women's Aid support for female victims

- IN 2006, the Women's Aid National Helpline responded to 11,994 calls. 60% of calls related to emotional abuse and 25% to physical abuse. 10% of calls related to financial abuse and 5% of calls related to sexual abuse.
- Last year, the Women's Aid One to One Support Service provided 349 one to one support visits, accommodated 135 court accompaniments and gave further telephone support to women on 735 occasions throughout the year.

25th November to 10th December

THE annual 16 Days of Action is now in its 17th year. Over 154 countries have participated in the campaign to date. It runs from 25th November (International Day Opposing Violence Against Women) to 10th December.

In Ireland, a range of organisations will mark the days at local and national level. Dozens of CDPs are involved in one way or another.

The aims of the 16 Days are:

1. To highlight the prevalence of violence against women.
2. To raise awareness of violence against women as a human rights issue at local, national and international level.
3. To show solidarity with women around the world organising to challenge violence against women.
4. To put violence against women on the political and media agenda.
5. To work towards the elimination of violence against women.

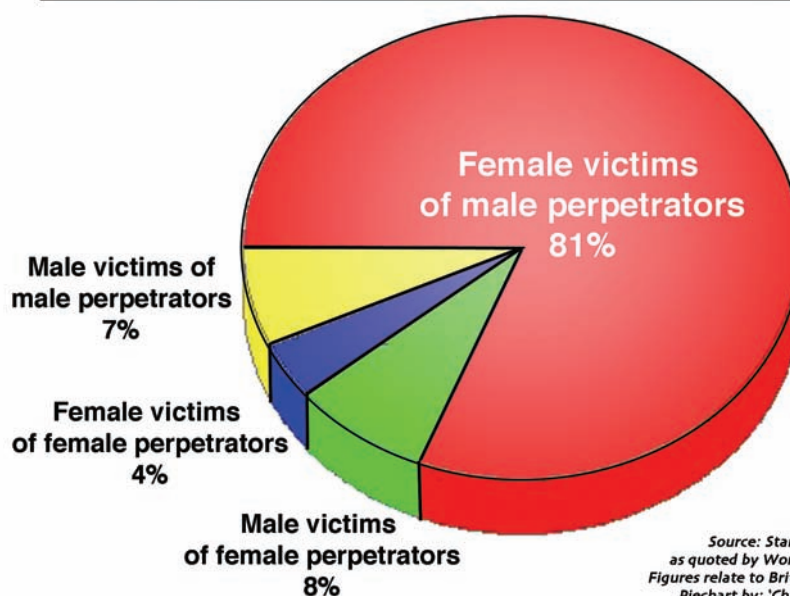


Violence Against Women in the Republic

ACCORDING to Women's Aid in the Republic of Ireland:

- Since 1996, 136 women have been murdered in Ireland. 85 (62%) of these women were murdered in their own homes. Of all of the resolved cases 49% were murdered by a partner or ex-partner.
- 1 in 4 perpetrators of sexual violence against adult women are partners or former partners.
- 1 in 8 women surveyed in a Dublin maternity hospital had experienced domestic violence while they were pregnant.
- 1 in 5 Irish women have experienced domestic violence, be it emotional, sexual, financial or physical abuse.

REPORTED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE Who are the abusers, male and female?



Source: Stanko 2000, as quoted by Women's Aid (UK). Figures relate to Britain and N. Ireland. Piechart by: 'Changing Ireland'

International: Solidarity exchange with Tanzania

Women who flew South in solidarity



EIGHT women from the Community Development Programme and other community projects visited Tanzania in September in an act of solidarity to take part in the 2007 Gender Festival, held annually in the capital, Dar es Salaam.

The eight included: Aoife Cooke – Tallaght Intercultural Action, Breda Murphy – Waterford Women's Centre, Jo Lambe – Open Door Network, Niamh Farren – the Media Co-op, Sarah Oates – Tuam CDP and Sarah-Beth

Watkins – Templeshannon CDP.

The group's visit was hosted by the Tanzanian Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) an organisation that works for gender equality, social transformation and women's empowerment. The aim of the exchange was realised through meetings with women's groups, economic empowerment projects and policy workers. It is part of an exchange being organised by Banúlacht.

More info: www.banulacht.ie and www.tgnp.org

Tanzania: Men join women against patriarchy

SARAH-BETH WATKINS reports

TRAVELLING to the North of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar meant a hectic trip with 8 flights over 13 days but it truly gave an eye opening view of the struggles African women face, the society they are hoping to change and the transformation that has already begun through the hard work of the African feminist movement.

The Gender Festival run by the Tanzanian Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) is a 4-day event for sharing skills, experience and capacity. It's a celebration of women too.

Discussions were held on bodily integrity, water rights, struggles over natural resources,

The sessions ended with participants making demands of their government. Not the softer recommendations that we might offer but challenging demands.

HIV, gender based violence, corruption and much more. And the sessions ended with participants making demands of their government. Not the softer recommendations that we might offer but challenging demands and a call for immediate response and action.



Role-playing victims and aggressors.

Petitions were signed and later presented to the respective ministers.

"We are not all victims. We are very good doers," said Mary Rusimbi of TGNP, "Yes, there is trouble in Africa but there is also organising."

This year saw the 8th Gender Festival organised by the Tanzanian Gender Networking Programme (TGNP). It was entitled 'African Feminist Struggles in the Context of Globalisation'.

We had an idea of the poverty and struggles African women face but the Gender Festival showed us their strength. The women are strong and they are vocal.

I watched as women grabbed the microphones to tell the audience that rural women demand an education, that women must be involved in the national economy, that combating patriarchy is a must, and that women will no longer sit by and watch large transnational companies destroy their

environment through the pillaging of Tanzania's own natural resources (water being one major example). The list goes on but what shocked us even more was that men too were making these demands.

A young man stood up and told the crowd that he believed women to be an important part of society and that patriarchy must end.

This was gender being discussed in a way that those of us who work in women-only spaces found challenging. Men were as vocal here as women.

He was followed by a male university teacher who added that women can also be patriarchal and oppressive of their own gender. Women present agreed and also spoke of men suffering from patriarchy.

This was gender being discussed in a way that those of us who work in women-only spaces found challenging. Men were as vocal here as women. Did this put women and their issues in the shade? Or was there more of a balance here than we had expected? Was gender equality really working? It took a visit to rural Mwanza for us to realise that women were still being oppressed and abused. The balance was still far from being equal.

Women in Tanzania demand their due

- Give us water and give us respect



On a trip to a typical Tanzanian village Sarah-Beth Watkins and Jo Lambe from Tralee learnt first-hand about the issues of gender, democracy and development (themes of the festival they attended). The issues at stake: women are being murdered for being 'witches', half the women believe it's sometimes ok for their husbands to beat them, and access to water (which is being privatised) and to education have become big issues.

By SARAH-BETH WATKINS

KIVULINI Women's Rights Organisation is based in Mwanza, in the North of Tanzania, on the banks of Lake Victoria. Kivulini's vision is to have a community that is free from domestic violence and where women's rights are respected and valued. Jo and myself spent two days with the Kivulini project finding out from the inside what life for women in Mwanza is really like.

It's not a pretty story. High on a hill above the project sits the local hospital, recently bought out by an American company, and now charging such high health care fees that none of the women can afford it.

Kivulini tries to combat this lack of affordable care by teaching women about medicinal plants, showing them how to prepare aloe and neem oil for aids related skin conditions, to use basil tea for a tonic and to prepare artemesia to improve stomach function. Their work doesn't stop there. They teach child domestic labourers the skill of sewing so that they can set up their own business. They operate a legal aid centre which deals with cases of rape and abuse. They support rural women's projects and work endlessly to empower women to claim their human rights.

Take the Buyumbo group we visited in the Nyamadoke village. These are elderly women living in constant fear of being condemned as witches. Women who cook over charcoal stoves for most of their lives end up with red bloodshot eyes. Red eyes are seen as the sign of a witch. And witches are disposed of with machetes.

Maimuna Kanyamala, co-ordinator of the Kivulini project told us that one outreach group of 15 was reduced to 9 on her last visit, the women having 'disappeared'. Yet these women welcome us with open arms and bright, happy smiles, showing us their tribal dances and laughing at our attempts to speak Swahili. The sense of community spirit is so strong and the spirit of being an African woman remains unbroken.

"Kivulini aims to help in as many ways as

it can. Just down the dirt track from these women is a project that produces candle lamp oil from the jatropha nut. This burns clearly and with minimal smoke, women who use it can avoid red eye," said Maimuna.

This oil might just save their lives.

