

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council Community Support News – September 2026

The Community Support Newsletter is published monthly. Regular updates are also issued by email. If you wish to receive these or place an article in the Newsletter, please contact Alison Gilmore on 0300 303 1777 ext 21217 / email alison.gilmore@fermanaghomagh.com

Please note the deadline for October's Newsletter is Tuesday 22 September

Council News & Events

New to the area?

You are welcome to join the Community Connect Hub

Fermanagh House, Enniskillen Thursdays 3 September, 5 November

Omagh Community House Tuesdays 6 October, 1 December

Come along on any of the above days, **10am-12 noon.**

You can:

- Have a chat
- Meet other people
- Get help and information

People will be there to help with:

- Housing
- Jobs and benefits
- Health
- Community advice

Just drop in. No booking needed.

Everyone is welcome.

'Exploration of Our Cultural Roots Through Music' Programme – Songs From Home

Choir - Want to be part of a new singing group in Omagh or Enniskillen?

Now is your chance to take part in an incredible six-week journey as part of our Songs From Home project. Together, we will explore our cultural roots through the power of music and community singing. No auditions or music-reading skills are required, just bring your enthusiasm!

This special six-week course will visit various groups and choirs across the Fermanagh & Omagh district. Together, we will learn and celebrate the beautiful local songs, stories and history of our area. No previous experience is required.

Songs From Home - Are you interested in music, song and storytelling? Do you enjoy exploring local history? Then this could be for you!

This special six-week course is coming to various groups and choirs across the Fermanagh & Omagh district. Together, we will learn and celebrate the beautiful local songs, rich stories and history of our area. No previous experience is required.

Songs From Home for the Travelling Community - As part of 'Songs From Home', we are delighted to explore the songs, stories and rich traditional culture of the Irish Travelling Community. For centuries, the songs and stories of the Irish Travelling Community have been an

important part of our shared folk heritage. This September, you are invited to help preserve, celebrate and keep this living tradition thriving. Join renowned local balladeer and folk musician Tom Sweeney at Omagh Community House for four weeks of stories, songs and music. Bring your voice, no singing experience is necessary.

This course provides a dedicated space to explore the rich cultural roots, rare ballads and profound oral histories that define the Traveller Community. Whether you want to listen, share your own family stories or learn more about this important cultural heritage, your voice belongs here.

The Grand Finale

All groups will come together on Saturday 10 October for an incredible, one-off 'Songs & Stories Trail of Fermanagh & Omagh' at the iconic Ulster American Folk Park. Participants will also have the opportunity to work with some incredible special guests along the way.

For further information, including all event dates and sign up details, visit

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/the-peaceplus-programme/events-and-workshops/>

European Heritage Open Days 2026

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September

This **free** weekend encourages everyone to explore extraordinary places and stories, including experiences that are not normally accessible to the public. From unique spaces and historic buildings to behind the scenes tours and stories rarely told, European Heritage Open Days offers a special opportunity to explore and appreciate our shared heritage. For further information including details of the **free programme** visit <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/european-heritage-open-days>

Culture Night

Friday 18 September

Various Venues

For full details visit <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/event/culture-night-2/>

Events in Fermanagh and Omagh

Visit the following websites for details of what's on in the district:

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/events-and-festivals/>

<https://www.fermanaghlakelands.com/whats-on>

<https://exploreomaghsperrins.com/whats-on/>

Electoral Office for Northern Ireland

2027 Combined Election Polling Place Consultation

The Electoral Office is seeking views on Polling Places for the combined Assembly and Council Elections to be held next May (2027).

The proposed Polling Places provide voters with the ability to vote in the same Polling Place for both elections. View the consultation and submit your response:

<https://www.eoni.org.uk/consultations>

Consultation closes on Friday 2 October 2026.

Public Consultation on Stronger Futures: A Northern Ireland Youth Work Policy Statement

The Department of Education (DE) invites you to take part in the public consultation for Stronger Futures: A Northern Ireland Youth Work Policy Statement.

Visit [Public Consultation on Stronger Futures: A Northern Ireland Youth Work Policy Statement | Department of Education](#)

The consultation closes on Friday 30 October 2026.

PEACEPLUS Update

Please see the link below to view our latest Newsletter, which provides an update on the progress made across the Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan.

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/app/uploads/2026/07/Final-FODC-PEACEPLUS-Newsletter-Summer-July-2026.pdf>

We have also updated our News webpages to include PEACEPLUS in Pictures, showcasing the people, projects and activities that make up the Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan. By sharing the stories behind the programme and celebrating participant achievements, we hope to raise awareness of PEACEPLUS opportunities and demonstrate how the programme is supporting positive change throughout the district.

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/the-peaceplus-programme/peaceplus-newsletters-and-press-releases/>

Our Events and Workshops page continues to provide updates on current opportunities, so please keep an eye on it to find out what is happening and how you can get involved:

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/the-peaceplus-programme/events-and-workshops/>

Age Friendly

The Council is committed to providing an Age Friendly District and seeks to ensure that older people lead more independent, engaged and socially connected lives.

