

URBAN VILLAGES

FOCUS

MAGAZINE

ISSUE

03

JUNE

2018

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NORTH
BELFAST
Generation
2017
YOUNG
LEADERS

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YOUTH
FORUM
Using their
VOICE

HOSFORD
BREAKFAST
KART
Healthy
Eating in
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Yester
Years
Connecting
Community

DERRY~
LONDONDERRY
Streets Alive
RETURNS
IN AUGUST



IMPROVING AREAS | STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES | LIVING BETTER TOGETHER

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About Us



The Urban Villages Initiative is a headline action of the Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy. It is designed to improve good relations outcomes and develop thriving places.

The Urban Villages Initiative is shaped and delivered in partnership with local communities and has three core aims:

- To foster positive community identities
- To build community capacity
- To improve the physical environment

The Urban Villages Initiative is continuing to invest in the five Urban Village areas by supporting organisations in the development of projects aimed at improving the lives of people in these areas.

For more information contact: info@urbanvillagesni.org

Welcome

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



Welcome to the latest edition of FOCUS magazine.

You will notice we have a new format for this edition. For the first time, we have content produced from across all five Urban Village areas, so that you can see what is happening in other places across the programme.

New items in this issue include a shared 'What's On' section offering lots of activities and events to get involved with, and there is a section focusing on the physical impact on communities as the Capital projects roll out in Urban Village areas.

Read about the range of community led projects being delivered and be inspired by the great work that is going on.

We are also delighted to share with you details of our first ever Urban Villages Community Awards. The showcase of projects at our celebratory event in Parliament Buildings this year was exceptional. People, projects, organisations and places making a difference in their communities, fantastic! Congratulations to all the winners and finalists. I was so impressed by the dedication, commitment and determination to make a difference across all the areas.

The results of the survey from the last edition of FOCUS Magazine are in. Thank you for taking the time to give us your feedback and I'm delighted to say that overall it was very encouraging. Over 95% agreed that the Urban Village Initiative was worthwhile. On p28 you will find out who were the lucky winners of the survey prize draw.

Another little new addition is our 'Pic Op' on the back page. We would love you to share your best or most memorable photos from projects, programmes or events that you are involved with, send them to us at info@urbanvillagesni.org, and we will feature a selection in the next edition.

The content of this compilation edition really shows how the initiative is supporting delivery of good relations outcomes for the communities, as they endeavour to live and work better together across the Urban Village areas.

I welcome your thoughts, ideas and stories, so please do keep sending them in, contact details are on the back cover.

Best regards,

URBAN VILLAGE AREAS - Derry-Londonderry: Bogside, Fountain & Bishop Street. South Belfast: Sandy Row, Donegall Pass & The Markets. North Belfast: Ardoyne & Greater Ballysillan. East Belfast: Newtownards Road, Grampian Avenue to Bridge End. West Belfast: Colin Area.

Urban Villages Community Awards

Celebration for Local Community Groups



People and projects making a difference across Belfast and Derry-Londonderry were celebrated at the first ever Urban Villages Community Awards. Thirty finalists from across five

Urban Village areas were joined by families, supporters, community and elected representatives at an event in the Great Hall at Parliament Buildings, Stormont in March this year.

The Urban Villages Community Awards were not just about highlighting projects supported by the Urban Villages Initiative, but any project or activity that is making a difference in Urban Village areas.



Urban Villages Community Awards Video <https://youtu.be/84DYedJ4RvA>

Dr Mark Browne, Director of Strategic Policy, Equality & Good Relations at the Executive Office, commented,

“Congratulations to all the winners. In them, and indeed in all our finalists, we have seen examples of exceptional people, projects, organisations and places. There is tremendous value in connecting groups and communities in this way to share learning on what works in tackling common issues.”

Classroom Connections

Bringing schools and communities together from across all 5 Urban Village areas



Schools of Sanctuary

Just a year ago Blythefield Primary School in South Belfast Urban Village area became the first primary school in Northern Ireland to achieve ‘School of Sanctuary’ status. This recognises their work in promoting cultural awareness and celebrating diversity.

This year, the partnership with the Education Authority is helping teachers from 11 schools across Urban Village areas to share learning and work towards their schools gaining this accreditation.

This involves submitting an action plan to the City of Sanctuary Group detailing their commitment and proactive approach to fostering a culture of welcome and inclusion in their schools and wider communities.



A further 11 schools hope to achieve ‘School of Sanctuary’ status by the start of the new academic year.

More schools will be encouraged to showcase their positive impact on good relations and will be supported in developing links with local groups and other relevant projects.

Linsey Farrell, Programme Director, Urban Villages Initiative, commented:

“This is an opportunity for young people in Urban Village areas to learn new skills and improve their self-confidence through a wide range of exciting and creative projects.”



Creative Schools Partnership

A pilot scheme led by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Education Authority is working initially with 10 post-primary schools serving Urban Village areas to develop creative projects which support pupils’ learning and self-esteem.

Plans are being developed to help the schools share learning during Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week in September 2018.

Creative Schools Video <https://youtu.be/DkXXvFV7ipU>

Urban Digital Futures

Urban Digital Futures is a digital skills project led by Belfast City Council which provides free digital resources and training to teachers.

This will help young people create digital content and better understand key growth sectors for

employment. Partnership with the Urban Villages Initiative is focusing this pilot project mainly on schools serving Urban Village areas.



Good Morning Colin

Colin
WEST BELFAST



The Urban Villages Initiative supported the Good Morning Colin project through the replacement of new computers, display screens and headphones to enable the service to continue.

Volunteer Martin Logue

“I see Good Morning Colin as not only a service that provides help and support for others, but it also does the same for me. Helping and speaking to others makes me feel I am not useless. I have something to give in life and the feeling this provides is better than any medication I have ever taken.”

Good Morning Colin is a telephone call support service based in the Colin area of west Belfast. The service operates 365 days per year supporting 360 older and vulnerable residents via a daily telephone call service to ensure their well-being.

The service is a cross community project, supporting people not only in the Colin area but also Dunmurry, Lisburn, Hillsborough and Moira. Good Morning Colin is delivered mainly by a team of dedicated volunteers.

This project supports people ranging from 60 to 90 years of age by ensuring their safety at home. Through a daily telephone call, Good Morning Colin helps make people feel safer in their own

homes and should any issues arise, the Good Morning Colin team will refer clients to the relevant services.

