



THE SCIENCE SHOP

ENGAGE

2013 - 2014



...real solutions
for communities

Welcome to The SCIENCE SHOP

Welcome to the third 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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 national
co-ordinating centre
for public engagement

Community Partner Network

The National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement has recently been involved in establishing a network where communities can share issues and build capacity around working with universities. The UK Community Partner Summit will take place in Bristol on 23 and 24 September 2013 and will bring together community leaders and practitioners from across the UK to collectively examine, debate and identify ways to build community partner capacity. Find out more here and register your interest in attending by emailing becci.feltham@uwe.ac.uk.

Interactive Media Magic



Fifteen Interactive Media Arts students developed a range of new media products for six community partner groups across Northern Ireland. Over the last five years students from this discipline at Ulster have gone on to win Science Shop Student Awards. Here are two examples of the brilliant work the students undertook this year. www.walls400.com

Bridget-Mary Wilson and Gary Glackin worked with the Holywell Trust in Derry to help celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the City Walls. This exciting project included recording a film depicting a day in the life of The Walls. The students also harnessed a variety of social media to help Holywell Trust disseminate event information to residents and visitors during this special City of Culture year.

Sailortown Regeneration Group in the heart of Belfast were helped by students, Eoin Kelly and Wilson Lynn to develop a new logo. An interactive website detailing the work of the group and the on-going challenges they face was created. The students also shot a short film capturing local residents partaking in a living history project being recorded by students from Queen's.

www.sailortownregeneration.org

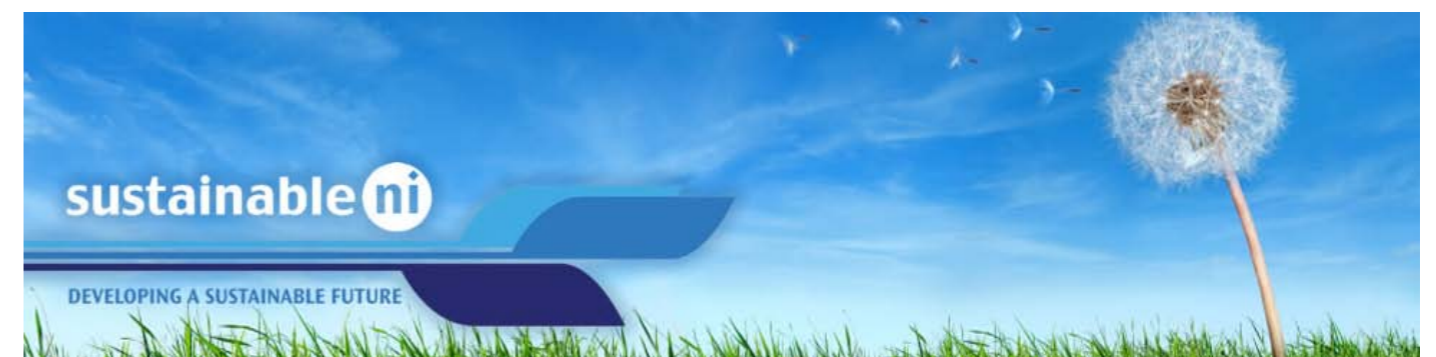
Music to their ears



Twenty final year Ulster Music students took up the challenge to work with Science Shop community partners for their music in the community module.

Rachel Houston and Michael Norton, worked in partnership with Foyle Downs Syndrome Trust, helping the group offer children music and singing classes after school. For eight weeks the students facilitated workshops that were thoroughly enjoyed by the Primary school participants, their siblings and parents.

Rachel and Michael are pictured at Ulster Graduation in the Millennium Forum in July.



Encouraging communities to make sustainable lifestyle choices

Sustainable NI are interested in how to work effectively with local groups to help them build sustainable communities. Students from the School of Geography at Queen's worked with nine community groups across Northern Ireland piloting workshops examining issues such as water management, sustainable transport, energy management and waste issues. The students examined different methodologies for encouraging

local communities to consider reducing their impact on the environment. They concluded that different age groups responded differently to ways of receiving information, with leaflets being more appropriate for older age groups and younger people preferring workshops and discussion. This work is currently being taken forward by two postgraduate students from the School of Management.

