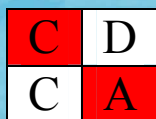


**Bumper
Edition**

Cloughey & District Community Association

**Welcome to the 20th and Winter '08 edition
of our community newsletter, keeping you up to date
with the goings on in the local area!**

**Cloughey &
District
Community
Association**



**Working for
a Safer
Community**



Winter



CDCA Halloween Children's Party

Over 80 children dressed up for this year's party and enjoyed the games, music and food. Parents looked on or, in some cases, volunteered to help with the activities. One side room was devoted to face-painting with Jenny while the other one was used for the application of tattoos (transfers) by Dee ably assisted by Peter the vet. This event continues to be very popular and we look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Making the Cloughey & District Community Association representative of the people living in the area

CDCA is a cross community organisation working to improve the lives and well being of people living in the Cloughey area. CDCA covers an area centred on Cloughey, and includes the Quarter, Ballycranbeg, Ratallagh and Ballygalget. Our constitution provides for a committee of 16 and we would like each part of the district to have at least 1 representative.

At present we do not have any representation from **Ballygalget, Ardminnan, Loughdoo, Castlemeadows, Ballycranbeg, and Ratallagh**, and we would **welcome participation from these areas** at our next **AGM** which will be held on **5th February 2009 in Cloughey Pavilion**.

If you would like to become a member of the CDCA committee to work to improve the lives of local people please call Joe Maclean to discuss and register interest and to submit your name, 427 71006.

In 2009 CDCA plan to again run a series of events and campaign to retain rural playgrounds, reduce road speed, improve beach access and cleanliness and aim to create a coastal walk way for all to enjoy. If you think we should be doing more then please tell us. It's your community association, make it work for you.

Cloughey Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW)

Work is nearing completion on the new WWTW at Slanes Point on the south end of Cloughey Beach. Very soon sewage from Cloughey will no longer be discharged directly into the sea but will be treated and cleaned by a modern process to meet the stringent European Discharge Standards.

This will be a significant improvement on the existing arrangements and we can all look forward to better water quality and much cleaner beach.

We understand that the new plant will be commissioned early in 2009.

CDCA presentation of funds to local schools

On 2nd Dec CDCA will present £500 to each local primary school. As explained in our previous newsletters funds were raised to support CDCA community activities and to provide St Patrick's Ballygalget and Kirkistown Primary school with money to support purchases for school equipment. On 2nd Dec P6 and P7 pupils from each school will attend the presentation ceremony being held in the New Hall at Kirkistown Primary school to receive the donations. Our thanks to all who helped to raise these much needed funds for our local schools.

**Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous 2009 to you and yours
from Cloughey & District Community Association**

www.cloughey.org.uk

Cloughey website now has over 50 pages and a wealth of information about all aspects of life in Cloughey and District. It is maintained by CDCA and if you make it your home page you can pick up on the latest news as well as today's weather, tides and passing ships. This information is updated automatically and always up to date.

We have pages on everything from History of Cloughey to bird watching and can provide pages for any local organisations who do not want to go to the trouble of setting up and maintaining their own website. If you want to use this service email us at info@cloughey.org.uk

Young reporter wanted !

We are still looking for a young reporter to look after our weekly news pages – a young person with aspirations to be a journalist could cut his/her teeth and gain some useful experience for their Curriculum Vitae (CV) — no pay or expenses but lots of useful experience.

CDCA will show you how to post your stories on the website – what are you waiting for? - email info@cloughey.org.uk now!



COMMUNITY
NOTICE
BOARD



The Community Notice Board located outside Watson's Centra is managed by CDCA.

The Notice board at Watson's forecourt is being re-labeled to allow local people and **local business to advertise their services** – or lost and found notices.

Notices to be postcard size and to be put into the CDCA postbox on the wall behind the notice board.

If your winter is disturbed please take action and call the Anti-social behaviour team.

