

Ardoyne &  
Greater Ballysillan

**NORTH  
BELFAST**

ISSUE  
**02**  
FEBRUARY  
2018

# URBAN VILLAGES **FOCUS** MAGAZINE



**Win  
prizes!**

Take part in  
our Survey!

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

**Carezone**

**Shared  
Learning**

**NBWISP  
Meet the  
Neighbours**



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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**.



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.

**May 2018**  
1 single  
magazine

**September 2018**  
1 single  
magazine

**January 2019**  
5 separate  
magazines

**Front cover:** Séan Devlin of YEHA with Cecilia McCloskey, Sacred Heart Parish resident and past Principal of St Gemma's Primary School, at Carezone Concert of Hope.

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# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@urbanvillagesni.org)** or call **028 9037 8068**

# Carezone

## Promoting wellbeing through community development

Ardoyne &  
Greater Ballysillan

### NORTH BELFAST

**'to restore a sense of hope and positivity to a community which has suffered so much' says Séan Devlin of YEHA**

Over 400 people braved the snow one December evening to hear a local school, folk choirs and special guests 'The Priests' perform in Sacred Heart Church.

A free concert, it was a Carezone initiative 'to restore a sense of hope and positivity to a community which has suffered so much' says Séan Devlin of YEHA (Youth, Education, Health, Advice), one of the partners in the project.

Local youths distributed 3,000 invitations door-to-door. There were children's activities, Christmas street-signs with messages of hope, and a questionnaire on how people feel about their community and what they'd like to change.

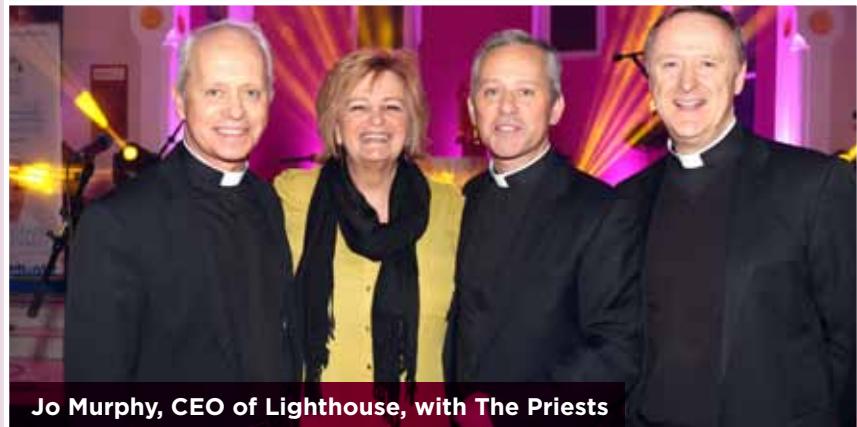


Carezone operates in the Sacred Heart Parish: Greater Oldpark, Cliftonville, Marrowbone and Deerpark areas. **It holds events to lift community spirit, promote wellbeing, engage with local people** not normally involved in consultations, and advocates for government policies to reflect their needs.

The Carezone grew from a discussion on suicide prevention called by the Health Minister in 2016, where participants

agreed that a 'bottom-up' community development approach would help improve mental health in disadvantaged areas.

Led by Lighthouse with support from Public Health Agency and Belfast Healthy Cities, Carezone is a collaboration between 32 statutory and community groups. The Urban Villages Initiative invested in the Carezone programme to support this collaborative community event.



# Let it grow- NBWISP\*



Living in cities, our children, and ourselves too, are rarely outdoors, losing precious chances to connect with nature and each other.

Let it Grow is a pilot project run by NBWISP in the North Belfast Urban Village area, helping groups and schools to create gardens and growing spaces, or enhance existing ones in their communities and on their premises.

Currently, 61 children from Holy Cross Girls and Wheatfield Primary Schools

are midway through working on this programme, and nine adults are on course to successfully complete an OCN qualification in Garden Horticulture.

The project builds up expertise and sustained interest so that participants will keep the gardens growing through summer months when schools are closed, and winter months when growing is at a minimum.

So far, the children have learnt to recognise herbs and seasonal vegetables.

They've been taught about tool safety and weeds, planting herbs, sowing seeds/bulbs, soil types, propagation, garden pests, bug identification and edible flowers. They've made hanging baskets and a bug hotel and learnt how to create a harvest display.

The gardens have been put to sleep for a few weeks, but the children love the programme and are looking forward to getting back together and restarting in February.

