



A New Face

We would like to welcome Yvonne Corbett, who has just taken up post as our new Operations and Opportunities Manager in Rural Community Network. Yvonne brings more than 20 years of experience in the community and voluntary sector to the organisation. This role will be dedicated to supporting change within the organisation, ensuring that we continue to deliver high quality services and meet the needs of the rural community sector.



This role is funded by 'Dormant Accounts Fund NI'.

Policy Link

Policy Link brings you short articles on policy developments in Northern Ireland and further afield on issues that affect rural communities.

To read November's Policy Link click [here](#).

Christmas Closure

The Staff and Board of RCN would like to wish its members a very happy and safe Christmas. The office will be closed from the 25th December 2023 and will reopen on the 8th January 2024.



We thank you for your continued support throughout the year, and wish you all a very happy New Year.

Class of 2023

Rural Community Network received investment from the DfC Fresh Start programme under the EPPOC to undertake the development of new leadership skills for people living in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area.

In September 2022, a total of 21 students embarked on a training course which was accredited by Galway University and provided practical skills and critical thinking techniques in community development practice.

On Saturday 25th November, 19 students graduated with Diploma's in Community Development Practice at a ceremony held in Galway University.



There was a palpable excitement at the graduation ceremony for these hardworking students who got to celebrate their achievements at a formal graduation ceremony with each other and their families.



We are Recruiting.

The Networking and Skills Development Officer is an exciting new post within RCN. We are looking for a highly motivated individual who will enable RCN to provide strategic support and active engagement with rural communities across NI.

The post holder will be responsible for the design and delivery of support for rural community groups. This will include skills development (formal and informal), networking, group support, practitioner support, encouraging collaborative working and capacity building.

Closing date is the 15th December 2023 at 12pm. For more information on the post and to apply please follow the link [here](#).

Exercise in a box

Exercise in a Box is a tool created by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) that will help your organisation find out how resilient they are to a cyber attack and to evaluate your readiness to respond to a cyber incident in a safe training environment.



This exercise will provide a safe environment for you to evaluate and practice the skills and decision making mechanisms you need to respond to a cyber incident. By participating in this session you will find out how well your organisation is protected (or not), and where opportunities for improvements may lie. Light lunch provided.

When: Wednesday 17th January

Time: 10am – 12.30pm

Where: RCN Office, Cookstown.

Register [here](#).

National Lottery Awards for All

The National Lottery Community Fund offers funding from £300 to £20,000. And can support your project for up to two years.

They can fund projects that will do at least one of the following:

- bring people together to build strong relationships in and across communities
- improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
- help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage
- support people, communities and organisations facing more demands and challenges because of the cost-of-living crisis.

Application deadline: Ongoing.

For more information and to apply click the link [here](#).

Movement for Good

At the Benefact Group, charitable giving is at the heart of what they do – and has been for over 135 years. The Movement for Good Awards is the Benefact Group's annual programme of giving. This year they will be giving over £1million to charities and good causes – with your help.

You can nominate a registered charity, not-for-profit organisation or community interest company in the UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands or Isle of Man for a £1,000 award.

To find out more and to nominate a charity, please follow the link below:

<https://movementforgood.com/>

