RCN AGM - 2nd December 2021

RCN's AGM will take place via Zoom on **Thursday 2nd December 2021 – time to be confirmed.**

The business of the AGM will include the adoption of the audited accounts and annual report for the year ended 31 March 2021. Please submit resolutions to Kate Clifford, Director of Rural Community Network before then to info@ruralcommunitynetwork.org   Resolutions must be proposed and seconded by two paid up RCN members or by the RCN Board and may be accompanied by an explanatory text of up to 500 words. Submitted resolutions will be circulated in advance to RCN members. **Please note** only paid up members are eligible to submit resolutions and vote at the AGM. Membership renewals have recently been emailed out.

If you would like to attend the AGM, please email teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org or ring 028 8676 6670

Heritage on the Ground

Celebrating our diverse heritage – this is an opportunity to meet others, share knowledge and learn about what is happening across Northern Ireland.

A range of free online events exploring topics such as audience engagement, cultural diversity and sustainability in the heritage sector starting on **Tuesday, 12th October and continuing weekly until 2nd November at 7pm.**

For further information/dates/registration visit https://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org/eventbrite-event/heritage-on-the-ground/
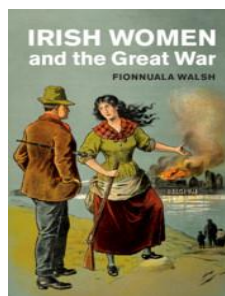
Good Relations Week – Thank you

Good Relations Week took place from 20th to 26th September. RCN in conjunction with partners TIDES Training, NIRWN, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, The Nerve Centre, PRONI and NI Screen organised five events during that week. Over 150 participants engaged in these events. Our events included a film screening, workshop, launch of a website, creative media project and a history lecture.

Charmain Jones, GR Officer for RCN said "Once again our GR events took place virtually, but the rural reach was just fantastic. We had over 150 people join us for our events and from all arts and parts of the country. We could not have engaged in all these projects without the help and support of our partners from right across NI and this partnership working made these events the success that they were. Thank you to every person who attended our events throughout the week."

Rural Shared History Project – 100 Years of Change

RCN is pleased to announce that it has secured an evening with Dr Fionnuala Walsh (first of the series of six) starting **Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at 7pm.**

This talk shows the impact of the Great War on women's everyday lives in Ireland, focusing on the years of the war and the immediate aftermath. Irish women threw themselves into the war effort, mobilising in various forms, such as nursing wounded soldiers, preparing hospital supplies and producing weapons of war. Dr Walsh will bring women's wartime experiences out of history's shadow as she examines welfare, domestic life, bereavement and employment, and reflects upon the significant impact of the Great War on Irish society.

To register, email teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2021

This Scheme is funded under the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme and is being delivered by the Rural Support Networks and closes for applications at **12 noon on Friday 22nd October 2021**.

Micro Capital grants of **between £200 and £1,500** are available to rural community-led, voluntary organisations for projects tackling issues of local poverty and/or social isolation. The total project cost **must not exceed £3,000**.

Projects must clearly address an issue of rural poverty and/or social isolation and applicants **must provide a minimum of 15% match funding**.

Projects must focus on one of the following three themes:
- Modernisation (of premises/assets)
- Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- Health and Wellbeing

For further information/to apply or for your local Rural Support Network go to:

Your Local RSN | The Local Rural Support Networks
Apply online: Login (outsystemsenterprise.com)

Partition 100 – "What did it do for us?" 100 Years of Change - Rural Shared History Programme

There is still time to register for this course.

There are six sessions from **Thursday 14th October to Thursday 18th November 2021** all from 7pm to 8.30pm.

For a list of the sessions please visit
https://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org/programmes/our-story-in-the-making-ni-beyond-100/

To register contact:
teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org or ring 028 8676 6670.

RCN 5G New Thinking project apply for our 3 study visits

Following our 2 recent events on digital connectivity – which looked at connecting rural "not spots" and remote working hubs respectively, we are pleased to invite applications for participation in 3 forthcoming study visits

Applications are invited from people working in a paid or voluntary capacity in rural community development and/or policy within the statutory or VCSE (voluntary, community, social enterprise) sector. Each of the fully funded study visits will have a limited number of places and be dependent on the prevailing Coronavirus pandemic health protection regulations.

In November 2021, with support of the Western Development Commission we will look at the development of rural hubs in the west of Ireland and the role of the National Hubs Network

In January 2022, in association with the Scotland 5G Centre we will visit the Crichton, a campus in Dumfries, which is hosting Scotland's first rural 5G hub and also visit a rural area at Loch Lomond to learn how better connectivity has been provided.

Finally, in spring 2022 we hope to visit Mobile Access North Yorkshire project and the 5G Connected Forest project at Sherwood Forest.

There are a limited number of places and further detail, and the application form, can be accessed here. **Applications close at 5pm on Thursday 21st October**.

For further information contact Nigel McKinney nigel@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

Road Safety (Safe Travel) Grant Scheme

Infrastructure Minister Nichola Mallon has launched the 2021/22 Road Safety (Safe Travel) Grant Scheme. Individuals and community groups can apply for funding of up to £10,000 to develop and deliver local road safety initiatives.

For more information and a funding application pack visit:
www.nidirect.gov.uk/road-safety-grant-scheme

Application must be received by the Department by **12 noon on Friday 15th October 2021**.

If you would like anything included in Rural Brief, please forward to: teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org or if you would like information on membership or RCN's work visit www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org for further information. Phone: 028 8676 6670.

Department for Communities

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs