
CONWAY MILL TRUST

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Wide Variety of Course Offerings Educational Opportunities Continue to Grow at Conway Education Centre



Conway Education Centre students hard at work

As previously reported in this newsletter, a new initiative by Conway Mill Trust aims to provide assistance to candidates in the General Course Secondary Education (GCSE) certification program being offered by the Conway Education Centre. The Mary Mannion Merit Grant will help returning students to complete equivalency programs that will improve their future employment potential. In the weeks ahead, up to three candidates will receive financial assistance as a direct result of this newly initiated Merit Grant.

As exciting as this development is, even more is happening at the Conway Education Centre. With the new academic year underway, the Centre is running more classes than ever before. Twenty-six different classes are on offer besides the Day School for young people, the Homework Club and the Health Centre. Classes include the GCSE English, Math and History classes and diploma courses in aromatherapy, reflexology, and Indian head massage.

Continued pg. 4

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Conway Mill Preservation Trust Refurbishment Project Update

*By Susan J. Glass, Project Support Officer
Conway Mill Preservation Trust*

The 15-month Conway Mill refurbishment project has been moving forward, with only slight delay. While a minor construction setback pushed back the work schedule about four weeks, the contractor is confident that they can make up this lost time. **Overall, the final completion date of June 2010 should be achievable.**

Externally, scaffolding has been erected on the rear elevation of the Old Mill and a specialized team is working along the facade, cleaning and re-pointing the brickwork. The process of replacing and refurbishing the many windows has also begun.

Continued pg. 3



Scaffolding on the Old Mill – May 2009

Derry Youth Support 'Be Safe Not Sorry' Campaign, Targeting Underage Drinking

Divert and Youth First have launched their first "Be Safe Not Sorry" campaign, a safe drinking campaign targeting underage drinking and associated risky behaviors involved during the August 15 Bonfire night.

Divert Coordinator Brónach McMonagle reports, "The aim of the 'Be Safe & Sensible - Not Sorry' campaign is to develop a local partnership approach to tackle the ongoing issues and problems associated with bonfire events taking place each year within the TRIAX Area, tackling primarily the issue of underage drinking and the risky behavior involved. The initiative has been developed to target specific times of the year when young people have a propensity to consume hazardous amounts of alcohol, leading to a wide range of issues affecting not only their own life but their families and communities."

Local youths have been fully participating in the initiative from its beginning and have designed a mural in the hope of relaying a 'Be Safe Not Sorry' message to other young people in their community. They launched their mural on the Free Derry Wall on August 13. Divert and Youth First also distributed 500 'safe goody' bags to young people that included bottled water, safety information and a 'Be Safe Not Sorry' T-Shirt.



Museum of Free Derry releases its first publication: *Bloody Sunday in Pictures*

The Museum of Free Derry has released *Bloody Sunday in Pictures*, the first ever published pictorial record of Bloody Sunday. The book contains over 100 photographs chronicling the events of the day, together with a brief narrative in eight languages.

Hundreds of photographs were taken, documenting the massacre as it unfolded. This book captures the day through the eyes of those photographers who, shocked by what they had witnessed, have always supported the campaign for justice for the victims of Bloody Sunday.

Speaking on behalf of the Bloody Sunday families, John Kelly said:

"We have always believed that a photographic book depicting the events of Bloody Sunday should be published. Now that it has been we are delighted. A picture truly does tell a thousand words, and the pictures in this book tell without doubt the full and true story of that awful day from start to end."

Adrian Kerr of the Museum of Free Derry added:

"We are delighted with this, our first publication. Not only is it a fitting addition to the promotion of the truth about what happened on Bloody Sunday but it is also an example of how we intend to expand on the work of the museum and bring the history of this community to as wide an audience as possible. We would like to thank Derry Credit Union Limited for their financial support for this book and Guildhall Press for their professional help, without either of which this book would not have been possible."

Bloody Sunday in Pictures is available from the Museum of Free Derry and online at www.ghpress.com for £8.00.

All proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards the Museum of Free Derry.

For further information contact: info@museumoffreederry.org or by phone at 02871 360880.

Conway Mill Preservation Trust, cont. from pg. 1



Third floor renovations – Old Mill, May 2009

Internally, the first and third floors and the attic of the Old Mill have been completely gutted; timbers and metalwork have been treated and repaired; original tiled floors have been exposed; columns have been sandblasted and brickwork repaired and re-pointed. New internal walls are being erected and the building will shortly be ready for the first fix plumbing and electrical work. Conway Education Centre has continued to operate throughout these changes. During the summer all of its windows were refurbished or replaced.



