

Greater New Lodge Community Magazine

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Social Action In The 7 Hills - New Lodge



Community Activists At New Mural Dedicated To Noah

A number of local community groups from the Greater New Lodge Community Empowerment Partnership (GNLCEP) have come together to develop a Social Action Project in collaboration with residents living in the Seven Hills section of the area. The aim is to give local residents a morale boost by brightening up some of the physical aspects in and around their homes.

This Social Action/Civic Engagement Project delivered by New Lodge Housing Forum, Star Neighbourhood Centre and Safer Streets Committee is part of the Communities in Transition Capacity Building Programme (North Belfast) led by Ashton Community Trust, funded by TEO and managed by Cooperation

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<https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

Community workers and volunteers have been working hard in recent weeks to organise the project. The nearby Family Centre has also been involved and recently completed a comprehensive clean-up of their out-door area.

Residents Survey

The first stage of the project involved carrying out a survey with local residents living in the Bruslee/Pinkerton/New Lodge Road area. Kate Clarke Chairperson of New Lodge Safer Streets Committee said, "We had to be really mindful of social distancing precautions but have managed to engage with most residents on a door to door basis. I have to say the response has been absolutely great and everyone is very supportive of this initiative. Another part of the process is to

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New Lodge Festival Programme 2021



See pages 13 - 16 for this years Festival.

Limited Programme

Due to the pandemic this year's programme will look and feel much different compared with previous times with the number and range of events much reduced.

[@newlodgefestival](https://twitter.com/newlodgefestival)

Community magazine Supported by Belfast City Council, Newington Housing Association and Ashton Community Trust



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Open Letter - New Lodge Housing Forum

Dear resident,

We are writing to you for the purpose of updating you of some recent improvements in the local area. Over the past number of months our group have been working with various departments within the Housing Exe. This includes their senior management team, patch managers, maintenance officers and the section which deals with maintenance problems.

We have been successful in improving or replacing gates in the following areas

- Trainfield St (2 gates)
- Ludlow Sq (1 gate)
- Below New Lodge Place (1 gate)
- Hardinge Place (1 gate)
- Fencing between Spamount St and New Lodge Rd on North Queen Street
- The improving of the gates has helped in tackling low levels of anti social activity



We have also dealt with a high number of referrals maintenance issues such as heating, electrics, flooding and plastering etc. We have built a relationship with the section dealing with these issues to ensure a prompt and professional service will be provided.

We have been in regular contact with Belfast City Council regarding the lifting of rubbish which has been illegally dumped. There was a rise in the number of bins which were stolen and we had a number of them replaced.

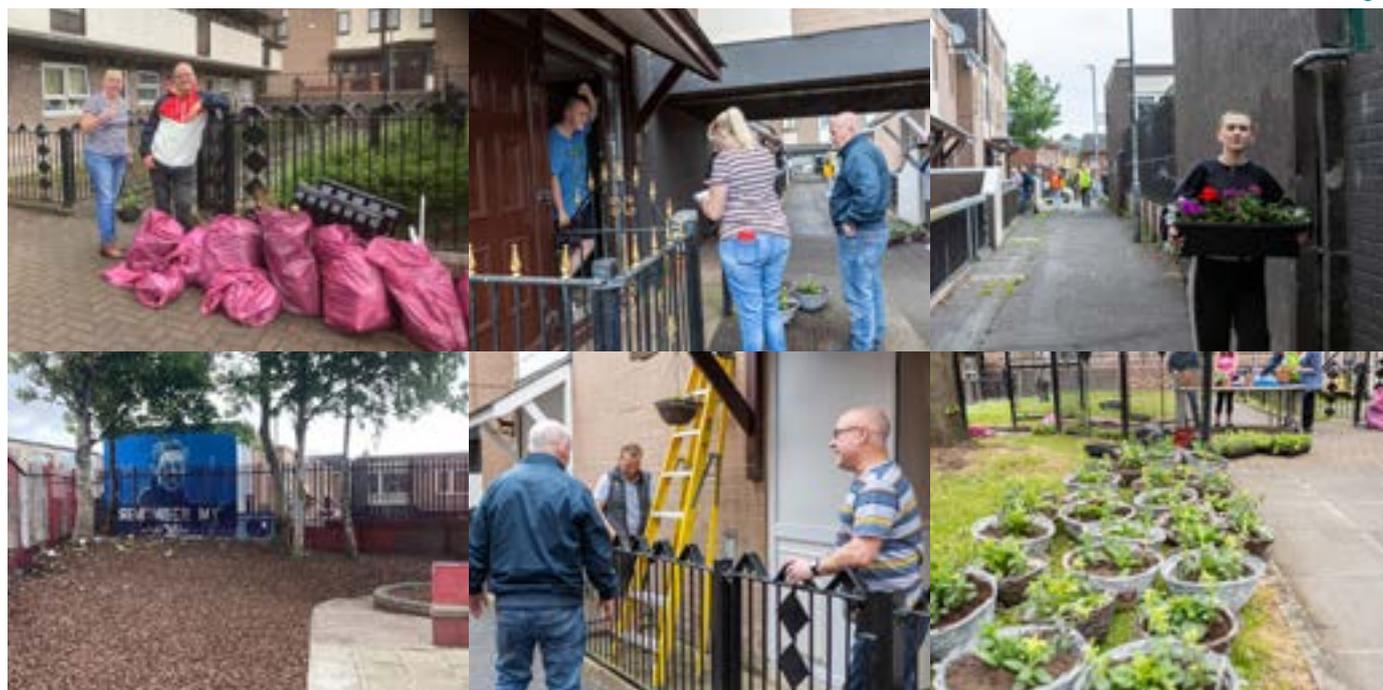
There is also a rise in the reports of the presence of vermin in different parts of the area and we have been in contact with the statutory bodies responsible to deal with the issue. We have also assisted residents with their housing applications and we are delighted that 3 families have recently been allocated new homes in the Carrickhill area.

We are working with Community Restorative Justice Ireland who provide a mediation service to the residents of the Greater Lodge area. They have organised a clinic which takes place in our office on Monday and Wednesday morning between 9.30am and 12.30 pm. If you have any issues please contact them or contact our group who will arrange appointments.

Before the covid situation arose we had a very successful Welfare Rights clinic which took place every Wednesday in our office. We are delighted to inform you that the service will resume on Wednesday 28th July between the hours of 4pm and 8 pm.

If you have any issues relating to housing please contact Gerry O Reilly (housing worker) on 07704506903 at The New Lodge Housing Forum

Social Action In The 7 Hills - New Lodge



Social Action In The 7 Hills - New Lodge

Continued from page 1

establish a residents 'Whats App' group to encourage greater communication between residents and Safer Streets which will help in dealing with any problems as and when they arise".

Community Spirit

Liam Wiggins, well known community activist and Chairperson of the New Lodge Housing Forum said, "For a long time now we have been working alongside residents in this part of the area as well as with various statutory authorities and local elected representatives to improve the living conditions. So we see this particular initiative as just another part of that long term process. Our intention is to build on this project to create further improvement and to enhance a sense of togetherness and community spirit".

Mural in Memory of Noah

Mark Hackett of Ashton Community Trust said, "The project provides hanging baskets, pot plants, lights for home frontages, power hosing facility and general clean up. Local youth groups also suggested we create a brand new mural in memory of young Noah Donohoe. This has now been completed and it is quite striking. Although financial resources for this project were quite limited it all goes to show how much can actually be achieved through cooperative community action and innovation".

Community Action

On Thursday morning 24th June despite pouring rain residents and community workers got together to conduct the process of putting in place hanging baskets, pot plants and home lighting. Local Councillor and handy man extraordinaire JJ Magee was there to help residents put up hooks and hanging frames for the baskets.



COVID 19 Community Response

People Helping People

When things were at their worst during the Covid 19 pandemic, here in the New Lodge, the response was exceptional with many community workers and volunteers springing into action to counteract the severe isolation, vulnerability and hardship experienced by so many. In the face of monumental challenges and operating under various restrictions, community activists had to rapidly readapt their thinking and practice. Yet despite the many complications involved they managed to successfully deliver a huge range of crucially important services and activities. This including food banks, family support, childcare, welfare advice, housing assistance, mental health care and counselling, youth development, arts and leisure activities, victims and survivors provision, training, education and employment services, capacity building, urban planning, community safety responses, communications systems and much more.



