



NEWS UPDATE February 2011

Welcome to the February edition of our regular news updates. This is an opportunity for volunteers and staff to catch up on what's happening in Near. The newsletter is distributed via email, online and good old fashioned hard copy. There was a great turn out for the Co Op meeting last month and it was great to see so many new faces as well as some familiar ones. 2011 will no doubt bring as many challenges as 2010, but with the co operation of all volunteers and staff, we can ensure that our community media organisation moves forward confidently into this new decade.

Don't forget you can contact me (dave@near.ie) if you want to contribute to the newsletter.

Dave O Connor
Editor

Near Media Co-Op Committee of Management

Vincent Teeling (Chair)	Heidi Bedell (Vice Chair)
Dave O'Connor (Secretary)	Peter Cunningham (Treasurer)
Declan Cahill	Nina Knezevic
Nell Fitzpatrick	Ger Dorgan
Deborah Gaffney	Bronwen Maher
Fiona Moore	

Staff Contact List

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Productions and Specialist Training - paul@near.ie 8485211
Overall Project Coordinator - ciaran@near.ie 8671190
Promotions - promotions@near.ie (Pat Quinn) 8485211
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SOCIAL NEWS

John Doyle has retired from his position as Studio Technician. John continues to be involved as a Volunteer. Near wishes John well in his retirement and thanks him for years of dedicated service.

Welcome to John Healy who has joined Near90fm as our newest Technician

Near 90fm Update

NEAR90FM PROGRAMME REVIEW

WHAT?

We will shortly be reviewing up to 24 radio programmes as part of our ongoing evaluation of programmes and support for Volunteers.

WHEN?

The reviews will take place over four consecutive Saturdays in March from 10am to 3pm. Each Saturday will cover a different strand of programming: Music, Current Affairs, Social Justice/ Intercultural and Arts.

HOW?

If you would like to participate contact Alan on alan@near.ie or at 8671190

WHY?

This is your opportunity to help other Volunteers get valuable feedback on their programme. It will also mean that you will get your own programme reviewed by fellow Volunteers.

Dates for your Diary

8th March: International Women's Day

20th March: Nowruz (Persian New Year)

21st March: International Day for the Elimination of Racism

Programming

Some new programmes now being broadcast on **Near90fm**

Love the City: Presented by John O'Shea and produced in partnership with Designing Dublin, this programme encourages listeners to use their own inspiration to make Dublin a better place to live. Saturdays @ 6pm

Read more about the programme elsewhere in this newsletter.

Friday Night Live: Youth Arts Programme with Adam and Sarah alternate Fridays @ 7pm

Intercultural worker

For a long time [near90fm](#) and [neartv](#) have been leaders in the areas of integration and anti-racism. With funding secured from Pobal we will be very soon taking on a full time worker in this area. Among other things we will be running FETAC accredited training with Irish people and people living in Ireland who are native of non-EU countries. And this training will be followed by a range of programming and campaigns in which you and your programme can take part. If you are interested in this area let us know. ciaran@near.ie

Attention Bookworms

If you have recently read a book and want to share your thoughts on it, the "Cover to Cover" team at [Near90fm](#) radio want to hear from you. You will be invited to record your review in studio which will be then broadcast on the [Near90fm](#) Radio book programme "Cover to Cover". If you would like a little support and training in doing book reviews for radio we'll supply that too, and tea and biscuits, of course. The programme is broadcast every second Thursday in the month at 7'o'clock in the evening. All subjects are welcome and if you had recently read a "classic" then come along and tell all our listeners all about it.

Email the team at covertocover@nearfm.ie or contact Gerry Cooley directly at [Near90fm](#) on 8671190.

NEAR Drama Company Update:

We are currently busily editing the 6-part comedy series, 'The Brennan Mob' by Denis Byrne. We have 50% approximately completed. Many thanks to Gavin Byrne for his help. This is a Sound & Vision project, supported by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland.

