



Investing in Community Leadership Forthcoming training



Supported by the Great Ideas Fund and COMMUNITY FUND

RCN, in conjunction with Fermanagh Trust and Holywell Trust, is running the following training sessions:

Avoiding Blunders with Funders 20th April 2021 (7pm)

This workshop will help you develop an understanding of what funders are interested in, explore and highlight some of the 'blunders' which could result in your applications failing to gain support.

Facilitating Effective Meetings 27th April 2021 (2pm)

Management Committee meetings are vital to the effective functioning of the committee and its ability to carry out its role. This workshop will provide guidance on various aspects of planning and facilitating meetings including roles, responsibilities, effective chairing, and decision-making.

Social Media Effective 6th May 2021 (7.30pm)

Social Media is increasingly important to the success of community-based organisations. This workshop will improve participants knowledge of both the range of online technologies and how social media can be utilised to share information about your work in the community.

To register go to:

<https://www.fermanaghtrust.org/community-support/training-programme>

Members Survey Draw



Congratulations to our member **Rathlin Development and Community Association** who was the lucky winner of a Kindle Fire 7 Tablet for taking part in our recent members' survey.

Workshop -The British Indian Army in WW1 Khudadad Khan VC

Monday 19th April at 7pm (via zoom)



Following on from the successful lecture in October with David Martin, RCN is now pleased to offer through the Somme Museum, a second talk: **The British Indian Army in the First World War – Khudadad Khan VC.**

Approximately 1.3 million Indian soldiers served in the First World War but there are still many untold stories about their service and sacrifice.

This workshop will look at this global conflict and how extraordinary this experience was for the Indian Community. The workshop will be presented by Carol Walker MBE, Somme Museum.

If you are interested in attending, please email teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org or ring 028 867 66670.

For Your Freedom and Ours



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS!

For Your Freedom & Ours OCN Level 2 Shared History Campaign will provide a general introduction to historical links between the Northern Irish and Polish communities, mainly focusing on Polish airmen fighting in the Battle of Britain and their presence in Northern Ireland in the Second World War. This project will demonstrate how historical events can be combined with a modern learning approach to gain a wider understanding of shared history and to celebrate positive relations between communities.

This project will commence on 21st April at 7pm (via zoom) and will be delivered for eight weeks every Wednesday evening.

Dates:
21st April at 7 pm
28th April at 7 pm
5th May at 7 pm
12th May at 7 pm
19th May at 7 pm
26th May at 7 pm
2nd June at 7 pm
9th June at 7 pm
16th June at 7 pm

Please contact Teresa at teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org to register.



Places are still available for the course 'For Your Freedom and Ours' starting on **21st April 2021** at 7pm.

The course will provide a general introduction to historical links between the NI Irish and Polish communities, mainly focusing on Polish airmen fighting in the Second World War.

To register contact

teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org



Rural Residents' Forum getting connected



Rural Community Network has worked on the issue of digital exclusion throughout the pandemic. Members will have seen and heard us on TV and radio highlighting poor broadband connections, affordability of connections, affordability of devices and exclusion because of lack of digital knowhow.

We are delighted that the Housing Executive's Cohesion Unit has funded

RCN's Rural Residents' Forum members to access both digital services and 4G connections to keep them connected and participating in the Forum meetings.

Pictured with her device is Phyllis Clarke, Rural Residents' Forum member and member of Fivemiletown Residents' Association.

Independent Review of Charity Regulation Rural Charities meeting – 12th April 2021

The Independent Review Panel of Charity Regulation seeks the views of charities in rural areas on how well the charities regulatory framework, which is administered by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland is working and what could work better.

The Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 is being reviewed and your views are important to the Independent Review Panel ('the Panel'). This will include short presentations from the Independent Review Panel on the issues within the Review's scope and will seek your feedback through questions and answers, and small group discussions.

This one-hour seminar aims to inform you about the Review's objectives and provides opportunity for the Panel to hear and understand your views of charity regulation. Receiving your feedback on what's working and what's not, will be critical in informing the Panel's recommendations to the Minister later this summer.

The event via zoom, will take place on **Monday 12th April at 11am**. This online session is aimed at charities in rural areas of Northern Ireland and will be focusing on regulatory issues pertinent to these key stakeholders.

To register visit: <https://www.nicva.org/event/independent-review-of-charity-regulation-rural-charities-meeting>

We would urge all rural groups and RCN members to attend this important event

RCN and NICVA helps over 700 charities with their charity reporting



NICVA's and RCN's role was to contact charities and make them aware of the support available and provide templates and instructions. The aim was to provide support, develop trustees' skills and help promote best practice and understanding of charity reporting, leading to improved governance. The project named 'Trustee Capacity Building' operated in some very challenging conditions. The pandemic was in full swing and a recent legal judgment impacted the way the Charity Commission operated.

Charities were sent letters explaining the importance of uploading their reports and accounts with templates and instructions. Over 200 charities were given one to one support either by email, phone or attended training delivered over Zoom. This support has given them the confidence to complete their annual monitoring returns and upload their accounts and reports.

LGBTQI+ Strategy Engagement Workshop

RCN is running an early engagement workshop on the LGBTQI+ Strategy on **Thursday 15 April 2021 from 7pm-9pm via Zoom**.

We want to hear the views of LGBTQI+ people in rural communities on the proposed Strategy.

If you want further information contact aidan@ruralcommunitynetwork.org or to register to attend, contact teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org