

# HOPE FOR YOUTH

## NORTHERN IRELAND

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## Speedo Charity Swim celebrates its silver jubilee

**Teams from the House of Lords and House of Commons are getting ready to battle it out once again for the Speedo Charity Shield.**

This year's silver jubilee event at the Porchester Hall, London on Wednesday 16 November 2011 promises to be a particularly glittering occasion, raising much needed funds to help disadvantaged young people in Northern Ireland.

Attended by Irish and British celebrities from stage, screen and sport, members of both Houses of Parliament and, we hope, the trust's patrons, including Gloria Hunniford, Joanna Lumley and Barry McGuigan, this is an event not to be missed!

A champagne reception is followed by the swimming races, which includes the fiercely contested battle between teams from the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Guests will then enjoy dinner and dancing in the magnificent Porchester Hall before bidding starts at our charity auction.

In 2009 we raised over £30,000 from ticket sales, donations and the auction, with bidders walking away with some fabulous lots, including a day's racing-yacht charter with crew (donated by Ondeck), a trip for 12 on a private gullet cruise in Turkey (donated by Salamander Voyages), and a weekend for 12 in the west wing at Crom Castle (donated by Viscount Crichton).



And it's all for a good cause. Proceeds from the event go directly to cross-community groups in Northern Ireland who are giving disadvantaged young people vital opportunities to develop life-skills, self-esteem and confidence. You can read more about the projects we're currently supporting on page 3.

There is still time to enter corporate teams for the swimming race and sponsorship opportunities are now available. So if you're interested in supporting the trust in this way, please call Harriet Paul on 020 8673 6661, or download the Swim Sponsorship Booking Form at [www.hopeforyouthni.com](http://www.hopeforyouthni.com) (See News and Events/Calendar).

**Have you got your tickets?**

Table and individual tickets for the Swim, Dinner and Dance are now available. For details, please turn to the events section on page 8.

# Chairman's column

**Northern Ireland is a different place from what many of us knew in the 1970s and 80s. Although we still have reminders of old attitudes from time to time, people in Northern Ireland, including young people, want to put these behind them and take advantage of the tremendous opportunities which the province has to offer.**

Our job as trustees of Hope for Youth (formally Women Caring Trust) is to help fund projects that actively promote a better future for young people, particularly those from disadvantaged areas. So we're delighted to note the success, featured in this newsletter, of the projects we supported in 2010. Their work has revealed hundreds of young people's true potential through cross-community activities that foster teamwork, life-skills and hidden talents.

And this has inspired us to aim higher this year, so that we can support even more young people. To help us, we're recently appointed the PR and events company, Cherton, spearheaded by Leo Callow, as 'General Manager' of Hope for Youth, to oversee our fundraising activities and grant awards in Northern Ireland.

We're confident that Leo, who's behind some of Ireland's largest and most prestigious charity and public events, will provide the leadership required to make Hope for Youth's fundraising events even bigger and better.

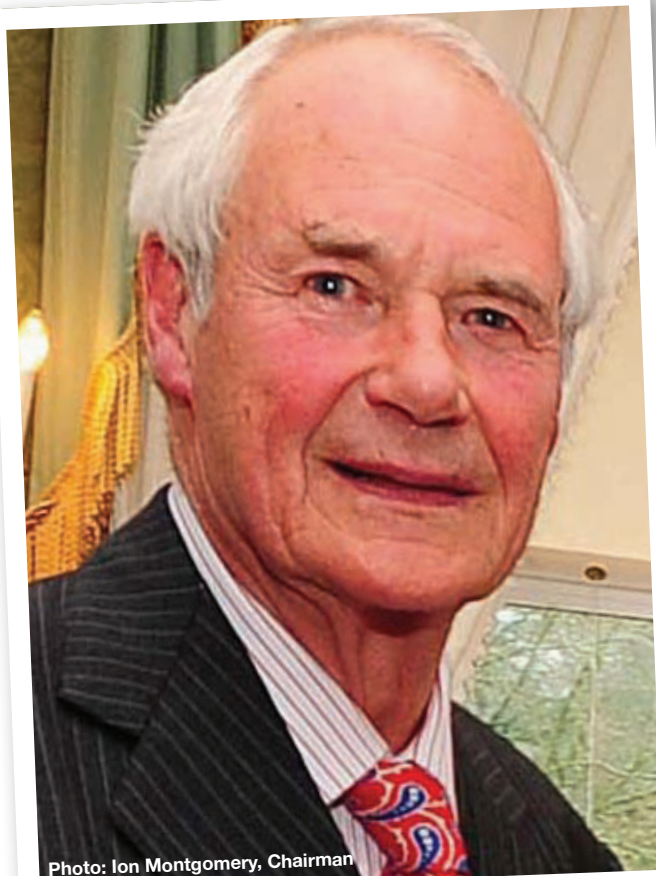


Photo: Ion Montgomery, Chairman

This, of course, brings me neatly on to a reminder that tickets and sponsorship opportunities for the Speedo Charity Swim are now available. So please rally together your friends and family and enjoy a night out in November at this unique and very enjoyable event. For ticket information, please see page 8.

