Welcome to the March/April 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. Congratulations to Near90fm’s Sally Galiana who was elected Deputy President of AMARC Europe – which is essentially the European branch of the world-wide association of community broadcasters. This is a great honour personally for Sally and recognises the work of Near90fm since it’s foundation.

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

TV Coordinator - elaine@near.ie 8485211

Radio Coordinator - sally@near.ie 8671190

Technical & Studio Issues - gay@near.ie 8671190
Welcome to Grace Wilentz, who is our new Intercultural Co Ordinator. You can find out more about this new funded project elsewhere in the newsletter.

**Near Media Co – Op**

**Who what where??**

**What is Near Media Co-Op?**

Near Media Co-Op is the legal entity that owns near90fm, near tv productions and near online.

We are about ‘Access’, which emphasises our aspiration to afford equal access for every person and organization in our Community. The radio broadcast licence is vested in a legally registered co-operative, Comharchumann Cumarsaide Pobal Bhaile Atha Cliath Thoir-Thuaidh Teoranta or, Dublin North-East Community Communications Co-operative Society Limited.

The Committee of Management of Near Media Co-OP is elected at the Annual General Meeting. This Committee meets and elects its executive officers and various other sub-committees to run the project and its three platforms.
How do I become a member of Near Media Co-Op?

Membership of the society is open to individuals and organisations, they can apply for shareholding membership and upon subscription of €5 in shares by an individual or €25 for an organisation, may be admitted into membership. Contact the Near Media Co Op Secretary for further details. Dave@near.ie

Who finances Near Media Co-Op?

We are a not-for-profit project. We secure our income from a range of sources, including:

* Publicly funded community development initiatives, including training.
* A form of commercial Sponsorship based on a Canadian model, and
* A range of community supported fundraisers.

At present we are funded by a number of local sponsors, as well as FÁS, Pobal, the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee and through the Sound and Vision Scheme administered by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland

The accounts of Near Media Co Op are audited each year by a public auditor and copies of the annual accounts are made available to shareholders at the AGM or by request to the Secretary, as are full Co-operative rules.

Who owns and manages Near Media Co Op?

We are based on an accountable, democratic, co-operative model. We strive to as decentralised as possible and seek equality in all management and decision making structures.

The affairs of the Co-operative Society are conducted by the Committee of Management. The members of the committee are elected at the Co-op’s Annual General Meeting. In accordance with the co-op rules, one third of the Committee retire each year, but are eligible for re-election. Only members of the Co-op can stand for election, or vote. And each member has only one vote.

The Committee of Management employ a number of full-time and part-time staff through the public funding that it secures. Staff are employed to manage and run Near90fm, Near TV productions and Near Online on a day to day basis which includes programme production and broadcasting, office administration and studio operations, and supporting volunteers.
Near90fm Update

Social News
Goodbye to Pat Quinn, Outreach Assistant and Paula Lawlor, Receptionist who have recently left Near’s CE scheme.
Also Farewell to Philipp Krebs, who has been working as an intern at Near90fm for the last 6 months, Philipp has now returned to his studies in Germany.

Hello and welcome to John Healy and Kieran Quigley who have joined the staff at Near90fm and NearTV respectively.

Wavecart Upgrade
A new format for storing music and promos/station IDs was introduced recently. It will mean easier access for all in finding songs on the system. If you have any queries or need help with wavecart, talk to Liam Johnson (adminsupport@near.ie) or Gay Graham (gay@near.ie)

Dates to Remember in May

1st May: International Workers Day
3rd May: World Press Freedom Day
22nd May: International Day for Biodiversity

Some New Programmes on Near 90fm

Left of the Dial
Eclectic tune-age with Ray Burke
Not dictated by era or genre
Friday Nights 10pm – 11.30pm

The Rock of Ages
Keeping the memory of vintage rock alive!
Lisa McCaffrey and Ida Haugland play rock from its origins, in its original analogue format and music from bands today that are heavily influenced from the rock of yesteryear.
Wednesday nights 9.30pm – 10.30pm alternating with Random Notes

Dig Deep! – The deeper side of house music has returned every Sunday night 10pm – 11.30 with Mark Finn.

