



## Hello and welcome to the summer edition of Community News.

We've had a rather eventful few months since the last edition. The disruption to air travel from the volcanic ash cloud dominated the news headlines and affected air travel across Europe. The City Airport was not immune and in total we lost a significant amount of revenue. I have never witnessed such a closure of airspace. It highlighted our vulnerability as an island and focused attention on our dependence on air travel and available routes.

Despite the ash cloud the business is out-performing the majority of UK airports in recording steady growth. More and more passengers are choosing to fly from the City Airport, in the current economic climate this is great news for the 1,500 people employed at the airport and in turn good news for Belfast and beyond.

On 26 and 27 August we're holding Community Information Days here at the airport aimed at providing you with more information on our Community Fund and also answering any questions you may have about any aspect of our operations. I hope to see you there.

We've increased our distribution list for Community News to include an additional 4,200 residents so now more than 21,000 homes in East Belfast and North Down are receiving it. I'd like to welcome all our new readers and I hope you will enjoy being kept up to date with airport news.

George Best Belfast City Airport continues to be as busy as ever and we want to keep all of you informed of all our current operations and plans for our future success. This is your airport and we welcome your questions on any aspect of our operations.

### Best wishes

Brian Ambrose CEO,  
George Best Belfast City Airport

# Your invite to check in with us!



David McConnell from Inverary Community Centre Committee gets his invite to the Community Days from the airport's Ruth Kimbley.

George Best Belfast City Airport is hosting two Community Information Days on August 26 and 27 and we want you to join us!

At the event we will tell you how your local community group, charity, school or sports team can apply for support from our Community Fund. You can also find out more about airport operations from staff who will be on hand to answer any questions and you can enter a prize draw to win Flybe flights. Our Community Fund has already spent £31,000 helping local people including children with autism at Helping Hands Community Group in Tullycarnet and young people with Down's Syndrome at Cregagh Diamontes Dance Group. It has supported Priory College's fundraising efforts for Haiti with a donation of £5,000 and given our adopted schools, St Joseph's and Victoria Park Primary School, the opportunity to work with Camerata Ireland.

Ruth Kimbley from the Community Fund said: "We're looking forward to meeting people who share our vision of improving the health and well-being of local communities. So many people have already benefitted from this scheme and it's important groups come to talk to us to find out what we can do for them. We also welcome those who want to talk to us about issues

including the proposed runway, the environment or anything to do with our operations."

David McConnell from Inverary Community Centre Committee, said: "As a member of the airport's Community Forum I'd urge local people to come to the Community Days. As the airport is part of the local community they should take this opportunity to ask relevant staff questions about its operations."

The Community Days will be held on Thursday August 26 from 4pm to 9pm and Friday August 27 from 8am to noon in the conference rooms at the airport.

For more information please contact Ruth Kimbley on 028 9093 5013.



Bangor's Riding for the Disabled Association is just one of the groups which has received funding from the Community Fund.

# Tourism Minister Opens New £6 Million Facilities



Tourism Minister Arlene Foster and Airport Chief Executive Brian Ambrose enjoyed music from school children including Connor Browne from St Joseph's Primary School and Eve Truesdale from Victoria Park Primary School.

A £6million programme of terminal enhancements has been officially opened by Tourism Minister Arlene Foster. The Minister met members of the community and the airport's partner companies as well as construction firms and airport employees. She was given a tour of the terminal enhancements which include a new departures lounge, improved technology to speed the journey through security, new conference rooms and investment in car parking and front of house facilities.

During the visit children from the airport's adopted schools, St Joseph's Primary School and Victoria Park Primary School, entertained passengers with their Sonic Sound performance,

a specially composed piece of music on an airport theme with musicians from Camerata Ireland.

Among commercial tenants now occupying the new departures lounge are World Duty Free, WH Smith, Bushmills Bar, Harvest Market restaurant and Lavazza Coffee. Around 20 jobs have been created as a result of the investment by the airport's owners.

Arlene Foster said:

"These new airport facilities will be a major boost to tourism. I welcome the efforts made by Belfast City Airport in improving and enhancing the tourist experience in Northern Ireland."

## Update

### Runway

Following the Environment Minister's decision in March to call a public inquiry into the airport's application to extend its runway, we are awaiting clarification on what grounds the inquiry will be based. We hope this will take place soon.

