

A vibrant collage of craft supplies including ribbons, beads, and tools, with a central title banner. The background is a dense, colorful arrangement of various craft materials. At the top and bottom, there are decorative borders of red sequins. The central text is enclosed in a white, scalloped-edged banner with a green outline. The text itself is highly stylized and colorful.

Forth**h**opping
2012-2013

Cover Art Work by Pam Kane

Dedicated to

THE GOLDEN GIRLS

With love and gratitude for all those happy years

When I started as a volunteer with Forthspring I had two sons and two granddaughters. I still have just the two sons, but now have three granddaughters and two grandsons ranging in age from 1 year to 27 years old; I also have two great grandsons and a great granddaughter. It seems we just keep getting more icing on our cake.

I am no longer a volunteer in Forthspring, I have retired, but I still have a great interest in everything that goes on there. I would like to take this opportunity to praise everyone who works or volunteers at Forthspring. I never cease to be amazed at the great cross community work that continues there.

Forthspring continues to be an important place to me.

My life is full of friends I met there over the years.

Something I am very grateful for.

Love to you all, Pam

9th May 2013

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Forthspring continues to develop a wide range of programmes aimed at empowering local communities and the members of those communities.

Our staff team are to be highly commended for their dedication, skill, commitment and creative endeavour. Forthspring's projects go from strength to strength, despite the difficult environment in which they operate and the funding constraints that have increasingly impacted upon the organization.

Maura Moore continues to offer incisive and strategic leadership to Forthspring as its Director, despite the increasingly challenging funding environment in which we operate. Due to pressures being experienced in some of our funding organizations, despite Forthspring's sound financial base managing cash-flow has been a challenge to which our Financial Administrator, Mandy Johnston, and our Director have responded well, guiding Forthspring through a very successful year of delivering programmes focussed on community development and good relations.

Throughout a year in which heightened tensions on interfaces has emerged, the Springfield Road Interface continues to be one of the areas within Belfast where the consequences of the years of separation and segregation within communities has an on-going impact in the day-to-day lives of many people. Forthspring, as an organisation, and as a staff team as a whole, is committed to being a change agent and resource for equipping and empowering the communities themselves to move forward with renewed hope and expectation toward a peaceful and inspiring future.

As we welcome a new and broader range of expertise to our Board from our next AGM, I look forward with anticipation to the fresh ways in which Forthspring will continue to be an exemplary and inspirational influence in the lives of the members of our communities, even as it seeks to be a model for other interface organizations.

I commend this report to you.

Rev Richard Johnston
Chairperson

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The reporting period of 2012 to 2013 sees Forthspring celebrate fifteen years of intercommunity work within the Springfield and Woodvale areas. This was a time for us as an organisation to collectively reflect on the part we have played to develop and foster more sustainable understanding and dialogue between two communities. I am pleased to report that fifteen years on Forthspring continues to grow every year in strength.

2013 also sees our communities, family and friends reflecting on another very significant date in Northern Ireland history, the fifteenth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

Whilst wider society is considering the achievements and progress made as a result of the Good Friday Agreement, unquestionably a time of great hope and optimism for the future of a new Northern Ireland I am also aware that each of us is possibly taking this time to privately reflect on our own circumstances surrounding that momentous time.

Personally the decisions that I took at that time for my own family continue to reward me. I was hopeful that our wonderful daughter would have the opportunity to grow up in a more inclusive and improved society. I am still hopeful that future generations continue to strengthen and develop an inclusive bond.

However I am also witness to the fact that in interface communities some of that longed for hope and optimism is waning. Interface communities continue to be divided communities, separated by Peace Walls with local people feeling left out of the peace dividend. People want that hope back along with opportunities for their young people and a sense of security and safety that will allow them to live at ease with their neighbours.

Last year Forthspring welcomed the establishment of the Youth Matters project, funded by BIG Lottery Fund through their Reaching Out Empowering Young People Programme. This year I encourage you to read the achievements of the project and the opportunities and choice of programmes that it has been able to offer young people. The young people continue to amaze us and provide the motivation for Forthspring to continue seeking opportunities and partnership working to provide better outcomes for young people and encourage them to realise their full potential.

Since the last report the Five Decades project, a Peace 111 Project through CRC, has now collected the stories of over 100 participants and there is scope for many more before a final publication in 2014. The success of the project highlights the need for people to share their stories of the conflict in a safe and welcoming environment and the benefits and contribution that storytelling can offer to address the legacy of the conflict.

