



Newsletter Summer 2009



Inside: Forthcoming Events
Village Matters
Articles by PSNI and NIHE

Groomsport Village Association

The Groomsport Village Association was formed to protect and further the general interests of all residents and to seek ways to retain and enhance the existing ambience and character of the village.

During 2008, a range of issues came before the Village Association Committee for consideration and action including some important planning issues, the proposed Post Office closure, North Down Green Belt issues, dog fouling, speeding, double parking, litter, road signage, footpaths and anti-social behaviour. Many of these matters are ongoing with the statutory bodies involved.

An Inter-Agency meeting is held twice a year to facilitate action on matters of concern raised by residents. Committee members also represent the interests of residents on a number of local committees - such as the North Down Housing Community Network and PACT (Partners and Community Together) - and the Association is kept informed on local issues by the PSNI Community Safety Team, Over 50's Forum and the North Down Community Network. The Christmas Tree Lights ceremony is also arranged by the Committee in conjunction with North Down Borough Council.

The Committee, which is elected at the Annual General Meeting held in the autumn, meets once a month apart from in July and August. [New committee members bring fresh enthusiasm and energy and it is hoped that residents will consider nomination to committee later in the year.](#) Public notices for the AGM and for nominations for committee will be displayed prior to the meeting. In the meantime, if you would like to know more about the Village Association and are interested in committee membership, please contact Ann Sanderson, Hon Secretary, on 9146 3145.

Inter-Agency Meeting

The first Inter-Agency meeting for the current year took place on 10th February. Representatives from the following organisations were present: PSNI; Housing Executive; North Down Borough Council – Enforcement; North Down Policing Partnership. In addition, the meeting was attended by Lady Hermon MP, Alderman Marsden Fitzsimons and Councillor Alan Chambers. The meeting was chaired by Lynette Mahaffy, North Down Community Network.

Palm Sunday in Groomsport



Rev. Duncan Pollock leads the Palm Sunday procession.



Outside the Parish Halls the children take delight in greeting the pony.

There's NO Excuse for ***Speeding!***

For the last three years the issue of speeding on the approach roads to the village and occasionally through the village itself has been prominent on the Inter-Agency agendas. The committee asked that the 30mph signs at the start of the B511 be replaced by larger signs designating the limit. These larger signs are now in place.

The PSNI are continuing to monitor speeding in and around the village.

SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT



Open every weekend from the end of May to the 6th September, Cockle Row offers a varied programme of FREE entertainment for all the family.

Events include line dancing, an arts day, pottery making and the opportunity to get close to small animals.

For more detailed information consult the notice board situated opposite the entrance to the cottages.

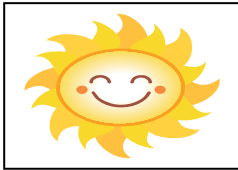
The Council's Leisure and Tourism team has promised to produce another entertaining evening for us all.

Hosted by George Jones, the show will feature music from the Johnny Cash tribute Band supported by guests Henry McCullough and Brendan Quinn.

The live music begins at 7p.m. and ends at 11p.m. with a spectacular themed firework display.



.....and we have the only North Down beach to feature in the 2009 Good Beach Guide!



SUMMER ENTERTAINMENTcontd.

The Tall Ships:

Once again Belfast is host to the "finishing line" for the Tall Ships race.

The first ships are expected to begin arriving on Thursday 13th. August. The farewell sail past will take place on Sunday 16th.

To celebrate the event Cockle Row is organising a special programme for that weekend.

Where better to get a great view of these magnificent vessels than our very own harbour and coastal path?

Eagle Wing:

This year's Eagle Wing festival is due to take place on Sunday 6th. September and will be the final event in Cockle Row's summer programme.

Last year the weather spoiled what should have been a very entertaining day out.

Hopefully this year the sun will shine and we can all enjoy the planned story telling and re-enactments planned by the Leisure and Tourism team.

The Ireman 226 Challenge & Half Ireman:

Sunday 30th. August



This annual event attracts triathletes from all over the world and has proved to be a very popular spectator sport.

For the early birds among you the Ireman 226 challenge begins at 6 a.m.

For those who prefer a lie-in on a Sunday, the Half Ireman is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.

Another good reason when walking your dog to – PICK IT UP!!!

Changes at your local NIHE office



The telephone numbers are as follows:

General enquiries 08448 920900
Repairs and out of
hours repairs 08448 920901
Housing Benefit 08448 920902

The Bangor Office functions of [Rent Accounting](#) and [Housing Benefit](#) transferred to the South East Area Office on 10th. November 2008.

The staff who deal with these functions are based in our South East Area Office, 22 – 28 Court Street, Newtownards. If you wish, you can leave the relevant or requested information into our office at 2 Alfred Street and we will forward it to the Accounts or Housing Benefit departments in the Newtownards office on your behalf.

