



## **NEWS UPDATE    June 2010**

Welcome to the June 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. The Annual General Meeting and Co-Op Volunteer Meeting held recently was the best attended in a long time. It was a lively session and great to see so many new faces getting involved.

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

Dave O Connor  
Editor

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

## **Near90fm Update**

### **Social News**

Drinks on Friday 2nd July, for Ciaran Oglesby who is leaving CE. Drinks will start at The Goblet at 8pm and move on to The Turks Head at 9pm where Aoife Nic Canna will be DJing. Naomi Brady has also recently left CE. We wish them both well for the future.

Chloe Saint-Ville presenter of "Under the Sun" has recently taken up a six month internship in Guadeloupe.

Welcome to Suzanne O' Neill and Bernice Paolozzi who has recently joined the staff.

Near Media Co-op expresses it's deepest sympathies to Fergus Carroll whose mother has recently passed away.

### **Programming**



Queer FM - A new programming highlighting issues in the community which affect LGBT rights including the right to marriage, dating, homophobia and nightlife. This will **Near 90fm's** first LGBT programme and will go out every Sunday at 5.30pm starting on 27th June. The programme will be launched during this year's LGBT Pride parade on Saturday 26th June at which Near 90fm's OB unit will be present. If you would like to help out please contact Liam at the office.

A big thank you to Abdul Haseeb, and all who have contributed to "Islam in Focus" over the last few years. The programme will be taking a short break but we hope to hear Abdul back on the airwaves soon.

Recently **Near 90fm** was the official media partner of Cultivate's Convergence Festival. Recordings of talks from the festival can be heard live on Near 90fm on June 29th and July 6th at 3.30pm.

Our presence at Filipino Day in St. Anne's Park was very successful. Thanks to all volunteers and staff who turned up on the day. For July we are planning to be present at the Rose Festival, St. Anne's Park, on Saturday 17th July and also we will be at the Darndale Clean up on Saturday 3rd July. If you would like to get involved in this events, just contact Paul Loughran [paul@near.ie](mailto:paul@near.ie).

Get ready for the new Near 90fm schedule! To be published soon on [www.near.ie](http://www.near.ie) <<http://www.near.ie/>>

Dates to Watch in September!

8th - International Literacy Day

21st - UN International Day of Peace

### **Filipino Independence Day on **near90fm****

On Saturday 12 June, near90fm visited St. Anne's Park for a live broadcast from Filipino Independence Day events. Volunteers and staff met some of the nine thousand people attended, enjoyed a sunny day and produce an excellent five hour long programmes with interviews about Filipino culture, food, religion, music, and their experience living in Ireland, and live music and singing.

Near90fm's participation in Filipino Day was supported by the Broadcasting Authority of Irelands Sound and Vision Fund



## Near Drama Update

Peter Prior, a member of the **NEAR Drama Company**, will be appearing in Troppo Theatre Company's 'One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest' by Dale Wasserman and directed by Laura Dowdall from 30<sup>th</sup> June -11 July at the Helix Theatre (Wednesdays – Sundays), on the grounds of Dublin City University, Collins Avenue, Dublin 9.

This play will be followed by 'Deathtrap' by Ira Levin directed by Pierce Kavanagh from 14 - 25 July.

There is a good deal for these plays – book tickets for both plays for any night for just €25. Bookings at The Helix Ticket Office: tel: 700 70 00 and [www.thehelix.ie](http://www.thehelix.ie)



The Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June edition of 'Curtain Up' featured an interview with Senator David Norris and a panel discussion on James Joyce. The panel was comprised of people who will be presenting 'Curtain Up' programmes later in the series.

This coming Saturday (26<sup>th</sup> June) will see a group of local school children descend on Near to take part in 'Curtain Up'.

The children will be from:

- St. David's Boys National School, Kilmore Road, Artane
- Scoil Chaitriona Cailini, Measc Avenue, Artane
- St. Francis Senior School, Priorswood.

and will be reading their own compositions and stories live on air

## **Music Library on PC (Studio 1 & 3)**

At Near90fm the majority of presenters use their own music, especially those who play specialist music. However, a small general music library is available on the Wavcart machine in Studio 1 and 3 (it plays back through the computer fader on the desk). This is in an effort to supplement presenters own music collections and can be used when necessary.