### Seats for sale

The Environment Minister is consulting on the removal of the seats for sale restriction with Belfast City Council, North Down Borough Council and Belfast City Airport Forum. The forum has not objected and we await responses from both councils.

We are the only airport in Europe to operate under this policy. This restriction is based on the capacity of the old terminal building which has been demolished. We installed a noise and tracking monitoring system last year to meet the department's requirements for the removal of the seats for sale limit.

### Roof Tiles

A Civil Aviation Authority report into alleged damage to a house at Parkgate Drive by a plane arriving at the airport on June 8 has now been completed. This independent investigation reported that there were no anomalies in terms of the height or trajectory of the aircraft. The CAA investigation concurs with the airport's findings that the plane was not low flying. The airport is sensitive to the environment in which it operates and immediately dispatched a contractor to repair the roof as a gesture of goodwill.

We would like you to contact us if you have any queries with regards to the airport's operations at [yourquestions@belfastcityairport.com](mailto:yourquestions@belfastcityairport.com)

## Memorial to brave pilots unveiled

A memorial to the pilots of 804 and 702 Naval Air Squadrons, who played a vital role in combating the threat from German U-boats during World War II, has been erected in the grounds of the airport. The widow of a pilot who commanded dangerous missions on Catapult Aircraft Merchant (CAM) Ships in Belfast unveiled the plaque dedicated to the brave young servicemen.

Mrs Norma Wright, widow of the late David Wright, who was the Commanding Officer of 702 Naval Air Squadrons at Sydenham in 1942, travelled from her home in Yorkshire for the ceremony, which her husband had hoped to see before his death in 2007. Now, thanks to Mrs Wright's efforts along with those of the Ulster Aviation Society (UAS), and the Northern Ireland

War Memorials, a granite memorial stone and plaque have been erected close to the main terminal entrance. Dame Mary Peters laid a wreath at the memorial following its dedication by Rev Canon Cheevers.

Mrs Wright said:

**"It is an honour to unveil a permanent memorial to these brave young men who helped save countless lives. At Naval reunions the war-time flying CAM pilots who had been based at Sydenham talked about their service and friends who did not survive. David would be so glad that the memory of his colleagues and their contributions were being marked."**



Mrs Norma Wright with airport Chief Executive Brian Ambrose (left) and Guy Warner, Ulster Aviation Society.

# Staff Profile

## Laura Duggan Environmental Executive



Laura Duggan, Environmental Executive, encourages recycling among staff and passengers.

**Name:** Laura Duggan

**From:** South Belfast

**Position:** Environmental Executive

### What does your job involve?

The airport takes its environmental responsibilities very seriously and my job is to manage that part of the business. This includes assessing how the airport impacts on the environment and making sure it complies with environmental legislation.

I co-ordinate environmental initiatives including energy saving and recycling projects which involve staff and passengers. As with every airport, there are environmental issues including noise that people living nearby want to discuss and I'm the point of contact for that.

My role also involves informing staff of their environmental responsibilities and keeping them up-to-date on the airport's environmental performance. I am secretary of the airport's consultative committee, the Belfast City Airport Forum, and I sit on the airport's Corporate Social Responsibility team which co-ordinates the airport's community engagement programme and its Community Fund. It's great to see the support we can give to local community groups through the Community Fund.

### Why did you want to work in this area?

I am interested in environmental issues, especially climate change and natural resource

depletion and recognise how important it is to tackle these issues to ensure long-term sustainable economic and social development. All businesses have a role to play in bringing about environmental improvements through their policies and practices.

### How important is the environment to the airport? What is it doing to demonstrate that?

The airport is committed to sustainable development, which means striking a balance between the social and economic benefits of its growth and its environmental impacts.

Staff dedicate a lot of time and resources managing the airport's environmental impacts through its formal Green Dragon Environmental Management System, an independent marker of our progress. It's very rewarding to see the efforts individual staff are making. As well as energy and carbon reduction and recycling programmes we are keen to engage with the community on environmental issues through the Forum and other means.

### What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

In my spare time I am involved in environmental advocacy through the Challenge Europe programme. My other interests include music, photography and ethical fashion.

## Lead actor of George Best musical unveiled at workshops



Pupils from Victoria Park Primary School and St Joseph's Primary school enjoyed a kick around with Aidan O'Neill

Local schoolchildren were given a masterclass from some of Ireland's finest actors and writers at the launch of the musical *Dancing Shoes: The George Best Story*.

