

# Greater New Lodge Community Magazine

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## New Lodge Festival 2023



We are delighted to present the Greater New Lodge Community Festival programme for 2023. **(SEE PAGES 13-18 FOR DETAILS)**

This year's programme will run from the 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> of August and contains a wide mix of community based activities including street parties, music, theatre, arts, literature, talks, sports and a range of other interesting events.

Our annual festival is the product of the collective efforts of various local community groups and activists operating within the Greater New Lodge Community Empowerment Partnership. We hope that you find the programme both entertaining and interesting and that you, your family and your friends can come along and get involved.

The Festival Organising Committee would like to

acknowledge all of those involved in making this programme possible, including those local community groups, pubs and café's that will be organising or hosting events.

We would also like to thank Ashton Community Trust, Belfast City Council, Féile an Phobail, Newington Housing Association, Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts and Ulster University for their practical supports including provision of funding.

All festival events will also be advertised on the Festival's Facebook page here:

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

**Greater New Lodge Community Festival Organising Committee**

*New Lodge Festival Programme Pages 13 - 18*

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



Belfast  
City Council

Newington  
Housing Association  
(1975) Ltd.

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Kinderkids  
Daycare

High quality early years and afterschool service

Located in North Belfast  
5 Minutes from Belfast City Centre and the Ulster University

Flexible childcare options with competitive rates

Dedicated early years curriculum for 4 years and under

Afterschool service implementing Playwork principles

christine.mckeown@ashtoncentre.com  
fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com

028 9074 2255

McSweeney Centre  
Henry Place

Ashton Community Trust

**COMMUNITY FRIDGE**

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 9:15- 3:30

Wednesday: 9:15-3:30

Thursday: 9:15- 3:30

Friday: 9:15-1:00

A simple solution to wasting less through the sharing of good quality food.

### Community Contact Details

174 Trust	9074 7114
Ashton Centre	9074 2255
Bridge of Hope	9074 2255
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
Community Restorative Justice	02896 210900
Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain	90749 688
Friends of St Joseph's Church Sailortown	terryblfst@gmail.com
Glenravel Local History Project	9074 2255
Holy Family Primary School	9035 1023
Holy Family Youth Centre	9087 5150
Indian Community Centre	9024 9746
KinderKids Day Care - Ashton	9074 2255
KinderKids Day Care - Cliftonville	90749146
KinderKids Day Care - Cliftonville	95219830
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 Queen St. Community Centre	9032 3945
Smile SureStart	9075 6654
St. Patrick's Primary School	9035 1206
Star Neighbourhood Centre	9074 0693
TAMHI	90 747437
Tar Isteach	90746665/90746664

### Follow Ashton On Twitter

[twitter.com/ashtoncommtrust](https://twitter.com/ashtoncommtrust)

### Alcoholics Anonymous Antrim Road Group, Belfast

Address: Ashton Centre, 5 Churchill Street,  
Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 2BP

**Meetings and times:**

Sunday: 12:30	Closed Meetings
Sunday Night: 8:30	Closed Meetings
Monday: 8:30	Closed Meetings
Tuesday: 8.30	Open Meetings
Wednesday: 8.30	Closed Meetings
Thursday: 8.30	Closed Meetings
Friday: 8.30	Step Meetings
Saturday: 8.30	Discussion
Meetings	

Zoom Meetings: Tuesday and Saturday 8:30pm

# Ashton Happy Days Project

## A Social Economy Day Opportunity supporting young adults with learning disabilities and autism.

Ashton Community Trust (Ashton) have for 30 years designed, developed and delivered holistic wrap around support through the following community led evidenced based services in North Belfast:

- Children and family projects
- Health and well-being projects
- Training and employment projects
- Youth projects
- Arts and culture projects
- Social Inclusion projects

Ashton is delighted to be expanding their existing community services from the autumn of 2023 to include the provision of a new Social Economy Day Opportunity "Happy Days Project" for young Adults aged 19 - 30 with a learning disability and/or autism.

The range of activities available has been developed through engagement with potential participants and their parents, teachers, and social workers and will provide bespoke person-centred programmes tailored to the individual needs of each participant to achieve the following outcomes:

- Improved physical well-being
- Improved emotional well-being
- Improved mental well-being
- Increased social inclusion
- Increased Independent living

The new development will provide a service where all our participants are supported within a community development environment to grow the capacity (skills, knowledge and confidence) necessary to reach their full potential as young adults living independent, interesting, age appropriate fulfilling lives.

The new service will be located in Henry Place which is easily accessible by both public and private transport



If you are interested or require further information, please contact:  
Joanne Kinnear or Ciara Rea  
[joanne.kinnear@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:joanne.kinnear@ashtoncentre.com)  
[ciara.rea@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:ciara.rea@ashtoncentre.com)



### Example Timetable

Time	Activity
9.00am - 10.00am	Drop off / Registration / Facilitated socialisation opportunity.
10.00am - 11.00am	Accredited Skills Development e.g. personal development, communication.
11.00am - 11.15am	Mid-morning break / facilitated socialisation opportunity.
11.15am - 12.15pm	Independent living and social well-being activities e.g. cooking classes, money management, independent travel, volunteering etc.
12.15pm - 1.00pm	Lunch / facilitated socialisation opportunity.
1.00pm - 2.00pm	Physical well-being activities e.g. Gym work outs, walking tours, swimming, football, zumba, dodgeball etc.
2.15pm - 2.30pm	Mid-Afternoon break / facilitated socialisation opportunity.
2.30pm - 3.30pm	Emotional well-being activities: Yoga, mindfulness, creative activities (art, music, drama), gardening etc.

## Communities Against Cuts

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May large numbers of people from communities across Belfast gathered at City Hall to protest against the devastating cuts that have been proposed in the recent draft budget. The **'Communities Against Cuts'** group, organised the protest to highlight the serious damage that is being inflicted on jobs and services within an increasingly under pressure community sector.

### New Lodge

Community groups within the New Lodge are already feeling the strain with a significant number of jobs already lost and many other jobs and services under imminent threat. This includes youth, training and education, advice services and community development in general.



Ashton Staff Attend Cuts Protest at City Hall

### Severe Inequalities

Speaking on behalf of the Ashton Community Trust Joanne Kinnear said, *"Communities were already struggling to emerge out of the COVID epidemic only to be hit with a devastating cost of living crisis. Now to be told to prepare for severe cuts to essential community services is a total insult. To say that we are already struggling to meet the existing and growing needs of people is a gross under-statement. We genuinely fear that the severe inequalities that already exist in our society will become even deeper and the long term impact of this on the most vulnerable doesn't even bear thinking about. Our elected politicians really need to get to grips with this before it is too late".*

## Men's Coffee Morning at Ashton

On Wednesday 24th May, the Ashton Centre hosted a coffee morning that attracted 25 men from across Belfast. The wonderful music by Geoff Hatt and delicious breakfast baps from Ashton Stores were well received, with many attendees asking when the next event would be. It was a great opportunity for the men to connect with each other and hear about services in the Belfast area. Paul O'Kane of Belfast Men's Health Group was able to pop by and provide leaflets on the Men's Health Forum in Ireland and the upcoming Men's Health Week (12th-18th June).



Keep an eye on Ashton Bridge of Hope's Facebook page for the next coffee morning coming soon!

# Community Groups Pay Gratitude To Volunteers At Lansdowne Hotel Event

On Tuesday 27th June we celebrated the hard work, dedication and commitment from our volunteers in the Lansdowne Hotel with the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Ryan Murphy who presented the EPIC Awards Certificates along with representatives from TEO, Communities in Transition and Department of Justice who funded the event.

On behalf of the community organisations we want to pay gratitude for the incredible volunteers who have given their precious time to help make positive change and impact in our community. This is a special moment to celebrate their remarkable contribution and commitment to volunteering. Their contributions are invaluable and your presence strengthens the very fabric of our society.

Through the countless hours dedicated to various causes you are the backbone of our communities especially during these hard times that our communities are experiencing we rely so much on our volunteers.