### **The following is the breakdown of what is on the Wavcart**

**1 - 99** – Promos/Stings/Theme Music's

**X100 – X299** - Promos/Stings/Theme Music's/Stand-by programmes

**X300 – X399** - Northside Dublin Artists

**X400 – X499** - Irish Artists

**X500 – X599** - 60's

**X600 – X649** - Mid-Tempo

**X650- X699** - Instrumental

**X700 – X749** - Classical and Jazz

**X750 – X799** - M.O.R / Easy Listening

**X800 – X850** - 80's

**X950 – X999** - Classic rock

**XX01- XX100** – Noughties /New /Recent

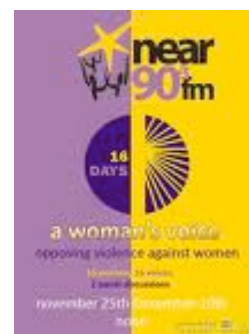
**XXX01 – XXX99** – World Music

## Some of the methods we have used in promoting Near90fm and Near Media Co-Op to date

- Radio Programme Schedules – Published quarterly
- Signposts – Unique Opportunity
- Posters
- Banners – High Impact
- Website – Links to other community groups On-air promotions



- Outside Broadcast – Sports/Music
- Articles in local newspapers promoting these events.
- Monthly Credit Union Car Draw – Live
- Leinster Cricket Draw – Live
- Sponsoring 20/20 Cricket Cup
- Themed Weeks – Refugee Radio/Erotic Radio/Gay Pride
- Parish/Resident Association Newsletters
- Ads in Northside People/ Hot Press/on Billboards
- Ads in fanzines (e.g Ska Patrol)
- Dublin Bus Ad Campaign
- Near Media Co-Op leaflets
- Car Stickers/T-Shirts/Jackets/Key Rings/Pencils/Hats/Frisbees etc etc
- Frequency Promotion – 8671190
- Articles written by volunteers in staff magazines
- Supermarket visits
- Information stands at various educational/cultural/social inclusion events
- Targeted programs made by Citizens Information Centre, Department of Social & Family Affairs
- Community Media Training ( new volunteers) Colaiste Dhulaigh
- Volunteers Handbook
- Targeted outreach work with community groups (Sphere 17, Bayside Youth Club, CRC etc)



In essence we have used a broad range of methods. We find the simplest ideas usually work out best. All opportunities should be used to promote the project.

You can help by: Making some suggestions and/or agreeing to take on a small project, either alone, or in a small group. You would be required to submit a short proposal of the project, including projected cost, to the Co-Ordinating Committee.

Contact: [pr@near.ie](mailto:pr@near.ie) or [ciaran@near.ie](mailto:ciaran@near.ie)

**Stuart Bobbett, Near90fm Volunteer reports on the making of Road to Londiani**



Well, this was a first for me; Road to Londiani, a half hour documentary was broadcast with the help of so many generous souls on Africa Day, Tuesday, May 25th. The 28 min documentary went out on sixteen stations that day; from Innishowen to Cork, Ros, Kilkee and Tipp Mid West too, Connemara to Coolock; I could go on..

The Road to Londiani was made with the support of the Simon Cumbers Media Fund and explores the work of Irish NGO Friends of Londiani working in the Rift Valley Province of Kenya. I travelled with thirty Irish volunteers in July 2009, documenting their superb work in the region. Highlighting how these projects help to meet Ireland's commitment towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals; water, health and education projects are at the heart of Friends of Londiani's work in the region. Sustainable Development working in Partnership with the local people. In Swahili they say HARAMBEE, which translates as 'working together'.

I would like to give a special mention of thanks to Mr. Ken Tuohy for his considerable help during the editing process on this documentary. "Ken is a supreme professional". Thanks to Mick Fitzgerald for all the jibes; "I knew then I was on the right track". The member stations of the Craol network were individually and collectively so very receptive to making this a nationwide broadcast; it worked perfectly and I would encourage other programme makers to give good causes the audience they deserve by sharing your work through Craol.

If you have 28 minutes to spare then you might listen to the podcast at <http://nearpodcast.org/podcast/index.php?id=166>

**<http://www.nearpodcast.org>**



## Near Online Update

A few statistics from our website:

Our Joomla powered website now contains of over 220 pages of information and updates and is updated several times a week with the latest events happening in the radio station and in the world of community media. It receives approximately 5000 visitors a month.

The new version of our **podcast** page already contains almost 400 programmes available to either be listened to online or downloaded. Each podcast gets an average of 50 downloads.

**Webcam** has now been viewed collectively for just under 2 million minutes or 33,333 hours or 1389 days.

We currently have 893 fans on our facebook page. 465 are from Ireland, the rest are from further afield. You can find us at [www.facebook.com/near90fm](http://www.facebook.com/near90fm)

On Twitter we currently have 131 followers. The number of other community radio stations in Ireland using Twitter is growing each week too. We are [@near90fm on twitter](https://twitter.com/near90fm).

