



CRC CIVIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

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FOUR CORNERS, TWO CHURCHMEN, AND ONE MAJOR AWARD

Rev Steve Stockman and Fr Martin Magill presented with joint CRC Civic Leadership Award



Rev Steve Stockman, Peter Osborne, CRC Chair and Fr Martin Magill

Two largely unsung heroes of cross-community work in Northern Ireland jointly received a high-profile award to recognise their dedication on Sunday 19th June 2016.

The Community Relations Council (CRC) presented the CRC Annual Award for Civic Leadership to Fr Martin Magill and Rev Steve Stockman in front of their respective congregations at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in North Belfast, and Fitzroy Presbyterian Church in South Belfast.

The two clergymen then came together later in the afternoon with their trophies.

Rev Stockman and Fr Magill are perhaps best known for their highly regarded [4 Corners Festival](#) in Belfast, which brings people from across the city together through cultural and arts activity.

The two clergymen accepted an invitation to speak together at the opening session of the Sinn Fein Ard Fheis last year. And Rev Stockman is set to speak at the Clonard Novena this week.

CRC CIVIC LEADERSHIP AWARD 2016

Both clergymen regularly write and broadcast on the theme of reconciliation and a shared future.

This is the third year of the CRC Civic Leadership award, which seeks to recognise exceptional contribution to civic leadership in Northern Ireland and the demonstration of sustained leadership that has helped promote community relations, peacebuilding or intercultural work.

Previous winners were [Lord William Hay and Máirtín O Muilleoir in 2014](#), and [Linda Ervine in 2015](#), who is helping to change perceptions of the Irish language in unionist communities.

CRC Chairman, Peter Osborne, said that the award was fitting recognition for Rev Stockman and Fr Magill.

“Fr Magill and Rev Stockman’s enthusiasm for promoting reconciliation is utterly impressive and unrelenting. They epitomise what this award is all about, being very public in their togetherness, being highly creative in building understanding, and involving so many other people in working towards a more inclusive and integrated society. CRC is absolutely delighted and honoured to jointly present them with this year’s award,” he says.

Rev Stockman said: “I am surprised and humbled by this award. Fr Martin and I don’t do what we do with any intention of being given awards. I am particularly delighted that it comes from outside of the Church. I have always believed that my following of Jesus should benefit everyone and if it doesn’t contribute to society as a whole then it is useless and bears no resemblance to what we read about Jesus in the Gospels. I think that there will be moments when I will take a look across my office at this award to give myself encouragement to continue to do what we are trying to do.”

Fr Magill added: “I am pleased that the Community Relations Council has recognised the contribution that people of faith can and should make to civic society. I have been blessed by my friendship with Rev Steve Stockman which has given us both many different opportunities we would not have had as individuals. I would like to use this award as a platform to encourage more people, especially from the churches, to be involved in healing the wounds of our society and ensuring we never again return to the violence of the past.”

If you would like to comment or submit an article for this bulletin or advertise a community relations event or publication, please contact Ellana etomasso@nicrc.org.uk.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND CULTURAL AWARENESS WEEK 2016

Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week 2016

Building the Future Together, 19th – 25th September

This year's Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week will take place between **19th and 25th September, 2016**. Supporting the *Together: Building a United Community* strategy, it is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of our culture and heritage, promote cultural diversity and tackle sectarianism and racism.

The Week provides a platform for organisations and groups from the community and voluntary sectors, arts, culture, sport, education and the wider public sector to showcase innovative approaches to good relations and building a united and shared community.

The theme for this year is *Building the Future Together* and will focus particularly on youth and looking at how all members of our society can shape the future to be a positive space in which our diversity is celebrated.

To register an event to be included in the programme, please submit details [here](#).

For any queries please ring: Kathryn Kirk or Claire McKee on 028 9076 0066 or [email](mailto:crweek@jprni.com): crweek@jprni.com

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OUTSIDE THE LAW

“Outside the law” The continued impact of paramilitarism on communities and peace building by The Detail

A new strategy aimed at disbanding Northern Ireland’s paramilitary groups, launched last month, must tackle organisations who have thousands of members and are involved in hundreds of acts of violence and intimidation each year.

From 2006-15 paramilitaries were responsible for 22 killings, more than 1,000 shootings and bombings, 787 punishment attacks, there were nearly 4,000 reports of people forced from their homes by paramilitaries, while security alerts halted more than 4,000 train services.

Police believe there are currently 33 organised crime gangs directly linked to paramilitary groups, amassing tens of millions of pounds each year. But despite the scale of activity, the Northern Ireland Courts Service confirmed that from 2007-15 there were just over 80 convictions secured under terrorism legislation, leading to 48 prison terms.

