



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

# Fund news

Winter 2008/09

The Newsletter of the  
International Fund for Ireland  
[www.internationalfundforireland.com](http://www.internationalfundforireland.com)

## £698,000 for Major New Initiative to Support Shared Housing



Pictured at the launch: Springfarm residents with Denis Rooney CBE, Fund Chairman.

Fund Chairman, Denis Rooney CBE officially launched a major new Programme in August 2008 to support and encourage shared neighbourhoods across Northern Ireland.

The Shared Neighbourhood Programme is managed by the NI Housing Executive who will work with existing communities to develop 30 shared neighbourhoods over the next three years.

The Programme will cost almost £1m, with the International Fund for Ireland providing £698,000. Practical on-the-ground support will be provided by the NI Housing Executive via a dedicated team of Cohesion Advisers.

Speaking at the launch Denis Rooney said: "Fostering good community relations is a key priority for the Fund and is fundamental to building lasting peace and a stable society in Northern Ireland. This new Programme is about supporting and encouraging neighbourhoods where everyone in the community is valued and respected and where diversity is celebrated."

## £16.2/€20.2 million to promote integration and reconciliation

Since June 2008, the International Fund for Ireland has approved £16.2m/€20.2m of funding to support a range of new and existing community integration and reconciliation-based projects throughout Northern Ireland and the Southern border counties.

This funding will support a total of 47 projects, and priorities include grassroots level reconciliation and cross-community projects as well as continuing pioneering work with young people throughout Northern Ireland and the Southern border counties.

The Board approved £3.4m/€4.2m for the cross-border Maximising Community Space and Good Relations project which is designed to improve community relations and enhance the conditions of existing community halls so as to maximise their use. The project will be managed by the Rural Development Council on behalf of the Fund.

A further £6.5m/€8m was announced through the Community Based Economic & Social Regeneration Programme to focus on community-based economic and social development, improving community leadership and facilitating change at a community level.

Commenting on the funding announcements, Fund Chairman, Denis Rooney said:

"We are delighted to be in the position to announce such significant and substantial funding. The finance will have an enormous impact on the provision of innovative and ground-breaking initiatives which will have a lasting impact on cross-community integration and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Southern border counties."

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# Foreword

The last few months have been both exciting and challenging for the Fund. Since the last edition of Fund News, we have celebrated political progress with the restoration of the NI Executive which is providing a positive context for the Fund's work on reconciliation and integration.

The Fund continues to make huge strides towards creating a more shared and peaceful society. However, we recognise we all have some way to go before the divisions within our society are overcome and we can say we are genuinely integrated and living in peace.

Enabling communities to live side by side in shared communities is fundamental to creating a shared future. In this edition of Fund News you will find information about our major new and pioneering initiative, the Shared Neighbourhood Programme that will help more and more communities in their desire to live together peacefully.

The Shared Neighbourhood Programme acknowledges for the first time those communities who have been quietly working towards creating genuinely shared spaces, often with little or no funding, and provides them with support to share their experiences, capture best practice and ensure that their work is sustained for future generations.

MAPP Ltd (Monaghan and Portadown Partnership Ltd) recently celebrated their tenth anniversary and I was delighted to meet some of the participants of this Wider Horizons Programme who have benefited enormously from the training and employment they have received. They now in turn are taking their talents and newly developed skills into their own communities to help others. Such progress is vital if we are to empower our younger generations and enable them to reach out to one another to build a common future.

While our focus is so often on the present and the future, occasionally it is important to reflect on lessons from the past. Last autumn I was delighted to launch 'A Fund of Goodwill' - the story of the International Fund for Ireland by author Alf McCreary. This book is more than a history of the International Fund for Ireland, it captures the Fund's achievements and pioneering work over the past two decades and we hope the stories of the many people touched by the Fund's work will benefit others in those parts of the world who live with conflict in their own communities.

We would be unable to do any of this without the continued support of our donors and it has been encouraging for us to be able to host visits from a number of international visitors in the past few months. We are entering a new phase in our history and we thank you for continuing on the journey with us.

## Ten Years of Success for Monaghan and Portadown Partnership (MAPP LTD)



Monaghan and Portadown Partnership (MAPP Ltd) celebrated a successful decade at a special ceremony at the Armagh City Hotel in November.

MAPP Ltd is a cross-community and cross-border organisation which offers training and employment programmes to unemployed adults aged 18 to 28 from the Upper Bann, Armagh and Newry areas of Northern Ireland and the Southern border counties of Monaghan, Louth and Cavan.

The programme is part of the Fund's Wider Horizons Programme which aims to promote employability and mutual understanding through the Open College Network accredited training in basic occupational skills. It provides relevant work and life experience in locations such as the USA, Canada and Europe and since its inception over 1,000

young people have participated in the programme.

Speaking at the event, Fund Chairman Denis Rooney CBE said: "It is truly inspirational to hear these young people talk about their journey on the Wider Horizons Programme and to hear how they have used their work experience and new skills within their own communities. The International Fund for Ireland holds the Programme in great esteem and has approved £4 million for activities in 2009."