- We plan to record the following radio plays:
 - 'Bowler and Greasycap' by Henry Hudson
 - 'The Reading' by Helen McNamara
 - 'Poodles' by Denis Byrne

These plays are all written by local playwrights. The last play will involve two young people, who present the teenagers' programme on a Friday night - Adam Burford and Sarah McLoughlin.

- We also plan to do some work in the future with Nell Fitzpatrick and her group of ladies.

Declan Cahill – Near Drama

Near TV Update

A Stardust Story

Is a short story/documentary produced and directed by Nearthv Volunteers Philip McGibney and Derek Herbert. Facilitated by David Knox from Nearthv. The story depicts the affect the Stardust tragedy had on one Family in our community (the Keegan's from Coolock). It was produced to mark the 30th anniversary.

It can be view here:

http://www.near.ie/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=6&Itemid=30

or go to www.near.ie and click on the tv section.

Each month the Nearthv volunteers are making a 30 min programmes for DCTV please keep an eye on the website for details of the next video.

If you'd like some more information about Near TV contact Elaine@near.ie

<http://www.nearpodcast.org>

Near Outreach Update

Joint Community Media venue- Shop front studio on Scarlet Row in Temple Bar

The Community Media Shopfront in Temple Bar will be officially launched at Friday, 25th February at 7.15pm, 5 Scarlet Row, Temple Bar.

Crewed by a mixture of community radio and TV volunteers the new Community Media Shopfront Studio in Temple Bar had its first day of operation on Saturday 29th January. As each act on the family stage of the Temple Bar Tradfest down the street finished a number of the performers came up to the studio for a chat and a song. The community media shopfront studio in Bar will give space to all community radio stations and community television station based in Dublin to be used for interviews in the city centre.

<http://vimeo.com/19358804>



This clip is a low resolution sample shot into the window as the light faded. There are two other stages that can be used in the studio including a blue screen wall. The photo shows near90fm's volunteer Aoife King interviewing Mike Hanrahan and Eleanor Shanley.

Watch this space!

If you'd like some more information about it please contact Dorothee at Dorothee@near.ie or at 01.8485211.

near90fm coverage of General Election 2011



In addition to our recent two public meetings with candidates for Dublin North East and Dublin North Central we are planning to do an election count special on Saturday 26th of February. Are you interested in helping out? We are looking for some volunteers to speak on the panel while new results will be coming in. Or would you be interested to help behind the scenes, preparing tea/coffee (yes, someone has to do that too) answer the phone to forward messages from listeners and keep an eye on the websites with the results being updated. Contact Dorothee at Dorothee@near.ie

‘Europe for Beginners’

Exciting new series **‘Europe for Beginners’** to start **March 3rd @ 6.30pm** and thereafter for the following eight Thursdays.
The series will also have a launch :

Where: **European Parliament Office in Ireland
43 Molesworth St. D.2**

When: **Wednesday Feb 23rd @ 5.30pm**

The Near Media Coop cordially invites you to the launch of a new radio series exploring the historical development of the EU and Ireland's place in that development. The launch is to celebrate the production of this most timely and educational series and also to acknowledge those people who gave of their time to assist on the production.

We would be delighted if you could attend. Refreshments will be provided and the launch will finish no later than 7.00pm.

Please RSVP by Monday 21st to itadmin@near.ie or phone 01-8485211

Programme Profile

Off The Shelf – Saturday Mornings at 9.30

Is there anything more relaxing and pleasurable a thing to do in bed on a Saturday morning than listen to me presenting our magazine programme Off The Shelf every second Saturday. OK there may be one or two but give me a chance first before making up your mind!

I've tried to be as diverse as possible with the items on the programme. We've varied from a birthday tribute to the great Martin Luther King to our Valentine's weekend programme of love words and music when there was more cheese around than in a packet of Easi-Singles!

So lend me your ear and if you like it feel free to let me know. If you don't like it then you can have your ear back straight away!