"But Kivulini knows that there is more to change than just the physical requirements of Mwanza people. Women will still be called witches if perceptions of older women are not changed. Women's awareness of themselves as second class citizens has to change. But in a world where the raping of young girls and the killing of older women is common, marriage and the security of being protected by a male breadwinner helps to create the subordinate role and positioning of women. 56% of African women believe that their man has a right to beat them."

"We in Kivulini see challenges ahead. We want to change the way women think of themselves as lesser people," said Maimuna.

Members of the Kivulini project are challenging the effects of globalisation, in

These are elderly women living in constant fear of being condemned as witches. Yet these women welcome us with open arms and bright, happy smiles.

particular foreign investment, displacement and access to water (privatisation is an issue). Young girls are suffering from early pregnancies and can no longer avail of education. Kivulini wants to change this and believes that there

should be free education at primary and secondary level. They aim to make that a reality.

The Kivulini project works directly with more than 100 community action groups and it showed us both the horrors and the happiness of women's life in rural Tanzania. The women and their projects are fighting for change.

For more information, contact:

**Kivulini Women's Rights Organization,
PO Box 11348, Mwanza, Tanzania.
T: 00255-28-2500961. W:
www.kivulini.org**

(Ed's note: KIVULINI depends on voluntary contributions. The project sells KIVULINI cards and t-shirts to help with fund-raising. Email the above address for more information).

We need your strong voice, more than material aid

- Lessons learn in a Maasai village

By SARAH-BETH WATKINS

ONE day, a man named Kisaware said to me, "Can you get me a job in Ireland?" He had travelled as far as Kenya and Nigeria and had a degree in international studies, but had had to return home. "After all that I am back here stuck tending my cows in my village. I am desperate for any opportunity you can help me with."

You feel awful when someone asks you for help because you have no chance of fixing everybody's problem. You really want to help, but you can't.

We met a group of around 30 Maasai village children, aged from 2 years up to 15, mostly kids in the middle range, and there we received an on-the-spot education about the importance of countries using



poverty indicators and of short-term versus long-term intervention.

"Look at the children's feet," I remarked, "they don't have shoes." Around 8 out of the 30 children wore shoes and not one of the girls had a pair. My colleague Jo had an idea: "Will we go to a shop and buy them shoes?"

"No," said our guide, "This poverty is a government issue, because if you buy shoes for these children, it is a quick fix for this small group. And what about the next lot down the road who do not have shoes?"

Later, a Maasai man named Masaili, working as an interpreter for Tivulini Programme and accompanying us on our tour, asked us: "What are the poverty indicators in Ireland?"

We named a few, such as not being able to afford fuel in the winter for heating, or not having the money to buy a coat and shoes when you need them.

He said, "Our government do not have poverty indicators." Yes, he acknowledged, the government did not know how many Tanzanian children go about barefoot. The implication was that if they did know, they would come under more pressure to do

"Look at the children's feet," I remarked, "they don't have shoes. Will we go to a shop (for shoes)?" "No," said our guide, "What about the next lot down the road?"

something.

We questioned what we could do to help. It was not, we realised, about buying shoes for barefoot children. Should our own organisations donate something? Later, Gemma from TGNP said how best we can contribute: "International policies are affecting us negatively. We look at you, our Northern sisters, to support us with your critical voice."

For the future, some of us have committed to engaging the Development Education services of the Dublin-based CDP, the Lourdes Youth and Community Services.* Also, four women from TGNP are coming to Ireland in 2008, we are going to keep up the link and we will meet soon to see what else we can do.

*** If your group want to run development education in your area, contact: Riona (national) or Helena (Dublin) at LYCS, Lower Sean McDermott St., Dublin 1. Tel. 01-8230-860. Or, for more information, log onto www.changingireland.ie and check out Issue 17 in our Archives Section.**

Meeting the Ambassador

THE ambassador of the Irish Embassy in Tanzania, Anne Barrington, welcomed us to a lunch. We used the time to link what we had seen to the need for long term funding for projects, to underline the need for a firm response to gender based violence and to impress upon the Ambassador, the situation of women in the north of the country and in more rural areas.

- Sarah-Beth Watkins

GLEN wants safer Ireland

THE national Gay and Lesbian Equality Network – GLEN – is working to make Ireland a place where all gay, lesbian and bisexual (GLB) people can feel safe and confident about being open about their sexual orientation at home, in work and within the wider community; where GLB people are not

discriminated against in laws and in service provision; where relationships and love between LGB people are seen as no different to relationships and love between heterosexual people.

Source: www.glen.ie

Gay isolation should be at heart of future Programme

GLEN, the national Gay and Lesbian Equality Network, are among the national bodies to include a submission on how the Community Development Programme should be shaped in the future. The organisation wants gay issues to be included at the heart of the future Programme.

Most recently, GLEN has worked with projects in the West of Ireland to devise a Code of Practice on how to support gay people in local communities.

"Now we have called for the Programme at large to address the issue of isolation and exclusion experienced by gay, lesbian and bisexual people," said Davin Roche, GLEN's Community Development officer.

"CDPs work with people experiencing poverty and social exclusion and a number of those people are also gay, lesbian or bisexual and therefore they experience double-disadvantage in terms of isolation and exclusion. It is important for the Programme to recognise this, which is why we have asked for GLB issues to be at the heart of the new Programme when it is launched.

"There are gay, lesbian and bisexual people living in every community and CDPs work closely with their communities and can do practical things – like putting up posters



Ciarán McKinney of GLEN facilitating a workshop in the West.

– to put out a welcoming message to GLB people. That can make it easier for people working in a community centre to come out and when people become visible then so too do their needs," said Gavin.

GLEN's first work with CDPs was in 2003-'04, in the North-East, to raise awareness about GLB issues. It also involved research on sexual orientation and social inclusion.

While the document was never formally published, it is available by email – contact Davin on 01- 473-0563 or email: admin@glen.ie

GLEN linked with CDPs on that occasion through the **Equality and Anti-Racism Subcommittee** which has operated within the Programme for a number of years.

Local communities reach out to sexual minorities

THE Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN) has this year worked with ten CDPs in the West by connecting with the projects through the West Training and Development Support Agency. The work will impact on even more communities across Connaught as Family Resource Centres (FRCs) were also partners in the work.

"Most lesbian, gay and bisexual people lead happy and fulfilling lives, just like the general population. However the discrimination, stigma, harassment and isolation that many of them experience creates a greater risk of social exclusion," said Davin Roche, GLEN's Community Development officer. "This experience is exacerbated for those lesbian, gay and bisexual people who are in poverty."

Together, the network of CDPs, FRCs and Support Agencies, have devised a Code of Practice regarding sexual minorities. The Code of Practice outlines different actions that Projects can take to support lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gender people in their communities.

There are six Support Agencies within the Programme and GLEN has hopes to work with each of them in the years to come.

"We are very happy to work with Support Agencies and to link through them with CDPs on the ground. We would not have the infrastructure or staff to link individually with every CDP so the Support Agencies' are therefore very important to us," said Davin.

He said that local people whose sexuality was a minority one were more likely to 'come out' in a place where the atmosphere was welcoming.

Information on the Code can be downloaded from the Support Agency's website: www.westtraining.ie and for more information, contact: Morgan Mee or Breda Lymer at West Training, T: 091-567827; E: info@westtraining.ie OR GLEN, Tower 1 Fumbally Court Fumbally Lane ?Dublin 8; T: 01- 473-0563; E: admin@glen.ie



Morgan Mee and Breda Lymer of West Training and Development Support Agency.

Six new CDPs could be set up “immediately”

SIX new CDPs in Cork, Limerick, Dundalk, Dublin and Waterford could be set up immediately if funding was forthcoming. There is “an immediate capacity within the (gay) community nationally” to do so, according to the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN).

The suggestion was included in submission made by GLEN to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs as part of the consultation process on the future shape of the national Community Development Programme.

Existing gay and lesbian organizations consider it a priority to achieve “core and sustainable funding as CDPs,” say GLEN.

The national body believes the six groups meet the strict criteria for entry into the Programme. It would also ideally like to see a new Specialist Support Agency set up under the Programme to raise awareness of the needs and give training to projects on how to support gay people at local level.

However, given a choice, GLEN believes it would be more important to set up the new CDPs than set up a new Support Agency.



“In the context of limited resources GLEN is strongly of the view that priority should be given to the creation of GLB CDPs,” it says. (GLB stands for gay, lesbian and bisexual).

People often experience disadvantage, and indeed greater levels of poverty, if their sexuality is a minority one and GLEN is “strongly of the view” that the lesbian, gay and bisexual community has “as urgent a need as the many other important communities of interest that are currently part of the programme.”

