



NEWS UPDATE August 2010

Welcome to the August edition of our monthly updates, which is an opportunity for volunteers and staff to catch up on what's happening in Near. The newsletter is distributed monthly via email, online and good old fashioned hard copy. This month, Near90fm is 15years old. There have been a few changes along the way since Liam Byrne, opened the fader on Saturday 26th August 1995. There was, Nearfm 101.5, then Nearfm 101.6, and on signing our new 10 year licence a few years ago we were moved to 90.3 and became Near90fm. Our broadcasting hours developed from Friday evenings and all day Saturday and Sunday to 24 hour broadcasting, much of it live. These things don't happen overnight, and our success is testament to all the staff and volunteers, past and present who presented, produced, answered a phone, swept the floor, made the tea, trained a new community group or complained about a dirty cup ☺

Hope you enjoy some of the memories from those early days in this edition of the Newsletter.

Dave O Connor (Dave@near.ie)
Editor

Hope you enjoy some of the photographs from down the years.....



Old friends, the late Seán Dublin Bay Loftus and Denis 'Dracula' Mc Intyre launch Nearfm 101.5 in 1995.

Staff Contact List

TV Coordinator - elaine@near.ie 8485211

Radio Coordinator - sally@near.ie 8671190

Technical & Studio Issues - gay@near.ie 8671190

Technology & Website - gavin@near.ie 8671190

Outreach & OBs - dorothee@near.ie 8485211

Administration & Introductory Training - alan@near.ie 8671190

Productions and Specialist Training - paul@near.ie 8485211

Overall Project Coordinator - ciaran@near.ie

Promotions - pr@near.ie (Pat Quinn)

On-air promos & Schedules – adminsupport@near.ie (Liam Johnson)



Billy Lee preparing his programme in the old CDC office. No computers, one phone, lots of coffee cups!!

<http://www.near.ie/livestream>

Near90fm is turning 15 this year and would like to celebrate with all staff and volunteers. This is a great way to get to know other volunteers and staff, to exchange ideas, catch up, have a pint and to see everyone outside the studios.

Date: Thursday 2nd September
Time: 8.00pm
Place: Yacht Pub in Clontarf, 73 Clontarf Road.

How to get there: Clontarf Dart Station is 430meters from the pub, bus number 130 just drops you 50m outside the place. The following bus numbers go up that direction as well: 29a, 31, 31b, 32a, 32, 32b, 104, 142.

All Welcome!

There will be some **drinks and finger food** provided.

Please RSVP dorothee@near.ie by Tuesday 31st of August. Looking forward seeing you then!

Near90fm Update

condolências

Our deepest condolences to Alexandre Araujo of “Samba Boys” whose father has passed away recently.

Welcome to Pat Guerin who has joined the staff.

Goodbye to Mairead Cullen, who has left the staff and also to Darcy McCarthy our radio intern who has returned to her studies in the U.S.

September schedule

For those of you, who have been missing your regular programmes over August, fear not! Northside Today will be returning to its usual time of 11am – 1pm from 30th.

August . Also back to its usual 6pm slot from 30th is Northside Tonight.

Other programmes returning in September include “Off the Shelf” and “Sports Local Live”, while Dave O Connor returns to Rise and Shine on Saturday mornings after a long summer break.

Gaeilge on the weekends!

Keep your ears peeled for a new Irish language programme coming your way in September. Further details will be posted on www.near.ie

Museums in the Morning

The series of special documentaries produced by The Smithsonian Institute which we broadcast weekday mornings at 9am over July and August will continue into September.

Old Time Radio

For fans of really, really old time radio Near 90fm will shortly be launching a series of archive programmes from the Golden Age of Radio covering all genres including science fiction, comedy and murder mystery.

"The Senior Citizen's Programme" every Monday afternoon 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Near 90fm's page on Facebook www.facebook.ie/near90fm is fast approaching 1,000 fans. So if you use Facebook help us get there as quickly as possible. Become a fan yourself for all the latest information on what's happening at Near and share content with your friends to help grow our online community.

World Programmes on Near 90fm:



Democracy Now! is a national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez. Pioneering the largest public media collaboration in the U.S. It is broadcast on Near 90fm on Tuesdays at 3.30pm.

www.democracynow.org



Basque Info: Aimed at the Basque community in Ireland. It is produced by Féile FM in Belfast and broadcast on Near 90fm at 3.30pm on Thursdays. Followed by 4th World War also from Féile FM.

www.feilefm.com



Radio Book: A series of short stories by Dutch and Flemish writers in English translation produced by Radio Netherlands, Broadcast on Near 90fm on Wednesdays at 4pm.

And don't forget Global Roots, world music with Tony Fitzsimons every Monday night from 10.30pm.



On Bank Holiday Monday August 2nd Near90fm, as part of our Sound and Vision funded series Summer in St Annes, broadcast a live performance from renowned trad innovators Kila.

The music soared from the old walls of the Red Stables in St Annes Park and Near90fm captured the entire 75 minute set between 2pm-3.15pm. Rossa and Eoin from Kila were also on hand to talk to Noel McGuinness behind the desk on the day.

