

Urban Villages
Initiative
in EastSide

**EAST
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**

**Tackling
Poverty**

**Creative
Communities**

**Walkway
Young Mums**



Thriving Places

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**

Tackling Poverty

Strategic Approach to Tackling Poverty in East Belfast

Urban Villages Initiative in EastSide

EAST BELFAST

It will create a pathway of support services that ensure a holistic approach to the poverty issue in EastSide.



The Scaffolding Project is a group of community and voluntary organisations in the EastSide Urban Village area that have come together to work collaboratively to deliver anti-poverty services.

Through a strategic approach, the project aims to maximise existing resources and foster partnerships among community and voluntary organisations and statutory agencies. It will create a pathway of support services that ensure a holistic approach to addressing need.

The project will provide assistance in crisis situations, offer advice on benefits, housing, counselling and training for employment, and it will facilitate campaigns and events that raise awareness of ongoing need. The Scaffolding Project has been active and has undertaken several significant events to date.

RECYCLING SCHOOL UNIFORMS: A community appeal was made for donations of school uniforms to be re-cycled. The principle of the initiative is 'give and receive' allowing people to donate uniform and/or choose items for their children's new school year. This enterprise was widely supported, and uniform stalls were successfully hosted at four different events, including the EastSide Arts Festival Fun Day in CS Lewis Square.

RE-GIFT STALL: The Scaffolding Project hosted a Re-Gift stall at the Christmas market in CS Lewis Square as a fund-raising activity. The team worked together to source items and hosted a fabulous Christmas gift stall. It was wonderfully supported by many local people and the funds raised will help meet the need of those in crisis throughout the winter months.

If you want to find out more about the Scaffolding Project contact Barbara Smith, by email barbarasmith@eastsidepartnership.com or Phone: 028 9046 7926



Creative Communities in EastSide Urban Village

As 2017 drew to a close the communities of the EastSide Urban Village area came together to deliver two congenial festive events.

First up was the Halloween 'Spooktacular' at Ballymac Friendship Centre which saw over 500 people of all ages experience some terrifying sights, watching fire-eaters and a fabulous firework finale. The event got some fantastic feedback where often the adults appeared more spooked than the children! One visitor commented 'Absolutely brilliant night, I didn't know if I should laugh or cry, well done guys, 5 star.'

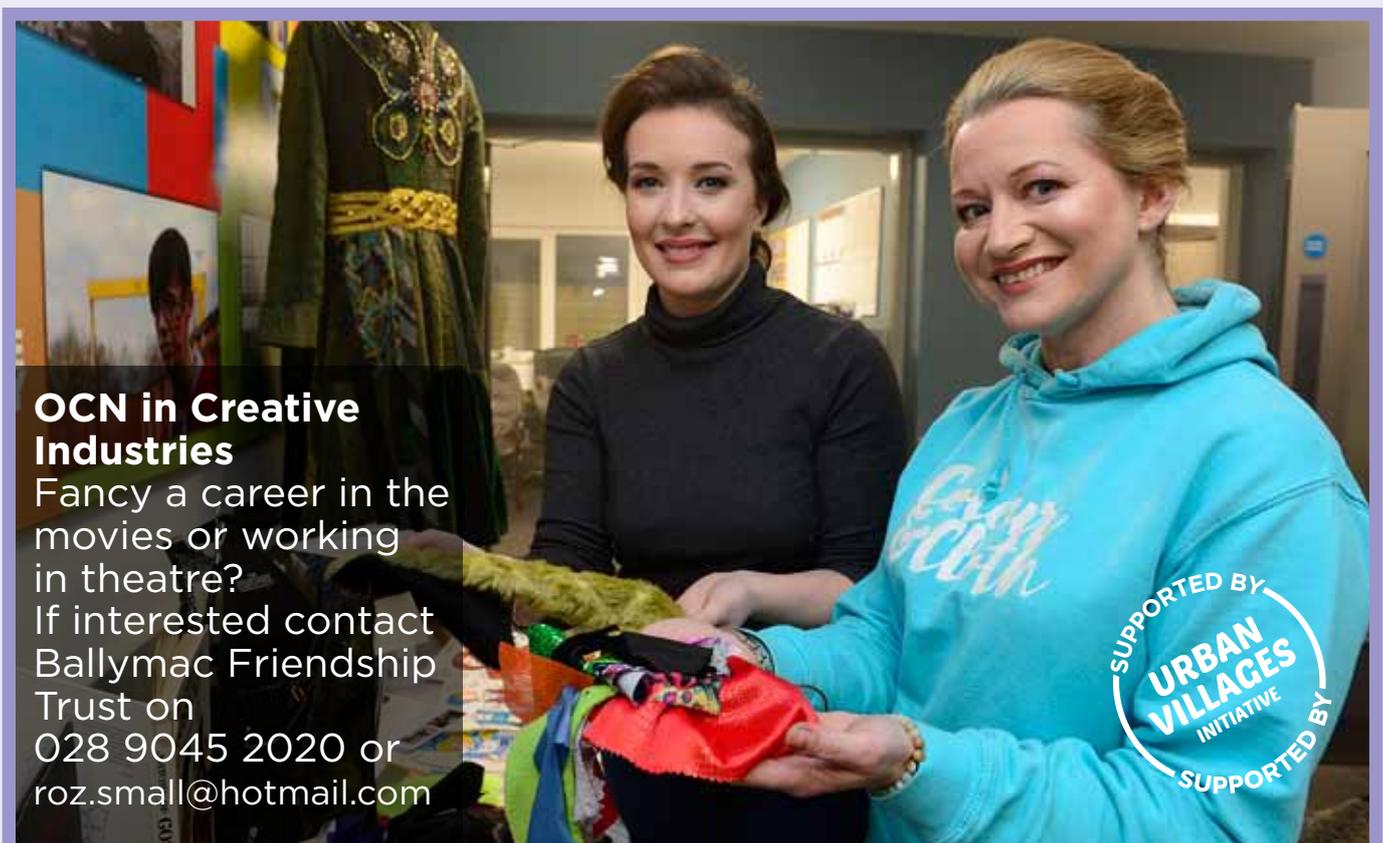
With special thanks to the Ballymac Shed for designing