The success of Assemblages has undoubtedly been one of the colourful highlights this year. The project funded through the Arts Council worked in partnership with The National Museums of Northern Ireland. Participants came from Forthspring, Newhill, Sydenham Court, Ardoyne Community Centre, Mullan Mews sheltered housing and The North Lurgan Friendship Club. Three pieces of conceptual installation art work was created. For those that missed the work on display at the Museum or in the Waterfront Hall you can still catch it at Belfast City Hall during the month of May, after which a permanent home has been found with the Belfast Trust. We will certainly be sad to see it go but it will make room for the next intergenerational art project, based on the theme, "The Community I Want".

Belfast City Council through Peace 111 funding this year are supporting the Cross Interface Community Planning Project. As Belfast City Council works towards the realisation of the reform of public administration in 2015 our desire is that this project helps pave the way and contributes learning for community planning at an interface. The end product will be a plan for the area which we will endeavour to sustain and deliver on.

Through support from Awards for All we can continue to maintain our gardening project and this year we plan to reach out with our gardening skills to the local communities. Springer's child care project continues to provide quality childcare to local families. This year Springer's have concentrated their efforts on the themes of health and wellbeing projects with the children.

Staff and Board Members have together been carefully considering a new strategic plan for the period 2012-2015 and over the coming year plans are in place to strengthen our Board and our Governance in preparation for the new Charity Commission regulations. After fifteen years working within the interface area Forthspring's hopes are to continue to develop improved relations within the Springfield and Woodvale areas through engagement, dialogue and a series of co-ordinated developments and programmes, promoting Forthspring as a shared space not just a neutral space whilst generating optimism for a shared future.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors thank you to everyone who participated in all the programmes and to all our supporters and funders who enable us to continue our valuable work. I would invite to read the rest of this report and to also visit the website for further information and documents perhaps follow one of the many face book pages.

From myself big thank you to a supportive staff team and to Board members for their hard work over the past year, to Forthspring past members for the decisions they took fifteen years ago and to my husband and daughter, the proud result of one my personal decisions.

Maura Moore

Director



Forthspring Youth Matters Project celebrated our first year of the 5 year Big Lottery Funded Project. We have had a very busy 12 months providing Youth Club activities; detached work and a wide range of programmes to young people aged 8-25. During the 12 months the youth staff team have worked in collaboration with Springers After-School Service to provide community events for children and young people

Achievements this year have included:

- Engagement of 478 young people through centre based provision and detached youth work
- 60 young people participating in Personal Social Development Programmes
- Children and Young People's Fair attended by 75 children, young people and parents which gave an opportunity for people to connect with training providers
- 140 young people and 20 staff from 3 post primary schools participated in a Health Fair which connected young people to local health services
- 4 young people completing OCN Level 2 in Youth Work
- 20 young people completing Citizenship programmes
- Cross Community Youth Committee which undertook events as part of Forthspring's Festival
- Cross Community Summer Programme supported by Belfast City Council
- Halloween Party supported by NIHE
- 10 young people participated in an Interface Consultation with other Youth Providers across Belfast
- 15 young people assisted the Minister for Health and Justice to Launch the Fire Work Safety Campaign.
- Youth Committee representing young people from both sides of the interface

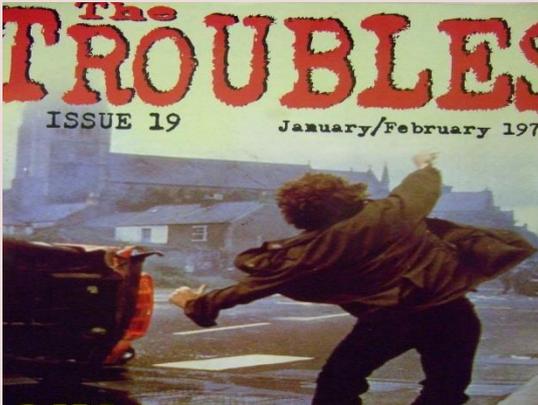
For more information

Richard Dougherty
Youth Manager



[forthspringyouthmattersproject](https://www.facebook.com/forthspringyouthmattersproject)

FIVE DECADES



This year the 5 Decades project commenced and quickly gathered momentum. It's a new project working to explore the differing experiences and memories of the 'Troubles' with the goal of creating a shared, but not agreed, account of the conflict and its impact on local people and communities.

The '5 Decades' project is gathering the history through a process of storytelling. Small groups of people from the same community background come together to share their experiences and memories, roughly structured around the 5 decades from the 1960's onwards. Where people feel comfortable they have the opportunity, if they wish, to share their stories and hear the stories of others through cross community dialogue.

To date almost 100 people have participated in the project. By the end of the project in June 2014 that number will have gone up to 150. The stories of participants will be gathered and converted into an exhibition that will then be displayed in schools, libraries and community venues, giving participants the opportunity to share their experiences with the wider community and on an intergenerational basis.

