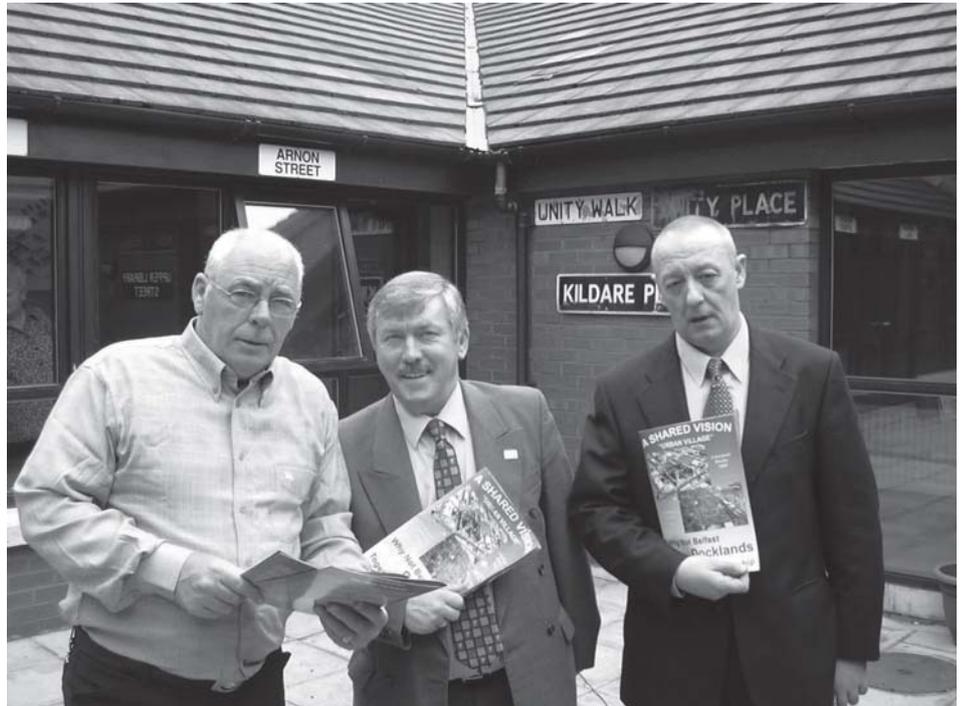


## New Vision for the Docklands

The St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Housing Committee launched their new booklet "Vision Of An Urban Village" on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2004 at the Carrick Hill Community Centre. About 100 people attended the launch and heard community activists outline their vision for the creation of a new urban village in the Docks area.

Chairperson Liam Wiggins explained "Through the physical regeneration of the Docks area this would not only help address the chronic housing shortage that exists in North Belfast but would also make a major contribution to the social and economic regeneration of Belfast as a whole. The idea of an Urban Village is not a pipe dream indeed the concept is similar to the Eldonian project that successfully revitalised the Liverpool Docklands. If it can succeed there, then there is no reason why it can't succeed here. Within the context of North Belfast where housing has been turned into such a contentious issue we see our vision as offering a realistic solution that threatens no one. Everyone one has the right to a decent home our approach is based on addressing need and has nothing to do with creed".



Members of the committee Frank Dempsey, Pat Benson, Gerard Brophy

## The Barrack Online

A new web site is presently under construction which will be of interest to everyone in the New Lodge area. [www.thebarrack.com](http://www.thebarrack.com) is being compiled by Joe Baker of the Ashton Centre based Glenravel Project and his son David. The site opens with a brief history of the Barrack area and then gives us detailed histories of The Recy, New Lodge area, Clifton Street Cemetery and several others fascinating local historical topics. The site is still under construction and when it is complete in around ten weeks time it will contain thousands of old Belfast stories ranging from brutal murders through to ghostly tales. Check the site out for yourself and the creators have informed us that comments on it are more than welcome.



# Drop In To The Ashton Centre

Do you want to use computer facilities free of charge, to:

- Start learning Computer Basics
- Use the Internet
- Send e-mails
- Search for a job online
- Create or update your CV

If you are interested, come along to our Drop In sessions and use computers free of charge, in a relaxed environment.