To all the volunteers, we congratulate you for your outstanding efforts, for becoming community activists and being central in the decision making of what kind of community you want to live in.



# Busy Bees at the Garden Grid

Are you buzzing with excitement for some outdoor fun? Do you want to help a local charity make a positive difference in the community? If so, you might be interested in volunteering at the Garden Grid, a new project by Ashton Community Trust that aims to promote Health and Wellbeing through gardening and bee-keeping.

### New Bee Apiary

Ashton Community Trust has recently established its first new bee apiary, named Bee Happy, where they will produce honey and beeswax products while also supporting the local ecosystem. Bee-keeping is a rewarding hobby that can help you relax, learn new skills, and connect with nature. Plus, you get to enjoy the sweet rewards of your hard work!

### Gardening Club

But bee-keeping is not the only activity you can do at the Garden Grid. You can also join the gardening club, where you can grow your own fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Gardening is a great way to improve your physical and mental health, as it can reduce stress, boost your mood, and keep you fit. Not to mention, you can save money and eat healthier by harvesting your own produce!

### Volunteering

The Garden Grid is open to anyone who wants to volunteer, no matter your age or experience level. You can choose how often and how long you want to participate, and you will receive training and guidance from the friendly staff. You will also meet other like-minded people who share your passion for nature and community.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Garden Grid, please contact Paul Barton via his e-mail [paul.barton@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:paul.barton@ashtoncentre.com). He will be happy to answer any questions you have and help you get started. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of something amazing!



Mark Hackett (Ashton) with volunteers at the Bee Apiary

www.ashtoncentre.com

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**ashton**  
Supporting North Belfast

facebook.com/ashton.centre

Click Here

# Ashton Bridge of Hope Upcoming Workshops

## ashton Bridge of Hope

Ashton, Bridge of Hope is very excited to be delivering some new training programmes. Please see below:-

### **Anxiety and Sleep Workshop: "Taming Tensions and Nudging Naps!"**

Join us for an amazing workshop: "Taming Tensions and Nudging Naps!" Learn to conquer anxiety and master your sleep! Uncover practical tips and tricks to sleeping like a baby and bid farewell to anxious nights. In just 6 hours, you'll unlock the secrets to anxiety management, sleep hygiene, and self-care bliss.

Get ready to snooze and soothe your way to a happier, well-rested you! Places are limited, and prior booking is essential! Contact [mary@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:mary@ashtoncentre.com) for more information or to reserve your spot now and wake up to a refreshed and anxiety-free life.



***Don't hit snooze on this opportunity! (This workshop is fully funded by Victims and Survivors Service)***

### **Candle Making and Affirmation Workshop: "Lighting your Inner Flame"**

Ignite your creativity and kindle your spirit at our enchanting Candle Making and Affirmation workshop! In this delightful hands-on experience, you'll learn the art of candle and wax melt making, from selecting the finest ingredients to infusing your creations with your unique intentions. Guided by expert candle artisans, you'll delve into a world of colours, scents, and waxes, letting your imagination run wild as you make your personalized candles.

But that's not all! We'll also immerse ourselves in affirmations - a powerful tool for self-growth and transformation. Together, we'll delve into the realm of positive self-talk and learn how affirmations can reshape our mindset, boost our confidence, and attract abundance into our lives.

Leave with your handmade candles that will infuse your surroundings with warmth, serenity, and a newfound appreciation for the incredible power of affirmations.

No prior experience is needed; you only need an open heart and a curious spirit. Get ready to ignite your inner flame!

Contact [mary@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:mary@ashtoncentre.com) for more informatio. **(This workshop is fully funded by Victims and Survivors Service)**





## ashton Bridge of Hope

Building a healthy resilient you

- ✓ Counselling
- ✓ Complementary Therapies
- ✓ Personal Development

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

[irene.sherry@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:irene.sherry@ashtoncentre.com)  
[mary.stanton@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:mary.stanton@ashtoncentre.com)

<https://bridgeofhope.support/>

www.ashtoncentre.com  
f t i y p

# ashton

## Training & Employment

# Belfast Works<sup>+</sup>

## CONNECT

SUPPORT | TRAINING | EMPLOYMENT

*Connecting People, Changing Lives*

**Ashton Community Trust's brand new project has been given £££'s by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to help people within our communities**



### Support - Training - Wellbeing

If you are aged 16-67, not in employment and fit into any of the categories below:

- Looking after a family member/children or home
- A registered carer for a family member
- Too ill to work
- Early retired
- Student and not working
- Not working but might want to work in the future

**We can offer free support and training in a range of areas:**

- Personal development
- Physical health
- Mental health
- Money management/budgeting
- Health & Nutrition
- Education Support/Essential Skills
- Helping with homework
- Personal wellbeing
- Driver Theory test & training
- Forklift training
- CSR card training
- Horticulture training
- Computer training
- Overcoming personal barriers
- Employability skills
- And much more



[www.belfastworksconnect.com](http://www.belfastworksconnect.com)



# With personalised training and incentives to help you learn and develop, *what's stopping you?*

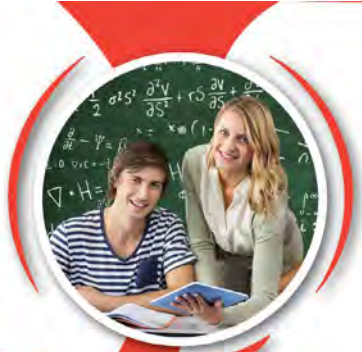
## ashton

Training & Employment

### Calling all Residents!

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

**English + Maths + ICT = Essential Skills**



Start your Essential Skills journey!

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

**Courses cover:**

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



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

If you would like to find out more phone 02890742255, email Angela McAteer at: [angela.mcateer@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:angela.mcateer@ashtoncentre.com) or message us on 07564711355

[www.ashtoncentre.com](http://www.ashtoncentre.com)



Participation in any of our courses is completely free and will not impact on your Benefits



[www.belfastworkconnect.com](http://www.belfastworkconnect.com)



## Belfast Works<sup>+</sup>

CONNECT  
SUPPORT | TRAINING | EMPLOYMENT

**How We Help**

- Person-Centred 1-2-1 Support
- Better Off Calculations, Specialist Benefits & Welfare Advice
- Training, Skills & Qualifications
- Volunteering, Job Tasters & Employment
- Financial Support (Clothes, Childcare, Travel)

## ashton

Supporting North Belfast

For further information contact:

☎ 028 9074 2255

✉ [belfastworks@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:belfastworks@ashtoncentre.com)

📱 @BelfastWorksConnectAshtonCommunityTrust

*Connecting People, Changing Lives*



Funded By UK Government



# Lancaster Area Community Consultation

The building of the new Ulster University Campus at York Street including its associated constructions such as Frederick Street carpark and student accommodation tower blocks has caused profound life- changing impacts on residents living nearby. Since the beginnings of the construction phase the Ashton Community Trust has worked closely with local residents to help alleviate some of these problems.

## Neighbourhood Forum

This has included the creation of an engagement mechanism called the Neighbourhood Forum. This forum has enabled regular, structured contact to take place between the local community and UU officials, building contractors, student accommodation providers as well as statutory agencies and Belfast City Council. Although these engagements have often been challenging and at times argumentative they have also been very useful in addressing some of the issues involved. This has included addressing problems relating to things such as excessive noise, pollution, night-time working, rodent infestation, traffic and parking concerns as well as anti-social behaviour.

## Doorstep Survey

While the lived experience of local people up until now has largely been one of disruption and upset, most people now acknowledge that the new University is here to stay and is a living reality that everyone must come to terms with. It is against this backdrop that the local residents group with the support of the Ashton Community Trust and New Lodge Housing Forum conducted a doorstep survey to gather current opinions.



Residents living in the immediate area close to the University bounded by York Street, Frederick Street, North Queen Street and Great Georges Street were asked their views about a range of issues. Out of the 120 households in the vicinity there was a 40% participation in the survey.

