

The Policy Landscape for Remote Working and Rural Development in Northern Ireland

You are invited to the launch of research commissioned by Rural Community Network undertaken by Dr. Anthony Soares from the Centre for Cross Border Studies.

At this online launch Dr Soares will present key findings from his research which compares the policy landscape for remote working North and South. There will also be time for questions and discussion. The workshop will be delivered via Zoom.

When: Wednesday 26th April

Time: 12.30 - 13.30pm

Where: Via Zoom

To register click [here](#).

For further information contact

kelly@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

Or call 028 8676 6670.



Office Closure for Easter

The Staff and Board at RCN would like to wish its members a happy Easter break.

The office will be closed from the 10 April 2023 and will reopen on the 17 of April 2023.

Keep an eye out over the following weeks for our events to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.



If you would like anything included in Rural Brief, please forward to: info@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.

Storytelling – An Introduction

As part of our heritage project 'Ours to Share', RCN have teamed up with The Armstrong Storytelling Trust to deliver a four-week course. The course is designed to help you feel more confident sharing stories.

You will be guided by storytellers, Liz Weir and Stephen O'Hara. You will learn about simple techniques to enhance your story and the experience for your listeners. This course is for people from rural areas and to support communities in developing storytelling themed events and programmes.

Where: Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House, Dungannon

Start date: Tuesday 18th April 2023

End date: Tuesday 9th May 2023

Time: 7pm – 9.30pm

Booking is essential as places are limited.

If you are interested, please click [here](#) to register.

'Have you ever been a blow in?'

Come along for an introduction to the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies. This is an opportunity to hear about the work they do and to meet others exploring rural heritage, archives, and peoples' stories.

In this session we will learn about what resources and opportunities there are for rural communities at the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies and explore the centre's archives with Liam Campbell and Paddy Fitzgerald. Its also an opportunity to network/chat whilst walking around the beautiful grounds of the Ulster American Folk Park. Lunch is provided.

Where: Mellon Centre for Migration Studies, Omagh

Date: Saturday 22nd April 2023.

Time: 10.30am – 2.30pm

Places are limited. To register, click [here](#).

Community and Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Support

The Department for Communities is carrying out a programme of work aimed at refreshing the policy frameworks for voluntary and community sector support.

This includes agreeing with partners on the outcomes that they should prioritise in future years. They are committed to engaging with a wide range of organisations in the sector, including those supported through our existing funding programmes as well as those that are not. They will also involve other departments, local government and independent funders.

The Department have organised a series of workshops both in person and remotely which will involve up to 20 participants, to discuss the needs and priorities within the sector, as well as exploring the vision and desired outcomes for a thriving voluntary and community sector.

A workshop is being held in RCN offices on **Monday 24th April 1.30pm – 4.30pm**

[Register here.](#)

Details on locations and registration for other workshops can be found [here](#).

Finance for Small Groups and Charitable/Voluntary Organisations

A free practical workshop for treasurers, or those that keep the financial records, of small charities or voluntary groups / clubs to help them establish appropriate financial systems to keep their organisation safe.

Where: Fermanagh House

When: Thursday 20th April 2023

Time: 4.30 - 6.30pm

Facilitator: NICVA

Register here:

<https://forms.gle/PKvJdxns1RcfU7pW9>

Introduction to PRONI

Join us at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) for a session on creative engagement with archives and an introduction to what PRONI do and what they offer.

We will hear from Laura Aguir and Lynsey Gillespie, who have worked together on a range of exciting, creative projects involving communities allowing them access to the archives.

They will share their experience and knowledge on how to creatively use archives when you are developing heritage projects. Come along to connect and learn from others who are exploring heritage in rural areas. Lunch will be provided.

Where: PRONI, Belfast

Date: Saturday 13th May

Time: 10.30am – 2.30pm

To register, please sign up [here](#).



A.I.M. for Better Access' Toolkit

This free workshop and toolkit have been developed by people with disabilities, older people and local support organisations to provide useful tips on how to make public buildings, businesses and community groups more accessible.

On: 27th April

Where: Fermanagh house

Time: 4.30 – 5.30pm

Facilitator: Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, supported by the Public Health Agency.



Register Here:

<https://forms.gle/NJZnbAnmMobHkibP9>