PHONE NUMBERS FOR THE REPORTING OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- For emergency response 999
- Not an emergency but requires an urgent response 0845 600 8000
- Non-emergency reports (i.e. Ards Borough Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team) 9182 4044

Take Care this Winter

The Credit Crunch has made many people think do I "Heat or Eat". It need not be this way, we are a community who pull together to help each other.

In order to help people in need CDCA would like us all to consider those living in isolation at this time.

Check on older neighbours and friends to ensure they are coping with the cold, have food and are not alone.

Tops to help beat the Chill and keep you safe this winter

- More layers – wear lots of thin layers rather than one thick layer to keep warm.
- Stay active – spread chores throughout the day and alternate between rest and activity. Go for a walk and keep active.
- Eat well – Enjoy at least one hot meal a day. Sip hot drinks regularly including before bedtime.
- Prepare your home – Seal any gaps around windows and doors. Insulate your loft and have your central heating checked – Oil fired boilers should be serviced regularly.
- Flu jab – Get a flu jab from your GP
- Contact – Be in contact with a friend or neighbour at least once a day.
- Don't be too proud – to accept an offer of a meal or to go to visit a friend or neighbour if you are cold or feeling isolated.
- Get out for the day – call Peninsula Community Transport who organise day trips / shopping trips etc (They collect you at your door & bring you back again) Call Mark or Lisa: 427 39153

Christmas Gift that is illegal and dangerous! Quads and Scramblers - Take Note!

Quads and Scramblers are illegal as they are not insured or licensed to be used in public areas. In recent weeks a number of families have been prosecuted for using quads in public places. Some of these vehicles have top speeds of 30mph. Is it safe for a child to be in charge of such a vehicle?

Ards Borough Council has erected a notice board at the Warren, Cloughey stating **quads and scramblers are prohibited on The Warren, Cloughey.**

Quads and scramblers have caused a nuisance on the Warren and beach area over the past few years. Quad and scrambler noise, damage to dunes and dangerous driving have prevented others from enjoying our village.

If you are considering buying either type of vehicle for your child this Christmas please contact PSNI Newtownards who can provide guidance on protective safety wear, licensing, insurance information and where it is ok to use such vehicles.

One Cloughey child has already been seriously injured after falling from a quad. Please consider the risk to your child and others.

CDCA – Celebrating a Year of Hard Work

So what does CDCA do within the Community? Here's a round up of CDCA work completed during 08.

Children's Somme Garden:

Successful application for funds from the Co-Op to further improve planting in the Garden.

Installation of the central sculpture called 'New Day' to complete the structural work funded by an Arts Council led scheme.

Partnership working with Ards Borough Council to provide additional hedging along Main Rd footpath.

Added much needed floodlights funded by Ards Borough Council's Community Safety Scheme.

Children's Play areas:

Improved fencing around Cloughey village playground to reduce risk of a child running onto Main Road.

Successful lobbying of Ards Borough Council to retain the playgrounds at Tullymally and Rubane.

Reinstallation of play equipment previously removed at both Tullymally and Rubane playgrounds.

Supporting our local schools:

Donation of £500 to each local primary school, namely St Patrick's Ballygalget and Kirkistown Primary School to assist with purchase of essential school equipment.

Donation of palm trees to both schools to help create sensory gardens for the children.

Support for Kirkistown Primary's school's New Hall which can also be used for community purposes.

Protecting our environment:

CDCA received the Tidy Northern Ireland Green Coast "Clean Coast" certificate acknowledging all our work to ensure Cloughey Beach is maintained at a high standard. CDCA aims to improve on this award by working towards the coveted Green Coast Award within the next few years.

CDCA have actively sought to protect our local wildlife and eco systems by lobbying government agencies to take restorative action to eroded and vandalised sections of the Cloughey Dune system and Warren.

CDCA has actively fought to reduce the amount of dog foul on the Beach, Warren and play areas in Cloughey and to stop illegal use of quads, scramblers and remote control vehicles on the environmentally sensitive Beach area.