For further information contact: Cathy Rooney at the Ashton Centre. Tel: 9074 2255 or e-mail: [cathy@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:cathy@ashtoncentre.com)



## ECDL & Advanced ECDL

If you have basic IT Skills the centre is currently inviting people to enrol for the ECDL and Advanced ECDL, (European Computer Driving Licence). The qualification covers a range of IT skills and offers increased mobility to holders either in education or employment. The course is designed to provide the necessary skills for unemployed people in order to enhance their job prospects. Classes are available at the centre mornings, 9.30 – 12.30 and Wednesday afternoon 1.30pm – 4.00 as well as evenings 6.30pm – 9.00pm.



For further information contact Course Tutor Pauline Holland at the centre on 9074 2255. or e-mail: [pauline@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:pauline@ashtoncentre.com)



Free Creche (limited places).



## Computer Connections

Community Based Computer Support  
Open to business and the community  
Help, advice and a cure for Virus problems  
Drop in repair service  
Web design and email hosting  
Internet advice and solutions  
Unlimited telephone support  
Tailored on-site support contracts  
"Your Local IT Supplier"

191 Donegal Street, Belfast, BT1 2FJ  
Tel: 028 9032 4633 Fax: 028 9032 4644  
Email: [info@computer-connections.info](mailto:info@computer-connections.info)



## I.C.T. Basic Computer Course

Learn basic computer and Internet skills.

And There's More!

This course also offers you the chance to improve your spelling, reading, writing and maths skills through the use of computers and on-line learning.

If you wish to find out more, come to or ring the Ashton Centre on 9074 2255 and ask for Kate Hughes.

Free Creche (limited places).



## Community Notice

Teague's Pharmacy 195 Antrim Rd offer a free prescription collection and delivery service. This service is of particular help to all elderly people or anyone that suffers from a disability. Contact number: 9075 7576

# Belfast Safaris .....treks in the City

A unique new service for visitors to Belfast was launched on Wednesday May the 12<sup>th</sup>. Speaking at the launch Belfast Safaris Manager Marian Dalton said, "Forget the guide books – take a Belfast Safari walking tour around the city's neighbourhoods. Safari is a Swahili word meaning 'my journey'. Let Belfast Safaris take you on a journey – whether you are a tourist or a local. How many times have you visited a city and wondered what it's *really* like to live and work there? Belfast Safaris will bring visitors into somebody's home or workplace for a cup of tea and a chat as part of the tour, thanks to Safaris' 'host-greeters' who have volunteered their time for this community-led business. Belfast is a hot destination for tourists right now, and the chat and the craic is what its all about. Visitors have a huge appetite for the 'real' Belfast. They've seen negative images on their TV screens for 30 years, and now they want to see how we are building a new future".



Belfast Lord Mayor presents local tour guides with their Certificates

The host-greeters are drawn from all sections of the community; the only qualification needed being a willingness to give a real welcome to visitors. Marian said 'We already have five fully trained local tour guides with interests as diverse as football and local archaeology. They will bring tourists into parts of Belfast that are not on the tourist map, but which are teeming with living history - the stories of people's lives. Safaris will enable people to tell their own stories'. Both tourists and locals will be targeted as Safaris customers. They will be able to choose from standard or bespoke guided walking tours, or self-guided itineraries. So start trekking.....

For information on all Belfast Safaris services contact:

Manager: Marian Dalton  
Admin: Leeanne Holmes  
Tel etc... 02890 222925 Email.... info@belfastsafaris.com



## Walking Tours of Clifton Street Cemetery

One of the most historically important sites in Belfast is the old burying ground situated in Clifton Street in North Belfast. In this ground there are a wide range of people buried and it is unique in the fact that the extremely wealthy lie alongside the extremely poor. Unionists lie side by side with nationalists as do Catholics with Protestants. It is here that the founder of Irish Republicanism lies buried a few yards away from one of the largest 'Famine' graves in this part of the country. On the dates listed below the Glenravel Project will be conducting walking tours of this cemetery and unravelling some of the unknown history such as the activities of the Belfast body snatchers who snatched corpses from this very ground.

### Tour Dates

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August**



All the tours begin at 11am from the gates and a small fee of £1.50 is charged for the information leaflet. The entrance is situated on Henry Place which is the street next to the doctor's surgery on Clifton Street (directly facing Orange Hall).

