



Donaghadee Summer Festival 2025 – Get Involved!

It's the highlight of our town's calendar and the thriving annual Donaghadee Summer Festival brings together residents, visitors and local organisations to create a fantastic programme of events.

Right now the Donaghadee Community Development Association is in full swing co-ordinating the festivities, preparing for another summer season of activities for everyone to enjoy.

Last year's festival was a huge success, with 31 organisations delivering 56 unique events, many of which ran multiple times, resulting in an impressive 107 events over 85 days. From intimate gatherings to large-scale spectacles attracting thousands of people, the festival truly continues to offer something for everyone.

The total cost of running the festival was almost £27,000 in 2024, with private sponsorship contributing nearly £3,000 – a testament to the fantastic support from local businesses and individuals.



Get involved, scan the QR code



Why the Summer Festival Matters

- The festival delivers significant benefits to Donaghadee, including:
- Boosting trade by attracting visitors and increasing footfall in the town.
 - Fostering heartfelt community spirit and civic pride through shared celebrations.
 - Providing a platform for local organisations to showcase their activities and build their capacity.



You're Invited!

We're now inviting individuals and organisations to submit event proposals for inclusion in our 2025 festival programme. If you would like to organise an event in July or August, please send details to info@visitdonaghadee.com ASAP, and no later than 12 noon on May 31.

Event sponsors can have their support acknowledged and publicised in the programme and in the local weekly news media. If you would like to sponsor an event, please contact John Caldwell on 07762 076 987.

To make the festival experience a real success, the summer programme requires the help and support of vital volunteers. Volunteers are needed to assist with stewarding and in setting up and taking down equipment. No-one is expected to be at every event and participation could be as little as helping for an hour or so at a single event. If you would like to help, please email info@visitdonaghadee.com or call John Caldwell 07762076987

Let's make Summer 2025 one to remember!

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Ulster Property Sales is excited to announce the upcoming opening of our new, larger office in Donaghadee! Watch this space for more details on the location, which will be confirmed soon. As we continue to grow, we'd like to thank all the local residents for their continued support!



Donaghadee Dispatch

Essential Community News and Updates

April 2025

We are delighted to launch Donaghadee's newest initiative, your dedicated newsletter, designed to help keep everyone informed, inspired and connected at the very heart of our vibrant town.

We will have updates on local events, community projects, ideas and plans plus features celebrating our people, history and the vibe that makes Donaghadee so special.

And whether you're a lifelong resident or have more recently arrived, we want to hear from you to help the Donaghadee Dispatch newsletter reflect the energy and spirit of our town, while keeping everyone in touch.

Here's to celebrating everything that makes Donaghadee a great place to live - including YOU!



Denis Waterworth

Chair, Donaghadee Community Development Association



Dates For Your Diary!

See www.visitdonaghadee.com and our social media for details nearer the time.

VE DAY - Victory in Europe was secured on 8th May 1945 and to commemorate this, a parade and short service at the War Memorial on Sunday, May 11 have been proposed. They will be followed by a family-friendly programme of entertainment.

QUIZ - It is hoped to run a fund raising quiz in aid of In Bloom on Friday 25th April

CONCERT - In another In Bloom Fundraising activity, the highly acclaimed Belfast Operatic will be performing well known songs from shows and musicals in the Golf Club on the evening of Saturday 17th May



Ards and North Down
Borough Council

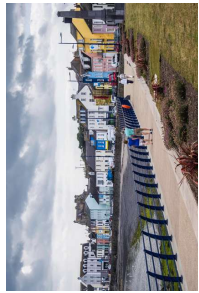
DONAGHADEE
THE BEACON ON THE COAST

Donaghadee – A Great Place to Live

From the 12th century to 2025, Donaghadee has survived and thrived and today is one of Northern Ireland's fastest growing towns with around 8,000 residents. At its heart lies a strong sense of self, a loyal and supportive community creating a quality local environment.

Forty years ago we were a community of around 4,000 residents and we are now firmly on the map as one of the best places to live and to work in Northern Ireland, as listed in the Sunday Times 2023.

The recognition of our drive and commitment to enhance and protect our surroundings led to Donaghadee winning Ulster in Bloom (Town Category) for the past four years, and secured a gold medal constantly striving for genuine and valued recognition of our sense of community.