Crowds of people flocked to see the gig and the atmosphere was very friendly as Kila played a masterly set which included tracks from their album Gamblers' Ballet. For more on Kila visit www.kila.ie

Plans for the Autumn:

We're very keen to hear any ideas for OBs, new programmes, new slots, tv ideas, additions to website or any other suggestions. But keep in mind that it takes good preparation to do things well and we will very soon be working on Winter plans, as lots of Autumn stuff is already in place. If you are aware of a community event in the Autumn and you'd like us to cover it, try to give us as much notice as possible, as we often need to meet with the organisations themselves to assess their needs and expectations. In terms of programming themes we are currently looking for a little more classical, jazz and folk/trad. We're also keen to talk to people who'd like to have a go at children's programming, history & heritage or Irish language. That's not to say there aren't openings in the old reliables like, arts & culture and current affairs. All suggestions welcome.

Join Us!

Near90fm Community radio station is looking for new volunteers on air and behind the scenes!

You can get involved by emailing the outreach coordinator Dorothee@near.ie or by calling 01.8485211. Nearfm features perspectives, genres and communities that are often underrepresented by the mainstream media.

Details on the next course:

- Dates:** Saturday 18th and Saturday 25th September
Time: 10.00am to 5.00pm approximately
Venue: Northside Civic Centre, Bunratty Road, Coolock, Dublin 17
Fee: €50 waged/€25 unwaged

Modules:

Introduction to Community Radio, Media Literacy, Law and Media, How to use the studios, How to use portable recorders, Research and Interviewing, Production Values, How to apply for your own programme



Building the Northside Civic Centre, where Near90m is now situated.

<http://www.nearpodcast.org>



Refugee Radio Week

Near90fm is 15 years old this month, having first gone on-air as a community radio pilot project on 26th August 1995. We asked for volunteers memories of those early days.....

Watching Austin Mc Coy rip through a 1 foot thick wall a few weeks before we went on-air, so we could have a window between studio 1 and studio 2, goggles on and kango hammer in hand!!! I'll never forget the dust. Mind you the window looked great.

- Dave O'Connor

Remember the window was a little off centre. No fault of Austin. Directly in front of the mixing desk there were water and electricity conduits in the wall. So, interviews were conducted with the presenter leaning slightly to one side to look through at the guests in the next studio.

The guest studio also had a glass dome in the roof which drummed loudly when it rained drowning out all conversation. The new kids in their soundproof studio don't know how lucky they are.

- Jack Byrne

Near Online Update

Podcast:

We'll soon be revamping the podcast section of the website and as part of this redesign we'll be offering some shows live on a redemand stream, meaning that if someone misses a programme they'll be able to listen to it for up to a week afterward on the website. This is more for our music based programming as talk based programming can already be accommodated on the podcast. But because it's for music based programming we'll need to have track listings for the programmes so that we can legally stream it on the site so we'll require a bit of input from you. If you are interested in trialling your programme out on this new system then please get in contact with gavin@near.ie

Mailing List:

You'll notice a few changes to how we send out updates on email now. If at any time you decide you don't want to receive updates from us you can just send an email to mailinglist-unsubscribe@near.ie and you will be removed automatically. But remember to check out facebook page and twitter for the most up to date information on what is happening.
<http://www.facebook.com/near90fm> and <http://www.twitter.com/near90fm>



Launching the Community Media Centre, which would eventually 'house' Near90fm, Near TV and Near Online.

The smoking ban, December 1996.

Things were a little different back then. There was only the one open office space, there was one computer, but then there was no internet and no e-mail and no mobile phones. There was also no national legal smoking ban, so it was up to individual offices to make decisions on this. The near 101.5 open office area was upstairs in the corner of the building, by the Northside Partnership in the Coolock Development Centre. It was about twice the size of the current studio 1 and catered for the manager and 18 part-time CE staff and two full time JI staff, and as many volunteers as we could fit in. There was no phone system, just two lines. All of this occasionally led to a little stress, which had us all reaching for the pack of fags. At one stage we counted that there were 15 smokers among the staff, so you can only imagine a cold winters day, when we were reluctant to open a window; it was like walking into the towering inferno (without the flames). Oddly enough there weren't that many objections, as this was the norm and people put up with it. However it wouldn't continue forever, and the mood of the era caught us and a motion was put to the committee to introduce a smoking ban in the office. There was fervent debate at the committee meeting, with the staff rep threatening that some of the staff would leave if such a ban were introduced. (It was hard to tell what influence this had on proceedings!) In the end the pro-smoking lobby had to relent, and the smoking ban was introduced. However, the smokers didn't lose out entirely, and they were allowed to smoke on the small landing area outside...which sometimes led to two or three in the office and 15 people standing outside on the tiny landing space at the top of the stairs. And by the way smoking has been previously banned from the studios, but this too was hard to enforce, but that's another story.

