Kesh Evergreens Senior Citizens Club

Chairperson's Annual Report
September 2015 – August 2016

• The A.G.M. was held on Thursday, 17th September 2015 in the Community Centre, Kesh.

Before proceeding with the Election of Officers for the Year 2015 – 2016 a letter of resignation from the Secretary and Committee Member, Eunice Green, was read to the 41 Members present.

8 Committee Members were elected – Joan Bell, Irene Davis, Hazel Gilmore, Anne Keys, Mollie Linton, Anna Marshall, Louie Seaney and Margaret White.

Irene Davis was elected Chairperson.

2 independent Tellers, Catherine Scott and Neville Armstrong, conducted the Election.

• At the Committee Meeting on 6th October 2015 Joan Bell was elected Secretary; Mollie Linton Treasurer; Anna Marshall Assistant Secretary; Anne Keys Assistant Treasurer

Joan Bell later declined to serve as Secretary.

It was decided by Committee to co-opt Jill Harradence on to the Committee. Jill was unanimously elected Secretary.

Joan Bell was elected Assistant Chairperson

We have had a very busy and enjoyable social calendar throughout the year.

INVITATIONS TO:

• Irvinestown Trendsetters Autumn Party held in Mahon's Hotel, Irvinestown in October 2015.
• Lowtherstown Court Day Care, Irvinestown Variety Night at The Bawnacre, Irvinestown in February 2016

• Irvinestown Trendsetters St Patricks Day social afternoon with guest speaker – story teller Liz Weir – held in the Bawnacre, Irvinestown in March 2016

• Kilskeery S.C.C. Tea Dance held in the Kilskeery Parish Hall in November 2015.

• Royal British Legion Women's Section St Valentine's Tea Dance held in the R.B.L. Hall Enniskillen in February 2016

• Trillick S.C.C. Easter Party Tea Dance held in Mahons Hotel

• Lisbellaw Wednesday Club Tea Dance

• Members enjoyed the annual Devenish College Christmas Pantomime final dress rehearsal in December 2015

• A number of Members (some proud grandparents) enjoyed various Kesh Primary School Christmas Festivities in December 2015.

• 20 Members attended a very enjoyable Drama Performance “Driving Miss Maisey” in the Bawnacre, Irvinestown – organised by SWAP

EVERGREENS ORGANISED SOCIAL CALENDAR

• Our Luncheon Club continues to be popular. A Grant from Big Lottery Awards for All, meant our Members had lunch each Wednesday for 20 weeks in the winter months in the Mayfly Inn, Kesh.

• At our Christmas Dinner and Party held in the Mayfly Inn, Kesh, 62 Members and Guests enjoyed a lovely 3 course dinner and danced the night away to the music of “On My Own” Gordon Fitzpatrick.

The Event was sponsored by Big Lottery Awards for All.

A Gift Voucher and Floral Arrangement was presented to Mrs Eunice Green in appreciation and recognition of 5 years exemplary service as Secretary of Kesh Evergreens S.C.C.
• In January 36 Members went to the Pantomime “Dick Whittington” performance in the Ardhown Theatre, Enniskillen. We enjoyed a 2 course pre-theatre dinner in the Mayfly Inn, Kesh. Despite the inclement weather conditions we had a most enjoyable evening.

We are indebted to the Belfast Cathedral Sitout for a grant which helped with the costs.

• At our Annual Easter Party held in Ardess Parish Centre we were joined by Pettigo Day Care Group. Members displayed their Easter themed decorated wooden spoons – great efforts in imagination, ingenuity and artistic talent! Competition winners – judged by Suzanne Wilson - 1st Jill Harradence, 2nd Irene Davis and 3rd Anne Keys. This was followed by games - (Joan Bell, Hazel Gilmore); Quiz - (Mollie Linton) and a Sing-a-Long with Barbara Aiken.

Afternoon tea was organised by the Committee and other Members.

As with tradition, Annie Flynn provided a St. Patrick's Day Cake – much appreciated by all.

• 45 Members and guests joined our Summer Outing on a very interesting and informative tour of Belfast City Hall in May Members enjoyed some retail therapy in Sprucefield Shopping Centre and finished a great day out with dinner in the Viscount Restaurant, Dungannon. Partial cost of the Outing was sponsored by a grant from F.O.D.C. Community Services General Grant.

• At the Evergreens Annual Tea Dance in June we were host to 80 Members and guests from neighbouring S.C.C. for afternoon tea and dancing in Ardess Parish Centre.

Thank you to the Committee and our now familiar band of helpers for their hard work preparing and serving refreshments, selling raffle tickets and preparing the hall.

• During the “Maid of Lough Erne” Kesh Festival the Evergreens joined an afternoon sight-seeing cruise on Lough Erne on board the “Lady of the Lake” cruiser from Inishclare, Killadeas. The weather was kind!

• Kesh Evergreens participated in the Annual Kesh Festival Fancy Dress Parade on 13th August. 25 Members dressed appropriately for our theme - “Keep Young by Keeping Fit with the Evergreens” and the Festival theme “The Wild West” We were awarded 1st Prize in the Group Section.
• We concluded our year with a “Club Get Together” for all Members, particularly those who had been unable to join on many of our activities during the year, at the home of Joan Bell, on Thursday, 4th August 2016.

The Committee and other Members generously provided lovely refreshments and a most enjoyable time was had by all.

Thank you Joan and all our Members who helped and contributed to the occasion.

WE HAD A VARIED PROGRAMME OF EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

• Walks Programme for 4 weeks in September

• Walks Programme for 12 weeks commenced 6th April until 22nd June 2016. 10 to 20 Members took part each week.