Security services have said convictions are also secured under non-terrorism legislation, while they also regularly disrupt planned attacks. However, the impact of paramilitary activity can still be felt in many communities, with Alan McBride of Belfast’s Wave Trauma Centre confirming that half of the victims currently seeking assistance are doing so as a result of events that took place in recent weeks and not during the Troubles.

The report [“Outside the law” - The continued impact of paramilitarism on communities and peace building](#), was compiled by The Detail (www.thedetail.tv), and commissioned by the Community Relations Council. It found that people living in communities bearing the brunt of continued paramilitary activity felt politicians and the police were not doing enough to address the problem.

In anonymous testimony, community workers and victims spoke of the impact they see on everyday life.

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OUTSIDE THE LAW

“I think paramilitarism is part and parcel of the structure of this society – it is all I have ever known. It seems we are allowed to have a structure outside of the law.” one youth worker said.

An individual who was put out of their home by paramilitaries said, “I think I was around 14 years old when I got into trouble with paramilitaries. They said it was about anti-social behaviour in the community. They threatened to shoot me. I got no help – I went to nobody.”

The report was published in the run up to the recent Assembly election, a period in which a three person panel, appointed under the terms of the Fresh Start Agreement, was developing proposals for a strategy that would lead to the disbandment of paramilitary groupings.

Among the core issues explored by both The Detail report and the Fresh Start panel was the absence of a strategy to re-integrate the estimated 30,000-40,000 former paramilitary prisoners, many of whom continue to face barriers to employment, travel and insurance.

This is an issue that has been further brought under scrutiny after former IRA prisoner Martin Neeson’s successfully took a High Court challenge following his dismissal as a groundskeeper following the introduction of new security checks in 2013.

The Panel on the Disbandment of Paramilitary Groups made its report at the beginning of June 2016 with recommendations under the following broad headings

- A Promoting Lawfulness
- B Support for Transition
- C Tackling Criminal Activity
- D Addressing Systemic issues

The full report can be found at

<https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/newnigov/The%20Fresh%20Start%20Panel%20report%20on%20the%20disbandment%20of%20paramilitary%20groups.pdf>

MAUREEN HETHERINGTON RECEIVES DR PHILIP WEISS AWARD

Maureen Hetherington receives Dr Philip Weiss Award For Storytelling for Peace and Human Rights



Maureen Hetherington is the Director of the Community Relations Council's (CRC) Core Funded group The Junction: Community Relations and Peace Building Initiative in Derry/Londonderry.

Maureen says, I have the privilege, on occasion, to be invited to other countries wishing to know more about peace building work. Six years ago I was invited to work at the Arthur V Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice, University of Manitoba, Canada. I spent a week delivering workshops to students studying Peace and Conflict and I delivered training on our work of Towards Understanding and Healing: Dealing with the Past through Storytelling and Positive Encounter Dialogue. The training is culturally transferable and it has been adapted and used widely by a range of organisations working at the grassroots there.

This year, I was invited back to receive the 'Dr Philip Weiss Award for Storytelling for Peace and Human Rights' at their Annual Storytelling Festival, organised through the Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice. The award was presented to me in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Winnipeg.

In Maureen's work she draws on the power of storytelling to bring people together from both sides of the conflict after the loss and trauma of political violence. She developed the program Towards Understanding and Healing: Dealing with the Past through Storytelling and Positive Encounter Dialogue. She was the chairperson of An Crann/The Tree a project that gathered the stories of those affected by the conflict. A major focus of her work is a project on Ethical and Shared Remembering. Maureen has worked on numerous projects for eliminating prejudice and promoting dialogue in schools and the wider community and in 2015, she received the Community Relations Award for Exceptional Achievement from CRC.

(Dr. Philip Weiss (1922–2008) was an untiring human rights educator and author of *Humanity in Doubt* (2006). Over two decades, he shared his compelling personal story as a survivor of the Holocaust to tens of thousands of young people. He received numerous awards for his contributions to cross-cultural awareness and tolerance.)

THE STORIES NETWORK

Memorandum of Understanding for a network for those gathering and sharing personal narratives related to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland.

The network involves:

People and projects who are interested in or involved with sharing of stories and personal narratives, which are from the time of or related to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland, in order to help society heal from divisions. This includes stories or personal narratives which are shared through dialogue, art form or oral history, and also those which are shared but not gathered.

Anyone involved in or interested in past, present, or future storytelling projects related to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland who adheres to the HTR Ethical Principles on Storytelling and Personal Narrative as a foundation for work in this area can join the network.

The network's aims are:

- To encourage people and projects interested in storytelling to share and learn from each other;
- To promote good practice/ethical principles for the gathering and sharing of stories and personal narratives which take place during or are related to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland;
- To promote, where appropriate, links between projects and accounts;
- To share learning – including between forthcoming, existing and completed projects;
- To hold seminars and events which take place during or are related to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland;
- To participate in processes calling for national collections and which take place during or are related to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland;
- To encourage listening to stories and personal narratives which take place during or are related to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland; and
- To not replicate the work of any other existing networks.

