

CHANGING IRELAND



AUTUMN '03

ISSUE 9

The National Newsletter of the Community Development Support Programme - funding 170 community projects

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Communities aiming for a brighter future

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The middle-classes don't do bus tours

The Evening Herald reported earlier this year that a tour operator was bringing tourists in an *armoured* car through disadvantaged inner-city Dublin areas associated with crime gangs, especially the gang led by the late Martin Cahill. If done the right way - not in an armoured car, but in co-operation with the local communities such tours may possibly have positive effect. It can help dispel the media-hyped stereotyped image of an area. Places such as Moyross in Limerick, Clondalkin in Dublin and Mahon in Cork. And the shanty towns of Rio de Janeiro where such tours are now a norm (see our centre-page spread).

Moyross is a working class corporation housing estate regarded by other people from the city of Limerick as a 'no-go' area. It is one of the 25 RAPID-designated, most-disadvantaged urban areas in the state, and when RTE visit they always show film of the handful of boarded up houses (and not the hundreds of fine dwellings) which happened to be around the corner from the 'Changing Ireland' office (managed by the local CDP).

The media focus mostly on crime in the area - an exception was made when a Moyross man made the local news for hitting a hole-in-one on a golf course in the U.S. where his brother had hit a hole-in-one some years earlier. This story, by the way, challenged the usual stereotypes by showing that Moyross people can (a) afford to travel beyond Ballybunion; (b) play more than pitch and putt; (c) are ordinary people. Nevertheless, most Limerick city people's opinion of Moyross is informed by negative media reports and by a tendency to exaggerate in their own heads how 'bad' things are here. Many community development initiatives also make the

headlines, but research indicates that it takes ten 'good' stories to dispel the notoriety created by one 'bad' story. Worst of all, the middle class in Ireland are afraid to visit the working class areas to see for themselves. Even the predominantly middle-class students who study sociology for four years at the University of Limerick, five miles from Moyross, are never brought to visit the working class people their lecturers 'educate' them about.

Well, it's the same in the shanty towns (called *favelas*) of Rio de Janeiro, in that the rich Rio residents *never* visit poor areas and only know about life there through the tabloid media. When you suggest visiting a *favela* to someone from Copacabana they will suggest you are mad, and will quote the crime rates, saying you could be shot or kidnapped and warning of the dirt and dishonesty there. Worldwide, it seems that the more 'comfortable' and middle class you are the more ignorant you are likely to be.

However, in Rio, operators run organised mini-bus tours so outsiders can visit poor communities. And if you go, you will find that people living in the shanty towns of Rio are quite hospitable and live more comfortably than people may think (as is true of Moyross also). In this issue, 'Changing Ireland' has a special report on poverty, disadvantage and development work in Brazil, including a trip on the controversial bus tour through Rio's poor areas. So how about organising bus tours (not armoured cars) of the poor parts of Ireland's cities - it would be a great way to truly educate people and smash a few stereotypes? The only trouble is that the middle classes don't do bus tours.

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Our front page photograph features pool sharks Ciara Neill and Barbara Falvey, both from Cliona Park, Moyross, Limerick. Ciara and Barbara are very involved in the local community, both being members of the Corpus Christi Pipes and Drums Band. Ciara is also a member of the 'Northside We're OK Youth Initiative' featured in an interview with Sean Ward on page 12. Photo by Allen Meagher

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Address: 'Changing Ireland', Community Enterprise Centre, Moyross, Limerick.
Tel: 061-458011.

Fax: 061-325300.

E-mail: allenmeagher@eircom.net

Editor: Allen Meagher

Editorial team: Sharon Browne, Sean Dooley, Viv Sadd, Maria O'Dwyer and Allen Meagher

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Arts agency drums up a storm at seminar

By LORCAN BRENNAN

One of Blue Drum's first engagements was to help host a seminar, that included of course drumming on the tables, to explore with others the best ways of using the arts in community development.

Held in mid-September in Aras Chrónáin, Clondalkin, the seminar attracted almost 90 community development artists from all over the country and clearly demonstrated the hunger nationally for a forum to be established whereby practitioners could network, exchange information and build on the practical experience that has existed at a community level for the past decade.

Blue Drum, the CDSP's new Arts Specialist Support Agency, joined with co-hosts South Dublin Community Platform, Clondalkin Partnership and Lucan 2000, to organise the event.

A number of workshops in music, drama, dance and clay modelling ensured participants were skillfully steered to performance and exhibition level after short working periods.

The seminar aimed to create an awareness of the use of arts in community development through a number of working case studies. The purpose of the workshops were to show how the arts could be used as a tool in problem-solving and act as a catalyst for change within a community development setting.

Kieran Gallagher of Ka Da Ka Boom Arts Drogheda, addressed some of the problems facing groups in developing community arts projects: "Financial pressure that society puts on community groups means that very often they are unable to avail of music instruments", said Kieran,



Making Music Without Instruments: Drumming on the tables at the Blue Drum co-hosted community arts seminar held in Clondalkin, Dublin, in September, from left - Joan Casey, West Limerick Resources Ltd; Blaitnaid Dunne, Advance Project and Frances Roche, Access 2000 Wexford (a CDP).

"and this rhythm workshop was a demonstration of how these problems can be overcome."

Presentations made by a Community Health Initiative in Quarryvale, a Women's Community Education Project from Wexford and an Intergenerational Project in Sligo demonstrated how the arts have been successfully incorporated into community development projects. Aras Chrónáin was hopping as groups performed pieces they had created and showed how the arts could be used in a community development context in an energetic and non-threatening way.

Of note, the seminar was organised to fit in with the local County Development Board's current plan. South Dublin County

Development Board had identified the value of promoting the use of the arts as a tool to address local issues as part of its cultural strategy.

The seminar was funded by Clondalkin Partnership and a documentary video from the event will be available shortly through Fidelma Twomey.

• For further information contact Blue Drum (see information beneath accompanying story) or F. Twomey at: Clondalkin Partnership, Oakfield Industrial Est., Clondalkin, Dublin 22. E-mail: ftwomey@clondalkinpartnership.ie; Tel. 01-457-6433; Website www.clondalkinpartnership.ie

Blue Drum is new arts specialist support agency

Blue Drum, the new Arts Specialist Support Agency for the Community Development Support Programme, has launched their exciting work plan for 2003-2005. Writing in the plans introduction, Chairperson Fidelma Twomey highlights that, "the Directors of Blue Drum have either an arts or community development background and some have

both bringing a rich mixture of skills and practical experience to the organisation."

Through its work, Blue Drum hope to develop a range of support services to help the CDSP, FRCs and community development sector use arts based methodologies and tackle issues of access to quality arts experience. It also aims to develop the Agency as

an effective learning organisation.

Following the success of the pilot programme, the CPA undertook a feasibility study into setting up an Arts Specialist Support Agency. A steering Group was established, drawn from both community development and arts sectors. In March 2001 the Steering Group was wound up and a Board of Management established. The proposals for the Agency were agreed in May 2001 and a Manager recruited later that year.

As a new exciting initiative, and resource within the CDSP, Blue Drum, the Arts Specialist Support Agency, is to be welcomed and celebrated. It can only be hoped that through its support many projects across the country will find their own unique artistic, creative, anti-poverty focused rhythm.

• What can Blue Drum offer your project? For more information, contact Jim Cathart at: Blue Drum, The Outreach Centre, Clonsaugh Drive, Priorswood, Dublin 17. Tel. 01-877-1446. Fax 01-847-9392. E-mail: bluedrum@eircom.net



Members of Access 2000 CDP in Wexford taking part in the community arts seminar co-hosted by the new Blue Drum Specialist Support Agency for the CDSP

"I don't expect to buy

Minister of State, Noel Ahern on CDPs

The more rewarding part of the job for Minister Ahern is getting out and "seeing groups on the ground."

"The beauty of CDPs is that the groups accurately reflect the situation on the ground, the needs and the wants," said the Minister. And while he sings the praises of some projects he has visited, he is not equally enamoured with them all.

"In my own constituency, I get a varied impression - some of them appeared to do good work in my area, others are more in the background. I would have had a high regard for some of them - they are involved and out and about in the community.

Other projects, he said, seemed to be doing "their bunker thing" working more for long-term goals and less well-known as a result. He said that in the past he had come into "more contact with local authority community development workers." He was a Dublin city councilor from 1985 to 2002.

However, he did not mean to be critical: "Generally, I think that it is ok that groups work on plans, strategy and research and backroom stuff. Although I like them to have involvement in action-orientated things. I'd like to see them out and about. If you are aware of them, it means local people will be aware of them.

"I wouldn't want the projects to be tied down to what they can do or can't do. Just because a group is getting government funding I don't expect to buy their silence. If groups are out in the wilderness, that is their choice," he continued, noting that it was most important to have groups that accurately relate to the needs on the ground.

"The CDPs are fundamentally about encouraging people to help themselves," he said, acknowledging their role as a catalyst in supporting the set-up of other groups in a community. He said CDPs could claim the credit for a lot of things if they wanted to.

Strong and weak CDPs

Since beginning their review of the community sector programmes under the Department's remit, both Ministers Ahern

and O'Cuiv have noticed gaps. Where some programmes were good at putting impressive reports together - "it looked good on paper", noted Minister Ahern - their work on the ground did not always match up. On the other hand, with the CDSPs, their reports were not so fancy, but their work was excellent.

"There is great activity and great vibrancy on the ground, some of the CDPs are very good. Of course there are strong ones and weak ones," he said.

He said he had been "glad to announce funding for 15 new projects this year and I hope to make a similar announcement for 14 or 15 further new projects next year."

There was no news yet from the ongoing review. While the projects will obviously continue to be funded, will the CDSPs still be there in name next year?

"CDSPs - the name doesn't really matter," replied Minister Ahern, "the important thing is the work the projects actually do. The marvellous work has to be retained - it is very local, on-the-ground work, and we don't want that swallowed up by bigger bodies. We are not trying to stamp out independence."

While City/County Development Boards will in the future 'endorse' CDP workplans, Minister Ahern said this was because it was "important to give the CDBs a knowledge of what is going on. We can't allow duplication."

However, there would be "no takeovers" as a result of the review. "It is more about integration," said the Minister, "it would be totally wrong to do away with the CDSPs."

He said both he and Minister O'Cuiv were disappointed with many of the speeches made by representatives of the various programmes when a Review Seminar Day was held during the summer.

"People were coming along saying how great they are," and this was not very informative. He agreed that the CDSP submission "was very good, but overall the day itself was a bit disappointing, we didn't get as much out of it as we thought."

Support agencies have less to do

Minister Ahern said no decisions had yet been made regarding the CDSP's support structure.

"No, it is part of the overall review," he replied. However, in the past, a lot of Support Agencies' work was concentrated on the pre-development stages for the new projects: "If you are planning a CDSPs, you need plenty support at the beginning."

He said that, in the future, the level of support required from Support Agencies "is therefore going to be less than before, as the rate of new project launches slows down."

"As projects mature, they need less support. So Support Agencies will probably feel the wind of change in that regard, there won't be as much for them to do. But I do recognise that small community groups do need back-up."

He said, however, that if the Support Agencies were not in the picture, "it would lead to huge variance in the way different CDPs worked and would result in a lack of professionalism."

Funds for the 15 new CDPs launched this year came from cutting back on the funding to the 13 Support Agencies and this policy is likely to be continued. While jobs would not be directly cut, the level of funding to Support Agencies is likely to decrease.

"The only way we have of funding additional projects is to make greater use of our resources," said the Minister.

Relief that grants went ahead

Minister Ahern seemed relieved as well as pleased that he was able to recently award grants for Federations, Networks and Umbrella Bodies and another series of grants for Training and Supports. Both were part of the government's White Paper on Community and Voluntary Activity.

"For 9 months, it nearly looked like they were going to get the chop," he said,

their silence"

In June 2002, Noel Ahern was appointed Minister of State at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (with special responsibility for Drugs Strategy and Community Affairs) and at the Department of the Environment and Local Government (with special responsibility for Housing and Urban Renewal).

Married with three children and living in Drumcondra, Dublin, Minister Ahern will celebrate his 50th birthday next year. He is a former Christian Brothers student and UCD graduate and he worked for years as a CIE official. Noel was first elected to the Dail in 1992. He is a brother of An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern.



referring to the grants worth €7,400,000 over 3-years.

"There was no political interference at all," he added. The successful applicant groups were chosen in a transparent and objective way.

"These once-off grants are important. A lot of those schemes may not have seen their level of funding increase, but they are still there - a year ago, it looked like they (the grants) were not going to happen.

Holding your own or thereabouts with the Department of Finance is considered a "success" in the current economic climate.

"It is hard to get extra funding," said Minister Ahern. "We are doing our job (as Ministers) to retain funding. So we try to get extra value for money, that's the

reality of life.

"We have done lots for areas that were socially excluded. We have done an awful lot, but to be fair, education and health are priorities. The first thing is to justify what you have in the first place," he said, pointing out that many new projects had been started up since 1998.

"But the world shouldn't end with a 1% or 2% cut. And it is important that we are all on our toes and if one or two projects are not performing they might get the chop."

Minister raids fridge at 1am

Is Minister Ahern as early a riser as his counterpart Minister O'Cuiv?

"I wouldn't get a prize for that now, though I was up at 7.15 this morning. I usually probably leave the home after the morning rush hour, though I am inclined to work late and work to midnight."

After work, Minister Ahern, like his brother Bertie, has a couple of pints to mark the days end. Or near-end.

"I sometimes go home and raid the fridge at 1 o'clock," he admitted.

He works a six to six-and-a-half day week. On Sundays, he tries to take it easy, "doing things like tidying the back-seat of the car."

"I enjoy my job, but a lot of it is hard graft. The best part is succeeding with something. And also with going out meeting people and seeing the theory being applied in practise," he said.

Mayo children confront their prejudices early

Cosgallen East Mayo Community Development Project is based in Charlestown, Co Mayo, covering a 25mile radius which includes the towns of Swinford and Charlestown. Even though the project is only a year old, Cosgallen has already been making a positive impact on the East Mayo area. One recent project initiated by Cosgallen was an anti-racism programme for primary schools.

The programme was carried out over five weeks during May and June by Cosgallen in association with another CDP, the Mayo Travellers' Support Group. The National Anti-Racism Awareness programme, 'Know Racism', funded the initiative.

The facilitators were aware that children tend to think that all *Travellers steal*, all *black people are poor* and that all *people with disabilities are to be pitied*. By meeting in a very open and safe space with a Traveller, a person from Africa and a person with a disability, 420 Mayo children were presented with a chance to confront and discuss these stereotypes.

Gearóid O Riain, Mayo Travellers' Support Group said, "Research tells us that between ages 2 and 5 children develop *prejudice*; misconceptions, discomfort, fear and rejection of differences that may develop into real prejudice if parents and teachers do not intervene. So we wholeheartedly support this endeavour and see great value in children being exposed to the reality of diversity."

The programme was carried out by a team of four facilitators: Bernard Sweeney, a Traveller, Eddie Kimpwane from the Congo, Pat Hallinan who is a wheelchair user, and Catherine Devine McHale, a primary school teacher interested in anti-bias education.