A Grant from WHSCT “Walking for Health” paid mileage for car sharing to venues.

• Chair based exercises funded by FODC 'Active Communities Project' were popular. We had 7 weeks of 1 hour sessions starting September 2015 and 10 weeks of 1 hour sessions from January to March 2016. Members from neighbouring Senior Citizen Clubs also participated.

• In April 9 Members joined Ballinamallard Friday Club for a friendly game of Boccia.

In May Kesh Evergreens and 3 other Clubs took part in a Boccia Competition run by Ballinamallard Friday Club. From the Evergreens Mary Nash and Helen Simpson came 2nd. Both were new to Boccia. Well done!

• 12 Members participated in a 4 week Crafts Session taken by Joan Bell, assisted by Audrey Fraser (3 weeks) and Hilary Beacom. The craft sessions were sponsored with a grant from SWAP. Activities were varied and it was a most enjoyable event. Thank you ladies!

Our artistic efforts were displayed at the General Meeting in January 2016.
• Our Contributions to Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal was generously supported by Members. Thank you for your contributions to this worthy cause.

• Club fund raising “Cash for Clothes” was the continuation of the collection and sale of used clothing. Thank you to Ina McCloughry for the use of her garage for storage and to all Members for your continued response.

• 12 Members attended the local Pensioners Parliament in the Bawnacre, Irvinestown on February 26th 2016. Anne Keyes, Irene Davis, Philip and Margaret White represented Kesh Evergreens at the two day Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament in the Clayton Hotel, Belfast on 13th & 14th October 2016.

• Stepping–on Falls Prevention Programme took place in the Arc Healthy Living Centre, Irvinestown for 9 weeks on (1) 1st October 2015 and (2) 14th January 2016. 3 Members participated in the second programme.

• A 'Keeping Well Event for Older People' organised by SWAP and WHSCT Health Improvement Department displayed information and opportunity for discussion on eg Healthy Eating, Home Safety, Physical Activity in the Bawnacre, Irvinestown. It was well supported by Members.

• 8 Members supported a SWAP and Fermanagh/Omagh Inter agency Forum for Older People Workshop on Community Planning aimed at giving local people a say on the New Council's Community Planning Strategy. Members voiced concerns and ideas for improvements needed in our local community, eg upgrading the Community Centre, Kesh; traffic concerns in Kesh Village.

• FODC and FO Inter-agency Forum for Older People launch of their “Age Friendly Action Plan for Fermanagh & Omagh in the Lough Erne Resort in March 2016 – attended by Jill Harradence & Joan Bell.

• Commissioner for Older People N.I. (Eddie Lynch) launched his “Draft Priorities for Action” in the Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen on 31 August 2016. 6 Members attended.

• Fermanagh Community Transport Open Day in December 2015 – Jill Harradence & Irene Davis represented Kesh Evergreens.

• SWAP's AGM in Mahons Hotel, Irvinestown was held in June 2016 – Irene Davis & Anne Keys attended.

GUEST SPEAKERS

• Grace McCullagh, Pharmacist, gave a very informative talk on:- The Changing Role of the Pharmacist in the Community; Pharmacy Services; Managing your Medicines; Minor Ailments. Mollie Linton proposed the vote of thanks and wished Grace well in her new job in Craigavon Hospital. Following the talk Grace checked Member's blood pressure.

• Martina McGuinness, Fermanagh Community Transport, talked on:- FCT Voucher Scheme; Use of the Smart Pass on FCT services; Access to Services, eg transport to hospital appointments; Transport options in evenings and weekends. Irene Davis proposed the vote of thanks.

• Eva Baxter entertained Members at the February meeting with amusing, light hearted stories of people who lived near her home and memories of rural life from over 50 years ago which most of us could identify with. Poetry reading and song concluded a most enjoyable visit.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

• Sing-a-long with Barbara Aiken
• Fun & Games
• Musical Bingo
• Board Games
• Boccia / New age Kurling
• Quiz

FUNDING APPLICATIONS AWARDED 2015 – 2016

• August 2015 – Big Lottery Fund Awards for all - £3420
• October 2015 – SWAP Active Living Programme - £200
• December 2015 – DARD NI / FRCN Capital Grant Programme - £550.80 - Purchase of 6 Gopak Tables
• January 2016 – Belfast Cathedral Sit-Out - £400
• April 2016 n- FODC Community Services General Grant - £312
• April 2016 – WHSCT “Walking for Health Programme” - £150
GENERAL

• Several Members have suffered illness and hospital stay during the year. We wish you all continued good health.

• We extend our sincere condolences to the family circle of our Member Mary Neill who died September 2015 and to the family circle of our Member Noelle Sproule who died in July 2015.

• A number of our Members have had family bereavements during the year. We extend our sincere condolences to:-
  ○ Vera Nugent
  ○ Lily Smith
  ○ Joan Bell
  ○ Ina McClooughry
  ○ Stephen & Pat Hey
  ○ Anne Irvine
  ○ Sarah Hughes
  ○ Maud Irvine
  ○ John & Anna Marshall

• We extent a warm welcome to new Members:-
  ○ Mabel Armstrong
  ○ Kathleen Spence
  ○ Mary Nash
  ○ George Lothian

• In conclusion, a sincere thank you to the Committee:-
  ○ Joan Bell
  ○ Hazel Gilmore
  ○ Anne Keys
  ○ Anna Marshall
  ○ Louie Seaney
  ○ Margaret White
  ○ Jill Harradence – Secretary
  ○ Mollie Linton – Treasurer
  ○ and to all Members for your support throughout the year
This concludes my report for the year September 2015 – August 2016
Thank You

Irene Davis, Chairperson
IRENE DAVIS