There are also over 600 photos to view on our flickr page and it's being updated all the time. You can see them at [www.flickr.com/near90fm](http://www.flickr.com/near90fm)

A lot of visitors find our website through links from individual programmes own web pages. If your programme has a website then let us know and we'll link back to you. Email Gavin at [gavin@near.ie](mailto:gavin@near.ie)

## Training & Production Update

Near90fm are currently working on our submissions for Round 10 of Sound and Vision.

Anyone with events or ideas they think would make a viable Sound and Vision project in 2011 are encouraged to get in touch with [paul@near.ie](mailto:paul@near.ie) or 8485211.

Near90fm broadcast from Filipino Day in St Anne's Park on Sat June 12<sup>th</sup>. This broadcast was done as part of the **Summer in St Anne's** Sound and Vision series. The live OB was a great success and many thanks to all volunteers and staff who assisted on the day and to the Filipino community for making us feel so welcome and helping with the production. Special thanks to Ringo and Hilda.



The next instalment from the **Summer in St Anne's** series will be from the Rose Festival in St Anne's Park on Sat July 17<sup>th</sup>. Near90fm will be broadcasting live all day. If you would like to get involved contact Paul [paul@near.ie](mailto:paul@near.ie) or Dorothee [Dorothee@near.ie](mailto:Dorothee@near.ie)

The training with the Sphere 17 Youth group has been completed and all participants are now certified community broadcasters. Congratulations to the group. They have begun broadcasting, stepping in for Andrew Reid on the occasional Thursday afternoon @ 4.30pm until they find a more regular slot. We would like to wish them the best of luck and we hope they have a long and happy time with the Near Media Coop.

## **Near TV Update**

### **CRC-TV**

CRC-TV wrapped in DCTV studios last week. The group from the CRC all worked very hard and showed a lot of dedication to production. Their skills came on enormously throughout the production process and they very much enjoyed the experience.

The programmes are now in post-production and will be launched next month.



### **War on Waste - DVD on the Environment**

The DVD Wage war on waste which was filmed in St Francis School Priorswood was launched this week.

The short video is all about reducing, reusing and recycling and keeping Dublin clean. The young people in the photo above took part in the video as well as Michael Carruth. Adrian Brett from Neartv was Camera/Director.

The launch was attended by the principle, Joseph Finn, the young people who took part in the video and their parents. As well as Fiona Moore from Dublin City Council who co-ordinated the DVD, the Rapid Co-ordinator Jim Lee, and other members of Dublin City Council and Michael Carruth.

### **Current Volunteer Productions in post-production**

Near TV Volunteers went to the recent open-mic Night 'The Underground Sessions' in the Axis centre in Ballymun to film. The music programme is currently in post-production. Please watch the website for more details.

Adrian Brett, David Quinn and Fiona Dolan also went also to film at the recent Gender Based Violence Consortium.

### **New Videos online**

Please go to [www.near.ie](http://www.near.ie) in the TV section to see the following new videos online.

### **Afri Famine Walk 2010**

The walk leaders for this year's Famine Walk Justin Kilcullen of Trócaire, Felicity Lawrence, writer and journalist for the Guardian, and Jo Newton of the Irish Seed Savers Association opened the event with short reflections on the walk theme: Hunger in a World of Plenty: Sowing Seeds of Hope. Filmed by Dave Donnellan a Neartv Volunteer.

### **The Lifeforce Project**

A short documentary detailing the work of various youth and social care groups who came together to combat suicide through drama, raising greater awareness and prevention. This was filmed by Niall O'Connor with Adrian Brett on sound and with behind the scenes footage filmed by Dave Donnellan, Connla Lyons and David Quinn.

### **Update from Craol.ie (Community Radio Forum of Ireland)**

Craol representatives met recently with Eamon Ryan T.D the Minister for Communications, Marine, and Natural Resources. The meeting took place in the Ministers offices on Adelaide Road. Its purpose was to update the Minister on the rapid developments in the community radio sector in the aftermath of the enactment of the Broadcasting Act in 2009.

Craol was represented by two members of the co-ordinating committee Ciarán Murray and Martina O'Brien and the CRAOL Development Co-ordinator Diarmuid Mcintyre.