Bullying experience encourages empathy

The programme was devised and co-ordi-



Eddie Kimpwane from Congo with some of the 420 enthusiastic children from Mayo who engaged in anti-racism work organised by Cogallen CDP

nated by Cas McCarthy, Project Co-ordinator with Cosgallen together with Ms. Devine McHale who explained, "We began with the child looking at their feelings about themselves and others, how it feels to be teased and bullied and treated unfairly and then looking at what they can do about it. In this way children learn to empathise with the experience of minority groups who are often subject to this negative treatment. We hope that children will have learned to look critically at how they are in the world, and at how they interact with each other. They find out quickly how easy it is to hurt one another with unquestioned assumptions and prejudices".

It is also hoped that children will have learned the skills to stand up for themselves while developing a fairer attitude towards all. A total of 420 children availed of the week long programmes, which included Meelick, Tavneena, Rooskey, St Joseph's Killasser, Aughamore, St Attracta's Charlestown, Carracastle, Culmore and Derrynabrock National Schools. Great fun and learning took place with tutors using a wide variety of creative methods to get their message across. These included bags of potatoes, games, music puppets, art activities and even a parachute!

The chairperson of Cosgallen CDP's management committee, Val Browne, was delighted with his project's success: "County Mayo is increasingly becoming a multicultural society and it is important for all of us to examine our

values, attitudes and prejudices which very often sow the seeds of exclusion and marginalisation. Our anti-racism programme has sought to address some of these issues. Needless to say, it has been a big learning experience for all concerned! We hope to continue the good work carried out by this programme and to further develop our work with schools that have been really generous in their welcome of this programme".

Children benefited

Derrynabrock School Principal, Jacky Henry, said afterwards: "We were delighted to be afforded the opportunity to participate in this programme, the children benefited greatly from the experience both educationally and socially."

Therese Ruane, Castlebar, who is currently completing her Masters Degree at Dublin City University in Intercultural studies visited the programme as part of her research and commented, "I would consider this programme to be an invaluable experience for those lucky enough to be part of it. I can see how it will help schools in a practical way to reflect and cherish diversity ensuring that everyone, regardless of cultural, religious or other differences, feels valued and accepted".

**• For further information, contact:
Cosgallen East Mayo CDP,
tel. 094-55070 or Mayo Travellers
Support Group, tel. 098-55182.**



Hundreds of people carried flags and wore costumes for the Parade of Nations in Limerick.

40 nations in Limerick intercultural weekend

The Sports Capital of the country was host to a unique mini-world cup and family fun festival during the summer with people from 40 nations taking part. Over 500 people of all ages ran, played soccer and paraded around the University of Limerick sports arena as part of the major event, which was organised by a network of Community Development Projects in the city.

Flags from all over the world flew high as youths led by CDPs in Moyross, Southill, St. Munchin's and St. Mary's came together to lead a Parade of Nations.

"The weekend festival marked the culmination of six month's work in building cross-cultural and cross-city relations and promoting mutual understanding and respect among the different ethnic groups and communities in our city," said Juan Carlos Azzopardi, project co-ordinator with the Community Development Network Moyross.

"The parade symbolised the aim of the weekend: 'bringing together people of all ages, religions, nationalities and cultures to participate in sports, arts and fun events,'" he added.

During the weekend, flame-throwers and face-painters provided entertainment,

and there was drumming from Pakistan and India, gypsy music, gospel-singing from West Africa, and obstacle courses and novelty races for the children.

The event was organised by the Community Development Network Moyross (a CDP), St. Munchin's CDP, St. Mary's CDP, the U.L. Access Office, Moyross Action Centre, Doras Luimni, Northside We're OK Initiative (a project set up jointly by the two CDPs based in north Limerick city), Limerick Youth Service and Shannonside Sports.

In the Mini-World Cup, Argentina (Southill Training Academy) retained their title from last year, beating Moldova/Romania in the final by six goals to one. Brazil (Moyross Young Men's Group) overcame Holland (Doras-Luimni) to take third-place.

Sponsorship for the event came through the government's national 'Know Racism' campaign and it is hoped the anti-racism event will take place again next year and include even more people from around Limerick city and the globe.

The Minister of State for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Willie O'Dea, and City Development Board chairperson, Cllr. John Ryan, attended the event.

Projects urged to act on violence against women

Women's Aid, a specialist support agency to the CDSP, will soon launch their annual '16 Days of Action on Violence Against Women'. The event is part of a global campaign for women's human rights and starts on November 25th - International Day Against Violence Against Women - and ends on December 10th - International Human Rights Day. The campaign aims to: (a) highlight the prevalence of male violence; (b) create awareness of such violence as a human rights violation, and (c) promotes women's leadership in taking on the issue.



Women's Aid demonstrate outside government buildings as part of the 16 Days of Action Campaign

Anyone can get involved! Any individual or group, in any location, who wishes to highlight violence against women, can take action for the 16 Days.

Previous years have seen people organise public events and actions and use the local media to highlight the violence. Women, groups and organisations could be organised to join in events or actions in your area

For more information, contact Women's Aid: Everton House, 47 Old Cabra road, Dublin 7.
NATIONAL FREEPHONE HELPLINE 1800 341 900; TEL: 01 868 4721; FAX: 01 868 4722; E-mail: info@womensaid.ie; Acting Director, Margaret Martin, e-mail: margaret.martin@womensaid.ie
Website: www.womensaid.ie

CE cuts may endanger drugs project

Minister for State, Noel Ahern heard concerns about threatened cutbacks to Jobs Initiative and Community Employment places when he opened the North West Inner City Training and Development project on Monday, September, 29th.

Despite the assurances that drug-related Community Employment projects would be 'ring-fenced' in the proposed funding cutbacks, there is still fear among project participants and sponsors such as the North West Inner City Training and Development Project that they will be affected.

The project has 13 participants who are all

former opiate users stabilised on methadone and is based in the MACRO CDP offices in Dublin's north west inner city. The project aim is that after completing the two to three year personally tailored development programme, the participants will go on to secure further training, education or employment. So far, from the current project;

- Four people on the programme who were early school leavers received Honours in Junior Certificate English in September of this year. This is a huge achievement and surpassed the expectations of the participants.

- In June project participants raised €500 for four female members of the group who completed the women's mini-marathon (as did Holly the project mascot dog) this money will now be spent on project resources.
- Two participants have had work experience with a local newsletter and hope to continue with this on-the-job training; more participants will continue to be involved in this training.
- All have completed Health & Safety and First Aid Certificates.



Children from Cherry Orchard taking part in very popular seventh Annual Halloween Festival.

Halloween Festival lights up Cherry Orchard

The seventh annual Halloween festival is in full swing in the Cherry Orchard housing estate in West Dublin. Each year the festival becomes bigger with both adults and children involved in preparing for several weeks beforehand. LINK CDP project leader Susan Hopkins, told 'Changing Ireland' "The Festival has been a real community development project in its own right with everybody involved in a very positive way for the local area."

Tosach training for development workers

Tosach Support Agency is offering a new 'Development Worker Training' programme which will focus on key skills training to community development workers. The programme, which will run over 10 weeks, starting in January 2004, includes modules on 'Doing outreach work'; 'Working with organisations' and 'Planning'. The course will be run in Tosach's office in Nelson Mandela House, Gardiner Street Dublin. Further information is available from Tosach (01-8171911) e-mail: info@tosach.ie or on the Tosach website: www.tosach.ie

Lifford/Clonleigh CDP building healthy communities

The Lifford Clonleigh CDP is one of thirteen groups who have recently been approved for funding under the Building Healthy Communities Programme. The programme being run by the Combat Poverty Agency and is designed 'to support disadvantaged communities tackle poverty and health inequalities by promoting the practice of community development'. In partnership with the North Western Health Board, the Lifford/Clonleigh CDP has received fund-

ing to facilitate meaningful participation of the communities in Castlefin and Lifford in the Primary Care Team implementation project in this part of Donegal. This will involve working closely with the local community, local GP practices and the North Western Health Board staff. The project aims to promote better health in the area by the combined use of resources in the health service and in the local community. Contact: Brid McMenamin Tel: 074 42109 email: liffclonrc@eircom.net

North West CDSP Regional Forum

Around 50 volunteer management committee members and staff attended the latest meeting of the North West CDSP Regional Forum in Donegal Town on the evening of 2nd October 2003. The main speaker was Gerry Mangan, Director of the Social Inclusion Unit in the Department of Social and Family Affairs who outlined the philosophy adopted around the development of social and economic policy both

in Ireland and in the European Union. Gerry talked of these developments in the context of Ireland's forthcoming Presidency of the European Union. The talk was followed by workshops looking at how to match national and European policies with practical resources and work along with how projects could influence the policy making process.

46 city groups now speak as one

St. Munchin's CDP in Limerick city has helped set up an umbrella group so the community can truly speak with one voice.

"We went around to all the community groups because there was very little coordination or co-operation between the groups and we proposed the need for a representative structure. All 46 groups in the community met and elected an umbrella group," explained CDP co-ordinator, Susan O'Neill.

Now, the locally-based umbrella with 18 elected members from St. Munchin's Parish can ensure the area's voice is heard at local, regional and national level.

The move is a response to changes in local government structures and increasing pressure on communities to speak their mind.

The members of the umbrella group come from all corners of the Parish and also are representative of the issues that face people in the area.

"We also act as a support for new and existing groups in improving communication links and we lobby for improved facilities and services locally," said Susan.

The umbrella group has been up and running since February 2002 and well over 100 people attended the official launch which took place on October 17th.



Africa was looking tasty at the ICON intercultural food and music festival.

City cooks up a multi-cultural feast

Food and music from all parts of the world was served up as part of an intercultural social event sponsored by Dublin's ICON (Inner City Organisations Network) in Nelson Mandela House on September 25th. The event was part of the preparation for

the opening of the multi-cultural resource centre in Mandela House later in the year. The Resource centre is a joint initiative of ICON, Tosach Support Agency and the children's charity, CRADLE.

Rubbish art wins community award

Our Lady of Lourdes CDP in Limerick city has won a national prize for its environmentally-friendly artwork. The work saw children from the local national school turn waste objects into works of art which then went on display in the city library and community centre.

The CDP, based in the Ballinacurra/Weston part of the city, won the Community Environment Award in a competition sponsored by the ESB and Conservation Volunteers Ireland.

The community centre linked with pupils and parents for 'All Together to Make the Place Look Better' project and won the praise

of famous botanist, Dr. David Bellamy, in September.

"It has struck me," he said, in presenting the award to the CDP's Ann Bourke, "that what we have lost during my lifetime is community spirit, but the pieces are beginning to come back together again and the environment is welding people together."

He acknowledging the CDP's "tremendous effort" in this regard.

In July, Our Lady of Lourdes CDP Young Women's Group made a big impression at Limerick City Gallery with an art exhibition about their neighbourhood.

Family day in west a success

A FORUM CDP Family Day involving everything from juggling to dodging the rain took place on Sunday, September 14th, in the Connemara West Centre, Letterfrack, Co. Galway.

The afternoon was wet but a good crowd turned out to take part.

Stallholders displayed goods, the Letterfrack Farmers Co-op managed a bouncy castle and sheltered the children from the rain. Also a disco and juggling workshop took place in the Connemara West canteen.

Face-painters worked hard all afternoon creating tigers, clowns and various exotic creatures while a drumming workshop took place for the teenagers present. The FORUM Social Care team provided refreshments in the Ellis Hall canteen.

The idea of the FORUM Family Day was to provide activities and fun for all the family and to provide an opportunity to take part in a variety of fun sports and different types of entertainment.

Carers' groups meet Oireachtas committee

Three members of the North Leitrim and West Cavan Carers' group met with the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social and Family Affairs in Leinster House to discuss the position of full-time family Carers on the 23rd September 2003.

The carers' group was started by Community Connections CDP in 1999 in response to the difficult and sometime severe circumstances people found themselves in when caring for a family member.

The Committee of TDs and Senators warmly received Ann McGowan, Teresa Harte and Liam Kirwin of the carers' group, who were accompanied by Sandy Holland of Community Connections.

The group made recommendations to the committee that would improve the services and supports available to carers and their families. These included improvements in the provision of home respite services, greater co-ordination of individual caring cases within the health service, and reforming the means test used to assess people for the Carers and Respite Allowances.

The members of the Carers' group talked to the committee about the importance of recognising the role that Carers play in caring for their family member and maintaining care at home, rather than having their family member admitted to institutional care at substantial cost to the State. They also stressed the importance of the community supports for Carers' such as the supports given to the Carers' group by Community Connections and in the form of the support to Carers through Siobhan McEniff, the Carers Development Officer in the North Western Health Board.

The visit came about as a result of a joint submission made by the group, along with Community Connections, to the Oireachtas Committee earlier in the year. Five other groups looking at different aspects of care from other parts of Ireland also attended the meeting. The Oireachtas committee will shortly be submitting a report and making recommendations on full-time Carers to the Minister of Social & Family Affairs and other relevant Departments and agencies on the future provision of services and supports for Carers' in Ireland.

The North Leitrim and West Cavan Carers' Group meet monthly in Manorbhamilton, Co. Leitrim and have a range of social activities and a monthly newsletter, which is circulated to Carers and health professionals.

• **For more information: contact Sandy Holland: Tel. 071-9853321.**

E-mail: info@communityconnections.ie



Teresa Harte and Ann McGowan of the North Leitrim and West Cavan Carers' Group in Dublin for their meeting with the Joint Oireachtas Committee.

Community Café opens in Waterford

A 'Community Café' was launched in Waterford during the summer. The Café is being run entirely on a voluntary basis by a group of local women and is being supported by the Larchville/Lisduggan CDP.

Maureen Dower, Chairperson of the CDP, expressed her delight at the opening ceremony on August 8th, "Our first aim is to provide the people of Larchville and Lisduggan with a space where they can come and have a chat over a cup of coffee and a scone, our second aim is to encourage people to visit this new centre and look at what's on offer here. This is a fantastic facility and it's right on our doorstep."

Does your project have a story?

If you or your project has a story for 'Changing Ireland', contact one of our Regional Reporters:

- **Nick Murphy**, Dublin, Tel. 01-284-5722 or 01-284-2332
- **Martine Brennan**, South-West, Tel. 086-838-5345
- **Declan Weir**, West, Tel. 094-30712
- **Sandy Holland and Martin Reading**, North-West, Tel. 072-53321
- **Lorcan Brennan**, South East, Tel. 051-844260/1
- **Maurice McConville**, North-East, Tel. 042-935-7595
- News from projects in the Mid-West, Midlands and East regions should be sent directly to the editor, tel. 061-458011, e-mail allenmeagher@eircom.net

The Regional Reporters have all worked or work currently with the Community Development Support Programmes. This edition's project news comes chiefly from Gerry McKeever, Tosach Support Agency, and Sandy Holland, Community Connections CDP.

It's never too late to start living

By ANN MCGOWAN

Some years ago when you came to 55 years of age, it was time to slow down, put on the slippers and put the feet up and wait for the long sleep to come. But things have sure changed if the Twilight Zone Active Age Group in Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, are anything to go by.

In February of 2002, when Mary B. Kerrigan, chairperson of Atlantic View CDP, and I, started this group the idea was to create a night once a week as a social outlet for those who had finished rearing their children and had time on their hands but nowhere to go.

