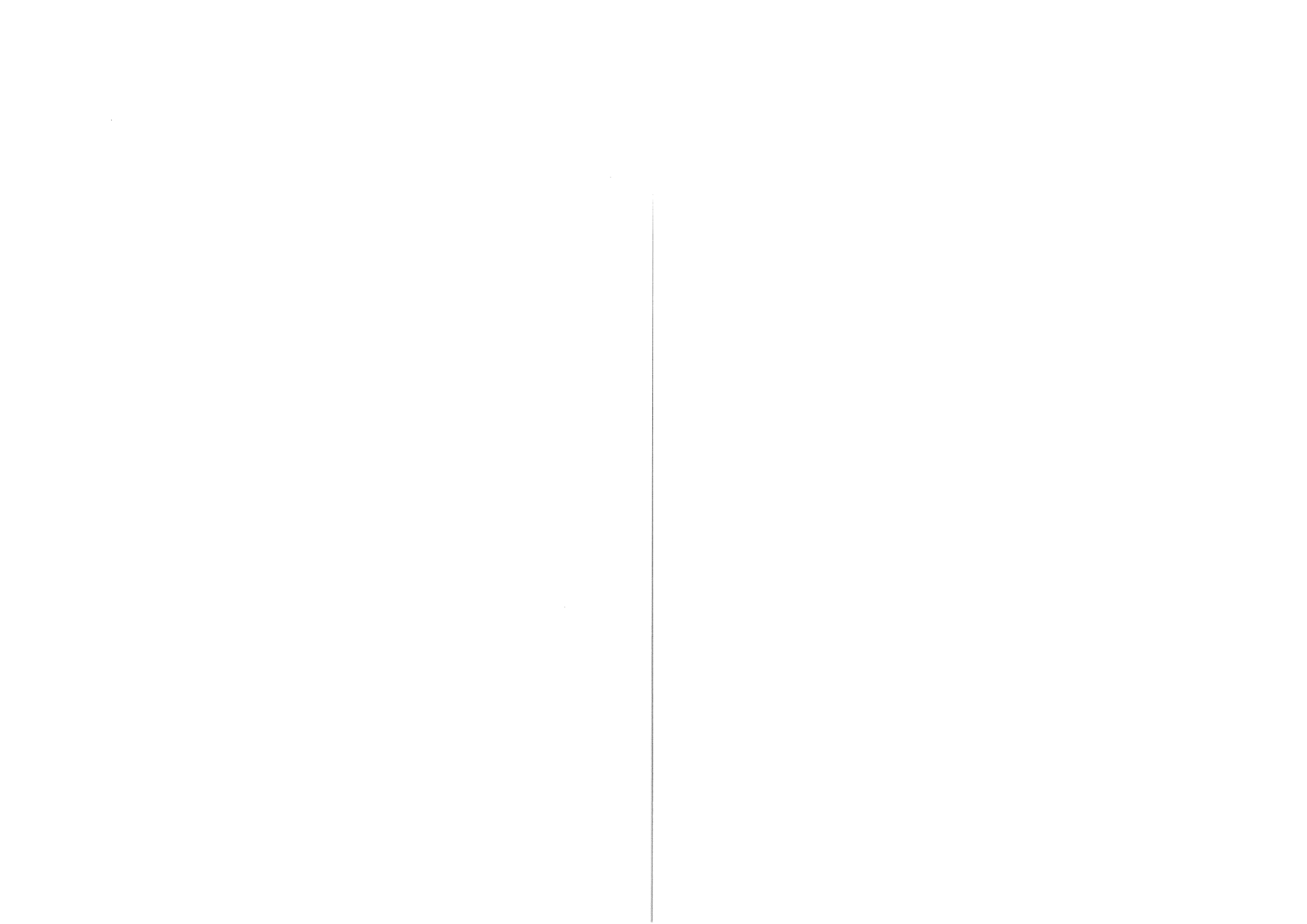


**GLENWARD COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2023/2024**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

