



Monaghan LCDC Peace IV Partnership

Newsletter No 2

August 2018

Our Peace IV Programme is progressing well with programmes and events taking place across the County. In addition to the partner delivery agents who we introduced you to in our first newsletter we also have two small grants programmes in operation.

Building Positive Relations – The aim of these grants is to promote positive relations through addressing issues of trust, prejudice and intolerance and to facilitate personal interaction between residents and groups from divided neighbourhoods. Over the next 12 months projects will be taking place, these include;

- A project using a model of story telling to acknowledge the different memories and perspectives of politically motivated ex-prisoners and their families and displaced people, delivered by Clones Failte.



- A cultural awareness and community engagement project delivered by Castleblayney Community Enterprise.

- A cultural awareness project delivered by Blayney Blades, to learn more about history, literature and traditions.
- A project to deal with the realities and perceptions of a target group in the Monaghan area by addressing the cause of the conflict, understanding society and addressing the economic reality, delivered by Teach na nDaoine.
- A capacity building programme delivered by Johnstone Madden Memorial Hall to develop a greater understanding of the Protestant community and its cultural identity within Monaghan.
- A series of events delivered by Drum Development Association to dispel myths and to build positive relations.

This project is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



- A project to collect memories from the impact of the border road closures and to work closely with young people to raise awareness, delivered by Latton Social Services and Development.

Shared Spaces & Services – The aim of these grants is to develop the shared aspects of existing neighbourhoods, public spaces and buildings. Over the next 12 months projects will be taking place, these include;

- The development of a small astroturf area adjacent to the Iontas Community Centre in Castleblayney.
- The development of a multi-use games area in Doohamlet.
- Renovations to the Orange Hall in Glaslough.
- Renovations to the Protestant Hall in Mullapike
- The development of a peace garden in Clones.
- Renovations to the Johnston Madden Memorial Hall in Monaghan.
- Improvements to the cricket facility at St Macartans College, Monaghan.

Project Progress, Uniting Generations Together

Each of our newsletters will focus on one of our partner delivery projects. In this newsletter we will be looking at the Intergenerational project ‘Uniting Generations Together’. The aim of this project is to raise awareness and understanding of a border town. To enable young people to understand why older generations hold their values, perceptions and beliefs. There are a number of sub programmes within this project.

❖ Life on the Railway



During the project the group visited Whitehead Railway Preservation Museum where the older generation got to see for the first time in sixty years the old GNR locomotives which they once knew so well.



❖ Remembering Together

A book capturing the memories and stories of individuals who grew up along the border was the legacy of the **'Remembering Together'** project which saw students from St. Mary's National School, Threemilehouse interview service users of Drumkill Day Care Centre over the course of the school year.

The aim of the project was to provide older people with an opportunity to reminisce about what life was like for them growing up and for the younger people it was a chance to hear first-hand accounts of the history of the local area.



The book was designed and published comprising of the interviews and included a variety of subject themes such as: home life; school; celebrations; births, deaths and marriages; superstitions etc.

Speaking at the launch of the book, founder and Manager of Drumkill Day Care Centre, Mae Murphy spoke of the benefits of this project and commended Monaghan County Council and the European Union's PEACE IV Programme for supporting this initiative. *"It wasn't just beneficial from the point of view of passing on history and heritage, but it had also huge benefits in terms of a person's well-being. A couple of our services users who took part in the project have dementia and while they may not remember what they had for lunch, they could easily recall past events such as their childhood days, their work life, their wedding day etc so in that regard it was hugely stimulating and very enjoyable for all involved."*

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❖ My Life, Your Life



Friday 1st June saw the conclusion of a series of intergenerational workshops as part of the **'My Life, Your Life'** project in which Transition Year students from the five secondary schools in Monaghan; Monaghan Collegiate School, Colaiste Oiriall, Beech Hill College, St. Macartan's Secondary School, and St. Louis Secondary School worked with the older generation to develop a film about life growing up along the border.

Facilitated by Cinemagic the project set about promoting peace, reconciliation and mutual understanding through the media of drama and film. During the workshops the older generation shared with the students what life was like for them growing up and being part of a border community during the troubles. From these stories a script was developed, and a short film titled 'The Butter Run' was produced. This short film can be viewed online using the following link: <https://youtu.be/z3XLXEqWyVY>

❖ Lost Skills Revived

Passing on craft skills down through the generations was the legacy of the **'Lost Skills Revived'** project, which saw students from Largy College learn a variety of forgotten crafts while working with Cairde Activation Centre in Clones and several older members of the community.

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The finished craft piece pictured here was inspired by nature, the colours of the landscape, and the creatures and plant life we are surrounded by in the border region.

Through the craft of drawing, knitting, sewing, crocheting, embroidering, and producing handmade buttons from clay, the piece was brought to life. A final symbolic and visual reference was the use of a photographic image to illustrate the generations involved in the project and of the beauty of aging. The piece is currently on display in the Market House in Monaghan town.

❖ **Scouting Together Both Sides of the Border**



Pictured are a group of former 2nd Monaghan Town Scouts who went back to their old hang-out as part of the project.

This project aims to produce a book celebrating the scouting culture and heritage which has been in operation in Monaghan for over seventy years. At the event the older participants shared with the current scouts their stories and memories of their scouting days for inclusion in the book. The event ended with the younger participants preparing a barbeque for their guests which further ignited some long-forgotten memories of their camping days.

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Contact us:

If you would like more information on any of our Peace IV projects please send an email to peace4@monaghancoco.ie

We look forward to hearing from you.