\*North Belfast Women's Initiative & Support Project



# Ardooyne Youths want us to Listen Up!



Recently, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, Koulla Yiasouma, and students from Mercy College helped launch Listen UP!, the report on a survey by Ardooyne Youth Enterprise (AYE) of over 150 young people of 12-17yrs in Ardooyne/Marrowbone.

AYE Director Shane Whelehan said: **"As advocates for young people's needs, we wanted to hear their opinions and share**

**them widely. Their comments are frank, thoughtful, sometimes humorous, often very moving. We were struck by their calls to be heard and respected by service providers and decision makers."**

Linsey Farrell, Urban Villages Initiative Programme Director, commented: **"This is a fantastic piece of work that the young people have put together, and we are**

Children's Commissioner Koulla Yiasouma added:

**"The days of designing and planning laws, policies and services without young people are behind us, and this report reminds us of this. I share the concerns that young people have raised, particularly concerning mental health."**

**delighted to have been able to support the project. Listening to the voice of young people is so important to help inform us as to where investment may be needed to build capacity in north Belfast."**

You can read the report here: [www.ardoyne.org/publications](http://www.ardoyne.org/publications)

## Meet the Neighbours

Date: Saturday 10th March  
Venue: The Everton Complex  
Time: 10.30am - 2.00pm  
Free lunch provided

Last year, a Meet The Neighbours event by NBWISP and Grace Women's Group attracted over 100 participants, bringing together people of all ages, cultures, religions and genders.

The programme combined workshops and information on health and wellbeing with opportunities to talk to people from all sides of the community. NBWISP is inviting people to do it again this year, we hope you will join us! ALL WELCOME!

### Glenbrook SureStart Health Event Coming Soon:

Date: 15th March  
Venue: Houben Centre  
Contact: Caroline Milligan 028 9071 2266  
ALL WELCOME!

# We have a dream... celebrating Ballysillan's new Blue Houses



L-R Miriam McAlister, BYFC  
Joe Hinds, Urban Villages  
Peter Thompson, BYFC  
Nichola Mallon MLA



L-R William Humphrey MLA  
Diane Dodds MEP  
Miriam McAlister, BYFC  
Peter Thompson, BYFC  
Nigel Dodds MP

## Ardoyne Association certificate presentation



L-R Lynn Mercer Training Officer Ardoine Association and John Rogan TWN Trainer present Kylie Butler with her certificate for successfully completing the Ardoine Association's employability programme Retail/Care Assistant Training.



The 4th December 2017 was a happy occasion in Benview Park. Miriam McAlister, a dedicated worker at Ballysillan Youth for Christ (BYFC) for 18 years, cut the ribbon of the group's extended and renovated Blue Houses centre. The event showcased the new building, and it was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate BYFC's first 25 years and look forward to the future. Over 200 community members of all age groups attended, mixing with volunteers, board members, funders and local MLAs and MPs.

BYFC offers informal youth work in Ballysillan. Manager Peter Thompson feels the new building could have a far-reaching impact:

***"We dream of other organisations using it for the valuable work they do. We dream of it being a hub for social enterprise, upskilling those in the community to deliver creative services that are then reinvested into their community. We dream of it being a space for parents, walking alongside them and their children.***

***But more than anything we dream that it remains a home, a place where community exists and where people can fulfil their potential, and for them to know how special, unique and loved they are."***

For more information contact:  
Peter Thompson, Centre Co-ordinator, Ballysillan Youth For Christ,  
Tel: **077 4644 8721** or Email: **peter@thebluehouses.org** or visit us or find out more about our activities for you, your friends and family.

# 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

- 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:**

**FREEPOST**  
**The Urban**  
**Villages Initiative**

**Or complete form online FOR FREE:**

[https://www.  
surveymonkey.co.uk/  
r/FocusUV](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FocusUV)

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel/mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PRIZES

**iPad** - 9.7", 32GB, LED-backlit Multi-Touch display, 8-megapixel rear camera, 1.2-megapixel photos FaceTime HD camera

**One4all Gift Card** to the value of £100 - can be spent in over 21,000 outlets nationwide & online



# 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:



**North Belfast**  
**Venue:**  
**Girdwood**  
**Community Hub**

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!

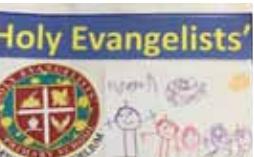
Help us to inform programmes that will meet the needs of all of the Urban Village areas.

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](mailto: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](mailto:info@urbanvillagesni.org) or contact us at The Urban Villages Initiative, Room E4.15, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SR



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[www.northernireland.gov.uk](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk)



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[info@urbanvillagesni.org](mailto:info@urbanvillagesni.org)