News Update

Welcome to the July/August 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 every two months via email, online and good old fashioned hard copy. And so, that was our summer. Hope you managed to see one of our many Near90fm Outside Broadcasts in the last few months. We were out and about broadcasting, recording and promotion our community radio station, at the Raheny Festival, the Near90fm Alan Murray 20/20 Cricket Cup, over at the Axis in Ballymun and in we celebrated the 1,000 edition of Northside2Day with a three day broadcast from the Shopfront Studio in Temple Bar, just to name a few. Near TV was also there, recording the Friday edition of the programme, for transmission on DCTV that afternoon. This week sees the 16th Birthday of Near90fm. Older staff and volunteers will of course remember the days of Nearfm 101.5 and Nearfm 101.6 broadcasting from a few rooms upstairs in the Coolock Development Centre. We’ve come a long way since then, but only because of the ongoing support of our volunteers and staff. So let’s raise a glass to ourselves, and look forward to many more years of Near90fm.

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

Dave O’Connor
Editor

Near Media Committee of Management

Vincent Teeling (Chair)
Heidi Bedell (Vice Chair)
Dave O’Connor (Secretary)
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Overall Project Coordinator – ciaran@near.ie 8671190
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(Liam Johnson) 0867119
Intercultural Coordinator – grace@near.ie 8485211
New programmes this Autumn

POV: A new Youth programme presented by Darren Kernan every other Saturday at 11.30am.

Backtracking with Andy Flannery: Wednesdays at 4.30pm
An hour long synopsis of musical artists and bands that have had a significant influence or impact on the music genre they inhabited or influenced into being.

Pride Time with Sinead Ni Chonaill: Sundays at 5.30pm
Music from LGBT icons, popular music and latest dance-floor hits. Gig guides will be based on news from LGBT forums, entertainment websites and artist websites. Activity listing and community news will also be welcome during the show.

Connie O’Reilly will be taking a break from “Music and Musings” (Wednesdays 2.30pm) in September but fear not standing in for her will be Martin Lennon with his selection of soul.

Between the Lines returns from its summer break September 4th (Sundays 12 noon). Also in September “Ar Muin na Muice”, “Northside2Day”, “Northside Tonight” and “Lifeline” return to their regular times, see www.near.ie/schedule for full details.

And also watch out for The EU Show which moves to a new day and time, Thursdays at 3.30pm.

Dave O’Connor is back on Saturday mornings with Nears Golden Years (8.00-9.30am) after taking a break.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR NEWER VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR HELP WITH NORTHSIDE LIGHT AND LUNCHTIME MISCELLANY DURING AUGUST

Laco “Latso” Zimanyi, presenter of the EU show, his programme explores the historical and cultural background of the 26 European Union countries, excluding Ireland.
Near90fm is turning sweet 16

The perfect excuse 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. We are planning to have a bit of a music session going for part of the night – if you play an instrument, please bring your guitar, fiddle, bodhran, whatever it is along as there’ll be a sound engineer for the night for us to facilitate us to have a session. We have the Cobblestone booked but are awaiting final confirmation.

Date: Thursday 8th September
Time: 8.00pm
Place: The Backroom of the ‘Cobblestone’,
Address: 77 King Street North, Smithfield

For more information contact Dorothee at dorothee@near.ie.

Music on the Promo Computer

Recently the system of placing music in one large folder on the promo computer wavecart in Studio 1 was reviewed. This was due to complaints that as more music was added it was becoming unwieldy to use. Following the review the wavecart has been divided up into separate folders (in the same way as the playback computer). Usually the computer will be set to “Promos” which will show only the promos to be played every half hour.

To access the music simply click on the drop down box on the top right hand corner of wavecart. The different music folders arranged by genre will be visible. By selecting one of them you will see only the music in that particular folder. To get back to promos simply select “Promos” again.

