Ballymoney Evergreen Club

Activity report for the period 1/4/17 to 31/3/18

The Evergreen Club has a membership of 100 members. Attendance varies weekly from 66 to 73.

We had another active year with sessions of armchair aerobics, Scottish dancing, floral art demonstrations and cookery demonstrations, storytelling and reminiscence with Liz Weir and Karen. We had music sessions with David Galway, Conor Blaney, David Kane, and Ivan Kerr. We also had line dancing classes and practices for the singing group who entertained residents in local residential and nursing homes. We had talks from Gareth Dunlop on his visit to India with Christian Aid, Aoife McMaster on dementia support, Nicola from Fold Telecare. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Co Antrim and a friend also paid a visit to the Club.

The summer holiday went to Jesmond near Newcastle Northumberland from 19th to 24th June, and the Autumn trip to Waterford on Monday 16th October for three nights.

In November we were invited to the Dawali festival by the Asian Over 50’s Club. Twenty-nine members attended and had a very enjoyable evening. We held a flags workshop in the Lodge Hotel and also visited Corrymeela near Ballycastle. As usual we had ½ day trips to Magherafelt, Roe Valley, Limavady and Antrim. We had a full day trip to Cookstown and Omagh and also to the Apprentice Boy’s Museum and Long Tower Church in Londonderry.

Councillor Ian Stevenson organised a concert in the Town Hall with proceeds being donated to the Evergreen Club. WE had a film day in February when Mike and Roz showed ‘Singing in the Rain’.
In the New Year we had talks on various religions by Dr. Bob Curran, Keith Beattie, Ronnie Strong and Indu Jairath. We organized a full day craft workshop for members in the Lodge Hotel. Members sampled various crafts including glass painting, pebble painting, quilling, calligraphy, pottery and photography.

We held our usual dances and tea dances throughout the year. It has been a very stressful year for Isobel Fleming and Isobel Dunlop with the threatened closure of the Social Centre hall. Forty-six members attended the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council meeting on 25th March to hear the decision which was adjourned for up to three months.

We have developed all our activities through a structured programme to meet the objectives of our public benefit statement which included a focus on health and wellbeing, social welfare, education and physical activity. Some of our activities involved members from other similar groups, and the wider public.

The activities of the Ballymoney Evergreen Club continue to provide opportunities for community Integration and participation.

There is no harm resulting from any purpose. No connected person gains a private benefit which is more than incidental to carrying out the purposes.

Isabel Dunlop (Treasurer)

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