# Changes To Concessionary Fares Scheme

The Department for Regional Development has recently announced an important change to the application process for the Senior Smart Pass. Those people approaching their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, and who are entitled to a Senior Smart Pass, will no longer receive an application form posted to their home address but will now have to obtain an application form from any Translink bus and rail depot, or by phoning 0845 600 0049.

The Department says that it regrets any inconvenience caused by this change and has taken all practical steps to ensure that the process is as accessible as possible. Once the form has been received, the application process remains unchanged. Applicants should bring their completed forms, along with approved proof of identification, to their local bus or rail station. A Senior Smart Pass normally takes four weeks to produce and will be posted to the applicants address.



The Scheme provides free travel to all residents who:

- are aged 65 and over,
- are registered blind, or
- are in receipt of a War Disablement Pension.

From 1 April 2004 the Department extended the Scheme to provide half fare travel to the following four categories of people with disabilities:

- Those in receipt of either higher or lower rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance,
- Those registered as partially sighted,
- Those known to their local Health and Social Services Trusts as having a learning disability
- Those refused a driving licence on medical grounds.

The Scheme also provides half fare travel to young people up to the 30 June of the year in which they turn 16.

Anyone interested in applying can collect forms from Tar Isteach 133 Hillman Street, where workers will be on hand to help complete forms.

## Celtic Star Hartson Visits New Lodge Youth Club

Celtic striker John Hartson made a surprise visit to the New Lodge on Friday 28th May. As word spread Celtic fans flocked in to get a glimpse of the Celtic player. Youth worker Joe Doherty said "this type of thing is great for the young people of the area and provides them with a rare opportunity to meet one of their hero's in the flesh. I know sport isn't everything but this is a good morale booster for the area".



## Photographic Exhibition New Lodge Youth Centre

A photo exhibition will be held in the New Lodge Youth Centre on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> of June. Doors will open to the public from 12.00. Over 20 years of pictures will be on show, why don't you come along and see if there is a photo of you. Pictures on display will show summer schemes over the years from the Fairy House, to Grey Gables, and of the present day club. Take a look at the picture below, do you recognize anyone in it.

Lots more were that came from.

Mary Madine Youth Leader  
New Lodge Road Youth Centre  
117 Upper Meadow Street, Belfast  
BELB



Doors Open 12.00  
Saturday 19th June 2004

# New Lodge Housing News

The New Lodge Housing and Environment Forum have informed us of proposed changes to the current house sales policy. The following is a statement from the Housing and Environment Forum.

"The Northern Ireland Housing Executive brought into effect new policies in April 2003, where they introduced the capping of tenants discount when applying to buy one of their properties. This was to stem the increasing number of households being bought by their tenants and indicating to them that within a couple of years they will not have any tenants. Through involvement in the H.E consumer panels we were informed again of more proposed changes to these House Sales laws and we as community reps see these as once again putting restrictions on tenants to slow down this process. The following is a breakdown of these proposals".

## Proposals To Amend The House Sales Scheme And Extend The Statutory Right To Buy To Housing Associations Tenants

It is the intention of the Department for Social Development to amend the Housing Executive's House Sales Scheme and extend the statutory right to buy to Housing Associations tenants. The proposed changes which are summarised below, maybe subject to amendment following the outcome of the consultation exercise, but will apply to

all applications, received after 18th May 2004.

1. The Qualifying period for eligibility and discount has been extended from 2 years to 5 years.
2. Discount will now begin at 20% after 5 years, rising by 1% per year to a maximum of 60%



3. The above changes will apply to Flats as well as Houses.
4. The Maximum discount cap will be reduced from £34,000 to £24,000.
5. The Historic Cost Rule has been extended from 8 years to 10 years.
6. The repayment of discount period, in the event of resale has been extended from 3 years to 5 years.
7. Buyback option has been extended from 5 years to 10 years and applies to all social landlords not just the original landlord.
8. Anti-Social behaviour: Applications from tenants under investigation will be suspended until the investigation has been completed.

