

THE COOLE NEWS COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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HELLO & WELCOME



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Message from NACN's Project Manager

Welcome to our New Community Newsletter!

NACN are very excited to be launching this first publication of the new quarterly newsletter that is funded by Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership.

As a Creative and Innovative Youth Project, NACN's young reporters and editors are constantly working hard to bring you all the latest community updates, stories and gossip.

Our mission is to provide you with valuable information, articles, interviews, updates on initiatives and insights that will enhance your knowledge and understanding of all activities and projects from the participating groups and organisations in Rathcoole and surrounding areas.

We hope you find this newsletter informative and engaging, and we welcome any feedback and suggestions you may have.

Thank you for your interest in our newsletter, and we look forward to keeping you informed!

If you are a young person between the age of 14 and 25 and would like to take on a role for this Newsletter then please get in touch with us at office@nacn.co.uk

Dee Crooks

Project / Operational Manager

Newtownabbey Arts & Cultural Network (NACN)

THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS

Team JVC



Each of JVC's hats & worms are produced by volunteers and are donated to the Royal Maternity Hospital & Local Charity for Children.

Team JVC are currently making hats for the Royal Maternity Hospital and worry worms for a local charity for children.

Congratulations to those who are finishing up on their Essential Skills English we wish them all the best for their upcoming exam next week! The essential skills maths will begin 8th Feb.

Funky Kids Workshop



No child will be pressurised to perform.

We are community childrens group based in the Dunanney Centre which is located in Rathmullan Drive rathcoole Newtownabbey. Every Saturday morning we run a children workshop for ages 4 to 11. We greatly enjoy running Funky kids workshop, which is supported by our local community. The kids from the community enjoy each week participating different activities, including arts and crafts, games and sports. We run different activities throughout the year, we also run a summer scheme program. We now have our very own Funkykids community garden the children will be able to grow their own vegetables and learn new skills. We will be putting a bench and a wall mural in our community garden.

THRIVE

All pulling together to help kids THRIVE...

THRIVE is a group of local parents, schools, community groups, and statutory and voluntary organisations working together to help children and young people in this community to do well.

THRIVE aims to improve attainment, aspiration, wellbeing and collaboration in this community.

One of our delivery partners Family Connections are based in the Dunanney Centre, providing parent programmes and support for local families. They recently ran a Start Smart school readiness programme and a Parentivity wellbeing programme and have just started to deliver an Incredible Years parenting programme.

To find out more, check out their Facebook page: [FamilyConnections-Newtownabbey](#)

Another part of THRIVE is the BOOST programme which helps children in local primary schools improve their maths and literacy skills. BOOST workers support P5 children in small groups and also work with parents to help them help their children's learning. Parents and children had great fun attending a BOOST Family Learning Christmas party at the Methodist Mission church hall.

The THRIVE WE CAN Campaign promotes positive, aspirational messages throughout the community. WE CAN learn, WE CAN be healthy and well and WE CAN be connected.

THRIVE Parent Champions are a group of local parents who work together to support and advocate for families in the area.

Before Christmas they joined with Rathcoole Womens' Group to support their fantastic Christmas Party at the Dunanney Centre.

We had a fantastic community event in October as part of NACN's Lady of Rathcoole event in October. At the WE CAN Awards event seven inspirational local young people received awards and prize packs for their contribution to learning, connectedness and wellness. Lots of community organisations and schools were involved.

To find out more about THRIVE keep an eye on our Facebook page [ThriveNewtownabbey | Facebook](#) or check out our website

www.thrivenewtownabbey.co.uk

WE WANT OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO
THRIVE
RATHCOOLE & MONKSTOWN



HODDMIMIR WOOD CRAFT



“When life gives you lemons, make lemonade”

When Covid-19 hit, and local entrepreneurs Richard and Natalie Stewart found themselves being made redundant, that is exactly what they did when they turned their hobby and passion for wood-crafting into a business.

Richard explains how they commenced Hoddmimir’s Wood Craft: “We both came from stable jobs but when Covid hit, we were made redundant. We fell back on our woodworking hobby and decided to look at turning it into a business. It is a scary step walking away from a full-time job and a stable income. But we turned that negative into a positive.”

Supported through Universal Credit during their start-up period, they also availed of mentoring support with a business adviser from Antrim Enterprise.

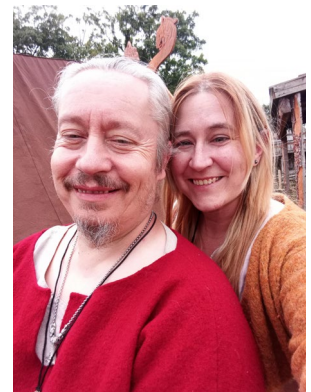
“We had so many untold amount of questions.

Thankfully people like Jennifer from Antrim Enterprise were there to help and support us. From forming partnerships to HMRC to promoting ourselves to take forward our projects.”