Kinderkids Daycare



New Lodge Arts



New Lodge Youth Centre



Food Bank



Tar Isteach



TDK Residents Group



North Belfast Mens Shed



New Lodge Safer Streets

People Helping People

A small selection of photos of some of the groups helping across Greater New Lodge



Sailortown Regeneration



Breakthrough Programme



Ashton Family Support



Star Neighbourhood Centre



Communities In Transition



Newington Housing Association

NLYC Thats What She Said Magazine

Four staff from New Lodge Youth Centre have started up a project called 'Thats What She Said' which is a female intergenerational magazine. There will be six editions in total covering topical issues that affect women these editions will be released once monthly. The aim of this project is to educate, empower and inspire women to be more confident in who they are.

The project had its first launch night on Monday the 28th of June where they invited young women from different youth centres, Mountcollyer Youth Centre, Glenparent Youth Centre, and Ardyone Youth Centre along with their own senior girls. The night was a great success in creating a space for young women to express their views and feelings on things that affect them. The project will be working closely with the centres involved in creating an edition for the magazine. If anyone wants to keep updated on what the 'Thats What She Said' project is doing, you can find them on facebook at www.facebook.com/shesaidnlyc

This Social Action/ Civic Engagement Project delivered by New Lodge Youth Centre is part of the Communities in Transition Community Safety Programme (North Belfast) led by Ashton Community Trust. The latest magazine can be downloaded from <https://www.ashtoncentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Change-Magazine-Issue-2-July-2021-Web-Email.pdf>



Our Place! Our City! Young Volunteers Make Community Documentary

Two young volunteers with New Lodge Arts have just come through an exciting and innovative new project involving the art of film-making. Working with local film-maker James Rea of Bohemian Productions, the young people were taken through a series of workshops where they were given an insight into the techniques and skills needed to create and produce a film. When the workshops were completed they were then able to put their learning into practice through the actual experience of making a real film. The film is entitled 'Our Place! Our City!'

"It has been a great experience working with Thomas & Amy during the making of this film. To watch them grow and develop over each stage of the film-making process has been really rewarding to see. They demonstrated a sincere willingness to learn about the art of film-making, but also in the tackling of social issues that affect them and their community." - James Rea Jr (Film-Maker)

The project was funded through the Communities in Transition Programme and organised by the Ashton Community Trust. In addition to developing skills and gaining new understandings about the complexities of film making, the young volunteers also learned about some of the important social and economic issues that directly affect their local community. This included a study of the contents of City Council's 2017 strategy document called the 'Belfast Agenda'. The key focus of their investigation centred on promises made in the document concerning the city's connectivity and regeneration.

Another important aspect of the project involved the young people interviewing local community activists as



well as a senior official from the City Council to gather their views on what the future should look like from their perspectives. The film concludes with the young people's own considered views on the future of the local neighbourhood within the context of city regeneration as projected in the Belfast Agenda.

'Our Place! Our City!' will be shown as part of this year's Greater New Lodge Community Festival and can be accessed on Ashton's YouTube Channel. At <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfal7uvSi7xlxUp1HCdp9pQ>



Star Neighbourhood Centre Pays Tribute to Eddie Deery R.I.P.

I know many of you reading this will have known Eddie Deery, yes, his surname name was Deery and not "The Busman". Over 20 years ago Jim Deery the then manager of the Star Neighbourhood Centre asked his brother Eddie if he would volunteer at the Star. His original job description was to drive the minibus on trips during the summer scheme. But Eddie became so much more.

It would be easier to name the groups and organisations that Eddie did not work with.

From small children – all safely strapped into their booster seats, the youth groups that pestered Eddie to "turn the radio up", the older people that loved a sing song and the football teams that left mucky footprints after the game. Eddie ferried them all.

During community fun days, events and celebrations Eddie was there to transport barbeques, tables, chairs, gazebos, and any other thing that he could squeeze into his minibus. Eddie will also be remembered by countless families for his 'airport runs'. Many of us started our holiday journeys in Eddies minibus and he returned us



all home safe and sound when the holidays were over. Eddies contribution to the success and growth of the Star Neighbourhood Centre was invaluable. Eddie will always be a part of our story. Always missed and never forgotten by his Star family.

Slan a Chara
Maria Valente - Star Neighbourhood Centre

Tar Isteach

Tar Isteach has provided Welfare Rights Advice, Counselling, Advocacy and Family Support for over 20 years. Throughout the covid health crisis Tar Isteach remained open to provide those professional and effective support services. Demand for these services increased throughout the crisis. Thankfully Tar Isteach has good, well established working relationships the local community network and with agencies such as NIHE and the Social Security Agency that helped to facilitate the resolution of many of the complex issues that presented. We believed that it was important to

maintain a localised presence as people faced heighten anxiety and isolation.

Communities in Transition

This provision will continue with the addition of the Communities in Transition programme. Resourced by The Executive Office the Republican Ex-Prisoner support programmes will support Republican Ex-Prisoners who continue to face barriers to their full equality of rights in the North Belfast, West Belfast, Derry, Lurgan Communities in Transition Areas.





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Essential Skills

Calling all Residents!

Do you have the Essential Skills for everyday life and work?
English + Maths + ICT = Essential Skills

Make 2021 the year to start your Essential Skills journey!

New short English, Maths and (ICT) computer courses are starting in July for anyone living in BT14 and BT15.

Courses cover:

- ✓ Improving everyday Maths
- ✓ Communication skills for Life + Work
- ✓ Using computers for English and Maths

Department for Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

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

If you would like to find out more email Hilary on:
hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com or message us on:
<https://www.facebook.com/ashtonessentialskills/>

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Just text your name to:
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Recruitment For Adult Programme @ 174 Trust

Our disability team from the 174 Trust are aware that when our young people get to the age of 18 there are very limited opportunities for them. We have been lucky enough to get funding this year to offer extra support to young adults with disabilities.

We are running an adult programme from the age of 18 - 25 to encourage young adults to learn about independency and gaining experience and more knowledge around day to day activities. The programme promotes personal development and inclusion, reduce stigma, support individual needs and the development of meaningful relationships with others. The programme will give the young adults with disabilities opportunities to learn, grow and develop within personal development, independent living skills and citizenship.

The young adults will take part in fun based activities and day to day social opportunities. They will also take part in social action projects such as helping out in the community, building relationships, taking up new hobbies and work experience. The project will cater for

12 young adults from all sides of the community in north Belfast.

The programme runs on a Monday night, for anymore information contact Linda Duffy and Riona Fitzpatrick at 07562293120



New Lodge Housing Forum-Update

It seems a long time since our last update and events since have meant that the major projects we were working on before the pandemic unfortunately faded into the background while we struggled to cope with the unprecedented situation we found ourselves in. In fairness to the Housing Executive(H.E.) they have managed to provide an emergency response to repairs while maintaining the safety protocols laid down in emergency legislation.

Upper Long Streets

The main projects affecting the Greater New Lodge were the overdue completion of the Upper Long Streets Redevelopment and the rolling out of the Housing Executive's tower block strategy. As we gradually move out of lockdown and into some sort of normality, whatever that may be, we have again spoken to our M.L.A. Carol with a view to organizing a meeting with Minister Hargey in the hope of kickstarting the process. To remind people the H.E. had initiated an independent survey of the dwellings and the result was they were unfit for purpose, furthermore to attempt to repair them even to the most basic level of fitness would cost an estimated 30,000 pounds per dwelling and they would still be 150 years old. As a result we are convinced the redevelopment plans, already drawn up, will be implemented. The question is when?

Tower Blocks

In regards to the tower blocks, plans have altered slightly. With ongoing consultation during lockdown, using "zoom" to comply with guidelines, it is accepted that, while the H.E. push forward with their strategy to remove all towers in the next 30 years, the lack of space in the New Lodge dictates that our blocks won't be in any early phase. That being the case the Seven Towers Residents are now pushing for major refurbishment schemes in six of the seven blocks.

