

Cornstore Youth Club,
Draperstown
AGM Tuesday 10th December 2024

Update January 2024 – December 2024

The Cornstore Youth Club has 200 active members. Average weekly attendance is between 160/180 young people per week.

Monday	Year 8, 9 & 10	Patsy Murphy Ciara Mc Namee Jayne Mc Teague
Tuesday	Year 11 & 12	Raymond Cassidy Cathy Mc Laughlin
Wednesday	Year 8 & P7	Ciara Mc Namee Jayne Mc Teague
Thursday	P5 & P6	Lisa Murray Michelle Gribbon Danielle Murphy

Nightly activities on offer are Football, Art, Outdoor games, teambuilding and lots more.

- I must start by mentioning my staff team. This year they have raised £5000 for the young people of Ballinascreen & Desertmartin parishes. This money was raised by hosting a Country night at An Rath Dubh Centre on the 28th September. Additional to the event local businesses gave them donations for the youth club. These people care about the community they live in. They are making a difference every night they turn up to work with the young people. I'm very proud to have them on my team.
- Lucy Kearney & James Murphy resigned from the club January 2024. James emigrated to Australia and Lucy wanted to dedicate more time to her voluntary role in Swatragh community.

- Mid Ulster Youth Voice- Terry Hamill recruited 3 members from the Cornstore Youth Club to travel to Slough, London on the 15th of February 2024. They were part of a larger group. The issues discussed, knife crime and violence amongst young people.
- TASTY Project- five young people from the Cornstore youth club were recruited to participate in this project. This was a 6-week project held in Notorious Pizza, Magherafelt. The young people got to experience preparing meals for their families on the last night of the project. This project was organised by Orin Hampson.
- International Women's Day- (9th March) A group of young people went to visit Magherafelt Youth Centre. This was an educational event delivered by women.
- International Men's Day-(19th Nov) A group of young men will visit Magherafelt Youth Centre. This event has been organised by Terry Hamill. Raymond Cassidy will be leading this group to Magherafelt.
- Easter Hunt for all Primary children. This was held in the school grounds. The young people enjoyed this activity.
- Emergency Medical Supplies delivered a 3-hour Child Protection training to all youth club staff. Carol Devlin completed recent training with 2 volunteers. This training is paid using the EA budget.
- John Mc Bride – arrived for 1 month. He was an absolute asset. He helped maintain Susan's Trail with a team of young people. He taught Spanish to some young people. He let the young people sample Spanish food. The young people loved having him.
- Boston GSL Summer 2024– I recruited 5 young people for a Health & Wellbeing project with Orin Hampson. (Jan – Dec 2024). They travelled to Boston July 2024 for 1 week working in Soup Kitchens, homeless shelters and summer schemes. All expenses trip of a lifetime. All young people engaged. Very positive feedback from the young people. They are continuing to work with Orin to create a welcome café in Cookstown.

- Summer Intervention – I have recruited 10 young people for a summer intervention project with Terry Hamill (3 days in July 2024). Excellent project. The young people experienced the Jet Centre, Maghera Movie House and Magherafelt Youth Centre.
- Halloween Intervention- School assembly 430 attended, Pizza and Peelers x 36 people. PSNI came out to the club with vehicles and had an evening of Q & A with the young people. Two nights to Woodhall. Wednesday night 14 young people attended. Thursday night 9 people attended. This project was funded by PCSP.
- Ballinascreen Scarecrow Trail- Six scarecrows were made and positioned out the front of the High School. 4 young people produced 2 fantastic pieces of Artwork to showcase on the fence. 26 pumpkins were carved for the competition. The community voted via Facebook.
- Halloween Disco- All Primary 5,6 & 7 young people from all feeder schools danced the night away to Big Dee. Ninety attended the disco. It was a very worthwhile experience.
- Lidl Art Competition- we entered 35 posters into Lidl's Halloween display. All young people involved were delighted to see their work displayed in Lidl, Magherafelt between 23rd and 31st October 2024.
- Terry Hamill & Orin Hampson delivered a 6-week Emotional Health and Wellbeing project to a group of 10 young people. With the support of Michelle Gribbon and Jayne Mc Teague they took the young people to Ballyholme Residential centre, Portrush. This was a fantastic experience for the group of Year 8 pupils.
- Cookery Course-Stephanie Mc Ivor joined the youth club for 5 cookery sessions. Stephanie is a member of the canteen staff. She delivered an excellent cookery lesson for 24 young people every night.
- Bryson Play Resource Centre- the youth club have become members of this fabulous resource. Workspace/Balglen project has funded this card for us. It costs £150.00 per year. We are delighted.
- Summer Scheme 2024

70 young people have enrolled for this year's scheme. The scheme runs for the first week in July. Every child has been charged £15. We employed 7 staff to work at this scheme.

We offered cookery, arts and crafts, Sports days and fun, fun, fun.