CDCA have lobbied to ensure the new Waste Water Treatment plant will improve water quality in the Cloughey Bay area. CDCA are currently lobbying Water Service staff to complete regular scientific water sampling to help with our Green Coast application. Results, good or bad, will be displayed on the Notice Board.

CDCA successfully lobbied to retain land for public use along Main Road, Cloughey

Fundraising: CDCA completed a number of fundraising events this year including:

Cloughey Church Fete and Tractor Rally which collected £91.96

Quiz Night in Ballygalget GAC which raised £1967 (Thanks to Liam & June Braniff and Quizmasters)

Quiz in Ardminnan which raised £220

Thank you to all who supported our events. All proceeds are spent locally to improve the lives and well being of everyone living in Cloughey & District community.

Events:

Somme memorial, July and Remembrance Sunday, Nov: each attended by over 50 people

Children's Halloween Party – over 80 local children enjoyed Halloween fun

Santa's visit to Cloughey children at Kirkistown Primary School

Cloughey Christmas Lights Switch On: WE 1 Dec 08

Communications:

CDCA held monthly committee meetings open to residents, many of whom attended throughout the year.

Quarterly community newsletter distributed to 800 homes in the Cloughey & District Area

Website – www.cloughey.org.uk with updates on local history, news, bin collection dates, tides etc.

Community Notice Board contains up to date information about community events, tourist information, businesses and community life in Cloughey.

New CDCA post box erected behind the Notice Board with thankful permission from Watson's Centra.

The NI Housing Executive - supporting your Community.

A huge thank you to NI Housing Executive and in particular their Publicity Officer Gerry Watson for their ongoing support for our local community. Printing of the CDCA community newsletter is paid for by the NI Housing Executive. It is with their support CDCA have been able to produce this bumper edition for Christmas 08.

Cloughey Bowlers raise record £3000 for charity



Cloughey Bowling Club held their annual Children's Hospice Bowling Tournament on Saturday 27th September 2008. After what was a very wet bowling season it was nice to end the year with sunshine for the Hospice Event. This event has been held for six years but this year saw a record breaking £3000 being raised. The total raised so far for the Hospice now stands at £17,695.50. Credit must go to those who sponsor the event and especially those members who bring this sponsorship money in. We can always rely on Jimmy McClements and the Portavogie Fishermen for a lot of support. The Children's Hospice is a Charity that is well worth supporting.

Bowling open to all – come and try it

Bowling can be a very relaxing form of exercise and the club welcome anyone who would like to give bowling a try. The bowling green is a Council facility and is open to any member of the public wanting to have a go, bowls can be provided. There is usually someone available to guide you if you are a complete beginner. The bowling green has a high quality artificial surface enabling outdoor bowls to be played all year round. In the winter the opening time is restricted to Monday, Thursday and Friday from 10.30 to 2.30 pm during the winter. Indoor bowls are played at the Pavilion on Monday and Friday nights from 7 pm. Why not come along and join in. Just turn up or come along to the Pavilion during opening hours to find out more.

Success of wreath-laying ceremony marred by vandal attack on Children's Somme

Garden 3 days later

On Sunday 9th November a wreath laying ceremony took place at the Children's Somme Garden Cloughey. Six representatives of local organisations laid wreaths and numerous small crosses bearing poppies were placed around the garden.

On Wednesday morning 12th November 2008 it was discovered that the garden had been vandalised. Three of the wreaths had been removed and thrown on to the beach or into the adjoining garden, with poppies torn from them.

Most of the small wooden crosses were also removed, poppies torn off, and scattered over a wide area.

Two spotlights that illuminate the Somme mural had been ripped out and thrown away.

Community Association Chairman Joe Maclean said: "It is difficult to understand such behaviour, particularly in the light of the media giving emphasis to the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women not only in WW1 and WW2 but subsequent wars and conflicts.

Perhaps we should be educating the youth of today to prevent such vandalism.

