



MACOSQUIN TEENAGERS SKATING IN THE DARK @ DUNDONALD ICE BOWL

Macosquin Village Community Association Newsletter

December 2017

IN THIS ISSUE / ALL THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Christmas Party for All Kids (Wed, 20 December 5.30-8.30pm, Upper Parish Hall).

By Gavin McGonigle (Chairman) .

On behalf of everyone at Macosquin Community Village Association I would like to thank Halifax and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for their very generous sponsorship of our team this past year. At times, the support has really sent a buzz through the entire community and everyone connected with our charitable association. There'll be some photos of the many events throughout the newsletter.

Last month's First Aid Course training from RNLI Rescue Service with Mark Mitchell was a huge success, with great atmosphere and training that everyone thoroughly enjoyed, with over twenty people in attendance in one session, thirteen in another. Thank you so much for the big turn-out. (Defib Training, CPR, AED / BLS and much more). Learning first aid can help you feel more prepared and able to cope in emergency situations. This will run on an annual basis as a form of 'refresher' training.

Short tests were completed at the end of the training and 'Level Two Certificates' arriving for those who participated. Those that took part included members of the Football Club, Macosquin P.S, Local Churches, Mary Pat's, Pool, Golf, Darts Team, Orange Order- (and a big thank you to Mary Pat's for letting out the venue at last minute), and few I'm not sure were from.

This year witnessed the community raise funds for a new defibrillator for the whole community, with chest, heart, and stroke donating six-hundred pounds towards the cost of the defib. Kenny Campbell led the fundraising efforts on this one. The community held a number of fitness classes, and I have supplied the Facebook link to the DVD below.

This URL highlights our video link to the Pulse Fitness Classes on facebook page- [online]<https://www.facebook.com/Pulsefitness121/videos/643873329126733/>



Transformer Robots in Disguise

Some pictures from the Youth Club trip to Belfast. One lady even got herself a Transformer.

Toddlers Christmas Party Page 1



Macosquin Community Association held a fun day for the whole community, and to celebrate the completion of the M.U.G.A. Roof Over-Netting system at a cost of twenty-seven thousand pounds. Big thank you to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Sport and Leisure team. The safety netting was designed to prevent the ball from entering Macosquin Residents' Gardens.



Community Party

In the interim, if you have any enquiries about community events, please do get in touch with me, or wish to exchange emails, or have a chat. I'm Gavin McGonigle, mcgngv@aol.com. Mobile: 07456413559.



ENJOYING THE BARBACUE

Macosquin Community Association fun day for the whole community leaving no-one excluded. Martin Milligan and treasurer Alana Laverty cooking up a storm.

Macosquin Community Association continue to meet regularly every second Monday of the month @ Macosquin Community House 7pm



Canon Mike Roemmele

Canon Mike Roemmele who has worked tirelessly day and night for the benefit of the whole community. Mike served on the Village Association Committee for many years, and was a blessing to all: he was good at barbecuing and feeding the masses. Although we still don't know how he managed to pastor Kenny Campbell (only joking).

Mike led a large team in the building project and re-design of the front entrance and glass extension to the church, alongside the long-awaited replacement of the church roof, and many more projects.

For Church details and events go to: www.camus-juxta-bann.org/



Macosquin FC football project is well under-way, and the insta

Macosquin FC remain an integral part of the community, and with over one-hundred year history are one of the oldest-serving clubs to junior football in the borough. Thank's to the team for the fund raising efforts. Alfie Hutchinson & Jim Hutchinson from New Look Blinds sponsoring and presenting cheque and match ball to Kenny Campbell and myself on behalf of Macosquin FC for their home game against Portstewart / UUC at the School Grounds.

BAKING



Lyndsey Marshall and Alana Laverty, Halloween's spookiest and most-irresistible treats.

Halloween Madness - Nightmare on the sales @ Macosquin Primary!



FANCY COSTUMES

All dressed up at Macosquin Village Community Association, the wild party at the haunted house. The whole vibe was anything ghost



Ducking For Apples



Macosquin Community Treasurer Alana Laverty is welcomed to high office and takes the black box of previous treasurer Angela Carson. Angela did a marvelous job 2016-17.

A Big Thank You to Wallace Rankin who tidies the village regularly. He is a credit to the community.

Macosquin FC football project is well under-way, and the installation of the new floodlighting system will be taking place very soon.

Our playground project objective aim was designed to pursue and upgrade the current playground to provide a fun, and safe environment for children to play in. This project aimed to integrate children, learn them to share, increase confidence and respect for others, whilst encouraging active and healthy life styles.

Just recently, to assist with this endeavour, our community grouping was selected as an exemplar project and below providing a suitable picture showing some of the committee members viewing the Design Drawing and a suitable quotation advising on our experience having used the services of Playdale Playgrounds Ltd. Robert met with myself and Lynne Ballentine from the Macosquin Community Association, along with Christina Paul, this region's Liaison Officer from Supporting Communities NI to look at and Survey the site, and to listen to their plans and ideas to regenerate this existing, outdated playground. Robert Morrison, Charlotte Pitman, Christina Paul, have all been very professional in their design and facilitating with their project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The equipment is at the end of its life and in need of urgent replacing. Alongside this area, is a vast open tarmacked space with just a single basketball hoop. This is an ideal area for a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)- where up to 8 sports can be played by juniors right through to teenagers. This also creates a great social hub for the teenage members of the community.

Robert then set to work on designing an exciting new play area in collaboration with their partners in Northern Ireland; Hawthorn Heights Limited, also based in County Londonderry.

