

September 2010

Living Roots



*'from the smallest flower
to the tallest tree...'*



This autumn at L'Arche Belfast, we'll grow our community and relationships the same way we grow our vegetables—with a little sun, care, and the mantra, 'less is more.'

We'll dig back to the root of things—the living roots—the things that sustain us in this busy world.

The next few months will be a time of transformation as we launch 'Root Soup,' a pilot cooperative between L'Arche and 'Open Door' Housing Association that will offer food and employment opportunities for people who are homeless. We will rejuvenate after a fire at 'The Ark,' welcome new volunteers from around the world and continue to share the gifts of our core members with Belfast.

First, I'd like to introduce myself, the new editor of L'Arche's once again monthly newsletters.

My name is Emily Holt, and I've previously worked as a journalist in Seattle, Dublin, and Derry, and helped lead a therapeutic poetry group for youth in foster care in Seattle. I live at 'The Ember' and will be collecting the news for L'Arche in the next few months. We would love to reconnect with friends, near and far.

Maria will continue to share her words of inspiration, but she has generously let my voice take the lead in this month's newsletter.

This fall offers many ways for our friends to join in and grow with us in L'Arche ~

- Oct. 1: The Soup Shanty—to launch 'Root Soup,' we will be holding a feast of homemade soups and breads at the Indian Community Centre at Carlisle Circus. Come

September 2010

hear the Belfast's Open Arts Choir and learn about Indian culture with us. Bring your 'unique' bowl, and donations of soup pots for the kitchen would be much appreciated! R.V.S.P to Lesley by Sept. 6 at admin@larchebelfast.org.

- 'The Ark,' the home and offices of our house leaders, suffered a fire this summer. We have rebuilt, but we still need your generosity. Help make our house a home and the center for our prayer and community by donating dishes, silverware, serving utensils, wine glasses, bath towels, pillows, a double duvet, or a pie pan.
- Speaking of birthdays...L'Arche Belfast will be celebrating its 9th birthday on Oct. 1, and recently celebrated the birthday of Makiko, our volunteer from Japan. Makiko has blessed 'The Ember' with her joy and gentle, comforting presence.

Though this fall will be a time of change, we continue 'Growing Together,' our network of inter-connected local initiatives by:

- Nurturing the relationship between our core members and our staff and volunteers, welcoming the diverse and international community that defines us.
- Caring for the life at 'The Allotment,' where people with disabilities share their gift of nurture with the community and provide fresh, organic food for our table.
- Building and strengthening relationships with local initiatives from business, church, grassroots and statutory communities to re-generate the community and create inclusive spaces for the great diversity of our city.

~ ~ ~

Keep in touch with us! In future newsletters, we'd like to honour the births, marriages, and deaths that continue to shape our lives at L'Arche.

I can be reached at: editor@larchebelfast.org.uk.

Hope to hear from you!

Cheers!