## Wheelie Bin Help

The City Council provide a service for people who are unable to take out their bin, or have no-one at home who can do this for them. This service is called an assisted lift. Firstly you need to get a letter from your doctor to say that you are unable to do this. Then you send this letter to:

The Operations Manager  
(Waste Collection and Fleet)  
Belfast City Council  
Duncrue Complex  
Duncrue Road  
Belfast BT3 9BP



The refuse collectors will then bring your bin out for collection and return it to the same spot for you. If you want to speak to someone about the assisted lift service, please call the Cleansing Hotline on 9027 0230

## Need Help Giving Up Smoking?

Giving up smoking is probably one of the most important choices you will make in your life. It's certainly the number one action you can take to improve your health. If you are ready to stop smoking, there is now a local weekly support group at the Ashton Centre every Wednesday 10.00 am - 12.00 noon This free, confidential service is run by the Ulster Cancer Foundation and funded by the Eastern Health and Social Services Board.



For further information please contact Irene or Sean at 9022 1022 or just call in to the Ashton Centre. You can also contact Bernie at the Ulster Cancer Foundation on 028 9066 3281 or 028 9038 6324

## 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 9027 0230

A Free Service From The  
Belfast City Council

# Corner House History Project

Corner House Women's Group are undertaking a local history project that will focus on the "Long Streets" of the New Lodge area. The group would be very interested in hearing from people who may have old photographs or old stories to tell regarding local characters and events that have taken place from around 1920 until the present day. Anyone who is interested should contact

Collette Hull at the Corner House 98 Duncairn Gardens at the junction with Lepper St. phone 9074 0380.



## Festival Snooker

As they blow the dust of their snooker cues the Senior Citizens of the New Lodge know just what's at stake! 'The Crucible Theatre' otherwise known as the 'Reccy' will host the 2004 Senior Citizens classic – 'The Champion League of World Snooker'.

The New Lodge Festival has secured the use of the 'Championship Table' for this three-day extravaganza.



Will the real Jimmy White please stand up!!

For details please contact Tierna Cunningham on 90 743331 or Eileen Uprichard from the Reccy on 07771530452.

## New Lodge Arts Project Pilot Programme End of Year Event

New Lodge Arts Project Pilot Programme began in May 2003 and has delivered arts-based workshops in DJ skills, graffiti art, drumming, video production, animation, drama, dance, digital art, craft, trash fashion and photography. Over 200 young people aged between 10 and 25 years from New Lodge have been involved in 26 projects. The programme has been very successful and funding has been secured for a further three years.

To mark the end of the Pilot Programme and to celebrate and showcase the work and talent of

local young people, New Lodge Arts will hold a day of celebration on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June from 11 – 4pm**. Each of the local centres will be involved with activities such as video production, DJ skills, photography, craft, mosaic, mural painting and web-page design taking place. There will also be an exhibition of images and art work created during the programme in Artillery Youth Centre and New Lodge Youth Centre.

For further details please contact Katrina on 028 9074 2255 or at [katrina\\_newell@hotmail.com](mailto:katrina_newell@hotmail.com).

## Children's Focus Group

Do you live in the Greater New Lodge? Are you aged 5-12 years old? Would you like to have your say in what happens in your area?



The Community Empowerment Partnership is working to develop a Children's Focus Group that will bring children together in order to discuss issues that are specifically important to those aged 5-12.

If you would like your child to become involved or want further information parents should contact Christine McKeown at the Ashton Centre phone 9074 2255

# McCracken Summer School

The highly successful McCracken Summer School which is now in its fifth year, will run from Monday 26th July-Sunday 1st August. The programme this year which will be launched mid June is cram packed with Irish language and cultural events for all the family. The programme will include Irish language classes for adults at four levels, from beginners through to advanced. An intensive course for teenagers at all levels as well as a class for primary school children who have not yet had the opportunity to learn any Irish.

Art workshops will run throughout the week through the medium of Irish for children aged 5-11 yrs as well as music and storytelling workshops. Evening events include a range of drama and lectures, not to mention an Oiche Airneáil on Friday night and the Grand Finale Céili Mór in the Belfast Castle on Sunday night.

For more information contact, Maighréad Connolly at 028 9074 9688 or e-mail [CCMR@BTCONNECT.COM](mailto:CCMR@BTCONNECT.COM)



## Memorial Fund Small Grants Scheme

The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund can provide support grants and respite breaks to those who suffered as a result of the 'Troubles'. The scheme is for individuals who can demonstrate they are currently experiencing difficulties as a result of their personal experiences, and who have a present need for assistance to acquire an essential item or service. The Scheme is open to individuals who as a result of the 'Troubles', have;

- a) Lost either a parent, partner or child
- b) Have themselves been injured
- c) Have become the primary carer for an immediate family member who has been injured.

