

Groomsport Village Newsletter



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July 2014

Family Fun Day, Saturday 2nd August

Everyone welcome, come along and bring your family and friends

Golf Fun at Groomsport Golf Centre, Springwell Road, Groomsport 11am – 12.30pm

Golf Professional Gareth Graham, will get you started, and ready to play, with competitions and prizes. £5.00 per adult, £2.00 per child (primary) includes 40 balls each. Please meet at the Golf Centre, at 11:00am on Saturday 2nd August

Groomsport Village Centre Events Free Activities

12:00 to 5:00pm Bouncy Castle, and Slide, plus outdoor games on Boathouse Green

12:30-2:30pm Hook a plastic duck in the paddling pool, and win a prize

1:00pm Penalty Kick Event on Home Field with Jason Angus

RNLI lifeboat at the Harbour, Community PSNI vehicles, Army Display

Meet MICKEY and MINNIE MOUSE around the village green

2:00-4:00pm Tennis Coaching at the courts with Coach Stephen McCausland

2:00-4:00pm Cockle Row: Bread making, by Fisherman Ed, Casey's Creatures Display

3:00 to 5:00pm Live Music at Smugglers Cove (Groomsport Inn)

For the adults: 5:00pm Wine Tasting at Neill Wines, Groomsport to help you extend your knowledge of the wines of the world, and become more confident about buying, storing and serving wine and matching it with food.

Walter Nelson Halls

12:00 pm to 12:45pm Eagle Wings band

12:30 to 2:30pm The Big Draw with artist Elaine McGinn from Artspace

3:00 pm Food Demonstrations by chefs from Cottage Kitchen and The Stables

4:15 to 5:00pm Eagle Wings band

Parish Halls

12:30 to 3:00 pm Face Painting and Balloon Modelling

1:00 to 2:00 pm Craft Session with Ashleigh

1:30 to 2:30 pm Kids Tattoos, and Crazy Loom Band Fun.

Volunteers to help us on the day will be very welcome.

Contact Brian McBride 07831 848560 if you have any questions.

Website: www.groomsport.info

All Events Subject to Change.



Groomsport Village Association

www.groomsport.info

Groomsport Village Association AGM Thursday 18th September 2014

All residents of the Village are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting which will be held in the Boathouse at 7.30pm on 18th September.

At the meeting there will be a report on the activities of the past year including an update on the Village Plan, Special Events, Planning and other issues relating to the Village and its environment. We will also be presenting an updated Constitution for consideration and electing a new Management Committee.

You can view the proposed Constitution at our Website www.groomsport.info

We are always keen to recruit new members for the committee.

A nomination form can be obtained from our secretary: Miriam Gibson, 2 Cove View, Groomsport. Complete and return before the next AGM, if you wish to nominate someone to Groomsport Village Association Committee.

Recent issues in which the Village Association has been involved include:-

- Demolition of the NI Water pumping station in Harbour Road and its replacement with a smaller, more appropriate, structure. Removal of this eye-sore greatly improves the general appearance of this area, while allowing adjacent homes to have views over the harbour.
- Resurfacing of the footpath from Cockle Row cottages to the play area and provision of new kerbing. The surface of this path was in poor condition and the kerbs had become displaced.
- Our meeting with Roads Service has led to works being carried out to increase the width of the footpath on Bangor Road, with the grass verge being trimmed back along its full length.
- Springwell Crescent play park surface renewed to improve child safety.

Forthcoming works to be carried out by the Council include:-

- Resurfacing of the car park at the Boathouse. The car park surfacing is in poor condition and these works will allow the anchor and its associated rock to be better integrated into the car parking, as well as providing a better access to the Boathouse.
- Fencing off the harbour play area. This will provide a degree of security to the play area and aid the exclusion of dogs.
- Provision of a safer access to the beach at Cove Bay. The existing beach access was damaged in last winter's storms and these works will restore the access to a safe condition.

On-going issues:-

- We remain concerned at the condition of the North Down Coastal Path at Seahaven following significant damage during last winter's storms. We are in correspondence with Council regarding the restoration of the path to a safe condition.
- Closer to home, we are in discussion with the Council with a view to having the floral displays in the village enhanced. We are hopeful that this autumn will see the first steps in this direction.

Future Village Events

Ireman Weekend Friday August 15th - Sunday August 17th 2014



The Groomsport Village Association will be involved with marshalling Triathlons and other athletic events over this weekend.