Thanks – Gerry Maguire

Five "Getting to know Gerry better facts":

5. He is a fanatical Chelsea supporter and was seen crying after Manchester United beat them on penalties in the Champions League Final a few years back
4. He wrote a book with a teddy bear on the cover of it. The book "Walk Away and Forget Him" was described by the late Gerry Ryan as "unputdownable" when the two Gerry's discussed it on the GRyan programme.
3. He is a "Trekkie" and has all the original series of Star Trek on both video and DVD and even knows what the T stands for in Captain James T. Kirk.
2. His nephew plays for the Kildare Senior Football Team so is terrified that the Dubs will end up playing the Lilywhites in this years Championship.
1. As a teenager, he never told any of his friends that he was a member of The Carpenters fan-club!

Community Radio in Europe

Feb 24-26th 2011: Dublin hosts AMARC Europe Conference

February 24th-26th 2011 sees Dublin play host to the European Conference of AMARC Europe. 90 Community Radio activists from all over Europe are expected to participate, with a large number of Irish Delegates anticipated.

The theme of the AMARC Europe Conference 2011 is "Communicating Diversity" .

The AMARC Charter which was developed by AMARC Europe is a foundation stone of Community Media in Ireland and signing up to the charter is a licensing requirement of any Community Broadcaster licenced by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland.

The Irish Conference Coordinator Sally Galiana, outlining details of the AMARC Conference to community radio trainers and managers at a recent event in Athlone, stressed the unique networking and knowledge exchange opportunities that the hosting of the conference in Dublin provides for Irish Community Radio Activists. Sally who is the station manager with [Near90fm](#) and who is working closely with the AMARC Europe Secretariat also identified the

possibility for jointly developing future European funding applications as a very practical potential outcome for delegates.

There will be four plenary sessions at the AMARC Europe Conference with the Chair of the Broadcasting Authority Bob Collins and the CEO of the Authority Micheal O'Keeffe lined up along with a raft of other international speakers.

The Plenary sessions (see more at http://europe.amarc.org/index.php?p=confeeuro2_agenda) are

1. Opening Plenary: Community Radio in Europe: Broadcasting diversity
2. Regulating pluralism: a comparative view of regulatory bodies around Europe.
3. Gender balance in media: the Global point of communication
4. Learning Radio: Adult Education in community media

and these are complemented by 8 Interactive workshops on:

- Minority Languages
- Training and professional qualifications for staff and volunteers (in the context of the European professional certification)
- The production of normative instruments In Europe (UE and Council of Europe)
- Media Literacy Reading and writing the media
- Information Ethics: Fundamental constitutional, legal and contractual evolution of journalism in community media
- New communication tools for community media. Fostering diversity of platforms
- Copyright and Copyleft licenses
- Digital terrestrial radio: common strategies for community broadcasting media

The **AMARC Website (www.amarc.org)** includes the following background on the conference *"Community media provide diversity within the broadcasting landscape but it also provides plurality within society. It is recognised that, though national policies are not necessarily consistent on the regulation of Community Media, community media's role in fostering diversity and plurality has been widely acknowledged in Europe.*

Community media diversity refers to both the role we play with regard to other broadcasting services (public or commercial), but also with regard to the community media panorama itself: rural, urban, political, cultural, talk content and specialist music, student productions and older programmes... Nowadays, Community media are the mirror of a changing Europe: under the unifying concept of community, there is an ever increasing number of communication experiences intensely deep-rooted in their transcultural social environments.

This diversity has to be preserved and promoted. On the one hand, it represents the forefront against the global trends towards a "infotainment system". On the other hand, this variety of experiences needs to be enhanced by reinforcing connections and exchanges between media outlets, thus reinforcing the strength of the community media movement and its networks.

The European community media sector is growing. Therefore, free community broadcasters' voices call for a unified action towards deficient or inexistent regulation; the forthcoming switch over digital terrestrial broadcasting; a gender unbalanced information system; and the establishment of financial mechanisms to sustain the not-for-profit media sector.