Currently, within the Programme, there are close to 50 projects that work with specific target groups – women, men, Travellers, disabled people, ethnic minorities and older people.

Practical things a centre can do

THERE are practical things that staff and managers in a community centre or local project can start doing right away to make your place more welcoming to gay people.

- Raise your own awareness of the issues affecting lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, by signing up for an awareness training course. Or simply check out websites such as: www.glen.ie
- Don't tolerate homophobic comments or actions in your project.
- Talk to gay, lesbian and bisexual members of your community to understand their issues.
- Discuss and adopt the LGBT Code of Practice (contact West Training).
- Review your existing services to identify how they can be more inclusive of LGB people.
- Let people know that you're centre is LGB friendly by putting up posters, put an article in your newsletter, and make gay newsletters and publications available.



Am I Paid Too Much?

Dear Horace,

I'm co-ordinator with L'Oreal CDP and the management committee have adopted the Department pay scale guidelines. Under the criteria I should now be on €38,000. Is that a lot compared to what many of the volunteers on the committee are earning?

Amy Worthitt,
L'Oreal CDP, Co. Louth
Horace Helps:

Yes Amy, it's a lot compared to some but €38,000 is about right in the context of pay rises these days, just ask my buddy Bertie.

Driven Up The Walls

Help Me Horace,

The biggest challenge for our project is getting information out to the community. We've tried posters, flyers, newsletters, local radio, Changing Ireland and even spent big money on full and half page ads in the local papers but nobody seemed to take any notice. What can we do?

Noel Watson
Lettuce Knoll CDP
Wicklow

Horace Helps:
Well Noel,

Try enlisting the services of your local graffiti artists. Forget the poster in the window - scrawl it on the wall instead. The boys in our area do good rates for a full gable ad. How's about "Sandra woz here at Womens Group every

Tuesday 8pm" daubed on the back of the local centre.

Same Sex Rights

Dear Horace,

Why do same sex couples want their situation recognised and regularised? I've been having same sex with my wife for the past 30 years – same face, same place, same time, every time. Anything different wouldn't feel right at this stage though it would be nice if it was more often.

Con Tented
Innarutt CDP, Co. Tipperary
Horace Helps:

Dear Con,

I think you've misunderstood, same sex couples doesn't refer to the monotony of monogamy, it's about making Ireland more homogenous, that's where you have sex with someone who's the same as yourself, you know white and Catholic.

Write to: Help Me Horace,
'Changing Ireland', c/o CDN Moyross,
Community Enterprise Centre, Moyross,
Limerick.

Critics say Code excludes males

- and does not promote perpetrators programme

By
Allen
Meagher

JOHN Doyle is co-ordinator of a perpetrators' programme in the South-East. The aim is to make women and children safer and, where possible, to change the behaviour of violent male partners.

However, as John pointed out last year in correspondence with the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, some men are also victims of abuse and need help too.

"Yes, domestic violence is largely an issue around men abusing women. The percentage of men experiencing domestic violence is in single figures. But, if you airbrush out that small percentage, you are omitting thousands of victims of domestic violence."

He made his comments after a Women's Aid campaign that highlighted abuse against women but not against men. Another complaint came from the Amen group which said the campaign tarred men as the sole perpetrators of domestic violence.

After the clash between Women's Aid and their critics, males were omitted from mention – apart from as aggressors – when literature and training was offered by the agency to communities throughout the Republic. There was no mention of the possibility that sometimes men were victims. Nor was there mention of the men who have joined programmes that work with perpetrators and succeed in getting many of them to leave their violent ways behind them.

The South East Domestic Violence Intervention Programme (SEVIP) wrote to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs last year to complain about a new Code of Practice on Domestic Violence, pointing out that it "deals exclusively with violence against women by male perpetrators".

The Waterford-based project asked what message this gives to community projects, especially when the project comes in contact with a man who has been a victim of domestic violence.

Furthermore, SEVIP wrote: "Whether dealing with female or male victims, there is no reference made to the work being done with perpetrators of domestic violence. If the perpetrators are not challenged to take responsibility for and change their violent behaviour, how will the situation ever change?"

In a follow-up letter, the co-ordinator said the Code of Practice and the associated training

courses being rolled out nationwide (with CDPs and FRCs) "does not reflect best practice in dealing with domestic violence because it is not comprehensive and does not reflect a truly multi-agency approach."

"In particular, there is no reference to the Perpetrators Programmes run by the South East Domestic Violence Intervention Programme, which is co-ordinated by the Men's Development Network, nor to other organisations throughout the country that run these programmes."

John noted that the Programmes had been running for five (now six) years.

The Department and the National Advisory Committee examined the issue and committed to taking the SEVIP's and Amen's views on board at a future stage. They also distributed correspondence on the matter to all CDPs in the Programme so projects were informed on the issue.

John said: "We objected in the first place because we didn't want the impression going out that it is only women suffering domestic violence. To a certain extent, the NAC listened, but they are not going to review the Code of Practice in the near future and the training will take place based on the Code. So we are not happy. It is now up to individual CDPs and FRCs as to what they do with the Code."

"However, we do not want our objections to look like an attack on Women's Aid," he added, pointing out they had worked together before and should co-operate and be mutually supportive. "We are working on the root causes of domestic violence by men against women through the Perpetrators Programmes. But dialogue and inter-agency work is very important to building a safer society."

"Many women who are victims of domestic abuse or violence don't want to lose their relationship, they would prefer if their man got help to deal with the problem. But if nobody knows there is a Perpetrators Programme out there, how are the women to have the opportunity to take this route? MOVE Ireland are also running programmes by the way."

"Amen wanted to say the violence is 50:50 but we don't see it that way. We don't really have any links with Amen, they would disagree with our approach."

The SEVIP does not have its own code of practice on domestic violence. Neither does Amen.

Perpetrators programmes

THERE are two organisations in the Republic running perpetrators programmes.

The Men's Development Network, which is part of the the Community Development Programme, has four areas of work. One is a programme called the South East Domestic Violence Intervention Programme (SEVIP) which receives funding from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

For more information on the programme, log onto: www.mens-network.net

To contact the SEVIP, call John Doyle, Co-ordinator South East Domestic Violence Intervention Programme, 30 O'Connell St., Waterford.

T: 051-844260 or 087-2311786.

Email: John@mens-network.net



MOVE Ireland is a national organisation that provides intervention programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence in Galway, Dublin, Wicklow, Wexford, Tipperary, Cork, Mayo, Kildare, Limerick and Westmeath. Log onto the website for more information.

Contact details:

MOVE Ireland, Carmichael St., North Brunswick St., Dublin 7.

T: 01-872-4357. E: 01-873-5737.

W: www.moveireland.ie

Women's Aid mission statement

IN its mission statement, the agency states: "Women's Aid provides direct support services to women experiencing male violence and abuse. This work underpins and informs all other goals and actions of the organisation."

Women's Aid goes on to describe itself as "a feminist, political and campaigning organisation committed to the elimination of violence and abuse of women through effecting political, cultural and social change."

Women's Aid says it works from principles of "inclusion and equality" (among others such as empowerment and collective action).

(Source: from www.womensaid.ie)

Convictions for rape close to zero

THE Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) revealed last year that a mere 1.5% of victims who contact them secure a conviction against the attackers.

And, of 335 victims they dealt with in 2005, only 95 of them reported the crimes to the Gardai. Each year, the DRCC receive around 15,000 phone calls for help from victims of rape, sexual assault and child abuse.

Fiona Neary, executive director of the Rape Crisis Network of Ireland (RCNI), said the family home posed a greater threat to women and children than any other institution. In 2004, more than 1,000 women reported being raped or sexually abused by their partners (Source: Women's Aid).

RCNI statistics show that the most common perpetrator of sexual violence against children is a male relative (58%). Female relatives account for 2% of perpetrators of such violence.

For more information, or help, log onto: www.rcni.ie



Supporting female victims of male violence

Interview with: Margaret Martin, director of Women's Aid

By ALLEN MEAGHER

MARGARET Martin, director of Women's Aid, gave her opinion on a number of issues raised by advocates of action against domestic violence who have a somewhat different approach to the issue:

VICTIMS

ON FOCUSING EXCLUSIVELY ON MALE ABUSE/VIOLENCE

Why does the literature from Women's Aid focus exclusively on domestic violence by males?

"The majority of abusers are men."

ON FEMALE PERPETRATORS AND FEMALE VICTIMS

Women's Aid do not publicise the fact that they provide support for women who are abused by other women. Their literature points exclusively to male-on-female abuse and violence. Asked about this, Margaret replied:

"There are also women abused by women and we do provide services for them too."

