

Edenderry News

FREE

Published by Edenderry Community Development Association

October 2012

Edenderry scarecrow competition

STOP PRESS

Edenderry Community Development Association are shocked that 'Goal Line Youth Reach Project' is under threat of closure. We fully support the efforts to prevent the loss of this vital venture.



Every year hundreds of people pass through Edenderry to visit the Country Comes To Town festival. This year Edenderry Community Development Association welcomed the visitors with a Scarecrow Guard of Honour on the Bann

Bridge. We invited other community groups, youth organisations, schools, church organisations and groups of friends to get together to enter a scarecrow into our free competition.

This event was judged by a panel led by the Mayor of

Craigavon Councillor Carla Lockhart along with Hamilton Brown (ASDA), Roy Brady (ECDA Chairman) and Bryan McLoughlin (Country Comes To Town). Craigavon Senior High School, Portadown Campus, took first prize of £50 and the new River Bann

Trophy donated by Van Scoy Jewellery. Second prize, £25, was won by 10 year old Samantha. Many thanks to all who took part and to Country Comes To Town for sponsoring the event. Start planning now for your entry in next years competition.

Inside this issue ...

XX

..... Page 2

XX

..... Page 3

XX

..... Page 4

XX

..... Page 5

XX

..... Page 6

XX

..... Page 7

Profile: Robert Ryans,

Name:

Robert Ryans

Job Title:

Asda Portadown General Store Manager

What does your job entail?

I work as the General Store Manager for Asda Portadown, which will open its doors to the public on November 19th. This is an incredibly busy time for all our new colleagues and we are hard at work preparing for our official launch. This means that now more than ever I have to be very hands-on and no two days are the same!

As part of my role I have also been responsible for coordinating the recruitment and training process and we have been busy selecting our new colleagues and taking them through our bespoke training programme so we are ready for opening day! We had 450 positions to fill and received 10,500 applications so it just goes to show that our standing as a company which is committed to our colleagues and the communities we serve has helped us to develop a strong and positive reputation and continues to help us attract the very best people.

Tell us about the Asda Portadown store.

The new Asda Portadown store is a purpose-built 45,000sq foot supermarket and represents an investment of £40 million. For the first time we will be bringing our full Asda offering to the Armagh area – including McGees Meat Counter, almost 700 car parking spaces, the must-have clothing brand George and Asda's petrol filling station – all at



Asda's everyday low prices. We will be opening our doors on November 19th at 10.00am and we have an action-packed day planned with entertainment and food sampling, face painting and balloon modelling and a special VIP guest to officially open the store.

How did you get into this line of work? / Outline your career to date

I have always had a genuine passion for retail and never imagined myself doing anything else. I began working in retail during school taking on various part-time jobs and I am still here 32 years on! My first role was as a porter at Wellworths and from there I worked in several managerial positions before being made General Store Manager at Asda Dundonald when Asda first came to Northern Ireland in 2005. This was a fantastic experience as I opened Northern Ireland's first 'Store of Learning' facility and 'Home Shopping' operation during my tenure. I am

now truly delighted to hold the position of General Store Manager for Asda Portadown and to be able to bring Asda's 'Famously Low Prices' to the people of the Armagh area. Tell us about your qualifications and training I studied business at Portadown Technical College before taking up a position with Wellworths as a Trainee Manager which gave me incredible hands-on experience across a variety of departments. Since then, my learning and development has really come from what I have learnt from others and my 'on the job' experience. When I joined Asda I was delighted with the fantastic support network that is in place for all colleagues. If you want the

opportunity to learn and progress then Asda will make it happen and this has really motivated me to succeed. I am hoping to instil this sense of ambition into all our colleagues at our new Portadown store and encourage them in whatever they wish to do.

What is the best advice you ever received?

Very simply – surround yourself with good people!

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I have a caravan in Newcastle that I go to when I need to escape for some nice long walks or a spot of golf! I am also a family man and enjoy spending quality time with my three children and my partner.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself.

I was born and raised in Portadown but left at age 16 to pursue a career

Asda General Manager

in retail. I count it as a great privilege to be able to come back to Portadown and open a store that will provide not only employment but a great service and price proposition for the people of my home town!

Who has inspired you most in your life?