This includes a permanent new roof for Maeve and other structural works to the block to prevent running water entering many of the dwellings. We will also be asking for environmental schemes, windows, kitchens, bathrooms etc. to be implemented throughout the towers.

Oisin House has not been included because, while several flats had been vacated, the pandemic demanded many closed up dwellings be used to house homeless and street dwellers. As we move out of lockdown it is hoped this block could be used to act as decants for the Long Streets when the go ahead is given.

The tower blocks have suffered more than most lately with some staff suffering from Covid and many more on furlough, however, things are returning to some form of normality and the residents committee are using zoom to keep pressing ahead on ongoing issues, anti-social behavior, allocations, security, and more concierge cover.

Housing Office

Meanwhile the Housing Office remains open and Housing Worker Gerry O'Reilly will give his own update on day to day issues in this edition.

Liam Wiggins, Chair, New Lodge Housing Forum.



New Lodge Housing Forum

Who we are: A committee of volunteers and one community housing worker based in the New Lodge to support the improvement of the quality lives of the tenants living in the Greater New Lodge.

Assist Tenants On Issues Relating To:

- Repairs
- ECM Schemes
- Environmental Issues
- Sign Posting
- Service Suppliers
- Housing Campaigns/ Redevelopment
- Computers for Residents Use

How you can get in touch: Drop in to our housing office between the hours of:
9am - 2pm Mon to Thurs
9am - 1pm Friday

New Lodge Housing Forum
23 New Lodge Road, BT15 2BU
Phone: (028) 90 742 399
Email: thenewlodgehousingforum@gmail.com



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henrietta.black@ashtoncentre.com
sharlene.tester@ashtoncentre.com
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Belfast Works Employability Programme

Belfast Works
TRAINING | EMPLOYMENT | SUPPORT

The Belfast Works Employability Programme offers a tailored service which meets your needs whatever your situation. If you are unemployed or working less than 16 hours per week we can give you the help and support you need to get back into sustainable employment. Once you are signed up to the programme you will be assigned a dedicated mentor who will help you to take the next steps in developing your career or getting a job. We can help to fine tune your CV and give you the skills required to fill in application forms and prepare you for interviews. We work with many employers in your local area who are looking for people just like you. Because we have strong relationships with these employers we have exclusive access to jobs that you won't see advertised anywhere else which gives you a better chance of being successful at interview as we know exactly the skills they are looking for.

Free Accredited Training

As a result of Covid-19 our top priority is ensuring that our clients are kept as safe as possible by conducting all of our meetings remotely over the telephone (or through online platforms such as Zoom). We are even running free accredited training courses over the internet to ensure that you are fully prepared once you get that new job. Our offices might be closed at the moment but we are still open for business so give us a call or send us a message on the Belfast Works Facebook page and take the first step to changing your life.

Parallel Support Service

The Belfast Works Parallel Support Service is a bespoke programme for anyone who wants to get back to work but perhaps doesn't feel quite ready at the moment for one reason or another. We have a dedicated team who will work with you to try to break down any barriers you feel are preventing you from entering the world of work. Some of these barriers could be any anxiety, depression, low self-esteem or anything which is making it more difficult for you to realise your potential. Whatever it is we have a programme that is just right for you based on your preferences. We are totally client centred meaning that we will involve you in the whole process and always go at a pace that is just right for you to ensure that you

Upcoming training that will be running:

- Personal Development
- Employability Skills
- Childcare
- Health & Social Care
- Business Admin
- Core Skills
- Word Basics – Non-accredited
- Excel Basics – Non-accredited
- PowerPoint Basics – Non-accredited
- Introduction to Cloud computing – Non-accredited

Please visit

www.ashtoncentre.com/contactbelfastworks/
to sign up with Belfast Works.

get the most out of this experience.

Our Parallel Support Mentors have a wealth of experience in helping people just like you realise your dreams. There has never been a better time to make a positive change.

You can sign up we can even arrange fully accredited training courses that you can complete from the comfort of your own home to enable you to reach your maximum potential and change your life for the better.

We are preparing to re-open our offices but in the meantime for more information please give us a call or register your interest on the Belfast Works Facebook page and we will be in touch to let you know what the next steps are. **What have you got to lose?**

For information on both programmes contact belfastworks@ashtoncentre.com or get in touch via the details below.

Other criteria applies for people on Universal Credit – contact us to see if you are eligible.

 www.facebook.com/Belfastworks/

 twitter.com/belfastworks

 www.instagram.com/belfastworksjobs/

 www.ashtoncentre.com/contactbelfastworks/

Core Project - Supporting 16-24 year olds

Mentoring | Job Searching | Training | CV Building | Wellbeing

Flexible, free and designed to help you achieve your goals Ashton Community Trust's Core Project works specifically to help and support people aged 16-24 in the North Belfast/Newtownabbey areas by providing a range of mentoring, training and wellbeing services. We support people by working with a wide range of employers and training providers to provide opportunities, training and employment to the wider North Belfast community.

If you or anyone you know is aged 16-24, not in education or full-time employment, living in the North Belfast area and want help to find employment or training, get in touch for more information and support.

New training

A recent client, Stephen responded to an advert on CORE project's Facebook page for Construction Skills Register (C.S.R) training. He had been offered a full-time job with a local plumbing and heating engineering firm. This was a conditional offer which required him to have the necessary qualifications and training before he could start work. He was contacted the same day by one of Core's mentors who completed his training registration and referred Stephen to our training provider, JMD. Stephen attended his CSR training and received his CSR card.

Stephen is now in full time employment and has been in touch to say that he has already been offered the opportunity to progress with his employer and thanked both the mentor and training staff for their help in getting him into work so quickly.

Core is delighted to launch our new training prospectus for 2021/2022 with a wide range of new and exciting courses on offer. Search for us on Facebook for more information.

Core Project welcomes new staff

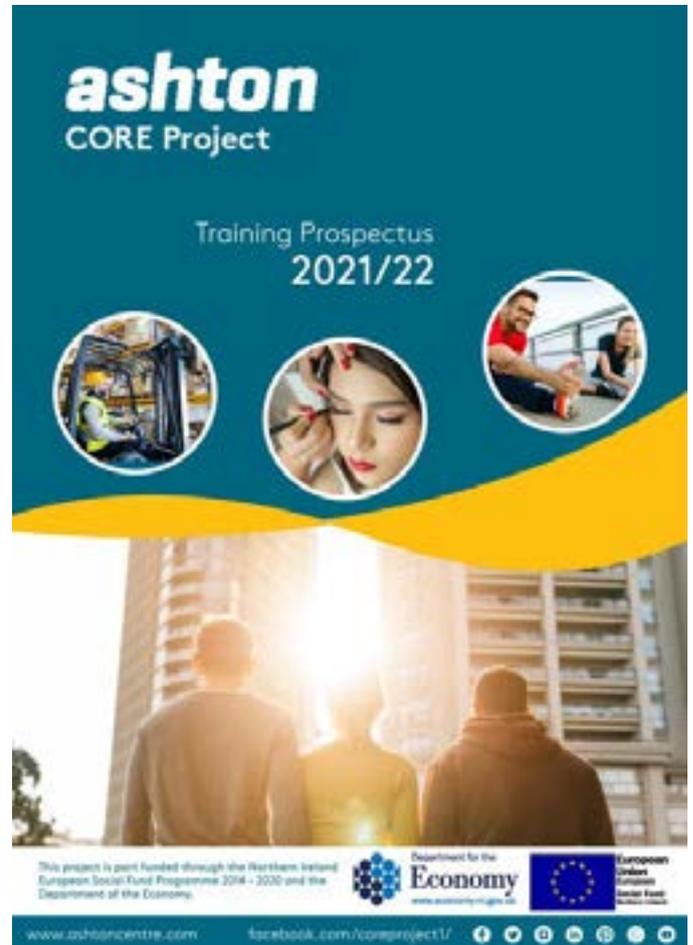
Welcome to our newest member of staff, Ray Grant as he joins Core as an employability mentor. Ray brings with him a wealth of experience working with young people in the community and he looks forward to getting started.