That was the original idea, but once Ann had talked them into getting up on the back of a lorry for the St Patrick's Day Parade and they realised the 'craic' it was (to top it all the float won first prize in Bundoran and Ballyshannon) there was no stopping them.

With funding accessed through Atlantic View CDP, it was on to Aqua Aerobics, Swimming, Tai Chi, Art. Then it was drama, when with a script 'It's Never too Late to Start Living' (and these women are living proof of this) which was broadcast on Mid & NW Radio they were shortlisted for the Drama & Short Story competition.

And let's not forget the trips to Glen Veigh National Park, the Dail, Seanad and EU Offices in Dublin plus a holiday in Salou, Spain, which they saved up for each week. Some of the members had never had a foreign holiday before.

After that it was the 'Age Rage' drama promoting a 'Voice for Older People' with the North Western Health Board (NWHB) in which all members took part. This was written and directed by Maura Logue of the Balor Community Theatre. The drama group has taken this to various venues which include Ballyshannon, Bundoran, Ballybofey, Letterkenny and are now heading to Dublin next month where they will perform for the Senior Citizens Parliament.

These are only some of the activities they were involved in - there was also Yoga, Mirror Etching, Committee Skills and Public Speaking. And remember this has all been in the last 19 months.

Now it's on to another year and already some of the members have been attending conferences and meetings relevant to the rights of the senior citizen. They have now just been granted EUR800 from the National Lottery (administered by the NWHB) and I wonder what they are going to do next?

These are determined women and I'm sure they will improve the lot of the older person before they're finished. If this is what I have to look forward to, roll on the day when I am eligible to join them.

The only down side to this is that the men won't join the group, which seems to be the story in the rest of the community development groups also. If there is anyone out there who has a solution to this I would love to hear it.

*Ann McGowan is a community development worker with Atlantic View CDP.

Mid-West prepares for new era of endorsement

It is now a requirement of funding by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs that various community groups, including CDP, submit their plans to City/County Development boards for endorsement.

"If there isn't co-ordination between what is in the County Plan and what is actually delivered in the County... people are going in different directions," said Minister Ó Cuiv at a Review Seminar during the summer.

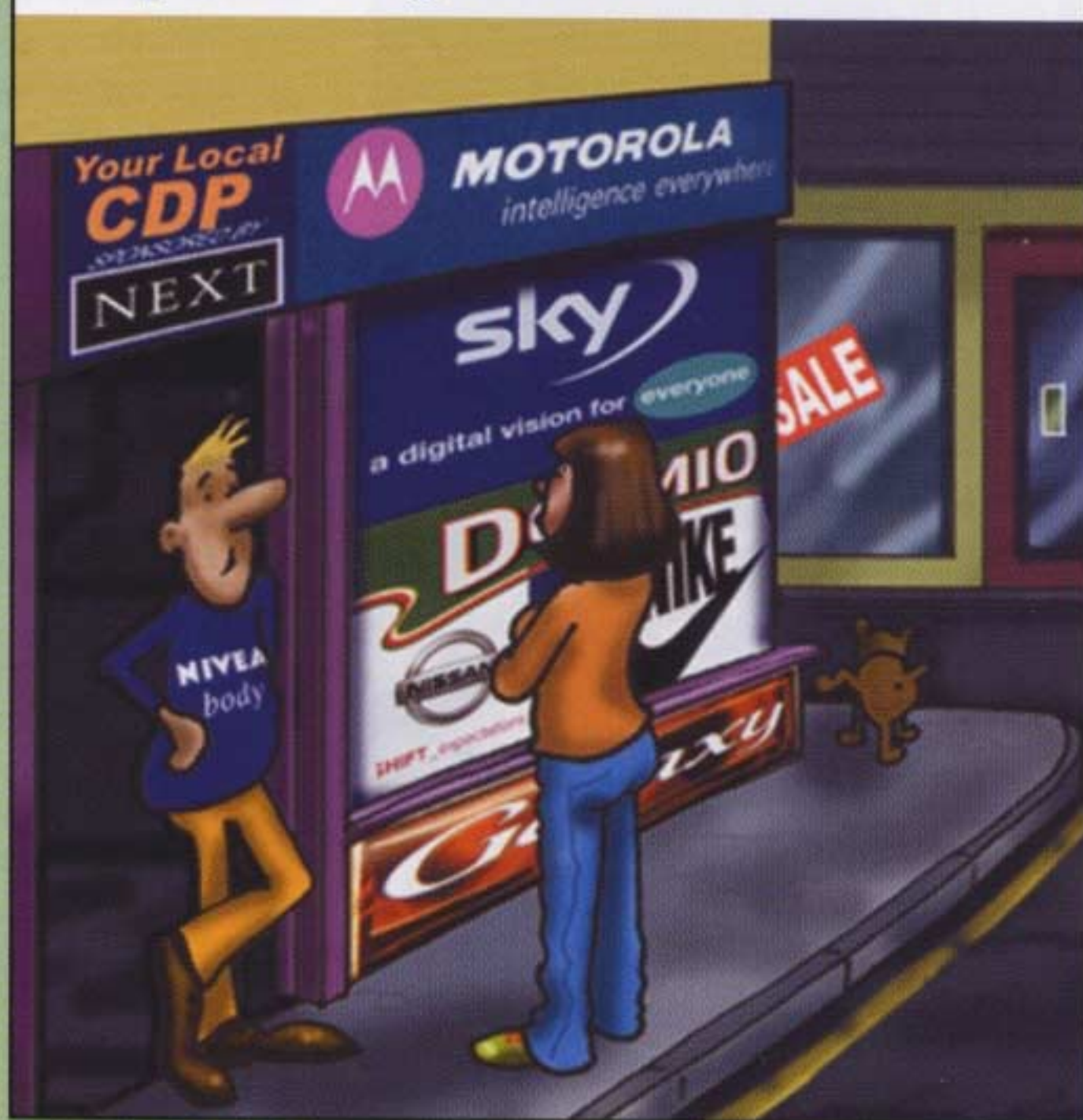
The 170 CDPs throughout the country have been sent a set of guidelines from the Department. In future, CDP plans will have to be submitted to the Social Inclusion Measures (SIMs) Committee of each local authority who will "point out potential areas of conflict or overlap." Each CDP, state the guidelines, will then indicate to the SIMs Committee "what changes, if any, it proposes to make to the plan."

Projects have been networking in the regions to see how best to handle the new 'endorsement' process. In the Mid-West, for example, the projects (acting through their Regional Core Strategy Group) have made a number of proposals to strengthen the SIMs Committee since it has a central role in the endorsement process. Mid-West CDPs want "representation, by right, of each national social inclusion programme" on the SIMs Committee.

"The Regional Core Strategy Group feel that this is necessary in order to advance the social inclusion agenda. Wide community participation is necessary to defend the autonomy of communities to challenge legislation, policies and practices which generate exclusion," point out the Mid-West projects.

- For more information, check out the news section of: www.mwcdsa.ie

What if the CDB endorsement process gets out of hand!



Cartoon by Austin Creaven

Drug Awareness in north Limerick

How on earth can one drug-awareness worker solve the problem of drug-(ab)use in north Limerick?

It is unrealistic to think that one drugs awareness worker is sufficient to tackle the illicit drugs problem in north Limerick city. However, it is very important to have someone on the ground and my main remit is doing prevention work with young people at risk of using illegal drugs. I work primarily in out-of-school settings such as youth clubs. I think it is very important to establish relationships with these young people and to make them feel comfortable about discussing the issues of illegal drug use and also of alcohol and cigarettes, which is in many ways bigger than the problem of illegal drugs.

Are communities too afraid of drug dealers to confront them here in Limerick as they did in Dublin and force them out?

The way that we work is to allow young people to make informed choices. We don't campaign in a political sense to target drug dealers.

Are there individuals that you can point to and say 'His/her life has changed for the better because of my work'?

There are a number of people that I have worked with and established good relationships with, they know what I do and are able to talk to me with their problems. They know that I will give them a fair hearing and that I wouldn't judge them or talk down to them. If need be I would refer them onto Slainte (a Mid-Western Health Board drugs and alcohol treatment service) or find them the relevant information.

What activities are available to help divert people from taking drugs?

Close to 50% of the northside Limerick population is under-20 and there is a great shortage of suitable venues and activities for young people. The project I work for tries to fill this gap by providing funding to youth clubs and other out-of-school initiatives that offer places for young people to gather and feel safe.

Do you agree with the total ban on smoking in pubs due to come into effect in January?

Yes, I do very strongly.

Allen Carr says it is as hard to get off smoking cigarettes as to get off heroin - do you agree?

I've heard that is the case. I've run stop-smoking courses, the last was with a group of six women between the ages of 30 - 45 years old and they are all still smoking.

Is the problem with heroin in Limerick as bad as people think?

I think the problem is exaggerated.

What percentage of north Limerick city people do not abuse drugs?

Most people do not abuse illegal drugs, but there are many abusing legal drugs such as alcohol, cigarettes and tranquillisers.

What are the aims of the National Drug Strategy (NDS)?

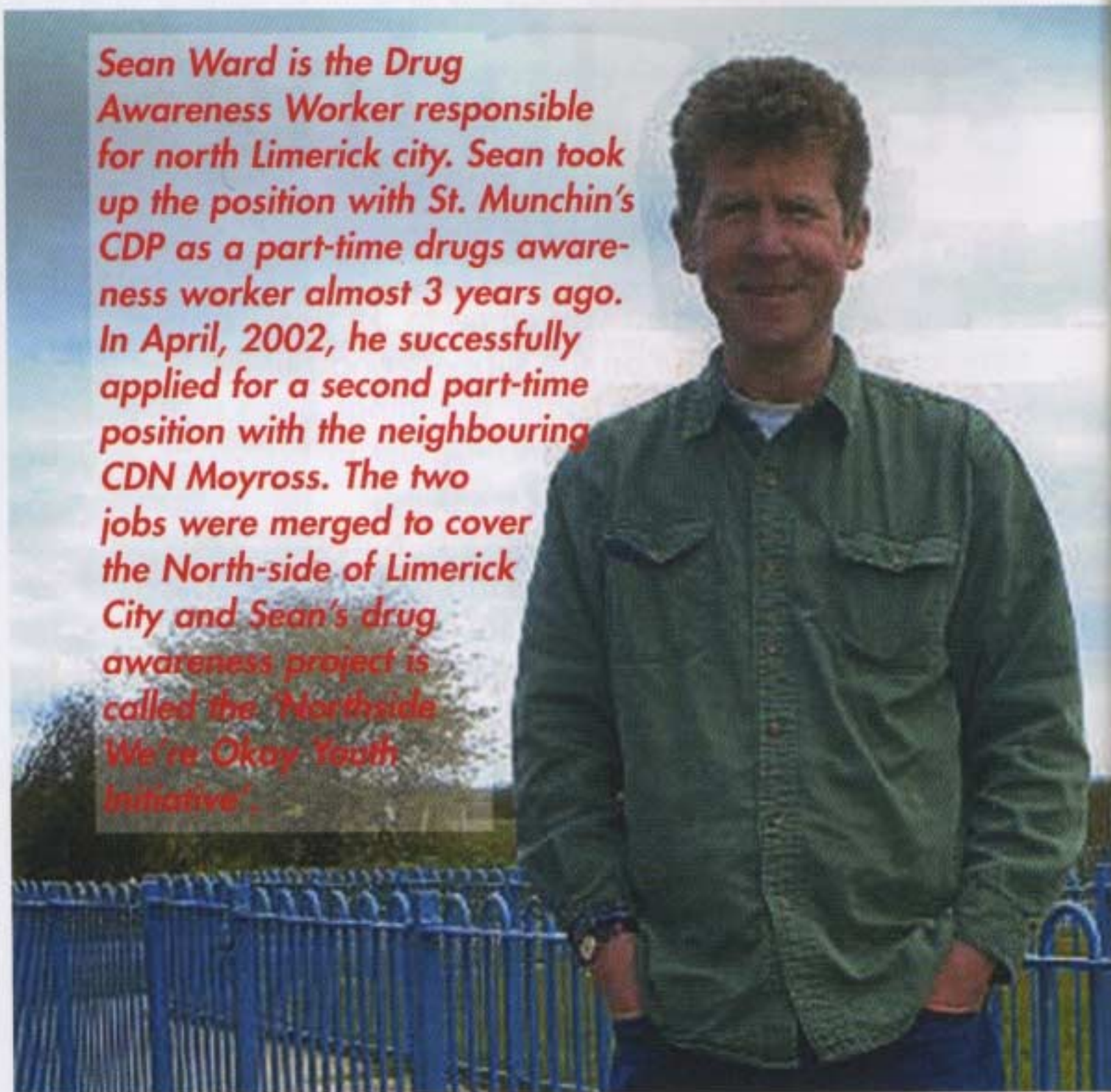
It is a Government policy, running from 2001 - 2008 and was launched to combat illicit drug use in Ireland. It operates on 4 pillars:

- Supply Reduction - Gardai and Customs & Excise.
- Prevention - Drugs Awareness/Education Work.
- Treatment - Treatment centres like Bruree, Co. Limerick.
- Research - Collection of data, to give a clearer picture.

What changes need to come about?

I think the main change which has been happening, certainly since

Sean Ward is the Drug Awareness Worker responsible for north Limerick city. Sean took up the position with St. Munchin's CDP as a part-time drugs awareness worker almost 3 years ago. In April, 2002, he successfully applied for a second part-time position with the neighbouring CDN Moyross. The two jobs were merged to cover the North-side of Limerick City and Sean's drug awareness project is called the 'Northside We're Okay Youth Initiative'.



the time I've been involved, is that there are much greater linkages between statutory and voluntary bodies and also local groups within the communities where I work. These types of developments don't happen overnight, it takes time to build up these relationships and the trust that goes with them, which is all-important. There are now three drug awareness workers working with three disadvantaged communities in Limerick.

Tell us about the hidden drugs culture around here?

I work with young people and it is seldom that prescribed drugs filter through to this age group. Tranquillisers are mainly a problem among adults. Many young people that I work with view cannabis as an alternative choice to alcohol. They prefer using cannabis because they see it as cheaper and having fewer side effects.

In 2001, you were working on getting a skate-park opened in Limerick. It hasn't opened. What happened?

The latest proposal to open a skate-park at Limerick's Shelbourne Park was shot down by a combination of residents and local politicians. They objected to it being open late in the evening (10 pm) and because of the loss of some green area. I along with others are still committed to finding a suitable venue.

What is the main drug used among community development workers?

I imagine it's no different than in the rest of society.

Finding information on drugs?

There are a number of websites which contain key information about drug addiction and harm caused by drugs, treatment services, and research as well as general information on the type of drugs available:

www.drugsinfo.ie
www.hrb.ie
www.nacd.ie
www.emcdda.org

Is the era of social partnership coming to an end?

NICK MURPHY interviews SÉAMUS CARRAHER



Séamas Carraher is a community activist of many years standing. Presently a member of the management committee of Ballyogan Family Resource Centre in Carrickmines, Dublin, Séamas has worked tirelessly with another group over the last two years to set up a community mediation service. Nobody could accuse Séamas of being unwilling to talk or reluctant to enter into partnerships to achieve change.

However, Séamas sees worrying trends emerging in the Governments attitude to Partnership with the community sector:

"Changes are happening in the Community Sector. We see tightening budgets and a social and economic climate that argues that reduced costs and increased profits is the only logical way of doing business. Government also seems to have a sense that community development has happened in a haphazard fashion and could do with being put right!"

