

# 92.5 PHOENIX FM NEWSLETTER

MAY 2013



Volunteers, Board and Staff at the  
Phoenix FM Development Day

Welcome to our May 2013 newsletter. Comments to [info@phoenixfm.ie](mailto:info@phoenixfm.ie)

## Funding secured for series on racism in Dublin 15

Phoenix FM has been awarded funding from the prestigious Mary Raftery Journalism Fund. The fund was established by the family and friends of campaigning investigative journalist Mary Raftery who died in January 2012 to promote more in-depth investigative coverage of issues such as mental health, migrant rights and children's rights.

The grant was awarded for a two-part radio documentary entitled 'Afraid to Complain: Racism in West Dublin' which will be completed and broadcast within the next six months. Freda Hughes will lead out on the project in collaboration with Brid Ni Chonail from ITB, Ken McCue from

Sports Against Racism Ireland (SARI), Chioma Ogbogu from Fingal Ethnic Network (FEN). If anyone is interested in getting involved with this project please contact Freda on [fredahughes@phoenixfm.ie](mailto:fredahughes@phoenixfm.ie)

## PHOENIX FM DEVELOPMENT DAY

38 volunteers attended our Development Day On Saturday March 23, in the Blanchardstown Area Partnership, facilitated by Diarmuid McIntyre of Craol. The emphasis was on our community radio ethos and a brilliant presentation was made by Colman Duggan leader of the D15 Today Thursday team. The presentation sets the standard for talk programs! Excerpts of his message were: #Prepare programmes by "aiming for 3-4 weeks of content in the pipeline", #Always with eyes and ears as to what matters to the local community #Use the different skills of your team #Local topics always with local perspective #Running Order is King #Think globally, act locally!

## Monthly Training Follows Needs Analysis!

A comprehensive Needs Analysis of volunteers carried out in January showed a strong demand for specific training and has resulted in the launch of monthly training sessions which began on April 2. The first session was led by Alan Maxwell on *Audio Recording*. The 15 participants took Marantz (Portable Audio Recorders) and carried out practical interviews around the Blanchardstown Centre. Some of the material was aired on D15 Today the next day.

The second session on *Audio Editing* was led by Hamilton Niculescu on May 7. The next session is scheduled for Tuesday June 4 at 6.30pm. It will deal with interviewing skills and will be presented by Claire Darmody. Each class takes an hour at most and refreshments are provided. This is a great opportunity to learn new skills as well as being a fantastic chance to get together for a chat and a cuppa afterwards.



Alan Maxwell takes the class through Audio Recording  
at the first Phoenix FM Training/Social Session

## **New programmes**

*Rub a dub dub* is a 24 part series of people from various different professions talking about their experiences in Dublin 15. *'Dublin 15, My Story'* deals with the experiences of forty secondary school students growing up in Dublin 15. The students are from various different backgrounds and schools in the area. *'For the Record'* is a three part thirty minute series looking at the development of the local music industry in Dublin 15. Inglewood Studios, Blanch and Castleknock School of music and Trackmix Studios are all involved in this series.

Other programmes include; *'Reach for the Stars'* a 3 part series with local school children recorded in Dunsink Observatory, *'No Judge No Jury'* which looks at the work done by the Greater Blanchardstown Response to Drugs and *'Young at Heart'* is a 4 part series exploring the activities of Active Retirement Group members in Dublin 15.

We will also air a series of programmes produced in conjunction with The Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group for Traveller Pride Week from May 13<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>.

## **New Staff!!**

Iain O'Connor is our new full time Programming Coordinator. Iain joins us from our sister community radio station Dublin South FM, where he has worked in similar roles for the last four years. Iain is a registered Craol trainer and holds a Masters in Media Studies from NUIM.

Freda Hughes is our new Development and Promotion Officer. Freda has a wealth of experience in the development and promotion of not-for-profit organisations, event management, music promotion and public relations/media. She is a qualified secondary school teacher and facilitator with a Masters in Education and Development from NUIM. She will be working on funding opportunities, training and promotion of the station.

Eithne Moran has taken up the role of Bookkeeper /Administrator. She has a long history of volunteer community work which started as a youth leader in her late teens and progressed to active membership of a number of community groups in Dublin 15. She has two young teenage children, loves tearing around the county on her motorbike and has a keen interest in local politics.