There are two sides to the business; retail and live demonstrations of traditional woodworking techniques. The retail is both corporate gift and craft items for sale in craft and speciality markets, fairs as well as directly through their website. Their products are inspired by historical artifacts from the Viking and Celtic history with imagery being hand-painted or burned onto the turned wood by Natalie. On self-employment Natalie says: “We wouldn’t go back as we enjoy what we do far too much. A better work life balance even though we probably work harder and longer than we’ve ever worked in a job before. The difference is it’s for us, it’s for our family. Our children are now even considering self-employment options.”

We have a better work life balance even though we probably work harder and longer than we’ve ever worked in a job before. The difference is it’s for us, it’s for our family. Our children are now even considering self-employment options.”

Antrim Enterprise were amazing to break things down into smaller steps and navigate us through all the legal stuff to become a partnership.”Richard concludes by saying: “If you are passionate about something, just do it. Take the help you can get. It is there. **Just do it.**”



Richard & Natalie

RATH

RATH Community Group is a voluntary community organisation committed to helping those in need while advocating for fair and equal conditions for everybody in the Rathcoole area. Being voluntary led with no full or part time paid workers comes with its own challenges but we are driven by our passion to help and always work hard in our efforts to build a better future for our community.

After a busy 2021, we hit the ground running in January 2022 in conjunction with Dalaradia facilitating the “Not So Serious Burns” play at Rathcoole Primary School as part of Dalaradias week festival programme promoting Ulster Scots Heritage in our communities.



The group recognised the financial burden and struggle within our estate. In February we provided various families with vouchers for fuel, electricity and food to be utilised in our local SPAR supermarket.



In the same week we helped facilitated a visit to Abbots Cross Primary School with the same play. It was great to see the children learning in such an enjoyable manner.



In March our group was approached by like-minded people within the area about setting up a networking partnership bringing together local community representatives, committed to positive change in the Rathcoole area. It's our pleasure to be part of RECAP.



The group installed new steel soldiers at Rathcoole Row on Rows memorial site. Another step in a process of a permanent War Memorial within the estate.



The group was involved in the designing and launch of a flyer informing people about how to use their vote in the then upcoming elections and to emphasise the importance of not only voting in general, but in that election in-particular. Did you know only 27% of residents within the Rathcoole area voted at the election before election? An extremely worrying number.



In May the group took part in a leaflet drop of the agreed flyer. We delivered around 5000 leaflets in the Rathcoole area over 2 days.



RATH volunteers helped organise Antrim Newtownabbey Disability FCs mini tournament to raise awareness for mental health. All proceeds raised will go to a mental health charity.

In June we held a Jubilee funday to celebrate to Her Majesty the Queen on her 70 years of her reign is an inspiration and example to us all.



We also opened our new Queen Elizabeth II mural celebrating her Platinum Jubilee. Opened by Rosemary Bell McCracken on behalf of the community and attended by the Rathcoole Protestant Boys, Sons of Kai, Pride of the Hill Carnmoney, 16th Newtownabbey BB and various community groups.



The group got the path at Row on Row tarmacked for easier access. Another development in our aim for a permanent memorial to our fallen in the Rathcoole estate.



The group organised a funday at Doonbeg Bonfire on 11th July.



As we have in previous years, some of our volunteers helped with the Funky Kids Workshop summer scheme which comes to an end tomorrow. Ahuge well done to the Funkykidsworkshop.





RATHCOOLE BEFRIENDING SCHEME

in partnership with



A new befriending scheme is opening in Rathcoole for those who face each day on their own.

ROC Care Rathcoole offers a volunteer befriender to visit or call once a week to socially isolated and lonely people.

ROC Care Rathcoole will also organise special events and programmes for clients throughout the year.

Contact roccarerathcoole@roc.uk.com for more details on our referral process.

Part funded by:



Our group in conjunction with local PUP rep Rosemary Bell-McCracken, the group became aware that the local community defibrillator located at the Eurospar, Diamond, Rathcoole was not available at a time of emergency. This morning we all worked successfully on restoring the defibrillator.



The group installed a new flag pole at our Queens Jubilee Mural.



The group held a service of thanksgiving after the loss of Queen Elizabeth II. In the days of mourning, we witnessed a huge outpouring of grief across the world for a lady, who in her seventy years of reigning showed extreme strength, resilience, endurance and courage. Her most famous quotes came when she was just 21 years old. She said "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong." Her life was 96 years. Her reign, 70 years and 214 days.



RATH was extremely proud to be a part of the making of Dalaradias film "A quest for Dalaradia". The films launch had a sold-out crowd at the Strand Cinema. Our history spans thousands of years. A history pushed to the side and somewhat denied by others with ulterior motives. If we don't tell it, who will?



Our group provided free tickets to attend the Friendship Four ice hockey tournament at the The SSE Arena, Belfast on 25th & 26th November 2022.



Another addition to our Row on Row site was installed. Steel poppies at each circle on the outer fencing at the Sir James Craig park.