## We Want to See Real Community Benefit

The Chairperson of Lancaster Residents group is Cecilia Devlin,



“As far as survey’s go this represents a very satisfactory return. Based on the results received, it is very clear that local residents feel that they are entitled to see real benefits and improvements flowing to the community as a result of the University’s relocation to the area and all of the disruption associated with it.”

Cecilia continued, “The survey confirmed much of what we already knew. But I think it is always a good idea to keep the discussion as wide-reaching as we can and give as many people as possible the opportunity to engage. We also want our residents group to be as open, accountable and representative as possible. The group is there to help residents and to monitor, and address problems and hopefully create opportunities when they arise.

“It is also clear that many residents want to know more about what is going on and to get more involved, so helping them to receive and consume relevant and accurate information is also very important. Indeed we are now considering how



to improve communications including the possible use of a website. All of these things take time. Resources are very scarce but I can assure residents that we will try our best. This survey will help us shape our strategy going forward, so it has been a very useful exercise and well worth the effort involved”.

## Summary of Results

This is a summary of the results

- 100% of people said that they supported the work that the residents group is doing and wanted to know more.

- **86%** felt that Great Georges Street should be a two-way traffic system instead of the current one-way system and there was **100%** support for it being a No Parking Zone
- **86%** felt Community Safety Wardens (Similar to those provided previously in the Holyland/Queens area) should be provided to ensure greater neighbourhood safety
- **94%** felt residents living closest to the University campus should be provided with anti – noise protection such as triple glazing/ sound proof doors, etc.
- **96%** people said that the University and relevant statutory agencies should create a special community fund to provide support for local residents.
- **97%** believe the University should create a pool of student volunteers to help the local community.
- **97%** want a more regular street cleansing schedule provided by the appropriate authorities including City Council and Department for Infrastructure
- **100%** believed that a special improvement scheme should be implemented including things such as front gardens, street pavements, lighting, etc.
- **94%** think that York St. Car Park (Beside Great Georges Street /Lancaster Street) should be transferred to the local community sector for community use



### Comments

The survey also included a comments section. Here are just some of the comments made by residents;

- *Bad problems with rats since all this demolition and building started*
- *Dust from building works badly affected us but particularly my husband's breathing he has lung cancer.*
- *Cleaning of the area by Council is very poor and needs to improve.*
- *The alleyway behind us at North Queen Street is dangerous at night time, people drinking taking drugs and making noise this happens almost every weekend*
- *No lighting in alleyway too dark in winter*
- *Poor management of bins left lying out*
- *I have concerns about private rentals and HMOs old generation being moved out.*
- *Cleansing service in the area needs improved. The St Kevin's site behind us is full of rats and they keep coming into our back.*
- *St Kevin's site should be kept for the community.*
- *We don't want them building more tower blocks on the St. Kevin's site it will totally close us in and block our light*
- *Student and School Parking, pollution, dirt and dust, noise, rats, anti-social behaviour problems at carpark*
- *I have noticed dangerous driving at Frederick street /York street area at times I think they are students.*



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)

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

# Ashton Community Pantry



The Pantry at the Ashton Centre is an example of a community supermarket that provides support for local families dealing with food insecurity as well as a multitude of other issues stemming from the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Once you become a member of the pantry help is provided to help you meet the basic need for food however your wider needs are also assessed and mentoring and advice support can be provided to help you cope more effectively with life's everyday challenges. For example, you can be aided to develop a range of skills including things such as budgeting, debt management, cooking, nutrition and more besides.

The Pantry includes a weekly membership fee of £5 where members can receive up to £40 worth of groceries for a period of 12 weeks. An average of 80 families are involved in our pantry project. Priority is given to families in North Belfast with multiple children.

## New Pantry Coordinator Appointed

We are delighted to welcome on board our new Pantry Coordinator, Noleen McMahon pictured here with Christine McKeown.

To find out more contact [fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com) or call (028) 9074 2255

## Kinderkids Daycare Afterschool Opening

Kinderkids Daycare are excited to announce that we will be opening the Afterschool facility at Kinderkids Cliftonville from September 2023. Providing afterschool and summer care for school-aged children.

For more information please contact:

Kinderkids Daycare (028) 90749 146 or email [charlene.foster@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:charlene.foster@ashtoncentre.com)

## Community Fridge at Ashton Centre

The Community Fridge, is located at Ashton Centre, Churchill St. The Community Fridge is open to everyone in the community - without any need to be referred or having to prove eligibility - to access fresh food that would otherwise have gone to waste. The food is donated by businesses – with Lidl Crumlin Road donating surplus food from its stores.

As well as improving access to food, the fridges go beyond this by empowering communities to connect with each other.

The fridge is open from Tuesday to Thursday; 9:15 am to 3pm to enable residents and local businesses to share surplus food and for anyone to help themselves to quality food that would otherwise be wasted. It is advised to come early to the fridge as it can be busy.

As well as reducing food waste, Ashton will use the fridge to strengthen community relationship and promote the other work Ashton is involved in throughout North Belfast.

To date, since opening in August 2022 there has been 2,671Kg of food redistributed and a total of 1,174 visits to the Community Fridge

For more information, please contact: Christine McKeown or Fionnuala Black, Ashton Centre, 028 9074 2255 or email [christine.mckeown@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:christine.mckeown@ashtoncentre.com) or [fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com)





### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August Family Fun & Information Day 11.00am-3.00pm St Patrick's PS, Churchill Street.



This event is open to all families in North Belfast and will include Information points providing details on various support initiatives that are available to families. There will also be children's activities and games.

Organised by Newington Housing Association and Ashton Community Trust. For further information contact 028 90 742255

### School Uniform Pop Up Shop Ashton Centre

Working together to help each other. To all families in the North Belfast area the School Uniform Pop Up Shop will be open throughout the Festival Monday 1st Friday

ashton  
Supporting North Belfast

### School Uniform Appeal Ashton Needs Your Help!

Any Uniforms:  
Blazers, Coats, Pullovers,  
Jumpers, Skirts, Trousers,  
PE Kits that you no longer need  
and that are in good condition.

Please donate to Ashton  
Uniform Appeal.

These uniforms will be donated during the summer months to families  
within the North Belfast community.

Uniform Drop Off Point: **Ashton Centre**  
For more information contact:  
☎ (028) 90 742 255  
✉ christine.mcneil@ashtoncentre.com  
tom.mills@ashtoncentre.com

11th August. Drop in and choose from a range of uniform items.

For further Information phone 028 90742255

### New Lodge Arts - North Belfast Bike Rave Leaving from Girdwood Hub



The route is approximately 4 – 5 km through the streets of North Belfast and returning to

Girdwood. Open to all. Moderate level of fitness required. If booking in advance bikes can be provided free of charge. If bringing own bike it is your responsibility to ensure it is safe and road worthy. Please register with New Lodge Arts. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Helmets must be worn. Come along for a bit of craic, bit of music and bit of exercise!

For more information contact Orla Hawkins New Lodge Arts on 02890742255

### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August Light Your Inner Flame (Candle Making and Affirmation Workshop)

10.00am Ashton Centre



Ignite your creativity and nurture your spirit in our FREE 2-hour Scented Candle Making and Affirmation Writing Workshop. Craft your own scented Candle

and wax melts to take home, all while learning the art of empowering affirmations. Reserve your spot for a transformative experience by contacting [mary@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:mary@ashtoncentre.com) or at 90742255. Places are limited, and booking is essential.

### Urban Gardening Open Day 11.00am-3.00pm McSweeney Centre, Henry Place



Interested in finding out more about gardening and protecting our environment? Then come along and enjoy a day of fun, learning and discovery for all the family. Including Taking Care of Bees Demonstration- Petting Zoo- Insect Hotel- Mini- Beast Discovery - Information Stands and much more with music, food and refreshments all free.

Free event  
Contact Paul Barton or Mark Hackett at the Ashton Centre 028 9074225

# New Lodge Festival Programme 2023

## Ulster University's Community Open Night

7.00 pm

Academy Restaurant York  
Street (Overlooking St. Anne's  
Cathedral)



As part of the New Lodge Festival the Ulster University is welcoming local residents living in the immediate vicinity of the new University campus to drop in to the Academy Restaurant and have a chat with University staff and in the process meet up with your neighbours to enjoy some food, music and craic. During the event the local residents group will launch its new website that is aimed at enhancing information flow and expanding opportunities for residents to become more active in the development of their local community. Admission is free.

## Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August

### Trad Trail Session

12.00 noon

Duncairn Arts Café.

Antrim Road/Duncairn Avenue



The Féile Trad Trail operates in venues right across Belfast and throughout the city centre with local musicians and musicians from all over the city performing. This year, for the first time the

Trad Trail will be part of the Greater New Lodge Community Festival. With sessions organised in a number of local venues, including Café at the Duncairn, McLaughlins Bar, Cassidy's Bar, Hole in the Wall Bar, and St Joseph's Church. So take a seat, and enjoy some of Ireland's best Irish Traditional musicians. Admission Free

## New Lodge Arts Funday in the Waterworks

12.30pm The Waterworks



The New Lodge Arts Event Management Team will be running their annual Summer Fun Day in the Waterworks Park. Bring the family along to enjoy the fun and be entertained by walkabout performers, make your own arts and crafts and end the day searching for clues with our very own treasure hunt. Free event.

For more information contact Orla Hawkins on 02890742255. No booking required.

## My Corona Theatre Play from Brassneck Productions

Doors open 3.30pm - Play starts  
at 4.00pm



Ulster University York Street in the Atrium (The Joe Biden Space) 'MY CORONA' is a hilarious

new show by award-winning playwright Pearse Elliott, that packs a powerful punch! Starring Caroline Curran, 'MY CORONA' follows nurse Donna as she navigates her way through the day-to-day challenges of working in a care home during these unprecedented times. A no-nonsense, modern-day hero, with a cracking sense of humour, Donna encapsulates everything about our wonderful NHS that is truly worth fighting for. A hilarious and heartfelt, state of the nation piece, 'MY CORONA' will have audiences rolling with laughter and clapping for the real superheroes of the last few years; our incredible Health Workers!

Buy tickets at <https://my-corona-uu.eventbrite.com>

Or contact the Ashton Centre at 028 90 742255

## Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August

### Print Making Adult Art Class

11.00-1.00pm

New Lodge Arts Studio  
Ashton Centre



(18 + years) - Explore the art of printmaking and create a beautiful artwork for your home or as a gift for family or friends.

Places are limited. To book please contact Tracey at New Lodge Arts on 02890 742255.

## Gaelic Sports Event

10.00am-2.00pm

'The Cricky' Cliftonville 3G pitch Cumann na Phiarsaigh and Ciceam Ard Eoin will be working together to deliver two days of Gaelic Football for you to learn



about the sport and have fun. Today's event will see a 7-a-side blitz take place. With lunch provided for all participants. Contact Philip on 07856949435

## Stella Maris 'Working Lives' Mural Exhibition

1.00pm

Stella Maris Hostel Garmoyle  
Street: Sailortown

Sailortown Regeneration has worked in partnership with New Lodge Arts on a new mural designed and created by hostel residents, local women's group as well as young people from Sailortown and the New Lodge in honour of the workers on Land and Sea. Everyone welcome to view exhibition and speak to some of its creators

For further details contact Sailortown Regeneration at [stjoessailortown@gmail.com](mailto:stjoessailortown@gmail.com)

## Public Event

### 'People First Not Roads'

2.00pm St. Joseph's Church,  
Princes Dock Street

Belfast Traditional Music Session Food and Refreshments: Followed by Panel Discussion An exploration of Sailortown's past. How can we build on its positive aspects and recreate a successful inner city community?



# New Lodge Festival Programme 2023

Join the discussion and share your ideas. Invited speakers will share their views and experience about shared space and street life.

For further details contact Sailortown Regeneration at [stjoessailortown@gmail.com](mailto:stjoessailortown@gmail.com)

**North Belfast Youth Conference**  
Noon to 2.30pm  
University of Ulster  
Contact details: Sean McMullan  
02890751358



**Community Bingo Night**  
7.00pm  
New Lodge Youth Centre  
Admission Free



Will it be lucky seven or legs eleven? Come along and enjoy the craic. Everyone welcome. For further details contact Sean McMullen or Neve Robinson 028 90 751358

**The Cake Song**  
7.30pm-9.00pm  
Duncairn Arts Centre



Rehearsed reading of Danny Morrison's tragicomic stage play, set in a psychiatric hospital in 1968 at the time of the civil rights march in Duke Street, Derry. Followed by a Q&A. Featuring Chris Patrick Anderson (The Fall; Billy The Kid; '71; Good Vibrations; The Wrong Man) as Nurse Bernard Flanagan. Chaired by Danny Morrison. Free event. No booking required. Supported by Arts Council NI

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August**  
**Teddy Bears Picnic**  
10.00am-12.00noon  
Star Neighbourhood Centre



For further details contact Maria Valente 028 90 740693  
Admission Free

**Decoupage Class**  
11.00am-1.00pm  
New Lodge Arts Studio  
Ashton Centre



(18+ years). Bring along a lampshade you would like to upcycle through decoupage, or use one of ours!

Places are limited. To book please contact Tracey at New Lodge Arts on 02890 742255.

**Traditional Music Session**  
10.00am  
Caifé Ceoil 287 Antrim Rd



Admission Free

**Community Pride Celebration:  
A Day of Fun and Craic**  
1.00pm-5.00pm

New Lodge Youth Centre Upper  
Meadow Street  
Everyone welcome!



This event will include music, food, inflatables, special guest characters, games and a big screen showing of footage of life in the New Lodge in years gone past. The event will be ran by youth workers, young people and local residents. For further details contact 028 90 751358

**North Belfast youth Jobs Fair**  
Girdwood Hub  
4.00pm-6.00pm  
Contact details: Training  
and Employment at Ashton  
02890742255



**Finals of the North Belfast  
Youth ( 14-18 years )Soccer  
Tournament**  
Girdwood Hub  
4.00pm-6.00pm  
Contact details: TAMHI



**North Belfast Colour Run**  
Girdwood Hub  
6.00pm-7.00pm  
Contact details : North Belfast  
Harriers



**Community Health  
& Well-Being Event**  
4.00pm-6.00pm  
Girdwood Community Hub



Join us at a community health and well-being event where we celebrate the power of holistic care practices to promote a balanced and vibrant lifestyle.

Explore the world of complementary therapies. Engage in colour breathing and let the vibrant hues guide you towards relaxation and inner harmony. Unleash your creativity through candle-making, art stalls and journaling to express your thoughts and emotions. Pamper yourself with nail painting and eyebrow waxing, and a barber and hairdresser will be there for dry cuts and braiding for a touch of self-care luxury. Connect with nature through planting

# New Lodge Festival Programme 2023

activities. Fun-filled activities and games for the young and the young at heart. Nutrition stall for advice on nourishing your body and achieving optimal wellness with healthy snacks and drinks available. Speak with experts at the job fair corner and explore various career and training opportunities. Discover essential community services through informative booths, ensuring you have access to vital resources. And much, much more...

Admission Free

Contact: [mary.stanton@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:mary.stanton@ashtoncentre.com) for more information.

## Youth Activities Night

7.00pm-9.30pm

New Lodge Youth Centre Upper Meadow Street



The youth centre will be open for young people to engage in fun activities both in the centre and on the streets.

For further details contact 028 90 751358

## Mid-Summer Yoga Class

5.30pm-6.45pm

Duncairn Arts Centre



Join us at the Duncairn Centre for a gentle yoga class focusing on

breath led mindful movements and guided relaxation. Please bring a cosy blanket for the relaxation and a yoga mat if you have one – there will be a limited number available at the class. The class is suitable for anyone over 16 years old. The class will be taught by Justine Brown, Yoga Movement Therapist and Yoga & Meditation Teacher.

Free admission donations accepted.

## Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August

### North Belfast Jam Session

12noon-2.00pm

New Lodge Arts Studio  
Ashton Centre



(18+ years), bring your instrument or borrow one of our guitars and take part in this Jam Session!