There will be a kids introductory / taster triathlon on Saturday afternoon, 16th August (swim, bike ride and run) lasting about 30 minutes. Local children will get a free entry to this event. Email for entry forms to:

<http://www.ireman.org/>

We need You to volunteer as a marshal on Friday night 15th August for a half-marathon event. Please contact us from the Groomsport website with your phone number if you are willing to help: www.groomsport.info

"Groomsport Fest" at The Stables

In association with: Marie Curie Cancer Care



Bank Holiday weekend 22nd - 24th August Family Fun, and lots of Food & Music at The Stables Restaurant. For tickets & Bookings ring: 02891 271518, or 02891 464229

"Groomsport Gleanings"



We offer our best wishes and sincere thanks to a past Groomsport Village Association member Pearl Brown on her retirement as author of the "Groomsport Gleanings" in The County Down Spectator.

This weekly column announces birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, events, etc. of village residents and associations. Groomsport resident and North Down College student Ashley McWhinney is the new author and we wish him good luck for the future.

Please send your announcements to Ashley by email at: groomsportgleanings@yahoo.co.uk

Editor's Note:

If you, or your group/club have news, pictures etc, or you are looking for new members, please contact us. Where possible we can add details to the village website, or Newsletter

Groomsport Village Association Website: www.groomsport.info Email: info@groomsport.info

The Groomsport War Memorial:

We are pleased to be able to advise residents that, since the date of the last Newsletter, agreement has been reached between the Village Association and the Groomsport Remembrance Committee (GRC), regarding the works to be carried out at the War Memorial.

The works, which have recently been completed by the Council, comprised:-

- cleaning of the memorial itself
- restoring the names on the memorial
- replacing the precast slabs around the memorial with granite slabs
- resurfacing the bitmac hard standing with asphalt
- increasing the width of the level grass area in front of the memorial
- replacing all kerbing with kerbs set flush with the surfaces
- increasing the width of the path leading to the memorial
- providing an improved access to the memorial from Main Street.

Our thanks are due to Cllr Austen Lennon (representing the GRC) for the positive manner in which he engaged with the Village Association in agreeing the scope of the works to be undertaken. Thanks also go to Alderman Alan Chambers, who successfully arranged the council's agreement to fund the project, and ensured its prompt completion.

We trust that the great majority of village residents will feel comfortable with the scope of the works and agree that the restoration works respect the nature of the memorial and its beautiful setting.

Village Events

Groomsport Village Association has been very active in hosting village events this year and we would like to thank all local businesses and community groups for their participation and help in making all these events so successful. A special mention also goes to NDBC for funding support.

If you have any particular event in mind, or would like to put forward an idea, please contact the website and we will be in touch. All ideas welcome!

A "Magical Afternoon" was held on 1 February in the Walter Nelson Halls. This sell out event was enjoyed by local young people as they created a special magic potion and undertook magical craft activities. Paul Ormonde, a magician with The Magic Circle, entertained a packed audience with his unique and entertaining style of magic.

The Maxwell Hall was the venue for "Groomsport Community Clubs" afternoon as local clubs set up stalls and demonstrations of their invaluable work within our village.



Around 20 clubs were represented, highlighting the great work that goes on within Groomsport. Guests were then treated to a musical extravaganza by our very own "Eagle Wings quartet", while enjoying wonderful hospitality from The Cottage Kitchen Cafe.

On 29 April, The Rainbows celebrated EU Day of Solidarity - Linking Generations, with volunteers from Chattering Needles, Artspace and The Gardening Club.

The girls enjoyed making friendship bracelets, planting sunflower seeds and entering a design a medal competition with Elaine from Artspace. We were delighted with the news that Rachel Cummings was one of the top 3 competition medal design winners, with her design being created into a bronze medal - in association with the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

Thanks to the Groomsport Inn for hosting our Fundraising Quiz on 30 May.

Local teams battled it out as they argued over the name for a baby koala bear, the meaning of acersecomic and the total age of the One Direction boys!

The ballot prizes, all kindly donated by Groomsport traders, provided a welcome distraction in the interval. A great night was had by all - watch this space, we might even plan another quiz - so get brushing up on your trivia!

Over £300 was raised to help with running costs - so a Big Thank You to all who supported the quiz.