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Greater New Lodge Community Magazine

Ashton Launches McSweeney Phase 2

Official Unveiling

On Monday the 29th of October, local residents and community workers gathered alongside Belfast's Mayor, political representatives and statutory agencies for the formal launch of the McSweeney Centre Phase II in Henry Place. The new building is an extension to the pre-existing centre that opened in 2009, and which was named in memory of a three-year-old girl Mary McSweeney who died in the Great Hunger/An t-Ocras Mór of 1847. She is buried in nearby Clifton Street Cemetery.

New Jobs and Services

Paul Roberts Chief Executive of Ashton, "The new centre will provide a range of services to address health, advice and education needs as well as creating around 40 new jobs including 20 much needed childcare posts in an area recognised for high deprivation levels. It will also provide for other job creation and training opportunities. The centre is already accommodating places for around 100 children. I can't overstate the great value of this project for the local community".

The new build was funded by £1.38m from the Social Investment Fund (SIF) under the Delivering Social Change framework with a contribution of £177,000 from Ashton. Dr Mark Browne from The Executive Office (TEO) was there to officially open the building.



Young people from Kinderkids Daycare with Mayor Deirdre Hargey, Dr Mark Browne Executive Office, Ashton's Paul Roberts, Joe Baker and Ricky O'Rawe

Improving the Quality of Life

Mayor of Belfast, Deirdre Hargey, attended the event and said: "Projects like this from Ashton are an example of how you do the 'inclusion' bit and I welcome the development and investment to improve quality of life for local residents. To me this is another example of the community taking the lead and working in partnership with others to make a real difference".

Community Visionaries

Joe Baker Chairperson of Ashton Centre Development Limited

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New Phase 2 of McSweeney Centre Launched

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(ACDL) added: "It's 30 years now since local people launched the share drive which led to the Ashton Centre. It's a great tribute to those community visionaries that Ashton is today launching a further regeneration project in the area. The McSweeney Centre belongs to the community and we are extremely grateful for the help and support of local people and encourage everyone to make good use of this space and place".

Kinderkids

During the ceremony children from the Kinderkids Daycare provided a fantastic performance of singing and dancing to the delight of everyone in attendance. This provided a poignant reminder of the value of investing in sustainable community development, starting with safe, healthy and well-educated children.



New Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator

A New Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator for Inner North Belfast has recently been appointed. He is Jim Deery and in his new job he will be responsible for covering communities in the whole of Inner North Belfast. Jim, who will be based in the Ashton Centre, has worked for many years in the community sector and is particularly well known for his efforts in the Greater New Lodge, including previous involvement with the Star Neighbourhood Centre and Ashton Community Trust.

As the new coordinator he will now work with community groups based in New Lodge, Duncairn, Carrick Hill, Newington, Mount Vernon, Tigers Bay and the Shore Road. Jim's main role will be to review the current Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan and to offer support to its associated sub groups:

- Health and Well Being
- Children and Young People
- Physical and Economic
- Social and Community

As part of his role Jim will also be working to promote greater understanding and collaboration between community, voluntary and statutory organisations. He has already been out and about meeting up with the various groups that are active in the area. We wish him well in his new post.



Jim Deery

Community Contact Details

174 Trust - 9074 7114
 Ashton Centre - 9074 2255
 Bridge of Hope - 9074 6737
 Bridges Sewing Group - 9074 2255
 Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain - 9032 2409
 Camberwell Fold - 9096 0552
 Cancer Lifeline 9035 1999
 Carlisle Day Centre - 9023 1227
 Carrick Hill Community Centre - 9023 1602
 Clanmill Housing Association - 9087 6000
 Friends of St Joseph's Church Sailortown - terryblfst@gmail.com
 Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain - 90749 688
 Glenravel Local History Project - 9032 2289
 Holy Family Primary School - 9035 1023
 Holy Family Youth Centre - 9087 5150
 Indian Community Centre - 9024 9746

KinderKids Day Care - 9074 2255
 McSweeney Centre - 9032 2289
 Newington Credit Union - 9035 1773
 Newington Housing Association - 90744055
 New Lodge Arts - 9074 2255
 New Lodge Housing Forum - 9074 2399
 New Lodge Safer Streets - 07564 938276
 New Lodge Youth Centre - 9075 1358
 North Belfast Family Centre - 9024 7580
 North Belfast Mens Shed - 90322289
 North Queen St. Community Centre - 9032 3945
 Smile SureStart - 9075 6654
 St. Patrick's Primary School - 028 9035 1206
 Star Neighbourhood Centre - 9074 0693
 TAMHI - 028 90 747437
 Tar Isteach - 90746665 / 90746664

Healthy North Belfast - Partners & Community Working Together



MLAs Paula Bradley DUP, Nichola Mallon SDLP, Carál Ní Chuilín Sinn Féin with Community and Statutory partners

Calling OnThe Community

North Belfast residents are being encouraged to join an exciting initiative aimed at inspiring new ideas about delivering better health and life outcomes for local people.

Ashton, Belfast City Council, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust, Ulster University and other civic bodies have set up a multi-agency partnership called Healthy North Belfast.

This process aims to place community views at its heart and as part of this co-design commitment, Ashton are hoping to recruit 4 North Belfast residents to represent local views to the Healthy North Belfast (HNB) Task Group & Steering Group.

"North Belfast has significant assets, people, places and resources to be proud of, and we want to focus on these strengths," said Richard O'Rawe, Ashton Chairperson.

"We are insisting on putting community views on what matters to the very heart of this process. We intend to focus on doing more of what the community tell us is already working, build on what works well and look at new projects or partnerships that can have a positive impact on health and life outcomes that will really make a change for our generation and those generations to come."

Belfast Mayor

Mayor of Belfast Deirdre Hargey formally launched the initiative in Ulster University's Belfast Campus in September

and the following month co-hosted the first meeting of the Task Group at City Hall along with Belfast City Council Chief Executive Suzanne Wylie.

Cross Party Support

The Healthy North Belfast Task Group includes representation from all of North Belfast's political parties with MLAs Paula Bradley, Nichola Mallon and Carál Ní Chuilín. Other members include representatives from: Lighthouse, NICVA, Ulster University, Belfast Healthy Cities, Public Health Agency, PSNI, Housing Executive, Department of Justice, Strategic Investment Board, Department of Health, Belfast City Council, Victims & Survivors Service and Belfast Health & Social Trust.

"We invite local North Belfast people to join us because this is a great opportunity to share your knowledge and experience, learn new skills and help to improve health and wellbeing services in your community," added Richard.

Joining The Working Group

The process is scheduled to complete by the end of October 2019 with a report. Being a Task Group or Steering Group member is a voluntary role but you will not be out of pocket for helping us. Ashton will cover reasonable attendance including travel and childcare. Interested in joining the HNB Working Groups? Please download application form on Ashton's website www.ashtoncentre.com and return by email to Irene Sherry irene@ashtoncentre.com by December 12, by 12 noon.



REACH YOUR POTENTIAL

Personal Development training

- Improve self-awareness and esteem
- Develop strengths and healthy coping mechanisms
- Learn to talk to yourself in a positive way

For more information contact a LEMIS+ mentor:

Belfast Works
LEMIS+ Project

Lead by Ashton Community Trust in partnership with East Belfast Mission, GEMS NI, Job Assist Centre Greater Shankill and Job Assist Centre West Belfast.
The LEMIS+ Project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014-2020 and the Department for the Economy.

Contact one of our Mentors on 02890742255



TDK Christmas Celebrations

Thorndale, Duncairn and Kinnard Residents group (TDK) will be organising a special event to celebrate the Christmas season. The event is scheduled for 7.00 pm on the 14th of December and will take the form of a community street parade. Residents are being asked to assemble at Kinnard Street where the parade will make its way through the area including Kinnard Avenue, Duncairn and Thorndale. The parade will be led by Mr and Mrs Claus accompanied by their faithful helpers the elves and a miniature horse. The special duty of distributing candy canes to adults falls once again on the reliable shoulders of Kate Clarke. The emergency services will also participate with a fire truck making up part of the procession. Selection boxes will be given to all the children on the route as well as balloons from the Cancer Unit of the Children's Hospital. Announcing the event Rosemary McGreevy who is Chairperson of TDK said, "Christmas is a time for rejoicing and mostly spending time with the family but it is also a time where community spirit can shine through and that is what we in TDK are all about, raising the spirit of our community. We hope everyone comes out and participates in our celebration. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to everyone!"