-Ciaran Murray

Memories from 1998

Im afraid I don't have any memories from 15 years ago having only been involved from the late 90's. Some things that come to mind?? The old key switch system used to turn Studio 1 on and off air. Climbing a step ladder at 4pm every day and walking down a ramp for a cup of tea. Presenting "Between the Lines" over a baize covered patio table and surrounded by 6ft high stacks of cardboard boxes. The computer that was so old the letters on the keyboard had to be repainted.

-Alan Braddish

Studio 1 CDC....mind your neck!



Day 1

Well the training is over and I've familiarised myself with the equipment. All that is left is not to mess up on the day. The day in question is Saturday 26th August 1995 the first day of community radio for North East Dublin. We will be sharing 101.5 with 9711 which served North West Dublin who have the frequency Monday to Thursday. We will be broadcasting on Friday to Sunday

So here is the plan

- 1/ Be early and settle in and make sure the log tape is ready*
- 2/ Cue up the intro Cart*
- 3/ Cue my first track. The first piece of music on Nearfm.*

As it approaches 9 0'Clock don't panic

15 seconds to go start the log tape

Ready now hit play on the Cart machine and Pat Kearney welcomes everyone to Naerfm the New Community Radio for North East Dublin. Steady now, Pats voiceover is coming to an end start the CD player and the first official track is (I'll keep that to myself for now it might be an answer in a future quiz)

-Liam Byrne

Near Drama Update

The NEAR90 Drama Company will complete its run of 'Curtain Up' on Saturday, 25 September.

The weekly programme featured many different topics such as:

- The importance of music in drama
- An interview with Senator David Norris to mark Bloomsday
- Writers from local primary school
- The music & lyrics of Gilbert & Sullivan
- A radio play
- Performances by members of the radio drama company

The last programme will be a special commemoration programme to mark the passing of a founder member, Kay Farrell, who died on April 3 this year. Kay made a huge contribution to amateur theatre throughout her life and is sadly missed.

Declan Cahill
Near Drama

There have been many great memories of sports' events covered by NEAR90fm but one of the outstanding early memories was when, in September 2001, we, for the first time, travelled outside Dublin to broadcast cricket's All Ireland Cup Final. The event was being played in Co. Armagh and one of the finalists was a North Dublin club, North County. Our technical expert Gay Graham and I set out very early to Armagh on the morning of the game and were not sure if technically the coverage could be transmitted back to NEARfm for onward broadcast. We need not have been concerned. The broadcast technically was perfect and the reaction from North County supporters who were unable to travel to the game was superb. Apparently supporters were listening to the game in the kitchens, in the offices, on the farms and even on the streets! Truly a memorable occasion and to cap it all the North County won the game to become cricket's All Ireland champions for the first time.

*-Fergus Carroll
Near90fm Sport*

Congratulations to our Cork Cousins!!

Licence for Ballyhoura Community radio

Speaking at the signing, Ciarán Kissane, Head of Contract Awards BAI said: "I would like to congratulate Ballyhoura Community Radio on their contract signing and wish them every success over the term of the license. Community Radio is an important element of Irish media and I am confident the service can add to the sense of Community in the Charleville area".



One of our many promotional efforts.

Near TV Update

Please go to the Nearthv section of the website to see the latest video www.near.ie/ or you can go to the the Nearthv vimeo channel <http://vimeo.com/14114824>

The latest video: Pride of Place - Woodlawn Estate Entry 2010
Brid O' Connor & the community of Woodlawn Estate in Coolock , North Dublin tell us about their area and the huge amount of work they do to improve and maintain the estate and also the positive influence it has on community spirit. We wish them the best of luck with their entry!
This video was produced by Nearthv volunteer Fiona Moore, Camera - Adrian Brett (nearthv), Fiona Moore and edited by Niall O' Connor (Nearthv)

Do you use Vimeo?

We are asking anyone with a vimeo account to give us feedback on productions through vimeo. Vimeo accounts are free to set up, you don't need to add your own video but it allows you to comment on others. If you enjoyed watching a video or think there is something that could make it better being a member of vimeo allows you to give this feedback directly to the people involved in making the video.

NearTV Volunteer training

Nearthv volunteer training will take place on Saturday the 18th of September and Saturday the 25th. If you are interested in becoming a Nearthv volunteer and learning about community television production please contact Elaine@near.ie. Fee: €50 waged/ €25 euro unwaged. No experience necessary.



Our Dublin Bus campaign

Training and Production Update

The third part in the Summer in St Annes series was broadcast on Monday August 2nd. Kila played a storming set in the Red Stables which went out live on near fm. Thanks to all staff, volunteers and organisations who helped make the Summer in St Annes series a great success. Thanks to the BAI Sound and Vision scheme for their assistance.

Sound and Vision series to broadcast this autumn include:

Boys Club

Mol an Oige 2

OWN series 2

Europe for Beginners

Keep an eye on the near media coop website for more on times and dates.

And finally.....

Who remembers our state of the art recording studio under the stairs in the CDC ? Full recording facilities including mini disk!! And great sound proofing using carpet tiles. Last quite a while until it was deemed an almost fire hazard!!!!

Who remembers refugee radio, erotic radio? Christmas parties in the ABC centre and Champions. Far from clontarf castle we were rared!

Here's to the next 15 years...Sláinte!