As well as providing a telephone call service, Good Morning Colin provides a range of events and activities to support older and vulnerable people including visits to markets, tea dances, Valentines and May balls and healthy eating programmes.

These activities and events help to improve mental health and wellbeing in the area by ensuring people are not isolated or lonely, making sure that they feel safe in their community and home and that they are aware of other services available in the area. The service helps to sustain the independent living of many older residents.

Colin Community Choir is Pitch Perfect



A new community choir supported by the Urban Villages Initiative has been established in the Colin area. The Crescendo Colin community choir has been running since February 2018 and now has over 30 participants.

The choir is a great way to bring people of all ages from the local community together in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

The choir meets weekly, every Tuesday, in the new Lagmore Community Centre provided by the Urban Villages Initiative, and is led by choir master Keith Acheson. As well as the weekly classes, the choir have the opportunity to get out and engage with the community by performing at other Colin community events including the Colin Creativity Day in March.

The next performances are due to take place in June at the Annual Colin volunteers BBQ and in August at the Colin community festival. The choir is part of the wider Crescendo programme that is also operating in Good Shepherd PS and Holy Evangelists' PS by providing pupils with violin and cello lessons delivered by the Ulster Orchestra.

Music and singing have been proven to have major benefits by helping to improve self-esteem, building confidence and by providing a positive outlet for people

dealing with life changing issues, such as; retirement, bereavement, physical and mental health issues, by bringing them together in a safe and fun environment.

Everyone welcome!

There is no cost to joining the choir and it is open to everyone aged 10yrs and over. If you would like to get involved or for more information, contact John Paul Russell at Colin Neighbourhood Partnership on 028 9062 3813 or email johnpaul@newcolin.com



Colin
WEST BELFAST

A voice for Young People

The Colin Youth Forum is a voice for young people in the Colin Area. The group meets each week in the Colin Youth Development Centre to discuss how they can help other young people and organisations in the area. The Colin Youth Forum regularly gets involved in community events and projects in the local Colin area as well as fundraising for local charities and participating in cross community projects.

The young people have completed workshops on sexual health, mental wellbeing and first aid as well as a series of educational visits.

The youth forum recently completed a programme entitled "2 Cities 2 Walls" which involved an Educational trip to Berlin in March 2018 and a visit to the Coiste Centre on the Falls Road in Belfast. The visit gave the young people different perspectives of the conflict and a better understanding of the peace wall.

Whilst in Berlin the young people had the opportunity to explore German history and culture and have a better understanding of the Berlin Wall. This programme helped young people to explore the themes of "Cultural Diversity, Conflict Resolution and understanding different historical perspectives".

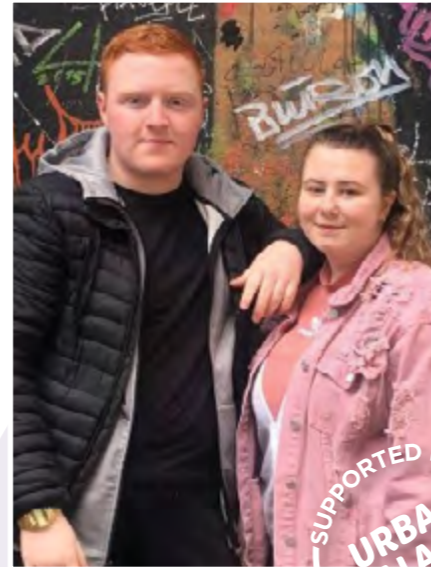
The Colin Youth Forum want to help address ongoing issues within the Colin Community such as drugs/alcohol, anti-social behaviour and mental health among young people.

The youth forum can help young people develop thinking skills, life and work skills, develop positive relationships with others, increase their own participation in their community and become active citizens.

The youth forum is always evolving and new members are always welcome.



Colin ThrivingYouthVideo.
<https://youtu.be/k8qgyS3V26A>



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"The forum has helped provide me with a voice in my community and will continue to help young people in the community"
Brian, Thriving Youth

If you would like to get involved, contact Andrew Linton, Colin Youth Development Centre, 14 Good Shepherd Road, Belfast, BT17 0PP
andrew.linton@eani.org.uk

Let's get ready to rumble

The Urban Villages Initiative supports Colin Safer Streets. The programme continues to tackle issues affecting the Colin Neighbourhood and to reduce community tensions among local people.

The project delivers a number of diversionary programmes, 'on street' work, outreach initiatives and training. The project also provides alternative activities such as boxing, late night football, boxercise and girls alternative nail/therapy programmes. A recent boxing tournament organised with the assistance of the Safer Streets initiative included the attendance of boxing clubs from across the community.



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Theatre of Witness

Bogside, Fountain & Bishop Street
DERRY~ LONDONDERRY

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Theatre of Witness was produced, written and directed by founder Teya Sepinuck and began in Northern Ireland with the production of six pieces of high quality theatre performed by, and created from the stories of victims and survivors of The Troubles - including ex-prisoners and former combatants, police, security personnel and relatives of those killed or injured.

The individuals involved in Theatre of Witness have been working together over the past ten years using their produced theatre pieces as an educational resource in workshops, providing participants with real life stories documenting the history of the Troubles.

Theatre of Witness workshops are interactive, wide-ranging and informative explorations of the past, as well as an opportunity to consider the path to healing and peace.

The workshops show scenes from the Theatre of Witness documentary which captures the coming together of those who experienced The

Troubles - from all sides - and the process of putting their collective stories on a theatrical stage.

The individuals sharing their stories are there to engage with participants, offering vital insights into the power of storytelling as a healing, empowering and transformative tool.

The Urban Villages Initiative is supporting Theatre of Witness workshops for groups in Urban Village areas to work together to consider their own stories as they have opportunity to learn from others from differing and often opposing backgrounds.

"These are the moving stories history books miss..."
"It was a privilege to hear and engage with real inspiring peacemakers..."

A number of free Theatre of Witness Workshops are available for groups within the Urban Village Area and refreshments will be provided.

JOIN US
For more information or to book a workshop contact Claire on
claire@derryplayhouse.co.uk
or call 028 7126 8027.

Streets Alive 2018/2019



Last year's Streets Alive programme of events was a huge success attracting audiences in excess of 40,000 people and inspiring another year of exciting events.

Following many years of collaborative work and building on the success of Urban Villages community projects in 2016/2017, a number of community organisations in the Bogside, Bishop Street and Fountain Urban Village area came together to deliver the first Streets Alive programme in 2017/2018.