Belfast City Council Bulky Waste Collection

If you want to dispose of a large item, such as a sofa, cooker, bed or mattress, you can request a free bulky waste collection from us.

What items can we collect?

Yes

Furniture (must be dry and covered)
Mattresses (must be dry and covered)
Carpet (must be dry and covered)
Electrical appliances e.g. TV
White goods e.g. fridges, washing machines and cookers

No

Bagged household waste
Builders rubble, plaster board, bricks or soil
Tyres and car parts
Cardboard and packaging
Batteries and fluorescent tubes
Paint, pesticides and oil
Garden waste or garden furniture
Bathroom suites, kitchen units, radiators, doors and sheds

Call 028 9027 0230

Star Neighbourhood Centre - Good Relations Programme

Over the past year Star Neighbourhood Youth Project has been working in partnership with Clarawood YC & OFMDFM, to facilitate a cross community 'Good Relation' programme for young people aged 16-18. The Group met weekly for 20 weeks, the sessions included group work, trips and residential. ArtsEkta participated in a few group work sessions that gave the young people the opportunity to explore other cultures. The young people have created a strong working relationships with each other and this opened up a number of great opportunities for all involved. In addition, all 16 of the young people involved gained an OCN accredited award in "Good Relations and Diversity" well done to all the young people involved and to our partner group and funder.



Tar Isteach Expose Trauma of PIP Assessments

Capita

A very well attended demonstration was organised on Wednesday 24th of October by Tar Isteach to protest against the treatment of people being assessed by Capita at their Assessment Centre in Linenhall Street, Belfast. Capita which is a private company contracted to handle the assessment process for the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) on behalf of DFC. It appears that Capita decided to close the premises for the day in response to the the protest.

Re-Traumatised

Agnes Fraser who is the Welfare Rights Manager for Tar Isteach described PIP as the most traumatic welfare measure ever implemented and pointed out that according to figures from the Department of Communities, 56% of all fresh claimants to PIP fail the assessment. Since its introduction in June 2016 thousands of sick people have been forced to go through what is widely regarded as a very severe assessment process. Agnes told the demonstration that people with serious mental and physical health issues had been "re-traumatised". She said that people with conditions that are clearly not going to change and who should have got paper-based assessments are being put through the stress and worry of these assessments unnecessarily. The rigid "one size fits all approach" is not working as confirmed by the statistics showing the number of appeals which had been allowed.

Frightened and Confused

Agnes acknowledged that some assessors did their best but said that people are increasingly coming to the offices of Tar Isteach in a frightened and confused state after having been told they had been disallowed PIP or had their existing award of DLA dramatically reduced. In the majority of cases that were disallowed it was based solely on the face to face interview which ranged from a 25 minute assessment to 60 mins. Agnes said that on examining the findings of the reports there were major inaccuracies and false observations, "How dare these



Agnes Fraser from Tar Isteach addresses the demonstrators

assessors tell people that their cancer journey is over, you're getting better, you're not as sick as you were 2 years ago. I totally refute these assessments, the inflexibility of these assessments".

Disgraceful

Describing the process as nothing short of disgraceful, she argued that the assessment process should be immediately taken out of the hands of private profit companies such as Capita and brought back in-house to the Department for Communities (DFC).

The demonstration was supported by a range of community groups, trade unions and elected representatives.

Tar Isteach is a support organisation for republican ex-prisoners and their families that offers Welfare Rights and Counselling Services for the wider community.

Kinderkids Organise Christmas Food Drive

Each year Kinderkids Daycare in partnership with the North Belfast Advice Partnership organises a food drive to help people in the run up to Christmas. This year they will once again be collecting items for the North Belfast Food Bank. The purpose is to help local families and individuals who are struggling by providing them with some basic supplies. If you would like to contribute to our collection it would be greatly appreciated. All you have to do is bring one or two of the following items listed below to any of the Ashton's buildings, where staff will take the items from you. Once collected we will bring them to the emergency food bank providing much needed support for many families in North Belfast. Suitable food items include:

- Rice/pasta/noodles
- Jar of sauces – chilli/curry/Bolognese
- Soups
- Jams
- Sugar/tea/coffee
- Tins of potatoes/peas/carrots/beans
- Super noodles/pot noodles
- Tins of fruit/creamed rice/custard/jelly (for kids)
- Diluted juice
- Cereals
- Tins of tuna/ham
- Long life milk

Toiletries

- Shower gels
- Soap
- Toothpaste
- Toilet rolls
- Shampoo

The closing date for items being received is the 14th December 2018.

Kind Regards and Merry Christmas!

Christine Mckeown

Head of Ashton Childcare and Family Support



All Party Group on Suicide Prevention

The NI Assembly All Party Group on Suicide Prevention recently held their meeting at Ashton's McSweeney Centre, rather than their usual Stormont location, to discuss latest statistics, research and developments.

The APG on Suicide Prevention is chaired by SF MLA Órlaithí Flynn and involves political representation from all parties.

The meeting on October 30 was well attended by community representatives and health partners in the statutory sector.

Presentations on the day included a focus on the recent Appreciative Inquiry into Health and Wellbeing in North Belfast; Regional Trauma Network; Towards Zero Suicide campaign across the five Health Trusts and Digital Social Prescribing for Suicide Bereavement Support.



All party group meet in the McSweeney Centre

Tackling Awareness on Mental Health Issues (TAMHI)

Anti-Bullying Week

In recent weeks TAMHI has been out in force in local post primary schools as part of United Communities Change Makers Programme which derives from the NI Executive as part of the TBUC programme.

Bully Run Game

Over 500 young people took part in Bully Run, a game that highlights and explains the various types of bullying that can occur and gives tips on what to do if you are the victim of bullying. Joe Donnelly of TAMHI said, "Bullying is an absolute scourge that can have a hugely negative impact on the mental health of many young people. Often these young people can carry the scars of bullying well into their adult life. However there are strategies to counter bullying and this fun interactive game is just one of those strategies. It has such a powerful message built to help people and I would strongly recommend to everyone interested in dealing with this terrible issue "

Jason Smith Boys Model " I love being involved in this programme. It has been so beneficial to my personal development"

From the end of January 2019 to March 2019 TAMHI will be offering sessions out to local North Belfast schools; if interested email help4tamhi2011@outlook.com

TAMHI is managed by New Lodge man Joe Donnelly and is based at 6 Kinnaird Street, Belfast BT14 6BE, phone 028 90 747437.



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Required Qualification:
No Experience or Qualifications Required
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Contact: Mentor on
02890742255







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Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub

It has now been more than three years since Ashton Community Trust was awarded the lead for the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub. The Family Support Hub provides early intervention services to families and young people requiring support. The Hub brings together organisations that deliver services to children/young people (0-18 years) and their parents/carers and this includes community, statutory and voluntary family support services.

Since August 24th 2015, Ashton Community Trust has been co-ordinating and receiving referrals and working to connect families to the services they need at a time when they need them. The wards covered by the Hub are New Lodge, Duncairn, Fortwilliam, Castleview, Waterworks (part of), Chichester Park (part of) and Bellevue. Since the establishment of the Hub we have worked with our partner service providers to deliver support to almost 650 families and hope with continued funding until March 2019 to offer support to many more families.

The Hub can help your family at many difficult times whether it is dealing with the challenging behaviour of children, stress/depression, alcohol/drug misuse, debt or social isolation.

Any adult family member can refer themselves to the Hub simply by completion of a referral form or you may give your consent for another organisation with whom you are involved such as your child's school, your doctor or health visitor or a local community group to make a referral on your behalf. The Co-ordinator of the Hub will then contact you in order to help match appropriate services to your family's needs. At all times your details will be kept confidential until you agree that you would like to avail of a particular service whether it is youth support, advice and guidance or services that offer emotional and well-being



Christine McKeown and Edith McManus

support. Your information will only be shared with the organisations who you feel will be of help to your family.

There is now no need for families to struggle through life's difficulties because the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub is here to help through these times and work in partnership with families to improve outcomes for all the people who live in Lower North Belfast.

Should you have any queries about the Hub or should you wish to refer your family to the Hub please contact Edith McManus, the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub Co-ordinator at the Ashton Centre 02890 749986.

