

LISLEA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION LTD

ANNUAL REPORT 01 APRIL 2024– 31 MARCH 2025

This is the Lislea Development Association (LDA) Ltd annual report for the period 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

ACTIVITIES HELD DURING THE YEAR:

- Bootcamp exercise sessions took place each Saturday during the year with an average attendance of 10 people at each session.
- Children's Dance-Drama (Jo's Dance) classes were held Monday to Friday on various dates during the programme year with an average attendance of 15 children per class.
- Dance / Drama classes were held on Saturdays during the year with an average attendance of 50 children per class. The children staged a summer Drama show on 29/06/24 with 40 children and 48 adults attending. They also staged a Christmas drama show on 14/12/24 with 30 children and 80 adults attending.
- Jo's Children's Hip-Hop – fourteen classes were held during July 2024 to December 2024 with an average attendance of 11 – 12 children at each class.
- Ballet / Dance classes were held each Wednesday throughout the year, with an average attendance of 14 per class.
- Yoga exercise classes were held each Wednesday throughout the year, with an average attendance of 8 people per class.
- Irish Dancing - seven lessons / practices were held during the period 21/09/24 to 18/01/25 with an average attendance of 17 per lesson / practice.
- The Lislea annual road bowls competition was held from Wednesday 24/07/24 to Friday 26/07/24 with an average attendance of 14 adults and 18 – 19 children per night. A barbeque took place at the Community Centre on the final night and the "Tony O'Reilly" Perpetual Cup was presented to the winners: Sean Gordon and Annie Gribben.
- A Treasure Hunt, around the Lislea / Keady area, was held on 15/09/24 followed by a barbeque back at the Community Centre. This very enjoyable event was attended by 60 people.
- A project entitled "Healthy cooking – sewing – gentle exercise and mindfulness", took place during the period 01/10/24 to 28/02/25. The project was funded by The PHA CLEAR Project and was facilitated by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV). Activities included: four Healthy cooking workshops, two floral Art workshops, six sewing workshops and four chair yoga – mindfulness workshops. The project also funded the cost of flowers for the floral Art workshops and the purchase of a powerwasher, extension cable and protective waterproofs.
- Lislea Drama Group practices and productions: The reformed Lislea Drama Group choose the hilarious play "Widows Paradise" by Sam Cree for this years' production.

Practice sessions were held in the Community Centre during the year with live productions of the play on Friday 18/10/24, Saturday 19/10/24 and Sunday 20/10/24. Attendance each night was 117 people, 123 people and 125 people, respectively. The play was an outstanding success and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

- The Callan Productions Drama Group also held five practice sessions in the Community Centre with an average of 10 people attending each session.
- The November Mass, for deceased members of the Lislea Community, was held on Wednesday 20/11/24, with 58 people attending. Light refreshments were served after the Mass providing an opportunity for people to socialise with friends and neighbours.
- A Christmas Lights Switch on event took place on Sunday 01/12/24. The switch on ceremony was performed by Sinead Hughes (Drama Director). Father Christmas also paid a visit to the children and each child received a selection box.
- The annual Christmas dinner was held, in the Community Centre, on Friday 06/12/24 with 48 people attending. A three-course meal was prepared and served and a dance was held after the dinner.

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP:

- The Thursday Gardening Group continued their weekly meetings throughout the year with an average attendance of 8 people per week. Members worked on planting out this year's fruit and vegetables in the polytunnel and outdoor vegetable beds as well as looking after the flower beds and rockery.
- £250 worth of flowers and plants were received from ABC Borough Council, via the Small Floral Grant Scheme, in July 2024. The Thursday Gardening Group planted them in the Community gardens flower beds and rockery, creating a lovely colourful display for the summer and autumn months.
- A group of 12 representatives, from The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and Public Health Agency (PHA), visited the Community Gardens on 04/07/24 to hear about the excellent work carried out there and view the polytunnel and gardens. They were very impressed with the range of produce grown in the raised beds and polytunnel as well as the lovely display of flowers and shrubs in the rockery and flower beds.
- Keep Northern Beautiful Green flag award 2024: The Thursday Gardening Group entered for this competition. The judges then visited the garden and the Group were recommended to receive a Green Flag award. Two representatives attended the award ceremony, in The Island Arts Centre Lisburn on 31/07/24, to receive the Green Flag award and certificate on behalf of the Group.

PRIVATE PARTIES / EVENTS HELD IN LISLEA COMMUNITY CENTRE:

During the programme year, members of the Lislea Community used the Centre for: ten Children's birthday parties; one Christening Party and one First Communion party. An average of 35 people (children and adults) attended each party. A Months mind family gathering also took place with 67 attending and a post funeral meal with 92 people attending.

- A social evening of craic and banter was held on 27/07/24 with 22 people attending.

MEETINGS HELD IN LISLEA COMMUNITY CENTRE:

- Nine Committee meetings were held during the programme year with an average attendance of 9 people at each meeting.
- The Tynan and Armagh Point to Point Committee held four meetings during the year with an average of 14 people attending each meeting.
- Ronan's Dance Class held two sessions during April 2024 with 8 people attending each session.
- Eamon and Jo held seven Guitar / Singing practice sessions during the period June – August 2024.
- The Westenders' Ukulele Group held five music sessions during the period 30/07/24 to 05/11/24 with an average of 18 people at each session.
- The Rock Road Bowls group also held their AGM on 13/03/25 with 23 people attending.

TRAINING – AWARENESS EVENTS HELD:

During this programme year, the following training courses – awareness events were held:

- Adult Safeguarding (Basic Awareness training) - 11 people
- Child Safeguarding (Basic Awareness training) - 9 people
- Bowel Cancer awareness - 25 people
- Slow Cooker workshop - 9 people
- Health and Wellbeing event - 60 people
- First Aid Training – 2 sessions - 27 people
- Save an Adult training - 7 people
- Action Mental Health - mindset talk - 11 people

CHARITY FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

- A local family held a coffee morning in the Community Centre on 07/04/24 to raise funds for the Air Ambulance N.I. charity. The event was attended by 138 people and £4771 was raised for the charity.

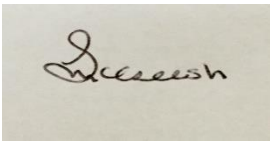
FUNDING RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR:

The LDA Ltd Directors applied to The National Lottery (TNL) Awards for All funding programme for funding towards costs of: a new storage shed; repairs to the oak floor in the main hall; new window blinds for all the windows and flame-retardant curtains for the feature window in the main hall. The application was successful and the Group received funding of £9,971 towards the cost of the work in July 2024. Planning permission, for the storage shed, was applied for and secured prior to applying for the funding.

SUMMARY:

This was another very successful year Lislea Development Association Ltd. Despite all the hard work and efforts involved with the major refurbishment of Lislea Community Centre, in 2019/2020, at a cost of £161,334, the Directors still continued to plan and organise further improvements to the Community Centre. The new storage shed, window blinds, curtains and repairs to the oak floor have made a huge difference to the refurbished Centre.

I thank the Directors for their hard work, dedication and commitment. Lislea Community Centre is now a lovely place for the people of Lislea and surrounding areas to enjoy for many years to come, thanks in no small way to the vision, efforts and hard work of the LDA Ltd Directors.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sheila McCreesh', on a light-colored rectangular piece of paper.

Sheila McCreesh:

Date: 21 October 2025