On the other hand Séamas also sees communities express dissatisfaction with the way things are going on the ground:

"Disadvantaged communities are getting angry. Obviously in Dublin the introduction of service charges in disadvantaged communities alongside the significant cuts in funding to these areas, have fuelled a lot of anger.

"There seems to be a growing sense that people in poverty have always been used to injury: living conditions that aren't fit to raise children in, (let alone pass a health and safety statement), little income or resources, high un-employment, increasing levels of crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour...etc...etc...It seems now, though, that there is a growing sense of insult-added-to-injury among the people who are the body and soul of our community development work."

Communities are watching

Séamas feels the strain of reconciling these two views is starting to chip away at the whole concept of social partnership.

"For months now there has been a growing feeling that something is less right now than it has ever been. Steam is being let off in public meetings about cuts in community employment or defending refuse collection. Communities are watching developments that rather than make their lives better, negatively affect their lives and their areas. There is a growing feeling that the decisions of the pow-

ers-that-be are making the divisions in society more extreme," said Séamas.

He sees a hardening of attitudes on both sides. The language now on both sides seems to be more of an us-them approach, more of a 'who-do-they-think-they-are'.

Powerful are withdrawing

This, sadly for those of us who believe in peace-building and dialogue, isn't the language of social partnership, nor is it the language of 'participation' or 'empowerment'.

There seems to be a growing feeling that, despite all our efforts as community workers to build healthy and stable partnerships, it is the system we have tried to build dialogue with that no longer wishes to talk with us - but rather at us. It seems now it's not the impoverished communities that are withdrawing from Partnership but the more powerful partners. Who can blame communities who begin to believe they were only there to meet their own needs and not to "share the wealth" nor to build a truly inclusive society.

Spontaneous empowerment

Despite this, in Ballyogan, Séamas says people are trying to make partnership work: "People have come from their houses to meet and talk about issues such as public or community services, the cuts in existing resources, the building of a new county council dump which is not safe for the families, the building of a motorway wall which oppresses the people living beside it.

"These people are spontaneously empowered and participating fully in their desire for a better, more just and equal society, but people are getting angry because these decisions affect them and no-one has had the decency to take either their feelings or their needs into consideration."

"There is a growing feeling that we are leaving an era of partnership behind and entering an era where the decision-makers see Social Partnership primarily as an impediment to its plans and the decisions it wishes to make both for the communities we live in and the society all our children will inherit," said Séamas.

Wake up!

So, as a trained mediator, what does

Séamas suggest is the way forward?

"The powerful and the decision-makers need to wake up to the presence of all those we classify as disadvantaged. They must realise that the alienation in our communities is not caused by what the powerful describe as 'some people you can never make happy'. No, the alienation and disaffection is caused by a system that, to keep one section of the people up, has to keep others down."

Séamas said people had to be included in the decision-making or the wrong decisions would be made.

"We all need to question what true Partnership means. We must stop seeing the other person's views and experience as an obstacle we need to remove (or ignore) in order to get our own needs met. Partnership can work provided both parties are willing to work at it and take the time to build the respect needed to get the results," he added.

Fancy some golf kids?

"We have more golf clubs in this country than we have children's playgrounds. There is one golf club for every 10,000 people in this country and one children's playground for every 19,000 people. We care twice as much for golfers as for children - this indicates a certain mindset."

- Green Party Leader, Trevor Sargent, T.D., on a visit to the 'Changing Ireland' office in Limerick.

FF's first duty

"Fianna Fail's first duty must always be to people who are suffering disadvantage. If we ever lose that we will lose our soul as a party."

- Minister of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuiv, T.D., quoted in the last edition of Magill, September 2003.



Inside the largest shanty town in South America

- *Rocinha, Rio de Janeiro: official pop. 60,000; actual pop. 200,000*

Our main misgivings about Rio's Favela Tour was that it could be a patronizing and contemptuous way to visit a place where poor people live. However, a Brazilian community development worker assured us it was not like that.

And yet, given that more teenagers die in Favela violence in Brazil each year than die in the Israel/Palestine conflict, touring the area by tank nearly sounded like a good idea. But the locals do not travel in tanks and we - four Irish - were actually relieved when the guide, Merina, stuck her head out the window of a battered Volkswagen van and urged us to climb aboard.

"Now, you are going where local residents in Rio de Janeiro do not go. They are only familiar with these places through what they hear and read in the media," she began.

Rio city has a population of 6 million people, nearly 2 million of whom live in favelas - there are 270 favelas in total, most curving up the sides of the city's famous steep hills. And, so we rattled up the first hill towards the Rocinha Favela, the largest favela in South America, according to Merina.

'Not paradise, but friendly'

"We are doing this tour for 11 years now," she said. "We first asked the local people and they were completely in favour of showing outsiders what favelas are like - you will not be killed or robbed - the media exaggerates the negative and ignores the positive. It's not paradise but the people here are very nice and friendly. On tour guides and city maps, Rocinha is shown as a green area, as if it doesn't exist.

By **ALLEN MEAGHER**

"The officials say there are 60,000 people living in Rocinha; the people themselves say they number 200,000. The government won't provide houses, so people build their own houses. In Brazil, after five years living on public land on the hills, you own the land. But because a favela is never planned, there are only three streets and one main road in Rocinha. Everywhere else is lanes," said Merina.

Before we turn the corner that takes us into Rocinha we pass a huge ornate building, the American School. It is attended by 1000 children, at US\$1000 each per month. We slow down to squeeze by the chauffeur-driven luxury cars that queue up to collect the children of the rich. Marina tells us the average income in Rocinha is US\$120 and the point is made - no-one from Rocinha sends their children to school here. Ironically, gangs never attack the cars, children or chauffeurs - there is some respect for the fact that the school operates so close to the favela. The gangs might shut off a motorway downtown or leave a bomb outside a Copacabana hotel, but they leave the school in peace.

"It is typical and normal for rich and poor to live in neighbourhoods beside each," said Merina, pointing to expensive houses across the road from the favela. "We live close, but apart," she said as we turned the final corner and the streetscape changed utterly.

A favela is a forgotten place

Hundreds of thin, white pipes ran down the sides of buildings and a tangle of wires

criss-crossed the road. Each house, for lack of proper planning, had its own piped water system - hence the hundreds of pipes, and the story must have been something similar with electricity. So they had water, electricity, television. Yes, and banks, shops, markets, bars, and all the homes, though small, ramshackle and built on top of each other, were made of brick. The settlement is 50 years old.

"This place is not miserable - some shops accept credit cards - but it is poor," said Merina.

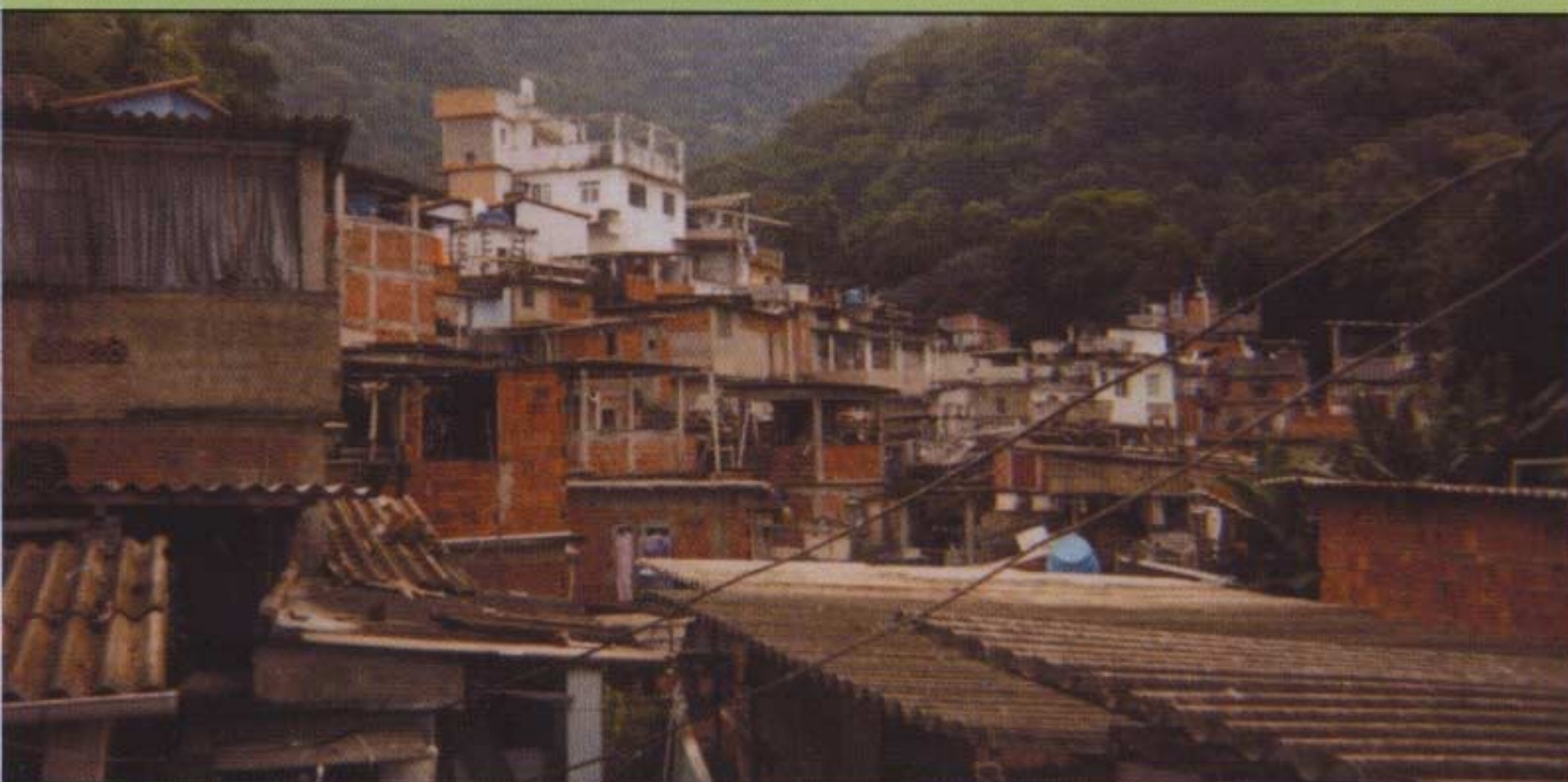
The lanes have no names, so people do not have addresses and the mail is delivered to local community centres. An important part of community development work in favelas throughout Brazil is to name and number the lanes and houses. Then people can more easily open bank accounts and deal with officialdom, though that may mean having to pay electricity bills too so some people do not want their homes numbered.

"A favela is a forgotten place, ignored by the city, but favelas have developed so much by themselves," continued Merina as we got back into the van after visiting a local artist's street-stall. "Here, they have their own cable tv service, there are two banks, even a McDonalds, three bus lines and two community newspapers. There are shops selling everything you could want from furniture to clothing to household goods and groceries - you might never have need to leave a favela unless it was to find legitimate work. But a favela is a stigma for us.

"The people living here are hard-working people and honest, but they have to obey the laws of the drug-dealers. It is the same in all favelas. You cause no trouble, nothing that would bring on the attention of the police. You don't complain to the police if you are robbed.

Alcohol most abused drug

"The dealers pay the local police to ignore them. In Rio de Janeiro there are three main drugs gangs, the biggest being 'Red Command' which has sole control over Rocinha so there is no inter-gang violence in this favela. There are 50 different places here to buy drugs (we passed one) mostly cocaine, though ecstasy is now becoming popular, and most of the customers are from the rich areas. Use of illegal drugs is less of



The view across a small part of Rocinha Favela, Rio de Janeiro, from the rooftops.



Photograph by
Jackie Dwane



a problem here than in rich areas because drugs are quite expensive. The main drug abused by people here is alcohol.

Pinga (Brazil's answer to vodka) is the most popular - you can buy a litre bottle for €1.50," continued our guide.

Under-18s in Brazil cannot be jailed, so there is easy money if you work for the drug-dealers. Alternatively, for every 75 soft-drinks cans you collect, you receive R\$3 (one euro) from the recycling companies. Children here live between salvation and temptation.

"Still, the population is rising. People want to stay here because there is a great sense of community. For example, neither fire brigades nor ambulances can assist here (because of all the lanes) and neighbours help each other all the time. Hmm, and it is a good thing that the houses are built from bricks," added Merina.

As we left Rocinha to visit the smaller Vila Canoas Favela which was nearby, we felt quite relaxed. Tough as things were, they did not seem as bad as depicted in the award-winning, crime-obsessed film 'City of Gods' (released at the start of this year).

Thankfully, the government has not completely ignored the favelas. Rocinha is protected from landslides by infrastructural works on the mountainside and a development programme called Favela-Barro has a presence in every one of Rio's 270 favelas. Yet, as Merina explained, each favela has different needs: "For example, here in Vila Canoas, the houses now have electricity metres and a proper sewerage and water system."

Yes, no messy white piping here. We wandered through lanes and alleys, had a drink in the smallest bar I've ever been in - seating was in the laneway, called into a house and eventually, for our last stop of the tour we visited a community school project (funded by Rotary as it happened). I bought some knitted baby boots from the schoolkids and we were off out through the lanes into the van and onto a motorway past the Sheraton Hotel ("a favela was levelled so the hotel could be built," noted Merina bitterly) and past €1,000,000 beach-side apartment properties and back to Copacabana. On the beaches there, kids kicked football. Most come from the favelas (you cannot play football on a hill) and dream of following Ronaldo to riches and glory.

www.favelatour.com.br
www.vivafavela.com.br

Introduction

'Changing Ireland' editor, Allen Meagher visited Brazil in early summer on a cultural exchange visit organised by Rotary International, a world-wide volunteer organisation with a strong interest in social projects. Allen was one of five Irish who spent four weeks in south-eastern Brazil thanks to the Rotary exchange. The trip was organised entirely by volunteers.

During his travels, he interviewed a family living in a flood-prone slum in Sertãozinho, development workers and volunteers in São Carlos, development programme staff in São Paulo, and others. He also toured two of the shanty towns in Rio de Janeiro.

Previously, 'Changing Ireland' has reported on development trends in the Philippines, India and Uzbekistan. This is the first of a two-part report from Brazil.

Allen is grateful to everyone, Irish and Brazilian, who played a part in the cultural exchange. A special thanks to Dani, Ailton, Ivo, Valeria, Thomas, Delzio and Antonio for introducing me to people living in poverty and/or working to combat it. In the next edition, we will examine more closely how and why Brazil's employers are so involved in community development. And we will hear from shanty-town dwellers and development workers on their fight against poverty and disadvantage.

500 projects sprang up after death squad killed kids

There are many development projects operating in Brazil's favelas. Viva Rio sprung up in response to violence that gripped Rio in 1993, particularly after eight street children were murdered by police in front of a church and 21 others were killed elsewhere in Rio. Thousands of outraged people dressed in white and marched in a silent call for peace and so Viva Rio was born. A non-profit organisation, its aim was to stimulate individuals, associations and companies to build a more democratic and just society.