Places are limited. To book please contact Tracey at New Lodge Arts on 02890 742255.

## Trad Trail Session

12.00noon-2.00pm

Cassidy's Bar Antrim Road



## Gaelic Sports Event

10.00am-2.00pm

The Cricky' Cliftonville 3G pitch This event will give an opportunity for those less familiar with their national sport



to learn about the game, with coaching sessions, small sided games, inflatable targets and much more! Contact Philip on 07856949435

## New Lodge Arts Street Party

12.00pm-3.00pm

Lepper Street  
Beside the Ashton Centre



New Lodge Arts is delighted to once again stage our annual street party. This year's event will contain an array of activities for all the family to enjoy including Street Theatre, Circus Acts, Bouncy Castles, Street Games, Music, Drawing and a variety of Arts & Crafts and BBQ. So why not bring the kids along and enjoy the fun and craic. For more information contact Orla Hawkins on 02890742255

## Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August

### Beginners Irish language Session

### Traditional Music session

9.30am

Caifé Ceoil Antrim Road



## Art Craft Class

11.00am-1.00pm New Lodge Arts Studio, Ashton Centre



(18 + years). Create your own decorative bunting to brighten up your home or garden.

Places are limited. To book please contact Tracey at New Lodge Arts on 02890 742255.

## Digital Fabrication Class

6.00pm-8.00pm

New Lodge Arts Studio  
Ashton Centre



(18 + years). Come along and take part in some digital fabrication! Learn about vinyl cutting, use the machine, use the software, create your own design and produce some wall art to take home!

Places are limited. To book please contact Tracey at New Lodge Arts on 02890 742255.

## North Belfast Talks Back

7.00pm

Ulster University York Street  
The Atria (Joe Biden Space)

Join this live debate about issues affecting North Belfast and further afield. Our panel consists of a number of seasoned guest



# New Lodge Festival Programme 2023



speakers that includes John Finucane MP for North Belfast, Philp Brett MLA, Allison Morris Journalist and Julie-Anne Corr. Chaired by Duncan Morrow Lecturer in Politics and Director of Community Engagement at the Ulster University. Admission Free. Contact [dj.morrow@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:dj.morrow@ulster.ac.uk)

Phillip Brett MLA is a Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) politician elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Belfast North in 2022



Julie-Anne Corr is a community activist, commentator and candidate currently working as the Project Support Officer for Changemakers empowering young women in the Shankill Womens' Centre



John Finucane MP is an Irish lawyer and Sinn Féin politician. He has been the MP for the Belfast North constituency since the 2019 general election.



Allison Morris: Award winning Crime Correspondent/columnist with the Belfast Telegraph, commentator specialising in politics and security.



## Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August Candle Making Workshop 10.00am Ashton Centre



Light Your Inner Flame (Candle making and affirmation Admission Free For further details Phone: 028 9074 7114

## Trad Trail Session 12.00noon-2.00pm McLaughlin's Bar



## Shared Reading Taster Session 3.00pm Duncairn Arts Centre



Shared Reading groups bring people together through great literature to talk, laugh and share. Just drop in and enjoy listening to a story or poem – no pressure to talk or read.

## Adult Craft Class 2.00pm-4.00pm New Lodge Arts Studio Ashton Centre (18+ years). Come along and



create some unusual artwork to brighten up your home or garden.

Places are limited. To book please contact Tracey at New Lodge Arts on 02890 742255.

## Scribes at the Duncairn 7.00pm Duncairn Arts Centre

Michael Magee is from Poleglass. His debut novel, *Close to Home*, has received widespread acclaim, and is the story of Sean, a graduate, involved in a drunken assault on a night out, and follows his reflections—the struggles of his working-class upbringing and the lingering shadows that the Troubles have cast on the 'ceasefire generation'.



'Kneecap meets Chekhov—no one else is doing this. I had great hopes for this novel and Michael Magee has booted it out of the park. Absolutely glorious' - Louise Kennedy

*Factory Girls* is Michelle Gallen's darkly comic follow-up to *Big Girl, Small Town* (currently being adapted for TV). The main character is smart-mouthed and filthy-minded Maeve Murray who is in a summer job, ironing 800 shirts a day, hoping that her A-Level results will be her ticket out of the North. It is 1994, pre-ceasefire, and there is the divisive marching season to contend with... and the paws



of her English boss, Handy Andy Strawbridge, to dodge. 'Vital, bang-on, and seriously funny' – Roddy Doyle

'A cracking, confident follow-up: at times savagely funny, but with a loamy undertow of complex feeling' – The Times

Lizz Murphy was born in Belfast but has shared her time between the Australian bush and Canberra for over 40 years. She has worked in publishing, arts marketing, arts and poetry development, community arts and the media. She is the former Poetry Editor of *The Canberra Times*. She has published fourteen books. *The Wear of my Face* (Spinifex Press, 2021) is her ninth poetry title.



Dr Tony MacAulay is an author, peacebuilder and broadcaster from Belfast. His books *Paperboy*, *Breadboy* and *All Grown Up* are critically acclaimed bestsellers in Ireland. His autobiography *Little House on the Peace Line* tells the story of how he lived and worked on the peace line in North Belfast in the 1980s. His latest book, *Kill the Devil: A Love Story from Rwanda* is co-authored with Rwandan screenwriter Juvens Nsabimana.



Chaired by Marnie Kennedy, Shared Reading facilitator.

This event is hosted by *Stories@theDuncairn*, a volunteer-led, community literary project, in partnership with the Greater New Lodge Community Festival and *Féile an Phobail*. Café at the Duncairn open for tea, coffee and refreshments. 02890747114 Wine Reception. All welcome! Admission Free

# New Lodge Festival Programme 2023

## Hot August Evening

Marquee Event  
6.00pm-10.00pm  
Star Neighbourhood Centre  
Carpark



Enjoy a summer evening of music and craic. Everyone welcome. Admission Free  
For further details ring 028 90 740693

## Irish Folk Music Night

7.00pm - Late McLaughlins Bar  
Admission Free



## Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August

Trad Trail Session  
12.00noon-2.00pm  
Hole in the Wall Bar  
Admission Free



Tour of Clifton Street Cemetery  
11.00am

Did you know that bodysnatchers once roamed Clifton Street Cemetery in the dead of night to acquire corpses to sell to the medical profession?



This is just one of the facts you'll learn during our tour of this historic cemetery as well as the reasons for doing it. You'll also visit the massive Cholera Ground in which many victims of this terrible disease were buried a few years after the cemetery opened. You'll also see the equally large "Famine Grave" which is actually one of the largest in the whole of Ireland.

Needless to say you'll also visit the graves of notables ranging from Henry Joy McCracken through to the tragic Mary McSweeney and discover the impact they had on our modern history.

To book a place simply email your name and a contact number to [joe@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:joe@ashtoncentre.com)  
Admission Free

## Young People BBQ and Dance Night

7.00pm  
New Lodge Youth Centre  
Admission Free



This event is open to all young people.

For further details contact Sean McMullen or Neve Robinson 028 90 751358

## Tar Isteach Republican Ex-Prisoners Information and Social Event

7.30pm - McLaughlin's Bar  
Tar Isteach presents a night of Information, reflection, discussion and social interaction. With music, refreshments and hopefully a good bit of craic as well.

For further information phone: 028 9074 6664



**Féile 35**  
**an Phobail**  
**WELCOMING THE WORLD**  
**DANCE NIGHT**  
**TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023**



**CONTACT LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS FOR TICKETS**

**Tar Isteach Support Services**  
244 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 2AR  
Welfare Rights Advice, Counselling,  
Training & Youth Services

Email: [info@taristeach.org](mailto:info@taristeach.org)

Tel: 028 90 746 665

<https://tar-isteach.org/>  
[@taristeachrepublicanexprisoners](https://tar-isteach.org/@taristeachrepublicanexprisoners)

# York Street Interchange - Placemaking and Active Travel Review

Residents from the York Street area attended this DFI information event on 22nd June 2023 at Ulster University York Street. The review is ongoing since 2021 and looks at wider issues of walking/cycling around the proposed road project that aims to connect the M1 / Westlink, the M2 and M3. The review work also shows options on possible 'place-making' of streets and spaces around.