Highlights from last year included the Return of The Phoenix-Festival of Fire, Awakening The Walls, DCTL Festival for Children & Young People and the Spring Festival. The year long programme of events was a huge success attracting audiences in excess of 40,000 people.

The programme is led by Gasyard Wall Féile supported by a partnership of several groups from across the whole Derry-Londonderry area who have helped develop and deliver this programme.

Plans are well underway for events during 2018/2019.

For more information on any of these events please contact **the Gasyard**
T: 028 7126 2812 or
E: gasyardfeilederry@gmail.com



Festival of Fire 2018 (15th August)


Over the last 25 years, Gasyard Wall Féile and its various partner organisations have programmed various diversionary activities in the Bogside, Bishop Street, Fountain, Brandywell and Creggan areas around contentious marches, bonfires etc. This has successfully reduced inter and intra community tensions.

In 2017, The Return of The Phoenix Festival of Fire at the Gasyard Park brought more than 3,500 people together in a celebration of the ancient tradition of fire, free from the sectarianism and anti-social behaviour associated with recent bonfires in the area.

The Return of the Phoenix unfolded a story of Celtic Mythology through beautiful fiery images, physical performance and Irish Music and build towards the lighting of a large sculptural bonfire, fireworks and the ascending fire bird. The event also featured a world class music line-up.

Plans are progressing for this year's festival, if you are interested in being part of the development of the programme contact us on **T: 028 7126 2812 or E: gasyardfeilederry@gmail.com**



 **Streets Alive Video**
<https://youtu.be/ofx11g2be4s>



A Day for Ryan McBride

Summer street football event organised to celebrate the life of Ryan McBride. A Day for Ryan McBride will take place on the streets of the Brandywell neighbourhood. All ages welcome.

New Gate Fringe Festival

(23rd July - 8th August)

The Fringe Festival was developed and organised by North West Cultural Partnership to complement the rich festival scene in the city, coinciding with the Maiden City Festival and Gasyard Wall Féile, adding variety and choice to the activities offered by these established events. The festival was set up to celebrate cultural diversity, to challenge misconceptions, promote understanding, build community cohesion and create a thriving community.

This year's festival will feature a series of talks, history, cultural, music and dance events.

For more information on any of these events please contact **the Gasyard**
T: 028 7126 2812 or
E: gasyardfeilederry@gmail.com



Resilience Programme

The Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum (BBHF) is a community led organisation addressing health inequalities and enhancing the wellbeing of the people in Derry-Londonderry and beyond.

The Urban Villages Initiative has supported BBHF in strengthening partnerships with local schools and youth clubs in the Fountain, Bogside and Bishop St areas, while delivering a unique programme of events and activities supporting health and wellbeing in a fun and interactive way.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

The 5K dash around the Urban Villages area that took place earlier this year, involved all of the schools that had participated in the Resilience Programme and provided more opportunity to build relationships between the neighbouring schools while they tackled eating challenges and obstacle courses!

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

This year BBHF will continue to deliver the Resilience programme in partnership with five primary schools and five youth clubs across the Urban Village area. Young people from the area will have the opportunity to receive



additional educational support and to engage in physical activity to complement and support the work of schools.

 **5k Dash Video**
<https://youtu.be/jFxczcd5EQ>

"The Resilience Programme helps young people with poor attendance at school to improve their Maths and English as well as increasing their physical activity."

"Also, importantly, getting the schools together to celebrate achievement and build relationships is an invaluable part of the programme."

Aileen McGuinness, BBHF



Urban Villages Initiative in EastSide

EAST BELFAST

Andrew Irvine, Chief Executive of East Belfast Mission said:

“The Forum has given the space and opportunity to consider not only how we can coordinate our work – but to discern what the Church can uniquely bring to the development of the Inner East Belfast community.”

Apart from community organisations, churches provide much of the social fabric of life in East Belfast.

Inner East Churches Forum



The overall goal of this project is to engage constructively with all places of worship in the East Belfast Urban Village area (Newtownards Road, Grampian Avenue to Bridge End). The plan is to develop a shared programme celebrating the role played by churches in the community.

There are 3 aims: to build relationships between churches, between churches and the community and between churches and the Urban Villages Initiative. The process is facilitated by Thrive Ireland.

Many of the church representatives taking part had not met each other before getting involved. Ten churches participated in the initial meetings of the forum. The Forum now continues to meet with support from the Urban Villages Initiative.

If your church is active in this area get involved by contacting Jonny Currie, Community Development Director, EBCDA at jonny@ebcda.org 028 9045 1512

Urban Art for Sports Park

A new mural was produced on the wall of the Ramp House in May 2018.

The artwork commissioned by EastSide Urban Villages Arts & Creativity Group was created by Nozzle and Brush, Belfast based graffiti and street artists with the assistance of young people completing their OCN training in Street Art.

The mural is an homage to the deceased BMX rider Dave

Mirra, the first action sports star to be diagnosed with a neurodegenerative disease.

The quality of the piece has been widely praised, with the owners, staff and users of the Ramp House all delighted with the artwork.

The Ramp House, located at Connswater, in Bloomfield Commercial Centre is Northern Ireland's only indoor skatepark.

The park is for anyone who is interested in urban sports from BMX and Skateboarding to Scootering.

An Edwardian tale to send shivers down your spine!

During April 2018, the EastSide Urban Village Arts and Creativity group led by Ballymac Friendship Trust and in partnership with Partisan Productions put on a play entitled 'A True And Attested Account Of Certain Mysterious Events Which Have Occurred Recently in Mersey Street.'

The production, part of the OCN Creative Industries, was written by Fintan Brady and told the story of a family of spiritual mediums, living in Mersey Street.

Partisan productions worked collaboratively on this community project involving local people from Inner East Belfast. The Urban Villages Initiative supported Ballymac Friendship Trust to work with local young

people on OCN training programmes in theatrical stage make up and set design and build. Working on this play has offered the young people real experience in theatre make-up and set building, the young team have gained accreditation for their work through the programme.

The four day show which was supported by Urban Villages Initiative, Belfast City Council, Arts Council NI and the Community Relations Council took place in the Engine Room at Portview Trade Centre. An almost full house every night turned up to watch this immersive tale which offered a timeless exploration of human loss, yearning, regret and the need to connect.