Transna na d'Tonnta: A series of short programmes produced by CRAOL with contributions from 14 Community Radio Stations in Ireland. The series details the experiences of returned emigrants in their own voices and will be broadcast weekdays at 9.30am as part of “Lifeline”.

Newsletter Update – March-April 2011
And a big thank you to John O’Shea and “Designing Dublin” who have just completed the series “Love the City”. If you missed it first time around you can still hear it on www.nearpodcast.org

Dave O’Connor will take a break from Nears Golden Years from the end of April. Gerry Maguire will assume early Saturday morning duties until September

**Rock and Bowl!**
A bowling night is now being organised for 21st April, full details can be found on noticeboards in the offices of Near90fm and NearTV.

**NEAR90FM Programme Review**
In the February edition of the newsletter update we mentioned that Near90fm would be reviewing 24 programmes as part of our ongoing evaluation and support of Volunteers. The initial evaluation has now been completed. Near90fm would like to thank all the Volunteers who participated and gave up a Saturday to contribute to the ongoing development of the project.

[www.twitter.com/near90fm](http://www.twitter.com/near90fm)

**Volunteer Profile: Philip McGibney**

*In February we profiled Gerry Maguire of “Off the Shelf” well now its time for Gerry's opposite number Philip McGibney who presents “Off the Shelf” on alternate weeks…*

**How long have you been with Near90fm?**
Not 'Near' enough.....Two and a bit years I'd say (time flies when you're having fun).

**What is your programme about?**
The rantings and ravings of a fast approaching middle aged man. Tinged with tales of the unusual fused with topical current affairs sarcasm and wit (other people's). Local matters (for instance) I am currently involved in getting a project off the ground with Saint Michaels house and a media team they are developing. An eclectic bag of music (I would hope) and anything else I can pull off the shelf.
How did you get involved with Near?
I was driving in my car on my way to work in Santry at the time. Tuning through the bands I heard the morning French program on Near90fm. I informed my French colleagues in work whom already knew about the station. I left the dial there and heard other community radio based programs. I liked what I heard because the dynamics of the programs were so diverse and wide ranging. I checked out the web site as advertised and sent a mail asking to be involved (but never got a reply ;-) Then I heard the media course being advertised. Went along and got involved. The rest as they say is Near90's pain....I mean history.

How can your listeners get involved with your programme?
Usually by being certifiably insane helps but they can phone in or text during the show and/or email me? p_mcgibney@hotmail.com

Are there any other features in your programme that you would like your listeners to be aware of?
Yes I have my own radio jingle now and we can vary the content to suit something topical that may have roots in a historical perspective. We can review and biography musical artist's past and present local musicians (that kind of stuff). We could for instance one week discuss music software (to help you get started recording from home etc). And to musicians who make there own instruments. We also discuss some very serious topics related to the community (the Stardust committee and well being) for example.

What other Near90fm programmes do you listen to?
I listen to Dave O'Connor's show on Saturday mornings (he asked me to say that) and Fergus O’Carroll’s sports show. I catch the album show the odd time and Northside today.

My Near90fm motto is....I volunteer for this and get paid nothing. If nothing were pay I'd want more of nothing.

Supporting young people in community radio.

Are you interested in mentoring and supporting young people in community radio.

We are looking for a volunteer (or two) to support teenagers and young people in making programmes on Near90fm.

Your experience with Near90fm as a volunteer could help.

Interested? Contact ciaran@near.ie for more information
Guidelines on balance in Current Affairs programming

The Committee of Management in consultation with a wide range of staff and volunteers recently drew up and approved the following guidelines. All presenters and producers should familiarise themselves with the guidelines.

