

# Groomsport Village Newsletter



Published by Groomsport Village Association Website: [www.groomsport.info](http://www.groomsport.info) Email: [info@groomsport.info](mailto:info@groomsport.info) January 2015

## Christmas Tree Lights Switch On in Groomsport

The annual light switch on, held on Friday 28 November was a fantastic night out for all the family. The Church service was held in a very packed Groomsport Presbyterian Church at 6.30pm. Rev. Purce led the service, with words from Lady Hermon and 1st Groomsport Brownies: Sakura Gibson and Rachel Cummings reading and Nicola Patton, Brownie Leader.

Symington Memorial Band accompanied Church hymns - adding a truly festive feel to the service. With Christmas songs from Groomsport Playgroup and 1st Groomsport Brownies, the congregation enjoyed a meaningful start to the Christmas celebrations. Mayor, Councillor Peter Martin and his daughter Lucy switched on the lights as the crowd sang and the band played.

"X Factor" look out – because Groomsport really has got talent!

The Church halls were full, as refreshments were served, with villagers enjoying this ever growing community event. Mince pies, shortbread, teas and coffees appeared as if by magic from the ladies behind the shutter door. Children enjoyed having their faces painted, high fiving with the fun characters and the fantastic balloon modelling. 'Magic George' was a big hit as he entertained those in the queue waiting for Santa. Then, at last, the visit to the man himself! Over 120 children met Santa, each receiving a complimentary selection box. Santa and his friendly elf promised dolls, bikes and electronic gadgets to all the local children.

As with any organised event, lots of thanks are owed, so, Groomsport Village Association would like to acknowledge the help and support of North Down Borough Council, Groomsport Presbyterian Church, 1<sup>st</sup> Groomsport Brownies, Groomsport Playgroup, Symington Memorial Band and the Catering team who all helped make it such a great family night out. See you again in December 2015!



## Wine Tasting Evening 7<sup>th</sup> February 2015



Our next organised community event will be upstairs in Neill Wine, Main Street, Groomsport on the evening of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Tickets £10 and must be booked and paid in advance as there is limited availability. A wide range of wine tasting, expert information about the wines – all accompanied with a cheeseboard platter. Please book your place via a committee member or contact us via the website. [www.groomsport.info](http://www.groomsport.info) Cheers!

## B511 Bangor Road Upgrade

GVA have been asking for the footpaths on this road to be widened, remedial work to be carried out on the water main, flooding problems to be addressed and measures taken to stop soil creep at several points. In mid-November 2014, the village woke up to a forest of signs on both ends of the B511, warning motorists that the road could be closed until January

Transport NI had taken action on our requests!

The contractors were keen to point out that shops in the village were open for business as usual and for the most part, villagers got on with life without much disruption.

It was necessary to have the road closed as footpaths and kerbs were removed and the base of the hedge pared back so that a wider asphalt footpath could be laid.

The contractors made good progress, as North Down experienced one of the warmest Decembers this century.

Although the width of the footpath was increased at the Eastern end of the B511, it was not increased at the Western end where, perversely, it is at its narrowest!

GVA have identified again the narrow footpath, as a potential accident 'black spot'.

Car drivers still need to exercise caution at this point. The carriageway on the Northern side is impeded by an encroaching field hedge and the opportunity to fix this issue has been missed. There has been an improvement to both the road surface and pavements on the B511, which should make it safer. The GVA of course, will continue to press Transport NI for action.



## *Groomsport Evergreens Club*

Groomsport Evergreens Club celebrates their 40th anniversary in April 2015.

The club meets every Thursday afternoon in the Parish Hall 2pm - 4pm, and is open to all over fifty years. Dues are £2.00 per week whether you attend or not.

This covers the weekly afternoon tea, outings, dinner etc.