Contact us on 07801208217, email us at core@ashtoncentre.com or find us on Facebook for more information: www.facebook.com/coreproject1/

A copy of **CORE's** Training Prospectus can be downloaded by clicking on the link below:
<https://www.ashtoncentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CORE-Project-Training-Prospectus-2021-22-Web-Email.pdf>

f <https://www.facebook.com/coreproject1/>

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New Lodge Arts: Stepping Stones

We held a showcase for our families to mark the final week, of the year. It ran over three days in the Youth Centre. We invited parents, grandparents, siblings etc to come along to have a peek at some of the art work and creativity we have been working on over the year. It was a wonderful opportunity for our families to meet one another, put a face to the name and share advice and stories of their experiences.

Family Impact

This event highlighted the impact of our project, how close we work with our children and how we have built strong relationships with the family as a whole. We have ensured that all of our children feel welcomed, valued and listened too throughout and hope this ripples out to the families involved. We have helped to create a sense of community, belonging and having fun in a safe environment. This was very evident last week. There was a positive vibe and a real “buzz” as the children proudly showed their parents their art work and explained their thinking behind the pieces. As a member of staff it was also a proud moment to talk about the progress and the journeys of each child since beginning Stepping Stones. Working with small groups allows us to ensure we cater each child’s individual needs and giving them opportunities that they have not accessed elsewhere. Over the Summer months we will reflect on our practice and evaluate what we feel works best and most importantly what needs to improve. We have really enjoyed working alongside our children and look forward to meeting new children in the new term.

Confidence

I would like to take this opportunity to express how proud we are of our children who have grown in confidence, self-esteem, resilience and self-worth. They have jumped over many hurdles and coped extremely well with this difficult challenging year. A massive thank you to their families for all the support and also a huge thank you to the other members of staff that helped to develop the programme. What a fabulous time we have all had, I can’t wait to do it all over again!!

Susie Vint
Project Worker, New Lodge Arts





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Arts



www.ashtoncentre.com

Get in touch:
(028)90742255









anne.delaney@ashtoncentre.com

- ✓ The Arts Academy
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- ✓ Adult Projects

www.newlodgearts.com

For more information, get in touch with Anne Delaney on 07736389968 anne.delaney@ashtoncentre.com or via:

<https://www.facebook.com/NewLodgeArtsBelfast/>

 <https://www.instagram.com/newlodgearts/>

<https://twitter.com/NewLodgeArts>

 <https://www.newlodgearts.com/>

Greater New Lodge Community Festival 2021



Introduction

Due to COVID 19 it was impossible to deliver a festival programme in 2020. However, although we are still not free of the pandemic, the Festival Steering Committee decided to make a special effort this year in order to bring some much needed respite and enjoyment. We also believe that it is important to keep the spirit of the festival alive and keep the 'show on the road' so to speak.

Limited Programme of Events

For obvious reasons this year's programme will look and feel much different compared with previous times with the number and range of events much reduced. We hope you can understand the reasons for that.

Restrictions and Cautions

Event organising can take a tremendous amount of time, coordination and planning no matter if it's physical, virtual or hybrid. However matters are made much more complicated with pandemic safety guidelines that must be adhered to in order to protect the public. These guidelines place constraints on the levels of contact and on how spaces both indoor and outdoor can be used. As it is impossible to predict with any certainty what things will look like from one week to the next, we must therefore caution that the programme as published could be subject to change. In the unfortunate occurrence where events may be cancelled we apologise in advance. Despite the restricted nature of the programme we hope that you can enjoy the experience.

Thank You

A big thank you to all of those groups in the Greater New Lodge Community Empowerment Partnership that have given their time, energy and resource to put this programme together. A special mention to Belfast City Council, Ashton Community Trust, Newington Housing Association and Féile an Phobail for your support.

Keep an Eye on Our Facebook Page

Because of the ever changing circumstances and unpredictable nature of the Covid pandemic we advise readers to keep an eye on our Facebook page for any changes. As we go to print we are still constructing the programme and we hope to add more events to the festival line up.

See <https://www.facebook.com/newlodgefestival/>

Greater New Lodge Community Festival Schedule of Events

Saturday 31st July

Summer Fun Day at the Waterworks 12.00 - 3.00pm:



Free Event

Come along to join the New Lodge Arts gang for some summer fun including arts & crafts, street theatre, music and much more at this free, family event. Event Organised by New Lodge Arts.

For information contact Orla Hawkins on 028 90 742255.

Boats At The Waterworks



1.00 - 3.00 Waterworks Boating Event Free Event

Where young and old can try their hand at rowing and flavour some of the most beautiful hand built boats of our maritime heritage. Boats will include Dunfanaghy, Tory and Gola Island Curachs, and Lough Neagh Cots. Instruction and safety equipment provided. A rotational system will be in place for use of the boats. No booking required, first come first serve basis. Bandstand featuring music from 'Feile Unplugged'. Event organised by Feile An Phobail. For information contact 028 90 742255

Monday 2nd August

Our Place: Our City! Community Film Launch and Celebratory Event

2.00 New Lodge Youth Centre

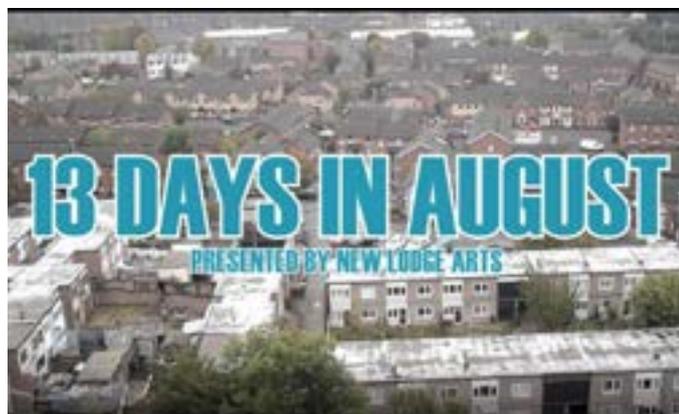
Greater New Lodge Community Festival 2021



Working with local film-maker James Rea of Bohemian Productions two young volunteers with New Lodge Arts have just come through an exciting and innovative new project involving the art of film-making. As a result they have just completed a short film entitled 'Our Place! Our City!' Film showing followed by open air BBQ, music, street theatre and Be A News Reader sessions. For further information contact Orla Hawkins 028 90 742255



New Lodge Community Documentaries (Virtual Film Show)



Monday 2nd – Friday 6th August at Ashton YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfal7uvSi7xlxUp1HCdp9pQ>

In recent years a number short documentaries have been made by activists and residents in the New Lodge to highlight issues affecting the local community. Given their low budget nature they may lack some of the gloss and finesse of big mainstream productions. However the films authentically reflect important grass roots perspectives of community life that are often hidden and even excluded from the mainstream view. Each in its own way has something significant to say. The documentaries created and directed by local

resident and film maker, James Rea Jr. were produced in collaboration with a number of community groups and local residents within the Greater New Lodge Community Empowerment Partnership (GNLCEP) network.

Showings Include:

- Our Place: Our City
- Safer Streets- Urban Regeneration
- On Our Doorstep
- 13 Days in August
- North Belfast Lantern Festival 2019

Tuesday 3rd August

Building Bridges Of Hope
MACRORY CENTRE, Duncairn Gardens
10:00am-2:00pm

Introducing North Belfast's newest – intentional 'Shared Space' and community resource. The former church hall has been renovated and is already home for a number of projects and organisations including the Star Youth Club, Slimming World and the 'Building Bridges' – more information on the day...

Drop in between 10am and 2pm - see the facilities – including the newly equipped Fitness Suite – and enjoy a taster of a variety of International cuisine.

North Belfast Bike Rave



7.00pm Departing Girdwood Hub

Grab your glow sticks and whistles and join us on this epic Bike Rave through the streets of North Belfast listening to some funky discos beats and 90's dance classics. Fancy dress/neon accessories preferred! Bicycles/Helmets can be provided if needed. Organised by New Lodge Arts

To register, please email anne.delaney@ashtoncentre.com

Greater New Lodge Community Festival 2021



Wednesday 4th August

New Lodge Arts Day of Fun 1.00 – 4.00 Lepper Street/
Ashton Centre

New Lodge Arts present a Day of Fun for the whole community. Join in with our team as they provide arts & crafts, street theatre, music and much more at this free, family event in Lepper Street outside the Ashton Centre.

