



Meet the Funder

A unique chance to meet and connect with mainstream funders, face to face, to discuss any potential projects, core costs, running costs, overheads, capital projects, or anything your charity wants funding for. This is your opportunity to achieve that objective! You will be able to speak directly to funders and network with other charities.



Wednesday 7th February 2024

1.00 pm – 3.00 pm - National Lottery Community Fund

Location: Rural Community Network, Cookstown

Wednesday 14th February 2024

10.30 am – 12.30 pm - National Lottery Heritage Fund

1.00 pm – 3.00 pm - Community Relations Council

Location: Rural Community Network, Cookstown

This is a free event, light lunch provided.

Register [here](#).

Developing Reflective Practice

Faith Sector Training: Developing Reflective Practice. Working and volunteering within the faith sector can be both a life giving and demanding environment. RCN are offering a dedicated Reflective Practice workshop for faith based leaders, workers and volunteers to support their resiliency, learning and longevity.

Date - Thursday 8th February

Time - 10am - 12pm

Location - Online on zoom.

Register via Google Forms [here](#).

Good Governance Clinics

If you are a member of a management committee of a community organisation who would like to learn more about how to manage their group more effectively, by putting in place good internal systems and practices we are offering a limited number of free one-to-one governance clinic sessions available online or in person.

Wednesday 21st February 2024

Appointments available from:

10 am to 1 pm

2 pm to 5 pm

Thursday 7th March 2024

Appointments available from:

5 pm to 9 pm

Please email

yvonne@ruralcommunitynetwork.org or call 028 86766670 for further information and to book an appointment, or book a slot [here](#).



Sustainable Community Buildings

The National Lottery Community Fund Northern Ireland announced their new environmental programme, Sustainable Community Buildings. This programme offers VCSE groups who own or lease a building the chance to take steps to improve their venue and reduce their environmental footprint. Applications open in different Council areas on various dates.

They are hosting virtual information sessions for groups based in these areas who would like to hear more – tickets available [here](#). For more information on dates and applying click the link [here](#).



The HEARTH Project

We are delighted to announce we have received funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for The HEARTH (Helping, Engaging, Amplifying Rural Through Heritage) Project.

The project will amplify and enhance the capacity, connections, resources and visibility of the Rural Heritage Sector and rural communities. The HEARTH Project will promote the sustainability of heritage assets, traditions and skills through the provision of support and services to people, organisations and place.

It will be an opportunity to showcase lesser-known heritage sites, traditions, women's stories, oral recordings, that rural communities treasure.



We would like to announce that Emma McAleer has taken up post as Heritage Project Coordinator on the project. Emma has over 10 years of experience in the heritage sector and delivered our previous successful heritage project called 'Ours to Share'. Keep an eye out for events and workshops coming up. If you would like to hear more about the project contact Emma at emma@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

Forest Did it First

The 'Forest Did it First' project, in partnership with Hare's Corner Cooperative, Big Telly Theatre Company and Wild Awake will explore how we can learn from nature to live more sustainably in rural communities.

RCN's role will be to help develop a 'Portrait of Place' using data and the wisdom of local communities to explore how people can work and live in a way that promotes biodiversity and reduces our impact on the environment.

We will share the learning from the project with our member groups across rural NI as well as policy makers and develop our understanding of the practical steps people in rural communities can take as well as the structural changes needed to effectively address climate change and biodiversity loss in rural Northern Ireland.

Thanks to the National Lottery Community Fund Northern Ireland.

Read more about the project [here](#).



Investing in Community Leadership (West)

Investing in Community Leadership (West) have launched their in person learning & networking events, full details and registration links for the current programme can be found [here](#).