RATH/Dalaradia in conjunction with RECAP were proud to present “A week of Remembrance”. In the run up to Remembrance Sunday starting we offered a week of events to the public to honour the many men, women and children who lost their lives during the great wars and more recent conflicts.



Our group had an amazing turnout to our Hocus Pocus private screening at the [Moviehouse, Glengormley](#). The kids really enjoyed the day and we also presented a prize for best dressed family.



Our group brought the young builders and collectors of Doonbeg Bonfire to Need 4 Speed Karting and McDonald's. Our night started off in The Whitehouse, which told both the story of the Williamite and Jacobite Wars. We screened a film about bonfires titled Billy Boy. It is great to see young and enthusiastic people within the estate celebrating their heritage and culture.



The group held our Row on Row service on 7th November. Opened by Rosemary Bell McCracken, it was attended by various political parties, local bands, churches, boys brigades, British Legions, sports teams, community groups, community representatives and most importantly the community. The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.



Another event during our week of remembrance was again at the Whitehouse hosting Carol Walker MBE with a discussion on the Red Hand, Shamrock and World Wars. Thanks again to Rab W.



Our group hosted a free Santas grotto at St Comgalls church, Rathcoole. Each child who attended not only got to meet Santa, Mrs Claus and his elves but got a free toy and selection box.



As part of our week of remembrance Dalaradia/RATH hosted Dr David Hume MBE for a world war discussion in the Whitehouse. A big thanks to Rab W.

We also try to liaise information within the estate such as housing, road resurfacing, employment, anti-social behaviour, crime and events.



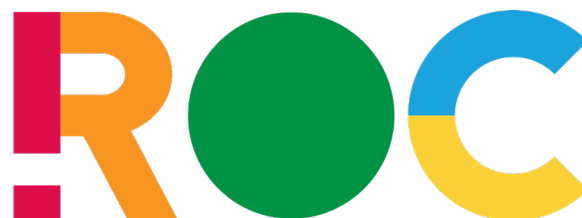
Bringing our 2022 to a close, we are really looking forward to getting our heads together for our 2023 projects. By the people, for the people.

www.rathcommunitygroup.co.uk
www.rathcoolerowonrow.co.uk
www.dalaradia.co.uk

ROC CARE RATHCOOLE

Loneliness and social isolation affected many of us during the Covid-19 pandemic. Loneliness in later life whether the loss of a spouse, family living further afield or living alone, has a significant impact on older people's health and well-being. AGEUK reports '200,000 older people say they haven't had a conversation with friends or family for a month, whilst 3.9 million older people agree television is their main form of company. The impact of loneliness can be as harmful to our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.' But there is a way of tackling such loneliness.

ROC Care Rathcoole is a befriending scheme for those who face each day on their own. ROC Care Rathcoole offers a weekly visit or call from a volunteer befriender, to the most isolated living in the Rathcoole area. As well as visits, clients are encouraged to attend special events and programmes to help build confidence in being outside their home. ROC Care Rathcoole is a project of national charity, Redeeming Our Communities (ROC) who work in partnership with statutory agencies, local churches and groups to meet social needs within local communities. Since 2017, ROC Northern Ireland have supporting over 20 clients through ROC Care Rathcoole and 15 local people have been trained as befriender volunteers. If you know someone living in the Rathcoole area who would benefit from a befriender, please get in touch on details below. We are training new volunteers in March, if you can give an hour or two a week to volunteer, please get in touch.



NORTHERN IRELAND

Contact Details:

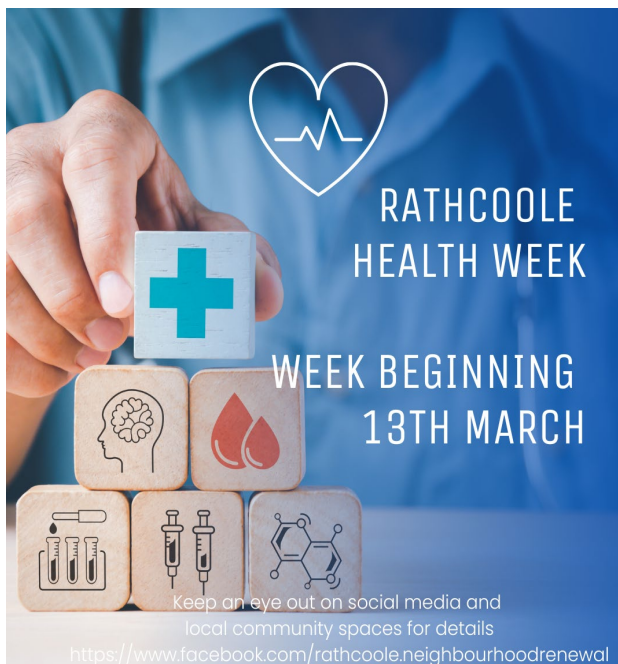
Email: roccarerathcoole@roc.uk.com

Phone: 02890351020



RATHCOOLE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL

Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership were delighted to host a buzzing Health Fair on the 14th of March. A massive thanks goes to Newtownabbey Methodist Mission for allowing us to use their hall and making sure everyone was very well fed and watered. During the day we had stalls from Surestart, Barnardos, Listening Ear, Newtownabbey Women's Group, Team JVC Hub, Jobs and Benefits Office, Cancer Lifeline, Women's Aid, NHSCT, Praxis Care, Women's Tec and the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Health Co-Ordinator and Environmental Health team. Hand massages were provided by Team JVC Hub and local business Tranquillity with food intolerance testing provided by Food Intolerance NI. With over 100 through the door, all were provided with information and important services, and, of course, some of the Methodist Mission's famous lentil soup!



On the 14th and 15th of March the Partnership also invited in Fresh Minds Education who provided us with 2 of their Trust funded Connections Link Life Suicide Awareness sessions. Thanks goes to all those who attended and to Newtownabbey Women's Group for providing a venue for the second course. The courses were very informative, with a lot of good discussion.

If you would be interested in attending a course in the future please get in touch with Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal through their Facebook page or by emailing: rathcoolenr@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk to be placed on the waiting list.



Fresh Minds
EDUCATION



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NACN COOLE STUDIOS

NACN is a community-based youth provider in Newtownabbey that uses the medium of creative and digital industries as a way to engage with young people that have an interest in this approach. The group is currently funded under the National Lottery Community Fund for Empowering Young People. Our remit is to provide support to young people growing up in socially disadvantaged areas and to provide them with activities and opportunities that normally have barriers that prevent them from growing their talents or developing new skills that will help them with their future goals and aspirations.

January 2022 concluded our successful year long level-2 OCN qualification in photography hosted by Belfast Exposed. Throughout the course, our participating members were taught how to operate, frame and edit photographs in various scenarios. Throughout the course, members visited locations such as Belfast Exposed Studio, Belfast Titanic Quater & Hillborough Castle & Gardens. At the end of the course, their photographs were displayed in Belfast Exposed Studio's Gallery and hosted as an event open to the public.



Newtownabbey has been neglected over the years when it comes to the world of Performing Arts. NACN recognised this gap and researched the cost of young people trying to get involved. Let's just say the prices being paid are way out of many people's budget and therefore exclude so many. NACN's Community Development Approach has allowed all young people to participate no matter their economic backgrounds. The NACN Performing Arts Academy has an affordable membership that provides access to all NACN projects under one payment. Setup as part of our Social Enterprise section, the aim is to generate an income to cover the costs so all can benefit. With 3 sections; Tots, Juniors & Seniors we are confident that we can grow the Academy to be good healthy competition to any other private school out there with the Wicked Prices. NACN membership is £25 per Month verse £90 from Private Schools. Partnering up with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council the Academy is taking the lead with 2 amazing shows, "Into the Woods" and the Sold-out Show "Matilda". The Academy is well supported by the Creative Volunteer Group of parents and friends that have formed the props and costume department.

A poster for the NACN Performing Arts Academy. The background features a large, stylized lion's face in shades of red and orange. The text on the poster includes:

- NACN** PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY
- The Academy will be opening our doors for new students!
- Weekly Acting, Singing & Dancing classes, along with various showcases and productions!
- Classes include Audition Preparation, Skill Development and a lot of great experiences for your portfolio!
- Headshots, Show/Voice Reels and all the performance training needed for young people wanting to go into the industry!
- Classes will run EVERY SATURDAY!
- Tots**: Ages 3 to 5, 10am to 11am
- Juniors**: Ages 6 to 11, 11:30am to 1:30pm
- Seniors**: Ages 12 to 21, 2pm to 4pm
- A QR code and the URL <https://forms.office.com/r/CSdUxNetU>
- Registration is available online from Monday 20th June!
- For enquiries, contact: drama@nacn.co.uk
- Please complete the form and we will give you a call within the next few weeks!

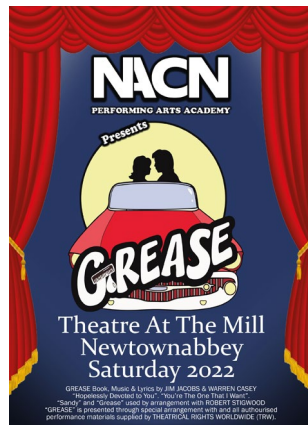
In May, our Senior Youth Management Team went to London to see what the world of West End had to offer up-and-coming young creative performers. After an early start, we landed in London and headed straight to see the Changing of the Guard, Lunch, and then more sights before getting ready to hit the West End. Grease was shown that night and was fantastic as we ourselves were in the midst of rehearsing at the Theatre at the Mill, Newtownabbey. The next morning, we headed out to Madame Tussauds and then lunch. A big surprise for everyone was a visit to the Pineapple Dance Studios where many professional shows are choreographed, and you may have even seen a TV documentary. Tina Turner that night was something else. Absolutely amazing from start to finish. Sunday before heading home we stopped off at Camden Market to see the Quirky and Creative side of London. We are planning to go again sometime very soon.