ON MALE VICTIMS

If men only account for a small percentage of domestic violence victims, the number of such victims would still run into the thousands.

"Really if you look at gender-based violence, it is primarily men (who are responsible). The majority of victims are women."

ON SERVICES FOR VICTIMS

Women's Aid refer female abuse victims to various local services. However, in the training provided to CDPs and FRCs, Women's Aid does not provide information about groups that support male victims of domestic abuse:

"We sometimes provide a list of services provided on a county-by-county basis."

ON FOLLOWING EXAMPLE OF WOMEN'S AID IN UK

Women's Aid in Britain provide links on their website for men and children who suffer from domestic abuse. Would Women's Aid in the Republic of Ireland consider doing the same?

"There is a lot of work we need to do with around our website. It is a resource issue for us that we have not done this work so far. We would especially like to look at providing links for young people. There is a huge gap there in providing information for young people."

CODE OF PRACTICE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

ON THE CODE OF PRACTICE'S ORIGINS

"An important thing to understand is the historic background to the Code of Conduct. It came out of work done by a women's network in the West of Ireland (that is part of the Community Development Programme). The Code was published by the Department, having come from the work of the CDPs in the West and we fed some comments into it.

ON OUR VIEW OF THE CODE

"We stand over the Code of Practice of course. We think it is very important for projects to take this work on. When the training (that promotes the Code of Practice) is complete, we will review how it went. The roll-out of training is not yet completely completed, we are doing the greater Dublin area at the moment and then (projects) in the North-West. At the end of the process, we want to do a review of it.

ON WHAT CDPs ARE ASKED TO DO

"We are not encouraging CDPs to provide services themselves, but train them in how to refer victims on to local services."

PERPETRATORS

ON PERPETRATOR'S PROGRAMMES

Does Women's Aid inform Code of Practice trainees of the existence of the perpetrators programme run by the SEDVIP which is part of the Men's Development Network, a CDP in the South-East?

"We provide support to women who need it and have been doing so for 30 years. The training would reflect the Code of Practice," she said. (The Code of Practice currently does not include reference to the SEDVIP).

Will you include reference to the service in the future?

"That's the kind of thing we will be looking at (in our review)."

The SEDVIP wrote last year asking that their service be promoted as part of the Code of Practice on Domestic Violence training that was being rolled out. They were disappointed when they were told 'No'. Have you any comment to make on the situation now?

"I am not prepared to comment on that."

We can work with violent men

- the Intervention Programme explained

THE REMIT: Developing and delivering Intervention Programmes for men who are perpetrators of Domestic Violence involving a weekly group programme plus parallel one-to-one support for the female partner or ex-partners.

AIM: The major goal of the **South East Domestic Violence Intervention Programme (SEDVIP)** is to promote the safety of Women and Children; secondary goal is behavioural change in the men.

BRIEF HISTORY:

The **SEDVIP** was set up as a regional initiative in response to the Report of the Task Force on Violence against Women (April 1997).

FUNDING: In July 2003 the Department of Justice funded the **Men's Development Network (an issue-focused CDP)** to coordinate further development of the SEDVIP.

THE REGION: Carlow/Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Wexford and Waterford

THE STRUCTURE: In each area we operate in, there is a steering group managing the local programme and the members are drawn from Women's Refuges, Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centres, Carlow Women's Aid, Probation and Welfare, Gardai, Social Workers, Psychotherapists, Counsellors, and CDPs. These 4 Steering Groups are represented on a support and Advisory Group who along with the co-ordinating team oversee the running of the programmes regionally.

DEFINITION: "Domestic Violence is a pattern of controlling behaviour against an intimate partner or ex-partner, that includes but is not limited to physical assaults, sexual assaults, emotional abuse, isolation, economic abuse, threats, stalking and intimidation." (RESPECT '04)

SEDVIP acknowledges that the vast majority of domestic violence is committed by men towards women. SEDVIP recognizes that



By **JOHN DOYLE**
project co-ordinator

men can also be victims of domestic violence and refer such men to the Men's Development Network for one-to-one counselling.

SEDVIP recognizes that Domestic Violence occurs in same sex relationships.

CONTENT: Our understanding is that Domestic Violence is the conscious exercise of power and control by the perpetrator over the victim. Our group programme aims at behavioural change in the perpetrator. It is **not** an anger management programme **nor** is it a therapy group though it may have some therapeutic benefits.

DURATION: The minimum number of contact hours for a programme is 70 hours over a 26 week period (this will include individual assessment, group sessions each 2.5 hours long and where necessary one-to-one sessions)

KEY POINTS:

- SEDVIP is developing a co-ordinated community response with full links with the judiciary so that men can be made accountable for their behaviour.
- Domestic Violence is a crime.
- The Perpetrators Programme should not be used as a diversion from other forms of

sanction.

- SEDVIP programmes currently running in the four areas are open to both court mandated and non court mandated men.
- Most of the partners of the men who come on our programmes have not had prior contact with services for women.
- The times when a women is in most danger of domestic violence is when she is pregnant or when she leaves her partner.
- Domestic Violence is not confined to any one socio-economic group.

STEPS TO TAKE:

- It may be helpful to be conscious that where people are presenting in your project with difficulties at home or work Domestic Violence is among the possible issues that could be at root of those problems.
- Be aware that issues around the inappropriate use of power and control permeate society and each person can chose to collude with this or stand up against it.
- If a woman reports issues related to Domestic Violence (and remember it's a pattern of control, the way it manifests will be different in each case) listen, be supportive, and hear what support she needs.
- To avoid the woman going from agency to agency the local Women's Refuge will be able to inform her about all relevant services.
- Where a man presents who has perpetrated domestic violence, be conscious that there is an opportunity for the man to deal with his violent behaviour. This is a sensitive situation which will not be helped if the man experiences judgement or antagonism. You can help him and his partner and children best by encouraging him to make contact with our programme or a similar one.
- Holding men accountable for their behaviour and protecting women and children who are victims of Domestic Violence is best done as a co-ordinated response. By being conscious of the issue and referring women and men to appropriate agencies the CDP's and FRC's play an important role in this response.

Men beaten but ignored, claims Amen

THERE were complaints during last year's Women's Aid campaign against domestic violence by the organisation Amen which helps male victims of domestic violence and campaigns on the issue.

Mary T. Cleary of Amen criticised the campaign saying it "purports to deal with domestic violence but ignores male victims."

"Government agencies," argued Mary, "must openly reject the myth that domestic violence is a gender issue. It is a social and family issue."

She lamented the fact that advertising associated with the campaign did not give the Amen helpline number.

Amen quotes various studies that claim the number of men who fall victim to domestic violence has been and continues to be under-estimated.

Contrary to what both Women's Aid and the South East Domestic Violence Intervention Project say, men appear from these studies to be victimised a great deal. International studies aside, the two most recent Irish studies that support this argument are:

- 1) A study published in September 2006 found that 52% of men and 43% of women attending six GP practices in Dublin had experienced domestic violence. The authors of the Trinity College study said the results showed it was inappropriate to continue to address domestic violence as solely a woman's problem.
- 2) In July 2005, the National Crime Council, in association with the Economic and Social Research Institute, carried out a study of 3,000 people. It found that 29% of women and 26% of men suffered domestic abuse and reported that 13% of both men and women suffer physical abuse. It also found that one in three women but only one in 20 men reported the abuse to the Gardaí.

Asked about deaths from domestic violence, where 99% of the victims are female, Mary said, "In a face-to-face confrontation between a man and a woman, women usually come out worse." She knew of a couple of cases, for which she gave details, where men were murdered by their wives.

Amen claims to be the only support service in Ireland specifically addressing the needs of men suffering silently and alone in abusive relationships.

For more information, or for help, contact: Amen, St. Anne's Resource Centre, Railway Street, Navan, Co. Meath.

T: 046-9023718. W: www.amen.ie

Men queuing to join anti-violence programme

- Programme has an answer to domestic violence

MEN are queuing to join a programme that promises to help them get rid of violent tendencies that destroy relationships with women. Around 60 men were helped last year, through 70 hours of course-work aimed at getting them to express their emotions in a healthy way, including anger.

"We have different levels of success. For some (abused) women, if the violence stops that's a success. Sometimes we see it as a success when the woman develops more strength, through our support, to leave the relationship. And other times, if we end up with a loving relationship, that's success," says John Doyle, co-ordinator of the South East Domestic Violence Intervention Programme.

The programme is unique in that it works with the victims of domestic violence and the perpetrators, focusing on helping couples to get through the usually-male addiction to violent behaviour.

"Any programme involving personal change is one that people have to keep practicing what they learned, or they will slip," says John.

