



# The Village Voice

## Cullybackey Community Partnership



### Maine Business Centre

Work is now complete on the top floor of the Maine Business Centre. We have used the space on the top floor to construct a hall that seats up to 70 people and comes complete with kitchen and disabled toilet and also an office/committee room.

We have also created a ground floor office and space for display of leaflets and other useful information. The hall will be available for hire by local businesses for seminars, conferences, exhibitions and meetings.

The space is also available for local community to hire for classes, family gatherings and social events.

Having an office on the ground floor should ensure that there is public access during office working hours for anyone looking for information or picking up leaflets on a wide range of matters.

For more information call Joanne on 028 2588 2281



### The Millennium Path Gym

A new green gym and information boards have now been installed along the riverside path. New sign posts have also been installed. These greatly enhance our beautiful Riverside Path and have already provided some very positive feedback.

Following requests from dog walkers, we managed to get a dog litter bin installed down the path and this is being well used by dog walkers.

We are working with Mid & East Antrim Council to have this bin maintained and emptied regularly. We appreciate all the help that we get from the Council.

All forms of litter are a serious problem around the village and it is great to see the recently installed bin outside Boots is being fully utilised.

With work starting soon on our 2020 entry in the in bloom competitions we would hope that everyone would think before leaving litter on our streets.

## Craigs Road Improvement Scheme

Over the past weeks and months a lot of work has been done to prevent further subsidence of the Craigs Road from the Hillmount Road right down to junction with the Dreen Road.

This necessitated shoring up the road up with concrete and blocks.

It also required the repair and in some places, the replacement of an existing stone wall. This took a long time but the result has been impressive. We now have a very attractive approach to the village

from the Kilrea direction. Unfortunately the other side of the road has, for years, been used as a dumping ground for bottles, crisp bags and other rubbish that has been thrown from cars.

In addition it is impossible for us to arrange a local litter pick because of the danger from passing traffic.

Scotland recently ran an anti litter campaign using the adjacent image. Perhaps the people leaving the village after buying a carry- out would heed what it says.



## Britain in Bloom 2020

Last year our Britain In Bloom work included a number of evenings when a group of volunteers worked their way through the village cleaning, sweeping and litter picking.

Anyone who is willing to help will be made most welcome.

Information about these work parties will be displayed on Facebook, village notice boards and the screen in MBC window.

Keep a look out and lend a hand if you can.

Other dates for your diary include:

- **Dusk chorus walk** -Saturday May 2nd from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.
- **Bat night** - Saturday July 25th from 8.30pm to 10.30pm

A dinner to celebrate Cullybackey's success in Ulster in Bloom and Britain In bloom was held in the Adair Arms Hotel on Saturday 8th February.

Many of the volunteers who had helped to bring about this success attended a celebratory dinner for their hard work. Mrs Beth Adger, Deputy Mayor also attended.

Presentations were made to two long serving volunteers, Ruth Orr and Tom Simpson, both of whom have been volunteering in Cullybackey for 30 years.

Roy Kerr, Bertie McNeilly, Paul Christie and Elizabeth Boyd were also recognised for their work around the village.

## Arthur Cottage Developments

Arthur Cottage is a familiar and cherished local asset in our village. Ancestral homestead of the 21st President of the USA, it has significant historic importance. As well as its local value and interest it is a significant asset to Ulster heritage and culture. President Arthur was proud of his Ulster-Scots heritage.

In October 2019 Mid and East Antrim Council accepted an offer of a £100,000 grant from the Ulster-Scots Agency to fund

interpretation of the Jackson Cottage in Carrickfergus and Arthur Cottage. This significant investment of public money is welcomed by the community and has the potential to attract many more visitors to the cottage to learn about our Ulster heritage.

At its meeting in January 2020 the Borough Growth Committee of the Council saw a report which 'sought permission to explore potential private sector investment opportunity at Arthur Cottage...'

The Committee approved Council officers 'to enter into more detailed discussions with the private investor'.

It isn't clear at this time what the private investment proposal is and how it affects the offer of public money accepted by the Council in October 2019.

What is not in doubt is the value our community places on Arthur Cottage and we believe all effort should be focused on improving it in ways that attract visitors to the cottage and to our community.



## Young Musician of the Year

Jeremiah Gallagher (P7 @ Buick Memorial PS) has won the title 'Ballymena Music Festival Primary Young Musician of the Year.' Against stiff competition, he performed 2 pieces of Grade 6 standard: 'Tambourin' and 'Suite Antique,' on his flute accompanied by Mrs McCleery.