## **Changes to the Phoenix FM Board**

The BAI has approved the appointment of Bernadette Murphy to the Board of our Phoenix FM. Living in Dublin 15, Bernie is an experienced and academically well qualified senior executive who has an impressive track record in teaching, working in youth services and enterprise development with clients at all levels in non-profit and business sectors including in a number of CEO roles. Bernie is currently Managing Director of Christ Church Cathedral and brings significant skills and experience to Phoenix FM.

The Dublin 15 Community Council has nominated Jim Connell as their representative on our Board. Jim comes with extensive experience of working within the framework of all mayoral and community based agencies in New York City. He worked locally and nationally for the Irish American Community in the USA and has volunteered, managed and served on the Boards of numerous community organizations in the USA and Ireland. Living in D15, Jim is the Chairman of the Patient Council for Connolly Hospital and is a member of the D15 Today Thursday team.

Darah Carroll Noonan, a Leaving Cert Student was elected by volunteers at the recent Development Day to be their Rep on the Board. Darah participated in a FETAC Level 4 Course on Community Radio two years ago and now presents Tuesday's Blanch Trax.



Gerry Lynam

### **Gerry Lynam's Sad Passing**

Gerry Lynam, who for the last 3 years presented our community news programme, "Down Our Street" with Susan King, sadly passed away recently. Gerry contributed to a number of committees in the station. He left a sustainable legacy in many parts of D15. A tribute show went out on *Saturday Soundbites* three weeks ago, where people were given the opportunity to reflect on their memories of Gerry. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.

### **GAA Show 'The Throw In' Going From Strenght to Strenght**

The Throw in started in September 2012 covering GAA in the Dublin 15 area. The programme is produced and presented by members of the 5 local clubs including St. Brigids (Paul Whitty, Kevin Bonfil and Stephen Moore), Erin Go Bragh (Karl Scanlon) and St. Pereguins (Louise Kidd). The show covers a

variety of topics from underage through to adult. So whether you are directly involved or have a passing interest in GAA listen Mondays 7.30pm (repeated 9am Tues) Delivered in a banter filled entertaining way with plenty of interesting interviews.



The winners of the recent Phoenix FM Table Quiz receive their prizes from Station Manager Denis McEvoy

### **Accredited Training with Phoenix FM**

We, currently offer a number of training courses including QQI/FETAC Level 3 Media Expression and Level 4 Community Radio Skills. In a special arrangement with ITB we are delivering training to a number of local DEIS schools.

We also offer specifically tailored accredited and non-accredited courses in Community Media, Basic IT Skills and Media Literacy that can be constructed to include curricular content and training to suit specific organisations or interest areas.

We have six qualified Craol registered trainers on our staff and can teach and facilitate courses from our own offices and studio at the Blanchardstown Center or travel to training centers or schools when necessary.

If you are interested in training with us please contact [fredahughes@phoenixfm.ie](mailto:fredahughes@phoenixfm.ie)

## **Garda Vetting**

Given the new regulations, the Phoenix FM board has decided that all staff and volunteers will be Garda Vetted through the Fingal Volunteer Centre.

## **Pobal Funding**

In the last few weeks we have put considerable efforts into preparing a 3 year Business Plan for Pobal, who provide funding to enable us employ staff. Pobal required us to essentially demonstrate the value of our community service. In our Plan, we confirmed that we currently have 68 active volunteers and stated:

*“In developing and monitoring our programming and to assess continuous improvement we constantly pose the following questions: i) How much benefit is there to the individuals and groups who are making the programmes? ii) How valuable are those programmes to the wider community?”*

## **Policies & Procedures**

Phoenix FM has issued Disciplinary, Grievance and Respect & Dignity policies and procedures. The Respect and Dignity policy has also been issued to volunteers.

## **WE NEED YOU!**

We seek committed individuals to volunteer in the following roles:

- Presenters/Researchers for talk programmes (daytime)
- Recording vox pops around D15
- Sound Editors/Engineers (daytime)

Experience is not required. Training will be provided. If you are interested in getting involved email us the following at [volunteer@phoenixfm.ie](mailto:volunteer@phoenixfm.ie).

If you would like to get to be involved with the production of the newsletter, please email [fredahughes@phoenixfm.ie](mailto:fredahughes@phoenixfm.ie). Thanks to Daniel Pitcher and Darah Carroll Noonan for their input to this edition.

## **CONTACT US**

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