



# LIVING ROOTS

## Maria's Musings

### There is no accounting for LOVE

Today on taking a breather from our annual RQIA inspection I comfort myself with the knowledge that it is impossible to measure what matters most to us. There is no tick box big enough to contain a measure of Love. Even though on days like today I am certain of that I often forget it and start to think that if I am good enough I will be loved more and if not maybe a bit less. Love doesn't live in the realm of 'Good' or 'Bad'. LOVE, just is, it cannot be more, it cannot be less. We don't earn it and we can't keep it. I imagine that those of you who are parents already know that – I imagine that loving a child is as close to unconditional as we humans can know. That's the kind of love I get every time I walk into the Ember, no matter what, no matter when Jillian will invariably wriggle her fingers to "*massage Mariat's shoulders*".

So, however we do today and I hope we do well, because we have worked hard, I know that the only measure of our success is to see wee Larry after nine years in 'The Ember'

standing 10 foot 4 tall in his 4 foot 10 body. That's a good enough measure for me. And yet again - to quote Thomas reassuring Matthew when he cooked his first of meal of sausage, beans and mash on Tuesday – *'well done Matthew, my friend soon you'll be as good as me!'* Maybe after all is said and done it's just human nature to want to measure Love too!



## The Ember

Matthew moved in! 3 January 2011 was Matthew's official move in date. Although he has been a long time friend of the community, it is exciting to have him in the Ember each and every day. He says he is enjoying his new home, but thought we would have more parties.

Susan, a new live-in volunteer, arrived from Germany at the beginning of January. She has experience in L'Arche Brussels and found many similarities and differences between the two

communities. We are excited she is here!

Emily (the previous editor of 'Living Roots') left at the end of December. She is spending a bit of time at home in California, USA before hopefully heading to Germany. We wish her well on her many experiences and hope she stays in touch!

Eimear (support worker), Neil (support worker) and Lucy (live-in volunteer) all celebrated birthdays in January. Maria's (community leader) birthday is coming up in February.

Jillian, Maria, Larry, Frans and Lucy went to speak in a college for soon-to-be teachers recently. Larry wooed the crowd with his charm; Jillian sang, danced and revealed the depth of her beauty and as for the rest of us, we didn't do much except fill in the gaps. Larry and Jillian worked their magic on the crowd and hopefully the students will remember how powerful Larry and Jillian are as they go into their future classrooms! If you are interested in a group from L'Arche Belfast coming to give a talk, contact Lesley at 028 9064 1088 or [admin@larchebelfast.org.uk](mailto:admin@larchebelfast.org.uk).



## ***The Loom***

**The mission of the Loom is to 'bring the Monastery to the market Place and weave**

**relationships between the visible and invisible through prayer, silence and**

**hospitality'. If you would like to be a part of this mission, contact Sharon at 028 9087 2977 or [sharonmatchett@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonmatchett@hotmail.com).**



## **Root Soup**

The overall vision is that, through partnership and by sharing resources and our expertise, 'Root Soup' will eventually be a dynamic social enterprise that is part of an overall 'Field to Fork' initiative offering training and employment opportunities for people, in different activities across the food chain i.e. growing, preparation and catering.

In January, Root Soup had its official launch date in the kitchen. The garden training has been going on for a few weeks, so it was exciting to get the kitchen training started.

Currently three trainees are in the kitchen and four trainees are at the allotment. Jillian is taking part in the kitchen training and Matthew is taking part in the kitchen and garden training.

If you would like more information on Root Soup or would like to find ways to get involved, contact Micah at 028 9022 1337 or [root.soup@larchebelfast.org.uk](mailto:root.soup@larchebelfast.org.uk).



## ***The Allotment***

**The crew at the allotment has experienced some cold and cloudy days this winter, but**

none the less, they have been persistent in tending the garden. With the addition of a new plot nicknamed 'the new world', the crew has been busy weeding, building new raised beds and hauling soil. Rosie (the community van) has had quite a workout moving soil and manure to the allotment!

The garden has experienced a new kind of growth. Not vegetables this time, but a growth in the number of people. With the new trainees, the hope is that both Root Soup and the Ember will have stocked kitchens come summer. Since there are so many workers, the crew is in search of new tools and gloves. If you have any spare garden tools or gloves that you would like to donate, we would be very appreciative.

**THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH!**

## ***Thank You!***

A big thank you for everyone who contributed in any way to the cinema night!  
The night brought in about £500 in

donations! We feel so honored to have such faithful friends!



## ***Calling for all craft supplies!***

Each Monday afternoon, a craft session happens in the community, but we are in need of craft supplies!

If anyone has any spare...

- scissors
- glue
- paper
- paint
- crayons
- markers
- stamps
- ect.

We would love to give them a home! They would be well used and well loved!



## ***Mark Your Calendar!***

THURSDAY, FEB. 24 A DINNER TO DIE FOR, MYSTERY DINNER SUPPER CLUB AT THE ARK. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MICAH AT 028 9022 1337 OR [ROOT.SOUP@LARCHEBELFAST.ORG.UK](mailto:ROOT.SOUP@LARCHEBELFAST.ORG.UK).

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WELL, WE HAVE GONE 'FROM LOVERS TO FOOLS'. IN THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE, A COFFEE MORNING WAS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 14, IT HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 1. IT WILL BE HOSTED BY RACHAEL GREGSON IN THE VICE CHANCELLOR'S LODGE, 16 LENNOXVALE, BELFAST BT9 5BY. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW IN MARCH NEWSLETTER.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 4 L'ARCHE TABLE QUIZ AT 7.30PM IN ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KING'S ROAD, BELFAST. (ORGANISED BY MURRAY AND PAM HUNTER)

(If you want to form tables of approximately 6 people please phone Murray at 90761295 to ensure a table is booked for your group and to help with planning. If you are coming on your

own or with a smaller group there is always the chance to join up with other tables.)

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FRIDAY, MARCH 11 MUSIC IN MARCH: A MUSICAL FEAST IN FISHERWICK CHURCH WITH ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL 'SCHOLA CANTORUM', JONATHAN JOHNSTON (INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED FLAUTIST) AND RORY DOWSE (CONCERT PIANIST). ORGANISED BY SHELAGH CALDWELL. TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM HENRI HARPUR IN OUR OFFICE 90641088

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FRIDAY, JUNE 3 GOLF CLASSIC IN ROCKMOUNT GOLF CLUB, ORGANISED BY FONSIÉ CORR. DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

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SAT. OCT. 1 OUR 10TH

BIRTHDAY EVENT – DETAILS IN THE COMING MONTHS.