1. Presenters and producers should be very familiar with the mission statement, especially the below areas. These demonstrate our commitment to empowerment, minority voices and our duty to support these voices. This does not mean that there cannot be another side to the story. Having a counter argument can make the telling of an issue more interesting and engaging for the listener. It is part of our role to offer some level of opposing viewpoint and where necessary to play devil’s advocate.

2. Counter-argument
   This is something we should strive for. We have to use our experience and expertise as community media people to decide where, when and to what extent. eg We may not be looking for counter-arguments during an anti-racism week. But this is not to say that xenophobia couldn’t better challenged by allowing people to have a voice a put forward their point of view.

3. Time frame
   We cannot always bring balance to a discussion within the one interview. There are simple contraints such as resources and availability. Therefore the timeframe in which we bring about the counter argument can be over a given period, two months being the maximum time.

Mission Statement
• To foster social justice, media literacy and promote civil society ownership of media.

• To be a democratic, independent, not-for-profit community building resource.

• To provide an alternative to mainstream media by offering an outlet for those underrepresented or excluded through training and access to distribution facilities.

• Through distinctive programming to contribute to the education, entertainment and development of our community.

• To defend the environment and human rights, particularly the right to communicate.
As you can see below, Near90fm broadcasts a substantial amount of News and Current Affairs programming each week: Currently we broadcast:

**Monday:** 8 hours news and current affairs – including 1 hour in French language, 2 ½ hour of environmental news and 1 hour of news relevant to senior citizens.

**Tuesday:** 5 ½ news and current affairs – including 1 hour international affairs.

**Wednesday:** 8 hours news and current affairs – including 1 hour in French and 1 hour in Polish languages, and 1 hour of environmental news.

**Thursday:** 6 ½ hours of news and current affairs – including 1 hour of international news and 1 hour in French Language.

**Friday:** 5 hours news and current affairs – including ½ hour environmental news.

**Saturday:** 3 hours news and current affairs, including 1 hour international news

**Sunday:** 3 ½ News and current affairs – including 1 hour international news and 1 ½ hours of development issues.

**nearpodcast.org**

**Training & Production Update**

**Production**
Near90fm are awaiting results from Sound and Vision Round 11. Decision expected in May.

Any staff or volunteers 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 or 8485211. The next deadline is October 2011.

Two Sound and Vision projects will broadcast in May 2011:

**A Lifeline,** produced by Enda Roche, will highlight the positive aspects of living in Coolock/Kilmore for able and disabled people, volunteering, and the dynamic effect of a community pulling together. This two part series will broadcast on Thursday 12th & 19th May @ 6.30pm. For more visit www.near.ie
**Amarc10**, join Sally Galiana as she visits Argentina for the World Amarc Conference in December 2010. The programme will engage listeners with the amazing story of the community radio movement as it celebrates its world conference and introduce key concepts of the ethos of community radio through the reporting of the AMARC (World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters) 10 Conference in La Plata, Argentina. AMARC is a network of more than 400 community broadcasters and stakeholders from over 110 countries. The broadcast date is still to be confirmed keep and eye on the website for more details.

Upcoming Sound and Vision series include **Brennans Mob** and **Equal Billing**. Keep and eye on the newsletter and the website for more details.

Their will be a launch for the recently broadcast series **In Our OWN Voices 2**. The date for the launch is still to be confirmed. For more details contact Ken Tuohy.

**Training**

The Spring Fetac course has come to an end and 7 near fm staff and volunteers are now having their materials assessed for a Level 4 Certificate in community radio.

