

Sligo Traveller Support Group Ltd

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 11, OCTOBER 2010

STSG's Newsletter is a means of keeping the Travelling community in touch with the work of the Sligo Traveller Support Group

Hello and Welcome

This is our 11th issue of the newsletter here at STSG.

In this newsletter you will be notified of upcoming events and activities being run by STSG.

Hope you all enjoy reading it. We would love to hear your feedback.

Rosie Maughan,

Community Health Worker and editor for this issue



NEWS FLASH

We have finally got the results of the 'All Ireland Traveller Health Study' that we have long been awaiting.

It has been 23 years since the last analysis was done on Traveller health and we are shocked to say that it has not changed a lot since then.

In 1987 Traveller men were dying 10 years younger than the general population but in 2008 it was identified that Traveller men were/are dying 15 years younger than the general population.

In 1987 Traveller women were dying 12 years younger than the general population but in 2008 Traveller women are dying 11 years younger than the general population.

In 1987 the infant mortality rate was 5x the rate of the general population and in 2008 it is now 3.5x the rate of the general population.

The most shocking information we discovered is that suicide is now 6x the national average.

← Missie Collins Pavee Point and Minister for Health Mary Harney



Happy Halloween



Hi everyone. It's that time of year again, yes it's Halllllloween! Time for fun events for all the family so we hope you enjoy it and have a great time. Just a reminder that it can also be dangerous for young children so remember to keep them well supervised, especially with the candles being lit in the pumpkins.

Also be aware of fireworks on that night as they can be very dangerous. So please don't let your children at or near them. Now that does not mean they can't watch them, just keep them at a reasonable distance.

So happy Halloween to one and all.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Launch of Peace III Festival Week



Children doing kick boxing →

Children doing peace games ←



Gardai football team
(Photo courtesy of The Sligo Weekender)



L-R Helen O'Hara, Sue Mahon, Bernadette Maughan and Kelley McGinley

Newsflash

S.T.S.G and Sligo County Council held a celebration day for the launch of the festival week for the Peace III programme 16th October at the I.T Sligo. The day was well attended with over 105 youth participants from around the county. There was also a football match between the Sligo Traveller Support Group football team and the Gardai football team.

CELEBRATION DAY -16th OCTOBER 2010

held by

SLIGO TRAVELLER SUPPORT GROUP and SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

The Celebration Day had a wide range of activities including:

- Hip hop
- Kick boxing
- Arts and crafts
- Team building
- Samba drummer
- Focus groups



Young boys from around the town watching the match



Participants enjoying peace games with the Crib (Photo courtesy of The Sligo Weekender)



Sligo Traveller Support Group Football Team (Photo courtesy of The Sligo Weekender)

Children at the samba drummer session ↓

Children doing hip hop ↙



(Photo courtesy of The Sligo Weekender)



(Photo courtesy of The Sligo Weekender)

LAUNCH OF THE STSG WEBSITE

Hi just wanted to tell you all that the STSG website is officially on line. It has a lot of information regarding the ground work of STSG. So go online and view it at www.stsg.ie

www.stsg.ie



Christmas Party

STSG will be having a Christmas party for the children aged 4 – 8. Santa will be there.

We will let you know date and time when we hear back from Santa.

Look out for Christmas flyer.



Hats and fascinator (headpiece) making



STSG is setting up a 6 week programme for the Traveller girls of Sligo and the female Gardai in Sligo. The programme will be for Traveller girls and the female Gardai to come together in a fun way to help build peace and learn a bit about each other. We will keep you updated when this event is to happen.



Peer Education Programme

The peer education programme will be coming to the BTEI soon. This programme will have evidence based information on health matters. The next topic we hope to cover is **CANCER** which is very important for us to cover. The programme will be delivered by Rosie Maughan and Kelley McGinley who were trained to deliver this through a 13 week course they attended last year. We will send out flyers when we have the date.



Presentation on the 'Toy Box' pre-school education outreach Programme

Rosie Maughan gave a presentation on the Toy Box Programme on 16th September at the "Equal Communities - Community Exchange and Training Day" organised by Sligo County Community Forum on 16th September. One of the purposes of the day was to hear examples of good practice in building equal and vibrant communities.

Rosie spoke of how the 'Toy-Box' Project provided a positive experience for Traveller children and their parents of pre-school. She told about how the Project uses toys that are both educational and culturally appropriate for Travellers, eg horses, horse lorries, tea-sets. She stressed the importance for early learning for children to be later able to integrate well into Primary School.

The Project is already having successful outcomes in encouraging greater integration of Travellers' children and parents into pre-school services.

Over 100 people attended this event at which there were different talks over the day.

Just to say the Toybox Project has started again

"The Challenge of Inclusion", Lunchtime talk at the County Chamber, County Hall, Sligo

Tuesday, 2nd November at 1.00p.m.

Speakers: Community Health Workers Rosie Maughan and Kelley McGinley

Topic: 'Working Together'. We will be talking about our work on the Toy Box Project and Youth programmes and how these connect Traveller women and children with services in Sligo County.