For further information and details of how to **join an older person's group** visit

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/health-wellbeing/agefriendly/>

Details of upcoming events for older people can be found at

<https://www.facebook.com/swapnetwork/>

Financial Wellbeing Project

Are you struggling with your personal finances?

Would your staff like a Debt Awareness Session?

Would your group users benefit from a Financial Well Being Clinic?

Omagh Independent Advice Service and Community Advice Fermanagh are delighted to offer One to One Advice, Financial Well Being Clinics and Information Sessions to the general public and to all interested local voluntary and statutory groups.

Our project will provide advice and representation on the following:

- Benefit Entitlement Checks
- Better off Calculations
- Budgeting Advice
- Free, confidential Debt Advice

If you would like to avail of our services or help us arrange a Financial Well Being Clinic in your area please contact us on:

Omagh Independent Advice Services

Phone No. 028 8224 3252 or Email info@oias.co.uk

Community Advice Fermanagh

Phone No. 028 6632 4334 or Email website@communityadvicefermanagh.com

Cost of Living Help

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/community-help-support/cost-of-living-help/>

Consultations

Consultations provide you with an opportunity to have your say. They also help us to find out what you think and to understand your priorities and concerns about our district. Further information is available at <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/your-council/consultations/>

Community Centres

Our community centres are available to hire for children's activities/parties, community events, health and sporting activities, special occasions and corporate events.

For further details visit <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/community-centres/>

FODC Physical Activity Referral Scheme (PARS)

Delivered in partnership with the Public Health Agency (PHA), PARS is a **free 12-week exercise** referral programme facilitated by fully qualified staff for individuals with specific health conditions who have no absolute contraindications to exercise.

PARS includes online delivery with sessions also facilitated at Council leisure centres.

For further information visit [Physical Activity Referral Scheme](#)

FODC Move More Programme

A physical activity initiative delivered in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support available to anyone who has had a cancer diagnosis, at any stage of their life.

Move More supports the lives of people with cancer through physical activity. Physical activity before, during and after cancer treatment can help prevent and manage the effects of treatment, such as fatigue, depression and risks to heart health.

Sessions are facilitated at Council leisure centres.

For further information visit [Macmillan Move More](#).

Irish Language Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

For up to date information and details of activities across the district

visit <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/irish-language/>

Fermanagh and Omagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)

A partnership between the Council, statutory providers and the community. The partnership is made up of elected and independent members and representatives from the statutory sector.

Follow us on Facebook via the link below

https://www.facebook.com/FermanaghandOmaghPCSP/?locale=en_GB

Charity Support

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council may provide support to charities in a number of ways including the provision of grant aid; the attendance of the Council Chair or Vice Chair at photo opportunities; use of Council facilities and the illumination of Council buildings to mark specific days of significance to a chosen charity which is associated with a particular colour.

For further information visit <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/>

Please note, applications for the use of Council facilities or the illuminating of Enniskillen Castle and Strule Arts Centre in a particular colour, should be submitted to the Council **at least 6 weeks** before the date requested, to allow sufficient time for the application to be considered.

To make an illumination request please complete <https://form.jotform.com/222782646405055> or for any enquiries regarding Council support to charities, email communitysupport@fermanaghomagh.com

Community Support

The Community Services Department offers support to individuals and organisations within the community and voluntary sector promoting community action.

Officers within the Community Services Team are available to assist community groups and voluntary organisations make as big a difference as possible to local lives and issues.

For further information, please visit [Community – Fermanagh & Omagh District Council \(fermanaghomagh.com\)](http://Community – Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (fermanaghomagh.com))

Please contact your local Community Support Officer for any assistance you or your organisation may require:

Area	Officer	Email	Telephone 0300 303 1777
Enniskillen	Ruthanne Fawcett	<u>ruthanne.fawcett@fermanaghomagh.com</u>	Ext 21649
Erne East	Joanne Cunningham	<u>joanne.cunningham@fermanaghomagh.com</u>	Ext 21405
Erne North	Leza Cleary	<u>leza.cleary@fermanaghomagh.com</u>	Ext 21234
Erne West	Kellie Beacom	<u>kellie.beacom@fermanaghomagh.com</u>	Ext 21201
Mid Tyrone	Lee Hamilton	<u>lee.hamilton@fermanaghomagh.com</u>	Ext 20227
Omagh	Josephine Treanor	<u>josephine.treanor@fermanaghomagh.com</u>	Ext 20222
West Tyrone	Billie-Jo Irwin	<u>billie-jo.irwin@fermanaghomagh.com</u>	Ext 20220

Community News

Your Voice Matters

Help shape the future of health and care in Fermanagh and West Tyrone

We are developing a new Vision for how health and care services could be delivered in the future and we want to hear from you.

Your views, experiences and ideas are important in helping us plan services that meet the needs of local people and communities.

