

Newsletter

More News on Live, Learn & Work

We're delighted to have received £426,405 from The National Lottery Community Fund to deliver an exciting new three-year project, Living, Learning & Working (LLW).

The project will support 400 people with learning disabilities to improve their overall wellbeing, become more independent in their communities and build positive relationships.

LLW will create opportunities for participants to connect with their communities through volunteering, maintaining part-time employment, structured learning hubs and supportive social activities. The project will also provide employment support to people who are not eligible for existing employment programmes.

New Three-Year Project to Support 400 People

The project will be delivered by Employment Manager Amanda Boyle, Catherine Paden and Marty Watts, who will work with participants to create new opportunities, build connections and develop confidence and independence.

We're excited to see the positive impact LLW will have and to support more people to feel confident, included and valued within their communities.



Lois McNeill at work placement in Refresh Cafe



Claire O'Neill volunteering at Balmoral Show with Volunteer Now

Orchardville Lisburn

Sept
2026

Ending Summer with a Bang

Lisburn made the most of the last month of Summer by getting out and about as much as we can!

We kicked the month off with a group trip to the Ulster Folk Museum in Cultra. The following week we walked 2.5 miles return trip to Duncan's Park in Lisburn followed by a group trip to the Nando's Fun Day in Spruce Meadows.

When we weren't out on our travels the group kicked off their employability training course on Thursdays whilst the Men's Shed travelled to the Ozaman Men's Shed in Lurgan to help clean up their unit along with making wooden bird boxes. .

We ended the month of August with a day out to Moira Lakes where we attended a session ran by Learning in Harmony with Donkeys.

Monthly highlights

- Employability Training begins
- Men's Shed links with Ozaman Men's Shed
- Learning in Harmony with donkeys session

Participant jokes / quotes

What do you call a dog that solves mysteries underwater?

.... Scuba Doo

"The best way to predict the future is to create it"

Upcoming Events

- Trip to Seapark Holywood - 8th September
- Orchardville Inclusion Cup - 11th September
- Walking Club visits Hillsborough Castle - 14th September

Lisburn Social Club

- Saturday 12th September
- Friday 2nd October
- Saturday 17th October
- Friday 30th October
- Friday 13th November
- Saturday 28th November



Orchardville Belfast

Sept
2026

What we've been up to

Drama

We are busy rehearsing our production of Beauty and the Beast. Everyone is enjoying learning their lines, practising their acting, and working together to put on a great show.

Woodwork & Keep Fit

We have been getting creative in our woodwork sessions and have been keeping active with Barbara from the Health Improvement team. Everyone has been doing brilliantly at the Boccia & Curling!

Barista OCN Training

We have started our Barista OCN training, where we are learning how to make delicious hot drinks and provide great customer service. We hope to put our new skills into practice by hosting a coffee morning for everyone to enjoy!

World Around Us

In our World Around Us sessions, we have been learning all about Northern Ireland. We've discovered interesting facts about its history, culture, landmarks, and traditions.

Pre Season Preparations:

The Orchardville Belfast DFC Football team took part in their first pre season matches of the season.

Monthly highlights

Community Gym:

- We have been taking part in two sessions a week with community gym. Activities include boxing, jiu jitsu & healthy eating.
- We have linked in with the **Cedar Foundation** in relation to our Barista training. More coffees are coming!
- Participants have been taking part in an ICT OCN, putting their digital skills to the test.
- We attended **Cedar in the Park**, which involved listening to live music, carnival stalls and arts/crafts.

Achievement of the month goes to:

Brian Rogan for winning player of the tournament in division 2. Disability Football.



Orchardville DFC Belfast: Training 2-3PM

Every Thursday at LORAG

Orchardville DFC have now appointed Matthew as their new manager for the upcoming season. We are currently looking for players who have a desire to play within a social and fun environment.

Belfast Social Club:

Every Thursday evening from 6.30pm at Lagan Village Tower.



A Month to Remember!

What a fantastic month we've had! We've been busy, hardworking and, most importantly, getting creative.

