

# Groomsport Village Newsletter

www.groomsport.info

JANUARY 2014



## CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Groomsport residents gathered to enjoy the village Christmas tree lights switch on by the Mayor on the 29th November 2013.

A short service beforehand led by Rev. Roger Purse in a packed Presbyterian Church included performances by the nursery school, and Brownies. Outside, the Symington Memorial Silver band played Christmas music on a cold but very enjoyable evening.

The Mayor, Councillor Andrew Muir switched on the lights, after expressing his good wishes to all in Groomsport for the festive season.

A welcome appearance was made by Santa Claus in the church hall, and more than 100 children got to meet him, and receive a pre-Christmas present. A magician, face painter, balloon artist, and two cartoon characters helped to entertain the families as they waited patiently in line for Santa. The sausage rolls, mince pies, shortcake, tea and coffee provided, helped warm us up.

Our thanks and appreciation to all who contributed, especially to Stephen and Caroline from NDBC Community Development team, and to the many volunteers who helped to make it a special night for the children and adults alike. Thanks also to the Symington Memorial Silver band for their excellent music, and the Christmas atmosphere it created.

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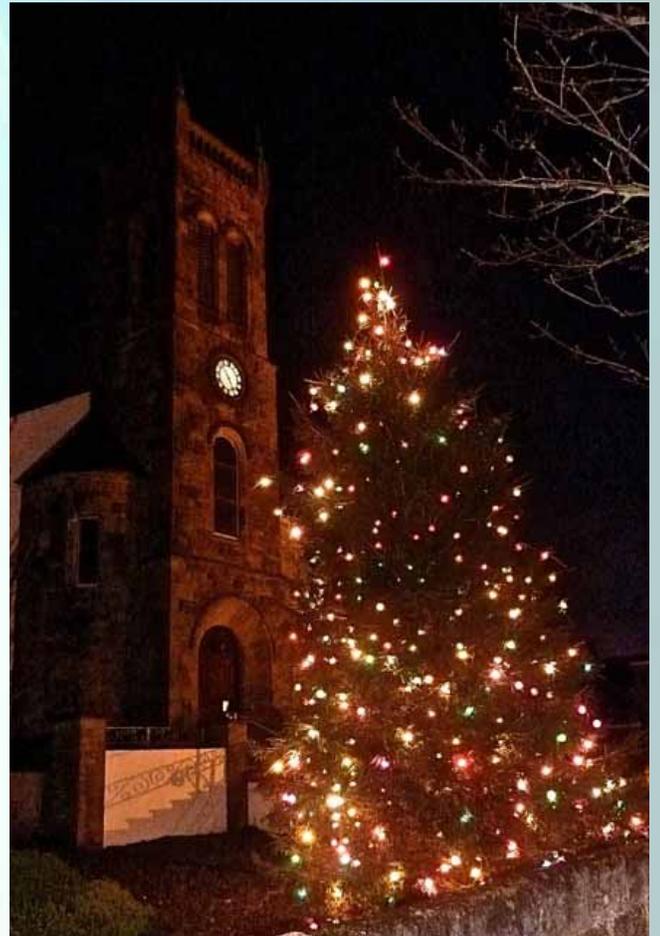
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PICTURE COURTESY OF DEIDRE BRUCE



ZACH AND RACHEL, WITH MUM SHARON, MEETING SANTA CLAUS

PUBLISHED BY  
GROOMSPORT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION





