

Sandy Row,
Donegall Pass
& the Markets

**SOUTH
BELFAST**

ISSUE
02
FEBRUARY
2018

URBAN VILLAGES FOCUS MAGAZINE

**Youth Action
Partnership**

**How does
your
garden
grow?**

**Win
prizes!**

**Take part in
our Survey!**

**Find out what's
happening in your
local community**



IMPROVING YOUR AREA | STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES | LIVING BETTER TOGETHER

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COMMUNITY AWARDS

What's Next for FOCUS Magazine?

This is the second edition of the Urban Villages FOCUS Magazine and the plan is to circulate them **3 times a year**. So far, you have received a version of the magazine focusing on the great projects happening in your area along with a section of shared news about activity relevant to all of the 5 Urban Village areas.

In future we intend to produce

- Single editions that will cover stories of impact across all of the 5 Urban Villages areas, and everyone will get the same news in **May & September 2018** editions.
- Then we will produce 5 types like this magazine that you have in your hands, with a focus on your local area stories in **January 2019**.



May 2018
1 single magazine



September 2018
1 single magazine



January 2019
5 separate magazines

Let us know what you think about the Urban Villages FOCUS magazine and you'll be in with a chance to win prizes!

See Page 9 for details.



Welcome

Linsey Farrell Programme Director,
Urban Villages Initiative, The Executive Office



Welcome to the second edition of FOCUS Magazine.

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to those of you who got in touch to give us feedback about the first magazine. We were delighted with the positive response and have now spent some time thinking through how we roll out the magazine from here; you can read more about our plans opposite.

We would like to hear what you think, not only about the Urban Villages FOCUS Magazine but also the programmes and projects happening in your area. To help with this, we have included a short questionnaire on page 9, and if you take just a few minutes to complete it, you will be entered for great prizes!

Our first two Shared Learning Events for community groups and residents across all five Urban Village areas brought people together to build connections and share learning on ways to make a difference, read more on page 4.

Two further Shared Learning events are planned soon, the first in South Belfast has a digital focus, and at the end of March 'Community Approaches to Tourism' will be held in East Belfast.

This will be an opportunity to meet like-minded people and to support each other in developing ideas and plans. There is still time to sign up if you're interested in attending.

We have received nearly 100 nominations for the Urban Villages Community awards, the 30 finalists have been notified, and we are looking forward to celebrating with them at the community engagement events locally and then all together at the Awards finale night at Parliament Buildings on the 21st March. You can find out more about both of these events on page 10.

It is great to read stories about the impact projects are having on people's lives, so do please keep sharing them with us. We would love to meet you in person at the wider community engagement event happening soon near you, make sure you register for that on page 10.

Best Regards,

Shared Learning Programme



Community groups across Belfast and Derry-Londonderry are very experienced in developing innovative approaches to social challenges. The Urban Villages Initiative helps local groups and residents across all five Urban Village areas to build connections and share learning on ways to make a difference.

The Colin Allotments and Healthy Living Centre in West Belfast hosted a Shared Learning event in November. This is one of the region's biggest allotments projects and includes a community facility constructed from repurposed shipping containers.

Presentations highlighted ways the Allotments are used to support educational and health outcomes. This includes cooking and horticultural courses for residents and school children. The Public Health Agency and Colin Men's Shed showcased community initiatives promoting mental health.

First time visitors to Colin came away with new contacts and sources of advice to advance similar initiatives in their own areas.

New Year resolutions were very topical at a Health and Wellbeing event in Derry-Londonderry in January. The Shared Learning event at Bishop Street Community Centre highlighted community based approaches to promoting healthy lifestyles.

The work of the Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum showcased school, family-based and workplace approaches to good health. The Pink Ladies Cancer Support Group demonstrated the power of committed people and volunteers to support others. Dove House Community Trust highlighted the importance of financial support and advice services to help people at times of crisis. People also left the event in Derry-Londonderry with a better understanding

of creative techniques to support wellbeing and the delivery of health based approaches.

To find out more about these Shared Learning events, get in touch at: info@urbanvillageni.org

WHAT'S COMING UP

South Belfast Shared Learning event: Community Approaches to Digital Skills, 27 February 2018

Venue: **Queen's University Belfast**
To register your attendance please contact us on info@urbanvillagesni.org or call **028 9037 8068**

EastSide Shared Learning event: Community led Approaches to Tourism, 28 March 2018

Venue: **Skainos Centre, East Belfast**
To register your attendance please contact us on info@urbanvillagesni.org or call **028 9037 8068**

Youth Action Partnership

Sandy Row,
Donegall Pass
& the Markets

SOUTH BELFAST

Working together to improve relationships, enhance community relations and create more cohesive communities.