NACN is based in Rathcoole however, our membership expands to all 7 DEA's of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough and further afield to areas such as Newcastle, Bangor, Lisburn etc..... The production needed to have a Grease Lightning Car that was made at the Dimond on the second floor above the shops which needed cut into 2 to get it out and up to the mill the night before the show. This is only one reason why NACN needs extra space to develop the Academy, but hopefully, ANBC will see the importance of Supporting locals.



(Left to Right) Summer Moreland, Lisa McCord, Zoe Longridge, Carly Richmond, Dee Crooks, Brooke Thompson & Adam Haggan

July 2nd NACN Performing Arts Academy, under the direction of our young talented Artistic Director Lisa McCord, presented our very own West End Licenced performance of "Grease" at Theatre at the Mill. What a show it was. For many of our young performers, this was the first time being on stage. The Academy has really taken off from this and has been getting established as the provider of Performing Arts in the Borough.



As part of NACNs Empowering Young People Programme under the National Lottery Community Fund, we ran a level 3 OCN Qualification in event management. Part of the project was to run a showcase at the end to demonstrate the learning outcomes put into practice. Carly Richmond took the lead on this event as the young manager and secured the venue at Nortel Social Club for the showcase. On the night we had great support from councillors, council officers, family members, friends, and ambassadors to NACN. The young leaders set up different stands to show what NACN does and have to offer to young people in the Rathcoole and surrounding areas.

Since then Carly has gone on to enrol at the Metropolitan College in Belfast where NACN has established a network for collaborative working.



NACN was involved with a Queens University Masters Student who was studying Conflict Transformation and Social Justice for her Dissertation. Her theme was “What does peace look like? Visualizing the Future in Rathcoole, Northern Ireland.

Jenny Henneberry who came the United States of America to live with her Rathcoole boyfriend in Rathcoole and got involved also as a volunteer with NACN.

In her report, she looked at the history of Rathcoole, and the creative industries and carried out several interviews with NACN members and staff. This is a fantastic read and really helped highlight the great work that’s taking place



Jenny Lynn Henneberry, B.A. Soc.

What Does Peace Look Like?

Visualizing the Future in Rathcoole, Northern Ireland

This dissertation is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for

Master of Arts in Conflict Transformation & Social Justice

The Lady of Rathcoole statue was brought to the estate in 1964, after being created by the sculptor Stephen Toogood. It remained on site until 2003, when redevelopment work at The Diamond saw the statue being taken down and put into storage. NACN received funding from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to refurbish the statue, and in October, she has been returned to the same site she was last spotted in the estate.

The Lady of Rathcoole gazed down upon the estate for over 40 years, with Centre Manager of NACN, Dee Crooks, telling Belfast Live he’s delighted to see a piece of local history being returned.



We applied for funding from the Housing Executive and we got her renovated, put up on the wall above the Spar at our Studio at The Diamond in Rathcoole, ready for a big reveal on Sunday night.

It was a lot of pointing in the wrong direction most of the time to find her, but then a new district manager for the Housing Executive here helped us out and said she knew where she was.

They met us in Antrim and she was in an old warehouse there covered with pallets.

She doesn't belong to the Council or the Housing Executive, she belongs to the people of Rathcoole, and that's why we thought as a youth organisation it was very important to bring her back so the next generation can go through being scared and looking at the ugly woman on the wall.

"I remember her when I was young because she did scare me, she was ugly. That's part of my history growing up on this estate, it's the greatest estate Rathcoole, there's a lot of great people in it. It's good we're able to bring a positive story to the area."



(Left to Right) Lady of Rathcoole & Dee Crooks

At the end of October, the Lady Of Rathcoole was brought back to Rathcoole, not far from where she was originally perched. The unveiling of the Lady of Rathcoole was turned into an all-day event where the day was filled with activities, costume competition,

face painting, local businesses supporting us and having tribute acts, Pink & Meatloaf throughout the evening.



Lady Of Rathcoole lit up for all to see!

Moving onto our Social Enterprise. back in August, Social Enterprise Northern Ireland contacted NACN to manufacture their 2022 awards for a 2nd year in a row. The previous year, 2021, was our first production of trophies where we produced 3D Printed Lithophane lamps where the design was focused around a Northern Ireland landmark, The Giant's Causeway with the lamp base having a concrete base in the shape of a causeway stone.

2022 trophies were the same concept but focused on a renewable design with most of the resources involved were eco-friendly, from recycled wood to eco-friendly filament. 22 awards featured a wooden plinth with a tree trunk design with a Lithophane Globe attached on top which are battery operated.