- The Cornstore Youth Club continues to be a "No Phone Zone" on the 22nd of February 2023. Parents have continued to support this rule. The young people have adapted to it.
- Over the Rainbow Yoga and Mindfulness

Niamh Hickson attends the youth club every Thursday to work with 12 young people from the primary club. The feedback from the young people and the parents are very positive. Niamh stopped providing yoga due to giving birth to a beautiful baby. Hopefully, she will return soon.

- Fashion Show

A fashion show was organised for Thursday 7th June 2024. I contacted several local businesses and businesses from the Magherafelt area. All businesses were very good. We had 49 models walk the rede carpet (donated by Specialist joinery). This evening raised over £3,500 for St. Colm's High School. Already planning the next show. Aiming for a Spring Show/ Spring Clean.....

- First Aid Course

Tom Gourley from EMS completed a 6-hour First Aid course for 14 young people from Year 11. They will use this while completing their expeditions.

- Bronze/Silver President's Award/Dofe

18 young people have completed the Dofe award this year. They are a mixed gender group. Expeditions took place in the Sperrin and the Mourne mountains.

- Transition Project

I organised a 6-week transition project for young people transferring to St. Colm's High School. The project had an average of 42 young people attend per night. I employed Cathal Murray to deliver some cookery sessions. He was brilliant.

- London Trip 2024

M. Belaid & A. Cassidy has joined forces and has started to organise a trip for every Year 8 pupil to travel to London during Holy Week. Every child wanting to attend this trip will have to pay £450.00. The money collected will pay for all their accommodation, food, transport, and trips. Patsy Mc Shane has got us a tour of the London companies, Guild Hall plus a lunch. I have

spoke to Dr Deborah Magill from the Northern Ireland office and she has provided me with an email from her colleague Lucy from No. 10. Hoping for a tour of Westminster. We will also complete a Cash for Clobbers event for Year 8. We will travel to London on the 12th, 13th & 14th April 2024 for 3 days. Staff involved in this project are M Belaid, A. Cassidy plus others depending on numbers.

- Community

I am an active member of Ballinascreen Community Forum. I liaise very closely with Rose Mary Hunter from the Balglen project. In the last 2 months Rose Mary and I have secured 2 grants. This grant money has been lodged in the Ballinascreen Community Forum account.

-Live Here, Love Here has awarded the club £700.

-NIHE is in the process of awarding us a grant of £2400.

This money will focus on Ballinascreen in Bloom. There are plans to make bird boxes, picture frame gardens, junk art sculptures and planting 1200 bulbs to recreate a picture of hot air balloons. We are very excited.

- Pearson Award 2024

Miss Sinead Mc Allister nominated me for a Pearson award. She worked tirelessly for several days on my application. She submitted it and I was placed 3rd in the Community Education section. I had a special assembly on "Thank a teacher" day in June. I was presented with a signed letter from Michael Morpurgo and a 3rd place certificate. I was happy with this outcome.

- Tractor- The young people told me that they wanted a tractor, like the tractor in Moneymore. They were willing to restore it. I approached Workspace and they bought an old vintage Ford Fergie tractor for the young people to decorate. The young people loved this project in June 2024. I took several young people to sand the tractor throughout the month of June. Then in August, I returned to Draperstown and realised, I needed help with this project. I had a meeting with Joleen Groogan from Sinn Fein and 3 members of the men's shed. Joleen discussed the tractor at length to many members of the council. She is still discussing this matter with them. Hopefully, we will have a plan soon. The permission has been granted for the tractor. Unfortunately, we just need some experts to help with the restoration. The space at the entrance to the Plantin will be the final position for the tractor.

- Eco Project –

Planted 1200 flowers in the Green House. Liaised with four of the feeder Primary schools planting these flowers. Year 8, 9 & 10 have a daily watering rota for flowers.

Numerous litter blitz of the school grounds.

Painted fences, benches, bridge around Susan's Trail.

Cash for Clobber – throughout the year we have raised money for school funds from black bags. We have diverted so much clothing from landfill.

Year 8 prepared and planted all window boxes around the school.

Cleaned out the Greenhouse and rescued 100 of pots from Magherafelt Recycling Centre.

Making 18 cable reels for the local community. This was a very successful project. We will be taking orders for reels next year. (GTS Power lines supplied the cable reels).

All materials were donated to the young people. All we had to purchase was 1200 plugs from Montgomerie Nurseries, Upperlands.

All the above work will contribute to gaining a Green Flag for the school.

- Hillsborough Castle- Cathy Mc Laughlin and I met Prince Edward at Hillsborough Castle on 13th October 2024. This was a pleasant evening. This was to celebrate the Joint award.
- Christmas Switch on- Three members of the youth club staff team plus Dolores Murtagh and Rose Mary Hunter have been planning the Christmas Switch on since June 2024. The young people from the Cornstore Youth Club and St. Colm's High School play an integral part in this event. The young people provide entertainment, face paint, dress up in costumes, setting up craft fayres, winter wonderlands etc. We are blessed with fabulous young people.
- Charity Commission- Accounts were submitted for 2023 and a Trustee report on the 31st of October 2024.

Signed: Michelle Belaid