

Free Community Newsletter



ATLANTIC VIEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

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Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Atlantic View Community Development Project will take place on March 5th in the Day Centre, College St, Ballyshannon, at 8.00pm. One or two representatives from the community groups in the area are invited to attend. It is important that as many groups as possible are represented on the Board of the project to ensure an input from as many areas as possible in the future developments of Atlantic View CDP. If you belong to a community group and would like to have an input in the work of Atlantic View CDP just come along on the night. Above is the 2008 members of the Board with one of the placement students, Donna Walsh, volunteer worker Magi Traynor and Siobhan Mc Gloin, Admin/Finance worker. Missing from the photo are Board members Michael Gallagher and Sean Ferguson.

Care of the Aged

Care of the Aged, The Day Centre, Ballyshannon would like to say a big thank you to the Ballyshannon Business Chamber of Commerce who donated €600 from their Fun Run at Christmas to the project. Marian Mc Gee, Coordinator, said the money will be used to buy materials to carry out arts and crafts projects and outings. At the moment the members are looking forward to St Patrick's Day when Phonsie, Bill and Friends will play for them and there will be dancing and a sing song. They are also learning songs to add their little bit to the St Patrick's Day Parade. If you are artistic or can play an instrument why not call in any Tues, Wed or Thurs between 10am and 4.00pm and give Marian and Jean a hand organising projects and entertainment. Your input would be very welcome.

Community Development Projects Networking

tAtlantic View CDP attended a recent meeting of the CDP Network where one of the major topics was the rise in unemployment due to the economic down turn. Deep concern was expressed at the increase in unemployment in Donegal. It is up 52% on the Live Register in 2008. It was agreed it is now even more important to look at it's impact and to decide what the CDP Networking Group or individual projects can do to counteract this.

The Sustainable Energy Ireland grants and training which are out at the moment were discussed to see what could be done through these.

The development of sustainable energy alternatives projects were also discussed as a job development area that could be looked at.

Members wondered if this was a feasible road to research.

The immense work that is done by the CDPs in their respective areas was looked at and how the 6% decrease in their budgets would impact on their work. It was agreed that the huge numbers who use the centres, the people who attended the courses, training and events and activities organised and ran these projects was impressive but not properly recognised by corporate agencies.

It was also agreed that Community Development Projects should be represented on all boards who make decisions which have impact on the communities CDPs represent and the decision to do this should be made by the Department on a national basis. The next meeting of the CDPs Networking Group will take place in Dungloe on April 25th

Fashion Show with a Difference

A fashion show with a difference will take place in the Marian Hall, College St, Ballyshannon on 12th Mar at 8.30. All the clothes will be from the Ballyshannon and Bundoran Thrift Shops. All the models will be women, children and men from the area and the proceeds will go to the Niall Mellon Township Trust and St Vincent de Paul. Admission is €8. Brendan Travers will be music arranger and MC on the night with the much talented Farah Bogle providing musical entertainment in the interval.. There will be some beautiful clothes on display and these can also be bought at the end of the evening for very reasonable prices.

Our coordinator Ann Mc Gowan is going to South Africa with the Niall Mellon Township Trust to help build houses from 6th – 15th Nov. The Niall Mellon Trust was established in 2002 with the aim of providing quality social housing for the impoverished communities in townships in South Africa, In the first year the Irish volunteers completed 150 homes and since then they have completed 11,000 houses, 5000 of which were built in 2008 when 2,000 volunteers left Ireland from 13 counties to take part in the Building Blitz.

Your support would be much appreciated at this event. Tickets are available from Ann or others involved in the Fashion Show. If you would like to donate towards this you can also send your cheque to Ann Mc Gowan, 69 Erne Dale, Ballyshannon. She needs to raise €5,000 before August for the Trust.

Active Retirement IT Course

The Active Retirement Group, Ballyshannon have entered the IT Age by learning how to send email, use the Internet and basic computers in the AV Centre. Their tutor is Simon Cosgrove and the course is funded by the VEC.

PADDY WAGONS WANTED!

Ballyshannon's St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place on Tues 17th Mar at 2pm and promises to be the biggest yet. Cash prizes for best creative, entertaining & topical float plus runner- up prizes will be awarded. "The competitive battle lines are already drawn" said Brendan O'Reilly. Lots of other entertainment is planned with marching bands from all over Ireland and music sessions in pubs after the Parade "All Businesses are asked to use a St. Patrick's Day theme on the front of their premises and please enter a float in the parade." The MC will be Gerry Gallagher and the local Brass and Reed band will be present." The committee would like to see all cups from last year returned to Brendan O'Reilly at Dicey Reilly's. For further information on the parade call 086 2836914.

Ballyshannon Regeneration Group

A new voluntary community group 'The Ballyshannon Regeneration Group' with its aim to enhance and promote the town has recently been formed. The objectives of the group are to promote the historical, cultural and tourism aspects of the town. They will initially begin with the planting of flower displays, cleaning up the overgrown areas and look at ways of promoting all aspects of the town from a tourism point of view.