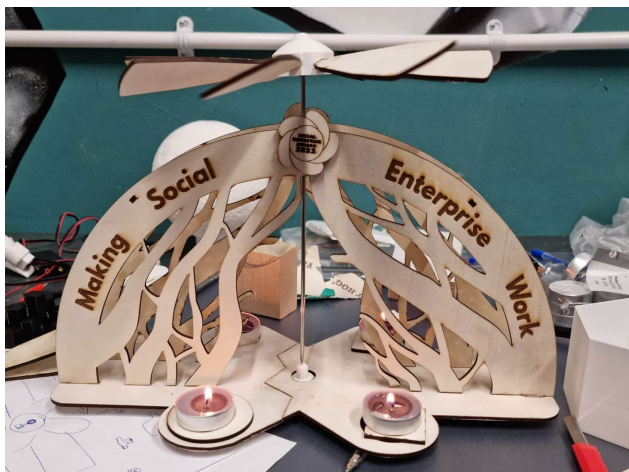


2022 Social Enterprise NI Awards at their Social Enterprise annual event.

In addition to this year however, we took it up a few levels and designed their table centrepieces for their event. The design of these were inspired after a German Christmas Pyramid, these were manufactured in our Studio on our laser-cutter where we produced 65 of these.

The design was inspired by popular landmarks throughout Northern Ireland as Social Enterprise NI covers all of Northern Ireland. The arch of the table center was inspired by the Dark Hedges, the rotating bottom piece was inspired by the Giants Causeway, one side had Harland & Wolff Crane and the other has the Mourne Mountains. At the top, the propellers were propelled using four candles at the bottom on the piece, using thermodynamics to create the movement.

Both the table centrepieces and trophies were designed and manufactured by our young people in the Fabrication group, alongside the core design and producers, Adam & Jasmin. This is the start of our Social Enterprise journey to become less reliant on funding and to become self-sufficient.



2022 Social Enterprise Table Centre final prototype in NACN Coole Studios, Fabrication group.

Additionally, fabricating and manufacturing wasn't all we did. We also were involved with the Social Enterprise NI Awards entertainment, during the awards and evening entertainment. During the awards, we have "The Four"

from our Senior Vocal Academy, Carly, Lisa, Summer & Brooke who sang "Hall Of Fame" in front of 600 people.



(Left to Right) Carly Richmond, Lisa McCord, Summer Moreland & Brooke Thompson



(Left to Right) Brooke Thompson, Summer Moreland, Lisa McCord & Carly Richmond

At the end of November 2022, our Junior Vocal Academy had the opportunity to sing at the Rathcoole Christmas Tree switch on hosted by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council at Rathcoole The Diamond.



Another year sponsorship from CFM Contractors. A voucher for £100 to a local family. Dave from CFM handing over the voucher to NACN Project Manager Dee Crooks. Kelly accepting the voucher on behalf of Becky as she and her partner are at hospital. We would like to thank CFM for all their efforts and support to the community and long may it continue.



(Left to Right) Dave, Dee Crooks & Kelly Honan

We ran our Youth Impowerment Program (YIP) to help teach those who want to take on a leading role within NACN. Understand how to create achievable, successful programs, researching organisations to see how they approach youth work and how they interact with young people. Most of the participating members have went on to help lead some of our major core projects like the Performing Arts Academy, Fabrication, Vocal Academy & Event Management.

A very positive conversation with the Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Stephen Ross. Great opportunity for NACN's Young Leaders to share their passion vision for the projects they oversee.



(Left to Right) Leanne Ku, Dee Crooks, Carly Richmond, Charloote Griffith-Williams, Adam Haggan, Summer Moreland, Harley Scribbons, Lauren Douglas, Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Stephen Ross & Rikki Sawyer

It was nice to have MLA Gordon Lyons out at the Studio this for a visit. Was a pleasure to share our love for what we do with him. Very approachable and keen to hear what we had to say.



(Left to Right) Dee Crooks, Carly Richmond, MLA Gordon Lyons & Kelly Rikki Sawyer

On Friday 17th & Saturday 18th March, the Mayor of Derry/Londonderry hosted a 24hr Busking event at the steps of the Guildhall, supported by local musical talent, organisers and businesses. NACN were invited by the Nerve Centre to participate in this event on Saturday 18th March at 5pm for a 20-minute slot.

If you would like to find out more information or would like to donate, please visit <https://www.derrystrabane.com/24hrbusk>

We thank the Nerve Centre and Martin McGill for the opportunity to help do our part!

Later that evening, Martin invited us to the Nerve Centre to attend a concert of one of their members, Cora Harkin to release her new single which was fantastic and great to see all the support given to her.



