

## University Experience for Cross Community Project

*6th March 2008*

The Science Shop at the University of Ulster opened its doors to the Belfast Computer Clubhouse (BCCH) this week, giving members the opportunity to experience student life for a day.

The Science Shop event strengthens the existing partnership between the University and BCCH – an innovative multimedia learning project, set up to encourage the creative potential of young people in the Greater Shankill and West Belfast.

Clubhouse members took part in a range of computing activities, supported by Science Shop students who currently volunteer at the Clubhouse.

The Science Shop is an innovative community outreach initiative which pairs skilled students with community groups in need of specific knowledge and expertise.

The day also incorporated an opportunity to see the excellent facilities the University has to offer and culminated with a certificate presentation by the Director of Access and Distributed Learning, Ms Sylvia Alexander.

Claire Mulrone, Administrator for the Science Shop at Ulster said: “This unique event brought together club members from the Springfield and Shankill clubhouses. The Science Shop students engaged with them as positive role models, demonstrating the range of opportunities available to everyone at the University of Ulster.”

Louise Feeney, BCCH Coordinator based in Springvale Learning added: “In collaboration with the Science Shop at the University of Ulster, the BCCH is helping to shape the way disadvantaged young people view their future.

“This event provided our members with new resources, skills and experiences in higher education. This experience will help these young people to realise their potential and prepare for success later in life.”

The Science Shop is funded through the Higher Education Innovation Fund.

The Belfast Computer Clubhouse is funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

*<http://news.ulster.ac.uk/releases/2008/3664.html>*