Our Goals:

As always, is to reduce a sense of rural isolation, to provide a fun, safe environment for children to play in to get more people together and to allow the children, teenagers, and wider community to be fitter overall. Macosquin Primary School, Pre-School, Ten-Five Club, and sometimes other visiting religious' groups use the Playground Facilities.

community, children, and visiting families.

Who will Benefit:

The whole community should benefit from the Playground project.

Speaking on behalf of the whole community, Macosquin Community activist Rhonda and members said that, "they were very impressed/overwhelmed with the idea and vision of a new Play-park and the excitement of the kids in hearing about the design and project is fantastic".

Robert Morrison, Playdale's Area

Manager, said: "This project is yet another excellent example of how the working relationship between Playdale and SCNI is assisting a community organisation to develop their



New Play-Park facilities:

We hope to have word on the development of the new Play-Park in the near future, however, this seems to be a long draw out process and with no NI executive in place, things seem more complicated. Macosquin Village's culture, identity and very fabric is intergenerational – with children and parents from the surrounding area and as far as Coleraine using the facilities. The Play-Park facilities is always working/operating to capacity and has done so for many years; but now we want to focus on improving the playground overall, through making the park more welcoming for the

outdoor space into a high-quality, safe and interactive play facility. We're keeping everything crossed that they are awarded the funding they so deserve and these plans can come to fruition. Watch this space".

Evie McGonigle, aged 7, from Macosquin Village and Primary School said on the proposal of the new Playground : "This would be like a dream come true".

Measuring Success:

Different ways you can look at this – but we have had far too many accidents with the young children. If you provide a fun, safe, environment, for children to play



Project Description - Example: Macosquin Playground Project

in, there will be less accidents, and families and community will be happier and safer. The children will have a chance to get fitter, especially with the rise in diseases such as diabetes.

Our community has been working hard to get an upgrade and have provided petitions and potential plans and costing of the work, and research into statistics. However, the Council team were not necessarily convinced and as one lady adds: 'on the final layout of the play park and the need for a synthetic surface area but it doesn't mean we can't develop what you're currently suggesting to get the right mix for the community need. I would expect

however that your community would value an opportunity to achieve something sooner rather than later. To this end the Funding Unit has unearthed an alternate source of external funding which might allow your community group to apply for the money which Council would then use to upgrade the park. No guarantees but I think it's worth exploring. Ultimately the Council Members will decide if it's a project we can take forward but having available money from an alternate source can only help'.

Sometimes hard work is not rewarded:

At the council Play Park project meeting with Councilors with

specific need for revamping, we got news that the community wasn't on the list for discussion. Apparently, we are over the next 5 year list.

The Council has chosen Macosquin as one of the 22 villages whose plans have to be updated under Village Renewal; so it would position us for some funding for other projects.

The community consultation event and for those that made the effort and sent apologies, thank you for turning out. The attendance reflected the village mood at that time, low in spirit. There should be a new Village Plan released very soon, and I hope to work with John and get a new four point plan for the in-coming year, something much simpler that will fit into one A4 size page. After discussing things with the Vice-Chair, we both decided that in relation to some community activities, funding applied for in recent years and more recently, council involvement, political guidance, whatever else, and I will borrow Jim's words: "we have been led up the garden path and not for the communities benefit".

Award winning community expert Tony McGonigle in his radical Macosquin Village Community Association Village Plan, entitled 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' concentrates in his own words on a plan about 'developing the community'. In thirty pages or so, Tony explains all the necessary community objectives and practices that need to be considered for the whole community and anyone interested in participating or learning this new strategic plan. For example, in the opening talk that night he discussed about and included in the plan comments focusing on, "A more positive community," as a result of delivering the plan. He explained the relationship between community involvement, and again included in the plan about making Macosquin 'more welcoming and inclusive village, and he put a structure in place to facilitate the delivery of Macosquin Village Plan.' My own view is that the plan comes across as a big "whoop of chaotic enthusiasm," (probably just a reflection of the times)- that resulted in one bus shelter being delivered over a ten-year period. Although the 'delivery mechanisms list' has mostly been

ticked over the past two years or more, and of course, grateful for, the Village Plan delivered by Tony, but a bus shelter is not a good return for so many years hard labor. The latter project described benefited the community, the former is just necessary community duties and a tick list that you all perform were 'real' community meaning is shaped, and it has profound impact on reviving community activities; so well done to everyone involved.

Following this, the community involvement / movement with all the groups in the village that the plan proposes is good for them, interacting at times through social media, participating in some community events for those that need relationships strengthened in community and at work this can only be a benefit. This thought-provoking plan on community perspectives, objectives in 'promoting the heritage of the village, through the archaeological project was exciting, addressing environmental concerns and keeping the village tidy shows some development, and a plan that has been good value for money? The village plan should encourage its community activists more than they do, and attend community workshops, of which we have been attending as a group. Motivation is low; especially when you see project after project quashed and very little information from our local councilors with regards to why? For example, take the entrance and upgrade of existing picnic area on A37 Dunhill Road that Mrs White has been pursuing for years, still no development on this one. Numerous 'would-be members' demonstrated imaginative and experienced reflections on the development of this over-grown site, research potentials carried out to re-establish riverside walk adjacent to picnic area, again; nothing done. For any community wanting to shape its future, or aiming to develop this area it has to draw up

a plan, and Macosquin community are fed up doing this with nothing in return at times. There has been, phone calls, emails, meetings, 'useful advice' and 'practical tips' delivered around the above wish list but again nothing happening.

Macosquin Primary put on some good shows-Grandparents' Lunch Fri 15 December 12.45 & and Christmas Tree Festival Thur, 14, Fri 15, Sat 16, Dec.

Macosquin Primary School on their: "wear something red to school day on Friday 27 October raised a magnificent £117.50 to help fund the protective case for new defibrillator for our community".



Issue #



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