

# THE MAGHERY STAR

December 2013

Magherynewsletter@gmail

Issue 1

You are all very welcome to this the first edition of the Maghery Community Newsletter. Our aim is to highlight the various activities of local groups in the Maghery area and invite you to get involved.

Our new name 'The Maghery Star' was thought up by Kate McClure (P7) in a competition recently run in St Mary's Primary School Maghery. It will be produced quarterly, funded from within the community and it will focus on community news. It will be looking at the work and activities of local people and the groups that these people have formed to share their passions.

The focus of this edition is on identifying and promoting the various different community-based groups that exist in this small loughshore community. I'm sure you'll be surprised and proud of the number and diversity of the groups that are currently running in the area. So enjoy your read!

**Loughshore Community Playgroup** was established in 2009 and is a cross community, high quality, accessible childcare provision which promotes early education. The playgroup is situated in St Mary's Primary School, but is independent of the School in that it is operated by a group of Volunteers willing to give their time to keep this valuable resource within the community of Maghery. Without the support of the local area, this provision would be lost.

The Playgroup provides free PEAGS places and over the past few years have provided a key service for the local rural community which enables families to return to work.

We are registered for 14 children and we aim to provide children with a stimulating learning environment where they can be experimental, active, and independent as they begin to understand the world around them- we believe our service is pivotal to the younger generation in our area. If you would like to learn more about the Playgroup or perhaps would like to volunteer your time please email [loughshoreplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:loughshoreplaygroup@gmail.com) or contact us on 028 3885 1778.

**Maghery Sean MacDermott's** Gaelic Football club continues to engage in substantial community work both on and off the pitch—providing physical well-being and social interaction for all. On the pitch it provides football to boys and girls from age 5 and upwards; competing and winning at all levels of competitions across Armagh with the senior team (below) bringing back-to-back league titles to the loughshore. Players drawn from the club have a prominence on school and university teams. Off the pitch the Scór teams continue in their winning ways whilst promoting traditional culture through word and music.

On the social front the club ran ten community-based activities throughout the year catering for the young and old, and we intend to repeat them all this year! The first event will be the New Year dip in the Lough.

We will be holding a registration day in January and would encourage parents to sign up and help us provide these valuable services. Check out our webpage at [www.maghery.com](http://www.maghery.com) or follow us on our facebook page and twitter account.



## The All Set Project

**The All Set Project** works in primary schools throughout the North of Ireland delivering cross-cultural programmes linking schools plus teaching music in an outreach programme (Fastrad) in Portadown and Maghery. Ian Carmichael and Mary Fox are the combined force behind the All Set Project which is supported by a Management Committee.



As the schools programme is regional, there is no programme locally until after Easter when St Mary's P.S. and the Birches P.S. will participate together. Both schools will participate in a 6 week programme focusing on the traditional arts and feature a multi-instrumental orchestra involving the key stage 2 pupils. All aspects of the programme will be highlighted at a final performance on completion of the programme which is open to the local communities to attend.

The Fastrad programme runs weekly and provides tuition on tin whistle, fiddle, mandolin/banjo and flute. The classes take place in St Mary's PS. Maghery, Milltown Lane plus at the Mayfair Business Centre, Portadown on Mondays & Thursdays. All over the age of five to adult can attend at a very affordable cost. (If interested, tel: 07711987182)

**The Mobile Library** is outside Maghery Hall every other Tuesday 9.40am—10am commencing Jan 7th. It boasts a wide selection of books suitable for all ages. For further information please contact 07776152562

## Maghery Social Club

Set on the edge of the lough shore, adrift on Derrywarragh island is Maghery Social Club. It rests in the shadow of the fir trees and towering goal posts that surround Maghery GFC football pitch. Inside, experience the cosy warmth provided by a pot belly stove and a welcome to match.

Experience the Friday special as food is served from 4pm onwards. So why not enjoy a pint and a plate of Irish Stew after a hard weeks work! It also boasts a extensive jukebox to select your tune of choice.

On the run up to Christmas various activities will be run such as the big Christmas Bingo and the draw for Christmas hampers. On Boxing night music will be provided by 'Town and Country' from 10pm to 1am and admission is free.

So why not drop in for a wee dram to warm the cockles of your soul!

## Maghery Bowling Club

The Bowling Club was established in 1996. We are a cross community group and currently have 22 members. The bowling league begins in September and runs through to April.

The matches are usually held on Thursday nights. There are 11 away matches and 11 home matches, which are held in the Community Hall in Maghery.

Bowling is a great pastime and provides an opportunity to meet people from other clubs and socialise. It helps to pass the long winter evenings! We need new members to keep the club going. Young members would be very welcome.