And if you can't attend in person, but would like to support the trust, you can now donate online at [www.hopeforyouthni.com](http://www.hopeforyouthni.com) or by contacting Richard Hart at Cherton on 028 9076 9966.

Sincerely,

**Ion Montgomery**

**Hope for Youth is multi-denominational, non-sectarian and non-political. Find out more at [www.hopeforyouthni.com](http://www.hopeforyouthni.com)**

# Hope for Youth 2010 Grant Awards update

**Thanks to your support, we can support projects that help hundreds of disadvantaged young people in Northern Ireland to learn new skills, build friendships across divides and discover hidden talents. These reports demonstrate how our 2010 grants were used during the course of the year.**

## **Falls Community Council**

The Falls Community Council has successfully brought together two communities who've been involved in sectarian riots at the Upper Whiterock Road interface in Belfast. The aim was to involve the young people in a drama project that would help them explore the negative effects of sectarianism and gain acceptance of each other.

After initial auditions, 22 young people from the Upper Springfield and Springmartin areas were invited to attend rehearsals for a performance of 'Billy Elliot' where the troubles of Northern Ireland replaced the original 1984-85 miner's strike theme.

The final show was attended by over 200 residents from both communities in a neutral venue. Steven Corr, who ran this project, says 'The young people have had their sectarian values and attitudes listened to and challenged. Working together on this play they've developed a new understanding and acceptance of each other and discovered commonalities.'

## **Habitat for Humanity NI**

Our grant to Habitat for Humanity NI has helped 250 young people from 22 schools (on all sides of the sectarian divide) to get to know each other in an experiential three-day education programme.



They were encouraged to look at issues surrounding local poverty and conflict, to articulate their visions for a better society and to identify ways they can help. On day two of the programme, they joined workers on Habitat's Madrid Street self-build project in East Belfast, where volunteers and families-in-need from both Protestant and Catholic interface communities are working together to create affordable homes.

Peter Anderson says 'The education programme for young people has received a lot of positive feedback and has been a great success.'

## **Hope Centre, Ballymena**

The Hope Centre, which supports families affected by addiction, has recently opened The Hub for children aged 11 to 17 years. Here they can access a range of activities, one-to-one support and advice on issues surrounding substance misuse. And thanks to your support, they're now completing a new dance and drama studio.

The children are full of enthusiasm for dancing and have recently created their own dance troop, complete with outfits. When their choreographed routine is complete, they'll produce a DVD for families and friends, with all proceeds going to charity. They'll also perform at the Peace in the Park Fun Day in August, hosted by Ballymena Council,

The International School of Peace and the Hope Centre. Anne Henry of the Hope Centre says 'The studio is a hit with the children. It's a place to have fun, learn their dance routines and meet friends in a safe environment, rather than on the streets'.

## Music Theatre 4Uth Aim High Outreach Programme

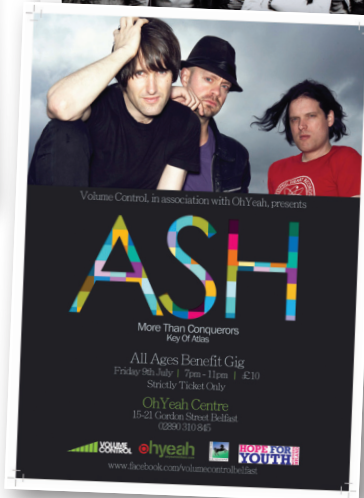


With the help of the HFY grant, MT4Uth's Aim High project is working with disadvantaged young people from divided communities in Northern Ireland to rehearse and perform musicals.

Their first project brought together young people from The Ardoyne, New Lodge and Mount Vernon areas, to rehearse and perform at 'The Celebrate North Belfast Festival' in August, where their showcase was the highlight of the evening.

They've also worked with 30 young people in Strabane in County Tyrone, who performed hits from the musical Oklahoma at The Alley Theatre, after attending two workshops with Artistic Director Jeremy James Taylor OBE (founder of the National Youth Music Theatre). In addition, they're running a cross-community weekend workshop in spring 2011, where young people from all over Belfast

will work on hits from The Wizard of Oz. Erika Reid says 'The cross-community projects reach young people in deprived areas who'll never otherwise get these opportunities, despite having talent. Through performance musicals they've developed social skills and confidence that will really help them to get on in life'.