Psychology Students Applying their Knowledge



Six undergraduate Psychology students at Ulster's Magee campus worked with a variety of community partners this year undertaking their dissertation projects. Here are three examples of the work students undertook.

Donna Redmond, worked in partnership with Alzheimer Society of Ireland's Donegal Branch and completed a project exploring the Perceived Social Support for Primary Carers of Relatives diagnosed with Dementia.

James Nash, worked with Action Mental Health's

North West branch to undertake a project looking at managing your condition; evaluating a chronic disease self-management programme.

Aine Crumlish helped Action Cancer examine a Cancer Survivors' and Carers' experience of a Life Coaching Programme. Caroline Hughes, Research and Evaluation Officer with Action Cancer endorses her research explaining, "Aine was an excellent student who completed the study to the highest standard. The final report was expertly written and the results will be vital for the organisation's development of the programme"

The Medium Matters

The issue of mental health support is never far from the headlines. Pips Charity based in North Belfast asked for very specific help this year to tackle an ever-increasing demand for support services from 35-44 years olds. They needed to review the best way to support and engage with this group of service users.

Aine McCreesh, an undergraduate Public Relations student from Ulster's Jordsanstown camps undertook the challenge; examining the role of new media as a communication medium for engaging 35-44 year olds with mental health support groups in Northern Ireland.

"Working on a real project for a community partner was challenging but very rewarding. The Science Shop helped both the group and I to get something valuable from the partnership. I know the group will put my research to good use!"



Women's Aid Supported Through Research

The Science Shop, Women's Aid Federation and its branch offices have a long and fruitful history of engagement and this year was no exception. Ulster students undertook a variety research for partner across Northern Ireland these included the following projects.

Forty seven Strategic Marketing Management students from the Ulster Business School at the Coleraine campus worked in partnership with Folye Women's Aid and the PSNI. In teams the students developed a marketing campaign to raise awareness of sexual violence with young adults across Northern Ireland. Foyle Women's Aid and the PSNI are currently seeking funding to launch the winning team's campaign.

Two Social Policy and Criminology undergraduate students from the Jordanstown campus worked with the Federation and Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid.

Alexandra Crockard carried out an exploration of stalking in Northern Ireland and reviewed current legislation and the experiences of service providers. Christine Hesketh, examined the current provisions in Northern Ireland for Victims of Human Trafficking.



Social Economy in a Graveyard?



The importance of social economy as a way of generating funds for community organisations has never been more relevant. Other European cities have social economy projects based in graveyards and Springfield Charitable Association asked The Science Shop to find students to research the potential for a social economy business based around the history of the West Belfast graveyards. Students from the School of Management at Queen's examined Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin and found that there was great potential for such an enterprise in encouraging investment in West Belfast and that there could be spin off tourism benefits as well.

Evaluating services for looked after young people



Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC) were particularly interested in how other charities who work with young people evaluated their practice, and in particular in how to best assess the experiences of young people who use more than one of their services. Social Policy students at Queen's examined evaluation systems used by organisations working with young people on behalf of VOYPIC. They spoke to organisations who used

a range of different evaluation mechanisms. Whilst there are a number of good systems in place the students found that there would be strong advantages to working with a company to develop a system specifically targeted towards VOYPIC. However there is a cost implication to this kind of bespoke service so VOYPIC are currently considering how to move forward with this information.

Queen's Science Shop Student Award Winners 2013



Pictured are joint winners of the annual Queen's University Science Shop Award. Criminology undergraduate students Nuala Carney and Elizabeth Watson are pictured above with supervisor Dr Karen McElrath and Annette Deakin Goodall, Director of Dunlewey Substance Advice Centre. The students carried out research on benefits and limitations of drug treatment and women's experiences in treatment for substance misuse.



