

Free Community Newsletter



ATLANTIC VIEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

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Issue 29

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas Wishes!!!!
Dear Santa;

Community Development Project Funding

As I'm sure you all know by now we have been protesting against the government's proposed cuts to Community Development Projects throughout Ireland. At the moment the messages coming from the Department of Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs are confusing to say the least. We are told on one hand that there will be a sixty percent cut to CDPs which would mean that projects could not survive. At a meeting last week in Dublin forty percent or less was mooted. It was then said that non viable projects will be closed and this will be the percentage of cuts proposed. For all of us involved in community development this is very worrying as we do not know if we will still be in business after the budget. The work we carry out in the community is very important to a lot of people especially today when those unemployed are looking to up-skill or educate themselves while they are out of work. Our first wish for Christmas is to have the funding for our Centre continued so we can continue our educational courses and other activities.

Mediation Centre

We have applied for funding for a Mediation Centre in Ballyshannon and this is the second Christmas present we would like. With some businesses closing and buildings being left empty it would be a nice boost to the town to see one of them reopening and a little bit of life returning to the town. We also believe mediation is badly needed in many areas of life today. So if you can dust off your magic wand Santa please grant us this second wish.

Community Garden

We have been working very closely with Meiteal Bhéal Atha Seanaigh to develop a Community Garden behind the old convent building on College St which is now owned by the HSE. All the paperwork requested by the HSE has been supplied and we have got a verbal agreement but await the written confirmation that we can go ahead. If anyone from the HSE is reading this we would be delighted and very grateful if we could begin work on the garden before the end of the year so please send us on the letter of confirmation.

It would be a lovely Christmas present for the group.

**The Management & Staff of Atlantic View CDP
would like to wish everyone a very
Happy and Peaceful Christmas & New Year.**

Saimer Childcare

Saimer Community Childcare will be holding a cake sale on Sunday 20th December at Kilbarron House after 11.15 mass. All proceeds will go towards the childcare centre. Lines are being currently sold for their Christmas Hamper and will also be available at Mace on the 11th December, at our Centre on 19th December and at the GAA Bingo Night, the Abbey Cinema on the 11th December.

The draw will take place on Wednesday 23rd December at Saimer Community Childcare Centre.. Thank you for your generous and continued support now and throughout the year. Without you we could not continue.

The management & staff would also like to take this opportunity and wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Computer Classes

Forty participants took part in Basic and Intermediate IT courses held in our Centre since May. The funding was accessed by Atlantic View CDP from the VEC Adult Education and Training Programme and the Dept Social & Family Affairs.

Some of those who took part in the Basic IT course returned to do the Intermediate course. We wish them all the very best for the future. Other courses are planned and will take place in the New Year if funding is continued for our Project.

Cross Border Women's Collective

The exchange workshop of the CBWC took place in the Belfast Quaker's Centre on the 24th & 25th November. The peace building workshop was facilitated by Olive Hobson with the Ballybeen Women's Centre, the Ardmonagh Family Centre and the South Donegal women taking part.

The Leaders from the three centres met with an Rural Development Company representative Patricia Mc Nulty on Wednesday 2nd December in Belfast and got the go ahead for future plans for the group and we can now look forward to a busy 2010

Cookery Classes

Cookery classes have begun in the Adult Education Centre, College St, Ballyshannon on Monday nights from 7.30 to 9.30. If you would like to learn how to 'Cook on a Budget' please call into us at Atlantic View CDP and put your name down, there are a few places left to fill. This course is funded by the VEC Adult Education & Training Programme and free to all who wish to participate.

The Dance Group

If you are over 50 years of age and interested in an enjoyable way to get a bit of exercise and have a social outlet at the same time then the dancing in Dorrian's Imperial Hotel, Main St, Ballyshannon on a Wednesday at 2.30pm is the place for you. Admission is €5.

If you or anyone you know would like to attend please feel free to drop in any Wednesday. It's a wonderful way to pass the afternoon. The dancing will cease for Christmas on the 9th December but will resume on again the 6th January in the New Year Make this your New Year's resolution.

Placement Students

We would like to say a very big thank you to our two placement students, Brian Kilallea, Amy Granaghan and Agnes Gavigan, who were with us this year. It was a pleasure working with them. Sligo IT has once again asked us to take another local student for work experience in the New Year and we look forward to working with her also. Fingers crossed we are still here.

Life Skills Course

Twenty people took part in the Life Skills courses which took place from July to October. The facilitators were Sharon O'Connor and Eileen Mc Gonigle for whom we received excellent feedback from the students. We would like to say thank you to both as they put in time and effort way beyond the call of duty. Some of those who took part have gone on to further education with Fás, Sligo and the VEC VTOS course Ballyshannon

Aromatherapy Course

The Social Community Active Age Group enjoyed the Aromatherapy course given Tricia O' Donohue. All who took part will be presented with certificates. The course was funded by the VEC Adult Education and Training Programme accessed by Atlantic View CDP.

**Well done to the Business Chamber and their helpers
the lights display in Ballyshannon looks great**

The Ballyshannon Regeneration Group

We would like to congratulate the Ballyshannon Regeneration group on all the work they have carried out in the town in the last year. Under the guiding hand of Barry Sweeny they have given the town a facelift. Great work from you all!

Others using our Centre

Professional Counselling: Counselling is available by appointment. Please ring us if you wish to avail of this service.

Studies Group: Rev Russell's group have their newsletter printed and hold meetings in our Centre .

The Carers: The Ballyshannon/Bundoran Support group hold their monthly meetings and courses in our Centre.

The Active Retirement: The Active Retirement group hold their committee and group meetings in our Centre

Computer & Internet: Access to a computer is available for those needing to use the Internet, write up CVs or other typing projects.