If you preferred the old arrangement click on “All Folders” and this will display everything in one list. If you would like to add music to some of the folders please contact Alan at 8671190 or on alan@near.ie

Dublin Bus Ad Campaign

Watch out for the Near Media Co Op Dublin Bus Ad. It’s on the back of lots of buses this month.
DATES TO REMEMBER

September 8th – International Literacy Day
September 24th – South African Heritage Day

October 1st – World Vegetarian Day
October 17th – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

And the most important date? 17th December which will be the date for this year’s Christmas Party. Mark it in your diaries and watch this spot for further details.

Radio Culture Night

Near90FM, in association with Dublin South FM, Phoenix FM and Temple Bar Cultural Trust will broadcast live from Culture Night this year. This special event will take place from the Community Media shop-front studio, run in partnership with Dublin Community Television www.dctv.ie, in Temple Bar’s Old City. Broadcasting live between 4-8pm the schedule includes live in studio interviews with venues and artists, roving reporters in Temple Bar and features from artists, musicians and museum gallery curators.

For more on what’s happening on Culture Night visit www.culturenight.ie or pick up a programme from the Near FM office.

Tune in: Near 90.3fm, DSFM 93.9fm and Phoenix 92.5fm
Listen online: www.near.ie www.dublinsouthfm.ie www.phoenixfm.ie

Radio Culture Night is supported by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland’s Sound and Vision Fund www.bai.ie
Near90fm Outside Broadcasts

A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who came along to our latest Outside Broadcasts from Raheny Village on June 25th, St Anne's Park on Saturday 16th July, Edenmore on August 13th and Drumcondra on 28th of August. Along with many other stalls we took part in celebrating the Family Fun Days and the Rose Festival. These were great successes and we couldn’t have done it without all your help. We had a great variety of interviewees from the Raheny Heritage Society to Vikings, Edenmore youth club and the Rotary Club to name a few.

If you ever come across an event you think we should attend with the OB van, feel free to email your thoughts to dorothee@near.ie.

Cricket

On Tuesday 12th July, NEAR 90fm broadcast for three hours, the One Day International Cricket game between Scotland and Ireland live from Edinburgh. We were the only Irish radio station bringing live coverage of the game. Well done to all involved especially those who operated the studio desk during the broadcasts.

Community Radio on Twitter

Follow @liffeysoundfm @near90fm @craol @925_phoenixfm @dublinsouthfm @flirtfm @ditfm @connemararadio @raidionalife @corkcampusradio @claremorris946 @belfieldfm @raidiocb @dcufm @westernwavesfm @afroradio @dundalkfm @cry104fm @wiredfm @corkfmcr @cuelk @ICRFMradio @crc1029fm @corkslifefm @DublinSouthFM @errisfm @BCRfm @acr884 @925_PhoenixFM @tippmidwest

“WE WERE THE ONLY IRISH RADIO STATION BRINGING LIVE COVERAGE OF THE IRELAND-SCOTLAND GAME”
Following the Dáil debate on the Government’s 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010 - 2030 in May, 90 TDs, Senators and political representatives attended the urgent information day for politicians, organised by Conradh na Gaeilge and Guth na Gaeltachta in Buswells Hotel, Kildare Street, on June 1st.

The annual information day is a golden opportunity for political representatives to consult with the Irish-speaking community about policies and decisions that will have a direct effect on them, according to Julian de Spáinn, General Secretary of Conradh na Gaeilge: “This year’s day gave new TDs a chance to consult with representatives of Conradh na Gaeilge and Guth na Gaeltachta from their own constituencies on language issues, particularly with regard to the teaching of Irish within the education system. We had a healthy debate on the subject of Irish at Leaving Cert during the general election, and now we want the two coalition parties in government to make good on their promises for the language, i.e. that another subject such as sport or drama will be taught through the medium of Irish at primary level, in addition to Irish itself; that there will be two Irish subjects developed for Leaving Cert; and that trainee teachers will spend more time in the Gaeltacht.”