Have your say and be part of the conversation.

Find out more – visit <https://westerntrust.hscni.net/about-the-trust/fwt-future-health-and-care-services/>

Shape the Vision – Complete the questionnaire and have your voice heard in shaping future services <https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/hsc/health-care-futures-fermanagh-west-tyrone/>

Closes Wednesday 30 September 2026

Want a free Defibrillator?

Local community groups can now apply for a **free** defibrillator through the British Heart Foundation Northern Ireland.

Successful applicants will receive:

- A defibrillator and cabinet
- Installation costs covered (where needed)
- Free replacement parts for up to 10 years

If you're involved in a sports club, community centre, church group, social club or local organisation, you are encouraged to apply.

Every minute counts during a cardiac arrest. This simple piece of equipment could save someone's life.

Find out more and apply here: www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/apply-for-a-free-defibrillator-for-your-community

Give Blood – Save Lives

Book an appointment at <https://nibts.hscni.net/online-booking-for-blood-donation-appointments/>

Fermanagh Young Leaders Forum

Applications now open

Fermanagh Trust is delighted to invite applications for our Fermanagh Young Leaders Forum, a unique opportunity for young people aged 17–25 to develop leadership skills, build confidence, and make a real difference in their local community.

This seven-month programme, commencing September 2026, offers participants the chance to take part in weekly sessions where they will work together to identify key issues affecting young people, learn about community development, and play a direct role in awarding grant funding to local projects.

Participants will:

- Develop leadership, teamwork, and communication skills
- Gain a recognised OCN qualification in Community Development
- Gain valuable experience for CVs, further education, and employment
- Contribute to meaningful change in their community

We would greatly appreciate your support in sharing this opportunity with young people you know who may have an interest. Full details and application information are available via this link: <https://www.fermanaghtrust.org/fermanagh-young-leaders-forum/>

This programme is completely free. Fermanagh Young Leaders Programme is administered by Fermanagh Trust through our Investing in Community Volunteers programme. The Investing in Community Volunteers Programme is one of 13 programmes as detailed in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan, a project supported by PEACEPLUS and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch - Email sonya@fermanaghtrust.org or Tel 028 6632 0210

Fermanagh Fun Farm

Poultry Fair & Indoor/Outdoor Market

Sunday 6 September

Fermanagh Fun Farm will be hosting a Poultry Fair & Indoor/Outdoor Market, offering visitors the chance to browse poultry and wild fowl, along with a selection of stalls and small items to purchase. Entry to the event is free, with visitors able to see and feed the farm animals, with food baskets available to purchase for £2.50. There will also be a café selling hot food and drinks.

Spooky Season

Saturday 24 – Saturday 31 October

Get ready for some Halloween fun - Families can pick and carve their own pumpkin, enjoy witches story time, take part in Halloween arts and crafts and decorate their own Halloween biscuits. Children can also complete a Halloween passport trail, meet the Halloween characters and enjoy the farm's animals and indoor and outdoor play areas. Tickets are available to book online.

<https://www.fermanaghfunfarm.co.uk/> Telephone 028 6638 5060

Community Relations Council

Lunchtime Learning Session

Wednesday 9 September, 12 noon to around 12.40pm

We are delighted to welcome Lisa Deitrich OBE, from Community Relations In schools, who will share practical insights on how organisations can build long-term sustainability through stronger business engagement, diversified income, stable core funding, and three-to-five-year funding cycles that support lasting peacebuilding impact.

To register for this **free online event** please use the link below

[Wednesday 9th Sept Lunchtime Learning with Lisa Dietrich](#)

The zoom link will be issued to registered participants 24hrs before the event.

Erne District Chinese Families' & Friends' Association

Alternate Saturdays 12 September – 19 December, 2pm-4pm

St Michael's Community Hall, Enniskillen BT74 6AA

Fun for Everyone –

Crafts & Workshops

Cultural Activities

Chinese New Year Preparation

Family Friendly

Key Dates

Saturday 26 September Mooncake Festival (5pm-7pm)

Saturday 5 December Christmas Workshop (2pm-4pm)

Saturday 19 December Christmas & Winter Solstice (3.30pm–5.30pm)

Volunteers Welcome! Join us and be part of something special

Email ernechinese@hotmail.com Telephone 07485 711652

Celebrate Culture • Community • Creativity

Alzheimer's Society

Young-onset Dementia Peer Support Group

Thursdays 17 September, 15 October, 19 November, 17 December, 6pm - 7.30pm

(third Thursday of each month)

Fermanagh House, Enniskillen

A new group for people living with young-onset dementia (diagnosed under age 65), their family members and carers.

The group will provide a safe, facilitated environment to share experiences, build social networks and maintain independence through activities.

