



THE SCIENCE SHOP

ENGAGE

2011 - 2012



...real solutions
for communities

Welcome to

The SCIENCE SHOP

Welcome to the first edition of the Science Shop ezine Engage. We hope that you enjoy reading about some of the community projects we have worked on with students during the past year.

The Science Shop is a community research resource working with voluntary and community sector organisations right across Northern Ireland. We hope this information will help you think about your own research needs. Please contact us if you would like to discuss a project idea or would like more information about what we do.

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Belfast Hills Project

Jim Bradley from the Belfast Hills Partnership talks about his work with the Queen's Science Shop.

“The remit of the Partnership is to improve management and awareness of the Belfast Hills, something that requires high levels of relevant information about its biodiversity, recreation potential and visitor services. To that end the use of students to carry out research and

gather information on these has been a fantastic boon to our work, and one which it is impossible to imagine how we would otherwise manage to achieve. The recent work of groups of MSc students, investigating areas such as recreation potential of disused quarries, use of innovative electronic methods of environmental interpretation in the hills and use of video in promotion of sites, has proved invaluable, particularly since this type of group work seems to produce highly innovative solutions not considered before. I therefore thoroughly commend the work of the Science Shop which has brought real and practical benefits to our work”

For more information contact science.shop@qub.ac.uk



Accessibility the Corner Stone of Good Design

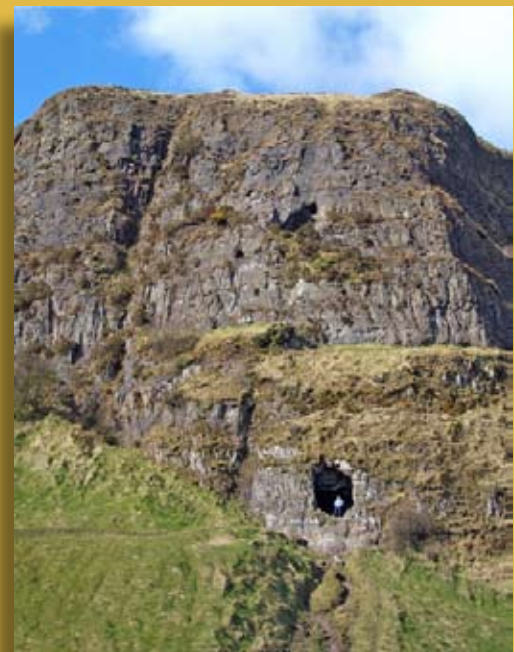
A team of Architecture students from the University of Ulster's Belfast campus are working in partnership with Disability Action on two unique projects. The first project will see the development of a series of information leaflets that will outline building and planning regulations and best practice guidance on accessibility for disabled people.

In the second project each student will submit an architectural design for a proposed Centre of Excellence on the ILEX Ebrington site in the Waterside of Derry City. Recently the iconic Peace Bridge opened linking the East and West banks of the City and the new centre will play a key role in the redevelopment of the site. The Centre will be used by a wide variety of disability organisations across the Northwest and beyond.

Orla McCann, Access Manager with Disability Action, explains “We will gain a very useful resource which will help us to continue to raise awareness of disabled people's access needs and promote best practice in providing access to the built environment.”



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Young people and sports

How do you keep young people involved in sports? A group of students from Queen's University School of Management set out to explore this on behalf of Newry-based St John Bosco Gaelic Athletic Club. The students carried out an online survey with both members of the club and the wider GAA community to examine this issue. They found that the main reasons players stopped playing at 18 were injury problems, loss of interest, working away from home (i.e. travelling back to play for their

local club is difficult) and becoming a university student. They made a range of recommendations to the club including considering ways of funding physiotherapy for members and considering holding social nights to teambuild between new and established members at Senior level.

The students presented the results of the research to the Club, Mayor of Newry Charley Casey and local MLA Mickey Brady at a special event in June. The research has sparked an interest in the issue amongst the wider GAA community and St John Bosco GAC has already begun to look at ways of implementing the recommendations.

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Caring for Carers

A Health and Social Care Policy student worked with Carers Northern Ireland engaging with members to determine the level and quality of respite care available to their loved ones. Lisa worked closely with the organisation who supported her to access their membership.

Lesley Johnston, Information Officer for Carers NI, explains that 'As a campaigning organisation we recognise the value of good research. Respite is a huge issue for many carers. Lisa's work in this area will add to our evidence base and help our fight for a better deal for carers'

Lisa, who completed her work as a dissertation project, found undertaking the project invaluable saying "This project helped me to apply my knowledge in an area that I am passionate about. I really enjoyed this experience and would recommend the Science Shop to any student."