These challenges, just to mention a few, will be discussed during the panels that will take place from the 24th to the 26th of February 2011 on the occasion of the 2nd AMARC Europe Conference and General Assembly. The conference will also offer an opportunity to meet, among

others, with some National regulatory authorities, in order to compare different European legal models and explore and promote best practices.

Extracted from http://europe.amarc.org/index.php?p=euro_conf_conv_en

Significant funding support for the AMARC Conference has been provided by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland and this support is gratefully acknowledged by the organisers

Programme Profile.....

Love the City? We do...



Over the past 6 months a diverse group including designers, artists, architects, social workers and much more, has been feverishly working away in a studio on Ormond Quay in the city centre. Their goal is deceptively simple but is summed up nicely in their name, 'Designing Dublin'. Designing Dublin is an experimental learning-by-doing group investigating how design thinking can create better understanding between people, businesses, government and the process of development in Dublin City. Backed by Dublin City Council and a non-profit group called Design 21C their 6 month project 'Love the City' is finally coming to fruition and **Near 90fm** has been there to hear all about the journey they've taken.

When I learned about this project I realised it shared a common goal with Near 90fm, to give voices to the people of Dublin. Being a design graduate and a volunteer in Near 90fm for the past few years I decided I could perhaps do something towards bringing the two together. The Love the City radio show began in January after 2 months of planning and has been an incredible project to work on. Every week two members of the team come into the studio to discuss the investigations, work and learning they've done over the past few months. So far we've covered themes including living, movement, and hidden gems in the city. We've also been lucky enough to get interviews with city planners, architects and other key people with particular insights into city development and social inclusion. The team have also gathered voices of the public through several novel methods including chat couches, getting people to write their Dublin gems on ribbons tied all along the ha'penny and handing out free oranges.



Currently preparing for our sixth week of a total run of twelve, the show will finish up as Designing Dublin itself wraps up. Over the next few weeks the team will begin prototyping ideas around the markets area in Dublin. One of the most important things to the project is collecting as many varied opinions and ideas as possible, so if you wish to become involved, ask questions or share your ideas please do so, the team would love to hear from you. You can contact them through [facebook.com/designingdublin](https://www.facebook.com/designingdublin) on twitter [@DesigningDublin](https://twitter.com/DesigningDublin) or find contact information on designingdublin.com which also includes regular blog updates to keep you fully up to date with progress so far.

Love the City broadcasts live on Saturdays from 6pm on Near90fm and podcasts of all the shows can be found on nearpodcast.org

Training and Production Update

OWN Series 2 - A Sound and Vision funded series will begin broadcasting on Monday February 28th @ 2pm and for the following 6 Mondays. The series is produced by members of the Older Womens Network with assistance from Ken Tuohy. During the series the women visit cultural places of interest like Newgrange and Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann.

Europe for Beginners - funded by Sound and Vision and Communicating Europe, will begin broadcasting on Thursday March 3rd @ 6.30pm and for the following 8 Thursdays. This radio series, devised by Sally Galiana and produced by Ignacio Irigoien, will explore the historical development of the EU and Ireland's place in that development.

The series will be launched in the European Commission, Molesworth Street on February 23rd @ 5.30pm.

Both series will be made available on the near podcast service. www.nearpodcast.org

Near 90fm will submit 6 applications into Radio Round 11 of Sound and Vision, the deadline for which is February 25th.

Near Online Update

Near Podcast

The podcast section of the site is busier than ever. You can now find all of our election coverage gathered together in one place at www.near.ie/election2010

The podcasts of the Election Specials have been very popular, with last weeks Dublin North-East Debate having almost 200 downloads so far.

Since we relaunched the podcast site back in September we have had almost 4000 programmes downloaded overall.

Also, for easy downloading to an iPhone or iPod you can access the podcast on iTunes here: <http://itunes.apple.com/ie/podcast/near-podcast/id418871492>

<http://www.nearpodcast.org>