Booking is essential. For more information and to book please contact:

Martin Bradley, Dementia Adviser 07725 475715

Rita O'Loughlin, Dementia Adviser 07889 148927

Rachael Dorrian, WHSCT Dementia Navigator 07585 998890

**Breast Cancer Now
Support for you!**

Thursday 17 September & Thursday 24 September, 10am to 1.30pm

Macmillan Health and Wellbeing Campus at Altnagelvin Hospital

You don't always feel 'back to normal' when you finish your hospital treatment for primary breast cancer. That's why Moving Forward is here – A small group (5–15 people), supported by an expert facilitator and friendly volunteers. Meet other people who've finished treatment for primary breast cancer. You'll get the tools to help you move forward with your life.

If you'd like to come along you can register online: [Booking Platform](#)

Should you need any support with travel, you may be applicable for financial support through our access fund. Contact accessfund@breastcancernow.org or 0345 077 1893.

Volunteer Recruitment Fair

Tuesday 6 October, 4pm - 7pm

Omagh Library

Free Entry

The Fair's aim is linking 'those who want to help' with 'those that need help'. The Fair is an ideal opportunity for the local community to find out more about the value of volunteering, in addition to the range of local opportunities available and ways to get involved. Both students and members of the public can chat informally with representatives, as well as sign up with the Volunteer Centre and apply for specific volunteering roles and opportunities.

This is also a fantastic opportunity to network and raise awareness of the excellent work being carried out by voluntary organisations locally.

To book, email Martin at info@omaghvolunteercentre.org or call 028 8224 0772.

Would your community organisation like to be involved in our upcoming volunteers' appreciation event?

Please forward the names of the volunteers from your organisation who would like to attend our event on Tuesday 6 October at 6pm. Please book early as spaces are limited. Please email volunteer@omaghvolunteercentre.org or call 028 8224 0772.

BT Switch to Digital Voice

As the network is scheduled to close in January 2027, it is essential that customers complete their switch to Digital Voice well before this date to avoid any disruption to their service.

- Don't delay – take action as soon as possible to arrange your switch to Digital Voice
- Confirm your appointment when contacted
- Get in touch promptly if we ask you for additional information or to discuss your options
- Book an appointment if you have not already done so

We're continuing to host webinars for customers, giving them the opportunity to keep up to date with all things Digital Voice. Three sessions will be held every month – during the day, in the evening, and even on a weekend. Customers can sign up to the webinars using this link – <https://crowdcomms.com/digitalswitchover>.

You can find out more about the Digital Voice programme on the link below

<https://www.bt.com/about/all-ip/connected-together> or email digital.voice.comms@bt.com with any queries.

Friends of Little Woods

Environmental Ranger Programme

We offer 12 groups of young people aged 10 yrs to 18 yrs the opportunity to gain skills in environmental stewardship and an understanding of the value and significance of conservation in the Fermanagh and Omagh District council area.

The groups of young people will be offered the chance to gain skills in the following:

- Building bird boxes
- Building bird feeders
- Plant and invertebrate identification
- Animal track identification
- Plant and tree cultivation

This programme will make use of our resources at Evan's Wood, Catherine's wood and our polytunnel at Gortin community garden.

The project will also connect the environmental ranger programme with a wider public through a biodiversity week. The biodiversity week will link the wider population with wild spaces and wild life in Fermanagh and Omagh District council area. The 'Fermanagh and Omagh Biodiversity group', created as part of this project will promote events that other conservation groups hold within the 3rd week of May in 2027. As part of the Biodiversity Week, the 12 ranger groups would showcase their work to the public.

The project is funded by [#TheNationalLotteryCommunityFund](#)

Friends of Little Woods welcome expressions of interest in participation from Scout groups, Guide groups, Boys' Brigade group and Girls' Brigade groups. The sessions may also suit youth clubs and church groups for young people.

Expressions of interest can go to Chris@friendsoflittlewoods.com. No payment is required.

All the sessions will be free. Transportation will not be provided and we will ask participating groups to provide chaperones from your group.

To express your groups interest, please complete <https://forms.gle/1mXhkm4j1cHXXU389>

Deadline for Applications: Wednesday 30 September 2026

Support for safer neighbourhoods and communities

Whether you're looking for advice on personal safety, dealing with local issues, or support if you've been affected by crime, there are helpful resources available. Learn more and help build safer neighbourhoods by visiting: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/community-safety>

Fermanagh Men's Shed

Men's Stories Matter

Join our storytelling project and help bring real lives, memories and experiences to light.

Do you have a memory, a life lesson, a working story, a family tale, or a moment that shaped you? The Fermanagh Men's Shed is part of a project with 3 other Sheds in Castlebar, Bray and Limerick that is inviting men of all ages and backgrounds to share their stories in a friendly, relaxed setting. You do not need to be a writer or performer — just bring your voice, your experiences and a willingness to take part.

Why take part?

- Share memories that might be lost
 - Celebrate experiences and local heritage
 - Connect through conversation and listening
 - Help future generations understand people, places and moments that shape a community
- Your story can be funny, ordinary, powerful, surprising, practical, personal — or all of these.