## BOXING DAY SWIM FOR CHARITY AT BALLYHOLME BY GROOMSPORT RESIDENTS



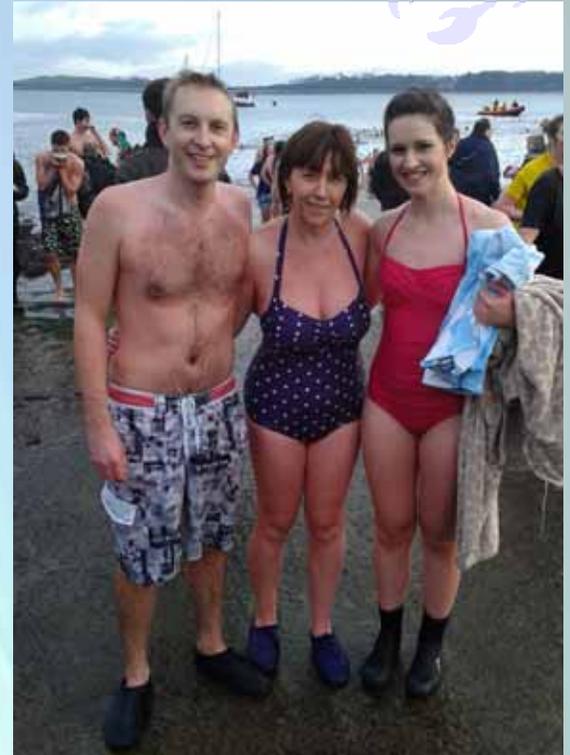
Action Medical Research Boxing Day Swim.

For over 60 years Action have been saving and changing children's lives through medical research and have spent over £100m, funding some amazing breakthroughs.

Today in the UK, there are hundreds of thousands of sick and disabled children who still need help.

Congratulations to Paul, Denise and Sarah, three Groomsport residents, who joined the large crowd of brave swimmers on Boxing Day, at Ballyholme Yacht Club. Their efforts raised over £500 for the charity. [www.action.org.uk](http://www.action.org.uk)

Denise said "It was great fun, but very, cold. We are pleased to have done it, and survived!"



### GROOMSPORT VILLAGE EVENTS

**Groomsport Village Association**  
**MAGICAL AFTERNOON**  
 Saturday 1 February 2014  
 Walter Nelson Halls

1.45pm - Arts and Crafts with a magic theme  
 3.00pm Magic Show - Paul Ormonde Magician  
 followed by refreshments for children & adults  
 ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

Doors Open 1.30 pm  
 Ticket Price £1  
 Please Present Ticket On Arrival

Event supported by North Down Borough Council

TICKETS COST £1.00 & ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE GVA SECRETARY: MIRIAM GIBSON 02891 479766

**SATURDAY 1ST MARCH:**  
 Groomsport Village Association invites you to a celebration of Clubs and Associations within our village. Come along to the Parish Halls between 2.00pm to 3.30pm to find out what goes on in Groomsport. Enjoy complimentary refreshments, interactive activities and live music from 'Eagle Wings Quartet', as we celebrate Groomsport life together. We look forward to seeing you there.

### TOUCHSTONES DRAMA GROUP PRESENT:

Snow White Pantomime

Walter Nelson Hall, February 20th, 21st, and 22nd at 7:45pm.

Matinee on Saturday 22nd at 2:00pm.

Ticket £8.00 adults, £5.00 children will be on sale at the Walter Nelson Halls Sat.1st, and 8th Feb. 2-3pm, or call 02891 462552. Proceeds in aid of the Chest, Heart and Stroke Charity

GROOMSPORT PICTURES AND NEWS PLEASE, FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS. SEND THEM TO THE EDITOR: BRIAN MCBRIDE: [BRIANMCB@TISCALI.CO.UK](mailto:BRIANMCB@TISCALI.CO.UK)



## GROOMSPORT RNLI COLLECTION 2013



The October 2013 Groomsport house to house collection for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) raised £1,668.02, which included one very generous individual donation.

Local volunteer collectors, including members and friends of Cockle Island Boat Club were delighted by the generosity of Groomsport residents.

The RNLI is totally dependent on voluntary contributions. And all money raised in this collection will help keep the lifeboat service active.