The network's activities are:

- To hold regular (at least quarterly) meetings in order for the network to remain live, and to respond to the political and social context in and about Northern Ireland as it evolves;
- To invite new members to make a presentation to one of the regular Network meetings in order to establish Membership;
- To hold seminars and events relating to the sharing of, and good practice, in stories and personal narratives of the conflict in and about Northern Ireland; and
- To review and revise the network aims and activities as necessary.

To find out more about the Network contact: Project Coordinator, Healing Through Remembering

Email: projectcoord@healingthroughremembering.org

Website: www.healingthroughremembering.org

CAROLE KANE, FREELANCE TEXTILE ARTIST

Patricia O'Neill, Communications Manager, Community Relations Council

At a recent seminar 'Oral History Archives: Process, Methodology and Copyright' I met Carole Kane who has worked for some time in peacebuilding through the arts, I asked her to explain her work for the eNews.

Carole Kane, Freelance Textile Artist, facilitator and coordinator: Expressive Arts, Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding

Having originally trained as a weaver, my work covers different approaches which intertwine Expressive Arts, creativity, conflict transformation, peacebuilding and education. With 20+ years experience of delivering courses, initiating and facilitating projects in both community art and education settings across Northern Ireland, I am currently studying a Masters course in Expressive Arts in Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding in the European Graduate School, Switzerland. My thesis title is "*Expressive Arts: space for hope and transformation to emerge*" and my personal art practice currently explores this context.

Practice:

I work in a freelance capacity as an artist, coordinator and facilitator; my art practice uses textiles, multimedia, drawing, amongst other media. I co-ordinate projects by initiating ideas through to monitoring and evaluation. I use the Expressive Arts when facilitating groups by developing workshops, projects and programmes around the needs and potential peacebuilding aspirations of communities and listen to and engage with groups to get a sense of their key issues and am always keen to see how "hope" can be built. From this, I devise appropriate arts based activities to develop understanding of "self" and "other", as they acknowledge wider contexts. This, for example, often enables participants to find their voice by creating individual and collective narrative. I accompany groups as they develop safety, sensitivity, resilience, helping them discover new perspectives.

This explorative, reflective approach works across a range of creative techniques in one project. These can include: visual arts, painting, photography, drawing, creative writing, drama, music, movement. In short, by suspending control new themes emerge, allowing new perceptions and ideas, as the arts make way for peace and co-existence.

I place an emphasis on the *process* of creativity and how the discoveries from this experience can be transferred to critical issues, leaving a lasting legacy with people. As a result, quality art is made from these processes.

To see examples of practice please visit my website: www.carolekane.com or contact me directly: carolekane@btinternet.com.

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COURSES

Mediate NI

ACCREDITED ADVANCED MEDIATION SKILLS COURSE (LEVEL 3 - 9 CREDITS)

- Venue:** Clarendon Street Chambers, 67 Clarendon Street, Derry/
Londonderry, BT48 7ER.
- Dates:** 10 days course - 14, 21 and 29 September; 5, 12, 19 and
26 October; 2, 9 and 16 November 2016.
- Time:** 9.30am – 4.30pm.
- Cost:** £1,000.00 (includes NIOCN registration fee and course workbook).
- Tutor:** Michael Doherty (M.A. Administration and Legal Studies, Accredited
Mediator Regents University, London).
- Who for?** This course is designed specifically for solicitors, barristers,
members of the Judiciary; Police Service of Northern Ireland; Social
Workers; Youth and Community Workers; Community Relations
Project Officers; Probation Officers; Youth Justice Agency Officers
and Good Relations Officers.

THIS COURSE MAY QUALIFY FOR CPD'S UNDER SELF-NOTIFICATION

Information about the NIOCN Accredited Advanced Mediation Skills Course

This is a 10 day comprehensive experiential learning programme to enable participants to become competent mediators. Participants will be trained in the skills needed for effective mediation in family, neighbourhood, community and work-place disputes.

Course content

The course is accredited by the NI Open College Network at Level 3 - 9 credits and will comprise of 60 hours of direct tutor input and a further 30 hours of notional home study. It is intensive and is facilitated by 10 challenging days that will involve tutor input, case studies and role-plays as part of an experiential learning process.

All participants would need to prepare thoroughly for this demanding programme and at least 10 hours of pre-reading should be held in reserve before the course begins as those who register will be forwarded the course handbook.