I have always greatly admired Sir Bob Geldof for his tireless work in Africa. He has not only inspired others to raise millions for charity but he continues to remain so passionate about doing good and ensuring the money raised is spent in the right way. Here at Asda Portadown we will be doing our own work for local charities and the wider community through our 'Community Life' initiative. We have appointed two new Community Life Champions, Ruth Beggs and Elaine Livingston, who will be responsible for making Asda the heart of the local area and helping to make the community around our store a better place to live and work for our colleagues and customers.



WHAT'S ON IN EDENDERRY



Tuesday 2nd October 7.30pm

CARD MAKING AND CARD CRAFT – Tutor: Mrs Linda Walker

This has been one of our most successful courses. Linda is an excellent tutor who gives individual attention to her students. A total of six sessions will concentrate on hand-made Christmas cards and small gift boxes. Why not come along and make your very own personalised card for that someone special. The classes are £2 per evening plus £3 for materials and you'll go home with two beautiful unique cards. To register for one or more evening call or text 07769737297. (You don't need to enroll for all six classes)

Monday 8th October 7.30pm

CLICK and CHAT

Would you like enjoy some company in the dark autumn evenings? We've decided to start a group where ladies can meet together, knit, crochet, chat and enjoy one another's company over a nice cuppa. You don't need to know how to knit or crochet – we'll teach each other! Or if you just want to pop in for the company then you'll be made very welcome. There will be a small cost of £2 to cover the supper costs but that's it. You don't have to sign up for a course or even be able to come every week. This is a drop-in group of like-minded ladies who just want a bit of craic, chat, craft and good company. Come along to Edenderry Orange Hall Monday's 7.30pm and why not bring a friend.

Thursday 11th October 10.00 – 12.00am

ART CLASSES - Tutor: Mrs Anne Black

Our Art Classes start back on Thursday mornings with beginners and those who have some knowledge will be made most welcome. Last year's group of beginners completed works in oils and pastels. Our tutor is an extremely experienced artist with exemplary skills in her craft and in her teaching methods. One of the students from our last course, who had never tried any form of art before, really loved working in pastels and surprised herself at the hidden talents she didn't know she had. The classes are very relaxed and friendly so if you would like to take up a new pastime or improve your proficiency why not come along. To register or to get more information text or leave a message on 07769737297.

Thursday 1st November 7.30pm

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

The poppy is an instantly recognisable symbol of respect for those who've made the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts past and present. As the nation's custodian of Remembrance, the Royal British Legion is committed to helping everyone understand the importance of Remembrance, so those sacrifices are never forgotten.

In August this year the name of Lieutenant Neal Turkington's was added to Portadown's War Memorial, the first name to be added since 1945. It should have been the day of Neal's 29th birthday. Neal was killed when a renegade Afghan soldier

launched a rocket-propelled grenade attack on the 1st The Royal Gurkha Rifles base, in July 2010. The fourth annual Festival of Remembrance hosted by Portadown Branch of the Royal British Legion and Edenderry Community Development Association is an opportunity to come together in a night of remembrance to raise much needed funds for the Poppy Appeal. Tickets for the event go on sale on 11th October and can be obtained from any committee member, RBL Thomas Street, John Hoy Butchers, Eden Pharmacy and Partridge Chemist. The event will take place on Thursday 1st November at 7.30pm in Portadown Town Hall and the price, including program, has been held at £12.50.

Friday 30th November 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

It's always nice to receive gifts which are hand crafted with love, especially at Christmas time. There are so many talented crafters in County Armagh that we have invited some along to offer you exclusive unique gifts to buy for your friends this year. We hope to have something for everyone. Bring the children along too and they can visit our face painter. Also on offer will be tea, coffee, mulled wine (non-alcoholic so that you will still be able to drive home), shortbread and warm mince pies. You will be able to see a list of crafters on our website, www.edenderry.co.uk, in November.

Saturday 8th December

COACH TOUR TO ST ANNE'S CATHEDRAL AND BELFAST'S CONTINENTAL MARKETS.

Everyone loves a good day out and our coach tours have always been popular, enjoyable and great value for money. In December we are offering you a chance to have a guided tour of St Anne's Cathedral soaking up the true atmosphere of advent. Morning coffee will be served in the cathedral and their gift shop will be open for those who wish to purchase souvenirs.

The afternoon is your own to visit the famous Continental Markets. If you are looking for an

unusual Christmas gift then you are bound to find something among the great selection of gifts and crafts, including - leather handbags, purses and wallets from France, 'smellies' from Provence and natural carved wooden furniture, statues, figurines from Kenya. Or perhaps you would prefer St George's Market or the Victoria Square complex. On our way home we will stop at the Planters Tavern, Waringstown for an evening meal with time to relax and enjoy good company. The all inclusive cost for the day is just £25 and places can be booked by contacting us by email: mail@edenderry.co.uk, voice message or text: 07769737297 or via our Facebook page: Edenderry cda.

