

GROOMSPORT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

*Love your
Historic
Village*

Annual General Meeting
7.00pm Friday 27th October 2023
Boathouse

Please put this date in your diary.
Turn up and lend your
support for your village



Winner : Community Planting Scheme 2023

Our "In-Bloom" team of volunteers, led by Peter Kelly, worked hard all year, keeping the village neat and tidy. They decided to create a Community Planting feature near the tennis courts. With Council approval, a boat from the Loggenberg family, rocks acquired from Nash (SixRoadEnds) and compost from ANDBC, they created a magnificent rockery and boat feature.

The boat has been named 'The Villager' by community poll on social media and local children have started to put their rock paintings around it - as a sign of their approval!

It has won ANDBC "Community Planting Scheme 2023"

Mae Murray Foundation

The GVA committee has been able to work with the "Inclusive Beaches" concept of the Mae Murray Foundation. We video conferenced with the CEO - Kayleigh Lough and followed up by running a seed planting course for wheel-chair users on James Beach, in August. These seeds have now rooted and we will be getting the participants back to plant the seedlings on, into pots. In the Spring, they will plant them out in our planters along Main Street!



Sandcastle Event 29th July 2023

We organised and ran a very successful sandcastle event for local young people in July. Parents registered on Eventbrite and turned up with their equipment, on what was a rather showery day. There were plenty of original ideas and competition for the winner's prize was fierce! You can see the concentration opposite. We intend to make this an annual event. Look out for it next Summer.



Gardening Competition 2024

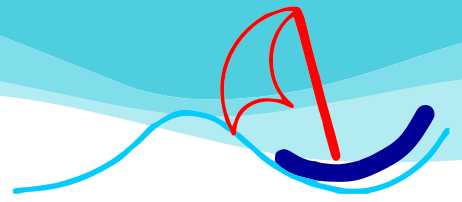
GVA is mindful that we have many beautiful, well tended gardens, which are worthy of special consideration.

Recognising that, we are sponsoring a **Gardening Competition** to be judged in early **July 2024**.

There will be a number of categories, to suit the wonderful diversity of the gardens in our village.

We will be updating you about all of this over the next months.





Volunteering

GVA has had magnificent support from everyone living in the village, over the last year. Some people volunteered to pick up litter, some cleared weeds, others planted flowers around the bug-hotel. This makes a great contribution to the visual amenity of the whole village.

Thanks to the following In-Bloom Volunteers:

Paul Abram, Robert Beattie, Paul Bryans, David Chambers, Marian Cinnamond, James Cochrane, John Crockard, Robert, Sharon and Zach Cummings, Karen Douglas, Mary and Catherine Fellingham, Richard Finlay, Jim and Kaye Galloway, Peter and Miriam Gibson, Alan and Scott Hay, Mike Heiferson, Steve Humphries, Rev David and Mrs Maureen Irwin, Deborah Jackson, Peter Kelly, Emma Kelly, Rebecca Kelly and Lily, Vandra King, Paul Leeman, Cameron Loggenberg, Robyn Moore, Janice MacArthur, Lorna McCombe, Ian McCoy, Annie O'Donnell, Johnny and Mandy Ritchie, Tom Smith, Margaret Thornton, Angela Trimble, Stephen Warke, Gill Weeks, John Weir

Special Mentions:

The GVA would also like to thank all the children who have painted and placed colourful stones around the Bug House Hotel and "The Villager" boat. They look fantastic – so well done!

We would also like to thank the staff at Cockle Row Cottages for their much-appreciated watering of the planter placed there.

A special mention to Aileen Shaw who takes such good care of the community orchard and supplies the villagers with the fruit.

A big thanks to all who helped and those who commented to committee members about how well the village looked throughout the summer. We appreciate your help and kind comments!

Planter Sponsors – Business:

Ards and North Down Borough Council	Beachside Self Catering Apartment	Bloomfield Laser Clinic
Cottage Kitchen	Debbie Debs Delights	Elite Graphics
Greenwood Farm	Greenwood Garden Services	Groomsport House
Groomsport Inn	Groomsport Nurseries	Haldane Fisher
Jobs For Less	Mint Equestrian	Neill Wines
Olive Tree Artisan Café	Seafresh	Spar, Groomsport
Splish Splash Window Cleaning	The Stables	Workwear NI
442 Teamwear		

Planter sponsors – Individuals:

Paul Abram, Pearl Brown, Paul Bryans, Lorraine Caldwell, Mary Cargill, Mary and Catherine Fellingham, Jim and Kaye Galloway, Miriam Gibson, Deborah Jackson, Vandra King, Paul Leeman, Cameron Loggenberg, Lorna McCombe, Johnny and Mandy Ritchie, Stephen Warke, Gill Weeks, John Weir

Volunteering

Please consider becoming one of our volunteers or sponsors. Contact us on info@groomsport.info and we will arrange a meeting.

We also need committee members, to lend a hand organising events in the village over the year. Again, email us on info@groomsport.info and stand for election at the AGM on 27th October.

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