Guth na Gaeltachta and Conradh na Gaeilge invited newly elected and re-elected members of the Dáil and Seanad to come to discuss, in particular, Irish in the education system; The 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language is currently under development. The enterprise role and responsibilities of Údarás na Gaeltachta should not be reduced or diluted in any way - it would spell disaster for the Gaeltacht if the employment opportunities the Údarás creates were not available. We need to guarantee that at the very least, the €12 million that the Údarás needs to create 1,000 new jobs in 2012 is available to the organisation.”
Near90.3FM's “Northside2day” celebrates its 1000th programme

Northside2day was broadcast live from the Community Media Shopfront Studio in Temple Bar on 20th - 22nd July. The programme, first broadcast in April 2007, has aired Monday to Friday from 11am to 1pm every week since. Each daily programme consists of an eclectic mix of music and interviews on a wide variety of topics. Current and former presenters joined the celebrations over the three days.

Coming Soon…

Near90fm will host and record a:

Primary Schools Fun Dodo Quiz
(Where everyone's a Winner!)

The quiz series will be sponsored by Coolock-Artane Credit Union and Near 90fm Community Radio. It will be a general knowledge quiz with a difference. Based on the scene from ‘Alice in Wonderland' where the Dodo says that 'Everybody has won and everybody must have prizes.'

All the participating children (four from each school) will get prizes as they test their general knowledge in a non-competitive environment which will encourage co-operation between the children.

And the participating schools will each receive a gift from Coolock-Artane Credit Union to go towards a school project as a fund raiser or whatever use you wish to make of it.

The schools principals will be invited to a short briefing session in the Community Radio Station on the morning of: Wednesday 14th, September 2011 between 10am and 11 am.

The series will be recorded in October and broadcast in December and is funded by the BAI S&V scheme. Broadcast dates to be announced later.
Northside Music Show Case 2011

The Northside Music Showcase 2011 took place this year on the 1st of July in the Axis Theatre, Ballymun. It was a great success culminating from the hard work of those at Near90fm, Dublin City Council and The MIC Project. This year’s showcase saw many entries from across the Northside and from a personal experience I can say that the high standard of talent made it very difficult to narrow the entries down to our successful candidates.

On the night we had great sets of music from local acts RebelCast, Death by Bludgeon and singer songwriter Jack Lynskey. All three acts have also appeared on Near90fm since then as part of the sessions show. Rebelcast have also gone on to be chosen to record in the Axis Theatre Studios as part of the Northside Music Showcase, while each of the other acts have partaken in photoshoots with photographers from the MIC project.

Once again I would just like to extend my thanks to all who attended on the night to support local music, all of the bands who entertained us, all of the volunteers from Near90fm who offered their services namely Daragh Maher, Chloe Guildea, Aoife King and Kate Garry. Many thanks also need to be extended to Gavin Carpenter and Jim Kelly for all of their hard work in making the whole showcase a great success.

The Near FM Sessions 5th birthday party!

This November The Near FM Sessions will be five whole years old and we plant to celebrate it in style! We’re hosting a birthday party extravaganza in The Grand Social on Friday 18th November and you’re all very welcome to come along and join the celebrations!

We've got a bunch of Ireland’s most amazing musicians playing, all of whom have come and done their thing for us in the past five years on the sessions show! So, keep an eye out for the posters, polish your dancing shoes and brace yourself for a great night of entertainment on Friday 18th November.
CTA Producers Forum

A producers forum was held in order to showcase some of the work being done in community television, a number of production groups showed their work and gave some production background. Caroline Brennan was on a panel discussing the Running Man Documentary she produced. Dorothee Meyer Holtkamp showed and discussed the youth leadership programmes and David Knox showed some of the recent Northside Today from the Shopfront studio. It was a valuable event in which Neartv could both highlight some of the work they have been producing as well as seeing the community television work being produced by others.

Some other highlights included Dave Donnellan showing his 1% piece, Rob Carr showing Power down, Margaret Gillan from the CMN showing a piece they are producing with at drug rehabilitation support service and Deirdre Walsh from Ballymun communications showing a documentary she produced called Sceal na Laoch. Photos from this event can be seen at: http://www.flickr.com/photos/near90fm/sets/72157627393655838/

One question: Henry Street

The new volunteers went out onto Henry Street to ask 50 people one question – what was your best ever mistake? This can be seen on the tv section of the Near website: http://vimeo.com/27622138

Photos of the shoot can be seen at: http://www.flickr.com/photos/near90fm/sets/72157627121779160/

The second group of Trainees have been out filming over the last couple of Saturdays with a different question please keep an eye on the website for the next video.