Thursday 5th August

Belfast: Remaking the City



A Community Based Alternative to York Street Interchange. Discussion. St. Joseph's Church Sailortown
Guest speakers summarise the issues facing hundreds of residents living in the midst of unprecedented urban redevelopment including plans for the York Street Interchange. Today around 80 acres of Inner North Belfast is being redeveloped bringing with it massive challenges to community life as we know it. This raises serious questions for policy makers about how they can protect the environment, tackle climate change, uplift communities and achieve the objectives of creating a "sustainable city shared and loved by its citizens". Academics, planners, policy makers and community activists discuss these issues. For further Information contact sailortownoffice@gmail.com

North Belfast Talks Back

Mental Health: The next global crisis?

7pm

St Joseph's, Sailortown

Mental health has been in crisis for years, here we are looking at how our declining mental and physical health is being further exacerbated post-Covid-19 pandemic.

Friday 6th August

Picnic in the Star Park



10.00 am - 12.00 Star Neighbourhood Centre

Star Neighbourhood present 'Picnic at the Star' an event for parents and toddlers. Snacks provided as well as a range of games & toys for little ones to play with. Organised by Star Neighbourhood Centre. For further information contact Maria on 028 90 740 693.

Friday 6th August

Movie Day in Girdwood Hub.



Free event

Can't remember the last time you went to the movies? Well here's your chance to once again watch a movie on the big screen and you won't even have to pay for the pleasure. Maximum audience for each film 100 people. First come first served!

Greater New Lodge Festival 2021

2.00 Children's Movie

7.00 Movie for Adults

Organised by Thorndale, Duncairn, Kinnaird (TDK) Residents Group

Noah Donohue Mural Dedication 2.00 Pinkerton/Seven Hills



A new mural of Noah Donohue has been completed by local community groups from the Greater New Lodge Community Empowerment Partnership. A ceremony will take place in memory of Noah to show solidarity from the people of the New Lodge to his grieving family. Guest speakers to be confirmed. Organised by New Lodge Housing Forum.

Seven Hills Community BBQ 3.00 Pinkerton Flats



A number of local community groups from the New Lodge Community Empowerment Partnership (GNLCEP) recently developed a Social Action Project in collaboration with residents living in the Seven Hills section of the area. The aim is to brighten up some of

the physical aspects in and around people's homes. As part of this process a summer BBQ has been organised where neighbours can get together to chat, relax and enjoy some music. Organised by New Lodge Housing Forum. For further Information contact 02890742399.

Saturday 7th August

Tar Isteach Community Inclusion and Celebration Event



North Queen Street Park 1.00 – 4.00

Bring the kids along and enjoy a day of fun and laughter in the park. Games, music, super heroes and more. Organised by Tar Isteach. For more information contact Tommy at 028 90 746664

Guided Tour and Exhibition



St Joseph's Church Princes Dock St, Belfast 5.00- 7.00

The reopening of St Joseph's is part of a people-led regeneration of the Sailortown area. A massive amount of time and effort has been invested by Sailortown Regeneration Group in restoring this historic landmark. This free event is open to all, providing a welcoming space for visitors and all those interested in our local culture and heritage. Hear and see the story of the physical decimation of Sailortown and the struggle to regenerate Belfast's first waterfront village. Organised by Sailortown Regeneration. For further Information contact: sailortownoffice@gmail.com

Ashton Here To Help & Support The Local Community



Bridge of Hope

Email: bohinfo@ashtoncentre.com

Bridge of Hope Project can be contacted on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeofhope.org/>

CORE Project

Email: arlene.moody@ashtoncentre.com

CORE Project can be contacted on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/coreproject1/>

Belfast Works

Email: stuart.green@ashtoncentre.com

Belfast Works can be contacted on facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/belfastworks/>

Essential Skills

Email contact: hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com

Essential Skills can be contacted on facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/ashtonessentialskills>

Ashton Kinderkids Daycare and Family Services

For information on **Kinderkids Daycare** contact via email:

Christine McKeown on christine@ashtoncentre.com

Charlene Foster on charlene.foster@ashtoncentre.com

Fionnuala Black on fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com

If you would like to seek support from our Family Services team, please contact them on the following numbers or via their email: -

For the **Family Support Hub** (provides Early Intervention Family Support Services for families with children aged 0-18)

Edith McManus on edith.mcmanus@ashtoncentre.com or 07396374764

For the **Community Family Support Programme** (provides training and employment opportunities using a holistic family support model)

Kris Morrison on kris.morrison@ashtoncentre.com

Eileen O'Prey on eileen.oprey@ashtoncentre.com or 07926534966

For the **Ashton Early Intervention Family Support Project** (provides 1- 1 Family Support service delivered in a family home setting)

Caroline McIlwee on caroline.mcilwee@astoncentre.com or 07538575324

Alana McKeown on alana.mckeown@ashtoncente.com

Breakthrough Programme

Email: tony.crowe@ashtoncentre.com

Breakthrough Programme can be contacted on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/breakthroughbelfast/>

New Lodge Arts

Email: anne.delaney@ashtoncentre.com

New Lodge Arts can be contacted via Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/NewLodgeArtsBelfast/>

New Lodge Youth Centre

Email: sean.mcmullan@ashtoncentre.com

New Lodge Youth Centre can be contacted on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/newlodageyc/>

Fablab

Email: anne.delaney@ashtoncentre.com

Fablab can be contacted on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/FabLabBelfast/>

North Belfast Mens Shed

Tel: (028) 90 322 289

Email: mensshed@ashtoncentre.com

<https://www.facebook.com/northbelfastshed/>

Full details of all projects can be found on our website: <https://www.ashtoncentre.com/contact-us/>

Ulster University – More Disruption for Local Residents

During the early hours of Saturday morning the 8th of May 2021 local residents were kept awake by heavy and persistent noise coming from nearby works. These works, involved the installation of a water main to connect the student accommodation site at Little Patrick Street.

Huge Level of Development

In recent years there has been huge development in the general area of the University campus, including a carpark and 4000 student accommodation bed spaces. As a result residents living nearby have had to endure serious disruptions to their daily lives. To mitigate these hardships, the Ashton Community Trust along with other community partners have engaged with local residents, building contractors, the University, student accommodation providers and statutory authorities including Belfast City Council. A regular communications forum was established and Council's Environmental Officers liaised.

Agreements Broken

As a result of these engagements a clear understanding was established that all works would be conducted within best practice guidance including noise levels and working hours. This included utility/infrastructure works. Paul O'Neill of Ashton Community Trust said "Unfortunately the works that

took place on May 8th were conducted with no care for the disturbance to residents and in complete disregard of good practice guidance on noise levels and working hours. No one was given any advance notification. No consideration was given to the fact that there are sick, elderly, new babies, people who need sleep so they can go to work themselves. It also appears that at least one of the contractors was verbally abusive to one of the residents who came out to speak to them after 2.00 am in the morning".

Protection for Residents

Mark Hackett of Ashton Community Trust said, "The needs of residents need to be protected and understood. This requires that all conform to noise and disruption regulations that befit a properly run city. Everyone should work to the standards of accreditation and professionalism that we see are so often claimed on websites and codes of practice such as the Considerate Contractors scheme. There is a perception that residents in these locations do not matter and that the perceived needs of a commercial core or regional and commuter traffic trump their rights to a reasonable environment. It is hardly surprising that residents are increasingly worried that even worse disruption will occur when the nearby construction of the York Street Interchange starts".

York Street Interchange Concerned Residents

Residents in the Greater New Lodge and Sailortown areas have repeatedly expressed serious concerns about the potential impact of the York Street Interchange project on their lives. A long list of concerns have been presented to Department for Infrastructure, including written and oral submissions to the Public Inquiry (November 2015).

Community Survey

In 2019 a community research report commissioned by Ashton Community Trust, documented the many problems endured by local people living in the shadow of construction projects including the new Ulster University Campus. In the report they also expressed fears that living conditions could become even worse with the construction of the York Street Interchange.

