

Carrickmore Thursday Afternoon Club - Charity Number NI 107882

Annual Report

Year Ending 28 February 2025

From Thursday 7 March 2024 until Thursday 27 February 2025, Carrickmore Thursday Afternoon Club met a total of 37 times with an average of 18 members attending every week. Our total membership currently stands at 37.

During March, April and May 2024, we met on 12 occasions with various speakers attending and held many activities including bingo and dancing. The first week of June we headed to Donegal Town for our annual holiday. Blessed with good weather we visited Sliabh Liag; Killybegs; Rossnowlagh; Bundoran; Ballyshannon and Glenveagh National Park a great week was had by all. We then broke for the holidays.

In August we had a shopping trip to Craigavon Shopping Centre with 19 members. On our return in September we had a planning day to discuss what we hoped to achieve for the coming year; outings and places of interest we would like to visit, although this would be limited by transport costs and accessibility of the sites. We received a wonderful donation of £500 from our former member Bridie Hurson from her 90th birthday celebrations. And another donation the following week of £1000 from a local businessman. A third donation of £470 from the Donnelly family was also received. During September we had an afternoon of dancing; and a very informative presentation by Orla from OC Eyecare on all aspects of looking after our sight.

October brought a busy month with an update from British Telecom on Digital Voice - the changes BT are making to our phone lines; presentations on 'Looking after your Mental Health'; our Pumpkin Party where we carved Jack O Lanterns and made pumpkin soup and finished the month with a Halloween Party with music from the Donaghy's. The club was forced to close one Thursday in November due to snow and frost. We took part in research with Age NI and Queens University, on the issues facing older people living in the rural area. Isolation, loneliness, lack of transport, the after effects of Covid, cost of living increase and poor access to health care, were among the issues raised. The group kept busy in December with Wreath Making and attending our Annual Christmas Party. This year we attended the Pantomime Snow White in Lisburn, as the majority of our members had never attended a panto before.

More poor weather in the New Year kept the club closed until 16 January. We kicked off 2025 with a planning day and had a busy 2 months with potting up winter planters; a trip to Craigavon Shopping Centre and the start of the Money Matters training programme.

The group remain committed to our shared aim of addressing isolation and loneliness in this rurally deprived area, we will continue to offer encouragement and support to each other and hope to extend our reach and services in the coming year.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Name: Mary Bagley

Position: Chair

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 29-5-25