How it works

- Come along for an informal chat or storytelling session

- Share as much or as little as you feel comfortable with.
- Support will be available if you would like help shaping or recording your story.
- Stories may be shared as part of the project with your permission.

Be heard. Be remembered. Be part of the story.

This Project is funded by Creative Ireland Shared Island Programme

For further information please email davidlowe@amh.org.uk

The Older People's Parliament is returning for 2026

Have your say and help shape the agenda!

The Older People's Parliament will take place in October 2026. This important event will give older people and those who support and advocate for them the opportunity to engage directly with decision-makers on the issues affecting their daily lives.

Here's how to have you say:

To help shape the topics discussed at the Parliament, a public survey is now live. It is open to people aged 55 and over across Northern Ireland, as well as those who work with, care for, support or advocate for older people.

Take the short survey and identify which issues you'd like the Older People's Parliament to focus on here: <https://consult.nia-yourassembly.org.uk/.../older.../>

For BSL or ISL-signed survey translation videos,

please visit <https://www.niassembly.gov.uk/.../older-peoples.../>

Paper copies are available by contacting OPP@niassembly.gov.uk

Newtownstewart Highland Dancers

We are currently looking for opportunities for our dancers (aged 3 years and above) to perform at community events, care homes, festivals, school events, charity fundraisers and seasonal celebrations (and much more). We are looking at dates from August 2026-August 2027.

Our performances are suitable for audiences of all ages and can be tailored to your event. We would be delighted to discuss performing at any upcoming events you may have throughout the year.

If you would like any further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We would love the opportunity to bring some traditional Highland dancing to your community.

Emily McFarland, Teacher – Newtownstewart Highland Dancers

Phone – 07907 100789 Email: emily.ntshighlanddancers@outlook.com

That's Powerful Workshops

The Playhouse, Derry / Londonderry

That's Powerful is a community-building programme at The Playhouse. It is an exciting opportunity for groups to avail of a fully funded arts programme. Groups are supported by creative facilitators to explore topics ranging from peace and reconciliation to women's rights and education; migrants rights; classism, racism, disability, LGBTQ+ rights, and climate justice.

Working alongside groups to develop co-designed projects about their chosen topic, That's Powerful provides participants understanding of real-life lived experiences, develops civic discourse around cultural and societal issues and nurtures abilities and skills in the creative arts. That's Powerful recognises the nuanced needs of different communities, meaning each project can be tailored to suit the needs of different schools, communities and localities.

Email bethany.moore@derryplayhouse.com to find out more about this project and sign up your group.

That's Powerful works to cultivate creativity, nurture civic discourse and harness the power of the arts to amplify shared learning.

Women's ReconciliNation Project (WRP)

Available to any woman 18yrs+ living in the North or 6 border counties in the South. Delivery of the programme is flexible - fully in-person, hybrid, self-directed learning.

All participants will receive a WRP Certificate on completion of the 6 modules.

For further information about the project, please visit <https://www.fwin.org.uk/blog/introducing-womens-reconciliation-project-wrp> or contact Janey Mc Cauley - Women's ReconciliNation Project (WRP) Training Officer – Email janey@fwin.org.uk or call 028 7126 6291

Now Group Enniskillen

Skills for Life and Work programme

This is a fantastic opportunity for young people who are leaving or have left school and want to gain skills, qualifications, work-based experience and training to help them move into work, further training or an apprenticeship.

What the programme offers:

Up to 30 hours a week of training and workplace experience

A weekly Education Maintenance Allowance of £40

On Program Bonus payments as young people progress through their training

Support with travel and childcare costs (depending on circumstances)

A framework of qualifications is delivered under SfLW, which are follows:

Essential Skills in Numeracy, Literacy and ICT

Vocational Qualification in chosen area

Personal Development and Employability qualifications

Vocational subjects to choose from:

Catering & Hospitality

Retail & Customer Care

Creative Media

ICT

Who can join? Young people aged 16–21

For further information contact Andrew Clyde, Referral Officer Enniskillen

Tel 028 9043 6400 or Mobile 07841 342901

A call out to Omagh community and voluntary organisations

Omagh Volunteer Centre is currently updating their records and gathering information on current volunteering opportunities so they can better support and promote organisations.

They would really appreciate if you could take a few minutes to complete this short form: <https://forms.gle/2tXFwAHhkx1DAk8y9>

The form includes:

- Updating your contact details
- Sharing current and volunteer opportunities
- Support needs

This will help them:

- Promote your volunteering opportunities

- Support your organisation more effectively
- Highlight the impact of volunteers

They will be in touch over the coming weeks to follow up.

Plant a Legacy: Nominate Your Community for a Heritage Fruit Orchard

Glenisk, in partnership with Irish Seed Savers, is inviting communities to help plant 100 Heritage Community Fruit Orchards for future generations to enjoy.

These orchards are about much more than fruit. They are living spaces where communities come together, biodiversity flourishes, and local heritage is preserved. They represent an investment in our children, our environment, and our shared future.