The programme – run by the Waterford-based Men's Development Network – has been running for six years now. (Another organisation, MOVE Ireland, run similar programmes in other counties).

"Our programme is very specific in working with men who are conditioned by the patriarchal society," says John. For women, the programme provides one-to-one support and safety training and work to build their self-confidence.

"Our work is specifically about violence in intimate relationships. Often the men being violent to their most intimate partner are not violent to anyone else, they might be a pillar of society.

"Often domestic abuse does not mean violent behaviour, but the threat of violence. It can be psychological or emotional abuse and the woman feels unsafe. Emotional abuse is often worse than physical abuse.

"Women tend to underestimate and minimise the extent of the violence in their lives and part of our work is to show them how the violence is affecting them," says John.

"In under 40 hours, we can inform and educate and give the man and woman the tools for a better relationship and for better ways of managing emotions. We don't have a stamp to mark an official form at the end saying we now stand over any man's future



actions. But we can say, 'This man is sorted, so long as he sticks to the programme'.

"And we keep in direct contact with the partners so if he is talking the talk to us, but not walking the walk, we will know.

"CDPs sometimes refer people to us and there is a growing awareness of our programme, but it is usually social workers, probation workers and judges who forward people onto us.

In the patriarchal society we live in, the programme sees itself as working in a microcosm and, in an ideal world, John would press a button and turn off the power and control exercised through patriarchy.

MEN CLAIMING TO BE VICTIMS

John notes that men can be marginalised too:

"Society is generally getting more violent and, in a chaotic relationship, if there is alcohol and drugs about, you can be sure there will be violence on both sides. Women are part of the problem too.

"However, we do not agree that domestic abuse is 50:50. Surveys can be unreliable. If a man punched a woman and the woman hit the man back in self-defence, that can be reflected in some statistics as violence by both sides.

Surprisingly, John claims you cannot "immediately" accept a man's claims to be a victim of domestic violence. In his experience, sometimes men think they are victims when this is not the case.

"However, you have to give the man the benefit of the doubt, take what he says at face value to begin with. When he truly is a victim, we can offer him one-to-one support."

His programme offers such men help through their parent organisation, the Men's Development Network who carry out work with men who are victims of domestic abuse, splits, custody difficulties and so on.



Pat Liddy,
historian.



Joe Costello,
Labour TD

East Wall then and now

"EAST Wall is a relatively new part of the Dublin", says Dublin historian Pat Liddy. "The community has only been there since the 1920s . . . It's never really had time to establish itself." Neither has it ever had "a heyday". "There was always a dearth of decent work, of churches, shops, schools. Whatever jobs there were (largely daily work on the docks) all disappeared by the 1960s and 1970s."

"The powers that be have never taken East Wall into consideration as an integral part of the city", says Joe Costello, the local Labour TD. He is critical of the Docklands Authority for its "piecemeal" and "haphazard" approach to local development and says "there has never been a proper, overall plan for the development of East Wall". It's deeply ironic, he says, that public transport serves East Wall so badly when the Busarus depot is "a stone's throw" away and the rail network is based there. The lack of a proper bus service is "one of our great failures", he says, though "it's not for want of trying", with meetings having been held with Dublin Bus and with the local authority.

Chiropody

It may not be the most obvious of social injustices, but chiropody is a big issue – though a hidden one – for old people, says Owen Binchy. Those with diabetes can have chronic foot problems, and are recommended to make six visits to a chiropodist per year. The issue can be as simple as having their toenails cut: because of reduced mobility and sensitivity, old people cutting their own toenails are more likely to accidentally cut themselves or break skin tissue; these can get infected and, ultimately, gangrene will result.

But there is no chiropody service for old people in East Wall, and the public health nurses who service the area don't have proper facilities.

Binchy has been campaigning for the Health Services Executive to provide a monthly chiropody service in East Wall. "It's beer money", he says. "For the cost of really small procedures, people are being immobilised."

His campaign may have proved successful: at time of going to print, he was optimistic that he would soon get confirmation that this service would be provided.

Elderly in tears (of thanks to East Wall

- Home-alones rediscover joys of community

AS the first college term draws to completion, one young veteran gives a word of warning to would-be students of community development.

"College graduates – they think they're going to change the world", says Owen Binchy, community worker in East Wall, Dublin.

"If you can make a small change, great. But there's no panacea, there's no cure-all. There's never going to be Utopia."

Binchy is not disillusioned, just pragmatic. The sole development worker on the two-year-old Nascadh Community Development Project in East Wall, he works in a geographical area currently experiencing massive change, yet in a sector where change is incremental.

As he talks, an auld fellow sings along to a Tony Bennett CD on the stereo in the corner.

By COLIN MURPHY

"I've been terribly alone and forgotten in Manhattan, I'm going home to my city by the bay..."

The gent does a quick two-step with a snooker cue, and bends down to line up a shot on the snooker table. Four men are playing doubles, and another one or two are watching, chatting across the game. These are the small changes Binchy is talking about.

We are in the local youth club, where Binchy runs a weekly facility for men.

Between snooker shots, John Donnelly of nearby Mary Road explains just why such a facility is needed in East Wall.

"When it rains, most of the old men don't come out of their houses – we've no chipper, no boozer, no nothing. There's a pub, but you can't shout, you can't sing. Every parish in the city of Dublin has a social club, bar this parish."

This set-up, with the snooker table, stereo and old-timer cds, tea and biscuits, is not a club – this, for Binchy, is crucial. With clubs, people often think they're "cliques", that "they're not welcome", he says. The ethos here is "that you can just drop in, drop out".

"There's a sense that 'this is our room'. People know that this is here and they can come down – the very fact that it's here is



East Wallers rave at a Sonny Knowles concert organised by Nascadh CDP.

the ground

(of joy) Wall CDP

community life

reassuring.

"If you tell men to come somewhere to talk about their problems, it's not going to happen. But if you can get them to come down to play snooker, you can work around their problems..."

This is for the men. For the women (though not exclusively so), Binchy ran a "summer project", which has just finished. Each week for two months, he organised an outing for the local old people. For €10, they got bus fare, lunch and entrance fees; they visited estate houses and gardens in the surrounding counties, Dublin galleries and museums, went on a 'Viking Splash' tour and had a presentation on the history of Dublin Port, amongst others. There were also art and dance classes.

It sounds simple, but it "has profoundly impacted on people's lives", Binchy believes.

"At the end of the project, there were five or six people crying. It was really heart wrenching. I went into the post office, and the postmistress was going, 'your trips are fabulous' – because the pensioners were going in and talking about it. In any of the businesses dealing with pensioners – the chemist, the butcher – I got a lot of very immediate feedback."

There is a lot of isolation and loneliness amongst old people in the area, he believes, and in some cases this has provoked, or is exacerbated by, nerves. The project brought people out of their houses, and brought them together – many had not experienced such sociability in years.

Binchy says some of the old people have since said to him, "We knew each other (to see) all our lives, but we never talked. But now, if we pass on the street, we stop and have a chat."

Though most of the take-up was from women, one of the men playing snooker, Frank Kelly of Shelmalier Road ("it's from an auld song, years and years ago, The Bauld Shelmalier"), went on the trips with his wife. They heard about the project through "word of mouth". It was "a grand outlet for mixing



Modern-day Vikings from the East Wall, Dublin, on tour

and trying to get people together", he says.

"You go out at half nine and you don't come back till six. You're out all day. You're meeting people. You're having a bit of a laugh. You might have a bit of a singsong.

"I've been talking to lots of people and they're saying they're lost without it.

"The summer project should be year round."

Owen Binchy agrees. He says the emotional legacy of the project is a reflection of the isolation of some of those who participated in it.

The outings cost between €30 and €50 per person, with €10 of that recovered through charges. Binchy is now trying to get businesses to sponsor the project for three to five years, "so you're not all the time hitting them for funding", with the aim of running an activity each month in the year, "so there's something to look forward to". He needs €50,000 a year to run a programme of social activities, he says.

The Nascadh project was set up in September 2005 and "from the start, old people were seen as the number one priority of the project", says Binchy.

"East Wall is particularly resilient in terms of the older population", he says. According to the small area population statistics produced by the Central Statistics Office (and available on www.cso.ie), twelve per cent of the population of East Wall are over 65 – this is down from 14 per cent, but still strong compared with other areas.

As Binchy says, East Wall is "unique" – "it's completely geographically divided from any other part of the city, by the railway, the port and the Tolka". With major landmarks on its fringes, the Point Depot and the IFSC, and massive development all along the quays, the area is a key location for "densification" – building high-rise in the city so as to lessen pressure on transport infrastructure and combat urban sprawl.

"We're being completely hemmed in by

high-rise all around."