As at January 2013 the statistics show that RNLI lifeboats were launched 255 times in 2012 to a variety of callouts. The Search and Rescue operations saw 236 people brought safely to shore by the nine volunteer lifeboat crews located across the region. Bangor was the busiest lifeboat station, launching to 53 requests for help, with crews rescuing 53 people off the Co. Down coast. Martyn Smith, RNLI Operations Manager for Ireland said: "I would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to all those who support the RNLI, a charity dependant on the generosity of the public, by giving up their time or by making a donation." For more information on the RNLI please visit: [www.rnli.org.uk](http://www.rnli.org.uk)

## GROOMSPORT EVERGREENS CLUB:

Are you over 50? Want somewhere to go on a Thursday afternoon?

We meet every Thursday afternoon in the Parish Hall. Main Street, Groomsport, at 2:00pm-4:00pm A varied programme is organised with the assistance of NDBC, so there is something for everyone!

Talks, Crafts,. Armchair Aerobics, Boccia (armchair bowls), Outings, Shopping trips etc.

Dues are £2.00 per week whether you attend or not. This covers the afternoon tea cost each week, also outings, meals etc. Transport is available for the less mobile within the Groomsport boundaries.

Just call in any Thursday afternoon, or call Pearl Brown: 91464755 for further details.

New members are always welcome!

## JANUARY 2014 FLOODS IN GROOMSPORT



Strong winds and high tides have caused serious flooding in parts of County Down. Heavy rain followed by high winds led to the closure of many roads, and sandbags were distributed in a number of coastal towns in County Down.

Groomsport had very high tides on both Saturday 3rd January, and Monday 6th January 2014.

Locals were intrigued, but fortunately little damage was done by the high water.

## THE GROOMSPORT VILLAGE WAR MEMORIAL

Following some heated exchanges at the Annual General Meeting, our Chair, David Martin, met with Councillor Austen Lennon of the Groomspport Remembrance Committee to discuss the GRC's proposals for the Village War Memorial.

Cllr. Lennon explained that the GRC had been unable to obtain funding to upgrade the hard surfaces surrounding the memorial, or to rework the path from Main Street to the memorial. It was their intention to approach the Council to ask them to upgrade these elements. David Martin was satisfied that, given the reduced scale of the works, there was nothing contentious about the proposals as outlined by Cllr. Lennon. Cllr. Lennon further stated that the GRC would be seeking Lottery funding for works to restore the memorial itself and to have railings erected around the memorial.

David Martin stated that the introduction of railings would be contentious in the village and confirmed that, with the exception of the railings, the GVA would be content with the proposals. Cllr. Lennon has since taken the proposals for the hard standings to Council, where we understand that they have been approved.

We assume that the GRC has proceeded to seek funding for the other elements.

Should the GRC receive an offer of funding for the erection of railings, the Council has undertaken to consult village residents before deciding as to whether they should be provided.

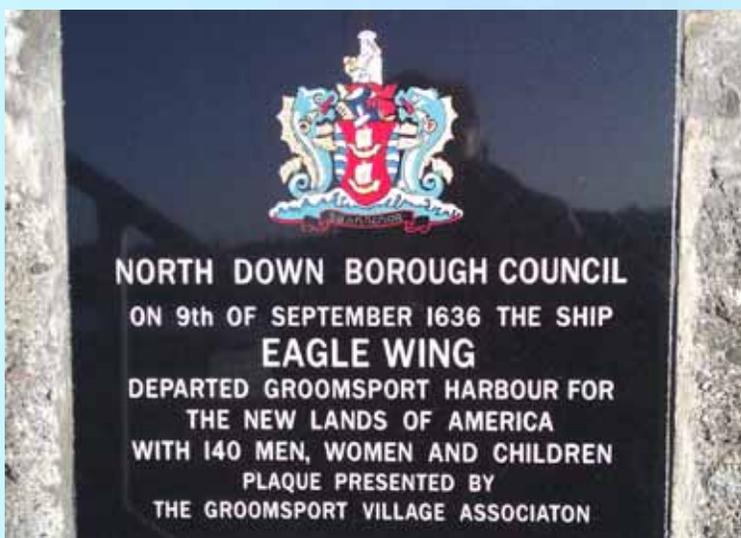
In the meantime, the GVA shall keep residents informed of any further developments.