## Fundamental Questions Remain

Residents raised again some fundamental questions:

There was concern that the project is at least 5 years away from beginning and then 4 years of construction. This represents a long term uncertainty and blight for the area. Is this concrete and construction heavy scheme now unrealistic in a context of increasing climate concern and other pressing budget priorities? Given this - should a more phased series of improvements be progressed on all fronts?

## Lancaster Street Area

Residents around the Lancaster Street area were now very aware of construction impacts of noise, airborne dirt, rodents, litter and disruption associated with the University and student housing builds. The area of the Interchange works is around 10 times greater, there seems to be little understanding or care to address the impacts of building such a vast scheme were every main street in the area will be dug up. To date nothing is proposed to mitigate local community impacts.

## Little George's Street

Residents at Little George's Street noted the road is still moving closer up against their houses. At this point the road is set high at their roof and first floor window level. The proposals for walls and impact against their small gardens has still not been designed out. There seems to be no willingness to design this problem out of the scheme.

## Widened Underpasses

North Queen Street and Dock Street underpasses are to be considerably widened, increasing their negative tunnel like effect.

## Better Solution Required

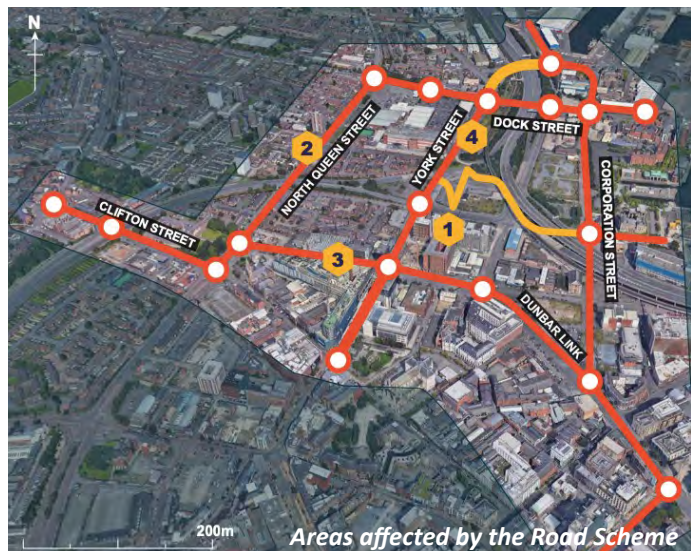
While the Review work shows benefits - the key local impacts raised since 2021 are still not addressed despite having been repeatedly raised. Increasingly residents are aware of the lack of a humane and considered approach. There is still an unwillingness to look at lower cost and better more realistic solutions - 'revising the brief' as the 2021 review statement agreed and instructed should happen.

The public and our public representatives need to see all the options. There needs to be back up plan that allows North Belfast to improve and flourish during the next decade, not some far off future that will never materialise.

## 100 Mile Walk Fundraiser



We would like to thank Liam Craughwell for his donation towards the Community Fridge and Pantry at Ashton. Liam completed the Walk 100 Miles in May Fundraiser, we want to congratulate him on his achievement and for the support he is offering to local charities.



# New Lodge Housing Forum

## UPDATE RE HOUSING ISSUES IN THE GREATER NEW LODGE AREA



We continue to work with the residents of the area to resolve problems as they arise. We have experienced a substantial slow-down in the turnover of what is termed as change of tenancies and this was largely due to the strike by Housing Executive employees which lasted six months. In reality this meant that dwellings owned by the Housing Executive could not be made ready for those tenants who had been allocated these properties. There was a significant delay in residents moving, and this brought further stress to those already living in overcrowded condition. The Housing Forum met with senior management and pressed them to release further resources which would speed up the removal of the back log.

### Upper Long Streets

The Housing Executive has made clear that it is their intention to vest this area in July of this year. In real terms this means that all dwellings in this area will come under the control of the Housing Executive. We have organised a clinic for the



benefit of all the residents living in the redevelopment area which is designed to find the answers to questions connected to the major change which will take place. The clinic has been busy and is open to Housing Executive tenants, home owners, landlord tenants and landlords themselves. The clinics take place on the first and third Tuesday of each month between the hours of 11am and 1 pm in our office at 23 New Lodge Rd. They will be attended by a Housing Executive rep and the

local housing worker. Following a large number of enquiries from landlord tenants we have made them aware of the following, a tenant who is asked to leave by their landlord have the following rights. A month's notice must be given to those tenants living at the property for up to a year, 8 weeks notice must be given to a tenant living at the property for 1-10 years and 3 months notice must be given to a tenants living at the address for over 10 years.

### The Seven Towers

The residents groups representing the Tower Blocks and the Housing Forum continue to meet with the Housing Exe concerning issues which impact on the daily lives of the tenants residing there. We are pressing the H.E. to continue to improve the remainder of the blocks as there has been major refurbishment works carried out in Finn, Fianna and Oisín House. There have been problems in a number of blocks concerning security. These include the exterior gates of some blocks being unable to close properly, twinned with problems with some of the front doors not responding to fobs etc. Each of the complaints brought to our office is relayed to the Housing Executive management. There will be a new manager in place in June and he will have the overall responsibility of ensuring that issues concerning the tower blocks which arise will be dealt with quickly.



# New Lodge Housing Forum

## UPDATE RE HOUSING ISSUES IN THE GREATER NEW LODGE AREA

### Duncairn Parade

There has been a rise in the number of complaints regarding the overall condition of the maisonettes and these include dampness, problems with windows, bin chutes and the gates at the bottom of the stairways. Again all of the complaints are forwarded to Housing Executive management and we have met with the patch manager and the maintenance officer as we tackle the problems as they arise. We are still waiting for the completion of the second financial evaluation which will decide the future of the Duncairn Parade area.



In recent weeks we have met with reps from the ministry of infrastructure and the H E to clarify a number of sites which are unclear regarding the ownership of these areas. These are alleyways and walk ways which have been impacted by illegal dumping of rubbish and we seek to find out whose responsibility it is to organise the clean up. We also need to clarify ownership as there is pathways etc which are unsafe to walk on. We have been supplied with some area maps which assists us when dealing with the problems presented to us.

### Lancaster Street Area

Our committee have been working with Paul O'Neill (Ashton), Cecilia Heron and residents from Lancaster Street and the area close to the new University. Questionnaires were distributed to the residents asking them for their opinions on how the area needs to be improved. When all of the information is gathered



then a meeting will be arranged with those representing the University



## 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](mailto:thenewlodgehousingforum@gmail.com)

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

### Ashton Centre

We have been working with Christine McKeown and her team from the Ashton Centre. Recently we have assisted in distributing vouchers towards the cost of energy bill to those people who are most vulnerable in our area.

We continue to work with several foodbanks who are vital in providing food for those families and individuals who are most in need.

### Welfare Rights Clinic

Our welfare rights clinic continues to meet the demand of those people who need assistance with their benefits. The clinic is open every Wednesday night between 5.30pm and 8.30pm in our office at 23 New Lodge Road.

If you wish to contact us the following are our details:

Email [thenewlodgehousingforum@gmail.com](mailto:thenewlodgehousingforum@gmail.com)

Housing worker is Gerry O'Reilly and his mobile number is 0780 4506903.

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

# Newington Housing Association

## A Warm Welcome to Sadie Reid

Sadie has recently taken up the post as Community Engagement Officer with Newington Housing, having previously worked as a Community Engagement Tenant Support worker for the past 3 years.

Sadie has been a community worker for the past 30 years, originally in West Belfast, but has worked in North Belfast for the past 6 years.

Her experience is in supporting families and working on a one-to-one basis and her qualifications include Community Development, Health and Social Care and Advice & Guidance.

### About Our Tenant Forum

As a tenant of Newington your knowledge of tenancy matters is important to us as it

will help shape the services we provide.

Newington currently has an active Tenant Forum but is seeking to acquire new members.