If any volunteers require additional sound desk or editing training please contact [paul@near.ie](mailto:paul@near.ie) or phone 8485211

**Community Radio Worldwide**

The European section of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC-Europe) held a three-day conference in Dublin, Ireland, to analyse challenges to community media in Europe and define actions to reinforce the community radio movement and the right to communicate in Europe. In her closing speech, the president of AMARC International, Maria Pia Matta, head of the international delegation attending highlighted that the 2nd European conference of community radio broadcasters “Communicating Diversity” reinforced community radio in Europe, an important component of the worldwide community radio movement. The conference was organised by AMARC and hosted by CRAOL, the Community Radio Forum of Ireland. For further information on the Conference go to [http://europe.amarc.org/conference_euro_2/](http://europe.amarc.org/conference_euro_2/)

Representatives of community radios, regulators and stakeholders from Western Eastern Central and Eastern European countries gathered to analyse among others, the regulatory frameworks, learning and adult education through community media, feminist practices in community radio, on minority languages and media literacy. In their General Assembly, the member radios adopted resolutions on the plan of action of AMARC Europe, including strategies for digitalisation transition, on programme exchanges, on training and professional qualification for community radio journalists, on minority languages protection and decided to hold the 21 of October as the day of women in community radio.
The members also elected the new board of directors of AMARC Europe and composed by: Mariano Sanchez, president, (Spain), Sally Galiana, Deputy President (Ireland), Agus Hernan, treasurer, (Basque Country). They ratified Lucia Ruiz (Spain) as the Women International Network, representative in Western Europe, and elected the Vicepresidents of the Board, Michaela Adelberger, of the association of community radios of Austria; Pierre Boucard, Sun, le son Unique, (France); Sangita Basudev, Commedia Sheffield, (UK); Jean Paul Gambier, from CNRA, (France); Riitta Haapakoski, Radio Robin Hood, (Finland); Christian Vasilica Juri, West City Radio, (Romania); Henry Loeser, Radio R. (Czech Republic).

CRAOL is the representative, co-ordinating, lobbying, training, and support group for Irish Community Radio. For more information, visit www.craol.ie

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/

**In Thailand**, the Japanese community in Bangkok has carved out its own space using Community Radio and brought Thais and Japanese a little closer together.

The J-Channel FM 93.75 community radio station has broadcast Japanese news, views and music since the tsunami disaster hit southern Thailand in 2004. It has continued to function as a community service until another tsunami struck, this time in Japan.

"We wanted to create a medium for Japanese people in Bangkok," says J-Channel adviser Wim Manopinok, a Thai who grew up in Japan and now lives in Bangkok.

"After the recent tsunami in Japan, we've devoted a large part of our programmes to NHK news and relaying news from the Japanese embassy here.

"We've recorded voice messages from people in Thailand, and from today we'll distribute them on community radio in Japan.

"We're also setting up funds to help Thai people who are stuck in Japan, because the Japanese people here are grateful that Thais treat them so well in Bangkok, and they want to return the favour."

J-Channel airs 24 hours a day. Seventy percent of its content is in Thai, and 30% in Japanese.

"We have many mixed-race DJs who can speak both languages," says Wim. "And we have many Thai listeners who tune in to hear Japanese songs."
Community Radio Country Wide (more at www.craol.ie)

Cork FM Community Radio looks set to become Ireland's first ever 100-day licenced broadcaster from May having been offered a contract in principle from the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland. The new 100-day licence allows a community group to broadcast up to 100 days in a 12 month period. This will allow the group behind Cork FM Community Radio, for example, to broadcast every Saturday and Sunday for a 50 weeks, take a short break and reapply for new licence.

The previous maximum number of days that a community sound broadcaster could operate under temporary licence was 30-days in a 12 month period. Craol lobbied intensively for an extension of this to 100 days for community sound broadcaster in what became the Broadcasting Act 2009. The 100-day licence is only available to Community Sound broadcasters and facilitates the maintaining of momentum as the project grows.

Groups applying for a 100-day licence must comply with the definition of a Community Sound Broadcaster in the act (non-profit, representative of, accountable to, and providing a social benefit to the community served. The Broadcasting Authority is also applying a much more stringent set of criteria to applicants for a 100-day licence with the criteria much closer to those for full(multi-year) licence applicants.

