

Better Together - Níos Fearr Le Chéile Peace Impact Programme Newsletter

Our Shared-Past Peace Talks

During October we delivered a fantastic series of events featuring 'Peace Talks' and 'Living Libraries'. Over four evenings in both Lisnaskea and Ballinamore, we welcomed the public to listen, engage and interact with speakers, sharing their unique and fascinating real life stories of our shared past. Míle buiochas to Coiste na nIarchimí, Belfast, who organised the speakers.

The highlight of the events featured a thought provoking talk between Alan McBride, whose wife Sharon, was killed in the IRA bombing of Frizzell's fish shop on the Shankill Road and Michael Culbert, a Republican ex-prisoner. Alan spoke about coming to terms with loss and forgiveness. Michael discussed openly about befriending those with different views and working towards building peace. Alan said "Culture and tradition isn't the kind of thing we should beat each other over the head with, but is something we should celebrate and share."

The speakers at our 'Living Libraries' events from, Republican, Loyalist and British Army backgrounds,



became 'open books' for participants to discuss and engage with. Key themes included the importance of empathy and understanding of other persons' beliefs to help make connections and build cross-community relationships.

Máirín Martin, Chairperson, Ballinamore Area Community Council Clg and a native of Teemore, Co. Fermanagh, said: "This series of Talks and Living Libraries, allowed people to hear first-hand, the impact of the Troubles, from those who were deeply involved on the ground. They were then able to engage and discuss with the speakers in a meaningful way. This led to a deeper understanding of the impact of the conflict on individuals and society in general. This enforces the importance of peace building and further enhances cross-community cross-border cooperation that we have already undertaken, through the IFI funded, 'Better Together – Níos Fearr Le Chéile Project'."



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Primary Conference

To wrap up our successful and innovative cross-community cross-border Youth Programme, we held a Primary Conference in the bucolic Share Discovery Village in Lisnaskea.

Primary aged pupils from Moat Primary School, Lisnaskea, Scoil Chlann Naofa, Ballinamore and Aughawillan National School, enjoyed a day of learning and sharing activities.

Featuring an inspiring workshop by Digiwise on online safety and well-being, rock climbing and indoor archery, pupils got to try their hand at a range of new activities.

It was a great way to celebrate the work which our project has delivered over the years, to build links, connections and shared opportunities for young people.



Fáilte:



Ballinamore Area Community Council Clg, are very happy to welcome onto our team, Donal Fox. Donal comes with vast experience in community and rural development and managed the SICAP programme in Leitrim, before taking up the role of CEO of Leitrim Development Company. As CEO of an organisation with 300 employees, Donal was responsible for the human resource management of the company as well as financial control and planning.

Donal hit the ground running, as Manager of the 'Better Together – Níos Fearr Le Chéile' Peace Impact Programme, funded by the International Fund for Ireland. With his great interest in history and his easy going manner, he is delivering on a cross-border cross-community basis, a National Schools Online Safety & Well-being Programme; a Restorative Justice Programme with Secondary Schools; Peace Talks and Empowering Women Dialogues.

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