Even still, the area desperately lacks basic social and commercial facilities. One of the nearest supermarkets is Dunnes Stores on Talbot St, a bus-ride away.

"For people with mobility issues, it leaves them quite isolated."

Thankfully, the CDP is tuned into the mobility issue – for instance, wheelchairs were loaded onto the tour buses each day and extra helpers recruited for the summer tours. On the last trip of the summer, the project hired a wheelchair accessible bus.

However, there is more to accessibility than the physical factor. Binchy believes that the informal nature of the tours and the fact that they were not organised through a club made them more socially accessible.

And there are 100 women and men in the East Wall today willing to raise a glass or a cuppa to cheer on the CDP and ask what's up next?

Hopes for '08

IN 2008, Nascadh CDP hopes to reach the most isolated, some of whom may not be in any way materially poor, but who may be severely socially isolated, or lonely in other words. People who went on the summer trips this year have teamed up with the project to reach these folk. It's a rolling ball. By next year, these hidden gems of people may have come out of their shells and become members of their community once more, active members.

Alec Robertson of Nascadh admits: "A central challenge remains to draw more people out from their home environment to connect them with the services that they need but are not aware of."

For more information, contact: Nascadh CDP, 75 Teeling Way, East Road, East Wall, Dublin 3. T: 01 8893985. E: nascadhdcp@eircom.net

Letters section



Children from Crumlin enjoying Halloween activities organised by Club 98, an affiliate of Crumlin CDP.

Gave Halloween back to the kids!

**Co-ordinator,
Crumlin CDP,
Unit 1, Goldstone Court,
Clogher Road,
Crumlin,
Dublin 12.**

Dear readers,

Crumlin CDP in Dublin worked with the residents of Rutland Grove and Rathdrum Road to try and give Halloween back to the children this year.

A small grant from Dublin City Council paid for a Children's Disco on a green space and the children got a goodie bag each and they did their trick-or-treat.

Leading up to and after the party, Dublin City Council worked hard to clear any wood and pallets that were being piled up for burning.

The problem is: Where are youngsters getting the pallets from? It must be investigated by Dublin City Council and heavy fines imposed.

The Gardai gave very good support by turning away people who came hoping to turn it into a drinking party.

That said, Halloween bonfires should become a thing of the past. The fires destroy the green areas, lead to under-age drinking, anti-social behaviour and frighten small children, the elderly and people's pets.

In many communities, Halloween has just become a fire, drinking and destroy-the-area night. People use the bonfires to get rid of rubbish, everything from doors to baby seats. Fire-lighting is starting earlier and lasting

longer in Crumlin.

It is destroying our festival because the children should be able to dress up and go out and not have to face bangers, rockets, flames and drunken youths. And the next day, the area is littered with broken bottles, cans, unburned rubbish.

There needs to be a serious attempt to get Halloween back for the children and for the whole community, rather than dreading the thought of Halloween next year.

**Yours Sincerely,
Harry Murphy,
Project Co-ordinator**

Researching about older men

**Michael Egan BA (Hons), MSc
School of Social Sciences & Law,
Dublin Institute of Technology,
Room 323,
Mountjoy Square,
Dublin 1.
Email: michael.egan@dit.ie**

Hi there,

I am getting in touch seeking to subscribe to future editions of your quarterly bulletin 'Changing Ireland'. When browsing your website, I was able to view the Summer '07 bulletin and others besides.

To put my request in context, I am a researcher based in the School of Social Sciences & Law at DIT where I am currently doing a study - as part of a Phd - examining the communal, social and sporting

Three sectors unite locally against racism

Letterkenny CDP is the local driver

COMMUNITY, business and employer interests came together in early November, in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, in a show of strength against racism.

Letterkenny CDP was centre-stage from November 5th-11th: the project took on the job of co-ordinating events for the Anti-Racism in the Workplace Week.

The CDP was the "local driver", explained project co-ordinator Margaret Toner,

The week began with a lunchtime seminar organised by the Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce which included guest speakers from the the Citizen's Information Board and also from the Irish Business and Employers Confederation.

Margaret reports that everyone at the launch "committed" to progress towards "a more cohesive approach to integration and equality for all."

participation of older men within their community and society more generally. To this effect, your feature on the Wexford boat project was very interesting.

What struck me about the article was that once men were inside the system, there was an appetite for participating, particularly in terms of the instrumental/practical courses on offer. 'Getting' the men though, as you know, involved in the process is easier said than done.

If you have any further information on any (similar) developments, events related to your work, my research, etc, feel free to get in touch.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

**Many thanks,
Michael Egan**

Community development news

Blue Drum recovers from difficulties

- By GILLIAN KEOGAN*

BLUE Drum is an arts specialist support agency working with the community development sector throughout Ireland and was established in 2001 in response to the growing use of arts based methodologies in this work.

Our remit has been to support CDP's and FRC's to develop their community arts practice in their work to combat poverty and social exclusion. However when the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs decided to stop funding The Arts Specialist Support Agency, two-thirds of Blue Drums core funding ceased in the autumn of 2006.

The initial shock of the withdrawal of financial funding was felt at both a personal level for the staff and Board of Management of Blue Drum, as well as at an organisational level, in terms of Blue Drum's position within the Community Development sector.

However every cloud has a silver lining. Blue Drum could clearly see the need for a comprehensive organisational review and to develop a strategic plan for the future sustainability of Blue Drum and arts-based community development work. As a result of organisational changes with regard to

staffing structure, roles and activities we feel that Blue Drum, despite the threat to the funding, is more efficient, more open and more proactive in developing a partnership approach to the work than at any other stage.

A couple of projects which highlight our commitment are:

INFORMATION SERVICE

Blue Drum provides an information service on community based and socially engaged arts. Tel. 01-8771446 or log onto www.bluedrum.ie. We also collate a fortnightly E-bulletin, called 'Blue Notes'.

ARTS BASED TRAINING

Blue Drum developed the 'Arts in Mind' training programme which was practical and experiential in nature.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

We accessed funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund to undertake a two-year project to support five community groups in Dublin (Ballymun Men's Centre, Ringsend Action Project, Special Project for the Long-term Unemployed Tallaght, CYC Baldoyle/Swords, and Sphere 17 Regional Youth Service) to design and deliver an innovative intervention dealing with the issues involved in Suicide Prevention.

VOLUNTEER EVENT

Blue Drum facilitated the creative input at the South East Regional CDP Forum Volunteer event in October.

In June of this year Siobhán Larkin joined Blue Drum as our new Project Co-ordinator. The agency is currently recruiting for the post of Project Worker with our Suicide Prevention Project

* Gillian Keogan, Information Officer, has worked with Blue Drum since January 2005



Blue Drum in action.

FAB's plan for the future

MANAGEMENT at FAB CDP in Co. Wexford are launching a report on their future plans on Wednesday, November 28th.

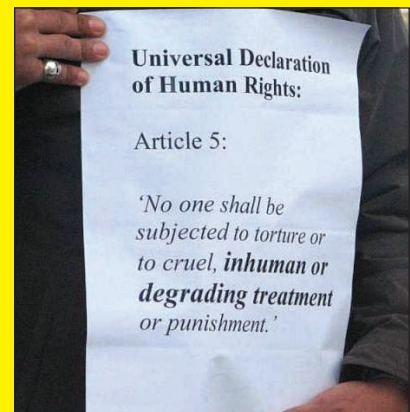
The project is entering its 11th year of successful operation and FAB management wanted to re-examine the profile and needs in the FAB area.

Public relations officer with FAB, Michael Kavanagh, said the process involved "intensive consultation with members of the FAB community,

and agencies, and door-to-door calls by local community activists/volunteers."

"Now FAB has a comprehensive strategic work plan for the upcoming three years and is moving forward on key issue such as improved youth, community and childcare facilities locally and increased support for the family unit."

The research findings will be launched by playwright Billy Roche who himself lived in the area for a number of years.



Waterford project protests at evictions

WATERFORD Traveller CDP believes that Waterford City Council is behaving in "a very oppressive way" towards local Travellers.

The project called for a more humane and dignified approach, following the sudden eviction in September of nine Waterford families.

"This action goes totally against Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is reminiscent of apartheid days in South Africa," said the project.

"The issue of overcrowding on Kilbarry Halting site is the result of years of inaction and neglect by Waterford City Council who are now operating like the worst form of private landlord," said the project in a statement.