The size of the grant will depend on individual circumstance and the type of item or service needed. However, grants will not normally exceed a maximum of £500, and will be restricted to one award per household in any 12 month period. Application forms can be obtained at the Tar Isteach offices 133 Hillman St.

## Brighten Up Your Area

A major outdoor arts-based project will take place over the summer. The project will include **graffiti** art workshops in New Lodge, Newington, and Greencastle, the creation of a large scale outdoor **sculpture** in Parkside and **DJ skills** workshops in each of the areas. The Project is being organised by New Lodge Arts Project, Newington Residents Association, Greater New Lodge Festival, Greencastle Community Association and the Play Resource Warehouse through funding from the Belfast City Council Development and Outreach Initiative. Any young people who would like to get involved in the workshops should contact:

Newington – BJ McKeivitt – 028 9074 0919

Parkside – Anne McGuinness – 028 9080 6303

Greencastle/Whitewell - Paul McKernon – 07776112624

New Lodge Arts – Katrina Newell – 028 9074 2255

Greater New Lodge Festival – Tierna Cunningham – 028 9074 2255



## Full Time Welfare Rights Service Resumes at Tar Isteach

We are extremely pleased to announce the resumption of a full time welfare rights surgery at Tar Isteach following a temporary disruption to the service. Due to difficulties relating to a lack of funding, Welfare Rights worker Agnes Frazier had been forced to temporarily leave her post. However despite these difficulties Agnes had continued to provide a part time service on a voluntary basis. Nevertheless while the return to normal is a welcome step, uncertainties remain on how the Tar Isteach project is to be funded in the future. Project manager Tommy Quigley said, "Despite the fact that Tar Isteach operates in one of the most socially and economically deprived areas in the country providing services that are crucial

to many people, we have constantly had to work under the threat of closure because of the short term and uncertain nature of funding. Although it is absolutely great to have Agnes back we could quite easily find ourselves back in the same situation in the very near future unless the funding issue is resolved". Chairperson Paul O'Neill added, "While we have a first rate staff who are totally dedicated and committed, no organisation can function effectively unless it has the necessary resources. It puts staff under severe pressure and makes long term planning extremely difficult when we are forced to operate on what literally amounts to a month by month basis, never knowing for certain if we will be able to cover running costs or pay our staff a living



**Agnes Frazier Tar Isteach**

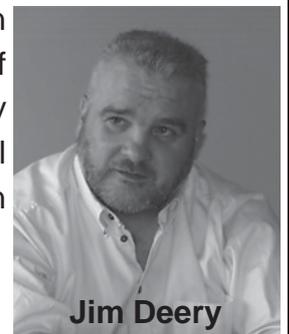
wage". For anyone seeking advice on welfare rights issues contact Agnes Frazier at Tar Isteach 133 Hillman St. phone (9074 6665). Because of the level of demand advice sessions must be organised on an appointment only basis.

## Successful community campaign blocks permit for Amusement Arcade

Following strong objections from local residents to the proposed opening of an amusement arcade at 157 Antrim Rd we are glad to report that following a meeting of the City Council's Health and Environmental Services Committee on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2004, the original decision to refuse this application was ratified and there now will be no amusement arcade opening at these premises. The permit was turned down on the grounds that:

- The premises are located in close proximity to a number of schools
- The premises could put a strain on an already deprived area and could lead to an increase in anti-social behaviour
- The siting of the premises in a residential area was inappropriate and would be likely to impact adversely upon residential amenities

Residents and community activists had protested about this application and at the Council meeting Jim Deery current Chairperson of the New Lodge Forum put the case forward for local people. Jim Deery stated that "While the community is all for the commercial regeneration of the area there are some things which are very detrimental and cannot be supported or indeed allowed to happen. Great credit and thanks for this victory for common sense must go to local councillor Caral Ni Chuilin who made everyone aware of what was being proposed and lobbied and campaigned against it and stood up for local people's rights".



**Jim Deery**



**Caral Ni Chuilin**