

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.

We meet on monthly 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 through 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 2024 - July 2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Chairperson's Report

Another year has past and what a successful year it has been for the Greater Shankill Senior Citizens Forum The Forum was kept incredibly busy with our Awards for All Programme which I am happy to say we have an extension on the award to December 2025.

The programme has been busy and varied. Once again we linked in with our friends in West Belfast 50+ Forum and continue to share friendships and joint ventures. The Greater Shankill Senior Citizens Forum was successful with their funding application to Newington Housing association with The Brian Mullan Community Fund. Funding was also secured from the National Lottery Awards for All grant, and this gave us a much needed financial boost to run a wide and varied programme.

We enjoyed sessions of crafting Easter gifts, pottery painting, making Christmas gingerbread houses, breadmaking, a trip to IKEA, acrylic painting, a trip to see a 60's tribute band in the Ulster Hall - Oh What a Night! We also enjoyed getting out with West 50+ Forum on trips which included Augher, Omagh, Boulevard, Ballynahinch, Newtownards, Donaghadee, Royal Court Portrush, Montalto House, Colemans Garden Centre, I'll Tell Me Ma play went down a storm and we all enjoyed being pampered at our mini health day. Thank you to Isobelle, our Forum member, who took all our blood pressure. The Forum also enjoyed dining in Downview Restaurant Fortwilliam Golf Club and other new restaurants. We ran a very successful tea dance with the West Belfast 50+ Forum in St Comgalls, which we hope to do again in Volunteers' Week June 2025.

The Forum have been involved in other events throughout the year such as G6 meetings, Age Friendly Convention, the Be Prepared information event, Volunteer Now's Women's Health Day, Age Friendly Older Volunteer Fair and tea dances in 2 Royal Ave organised by the forums, Volunteer Now and Age Friendly. The Older Volunteer annual Thank You event took place in the City Hall with a lively Tea Dance compared by Hugo Duncan and country Harmony. All events were very well attended by our Forum members. Yes it has been a very busy year! This coming year is set to be just as enjoyable. Finally, we appreciate all your input ideas and attendance. Thank you for being part of the Greater Shankill Senior Citizens Forum.

CHAIRPERSON

Anne

TREASURERS REPORT



Opening Balance at 1st April 2024	£10,924.97
Income	£3,241.00
Total Expenditure	£6,226.93
Closing Balance at 31st March 2024	£7,939.04

THE TRUSTEES GROUP



This year the work of organising 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.

Forum Yearly Report, Activities and Trips



The committee worked especially hard to provide a wide and varied timetable for the members to enjoy. The programme was rolled out throughout the year with various activities: mindfulness sessions, bread making, armchair yoga, painting, building gingerbread houses, pottery, tea dance, reminiscence session and a health and beauty day.

We had speakers from Make the Call, HourGlass and RNID and trips to IKEA, Newtownards, Donaghadee, Newry, Royal Court Portrush, Colemans Garden Centre, PRONI, Linen Lounge, Montalto House and Tell My Ma play.



Trip to Portrush



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.