Photocopying; This is available to community groups and individuals especially those unemployed.

Others using our meeting room:The Voice of Older People, the VEC, Mental Health Irl, the Regeneration Group, Action Breast Cancer and many others.

The meeting room is free of charge to community groups .

Nial Mellon Township Trust

Ann Mc Gowan our Project Coordinator travelled to South Africa with the Nial Mellon Township Trust on the 5th Nov for ten days. Nine hundred and fifty Irish men and women took part and built eighty six houses with another sixty two ready for painting. Ann would like to thank all who donated to her fund raising especially the Twilight Zone Active Age members who raised €1050 from a raffle.

Thank you everyone and
Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New
Year

St Vincent de Paul

St Vincent de Paul would like to thank Michael Gallagher organising the recent fund raising concert and also to Mary B Kerrigan for all the work she put into the draws at both the concert and Christmas raffle. Her efforts and those of her helpers are greatly appreciated.

Thank You

The staff of Atlantic View CDP would like to thank the voluntary Management Board for all their hard work throughout the year. Without their unpaid assistance and their involvement in the Community Centre it would be a much poorer place.. Our

directors are not only members of Atlantic View CDP but members of other community groups and they give a lot of time and effort to all. The staff would, particularly this year, like to acknowledge the time each member gives to meetings, discussions, debates and physical help around the Centre. Thank you once again for everything. We hope to work with you for many years to come

Marking Courage

At this time of year Atlantic View CDP like to mark the changes in the area over the year. We would like to say well done to all those who took the courage to open new businesses or develop other ideas in this economic climate ; So good luck and well done to all;

Gerry Ferguson who opened his new jewellers shop on the Diamond.

The new owners of **Spar** at the head of the town. **Sonya Oldham** and **Catherina Davies** on their **Craft Fair** run from Dicey Reilly's on the first Sunday of each month.

John Likely who started the **Car Boot Sale** on a Sunday in the old rubber factory in Portnason.

The **Doobally Stud** opened by **Patrick and Patricia Gallagher**.

The Refurbished Church Veterinary Centre ,
The Mall.

Smugglers Creek, Rossnowlagh and their new owners.

The Gaslight, Rossnowlagh, a new business
Nirvana, The Mall, which is under new management

To those we have left out please accept our apologies and our best wishes also

Neighbourhood Youth Project Updates

The Ballyshannon/ Bundoran NYP 'Youth Democracy Group' has been involved cross border with young people from Killybegs, Dublin, Newry and Armagh promoting the voice of young people. The group were involved in debates with MEP'S and TD'S in the Dail and Stormont and will visit the EU Parliament in December. The Ballyshannon and Bundoran youth's activities locally were recognised nationally at the Foroige/Permanent TSB Youth Citizenship Awards in The Helix, Dublin on the 29th October and at Water Safety Ireland's National Awards in Dublin Castle on the 17th November. Some of the young people have been selected to represent Foroige Youth Citizenship National on a media campaign sponsored by Permanent TSB to motivate other young people to being more proactive in their local communities.

Ballyshannon/Bundoran NYP is delighted to be given the opportunity to have thirty young people involved in the NFTE programme. This programme develops youth entrepreneurship by allowing young people to develop their individual skills and talents and giving them hands on learning by allowing them to create their own business idea, carry out a business plan and set up their own businesses.

The youth are also organising a Christmas Raffle with prizes ranging from a Monster Hamper, to a Turkey & Ham, Meals in Local Restaurants, Vouchers, Sweets etc. The draw will take place at the Christmas Sale in NYP on Tues 15th Dec from 3-6pm. Everyone welcome. We would appreciate as much local support as possible for our local young people.

Naionraí Éirne

Naionraí Éirne are holding a night at the races in Max Bar, Market St, Ballyshannon on Wednesday 16th December at eight o'clock. The proceeds go to the running of the Gael Play School at Park View. Everyone welcome.

Bundoran Writers' Group

"Catching the Wave: The 2009 Anthology of the Bundoran Writers' Group" will be launched in Bundoran Library on Friday the 11th of December at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. Profits from the sale of the anthology will be donated to two local charities, the Saint Vincent de Paul and the North-West Hospice. The launch will be followed by drinks in Brennan's Bar on Bundoran's Main Street, the fortnightly home of the Bundoran Writers' Group. At the launch, members of the group will read a selection of poetry, fiction and creative non-fiction taken from the anthology on topics ranging from the local (Bilshie; Roguey Bogey) to the global (Photograph in the Irish Times: Ossetia, Beslan; Journey to Salamanca), and other stories from childhood and young adulthood. The anthology is priced at €7 and will be available after the launch at retail outlets. Come along to the launch or buy a copy of the anthology -- the perfect Christmas gift that keeps on giving.

Thank You to Citizens Information

We would like to thank Sean Staunton and members of the Citizens Information for all their hard work in compiling the flyers which have been included with our Newsletters throughout the year. There has been a lot of positive feedback on these and many people have found them very helpful. Happy Christmas to you all

Brass & Reed Band

The Brass & Reed band would like to thank all who supported the band and all who continue to give their time voluntarily throughout the year. They had many outings ie the St Patrick's Day Parade, Corpus Christi, St Vincent de Paul Concert, the Carnival and switching on the lights in both Ballybofey and Ballyshannon .

Directors: Catherine Maguire, Michael Tunney, Margaret Doyle, Michael Gallagher, Roisin Lee, Kathleen Rafferty, Mary Monaghan, Gerry Doherty, Michael Devanney, Sean Ferguson, Maureen Keenaghan, Barry Sweeny, Ann Mc Gowan.

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