Car Parking in Donaghadee

We would like to thank everyone who attended our public meeting held in January, to discuss the issues around car parking in the town centre. The meeting attracted an attendance of more than 100 people. As a result: -

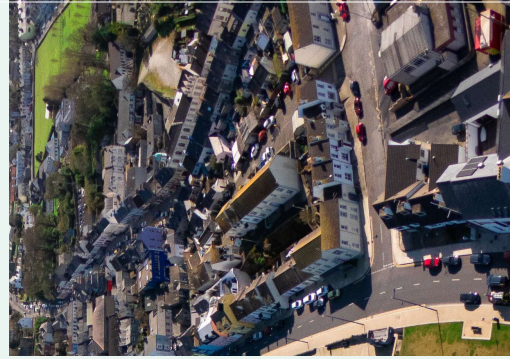
- Roads Service and Council officials present, are now fully aware of the issues and the extent to which they adversely impact local trade.
- We expect to see much improved signage of existing car parks and upgrading and improved layout work carried out to make more efficient use of our existing car parks.

Our Ten Key Environmental Projects for 2025



Hightrees Crossroads – Our busiest access point to Donaghadee, we aim to create a welcoming and vibrant display supported by the Rotary Club and DCDA with the theme of Health and wellbeing.

Town Centre Hanging Baskets We not only like to feel good, but look good too and we invite local traders to host hanging baskets outside their premises. A small, dedicated team of volunteers including school children, green fingered gardeners and community groups, helps with the essential summer-long watering and maintenance of the colourful baskets.



Seaford Floral Displays Disused boats and traditional containers will be planted by individuals, traders, and community groups, with plants provided.

Window Boxes Pupils from Killard School will plant window boxes to be distributed to town centre properties.

Recycling Awareness Harry Wilson, our recycling champion, has created a fabulous large-scale model of the Battle of Britain Spitfire made almost entirely from recycled material with the help of his 16-year-old grandson, Bret. The art installation is set within a floral bed designed to resemble the RAF roundel. It looks fantastic and is located right beside the War Memorial on the grass area.

Historic Hunter's Lane DCDA is working closely with local residents and the Historical Society to create a summer-long floral display, interspersed with interpretive panels highlighting Donaghadee's role in WWII. These will include the touching stories of some of our young local men of the 23 Forces who lost their lives. We remember them.

Active Travel Response

DCDA responded to consultation by the Department of Infrastructure to their plan to create a priority route for a cycle lane from the Killaughy Road along Northfield and down Church Lane to High Street. We have signalled our concern about the narrowness of the roads in trying to accommodate cycle lanes. We have suggested that DfI should look at the recent new housing developments using the Cannycreeg Link Road or along the Commons with the possibility of safe cycling being introduced.



Crommelin Wood We have incredible natural historic resources in Donaghadee with plans to revive the old woods with new planting and the wetland area near the sports pitches to the rear of Moat Street. DCDA has engaged with Ulster Wildlife to gather professional advice on how to convert the overgrown mill pond into a natural home for wildlife to live and thrive.

Hunt's Park Our beautiful orchard was planted last year and continues to be tended by volunteers. This is a tranquil, rural setting for accessible walks especially around the old water tower with paths newly tended by the Council. A place to treasure.



The Burn Sensory Walk The Burn is the overgrown walkway stretching from the corner of the Parish graveyard on Church Place to Copeland Fold and the parish hall. So in partnership with Killard School, Clifton Special School and the Council, we are drawing up plans to restore the pathway and create a sensory walk where visitors can experience the senses of sight, touch, taste, smell and sound.

Community Garden After much hard work, and on their own initiative a team of enthusiastic volunteers has transformed the unused ground between East Street and The Moat landmark into a beautiful community garden. Great work!

These projects are heavily reliant on volunteers who can assist with planting, maintenance and watering. These activities take place at different times throughout the year and we understand that volunteers may not always be available so there is no requirement for a 100% attendance. If you would like to volunteer, please email info@visitdonaghadee.com indicating any specific interests.

Introducing Creative Donaghadee: A New Hub for Local Creativity

Creative Donaghadee is a new initiative from the Donaghadee Community Development Association (DCDA), dedicated to celebrating and strengthening everyday creativity in our town. Their mission is to make Donaghadee a vibrant cultural space where local creatives can connect, collaborate, and thrive. Over the next 12 months, the group will be engaging with individuals and community groups to map out what's already happening, gather ideas for future events, and develop a regular programme of creative activities. Whether you're an artist, maker, performer, or simply someone with a passion for creativity, they'd love to hear from you. Get in touch at creativedonaghadee@gmail.com