AND our regulars:

Fair Weather Walking Club meets every Monday and Wednesday 7pm – weather permitting!

The boys of JL0L42 meet on the 1st Monday of each month.

Deborah Anderson School of Irish Dance classes take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday's from 3.30pm

Edenderry Loyal Orders, LOL322, RBP80, WL0L101 meet on differing Wednesday evenings.

Caroline Robinson Ballet School classes take place on Thursday's from 2pm

The Belly Dance Group welcomes beginners every Thursday evening from 8pm

Cross Roads lively gospel meeting have inspirational guest speakers on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month.

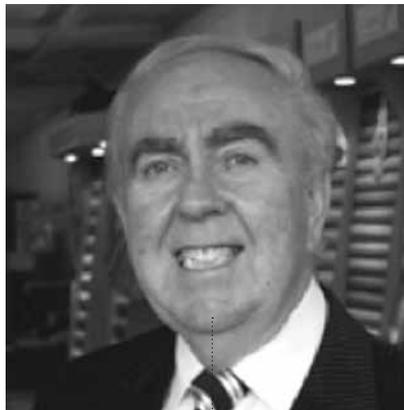
Edenderry Sunday School, affectionately known as Joe's Sunday School, meet on Sunday afternoons at 3pm.

Gordon Retires

When Gordon Speers opened his business in Edenderry a local lady called in to see him. She welcomed him with the words ‘You’ve brightened up Edenderry’, words that he remembers with affection and words that he never forgot. They mean as much to him now as then. The lady was the late Mrs Evelyn

Magee of Carrickblacker Road. And now as Gordon retires I’m sure we will all agree that he and his business have brightened Edenderry every since.

Can we take this opportunity to thank you Gordon for your investment in the life of Edenderry and can we wish you well for the future. Enjoy your retirement; after all, you’ve worked hard for it.



Old Photos of Edenderry

David McConnell got in touch with us at the end of May with some excellent photos of life in Edenderry in the 70’s. Below right is a photo of William, Mildred, David, Diane and Sylvia McConnell with Mrs Giny Glassey outside the old station masters house in

Watson Street. Below left is David McConnell on the steps of an old World War 2 bunker which was behind the old railway station.

David has also sent us some other photos and this has whetted our appetite for more snaps. Have you any photos you would like to share with us? Would you

be interested in attending an evening where we could share memories with photos of your childhood in Edenderry?

With Edenderry changing so much at the minute we would love to capture our historic past and have photographic records of how Edenderry

used to look. Do you remember the bonfire being in Edenderry Square? Do you have any photos of this? We would love to see them.

Contact us by email: mail@edenderry.co.uk or by leaving a message on 07769737297.



Mr Sam Poots



It was with great sadness that members attended the funeral service of Samuel (Sam) Poots, past Honorary Treasurer of Edenderry Business and Residents Association. Mr Poots began his married life in Edenderry where the family lived “above the shop” at the corner of Foundry Street before moving across the road to premises beside Bann House. After 33 years living in Edenderry the family moved to Killicomaine Road where Sam passed away after a long illness.

Mr Poots had a deep Christian faith worshipping in First Portadown (Edenderry) Presbyterian Church. This faith helped him through two personal tragedies in his life when his daughters Daphne and Rosemary passed away, times which must have been very hard to bear.

He was a great source of comfort to

more than 20,000 families during his 65-year career as an undertaker. Mr Poots was a very caring, compassionate gentleman with a natural sensitive manner.

He knew many families and their connections by name and always had time to share a kind word. His tranquil peaceful aura brought a quite calmness to a room.

Christmas is a particularly hard ‘first’ for bereaved families and Mr Poots organised special thanksgiving services where such families could share their experiences with others in the same position. These services have helped many folk shed tears at a time when others are happy and excited by the period of Advent.

We in Edenderry have lost a very dear friend. Our hearts go out to Mrs Poots and her family as we hold them in our prayers.

Portadown Cricket Club

The 2012 Season

Following a 2011 season of huge promise, 2012 was somewhat of a struggle for the town cricket club. On hearing that Chambers Park would be unavailable for the season, 1st and 2nd team captains Andrew Hammond and Manish Madhok had to look for alternative home venues on a weekly basis.