Public Review

In 2020 a review of the scheme was called by DFI Minister, Nichola Mallon. Community submissions both written and oral were also made to this. As a result of the review the Minister accepted six recommendations. To see recommendations in full, go to;

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/mallon-announces-outcome-review-york-street-interchange-scheme>

Encouraging

In response to the review recommendations Mark Hackett of Ashton Community Trust said, "This announcement appears to give consideration to the points that the local community have been making all along. However we must continue to carefully monitor how these recommendations will be implemented. Undoubtedly the community will need to stay alert and continue to work hard to ensure that a less damaging and disruptive solution actually transpires. The lived experience of residents dealing with recent Ulster University constructions has included rodent infestations, dust, night-time construction noise, widespread illegal vehicle parking, structural movement in houses, loss of sunlight and overshadowing. The Interchange has been delayed but based on their recent experiences it looms large as a now well understood fear in resident's lives".

Invite to DFI Minister

Paul O'Neill, Ashton Community Trust said, "We have sent a number of our own proposals to the DFI. These include a letter from local residents and community groups inviting the Minister to meet with them. We have also provided an outline proposal for an Environmental/Mitigation Package to offset the damaging effects of the motorway construction on the community".

Ulster University Construction Reaches Final Stage

Statement from Ulster University for Greater New Lodge Community Magazine

The University is now in the final stages of building our enhanced Belfast campus and look forward to welcoming our staff and students to this incredible new Ulster University space from September 2021. Spread across 75,000m², with 18 lifts servicing 120 floors, and delivering a unique skyline with 19 different roof levels, the building will come online in controlled phases beginning in late summer and continuing into Semester One. A new icon in the Belfast skyline, the Ulster University Belfast campus will be a catalyst for this part of the city, delivering a creative, innovative, transformative and vibrant environment to inspire staff, students, local communities and wider society.



To enable operational simplicity and as a result, maximum responsiveness to any changes in Covid regulations, during Semester One the vast majority of teaching will take place on the Jordanstown campus. From the beginning of Semester Two, lectures, tutorials and all other teaching will transfer to the Belfast campus.

The University looks forward to welcoming members of the local community to the campus in the Autumn.

Parking Problems

With support from the National Lottery Community Fund the Ashton Community Trust continues to provide ongoing assistance to local residents as they cope with the physical and social challenges arising from the development of the nearby Ulster University, its carpark and associated student accommodation tower blocks.

Obstructions

An ongoing problem for local residents has been obstructive vehicle parking which is causing serious disruption. It is anticipated that this problem will only worsen when the University Campus opens this year and many thousands of students, staff and visitors arrive in the area.

Walkabout

In order to explore potential solutions to these issues a walkabout of the Lancaster Street, Thomas Street area was conducted on Tuesday night 11th May. Attending the walkabout were local residents, community workers from Ashton, Safer Streets, New Lodge Housing Forum, MLA Carol Ni Chuilin as well as representatives from Ulster University, Belfast City Council and the Department for Infrastructure (DFI).



Department for Infrastructure

The walkabout allowed the Department for Infrastructure official to see the problems first hand and hear directly from residents about their issues and concerns. Active engagement with DFI and the University will be ongoing and Ashton working alongside its community partners and elected representatives will continue to urge the Department for Infrastructure to do all it can to provide a successful outcome for residents.

Newington Housing Association (NHA) News



Newington Wins 2021 Chartered Institute of Housing 'Working in Partnership' Award

Since 2012, the Newington Housing Association (NHA) has been working in partnership with Newington Credit Union (NCU) to deliver an innovative project, our annual Student Bursary Scheme. This project awards bursaries to NHA tenants or household family members as well as NCU members. Each year application packs are posted to all NHA households and the Scheme is then opened to applicants who reside within an NHA household. Bursaries are awarded to students who have been accepted to undertake their studies either here within NI, the ROI or throughout Great Britain.

Grants for Students

The successful NHA candidates, capped at three per annum, are then awarded a grant of £400 to help support them with their course fees, travel costs, IT equipment or other essential items. NCU also supports up to a maximum of ten individuals per annum. Once a student is awarded a bursary from NHA or NCU, it is renewed each year and financial support is provided whilst the student remains in higher or further education, usually for up to a maximum of three years (for degree studies) but can be extended to four years dependant on the course being undertaken. This means NHA would usually supports on average up to nine students in any one academic year and up to 30 students are supported by NCU. The successful candidates are also supported by both organisations' to open a credit union account if they currently do not have one.

Credit Union Support

Many credit unions follow a member-centric model, which generally makes them more people-friendly and accessible than banks. Access to credit union membership ensures that the successful candidates can avail of the many benefits on offer, encourage a culture of saving and reduce the likelihood of people getting into a cycle of high interest loans from less reputable lenders. These student bursaries help to support the successful candidates to achieve their own personal ambitions, aspirations, educational goals and future objectives.

Unique Partnership

Our partnership working with NCU is critical and emphasises how deeply committed both organisations are in supporting and strengthening the communities we serve. This unique partnership approach supports many students who reside locally with the financial assistance to enter and sustain their educational studies. As important, it also creates awareness of the credit union concept and the important role they can play in helping to encourage life-long saving and responsible lending for individuals, especially within the current climate.

Grant Awards Reach £100,000 +

Since 2012, NHA has awarded grants to 24 different students, totalling £22,000 and NCU has awarded grants to over 100 different students, totalling more than £100,000. This worthwhile initiative has helped support individuals to achieve various degrees and has also introduced many individuals to the benefits of life-long saving and the importance of Credit Unions.

Personal Testimony

We know from many of the successful students who have been previously awarded these bursaries, that they have been proud to have received them and helped to alleviate some of the financial pressure faced by local families.

'T' who recently received her first instalment of her student bursary from us said "The annual student bursary scheme allowed me to buy the necessary textbooks required for my course in primary teaching, which assisted me to complete assignments as well as to prepare me for my five-week school placement. Because of the bursary I was able to also buy other necessary equipment to complete my course, such as a headset, which I had to acquire because of the outbreak of Covid-19, as my teaching was moved to online learning for two of three of my school days. It also contributed to some of my living costs, therefore it relieved a lot of anxiety that I had for the academic year. I am extremely grateful to Newington Housing Association for the financial



assistance I received."

Newington's Head of Housing & Communities

Speaking at the awards, Newington's Head of Housing & Communities, Jacqui Gilmore said "For many families there have been significant challenges over the past 16 months. The Covid-19 pandemic has undoubtedly impacted many within communities throughout North Belfast and further afield. Third level education and the financial burden placed on family members to retain young people within a learning environment has probably never been more challenging. We believe that this year more than ever our awards have significantly helped and assisted students going into or remaining in, third level education.

Online Learning

With more lessons being delivered online and the associated cost placed on students with the delivery of their learning this way (i.e., increased household utilities costs such as heating, light, etc, over the winter months), along with ensuring vital access to digital devices and data to effectively participate in eLearning sessions and ensuring they can access vital advice and support networks, our bursaries have undoubtedly reduced the pressures faced by many families and provided students with some welcome relief.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, it is hoped that once the successful candidates complete their studies, they will return to North Belfast to apply the skills and knowledge they have acquired, through their future professions. We are delighted to have

won such a prestigious award and I particularly want to express my gratitude to our partner organisation, Newington Credit Union, for their continued support and dedication in delivering such a fantastic initiative in partnership with us.

I also want to wish to extend my best wishes to all the current students undertaking their studies during these unusual and extraordinary times”.

Newington Housing Association (NHA) News



North Belfast Connected Homes Project (NBCHP) goes from Strength to Strength

Free Independent Advice

During late 2019, Newington Housing Association (NHA) committed to funding a dedicated Universal Credit/Welfare Advice Officer, to provide free independent advice and support to NHA tenants and the wider community within North Belfast. NHA were able to provide funding to pay the salary for one-year. The role was to be recruited and managed by the North Belfast Advice Partnership and aimed at complimenting the existing advice services, already established within North Belfast.