For more information please contact: michael.doherty@mediateni.com

COURSES (CONTD)

Mediate NI

Facilitating Difficult Conversations

One day Workshop - Tutor Michael Doherty

This one day workshop is designed to help facilitators working in the field of peace building to look at some of the skills and knowledge needed to facilitate difficult conversations when working with sensitive issues.

Part of the day will explore the need to do a lot of self-preparation work and consider different ways of making a group contract in order to establish a safe environment.

Participants will also take part in an experiential learning process that will allow them to look at their own strengths and weaknesses as a facilitator when working with difficult issues.

Who For?

This workshop is more suited to those already working in the field of peace building who wish to enhance their skills in facilitating difficult conversations.

This course is being run on Tuesday 11 October 2016 from 9.30 am—4.30 pm at Rural Community Network, 38a Oldtown Street, Cookstown, BT80 8EF

Cost £30 (includes a sandwich lunch and The Peace Builders Workbook)

For more information contact: michael.doherty@mediateni.com





**Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon**
Borough Council

Be Part of Your Community Plan

Are you interested in shaping the community plan in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough?

The community planning process will be progressed through the establishment of 7 individual themed working groups.

These working groups are specifically to progress the development of the plan, are time bound (3-4months) and are not indicative of final priorities or structures.

Working Groups:

- Regeneration (Physical and Environmental)
- Communities
- Health and Well-being
- Vulnerable People
- Competitiveness/Employment & Education/Skills
- Infrastructure, Energy & Transport
- Tourism, Arts and Culture

In addition to the working groups there are a range of other ways to get involved with the community plan.

To express an interest to participate on any of the above groups or if you would like to be involved in wider community planning engagement, please contact: Noreen O'Callaghan, Community Planning Officer, Telephone: 028 4066 0644, Email: noreen.ocallaghan@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

WAVE Trauma Training

OCN Level 4 Psychological Trauma

Venue: Rural Community Network, 38A Oldtown Street, BT80 8EF

**Date: 4 weeks from 10 am – 4 pm on
Monday 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th Sept 2016**

The OCN Psychological Trauma course was designed to be a natural progression for anyone that has taken part in any of our other trauma related OCNs or for those that are interested in learning more about psychological trauma specifically.

The course provides information about the definitions, theories of, and available treatments for, psychological trauma, the potential effects on adults, children, communities and post-conflict societies, as well as the relationship with secondary stress and compassion fatigue.

This course is a level 4 and consists of 9 credits
Cost: £50 for CPD certificate or £75 Open College Network Accreditation

Please contact Denise directly to register your name as spaces are limited on 028 90779922

EVENTS (CONTD)

Partisan Productions and Ballymac Friendship Trust present:

East Belfast Girl by Fintan Brady

16th-20th August

The Ballymac Friendship Centre

1a Frazer Pass

8pm

You heard from the East Belfast Boy last time around. Now it's time for the other side of the story! Fast moving, inventive, hilarious and touching, this show is a high octane, turbo-charged trip through the pleasures and perils of two young women growing up in tough times. Another (almost) true story. Presented in Full Colour 4D and Hi Def!

What they said about East Belfast Boy:

a moving, strong, powerful performance that had pathos, vulnerability, energy, humour and menace wrapped up in the one character.

an honest account of working class boys in Belfast. Very moving but also funny. Really liked it!

riveting theatre #eastbelfastboy Totally authentic. You will not be disappointed!

East Belfast Girl is part of our ongoing programme of work developed in partnership with local agencies in inner-East Belfast intended to test and demonstrate the value of high quality cultural work in creating shared platforms and spaces for the exploration of difficult and contentious issues.



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EVENTS (CONTD)

The Artist Must Elect to Fight for Freedom or Slavery International Brigade Commemoration Committee presents:

A talk about Paul Robeson's support for the Republic of Spain and the
International Brigades:

*In Spain I sang with my whole heart and soul for these gallant fighters of the
International Brigade.*

**Venue: Shankill Road Library: Date Friday 5th August: Time: 12-2.15 pm
light lunch prior to the meeting**

Paul Robeson, lawyer, footballer (US), civil rights activist, actor and singer was known and beloved throughout the world. Belfast people had the opportunity to see him when he performed here in 1936 and 1958. Giving the talk will be Nancy Wallach of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA) and member of Friends and Family of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Nancy is the daughter of Hy Wallach of the Lincoln Brigade that fought against fascism in Spain.

Martin Lynch, playwright will chair the meeting.

After the meeting flowers will be laid on the memorial in Writers Square.

**Organised by the IBCC in partnership with the Greater Shankill Partnership,
Belfast Trades and District Trade Union Council, Shankill Library, ALBA,
Trademark, ICTU Youth Committee, as part of the People's Festival- Féile an
Phobail**

For further information contact: 07751951785

**Community Relations input-promoting anti-sectarianism, anti racism, anti-
fascism and international relationship**

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