## Oh Yeah! Music Centre Volume Control

The Oh Yeah Music Centre's 'Volume Control' project gives young people the opportunity to socialise, work and

enjoy live-music together in a safe and alcohol-free environment. The scheme also incorporates mentoring in event management and live-music performance, which is a real bonus for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Over 30 young bands have been given a platform to perform to over 1000 people, but it's also given the participants experience in areas such as sound engineering and publicity, which could help them find work in the industry.

Michael Culbert, aged 16, says 'There is nothing for our age group to do at the weekend. When we want to see our favourite local bands, we can't, because they play at venues for over 18s only. Volume Control is amazing and there is always a really good line up. I've told all my friends about it who now come down to the gigs.'

## The Playhouse, Derry 'Between us' Project

The 'Between us' Project at The Playhouse theatre has run a series of two-hour drama workshops with 16 young people from disadvantaged and interface areas in Derry Londonderry.

The workshops were designed to help them express their experiences and thoughts on the Northern Irish conflict through storytelling and improvisation. They're now developing their work into a play, which examines both the effect of the conflict and the issue of graffiti. It will tour at Easter, with the aim of bringing young audiences in schools and youth groups closer to an empathetic understanding of the suffering caused by conflict.

Following the performance, the audience and young cast will have time to discuss the issues raised. They'll be invited up into the performance space to rehearse their own ways to acknowledge suffering, understand different perspectives and support those who've been involved.

## Sliabh Beagh Development Association The Buzz Project

The 'Buzz Project' runs a series of workshops for young people encompassing a variety of art forms, including visual arts, circus, hip hop dance, percussion and an 'arts' garden, engaging over 80 young people from disadvantaged and interface areas.

Many of these workshops have already resulted in performances, drawing local residents together to witness their friends and family's new skills and friendships.

Donna Bannon, who co-ordinates the project says 'This project has been highly successful so far in terms of experience and the artistic merit of the work produced. All of the participating young people have relayed positive feedback and enjoyed participating.'

## Prime Cut Productions Demeter Outreach Project

Working with the Ardoyne Women's Group, Dee Street Community Group, Newhill Community Group and Ardmonagh Family Centre in Belfast,



the Demeter project selected two groups of women from each area to participate in a drama project designed to increase pride and understanding of their local communities, and in Belfast. One group represented young people aged 14 to 17, the other of women over 55.

A series of drama workshops was held in each of the areas, followed by a residential workshop which brought all of the groups together. Each explored their own stories, helping to break down prejudices and give insight into the culture of each community. Importantly, both generations were given an opportunity to re-evaluate misconceptions of women whom they live alongside, but rarely interact with.

Their stories and experiences were developed into a play, which was performed at Old Northern Bank Building on Donegall Street, Belfast in May.

## Tinderbox Theatre Revolution Project



The Revolution Project has seen 15 young people from the Lower Shankill and Markets communities working together with participants from Bangor, Carryduff and West Belfast to produce the stage play, RJ's Leaving Day.

Entirely written by its young cast of performers, with expert guidance from Tinderbox Theatre Company's Outreach Director, Ciaran McQuillan, RJ's Leaving Day dramatises the frustrations felt by young people at their lack of a role in society, and how little say they have in the decisions that affect their lives.

This is the first time most of the participants have written or performed a play, but it culminated in them being invited to Stormont to perform it in front of an audience made up of MLAs and other dignitaries.

Ciaran McQuillan says 'I've been impressed with the passion and commitment of the young people involved in this project. They have really embraced the opportunity to dramatisise some of the issues which concern them and it should give those in authority plenty to think about.'

## Youth Initiatives

### One World Service Trip Preparation Project



12 young women aged 16-18, selected from Downpatrick, East Belfast and West Belfast Youth Initiatives projects, were given a life-changing opportunity to participate in a two-week service project in Lusaka, Zambia.

Their grant from HFY helped to provide vital preparation workshops and two residential weekends in Northern Ireland to help the girls to get to know one another, plan fundraising events, and discuss issues surrounding cultural exchange, the importance of community and working for the good of others.

During the residential, the girls were asked to manage a typical budget for a family in Africa, taking into account rent, school fees, clothing, and other expenses. They had to agree on how to divide their wage, leaving enough to feed the family at the end of the day. At the end of the

exercise, this amount was given to them to spend on their own supper. Activities like this encouraged the girls to pull together to solve problems, as well as work through issues of social class, cultural experiences and their own upbringing.

The overall experience has brought together a group of young women from across Protestant, Catholic, working class and middle class backgrounds and broken down their prejudices. Lifelong friendships have been built.