Multiple Challenges

For such a small geographical area, North Belfast has multiple challenges; high levels of deprivation, benefits dependency, children living in poverty, low educational attainment levels and a huge demand for social housing; however, it also has a very committed voluntary and community sector, working diligently to assist local residents through a range of fora.

Newington NHA Community Investment Fund

Initially, Newington’s Board approved funding of £34,000, as part of NHA’s continual commitment to invest in the local area through their Community Investment Fund, to support the delivery of the project for one year. An opportunity then arose to apply for match funding through Nationwide Building Society’s Grant Fund, which is administered by the Community Foundation for NI. The subsequent acquisition of additional funding of £34,000 meant the post could be sustained and delivered for a minimum of two years.

Supporting the Community

The project was designed to support Newington tenants and other residents from the wider North Belfast community with unrestricted access and support with the initial Universal Credit application process and assistance with all aspects of UC including maintaining a UC claim until the claimant receives their first payment of Universal Credit); along with IT and digital support, housing advice, money management, face to face appointments via the delivery of drop-in clinics, one of which was in NHA offices, as well as linking tenants with other services such as family support programmes, employability and training programmes, crisis intervention and support and independent debt advice.

Full Benefit Entitlement Check

The project also ensures all service users receive a full benefit entitlement check, a better off calculations and access and support with the benefit’s appeals process. Key to service delivery was its independence from NHA to ensure confidence in the service and thus the delivery of this new and innovative project (i.e., North Belfast Connected Homes Project) arose.

New Advice Officer

The new UC/Welfare Advice Officer took up employment in January 2020 and quickly began to make a positive impact with NHA tenants and staff. Within weeks, the Coronavirus pandemic hit NI and had an immediate impact in North Belfast. Many local families needed immediate interventions, assistance from local food banks and benefits advice as some had to apply for welfare benefits due to changes in their personal circumstances.

Responding to the Pandemic

For the initial crisis period, the new UC/Welfare Advice Officer role quickly adapted to respond to the pandemic. Due to Covid-19, the service quickly changed and successfully adapted for service users to the new ways of working. The new postholder ‘Niamh’ could no longer provide face to face appointments for most of the service users, but the support was still there and provided by telephone or email.

Niamh not only added an additional source of advice and support locally; but played a pivotal role in supporting the community and voluntary sectors response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Over £1 Million Generated - Hundreds Receive Support

With the introduction of furlough, job loss and self-employment support, more people needed access to advice than was originally anticipated. During the first twelve months within her role, Niamh has helped support over 370 local clients and generated additional income of more than £1 million for those she worked with during this period.

Going forward, Newington are aiming to secure further match funding to sustain this role beyond the initial planned two years as it is clear there is still such a high

Client Referrals	Total
NHA tenant referrals	150
Local hostels/youth support/other referrals	222
Total	372
Income generated	£1,061,230

TDK Colour Their Area

INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY and collaborative working were in evidence in the Thorndale, Duncairn and Kinnaird area when a day-long social action and civic engagement event involving over 100 local residents young and old brightened up the area by tackling issues of dereliction, litter and overgrown and under-utilised public spaces.

Social Action

TDK Community Group leader, Rosemary McGreevey said: "Our recent social action and civic engagement project was organised in collaboration with Newington Housing Association, Belfast City Council, Groundwork NI and The Big Lunch. We put into action much of the learning we have undertaken over the past 18 months participating in the Communities in Transition Capacity Building Programme. The programme has provided our group with many brilliant opportunities for much needed training. Opportunities which have contributed immensely to new collaborative working alongside other community groups that are delivering much needed front-line services.

Friends and Neighbours

Rosemary continued: "it was just great getting outdoors again and meeting our many friends and neighbours. It was also brilliant seeing some of our 'newly arrived' neighbours get involved in community activities. People with young families who have escaped war, hunger, deprivation and persecution in other countries and who are now having to build new lives.

Celebration of Community

I would like to thank Martin Hamilton of Newington Housing Association for his support and the very hard work he put in on the day. Belfast City Council staff, as well as local elected representative JJ Magee assisted us with acquiring much needed equipment such as skips for the community clean-up aspect. We concluded our event with an excellent celebration of community, friendship and fun when we hosted 'The Big Lunch', with everyone eating their packed lunches on their doorsteps."

The North Belfast Communities in Transition Programme is led by Ashton Community Trust, funded by The Executive Office and managed by Cooperation Ireland

Newington Housing Association

Speaking after the event, Newington's Community Engagement Officer, Martin Hamilton said: "On behalf of everyone at Newington I wish to express our sincere



gratitude to Rosemary and her team of dedicated volunteers at TDK Community Group for the tireless work they do to benefit and enhance the community in which they live.

"Today's event highlights the positive work being delivered at a local level by local community groups such as TDK and has instilled a new sense of pride and ownership of the local area.



Volunteering is Good for YOU

TDK Community Group

Over recent times lots of us have been thinking about what we can do to support our local communities. But while volunteering can positively impact on the people around us, it's important to remember that it can have meaningful benefits for our own wellbeing too. Rosemary McGreevy of TDK Community Group covering the Thorndale, Duncairn & Kinnaird area, told us about some of their work at the TDK Foodbank and about the positive community and personal benefits of volunteering .

Foodbank

Rosemary said, 'Our volunteers do tireless work all year round supporting local families. Our foodbank at the 174 Trust in Duncairn Avenue, provides essentials like food, homewares and advice to residents from the surrounding communities. For example, our work over the Christmas period meant many local families had a Christmas to remember rather than not having one at all.

"We have learned a lot from our participation in the Communities in Transition Capacity Building Programme which allowed us to work collaboratively with other groups taking part in the programme. Groups involved in promoting community safety, early year's provision, children's services, as well as youth and community development work across New Lodge and Ardoyne. It has been really beneficial for our group to have strengthened partnership working and collaboration with experienced community activists. Special mention to Kate Clarke and Liam Wiggins from Safer Streets and Cailín Hardy and Joe Donnelly from TAMHI. We could not do our work without the support of the 174 Trust and local representatives like JJ Magee. We have also strengthened our relationship with Belfast City Council.

Brighter Days

Looking forward to brighter days for North Belfast, Rosemary concluded:

"I urge everyone to consider getting involved in volunteering in your local community. Volunteering provides brilliant opportunities for renewing old acquaintances and developing new friendships with people of all ages. It helps to break down barriers between young and old, builds confidence both individually and collectively, while providing a lot of fun opportunities, especially when inviting and welcoming everyone, especially new residents, to fully participate in community life.

"Here's to more fun, colour and

vibrancy in all our communities for all our people."

The North Belfast Communities in Transition Programme is led by Ashton Community Trust, funded by The Executive Office and managed by Cooperation Ireland



Bridge of Hope Continuing to Provide Support

ashton
Bridge of Hope

Therapies

Ashton Bridge of Hope is pleased to let you know that we have now resumed some face to face services from our clinics at 16 Alliance Avenue and McSweeney Centre, Henry Place, Belfast. Since the 11th May we have been offering Complementary Therapies to individuals impacted by suicide and self-harm as well as victims and survivors of the conflict. In addition to this we have recently been able to start offering face to face talking therapies from both clinics. Our team of staff and sub-contractors are excited to welcome you back and are



enjoying regaining some sense of normality. Obviously, we are very conscious that we are operating amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The Bridge of Hope team have put in place all necessary practices to ensure the safety of service users and staff amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Our clinics are now both fully open from 8.30 am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 2.30pm on a Friday and the team can be contacted on 028 9022 1022 at McSweeney and 028 9543 8707.

Remote Services

We are continuing to deliver other support services remotely. Our 2 Health and Wellbeing Caseworkers are on hand to support victims and survivors of the conflict. Jim and Brendan can be contacted on the clinic numbers above or via email to jim.mcgivern@ashtoncentre.com or brendan.brownlee@ashtoncentre.com.

Workshops

We are also continuing to deliver personal development and stress management workshops. There are a wide variety of these workshops available and each one offers its own benefits to the participant. They vary in length too – from 8 to 18 hour workshops split over mornings, afternoons or evenings. Our Training Co-ordinator Mary Stanton can be contacted on 07766138156 or via email mary@ashtoncentre.com and will be more than happy to chat with you about which programme would meet your needs best. There are no previous skills or qualifications required to register for any of these programmes and all courses are funded by VSS. Please note that it is our aim to return to face to face training as soon as possible currently due to COVID 19 the personal development and stress management programmes are being exclusively delivered via zoom.