District Office	Northern Ireland Housing Executive NIHE
Area Office	Northern Ireland Housing Executive NIHE
Eileen Thompson	Northern Ireland Housing Executive NIHE
Mike Mohan	Northern Ireland Housing Executive NIHE
Gus Moore	Northern Ireland Housing Executive NIHE
Sarah Harkness- Robinson	Supporting Communities NI
Ben Getty	PSNI
Donna Mackey	Ards and North down Borough Council
Paul Hawkins	Glen Community Church
Janice Mawhinney	Bees Nees Nursery
Donal McGarrigle	Londonderry Primary School
Ismay Woods	Newtownards Chronicle
Community Centre Staff	Ards and North down Borough Council
Tracy and Megan	The Warehouse Newtownards

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

"A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort" Herm Albright 1876 – 1944

Some years ago the chairpersons report started with the above quote. I make no apologies for using the same quote again this year as I found it quite encouraging because it reaffirms to me what can be achieved when a number of local people come together with a common interest in making their community a better place to live, work and play together.

The GWCDA is one of those such groups. Each week members of the community give their time freely to ensure each of the programmes, activities and clubs run smoothly and efficiently and to these people I would like to offer an immense thank you.

For the

Mens shed - Mr Paul Hawkins and Mr Ron Redpath

Youth Club - Rhonda, Doris, Maureen, Carter and Michelle

Walking Football (2022-2023) – Mr Billy Tate

Ladies groups and Aerobics (2022-2023) Amanda Tate

Senior Youth, I believe in the words of Benjamin Franklin when he quotes an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, these are the sentiments of Paul Hawkins, Beth Campbell and Doris Thompson in their superb input and belief whilst working with the youth of the area and their encouragement of those they work with WHICH is very evident.

Thank you to all the committee members and friends who have helped with the various seasonal events throughout the year.

During the past number of years the GWCDA have been very proud to work in conjunction with Glen Community Church with the delivery of various programmes including the planning and delivery of a local mural project.

GWCDAs continue to lobby for a multisports/football pitch within the Estate as this is a much needed facility for the young people in the area.

The association have continued to maintain very positive working relationships with statutory agencies such as PSNI, NIHE, Housing Associations, SEHTrust and Ards and northdown borough council, Transport NI, Londonderry Primary School, Local councillors, MLAs and MP for the area.

I am very pleased to be able to say that the support our community have received from local business in both monetary terms and service in kind has been fabulous.

Over the years the Newtownards Chronicle have been very supportive within our community by providing coverage of all GWCDAs events as well as our local information column the Glen Gleanings.

Thanks to Claire for our regular FB posts and updates and I can assure you she has been a great asset to the association over the past number of years.

Many thanks to Mr M and our very own female Monty Don (Aunty Don) you know who you are. Who have both been very busy preparing the community garden by way of planting bulbs and flowers over the last number of years. They continue to be excited by our very own greenhouse, in which they plant various fruits and vegetables.

Special thanks to Reverend Stephen Doherty, Paul Hawkins and members of the church family for the Church plant that celebrated its 10th Birthday this year and has continued to grow steadily within our community and has helped and supported many families in their hour of need.

This has been a busy and exciting year for our community by having a number of new homes built on the quarry heights site.

We as a committee are feeling very positive about the future with funding being secured recently for the new shed and equipment located in the rear of the community house, which has enhanced the growth of the mens shed programme.

We are also very pleased to have adopted the land to the side of the community house which will allow the group to further grow and offer new environmental programmes.

“Remember its not what can my community do for me, but rather what can I do for my community”

Your friend and Neighbour

Mr John A Gibson BEM. Chairperson,

Glen Ward Community Development Association

GWCD A MEETINGS ATTENDED

Housing Forum

The Housing Forum meets quarterly in the Community House. Representatives from the NIHE, the PSNI and GWCD A discuss matters regarding the everyday running of the estate such as housing, environmental and social issues. The Housing Forum receives an Empty House Update informing them of where empty houses are situated.