Second prize winner was Jane Millar from the Food Quality, Safety and Nutrition degree programme in the School of Biological Sciences at Queen's who focused on the role of diet in preventing or delaying the onset of dementia, pictured with supervisor Dr Chen Situ and module co-ordinators Dr Geraldine Cuskelly and Dr Moira Dean. This project was requested by Springfield Charitable Association, who work with clients with dementia.

Ulster Science Shop Student Award Winners 2013



Ulster's first award went to three Coleraine based Interactive Media Arts students – Lance Wilson, Sam Forson and Adam Williamson who worked with Pavestones. The students developed an on-line web resource, including an online portfolio of contemporary images of the crafts, allowing Pavestone's social enterprise, F MacCool & Co, to tap into new web based customers using e-commerce technology. www.fmaccoolco.org



The second award went to Rozeanne McCabe Social Policy student. Rozeanne worked on a project in partnership with Fermanagh Women's Aid (FWA) to explore the barriers faced by women in rural and semi-rural areas when seeking help for domestic violence. This project provided the evidence, which the group needed to demonstrate the challenges they face in providing support in a rural setting.

Rozeanne's work has already made a big difference as FWA have secured €6,000 from the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin. The money will be used for a cross-border project exploring domestic violence and its links with sectarianism, xenophobia and homophobia in the context of rural isolation."

Copenhagen Conference welcomes community partners



As members of the management team of the EC funded PERARES project (Public Engagement with Research and Research Engagement with Society) Queen's Science Shop staff have recently completed reports on funding for publicly engaged projects in the UK and Republic of Ireland and have examined policy development within universities to support science shop type activities. This work will be discussed at the 6th Living Knowledge conference in Copenhagen, 9-11 April 2014. The conference focuses on Civil Society Based Innovation, Co-creation and Participation. *Community partners are particularly welcome.* Topics covered will include social innovation, sustainable development, developing university-community relationships and assistive technologies; see www.livingknowledge.org/lk6/about-the-conference/ for more information or contact Emma or Eileen at science.shop@qub.ac.uk.

Science Shop FAQs

What is the Science Shop?

The Science Shop initiative, run jointly by Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and University of Ulster (Ulster), works with community organisations who need research and with students who need to carry out a project as part of their degree, seeking to make a match between the two. Any community or voluntary sector organisation can use our services.

What kinds of projects do Science Shop students carry out?

Science Shop students work on many different issues including policy and legal research, architecture and planning, information technology and environmental issues as well as a broad range of social issues.

Do I need to know a lot about research to use The Science Shop?

No. We will be happy to talk you through the research process and help you to design your project. Students working on our projects will normally have had research training and will have a supervisor in the university.

What happens after I contact The Science Shop with a research idea?

If a student is interested in your project we will contact you. A meeting will be arranged between you, the student and one of our staff to discuss the scope of the project, what needs to be done, what methods will be used and how long it will take. We then draw up a contract between you and the student. If either party feel at this stage that they don't want to proceed, it is still possible to withdraw until the agreement is signed.

Do I have to pay for this service?

No. Students are not paid for the work they undertake through The Science Shop. If students incur additional costs you may be asked to make a small contribution.

What happens if a student from either University of Ulster or Queen's University approaches me directly either about a project on The Science Shop list or about a project they want to work on?

You can request that students work through The Science Shop if they want to access your resources. We will then help you to manage the process and will ensure that you get a final copy of the project when it is finished.

When will my project be completed?

Once a project has been discussed, it is placed on The Science Shop database and advertised to students across both universities. It is important that students choose a project that is meaningful to them so it is not possible to guarantee that a student will take up your project within a given timescale. However we will keep your project on our database unless you inform us that you no longer need the information.

I have a project idea but it might not be suitable for a student. What do I do?

Contact either Science Shop. We will be very happy to talk through your idea and help you to decide whether it is a suitable student project. For more information, telephone Emma on (028) 9097 3107 or Claire on (028) 7137 5448.