

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2023 – MARCH 2024

We have had quite a busy year in BARN this year. Firstly, we started our year off with a very successful coffee morning and raffle on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023. This was well attended by the folks in the community and the ladies were kept very busy in the kitchen. A huge thank you was extended to all the local businesses that very kindly donated prizes to our raffle.

After a lot of lobbying by councillors and residents alike – we were delighted that the Clonmakate road was eventually re-surfaced in June. This was very much needed.

We were just over the moon to be able to send congratulations to Cllr Julie Flaherty on being awarded the BEM in the Kings Birthday Honours List for her services to the NI Children's funeral fund. Julie has worked tirelessly on this from 2018 and got Stormont to introduce this fund after a lot of heart-breaking work.

Coming close to Christmas time – we hosted our first wreath making class on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023. What a response we had, and Paul came along to show us how it was done. A fantastic night was had by all and a promise we would do the same next year. Another Christmas event that we held for the first time was 'A night with Mrs Claus' for all the kids who were encouraged to come along in their PJ's. This was on a booking system, and Mrs Claus read a bedtime story, sand and signed Makaton, and all the children got a hot chocolate and cookies. This was a great success.

During the year we also had classes running – these included our usually Yoga sessions, a Self Defence Workshop and a men's group monthly meeting. We also held a BASIC food hygiene course on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and this was fully booked in no time. Everyone was very studious and all received their certificates. Well done everyone....

In March we held a Farm Safety Course, and again this was well received. Given the increasing number of farming related accidents – this was a much needed event. Our farmers came out to hear David from HSE gave lots of useful information, tips and suggestions for staying safe on our farms. Also in attendance were the PSNI and PCP who also gave us food for thought.

We attended the Peatlands Playgroup tractor run and vintage rally in Peatlands Park on 23<sup>rd</sup> March – and we had a stall selling prize squares for our Easter hamper. This was a great fun day out, although it was quite chilly!

We still continue to do regular clean ups around the area – but it is an ongoing issue with littering in the area. More so – with the fly tipping of tyres – which is a lot harder to deal with.

We will strive to improve our lovely wee area in whatever way we can.