Find out more about OCN Training contact Roz Small roz.small@hotmail.com 028 9045 2020

Urban Villages Initiative in EastSide
EAST BELFAST

Healthy Eating at Hosford Breakfast Kart



Hosford is the homeless project of East Belfast Mission based in the Skainos Centre on the Newtownards Road in East Belfast.

Hosford runs many projects providing people with opportunities to learn new skills, meet people, regain lost confidence and to break out of homelessness and maintain independence.

Hosford's Breakfast Kart visited a number of projects supported by the Urban Villages Initiative to deliver a message about healthy eating and nutrition and to give out free Breakfast Packs.

The final session took place at Skainos Family Centre with an event called 'Food around the World' during which food was served from the Far East, Middle East, China, Africa and N Ireland.

The event was a huge success and was really enjoyed by the diverse group of participants.

Street Soccer NI

East Belfast Mission and Street Soccer NI work in partnership to transform the lives of disadvantaged groups through football.

Seven weekly projects are run across Northern Ireland with up to 80 people a week attending as well as a number of trips and tournaments throughout the year.

The two east Belfast projects take place every Monday evening at Ashfield Boys School from 8pm (Men) and Thursdays at Ozone from 8pm (women).

Support is given to clients to tackle homelessness, unemployment, mental health issues, addictions

and other issues affecting local people.

This year, the project will see eight homeless men and 8 homeless women go to the Homeless World Cup in Mexico in November. The Homeless World Cup is a unique, pioneering social movement which uses football to inspire homeless people to change their own lives.

Coaching preparation and support from the EastSide Street Soccer team helped players tackle issues that prevented them from having a better life. Goal Keeper Ashley Young has spoken about the difference the project has made in her life.

Ashley said:

"I've been homeless for two years and I have just got my own home. It has given me the motivation I lacked and I now want to get a job. I'm doing essentials skills qualifications, and in two weeks I'm starting a qualification in security."



Ardoyne & Greater Ballysillan

NORTH BELFAST



Belfast Boys' Model Restorative Practice Project Presentation at Stormont



Representatives from the Belfast Boys' Model Restorative Practice Project were recently invited to Castle Buildings to present their project to The Executive Office Good Relations Programme Board.

Mary Montgomery, Pastoral VP, Belfast Boys' Model, Joan Totten, Manager, North Belfast Alternatives along with two pupils from the school, Diesel Megarry (Yr 10) and Marcus Mulligan (Yr 9) seized the opportunity to highlight the project and its positive impact, not only on the pupils directly involved, but on the school as a whole and the wider community.

The group delivered an exemplary presentation which really struck a chord

with the members of the Good Relations Programme Board leaving them in no doubt as to the benefit and the positive outcomes of the project. Outcomes included improved attendance for all participants and reduced suspensions by 42%.

The project also saw recent success at the Urban Villages Community Awards, winning the Creativity and Innovation Award for their work on the Greenhouse Project.

"I was more focused in class... the Greenhouse Project helped get me out of trouble... the Greenhouse Project was for us to grow food and give back to the community for those that maybe are not able to buy their own food"

Diesel Megarry

 **Boys' Model Video**
<https://youtu.be/T0gnli4cW9s>

Carezone in Schools

Youth health and wellbeing project



Sean Devlin of Yeha, Tami Russell, peer mentor at Mercy College and Lucinda Vance of Streetbeat.

YEHA a Youth Health and Wellbeing Project based in Ardoyne, along with Woodvale's Streetbeat Youth Centre, Mercy College, Belfast Girls' Model School and Lighthouse worked together to create a caring environment for pupils in Ardoyne and Greater Ballysillan.

YEHA and Streetbeat have recruited young people in the two schools to become peer mentors. 12 volunteers were needed and so far there's been a fantastic response as 24 Lower Sixth pupils from Mercy College have declared an interest.

Streetbeat's Lucinda Vance added; **"Streetbeat has worked with over 150 pupils in the Boys' Model and Girls' Model schools over the last academic year, looking at confidence building, coping skills and resilience. Carezone in Schools will take this work to the next stage, with pupils taking a lead role in supporting each other."**

- Carezone in Schools will consist of:
- support hubs in each school with dedicated space to look after students' mental health and wellbeing; and
 - awareness sessions on issues that affect youth mental health and wellbeing, how to access support at school and how to help someone in need of support.

The young volunteers from both schools will be trained together in the summer. They will gain recognised qualifications in mental health awareness and helping skills, and will be ready to start as peer mentors when schools reopen in September.

All pupils will have access to support from trained youth workers based in the schools and can avail of extra support in the community.

The team hopes to extend the Carezone model to other schools.

**To find out more contact:
YEHA: yeha.biz
Streetbeat: streetbeatyouthproject.com**

Sean Devlin, YEHA Project Manager said; **"We're thrilled to be able to provide much needed support to young people within Mercy College and Girls' Model schools. We designed the project jointly with the schools and their pupils and we're confident that it will contribute immensely to the positive mental health of young people."**

Generation 2017

Young leaders give back to their community



Generation 2017 is a Ballysillan Youth for Christ project. As part of the project, 14 young people have completed a Good Relations and Cultural Diversity accreditation with Youth Link. Through the NI Youth Forum, they discussed how to start their own forum to give young people a greater say in how the Centre is run.

80 children enjoyed face-painting, bouncy castles, an Easter Bunny, DJ, Playbus amongst other activities.

Eleven of the young people are preparing a 10-day trip to Ethiopia where they will work with 300 children, test their skills and bring back their experience to their community. The young people fundraised for their trip by taking part in the Belfast Marathon.

Ballysillan Youth for Christ (Blue Houses):
thebluehouses.org

In March 2018, the young people organised a family fun day in Silverstream, a derelict site that the community wants to see redeveloped. At the event, approximately

Blue Houses youth worker Laura Farrell explains:

"Developing young leaders is core to our aims. This project allowed us to do more training and give young people opportunities to do things within the community. Our young leaders have totted up 1,200 hours volunteering across the year, Monday evening drop-ins could simply not run without them."

Rebecca Hayes, Youth Volunteer of Generation 2017 said; **"It's usually just fires being lit and people racing motorbikes in there. It was great to see it being used for a good cause."**



Early Years services vital across South Belfast

Sandy Row, Donegall Pass & the Markets

SOUTH BELFAST



Through support from the Urban Villages Initiative, Sure Start have appointed an Early Years Engagement Worker to support children and families in the Markets, Sandy Row and Donegall Pass.

