

CHAIRPERSON'S & SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BALLYWALTER COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 06 NOVEMBER 2024

In the past year we met formally as a group 9 times plus the ad hoc meetings connected to consultations and ongoing issues within the village

- December - Organised the Community Christmas Festival with the turning of the Village Christmas Tree Lights, followed by Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall each child received a gift from Santa. We also organised a Children's Christmas Party and supported the Seniors Christmas Dinner
All the activities were very well attended and positive feedback from the community received via social media and at the events
- January- Made application to the following funding bodies:
Ards & North Down Borough Council- Community Development to cover our running costs

Ards & North Down in Bloom Funding – to help purchase plants etc for the community planting scheme
- February- Members of the group along with Ballywalter Primary School started work on a community Mosaic which will be on public display at the Health Centre on the Main Street
- March- Worked with Ards & North Down Borough Council Regenerations officers on the Village Plan which is being developed by the Council with every village in the Borough
- April – August ongoing maintenance and sustainability of the community planting scheme by the volunteers. In June the Community gardening competition proved extremely popular with over 100 entries. Committee members involved in the planning and coordinating Ards Peninsula Village Kite Festival in Millisle with over 10,000 attendees at the festival
- September – Following the summer break we resumed monthly meetings. Application was made to Ards & North Down Borough Council for the Christmas Festival Grant
- October – Received runner up in the Best Community Planting Scheme our thanks to Mandy, Phyllis and Sandra from BCAG and Louis from Ballywalter Men's Shed for all their hard work over the year to make this happen

Outside Groups we are represented on:

NIHE Housing Community Network

Ards Peninsula Coastal Erosion Group

Ards Peninsula Villages Partnership

Ards & North Down PCSP

Peace Plus

Jamie Nicolls

Chairperson

BALLYWALTER SENIORS & OVER 50'S GARDENING CLUB

Activities in 2024 included the following:

- Fortnightly seniors' sessions with afternoon tea provided.
- Robbie Burns Celebrations
- Cross Community St Patrick's Day Celebrations
- 8-week Contemporary Dance Classes (video. produced)
- 4-week Chi Me Course
- Summer social Outing
- Christmas Dinner
- Christmas shopping outing
- Arts & Crafts Sessions
- International Women's Day

Over 50's Gardening Club:

Activities in 2023 included the following:

- Fortnightly sessions with the gardening tutor
- Village Spring/ Summer and Winter planters maintained on a regular basis
- Autumn Wreath making workshop
- Christmas Wreath making workshop
- Invited to launch the Ards & North Down Borough Council's In Bloom Competition with the Mayor
- Highly commended in the NIHE Cleaner Greener Award and presented with a bird feeder station

Sandra Henderson

Secretary/ Seniors Activities Coordinator