

About the Charity

St Bernards' Thursday Club was set up to provide a venue and opportunity for senior citizens from the area to come together socially to form friendships. The overall aim is to allow people aged 50 years and over from all communities within Northern Ireland to come together, no matter what their religion, background. The Club will provide facilities for the education, recreation and leisure time occupation for its members who by reason of social or economic circumstances, have need of such facilities.

How the Charity is funded

The Club is funded by members subscriptions of £3.00 per week. A grant of £2,000 has been gratefully received for this year from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. We then had a Christmas grant of £500. There is also a Bonus Ball Scheme wherein members can pay £1.00 per week for a National Lottery Bonus Ball number. The holder of the Bonus Ball number drawn on each Saturday night wins £25.00 and the remainder of the money paid that week goes to club funds. If any large items are donated they are balloted among the members. When needed members also pay a nominal amount towards Bus Runs and Christmas Dinner.

How the money was spent over the year. Our income consisted of the money paid by the members each week and two grants from our Council. We also received a grant of £850.00 from the Black Santa which we were very appreciative of. We had two parties in the Hall the first was St Patrick's Day and the second was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which we had catered by Hard Hats Catering Company both of which were very much enjoyed by all. Over the year we held a bring and buy sale with the proceeds going to Ukraine appeal. At Easter we had an Easter Bonnet parade with the best dressed getting prizes. We had two visits to the Cinema during the year with lunch afterwards in the Bellevue Arms. We arranged a conducted tour of St Anne's Cathedral which was enjoyed by those who attended. We had some very enjoyable talks at the club from Matthew Warwick on Ulster Scots and the history of Drums and Bagpipes to Keiran McLarnon on Climate Change. Stephen Kelly came to record childhood memories for which the members were invited to view in Antrim. Our Summer Bus Run was to Newcastle with morning coffee in the Mulberry Tree and then dinner later in the Burrendale Hotel. Our Christmas Dinner was held at Barnaby's Restaurant.

Administrative Information

The Club is based in St Bernard's Church Hall Antrim Road Glengormley. Miss Margaret Magee Chairperson, Mrs Hazel Caldwell Secretary, Mrs Olive Fitzgerald Treasurer and the following, Committee members: Mrs Bridie McStravick, Mrs Eileen Vincent, Mrs Mary Bannon.

Activities undertaken and the furtherance of the Charities purposes

The club provided a variety of activities over the year such as: Line Dancing which gives exercise for those fit and active. Boccia which is very popular with the members and can be played sitting down which our less able members can enjoy. We play a game of Bingo each week and some quizzes occasionally which give mental stimulation and a lot of good natured rivalry.

We try to get speakers who inform and educate and are enjoyable to hear.