Sure Start new recruit, Anna Devlin, is establishing two new crèches in the Markets Sure Start Centre as well as planning and organising events across the South Belfast Urban Village area.

The first event took place at Easter when parents and children spent a day out at Streamvale Farm. The children enjoyed all the activities.

The children burned off some energy on the hay bale slides and play park, giving the adults time to get to know each other.

One of the highlights, for all ages, was visiting the new-born pigs, rabbits and

puppies. These forms of play and experience are crucial in early years development, and also lots of fun!

Sure Start is currently running the Solihull Parenting for Parents across the South Belfast Urban Village area. This 10 week course helps parents develop effective approaches to child development and effective behaviour management.

In the coming months, a Baby Sensory programme will work with parents and children aged between 6 to 12 month olds. The classes use sight, smell, texture, sound and music to stimulate the senses and help baby's development.

One parent commented that **'it is great to see different communities coming together.'**

A 6 week community nutrition programme 'Cook It', will help parents develop their cooking skills enabling them to make healthier choices for their families.

If you would like to find out more about the work and services offered by Sure Start in South Belfast contact the office on 028 9094 2525.

YesterYears Project



The YesterYears project has been launched by Donegall Pass Community Centre Committee. As part of the Urban Villages Community Connections programme, the YesterYears Project has captured stories of local people from before, during and after the war as well as stories from more recent times.

People were interviewed from all areas of the South Belfast Urban Village area - Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Markets, including members of the local Chinese community, and their stories and memories have been captured on film.

The DVDs which have been produced as part of this project consider days gone by, how the South Belfast

area has changed over the years and how it has been shaped through the people that used to live there.

The project is supported by the Urban Villages Initiative and Belfast City Council.

Linsey Farrell, Programme Director of the Urban Villages Initiative said; **"It is wonderful to see people from Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Markets working together to capture the amazing stories and memories of those who lived in these streets in years gone by. The YesterYears project helps to promote a positive community identity in the South Belfast area, a core aim of the Urban Villages Initiative."**

Terry Watson Donegall Pass Community Centre Committee said;

"We are confident the project will generate much interest in the activities, stir the memories and bring to life the history of the local communities.

It will create new learning and develop many new skills for those who engage in the project."



South Belfast Alternatives YAP

Youth Action Partnership



South Belfast Alternatives YAP project is a good relations programme delivered across the south Belfast Urban Village area in Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Markets.

From October 2017 to March 2018, 454 young people from across the three areas Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Markets were engaged in a range of programmes including good relations, community safety, intergenerational workshops, active citizenship and volunteering, youth advocacy, bespoke training, accredited OCN training and the development of six Community Champions, two from each area.

The YAP Celebration Event in Donegall Pass Community Centre highlighted the involvement and achievements of all of the young people and programmes delivered including a 'Hopes, Dreams and Aspirations' mosaic in St Malachy's Youth Centre and a positive mental health awareness mural in The Charter Youth Club.

YAP Community Champions for 2017-2018 received their awards from Koulla Yiasouma, the NI Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Representatives from St. Malachy's Youth Centre, The Charter Youth Club and South Belfast Alternatives were presented with awards for their continued support of YAP.

Two programmes were showcased at the Celebration Event – Loud and Proud and Shout Louder.

Loud and Proud – A photographic exhibition highlighting the positive contributions and achievements of young people within their communities through active citizenship and volunteering.

Shout Louder – Not many people can say they have cut a track, made a short film and had both launched at the Queen's Film Theatre - Donegall Pass YAP group did exactly that! Their motivation was to raise awareness and reduce the stigma attached to mental illness. Shout Louder is produced by South Belfast Alternatives, ArtsEkta and Brassneck Theatre Company.

For the forthcoming year, YAP participants plan to undertake a study visit to other Urban Village areas and complete training in Restorative Practices, having identified the following themes and activities: drugs and alcohol; a good relations themed 'Dine With Me'; community clean ups and a World Cup Event.

Contain Yourself



CONTAIN YOURSELF, ALL HAS BEEN REVEALED AT HOLYWOOD ARCHES!

EastSide Container Park is the latest addition to the east Belfast landscape. The previously derelict site has been transformed with landscaping, planting, street furniture and shipping containers.

EastSide Container Park has significantly improved the physical environment in the Hollywood Arches area and provided a space for residents and visitors to enjoy. Towering over the green space are the five grey and yellow shipping containers, which are now fully occupied by two very different tenants.

Sustrans, the charity promoting cycling and walking, has established an Active Travel Hub in the container park, while Pot Kettle Black, a brand-new restaurant has taken up occupancy serving delicious brunch and dinner.

Additional funding from the Urban Villages Initiative enabled EastSide Partnership to engage local artist Dee Craig, in collaboration with Montreal based artist Irish Nowa, to create the Luminaries and Legends artwork in the container park which celebrates well-known east Belfast people and places.

Maurice Kinkead, Chief Executive of EastSide Partnership, added:

"The aim of Landmark East is to contribute to the physical regeneration of east Belfast by buying run-down or derelict properties or sites in disadvantaged areas and bringing them back into positive use."

"The development of the Hollywood Arches area is central to our Landmark East strategy so we were very pleased to secure the funding to develop the site at 392-400 Newtownards Road, now known as EastSide Container Park."

Dr Mark Browne, The Executive Office's Director of Strategic Policy, Equality & Good Relations, commented:

"The EastSide Container Park transforms a previously derelict site into a thriving shared space for the community. It starts a new chapter and hopefully will be a major asset not just for locals but visitors to the area also."

Parks Planning Submission Underway



THE NEW PARK IN COLIN

The Urban Villages Initiative is working with delivery partners Belfast City Council (BCC) on upgrading and creating new and exciting parks in Urban Village areas.

A full planning application is being submitted by Belfast City Council this month for the new park in Colin. Now that the required period of pre-engagement for this major project is complete, it is anticipated that planning approval will take approximately 6 months. Subject to approval the project will move to construction with anticipated start date on site in early 2019.

The new park will offer a range of recreational facilities for all age groups. There will be three main active zones with the rest of the park being a calm and open space.

The active areas will include the play facility, the active zone and the educational garden with outdoor classroom.



Four main themes for the new park in Colin are Play & Imagination, Community & Leisure, Activity & Interaction and Learning & Exploration.

The space will provide equipment for children of all ages and abilities. Inclusive play will be a key consideration, ensuring social, emotional, physical, cognitive, sensory and communication aspects of play are met.