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URBAN VILLAGES INITIATIVE
SUPPORTED BY



The young people of South Belfast continue to work together to improve relationships, enhance community relations and create more cohesive communities by participating in the Youth Action Partnership (YAP). Together, they have considered some of the challenging issues they all face.

Mental Health Awareness Mural, Sandy Row Charter Youth Club

The Charter Youth Club YAP project held group discussions with their young people and identified “mental health and healthy body” as significant issues in the local area. They decided to do a Mural on this theme for their club, something that would attract the attention of all young people using the centre and highlight the issues to them. They also have taken part in workshops that cover, health checks, healthy eating, PT sessions and Mental Health sessions.

Hopes and Aspirations Mural at St Malachy's Youth Centre, The Markets

St Malachy's Youth Centre have just started their mural mosaic. During initial sessions, the young people identified the many things affecting youths in the area. One thing that was very clear was that young people from the area had little or no hope or aspirations for the future. It was agreed this would be the theme for the mural mosaic.

St Malachy's Youth Centre Young men's YAP group, Tackling hard issues

St Malachy's Youth Centre runs a weekly young men's YAP group. They have looked at challenging issues, such as young men and violence. In response, Alternatives delivered its bespoke “One Punch” training, which highlights the dangers one punch can have. Other considerations for the group included anti-social behaviour in the community, the make-up of The Markets

community and what are the positive and negatives of their community. This group is also taking part in the Mosaic workshops.

Christmas Lantern Workshops

The lantern workshops were facilitated by a local artist in the After Schools Clubs in Donegall Pass and The Markets community centres. The young people each got to keep a lantern, and as there were extras made, the group deliver them to some of the local elderly people as a Christmas present. In the Donegall Pass area, ‘Winter Warmer Packs’ were delivered along with lanterns.

For more information contact: **Gareth Hughes**
gareth@alternativesrj.co.uk
Tel: 028 9031 5763

How Does Your Garden Grow?

The ‘How Does Your Garden Grow’ project has brought together Donegall Pass Community Forum in partnership with the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG) to deliver a project with residents from Donegall Pass, Sandy Row and the Markets.

Children from Botanic PS, Blythfield PS and Scoil An Droichead have been working with senior residents from Donegal Pass, Sandy Row and the Markets on this intergenerational project.

As part of the programme FCFCG has engaged the seniors from the Chinese community in an orchard project, creating links with Scoil An Droichead and Donegall Pass Community Garden, to deliver seasonal workshops.

FCFCG has worked closely with these residents to incorporate relevant Chinese cultural themes into the workshops, and

they have been enjoyed by both Chinese participants and others. The team discovered that many of the participants are from a farming background so this project has really appealed to them and brought back good memories.

Despite living in the area for many years, a number of members of the group told us that they still feel vulnerable in the area and wouldn't feel safe going out at night time. To help to address this fear, we have created links between Hong Ling Gardens and Donegall Pass Community Forum, creating space for the residents of Hong Ling to

talk about their fears and worries and to offer solutions, such as a dedicated contact within the Forum.

A group of seniors from Hong Ling Gardens Fold were welcomed to the Donegall Pass Christmas event with warming tea and open arms. The group made seasonal planters and participated in workshops that linked to the Chinese Water Festival, which fell on the same day.

The group really enjoyed the experience of participating in the event and the project has helped them to feel part of the community.





BUILDING COMMUNITY

Since engaging with the project, the representatives from the Chinese community have said that they feel less intimidated as they have made connections with Donegall Pass Community Forum, and they feel they can approach the forum with any worries they have.

The group plan to visit the Donegall Pass Community Garden on a regular basis and have been invited to join in with the community growing sessions happening there.

The seniors group are looking forward to doing some planting with pupils from the school soon, as they feel making connections within the school will help to build relationships with the young people of the area.

The group really enjoyed making the individual planters which they took back home. They now enjoy looking at them and tending to them.



An unexpected outcome

FCFCG contacted Radius Housing who manage Hong Ling Gardens Fold to ask if they could build some raised beds within the grounds of the scheme, as this is something the residents told FCFCG they would really like.

Happily, Radius Housing agreed and they can now be used by the 'How Does Your Garden Grow' project for workshops, and by the residents on a long-term basis.

Donegall Pass Seniors Dinner

Tackling loneliness and isolation for older people.



Participants came from Donegall Pass, the Markets and Sandy Row, as well as invited guests from the local Chinese community, Ormeau Road and Taughmonagh. They enjoyed a three course Christmas dinner prepared and served by 12 young volunteers from the local Donegall Pass area.