If you are interested, please come along to one of our home matches or contact 02838851375.

## MAGHERY COMMUNITY GYM

Maghery Community Gym welcomes all people. Based in Maghery Business Units, it allows unlimited access to gym facilities 24/7 right on your doorstep and boasts a stretching area, a free weights zone and modern cardiovascular exercise machines. Membership costs £60 for 6-months or £15 per month.

In 2013 we ran successful programmes for men and women of all ages and abilities, achieving fantastic results: these included Men's Health Programme, Women's Fit for Life, and Pilates. In 2014 we intend to repeat these programmes and supplement them with new exciting programmes such as Yoga and Zumba classes. Structured Exercise Programmes run by experienced personal trainers for both men and women of all abilities will be commencing early in the New Year so why not sign up and achieve your New Year's resolutions of a new you. We'd love to see you there.

For more information follow us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/Maghery-Gym/509907722375380](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Maghery-Gym/509907722375380) for regular updates or email us on [Magherygym@gmail.com](mailto:Magherygym@gmail.com). You stay classy Maghery!



### **YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!**

This year the community showed its willingness to be active. Two major charity fundraisers were run: the MacMillan Cancer Morning (and evening) and the Caleb Kerr project. The success of both events showed the generous nature of the local people in firstly holding such events and also in supporting them. With your help we can transform the community for the better of all in it but this will require participation on your part so get up from where ever you're reading this and make a promise to yourself to get involved, involved for the betterment of the community, for your family and yourself.

The **Diamond Club** meets every Thursday, 11am to 2pm, for members aged 60+, in the Community Hall. Our activities this past year have ranged from: Pharmacy projects concentrating on physical and mental health issues, painting local scenes, visiting speakers and entertainers, Tai-Chi and an IT experience provided by the Brain Bus! Craft projects produced quilts which we hope to display in the new year.

Always available are Bocce (Armchair Bowls) and Skittle equipment and, of course, our iPads.

The Armagh Rhymers are entertaining us at our Christmas dinner in the Cohannon, in December (bringing the Cultural Arts project to a close), while on January 16 we have been invited by **Volunteer Now** to help out in a charity project by doing some small tasks. If you would like to come along and join in on the day your presence would be very much appreciated. Activities generally take place between 11.30am and 12.30pm but you are welcome for tea at 11am.

## **Maghery Cycling Club**

The inaugural Maghery 125 took place on Saturday 5 October where cyclists from Maghery and neighbouring communities cycled from Kiltyclogher, Leitrim, the birthplace of Sean Mac Diarmuid, to the club in Maghery. The cycle was in aid of youth development within Maghery and sponsors and participants raised some much needed funds. All cyclists who participated were a credit to the area with the months of training and dedication given to both the planning and the cycle.

It is hoped that the event will continue next year and build on this years success. Anyone interested in taking part or joining the Committee please visit the Maghery 125 Facebook page for further details.



**St Mary's Primary School** gears up for the festive season with a number of activities leading up to Christmas. The children are off to see 'Aladdin' on Monday 9th December in Armagh.

On the 17th December parents will be beaming with delight as the kids partake in the Christmas Concert so get your camcorders charged up for that one! The traditional music group will be playing a few numbers at this also.

The Christmas dinner is on the 18th Dec and the main man — Santa Claus — will be dropping in to see the children on the 19th December at 9.30 so make sure the kids have their lists complete.

Schools out for Christmas on the 20th Dec half day (11am).

## **Maghery Community Hall**

Since reopening in 2006 after undergoing a £300,000 refurbishment and restoration programme, the Hall in Maghery has been at the centre of the community. From the senior citizens group to the Historical Society, and a celebratory GAA dinner to a gym session, the Hall has provided the community with a space to meet up and take part in wide-ranging activities.

A further boost is anticipated early in the New Year when the fruits of a £120,000 are seen in the form of a new ground floor meeting room, computer suite and kitchen. The extension will also provide much-needed storage space for those using the hall and people and groups who have shown an interest in doing so in the future.

As well as providing a meeting space for the aforementioned groups the Hall has been the site for charity tea and coffee mornings, area meetings and for family and friends after funerals in the nearby church. The Hall is run and supported by volunteers and is always open to new recruits as well as new users.

### **Local Services**

Forker Electricians  
Greenisland Joinery  
Mulholland Plumbing  
and Boiler Management

### **Useful Numbers**

Tel. 07968343345  
Tel. 07525651529  
Tel 07769885838

### **Regional Helplines**

Lifeline  
Action Mental Health  
Community Mental  
Health Team

### **Useful Numbers**

08088088000  
028 3839 2314  
028 38334444  
Tel. 08000886725  
08457909090

Gambling Helpline  
The Samaritans