Cork FM Community Radio successfully ran a 30 day temporary in 2010 and groups which are wishing to run a community radio licence for the first time are generally well advised to run their first licence for 30 days or less before moving on to a 100-day licence. This approach allows groups to assess the demands and joys of community radio before committing on a larger scale. Initial licence applications seeking less than 30 days also are perceived to benefit from a less stringent interpretation of the application criteria by the Broadcasting Authority.

Over the next two months Cork FM Community Radio say they will be busy building their new studio located in the Douglas Village Shopping Centre, recruiting and training volunteers, and promoting the station to the people of Cork city, filling the programme schedules and last, but by no means least, raising the funds necessary to get back onto the airwaves.

West Dublin Access Radio have just signed a new 10-year Community Sound Broadcasting Contract with the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) The station which broadcasts on 96FM and had previously operated under a five-year community sound broadcasting contract, serves a number of communities in west Dublin; Ballyfermot, Bluebell, Chapelizod, Clondalkin, Inchicore and Palmerstown.

96FM - West Dublin Access Radio was recently involved in delivering their first CRAOL FETAC Accredited course and their innovative website (www.wdar.ie) allows for live video of their studios.

Newsletter Update – March-April 2011
Speaking about the contract signing, Michael O’Keeffe, BAI Chief Executive said: “I would like to congratulate West Dublin Access Radio on the signing of their new contract today. The Authority considers that community radio plays a vital role in ensuring that a diverse mix of services exist to serve the listening needs of the people of Ireland. We wish West Dublin Access Radio every success over the term of their licence”.

96FM - West Dublin Access Radio is based at the Ballyfermot Community Civic Centre Ballyfermot Road, Dublin 10 and details of how to get involved in the station are available on www.wdar.ie

Community Radio on Twitter

Follow @liffeysoundfm @near90fm @craol @925_phoenixfm @dublinsouthfm

Intercultural Update

Near Media Coop is initiating a new project “Intercultural Dialogue through Community Media.”. The aim of the project is to increase integration and intercultural understanding in society and at local and community levels through the promotion of the diverse cultures and identities of both third country (non-EU) and Irish nationals. Four phases of the project will run over the next two years, incorporating training and production initiatives. Each training course will be made-up of 4 Irish and 4 non-EU participants. Participants will complete a FETC level 4 in community radio and, when finished, each group will form a production team to plan, produce and present 13 original radio programmes on the theme of intercultural dialogue, to be broadcast on 96FM.

The project presents an exciting opportunity to build on the Coop’s enduring commitment to intercultural media by providing a forum for participants to work together to express the diversity of voices, perspectives and languages in Ireland today.

In the first stage of the project, training for participants will commence in late April and production of the radio series will continue through to mid-September. If are a volunteer interested in mentoring a participant or have ideas for integrating this project into your current activities, please contact Grace Wilentz, Intercultural Dialogue through Community Media Coordinator: grace@near.ie or 01 848 5211. This project is co-financed by the European Commission under the European Integration Fund and is supported by the Office of the Minister for Integration and Pobal.
Near Drama Update

We are ploughing ahead with the editing of ‘The Brennan Mob’ (the 6-part comedy series written by Denis Byrne). While it is progressing well, it is taking a huge amount of time and it is so painstaking. We are about midway through Episode 5. As you know, this is a Sound & Vision project supported by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland and it is taking priority over plans in the pipeline. If any one wants to experience an editing session, we are in studio 3 every Wednesday evening.

I want to acknowledge and thank Gavin Byrne for all his assistance in this regard.

There are two other plays, which have been already recorded in NEAR but are waiting in the queue to be fully completed for broadcasting: ‘Gran gets an outing’ directed by Pat Sullivan and ‘Waiting for Rain’ written and directed by Barry Casey. The plan is to finish any post-production work on these when ‘The Brennan Mob’ is completed and then seek a slot to broadcast them.

This highlights a major weakness of our drama company – we do not possess the editing skills to complete recorded radio drama. And remember that the recording is only half of the work involved!!

