

News

Corpus Christi

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Northstar staff with Minister of State John Curran: Terry Byrne, Peggy Frahill, Jenni Raftery and Iris Denieffe

NORTHSTAR FAMILY SUPPORT PROJECT

THE Northstar Family Support Project was launched last Thursday.

The project supports families living in the Northside of Limerick City who are trying to cope with drugs and alcohol in their homes and communities.

The project provides support through training, peer-led support groups, holistic therapies and much more.

If you would like to find out more please call 061-459260 for a confidential chat or pop into our open access centre in Unit 11C, Watch House Cross, Moyross.

Minister of State, John Curran, spoke about the importance of family support at the launch and Minister Willie O'Dea and Mayor John Gilligan were also there to show their support.

There was a great show of local people too, with over 100 people in attendance.

The project came about through the hard work and dedication of a group of local parents who saw firsthand the huge need for family support.

As Anita McNamara, who was heavily involved with the set up of the project, says: "The parents saw on their journey that it was up to them to support their children, it was up to the community to support the family, and it was up to the agency to support the community and up to the Government to support the agency and this is how the Northstar Family Support Project came about and this was a true model of the bottom up approach".

The establishment of the project was supported by the efforts of community and statutory groups including the Community Development Network Moyross, Northside We're OK Youth Initiative, St. Munchin's C.D.P., the Regional

residents by providing a listening ear and just "wasting time with people".

The project was developed on the initiative of the Parish and is geared to rebuilding the confidence of individuals and community in Moyross through basic one to one contact.

"People feel isolated and that nobody cares or listens to them. We need to reconnect with each other and feel that we are part of a caring community.

This project aims to help achieve this.

The Companions will visit residents in their own homes, be out and about on the street and at different community events around the estate so they should become very familiar faces in no time" explained Fr. Frank O'Dea. The Community Companions project is being piloted in Moyross for one year initially as part of the social regeneration programme of Limerick's most disadvantaged estates.

The Companions will seek to encourage residents to participate in community events and services available to them.

They will try and build a bridge between community services and those who might find it most difficult to access them.

The project will be run by the Parish and managed by the Moyross Community Centre.

The project will employ a Project Co-ordinator and one full time and one part-time companion. Later on a visitation team made up of volunteers will be put together to spread the number of companions.

One expected benefit will be the ability of more people to engage with the regeneration process and be confident to speak out and have their needs heard.
COUNSELLING SERVICE
There is a counselling service

Harris's This Sporting Life is released as 'classic' cinema

Donal O'Regan

RICHARD Harris may have passed on but his acting talent lives forever. This Sporting Life, which Richard Harris won the Best Actor Award at the Cannes Film Festival, has been re-released in England.

The film, set in northern England in the early 1960s, tells the story of Frank Machin (Richard Harris), who is mean, tough and ambitious enough to become an immediate star in the local rugby league team run by local employer Weaver's. Machin lodges with Mrs Hammond, whose husband was killed in an accident at Weaver's, but his impulsive and angry nature stop him from being able to reach her as he would like, and he becomes increasingly frustrated with his situation.

Artist and longtime fan of Richard Harris and his work, Thomas Delohery, said his memory deserves this recognition.

"The only thing is the real rugby snobs in Limerick will say: 'Ah, it's only rugby league,'" joked Mr Delohery, "but I remember speaking to John Shinnors about it and it does really bring across that kind of gritty side of what it is like to play on the field."

He says anybody who plays rugby can identify with the realistic feel of the movie.

And This Sporting Life has been re-released under the heading of Classic British



This Limerick legend: Richard Harris in some of the scenes from the classic movie from the 1960s, This Sporting Life, which has been re-released in the UK

Social Realism Drama in the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, and selected cinemas.

"I'm absolutely delighted about this news because it was very much an arthouse movie at the time.

"People forget just how cut-

ting edge his work was and how talented he was. I think the reason he identified with the character so well is the struggle he himself had breaking through in Hollywood and everything. It really put him on the map," said Mr Delohery of the 1964 film, which has

been digitally restored and remastered.

In preparation for the role, Mr Delohery remembers that Richard Harris even got into the mindset and physical shape of a rugby player.

"As far as I can remember, he went and trained with Lon-

don Irish to get in shape and to be true to his character," said the artist.

After the film was re-released by Park Circus Films in England, Mr Delohery hopes something similar could happen in his native city.

"I'd love if somebody over

here with a bit of vision released it again over here or held a symposium on Richard. "I know the Belltable showed a few films last year, so, hopefully, this will spark people to maybe look at the movie again. Richard's memory deserves it," said Mr Delohery.

Waltz of Limerick: Come dancing and raise funds for youth centre

Alan Owens

THE stage is set for a dance extravaganza this Friday night as some of Limerick's best known faces come together to



Milford uses grant to build classrooms

MILFORD National School has opted to use grant aid from the Department, which was