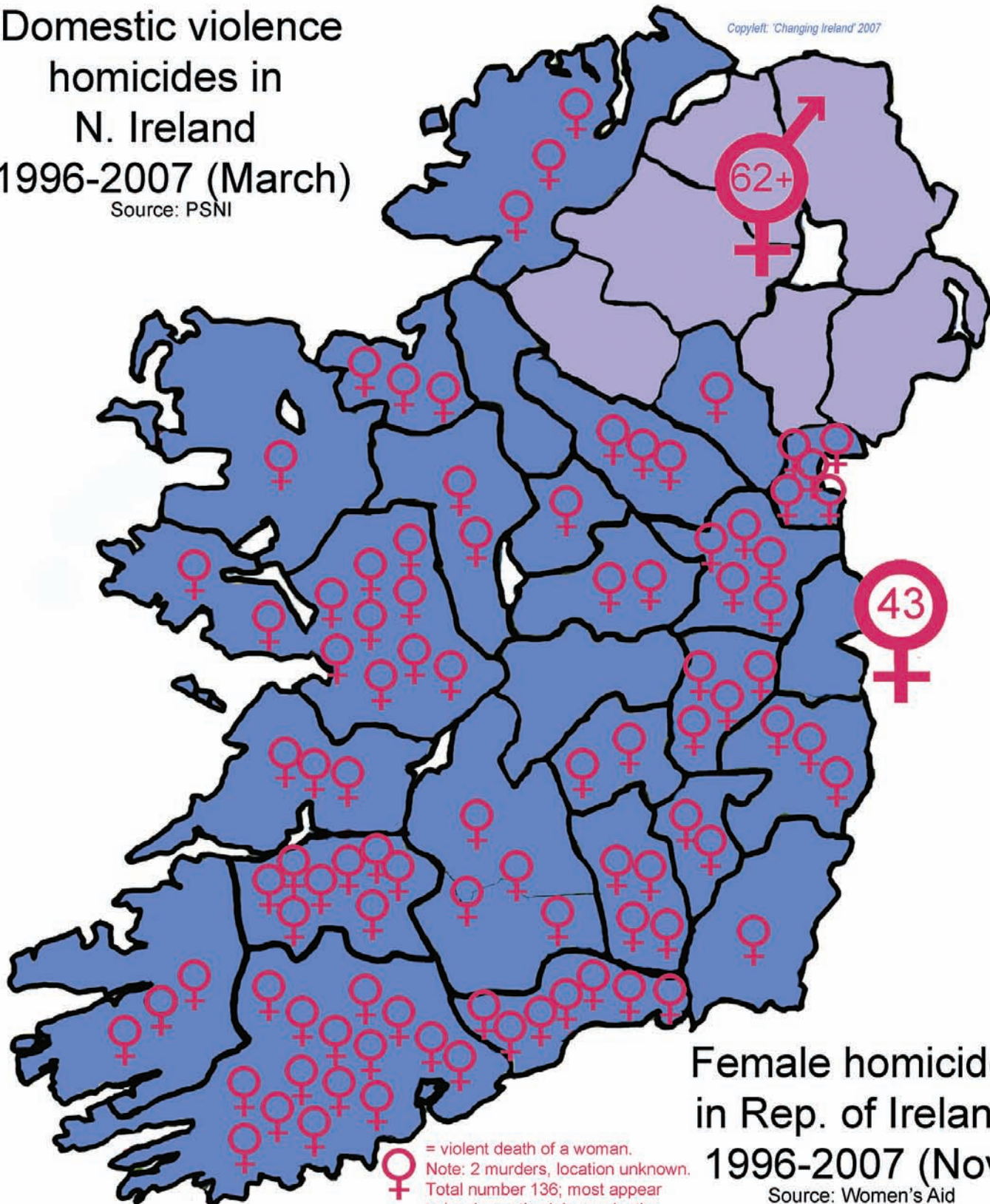
"The local authority is violating the human rights of citizens when they cut off services such as electricity, water and toilet facilities to families . . . and evict residents from the Site with no notice."

The project said the council should not punish innocent people who have not been involved in recent violence.

The evictions followed a number of violent altercations and shootings on the site.

Domestic violence in Ireland

Domestic violence
homicides in
N. Ireland
1996-2007 (March)
Source: PSNI



Female homicides
in Rep. of Ireland
1996-2007 (Nov)
Source: Women's Aid

Mapping domestic violence in Ireland

WE can say with certainty that more than 200 women have died violently in Ireland since 1996. This is clear from examining statistical reports from the PSNI and Women's Aid in detail.

In the Republic, Women's Aid have counted every woman killed violently in the Republic since 1996 and the total stood at 136 women in mid-November. 85 (62%) of these women were killed in their own homes. The Gardai have a reputation for usually finding the killers and currently: 97 cases (72%) are resolved, 14 (10%) are awaiting trial, and no charges have been brought in 25 cases (18%). Of the resolved cases, 47 women (49%) were killed by their partner or ex-partner. (Source: Women's Aid Femicide Media Watch, Oct. '07)

In Northern Ireland, the RUC and now the PSNI have catalogued the number of domestic violence crimes reported each year, since 1996. The minimum (statistical recording methods changed) number of domestic violence homicides in that period is 62. There is no breakdown available of the victim's gender, though PSNI spokesperson, Clodagh Murphy, confirmed that the vast majority were women. The figures compiled from a number of reports and confirmed by the PSNI are as follows: 1996 (2), 1997 (8), 1998 (9), 1999 (7), 2000 (3), 2000/March '01 (1), 2001/'02 (3), 2002/'03 (7), 2003/'04 (4), 2004/'05 (9), 2005-'06 (6), 2006-March '07 (3). (Source: various PSNI reports).

The Gardai do not keep comparable statistics for domestic violence homicides in the Republic and there are no figures to compare with the Northern figures.

No organisation could tell us exactly how many men have died in domestic violence incidents in the Republic in the last decade. The number is believed to be very low.



Marathon men say most Travellers "unfit"

"MOST Traveller people are unfit and they eat an awful lot of junkfood," says marathon runner Hughie Maughan, himself a Traveller and community activist.

His comments reflect why the Traveller Primary Health Care strategy was launched some years ago – hundreds of Traveller people have now received training in 40 locations around the country and take what they learn about health to their communities.

When the Programme was first piloted, 89% of Travellers reported a high level of confidence in visits from their Traveller Community Health Workers. Now, there is an increased understanding of health, everything from dental care to depression, among Travellers.

However as Hughie and fellow marathon runner Patrick Cawley point out, more needs to be done to improve diet and fitness levels.

In training for the Dublin City Marathon, Hughie said he lost 2.5 stone five months before the run by giving up all junkfood. He had a liking for chips in particular but cut them out of his daily meals.

The Ballymun man said he would like to see Travellers change their lifestyles for the better:

"I'd say only around 25% of Travellers are fit."

Patrick Cawley reckons "most Travellers" are overweight and he acknowledged that poor diet and lack of fitness contributed to ill-health and may be a factor in the younger-than-average mortality rates among the Traveller community.

"A lot of Travellers are fit and trim when they are single, but as soon as they get married, it just falls apart and they put on the weight. Any boxing coach in Ireland will tell you that."

He said a lot of Travellers lacked the self-motivation needed to keep fit, but would play more sports if coached and cajoled into doing so.

"I'd love to see more Travellers getting fit, but they need someone to keep pushing them onwards." Patrick defies the trend he describes - he trained without a coach for his marathon last year. Now he is leading by example and is a qualified boxing coach with Baldoyle Boxing Club.

Boxing has traditionally been the most favoured sport among Travellers.

NEW POSITIONS

TOSACH Support Agency operating on the northside of Dublin has a new chairperson, Gerry McKeever. Gerry has plenty know-how and experience, having worked as co-ordinator with the agency until the beginning of this year. The new co-ordinator is Karl Tooher.

I know my acronyms QUIZ!

Take the 'I Know My Acronyms' Quiz!

How long are you in Community Development? Not long? Too long?

Think you know all the development-speak that matters?

Well, let's see how you do in our 'I Know My Acronyms' Quiz. If you get every one right, you need to reacquaint yourself with the real world. If you don't know any, welcome to the jungle!

