

Bogside, Fountain &
Bishop Street

**DERRY~
LONDONDERRY**

ISSUE

02

FEBRUARY

2018

URBAN VILLAGES

FOCUS

MAGAZINE

**Win
prizes!**

Take part in
our Survey!

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

**Awakening
the Walls**

adidas **Pink
Ladies**



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**

Awakening the Walls

Bogside, Fountain & Bishop Street

**DERRY~
LONDONDERRY**

Schools and Youth Clubs worked together to creatively Awaken the Walls

'Under a Samhain Moon' was a collaborative projection mapping project between local schools, youth clubs and arts organisations as part of Derry City & Strabane District Council's Awakening The Walls initiative as part of The Foyle Halloween Festival.

The project, involved 119 young people in workshops and a 2-day adult masterclass provided by industry experts Guerrilla Shout. The creative sessions were held across the Urban Village areas in the Cathedral Youth Club, Pilots Row Youth Club, Long Tower School, Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir and the Fountain Primary School.

Children & young people received an overview of the project and an introduction to projection mapping



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technology. Participants then created artwork on the theme of Under a Samhain Moon, which was then included as part of the projections at the Awakening The Walls event.

They created several projection installations across the Bogside, Bishop Street and Fountain Urban Village. They developed a supernatural illuminated animation trail for three evenings before Halloween and attracting an audience of over 30,000 people!

The trail ran from Free Derry Corner to Hawkin Street, on to Bishop's Gate and through to the Fountain. The installations allowed residents and visitors to see these parts of the city in a more positive new light.



This collaboration included Guerrilla Shout, Celtronic, Bluebell Arts, New Gate Arts and Culture Centre, Youth First, Cathedral Youth Club, Pilots Row Youth Club, Long Tower Youth Club, Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir, Long Tower PS, Fountain PS.

The Bog Couple

The Bog Couple is the highlight of the Playhouse Spring programme, a comedy play that features the Rossville flats and the Bogside.

The key theme of the play is cross-community friendship, it offers a feel-good factor with a focus on the fact that there is more that unites than divides us all.

The play is a high tech major production that features sophisticated lighting and tech design; it will feature some of the North West's leading actors along with support from 19 enthusiastic young novices recruited from the Urban Village area of the Bogside, Fountain and Bishop Street.

The new recruits have shown an interest in all aspects of theatre, from set building

to light and sound design, acting and directing to stage manager work.

These 19 young people have set off on the journey of bringing this play from page to stage, upskilling in theatre and creative skills, and becoming part of the team delivering and putting this feature play on.

The group of young people have shown specific interests in particular aspects, some have immersed themselves in lighting design, others have engaged in rehearsal and directing sessions, and a particular group of about 10 are interested in set design and set build, so once a week there is a dedicated set design workshop group.

In addition to the major full-scale production there will be

play performed in local community centres, with a discussion about the processes of theatre. The plan is that the young interns take part in the programme to technically deliver and produce these performances.

Written by Dr Liam Campbell and directed by Kieran Griffiths the play will hold a series of readings, performances, and workshops in the Bogside, Fountain and Bishop Street.

There is an 'Employability in the Creative Industries Certificate' attached to this programme that has proven useful and enhances CVs. The young people gain vital experience and training in design, build and backstage skills. The Creative Industries has been identified by the Executive as an area of economic growth.



The Bog Couple will have its full world premiere at The Playhouse from Tuesday 13 to Saturday 17 February 2018. **For more information contact Liam Campbell at the Playhouse: 028 7126 8027 or via email: liam@derryplayhouse.co.uk**



Pink Ladies

Maureen Collins provided a great introduction to the innovations of The Pink Ladies at the Urban Villages Health & Wellbeing Shared Learning event held at Bishop St Community centre in January, and we were treated to a performance by their choir that day.

A Celebration of Life

Based in Bishop Street Community Centre, the Pink Ladies is a formidable group of talented and resourceful ladies providing a range of Cancer support services for women, men and children affected by cancer.

In December 2017, they hosted a concert, "A Celebration of Life", held in The Guildhall. Billed as a 'thank you' to the people of Derry-Londonderry for their unending support, the Christmas Celebration and Reflection Concert was an uplifting night of music and song that attracted an audience of over 500 people.

Joining the Pink Ladies Choir on stage were musicians of all ages and backgrounds from the local community, including Long Tower and Fountain Primary School Choir, Momentum Community Choir and Oakgrove Primary School Choir. The Pink Ladies also collaborated with staff from the recently opened North West Cancer Centre Choir who formed a fantastic choir especially for the concert.

The event also featured performances from the inimitable Saint Sister, Paul Casey, Conor McGinty and Anne Marie Hickey, and a highlight of the evening was featured recording contributions from Phil Coulter and Snow Patrol.

Know it, Change it, Live it!



The Know it, Change it, Live it (KCL) project is unique to Dove House Community Trust. The project supports low income families, specifically targeting those who are on benefits and/or those working that find their income is not enough to suffice.

The project is currently engaged with six families and supports them through a tailored 5-week program to meet the particular needs of each family. The sessions cover, money maximisation; financial inclusion; avoiding food wastage and the psychology of shopping and retail advertising.

There are also group sessions which additionally look at Debt and Benefits advice; and there are opportunities to do taste tests, which allow customers make better choices by sampling some of Tesco's own brands compared to generic branded foods.

Families benefit in terms of maximising their income by making better choices, having more efficient spending power and therefore, more disposable income. This project provides the opportunity for families to bring about positive and lasting change!

For more information contact:
Majella Stewart, Dove House email: majellastewarddovehouse@gmail.com or
Tel: 028 7126 9327



STREETS ALIVE

Event: Women's Role in Irish History

Date: Monday 5th March
Venue: Cathedral Youth Club
Time: 10am

Event: International Women's Day

Date: Thursday 8th March
Time: All Day
Venue: Various locations

Event: Dance Masterclass Weekend

Dates: Saturday 10th - Sunday 11th March
Time: 10am - 3pm
Venue: Flaunt Ur Step Dance School at The Gasyard Centre

Event: Hanging Basket Workshops

Dates: Monday 12th - Wednesday 14th March
Venues: Bogside, Bishop Street, Fountain

Event: 100 Years of Celebrating Women

Date: Saturday 10th March
Venue: City Hotel, Queen's Quay, Derry-Londonderry

Event: Spring Festival at Urban Villages Marquee

Dates: Friday 16th and Saturday 17th March

Event: Ubuntu

Date: Sunday 18th March
Venue: Brandywell

Event: Urban Villages 5k Dash

Date: Saturday 24th March

For more information on these events contact Linda McKinney c/o Streets Alive Project, at the Gasyard Centre
Email: lindagasyard@gmail.com or
Tel: **028 7126 2812**

FOCUS Magazine Survey

Closing date:
16th March 2018



Win prizes!
Take part in our Survey!

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

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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:



**Derry~Londonderry
Venue:
Bishop Street
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!



























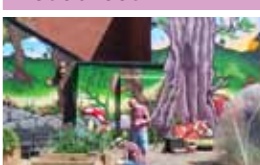



Help us to inform programmes that will meet the needs of all of the Urban Village areas.

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



Contact us:
info@urbanvillagesni.org