## EAGLE WING PLAQUE ON THE GROOMSPORT HARBOUR WALL

A plaque added to the Groomspport harbour wall, commemorates the ship Eagle Wing, and the epic, but unsuccessful first emigrant ship's voyage to America in 1636. Scotsman, Robert Blair, a native of Irvine, Ayrshire, was ordained as deacon and priest by Bishop Echlin in Holywood in 1623, and admitted to the cure of souls at Bangor.

This was a period when Presbyterianism was making its influence widely felt in Ulster, and Robert Blair was one of those who laid the foundation for it, having a very strong aversion to Episcopacy and to the Book of Common Prayer.



This led to his being deposed for disobedience in 1634.

Blair remained in Ulster for two years, until in 1636 he sailed in company with other fellow-Presbyterians to seek a wider freedom in New England. His ship, "The Eagle Wing", was however, forced back by severe storms when off the coast of Newfoundland, and the emigrants returned to Belfast Lough.

Taken from: 'Bangor Abbey Through Fifteen Centuries' by Canon James Hamilton M.A. - Available from Bangor Abbey.



## Groomsport Community Events

DAY	TIME	WEEK	EVENT	VENUE
Monday	Afternoon	All	Patchwork Club	Boathouse
Monday	Evening	2nd & 4th	Chattering Needles	Parish Halls
Monday	Evening	All	Bridge Club	Boathouse
Monday	Evening	3rd	Mothers Union	Parish Halls
Monday	Evening		Karate Club	Parish Halls
Monday	7 – 8pm	All	Junior Boys Brigade	Walter Nelson Hall
Monday	Evening	2nd & 4th	Presbyterian Women's Ass.	Walter Nelson Hall
Monday	Evening	1st	Rotary (Women)	Stables
Tuesday	Morning		Probus (Men)	Stables
Tuesday	Afternoon		U3A Art Group	Boathouse
Tuesday	Evening		Brownies	Parish Halls
Tuesday	Evening		Rainbows	Parish Halls
Tuesday	Evening	2nd	Gardening Club	Parish Halls
Tuesday	Evening		Ladies Leisure Group	Walter Nelson Hall
Tuesday	Evening		North Down Advanced Motorists	Boathouse
Wednesday	Morning		Ards Art Club	Boathouse
Wednesday	Morning		Badminton Club	Walter Nelson Hall
Wednesday	Morning		Mums and Tots	Evangelical Pres. Church
Wednesday	Morning	1st	Probus (Women)	Stables
Wednesday	Afternoon		Patchwork Club	Boathouse
Wednesday	Afternoon		Scrabble Club	Parish Halls
Wednesday	Evening		Bowling Club	Walter Nelson Hall
Wednesday	Evening		Cockle Island Boat Club	Boathouse
Wednesday	Evening		Karate Club	Parish Halls
Thursday	Morning		Arts and Craft Club	Walter Nelson Hall
Thursday	Morning		Hadden Art Club	Boathouse
Thursday	Afternoon		Evergreens	Parish Halls
Thursday	Evening	1st	Bangor Amateur Radio Club	Boathouse
Thursday	Evening	2nd & 4th	Bangor Art Club	Parish Halls
Thursday	Evening	Last	Bangor Trefoil Guild	Boathouse
Thursday	Evening		Chess Club	Parish Halls
Thursday	Evening		Choir	Presbyterian Church
Thursday	Evening		Rotary (Men)	Stables
Thursday	Evening		Youth Fellowship	Parish Halls
Friday	Evening		Youth Club	Evangelical Pres. Church

This is a complete list of regular activities in Groomsport each week/month – unless you have more!  
All events listed are subject to change.

Please contact us with any additional information, updates, and pictures for possible inclusion in future Groomsport Village Newsletters. Contact: [www.groomsport.info](http://www.groomsport.info)

**Send your Groomsport news & pictures to: [www.groomsport.info](http://www.groomsport.info)**