

## March 2014

Here is the station news to keep you up to date with what is happening at Dundalk FM.

### Training

We are training 12 community group representatives from the Louth Leader Partnership and hoping for lots of new community programmes to take to the air in May.

I had the opportunity to speak at the Louth Ethnic Minority Consortium Conference in the Crowne Plaza last Friday morning and there were ten programme ideas from the floor and four people are coming in to record a one hour music show. The programme proposals included current affairs, children's programming, sport, music and history shows which is very encouraging because I expected music programmes, but in fact we are getting presenters who are eager to take part in all genres of programmes in the schedule (and introduce us to great music aswell).

There are nine presenters doing a Level 3 radio course at present so again there will be more programme proposals ready in April.

We are looking for presenters to join all the daytime programmes - Good Morning Dundalk, Town Talk, The Lunchbox, Afternoon Show and Drive Time. If you would like to join the daytime crew, please call in or email me. If you know someone interested in sitting in on a show - they are more than welcome to call in at any time.

Help with audio editing is available in the afternoons (Paddy McEneaney) and evenings (Shane Tipping). All you have to do is call Paddy or Shane at the station on 9395 100 to book a time.

### Programming

Wednesday evenings at 7pm feature these new programmes: The Creative Flow with Jacinta Matthews; The Rugby Show with Geraldine Kieran; Dundalk Mental Health Forum Show with Derek Pepper and My Old Town Dundalk with Frank O'Callaghan. Programmes are broadcast from the first to the fourth Wednesday of the month and are repeated on Saturdays at 7pm.

The soccer season has commenced again and John and Ger bring you all the action as it happens from Oriel Park and some of the away matches (kindly sponsored by Fyffes Ireland). At the recent Setanta Cup quarter finals against Coleraine FC, John met a footballer he played against 50 years ago in Windsor Park when he was playing for Glenavon during the 1960's.

**Dundalk FM Documentary Makers** are asked to come to a meeting on Wednesday evening 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7pm to discuss their proposed submissions for the next round of the Sound and Vision Scheme.

**P & T meetings** take place on the first Tuesday of the month at 5pm and members are welcome to bring ideas and suggestions.

### Transmission Equipment

The equipment needs to be upgraded before the summer and we calculate the cost will be over €3,300. The station also wishes to get a van on the road for the summer at a cost of €4,000 (purchase, wrap, tax & insurance). Our radiothon will go some way to helping with these development costs and we have some savings, but will still be short about €3,500 so please put on your thinking caps. Is there anything you or your organisation could do to make a small contribution?

### New Board Members wanted

Dundalk FM is inviting applications from Community Groups who are interested in sending a representative to join the Board of Directors.

### Staff

Danny O'Hanlon joins the station as the Weekend Duty Manager and thanks go out to our recent WDM Tony Moran who is helping with archiving, the sound desk and phones at the weekend.

**Radiothon 2014** is around the corner. This year Paddy and Padraig will be challenging each other to stay awake and take part in programming for 24 hours and as usual, I am looking for presenters for each hour of the radiothon. There is more information on the facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/dundalkfm?ref=hl> and website <http://dundalkfm.com/>

### Local and European Elections

Guidelines from the BAI suggest that we do not to have people involved in the election presenting during the election period. Anyone involved in the election is asked to let me know asap.

Finally, we know people are enjoying the programmes when they tell us what they listen to. This anecdotal information is important for sending back to the funders and to the BAI so please take a minute to drop me a line saying what programmes you, your friends and your family like listening to.

Take care.

Alan Byrne