George Best Belfast City Airport is one of the principal sponsors of the musical which is running in the Grand Opera House this summer, depicting George's life through song. Writers and actors held a special workshop at the airport with pupils from St Joseph's Primary and Victoria Park Primary in east Belfast, who learnt some of the skills required in producing a musical, from scripting and story building to improvising and acting. Aidan O'Neill from County Tyrone,

was unveiled as the actor who will play the lead role at the workshops. *Dancing Shoes* tells of the turbulent life of the football genius, from his childhood days kicking a tennis ball against a gable wall on the Cregagh estate, to a life of fame, fortune and controversy.

The musical combines the talents of two of Northern Ireland's most popular playwrights, Martin Lynch and Marie Jones, with the songwriting skills of Glasgow's JJ Gilmour and Belfast's Pat Gribben.

**Dancing Shoes will be staged in the Grand Opera House until August 14.**



## Getting Greener

The airport recently reached an important environmental milestone when we were awarded Green Dragon Environmental Management Standard Level 3.

Green Dragon is a stepped approach with five levels to help businesses manage their environmental challenges. Each level contributes towards achieving international and European environmental standards.

Previously we were awarded Level 2 status which proved we understood our environmental responsibilities.

With Level 3 accreditation we have shown we are focussed on managing our impact on the environment. This involves setting targets for reducing our environmental impacts, putting a pollution prevention plan in place and starting to calculate our carbon footprint.

We have also written an environmental statement which can be seen on our website.

Taking part in the scheme helps us to ensure that we are complying with all relevant environmental legislation.

# Win a pair of return flights to Glasgow with Flybe

Flybe, the largest scheduled airline at George Best Belfast City Airport, is offering one lucky reader a pair of return flights to Glasgow.

Providing up to four return flights daily from Belfast to Glasgow, Flybe's other Scottish routes from George Best Belfast City Airport include Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Inverness and the Highlands and Islands through its franchise partner Loganair. With a flight time from Belfast of only 45 minutes, Glasgow is a city that's rich in culture, both historical and contemporary. Thanks to its world-famous art college and buzzing music scene, Glasgow has a well-deserved reputation as a creative hot spot. The city is also famous for its breathtaking Victorian architecture and world-class museums and art galleries.

With flights to Glasgow beginning at £23.99 including taxes and charges, you can book your next flight at [www.flybe.com](http://www.flybe.com)



To be in with a chance of winning this competition, please answer the following question:

**How many return flights a day from Belfast do Flybe provide to Glasgow?**

Send your answer with your name and address to **Ruth Kimbley, George Best Belfast City Airport BT3 9JH**

Answer:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone number:

By entering this competition you are consenting to receive more news from the airport.

## City Airport flies off with Top Employer Award

It's official - employees at George Best Belfast City Airport benefit from the best work/life balance of any organisation in Northern Ireland. Thanks to its family friendly policies, the airport got a formal seal of approval when it scooped a top award at the prestigious Irish News Workplace and Employment Awards. It was named the best small company in the Work, Life and Wellbeing category for its approach to implementing work/life and wellbeing practices, demonstrating leading policies in areas including flexible working, maternity/paternity leave and employee health and welfare.

Michelle Hatfield, HR Director, said: "The idea that work is a positive aspect in the lives of our people is absolutely key to our approach to managing staff's health. It helps us attract and retain excellent people and keep them healthy at work, which means we maintain the highest levels of service for our customers."



Steven Patton, Senior HR Executive at the airport, (right) was presented with award by Jon D'Arcy, Managing Partner, KPMG.

## Flying the Kite for Integrated Education



Priory Integrated College pupils Katrina Whiting (left) and Laura Reardon won prizes for their artwork judged by airport staff including Joanne Deighan, Commercial Manager.

Pupils at Priory Integrated College in Holywood have been flying high after excelling in an art competition judged by airport staff.

Over 60 pupils entered the competition as part of Integrated Education Week, which had a theme of Kites Flying High for Integration. They were set the challenge of designing and making colourful and original kites with the top artists winning a trip to the airport where they visited air traffic control and other areas the public doesn't usually see. Senior managers from the airport judged the

competition and the 10 winning entries went on display in the departure lounge.

Principal of Priory Integrated College, Peter McCreadie, said: "We are all very excited about this project. Not only does it allow our school to build a working relationship with George Best Belfast City Airport, a major stakeholder in our local community; it also gives our pupils opportunities to develop their creative, thinking and collaboration skills. In that sense, every participant is a winner."