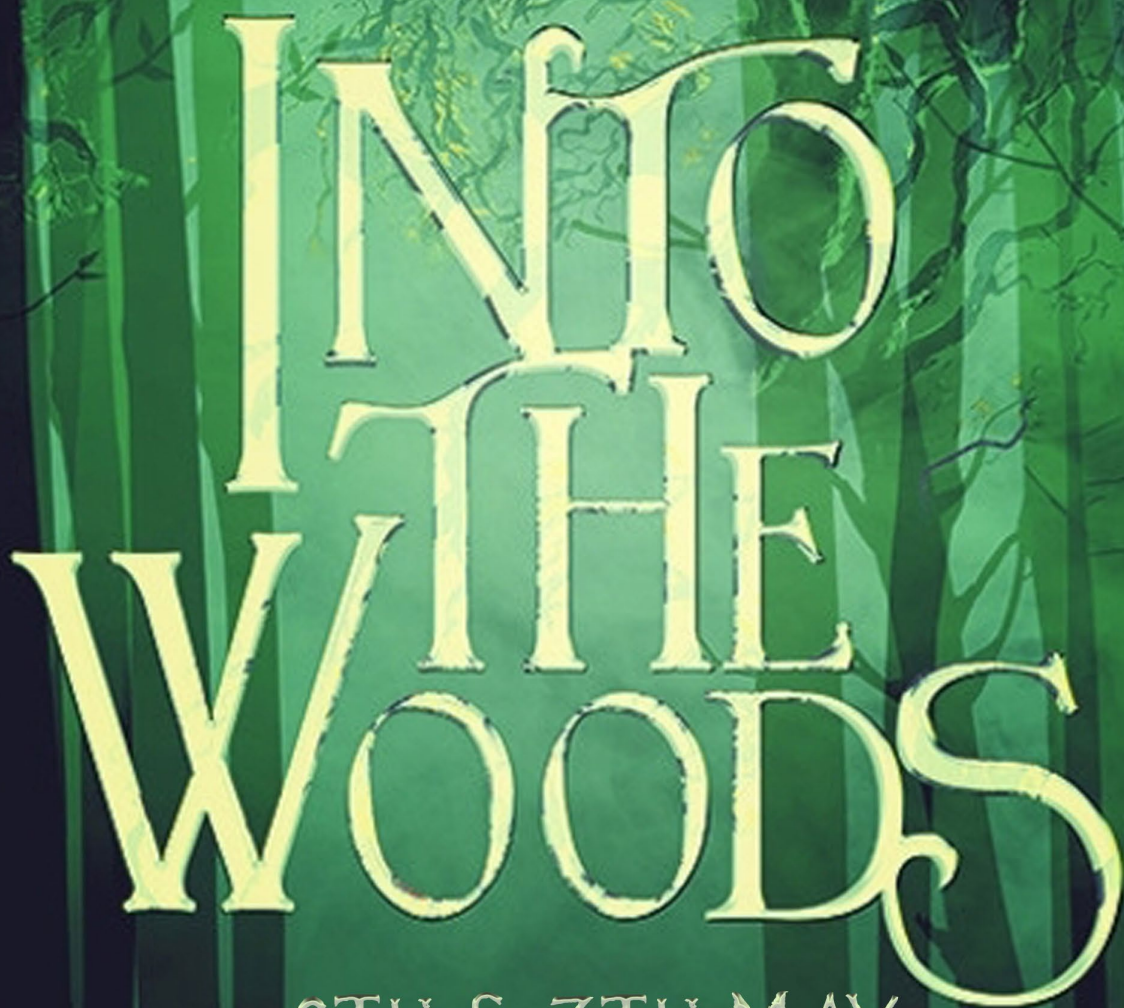
(Left to Right) Casey Adams, Carly Richmond, Summer Moreland & Steven Hasings



NACN

BE YOUNG - BE CREATIVE

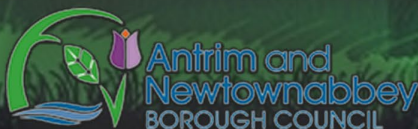
PRESENTS



**INTO
THE
WOODS**

6TH & 7TH MAY

BALLYEARL COURTYARD THEATRE



NACN PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

NACN

BE YOUNG - BE CREATIVE

PRESENTS

ROALD DAHL'S

Matilda

THE MUSICAL JR

24th & 25th June at Ballyearl Courtyard Theatre



"Somewhere inside all of us is the power to change the world"

SOLD OUT!

STEVEN HASTINGS

A night with Steven Hastings. Belfast-born and raised guy living out his dreams one song at a time. Called by himself and friends as the singing plumber and as most may have seen with his recent appearance on the Voice UK. Steven normally is a one-piece acoustic act covering a lot of well know songs from the latest charts to golden oldies. This was Steven's first appearance with a live band on stage and what will no doubt be a change for him in his music career.

Steven and his band put on a night of entertainment with a wide range of songs brought to you in a wonderful up close intimate venue at the Ballyearl Courtyard Theatre on Sunday 26th March 2023! This event was hosted by NACN Promotions



This event was planned and organised by our very own Youth Event Manager Carly Richmond.



Steven has been a massive supporter of NACN, helping to mentor those in the Vocal Academy and helps out wherever he can. We at NACN will support Steven wherever we can as well!