Time For Me – Carers Christmas Event

A health and wellbeing event organised by Ashton to acknowledge the work and effort that carers do on a daily basis is taking place on December 12th.

The North Belfast Carers Wellbeing Day runs from 10am until 2pm at Ashton's Lennox Building, the former Irish School of Ecumenics, 683 Antrim Road.

Ashton Chief Executive Paul Roberts said they were delighted to organise the event.

"We want to recognise the major contribution that carers make to their families and local community and so we are really pleased to be able to show our gratitude in this way. Ashton deliver bursaries every year to groups that demonstrate social impact and community spirit and this carers event is a further extension of our goal to support north Belfast and the people that live in it."

If you care for someone or are part of a carers network that supports carers, this event is for you and so expect lots of activities and health checks including:

- A full health assessment which includes checks such as, cholesterol, blood pressure, Spo2, and pulse rate
- Allergy/food intolerance testing
- Carbon monoxide test and smoking cessation advice
- Complementary therapy

- Group acupuncture
- Spine and posture analysis
- Haircuts for men
- Make up and nails for women

The event will also give carers the opportunity to meet with other carers; network; share experiences and reduce feelings of isolation; raise awareness of the role of carers and learn more about local services and groups. Ashton will be providing refreshments on the day. If you are a carers support group or a carer and are interesting in attending please contact Ashton's Bridge of Hope department on 028 9032 2289 or email irene@ashtoncentre.com



Irene Sherry and Paul Roberts (Ashton) with Suzie Wilson Day Support Manager (BHSCT)

Participation and Practice of Rights Project (PPR) UN Poverty Expert Visits New Lodge

Belfast families impacted by welfare reform, homelessness and enforced destitution met with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and Human Rights, Professor Philip Alston in the New Lodge on Saturday 10th November 2018. The meeting was organised by the PPR project.

Homeless Children

Elinor Mulligan is a campaigner with Equality Can't Wait and a mother of two who has spent over 14 years in hostels and temporary accommodation. She said;

"There are at least 11,372 homeless children in the north, and in August some of these children showed a film they had made on the issue to the top officials in the Belfast City Council, Department for Communities, and the Housing Executive. These public bodies have the power to vest land and fund the building of new social housing. Following the film we agreed to enter into a period of engagement with them in the hope that they would present us with their plans to drastically reduce the amount of children living in homelessness. On Tuesday (the 6th of November) we met with these bodies for a follow up meeting and were deeply disappointed when it became clear that no progress has been made and that there is little will to seriously tackle the issues of child homelessness and religious inequality in housing provision".

Inequality- 15 of 20 Most Deprived Areas Catholic

The UN recognises that poverty is multidimensional. Similarly, Northern Ireland's Multiple Deprivation Measures take factors like employment, health, education, access to services and living environment into account in addition to income in assessing deprivation. Analysis of overall NIMDM rankings against 2011 census data on religion reveals that fifteen of the twenty most deprived areas are over 80% Catholic; four are over 80% Protestant. This is an enduring reality: in NIMDM rankings from 2010, 16 of the 20 most deprived areas were predominately Catholic.

Social Housing Waiting Lists

With regard to the availability of social housing, Catholic and Protestant families – even those living in adjacent areas – can face starkly different prospects. In April 2017 the Equality Commission reported that Catholic headed households continue to experience the longest waiting times. Analysis of the Housing Executive (HE)'s measure of demand of housing is even more revealing.

The HE allocates housing to people on the waiting list using a points-based system: someone recognised as homeless, for instance, automatically receives 70 points, while anyone with 30 points or more is considered to be in "housing stress". The number of people in housing stress in a given area, minus the average number of re-allocations of social homes each year in that area, gives the HE measure of "residual housing need". HE data for 2017/18 reveals that in predominately Catholic North Belfast there is "residual need" for 883 homes, while



Sean Brady (PPR) with Professor Alston (left) in the New Lodge

in adjacent predominately Protestant North Belfast, 20 homes were needed. Similarly, the three predominately Catholic areas of Inner, Middle and Outer West Belfast have a cumulative residual need for 2,137 social homes. Meanwhile, two of the five surrounding areas have a surplus of social homes; taken jointly, the five have a shortfall of just 94 social homes, according to HE figures.

Employment

In terms of the employment element of poverty, long term unemployment – lasting 12 months or more continues to be deeply entrenched and on the rise. As of September 2018 the NI rate, at 59.3% of all unemployment, was more than double that for England. Worryingly, while there is evidence of a convergence of the overall labour market between the Catholic and Protestant communities here, due not least to robust fair employment and equality measures, the differential in long term unemployment has grown significantly. In 2010



Professor Alston & PPR in discussion

long term unemployment as a percentage of overall unemployment was 48% for Protestants and 52% for Catholics by 2016, however, the rate amongst unemployed Protestants had dropped to 31%, while amongst unemployed Catholics it had risen to 69%.

Newington Housing Information Day

Newington Housing Association is holding a Tenant Information Day/Meet Your Neighbours Event on Thursday, 6th December 2018 in New Lodge Youth Centre, 117 Upper Meadow Street, from 3:00pm – 4:00pm. The event is for all new tenants that are being re-housed in the Long Streets new build development Phase 3, (18 new homes). For further information contact Martin Hamilton, Community Engagement Officer Newington Housing Association 300-302 Limestone Road Belfast BT15 3AR Tel: 028 90744055.



Greater New Lodge Housing News

Happy to report that the housing office is now up and running to almost full capacity, given our unique position in the heart of the area we are hoping to be used for community based problems as well as housing issues. Already our housing worker, Gerry O'Reilly, has been dealing with organisations and companies such as Phoenix Gas, B.C.C., P.S.N.I., Newington Housing and of course the Housing Executive (H.E.). In the near future we hope to build relationships with any other Housing Associations operating in the area.

Improvement Schemes

Gerry is dealing with ongoing issues at New Lodge Place and New Lodge/Pinkerton as well as graffiti in the barrack area, pest control, grass cutting, weeding and all improvement schemes happening now and in future.

We are encouraging everyone, tenant, homeowner or other, to use this invaluable facility, call in at 23 New Lodge Road or ring 90742399 9am until 2pm.

Tower Blocks

The major issues we have been reporting on are of course the future of the tower blocks and the Upper Long Streets. We hope the proposal for the blocks will be decided at the January Board meeting of the H.E. If passed it will affect all 33 tower blocks across the North but for us it will mean the following. The short term block, Oisín House, will receive only emergency repairs as it may be demolished within five years, the mid term, ten years, will receive new kitchens, bathrooms, windows and heating. The long term will receive all the above plus cladding. One way or another big changes are coming to the blocks over the next number of years.

Long Streets

As for the long streets the committee have been busy taking statements from anyone who was involved from the very start. This includes people who were involved with the New Lodge Development Group who oversaw the redevelopment of the lower end and who helped form the original Upper Long Streets Residents Association.

These statements will be given to a Barrister to help build a case for the upcoming court action. We need to prove that the H.E. always intended, albeit in phases, to redevelop the entire area. If anyone feels they can assist we would be pleased to hear from them.



Housing Forum and Elected Representatives

Refurbishment

The other big project happening in the area is the refurbishment of the flats in Victoria Parade beside the Recy, these have already been emptied and work has already started. It is reckoned it will take about six months.

We will of course keep people informed of what's happening but if any further information is required please call in and we will help if we can, the address and phone number is above.

Liam Wiggins, Chair, New Lodge Housing Forum.

'Lack of Social Housing Driving Poverty and Homelessness' - Ní Chuilín

The lack of affordable social housing is driving poverty and homelessness throughout the north, Sinn Féin MLA Carál Ní Chuilín has said. Commenting after leading a party delegation from across the north to meet with senior officials at the Housing Executive and Department of Communities, the Sinn Féin Housing spokesperson called for the construction of more social homes.

Housing Crisis

Carál Ní Chuilín said: "More than 37,000 households in the north are waiting to be allocated a social house, of which just under 24,000 are registered as in housing stress and almost 12,000 people classed as homeless. The growing crisis in housing is underpinned by a shortage of social housing in areas of greatest need. Families are rearing children in overcrowded conditions, temporary accommodation and hostels.

Build More Social Housing

"Many families on low incomes, unable to access affordable social housing, are left with no option but to turn to the private rented sector and the high rents expected by private landlords. Building more

social housing is key to addressing these problems.