Thanks to all those who gave feedback, all the feedback we can get on the vimeo site is greatly appreciated.
Youth Leadership Programme

The Northside partnership youth leadership group have continued to work with us in near tv, they recently went to Chanel College to film a short horror. Please keep an eye on the website for this video.

Would you like to be a volunteer with Neartv?

In order to volunteer you must take part in the neartv volunteer training. Please email tv@near.ie to register your interest we will be holding volunteer training based on demand.

Development of community TV

Saorview is the new digital technology that replaces the rabbits ears. Dublin Community Television partnered with Belfast Community television (Northern Visions) and put a proposal to the Broadcasting Authority for a channel space on the Saorview. The proposal met with a favourable response and this is a very positive first step. The decision now goes to Minister of Communications, Pat Rabbitte.

"DCTV/NvTv intends broadcasting original programming showcasing local communities across Ireland and the world around them. The service is described as public service in nature as; it hopes to build community through media, programming is made for public benefit and it will provide plurality of voice catering for all ages, interests and tastes. Technical and financial details have been provided for new equipment required to link to the RTÉ multiplex. This service is proposed to operate on the Irish Saorview and UK Freeview platform with a commencement date of early 2012."

"PLEASE EMAIL TV@NEAR.IE TO SIGN UP TO THE VOLUNTEER TRAINING"
Culture Shots

Culture Shots, the radio series emerging from Near Media Co-op’s new intercultural initiative, went live on July 18th 2011. To date, Culture Shots has featured interviews with Akidwa, LGBT Pavee, the Dún Laoghaire Refugee Project, Marriage Equality, the Immigrant Council of Ireland, and the Irish Vocational Education Association. Through interviews, conversations, dramatic readings, poetry and world music, presenters are achieving their aim of “exploring culture and creating a sound,” by bringing new perspectives and languages to our listeners.

All 8 Intercultural project participants have completed course requirements for the FETAC Level 4 in Community Radio are awaiting their results. Shannette, Martin, Anne, Tina, Evans, Irenia, Gillian and Eamonn have also become full volunteers with Near Media Co-op.

In late August two intercultural participants went on to present their first live shows on Northside Lite. Following this, intercultural project participants and Co-op volunteers old and new took part in a voice for radio training. At this training, participants learned skills for calming their nerves before a live show, as well as techniques for sight reading, paced breathing, vocal plasticity and enlivening scripts.

You can tune in to Culture Shots on 90.3 fm or live stream at www.near.ie each week, Mondays from 6.30 to 7. To listen to past episodes, simply search for “Culture Shots” on www.nearpodcast.org

Recruitment is about to begin for the next round of the intercultural project, which kicks off in late October. This training and production initiative will be made-up of 4 Irish national and 4 non-EU national participants. Participants will complete a FETAC level 4 in Community Radio and Intercultural Media Literacy, and when finished they will form a production team to plan, produce and present 13 original radio programmes on the theme of intercultural dialogue.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in taking part, please contact Grace Wilentz, Intercultural Dialogue through Community Media Coordinator at grace@near.ie or on 01 848 5211. This project is co-financed by the European Commission under the European Integration Fund and is supported by the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration in the Department of Justice and Equality and Pobal.

"TO TAKE PART IN CULTURE SHOTS CONTACT GRACE WILENTZ"
JULY/AUGUST 2011

**Scibernia**

The new weekly Irish science programme on Near fm has now reached over 3000 downloads on its podcast page at www.scibernia.ie. Each week Scibernia brings interviews, features and news of upcoming science events from the world of science in Ireland. It's supported by Discover Science and Engineering, [http://www.discover-science.ie/](http://www.discover-science.ie/). If you're interested in getting involved or have a suggestion for a feature or story then contact gavin@near.ie.