According to Viva Rio, "With the widespread support of the population, we have developed peace campaigns and social projects directed specifically at youth, who are most vulnerable to violence and social risks. Nowadays, Viva Rio, in collaboration with others, has developed more than 500 projects in around 350 favelas and poor communities in Rio de Janeiro."

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Fight for Peace, educates and trains young boxers from favelas: www.lutapela-paz.org.br

Viva Cred, providing micro-credit for small business enterprises:

www.comerciosolidario.com.br

Rio das Flores and Rio Nova Housing Projects, collaborative effort to build 248 homes for flood victims and other work:

www.riodasflores.org.br

Neighbourhood Gardeners, providing gardening classes for poor youths who maintain public and private gardens and teach ecology classes in schools:

www.jardineirosdobairro.com.br

VOLUNTEER WORK

Recruitment and training of volunteers and of community organisations willing to receive them: www.voluntariado.org.br

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Other organisations work in the following fields and also have websites (contact the Editor): free legal assistance to favela dwellers; sports for youths; providing internet cafes in favelas, together with a favela-owned website; basic and secondary-level education; civil rights; music tutoring; promoting drug-awareness through theatre.



Footballers on Copacabana Beach. Many favela youths come to the beach to play in the evenings and dream of being chosen by a soccer scout.



HUNGRY FOR CHANGE:

'Urban Cropping' may cure hunger in world's mega-cities

- We watched DHL deliver food to 30,000 in Sao Paulo - Report: ALLEN MEAGHER

Brazil's new 'Zero Hunger' programme has a nationwide focus. Aimed solely at preventing hunger, it is limited in comparison to our CDSP's anti-poverty/exclusion programme, yet, at the same time it is hugely ambitious in that there are 54 million poor Brazilians and more than 15 million are going hungry.

In the early summer, President Lula began to closely examine a new method called 'urban cropping' whereby food normally thrown out (eg when food reaches the best-before date, but still has nutritious content) goes instead to feed hungry people. The food is 'harvested' by van-drivers who take the about-to-be-discarded-produce to feeding stations.

The van-drivers are employees of large corporations, sponsored by their employers to spend some work-time helping out. The vans too are donated, by DHL. Big business helping the poor, hungry and downtrodden? Yes, in fact an employers organisation called SESC has thought-up and spearheaded this novel new feeding programme. And so successful is it that President Lula brought it to the attention of the powerful G8 countries this year in the hope that the programme could be adopted globally.

On his Rotary exchange trip to Brazil, Allen Meagher visited Sao Paulo's 'Hunger HQ', better known as the SESC Sao Paulo 'Urban Crop' Food-Distribution Programme.

The thinking is simple - cities do not need to go far to harvest 'extra' food - they can engage in 'urban cropping' as Brazil's 25 million person mega-city has shown. Sao Paulo's 'Urban Crop' programme is based in a former car dealership, just three blocks from 'Crackland' in the dilapidated down



SESC regional manager, Joel Naimayer Padula, with Ivo Dall'Acqua, a board director with SESC Sao Paulo and a member of Araraquara Rotary Club. Mr. Dall'Acqua drove a 400-mile round trip to Sao Paulo to show 'Changing Ireland' readers how the poor and the employers work together to fight poverty and hunger.

town area of the city where the rent is cheap. Here, even the skyscrapers are derelict.

"Once bananas in a shop develop black spots, if the owner phones us, soon they will be on their way to a kitchen table, rather than going out with the garbage," said Ivo Dall'Acqua, a SESC board director.

A SESC Sao Paulo van is driven into the warehouse and the day's crop is unloaded. Crates of onions, carrots, sweet potatoes and other vegetables too tropical to recognise. The volunteers smile shyly for my camera, click-click, as Ivo explains that 130 tonnes of food passes through the warehouse each month, and they distribute food to 30,000 people daily.

"That still leaves 370,000 people in Sao Paulo eating less than the minimum required daily, but if a new law can be passed indemnifying restaurants from being sued, then much more can be done," said Ivo.

For now, the 'Urban Crop' programme only harvests non-processed foods, mostly fruit, vegetables and bread. Hygiene is crucially important - only food that is safe to eat can be distributed. And time is of the essence - by next morning the onions, carrots, spuds and mystery veg I saw stored away will be simmering away in various pots around the city.

The anti-hunger programme statistics are posted on the wall for the hordes of journalists calling in ever since President Lula showed interest: In Sao Paulo State, 14 million meals are produced annually. 200 volunteers are directly involved and many others are volunteers in the 177 institutions who receive the meals to pass onto the hungry. 2,800 people are trained in this special form of food distribution and nearly 200 partner companies are actively involved in supporting the programme by donating their services or seconding employees to work in the distribution.

"But, there is still not enough food being collected for everyone," warned project worker, Elizabeth Hutter de Brito (Betty). "Also transport is a problem. Look at the map of the city - the 166 yellow buttons are all areas where we do not distribute food yet."

Because of urban violence, it is still not possible to deliver to every poor area in of Sao Paulo. DHL provides the project with four vans and only once was a van held up by robbers - they promptly returned the vehicle and contents when they discovered its mission.

This mission has a global reach, if only other countries are willing to adopt it.

www.sescsp.org.br

PRESIDENT DIVERTED MILITARY FUNDS TO FIGHT POVERTY

The new President of Brazil is Lula de Silva. He left school when he was six to shine shoes for a living and grew up poor. Brazil has a population of 170 million and 54 millions Brazilians live in poverty (estimates vary). After three election attempts, last year he became the first working-class Brazilian to be elected President. 'Lulu', as he is known, has slowly earned the trust of the middle-class and has earned respect throughout the Americas. He has made alleviating hunger his greatest goal. Building on good work by his conservative predecessor, he appears determined to succeed - this year he cancelled a \$450million order for new air

force jets and diverted the funds to his 'Zero Hunger' project. Brazil therefore is one of the only countries in the world to cut back on military spending this year.

During the rainy season, Lula brought his cabinet on a symbolic 'misery tour' of Brazil's poor spots, prompting Action Aid to state: "For the first time in Brazilian history, the fight against poverty is a government priority and not an add-on policy."

With the G8 nations, he is pushing Fome Zero as the blueprint for an international zero-hunger fund, funded by wealthy nations making contributions in proportion to their military spending, and driven too by private



President Lula de Silva.

corporations contributing to the fight against poverty. President Lula is making a genuine attempt to make the private sector see that its interests lie with helping to address deep social problems and some of them see the link clearly (see the report on SESC). His Brazilian story shows how, while the gap between rich and poor is vast, the relationship between the two may be changing radically and for the better.

Men's Summer School becoming a national event

By
LORCAN BRENNAN

Men from all over Ireland arrived in large numbers to take part in the Men's Development Network Annual Summer School last month. It is becoming a national event in that it is the only gathering of its kind in the country.

This year's Summer School took place at Seville Lodge in Kilkenny on the last weekend in September. Hosted by the Larchville/Lisduggan Men's Group from Waterford, men were invited to be themselves within a safe, supportive environment and to explore the key issues that affected their lives.

Included in the weekend were workshops under titles such as, Leadership, Fathers & Sons, Meditation, Health, Men & Work and Storytelling.

Asked what is special about the weekend that has been running for the last seven years chairperson, John O'Rourke said, "It gives men the rare opportunity to come together within a safe space and talk about their lives in a personal way. In some cases the weekend provides the space for men to talk for the first time ever about issues they carry as part of their lives and that stand in the way of them living better, richer and happier lives."

John, chairperson of the organisation for six years, continued: "The Men's Development Network has changed my life and I can honestly say that if I had been part of an organisation like it years ago my life could have been different and better."

The MDN is funded under the Community Development Support Programme. Its target group has been primarily men who experience disadvantage due to the effects of unemployment, marginalisation and men's conditioning.

Alongside running Summer Schools, Regional Days, Issue Based Days and Men's Groups, the MDN also finds itself increasingly in demand as an advocate, profiling all the issues that impact on men's lives. Focusing on supporting men to build self-confidence, self-esteem and self-respect, it also empowers men to take responsibility for their lives and actions, and build good relationships with themselves, each other, their partners, families, women, children, community and society.

Like many other groups within the CDSP the Network it is under-resourced to carry out its work across the region and further afield and it has had to refuse to take up many important work opportunities due to lack of resources.

A spokesperson for the organisation said, "Men and men's issues need to be seriously profiled and worked on. We hear so much, from so many sources about men being part of the problems we have in society, what we are saying is we need more resources to guarantee men can be part of positive, pro-active, strategic and alliance building solution."

For More Information Contact:
Michael or Lorcan, Men's
Development Network, 30 O'Connell
Street, Waterford. Tel.051-844260/1



Some of the 64 men who attended the Men's Development Network Summer school at Seville Lodge, Kilkenny.

*The Diary
of
Horace
McDermott*

... as he works through the joys and pains of life as a community development worker

Monday, 10.30am

I've been swamped with circulars and information packs on everything from Against Racism In The Workplace Week, 16 Days of Action Against Violence Against Women, National Recycling Week, National Crime Prevention Week, Cancer Awareness Week, help! But I've an idea - I'm going to Mick the Co-ordinator to see if we could organise a 'Financial Reports and Filing Awareness Week'. I've said it to Penny who was busy returning some quarterlies (she's right, there really are too many of those development magazines going around) and she loved the idea.

Tuesday, 3.30pm

I've had a big think about the idea of City/County Development Boards endorsing CDP plans. I think we should go for a much bigger and sexier player to endorse our product. I know David Beckham makes millions on endorsements, but if we got Daniel O'Donnell, D.J. Carey or our local G.A.A. hero to endorse them, it wouldn't cost too much. And if Daniel or D.J. endorsed the CDP plans - in fairness, they're better known than the City Development Boards - then people would be queuing up to become volunteers.

Wednesday, 4pm

I really think this endorsement crack has great potential. I had a chat with Ballybogs sporting giant Sylvie Chestmore. Sylvie is holder of the grand slam of all three titles as he is the current County Bog Snorkelling Champion, Slurry-Spreading Champ and Welly-Throwing Champ. He's on for being photographed with his winning welly, his snorkel and his spreader, and he'll wear a t-shirt that says 'CDP plans are good for you!' Or I'm thinking it could be 'CDP Work Plans - because you're worth it!' or 'CDP work plans work'. He doesn't mind which anyway. Still have to hear back from Mick though...

Thursday, 1.15pm (supposed to be at lunch)

I put a proposal to the Tidy Towns Committee to hold an arts week where everybody in the town would be asked to paint their house. I'm hoping Dulox will sponsor it and Jack B. Yeats (a good painter I'm told, think he's retired though) might endorse it.

Friday, 3pm

Sylvie went to the Ploughing in his winning wellies and lost the pair of them trying to get out of a portaloo. He's not in the mood anymore for endorsing us. It's devastating.

Saturday, 10.30pm

Should be cutting the grass, but can't stop thinking of possible endorsement slogans for other projects:

Guinness Men's Development Network - Not Men But Giants!
Ronseal Bantry CDP - Beautiful But Tough!
Homestead MACRO CDP - Brings Value Home!
Ronseal Ringsend CDP - It Does Exactly What It Says On The Tin!



CDPs crucial to future - Equality Authority

By ALLEN MEAGHER

Community Development Projects, particularly Traveller projects, have earned the respect and support from the director of the Equality Authority, Niall Crowley, for supporting people who have experienced discrimination to take cases against aggressors.

"A crucial dimension to community development work is its capacity to empower individuals who have been discriminated against," stated Mr. Crowley. He pointed out that CDPs have played roles in successfully representing Travellers, particularly in cases relating to access to pubs.

Mr. Crowley said such work has a benefit to the individual Traveller, it empowers the wider community and shows the community that the new equality legislation is relevant and effective for those experiencing discrimination.

"I also think CDPs play an important role in disseminating the outcomes of cases," he continued. "While the case might relate to an individual, if the case can change a wider practise that relates to the whole community, it is very integral to the community development process."

Mr. Crowley, in an interview with 'Changing Ireland', said the Tallaght Travellers Development Project, Traveller Visibility Group Cork and Citizens Information Centre in Sligo sprang to mind immediately as examples of community organisations who supported people experiencing discrimination to go through the legal process and seek redress.

Since 2000, the Equal Status Act, has worked to prevent discrimination in the provision of goods and services, and it is often community organisations that support and advise individuals who have been discriminated against on any of the nine grounds covered by the law (listed separately). Sometimes, community organisations actually represent people at hearings.

Besides Traveller projects, he would "like to see other community development groups within other communities across the nine grounds playing similar roles. The emergence of community advocacy, as we'd call it, as a strand of community development is quite important."

"I'd encourage CDPs to become more active in this regard. The equality legislation has the capacity to contribute to real change at local level and community development organisations are about achieving that real change. Also, community development organisations campaigned very strongly for

this legislation and it is important now that they are part of its effective implementation."

He heaped praise on CDPs, having seen them "develop an inclusive emphasis in the community" and having seen them "build solidarity between groups experiencing inequality and the wider community." He had also witnessed CDPs make sure that social inclusion strategies and practices are designed to accommodate diversity and bring forward people from across the nine groups. He is a big fan of CDPs.

"I would be very aware of the Community Development Programme and the importance of its continued growth and health. It plays a crucial role within communities experiencing inequality, especially in giving a voice to communities, for example, disability organisations.

"The CDPs operate at a crucial space too between local realities and national policy where very often there is a divorce between the two. CDPs provide a crucial link and the link is about turning national policy into real practice and ensuring that national policy reflects real-life situations for groups experiencing exclusion.

"Inequality is the antithesis to democracy. And a significant Community Development Programme is a huge contribution to democracy. It's about giving people a voice. But society can't hope to develop if there are huge chunks of that society who don't have a voice and don't have a say."

"Discrimination as a process is so disempowering, so damaging, no matter what issue or identity it's constructed around. Yet, so many people have taken a risk for equality and the people who support cases are taking a risk for equality as well. That is what is so powerful about the work, that people are willing to do that," he continued.

"We now have an institution with a body of experience that combats discrimination and promotes equality. The Equality Authority now has a standing, has expertise, has good relationships, has a body of casework behind it, and has around 50 staff," said Mr. Crowley.

And where does the next generation of equality legislation lie? In the future, people should be planning for equality rather than simply reacting to discrimination.

"This is the big jump that we need to make," said Mr. Crowley. "Our core work agenda is to develop so that we do not just react to discrimination, but plan for equality."

- More information: www.equality.ie
NOTE: See 'What is discrimination?' on page 12.

Cases against landlords may arise

People who are discriminated against when seeking access to accommodation are covered by the Equal Status Act.

"We hear anecdotes that suggest there is quite a widespread problem in this area," said Mr. Crowley. "But there hasn't been a case heard yet regarding landlords. But when we have some successful cases, and this proves the worth of taking strategic cases, it will send out a clear message to landlords that (a) discrimination is prohibited, and (b) that there are consequences if you do discriminate."

The EA may shortly have a number of cases coming up in this area.

"There is dramatic new potential in the Equal Status Act, for example the dominant issue has been persistent and widespread discrimination with regard to public houses (pubs). Now we also have a growing number of casefiles relating to practices by schools, public rented accommodation and public sector accommodation, access to insurance, access to transport and so on. So the wider issues of discrimination are emerging, though there is quite a lot of work to be done in promoting people's awareness of their rights under the Equal Status Act," said Mr. Crowley.

