



RCN Staffing Update



RCN would like to welcome its newest staff members - Emma McAleer and Craig Barr.

Emma joined RCN in May 2021 as Project Coordinator on a National Lottery Heritage Fund project. She will be responsible for enabling and supporting member groups in the development of heritage focused projects. She will work closely with member groups and board members to build and develop a strong connection with the heritage sector across Northern Ireland.

Emma has over 9 years' experience working on community engagement projects with a wide range of groups from children and young people to women's groups and older people. She brings a wide range of experience from the heritage sector where she has worked for National Museums NI in numerous roles and at the Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum. Emma is a graduate of Kings College London receiving a Masters in Education In Arts and Cultural Settings and at Ulster University Belfast with a BA Hons Degree in Fine and Applied Arts specialising in textile art. She has extensive experience in project delivery, event management, digital engagement, volunteer management, project evaluation and in facilitating group work. She is passionate about engaging and encouraging communities to explore and engage with their local heritage through creative and digital engagement.

Emma can be contacted via email
emma@ruralcommunitynetwork.org



Craig Barr has been re-appointed for two years as Good Relations Officer working alongside Charmain to deliver a body of core work funded by Community Relations Council and other funders throughout rural Northern Ireland.

Contact Craig on email
craig@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

5G New Thinking

Digital technology is changing how we work, learn, shop and spend our leisure time, and the last 12 months has really brought it to the fore and in doing so highlighted many inequalities in access and use. One of these is the urban /rural divide in terms of access to fast and reliable broadband and mobile telephony.



RCN has been advocating for the needs of rural communities for good digital connectivity and last year became a partner in a new project called 5G New Thinking. This is a UK wide project with 18 partners working together to find solutions to the digital divide in rural regions. Further information is available here.

<http://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org/News/prognews.aspx?id=158>

<http://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org/News/prognews.aspx?id=159>

Nigel McKinney is working with RCN, to take this project forward over the next year. Nigel believes we need to start thinking beyond the priority of getting digitally connected to consider how such new connectivity and technology as 5G can be used to meet rural needs, potentially supporting the revitalisation of rural communities as places to live, work and visit.

Over the coming months Nigel will be engaging with rural communities, developing and delivering a series of events exploring the role and potential of this new connectivity and technology.

To find out more or to engage with Nigel on the issue please e-mail nigel@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

Facebook

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for regular funding updates and RCN events. RCN members can also avail of the Members only funding page.

If you haven't already joined the Members only page but would like to join, contact Teresa at RCN on email teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org or contact 028 8676 6670.



100 Years of Change – Rural Shared History Programme



RCN is pleased to announce that it has received an investment of £35,000

for a new project working across rural NI called "**100 Years of Change – Rural Shared History Programme**".

The project is part of the Shared History Fund, which The National Lottery Heritage Fund is delivering on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office, to help groups mark the centenary in a thoughtful, inclusive and engaging way.

This project aims to work with all sections of the community right across rural NI through a wide range of programmes: these programmes include a digital storytelling, archive and media project, the rolling out of 3 shared history courses focusing on key historical events and personalities of the period 1920 – 1922, as well as working directly with rural practitioners and volunteers at a grass roots level who have an interest in heritage, history and good relations, with particular focus on the last 100 years. The project will commence May 2021 and will run until March 2022. There will be plenty of opportunities for rural communities to take part in discussions, training, conferences, events and workshops.

RCN is seeking to work with rural people and communities from all over NI therefore if you or your organisation are interested in any aspect of this new programme please contact info@ruralcommunitynetwork.org or ring 028 8676 6670.

Peace Plus Programme

RCN has submitted its Consultation Response to the European Territorial Co-operation 2021-2027 - Preparing the EU Peace Plus Programme which closed on 12th May after consulting with our member groups.

A copy of our response can be found on our website [Rural Community Network - Publications](#)

For further information contact Aidan at email aidan@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

Advanced Negotiation and Mediation Peacebuilding after Violence and Conflict The case for NI



This online course will be delivered in conjunction with Ulster University Professors from Incore, as well as activists and Politicians from across the spectrum in NI.

From May 28th – 12th June 2021.

For dates click the link below

<http://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org/news/news.aspx?ID=6312&type=>

To register, contact mary.breen-smyth@umb.edu

Summer Youth Programmes from the Education Authority



The Education Authority has today launched a series of new funding opportunities to facilitate programmes and camps in the upcoming summer period for Young People including:

- Access for All
- Summer Jam
- Summer Boost
- Camp Equipment Grants

For further information visit <http://eanifunding.org.uk/summer/>

The Patient and Client Council

The Patient and Client Council is your voice in Health and Social Care.



To access the latest information, visit their website:

<https://patientclientcouncil.hscni.net/>