**Podcast**

The Near90fm podcast has now reached almost 15,000 downloads and almost 400 programmes are available for download. Meanwhile on mixcloud, which we use as a 'listen again' feature for programming that contains music, we have 66 programmes available. [http://www.mixcloud.com/near90fm](http://www.mixcloud.com/near90fm)

**Archive**

We're currently looking to archive some of our talk based programming. If you would like to have your programme featured in an archive of Near90fm programmes and you keep a good record of the content of your past programmes then contact Gavin at gavin@near.ie

**Training**

Do you have a friend, relative, neighbour who would like to know how to write emails, upload a photo from a digital camera, and use the internet? We're currently taking names for our Autumn IT training courses. So if you or anyone you know is in need of some basic IT training then get in touch with Sue at 8485211 or email gavin@near.ie Courses run 1 morning a week for 10 weeks and have a registration of €20 for the basic courses.

Remember to keep updated on what’s happening follow us on twitter @near90fm and find us on facebook at [facebook.com/near90fm](http://facebook.com/near90fm).

Contact Sue on 01 8485211 morning times.
Production and Training Update

Production

Pre-production has begun on a number of new Sound & Vision supported series, including ‘Ladies sing the Blues’, ‘Changing Face of Fairview’, ‘Culture Night’, ‘This Sporting Life’, ‘Tales from the Northside’ and ‘Dublin’s Northside City of Literature’. The best of luck to Declan Cahill and the Near Drama Company, Mark Staunton, Edd Kealy, Alan Weldon, Pat Farrell, John Haughton, Pat Lynch and Pat Rogers as they begin their new S&V journeys.


Sound & Vision

A number of staff and volunteers are currently in the process of writing applications for radio programmes to be sent to the BAI. Sound & Vision, the Broadcasting Funding Scheme was established to provide funding in support of high quality programmes on Irish culture, heritage and experience, and programmes to improve adult literacy. If you’d like to find out more about it go to www.bai.ie/ or ask a member of staff at near- maybe you have your own idea you would like to materialise and put into words for the next round. The next deadline is October 28th 2011.

Any staff or volunteers with events or ideas they think would make a viable Sound and Vision project in 2012 are encouraged to get in touch with paul@near.ie or 8485211.

Three Sound and Vision projects broadcasted in May & June 2011. A Lifeline, Amarc10 & The Brennan Mob are all now available on the Podcast service (nearpodcast.org).

Training

The Autumn Fetac Level 4 course in Community Radio will run on Fridays from 10-1pm staring September 9th.

“The Autumn Course in Community Radio is now recruiting”

“The Autumn Course in Community Radio is now recruiting”
Outreach Update

The Tech Show

The tech show: Every Saturday 6.00pm-7.00pm with Patrick and Adam has their own website: http://www.thetechshow.net/

Welcome to new presenters at near90fm: With Northside2day taking a well deserved break during the month of August we asked our newest volunteers if they would come in to fill the morning hour from 11.00-12.00 during the four weeks. Most slots were taken up and provided for great content. Thank you so much for the excellent programmes! Your input is highly appreciated!

We have a new music programme starting on September 21st from 4.30 – 5.30 with Andy Flannery called ‘Backtracking’. It will be going out bi-weekly and is scheduled for 13 weeks. Sinéad NiChonaill will start her programme ‘Pride Time’ on Sunday September 4th and will go live every Sunday from 5.30-6.30pm. Joseph Keegan has joined the ‘Lifeline’ team and goes on air every Wednesday morning from 9.30 to 11.00am.