NACN front of house team who was trained by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council theatre front of house team for this event. Feedback from the NACN team have said that they learnt and experienced a lot and are eager to do it again.



(Left to Right) Harley Scribbons, Charlotte Griffith-Williams, Lauren Douglas, Sophie White, Jack Cairns & Eoin Kennan

it was fantastic to see Councillor Webb and his wife Pat at our Steven Hastings Gig..



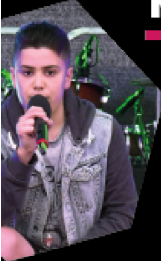
(Left to Right) Councillor Billy Webb, Lauren Douglas, Charlotte Griffith-Williams & Pat Webb

NACN

BE YOUNG - BE CREATIVE

We deliver workshops to young people interested in the creative arts industry, for 8-25 year olds. We also support the young people to manage live events, create short films, documentary production, performing arts, singing academy, digital media, coding, DJ'ing, WebDesign and have fun but with a learning experience connected to everything they do.

MUSIC INDUSTRY



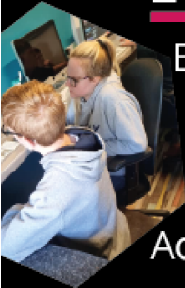
- Vocal Academy
- Music Production
- Instrument Lessons
- Lyric Writing
- Rapping
- DJing



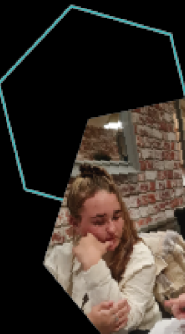
FABRICATION

- Social enterprise
- 3D Printing
- T-shirt Making
- Mug Printing
- Laser Cutting
- CNC Routing
- Vacuum Moulding

EVENTS & MEDIA



- Event Management
- Pod Casts
- Video Editing
- Film Production
- Advertising Promotion & Marketing



PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

- Acting
- Singing
- Prop Making
- Stage Management
- Costume Design



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Department for
Communities



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Department for Communities & Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

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Website: <https://www.facebook.com/rathcoole.neighbourhoodrenewal>

Email: cathy.hall@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

Number: 0300 123 4568

Address: Steeple Gardens, Steeple Rd, Antrim, Bt41 1BW

Website: www.antrimandnewtownabbeyboroughcouncil.gov.uk

Email: info@antrimandnewtownabbeyboroughcouncil.gov.uk

Newtownabbey Family Centre

Number: 02890 855960

Address: Rathcoole Hall, Innis Walk, Newtownabbey, BT37 9RJ

Website: www.familysupportni.gov.uk

The Dunanney Centre

Number: 02890 861941

Address: Dunanney Centre, 70 Rathmullan Dr, Newtownabbey BT37 9DQ

Website: <https://www.communityni.org/organisation/dunanney-centre>

Rathcoole Library

Number: 028 9085 1157

Address: 2 Rosslea Way, Newtownabbey, BT37 9BJ

Website: www.librariesni.org.uk

Email: rathcoole.library@librariesni.org.uk

Newtownabbey Integrated Team

Number: 02890 867111

Address: Innis Walk, Newtownabbey, BT37 9NA

RATH Community Group

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Address: Room 21 Dunanney Centre Rathcoole Newtownabbey BT37 9DQ

Website: www.antrimandnewtownabbeyboroughcouncil.gov.uk

Email: R.A.T.H.Communitygroup@gmail.com

ROC Rathcoole Care

Number: 02890 351020

Website: www.northernireland.roc.uk.com/project/roc-rathcoole/

Email: northernireland@roc.uk.com

Abbey Sure Start

Number: 028 9086 0938

Address: 2 Merville Garden Village, Newtownabbey BT37 9TF

Website: www.abbeysurestart.com/

Email: admin@abbeysurestart.co.uk

Thrive - Monkstown & Rathcoole

Address: Rathmullan Dr, Rathcoole Dr, Newtownabbey BT37 9DQ

Website: www.thrivenewtownabbey.co.uk/

Email: thrivegroupnewtownabbey@gmail.com

Team JVC

Number: 028 9086 7232

Address: 75 Woodburn Rd, Carrickfergus, BT38 8PS

Website: www.teamjvc.org

Email: elaine@teamjvc.org

Funky Kids Workshop

Number: 07873 732869

Address: Room 21 Dunanney Centre Rathcoole, Newtownabbey BT37 9DQ

Website: www.teamjvc.org

Email: funkykidsworkshop@outlook.com

Community Advice Antrim & Newtownabbey

Number: 028 9085 2271

Address: Dunanney Centre, Rathmullan Drive, Newtownabbey, BT37 9DQ

Website: www.communityadvicean.co.uk



THANK YOU

Thank you for reading our newsletter! If you would like to be involved in our community newsletter, get in touch with us! We strive to show off what our community can do.

Colour Jack and the Beanstalk, take a photograph, send it to "news@nacn.co.uk" for a chance to win Into The Woods Tickets!