The club wants to recruit new members, especially those willing to help in management, new ideas etc. The Rector is doing a very good job but it isn't fair to expect him to do it on a permanent basis as well as all his other duties. The club have received a lot of support from NDBC and hope this will continue with the new council. If you would like to join or help to run the Evergreens please call in any Thursday or contact GVA by Email - [info@groomsport.info](mailto:info@groomsport.info)

**AGEnda**  
AGE north down & ards

## **'Good Morning' Call Service**

**A FREE daily telephone service 365 days a year for those who live alone and at times feel anxious and vulnerable, and is available to all residents over 50 in**

**North Down and Ards. Do you live alone? Do you know someone who is vulnerable? Are you anxious about being on your own? Are there days when no-one calls with you?**

**Would you like to hear a friendly voice in the mornings?**

**Then why not sign up for our FREE call service today? Peace of mind for you and your family.....**

**Please contact AGE north down & ards Tel: 028 91271968 Monday – Friday 10.00am – 2.00pm or:**

**Email: [agenda@agenorthdownards.co.uk](mailto:agenda@agenorthdownards.co.uk) for a Referral Form**

## Springwell Play Park

This Council maintained play park, just off Springwell Crescent, is a very important facility in the village and is used by local children, even in the winter. It is situated in a central, sheltered location and surrounded by mown grass where picnics can be enjoyed.



Springwell Play Park



Seafront Play Park

Unlike the play area near the tennis courts in Main Street, this park is not fenced off and there is nothing to prevent children running out into the car park immediately adjacent to it. Parents and those looking after children need to be reassured that the children are safe. Surely it would not take too much to put up a fence to act as a protection? GVA has contacted the Council about getting a fence around the play area.

## Post Notes

Helpful postal advice from Groomsport Post Mistress, Paula Strain. Paula has been Post Mistress in Groomsport for the past 5 years. She would like to thank her customers for their support and business over these years. Paula has kindly given the Newsletter some postal information that you may find useful:



### Groomsport Post Office Opening Hours

Monday/Tuesday: 9:15am - 1:00pm, 2:00pm - 5:30pm

Wednesday: 9:15am - 1:00pm, 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Thursday/Friday: 9:15am - 1:00pm, 2:00pm - 5:30pm

Saturday: 9:15am - 12:30pm

Please remember the Post Office closes for lunch Monday to Friday 1:00pm - 2:00pm

- Letterbox – please do not put large letters into the red Main Street letterbox as this can cause it to overflow. Bring your large letters inside to the Post Office counter.
- Utility Bills – pay many bills at the post office i.e. Electricity, BT and Rates. Please note cash or debit cards only as no cheques or credit cards are accepted.
- Banking – save yourself a journey, lodgements can be made at the Post Office to some High Street Banks. If you are interested just ask Paula for more details.
- Postal orders can be bought at the post office counter.
- Insurance - travel / home / pet & car. Leaflets available at the counter - ask for details.
- Parcels - small to large, local and overseas can be posted.
- Gift cards - no need to spend hours searching for that present, just buy a gift card at the Post Office - These cards can be used in a wide range of popular shops.
- Budget cards - these can be purchased at the post office and used for e.g. Bills, Car Tax or saving for Christmas.

## Coastal Path

The Coastal Path to Bangor and Orlock is a very special asset, not only for our village but for all the people of North Down and for the many visitors who come to relax here.

Therefore, it is essential that it is protected and maintained to the highest standards possible. For some time now, the Groomsport Village Association has regarded the Coastal Path as a priority and so has been working with the Council and local representatives to ensure that it is properly maintained.

While some work has already been carried out, much still remains to be done to ensure access to this valued amenity.

### **The Groomsport Village Association Committee 2015**



Doris Hutchieson (Chair)



Miriam Gibson (Secretary)



Mandy Ritchie



Sharon Cummings



Victor Crawford



Eric Brown



David Martin



Brian McBride



John Crockard



Roy McWhinney

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*Groomsport Pictures and stories please, for future Newsletters. Send them to the editor: Brian: [info@groomsport.info](mailto:info@groomsport.info)*