He has also been included in the programme for the Winners' Competition which takes place on Saturday evening. His performance can be found on Buick Memorial P.S Facebook page. Congratulations Jeremiah!

## Cullybackey & District Historical Society

The Cullybackey and District Historical Society held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 20th February 2020.

The meeting was well attended and reports were given on the progress of the group.

The group is flourishing and Mr Bill Canning who was in the chair, congratulated Elizabeth and all who worked to make it a success.

Meetings continue at 8pm every third Thursday of the month in the British Legion Hall and everyone is welcome.

## Destination Cullybackey

On Wednesday 26 February a number of tour operators visited the village to explore the sights and consider whether the village was a suitable place to bring tourists.

They were shown the many attractions of Galgorm Resort and Spa, had a walk along the Riverside Path, explored the village, visited Arthur Cottage and finished with lunch in Toast.

We hope that they went away with a good impression of our area and will encourage tourists to pay us a visit in the near future

## New Play Park

Work on the provision of the multi use games area and upgrade to the play area is progressing well.

The new access road base has been installed and drainage works underway.

It is anticipated that the project will be completed in early July 2020.



## Cullybackey Orchard

On Wednesday 11th March 2020 representatives from Cullybackey and Cloney came together to complete the planting of a small community orchard in each of the respective areas.

Children from Buick Memorial Primary School and children from Longstone Primary School joined the Deputy Mayor, Mrs Beth Adger to plant the final tree.

This saw the completion of a Peace IV cross community project.

After the planting everyone was entertained by the Cloney Group to some lovely home baked wheaten bread and a mouth-watering apple sponge.

We are all looking forward to seeing the trees grow and produce some apples which we can all enjoy.





## Cullybackey Arm Cadets - John Muir Awards

The Army Cadet Force (ACF) in Northern Ireland are now offering the John Muir Award which is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places.

It helps people connect with, enjoy and care for wild places. It's non-competitive, inclusive and accessible.

Cullybackey Detachment are into their 2nd year of the John Muir Award and have done so alongside Ballymena Air and Sea Cadets.

They have used the Award as

part of the volunteering section of their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

As part of their award, they have worked with Cullybackey Community Partnership to tidy up areas within and round the village earning their Discovery Awards and for the first time for the ACF in Northern Ireland, the Explorer Award earned by Cadet Jack McGrath.

At the Detachment's recent inspection newly appointed Cadet Lance Corporal Alicia McGorry,

was presented with her John Muir Award.

Cadet Anna-Grace Donnelly and Cadet Leah Service were presented with both their John Muir Award and their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award with both girls planning to progress to Silver and Explorer Awards.

Cadet Anna-Grace Donnelly said; "With our assistance and along with other local youth organisations we have helped the Cullybackey Community Partnership win Gold Large Village category in the Britain in Bloom"

## COVID-19 (coronavirus)

### Public information from the Public Health agency

You can help prevent the spread of infection. The best way to protect yourself and others is:

- Wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel, regularly throughout the day.
- Catch your cough or sneeze in a tissue, bin it, and wash your hands.

If you have recently arrived back from specified areas follow the returning traveller advice.

Check the list of areas and find out more at [pha.site/coronavirus](http://pha.site/coronavirus)

 **COVID-19 (coronavirus)**

If you have a:

- **high temperature**
- and/or**
- **new continuous cough**

**Everyone in your household must stay at home for 14 days**

Do **not** go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You can ring NHS 111 for information or advice and they will help you decide if you need to contact your GP.

Calling your GP directly is only necessary if you have:

- an existing health condition
- problems with your immune system
- very serious symptoms

**If it is a medical emergency and you need to call an ambulance, dial 999 and inform the operator of your symptoms.**

**For further information and self-isolation advice, visit [www.pha.site/coronavirus](http://www.pha.site/coronavirus)**

V18 General Advice 160320 PHA1 0.10

For more information on any of the articles in the newsletter or to submit your own, contact Cullybackey Community Partnership by Email [cullybackey@nacn.org](mailto:cullybackey@nacn.org) or Telephone: 028 2588 2281

Check out our Facebook page, Cullybackey Community Partnership, and like and share our posts.

We are also online at [cullybackeycommunitypartnership.co.uk](http://cullybackeycommunitypartnership.co.uk)

The Village Voice is supported by John Cummings, NISA Cullybackey