CDPs, among other organisations, have raised people's awareness of the Equal Status Act and of how it can be used to assist people to fight discrimination and inequality.



Ban on class discrimination recommended to government

No, I'm not discriminating against you because you're a divorced, Protestant, bisexual female Traveller with a disability. We just don't allow anyone of your socio-economic class into this pub! And anyway, didn't you vote no in the Nice Referendum and do time for stopping bin lorries? So, no, no and no!

It could make for a good joke, but the truth is that people can be discriminated against because of their class, for holding political opinions or because they have had a criminal conviction. And there is nothing under the Equality Act 2002 to protect them, yet.

However, the Equality Authority, has recommended to government that these categories be added to nine grounds already covered by law (protection against discrimination on the basis of age, gender, disability, race, membership of the Traveller Community, marital status, family status, sexual orientation or religion).

"One of the biggest gaps we have is the lack of equal status legislation for socio-economic groups. It is apparent to us from reports and research that in education, employment, accommodation, discrimination is being experienced by people on the basis of their socio-economic status," said Mr. Crowley.

"We have recommended it, but it's a political decision," he added.

Could such new laws, if introduced, lead to a social revolution?

"It would lead to significant change. It's about new groups having a say in how decisions are made, having access to resources and having a standing in society they currently don't have. These would all be radical changes; they are very necessary changes, clearly for the people themselves, but also for an effective society. All of society would benefit from those changes and from a wider participation in society from those who are currently excluded."

To enact a law banning socio-economic (or class) discrimination would be "a practical, pragmatic response to the experiences people are having. Their experiences that run counter to political goals already established. For example, why invest significantly in labour-market programmes targeting working class people if we are willing to allow discrimination at the point-of-entry to the workplace?

"So, it's not an ideological shift, it's about a coherence in policy goals. It's the same with people who have criminal convictions. For example, there are some very good programmes developed by the Department of Justice to assist people in the transition from prison-life to living in the wider society. And why invest in those programmes if you are going to allow people discriminate against people because they have had a criminal conviction? The whole investment can collapse because of the incoherence," argued Mr. Crowley.

Some people are powerless to complain

Some people's lives are ruined through discrimination, but they are afraid or unable to complain.

"People being in vulnerable positions of powerlessness is probably the biggest barrier" that stops potential complainants from taking cases, according to Mr. Crowley.

"It does take some courage to make an issue that might lead to a case," he said, noting that community development work was important to overcome this.

"People with disabilities can be in a very

vulnerable positions, particularly where they are in long-term care (and have a complaint about the care they receive). Also, gay and lesbian people - not wanting to come out can be a barrier to making a public complaint," he added.

Limited access to information and to supports are also barriers. The EA sees the answer in developing new information strategies and methods of empowering people and providing support within communities.



Niall Crowley, director of the Equality Authority.

Traveller cases against publicans are genuine - Crowley

The Equality Authority director dismissed the notion that Travellers are taking equality cases to make money 'off the backs of publicans' as publicans sometimes claimed.

Mr. Crowley said, "The awards are generally very low, the casework takes lot of time, and our own experience of Traveller complainants is that they have a deep sense of grievance and a deep desire to change things and that this is not about the money."

He said the high level of take-up of cases by Travellers, particularly against publicans, reflects "widespread and persistent discrimination."

The number of cases taken by Travellers is also "a reflection of the consciousness in the community and it shows that this is one of the better-organised communities."

Community development work by Traveller groups showed what it could do to empower people and improve their knowledge of their rights.

What is discrimination?

Discrimination is described in the Equal Status Act as the treatment of a person in a less favourable way than another person has been, or would be, treated on any of nine grounds. These are: gender; marital status; family status; sexual orientation; religion; age; disability; race; membership of the Traveller Community.

The Equality Authority is an independent body established by the government four years ago and it has the backing of the law. The Employment Equality Act 1998 and the Equal Status Act 2000 outlaw discrimination in: employment, vocational training, advertising, collective agreements, the provision of goods and services, and other opportunities to which the public generally have access to.

The Equality Authority is committed to realising positive change in the situation of those experiencing inequality by:

1. promoting and defending the rights established in the equality legislation AND
2. providing leadership in -
 - building a commitment to addressing equality issues in practice
 - creating a wider awareness of equality issues
 - celebrating the diversity in Irish society
 - mainstreaming equality considerations across all sectors.

In a typical landmark decision in October, the Equality Tribunal decided a 77-year-old man was discriminated against because of his age after he was refused a motor insurance quote.

To find out what to do if you or someone you know has been discriminated against (on any of the nine protected grounds) check the Equality Authority's website at: www.equality.ie

- For further information contact:
Equality Authority, Clonmel St, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel: 01-4173333.
E-mail: info@equality.ie
Fax: 01-4173366.
Lo-Call Number: 1890-245545.
Text Phone: (01) 4173385.

NOTE: See the interview with Niall Crowley of the Equality Authority on pages 10 and 11.

Fatima Mansions falls, but not the people

By NICK MURPHY

What would you say if I told you a 55 year old woman has just passed her junior cert in History and Geography?

In fact there's more than one. A group of women from Fatima Mansions in Dublin are taking a back to education course every Monday and Friday and, to avoid being bored the rest of the week, are doing a Community Leadership course on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I don't know what they are doing on Wednesdays but I think they deserve a break. Pretty incredible, but then Fatima Mansions is a pretty incredible place.

Fatima Mansions is a local authority flats complex on the banks of the Grand Canal in Dublin which was built in the early 50s. In common with many other local authority estates around Ireland at the time, the residents suffered disadvantages, compounded by circumstances, compounded by more disadvantages. By the late seventies and early eighties unemployment was rife and school drop-out rates were significant. Fatima Mansions had acquired the reputation of a very tough neighborhood.

By the eighties and nineties things had not improved. Unemployment and dependency on Social Welfare payments was high. The number of women parenting alone in Fatima Mansions was rising. Men, leaving the family home when marriages failed, were beginning to be allocated flats by Dublin Corporation and were coming to terms with the loneliness of single living. The problems of anti-social behaviour, often fueled by drug and alcohol abuse, were making themselves felt. It's not surprising that many residents began to feel themselves rejected, alone and marginalised and began to see the stone wall surrounding the flats as a symbol of the barrier between themselves and society.

Flats being demolished

Yet the strong spirit of community which has always existed in Fatima Mansions did not die out. While many of the problems are still there to be faced, the new millennium has brought a feeling of renewal to Fatima. Five of the blocks are presently being demolished, with the last due to go before Christmas, to be replaced with houses. With the demolition underway the population has shrunk to 168 families, housed in 9 blocks.

The local CDP, called 'Fatima Groups United', is working with the local people to help them improve their situation and manage the renewal process. Youth groups cater for as many as one hundred children and provide activities which challenge them and aid their development into adults, while the homework clubs attended by sixty children every afternoon provides support in primary and secondary school and encourages progression into third level education, not a traditional progression for youngsters from the flats. Childcare services help people parenting alone to access training courses and



Community Employment places give others an opportunity to get work experience. Men's groups are being organised and a community arts project supported by ARC is helping people to examine their lives through art.

They held a 'wake'

In August the group held a 'wake' for Fatima Mansions. Intended to be a process of remembering the past of the flats to be demolished, it turned out to be as much about bonding in the community. People were invited to discuss their family's past, how they came to live in the flats, what it was like growing up there, going to school, looking for work etc. In the process people discovered what they had in common and how surprisingly similar the experience of the various families and generations were, and this led to bonding and a better understanding between tenants.

Fatima's CDP

Frank Rock, a worker with Fatima Groups United, summarised by saying "This process is all about renewal, not just renewal of the flats and building new houses, but about renewal of a community."

This sense of community, which has always been strong in Fatima Mansions, leads also to a caring way of dealing with their problems. Anti-social behaviour is a problem many communities face and Fatima Mansions is no exception.

Dublin City Council faces up to its responsibilities as a landlord by evicting anti-social tenants, but it's hard to know what's behind anti-social behaviour. In some cases eviction is the only answer but in others, there may be intimidation of the tenant or other reasons why they are acting this way, which must be addressed before taking the final step of eviction. A possible solution in Frank Rock's opinion might be to set up a community mediation service along the lines of the Tallaght Mediation Service.

And let's not forget that group of women, supported by the VEC, studying for their Junior Certificates and coming to terms with what community leadership is all about. Fatima Mansions is certainly a community looking to the future, but it's a community which values its members and intends to remain in touch with its past.

A crucial meeting place for volunteers - the South West Regional Forum

ALLEN MEAGHER reports

CDPs in Cork and Kerry understand that the problems of poverty and exclusion in both city and rural communities are usually the same. This understanding is due to the success of the projects' own South-West Regional Forum which meets quarterly bringing volunteers and staff from the 13 projects together.

"One of the things people in my project keep talking about is that even though most of the projects in the South-West are based in Cork City, the issues they are dealing with are the same as in Bantry," said Anna Fitzgerald from Bantry CDP. "For example, isolation in the home - it surprised my management committee that you could live in a city and experience isolation the same as in rural areas."

City projects were, in turn, surprised to find that the lack of childcare facilities is also an issue in rural areas.

"As well as linking projects, it gets them to realise that there is not much difference between city and rural communities when it comes to the issues of poverty and inequality. If you are on low income, it makes little difference whether you live in the city or in the country."

"From a Bantry perspective, because we are so far away from other projects, we

wondered was Bantry the only place with these problems and inequalities in our community. At least, after regional meetings, volunteers come away knowing it is society in general that has these problems and not just Bantry," noted Anna.

"Over the years, the Forum became a fantastic way for volunteers to meet and talk to each other. There were already networks for co-ordinators and administrators to meet each other, but none for volunteers," added Anna.

It is an especially pro-active and successful network, according to Sharon Browne who has been attending since she started work with Tralee CDP in 1996.

"The Forum is the one place where the voluntary management meet up. Supporting voluntary management participation in this Forum will be a special focus for us this year," she noted. "And its strengths are shown through its past achievements:

- the Forum kick-started the pensions scheme for employees of the CDSPs.
- the Forum was involved in the mediation process between projects and the support agency in the South West.
- the Forum works from a voluntary management ethos and also proves what collective bargaining can do for projects.
- the Forum this summer carried out a

review of its work.

- It is good for moving issues onto national level and feeding into the National Advisory Committee because it is the one place where we all get to meet our regional representative on the NAC. Also we get feedback from them at the meetings."

Both Anna and Sharon are glad there are so many management members involved in the South West Regional Forum. For example, at least a third of the people at the last meeting were voluntary management members. One of the main topics for discussion at the Forum from now on will be the endorsing relationship between city/county development boards and projects.

"The Forum is a great place for getting ideas," said Sharon, giving an example: "One of the ways we found out about voter education was from other projects."

"I know from our own management here in Tralee that the best part of meetings they go to comes when they meet and chat with voluntary managers from other projects. And it was recently decided that voluntary management from projects that host the Forum meetings (they move around) will come in and explain the work their project is doing."

For more information, contact Anna Fitzgerald at Bantry CDP, Tel. 027-51315.

5am rise worth it to have South-West voice heard

The chance of winning an All-Ireland in Croke Park is the only thing that will get many Cork people to travel up to Dublin. But Anna Fitzgerald from Bantry in West Cork leaves her house at 5am at least four times a year for the trip to Dublin for a prize she considers just as valuable. Getting her voice heard at the National Advisory Committee (NAC) meetings of the Community Development Support Programme.

Anna is one of two CDP representatives for the 13 projects working in disadvantaged communities in the South-West. She knows what they have to say on issues of poverty and exclusion thanks to the South-West Regional Forum meetings.

The NAC is there to advise the Minister of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and is also the main place where projects, support agencies and departmental officials discuss issues and communicate with each other. Each region in the country has someone such as Anna (project co-ordinator of Bantry CDP) to represent the projects on the important committee.

"It makes me very sure of the stuff I'm saying in Dublin, knowing that what I say is the opinion of 13 projects in the region. It gives you a strong voice, and you know

that people are depending on you to get their message across," said Anna.

"At least the Department are aware of the feelings of projects around the country. And the current staff in the Voluntary and Community Services section of the Department certainly do take on board what we say. How much power they have is another question," continued Anna.

Some previous Ministers listened carefully to the NAC's advice, some did not. Do Minister O'Cuiv and Minister of State Ahern listen to the advice of the National Advisory Committee?

"It's probably too soon to tell," commented Anna. "Minister O'Cuiv has gone in with his own ideas and I suppose a lot will depend on when he starts going through all the submissions he has received for the Review."

However, in leaving Bantry at 5am to make the 7am train from Cork to Dublin for the meetings, she obviously feels the trips are worthwhile.

Since the South-West Regional Forum was first established eight years and without the regional fora meetings around the country, the NAC could not work effectively.

Explained Anna: "The forum pulls the

whole thing together, linking the local, regional and national perspectives - and when we are all saying the same thing about issues, then surely government have to respond. The regional fora take local issues and put them into a national context. We are working on the ground with local people, at regional level we are meeting and then we get to express our opinion at national level."

CORRECTION

Re: Presentation of Strategic Plan

Edition 8 of *Changing Ireland* included an article on page 4 titled 'National reps present plan to impressed Minister'. The story concerned the formal presentation of the CDSP Strategic Plan by NAC members to Minister of State, Noel Ahern, on July 4th last.

The report, however, mistakenly stated that the plan was presented to Minister Éamon Ó Cuiv. Quotes from Minister of State Ahern were consequently incorrectly attributed to Minister Ó Cuiv. The Editor regrets any confusion caused by the error and has written to the Ministers to apologise.

'Changing Ireland' ploughs ahead

The national newsletter of the CDSPs reached a new audience when 'Changing Ireland' produced a special edition for the National Ploughing Championships held from September 23-25th.

The 12-page special, focusing on CDP project work in small towns and rural areas, was funded by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs who had a marquee at the Championships.

The Special Edition features edited versions of stories previously published in 'Changing Ireland'. A sufficient number of copies were kept back for use by projects who may sometimes struggle to explain to outsiders about the work that CDPs do. The Special Edition should also prove a useful resource to new voluntary management committee members.

Included in the coverage were a couple of stories about volunteers while the other articles showed how CDPs start up rural transport schemes, literacy groups, single-parent groups, disability groups, women's groups, men's groups and so on. For networking and promotional purposes, the Special Edition included an up-to-date list of and contact details for every project located outside Dublin.

At the Ploughing Championships, held on a farm at Ballinabrackey, Kinnegad, Co. Meath, a steady flow of enquiring people toured the Department's marquee with around half of them taking away a copy of the 'Changing Ireland' special for further



Department staff, Declan Taaffe and Breda Kiernan providing information on the CDSP to people attending the National Ploughing Championships in Kinnegad.

reading. It was also distributed from the National Ploughing Association's headquarters and from friendly supporters in the 'Farmers Journal' marquee.

Staff from the Department manned a desk for the three-day event and they were joined for a day by four volunteers from a CDP project and by the editor.

The marquee was packed out when Minister Éamon Ó Cuiv arrived to launch a study of Enterprise Support in Rural Areas. He went home with a copy of 'Changing Ireland' under his arm.

If you or your project would like a copy of the special edition, please contact us (see page 2 for contact details).

