

# Newsletter

## Welcome to our new monthly organisational newsletter!

We're excited to launch our brand new monthly Orchardville newsletter — a space to keep you connected, informed and inspired by everything happening across our community. Each edition will bring you the latest updates from our services in Lisburn, Belfast and Bangor, along with highlights from our sports activities and social clubs.

### News from across the organisation

We'll also share a range of opportunities, including employment, training and volunteering, helping you stay up to date with ways to get involved and grow. We look forward to sharing our stories, celebrating achievements and keeping you connected every month!

### News from Head Office

There's been lots of exciting changes at Orchardville HQ lately!

Our **Tap 2** group now have their very own bright and colourful space on the first floor — a big well done to the team who worked hard to get everything ready over the Easter break.

Meanwhile, our **Employment Team** have moved up to the second floor... and it's safe to say their new office is looking very impressive!

Huge credit to Louise and the team for creating such a fantastic new space.

### 30 Years!

**Lydia Lynas**, Director of Community Services celebrates **30 years** at Orchardville! Lydia said, "I'm very lucky to have a job that I really enjoy". We feel very lucky to have you too, Lydia!



### Countdown to Awards Day 2026

Our **Orchardville Awards Day** will take place on Monday 15th June at Titanic Belfast. Invitations have now been issued, so please be sure to respond promptly to secure your place.

This year's event promises to be a truly special and interactive celebration, with performances from our talented groups across Belfast, Lisburn and Bangor, alongside our certificate presentation and plenty of photo opportunities to capture the day.

We're also delighted to have the support of our sponsors, including Kingsbridge Foundation, Titanic Belfast, Revolution Productions, and Belfast Live as our official media partner — helping us make this year's Awards bigger and better than ever!

# Orchardville Lisburn

June  
2026

## Spring is in full swing for Lisburn!

Lisburn has been keeping very busy over the last few months, whether through volunteering in the community, hosting events, or exploring local history. One highlight was our visit to the Parliament Buildings at Stormont, where we enjoyed a guided tour of the historic building and had the opportunity to watch the Assembly in action as members debated legislation.

### Coffee Morning Success

Our Spring Coffee Morning was a resounding success, as we welcomed special guests Mayor Amanda Grehan, MLA Michelle Guy, and members of the wider Lisburn community. Guests enjoyed a selection of homemade traybakes and freshly baked scones, while being entertained by musical performances from our participants.

### Monthly highlights

- Men's Shed ICT Course completion
- Mindset training with Action Mental Health
- Next Steps trip to Stormont Parliament buildings
- Spring Coffee Morning

### Participant jokes / quotes

"Why did the belt get arrested? ... It held up a pair of trousers!"

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream" - C.S. Lewis



### Upcoming Events

**1<sup>st</sup> , 5<sup>th</sup> , 9<sup>th</sup> , 17<sup>th</sup> , 25<sup>th</sup> June** - Orchardville Olympics

**3rd June** - Orchardville's Different But Heard Podcast debut

**22nd June** - Trip to Seapark Hollywood

**6th June** - Orchardville Lisburn DFC football match

### Lisburn Social Club

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June** - 17:30 - 20:30

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June** - 12:30 - 15:30

# Orchardville Belfast



## What we've been up to

The Belfast Community Group has been keeping busy over the last few weeks – every day is a chance to learn something new! From drama and woodwork to independent cooking, there is always something going on.

Our Teamwork Challenge has recently begun and is already bringing out everyone's competitive side, while our History Group has been exploring some of Northern Ireland's most famous landmarks.

We're also delighted that our Thursday Group has started a learning disability-friendly tennis

programme with Better, which has been a fantastic success so far.

### Suitcases & Skies

Our Belfast Community group have just completed the biggest show in our drama career! It was located in the Ulster Hall, with an audience of 400!

Our show was all about empowering adults with learning disabilities and the journey it takes. Everyone who was involved done amazing and we are so proud off our guys at Orhcardville

### Monthly highlights

- Guided tour around Queen's University
- Tennis every week!
- St James' Community Farm
- Performing in the Ulster Hall infront of 400 people
- Makaton Choir!