"The Housing Executive must step up and address the growing inequalities that exist in housing provision by prioritising the supply of social and affordable housing to meet growing demand. A major social house building programme would not only ensure that we help address the issues of homelessness and poverty but also create work for local people and firms which can only be a benefit for all concerned.



Carál Ní Chuilín

Revise Targets

"We have told the Department for Communities and the Housing Executive they clearly need to address these issues, by revising their targets and prioritise an increased supply of social housing in areas of greatest need."

Local Councillor Welcomes Clean Up/Repairs

Areas around Henry Place and at the top of Donegal Street have undergone major clean-up operations recently. Sinn Féin Oldpark Councillor JJ Magee, welcomed the developments and urged local people to be proactive about their community environment.

Henry Place

"The steps were badly broken at the bottom of Henry Place leading to Carlisle Terrace and residents made contact with me to speak with officials from the Department of Infrastructure as they hold responsibility for roads, water services and transport. I contacted the Department and lobbied for the improvements and I think the result is now a much better and safer facility that will benefit wheelchair users, parents with prams and the elderly," JJ said.

Donegal Street Area

"Again residents contacted me about dumping and badly overgrown bushes that were blocking traffic lights and street signs. Some couldn't access gas meters. So again I contacted officials from the Department on their behalf and once again they followed the request for action.

These two examples I think show how important it is that local residents and their elected councillors work together. We all believe in making our community better for our families and for the next generation. I would urge local people to keep reporting their concerns because together we can make changes for the better that benefit everyone".



Henry Place



Donegal Street area

New Pedestrian Crossing

SDLP North Belfast MLA Nichola Mallon said she is delighted to announce that after a long campaign on behalf of concerned residents, she has received confirmation from the Department for Infrastructure that a new pedestrian crossing will be installed on the busy Limestone Road in the new year.

Nichola said: "We began working on this campaign after we were contacted by residents concerned about the speed and volume of traffic along the Limestone Road and the safety of school children, young people and parishioners in particular trying to cross it. "We're delighted that after much hard work and many meetings, this much needed new pedestrian crossing will be installed beside Holy Family Church and Holy Family Youth Club. Securing this crossing has been a hard fight. With no government and budget cuts, the Department for Infrastructure now only installs a very small number of new pedestrian crossings on a yearly basis. This was an issue of real concern for the local community so we kept making the case again and again.

"It is deeply frustrating that 20 months on there is still no local



Nichola Mallon MLA

Government to address the issues facing North Belfast and instigate the big changes and improvements we need. We can assure people however that at all times, even in the midst of the ongoing political deadlock, we will continue to do all that we can for everyone living in North Belfast".

Why don't you follow Ashton On Twitter
 twitter.com/ashtoncommtrust

University Campus Construction Sites: Community Complaints System

Fridge Magnets

Ashton has recently distributed fridge magnets to over 300 homes in the general area nearby to major construction works including the University of Ulster campus and student accommodation blocks. The fridge magnets contain phone contact details for residents wishing to complain about things like excessive noise particularly at night time. These works have already caused significant issues including excessive noise, pollution, vibration and rat infestation, traffic, parking and accessibility issues. Construction of the York Street Interchange may also proceed in the not too distant future and this is bound to create further problems. It is therefore important that local residents have a complaints /communication system in place that works effectively for them.

Contact Numbers

Anyone wishing to make a complaint can call the following numbers; 02890 373 006 - Belfast City Council (Day and Night Time)
For construction specific to Ulster University Campus- The Somague Company 02895 901 816. To assist community monitoring please copy your complaint to- hotline@ashtoncentre.com
When phoning you are likely to receive an automated response, however if you leave your contact details and state the nature of the complaint then someone on behalf of the City Council or the Ulster University should get back to you within 24 hours. At weekends the response may take longer.

hotline@ashtoncentre.com

In order to ensure that this system is adequately working for residents it is very important each time you make a complaint that you also summarise this by email to hotline@ashtoncentre.com. You should provide your contact details, nature of complaint and the day and time you made the complaint. By doing so, it enables community workers to monitor this process and ensure it is working properly. If you don't have email then ask someone that does to send the message on your behalf.

Residents/Contractor Communications System

In recent times community workers from Ashton have been coordinating meetings between local residents and a number of the building contractors responsible for undertaking the various constructions ongoing in the York street area, representatives from UU and Belfast City Council also attended. As a result of these meetings improved communications systems have been established between the local residents committee representing the general Lancaster



Campus Construction

Street area and a number of contractors. It is hoped that this more direct form of communication can in future help resolve issues more promptly and effectively. The communications system including face to face meetings, mobile, landline and email contact lists will remain in place for the duration of the works.

UU Car Park Build

Work is likely to commence early in the New Year on the new UU car park at Frederick Street. It is hoped that disruption to the lives of local residents can be kept to a minimum. If you live nearby and are adversely affected by noise or related issues please phone the numbers supplied in this article.

Residents Group

If you live in the general area and wish to become actively involved in the local residents group, contact Mark Hackett or Paul O'Neill at the Ashton Centre 028 90 742255.

Christmas Fair

Although it has no connection with the new Ulster University Campus development, Buoys Park which is right beside the campus has been transformed into a 'Festive Fair' as part of Belfast City Council's Christmas celebrations. The Fair has a range of features including a 'Big Wheel', traders stalls, rides and other attractions. The fair opened on Saturday 17th November to coincide with Belfast's Christmas Light Switch On and will operate until 6th January. It is open Mon to Fri 3.00 pm- 8.00pm, Sat 10.00 am to 8.00 pm and Sun 12 noon to 6.00 pm.

Construction Sites Wish To Complain?

For noise, vibration and dust complaints
Call Belfast City Council day/night: 02890 373 006

For construction at University campus:
Call 02895 901 816 (Somague)

To allow community monitoring copy
complaint to: hotline@ashtoncentre.com

BRIDGES SEWING

Mon - Fri 1.00pm - 3.00pm

Curtain Making, Formal
Dresses, Alterations Etc.

Ashton Centre, 5 Churchill Street

Belfast, BT15 2BP

Tel: 028 90742255

Community Survey

Ashton Commissions New Research Study To Encourage Local People To Have Their Say

Urban Development Issues

People living in Inner North Belfast are currently dealing with a number of difficult urban development issues particularly relating to the building of the new Ulster University campus and associated student accommodation projects. Against the backdrop of ongoing construction, local residents and community groups have been raising their concerns with the relevant agencies about immediate problems such as dust and air pollution, noise, traffic problems, parking, rodent infestation, accessibility, etc. They have also posed various questions about the short, medium and long term implications of all of this for local community life.

York Street Interchange

In addition to the UU campus, plans are also underway by the Department of Infrastructure (DFI) for the development of the York Street Interchange, indications are that this could begin in around two year's time. The work will last over three years and during this time there could be around 13 temporary phases as traffic is kept moving around the construction of deep cuttings and bridge work. This will have inevitable impacts and create challenges for the local community.

Area of Highest Impact

The area of highest impact includes approximately 400 homes, stretching from Henry Street to Frederick Street, properties in and around North Queen Street and the Sailortown area. The attached map indicates the extent of the whole Interchange works and the many sites that may be under construction over the same time.

Residents Survey

In response, the Ashton Community Trust has commissioned a research study to be undertaken around these works. A number of people that live locally have been trained and managed to carry out this study. The purpose of the study is to;

- Get a clearly recorded understanding of resident's needs, issues and concerns
- Enable residents to bring forward their own ideas and solutions to the various issues
- Encourage greater community activism and volunteering around these issues.

Protective Measures Needed

On completion of the survey it is



Community meeting on UU

intended to present the findings to the wider public including relevant statutory agencies and elected representatives. It is hoped that all recommendations within the final report will be given serious consideration and will motivate those with statutory decision making authority to take more effective measures to protect the social, economic, physical and environmental needs of the local population both during and in the aftermath of the works.

Community Volunteers

Local community volunteers are already calling to homes in the area to conduct the survey. It is expected that the survey will be completed soon and the findings released sometime early in 2019.

Ashton Community Trust



Newington Housing Association

Redevelopment Continues To Deliver Essential New Homes To North Belfast

Following on from the recent successful delivery of 56 new homes in 2017/2018 within lower North Belfast, Newington Housing is pleased to report that they are on track to acquire an additional 88 new homes within 2018/19.

