

Community News

New seating at Ballygally Viewpoint.

Refurbishment at the recess on the seafront opposite Grace Avenue will commence early in the New Year, thanks to BCDA who purchased 4 new seats for the area and also to LBC and Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust who have provided funding to install a glass panelled viewpoint. We look forward to seeing the completed project which will provide a welcome rest spot for residents and visitors alike.

Upcoming local Church events in the hall

31st January 7.30pm. Cairncastle Presbyterian Church **Burns Night** in Ballygally Hall.

For further details contact Robert Stewart 07773731001

20th March St Patrick`s Church of Ireland **“St Patrick`s Hooley”** in Ballygally Hall.

For further details Contact Rev. Roger Thompson 02828583220.

BCDA Dates for your 2015 diary

See notice board outside Hall for details of upcoming events:

January

Thursday 29th 5-7pm BCDA Community Dinner (instead of usual monthly Coffee morning)

Part funded by NACN Mental Health Grant. Entertainment and speaker.

Tickets £7.00.

On sale at Ballygally Hall Saturday 17th January 10-11am or through clubs run by BCDA.

February

- **Saturday 28st February. Ballygally Musical Evening with singer Anthony Toner.**

Tickets £10.00. On sale at Ballygally Hall Saturday 14th Feb 10-11am.

- **Thursday 26th 11-1pm BCDA Monthly Coffee morning with BINGO.**

March

**Thursday 26th 11.30-1.30pm BCDA. Stew Day served from 12pm-1pm.
(Why not go green in the Spirit of St Patrick?)**

Can you spare one hour per month?

The hall cleaning team desperately needs more volunteers between 11-12pm on the last Friday of the month. Just turn up with your marigolds and elbow grease please.

Au Revoir Bernie

Due to her expanding photography business, Bernie McAllister has relinquished her post at Ballygally hall. We wish her all the best with her thriving venture and want to thank her for her contribution to BCDA during 2014.

For bookings/info please contact Ballygally Hall and leave a message so we can contact you. Otherwise, contact Ruth 02828583122 or Anne 02828583255

This issue of the Ballygally News is kindly sponsored by Arthur and Hazel Johnston

Happy New Year and a very warm welcome to new residents!

Welcome to 2015

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas holidays with friends and family and that you have settled back into your normal routine, ready for another exciting year of varied events at Ballygally Hall.

2014 was once again a busy year for BCDA and activities seem set to continue, with clubs restarting and a range of events planned to get you through the remainder of winter on into spring.

To START!

Following on from last year's successful community lunch and at residents` request, we are changing to a Community dinner on **Thursday 29th January 5-7pm.** (This will replace our usual coffee morning.)

We have secured funding from North Antrim Community Network Mental Health to offer local residents a healthy two course meal for £7.00 to include entertainment. Tickets will be on sale at clubs run by BCDA and **Sat 17th January 10.00-11.00am** at Ballygally Hall.

Normal Coffee mornings will continue to be held on the last Thursday of each month. Please join us at 11am to meet neighbours, make new friends and enjoy the craic right on your doorstep in Ballygally Hall.



Community Spirit at BCDA Christmas Tree

The wet, cold night did not dampen the spirits of the Ballygally residents, as they turned out in their crowds on Monday 1st December to welcome Santa and see the colourful display of Christmas tree lights and street lights turned on to brighten up the village. The evening kicked off with Ballygally Community choir, cheerfully dressed in their Christmas garb, providing the musical entertainment around the tree. Norman McBride, manager of the recently refurbished Ballygally Castle Hotel, pushed the switch from the balcony and was ably assisted by two princesses in the style of the hugely popular computer animated Disney musical fantasy film "Frozen". Santa, accompanied by his faithful elves in their new outfits, rode into Ballygally on his customised tractor, handed out his goodies to the children and then it was time to retire to the hotel, where the management had provided very welcome refreshments for all.

The entertainment continued with the adults and children of the Japanese classes currently running in the hall giving us their rendition of Jingle Bells and other seasonal songs in Japanese. Many thanks to their teacher, Caragh Reid, for organising this. The Frozen princesses then took to the floor, much to the delight of the children who sat around them on the floor in complete awe of the performance, singing along to all the songs...even the adults joined in! Then it was the turn of the magician from Carnival Promotions to keep the children occupied as he showed off his party tricks with his balloons. All too soon, the entertainment was over and the children were somewhat reluctantly led off home, while the seasoned revellers stayed behind to catch up with their neighbours and kick off the Christmas spirit!

Many thanks to all who contributed to the occasion and to all who turned out in a great show of community spirit to welcome in the Christmas season!



Ballygally Neighbourhood Watch Update

Following a Neighbourhood Watch meeting in October, members have been dealing with issues concerning the village. Play park vandalism has been tackled with the help of local residents, L.B.C Parks Dept., Councillors and Community PSNI. Other issues discussed included speeding, dangerous driving in the car park and antisocial behaviour.

