ISSUE #3

Connecting Glencairn

May 2026

Hello everyone, It's been a busy and exciting few months across Glencairn, with community projects growing, new faces getting involved, and plenty of positive momentum.

As always, thank you to every resident, volunteer, partner, and supporter who keeps our wee estate moving forward. Your time, energy, and heart make all the difference.

Please get in touch if you have any queries, need support or have a suggestion to share.

GLENCAIRN COMMUNITY HUB … THE STORY SO FAR……

The planning process for our new Community Hub is now officially underway. Funding for the build has been fully secured, the drawings are complete, and our architects have been appointed. The Glencairn Community Project actively sought support from the Minister for Communities, Mr Lyons, who attended the Place Shaping launch and committed the additional funding needed to make the hub possible. We're now finalising a few remaining negotiations with NI Water, and once that's resolved, we expect things to move forward quickly. Our hope is to see building work begin before the end of the year — exciting times ahead for Glencairn!

Work continues behind the scenes to strengthen our community hub plans. We're focusing on:

- **Securing a name**
- **Building partnerships**
- **Expanding programmes**
- **Creating a welcoming space for all ages**



We will keep you updated as things progress.

Glencairn Neighbourhood Association has continued to grow month after month, with more residents getting involved and bringing fresh energy into the group. The increase in participants has made a real difference — from helping at events to rolling up their sleeves during clean-ups and supporting community activities. Their enthusiasm, commitment, and willingness to pitch in are genuinely appreciated by us all. This growing team spirit is strengthening Glencairn in all the right ways, and we're excited to see the group continue to flourish.

Meetings are held in Harmony School on the first **Tuesday of every month at 6.30pm**.

Everyone is welcome — whether you want to share your thoughts, bring new ideas, raise concerns, or simply have a good nosey at what's going on.
Just come along… and maybe even get involved in something while you're there!

A special shout-out to Mr. Todd for all his help when we use the school — your support makes our meetings run smoothly, and we're truly grateful.

WHATS BEEN GOING ON.....

Community Clean-Up

Our latest clean-up mission took on the Spar Steps on Saturday 11th April, and judging by the Facebook comments, the community is buzzing about how good it looks now! We had a brilliant turnout, great craic, and most importantly a mountain of rubbish collected for the council. Not bad for a day's work!

A special thank-you goes to the volunteers from outside the estate who answered our call for help with a resident's garden. Your kindness and willingness to jump in made a real difference.







SHE-I-Y & The Tool Library

Our SHE-I-Y DIY for Women programme continues to go from strength to strength, with participants growing in confidence every week as they learn new skills and get hands-on with tools they once thought were "off limits." The energy in the workshop has been brilliant — and the results even better!

We're also delighted to be working closely with the Shankill Tool Library, giving local residents access to tools, equipment, and practical support without the cost of buying everything themselves. It's a fantastic resource that's helping people take on home projects, learn new skills, and feel empowered to give things a go.

Together, SHE-I-Y and the Tool Library are opening doors, building confidence, and giving our community the tools — literally — to do more for themselves. Our ladies will be making planters and stools so watch out for these at an alleyway near you!

Below the Radar – May Clean-Up Event Wednesday 20th May

Glencairn was chosen from a large pool of applicants as part of a UK-wide 12-part BBC series, presented by Stacey Dooley and will feature on BBC national television. It is a wonderful opportunity to highlight our area, our community spirit, and the positive change we're driving.

The Forth Bridge site has been burdened for years with fly-tipping everything from trolleys to fridges. As a community, we have a chance to take back this space and restore the natural beauty that has been overshadowed for too long.

Support from Shankill Alternatives, Impact Training, Harmony School, Belfast Hills, National Trust, McDonalds Ballygomartin and most importantly the residents of Glencairn and the kids who were knee deep in all sorts! Your effort is truly amazing.

A heartfelt thank-you to Vice Chair Jennifer Cole, whose dedication was central to being selected through this competitive application process. Jennifer created a short recording explaining why our community should be chosen. In the middle of all this, her daughter slipped down the bank and fractured her wrist! . Her commitment truly reflects the spirit of Glencairn and her dedication to building a better Glencairn.