In June 2018, they were delighted to take possession of 31 new homes, which were acquired through completion of Phase 1 of the New Lodge Redevelopment Scheme.

A further 8 new homes were acquired under Phase 2 in early September 2018.

An additional 18 new homes will be acquired by them under Phase 3 in mid-December 2018, whilst the remaining 31 new homes, under Phases 4 & 5, will be completed in early 2019.

As part of the handover process, tenant welcome boxes were distributed by the Association and Abundant Grace, a local

Christian organisation based in McCrory Hall on Duncairn Gardens.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Management within Newington Housing, we wish to express a warm welcome to our new tenants and sincerely thank all those who played a pivotal role in ensuring the delivery and handover of such essential new homes for the local area.

Moving forward, Newington Housing, as an organisation intends to continue to build upon their recent growth and success, whilst ensuring the service delivery standards to their existing tenants are maintained and remain at the core of what they do.

LEMIS+ Training Courses Available



TRAINING

We have the following training available

- Childcare Level 1
- Childcare Level 2
- Health and Social Care Level 1
- Health and Social Care Level 2
- Introduction to Hospitality Industry Level 1
- Basic Computers (Unaccredited)
- Personal Development
- Spreadsheets Software Level 1
- ECDL Essentials Level 1
- Wordprocessing Level 1
- Domestic Academy
- Construction Academy
- Warehousing Academy
- Hospitality Academy
- Retail Academy
- Food Production Academy
- Waste Management Academy
- Customer Services Academy
- World Host

If you would be interested in any of these training courses, get in touch with one of our Mentors on 90742255



174 Older Peoples Club 174 Trust

Dance – Bingo – Singsong
Every Saturday Night 8.00pm – 12.00am
Bring Your Own



Ulster University and North Belfast Community Partnerships Launch Community Benefit Framework

As construction continues on the Ulster University Belfast campus development, Vice-Chancellor Professor Paddy Nixon has launched a North Belfast Community Benefit Framework alongside local community partnerships. Ulster University affirmed its commitment to the greater North Belfast area via the co-creation of a Community Benefit Framework, developed jointly with Inner North Belfast Neighbourhood and Greater Shankill Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships. The purpose of the framework is to help realise the social, educational, environmental and economic benefits to the local community that will arise from the additional 15,000 students and staff that will move from the Jordanstown campus to the new Belfast development.

Community Opportunities

Guardians of the framework, Paul Roberts, Jackie Redpath, Professor Paddy Nixon and Professor Raffaella Folli launched one of the initiatives embedded in the framework, Community Fellows, a programme aimed at bringing the north Belfast community closer to the university by empowering individuals, offering training and Continuing Professional



From Left - Jackie Redpath, Professor Paddy Nixon, Paul Roberts and Professor Raffaella Folli

Development opportunities.

£250 Million Investment

Ulster University Vice-Chancellor Professor Paddy Nixon commented; "The £250 million investment in the Belfast campus will transform the local area and is intrinsically linked to the Belfast Agenda and City Deal proposals. We remain fully committed to working with the local community to enhance education provision, to develop improved educational and research outcomes, increased career opportunities and consequently a reduction in economic inactivity to create a thriving city with a prosperous economy."

Provost of the Belfast and Jordanstown campuses Professor Raffaella Folli commented;

"The Community Framework builds on our existing relationship with our neighbours in North Belfast. In recent months we have created a number of opportunities to invite our neighbours to experience first-hand the range of facilities and expertise available at Ulster University's civic spaces. I look forward to working with our community partners to ensure the transition of students to the Belfast campus is smooth and the mutual benefits are realised."

Significant Challenges

Paul Roberts Chair of Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership commented;

"The Inner North Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership is very pleased to be part of today's launch of the Community Benefit Framework. The Framework is a co-designed action plan that covers areas such as research, widening access and participation in education, arts and events and improving educational achievement.

"It is evidence of a new level of partnership working between the North Belfast Community and the University designed to realise the social, educational, environmental and economic benefits that will arise from the relocation of Ulster University to North Belfast. Our communities have faced significant challenges over many years, this Benefit Framework is our joint commitment to work together to create real and tangible benefits for our community and to show how the rich fabric of our community can create real benefit for the University. "One of the first actions is the Community Fellows programme which will improve links between the community and the university. This is very much the starting point and we look forward to the many more positive actions that will be realised over the coming months and years."

Widening Access

The community framework sets out a range of priorities for Ulster University and the Inner North Neighbourhood and Greater Shankill Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships in areas such as widening access to education, improving aspiration and achievement for boys in North Belfast, community arts spaces and collaboration opportunities and much more. For more information on the Belfast campus visit <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/campuses/belfast>



www.ulster.ac.uk

Centre for Flexible Education

Ulster University Community Fellow

Roles: 11 one from within each council area of Northern Ireland

Closing date: 30 November '18 Ref: UUCommFellow

Ulster University is seeking to appoint eleven talented individuals as University Community Fellows from across the council areas of Northern Ireland to join their Flexible Education team.

This new way of working in partnership with the wider region, will enhance 'the voice' from schools, community and the workforce to support further development of our curriculum and learning solutions which ensure increased access to Higher Education.

Our new Community Fellow network will be supported and encouraged to share their experiences through a range of activities and to disseminate information of University impact at a local level. Together we will provide a key layer which will contribute to the University's growing civic network across the region.

Respecting the diversity of our staff and student body, there are many ways in which individuals are experiencing University in today's modern world.

Commitment 12 days annually for a two year fixed term period.
An Honorary Stipend of £1000 per annum is payable.
Interviews will be held during the period 8 to 11 January 2019.
Details about the roles are available at:
<https://www.ulster.ac.uk/flexible-education/community-community-fellows>

To apply, please submit a CV and supporting statement directly to FlexEd@ulster.ac.uk using the Ref UUCommFellow in the email subject. These should address how you meet the criteria outlined in the role specification.

We welcome applications for these roles from all sections of the community and encourage applications from individuals who have transformed the lives of others through the provision of education. Appointments will be made on merit.

Uniting Communities Programme

Ashton

Although the Ashton originated in the New Lodge area over 25 years ago, since it's inception the organisation has grown to the point where it now has facilities spread throughout North Belfast and delivers services, projects and programmes across many communities and neighbourhoods. Just one such project is the Uniting Communities Programme.

Ardoyne/Ballysillan

The Uniting Communities Programme is a new and exciting youth work programme for young people aged 11-24 years living in the Ardoyne and Ballysillan areas. Funded by The Department for Communities (DfC) 'Uniting Communities through Sport and Creativity Programme' the programme is one of seven headline actions in the 'Together: Building a United Community' T:BUC strategy.

Partnership

The Uniting Communities Programme uses sport, physical and creative activity to build good relations between young people and communities which has been extended to the Ardoyne and Ballysillan Urban Village area. Led by Ashton, the programme is delivered in partnership with Ardoyne Youth Centre, Ardoyne Youth Enterprises, North Belfast Alternatives, Fab Lab, New Lodge Arts and TAMHI to deliver the community based activity for 11-16 year olds, initially running until March 2019.

Young Leaders

Alongside the 11-16 programme, a Young Leaders Training and Ambassadors programme for 16-24 year olds has also commenced with training provided by Dame Kelly Holmes Trust and Peace Players NI.

Team Builders

Young people taking part in the community programme have the



opportunity to get involved in team building days, residentials, and weekly sessions in sports, physical and creative activities. Participants on the programme so far have enjoyed connecting with other young people and engaging in team building activities hosted by Belfast Activity Centre, sport sessions delivered by TAMHI and physical sessions delivered by Flex Fitness with good relations themes incorporated into sessions so that young people can begin to explore and learn about each others culture and identity.

Coordinators

Ashton welcomes on-board our two new coordinators for the programme; Marc Young who is coordinating the community programme for Ballysillan and Caitlin Ewing who is coordinating the Ardoyne programme. Both coordinators are supported by local youth workers in each

area and all staff are working with the young people to build a fun and exciting programme through sports, physical and creative activities that meets their needs.