Review of community sector 'on target'

The review of the community and voluntary agencies and programmes operating under the auspices of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is "on target", according to Minister Éamon Ó Cuiv. "From chatting to people on the ground I know that groups are anxious for the changes I have been talking about," said the Minister, speaking at the National Ploughing Championships in September.

"But some diktat from the top-down will not be the way the changes will take place. I believe the old adage that 'you can bring a horse to water, but you can't

make him drink it'. One thing that people might have underestimated is that people in the sector are coming to me all the time with suggestions, and everyone in this tent (all the programmes under the Department had a stall at the Ploughing Championships) are in constant engagement with me. All I will say is that I have not yet met a group that does not want some changes to the way we do things."

At a seminar in June, Minister Ó Cuiv earmarked January 1st, 2004, as the date on which the changes decided upon would begin to come into effect.



Picking up a copy of the Special Edition of 'Changing Ireland' produced for the 2003 Ploughing Championships.

O'Cuiv will 'continue' all community programmes

The Minister has again restated his commitment to the CDSPs and indeed the other programmes under his Department's remit.

In mid-September, Minister of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuiv, told people in Clondalkin that he was "committed to the continuation and support" of all the programmes under review. He was speaking at the opening of the new premises of Clondalkin Traveller Development Group. And in October he also performed the official opening of Tralee CDP's new premises.

In Clondalkin, Minister Ó Cuiv referred to the development work and services provided, "Initiatives like the Clondalkin Travellers Development Group help to address marginalisation and exclusion. The services you offer are a practical response to the real local needs of the communities serviced by your Centre. All of this dedication and commitment is, of course, inspired by a vision of a change for the good of the community."

"My Department recognises the important part played by local groups around the country in improving the quality of the lives of people in local communities by helping them to develop their capacity to change their situation for the better.

"It is important to acknowledge that everybody has a contribution to make, if only we can find the space to allow this potential to develop," he continued.

The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs was set up, said the Minister, "with this philosophy in mind; to produce a more co-ordinated engagement by the State with communities around the country, as they pursue their own development."

Referring to the review, he emphasised that the Department's commitment of the programmes: "It is through a combination of local community initiatives on the ground and support from statutory agencies and other bodies that local communities can realise their potential to play a real part and have a real say in their own development."

The review is aimed at maximising the effectiveness of all programmes for local communities. Earlier this year, CDPs were directed to prepare to forward their workplans to their City/County Development Board for 'endorsement'.



Minister of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Eamon Ó Cuiv

New contact details for Department's VCS

Since July, the Voluntary and Community Services (VCS) section of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs has moved from their old premises above Busaras in Dublin to a new premises across the River Liffey. The new postal address and fax number is: Voluntary & Community Services, Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, 6/7 Hannover Street East, Dublin 2: Fax (01) 4748700.

Eventually, it is planned that the VCSS will share an office with other sections of the Department. There are around 250 staff in total working in the Department and the VCSS is a relatively small section within the overall Department.

The VCSS can be contacted as follows - staff are listed by name, phone number, e-mail address.

Senior staff members:

David **BRENNAN**; 01 4748680;

dbrennan@pobail.ie

Susan **SCALLY**; 4748681; sscally@pobail.ie

For queries in relation to Projects in Cork, Kerry, Kildare, Wicklow and Dublin District numbers 1,2,3,4,6, 6W, 10 and 20 contact:

Sean **DOOLEY**; 4748690; sdooley@pobail.ie

Claire **WALSH**; 4748691; cwalsh@pobail.ie

Paul **HEANEY**; 4748692; pheaney@pobail.ie



David Brennan is the Principal Officer in the Voluntary and Community Services section.

For queries in relation to Projects in Galway, Mayo, Laois, Longford, Offaly, Roscommon, Westmeath and Dublin District Numbers 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 17 contact;

Margaret **DORNEY**; 4748693;

mdorney@pobail.ie

Yvonne **O'ROARKE**; 4748694;

yoroarke@pobail.ie

Breda **KIERNAN**; 4748695;

bkiernan@pobail.ie

For queries in relation to projects in Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Clare, Limerick, Tipperary North, Dublin 8 & 15 contact:

Donal **RYAN**; 4748687; dryan@pobail.ie

Barry **MELLETT**; 4748689; bmellet@pobail.ie

For queries in relation to projects in Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary South, Waterford, Wexford, Cavan, Louth, Meath, Monaghan and Dublin District numbers 12, 14, 22 and 24 contact:

Bernadette **MCGOWAN**; 4748697;

bmcgowan@pobail.ie

Declan **TAAFFE**; 4748688;

dtaaffe@pobail.ie

Shortage of volunteers restricting youth programmes

When a lack of volunteers starts to seriously restrict the working of programmes within your project something urgent needs to be done. In rural Wexford, a CDP is doing everything they can to save a programme aimed at youths who are at risk of leaving school early.

"The project will be getting funding for the programme and the young people are ready to come but we have no volunteers to run it and it is due to start shortly," said Sharon Kennedy, project co-ordinator at South West Wexford CDP.

"So we are going to contact the National Volunteer Organisation and we are working with the local Partnership. They have a mentoring programme and they might be able to help us get volunteers to run the programme."

The CDP is still going to go ahead with the Junior Youth Programme and an induction night will be put on for parents interested. The initiative called 'The Togetherness Programme' is funded by County Wexford Partnership.

Great potential

Sharon started in the summer as co-ordinator with South West Wexford CDP and

By LORCAN BRENNAN

she hopes her work on issues, including the shortage of volunteers, can be sorted out. The CDP serves a wide area across the county including Campile, Ballyhack, Duncannon,

Featherd-on-Sea and Carrig-on-Bannow and it has the potential to grow in strength and support.

"One of my hopes is to develop a more co-ordinated approach to programmes that are running," says Sharon. "There are a lot of areas related to the project as well as issues. One of the issues is to outreach where possible but unfortunately we have no funding for an outreach worker."

Her passion for the work comes from growing up within a community that suffered the effects of disadvantage: "The issues were there from the start, the struggle for myself to get to third level, coming from Larchville/Lisduggan in Waterford, fighting against the norm that you wouldn't get there. Also, as a single parent I became well aware of the issues that people come up against that they have to overcome. So even my studies at 3rd level was included social research. There was always a social focus to it."

Battling rural isolation

The South West Wexford Project has many positive initiatives presently running including a new rural bus service that provides essential transport to events and services and that helps the battle against rural isolation. The project also provides Childcare and a Primary Health Care Project that is funded by FAS, VEC, the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the South-Eastern Health Board. Its aim is to educate women in Health Care to enable them to return to the community with greater knowledge and skills. The CDP's FAS/CE Scheme provides essential training to participants and the many other initiatives makes sure the project continues to be a lively, busy place. For Sharon and all the team there is much to plan and do, not the least of it being to profile the work and finding volunteers to make sure that vital programmes for youths and others can go ahead.

• For more information about South West Wexford CDP or how you might become a volunteer on one of the programmes (for which training will be provided) contact Sharon 051-389418.

Letters

Irish Deaf Society,
30 Blessington Street,
Dublin 7.
Email: ids@indigo.ie
Tel: 01-8601878
Fax: 01-8601960
Minicom: 01-8601910
SMS: 086-3807033
www.irishdeafsociety.ie

Dear Editor,

We write in connection with the latest issue of Changing Ireland. We are glad to see the last issue covered some areas pertaining to disability and especially improving accessibility for people of various disabilities.

However, we notice there is no mention about Deaf sign language users' access.

In retrospect your list should have included a recommendation to people to have their staff learn some basic Irish Sign Language (ISL) from a qualified teacher to communicate with those Deaf people for whom ISL is a first language.

We would be more than happy to advise in relation to this.

Regards,
Cormac Leonard,
Administrator

Volunteerism is changing in Tralee

At the official opening of Tralee CDP's new premises in October, the chairperson, Kathleen Higgins, drew attention to the fact that volunteers need support to do their work.

"Some people would say that volunteerism is dead and that we are all so busy with our day-to-day lives or so wrapped up in our consumer society that we have little time for volunteering in our own communities. We don't find this. However we would say that the nature of volunteerism has changed a lot.

"Our difficulty is not always in finding volunteers, but in supporting them. We have to be careful to make sure that the volunteer is getting something for themselves out of their involvement.

"We have also had some recent lessons in not taking on too much. We are a small outfit. To continue to do what we do, and to do it well, with the few staff and little finance we have it's important not to rush into projects –

no matter how enthusiastic we are about it," she said.

Minister of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuiv, was in Tralee to officially open the CDP's new centre and launch the project's history booklet which was recently produced by volunteers.

At the moment, the centre is open seven days a week both morning and evening and hosts over 40 groups meeting monthly. At least 20 of these meet weekly and on average Tralee CDP has 70 people using the premises daily, while in a typical week over 400 local people use the premises.

Local groups who use the new centre include the likes of SPICE One Parent Family Group, the Learning Is Fun Homework Clubs, the LINKS programme, the Gateway programme and many more.

• For more information, contact Sharon Browne or Kathleen Higgins at: Tralee CDP, Rock St., Tralee, Co. Kerry. Tel. 066-7120877.

€7,400,000 for training and networks despite "difficult times"

On September 5th, Minister of State, Noel Ahern, announced funding of €5.5m over the coming three years for 34 community and voluntary organisations. He said he was "especially delighted to be able to make this funding available in difficult times."

Less than a fortnight later, Minister Ahern announced further funding, this time of €1.9m to support the training needs of 24 organisations within the community and voluntary sector.

The first batch of funding came for the Scheme of Grants for Federations, Networks and Umbrella Bodies in the Community and Voluntary Sector. The aim is to assist bodies in the community and voluntary sector in providing support to their member groups.

The second smaller batch of grants was released under the Scheme of Grants for Training and Supports in the Community and Voluntary Sector. The purpose of this scheme is to help develop training and supports within the community and voluntary sector.

Both grant schemes are initiatives contained in the *White Paper on a Framework for Supporting Voluntary Activity and for Developing the Relationship between the State and the Community and Voluntary Sector*.

Following an independent process of assessment of 540 applications for the €1.9m in training grants, 24 lucky applicant groups were recommended for funding.

Said Minister Ahern in announcing the training grants: "Ireland is now a skills based society and these skills must be renewed continually. The community and voluntary sector is no exception and I believe this funding will help the sector to develop the capacity it needs to remain such a positive force in Irish life," said Minister Ahern.

The training funding includes some €100,000 in once off grants in year one of the scheme with the remainder of the funding (€600,000) earmarked for core-funding supports for the majority of the successful organisations in each of the coming three years.

Any group or project already already receiving core-funding by the Department, including CDPs, were not given extra funding.

The 24 successful applicants for training grants include: Amen Navan, Co. Meath, €35,000; Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups €40,000; National Association of Travellers' Centre €35,000; The Wheel

€40,000; Disability Federation of Ireland €40,000; Macra Na Feirme €30,000; Creative Activity for Everyone (Café) €50,000; Irish Country Women's Association €35,000; Volunteering Ireland €35,000; Fundraising Institute of Ireland, Inchicore, Dublin 8, €20,000; Business in the Community, Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin 1, €35,000; Cork Centre for Independent Living, Commons Road, Cork; €15,000;

Ireland, Coleraine St, Dublin 7, €20,000.

The 34 organisations who benefited from the Federations, Networks and Umbrella Bodies grants include:

Accord Catholic Marriage Care Services €47,000; Breaking Through Limited €66,000; Comhlámh, Development Workers in Global Solidarity Ireland €44,000; Irish Council for Social Housing €46,000; Irish Deaf Society €87,500; Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed €55,000; Irish Rural Link €55,000; National Association for the Mentally Handicapped of Ireland (NAMHI) €40,000; National Collective of Community Based Women's Networks €47,000; National Women's Council of Ireland €70,000; Simon €78,000; The Wheel €47,000; Victim Support €49,500; Bodywhys, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, €47,000; Camphill Communities of Ireland, Mountshannon, Co. Clare, €47,000; Caring for Carers, Ennis, Co. Clare, €60,000; Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, Sr. Chill Dara, Baile Atha Cliath 2, €63,000; Dyslexia Association of Ireland, Suffolk Street, Dublin 2, €41,000; Free Legal Advice Centres, Dorset Street, Dublin 1, €47,000; Irish Autism Alliance, Clontarf, Dublin 3, €50,000; Irish Council for Social Housing, Merrion Square, Dublin 2, €46,000; Mental Health Ireland, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, €45,000; Muintir Na Tire, Tipperary Town, €47,000; National Association of Boards of Management in Special Education, Prosperous, Co. Kildare, €73,000; National Association of Building Co-operatives (NABCo), Merrion Square, Dublin 2, €47,000; National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Providing Services for People with Intellectual Disability Ltd, Oranmore, Co. Galway, €47,000; National RehabCare Advocacy Council, Sandymount, Dublin 4, €47,000; National Traveller Womens Forum, Tuam Road, Galway, €47,000; Neurological Alliance of Ireland, Coleraine Street, Dublin 7, €42,300; Rape Crisis Network Ireland, Quay Street, Galway, €60,000; Schizophrenia Ireland - Lucia Foundation, Blessington Street, Dublin 7, €72,000; The Children's Rights Alliance, Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, €47,000; The Federation of Active Retirement Association, Eustace Street, Dublin 2, €30,000; The Irish Association of Supported Employment, Ballybane, Galway, Co. Galway, €70,000; Voluntary Drug Treatment Network, Merchants Quay, Dublin 8, €65,000.



The Minister of State, Noel Ahern, in his office.

Drogheda Youth Development; Drogheda, Co. Louth; €30,000; Midland Regional Youth Services, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, €20,000; Tallaght Volunteer Bureau Ltd, Tallaght, Dublin 24, €35,000; Sue Ryder Care, Ballyroan, Co. Laois, €20,000; Ballymun Community Law Service, Coolock Community Law Centre, Free Legal Advice Centres, Ballymun Road, Dublin 9, €35,000; Dublin North East Community Communications Co-Operative Ltd. (Near F.M.); Bunratty Drive, Dublin 17, €35,000; Meath Youth Federation Ltd, Navan, Co. Meath, €20,000; Women's Sector, Military Road, Waterford, €10,000; Donegal Youth Services, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, €20,000; Rape Crisis Network, Quay Street, Galway, €15,000; Exchange House Travellers' Service, James Street, Dublin 8, €20,000; Children in Hospital

INTRODUCTION

Don't be shy! Promote your community, your project and your work by using the media. In Part 2 of our 'Newsletter, Writing and Media Skills Resource Section' we provide the following: a formula for writing news stories or press releases, how to write the crucial first paragraph, three types of features, interviewing tips, how to quote people correctly, and accuracy and editing.

'Changing Ireland' hopes this will assist the many projects throughout the country who use newsletters and the local and national media to get their community's voice heard.