GLENCAIRN YOUTH CLUB

It’s officially been one year since we moved from the flats to our new home at St Andrews and rebranded as Glencairn Youth Club. Over the past year we have welcomed a huge increase in young people from across Glencairn and the greater Shankill area, while creating new opportunities including residential experiences, sensory hour sessions, and group work programmes. A huge thank you to our young people, community members, and incredible staff team for making it all possible.











BELFAST CITY MISSION

Quite recently Thomas Stewart was installed as the new Missionary for the Glencairn estate and is seeking to build upon the good work done by his predecessors Derek McCreight and George Lunn. Thomas grew up in the Glencairn estate and it is a community he knows well and has very fond memories of. Thomas has been delighted to renew acquaintances already with many people he has known from the past in the estate and he has been able to make connections and build new relationships with many others. Thomas is also looking forward to forming many more new relationships and to serving the people of the estate in the love and goodness of Jesus.

Connect Café, established last year by Derek McCreight, continues to be a great success. Open every Thursday from 10am–4.30pm, it offers a warm place to enjoy refreshments, snacks and good company. Everything is free of charge, with the café supported solely by kind, voluntary donations towards the work of BCM. If you haven’t visited yet, you’d be very welcome to drop in and join us.

Our summer programme at Glencairn BCM will again include a soccer school and a dance workshop. Full details will be shared through flyers and on our Facebook page.
Finally, if you haven’t joined us for our Sunday evening Gospel meetings at 6pm in the BCM hall, we’d love to see you there as we reflect each week on the great hope Jesus offers to us all.

HARMONY FAMILY HUB

Julie has been working closely with Lifehub NI to make sure our community has access to the food supplies they need. Please feel free to lift something for yourself, your family, or a neighbour who could use it. This service is open to everyone in the estate, and we encourage you to make use of it. And don’t forget to bring a shopping bag!

The 2026 Blackboard Awards recognized around 40 outstanding teachers, classroom assistants, and principals at a gala ceremony in the Europa Hotel in Belfast on January 30, 2026. The prestigious annual event honors educators who go above and beyond for their pupils and of course our Julie was a winner. Well done Julie, its safe to say your very appreciated in Glencairn.

Tea at the Palace……

We're pleased to share that Jennifer and Sonia from the Glencairn Community Project were invited to attend the King's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace this May. It was a real privilege to be invited to such a prestigious event, and a lovely opportunity to represent GCP and the wider Glencairn community.









GCP Nominated for Pride of Place Awards 2026

We are delighted to share that GCP has been officially nominated for the 2026 Pride of Place Awards. This prestigious all-island celebration of community spirit will take place on 24th October 2026 in Dublin.

The Pride of Place Awards, delivered by IPB Insurance in partnership with Co-operation Ireland, honour the incredible work of community groups, volunteers, and local organisations who go above and beyond to make their areas better places to live. The awards shine a light on projects that strengthen civic pride, promote inclusion, and enhance wellbeing, social connection, and quality of life in towns, villages, and neighbourhoods across Ireland.

"This nomination is a real tribute to the dedication of our volunteers and the spirit of Glencairn."

SAVE THE DATE

PUBLIC MEETING

AGM 30th JUNE 6.30 PM

ST ANDREWS

11TH JULY COMMUNITY FUN DAY

GCP are proud to work in partnership with Glencairn Way Bonfire to bring you this year's Kids' Party on 11th July, running from 3.30pm to 6.30pm. Expect a brilliant afternoon packed with bouncy castles, face painting, party bags, music and plenty more to keep the wee ones smiling.
After the party wraps up, the Kids' Bonfire will be lit at 7pm, giving everyone time to get settled and enjoy the evening together.

ALLEYWAY TRANSFORMATIONS

Thanks to everyone who took part in our recent estate clean-ups — your hard work has paid off. Belfast City Council has now opened funding for alleyway transformation projects. Watch this space! We are coming to an alley way near you!!!!

ENVIRONMENTAL

Working in partnership with National Trust and Belfast Hills will help us add colour, biodiversity, and long-term natural beauty to our estate as we continue improving our shared spaces together.

Blossom Festival: Monday 25th May – Glencairn Park 11am - 2pm come along and be part of it!

Belfast Hills Partnership Ecological Habitat Project in Glencairn Park:
Tuesday 26th May at 6.30, St. Andrew's Hall

Follow our Facebook page for news, updates and everything happening in the estate.

email: glencairncommunityproject@gmail.com