An off road cycle track, open activity space and woodland walking and running routes with equipment will offer recreation for young people and adults. A large grass area with reinforced surfacing and drainage will allow for a full programme of events such as summer festivals, concerts, community fun days, markets and fairs.

THE REVEREND ROBERT BRADFORD PLAY PARK, DONEGALL PASS

A full planning application is being submitted by Belfast City Council this month for the Reverend Robert Bradford Play Park.

The Donegall Pass area will have a new and improved play area at the existing Reverend Robert Bradford Memorial Play Park.

The revamped park will be a safe, shared space for everyone in the community of all ages and abilities. It will be a place to meet and enjoy a range of outdoor activities including sports and fitness, a place for younger children to have fun in the play park area, and an attractive meeting place for all.

Linsey Farrell, Programme Director, Urban Villages Initiative said: **“We hope that the revamped Reverend Robert Bradford Play Park will be a shared space for everyone in the community, of all ages and abilities, to meet and enjoy a range of outdoor activities.”**



Update on Colin Connect Transport Hub



Work is progressing on the development of the Colin Connect Transport Hub and Civic Square.

Investment of £1,750,000 from the Urban Villages Initiative is delivering a state-of-the-art facility with integrated community space with a waiting area, public toilets and outside there is a civic square that will host all sorts of community and public events.

The new Transport Hub, which forms a vital part of the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) project will be a community facility that will provide a significant economic boost to the local area. Glider services will begin in early September 2018.

LIGONIEL ROAD/CRUMLIN ROAD PUBLIC REALM

The public realm enhancement scheme proposals for the Ligoniel Road/Crumlin Road junction will improve the quality of the physical environment for local residents and commuters around this key neighbourhood crossroads and North West gateway into the City of Belfast.

The proposals provide high quality physical improvements to footpaths, street furniture and soft landscaping. Decorative screens will be used to upgrade the appearance of

vacant sites along the route and improvements will be made to derelict facades, particularly at the crossroads.

These improvements will promote a positive image for the area by creating a series of places that will encourage social interaction, create a pride of place and be a catalyst for future investment and regeneration within the local community.

The Urban Villages Initiative is investing over £380,000 in this public realm enhancement scheme.



What's On



FAMILY FUN

Ardoyne Marrowbone Community Festival
17th - 26th August
Everyone welcome.

Highlights include:

- 'Oliver' the Musical, traditional music, DJs, theatre, films, comedy, a talent show and paint party;
- 5k community race, family walk, health day, family fun days, street parties;
- community debate, boxing event, bingo, golf and pool competitions;
- welfare rights information;
- street parties - Sunday 19 August, and lots more...

Need help with organising your street party? Contact **Marie McKee, Community Contact Worker, Ardoyne Association, 028 9071 5165.**

Keep an eye out for the full programme. Get involved in organising/volunteering at the festival, come and celebrate together.

More information: www.facebook.com/ardbonefest
NORTH BELFAST

FAMILY FUN

Flax Foyer Fun Day

Flax Foyer will be 20 years old this summer, and will hold a Community Fun Day to celebrate. Date to be confirmed. Watch out for details in local press, or **contact info@nb-housing.org for more information.**
NORTH BELFAST

PROGRAMME

PASS Project... Promote, Advance and Support for Success

A programme for young women aged 16-24 - **ENROLMENT OPEN NOW REFERRALS WELCOME**

The programme helps to develop young women in the community. It is led by the young women themselves. It supports them in a range of activities, such as skill development, training and networking to find employment.

It addresses barriers to participation for women who face multiple disadvantages.

A College Liaison Officer works with the young women to promote steps into further training /employment.

The programme includes incentives to aid participant retention and widen horizons. If you know anyone who could be interested, or if you would like to refer young women you work with, please contact

Lynn Mercer, Training Officer at Ardoyne Association.
028 9071 5165
NORTH BELFAST

5+ FUN

AYE Summer Programmes

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise is recruiting for a number of summer outings, activities and fitness programmes for young people aged 12+, and also for a camp craft programme (13-15 year old).

Ring **028 9074 1479**, call into the drop-in at AYE, Flax Street, Monday to Saturday from 6pm, or talk to AYE youth outreach workers when you meet them on the streets of Ardoyne and Marrowbone.

ACTIVITIES

Ballysillan Youth for Christ / Blue Houses

- football camp, 16-20 July, 10am to 1pm, Mountpleasant Sports Facility, boys age 8-13.
- community fun day, Silverstream Park, 11 July, 2pm-5pm, age 5-16.

For a full programme of BYFC summer activities, including fun trips, drop-ins, arts, crafts, photography and social action workshops, contact **Bean or Peter Thompson ballysillanyfc@gmail.com 07821 657 000 or 07746 448 721**
NORTH BELFAST



FAMILY FUN

NBWisp Family Fun Days

Enrol now for this summer's Families Together for Fun outings, organised by North Belfast Women's Initiative and Support Project (NBWISP).

The outings are a great opportunity for parents and children to spend quality time together and make new friends within neighbouring communities.

To enrol: send a message to their Facebook page www.facebook.com/weehouse.nbwisp
NORTH BELFAST



FAMILY FUN

New Gate Fringe Festival
23rd July - 8th August

Featuring music, culture, talks, history and dance events, contact **info@nb-housing.org for more information.**
DERRY-LONDONDERRY

FAMILY FUN

Féile 2018: 7th - 15th August

Derry-Londonderry's largest community arts and cultural festival showcasing a programme of events ranging from music, literature, sport, education, visual arts, carnival, fun days, health, discussions/debates, community consultations and much more.

DERRY-LONDONDERRY

MUSIC

Celtronic 2018
June 27th - July 1st
Celtronic will collaborate with Sure Start Edenballymore in the Urban Village area on Celtronic Kids - an audio visual dance music event for children aged 0-4 and their parents. Date and venue to be confirmed.

Celtronic, Ireland's leading electronic music festival returns this summer with five days of music events, film screenings, workshops, seminars, recording projects and much more at venues across the Derry-Londonderry.
DERRY-LONDONDERRY



SPORT

A Day for Ryan McBride
Brandywell

A summer street football event organised to celebrate the life of Ryan McBride. A Day for Ryan McBride will take place on the streets of the Brandywell neighbourhood.