## Reach Across, Derry Community Relations and Increased Skills Project (CRISP)



The CRISP project brings together young people from disadvantaged areas in Derry (where opportunities for personal development and creativity are limited) for fun, cross-community training programmes.

Over 40 young people joined the programme which included a creative dance course, a drama and script-writing course, band skills, and a catering course called 'Cook-it'.

A showcase finale in spring 2011 allowed all of the participants to display their new talents. But they were also involved in planning the event, designing tickets and posters, booking the venue, recruiting volunteers and hiring the equipment. On the night, the performance groups entertained the audience while the Cook-it group prepped and served a fabulous buffet to enjoy during the interval!

Apart from being hugely enjoyable, the young people have really benefited from the whole experience in terms of their self-esteem, confidence and skills. Opening up these opportunities for young people in interface areas is vital to the future health of Northern Ireland, so please continue to support the trust.

# News and Events

## Private gallery view and reception raises over £6,500

**Over £6,500 was raised for Hope for Youth at a private gallery reception with Chief Patron, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, in attendance.**

Hosted by Hope for Youth in Cork Street, London in November, the event featured the work of five artists exhibiting sculpture, oil and water colour paintings, as well as exquisite glass engraving. The artists kindly donated 20% of the evening's sales revenue to our cause.

We'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the evening.



Photo: Marc Cramsie (Trustee and organiser), with Carol Cramsie at the Gallery opening

## Annual cricket match raises £5,313

**On 12 June 2010, the Tartan Terrors (ex-Inniskillings and Scots) took the field for their 20th hard-fought match against the Suffolk Gents at Shadwell Stud, Suffolk.**

The event raised £5,313 for Hope for Youth, bringing the total amount raised over 14 years to £35,000. We'd like to thank the players and supporters for this magnificent effort, with a special tribute to our top fundraiser, Eddie Gardiner, who has raised a total £10,000 throughout his nine appearances.

After the first innings, the Terrors were 30 runs to the good and so the Gents had an uphill struggle from the start. Lunch gave them a chance to galvanise themselves but as the end of the match drew near, Tristram Mayhew and Tristan Clube built a partnership that decided the result and brought the trophy back to the Terrors. The 'Man of the Match' was Chris Moody with a fine knock of 44.

As always, the match was played with a blend of banter and gentlemanly competition, supported by



loyal friends and family. Thank you to everyone involved.

**If you have an idea for a fundraiser, or you'd like to help raise money for the trust by organising a fundraising event, please call Leo Callow, General Manager on 0777 584 2488.**

# Upcoming Events

## Royal Gun Salute, Hillsborough Castle

Thursday 2 June, 2011 at Noon

206 (Ulster) Battery the Royal Artillery (Volunteers) will fire a 21 Gun Royal Salute to mark the 58th Anniversary of the Coronation of Her Majesty,

Queen Elizabeth. Hope for Youth will be co-hosting the Royal Salute and luncheon in the Castle with 38 Irish Brigade for 150 invited guests.

## Dalriada Festival

17-19 June, 2011

Glenarm Castle, the ancestral home of the Earls' of Antrim, will host the venue for Ireland's top cultural festival of fine food, sport and music. The Three Priests are headlining the weekend concerts on Saturday night, Jenny Bristow will provide a two-day cookery master class, and a

World Championship Highland Games will entertain families, alongside a circus, parachuting and a funfair in the main field. Thanks to Lord and Lady Dunluce, Hope for Youth is the adopted charity for the festival.

**Please visit [www.dalriadafestival.co.uk](http://www.dalriadafestival.co.uk) for more information and to buy tickets.**

## House of Lords v House of Commons Speedo Charity Swim, Dinner and Dance

Wednesday 16 November, 2011

The Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2 5HS  
Tickets now available.

- Individual tickets for under 30s are £75
- Individual tickets for over 30s are £120
- A ticket for a table of 10 guests is £1,000

**To purchase tickets, please contact Harriet Paul**

**Tel: 020 8673 6661**

**Email: [harrietjpaul@gmail.com](mailto:harrietjpaul@gmail.com)**

For more information about the event, see our lead story.

**If you'd like to receive online event and ticket updates, sign-up at [www.hopeforyouthni.com](http://www.hopeforyouthni.com). We won't flood your inbox! We'll just let you know about our news and events when it's appropriate.**



## Support us on Facebook

Hope for Youth NI is now on Facebook, which makes it easy for you to keep up-to-date on our fundraising events, ticket availability and news. If you're a member, just search for 'Hope for Youth NI' at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

And remember, if you can't attend our events but you'd like to make a donation to Hope for Youth,

you can donate online at

**[www.hopeforyouthni.com/donate](http://www.hopeforyouthni.com/donate)**

Your support means more young people can connect across divides, and discover skills and talents that will help them escape a cycle of poverty and prejudice.