Pictured at the event (L-R): John McEntaggart, Chair of MAPP Ltd; Kelly McCauley current participant of MAPP Ltd; Denis Rooney CBE, Fund Chairman; Keith Calvin participant of MAPP Ltd (2003); George Knight participant of MAPP Ltd (2006); Martin McCrystal, Manager of MAPP Ltd. Back L-R: Michael Murphy participant of MAPP Ltd (1998); Eamonn Fleming, Board Member MAPP Ltd.

## Community Groups Converge to Share Best Practice

A special conference hosted by the Fund under its Community Bridges Programme, took place in Belfast as part of Community Relations Week (26th April - 3rd May 2008).

The event was designed to share innovations and best practice in youth reconciliation work and brought together 25 community groups from across the island of Ireland.

The day focussed on several problem areas, including the ongoing use of violence by young people to solve conflict in communities, youth work at interface areas, sectarian beliefs in single identity heartlands, and the ongoing transfer of skills within community relations youth organisations.



## A Fund of Goodwill

'A Fund of Goodwill: the Story of the International Fund for Ireland', was officially launched in the autumn at a series of receptions in Belfast, Brussels, Dublin and London.

The book, commissioned by the Fund and written by Belfast author Alf McCreary, documents the Fund's history from its inception in 1986, as well as focusing on some of its specific interventions, showing the human impact of its work.

The book records the Fund's innovative work in promoting peace building and delivering on its aims of promoting contact, dialogue and reconciliation between unionists and nationalists in Ireland as well as economic and social advance.

Speaking at the launch in Belfast, Fund Chairman Denis Rooney said: " 'A Fund of Goodwill' is more than a history of the International Fund - it provides a unique insight into our social history, highlighting very poignantly, the changes and challenges which Northern Ireland and the Southern border counties have faced over the last twenty years and also highlights the Fund's achievements."



Pictured at the London event is: Mr. Eamon Hickey, Fund Joint Director General; Lord Patrick Mayhew; Mr. Denis Rooney CBE, Fund Chairman; Lord Tom King; Mr. Alexander Smith, Fund Joint Director General.

"The International Fund for Ireland was never intended to be a permanent intervention and it is appropriate that its experiences over the last two decades are captured as we move into our final years, not least in the hope that they may be of value to other regions coping with conflict. It is also a fitting testament to the contribution and support of our international donors - the United States of America, the European Union, Canada, Australia and New Zealand."



## Israeli-Palestinian visit

Pictured on a recent visit to Northern Ireland, Mr Daniel Taub and Dr. Sufian Abu Zaida, from the Israeli-Palestinian Joint Committee (Culture of Peace) who met with Fund Chairman, Denis Rooney and Alexander Smith, Joint Director General of the International Fund for Ireland to discuss a number of Fund supported projects.

Mr Rooney and Mr Smith used the meeting to outline the work of the Fund and its strategy to 2010 which includes sharing its experience and expertise with peace builders in countries living with conflict.



## Growing Together

Growing Together 2008-2010, a cross-border peace-building programme, was officially launched at the Market House in Blacklion, Co. Cavan in October.

The programme uses the medium of organic gardening to promote better inter-generational and community relations in the border counties of Leitrim, Fermanagh and Cavan.

In addition to the Fund's investment, the programme has also received support from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; the County Leitrim Partnership; and Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation.

Over 200 people from the ages of 8 to 73 are involved in the 'Growing Together' Programme which has blossomed into a thriving local network of women's, schools' and community organic gardens.

Pictured is: Marian Harkin, MEP; John McDaid, Fund Board Member and Andy Hallewell, Programme Manager Organic Centre at the launch of the Growing Together Programme in Blacklion.



## IN BRIEF

### Building Leadership

Fourteen young people celebrated completing 'Building Leadership', the rural community leadership programme run by Youth Action NI which promotes peace and reconciliation at a ceremony in Armagh in June 2008.

The programme delivers employment based initiatives to young adults in rural communities and was funded by the International Fund for Ireland, the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation which is managed for the SEUPB by the Northern Ireland Rural Development Council (RDC) and the Rank Foundation.

### KEY graduations

This year, over 900 young entrepreneurs celebrated their graduation from the Knowledge through Enterprise for Youth (KEY) Programme jointly run by Young Enterprise Northern Ireland and Junior Achievement Ireland at ceremonies held at the Europa Hotel, Belfast.

### Ranafast

Coiste Aislann Rann na Feirste Teo, a cross-community group based in West Donegal, turned the first sod on the development of their Heritage, Educational and Resource Centre at Ranafast on 28th April 2008. The Fund committed £236,760/€295,000 towards its development.

The development will be an integrated Educational, Cultural and Heritage Centre which will provide a mix of facilities for use by both locals and visitors.