The project set out simply to gather stories in a safe and supportive environment. The project worker works along with 5 other experienced facilitators to do this. As the project has developed it has become clear that it has been welcomed as an opportunity for local people to share the everyday experiences of living through an extraordinarily difficult period. The stories reflect experiences of loss, hurt, pain and suffering alongside resilience, strong community spirit and humour.

The project was launched with a storytelling event, Talking about the Troubles, in May 2012 and in the coming year looks forward to continuing to work with groups in the Greater Shankill and Falls area. It wishes to thank all the individuals and groups who have supported the project to date. Further information and examples of individual stories are available by following the links on the project's webpage on <http://www.forthspring.org/project-outline.html>

Johnston Price

Project Worker

SPRINGERS PLAY PROGRAMME



The children attending Springer's are from both communities; attending St. Clare's and Springfield Primary Schools. This year we also welcomed children from the Blackmountain primary school. Springer's continues to offer full time care over the Halloween, Christmas, Easter and summer holidays along with corresponding themed celebrations and parties.

Achievements this year have included:

- The Play Co-ordinator is involved in the second year of the F.A.S.T training programme (Families and Schools Together) in St. Claire's primary school, funded by Save the Children. This is an 8 week internationally celebrated programme that helps build relationships between families and their local school and community.
- We co-ordinated a very successful Summer Scheme for the local children in 2012, supporting over 40 local families. We were able to offer 12 fun packed off site trips during the summer and many on site activities including our own stall at Forthspring summer Festival. Plans are in place for another exciting Summer in 2013.
- The children have completed a health programme, working with the local pharmacy; Medicare, funded through the Community Pharmacy project. The health programme centred on the choices we make in our food, exercise and sleep patterns.
- The Springer's project has been working closely with the new Youth Matters Team and joint programmes have been offered within the community. Additional Christmas, Easter and Halloween parties.
- The project had a successful inspection by Social Services at the end of 2012.
- We continue to offer placements for childcare trainees and for local pupils undertaking work experience.
- Thank you to all our parents for their continued support and for the exceptional feedback submitted to Social services during the inspection process.
- Thank you to St Clare's and Springfield Road primary Schools for their continued support.

Charlene Harris

Play Coordinator

ASSEMBLAGES

The AssemblAges project was a colourful and conceptual celebration of productive aging and artistic potential involving older participants. This was a partnership project between Forthspring Intercommunity Group and The National Museums of Northern Ireland, funded by The Arts Council of Northern Ireland through their Arts and Older People programme.

This project's focus was to empower the creative voices of older participants by encouraging them to unlock, share and develop new skills and talents.

It also served to address age discrimination by raising awareness of older people's continued capabilities and artistic potential. Coming together to re visit and share memories proved to be a catalyst for collective creative expansion, personal discovery and the strengthening of community connections.

Older participants from six community groups, including two groups living in sheltered housing were invited to rummage through drawers and wardrobes at home to find objects that held special and forgotten memories for them. Participants then worked with a storyteller, a visual artist and a textile artist to share, explore and re vision their memories as collective visual conceptual landscapes, presented for exhibition as three installation pieces.

The installation props that supported the conceptual work, a wardrobe, a dressing table and an old chair are understood as things that serve functional purpose within the interior landscapes of our homes. They often seem to merge with space, inconspicuous and unseen. We continued to represent their underlying functional form whilst also re visioning a new interaction between the stored object and the storage space, attempting to challenge our conception of their new purpose in terms of both form and function.

The art work was successfully showcased in February 2013 at The Cultra Manor ,Co. Down and in The Waterfront Hall in March 2013.It is receiving it's third public outing throughout the month of May at Belfast City Hall.

We have already begun work on our most recent artistic adventure. This new and exciting project, funded by The Department Of Foreign Affairs is titled "The Community I want". It is an intergenerational conceptual art project, using various mediums. The final big, small and medium sized pieces, of which we will have many, will be exhibited within the local community as part of our yearly Summer Festival Celebrations.

Fiona Lovely, Arts Coordinator



COMMUNITY PLANNING

The Community Planning Project was launched September 2012 and is due to be completed September 2013. The project is funded through Belfast City Councils Peace 111 Strategic Grants Programme.