and building the haunted walk-through and to Hosford House for not only getting into the spirit of things by dressing up in fabulous costumes but also providing excellent food, drink and entertainment.

Local community groups got involved to help craft and create special goods for a Christmas fair held at the Skainos Centre. There were sweet treats, fresh produce, knitted goods, handmade ornaments, wooden snowmen and more. With over 200 people in attendance the atmosphere was buzzing and bustling. Santa made an appearance collecting the children's Christmas wish lists and giving them a gift.

The Ballymac Friendship Trust led projects came to fruition through the combined efforts of the community organisations in the EastSide Urban Village area. The Trust worked in partnership with the Diamond Project, EastSide Arts, Hosford House, Short Strand Community Forum and Walkway Community Association.

The aim was to bring people together, create shared space and to hone in on design and creativity skills, and it is evident from all feedback that this was achieved.



OCN in Creative Industries

Fancy a career in the movies or working in theatre?

If interested contact Ballymac Friendship Trust on 028 9045 2020 or roz.small@hotmail.com

WHAT'S COMING UP

Local community groups got involved with us to craft and create special goods for a Christmas fair held at Skainos.



Event: St Patrick's Day Senior Citizens Event
Date: Thursday 15th March
Time: 1pm
Venue: Short Strand Community Centre
 This is for senior citizens around the EastSide Urban Village area.

Event: Family fun-day
Date: Saturday 17th March
Time: 1pm - 3pm
Venue: Mountforde Play Park
 All welcome!

Event: Football Competition
Date: Saturday 17th March
Time: 10am - 12 noon
Venue: Doyle Youth Club
 All welcome!

Event: Various Workshops
Date: January - March
Time: 10am - 12 noon
Venue: Ballymac Friendship Centre/TURAS project in Skainos/ the Diamond project (Charter NI)/Walkway Community Centre/Short Strand Community Centre.

Event: TURAS project will also take part in Belfast City Council's St Patrick's Parade
Date: Saturday 17th March
Time: 11.30am - 1.00pm
Venue: Belfast City Centre

Walkway Young Mums

Walkway Community Association has been delivering its Young Mums Project to a group of mums and their babies each Thursday morning. The project offers childcare opportunities while the young mums use the time to take part in a range of activities, workshops and courses aimed at reducing isolation, capacity building, enhancing self-confidence and increasing their employability.

The young mums recently participated in an accredited EMS Paediatric First Aid course in which they all passed and received a recognised accreditation. The course resulted in improved health and well-being, increased levels of employability, enhanced confidence and self-esteem and better communication skills for the young mums. The Young Mums Project has had a positive impact on all the participants and has given some of the mums the confidence to enrol in education, gain qualifications and have an overall improved outlook on life.

Kimberley Hewitt, 22 from the Newtownards Rd area who has three young children, commented "The Walkway young mums project has been incredible for my children and myself, emotionally, socially and mentally. It is an incredibly supportive outlet for problems I am facing as a young mother. The group is also giving me the opportunity to build myself up and develop new skills and gain new qualifications."



Row on Row



Local people remembered, included those from all communities, young and old; male and female, regardless of religious persuasion or political allegiance.

This years 'Row on Row' community remembrance event took place in Dr Pitt Memorial Park, Newtownards Road. It involved local communities, groups and individuals honouring the memory of those who served and sacrificed, particularly in the Great War. The project name is derived from a line in John McCrae's poem '**In Flanders Field**'.

Over one thousand poppy crosses were planted creating a temporary field of remembrance. There were also several opportunities for individuals to attend the event, including a '**Last Post**' ceremony performed in the evening, during which, the profile of a local person that was killed in the war

was read aloud. The profiles included those from all communities, young and old; male and female, regardless of religious persuasion or political allegiance, they were all remembered. However, many of the two thousand five hundred that visited the park during the seven days simply used the poppy installation as a time of quiet reflection.

Local youth and resident groups decorated 3ft high crosses, and these were displayed along the railings of the Park. 'Row on Row' attracted people from all communities, both local residents and visitors to the area. The Polish community not only laid a wreath but also decorated one of the large crosses.

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

Return form to:

FREEPOST
The Urban Villages Initiative

Or complete form online FOR FREE:

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

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

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:



**East Belfast
Venue:
East Belfast
Network 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