One of our highlights was creating a masterpiece made from feathers. Together, we created a huge set of wings, with every single feather and wing being unique just like us! We had so much fun experimenting with different materials, colours, textures and ideas to bring our creation to life.

But this project reminded us of something much bigger, we are all different, and that's what makes us special. Sometimes there are things we may not be able to do on our own, but when we work together, support each other and build one another up, we can create something truly spectacular.

We also had a brilliant day out at Cedar in the Park, supporting the Cedar Foundation and their fundraising run. There was something for everyone, including knockout competitions, music, dancing, arts and crafts, and plenty of LEGO building! It was a fantastic day filled with fun, laughter and great memories with everyone from Belfast.

Of course, while having fun is important, we also know that we're here to work and when it was time to get our heads down, we certainly did!

We successfully completed 5,000 Oxfam bags in just five days. This involved packing, folding, counting and carefully checking our work to make sure our product control was on point and that every customer received a quality product. That's a fantastic achievement and something we should all be proud of.

We've also been busy packing fuses for Capital, designing our very own cards and getting creative with resin as we learn new techniques and develop exciting designs for Christmas.

From feathers to fundraising, LEGO to resin, and 5,000 bags in just four days, it's been a month full of creativity, teamwork, achievement and plenty of fun. Here's to another fantastic month ahead and to everything we can achieve when we work together!

Sew far, Sew good

This month, we brought out the thread and needles and decided to give sewing a go!

We were lucky enough to meet Ciaran, who volunteered her time to help us get started. We quickly became friends, and Ciaran made the session fun, relaxed, and welcoming from the very beginning. Ciaran showed us how to get started and taught us what sounds to listen out for, the little **"pop"** and **"swoosh"** of the thread as we worked. She also shared lots of wonderful stories with us, giving everyone the chance to get to know each other a little better.

We did amazingly well and really enjoyed the experience. Sewing gave us a lovely opportunity to slow down, listen to music, have a chat, and simply relax while creating something together. It was a great moment to switch off, focus, and enjoy each other's company.

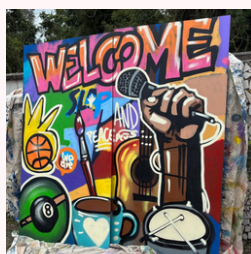
A huge thank you to Ciaran for spending time with us, sharing her skills, stories, and laughter. We're already looking forward to seeing her again and continuing our sewing journey together! 💕🧵



Orchardville Bangor

Sept
2026

Our SLAP group had a busy and enjoyable few weeks, taking part in a range of different physical activities before working together on a creative mural project. Everyone had the opportunity to share their own ideas and contribute to the design, ensuring that the mural reflected the group's creativity and personalities. Participants then got involved in spray painting the mural and bringing their ideas to life, making it a fantastic example of teamwork, creativity and inclusion.



Our participants have been going weekly to Bangor Sportsplex to use a variety of accessible bikes. They were recently joined by the newly elected Mayor of Ards and North Down. The Mayor got involved and joined participants for a cycle, making it a really fun experience for the group. It was a great opportunity to show the types of activities our participants are doing out in the community.

A group of our participants from our Orchardville Band had a fantastic time attending the Fleadh in Belfast, where they enjoyed experiencing the lively atmosphere, music and culture.



We had a lovely day in Ards Blair Mayne Leisure Centre with Michael from Sport Changes Life. Our participants learnt how to play handball, archery and bocchia. Getting public transport allowed everyone to work on their independent travelling skills. Everyone had lots of fun and exercise!



Special Shoutout to Alex who completed this fantastic needle work embroidery. It took 3 months to complete and we are very proud and impressed with his achievement.



Our Community Outings and Walk for Wellness groups have been very busy! They have visited the Ark Farm, Crawfordsburn Country Park and Islandhill. These trips have been great for promoting independence, physical activity and social interactions within the community.

Words from our Participants...

I really enjoyed the SLAP group and spray painting the mural. - Cameron

I've enjoyed gardening and doing the car wash. - Darren

Reminders

- Social club dates Bangor:
- Saturday 5th September 10am-1pm
- Friday 11th September 6pm-9pm

Orchardville Photos



Our favourite photos and moments across the month