If you, or you know someone who would



like more information on the 11-16 or 16-24 year old programmes and are from the Ardoyne and Ballysillan areas please contact:

Caroline Delaney - Uniting Communities Programme Manager
Contact: 02890 742255
caroline.delaney@ashtoncentre.com

Ashton are now on Facebook, you can send us a friend request to keep up to date on all our services, we have also created a Like Page, where we will also post information on a regular basis about all of our services, please send friend request or like our page to be kept updated. Thank you

[facebook.com/ashton.centre](https://www.facebook.com/ashton.centre)
[facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust](https://www.facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust)

New Lodge Youth Centre Picture This!

The Picture This Group is based in the New Lodge Youth Centre. It consists of 10 young girls aged 14-15 and has been up and running for 6 weeks now. The idea for the group stemmed from conversations with the young people around their own interests and thoughts. They identified a number of things that they would like to get involved in both within the centre and in the wider community. Through these discussions one key feeling that kept shining through was the urge to 'give back' to the community and to those who at times are overlooked within society. They plan is now to work on these themes over the coming months through a series of actions and social events.

Funding Good Causes

The group have already started their journey. For example they recently hosted a Coffee Morning in the New Lodge Youth Centre open to everyone with all the proceeds going towards Children in Need. The event was a great success with good numbers of people coming through the doors and money raised for a great cause.

Making a Difference

Over the next few months the group plan to work alongside homeless people, young people with disabilities and elderly people. The basic idea is to try and help them make a positive difference to their lives.

Alongside this element of the programme the girls are also doing group work sessions with 'Ignition' who will teach them how to more effectively use the camera and gain photography skills. After this the girls will then document the work that they do. Through the programme the young people will gain experiential learning while also acquiring a deeper insight and understanding of the people they are working alongside. Watch this space.....

New Lodge Youth Centre is a project of Ashton



New Lodge Youth Centre International Networking

At the Youth Centre we take great pride in our work to develop effective international networking. Through this work we have established international partners in far-away places such as Barot-Romania, Jura -Switzerland, Palestine and Israel. In recent weeks we have been lucky to welcome some of our international partners to Belfast. Just recently a group from Barot accompanied by their leader Melinda engaged in a 4 day programme in Belfast/Newcastle. This was hosted by leaders from the New Lodge Youth Centre and one of our past employee's Sean McMullen. It was a once in life time experience for all involved. The programme saw the group from Romania engage with a group of young leaders from the NLYC who will in turn then travel to Barot next Easter to take part in a personal development programme. The programme finished with all the guys involved attending the fantastic North Belfast Lantern Parade.

Palestine

We also had a visit from our friends Abeer and Valentino from the youth organisation Yad Bin Yad who focus on work with young Palestinians in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. This was very productive as we aimed to strengthen our working relationships that flourished on the Building Walls Breaking Walls Programme. During these contacts we explored the potential of doing some future programmes using different forms of technology and establishing a young leadership programme.



Bridge of Hope Personal Development and Stress Management Programmes

Ashton's Health and Wellbeing Department, Bridge of Hope is well known for its personal development and stress management programmes and in the New Year once again there will be a wide variety of courses available.

At Bridge of Hope we take a holistic approach to health and wellbeing. Our Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) funded programmes treat the body and mind as a whole and provide the tools to help you feel positive. There are no previous skills or qualifications required to register for any Bridge of Hope programme and highly experienced tutors facilitate a bespoke course every time. Here are details of our latest courses available for 2019:

- **Take 5 Resilience** Saturday 12th January 2019

The Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing course is designed to help individuals to develop emotional resilience and wellbeing. It focuses on looking at practical ways the 5 steps can be incorporated into everyday life.

- **Confidence & Communication** Saturday 9th February 2019

Confidence and communication skills are an important aspect of life so whether you are working on your own self-esteem or wanting to improve your communication skills this workshop will help you focus on what is important for your own journey of personal development.

- **SWAN Saturday 16th February 2019**

The Strengths, Weaknesses, Ambitions & Needs (SWAN) programme is fantastic for both individuals and groups and really helps develop goal setting. By working on lifestyle, health, work and relationships this one-day stress management course helps people look at their lives and identify the best direction for them.

- **Love Yourself, Heal Your Life** 25th - 27th January and 22nd - 24th February

This is the workshop developed by Louise L Hay, internationally renowned metaphysical teacher and bestselling author. It has helped many thousands of people to make positive changes in their lives. The workshop helps you gain deeper insight into old patterns and gives you the tools and techniques to release more fully.

If you are interested in these VSS funded courses, please contact Training Co-ordinator Mary Stanton at McSweeney Centre 028 9032 2289 or by email mary@ashtoncentre.com



Halloween Haunted House in St Joseph's Sailortown

This Halloween, young people from Sailortown or 'The S(n)ailortown Crew Kids' as they call themselves, worked with art group Household Belfast to present a haunted house experience like no other. The kids who live in the Harbourview Apartments were participating in the 'City Will Eat you Alive' project which was held in St Joseph's Church where a maze of horrifying experiences were set up. There were Freakish Pies, Axe murderers, Ghouls, Zombies and an autopsy of Belfast by Doctor Guts.

In the lead up to the event the young people helped make spooky props, and amazing costumes and perfected scary make-up. On the night they pulled off some truly terrifying performances making it an experience to remember for everyone who came along.

Well done to everyone involved in staging this amazing sell-out event.

This event was supported by Sailortown Regeneration Group, Northern Ireland Screen Digital Film Archive, Clanmil and Big Lottery NI and is part of the ongoing project to regenerate Sailortown and restore St Joseph's Church to the heart of the Community. For more info on this project contact:

StJoesSailortown@gmail.com

or visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/StJoesSailortown/>

<https://twitter.com/StJoesBelfast>



NEW LODGE ARTS - BRINGING ARTS TO THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY SINCE 2003

Have you been to our annual Lantern Festival? Enjoyed one of our shows? Or have one of your kids benefited from our youth arts programmes or arts academy?

New Lodge Arts has been active in North Belfast and beyond since 2003.

Over 7,000 people participated in our community pride programme or attended our workshops in the last year alone. We think that's something to shout about!

We Need You!

To volunteer or to sign up to one of our programmes, please contact us on 02890742255 or call in to our office on Lepper Street. Alternatively, you can email Karen Smyth, our Arts Operations and Programme Manager at karen.smyth@ashtoncentre.com

We'd love it too if you would give us a like us at:

www.facebook.com/New-Lodge-Arts

Arts Academy 2018

Our popular arts academy started back in September and is going great. Next term starts week beginning 14th January 2019.

Mondays

FANCY FEET (Nursery-P1) 3.30pm-4.15pm Macrory Hall £2
 FANCY FEET (P2-P4) 4.15pm-5.00pm Macrory Hall £2
 TINY'S DRAMA (P1-P3) 3pm-4pm New Lodge Youth Centre £2
 JUNIOR DRAMA (P4-P7) 4pm-5.30pm New Lodge Youth Centre £2
 HIP HOP (P5-P7) 6pm-7pm Girdwood Hub £2
 HIP HOP (Adult) 7pm-8pm Girdwood Hub £3

Tuesdays

ARTY KIDS 3.00-4.30PM The Recy £2

Wednesdays

YOUTH DRAMA CLASS 7pm-9pm Girdwood Hub £3

Thursday

BALLET (Nursery-P1) 3pm-4pm The Recy £2
 BALLET (P2-P5) 4pm-5pm The Recy £2
 TINY'S DRAMA (P1-P4) 6pm-7pm Girdwood Hub £2
 JUNIOR DRAMA (P5-2ndyr) 7pm-8.30pm Girdwood Hub £2

More Classes For Little People And Adults Coming Soon!

Youth Development

Would you like to make new friends? Learn a new skill or gain a qualification? We have several groups that meet weekly as part of our annual programme. These include youth leadership, event management and youth advisory groups.

To get involved contact Joanne Smyth Youth Arts Worker on joanne.smyth@ashtoncentre.com or 028 9074 2255.

Lantern Festival 2018 – Alexandra Park, Belfast

We had a blast at this year's Lantern Festival. Our highest ever attendance yet with over 4,000 people in the park and over 1000 took part in the star and moon parade through the streets of North Belfast. Local families were treated to a fun packed programme over two days including free art workshops, circus performances, a surprise film



screening, musical entertainment from Abba tribute Bjorn Identity and a fireworks extravaganza!

Did you attend the festival? We want to hear from you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3Z9JMVP>

The North Belfast Lantern Festival is led by Ashton Community Trust and delivered by New Lodge Arts.

A Christmas Carol – It's Pantotime!