Glenisk are looking for communities that have a suitable shared public space, such as:

- Schools
- Sports grounds
- Church lands
- Community greens
- Other publicly accessible community spaces

You don't need to have all the answers or a detailed plan. All it takes is one person who believes this could make a difference.

Nominate Your Community - Link for more information: [Heritage Orchards - Glenisk](#)

New support programme for adults waiting on NHS waiting lists for any treatment in the Derry/L'Derry area

Action Mental Health through funding received from the Department of Health are providing support for adults (18yrs +) who are waiting for any NHS treatment/counselling etc.

We are providing 12 weeks practical, emotional and wellbeing focused support to help take back control, build resilience, improve physical & mental health, and reduce isolation.

Some of the activities we offer include relaxation techniques, movement and exercise, arts and crafts, one to one support.

For more information/to register contact 028 7137 3502 or email foyle@amh.org.uk

Erne Paddlers

Based at the Round O in Enniskillen, Erne Paddlers is running skills based paddlesports courses and activities for adults and children every week from now until the end of September. Drop by and say hello - we're there most evenings!

There are sessions for everyone, including beginners, families and kids (7yrs+), inclusive paddling for anyone who needs extra support plus midweek multi-craft sessions.

Plus midweek and weekend Lough Erne paddles, sea kayaking coastal paddles and the Lough Erne Challenge for those who want to paddle the length of Lough Erne. Get in touch for more or go to www.ernepaddlers.org.uk/events for full details and to book tickets online.

Erne Paddlers is a not-for-profit registered charity and an inclusive club and we want as many people as possible to experience the health and wellbeing benefits that paddlesports can bring. We have a flexible pricing structure with a range of discounts available including assistance rates. Check us out on Facebook, Instagram and X for regular updates. If anyone would like to find out more, please get in touch via social media, email@ernepaddlers.org.uk or call/WhatsApp 07468 911398.

Oak Healthy Living Centre, Lisnaskea

We are delighted to share with you our programme of activities for September – December 2026

<https://www.oakhealthylivingcentre.com/current-programmes/>

Call us on 028 6772 3843 for more information.

Aisling Centre

37 Darling Street, Enniskillen BT74 7DP

For further information on any programmes, please email Aisling Centre on

info@theaislingcentre.com or telephone 028 6632 5811 (unless stated otherwise).

Groups & Programmes:

- **Aisling's Charity Shop** – Open Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am-4pm. Please note we are currently not accepting donations of books or any items with safety requirements.
- **Charity Shop Volunteers Needed** – For information, contact Reception. At Aisling's you will be joining a great team of people and supporting mental health services.
- **Self Care Drop-In** – Monthly drop-in sessions, first Tuesday of every month at 10am. Next Meeting Tuesday 1 September. Suggested donation £3 per person.
- **Forget Me Not** – Support group for those bereaved by suicide. First Monday of the month 7.30-9pm. Next meeting Monday 7 September.

Other Groups & Events:

- **Alcoholics Anonymous** – 3 meetings per week at Aisling Centre.
- **Annual Winter Trek for World Suicide Prevention Day – Saturday 12 September**, meeting at 6.30am. Visit <https://AC2026.eventbrite.co.uk> for further information or to register.
- **Aware** – Mental Health Support Group. Meets every Tuesday at 7pm. For further information, please contact info@aware-ni.org
- **Big Breakfast Fundraiser** – In aid of Aisling Centre and St Macartin's Outreach Fund. **Saturday 26 September**, 9am-12.30pm. Full cooked breakfast or pancakes, porridge and fruit available. Come along, bring family and friends and get your breakfast made for you! All are welcome. At St Macartin's Hall, Enniskillen. Adults £10 and Children (under 12) £5.
- **Cherish Sure Start** – Creche facility from Monday-Friday as well as various programmes for both children and parents. For further information call 028 6862 1970.
- **Escapists** – Support Group for Carers. Meets Wednesdays 10.30am-1pm.
- **Island Artists** – Open to new members. Meets Wednesdays from 1pm-4pm. For more information, please contact Maura on 07968 225704.

Yoga Timetable (please contact individual facilitators to book):

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| • Christine | Mondays at 6pm | 07722 550040 |
| • Leila | Tuesday evenings (time tbc) | 07594 026531 |
| • Alasdair | Wednesdays at 6.30pm | 07776 290903 |
| • Genny | Thursdays at 12pm | 028 8754 1994 |
| • Theresa | Thursdays at 6pm (men only) | 07923 694523 |
| | 7pm and 8.15pm (both mixed) | 07923 694523 |

Mary's Meals

Event & Administration Volunteer required

Love being organised? Help make a difference!

Are you someone who keeps everyone on track, loves a good to-do list and enjoys making things happen behind the scenes?

We're looking for an Event & Administration Volunteer to support our brilliant volunteer network across Northern Ireland.

From keeping event information up to date and helping volunteers get ready for community events and church talks, to keeping our records organised, you'll be part of the team making sure everything runs smoothly.