Next members' meeting will be held on **Tuesday 3rd February at 7.45pm** in Ballygally Hall committee room.

If interested in becoming a member or for further information contact:
Lead Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator HESTER (07792046692) or RUTH (07790778380)

WHY NOT BOOK YOUR PARTY OR FUNCTION AT BALLYGALLY HALL?

BIRTHDAY PACKAGE RATE

£40 FOR 3 Hours

(Rate includes kitchen hire)

Anthony Toner

Comes to Ballygally

Ballygally Hall is gearing up to welcome Belfast based singer **Anthony Toner** on **Saturday 28th February.**



Tickets £10. On sale Saturday 14th February at Ballygally Hall 10-11am

"Anthony Toner has been described as 'John Prine meets James Taylor – in a second hand book shop'. His single 'Sailortown' grabbed the attention of radio listeners in Northern Ireland in 2010, and his music has held public attention ever since. The song was an utterly contemporary, clear-eyed depiction of a doomed teenage romance - set against the backdrop of Belfast's fabled Sailortown neighbourhood, now undergoing all kinds of transformations."

Ballygally Hall

264 Coast Road

Ballygally, BT40 2QX

Tel 02828 581050 to leave a message
or email bcdaltd@btconnect.com

or visit www.ballygally.co.uk

Floral Fundraising



A Fundraising Flower Arranging Demonstration Night was held in Ballygally Hall on **Wednesday 1st October** in aid of Larne CACTI (Comfort and Care of Terminally Ill). A raffle of Janie McKillop's wonderful floral art creations took place, raising £300 for this well deserved charity.

Many thanks for those who supported this event and to those who attended Janie's subsequent flower arranging classes in October and December.

Keep an eye on notice board for spring dates for further classes.

Dates and times for clubs/classes

Indoor Bowls

Monday 7.30-9.30pm £2.00 (Pay as you go)

Boccia (LBC Coach)

Tuesday 6.45- 8.00pm (No charge)

Ladies Light Exercise (LBC coach)

Tuesday 11am – 12pm £3.00 (PAYG)

Yoga (Angela Gorman)

Thursday 9.30-10.30am Cost £5 (PAYG)

Children's Art Classes (Rosalind Fair)

Wednesday 3.30-4-30pm. £5.00 (PAYG)

BCDA Art Club (John McGaughey)

Thursday 7.30-9.30pm Cost TBC (13 wks)

40+ Exercise Classes (LBC coach)

Friday: Men 9-10am £3.00 (PAYG)

Ladies 10-11am £3.00

Bridge Club

(Jean Ledlie/Angela McMurtry)

Tuesday 2-5pm £3.00 (PAYG)

Tai Chi (Philip Ferguson)

Thursday 6.45-7.45pm £5.00 (PAYG)

Yoga (Sue McBride)

Monday 8.15-9.15pm £6.00 (PAYG)

Just Japanese Adult Classes (Caragh Reid)

Monday 7-8pm £5.00

EXTRA CLASS NEW for 2015

Wednesday 7-8pm

£5 per session (by term in advance). Email Justjapanese@gmx.co.uk or Tel 02828583660 or 07817110404 or on facebook www.facebook.com/justjapanese

Check notice boards/website for upcoming events. All suggestions for classes or events welcomed.



When did you last see a Red squirrel?

This is a question that we are asking people in the Larne / Ballygally area.

The Red Squirrel is our native Squirrel and is one of our iconic mammals that are a joy to watch and are a part of the natural balance of our Woodlands. The Glens Red Squirrel Group with the support of the Northern Ireland Environmental Link NGO Challenge Fund has launched an ambitious project to protect all of our Native Species in Carnfunnock Country Park and Ballygally area and pave the way for the return of our native Red.

The greatest threat to our native wildlife, Songbirds, Trees and Red Squirrels is the invasive and alien Grey Squirrel. This predator devastates songbirds' nests, destroys trees and carries a fatal disease that will kill a Red squirrel in a matter of weeks.

The plan is to remove Grey Squirrels from the area with the "Protecting our Native Species" (PONS) Project. The Group are looking for volunteers to report sightings and if people wish to do more we will train them to humanely trap Grey Squirrels so that they can then be removed.

For more details visit our website www.glensredsquirrelgroup.com or contact any local member of the Group or TEL: **0871 315 7376.**

The Group is a purely voluntary registered Charity

Contact Anne McCusker, Project Co-ordinator for more details 07525160880

The group has arranged a meeting for **Saturday, 24th January** at 10 am in the room above the Visitors' Centre at Carnfunnock. This is for anyone interested in helping to support the Red Squirrel in this area and will include Trap Training to restart the trapping of Grey Squirrels from Chaines Wood and Carnfunnock.