### Participant jokes / quotes etc

**Sharon-Louise**- "I love dancing in Drama"

**Andrew S**- "Loves Tennis"

### Achievement of the month goes to:

**Chloe W** - For facing her fear and performing Infront of a big crowd!



### Updates for Learning Disability Week 2026:

**Monday 15th June** – Orchardville Annual Awards Day

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June** – Community BBQ at Lagan Village Community Centre

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June** – Olympic Sports Day

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June** – Arts day for participants at Orchardville

**Thursday Evening** – Social Club, 'Celebrating Us Party'

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June** – George Best Cup

### Reminders

- Suncream
- Money for travelling on the bus
- Suitable clothing

### Belfast Social Club:

Every Thursday evening from 6.30pm at Lagan Village Tower..

# Orchardville Works

June  
2026

## A Colourful Adventure at Orchardville Works

This month, we had an amazing time at our colour run! We donned our white t-shirts and headed to Ormeau Park, where we had a blast getting messy with vibrant colours. Afterward, we enjoyed a BBQ with all our friends, from all over Orchardville. It was a fantastic day filled with laughter and social gatherings!

### Fun in the sun

This month brings dry days and warm rays, making it the perfect excuse to step outside for walks, whip up some smoothies, and take a well-deserved break from our hard work.

### Monthly highlights

- **\*\*Orchardville Colour Run\*\***
- **\*\*Orchardville Sponsored Walk\*\***
- **\*\*Go Fly Your Kite\*\***
- **\*\*New Team Member\*\***: Peter has joined us.
- **\*\*Interviews\*\***: Andrew B. and Andrew H. participated in an interview with BBC Radio, airing on Sunday, May 31st, 2026.
- **\*\*Media Spotlight\*\***: Chloe and Rebecca conducted an interview with the Belfast Telegraph regarding their performance of *\*Suitcases and Skies\**.

**ICE POP ORIGINS FACT:** The beloved summertime treat (the ice pop) was accidentally invented in 1905 by an 11 year old boy named Frank Epperson who left a mixture of powswevs soda and water outside overnight.



### Updates / dates for diary

#### **Monday 15th June - Orchardville Awards Day Titanic Belfast**

**11:00 - 1:30pm**

*(Works will be closed this day)*

#### **Tuesday 16th June - Orchardville BBQ Lagan Village Community Centre**

**11:00 - 2pm**

*Celebrating Learning Disability Pride Week*

#### **Monday 22nd June - Go Fly your Kite Orchardville Works**

**11:30 - 1 pm**

#### **Friday 10th July - Bowling Dundonald Ice Bowl**

**10:00 - 2pm**

### Reminders

- **Dont forget your suncream.**
- **Always have a spare coat.**

# Orchardville Bangor

June  
2026

## Orchardville Bangor has been very busy in the community

Orchardville Bangor was invited to Loughrea's in Newtownards to do some fishing. When they arrived, they were welcomed with some tea and coffee, after this they had a brief talk about how to fish and how to stay safe while doing it, after this they went out to the lough to start fishing. Most of the people who took part were able to catch some fish, these were later released back into the water. Some notable catches were Darren Woods who caught a massive fish, as well as Conor Hasslett and Chloe Burns. After the fishing was finished, the team was treated to a lovely BBQ.

### Spring in full swing

On the 21<sup>st</sup> May, some of our groups went to Newtownards, as the King was making a visit to the square. Although we did not meet the King personally, we got to see him arrive and interact with the crowd. After the King had left, we sat and had lunch in the square and enjoyed the rest of the day.

### Monthly highlights

- Trips - Ulster folk and transport museum
- Gym
- Habitat ReStore
- Trip to ReSource cafe for filming

### Participant jokes & quotes

"May was very good, i really enjoyed the fishing trip" - Shelley McKee

"I really enjoyed going to Newtownards to see the King, i always go there with my Mum and it was nice to go with my friends" - Corey Annett

**Joke of the month** - three travelers find a bottle in the desert, they rub it and a genie pops out and offers three wishes, the first asks for ice cream, the second asks for a car door and the third asks for a menu. The genie asks why the man chose a car door, he replied "so i can roll the window down if i get too warm"

-Joke by Anika Johnston



### Social club dates Bangor:

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 10am-1pm  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 6pm-9pm  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 6pm-9pm

# Orchardville Photos



## Our favourite photos and moments across the month