What's in it for you?

- Flexible hours - up to 4 day-time hours a week, arranged around your availability
- Build your digital, administration and event support skills
- Develop your communications skills
- Be part of a friendly team, while helping to bring hope to the lives of hungry children through Mary's Meals.

If you're organised, confident with digital tools and enjoy helping others, we'd love to hear from you!

Email volunteer@marysmeals.org for more information or to register your interest.

For further information on Mary's Meals please visit www.marysmeals.org

Training Opportunities

Who Gets to be Healthy?

Understanding how Health Inequalities impact our Communities

Monday 5 October, 10am-3.30pm

ARC Healthy Living Centre, Irvinestown

The Elevate programme offers free training on using community development approaches as a way to reduce health inequalities. You can watch this short video [here](#) which tells you how previous participants benefited from the training. The training is delivered over a full day, with both online and face-to-face dates depending on what suits you best. Just click [here](#) to book your place. The training is designed for community, voluntary and statutory sectors

Inspire Wellbeing's Peace of Mind Programme

Peace of Mind is a six-week emotional wellbeing programme for young people aged 11–25. It supports participants to develop resilience, improve emotional wellbeing, and build practical coping strategies through interactive group sessions delivered in community settings across Northern Ireland and border counties.

As we are currently planning our Autumn programme delivery, we are keen to reach organisations that work with young people who may benefit from participating or hosting a programme. Further details can be found at [Free Mental Health Programme for Young People in Northern Ireland](#)

Action Mental Health

Mindset: Funded Mental Health Awareness Programme

Offered to both young people (age 14+) and adults.

The Mindset programme:

- Raises your awareness and understanding of mental and emotional health and wellbeing.

- Increases your knowledge of signs and symptoms of mental ill health.
- Promotes self-help, self-care and resilience techniques.
- Explores how to maintain a safe level of positive mental and emotional health and wellbeing.
- Provides information and resources on mental health support organisations available locally and regionally.

Email wellbeing@amh.org.uk to book today.

Email mmclean@amh.org.uk or telephone 07976 639909 for further information.

Aware NI

Looking for free mental health courses in Northern Ireland?

Do you want to learn more about mental health, improve your emotional wellbeing, or find practical ways to support your own wellbeing?

AWARE NI is offering a range of **free** mental health education courses in September 2026, with both online and face-to-face courses available across Northern Ireland.

Our courses are designed to support individuals, parents, teachers, and people affected by cancer. All of our mental health education programmes help participants build resilience, confidence, coping skills, and mental wellbeing. For full details visit

<https://aware-ni.org/news/free-mental-health-programmes-september2026#coursescancer>

Fermanagh Trust

Expand Your Skills – 250+ free Online Courses Available Now!

We can offer access to over 250 **free** online courses through our new PEACEPLUS Funding.

You can register and start learning immediately!

Our courses cover a wide range of topics to support both personal development and professional training needs. From GDPR, Cyber security, Dementia awareness, Neurodiversity awareness to Food Hygiene and manual handling, to Microsoft Excel and Setting Goals there is something to suit everyone!

- **Accredited qualifications**
- **Personal development programmes**
- **Available anytime, anywhere, on any device**
- **Offered in 40+ languages**
- **Save time and money for you and your organisation**

For further information/to register visit www.fermanaghtrust.org

or email sonya@fermanaghtrust.org Tel 028 6632 0210

Health Improvement Equality & Involvement Department

[Training Brochure September 2026 to March 2027](#)

In this edition, the training courses are found under the headings of Children & Families, Emotional Health & Wellbeing, Nutrition, Physical Activity, Sexual Health, Smoking Cessation and the Traveller Health and Wellbeing Programme.

The courses will be delivered either online or face to face in a range of locations across the WHSCT.

For further information, please email health.improvement@westerntrust.hscni.net or telephone 028 7186 5127

Join our mailing list to hear about future training opportunities - please [fill out the registration form](#).

WHSCT Recovery College

Free courses on mental health and emotional wellbeing that run in Derry/Londonderry, Enniskillen, Limavady, Omagh and Strabane.

Our workshops are **free** and open to absolutely everyone – carers and supporters, people with or without a mental health diagnosis, staff, students – anyone who wants to improve or maintain their mental health and emotional wellbeing. We keep things informal and relaxed, and all workshops have been written and are delivered by people who have lived experience alongside mental health professionals, so students get the lived and learned experience of the topics.

For further information or if you would like hard copies of the prospectus

T: 028 8225 2079 or E: recoverycollege@westerntrust.hscni.net

Funding Opportunities

Cash for Kids NI

Sports Challenge 2026 Funding

The Challenge is aimed at helping disadvantaged children get into sport by helping grass roots sports clubs that they are involved in fundraise for themselves!

We are giving 15 grassroots sports clubs, groups and teams across Northern Ireland, the chance to fundraise for themselves with all the expertise and advice from the Cash for Kids team. The top three fundraising groups will win £5,000 for first place, £2,500 for second, and £1,500 for third - plus, every participant can win an additional £500!