We have also submitted three short plays for S&V support. All three are written by authors from our catchment area:
- ‘The Reading’ by Helen McNamara
- ‘Poodles’ by Denis Byrne
- ‘Black Monday’ by Henry Hudson.

Thanks to Ciaran Murray and Gavin Byrne for pulling the application together.

We await a decision from the BAI.

I would love to do a live radio play with minimum sound effects. Wouldn’t that be great!! Back to the old radio days when all plays were performed live. It would be a good challenge, wouldn’t it? Maybe we could try it with one of the three short plays. ‘The Reading’ would suit such an experiment.

By the way, I have been asked by quite a few people if we are going to do another series of ‘Curtain Up’. I even got a call in the station last night about it. But, because of the current workload, I have not encouraged any discussion about that in the station!!

Declan Cahill
Drama Co-ordinator, Near90fm.
Near TV Productions Update
NearTv began training a group of teenagers from the Northside Partnership Youth leadership programme over the last two weeks. The group, which consists of young people aged between 15-17, will be producing a television series of 4 half hour programmes for DCTV on Stereotypes and media literacy.

Please watch DCTV (UPC 802) on Mondays from 7:30 to 9pm for the Neartv hour and a half and go to www.near.ie programmes to see the latest monthly 30 mins programmes from Neartv.

Contact Elaine@near.ie for more about Near TV Productions

www.Near.ie

Near Outreach Update

Upcoming Outside Broadcasts:
Monday 18th April, 11.00am to 1.00pm:
Northside Today is going live form the Belcamp Village Centre for Sphere 17’s yearly ‘Celebrate Life Week’- a week full of events to highlight healthy living and raise awareness to suicide.

Saturday 23rd April, 11.00am to 1.00pm:
St Kevin's Boys Invitational Tournament featuring some top English and European clubs including Arsenal, Sunderland, Brondby and St Pauli from Germany. St Kevin's Boys, based in Whitehall, are one of the premier clubs in the country for junior soccer and are regular contributors to near90fm’s show ‘Sportsbag’.

Saturday and Sunday 7th and 8th May:
Exact day and time TBC. Dublin Fleadh 2011 in the Malahide Community School with Stuart Lowry form the ‘Rocky Road’ – recording of event, all details TBC.

You would like to do your programme from outside the station or have an idea for an OB you would like to get involved with? GREAT!- Get in touch with Dorothee at Dorothee@near.ie we are always looking for new events to cover on the Northside of Dublin!
Also – if you’d like to use the shop front studios to record interviews in Temple Bar just get in touch with Dorothee.

Near90fm is happy to welcome new volunteers!
We are currently running our induction to community media training and hope to have some new voices featuring soon on near90fm!
Near Online Update

We currently have 293 Followers on Twitter.
http://www.twitter.com/near90fm

And 1121 likes on facebook.
http://www.facebook.com/near90fm

There are now 222 programmes available for download on our podcast site and we've had over 7000 downloads since we re-launched the podcast site last September.

Some current highlights on the podcast:

Election 2011
A huge amount of our election 2011 coverage has been podcasted and you can find it all in one place here: http://nearpodcast.org/pcast/?category_name=election2011

Love the City by Designing Dublin
A series of 11 programmes about the Love the City project which is trying to improve Dublin city for the people who live, work and play there.
http://nearpodcast.org/pcast/?tag=designing-dublin

TASC Encounters
TASC is an independent think-tank dedicated to combating Ireland’s high level of economic inequality and ensuring that public policy has equality at its core. We've started to podcast a series of their talks starting with an interview with historian Prof Diarmaid Ferriter.
http://nearpodcast.org/pcast/?tag=tasc

Scibernia
Also Near90fm is now helping to produce a series of podcasts dealing with science in Ireland. These can be found on an entirely new website:
http://www.scibernia.ie

Contact gavin@near.ie for more about Near Online.

nearpodcast.org