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Psychology students at Ulster provide evidence based research

Psychology students from Ulster's Magee campus engaged with the Science Shop for their final year dissertation projects engaging with a variety of community partners including:

- Men's Advisory Project, exploring the psychological effects on male victims of domestic abuse.
- Foyle Women's Aid, exploring the journey out of abusive relationships and the obstacles faced by immigrant women when seeking help for domestic violence in Northern Ireland.
- Donegal Women's Domestic

Violence Service, exploring the effects of an education programme for young people helping to break the cycle of domestic violence.

Pat Lynch, Head of Services for Aware Defeat Depression explains 'We are delighted to work in partnership with the Science Shop. The recent research carried out by Katie Trainor on our behalf has enabled us to understand better the effects of internalized stigma on those affected by depression. This will greatly assist us in the future planning and delivery of our services'.

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Living Knowledge Conference in Bonn May 2012



The next Living Knowledge Science Shop conference 'Re-imagining Research Relationships: Co-creating Knowledge in a Democratic Society' will take place in Bonn, Germany from 10-12 May 2012. Building on the last Living Knowledge conference which was held at Queen's in August 2009, it will examine key themes including:

- Setting shared research agendas with community organisations
- The role of Higher Education in creating knowledge with communities
- Evaluation and quality improvement: Measuring value of community engagement
- Developing international partnerships (outreach, service learning)
- Funding collaborative research relationships

The conference particularly welcomes participation from community organisations and policy makers. A call for papers will be issued later this year. If you would like to go on the mailing list for this event, please contact QUB Science Shop or visit www.scienceshops.org

Giant Leap of Faith!

A team of three Interactive Media Arts students teamed up with the Belfast Giants Community Foundation to develop an interactive programme to help teach children about cultural diversity and healthy eating.

One of the team developed and illustrated two children's books exploring friendship and healthy eating for children. The remaining students created an interactive website providing animated versions of the books with an audio soundtrack.

Louise Little for the Foundation is delighted with the quality of work provided by the students explaining "Jon Gleed and I are thrilled to see this ambitious project coming to life; without the students this would not have become a reality so quickly, we are amazed by the quality of the finished books"

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Queen's Social Policy Students support Springfield Charitable Association



Based in West Belfast, Springfield Charitable Association runs a day centre which is used by older people with dementia or who are at risk of developing it in the future. They offer activities such as gardening and fitness classes and organise day trips. They have been considering ways of expanding this service and wanted research to examine models of dementia care services both across the UK and elsewhere and the costs associated with such services. A group of Social Policy students carried out research, gathering up to date information on dementia statistics within Northern Ireland and making recommendations for models of good practice in dementia care elsewhere. Springfield Charitable Association utilised the results of the research as part of a successful bid to the Big Lottery Fund.

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Science Shop Student Award Winners 2009 - 2010



A group of students from Queen's University School of Management Chris Canning, Paul Murray, Shaun Trainor and Christopher Morgan carried out a project on behalf of Upperlands Community Development helping them to design a web based marketing strategy for the organisation. They are pictured here with Sheila Murphy who works in Upperlands.



Anna Pielach carried out research on behalf of Ulster Wildlife Trust as part of the MSc in Landscape Heritage and Environment in the School of Geography, Archaeology and Paleoecology at Queen's. Her project examined the floristic implications of coppicing as a long term management practice in Straidkilly National Nature Reserve. She is pictured here with Emma McKenna from the QUB Science Shop.



Three final year Interactive Media Arts students, Maria Breen, Michael Harvey and Neil Devlin from the University of Ulster, have won the top prize of £650 at this year's Science Shop Awards. In partnership with the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau the winning team produced a portfolio of photographs, merchandise and an interactive map offering a modern perspective of Belfast's iconic landmarks, old and new.

Joe Hughes of the BVCB says: "The quality of the photography was worthy of the best agency in Belfast or London. The imagination, creativity and innovation displayed left us, frankly, speechless."



Second place was awarded to Niamh Ni Artghaile, a Sport and Exercise Science student at Ulster Jordanstown campus. Niamh worked with SALTO National Gymnastics Centre evaluating the services available to all users including local schools, parents, mother and toddler groups and gymnastics squads who use the SALTO facility in Lisburn. Niamh has taken up a coaching post in Australia and was unable to attend the presentation; her parents pictured above with Professor Denise McAlister, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching & Learning), accepted the Award on her behalf.

Cover picture: Caroline Norris and April Tsang, Ulster Interactive Media Arts students who worked in partnership with the Boys' Brigade Ganaway Activity Centre