Despite this early distraction, the players stuck together with the focus on 1st team consolidation in Section 2, and the retention of the league title for the 2nd XI.

By the time the July monsoon season had finally ended, both teams still had more than half their games to play, and despite the 2nd XI having reached the semi final of the cup, and the 1st XI the second round of theirs, neither were in a good position in the league.

The season fizzled out for the reserves and instead of keeping hold of their trophy, they were relegated, but there was still hope for the seniors. Ten games in August and September did not go well for them however, and they too were relegated to Section 3.



It wasn't all doom and gloom however, as there were positive performances by many players throughout the year – Ikram scoring plenty of runs for the 2nd XI, and Brady topping the wickets table, while for the 1st XI, Edgar, Ali and Brown did well with the bat, and Hammond, Jose and Haire were consistent with ball.

The focus is now on next season, when the club will be based back at Chambers Park and will be hoping for some sunny weather. Player recruitment has already started, and the club will be looking to re-start their under -11, 13, and 15 boys teams. The AGM is in mid-October, and indoor net training will be commencing in early January as we look to work off the turkey and get back in shape for a successful 2013 season.

The Dickie Lunn Story:

In our previous issue of Edenderry News, June 2012, we published an article relating the footballing exploits of Dickie Lunn, the Irish International soccer player who worked in Portadown Foundry Limited for some years. We can now relate a further chapter of the Dickie Lunn Story involving his son John:

When a boy John Lunn lived with his mother and father in Seagoe Park, Portadown but spent a lot of happy times in Edenderry where he made many childhood friends including Cardwell McClure, who was also mad about football and no mean player. Upon getting married John and his wife Elizabeth emigrated to America and now live in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, USA, where he recently retired as a Chief Engineer for Rolls Royce Energy Systems Inc.

While holidaying in NI with his wife in March 2012, a friend of John's sent him a past copy of the Edenderry News and of course he read of local events with great interest. John then made contact with Cardwell McClure, leader of the Foundry book project and arranged to meet him and Dickie's good friend Bertie Wright, from Laurelvale who had been a fellow footballer.

The meeting with Cardwell took place on 12th



John Lunn (left) with his father's Ireland International Cap 1938-39 and great footballing friend Bertie Wright.

March 2012 in Portadown and neither had any difficulty recognising the other, even with the passing of so many years. They talked of their school days, of old friends, of football and of playing in the town dump that had been opposite Edenderry Orange Hall, behind the houses in what had been Guinea Row. John had vivid memories of throwing large can lids to see how far he could skim them. In fact many friendly battles took place in the dump with rival factions throwing lids at each other.

Cardwell and John then travelled to Laurelvale to visit his father's old friend Bertie Wright, who was of

course delighted to meet him. John and Bertie talked at length about Dickie's great footballing skills and exploits. John shared his father's international cap, awarded when he played for Ireland against Switzerland with Bertie and Cardwell. When he later played for Ireland against Poland the cap was embellished, as was customary at that time, instead of another cap being awarded.

John was in his element listening to the many stories Bertie recited about his father and his wife Elizabeth was also delighted to have met Bertie and listened to some new chapters of the football stories. John was

enthralled when Bertie told him he had played with his father for a junior team, Arsenal FC of Portadown, in the 1930s and was overawed when he heard that Bertie had played against one of the greatest English footballers of all time – Sir Stanley Matthews.

On parting Cardwell presented John with a copy of the Portadown Arsenal FC team photograph of 1937, that included his father Dickie, and a copy of the piece about him that will appear in the sporting chapter of the forthcoming Foundry history book.

Upon his return to the USA, John very kindly donated one of his father's Irish International jerseys to Edenderry Cultural and Historical Society whose intention is to have it framed and put on display for the public's enjoyment. Dickie Lunn was an exceptionally gifted footballer and the members of the Society, on behalf of the people of Edenderry and Portadown, are indebted to his son John and his family for placing into their care one of his International jerseys. We assure them that it will be treasured and we will make every effort to display it at as many venues as possible, throughout the island of Ireland.

(Article© by courtesy of Cardwell McClure and Wilson Steen.)

E.C.D.A. MEET IN EDENDERRY ORANGE HALL
www.edenderry.co.uk contact us: mail@edenderry.co.uk
 answer service: 07769 737297



If any local business would like to place an advertisement in our next newsletter please contact us via mail@edenderry.co.uk or answer service 07769 737297