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Liam McCarthy and Carmel Savage - making a presentation recently to Deirdre O'Sullivan from the SHEP Management Committee to mark her retirement from her role on the SHEP staff team, after fourteen years. The presentation is a framed handcrafted version of John O'Donoghue's poem 'For Presence' which is one of Deirdre's favourites.

Nuacht

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SOCIAL & HEALTH EDUCATION PROJECT CLG (SHEP) NEWSLETTER

Marking our 50th Anniversary – focusing on people, keeping it simple & sustainable

Dear SHEP Friends, welcome to our June 2024 newsletter which focuses on some recent, important events as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary. As you know, our intention with regard to this important milestone is to focus on people while keeping it simple and sustainable. We have recently had a wonderful event with our Project Supporters at Ardfoyle and heart-warming Gatherings/Presentation of Certificates Events in both Limerick and Tralee. This week we are hosting, as part of our 50th celebrations, our first Adult Learner Erasmus Visit to SHEP. One of the key events of 2024 is also happening this week, on Wednesday evening, at the Silver Springs Hotel – a gathering for all involved in delivering the SHEP training programme in the Cork region. This event will include presenting certificates to this year's participants. This is an important gathering and I hope you can join us. At the same time, our regular work continues across all programme areas and exciting pieces of work are happening: to mention just two - we are delighted to invite applications for the next Introduction to Advocacy course, which starts in September; and there has been very strong interest again recently in our programme for parents of children with autism. All the best for now.

Jim Sheehan, SHEP Director.

MID-WEST CELEBRATIONS - SHEP 50th



Anita O'Shea (Mid-West Drug and Alcohol Forum & SHEP), Cora Foley (Clare and Limerick Education and Training Board), Helen Ryan (Mid-West Drug and Alcohol Forum) and Jim Sheehan at the Mid-West SHEP Presentation of Certificates event in Limerick on June 6th.



Dinny Keogh, Anita O'Shea and Geraldine Flanagan cutting the SHEP 50th Anniversary cake at the Mid-West SHEP Presentation of Certificates event in Limerick on June 6th. Anita was instrumental in establishing the current SHEP Mid-West Programme, which is now over 15 years old. The programme has grown over the years and now includes a community education programme of short courses offered across Limerick and Clare, co-facilitated by SHEP Tutors from the region. There were also previous programmes of activity by SHEP in the region, going back many years, including an original initiative supported by what was then the Mid-Western Health Board.

IMPORTANT INVITATION

Facilitators' Gathering - Celebration of SHEP's 50th Year & Presentation of Certificates Night 2024

The Silver Springs Hotel, Convention Centre, Tivoli, Cork

Wednesday 19th June 2024

6.30pm registration for 7pm start sharp.

This year the Presentation of Certificates Event will also be a Facilitators' Gathering event as part of our celebration of SHEP's 50th Year. SHEP Facilitators from the full body of trainers and tutors have all been invited to join in the celebration, including those who have not been active as a facilitator for some time. As we celebrate our 50th we want to acknowledge all those who over the current and/or past years have all played a major role in the development of SHEP's work. We are very proud of all those involved in the Project work and are deeply grateful for the commitment, support and hard work of so many, often over decades. The event commences from 6.30pm with registration and sharply then at 7pm. Refreshments will be served after the presentation ceremony at around 9pm, followed with music and dancing. It promises to be a fantastic evening of celebration and connection.

UCC DIPLOMA COLLABORATION



Some of the students on the SHEP UCC Diploma in Social and Psychological Health Studies, with Orna Hayes, Course Coordinator, (left) and Celine Griffin, Course Tutor, (right) and Jim Sheehan on UCC Main Campus in May. The group have completed their first year of studies - each year of the programme has six modules (with a total of 30 credits per year) and the modules represent the key themes important to the Social and Health Education Project. The Diploma is a unique Diploma and has been possible through an important partnership with Adult Continuing Education (ACE) at UCC for over twenty years. Over the years it has offered many SHEP participants the opportunity to continue their studies, often for the first time, in the formal, third-level sector.

IMPORTANT NEWS

Staff Changes & Recruitment

We want to congratulate Fern Higgins Atkinson who has recently been appointed Senior Training and Development Officer and who will co-coordinate the SHEP Training Programme with Liam McCarthy. Liam has been Senior Training and Development Officer since 2005 and will move shortly to a three day week. On the Coisceim team we are recruiting for a new part-time Referral Officer – we are delighted that there has been very strong interest in the position. We hope the new person will join the team in September.

Climate Action Project

The SHEP Earth Aware group of volunteers is supporting SHEP to explore how to make the best use of the significant funding awarded recently to SHEP from the new National Climate Action Fund. This is a new fund to support community and voluntary groups to reduce their carbon footprint.

Mid-West Regional Drug and Alcohol Forum

The MWRDAF has kindly awarded SHEP a grant for towards the Autumn SHEP programme in the Mid-West. The MWRDAF has supported us every year now since 2010 and supports us with the Programme in a number of important ways including financial support and supporting local outreach.



Some of members of the public who came to the day-long Plant Sale organised by the Horticulture Project on 12th June.

