

Major Community Event in St Kevin's Hall

Following a series of public meetings and consultations in the area in which local people were invited to identify and prioritise neighbourhood needs, issues and concerns, the results of the consultations are to be made public at a major community event that is to be staged on **Saturday the 27th of March in St Kevin's Hall North Queen St.** Doors will be open from 12.00 Noon until 5.00p.m. As well as presenting the results of the community consultation, the Greater New Lodge Community Empowerment Partnership (CEP) will also launch a new 'Community Directory' containing details of all groups, facilities and services that exist within the neighbourhood. By constantly reviewing and improving how information is communicated to local residents it is the desire of the CEP to create the maximum opportunity for community participation at all levels. It is hoped that the 'Community Directory' will provide an important and useful source of information that can help facilitate greater community participation.

The event in St Kevin's is part of a wider process intended to promote the work of the CEP, encourage more openness, accountability and create a greater sense of ownership for local residents. Various community groups will also set up information stalls to allow residents an opportunity to meet and speak with community activists and workers. There will also be an advice shop where residents can receive on the spot advice on things such as benefits.

Although the day will focus on serious issues it also provides an opportunity for people to come together for a bit fun and craic. To make it an enjoyable occasion there will be a disco, face painting, balloon shaping and other activities for young people. There will also be a photographic exhibition, traditional Irish musicians, Bingo, pampering sessions, film-shows, featuring life in the community, food, light refreshments and ballots with prizes.

Child-care facilities will be available however these must be pre-booked by contacting Christine McKeown at the Ashton Centre (phone 90-742255).

Anyone needing transport should also pre-book by contacting Trish O'Kane at the Star Neighbourhood Centre (phone 90-740693). All children should be accompanied by an adult.



New Lodge Fund-Raiser to fight childhood cancer

The people of the New Lodge once again demonstrated their great spirit of generosity by raising £2,400 to be used in the battle against childhood cancer. The drive to raise funds for the Children's Haematology Unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital was organised by New Lodge men Roy McAuley and Tommy Allsopp. Roy McAuley said, "Local people and businesses were really great. We only made the decision to organise this a few weeks

ago and within no time we had raised £2,400. It was a bit of hard work but it was absolutely worth it. Sometimes people run this community down and we do have plenty of problems, but things like this show the true character of our people". Tommy Allsopp described his feelings after visiting the Haematology Unit, "It would break your heart seeing young kids having to suffer like that. The staff there do a brilliant job, I hope this helps in some way".



Roy McAuley, Sister Barbara Carlisle, Ann O'Neill (parent), Tommy Allsopp

Walking Tour of Donegall Street

On the evening of the 27th of April the people of Belfast will again be given the opportunity to go on one of the city's most unique and interesting tours. The Glenravel Project, in conjunction with the North Belfast Tourism Project and Belfast Safaris, will host a unique insight into the history of Lower Donegall Street explaining how life in this part of the old town was. Bodysnatchers, murderers and ladies of the night are what to expect in this brilliant walk. Assemble at the Art College 6.30pm on the above date.

Glenravel Local History Project is based in the Ashton Centre, for further details contact Joe Baker 90742255

CANCER LIFELINE

Cancer Lifeline offers emotional support, counselling and welfare advice for people and families affected by cancer. The project is based in 444 Alliance Avenue. Phone 028 9035 1999.

Local community activist Joe Doherty who is a member of the steering committee said "Given the increasing levels of cancer in these communities, it is more important than ever that people who are affected by this illness can rely on community based support.

Cancer Lifeline is a community based project that can offer a helping hand at a time when it is most needed".

Local residents can contact Joe at the Ashton Centre 9074 2255 or at New Lodge Youth Centre 9075 1385.

Youth Participation Day

Saturday 28th February

On Saturday 28th February youth workers from throughout the New Lodge and Newington areas organised a day to encourage young people aged 12-25 to participate and express their views on all aspects of growing up in the Greater New Lodge Area.

The events took place in a number of Youth & Community Centres. Artillery Youth Centre, Star Neighbourhood Centre, New Lodge Youth Club, Newington Residents Association and Parkside Community House all opened up for the day to try to ensure that there were opportunities for everyone to become involved.

In Artillery Youth Centre DJ skills classes ran all afternoon, and the Cybercafe was opened up for young people to surf the Internet. The young women took part in Dance classes, the Young Mothers Group went on a trip to W5 and there were also trips to Craigavon Watersports Centre and 5-a-sides.



Up on the Limestone the young women were offered an Arts and Crafts session and Beauty therapy day in Parkside Community House, while the young men were based in Newington Residents Association and took part in Health and Fitness at the Whiterock Leisure Centre, swimming at Lisburn and 5-a-sides in the Waterworks.

The Star Neighbourhood Centre laid on a Fun Day for the young people from the Long Streets, with entertainment and a Mural project taking place.

While all these activities were taking place youth workers were encouraging the young people to fill in questionnaires relating to their lives in the area. We received a total of 80 completed forms (and probably the same number that were incomplete) and these are currently being analysed with the view to producing a more in-depth report in the near future.



Is this an acceptable way to live?

This photograph was taken on Tuesday March 2nd in the top entry between New Lodge Rd and Stratheden St. On becoming alerted to the situation New Lodge Housing and Environmental Forum officer Joe Kelly immediately contacted the Cleansing Department of the Belfast City Council requesting that the rubbish be immediately removed. The City Council explained that the reason for any build up of rubbish was that one of their bin lorries had been temporarily out of action that week.

Regardless of the reasons or excuses such a situation is totally unacceptable. The people of the New Lodge have the same right as anyone else to live in a clean and healthy environment and City Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that our streets are kept clean. However with rights come responsibilities and we owe it to ourselves, to our children and to our neighbours to avoid if at all possible dumping rubbish in this way. It is not only an eyesore but sets an absolutely terrible example for our children. Furthermore it can create a serious health hazard by attracting rats and other vermin.

Commenting on the situation Joe Kelly said, "If people have excess rubbish, before simply throwing it on to the street or into the entry they should contact the New Lodge Housing Office for help and advice. We can contact the Council on their behalf, if necessary we can have rubbish skips put in place. The problem however is that it isn't only rubbish bags that are dumped but things like furniture, beds, mattresses etc. People really do need to make a special effort to store these types of things until they can be collected. The City Council do provide a special collection service so we should make use of it". Joe Kelly can be contacted at 23 New Lodge Rd, phone 90742399.



COMMUNITY NOTICE
KEEP THE NEW LODGE CLEAN

**ARE THERE OLD
MATTRESSES, FRIDGES
ETC LYING ABOUT YOUR
AREA? OR DO YOU NEED
SOMETHING REMOVED
FROM YOUR HOUSE?
GET IT LIFTED AND
SHIFTED.**

PHONE 90- 270230

**A FREE SERVICE FROM THE
BELFAST CITY COUNCIL**