It is made up of representatives from various community groups and local councillors who are anxious to tap into the huge community spirit that is in the town. Anyone who would like to become involved in the clean-up and promotion of the town can leave their name into Atlantic View CDP on the Main St or speak to any of the group members who are Barry Sweeny, Deirdre Kerr, Ann Mc Gowan, Rosaleen Branley, Barry O'Neill, Eunan Doyle, Sinead Donagher, Nuala Mc Dermott, Sean Dorrian and Hugh Maguire. With the recession hitting everyone so hard it is now even more important to look at all areas where we can create employment. Ballyshannon has a lot to offer including great angling, scenic areas, walking, good pubs, good restaurants etc and we should be proud of this .

"We wish to promote what we have from a tourism point of view and to instill or regenerate in our community a sense of pride in our town" said the group's Chairperson Barry Sweeny.

Saimer Childcare Centre

The Saimer Childcare are holding a Pyjamas Day for the Make a Wish Foundation on March 27th. Anyone who would like to donate to this very good cause should call up to the Centre on the day or ring 071 98 52942.

Scratching Hens

The Ballyshannon Women's Creative Writing Group is restarting after Easter and are looking for new members. "The Scratching Hens" are facilitated by Monica Corish, a trained Writing Group Leader. They meet in Atlantic View CDP every second Tuesday morning from 10:30 am - 1 pm, with the first meeting on the 21st of April, and running until 30th June. The cost is €120 / €95 / €75 (concessions). Phone on 087-6414185 for more information, or to to book a place.

Chilean Arpilleras: Tapestries of Women's lives and survival

Roberta Bacic, Chilean Human Rights Researcher and activist, facilitated workshops in the Lakeside Centre as part of the programme of activities run by the Cross-Border Women's Reconciliation Project and is a collaboration with Second Chance Education Project for Women (SCEPW) and Fermanagh Women's Network (FWN).

It will explore common issues and the legacy of the conflict on women and build relationships between women in South Donegal and North Fermanagh.

Arpilleras are appliqué quilts/wall hangings, made with scraps of material by Chilean women who are relatives of the 'disappeared' and a way of expressing their experiences during the Pinochet regime in Chile. They are also a testimony to the strength of Chilean women in their struggle for truth and justice.

The workshops held in Ballyshannon and Kesh and attended by members of local women's groups who heard the story of Arpilleras and got a chance to produce a group Arpillera depicting their own local issues. They also looked at links between women in Chile and Donegal./Fermanagh.

"Excellent, interesting, insightful" was how women described the workshop. They felt they had gained an insight into "the devastating suffering of the Chilean people and how it has been expressed and recorded by women" and "the problems that people have suffered like ourselves."

For further information on this project contact Breege Doherty, Project Co-ordinator – 074 9740494 / 087 2355078 or email - secondchanceborder@gmail.com

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Please find enclosed with this Newsletter a free Fact Sheet on Health Services Information kindly prepared for Atlantic View CDP by the local Citizens Information Office.

We hope it will be of benefit to you. If you would like extra copies of this or of our previous one on Unemployment please contact Ann or Siobhan in our Centre.



The Cross Border Women's Collective

A Cross Border Women's Collective two day workshop took place in the Breesy Community Centre, Cashelard, on the 18th and 19th Feb organised by Atlantic View CDP in partnership with Ballybeen Women's Centre, Dundonald and Ardmonagh Family Centre, Turf Lodge, Belfast. Thirty three women from South Donegal, West Belfast and Dundonald took part. The discussions covered core funding of cross border community groups, public speaking, interview techniques, the compilation of a DVD depicting the women's lives during the troubles and since, the impact of The Troubles or not on the women's lives in Donegal and the role politicians play in community development. The input from the women from both cultures in NI was very powerful and enlightening as they told their stories of the Troubles. Their stories will be recorded as part of the proposed DVD which the Cross Border Women Collective have applied for funding for. The next workshops of the Collective will take place in Belfast on May 6th & 7th.



Hanna's House Conference

Hundreds of women attended the very interesting conference on feminism; 'Hanna's House' in the Guildhall, Derry on 11th Feb with some wonderful women speakers taking part including Bernadette Mc Aliskey, the Political Activist and Author and Myrtle Hill, Senior Lecturer in Queens University Belfast. In the photos are Ann Mc Gowan and Bernadette Mc Aliskey and Soibhe Lally with Myrtle Hill who both attended the conference with many others from the the area.

Creative Writing Course

A creative writing course covering poetry, short stories, plays, TV and film will commence in the meeting room of Atlantic View CDP Centre (opposite Dorrian's Hotel) , Main St, Ballyshannon on Wed 25th Mar. Course fee is €50 and course facilitator Gerry Doherty. If you are interested in attending please contact Gerry on 0864082855.

Directors, Michael Devanney, Catherine Maguire, Michael Tunney, Michael Gallagher, Margaret Doyle, Roisin Lee, Mary Monaghan, Gerry Doherty, Sean Ferguson, Ann Mc Gowan.

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