The Tenants' Forum is a group of volunteers who give up some of their free time to improve the services and information tenants receive from Newington.

Members also meet to have their say about what's happening. They discuss policy changes, home improvement specifications, events held for tenants and lots more.

Would you like chance to have your say? To bring your expertise as a tenant. To attend training events and develop

exiting and learn new skills. This group will introduce you to lots of other tenants, learn more about Newington and have your chance to



respond to proposed changes.

### How to get Involved

If you would like to join our Tenant Forum or get involved in with the any of our tenant or community engagement activities, why not contact Sadie directly via email [s.reid@newingtonha.co.uk](mailto:s.reid@newingtonha.co.uk) or alternatively contact her by phoning on 028 9074 4055.



## School Uniform Appeal

### Ashton Needs Your Help!

**Any Uniforms:**  
Blazers, Coats, Polos,  
Jumpers, Skirts, Trousers,  
PE Kits that you no longer need  
and that are in good condition.

Please donate to Ashton  
Uniform Appeal.



These uniforms will be donated during the summer months to families within the North Belfast community.

**Uniform Drop Off Point: Ashton Centre**

For more information contact:  
 (028) 90 742 255

 [christine.mckeown@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:christine.mckeown@ashtoncentre.com)  
 [fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com)

[www.ashtoncentre.com](http://www.ashtoncentre.com)

# Newington Housing Association

Website:

<http://newingtonha.co.uk/>

Facebook & Twitter:  
[@NewingtonHA](https://www.facebook.com/NewingtonHA)

300 Limestone Road,  
Belfast , BT15 3AR

Phone: 02890 744 055

Email: [admin@newingtonha.co.uk](mailto:admin@newingtonha.co.uk)

# Frederick Street Rubbish Site

During the construction of the new University campus area an ongoing concern raised by residents was dust, dirt, rodents and excessive litter around site hoardings. For some years we have been flagging the rubbish at the planters at the corner of Frederick Street and side of St Patricks Church which were not on cleansing rotas or not being done. This Department for Infrastructure (DfI) owned land was created in the 1990's due to road widening when the original historic buildings at the corner were removed.

## Getting Cleansing Issues Addressed

Getting orderly systems between the agencies for good maintenance has been an ongoing challenge which is now being addressed. Working across agencies Department for Infrastructure (DfI) have now cleared the low planting which was full of rubbish, an area of grass and trees will be easier to clear. We have realised this is a wider strategic issue around

the Westlink edges and the proposed Road Interchange area - large contiguous areas have trapped rubbish and debris and are not been effectively cleared - what is an artery for regional traffic is also so for rodents with frequent issues for residents living adjacent to the Westlink.

## Local Residents

On behalf of local residents we continue to argue that the entire Inner North area with the Road Interchange project needs to be viewed as a strategic environmental issue at large scale, requiring a strategic large-scale overview that addresses people's health and well-being, place and the repair of the city streets as safe lived streets as its main focus.

Mark Hackett (Architect) Community Development  
Ashton Community Trust 07595221419



## Do you need benefits advice?

**ashton**  
Supporting North Belfast

Ashton is delighted to have an Advice Service available at the Ashton Centre every Wednesday.

If you would like an appointment for advice or support with completing forms.

Contact: Christine McKeown or Fionnuala Black for an appointment.

christine@ashtoncentre.com  
fionnuala@ashtoncentre.com  
or telephone: 02890742255

www.ashtoncentre.com 

# Garden Grid Improving the Urban Environment

Ashton Community Trust is gradually developing a 'Garden Grid' Strategy with the aim to create positive solutions for spaces within the neighbourhood that have become run down or neglected. The idea is to stimulate, encourage and support clearing, planting and growing projects in order to regenerate. Two local locations are being addressed, one beside New Lodge Youth Centre in Upper Meadow Street and another at Henry Place/Clifton Street.

Mark Hackett of Ashton Community Trust explains in some more detail the thinking behind the Garden Grid strategy. *"It is important to address urban decay and transform the physical features of life so that neighbourhoods look better and feel safer especially on daily walking routes. We've charted over forty areas that could be managed and maintained in the network or "grid" we want to set up.*



Volunteers at McSweeney Site

*Importantly, in the wider sense it is also about building social connections and understandings between people be that intergenerational or cross cultural. This includes providing volunteering opportunities where someone can get out of the house, meet up, work and socialise with new people and create things together and in the process develop greater environmental awareness whilst making a significant contribution towards the communal good.*

*The Garden Grid is still in its infancy but we are working hard to acquire the resources that will allow us to build and sustain this work well into the future".*

If you would like to find out more you can contact Mark Hackett at Ashton Centre 028 90 74 22 55

**Bridges Sewing Group**  
Ashton Centre Tel: (028) 9074 2255

**Open:  
Mon to Thur  
1pm - 3pm**

**ALTERATIONS, CURTAIN MAKING AND  
ALL YOUR SEWING NEEDS**

**BRIDGES SEWING GROUP  
ASHTON CENTRE  
TEL: (028) 9074 2255**





# New Lodge Re-Imaging Project Pinkerton Area

*New Lodge Re-Imaging Project is a collaboration between local residents, New Lodge Safer Streets Committee, young people from New Lodge Youth Centre and street artist Eoin McGinn. The project is funded through The Executive Office 'Communities in Transition' Programme and managed by Community Safety Worker Kerry McKernan from Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI)*

*Kerry said, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank*

*the local residents and young people for their overwhelming support for Eoin whilst he worked on site. The positive response from the residents and young people has been really fantastic. There was a great community turn out at the unveiling on the 25th June and the local children enjoyed the bouncy castles, slides and rides that were provided. This reimagining project is just one part of the general community effort to improve and brighten the area and create a more pleasant atmosphere for everyone".*



Are you aware that Ashton is on Facebook? You can follow us to find out what's happening. Additionally, we have established a Facebook Group where we regularly share information about our services. We invite you to follow us or join our Facebook Group to stay informed. Thank you.

[facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust](https://facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust)  
[facebook.com/groups/Ashton](https://facebook.com/groups/Ashton)

# DEPAUL

Homelessness has no place



## Family Services Floating Support

### What is Floating Support?

Floating Support is a flexible support service for families in need in the community. The service is aimed at offering advice and support in a range of areas that can prove difficult to deal with on your own. We meet our families face-to-face.

Possible areas of support could be:

- Tenancy difficulties
- Anti-social behaviour
- Neighbourhood dispute
- Debt
- Benefit difficulties
- Budgeting
- Healthy Living skills
- Help with filling forms
- Making a complaint
- Referral to other support agencies
- And many more

#### Who is the service for?

The floating support service is free for all families in all types of tenancies from private rental / owner occupied / housing executive, however, we cannot support you if you are in a supported hostel. Referrals through NIHE, Social Services, other agencies, or call the team for further information or to self-refer.

#### How does it work?

You will meet with a member of the Floating Support team and discuss your individual area of difficulty. Together you will agree on a way forward (a support plan). The Case Worker will meet with you on a regular basis either in your own home, at the floating support office or maybe for a coffee locally.

Each time you meet with the Case Worker you will both check on your current situation to access if there has been any changes in circumstances. When needs have been met the Case Worker will agree to end the service, however, if you have any issues/concerns in the future, you can contact Family Services for support.

### Partners:

## Supporting People and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive

For further Information Contact:

Bernadette Donaghy  
Project Group Manager  
Tel: 07736276119

Jenna Legar  
Case Worker  
Tel: 07900352816

Fionnuala Brannigan  
Case Worker  
Tel: 07526837480

Family Services Floating Support

Unit 4 Nelson Street

BELFAST

BT15 1BH

**Tel No: 028 95215116**

**E.mail: [familyservicesfloatingsupport@depaulcharity.net](mailto:familyservicesfloatingsupport@depaulcharity.net)**

# Could You Foster?

We are looking for foster carer/s from your area who can offer a loving, safe home to a child/young person either through short breaks or full time care.

We welcome enquiries from all parts of the community and from all walks of life. If you have considered making a difference in a child/young person's life please give us a call on 0800 0720 137

We would love to hear from you and answer any of your questions.