Project Achievements to Date have included

- On the 7th December 2012 a formal launch of the Community Planning Project.
- The mapping of community based services. Information is being collected on all training and employment agencies in the area as well as information that relates to youth provision, healthcare, childcare and community facilities.
- A resident based Community Planning Group has been set up. Since the start of the project in December 2013, the planning group has been holding weekly workshops. Issues and themes currently being addressed by the group are centered around a range of environmental issues.
- Monthly Community Planning Group / Inter agency meetings are held with representation from Belfast City Council Departments, Parks and Leisure, the Cleansing Department, the Dog Warden and Community Relations and Community Relations Safety. Belfast Regeneration Office, NIHE and Ulster University
- Establishment of a youth led community planning group
- Increased partnership working for youth provision.

Future Work plans

- Organise site visits to Duncairn Partnership, East Belfast Partnership and the Lower Falls/Divis Initiative with a view to sharing information and ideas
- Continue to involve young people through Forthspring Youth Groups in order to harness their views and opinions.
- Organise a cross border residential for; Community Planning Group members, the young people who are involved in the project, representatives from statutory agencies to discuss in detail the content of the proposed Community Plan.
- Organise a series of focus groups and public consultations in order to gain the views of the wider community.
- Continue to work with all stakeholders, including Ulster University, Belfast City Council and the planning group to develop a Community Plan in order to consider ways in which the project can be made sustainable.
- After lengthy consultation publish a community plan and distribute to all homes in the area.

Gerard Rosato

Project Worker

FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2012

			31.12.12	31.12.11
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
				as restated
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	5,701	4,262	9,963	3,653
Activities for generating funds	34,553	-	34,553	30,810
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Grants Receivable	-	243,535	243,535	169,478
Trust Income	-	10,556	10,556	46,292
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources	40,254	258,353	298,607	250,233
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities				
Programme and Staff Costs	42,657	280,506	323,163	268,959
Governance costs	1,666	500	2,166	1,936
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended	44,323	281,006	325,329	270,895
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE TRANSFERS	(4,069)	(22,653)	(26,722)	(20,662)
Gross transfers between funds	466	(466)	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	(3,603)	(23,119)	(26,722)	(20,662)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	20,122	246,447	266,569	287,231
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	16,519	223,328	239,847	266,569
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Balance Sheet At 31 December 2012

	31.12.12	31.12.11
		as restated
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	185,773	207,474
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	33,137	17,402
Cash at bank	22,977	48,866
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	56,114	66,268
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	(2,040)	(7,173)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	54,074	59,095
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	239,847	266,569
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET ASSETS	239,847	266,569
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
FUNDS		
Unrestricted funds	16,519	20,122
Restricted funds	223,328	246,447
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	239,847	266,569
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

STAFF LIST

Maura Moore – Director
Mandy Johnston - Finance Administrator
Aine Flynn – Assistant Play Co-ordinator
Martin Trainor – Chef (Jan 13)
Neill Wadsworth – Maintenance (Jan 13)
Lisa Barnes – Youth Worker
Leanne Anderson – Youth Worker
Community Planning Project
Amy Gribbon – Youth Worker
David Devlin - Trainee
Zoe Robertson – Trainee

Johnston Price – 5 Decades Project
Charlene Harris – Play Co-ordinator
Fiona Lovely – Arts Coordinator
Cheryl Nelson – Scribbons
Richard Dougherty – Youth Manager
Michael McAllister – Youth Worker
Shelley Wait – Youth Worker (Jan 13) Gerard Rosato –
Kaj Schlicht– – International Volunteer
Danielle Truesdale - Trainee
Chantelle Glass – Trainee

MAIN VOLUNTEER TEAM

Pam Kane
Danny McGrath
Jim Stewart
Elsie Kirkpatrick
Lara Burt

Ann Dornan
Patrick Rogan
Mick O’Sullivan
Violet Walker

BOARD MEMBERS

Rev Richard Johnston
Barbara Watson
Sr Gillian Chalk
Helen Smith

Rev Margaret Ferguson
Sr Bridget McCourt
Jenny Meegan
Laurie Randall

FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS 2012/13

Awards for All
Belfast City Council
Big Lottery Fund
British Council
Bombardier Aerospace (NI) Foundation
Community Pharmacy
Community Relations Council
Department of Foreign Affairs
General Board of Global Ministries
Lloyds TSB Foundation
Medicare Pharmacy
St Luke’s United Methodist Church, Orlando
The Early Years Organisation
Workers Educational Association
Youthnet
PCSP

Arts Council
Belfast Regeneration Office
Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS)
Cornerstone Community
Belfast Education and Library Board
University of Ulster
Community Foundation BCT
Eirene
John Moores Foundation
Methodist Home Mission Department
N.I. Housing Executive – Cohesion Team
WISPA
Volunteers in Mission
Youthlink
Probation Service NI
Turkington Fund

ORGANISATION DETAILS

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