This year our youth theatre group are taking to the stage at Girdwood Hub for a musical version of Charles Dickens's Classic tale, a Christmas Carol.

Did you know? The story was written by Dickens in order to tackle the relatively new issue at the time of urban poverty, and in particular the growing underclass of disadvantaged people produced by the Industrial Revolution. With the decline in conventional farming and trade practices, and with the rise in new technological advancements, many people were suddenly without work and without the necessary skills to find a job.

Get all Christmassy, bring along your family and enjoy a tale that spreads joy, kindness and goodwill to all.

Tickets cost £3 per person and available from New Lodge Arts Office from 1 December 2018.

Performance: 7 pm daily on 11th and 12th December 2018. Venue: Girdwood Community Hub



Lantern Festival Photos




**NEW LODGE
ARTS**

**Christmas
Coffee & Jumper Morning**
Friday 14th December 8.30am - 2.00pm
Venue: New Lodge Arts Office

All funds In Aid of
North Belfast Advice
Partnership



ashton

Have you thought about an Apprenticeship In **Health & Social Care** Level 2

Do you live in Belfast?

Ashton in Partnership with People 1st are delivering a Level 2 Apprenticeship in Health and Social Care



Entry Requirements:

- be under 25 years old
- if you do not have your GCSE grades C or above in English and Maths, you will be required to undertake Essential Skills in Literacy & Numeracy at Level 1
- complete an Access NI check
- be employed in a registered adult Health & Social Care organisation

If you feel this is the career for you, please contact Joanne on 02890 742255 or email joanne.clarke@ashtoncentre.com

We look forward to hearing from you soon!!!



This project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014-2020 and the Department for the Economy.

North Belfast Bins:

1. TESCO Yorkgate
2. ASDA Shore Road
3. Co-Op - Oldpark
4. Grove H&W Centre
5. Glandore GP Surgery
6. North Queen Street – GP Surgery

The RAPID drug disposal bin, is a joint health and community safety focussed initiative supported by a range of key statutory and community partners.

The RAPID Initiative Supports Communities to:

- Dispose of unwanted medication or illegal drugs easily and discreetly
- Learn more about the risks and dangers of drug misuse



Together, making our community a safer place to live.

Visit www.drugsandalcoholni.info for more information

Belfast Works LEMIS+ Project

Are you claiming Universal Credit (ESA Element), PIP or not claiming benefits at all?

#MakeAChange

The LEMIS+ Project offers a free, confidential 1-1 mentoring service to build confidence and overcome barriers.

Participants will benefit from:

- ⊕ Setting goals and moving forward
- ⊕ Developing new skills
- ⊕ Managing stress and anxiety
- ⊕ Personal development and confidence building

For more information contact:

A LEMIS+ Mentor at the Ashton Centre on (028) 90742255

www.lemisplus.eu

The LEMIS+ Project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 - 2020 and the Department for the Economy.



Need basic computer skills?
Take control

Computer classes for beginners

- From turning on a computer and learning to use a mouse, to using the internet and setting up an email account
- Set your own pace on this relaxed course for those who haven't used computers much - or at all

For more information contact a LEMIS+ mentor:

Belfast Works
LEMIS+ Project

Contact one of our Mentors on 02890742255

Led by Ashton Community Trust in partnership with East Belfast Mission, GEMS NI, Job Assist Centre Greater Shankill and Job Assist Centre West Belfast.

The LEMIS+ Project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 - 2020 and the Department for the Economy.

Drug and Alcohol Services for North Belfast

When alcohol or drug use becomes a problem in a person's life it can be hard to know where to turn, but don't panic, help is close at hand. This card provides details of sources of support available locally.

Help for Young People

What you need	Who can help	Age	Contact
<i>I want advice or help with my drinking or drug use to cut down, stop or stay stopped.</i>	DAISY Service (Start360/ASCERT)	11-25	028 9043 5815
	Extern Reach Out Project	<18	07442 533165
	Falls Community Council	<18	028 9020 2030

Help for Adults

What you need	Who can help	Age	Contact
<i>I want advice or help with my drinking or drug use to cut down, stop or stay stopped.</i>	Treatment and Support		
	Addiction NI	18+	028 9066 4434
	ASCERT	18+	0800 2545 123
	BHSCT Addiction Services	18+	Ask your GP to refer you
	Dunlewey Addiction Services	18+	028 9039 2547
	Falls Community Council	18+	028 9020 2030
<i>I am not ready to stop. I am an injecting drug user or a chronic drinker and at risk of losing my home.</i>	Harm Reduction Services		
	Drug Outreach Team (Injecting drug users)	18+	028 9504 1433 or 028 9504 7301
<i>I have stopped taking alcohol or drugs and need support to help keep it that way.</i>	Extern Alcohol Housing Support Service	18+	028 9033 0433
	Recovery Groups		
	Alcoholics Anonymous	18+	028 9043 4848 www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie
	Narcotics Anonymous	18+	07810 172991

Help for Families

What you need	Who can help	Age	Contact
<i>If someone you care about is drinking or using drugs you can get advice and support too.</i>	Addiction NI	18+	028 9066 4434
	Al-Anon and Al-Ateen Support Groups	12+	028 9068 2368
	DAISY Service (Start360/ASCERT)	Any	028 9043 5815
	Falls Community Council	Any	028 9020 2030
	Families Affected by Addiction Support Group	18+	07803 526709
<i>Whether it is your parent, child, partner or someone else these services can help you better cope with the situation.</i>	Reaching Out Family Support Group	18+	07729 184612
	Steps to Cope (where a parent is drinking/using drugs)	11-18	0800 2545 123 www.stepstocope.co.uk
<i>The person who is using alcohol or drugs does not even have to be getting help themselves.</i>			

If it is an emergency or you need urgent support or advice you can contact:

Your GP
Out of hours GP service 028 9074 4447
Call 999 for the emergency services or present in person at your local Hospital Emergency Department (ED)
Lifeline on 0808 808 8000 (24/7 free)
Childline on 0800 1111 (24/7 free)

Some advice for anyone taking alcohol or drugs to keep them safer.

Only use one substance at a time. Mixing different drugs, including alcohol, increases the risk of overdose.

The strength of a drug can differ each time. Only take a small amount and wait to see its effect before taking any more.

Never use when alone and always look out for your mates. If someone has an unexpected reaction call 999 for an ambulance straight away.

Details of all drug and alcohol services in NI are available at www.drugsandalcoholni.info or by contacting the Belfast Drug and Alcohol Coordination Team Connections Service at connections@bdact.info. This card has been produced by the North Belfast Drug and Alcohol Stakeholder Forum and the Belfast Drug and Alcohol Coordination Team.

Have you thought about an Apprenticeship In **Childcare**?

Do you live in Belfast?

Ashton in Partnership with People 1st are delivering a Level 2 Apprenticeship in Childcare.



The successful candidate will;

- be under 25 years old
- have Grade C in English and Maths, OR relevant Level 2 Essential Skills qualifications, OR be willing to gain these Essential Skills
- live in Belfast
- be committed to a career in childcare and completing an Apprenticeship
- be willing to have an Access NI check
- be employed in a new role, OR have a written offer of a new role, in Child Care Setting

If you feel this is the career for you, please contact Joanne on 02890 742255 or email joanne.clarke@ashtoncentre.com

We look forward to hearing from you soon!!!



This project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014-2020 and the Department for the Economy.

North Queen St Community Centre
Recy Christmas Events

Tuesday 4th December
Bus to Christmas Craft Fair in Ardoyne CC
Bus leaves RECY @12.30pm Returns 2pm
FREE

Wednesday 5th December
Christmas Art & Crafts (p.1-p.7)
3pm - 4.15pm
Limited Places - Cost £1

Christmas Home Safety Event!
Beat the Burglar Packs
2pm - 5pm
FREE

Christmas Wreath Making (Adults)
6.30pm - 9pm
Limited Places - £2 Supplement

Friday 7th December
Panto Trip - Hansel & Gretel
(By Youth Action)
6.15pm - 9.30pm
Limited Places - Cost £2

Monday 10th December
Christmas Flower Arranging Evening (Adults)
6.30pm
Limited places - (£2 supplement)

Tuesday 11th December
Christmas Movie Night (ELF)
(Hot chocolate, marshmallows and cookies provided)
6.30pm
Free Event!
To book places and for info contact Tina - 02890333945



Kinderkids Daycare: High Quality Childcare, Local & Professional

Kinderkids Daycare is a department of Ashton Community Trust that was established in 2000 as a social enterprise. Since then, Kinderkids has expanded in response to local need and now operates four childcare centres in North Belfast from Carlisle Circus to the Cliftonville Road. This long history of providing high quality childcare services means we understand that choosing the right childcare for your child is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Kinderkids wants to support you in making this decision and invite you to visit us at any of our childcare centres.