Repointing on the third floor

Work scheduled for completion over the next few months includes roof works, installation of fire escapes and erection of partition walls. Despite the delay, it is anticipated that this phase of work will be completed before the end of October 2009 and existing tenants can be relocated before work commences on the New Mill.

Conway Mill Preservation Trust gratefully acknowledges the contribution of all the funders to the Project. The total funding package to date is **£5,291,138**, from the following sources:

Dept of Social Development:	£1,779,004
International Fund for Ireland:	£970,849
Heritage Lottery Fund:	£950,000
Integrated Development Fund:	£730,000
Dept Enterprise Trade & Industry:	£476,040
Arts Council of N.I. – Lottery Fund:	£250,000
Arts Council of N.I. – Capital Fund:	£79,843
Sunk Funds (incl. Windows of Hope donations):	£55,402

Belfast Regeneration Office is also currently funding the salaries of the Project Support Worker and the Finance Officer until 2010.

APPEAL FOR FUNDING

The total cost for the refurbishment is now projected at £5,420,571. This figure is dependent on a number of factors, not least the hope that there are no unexpected and costly problems. With total funding at £5,291,138, the total shortfall currently stands at **£129,433**, which has been underwritten by the Project's Management Committee. They will be planning a number of fundraising events and it is hoped that one will be a gala evening in the refurbished Mill, taking place next year.

Susan Glass, Project Support Officer for Conway Mill Preservation Trust, expressed thanks for past donors to Doors of Hope and Windows of Opportunity for the importance of their contributions and made a special appeal to overcome the shortfall in refurbishment funding. "Funds from the Windows & Doors of Hope have contributed significantly over the years to the Conway Mill refurbishment project and for this we are extremely grateful. But in order to meet this substantial shortfall we need your help once again. Your donations, no matter how small, will be gratefully received and acknowledged. We would also be open to any fund raising suggestions."

Your contributions to Conway Mill Trust can be earmarked for direction to the Conway Mill Preservation Fund. Please make your contribution today.



Bernadette McAliskey

Conway Mill Trust response helps event to award community's "unsung hero"

The Conway Mill Trust Board approved a direct donation and coordinated additional donations to provide \$1,000 of financial support for the Frank and Tess Cahill Award Event for Community Service. This standing- room-only event was a great success, with about 200 people in attendance.

A panel discussed equality legislation (known as Section 75) under the title, "Equality – Now?" Panel members included Bernadette McAliskey, Eilish Rooney (University of Ulster), Eoin Rooney (Queens University) and Barney Rooney (EOLAS, Liverpool). "There was a spirited response from the audience," reports Jean McStravick of Conway Mill Preservation Trust.

The second major component of the event was the award to an "unsung hero" in the community, someone who has contributed significantly to the well-being of the community who had done so without fanfare. Mary Enright was the winner of this year's award, which she received from Chairperson Jim Neeson.

Jean McStravick expressed great gratitude to Conway Mill Trust, the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh, and other generous contributors in the U.S. who helped to make this event possible.

Conway Education Centre, cont. from pg. 1

Short courses are being offered on Belfast History and Web design. Five computer classes are being offered at different levels. Additionally, there are classes on yoga, essential skills, music technology, woodcraft and many more. The Centre also runs a Foundation course in Humanities which, on completion, gives adults access to university.

"We have created and inherited some beauty." Some words from Father Des Wilson on Conway Mill's refurbishment and its place in Belfast's renewal

The following note is part of a communication from Father Des Wilson to Conway Mill Trust Inc.'s President Bob Kaniecki and Board member Jean Kaniecki:

"There is a greater awareness now of the value of buildings which not only provide work and cultural space but enhance our environment. It was hard to believe that tourists would come to Belfast because Belfast is a visually nice place to come to -- it had a reputation for dourness. When we visited Continental European cities we headed for the cathedral among other places. Now tourists are heading for two cathedrals in Belfast and much else besides and its own citizens are realizing we have created and inherited some beauty.

"We confidently hope the Mill will take its place in all this renewal as well as being a focus for economic development. So we are anxiously hoping that October will indeed see a large part of the work done and the following year completion.

"We have reason to be grateful to our friends and helpers - and optimistic too."

Fr. Des Wilson
09/09/2009

Our New Mailing Address

Please forward all correspondence and donations to our new address:

Conway Mill Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 101529
Pittsburgh, PA 15237