The Minister was impressed with the vibrancy of the community radio movement and its potential for positive change in communities through participation, access and empowerment. He very much recognised a role for Community radio in promoting media literacy and in acting as a bridge to the new media through its ethos of citizens as creators rather than just consumers of media. The diversity that Community radio provides was he felt very important. The minister very much took on board the potential in the sector for skills development (not just in broadcasting but skills in communication, IT, active citizen, and inclusion.

The Craol representatives raised concerns that there was a lack of familiarity with the community media sector in the composition of the new Broadcasting Authority and

that this could lead to the sector inadvertently being overlooked. The Minister spent time working through this issue and stated his intention to discuss with the BAI practical ideas to ensure this doesn't happen. The minister noted that there were many provisions in the new Broadcasting Act that were inserted to facilitate the development of the community sector. He made it clear that he felt that it was important that spirit of the law be reflected in its implementation.

A very successful CRAOL Féile 2010 was held on the Weekend 29th and 30th May. The host station Flirt FM in Galway had a very short lead in time for organising the event but did the movement proud. The emphasis in the 16 workshops was on getting across practical useful information, sharing experience between member stations and encouraging often lively participation and discussion. Many of the workshops were recorded and podcasts of these will be available through the CRAOL website in the coming weeks. The Féile was preceded on the Friday by an 2 part session Irish Language Workshop which fittingly heard the first episode of the Craol Co-Production "Ni Neart go cur le Chéile", and an all day training event on Sound and Vision II which included a question and answer session with Ciaran Kissane of the BAI.

More at [craol.ie](http://craol.ie)

## Overview of Community Radio in Ireland

Our day-to-day programming is made possible by a whole range of legislation and regulation. Near90fm is licenced by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) This is a nine member body responsible for licencing, frequencies, regulating and to some extent training and funding. This nine member body was recently appointed and we were concerned as none of the members has any background in community media and worse still four of them have backgrounds in commercial media. This means that when decisions are made around funding, training, frequency strength etc, that we may well get left behind. Craol, the community radio forum of Ireland, has been campaigning to ensure that the BAI are aware of the needs of community radio. At a recent Craol conference the chair of the BAI, Bob Collins, was invited to attend and take part in a panel discussion on the importance of community radio in Ireland as a force for community development and a distinct sector in broadcasting. Craol also had a recent meeting with the minister for communications, Eamon Ryan, where our we outlined our concerns with the BAI and the needs of community radio over the coming years. These include access to digital broadcasting, as "FM" will be wound down over the coming years.

Ciarán Murray is vice-chair of Craol

## **The Alternative to Mainstream Media**

(extract from Volunteer handbook, available at [near.ie](http://near.ie))

This third sector in broadcasting is an alternative to both commercial and state media. Its most distinguishing feature is the participatory nature of the relationship between the project and its community. Both public service and commercial radio participate in some way in the lives of their listeners/viewers/users, announcing their events and playing their music. Most of these stations also offer their audience a chance to participate by requesting a particular song or by expressing an opinion on a topic selected by the station.

Community radio on the other hand, aims not only to participate in the life of the community, but also to allow the community to participate in the life of the station. Only Community media is based, unequivocally, on this reason for being. This is why it should always be distinguished from commercial and state media – neither of which seeks public participation, except when it suits them to do so. Other stations offer ready-made programmes; community media offers democratic access to the activity of programme making itself. Rather than being communicated at, people are offered the opportunity to communicate themselves.

Community radio has a completely different approach to almost all aspects of broadcasting, even music. Commercial stations can specialise in music, but only as a ‘niche marketing tool’. For us special interest music is broadcast by lovers of these genres. We display more passion for our music, we have more informed comment and we are more committed to audience participation. A restructuring of how information is assembled and presented will offer us, both inside the co-op and outside, the power to control our own definitions of ourselves, of what counts as news and what is enjoyable and significant about our culture.

Both you as a volunteer and the people using our local community radio should be comfortable with our role. We have not been banished to the outer fringes of the media landscape, we choose to be here. We do not strive for the highest possible ratings but to create a medium of communication for local citizens.

We are not a failed, large commercial venture, but a successful, community radio. We are right where we should be to do our work effectively. We are not public service radio in a new guise, we are an accessible social and cultural tool to be used by our community for personal and communal empowerment.

Knowing who we are and who we are not will keep us focused on the tasks ahead. Our community co-op has more in common with community development organisations than with the media sector. We will be more effective when we think of ourselves less as broadcasters and more as community activists. This won't stop you from developing your media skills, but it may help your other capacities.

***Fundamentally, what we want to say to you is that community media is as flexible and spontaneous as the human mind. The only limit is your imagination. We hope you continue to enjoy working with us to develop community radio.***