Courses

As well as that Bridge of Hope are currently recruiting students for their accredited VTCT Reflexology, Swedish Body Massage and Thermal Auricular Therapy courses. These courses will begin in September and run for 30 weeks on a one evening per week basis. These programmes are funded by the Victims & Survivors Service and are open to individuals impacted by the conflict. Again you are interested in applying please contact Mary Stanton on the number/email above.

If you would like to chat to any member of the team to find out more please feel free to phone. We look forward to hearing from you.





ashton
Bridge of Hope

Building a healthy
resilient you

irene.sherry@ashtoncentre.com
mary.stanton@ashtoncentre.com

www.ashtoncentre.com

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [l](#) [p](#) [@](#)

- ✓ Counselling
- ✓ Complementary Therapies
- ✓ Personal Development

Get in touch:
[facebook.com/bridgeofhope.org/](https://www.facebook.com/bridgeofhope.org/)

www.thebridgeofhope.org

New Lodge Arts – Spring Update

New Lodge Arts had a busy Spring period! Over 500 Spring sunshine packs were distributed to local groups including arts & crafts, games, spring cleaning packs and much more.

Another exciting project was the creation of our very own kids and adult jigsaws. The jigsaws were designed by artist Anne-Marie Taggart and included lots of local landmarks – Cavehill, Waterworks Park, Big Fish to name but a few! The jigsaws were distributed to local groups and nurseries.

Were you lucky enough to get your hands on one of our brand new Board Game ‘A Wee Day Out’? The game designed by artist Fionnuala Duffin and designer Louise O’Donnell, takes players on a journey around North Belfast taking in

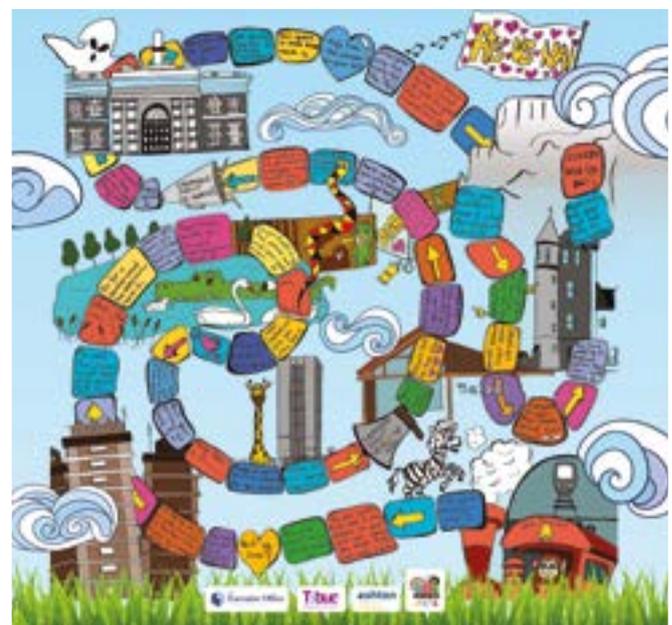
some well know sites along the way including the Crumlin Road Gaol, the New Lodge Flats, the Waterworks Park and Belfast Castle. As you journey around the board, you will take on challenges as you battle to get to the finish line ‘Ats Us Nai’. Expect lots of Belfast slang along the way including ‘wind yer neck in’ and ‘Oh Mummy!’.

Anne Delaney, Arts Programme & Operations Manager said: “We are delighted to create this Board Game, specifically designed to bring the whole family together to enjoy. You are guaranteed to have a good laugh with your family as you make you way around the board.’

The jigsaws were distributed to local groups, hostels and the local community.

Summer Programme

We are gearing up for a very busy Summer programme with several Summer Camps taking place and a few events as part of the New Lodge Festival. We are very excited to be back doing what we love! Hope to see you at one of our events over the Summer!



Greater New Lodge Safer Streets Committee



If you are the victim or the witness of crime, drug dealing or anti social behaviour you can contact the number below. If no one is there to answer always leave a message on the voice mail.

Remember If You Don't Report Then We Can't help You. Do Not Suffer In Silence

Greater New Lodge Safer Streets Committee - 0756 493 8276

Another community number you can ring is, Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI) - 028 90 753043

If possible provide the following details;

- Your name and contact number (If you feel comfortable doing so)
- The nature and location of the offence
- The date and time of the offence
- The name/details of the offender (If known)

Greater New Lodge Memorial Committee Appeal

A Chairde,

The Greater New Lodge Commemoration Committee are in the process of documenting and recording information relating to all those from the Greater New Lodge area who lost their lives as a direct result of the conflict and whose names appear on the memorial plaque in Donore Court.

In doing so, the Commemoration Committees wish to publish, for historical reference, a book detailing information relating to the 113 people whose names are inscribed on the memorial stone.



To a generation and to many who visit the memorial garden to pay their respects, little is known about those who are commemorated. To all who love and remember them, they are fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers.

It is important to the Commemoration Committee that they are all respectfully remembered for generations to come and we feel that this project will assist with this objective.

To enable us to fulfil this objective in an accurate, fitting and respectful manner we are asking the families of all 113 names which appear on the memorial, to facilitate the Commemoration Committee in conducting a short interview with you regarding your family member.

We fully understand that this could be a difficult and emotional request and we will ensure that all information collated will be handled in a sensitive and respectful manner.

No information given through agreed interviews will be made public without first receiving your approval. If you wish to contact the commemoration committee regarding this project please do so by Email or alternatively contact us on our Facebook page.

Email: gnlcc2019@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/newlodgccc>

Ashton Early Intervention Family Support Project

In September 2019 Ashton was fortunate to receive funding from Belfast Charitable Society to provide a 1-1 Family support service that would take referrals directly from both Family Support Hubs in North Belfast. This service was the most demanded service through Hub referrals and it is a fabulous asset to the suite of services we can offer to families. The funding also allows the team to provide supermarket vouchers to families who accepted services through the Hub but also were experiencing financial difficulties.

The two team members are continuing to providing support to families at this time and adapting their service to take into account social distancing regulations. The team are able to support your family to deal with challenging behaviour of children and young people, emotional health and well-being of your family or any issue within the family setting that is causing you concern.

Should you wish to avail of this service please contact Caroline or Alana by email at caroline.mcilwee@ashtoncentre.com or alana.mckeown@ashtoncentre.com

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

Community Family Support Programme

The Community Family Support Programme is a part of a consortium available across Belfast and is designed to empower people to make positive decisions and aims to improve the quality of their lives. During the programme families receive help from professionally qualified family support workers to address the health, social, economic, educational, employment and training issues that impact on their daily lives. The programme is delivered by community family support organisations in the heart of the community.

Now that we are moving out of restrictions we realise that people are may be experiencing some difficulties across a range of areas. The programme continues to support families living in North Belfast in a creative and safe way, offering practical supports, stress awareness, behaviour support and a range of employability skills to help enhance learning and ensure people are ready and prepared for entering the employment market. The participants have engaged in online learning which included social media training, budgeting, reading and play with children and healthy recipes for families.

Jigsaws and board games have been delivered to families who reported back that they felt this had a great impact on their family and provided an opportunity for play with their children. Families also took part in the North Belfast Breakfast at Home Club and the feedback from this was very positive and families reported that it was a fun way to spend time as a family.

Alongside our partners, we can offer training to individual to allow people to keep learning and developing, these include personal success and well-being, managing personal finances and social media skills. We hope to continue to support the people of North Belfast over the coming months. To be eligible for the programme you must live in North Belfast and not in education, training or employment. If you are interested in becoming part of this exciting programme please contact kris.morrison@ashtoncentre.com, or eileen.oprey@ashtoncentre.com



Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub

It has now been almost 6 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, Castlevue, 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 1280 families and hope with continued funding until March 2022 to offer support to many more families.

The Lower North Belfast Family Support 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 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.

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Supporting North Belfast



www.ashtoncentre.com

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