Sports Challenge aims to help sports groups reach children and young people who would otherwise not have access to sports. This could be due to their low-income background, their disability, or additional needs. We want to give disadvantaged children an equal opportunity to get active and get involved in sports activities!

You can choose how you spend the money you raise, but it **must** benefit disadvantaged children in your group! In previous years, participants have used the money to subsidise memberships for low-income families, provide or subsidise uniforms and kit, and to purchase new training equipment.

For further information visit [Sports Challenge 2026 | Fundraising | Cash for Kids](#)

The 4-week challenge will be running from Saturday 26 September (00:01) until Monday 26 October (23:59). You will keep 100% of the money you raise and Cash for Kids will award prizes of £500 to every group that raises over £2,000 and top-up grants for the top three fundraising groups; £5,000, £2,500 and £1,500, respectively.

Interested in taking part but want to know more? Please email erin.butler@bauermedia.co.uk

Applications for the Sports Challenge will close on Monday 14 September (23:59)

Electrical Safety Grant Aid

Grants of up to £5k available for groups to help promote electrical safety in the home. There has been a poor uptake in NI, so keen for applications.

More information can be found at [Grants and Funding | Electrical Safety First](#)

Closes Sunday 27 September 2026.

Police Property Fund Small Grants Scheme

The fourth call of the Police Property Fund Small Grants Scheme is now open for applications. This follows three successful Small Grants funding calls awarding almost half a million pounds, and one Large Grants funding call awarding a further £150,000 to community-based projects across Northern Ireland.

Information on the eligibility criteria for the Police Property Fund Small Grants Scheme and application documentation for Call 4 can be found on the Board's website at

<https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/police-property-fund>

The closing date for this call is Monday 12 October 2026.

Community Garden Grants

The National Garden Scheme set up this award scheme in memory of Elspeth Thompson, the much-loved garden writer and journalist who died in 2010. Eligible community garden projects are welcome to apply for grants of between £1,500 and £5,000. Applications for 2027 Community Garden Grants will be **open between 29 September and 12noon on 30 October 2026.**

[Read more...](#)

Barclays Female Coaches for Girls Grant

Small grants to get more women qualified as coaches for girls – available to all clubs and groups that run football, cricket or tennis activities for women and/or girls.

For more information visit <https://sported.org.uk/barclays-female-coaches-for-girls/>

Deadline for Applications: Wednesday 4 November 2026

International Tree Foundation

UK Community Tree Planting Programme

Grants are available for community-based organisations to deliver tree-planting projects that protect and restore indigenous trees and woodlands, support community engagement in tree planting, and increase awareness of the importance of trees and forests to environmental and human well-being.

For further information visit <https://www.internationaltreefoundation.org/uk-grants>

Deadline for Applications: Friday 11 December 2026

Support available from The National Lottery Community Fund

Are you working with your local community to develop a project that supports people in your area?

The National Lottery Community Fund is hosting a series of virtual information sessions for organisations across Northern Ireland, offering an opportunity to learn more about National Lottery funding available.

The sessions are aimed at voluntary and community groups, particularly those who are new to National Lottery funding or would benefit from a refresher on programme aims and application criteria for options available.

This is your chance to hear directly from the team about key programmes such as National Lottery Awards for All and Strengthening Communities. The sessions will provide practical advice on eligibility, completing your application, describing your project effectively and involving your community, helping you to strengthen your chances of success.

Find out more and book your place at <https://www.ticketsource.com/the-national-lottery-community-fund-ni>

The National Lottery Community Fund: Small Eco Awards

Grants of between £300 and £20,000 are available for community projects that focus on areas such as energy and carbon reduction, nature and outdoor spaces, climate education and sustainable living. The programme will operate on an open rolling basis and has an indicative budget of £1m available for 2026/27.

For further information visit <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/funding-programmes/small-eco-awards>

Sport Northern Ireland

Small Grants Programme-Creating Opportunities

Made possible thanks to National Lottery funding; delivered in partnership with Crowdfunder UK. It is designed to enable eligible organisations to launch new and additional projects that make sport and physical activity more inclusive and accessible across Northern Ireland.

For full information visit <https://www.sportni.net/funding/creating-opportunities/>

Phase 3 applications will close at the end of January 2027 (unless funds are exhausted before then).

The Honourable The Irish Society

Reopening with a new mission focused around three programmes:

- Growing Together supports community-based early years provision,
- Living River, Living Communities supports environmental improvement and stewardship, and
- Living Heritage, Shared Futures supports participatory cultural and heritage activity.

The majority of their grants are small (maximum £2,000) and are designed to support local organisations and community-based activity. In some cases, they make a smaller number of larger grants (£10,000-£20,000) where there is a strong case for wider or longer-term impact.

For further information visit [The Honourable The Irish Society launches three new funding programmes](#)