If we had done so, this vandalism may well have been avoided, nevertheless it makes one feel sad, particularly when a great part of the Children's Somme Garden mural was designed by local children."

Police informed

Since the incident, the wreaths have been recovered, repaired and put back in place by CDCA. Many of the small crosses were beyond repair, and have been replaced. The police are investigating the incident.

What the Garden represents

The Cloughey Children's Somme Garden is a Cross Community Project funded and created to not only provide a memorial garden for those men who lost their lives or were injured, from both sides of our community during WW1 but also to provide a shared public space for the people of Cloughey to enjoy.

The following excerpt from our previous newsletter explains who the Garden remembers and why it is an important cross community addition to our district:

From CDCA Newsletter 18, Summer '08:

The Children's' Somme Garden remembers all who fell at the Battle of the Somme in WW1. The Garden also represents hope for a peaceful future for our children.

During the conflict many men from all over the island of Ireland, from different political and religious backgrounds lost their lives. We remember in particular those from the 36th and 16th Divisions.

The 36th (Ulster) Division had been formed from the Sir Edward Carson's Ulster Volunteer Force, while the 16th (Irish) Division was made up largely of nationalists including John Redmond's Irish Volunteers.

On 1st July we particularly remember the 36th (Ulster) Division who lost 2200 on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in the attack at Theipval. On that date we also remember the 16th (Irish) Division who suffered terrible losses (1600+) in capturing the villages of Guillemont and Ginchy (3rd and 9th Sept respectively) as part of the Somme battle which lasted 5 dreadful months in 1916.

Do you know who did this?

If anyone has any information or saw anyone around the area of the garden after midnight on Tuesday night (11th Nov) please contact the police on the non-emergency number 0845 600 8000.

The Garden is enjoyed by young and old alike, from both sides of our community. Please respect this community space, help us to stop such mindless vandalism. We are a small rural community where such actions are neither welcome nor tolerated.

Photos of seal pups taken on boat trip to North Rock about 4km off Cloughey Beach



If you have any interesting photos of Cloughey, our wildlife or items of interest why not share them. Email jpegs to info@cloughey.org.uk where a gallery of local photos can be viewed.

With permission your photos could be included in future newsletters.

History of Cloughey (from Upper Ards Historical Society Gide to Portaferry & District)

Slans Graveyard: The graveyard is situated within a former **Iron Age rath, or hill fort**, is surrounded by a white wall. Within it are the ruins of a medieval church which is believed to be the **Church of Ardmacossce** or Ardmacaisse mentioned in the Taxation of Pope Nicolas, 1306.

The White House, Ballyspurge: Situated overlooking Slanes Bay are the ruins of a defended farmhouse which was probably built in the 1740s. It is a story and a half high with thick walls, pistol loops and embrasures for muskets. There is evidence of a curtain wall which enclosed a bawn. The top of the stairwell contains an example of a curtain wall which enclosed a corbelling. It is uncertain whether the house was built by a **Savage** or by a Russell, but in the early 19th century the house was used by the Savage family of **Rock Savage, Ballygalget** as a Summer residence.

What is Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch is one of the biggest and most successful crime prevention initiatives ever. Behind it lies a simple idea, and a central value shared by millions of people around the country: Getting together with your neighbours to take action can cut local crime.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can:

- **cut crime and the opportunities for crime**
- **help and reassure those who live in the area**
- **encourage neighbourliness and closer communities.**



A better place to live, work and play

Neighbourhood Watch is not just about reducing burglary figures - it's about creating communities who care. It brings local people together and can make a real contribution to improving their lives. The activity of Watch members can foster a new community spirit and a belief in the community's ability to tackle problems. At the same time, you feel secure, knowing your neighbours are keeping an eye on your property. And the extra security which belonging to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme offers might even mean that you can get a premium discount from your insurance company.