UP-COMING TRAINING

SHEP Introduction to Advocacy Course (starts September 2024)

This open access SHEP course is an **introduction** to advocacy and is a SHEP certified course. It will be of interest to a wide variety of people including those already involved in advocacy as well as those interested in supporting other people through advocacy. This programme is unique because it has been developed within the context of SHEP's Advocacy Project, which provides advocacy supports to individuals and groups of adults with disabilities. This means the programme will have the benefit of being informed by the day-to-day realities of advocacy practice when supporting people with disabilities. The training will be facilitated by experienced advocacy practitioners and trainers. The course will run over 11 weeks; on Wednesday evenings, involving 11 weekly x 2.5 hour sessions, and 3 x 7 hour Saturday sessions. You can read more about the course in the attached brochure. The course flyer, application form and fees information are also attached. The closing date for applications is the 26th of July 2024. Information is also available on our website via this link: [Introduction to Advocacy Training - Social Health Education Project \(socialandhealth.com\)](https://socialandhealth.com). If you need more information, please contact Marge Lysaght at SHEP offices on (021) 4666 180 or on marge.lysaght@socialandhealth.com

50th ANNIVERSARY: Project Supporters' Event (May 28th)



Fiona Devlin planting a Yew Tree in the Dome Garden at Ardfoyle, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Social and Health Education Programme in 1974. Fiona joined the programme in the very early years and has contributed to the programme in many ways, including Director, Chairperson, Trainer, Advocacy Coordinator, Counsellor and Supervisor. In the background, Carrie Shanahan, Marge Lysaght and Francis Cooley.



Phil Heffernan (Cork Education and Training Board) and Keith Murphy (Cork Education and Training Board) making a presentation to SHEP at Ardfoyle on May 28th to mark SHEP's 50th anniversary. Also pictured – Liam McCarthy and Carrie Shanahan (SHEP Chairperson).



Sr Gabrielle and Sr Mary (OLA Sisters Leadership) with Jim Sheehan, Tatenda Zira and Fiona Devlin at Ardfoyle on May 28th. SHEP has been based for almost five years now at Ardfoyle. The project has had six homes over the fifty years: the previous homes of the SHEP are Sheares Street, Grattan Street, Western Road, Bessborough, and Ballincollig.



Fiona Devlin, Frank Dorr, May Shanahan, and Jim Sheehan at SHEP on May 28th. May, who is a SHEP group facilitator (Community Education Programme), was one of a number of people who spoke about their journey with SHEP.



Niamh Findley and Viktoriia Minaieva helping out with the 50th Anniversary Event for Project Supporters.



Jim Sheehan, Nuala Burke, Máiréad Barry (SETU) Beatrice Barry Murphy, Paula Carroll (SETU) and Helen Geary (Nano Nagle Ministries), enjoying the sunshine and company in 'The Gathering Garden' on May 28th.

ERASMUS PROJECTS



Mark Guerin, Jemma Lee and Isabel Loughran (Léargas) at a recent Erasmus Plus/EPALE workshop at SHEP Ardfoyle, with some of the workshop participants. Léargas is the Irish national Agency for the EU Erasmus Plus Programme. SHEP has been a beneficiary of the Programme since 2014 and we are an accredited Erasmus Plus KA1 member since 2022.



The SHEP Group of Learners (& accompanying teachers) and some of their hosts on their recent Learner Exchange to Slovenia. This Learner Exchange was a week-long programme and was a great success. It was SHEP's first time arranging a Learners Exchange and we collaborated with the Ardfoyle Horticulture Project in this important initiative. This week SHEP is hosting a return visit – twelve Adult Learners from Slovenia and nine adult learners from Spain (with their teachers) are visiting us for a week-long programme. The focus of the programme is on learning more about the environment and sustainability.

SPECIAL MEMORIES

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary we continue to remember those who were very much a part of the journey with us but who have also sadly passed away in recent years. We acknowledge all that they brought to us. May their kind and gentle souls rest in peace. In our next newsletters we will remember others who are no longer with us.



Angela McAdoo RIP

Pictured here in 2013 with Mary Murray, at a SHEP Gathering of those involved in the establishment of the Programme in the 1970s, Angela McAdoo was the first Director of the Social and Health Education Programme. Seconded from Ógra Chorcaí to the new programme, Angela worked with others to get the fledgling programme for teachers and youth workers off the ground. Speaking in 2013 about an important point in her very early days in the Programme, and acknowledging the importance of people like Brendan Connolly and Rory Corcoran in it, Angela recalled that '... it was like a eureka moment - I saw that my work needed to be focused on the method, on the process rather than the content.'



Padraic Reilly RIP

Pictured here at a SHEP event in Ballincollig in 2016 with Fizz Collingwood and Sam Afolabi, Padraic was a huge supporter of SHEP. He was particularly interested in SHEP's International Partnership work and our work to support inclusion and social justice. He had a great sense of humour and could always be counted on to ask a challenging question. He was a very active and committed member of our International Partnership Advisory Group and was among the first group of SHEP personnel to visit Sahakarmi Samaj in 2009. He regularly volunteered with fundraising and other events to build community in the Project.



Noel Bradley RIP

Noel, pictured here in 2014 speaking at the SHEP 40th Event in Nemo, had a great heart and a wonderful commitment to serving others. He was a trainer on SHEP's Foundation Part Two (Social Awareness and Community Empowerment) course for over twenty years and also had long connections with Partners Training for Transformation. He really was an inspiration to so many of us, modelling in his life and words a very genuine and passionate commitment to community, justice, equality and inclusion. He was a superb community educator and facilitator and his work with us over several decades, along with this work with others, has touched the lives of very many.