Welcome also to Niall McGuinness, the new PR/Outreach assistant who is based in the Coolock Development Centre where neartv is located. 01.8485211, promotions@near.ie. Niall can give you a hand if you are looking to promote your programme in a more effective way with a poster or blurb in other newsletters/magazines.

www.Near.ie
nearpodcast.org
www.facebook.com/near90fm
CRAOL Update (Our National Community Radio Organisation)

Dundalk, Ballyhoura, NEAR90fm, Youghal, and Dublin South are latest stations to offer FETAC Training through Craol

Craol continues the rollout of its FETAC accredited Training Initiatives. Claremorris Community radio is the latest station to start delivering FETAC Accredited Training through Craol. They join Claremorris, Inishowen, West Dublin, Phoenix, Connemara, and Athlone who have offered courses in recent months. More stations are planning courses for the Autumn. Contact Fetac@craol.ie for more

Craol presents to Broadcasting Authority

Craol representatives met with the entire Broadcasting Authority along with senior BAI executives at the end of June. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize the Authority with the Community Radio sector in general and the work of the Network Body Craol in particular. With the BAI Broadcasting Services Startegy and their Sectoral Development Policy currently under discussion, the meeting/presentation provided an excellent opportunity to brief the Authority on the challenges facing the Community Radio sector and to explore mechanisms to develop the Sector.

Craol Launch 2011 Achievement Awards

Paula Healy and Ciarán Murray of the Craol Coordinating committee formally launched the Craol Achievement Awards 2011 as part of the Craol Féile. The closing date for entries is 5pm on Wednesday September 7th.

Cork FM Community Radio operates first ever 100-day licence

Cork FM Community Radio has become Irelands first ever 100-day licenced broadcaster in May. The new 100-day licence allows a community group to broadcast up to 100 days in a 12 month period. Cork FM Community Radio started broadcasting from Saturday 11th June for one year of weekends on 100.5 FM. http://corkfm.wordpress.com/
Joint Station Audience Research Application

The CRAOL joint station application to the BAI's Community Broadcasting Support Scheme has just been submitted. The submitted proposal is for a multi-year, multi-strand study of audience engagement with community radio nationwide, and also in the franchise areas. Flirt Fm are the lead station on this project, with 20 of the 23 other stations taking a full and active role in this important research study.

Claremorris 94.6Fm- new website with volunteer training section.

Claremorris 94.6FM has launched a new look website: http://bit.ly/mWmS3t
For volunteers, there is a new section with training guides and videos on how to use some of the most common recording, editing and playback computer programmes at the station.
http://www.claremorriscommunityradio.ie/Training.html

Life Fm launches iPhone, Blackberry and Android App

Life Fm has created three apps which allow smart phone users to listen to the station via the internet on their phones. You can check them out here: http://www.lifefm.ie/live/

FETAC results and Certificates

Congratulations to our FETAC trainers and students who have recently completed the CRAOL FETAC Level 4 Introduction to Community Radio. The certificates from the May/June Certification have now been received by Craol and these will be sent out to stations in the coming days.

Documentary Making for Community Radio

Have you browsed the www.craol.ie website yet? There are over 350 resources there. Could you or someone else at your station do with some advice on documentary making? Here's a very useful and inspiring workbook, compiled by Dublin South Fm: http://craol.ie/5/0/resources.html

“HAVE YOU BROWSED THE WWW.CRAOL.IE WEBSITE YET? THERE ARE OVER 350 RESOURCES THERE”
AMARC is admitted to the UNFCCC as observer organization

Montreal, August 17th, 2011 - The World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) is pleased to announce that it was admitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as an observer organization. AMARC will have the opportunity to attend various sessions of the UNFCCC assemblies. AMARC may also organize side events and exhibitions.

The participation of AMARC as an NGO will begin at COP 17 in Durban, South Africa, at the end of this year, as well as at the Rio+20 in Brazil, in June 2012, where it can demonstrate the important role of community radio in the prevention, support and as an educator during natural disasters and in the context of climate change and contribute to:

• Uphold the right of everyone to receive clear and timely information on environmental issues, and on development plans that may affect us, or in which we have an interest.
• Adopt the climate change agenda so that communities we work with in different parts of the world have quality information that enables them to take more effective action and to demand that those in power adopt policies to mitigate the causes of climate change.
• Strengthen the standards of environmental reporting and build the capacity of environmental communicators at local and community level.
• Support civil society at local, regional and global levels, and promote the participation of all individuals and organizations in decision making that affects their lives and livelihoods.
• Protect and exercise the right to freedom of opinion, expression, association and dissent to rethink new, more just, more equitable and more sustainable models of development
• Strengthen local communities capacity to take care of their environment
• Adopt best practices in our own activities with respect to environmental management and promote a carbon neutral community media sector

We call on governments, international and multilateral organizations to promote the existence and development of community media that serve those populations most excluded from development and those most affected by the consequences of climate change; to establish mechanisms and adequate economic investment for local community media to realize their full potential in order to build informed societies that are conscious of the need to implement local actions to mitigate the global phenomenon of climate change.