Alternatively, a quicker option would be for you to send the information directly to

[Accounts](#) or [Housing Benefit](#) at:

[South East Area Office](#)

[Strangford House](#)

[28 Court Street](#)

[Newtownards](#)

[BT23 7NX](#)

The Bangor District Office will continue to manage estate management duties including housing, homelessness, anti social behaviour, community development, neighbourhood regeneration and scheme management.

“It Will Never Happen to Me!”

With competing pressures on the household budget, house contents insurance may not seem to be a priority for many of us. However, we are urging everyone, including our own Housing Executive tenants, to have their possessions insured. The contents of your home are your responsibility. If the contents of your home are destroyed by fire or flooding, could you afford to replace the items lost?

There are numerous contents insurance policies available and you can obtain details by looking in your yellow pages, contacting your local insurance broker or searching for deals on the internet. Alternatively, SCNI (Supporting Communities Northern Ireland) has recognized the problems faced by Housing Executive tenants and recommends a scheme specifically geared for this market. The policy benefits include:

- Low cost – peace of mind
- Easy payment – fortnightly, monthly or annually
- No excess payment required if you claim

Premiums start from as little as £2.74 a fortnight. For more details or instant cover, you can call [0845 6718172](#). Alternatively application forms are available from your local NIHE district office, 2 Alfred Street.

Before making your final decision we advise you to shop around and get several quotations.

Don't fall into the “it won't happen to me” trap. Get your possessions insured!



POLICE CRIME ALERT

Police in North Down would like to offer advice to help householders prevent burglaries. Thieves target houses with no visible burglar alarm, and no visible lighting during the hours of darkness. Burglars force rear doors/windows and remove slips from double glazed windows. They steal mainly cash and jewellery. Be vigilant and secure your home.

HOW SECURE IS YOUR HOME?

Install a burglar alarm – 90% of homes targeted by burglars in North Down do not have a visible alarm fitted - install one now.

Fit mortise locks (Kite marked BS 3621) to all front and back doors and locks to all downstairs windows or windows which are easy to reach.

If you are replacing or fitting new doors and windows ask your installer if they are certified to British Standard BS 7950 (windows) or PAS 24-1 (doors).

Fit timer switches to lights to come on during hours of darkness.

Make property unattractive to the thief – mark it with postcode and house number visibly with an engraver or invisibly with an ultra violet pen. Take photographs of your property. Don't leave cash in the house. Remove car keys, handbags, wallets etc. to the bedroom at night.

Be aware of people 'cold calling' at your property offering to carry out repairs, ie. sealing driveways, guttering, roof repairs etc. Do you know who they are?

Be a Good Neighbour, report suspicious activity/callers at your door immediately to Police. Note descriptions of callers and note make, colour, registration numbers of any vehicles acting suspiciously.

- **CRIMESTOPPERS: 0800 555 111**

TO CONTACT BANGOR POLICE RING – 0845 600 8000

Contacting the Committee:

If you need to contact members of the committee on issues which you feel are important to the village please either:

- **visit the Association website at www.groomsport.info**
- **telephone Ann Sanderson 9146 3145
Lynda Anderson 9146 3824**
- **write to us via the letter box attached to the Parish Halls making sure that your letter is in a sealed envelope.**

The Evergreens

The Evergreen Club was formed in April 1975 with a membership of around 60 people. . The Club is open to all over fifty year olds living within Groomsport and Bangor.

Numbers have fluctuated over the years and membership now stands at 30. For those less mobile within Groomsport we have volunteer drivers who offer free transport. **We are always looking for more volunteers!** We have talks (Age Concern, Police, safety in the home etc.) outings, parties, games, quizzes, and sometimes we just sit, chat and have some “craic” over a cup of tea.

The club meets every Thursday afternoon in the Parish Hall from 2pm - 4pm. Dues are £1.50 per week (whether you attend or not) These cover your afternoon cup of tea, all outings, dinners etc.

Further details may be obtained from the Chairperson, Pearl Brown Tel: 91464755.

New members always welcome.



Pearl Brown and representatives from the Evergreens poised to present Sean and Joan with retirement gifts.

USE IT or LOSE IT!

The Post Office is continually monitoring the performance of our “Outreach” service. If we do not support the P.O. counter in the Spar we run the risk of losing this service

BLUE BINS - Yes & No!

Yes to: Paper/Card & Cardboard/Plastic bottles (rinsed)/Food & Drink Cans/
Aerosols

No to: Yoghurt Pots/Cartons/Margarine Containers/Plastic Food Trays/Plastic
Bags/Medicine & Pill Bottles

And finally.....The Committee would like to thank North Down Community Network and Northern Ireland Housing Executive for the publication of this newsletter.

Groomsport Village Association Working together to protect the future of our village