

## RCN Annual General Meeting 2023

Rural Community Network held its 2021/22 AGM on Thursday 9 March 2023.

RCN Chairperson (John Waddell) welcomed Members to the meeting.

RCN Director (Kate Clifford) went through past events that had taken place during 2021/22 and thanked both Members and staff for their continued help and support.

The 2021/22 Annual Report and Financial Statement were presented by Erica Convery (David Lyttle & Co Ltd) who confirmed a clear Audit for the accounting period in question.

RCN Staff gave Members a short presentation on their areas of work during the year including, but not limited to:

- Aidan Campbell – Looking Back to Go Forward
- Emma McAleer – National Lottery Heritage Fund projects
- Conor McGale – Social Value Engine

The Director indicated to Members that the organisation was currently going through a change phase with the help of Rose Regeneration.

A new Strategic Vision for the organisation would be presented to Members for discussion during 2023/24.



## Meet the Funder: The National Lottery Heritage Fund

This session will be an opportunity for rural community groups/organisations to increase their knowledge in what makes a good application and to find out about the kind of projects that have previously been funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It will be held online via zoom.



**Date:** Wednesday 22nd March 2023

**Time:** 7pm - 8pm

**Sign up here:**

<https://forms.gle/dRVo8UFfIB2YKkC3A>

(we will send you the link once you sign up)

## Learn and Network Events

These events are an opportunity to meet others and make connections. Each event is in a unique location where you will learn about the work of organisations such as the Ulster Folk Museum and The Mellon Centre for Migration Studies and what they do in the local community.

Along with these events, we have teamed up with The Armstrong Storytelling Trust to offer a four-week introductory course to Storytelling as part of our heritage project, 'Ours to Share'.



To find out more about these events and to register your interest, please follow the link to our website [here](#).

## Getting to Know the Key Institutions

In March, RCN completed the delivery of a "Getting to Know the Key Institutions" Project with staff from Radius Housing. Over the course of the past 12 months, we were fortunate to participate in guided tours of rural and city spaces and to explore the place, purpose and passion of multiple historical institutions across Northern Ireland including Churches, GAA, the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and Ancient Order of Hibernians.

In addition we also met with multiple civic organisations that work with and represent the traditional and emerging peoples and cultures of this place including North West Methodist Mission, North West Cultural Partnership (Pictured), The Playhouse and Belfast Multi-cultural Association. If you or the groups you represent would be interested in learning more about this project and our other Community Relations programmes, please get in touch at [info@ruralcommunitynetwork.org](mailto:info@ruralcommunitynetwork.org).



## Peace Summit

David from RCN attended the John and Pat Hume Foundation Peace Summit held on 3 March. RCN have been supporting this important initiative with inputs, connections and facilitation. We are excited to be part of inspiring conversations about how we continue to sustain and build Peace.



## Probation Board NI Community Service Grants

PBNI's Community Service Grants Funding Scheme for 2023/24 is now open and invites applications from organisations in the Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS), particularly those based in rural locations.

The funding is for the purpose of securing placements for individuals who are subject to Community Service/Supervised Activity Orders imposed by the Courts. The people to which they are subject complete unpaid work placements within their communities in local organisations and are funded per placement by PBNI. Successful applicants will be required to provide meaningful work and effective supervision of the placements.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Monday 10 April (4pm). For full details, please visit <https://www.pbni.org.uk/community-and-voluntary-sector-funding>

## True Cost Campaign

The Consumer Council have launched their 2023 'True Cost' Campaign which is raising awareness of the practical help available to Northern Ireland households that are struggling financially.

The multi-channel campaign will provide consumers online and offline with advice and signpost people to organisations that can provide support and guidance.

More information can be found [here](#).