Through service to members, networking and project implementation, the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters AMARC, brings together a network of more than 4,000 community radios, Federations and community media stakeholders in more than 115 countries. The main global impact of AMARC since its creation in 1983 has been to accompany and support the establishment of a worldwide community radio sector that has democratized the media sector. AMARC advocates for the right to communicate at the international, national, local and neighbourhood levels and defends and promotes the interests of the community radio movement through solidarity, networking and Cooperation. For further information, go to http://www.amarc.org
Research on community media

We often say that we are a community development organisation first and a media service after that. But community development can be very hard to measure and our impact on our community can be very difficult to gauge.

We would like to be able to measure that impact and in these times when all funders want to know about value for money, there is even more pressure on us to show that we do a good job. With that in mind we are looking to have some research done on 'social return on investment', (SROI) which means putting a money value on our work. So let’s say, our training and programming helps build a more integrated community, and there’s more understanding of other cultures. This might actually mean less racism, and this in turn lead to fewer racists attacks, which is less work for the Gardaí and the ambulance/medical/counselling etc services.

Gardaí and the various state services can cost the tax payer a lot of money, so there are real costs here and real cost savings if we are doing a good job.

Also this type of community building we do is replicated across a whole range of our work; eg with teenagers, senior citizens, people with disabilities and the list goes on. So a more integrated community is a safer and more enjoyable place to live, and a place where people feel more comfortable walking home at night from shops and pubs.

So watch out for more details of the research and if you are approached to take part try to do your best to help us out.

Social News

Welcome to Niall McGuinness and Elaine Kennedy who have recently joined the Co-op working on Promotions and Reception respectively.

“WE ARE A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION FIRST AND A MEDIA SERVICE AFTER THAT”
Near Media Co-op – Glossary of Terms

Near operates on a basic philosophy of equality and democracy. Over the years we have tried to use terms that are less hierarchical to describe what we do. However, it can be confusing for new, and indeed longer serving volunteers and staff. The following list may help, we hope.

Near Media Co Op

Near Media Co Op is the working name for the group of media projects operated by the legally registered entity. * (see below for more detail)

Shareholder

Anyone wishing to support the ideals of democratic ownership of media can become a shareholder. Shares cost €5 for an individual and €10 for a group. This entitles shareholders to ownership of our three community media platforms (Near90fm, Near TV productions and Near Online) Also, voting rights at AGM, access to membership of Committee of Management and policy decision-making.

Catchment Area

The catchment area is North East Dublin, or those portions included in our radio license to broadcast.

Near TV Productions

We operate a Community TV production facility, which is based in the Coolock Development Centre (CDC), just down the road from our radio studios and offices. It is not a TV station. Programmes are provided to Dublin City Television, and made available on our website, www.near.ie

Near Online

We also operate a community IT facility from the CDC, where we provide IT training to the community. We don’t do ECDL, but we do offer training in internet surfing, using email, and how best to access information from the internet.

Staff Co Ordinators.

Each of the various platforms and activities has a dedicated salaried Coordinator. The project also has a Project Co-ordinator to ensure efficient and effective actions across the entire Near Media Co-op. This group meets weekly

Committee of Management

This is the group of volunteers to manage the affairs of Near Media Co Op, and therefore the management of Near90fm, NearTV and Near Online. This group meets every month and sets policy.

Co-Ordinating Committee

Is the operational body that meets fortnightly and co ordinates much of the daily management of the Co Op. This group is made up of some members of the Committee of Management.

The next edition of this Newsletter will issue at the end of October. If you are reading a hard copy and want to receive your newsletter by email, send an email to gavin@near.ie