The aim of the event was to provide an activity that would help the senior citizens connect better with each other and the communities around them, with a view to building stronger relationships. This helps tackle loneliness and isolation for older people.

This event also provided a platform to bring older and younger people together, to break down barriers, build relationships and understanding between

those who live in the same community but may not get the opportunity to get together.

The evening was a great success with many seniors forging relationships with seniors from other groups and areas leading to many attending other events in each other's areas.

Terry Watson, the Chair of the Community Centre committee said,

“We’re delighted to be able to run the seniors Christmas dinner at Donegall Pass Community Centre, events such as these are vital to bring communities together, promote inclusivity and good relations. We are really pleased that so many seniors were able to attend despite the bad weather.”

FOCUS Magazine Survey

Closing date:
16th March 2018



1 Did you know about the Urban Villages initiative before reading the newsletter?

Yes

No

2 Did you find the articles interesting?

Yes

No

Anything in particular you found interesting?

3 Did you find the information useful?

Yes

No

4 Overall, how would you rate the Newsletter? (On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent) Please circle.

1 2 3 4 5

5 Do you think Urban Villages is a worthwhile initiative?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Return form to:

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Or complete form online FOR FREE:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FocusUV>

In case we need to contact you - Tell us your name, and contact details

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Address:

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The Urban Villages Community Awards Update

Nearly 100 nominations were received from a wide range of incredible people, organisations, projects and places from across the five Urban Village areas. This highlights the extent of inspirational work and fantastic community spirit across these areas.

In total there are 30 finalists, one from each Urban Village area in each of the six categories - so six finalists will be representing each area!

The finalists represent exceptional people, places, organisations and projects that are making a real difference to their community.

We are delighted to feature the finalists here and we look forward to the Urban Villages Awards Ceremony at Parliament Buildings, Stormont on Wednesday 21st March 2018.

Congratulations to all and good luck!



Join us at Community Engagement Events in your Urban Village area:



**South Belfast
Venue:
Markets
Community Centre**

The Urban Villages Initiative will be holding a series of community engagement events across Urban Village areas during February and March 2018. We invite you to come and find out what's happening in your local community, and be part of continuing to shape the future of your area.

Hear about the great projects that have been rolling out in your area, and tell us what you think about the Urban Villages Initiative!



























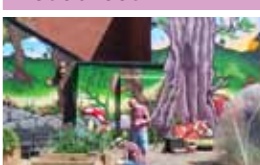



Help us to inform programmes that will meet the needs of all of the Urban Village areas.

Meet the finalists that will be representing your local area at the Urban Villages Awards

Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

To register your attendance please contact us on info@urbanvillagesni.org or call **028 9037 8068**

The Urban Villages Community Awards 2018 Finalists

CATEGORY	North Belfast	South Belfast	East Belfast	West Belfast	Derry ~Londonderry
Youth Achievement	 YEHA Aspire Project	 St Malachy's YC Our Future Project	 AR Story project	 Uniting Communities Project 2017	 Megan McKinney
Education and Learning	 Retail and Care Training	 South Belfast Alternatives START Project	 EastSide Learning Community Education	 Holy Evangelists' Community Hub	 Margaret Cunningham
Sport & Physical Activity	 Point to Point Outdoor Challenge	 Réalta na Cromóige	 Street Soccer NI	 Colin Valley FC	 BBHF Resilience Programme
Celebrating Diversity	 North Belfast Friendship Club	 South Belfast Alternatives Dine with Me	 Prokick Community Gym	 Colin Men's Shed	 Kyle Thompson
Creativity & Innovation	 Belfast Boys' Model/Restorative School Project	 Belfast South Community Resources	 Ballymac Friendship Trust	 Colin Safer Neighbourhood Project	 Festival of Fire
Thriving Places	 Oasis Garden Project	 Donegall Pass Community Garden	 EastSide Visitor Centre/CS Lewis Square	 Lagmore Community Forum	 Gasyard Centre and Parkland

WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM
YOU...

URBAN VILLAGES FOCUS MAGAZINE will tell you what's happening and what the Executive is supporting across the Urban Village Areas in Belfast and Derry~Londonderry.

The local stories you have read have come from community groups and individuals in Urban Village areas. We want this magazine to reflect the great things that are happening where you live and welcome your comments and ideas!

If you would like to receive future editions of FOCUS Magazine, sign up at info@urbanvillagesni.org or contact us at The Urban Villages Initiative, Room E4.15, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SR



Northern Ireland
Executive
www.northernireland.gov.uk

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Changing for the better, together



Contact us:
info@urbanvillagesni.org