



Stories of Hope

'Hope for a great sea change' - The Cure at Troy, Seamus Heaney

Rural Community Network (RCN) is teaming up with Tenx9 to deliver a special storytelling event to mark the 25th Anniversary of the people's vote in the referendum on the Good Friday/ Belfast Agreement.

As part of our contribution to the current dialogue and reflection on 25th Anniversary of the Agreement, RCN wants to focus on the contributions of the everyday person towards the sharing of this place.



This event will amplify the voices of people living and working on the ground - the family member, the community development officer, the peacebuilder, the activist, the farmer, the everyday person - the voices that are often not heard but play a vital role in making here thrive.

Our Rural Voices event will bring you 9 real stories on the theme of Hope - for ourselves, for our loved ones, for our communities and for the future.

We invite you to join us in the **Seamus Heaney Homeplace on 22 May 2023 at 7pm** for what will be an evening of insight, reflection, aspiration and community.

Refreshments will be provided.

To register for the event click [here](#).

To find out more information about Tenx9 please see the website [here](#).

Social Media and Reaching your Audience

Join us on zoom to learn about how to use social media platforms to boost your social media presence.

This session is for rural communities exploring rural heritage and who are interested in how social media can help reach new audiences.

When: Wednesday 17th May 2023

Time: 7pm - 8pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/b57XWWrDYqwSpY34A>



Policy Link May

Policy Link is now available on our website for anyone interested in keeping up with recent policy changes. To view the document, please click the link [here](#).



Tackling Isolation Fund

The ARN Foundation's Tackling Isolation Fund will help organisations to deliver projects in support of older people affected by the cost of living crisis and will be managed by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

Closing date: 26th May 2023 at 1pm.

For more information about the fund follow the link [here](#).



Introduction to Social Value Workshop

RCN in partnership with NICVA, will deliver this free practical and interactive session to share learning, tips and tools of how you can make social value work for you.

In Northern Ireland government departments, local councils and funders are increasingly

asking voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to demonstrate effectiveness in terms of value for money that is being invested in them, as well as their real impact.

This 2-hour session will:

- Define social value;
- Introduce the principles of social value;
- Highlight different social value tools that can be applied to your work;
- Share real examples of how social value is being applied by voluntary and community organisations in Northern Ireland;
- Consider how can social value work for you?

This is an introductory session, and no prior knowledge or experience is required.

To register please follow the link [here](#).



Free Farm First Aid

Global Horizon Skills in conjunction with CAFRE are offering free First Aid Training and First Aid Kits to farm families and employees.

Many farms are in remote locations, so in the event of a medical emergency the emergency services can take longer to arrive at the scene, sometimes considerably longer.

For more information and to register follow the link [here](#).

Cost of Living Crisis – Tough Times, Smart Solutions

NICVA in partnership with North West Community Network are holding this series of regional events to hear from you and to ensure organisations are fully supported in delivering their vital services during these challenging times and in the future.

This event in Derry/Londonderry on the 25th May will be a safe space to share your concerns, learn from other organisations and have a say on the support your organisation and beneficiaries need.

By sharing your stories and information with us, you will help shape the support that we provide to the sector and to influence our asks of Government. For more information and to register please follow the link [here](#).

Live Here, Love Here

Funded by 10 Local Councils, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and supported by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, the Small Grants Scheme empowers volunteers to transform shared greenspaces for the benefit of the community and the environment.



The Small Grants Scheme is open for applications **11th May - 31st May** for grants in the range of **£500 to £3,000**.

To support your application, they are hosting in-person and online sessions, giving you the opportunity to chat with them about your project idea – to register click [here](#).

For more information and to check eligibility please follow the link [here](#).