How schemes work

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can be large, covering, for example most of the households on an estate or they might involve just half a dozen houses. A scheme is generally led by a volunteer co-ordinator whose job is to get people working together and make sure things get done. As well as the co-ordinator, there is usually a committee. Committees meet regularly to plan which problems to target and what action to take. Schemes keep in close touch with local police to share information and advice.

Schemes are currently being considered by Portaferry, Kircubbin and Portavogie. If you would like to see Neighbourhood Watch in the Cloughey area or for further information please complete the information request form below and post in the CDCA post box outside Watson's Centra. CDCA will pass on your request to your local Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

Neighbourhood Watch Information Request

Please tick one of the boxes to define your interest in Neighbourhood Watch in the Cloughey area

- I am interested in learning more about Neighbourhood Watch (information leaflet)
- I am interested in volunteering my time as a Neighbourhood Watch Warden within Cloughey area
- I would be keen to attend a Neighbourhood Watch presentation (held in Cloughey Pavilion)

Please **print** your Name and Address clearly and post in the CDCA post box behind the Community notice board outside Watson's Centra.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

Birds of the Cloughey Shoreline - GREY HERON

This is the second installment in our series on Cloughey wildlife. The Grey Heron is one of our biggest birds along side the Mute Swan. In many parts of the country you will hear them described as “crans”, no doubt due to their similarity to the Crane family. In flight it is unmistakable, somewhat prehistoric, with an ‘S’ shaped neck, a slow heavy beat of the wings and long legs stretching out behind the body.

When feeding on the shore at low tide, the heron is seen standing alone, motionless, with its long neck erect waiting for prey to arrive and then leaning forward to impale or imprison food with its long beak. This would include all small species of fish and eels. They also frequent inland wet areas, feeding on frogs and small rodents, with garden goldfish ponds known to be visited where they are not at all popular! In Cloughey Bay two favourite feeding areas are Charley’s Rocks and the Dunloughan Bank.

Grey Herons, although solitary figures and very defensive of their fishing territory, will quite happily roost together in fields and on islands when their feeding areas are covered by the sea at high tide. A group roosting together in this manner is known as a “siege of herons”. They also join together in late winter to form nesting colonies called Heronries. They are our first bird species in the reproductive calendar to nest and lay on average four eggs which will hatch sometime in February or March.

The plantation opposite Quinton Castle is a known nesting area. Tall trees are preferred; particularly Scots Pines if they are available and some woodland have been known Heronries for at least one hundred years.



Photograph is reproduced by permission of Dr Bob Brown and was taken by the late Lance J Turtle

Looking for a New Years Resolution that will keep you fit ! why not join the Cloughey Tennis Club?

Tennis is the best lifelong sport of all – it offers more health benefits and social, developmental, and competitive opportunities than any other activity. Now, at last, a tennis club is established in Cloughey.

You may have noticed on going work at the tennis courts at the Warren in Cloughey – unfortunately these Council works took almost 6 months instead of 6 weeks to complete and now we are well past the peak tennis playing season. However, the new courts are designed to be played on in all weathers and all-year round and that is exactly what the new Tennis Club intends to do.

The courts are international standard with a porous polymeric cushioned surface and floodlights to allow us to play in winter evenings.

Courts can be booked by anyone, and the Council will levy a charge of £6.60 per hour per court. If you intend to play regularly you should consider the benefits of joining the new tennis club, as members will be able to play free at all times, once they have paid their Club subscription. This will be a nominal sum up to March 2009 when a reasonable annual rate will be fixed by the Club.