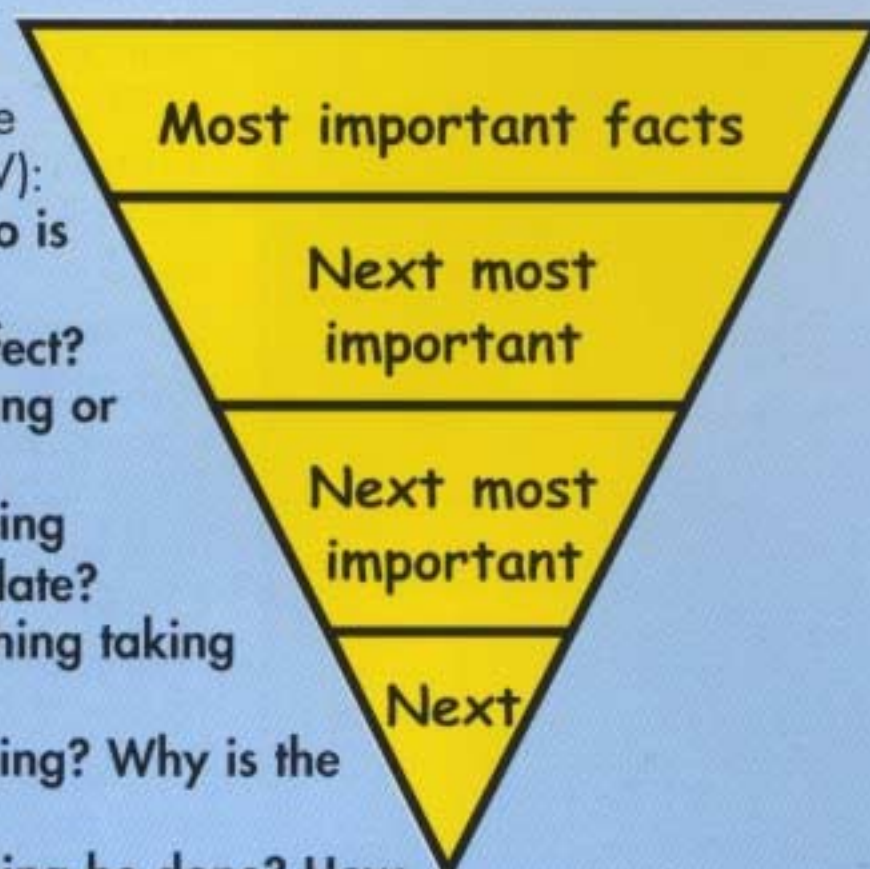
Foolproof formula for writing stories

The following 'inverted triangle' shows the idea that there is a formula for how to write a news story or press release. You start with the result, which is the opposite to essay-writing where you build up to a climax.

The Inverted Triangle

A good opening paragraph for a news story contains the H and 5Ws (known as H5W):

- ✓ **Who** - For example, who is launching, announcing, reacting? Who will it affect?
 - ✓ **What** - What is happening or being said?
 - ✓ **When** - When is something happening - day, time, date?
 - ✓ **Where** - Where is something taking place?
 - ✓ **Why** - Why is it happening? Why is the cause?
 - ✓ **How** - How will something be done? How did it happen?
- How will it affect people?



It never needs to be any different. The traditional-style news story will have the answers to ALL SIX questions in the first paragraph or two.

The next (second or third) paragraph should contain background information and you continue then to write from there, ideally providing quotes from the people involved in the story (perhaps someone linked to your project).

Keep paragraphs short - it is easier to read two short paragraphs than one long one.

Your first paragraph

It is not unusual to write the opening paragraph after you have written the rest of the story. Generally, keep in mind that there are two main types of openings for news stories and features:

Direct opening: The story begins with the news itself using the H5W formula in the opening paragraph.

Delayed opening: The story begins with a quote, an anecdote, gimmick or some other device to set a scene, etc. These type of openings are more common in features, but they can be used with straight news stories, though the H5W formula is usually more straightforward. However, if you are confident about your story, you could open with a blunt statement, a fact, or a rhetorical question (eg 'Do poor children really deserve to have bad teeth?') to capture the essence of the story. Your opening statement **MUST** be supported with attributed information later in the story.

Check out: www.milligan.edu/Communications/Comm-205/Leads.

3 types of features:

A feature is a story that does not necessarily focus on a subject that is in the news. It could be about anything, but is usually about either people or things. There are three basic types of features:

- (1) **Human Interest Stories** appeal to the readers' emotions. They are generally the most widely read and listened-to stories of all. An example - an older person who admits they contemplated suicide before they joined a local active age group.
 - Human interest stories involve people rather than things.
 - It could, for example, be about a teenager who wins an award or a coach who leads a team to a hurling final. Or a retiring community leader.
 - Human interest stories often focus on well-known people. So, who is well-known in your community? They may be well-known for 'good' or 'bad' reasons.
 - They can take the form of informational or personal profile features.
 - Informational interviews deal with an authority, for example the local TD, whose opinions are of significant value (b) Personality interviews are interesting because of the individual rather than the subject matter - for example the oldest person in the community.
- (2) **Informational Features** can be of historical, social and practical interest, such as about the background to a new project in the community.
 - The basic purpose in this case is to inform rather than to entertain.
 - They often take the form of 'How-to' features such as "How to buy a qualify for an allowance" or "Legal options for if your neighbour is playing loud music late at night."
- (3) **Personality Sketches** aim to give a real impression of what a person is like.
 - They usually attempt to reveal someone's personality through telling stories about the person.
 - It provides information that readers will want to know, such as: Name; Personality; Background; Physical appearance; Environment; Hobbies; Influence on others.

Interviewing

Why interview someone? You interview someone because either they have unique information or they are unique themselves! In the first case, the information will make the story; in the latter case, the person is the story.

Interview material can be gathered from people (a) on location (b) over the telephone (c) by e-mail. To prepare:

1. **Do some research and write a list of smart questions.**
2. **Write a list of "stupid" questions, those questions you must ask to avoid mistakes (cover H5W).**
3. **If necessary, construct a time-line of the key events.**

Other sources of information include stories/information published or broadcast by others that you have cut from the newspaper, copied from a book or magazine or recorded on tape. Always keep your notes from interviews and clippings from publications or tapes of broadcasts that you quote from.

Take the best notes you can but, unless you have shorthand or they speak very slowly, use a tape recorder so you will have a record of the interview. Buy new batteries, don't forget a tape and test before you start recording. Don't learn the hard way!

99% correct may spell disaster

Be 100% that there is factual accuracy about:

- every statement;
- every name;
- every date;
- every age;
- every address;
- every quote;
- everything!

You can QUOTE me on that!

Using quotes: A quote is the exact wording of a statement from another person. It is interesting to readers because of what was said or because of who said a thing. Their statement may be a fact or it may be an opinion. Quotes make a story more lively and more believable. Readers are more likely to believe what your story says if there are reliable sources speaking in their own words in the story.

Never use the words "when asked" or "in response to a question about" to lead into a quote. The story is NOT ABOUT YOU, so don't insert yourself into it!

There are three types of quotes: direct quotes, indirect quotes and partial quotes.

(1) **Direct Quotes** are sentences printed word for word exactly as the speaker said them. The speaker's exact words go inside the quotation marks. Usually, they are followed by the phrase 's/he said'. Eg, "The government is thinking of cutting the one thing that keeps the community viable - FAS jobs. We don't want to go back to 1990 when there was nothing in this community," said Moyross Community Enterprise Centre Manager, Paddy Flannery, yesterday.

NOTE: Don't quote obvious or unimportant things.

(2) **Indirect Quotes:** An indirect quote is information from a source where the text does not include the speaker's exact words; perhaps instead there is a paraphrase or summary of what the speaker said. Indirect quotes are used to: express a fact stated by the source; clarify a quote that is long, confusing or dull; sum-up the ideas of several direct quotes.

Eg, Paddy Flannery, a community leader, fears the government may cut FAS jobs in Moyross, and the community does not want to return to the situation of 10 years ago when there was nothing in the area.

NOTE: Never change the meaning of someone's quote when you paraphrase it.

(3) **Partial Quote:** Sometimes it might work better to use only part of a quote to convey what the interviewee has said. If so, put the portion of the quote you use word-for-word inside quotation marks. A partial quote is good for highlighting lively or memorable words, especially those which express an opinion.

Eg, Community worker, Mike Quinn, said that if FAS jobs in Inisbofin were cut the community "faces disaster".

The main attribution word is 'said', and note that it is used in the past-tense form. Other attribution words used include: 'asked', 'added', 'stated' (eg, when a source read from a prepared text) and also 'claimed', 'recalled', 'argued', etc.

It's not over until you edit

The writing process isn't over until you edit.

1. **Read your piece out loud.** See if it flows.
2. **Put a check by each fact.** These are items to recheck for accuracy.
3. **Circle every name for accuracy and spelling.**
4. **Put "SP" by any word with dodgy spelling.**
5. **Circle verbs.** Ask yourself if you're using the most active verb.
6. **If you write the word "it," what is "it"?**
7. **Examine your sentences to see they make sense.** Do not have over-long sentences.
8. The **golden rule**, especially in Ireland given how punishing the libel laws are: If in doubt, check it out; if still in doubt, leave it out.

Using the media - FAS workers show how!

From Mid-August FÁS workers began to lose jobs . . . as reported in the *Irish Times*, 20 Aug, 2003.



Effected communities and FÁS workers reacted swiftly . . . as reported in the *Sunday Tribune*, 24 Aug, 2003.



And four weeks later . . . the campaign seemed successful . . . as reported in the *Sunday Independent*, 21 Sept, 2003.



New online resource - www.changingireland.ie

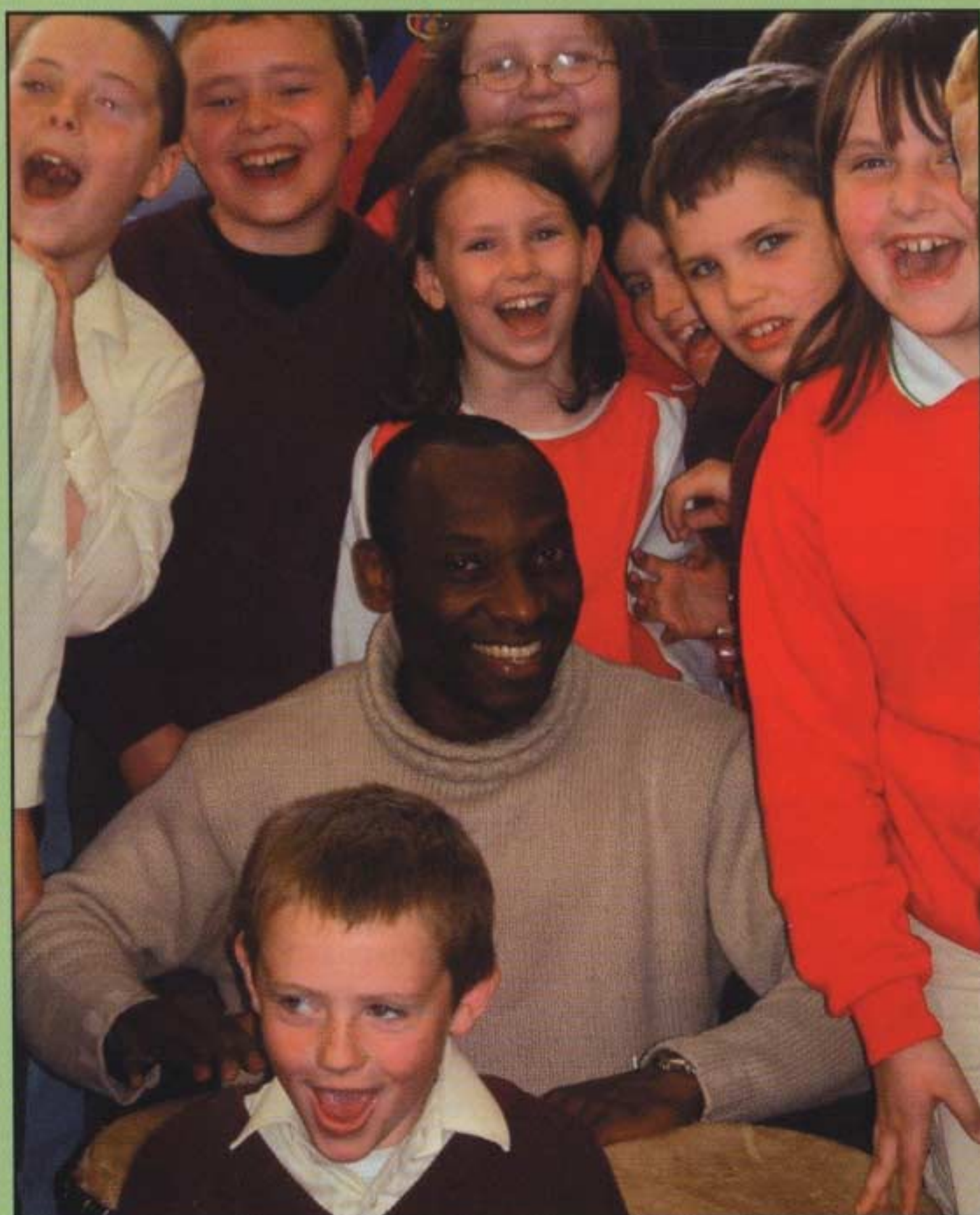
Check it out! The 'Changing Ireland' website has gone on-line following many months of work by our former part-time administrator, Noelle McNamara. Employed under the Community Employment Scheme, Noelle designed and uploaded hundreds of pages of valuable information on community development in Ireland and abroad. It is the first website with a national focus devoted to promoting the CDSP as a programme.

Given that humour is important for survival in this sector, 'The Diary of Horace McDermot' (our gifted community development worker from Ballybog CDP) has been given a prime place alongside such button-bars as: 'How to Participate', 'Our Equality & Inclusion Work', 'Learn Media Skills' and 'Community Development in Ireland and Abroad'.

The website should be a very useful resource for community volunteers and staff researching topics, looking for ideas, networking, and wishing to easily access previously published stories.

The website aims to be much more than a magazine on-line. With two years of publishing under our belts, it was decided to see how best the accumulated information could be presented in a coherent, useful and attractive way so the website gets maximum usage by staff, volunteers and people curious to know more about community development in Ireland.

'How to Participate' focuses mainly on: volunteering, net-



Mayo children are confronting their prejudices early on, thanks to Cosgallen East Mayo CDP. See page 6 for the full story.



Noelle McNamara on keyboards

working, voting and voter education.

'Our Equality & Inclusion Work' is divided into various issue-based sections (eg Rural Transport, Drug Awareness, Literacy, Disability, Inter-Culturalism, Men, Challenging Stereotypes, Class Issues, Volunteer Work, and CDP Project News).

'About the CDSPs' gives background information on the programme aims, methods and community development processes. It explains the work and ethos of the projects, support agencies, specialist support agencies, the National Advisory Committee and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. It also includes contact details for the 170 CDPs and 20 Support Agencies and Specialist Support Agencies.

'About Us' (as in 'Changing Ireland') explains how the magazine is funded, managed, maintained and staffed (by one!) and how and why it is located in a community setting.

'Community Development in Ireland and Abroad' looks beyond the CDSP to other inclusion programmes with articles from here and faraway.

There is an extensive 'Links' page to encourage people to use the website.

Arrangements will be made shortly to officially launch the website and it is hoped that former administrator, Noelle, whose C.E. placement with 'Changing Ireland' ended in September, can somehow continue to work with us to upload stories from future issues of 'Changing Ireland.' The plan includes continuing to develop the site's potential over the coming months and work will be carried out to make it more user-friendly for people with visual impairment.

Editor, Allen Meagher, chose and edited the content for the website.