All ages welcome.
DERRY-LONDONDERRY



FAMILY FUN

Roaring Meg Bike Show
Derry Walls & Bishop Street
Saturday 28th July
12 noon - 5pm

The Roaring Meg Show will promote the culture of motorcycles, scooters and trikes. Derry's historic walls will host a display of 200 motorbikes and trikes while Bishop Street Without will host a family fun day and live music.
DERRY-LONDONDERRY

For more information on any of these events please contact **the Gasyard**
T: 028 7126 2812 or
E: gasyardfeilederry@gmail.com

WHAT'S
COMING
UP

What's On



THEATRE

East Belfast Granny
7th - 10th August, 8pm
The Ballymac Friendship Centre

East Belfast Granny is a fast moving play through the frustrations, delights and heartbreak of raising a family in tough times. Another 'almost' true story. The production is part of EastSide Festival, and is presented by Partisan Productions and Ballymac Friendship Trust.

The play will feature participants in the OCN Creative Industries training as part of the back stage team involved in hair and make-up, stage design and sound and lighting.

Free admission, booking advised.
For tickets, contact Karen
T: 077 0100 8852 or
E: partisanproductions@hotmail.com
EAST BELFAST

HEALTHY LIVING

Living the Green Way
13th - 16th September

The Living the Greenway project will offer a wide programme of activities to promote health and wellbeing with a strong focus on developing sustainable communities within the EastSide Urban Village area.

More information can be found on <http://www.connswatergreenway.co.uk>
EAST BELFAST



NEW SKILLS

Are you interested in a career in the movies, theatre or urban art?

Places are available for the next programme of OCN Creative Industries training.

Opportunities include accredited training in scenery and set design, theatrical makeup and hairdressing, technical theatre, stage management, choreography and movement, drama and street art.

The courses are open to residents of EastSide Urban Village aged 15 - 25 and training will take place in late July on weekend residential with practical work on plays, events, festivals and mural programmes.

If you would like to get involved, contact Roz Small
roz.small@hotmail.com or
028 9045 2020
EAST BELFAST

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Scaffolding Project - School Uniforms

The Scaffolding project will run the recycle school uniform campaign at a number of events in EastSide over the

Summer months. People can donate uniforms or choose items for their children's new school year.

Scaffolding Project - Holiday Hunger
16th July - 31st August

The Scaffolding Project is partnering with EBCDA to deliver an extensive 'Holiday Hunger' programme. Up to 10 organisations will benefit from food provision, nutritional and food hygiene training and additional activities for parents.

For more information contact Barbara Smith by
T: 028 9046 7926 or
E: barbarasmith@eastsidepartnership.com
EAST BELFAST

GARDENING

Wildflower Alley Gardening and Neighbourhood Improvement

10 - 1pm on Wednesday
19th & 26th September/
Wednesday 3rd & 10th October

Reach Project
240 Newtownards Road
BT4 1HB (side door entrance/
Chandolly St)

East Belfast Mission will be commencing the Wildflower Alley concept with Hosford Clients at Chadolly Street.

Come along and learn a new skill while transforming your community, lunch is provided.
EAST BELFAST

WHAT'S COMING UP

FAMILY FUN

Colin Fun Day & Carnival Parade, Thursday 9th August 12.45pm

Enjoy a great family day out at Colin's colourful Carnival Parade and Family Fun Day. The Parade will leave St Luke's Church in Twinbrook at 12.45pm and make its way up the Stewartstown Road to Laurel Glen Shops (beside the Dairy Farm Centre).

Join in with the fun and games, Colin's Got Talent competition, live music, carnival rides, face painters, and much more.

COLIN

FOOD & CRAFT

Cultural Food and Craft Fair, Tuesday 7th August 12-4pm

Colin Glen Allotments and Healthy Living Centre
30 Colin Glen Road
Belfast BT17 OLR

Come along and experience the flavours of artisan food produced locally and pick up a unique piece of art from the various stalls, get chatting to the allotment holders and taste their produce. Pick up tips and tricks at our cooking demos.

If you are interested in having a stall to this event contact Matthew at CNP 028 9061 2317 or Email matthew@newcolin.com
COLIN



FAMILY FUN

Let Us Celebrate Saturday 23rd June from 10am-4pm

Activities for all ages and abilities: soft play area, inflatables, petting zoo, reptiles, face painting, arts and crafts and a photographic exhibition of Donegall Pass through the years.

There will also be multi-cultural food tasting featuring Indian, Chinese, Eastern European and Afro-Caribbean food.

Donegall Pass is a vibrant, multi-cultural area; events such as these are vital to bring communities together, promote inclusivity and to make people feel welcome.

For more information contact Donegall Pass Community Centre: 028 9032 7661
SOUTH BELFAST

HEALTHY LIVING

Sugar Awareness Workshops Monday 9th & Monday 23rd July. 11am - 1pm

Colin Glen Allotments and Healthy Living Centre
30 Colin Glen Road
Belfast BT17 OLR

Colin Glen Allotments and Healthy Living Centre in partnership with Urban Villages will be hosting two free workshops this July educating participants about the dangers of too much sugar and introduce healthy and cost effective alternatives.

If you are interested in attending one of the Sugar Workshops, contact Matthew at CNP
by Email: Matthew@newcolin.com or
T: 028 9061 2317
COLIN



News

Good Relations Week

Then, Now...next? is the theme for this year's Good Relations Week on 17th-23rd September.

As part of Good Relations Week last year the Urban Villages Initiative supported a Schools of Sanctuary Workshop resulting in 11 more schools signing up to the programme.

This year, we hope to see more Urban Villages projects get involved. Let your local coordinator know if you have an idea to submit.

20 years after the Good Friday Agreement, it gives opportunity to reflect on how far we have come and our ideas about what we should do next.

The event is a fantastic platform to showcase the good work that your organisation is doing in the area of community relations and cultural awareness to a wide audience.

Events could include e.g. workshops, training events, launches, music events, showcases of work, public events, private events etc. They can range from the very small to the very large; and can include events that falling into this theme are happening anyway. Take this opportunity to submit an event.



Email to **crweek@jcomms.co.uk** and copy **info@urbanvillagesni.org** or for further information, please contact **Orry Robinson** or **Claire McKee** at JComms on **028 9076 0066** or speak to your local coordinator.

The deadline for event submissions is 27th July.

Focus Survey Prize Winners

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey from the previous edition of the Focus magazine and for giving us your thoughts on the magazine.

£100 One4All voucher - Brian O'Neill, Derry-Londonderry - Brian is donating the voucher to a social enterprise project for young people in North West Regional College (NWRC).