The aim of Kinderkids Daycare is:

To provide high quality childcare services to children, thereby supporting their development and improving parent's access to education, training, employment and family support services.

Kinderkids operates 50 weeks per year from 8am - 6pm and caters for children from birth to 12 years.



Play & Early Learning

Kinderkids understands that play is paramount to a child, has a purpose and is a step towards the learning and understanding of valuable skills.

At Kinderkids Daycare we implement the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) for children aged 0 to 5. The EYFS ensures that children are supported in their learning and development. The EYFS comprises of four main themes;

- **A Unique Child**
- **Positive Relationships**
- **Enabling Environments**
- **Learning & Development**

For more information, contact us at:

Kinderkids Ashton Centre - Manager: Fionnuala Black
Telephone: 028 90742255 Email: fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com

Kinderkids Cliftonville - Manager: Charlene Foster
Telephone: 028 90 749146 Email: charlene.foster@ashtoncentre.com

Kinderkids 1 McSweeney Centre - Manager: Andrea Sammut
Telephone: 028 90 333966 Email: andrea.sammut@ashtoncentre.com

Kinderkids 2 McSweeney Centre - Manager: Sharon Rooney
Telephone: 028 90 322289 Email: sharon.rooney@ashtoncentre.com

Or call into any of our 4 Daycares



Ashton CORE Project runs hugely successful Hospitality Job Academy!

Last week saw the newly developed Hospitality Job Academy run for 16-24 year olds in North Belfast. A group of 8 young people were offered employment at the end of a 5 day training course which included an employer visit to the Odyssey, qualifications completed in World Host Customer Service, Food Hygiene, Health and Safety and CV and Interview skills. At the end of the course the CORE team invited 3 employers in to interview for live jobs which let them put all of their skills learnt throughout the week into practice. All clients were offered employment at the end due to the hard work of the CORE team and the clients themselves.

The CORE project continues to offer 1-2-1 support with expert mentors, accredited training in a range of sectors and live job opportunities for anyone who is aged 16-24, and living in North Belfast and not in employment, education or training.

The CORE Project is funded by the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014-2020 and the Department for the Economy.

Members of the
North Belfast Men's Shed
Invite You To Their
Open Day and Christmas Sale
Tuesday 11th December 2018
10.30am – 3.00pm
FREE LUNCH PROVIDED
Come down and view many beautiful craft items and jewellery from £1 to £20 - made by Shed Members – perfect gifts for someone special this Christmas! All proceeds to the Men's Shed.
12.00am – Welcome from Alderwoman Deirdre Hargey, Lord Mayor of Belfast.
North Belfast Men's Shed, Unit L41, Edenderry Industrial Estate, 326 Crumlin Road, Belfast BT14 7EE
RSVP – Martina Tel: 028 322289
martina.donnelly@ashtoncentre.com

OCN Childcare Class Level 1

Have you always been interested in a career in Childcare but don't know how to go about gaining the necessary skills? Our short introductory course is the perfect starting point.

Psychology
Development
Health & Safety
Child Protection
Play

Contact one of our Mentors on 02890742255

Belfast Works
LEMIS Project

Ashton Community Trust
Employment & Training Services

Calling all Residents!

Do you have the Essential Skills for everyday life and work?

English + Maths + ICT = Essential Skills

New English and Maths courses are starting in **September** in your area. Computers (ICT) are used in English and Maths classes, so you can improve your computer skills too!

Courses are **LOCAL + FREE** + lead to a recognised **QUALIFICATION**

Make 2018 the year to start your Essential Skills journey!

If you would like to find out more:

+ phone: Hilary on 028 9074 2255
+ email: hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com
+ call in person at the Ashton Centre

ashton

'Serving North Belfast for over 25 years'

Ashton Community Trust is an award winning regeneration charity that has been delivering services in North Belfast for over 25 years. It employs over 250 people delivering a wide range of services. The Trust has a number of departments who have an online presence, please visit their websites, like their pages on Facebook or follow them on Twitter to be kept up to date on activities of Ashton Community Trust. Ashton's service delivery outputs are an important element in community and social development in North Belfast. In each of our service delivery areas we are constantly working to improve and grow the services we provide. Below is a brief summary of some of our key services.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust>
Website: <http://www.ashtoncentre.com/>

Main Ashton contact number: 028 90 74 22 55

Bridge of Hope is a community based health and emotional wellbeing service that works with individuals, families and communities affected by the conflict. Our services include complementary therapies, life coaching, psychological therapies including trauma counselling, personal and professional development, legacy and conflict analysis, as well as accredited VTCT training. We take a person centred approach to all of the work we do. You can easily access support by self-referring or by asking your GP or health care worker to refer you into us. Our local clinics operate from the Ashton Centre, McSweeney Centre and Alliance Avenue. We also deliver services in outreach locations right across the city of Belfast.

If you would like to take steps to better health and wellbeing please phone and talk to the team on: 028 9022 1022 or 028 9543 8707. You can read lots more about Bridge of Hope by checking us out on Facebook or logging onto our website.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeofhope.org>
Website: <http://www.thebridgeofhope.org/>

New Lodge Youth Centre

In 2012 the management of the Youth Centre in Upper Meadow Street, locally known as the Grey Gables, was officially handed over by the Belfast Education and Library Board to the Ashton Community Trust (ACT). The decision by ACT to take over management was based on the need to improve usage by local young people, increase programme delivery and maximise the overall potential. Some of the services provided include creative thinking skills, drama, arts and crafts, issue-based group work, cultural awareness, community relations, healthy lifestyles, positive behaviour and other programmes. For further information contact 9075 1358

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NewLodgeYouthCentre>
Website: www.ashtoncentre.com/services/youth-development/

FabLab (Digital Fabrication Laboratory) is halfway between a laboratory and a workshop it's a place where you can make (almost) anything, where both small children and inventors can turn an idea into reality. We can make products out of wood, acrylic, composite moulds, silicon, cardboard, sheet aluminium, plastics, copper foil and vinyl using various technological methods. FabLab works with young people, students, community and voluntary organisations, arts groups and individuals, schools, universities and businesses helping people to develop their creativity, skills and life opportunities. For further information contact: 9075 5412

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FabLabBelfast/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FabLabBelfast>

Website: <https://www.fablabbelfast.org/>

The **Employment & Training Service** has a 20 year track record of delivering training and employability initiatives to unemployed people in North Belfast. Unemployed clients get one to one mentoring, access to high quality training and help identifying and applying for work. The organisation has developed strong links with local community groups, schools and employers and operates from over 20 outreach centres across North Belfast to ensure that all sections of the community have access. For further information contact 9074 2255

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AshtonEmploymentServices>

Website: <http://www.ashtoncentre.com/services/training-and-employment/>

New Lodge Arts provides an exciting and packed programme for young people of all ages in dance, drama, film-making, carnival arts, visual arts, volunteer development and youth leadership. We work with approximately 2000 children and young people each year. Our key aim is to make the Arts accessible to all in our communities regardless of age, gender or background. For further information contact 90742255

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nlarts?fref=ts>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/newlodgears>

Website: <http://www.newlodgears.com/>

Kinderkids Daycare was established as a social enterprise by Ashton Community Trust in 2000. Since then, the daycares have expanded in response to demand and now operate three daycare centres in North Belfast. Kinderkids provides childcare services to over 250 children aged from birth -12 years. Each daycare is committed to providing high quality, day care and after schools services to children, thereby supporting their development and improving parents' access to education, training, employment and support services.

Kinderkids believes that learning begins at birth and has a profound effect on lifelong development and adult wellbeing. They acknowledge that quality child care promotes healthy child development at the same time as it supports families, reduces child poverty, advances equality, and deepens social inclusion. For further information contact 9074 2255

<http://www.ashtoncentre.com/services/childcare-family-support/>

The community magazine is produced by Ashton Community Trust with support from
Belfast City Council

