

## What is The Bytes Project?

Bytes is a unique drop-in initiative developed in Northern Ireland which enables Information Communication Technology facilities to be made available in an informal and non pressurised environment to unemployed young people in the 16 – 25 age group.

If you have any questions or require more information please contact your nearest centre. Contact details can be found on [www.bytes.org](http://www.bytes.org)

## Core Support for work in Community Relations

Bytes have been delivering learning in community relations for 14 years and we have developed a range of techniques and partnerships which successfully engages young people and assists them in their progression to work or training. We would particularly like to thank the NI Fund for Peace & Reconciliation for funding cross community post and project costs during 2006/07.

## Answers to Community Relation's Quiz

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. C
7. A
8. A



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Hello and welcome to the latest edition of our community relations newsletter.

The Bytes Project has a long history of delivering community relations and cross community programmes across our network of 10 centres. Over the past few years we have built a strong relationship between our centres and young people and we are delighted to support a range of activities which assists young people to work closely on community issues and work together on cultural diversity programmes.

The programmes explored issues such as racism, who we are and what we think of others, sectarianism, our communities, crime and justice, homophobia and sexism. Read on to find out what we learned and read our articles on our own points of views!



## CROSS COMMUNITY CELEBRATION EVENT



Dairy Farm Day Centre - Celebrating the production of their 2007 calender



Ballybeen Bytes Goes Bollywood'



Duke of Edinburgh Awards - Presented by Valerie Pitman OBE



MICA Drive Group



Jamie Rodgers from Rathcoole Bytes - Recieved a Special Achievement Award for his Community Relations and Fire Life Scheme contributions



Cross Border Group - with PH Hallinan from Innishowen Partnership



Group Photo



Audience



CCEA Awards for Digital Media



New Lodge FASA Awards



Conflict Management Awards - with Mary Montague from Tides Training

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY WORK

How this project affected us!

While attending a session on cultural diversity in our local Bytes centre, we discussed how our perceptions of foreigners are often wrong; for example, often well qualified Eastern European workers are mistaken by the public as refugees and abused for "sponging off benefits." Genuine refugees are often the target of discrimination and hate crime as well. We seem to forget that some of the refugees here, have come from war torn countries, often spending most of their money to get here, while being forced to leave family members behind, an experience that I surely wouldn't want to go through.

Young Male Derry Bytes

I had very limited knowledge on the different cultures within Northern Ireland before attending this project. I enjoyed the different learning styles such as quizzes and games, which tested my new knowledge on these subjects. As a result of this session I attended, I have become aware of the difficulties that these different cultural groups within Belfast are subjected to, i.e. white people being racist towards black people by physical and verbal attacks. I was very surprised at the alarming rate of racist attacks in Northern Ireland. Through this new knowledge, I feel that my awareness and attitude have changed towards Black and Chinese people."

Young Male Short Strand Bytes



## SINGLE IDENTITY WORK

In 2006, young people from each of the Bytes centres worked on a digital art project themed 'community relations'. Looking at local art the young people reflected on how this stereotyped their communities. Using an existing local art piece and with the help of Adobe Photoshop software they manipulated this image to reflect a more positive image of their communities at the same time challenging their own perceptions and attitudes. There was a prize for the two best submissions, but congratulations to everyone for all their hard work!

Male Tullycarnet

- 1) I picked this mural because its gunmen are a mess.
- 2) I liked this mural because I knew I could make it better using Photoshop Software., it's an old UDA mural.
- 3) The first thing I did was change the paramilitary name to "G.F.C."
- 4) I then changed the badge to the Glentoran football team badge.
- 5) I added a map of Tullycarnet the place I come from.
- 6) I also added the Northern Ireland team badge as a background.
- 7) I then added Glentoran football players, they are: Elliot Morris, Sean Ward and Peter McCann.
- 8) I took out "Quis Separabit" which means Who Will Separate Us? And added "East Belfast".



## Quiz Time - Think you know?

**Q1.** When was Northern Ireland established?

- A. 1690
- B. 1916
- C. 1921
- D. 1066

**Q2.** How many counties are there in the Irish republic?

- A. 36
- B. 26
- C. 18
- D. 20

**Q3.** When was the North/South border drawn?

- A. 1901
- B. 1700
- C. 1920
- D. 1950

**Q4.** By religion Jesus Christ was....

- A. A Christian
- B. A Protestant
- C. A Jew
- D. A Catholic

**Q5.** Who founded the Protestant religion?

- A. Martin King
- B. Martin Luther
- C. Martin Luther King
- D. Lex Luther

**Q6.** Which day of the week used to be a fast day for Catholics?

- A. Sunday
- B. Monday
- C. Friday
- D. Saturday

**Q7.** Mark Durkan is the leader of which political party?

- A. Social Democratic and Labour Party
- B. Sinn Fein
- C. Progressive Unionist Party
- D. Ulster Unionist Party

**Q8.** Which David was elected Northern Ireland First Minister in 1998?

- A. David Trimble
- B. David Ervine
- C. David Healy
- D. David Clarke

Answers can be found on back page

## ENSURING LIFE LONG LEARNING

There is no escaping the need to develop personal tools and techniques to facilitate tolerance and reconciliation with the young people who attend our Bytes centres. Because we are working on the hard edge of the community and youth sector, one of our main issues is to equip our young adults to deal with relationships and conflict. In 2006 a youth capacity building programme was rolled out across our 10 centres, with training delivered in cross community settings.



Suicide Awareness training combined with outdoor activities was very effective.

The learning activities had been designed to ensure each member had to communicate and work together; the day was a complete success and the young people showed to be enthusiastic with all activities. The activities encouraged the young people to complete tasks as a team and contribute their own ideas on how to solve particular problems, producing a common understanding and commitment to that goal.

"I would try to talk to someone who I thought was going to commit suicide"

"It was good to meet other ones from the Shankill, I know three young people who committed suicide"

"I know a lot more about suicide now and the damage drugs can do"

OCN Conflict Management Training level 2

The conflict management training taught skills that are used in every area of every day life for these young adults. They have developed a basic understanding of conflict and forms of mediation while exploring the community relations issues they face daily. Preparing them to move into the very diverse working environment we now have in Northern Ireland.

The relationship building involving Bytes young adults will help ensure the shared future. The changing political reality alone cannot address the legacy of our past.

## CROSS COMMUNITY PHOTO GALLERY

Kilmainham Jail

"In the jail we learned many things, all not good. We learned how kids as young as 7 were jailed for stealing bread or chickens, but yet a fella murdered another fella and got his hand burnt and sent on his way."

Trip to The Eddie Irvine centre



Dundonald Ice Bowl



Group work Activities



Residential stops for cultural diversity programme at Ganaway and Lakeland Canoe Centre. Racism awareness workshops were the theme for the day and for many young people this was the highlight of their programme. As the photos show, they all really enjoyed themselves.