### Carlingford Conference Shares Experiences in Peace and Reconciliation

A key conference event titled 'Young People as Leaders in Peace and Reconciliation' was held in The Foy Centre, Carlingford. Organised by Beyond the Lough Youth Initiative, the conference brought together groups and individuals from along the border regions to share expertise acquired over the previous ten years and learn more about the rich cultural diversity of their communities.

### Appointments

The Fund would like to warmly welcome Gwen Lanigan to the position of Development Officer for Louth, Monaghan and East Cavan.

Gwen will develop cross-border and cross-community projects and her role will be to help promote and consolidate peace and reconciliation activities in the area.

## A Celebration from the HEART



In the past two years, the cross-border HEART project (Heritage, Environment, Art and Rural Tourism) has invested over £2.4m/€3m on public art and a whole range

of environmental improvements across Strabane and Donegal county council areas.

Twelve towns and villages across both council areas have benefited from twelve new pieces of public art, a shop front scheme to encourage local businesses to improve their image, and a whole range of environmental improvements. A HEART heritage and tourism trail has been developed from the initiative - enhancing tourism and economic opportunities across the entire HEART region.

Pictured is: Mayor of Donegal Cllr. Gerry Crawford and Paddy Harte, International Fund for Ireland at the launch of the Three Coins sculpture on the HEART Sculpture Trail on Lifford roundabout.

## Football 4 Peace programme launched in Donegal

Football 4 Peace Ireland, a joint venture between the Irish Football Association (IFA), the Football Association of Ireland (FAI), and Inishowen Rural Development (IRDL), was launched in Inishowen, Co. Donegal in November 2008.

Football 4 Peace Ireland is a coaching programme that promotes the development of cross-border and cross-community relations through the medium of football. Funded primarily by the Fund, Football 4 Peace Ireland is based in the cross-border regions of Limavady, Londonderry and Inishowen.

The project is inclusive of boys and girls with disabilities, able-bodied youngsters, less-advantaged children and ethnic and religious minorities who work with each other as a team.

Speaking at the launch, Anne Bonner, Board Member said: 'Recent events in Northern Ireland have heralded the dawn of a new era of peace and prosperity on this island. We all have a responsibility to make sure that the benefits of this are experienced by everyone in our society. It is particularly inspiring to see the people of the Inishowen Peninsula and the surrounding area come together and commit to making the community a better place.'



Pictured is: Paddy Harte and Anne Bonner of the International Fund for Ireland and John Delaney, CEO, Football Association of Ireland at the launch of Football 4 Peace in Redcastle, Co. Donegal.

## US Aid Visit

Pictured at the US AID Visit in September are from left to right: Mark Phillips, Dr Douglas Menarchik, Alexander Smith, Joint Director General of the International Fund for Ireland and Wade Lairsen.

The delegation later visited the Fund's Dublin office for talks with Eamon Hickey Joint Director General, and colleagues.





## An Tánaiste Officially Opens Butt Hall Centre in Ballybofey



The Butt Hall Centre was officially opened in Ballybofey in July by An Tánaiste Mary Coughlan, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment. The new Butt Hall Centre is a multi-purpose centre which will be used for a variety of purposes including drama, concerts, town meetings, exhibitions, dancing and special events.

The Butt Hall Centre project was part-funded by the Fund under the Border Towns and Villages Programme. The Fund's contribution was to facilitate broad community engagement in the new centre which has already proven to be very successful and has surpassed all expectations.

Speaking at the opening, Anne Bonner, Board Member said: "I am delighted to be present at the opening of this magnificent building and would like to commend Dessie Griffin and the Butt Hall Committee for their vision, commitment and drive to this project. This facility will undoubtedly make a huge difference to the lives of the people of Ballybofey, Stranorlar and the surrounding area."

Pictured at the opening is: Anne Bonner, Fund Board Member and An Tánaiste Mary Coughlan, TD.

## Opening of Eglinton Village Green, a shared play provision

Eglinton Village Green was officially opened by Fund Board Member John McDaid in November 2008. Other funders included the European Union through the Peace II Programme managed for the SEUPB by the Northern Ireland Rural Development Council; Derry City Council and Groundwork NI. This project aims to develop a shared play provision in the centre of Eglinton village for the whole community.

Pictured is Deputy Mayor, Maurice Devenney with double Olympic gold medalist Jason Smyth, Jim Logue, Chairman of Eglinton Community Safety Forum, Leslie Craig, Rural Development Council and John McDaid, Fund Board Member.



The International Fund for Ireland is an international organisation established by the British and Irish Governments in 1986 with the objectives of promoting economic and social advance and of encouraging contact, dialogue and reconciliation between nationalists and unionists throughout Ireland. Donors to the Fund are the United States, the European Union, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. PO Box 2000 Belfast BT4 1WD / PO Box 2000 Dublin 2 [www.internationalfundforireland.com](http://www.internationalfundforireland.com)

\* All figures in Fund News Winter 2008/09 have been converted using the end of November 2008 exchange rate.