The Club will hold playing and coaching sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings as well as Saturday afternoons (weather permitting). A good way to see if you like it would be to come along to one of these sessions. The Tennis Club welcomes players of all ages and all standards. We are a very friendly bunch and the emphasis is on enjoying our tennis and having fun while getting some exercise. For more details or to join up call in at the Pavilion (winter hours 10am to 2pm) or contact Club chairman Alistair Dunn (tel 427 71080) or email ha.dunn@btinternet.com

Christmas events 2008

Dec 08: Sleigh Ride through Europe in Portaferry: call Caroline Mageean for dates and details 427 29051

Tue 2nd Dec: CDCA presentation of funds to local schools

WE 1 Dec: Cloughey Christmas Lights switch on

Sat 6 Dec: Santa's Grotto, Lights switch on and Carol singing: Portaferry

6 & 7 Dec: Santa's Grotto, Mountstewart

10 Dec: Michael McIlmas Christmas Tour: Ards. Tel: 9182 6846 to book

12 Dec: Kircubbin Integrated Primary School: Christmas play (ticket only)

13 Dec: Christmas Fayre, 11am – 3pm, Cloughey Presbyterian Church: Cake stall, craft stalls, car wash, refreshments – Santa arrives at 1pm!

13 & 14 Dec: Santa at Exploris, Portaferry

17 Dec: St Patrick's, Ballygalget: School play (ticket only)

19 Dec: CDCA Santa visits Kirkistown Primary School

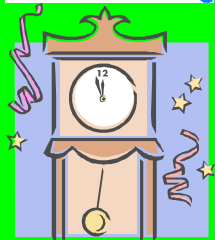
20 & 21 Dec: Green Santa's Gift, Castle Espie. Tel 9187 4146

27 Dec – 4 Jan: Seal Week at Exploris – something to do after Christmas

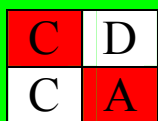
5 Feb: CDCA AGM – 7.30pm, Cloughey Pavilion all welcome



A HAPPY
NEW YEAR



**Cloughey &
District
Community
Association**



**Working for
a Safer
Community**

Postal Dates: Last posting dates for Christmas Cards and Presents are:

Airmail – 5th Dec, 2nd class – 18th Dec, 1st Class – 20th Dec, Special Delivery – 23rd Dec

Posting a letter to Santa? : Don't forget Santa is now collecting letters from the CDCA letterbox outside Watson's Centra.

Santa told CDCA "Its great having a local community post box. All the boys and girls can let me know what presents they would like to receive on Christmas morning. But I only deliver to children who have been good! I have been touring around these last few weeks to see if everyone is behaving. If you look very closely at the night sky sometimes you can see Rudolf's nose twinkling as I pass by! Be good, see you soon"

Church Notices – Christmas 2008

Cloughey Presbyterian

7 Dec	12 noon	Children's Christmas Tree Service
21 Dec	12 noon	Carol Service
25 Dec	10am	Family Service

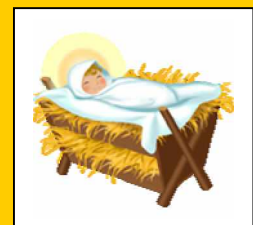


Portaferry Presbyterian

7 Dec	10.30am	Children's Christmas Tree Service
14 Dec	4.30pm	Inter Church Community Carol Service
21 Dec	10.30am	Carol Service
21 Dec	7.30pm	9 Lessons & Carols with the Newquay Singers

Ballyeasboro & Ardkeen, Church of Ireland

24 Dec	11pm	Holy Communion, at Ballyeasboro
25 Dec	9am	Holy Communion, at Ardkeen



St Patrick's, Ballygalget

24 Dec	9pm	Vigil Mass
25 Dec	10am	Christmas morning mass

St Joseph's Ballycranbeg

24 Dec	6.30pm	Nunsquarter
24 Dec	12 midnight	Midnight Mass: St Joseph's, Ballycranbeg
25 Dec	9am	Nunsquarter
25 Dec	11am	St Joseph's, Ballycranbeg

To contact any member of **Cloughey & District Community Association** please:

Email info@cloughey.org.uk; Post a message in the CDCA post box outside Watson's; drop into our meetings - held first Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in The Pavilion, Cloughey.

Note: the CDCA AGM is on 5th Feb 2009 at 7.30pm. If you have any projects, ideas or suggestions for 2009 or would like to join the Committee, please let us know. Thank you.