- 1) • CWC = _____
- 2) • CDP = _____
- 3) • CDB = _____
- 4) • CCC = _____
- 5) • CEB = _____
- 6) • CPA = _____
- 7) • DCE = _____
- 8) • DSFA = _____
- 9) • DAST = _____
- 10) • DCRGA (aka Craggy) = _____
- 11) • DES = _____
- 12) • DEHLG = _____
- 13) • DOHC = _____
- 14) • DJELR = _____
- 15) • DFI = _____
- 16) • EAPN = _____
- 17) • FSA = _____
- 18) • FRC = _____
- 19) • FÁS = _____
- 20) • EA = _____
- 21) • EU = _____
- 22) • IRC = _____
- 23) • LES = _____
- 24) • NAPS = _____
- 25) • NAPsincl = _____
- 26) • NCCRI = _____
- 27) • NDP = _____
- 28) • OSI = _____
- 29) • RSA (CDP-specific) = _____
- 30) • SSA (CDP-specific) = _____

- 31) • RAPID = _____
- 32) • SIM = _____
- 33) • SCP = _____
- 34) • SPC = _____
- 35) • SPGGDA* = _____
- 36) • SWOT = _____
- 37) • UNHCHR = _____
- 38) • VEC = _____
- 39) • WDC = _____
- 40) • YPFSF = _____

Note: * SPGGDA is a tricky one, all the other acronyms being national or universally accepted. First word, to give a hint is 'Strategic', second-last word is 'Dublin'.

Acronyms Quiz ANSWERS

- CWC - Community Workers' Co-operative
- CDP - Community Development Programme/Project
- CDB - County/City Development Board
- CCC - County/City Childcare Committee
- CEB - County Enterprise Board
- CPA - Combat Poverty Agency
- DCE - Directors of Community and Enterprise
- DSFA - Department of Social and Family Affairs
- DAST - Department of Arts, Sports & Tourism
- DCRGA (aka Craggy) - Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
- DES - Department of Education & Science
- DEHLG - Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government
- DOHC - Department of Health and Children
- DJELR - Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform
- DFI - Disability Federation of Ireland
- EAPN - European Anti-Poverty Network
- FSA - Family Support Agency
- FRC - Family Resource Centre
- FAS - Foras Aiseanna Saothair
- EA - Equality Authority
- EU - European Union
- IRC - Irish Refugee Council
- LES - Local Employment Service
- NAPS - National Anti-Poverty Strategy
- NAPsincl - National Action Plan Against Poverty & Social Exclusion
- NCCRI - National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism
- NDP - National Development Plan
- OSI - Office for Social Inclusion, DSFA (formerly the NAPS Unit)
- RSA (CDP-specific) - Regional Support Agency
- SSA (CDP-specific) - Specialist Support Agency
- RAPID - Revitalising Areas through Planning Investment & Development
- SIM - Social Inclusion Measures
- SCP - School Completion Programme
- SPC - Strategic Policy Committee
- SPGGDA - Strategic Planning guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area *
- SWOT - Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats
- UNHCHR - United Nations High Commission for Human Rights
- VEC - Vocational and Educational Committee
- WDC - Western Development Commission
- YPFSF - Young Peoples Facilities & Services Fund

Do you talk the talk?

'I Know My Acronyms' Score-sheet

Tot up your score and read on for our professional advice:

Zero:

Welcome to the Community Development sector!

Between 1-10 right:

No worries, just be assertive: Make sure any serious jargon-user spells out what they're saying until you pick up more lingo. Say you'll burst them with a SIM if they don't co-operate.

Between 10-20:

You like Community Development or else you can't get out! Stick with it, you're half-way there.

Between 20-35:

You're in the right job alright, though if you scored close to 35 it might be time to take a break or a long holiday.

Between 35-39:

You must be a net contributor to jargon-pollution. Or perhaps you are one of the clever and sensitive professionals who use the jargon where necessary, spelling out acronyms when speaking to groups, and using lingo purely to speak up on behalf of the downtrodden. If so, well done!

All 40 right:

Well, we all need to know a few acronyms, but now it's time you went down to the local pub to see if you're still able to speak English. Jargon-pollution is like carbon-pollution: we all have a role to play in reducing the damage.

J-aaargh-on!

'On the ground' QUESTIONS

Ok, so maybe you scored excellently in the 'I Know My Acronyms' Quiz, but how well are you understood by regular people?

Translate the following to see how 'on the ground' you really are! Dubliners should get all 17 of the following right (Miss just one and it's time to run your lamps over your linguistic skills); a respectable score for anyone outside the Pale would be 9 or 10. (Answers at bottom of page).

- 1) Whats de story?
- 2) On the hop
- 3) On the never never
- 4) He's gone for his tea
- 5) I knew him when he hadn't an arse to his trousers.
- 6) I will in me hat
- 7) It was like throwing apples into an orchard
- 8) I've a mouth on me
- 9) I've a throat on me
- 10) That fella'd skin a fart
- 11) Watch yer house
- 12) Sparrow fart
- 13) Where would yeh be goin' an' no bell on your bike
- 14) Yoke-eh-me-bob
- 15) Get outta that garden!
- 16) Cheese on your chin
- 17) Ya legend

'On the ground' ANSWERS

- 1) What's up?
- 2) Playing truant from school
- 3) Hire purchase
- 4) Someone killed or after dying
- 5) I knew him when he was poor
- 6) No, I won't
- 7) It was a stupid thing to do
- 8) I'm hungry
- 9) I'm thirsty
- 10) That person will do anything for money
- 11) Be careful!
- 12) Someone or something small
- 13) Phrase used to seek explanation for action
- 14) A name that can be given to any object
- 15) Exclamation of disbelief
- 16) Your fly is open!
- 17) Compliment on a job well done.

Programme consultation process

RECENTLY, a consultation process was launched to gain greater clarity about the role of the Community Development Programme and Projects at the national, regional and local level and to build consensus on the future direction of the Programme.

The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs received 110 submissions from Projects and other groups and organisations. In general, the majority of submissions were positive and forward-looking. Overall, the consultation process did not throw up any surprises. The focus of Projects is predominately anti-poverty and social inclusion, underpinned with a strong commitment to achieving equality. Capacity building and service provision are of equal importance. There is a need to show how the work of Projects is complementary to the full

range of other anti-poverty and social inclusion initiatives, and the relationship with other programmes such as a future LDSIP and RAPID. Projects must operate to high quality standards. Training and Development need specific resources at Project level. The role of the volunteer need to be recognised and the Programme needs a national profile.

Some of these issues have already been addressed or are being addressed. Revised financial arrangements have been drafted and will be rolled-out to Projects within the month. This will include a checklist of the financial management, oversight and governance requirements for Projects. A draft Financial Management and Governance Manual is already drafted and will also be circulated before year-end. The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government are preparing revised guidance on

endorsement procedures by City/County Development Boards, in consultation with this Department.

There are also moves to define a relationship for CDPs in RAPID areas. All in all, progress is being made, including the development of the new Programme itself, which is at an advanced stage of drafting. Watch this space...

**- Community Development Unit,
16 November 2007**

- **The Community Development Programme (CDP) was established in 1990 in recognition of the role of community development in tackling poverty and disadvantage. The programme is administered by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs while the projects are independent.**

60 volunteers get together

Around 60 volunteers attended the South-East Regional CDP Forum Conference held on October 5-6th. The event kicked off with a gala dinner.

At the conference, Anne Kelly from The Bridge CDP spoke up for the volunteers, while the guest speaker was TD, Brendan Howlin, and workshops were facilitated by 'Changing Ireland' and by Blue Drum.

The event was organised by two volunteers in particular, Mattie Sheridan of the Men's Development Network and Helen Walshe of FAB CDP (pictured) with assistance from Framework Support Agency.



Minister approves €575,000 for 27 projects

PAT Carey, Minister of State at the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, recently approved funding for the recruitment of additional workers to 27 CDPs across the country, under the Community Development Programme. The estimated full year cost is €575,000.

Since its establishment in 1990, the Programme has expanded from nine projects to a current network of approximately 180 in disadvantaged areas throughout the country.

Under the Programme, start-up projects initially receive funding for a co-ordinator and may appoint an additional worker in the second and/or subsequent years of operation, in order to implement and expand the project's workplan.

Minister Carey said that he is pleased to see

the development and expansion of the projects, adding "The economy continues to grow. However, there are still those who fall through the net. Expanding these projects will pave the way for improving the social infrastructure for these communities and will ultimately benefit us all".

The projects are:

- Ballyfermot Travellers Action Project
- Shanganagh CDP
- Crumlin CDP
- Inchicore CDP
- Vista CDP
- Holly House CDP
- Blanchardstown Traveller's Support Group
- Fermoy CDP
- Limerick Women's Network
- Nascadh CDP
- North West Inner City Women's Network
- South West Kerry Women's Association
- Thurles Action Community Development
- Tralee Women's Group CDP
- West Cork Travellers CDP
- Iorras Le Cheile CDP
- Edenderry CDP
- Acorn CDP
- Women of the North West CDP
- Arklow CDP
- Croi Rath Naoi CDP
- Wolfe Tone CDP
- Bawnogue Women's Group CDP
- Independent Mothers CDP
- Bray Travellers CDP
- Rowlagh Women's Group
- North West Kildare CDP