

Bray Partnership LINKS

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2004

Welcome to the February/March edition of LINKS.

In this edition we have news about a new project set up by the Older People's Cluster Group, an update on the local Job Initiative Scheme, which is managed by Bray Partnership, information about some of Bray Partnership's programmes and activities locally—such as the LEAP Project - and the Noticeboard, listing current grants schemes, forthcoming training, seminars, events and recent publications that may be of interest.

Happy reading!

Michelle Rogers
Editor

Bray Partnership's Older People Cluster Group saw their hard work and planning come to fruition with the launch in February of a new weekly social day for older people.



Participants enjoying a relaxing T'ai Chi class

The new service, which runs every Monday from 10.30-2.00 in the St. Clare's Centre in the Killarney Road, provides activities, such as T'ai Chi and hand massage, as well as a hot lunch, and a chance to socialise and access information on issues of concern to older people. To date the service has been used by an average of 20 people per week and feedback has been very positive.

The idea for the Social Day came from needs identified at the Cluster Group, which provides a forum for groups working with older people to meet, network, exchange information, discuss issues of common concern and initiate joint projects. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul wanted to extend the use of their new centre to older people and the East Coast Area Health Board agreed to support the project by funding some activities and providing the hot lunch.

A committee was set up to co-ordinate the work and a team of volunteers was recruited to serve meals and see that everything ran smoothly on the day. The Cluster Group is committed to a process of ongoing consultation with the people who use this new service on how they would like to see the service evolve. To date, other activities have included an art session provided by Signal Arts Centre and information sessions with staff from the Bray Citizens Information Centre and from the local library.

For further information, contact Eileen Byrnes from the Partnership's Community Development Team on 01-2868266.

Job Initiative News

A big welcome to Cormac Mc Kenna, pictured on the right, who joined the Job Initiative (J.I.) scheme in January 2004.



Cormac is working as a computer tutor

with the Wicklow Trade Union Centre for the unemployed in Bray. He has a J.E.B. teacher-training diploma in Information Technology and his job involves teaching courses such as beginners level computers, keyboarding skills and Microsoft applications for the E.C.D.L.

Courses are classroom-based or one-to-one, and are open to everyone. Many community groups have attended computer training at the centre, including the Bray Active Retirement Group and the Bray Travellers Community Development Project. Individuals can also use the centre's computers for job search and C.V. preparation. Cormac is planning to develop his own I.T. skills while on J.I. by attending further training.

Moving on

Three participants have left J.I. since our last issue. Helen Kinsella and Kathleen Mc Cann have both moved into employment, while Dermot de Barra has started a business: "Bray School of Motoring". Dermot would be delighted to give you a quote for driving lessons and can be contacted on mobile at 086 8181 318. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all every success in your future careers.

J.I. Vacancies

There are currently two vacancies on JI. To be eligible participants must be aged 35 years and over and unemployed or in receipt of One Parent Family Payment for 5 years. Periods on Community Employment (CE) and VTOS can be included in the qualifying time.

The weekly allowance paid to all JI participants increased on 1st January to €318.40 for a thirty nine-hour week.

For further information on JI vacancies please contact Pat Brennan at Bray Partnership: Telephone 01-286 8266

International Day Against Racism

Participation of minority ethnic groups as a key component towards building an intercultural society is the theme of this year's International Day Against Racism on 21st March.

The theme of participation will emphasise that minority ethnic groups are a part of Ireland, a part of the electorate, a part of local communities and a part of Ireland and Europe's future.

The NCCRI, who will be assisting in the co-ordination of events to mark the day and also the European Week Against Racism from 20th-28th March, are encouraging the organisation of local and national events and would be happy to discuss any ideas that groups or individuals might have.

Contact Jacqueline Healy at NCCRI on 01 4785777, or see www.nccri.com for a list of last year's events.

Desperately Seeking Office space?