Promoting Positive Change North Belfast

Promoting Positive Change, a report on changing relationships between interface communities, published by Twaddell Ardoyne Shankill Communities in Transition, was launched on 22 March at Houben Centre with former Belfast Lord Mayor Nuala McAllister.



Promoting Positive Change Video
<https://youtu.be/DYETVRT7NvE>



iPad - Curtis Harmon, Colin West Belfast - Curtis is part of the Thriving Youth team based in Colin.

Congratulations to the prize winners!

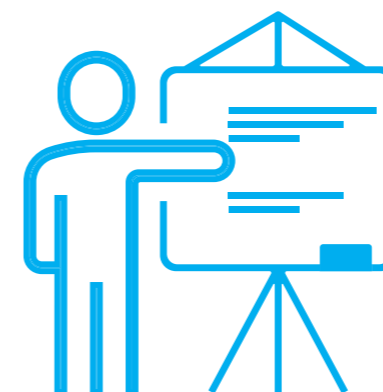


Skills Audit

A skills audit in March enabled local community groups to self-assess their current skills and organisational capacity in a range of areas such as Governance, funding, communications, working collaboratively and measuring the impact they make.

Issues raised across all areas highlighted a range of themes where additional support would be valued including measuring impact, communications as well as practical support in relation to local groups sharing good practice and developing skills to support tendering for contracts.

Findings from the Audit will inform the design and delivery of ways to support groups within and across Urban Village areas.



MARCH
skills audit



Build Peace 2018

Build Peace 2018 will take place at Ulster University and is co-organised by Build Up and the Centre for Peacebuilding and Democracy. The main theme for the conference will be "Re-imagining Prosperity: Alternative Economies of Peace" and that is broken into three sub-themes, Creativity & Reconciliation, Inclusion & Social Cohesion, and Sustainability & Resilience.

This is a great opportunity to showcase the work that is rolling out in Urban Village areas.

Participation is via an open application, to be submitted by 30th June. If you are interested in finding out more speak to your local Urban Villages coordinator.

European Social Fund

A partnership with Belfast City Council will engineer more impact in Urban Village areas across Belfast through employability programmes primarily funded by the European Social Fund (ESF).

The strategic aim of the ESF is to combat poverty and enhance social inclusion by improving skills and reducing economic inactivity. It supports activity to enhance and extend employment opportunities for the long-term unemployed or economically inactive.

There will be a particular focus on supporting young people aged 16-24 who are not in employment, education or training; and on people with a disability. The programme will support over 2,300 participants from Belfast annually.

Discussions will continue in Derry-Londonderry on ways to enhance the coordination and delivery of employability initiatives in the Derry-Londonderry Urban Village area and similarly seek opportunities to leverage and maximise the impact of other investment in these activities.

News



New connections for Urban Village Areas

Direct services will create important connections between Urban Village areas in EastSide and Colin at the Colin Connect Transport Hub in West Belfast allowing everyone to 'Glide' effortlessly across the city.

Glider will provide customers with better access to jobs, services and entertainment, as well as improving access for visitors.

The routes will be operated by new, eco-hybrid Glider vehicles, which will run at high frequency throughout the working day.

Passengers will benefit from extensive vehicle priority measures, meaning faster, more reliable journeys. Each vehicle will carry up to 105 passengers and has 3 sets of double doors, minimising time spent at halts and reducing journey times. Glider will integrate into the existing Translink network

and will offer on-board features, including free Wi-Fi, USB charging, audio-visual announcements, CCTV and air-conditioning.

Passengers will enjoy new off-vehicle ticketing facilities at new halts, offering fares equivalent to Metro, with a focus on value-for-money, integration and convenience. Every halt will have a ticketing machine and validator, part of the roll-out of a brand new ticketing system which will eventually be introduced across all Translink services.

Glider enters service on 3 September and it will deliver a high quality, high capacity public transport service, helping to unlock Belfast's potential as a modern city.



Keep in Touch

Stay updated with what's happening in your Urban Village area. To join our mailing list by emailing your contact details to info@urbanvillagesni.org

Focus Magazine

Next issue - Autumn 2018
If you have any local community stories or events that you would like included, just let us know.

Ezines

Ezines will keep you updated throughout the year on what's happening in your Urban Village area and beyond.

Twitter

Keep the conversation going [@urbanvillagesni](https://twitter.com/urbanvillagesni)
Connect with us online to keep up to date with what's happening across all five Urban Village areas.

New Community Connections

Each Urban Village area now has a local communications contact that will liaise between community and the Urban Villages communications team, to help to improve connections and better support 'Telling the Story' across the programme.

North - Catherine Couvert, AYE
West, Colin - Emma Toner, CNP
South - Kevin McGarry, SBPB
Derry-Londonderry - Gareth Stewart, Gasyard Wall Féile
EastSide - Jonny Currie, EBCDA

Pic ops!
Upload your favourite!

Send us your best pic!



Young people from the Colin Youth Awards 2018, held in the Balmoral Hotel.



Grace Harper and Chelsea Fennell meeting a reptile, with Zoologist Catherine Bennett from Amazon Jungle Show at Colin Neighbourhood Partnership's Creativity Day.



Young people attending a Shared Learning event promoting digital skills across Urban Village areas.



Celebrating young people in East Belfast through the EastSide Youth Reference Group INSPIRE event.



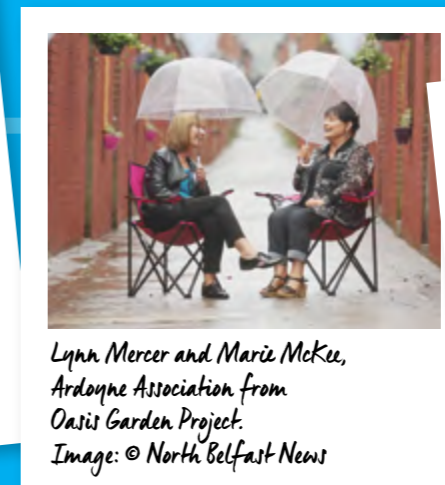
EastSide Arts and Creativity event at Ballymac Friendship Trust.



Sandy Row family fun event.



The YEHA Aspire project won the Youth Achievement award at the recent Urban Villages Community Awards.



Lynn Mercer and Marie McKee, Ardoyne Association from Oasis Garden Project. Image: © North Belfast News



DGTL Youth event Gasyard February 2018.

Send your best pics to:
info@urbanvillagesni.org

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