

THE GREATER SHANKILL SENIOR CITIZENS FORUM

WHO ARE WE & HOW CAN I JOIN?

The Greater Shankill Senior Citizens Forum exists to promote the interests of older people in the Greater Shankill Area.

Normally we meet on a monthly basis ten times per year (excluding July or December) on the third Friday of the month in the Shankill Library.

We welcome new members and are keen to follow up on any matters of concern to older people that are brought to our attention.

We are supported by Volunteer Now and can be contacted though the Community Projects Team:

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The Greater Belfast Senior's Forum - the G6 brings together representatives of the six older people's forums in Belfast and Castlereagh. These forums represent over 200 seniors groups and provide for the voice of older people from across the City.

The G6 has been working on issues for older people concerning transport, poverty, health and mental health.

The Forum is represented on the G6 by Anne Hamilton and Hazel McLean. At each meeting of the Forum we hear about what's happening at the G6 and in turn we feed in the views of the GSSCF to the G6.



Greater Shankill Senior Citizens Forum

June 2023 - July 2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Chairperson's Report

Another successful year for the Greater Shankill forum with a few new members a busy programme. The programme has been busy and varied despite limited funding. Once again we linked in with our friends in West Belfast 50+ Forum and continue to share friendships and joint ventures. 2023- 2024 was a difficult year for many groups trying to secure funding, fortunately The forum were successful with a funding application from Newington Housing association The Brian Mullan Community Fund this give us a much need financial boost to continue with a yearlong programme packed with activities and trips which included crafts, easter bonnet making Christmas crafting . Always keeping up to date on current issues we had a talk from the PSNI Housing executive and Hour Glass. We enjoyed sessions of Chocolate Bingo , Crafting Easter Gifts and very enjoyable meals in Downview Restaurant Fortwilliam Golf Club.

The Forum has been involved in other activities throughout the year such as G6 meetings, Age Friendly Convention and the Be Prepared information event, Volunteer Now's Women's Health Day, Age Friendly Older volunteer annual event took place in the City Hall with a lively Tea Dance with Hugo Duncan and country Harmony and a trip to the Crumlin Road Gaol. All events were well attended by our forum members. A very busy year! This coming year is set to be just as busy with a much-welcomed grant from Awards for All you should all have your programme for 2024-2024.

To close, I would like to thank Volunteer Now for their support throughout the year, especially Lindsay Armstrong and Deirdre Murphy. A big thank you to my fellow office bearers Hazel, Georgina and Joanna who have worked alongside me to bring the programme to you. Finally, thank you to all you who have supported the Forum with your unfaltering engagement and support. Without you our Forum would not exist and together we have, once again, made this year a success.

Anne

CHAIRPERSON

TREASURERS REPORT



Opening Balance at 1st April 2023	£188.38
Income	£11,785.45
Total Expenditure	£1,048.86
Closing Balance at 31st March 2024	£10,924.97



THE TRUSTEES GROUP

This year the work of organizing events and activities for the Forum has been undertaken by Anne Hamilton, Hazel McLean, Georgina Menice and Joanna Hewitt. The Trustee group is small and we are requesting that some of our members consider coming on board If you can spare a couple of hours a month, please let us know. We would be so delighted to have some new members in this sub group.

Shankill Forum Yearly Report, Activities and Trips



The GSSCF with the support of Volunteer Now were successful in being awarded a grant of £1,000 from Newington Housing Association March 2023

On the basis of this grant, the committee worked especially hard to provide a wide and varied timetable for the members to enjoy. The programme rolled out throughout the year with various activities: bread making, Christmas crafting with our expert Maureen Irvine from West 50+ forum, China cup candles, Easter bonnet making (April 2023). The lovely Emily Anthony delivered Yoga and mindfulness sessions keeping us in good physical and mental health. Trips were limited but did include a visit to the iconic Strand cinema, Crumlin Road Gaol and sadly, due to weather conditions, a non-visit to the Coronation garden. Volunteer Now's health and beauty day, Volunteers' Week tea dance, Policing safety information day, followed by a tea dance in Girdwood.

Cecilia Whitehorn from CM Works delivered workshops on practical advice on consumer issues and seniors protecting themselves from scams. The Forum were invited to contribute with the Consultation on Belfast Stories and their proposed plans for a purpose built cultural space to honour the lives of Belfast City and its people. The forum also gave their input to the Bus Pass Review by responding to the Department of Infrastructure with a petition and completed questionnaires. Members took part in reviewing the reissue (third edition) of the Belfast Trust publication 'Directory for Older People Services'. Our guest speaker from Hour Glass gave an Informative insight to the work that Hour Glass is doing, highlighting their support for elderly experiencing abuse and lastly, the Forum enjoyed regular drop in visits from our local police.

Thank you to all the organisations and Facilitators that took the time to attend our Forum meetings, keeping the forum updated and included.



The opening of The Grapevine,
2 Royal Ave

Volunteers' Week 2023

The Greater Shankill Senior Citizens Forum were delighted to link in with the West Belfast 50+ Forum for a joint programme of activities and trips. The Forum has enjoyed the company of the West Forum throughout the year and shared many fun memorable times together.



Women's Health Day
2023



Anne & Hazel at G6 meeting

Brian Mullan Grant
Presentation



Christmas 2023
celebrations



Easter 2024
celebrations



G6 60+ SmartPass Petition



Strand Cinema Volunteers'
Week 2023

Don't forget to pick up your copy of Shankill Mirror as the Greater Shankill Senior Forum has a senior page updated with useful information and news on the forum and upcoming events.