Bray Partnership is planning a meeting for local groups seeking office space in the Bray area to discuss the possibility of working together to find local, accessible, shared office space. *To find out more contact Eileen Byrnes at the Partnership on 01 2868266.*

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A big welcome to Cormac McKenna, pictured on the right, who joined the Job Initiative (J.I.) scheme in January 2004.



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NOTICEBOARD

BRAY PARTNERSHIP

Training

Community Training—Facilitation Skills

We would like to offer training in Facilitation Skills for Beginners, but need to have expressions of interest from individuals before we can proceed. Please contact Eileen Byrnes at the Partnership on 01 286 8266 if you are interested.

Wicklow County Childcare Committee (WCCC) Training Courses

Paediatric First Aid, Newtownmountkennedy, Saturday 20th and 27th March, and 8th and 15th May, €70 (includes lunch)

Committee Skills, Baltinglass, Saturday 20th March and 27th March, free (includes lunch)

Quality in Childcare—the journey ahead, Hotel Glendalough, Saturday 24th April, €45 (includes lunch)

Further information from the Administrator at the WCCC on (0404) 64455, e-mail: wccc@eircom.net.

Grants

Dublin Bus Community Support Programme: Dublin Bus is seeking applications from community groups involved in children and sport, environment in the local community, elderly, disabled, and education on drugs, alcohol, literacy and youth health issues. You can contact the Dublin Bus Community Support Programme Co-ordinator on 01 703 3208 or download an application form at www.dublinbus.ie. The deadline for receipt of applications is 5pm, Friday 16th April 2004.

Department of Social and Family Affairs Award Scheme: to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Family, small once-off awards (under €2,000), for local voluntary groups to assist with projects or events to celebrate family in their area. Further information and application forms available from Family Affairs Unit, Dept. of Social and Family Affairs on 01 704 3060, email tyf@welfare.ie, or on <http://tyf2004.welfare.ie>.

Wicklow Community Platform Childcare Seminar

The Wicklow Community Platform is planning to host a seminar on *Childcare Issues for Disadvantaged Communities* at the Grand Hotel, Wicklow Town on Tuesday 30th March from 9.30am-1.30pm. For further information contact Ronan at WCP on 087 2068729.

Wicklow County Council Draft County Heritage Plan

Wicklow County Council has published a draft County Heritage Plan. Copies are available at the Town Council, local public libraries or on the web at www.wicklow.ie. The Council welcomes submissions concerning the plan before 22nd March 2004. Submissions should be sent to the Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow.

New Crosscare Website on drug-related issues

Crosscare have recently launched a new website, www.dap.ie, with information on drug-related issues for young people, guardians and professionals.

Sunbeam Volunteers Seeking Placements

Sunbeam House Services are looking for a volunteer placement for four adult programme participants who are available for a couple of hours on Wednesday afternoons until about Easter. All have good communication skills. Contact Ian Mullins at Sunbeam House Services on 01-2868451, fax: 01-2760367.

Report on Barriers to Employment for People With Disabilities

Wicklow Trade Union Centre for the Unemployed has recently published a report, *Barriers to Progress in the Workplace for Supported Employment Participants*, detailing the barriers facing people with a disability when looking for employment. The report is based on the experiences of supported employment participants attempting to progress into the workplace. Contact the centre on 01-2866730 or by e-mail at wttuc@eircom.net.

Bernard Connolly

The Bray Partnership Board and staff would like to express their deepest sympathy on the death of long-standing Board member Bernard Connolly.

Bray Partnership Website

Our website, www.braypartnership.ie, has a 'Latest News' section as well as a 'Noticeboard' on the site. If you would like to include information or photos about your group's activities, or publicise a forthcoming event, contact Michelle at the Partnership, e-mail: michelle@braypartnership.ie.

Comments, contributions and feedback on the newsletter are welcome. Contact Michelle Rogers, Bray Partnership, 4 Prince of Wales Tce., Bray, Co. Wicklow. TEL: 286 8266 email: michelle@braypartnership.ie This document is available in Braille, large font, on audio cassette or disk on request. It is also available to read and download from our website in the 'our publications' section.