The Housing Forum also reports on the cleaning of the estate and discusses what needs to be done regarding, e.g. hedge cutting or illegal dumping. The Housing Forum then approaches the appropriate agencies to find out what can be done to tackle the problem.

The NIHE also keeps the GWCD A up-to-date on the various schemes which are due to take place within the estate.

Steering Group

The Steering Group Committee meets twice annually one of these meetings is the estate walkabout where various representatives from all statutory agencies and local politicians are in attendance to walk the estate and highlight various issues.

The Steering Group Meetings are held to enable all service providers to work together for the better of the estate, and to give the GWCD A the opportunity to raise issues. This meeting is chaired by Supporting Communities.



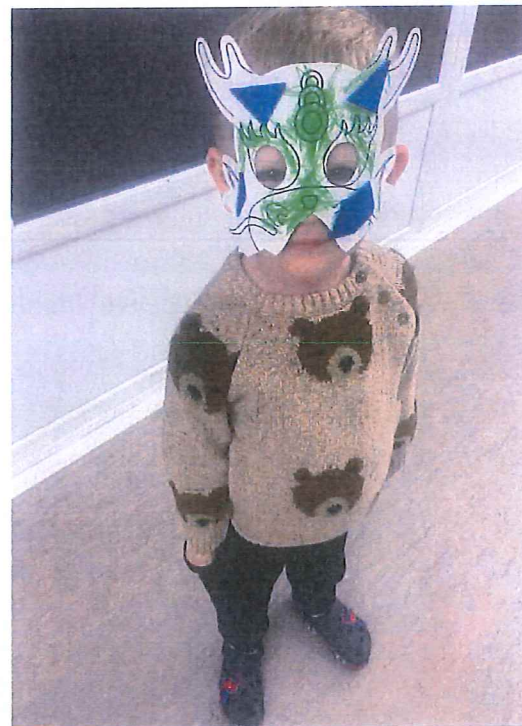
GWCDA ACTIVITIES

GWCDA YOUTH CLUB

The GWCDA's Junior Youth Club is held on Friday nights from 6.30pm to 7.30pm, for all Primary School aged children.

The children take part in many activities ranging from arts and crafts, music, drama, cookery, dance and various physical team games, such as football, basketball and rounder's etc. Free play is also encouraged as it is such an important part of a child's development.

Numbers have increased on the children who attend each week. We have welcomed four new Volunteers in the last year to help out at the Youth Club. Help is always still wanted, if anyone would like to volunteer please call into the Glen Community House for information.



GWCDA FAMILY FUNDAY

The Annual Family Fun Day was held on 11th July at Londonderry Primary School in the Glen Estate. Lots of activities were held for the children, including bouncy castles, a giant slide; a BBQ took place with lots of food and refreshments. The committee would like to thank everyone for their continuing support who made it an enjoyable day for everyone there.



GWCD A & GCC Carol service

The GWCD A and GCC held our joint carol service and light switch on at the Community House this is always a very well attended family event and even Santa made an appearance.



Cultural Community Dinner

The GWCD A held a Christmas Dinner for the residents, in Scrabo Golf Club, the event was a great success with around 45 residents attending the dinner. A great day was enjoyed by all.

FUNDING

The GWCD A appreciates all the assistance that has been given over the last year and, while it is not possible to thank every single individual who has been involved in raising money for the various events and projects, the GWCD A would like to thank the following agencies and organisations:

- Department of Social Development 'Small Pockets of Deprivation'
- Ards and North Down Borough Council
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- South Eastern Education and Library Board

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks are warmly extended in recognition to all the GWCD A Committee Members for their hard work at fundraising throughout the year.

The GWCD A would particularly like to thank local sponsors who have helped so generously throughout the year.