"L may not be my family by blood but she will always be by heart" young person aged 15

"I was depressed I was stressed and I was left all alone didn't even have a place to phone.

But you came along and changed my life in ways I didn't even think was possible

You have saw me grow and you have seen me struggle but you would always fix it with a bit of a snuggle" young person aged 16

"If you have patience , empathy and a good sense of humour consider fostering" Foster Carer since 2015

Briege Quinn, Principal Social Worker, Fostering Department  
Shankill Wellbeing & Treatment Centre, 83 Shankill Road, Belfast, BT13 1FD  
Tel: 028 95040302

Web: <https://adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net/>



**Northern Ireland  
Adoption &  
Foster Care**  
**0800 0720 137**

## Have you been impacted by The Troubles/Conflict?

- Have you been **physically or psychologically injured** as a result of or in consequence of a conflict related incident?
- Were you **bereaved** as a result of or in consequence of a conflict related incident?
- Do you **regularly care** for someone who has been injured as a result of a conflict related incident?
- Did you **witness** a conflict related incident or the consequences of such an incident?
- Did you provide **medical or other emergency assistance** to an individual in connection with a conflict related incident?

You are entitled to  
**Health & Wellbeing Support**  
and you may be entitled to  
**The Troubles Permanent Disablement Pension**

### Contact

For Health & Wellbeing  
Caseworker support:

Emma - 07456532684  
Tony - 07553100509

For The Troubles Permanent  
Disablement Pension:

Ciaran - 07826689272  
Ronan- 07769374807

**ashton**  
Bridge of Hope

**VSS**  
Victims & Survivors Service

**ashton**  
Supporting  
North Belfast



### NEW LODGE ARTS LITTLE LIBRARY

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# DRUG AND ALCOHOL SUPPORT SERVICES

## BELFAST HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST AREA

Date of publication: 2022

Disclaimer: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this directory at time of print, we do not accept any responsibility or liability for any errors. It is recommended that you always check directly with providers that their service or organisation meets your requirements. Where any specific organisation or service is mentioned by name or otherwise this does not necessarily constitute or imply any endorsement or recommendation by NIDACTs or PHA of that organisation or service.

This publication can also be downloaded from [www.drugsandalcoholni.info](http://www.drugsandalcoholni.info)



### Services for Adults

#### Community Drugs Programme

One to one and family support, auricular acupuncture, mentoring and onward referral service.

[Open Access](#)

#### Falls Community Council

☎ Tel: 028 9020 2030

#### Reach Out

One to one support for alcohol and/or drug misuse (and other associated issues).

[Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted](#)

#### Extern

☎ Tel: 074 4253 3165

#### Low Threshold Services

Aimed at those who misuse alcohol and/or drugs at harmful levels and/or in harmful ways but who are unable to commit to formal treatment (including chronic drinkers & injecting drug users).

[Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted](#)

#### BHSCT Drug Outreach Team

☎ Tel: 028 9504 1433

#### Extern Alcohol Housing Support Service

☎ Tel: 028 9033 0433

#### Community Based Adult Services

One to one therapeutic treatment and support service for those aged 18+ misusing alcohol and/or drugs. Family members can also get advice and support - regardless of whether their significant other is seeking help.

[Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted](#)

#### Inspire Wellbeing Addiction Services

☎ Tel: 028 9066 4434

#### Dunlewey Addiction Services

☎ Tel: 028 9039 2547

#### Statutory Addiction Service

Provided by a range of specialist teams within community and hospital settings.

[GP/Health Professional Referrals](#)

#### BHSCT

☎ Tel: 028 9504 2900

Residential treatment is accessible through the statutory addiction service.

#### Residential Addiction Treatment Centre

6 week residential programme.

[Addiction Service Referrals](#)

#### Carlisle House

☎ Tel: 028 9032 8308

For more detailed information on services available in your HSCT area visit:

[www.drugsandalcoholni.info](http://www.drugsandalcoholni.info)



"Addressing drugs and alcohol together"

### Young People/Family

#### Belfast Youth Engagement Service (YES)

A youth friendly, holistic health and wellbeing service where young people, aged 11-25, have opportunities to socialise and to get advice and support on a range of issues.

[Open Access](#)

#### Extern

☎ Tel: 028 9032 5786

#### Community Drugs Programme

Drug and alcohol education and awareness programmes, accredited and non-accredited, targeted at young people and/or parents.

[Open Access](#)

#### Falls Community Council

☎ Tel: 028 9020 2030

#### Reach Out

One to one support for alcohol and/or drug misuse (and other associated issues).

[Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted](#)

#### Extern

☎ Tel: 074 4253 3165

#### Targeted Lifeskills Service

Groupwork programmes for young people, aged 11-25, focussed on lifeskills and harm reduction.

[Targeted at At-Risk/Vulnerable Groups](#)

#### LYMCA

☎ Tel: 028 9267 0918

#### Steps to Cope/ Hidden Harm

For young people aged 11-25 who have been impacted by parental substance use and mental health problems.

[Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted](#)

#### ASCERT

☎ Tel: 0800 2545123

☎ [www.stepstocope.co.uk](http://www.stepstocope.co.uk)

✉ [stc@ascert.biz](mailto:stc@ascert.biz)

#### DAISY

One to one and group therapeutic treatment and support service for children and young people aged 11-25. Family members can also get advice and support - regardless of whether their significant other is seeking help.

[Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted](#)

#### Start 360 & ASCERT

☎ Tel: 028 9043 5815

☎ [www.start360.org](http://www.start360.org)

#### Pharos

Therapeutic treatment and support for families and children affected by parental alcohol and/or drug misuse.

[Social Services/Addiction Services Referrals](#)

#### Barnardos

☎ Tel: 028 9066 3470

#### DAMHS (Drug and Alcohol Mental Health Service)

A range of therapeutic support services for young people aged under 18 with significant mental health and substance misuse difficulties.

[GP/CAMHS Referrals](#)

#### BHSCT

☎ Tel: 028 9504 0365

### Specific Groups

#### Needle and Syringe Exchange Sites

##### Maguire Pharmacy

📍 3 Beechmount Avenue

☎ Tel: 028 9032 0590

##### Chemist Connect

📍 59 High Street

☎ Tel: 028 9023 1002

#### Street Injecting Support Service (SISS) (inc. needle exchange)

📍 Extern

☎ Tel: 080 0085 8426

#### Removal of Drug Related Litter (Needle Finds)

📍 Belfast City Council

☎ Tel: 028 9027 0469

#### BHSCT Drug Outreach Team (inc. needle exchange)

☎ Tel: 028 9504 1433

#### Group Support

Call or go online to find a meeting near you:

##### Alcoholics Anonymous

12 Step Programme/Group Meetings

☎ Tel: 028 9035 1222

☎ [www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie)

##### AlAnon

Group Support for Family Members

☎ Tel: 028 9068 2368

☎ [www.al-anonuk.org.uk](http://www.al-anonuk.org.uk)

##### Alateen

Group Support for Teenagers

☎ Tel: 028 9068 2368

☎ [www.al-anonuk.org.uk/alateen](http://www.al-anonuk.org.uk/alateen)

##### Narcotics Anonymous

12 Step Programme/Group Meetings

☎ Tel: 0300 365 1010

☎ [www.na-northernireland.org](http://www.na-northernireland.org)

#### Community/Stakeholder Support

##### Belfast Drug & Alcohol Coordination Team/ Connections Service (BDACT Connections)

The DACT Connections Service provides information, advice, signposting and awareness raising initiatives to a range of community and stakeholder partners.

☎ Tel: 028 9084 0555 (Extern)

☎ [www.drugsandalcoholni.info](http://www.drugsandalcoholni.info)

✉ [connections@bdact.info](mailto:connections@bdact.info)

#### Workforce Development Training Programmes

A range of drug and alcohol training courses for those working with adults, children and young people.

##### ASCERT

☎ Tel: 0800 254 5123

In Crisis? Call **Lifeline**

FREE 24/7 HELPLINE  
**0808 808 8000**