



DONAGHADEE
THE BULWARK OF THE COAST

Donaghadee's Bloomin' Marvellous!



**A guide to the town in
summer 2022**

Previous Awards

1995

Winner of Ulster in Bloom (Small Town Category)

2019

Winner of Tidy Town (Small Town Category)

2021

Winner of Ulster in Bloom (Small Town Category)

Welcome to Donaghadee

I am delighted to welcome you to Donaghadee and help launch the Bloomin' Marvellous campaign for 2022. Also, to support the hard work being carried out by Donaghadee Community Development Association, as they continue to make the town a wonderful place to live, work and visit.

Donaghadee has been a real beacon of success in recent years and worthy winners of the Ulster In Bloom Small Town category in 2021. Central to this success is the collaborative working between schools, businesses and the community. I wish them every success for the Ulster In Bloom 2022 competition.

I hope you enjoy your visit to this beautiful seaside town and we look forward to seeing you again.

Councillor Karen Douglas
Mayor of Ards and North Down



Introduction

Donaghadee Community Development Association (DCDA) is a recognised charity which seeks to make Donaghadee a better place in which to live, work or visit. Composed entirely of volunteers, DCDA organises events, undertakes projects of community benefit and lobbies local and central government for improvements to the town.

A key priority of the Association is protecting and enhancing the local environment, not only giving residents a sense of civic pride but also attracting visitors. To this end it has engaged in a variety of activities such as floral displays; planting and maintenance of trees; initiated projects with the four schools and encouraged widespread community involvement. We consider our whole town as our showcase. Whether you explore the streets; admire our displays and the natural beauty of the wildflower beds and areas or just sit and drink in the view, we trust you will find some detail to admire and savour. You can spend an hour or an afternoon enjoying Donaghadee in Bloom, and leave and return home refreshed and uplifted.

All this would not be possible without the active support of Ards and North Down Borough Council, local traders, local clubs, churches, schools and residents. We are immensely grateful to everyone for their support.

Karen Looney & Denis Waterworth
DCDA In-Bloom Co-ordinators

Our town

Donaghadee is located at Northern Ireland's closest point to Scotland and on most days the Scottish coast is visible to the naked eye.

It is steeped in history and is largely a product of the plantation of Ulster.

Around 300 years ago, Donaghadee was one of the busiest ports in Ireland, carrying imports, exports and passengers to and from Portpatrick in



Scotland, less than 30 miles away. The current architecture reflects the occasional medieval and Jacobean remnants, with a core of late Georgian buildings and predominance of late Victorian and Edwardian buildings. A Townscape Heritage Initiative, valued in excess of £1m and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Ards and North Down Borough Council and other bodies has recently been completed and will help ensure that these buildings will be here for generations to come.

The town's shorefront and iconic harbour offer fantastic opportunities for a quiet stroll or to capture that special moment in a photograph.

Entrances to the town

As the saying goes, you never get a second chance to make a first impression and we have therefore begun the process of having welcoming displays at the entrances to the town. Being the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we were thrilled when a local craftsman produced a series of floral crowns made entirely from recycled materials and complete with "jewels" which light up at night. There are 4 such crowns placed at various entry points to the town and on the shorefront.



We continue to enjoy support from the Rotary Club of Donaghadee across many of our programmes and particularly with our In Bloom activities. The Club has "adopted" the displays at the Hightrees crossroads, engaging in planting activity throughout the year which serves to provide a positive welcome to everyone entering the town and lifting a very busy intersection.



Window Boxes



The Association purchased 200 window boxes and arranged for them to be planted up by pupils from Killard School. Once the boxes were filled, staff from Wild Thing distributed

them round town centre properties with suitable window ledges.

Aside from bringing some colour to our streets this project has been highly successful for the schools and its pupils all of whom have special needs.

Not only has the school made a positive contribution to the local community but the project has also represented a real learning opportunity



for the pupils. We are greatly indebted to the staff and pupils for their support in this initiative.

Hanging baskets



Each trader in the town centre is invited to pay for the filling and maintenance of one or more hanging baskets. In total this year we have 70 hanging baskets in the town centre. The baskets

are planted by our local garden centres and florists.

Shorefront Containers

The Association invited individuals and organisations to take responsibility for the planting and ownership of the Council owned containers on the shorefront. The



response was terrific and all opportunities were quickly snapped up. Each bed bears a little sign indicating who has been responsible for the planting and maintenance. Alongside the Council-owned containers are barrels donated and adapted by The Copeland Distillery and these are also being maintained by groups in the local community.

Shorefront Maritime Displays

A total of four boats have been placed at locations on the shorefront and planted out in eye-catching displays.

These boats have been planted and maintained by:-

Donaghadee Primary School – a boat on the green at the War Memorial;

Donaghadee Women’s Institute – a boat on the green at the War Memorial;

Donaghadee Methodist Church – the boat at Harbour View Apartments

Donaghadee Rugby Club – the boat on the harbour.



Covid Memorial

A partnership between DCDA and the Council resulted in provision of a Covid Memorial. The memorial contains stones painted by residents during the pandemic, a series of tiles reflecting thoughts and is topped off with a floral display

Council Planting

In addition to supporting the community programme with finance, equipment, plants and advice, Ards and North Down Borough Council has planted out attractive beds at Moat St/East Street, Killaughey Rd/Millisle Rd and planted wildflowers on the beds at Moat Entry, the Commons.



Cromellin Wood

The Association is encouraged by the increased use of the newly constructed pathways by locals, who appreciate the woodland environment and its unique contribution to enhancing the quality of life in Donaghadee and the surrounding area. It is also used extensively by local schools as a rich educational resource.



Last year with support from the Co-op Local Community Fund we installed a pier extending into the wetland and offering an opportunity to sit and enjoy the tranquillity and beauty of the area. Work is

underway to create a tree nursery and future plans involve extending the project into the part of the woodland in private ownership.

The work is highlighted on a short video available on our website (www.visitdonaghadee.com) and on Youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIKIEvUbO1A>)

We are indebted to everyone who assists in this project – the Co-op Local Community Fund, Live Here Love Here, the Heritage Lottery fund, Ards and North Down Borough Council and our team of volunteers.

Marine Litter

The Association made a successful bid to Live Here Love Here for a grant to support a Marine Litter Project involving the town's four schools – Ballyvester Primary School, Donaghadee Primary School, Killard School and St Anne's Primary School.



Each school has been allocated an area of coastline in Donaghadee and an attractive litter picking station has been installed at each. On each visit to the beach, pupils gather and analyse

litter according to type, size and weight. They will also collect water samples for analysis using water testing kits and digital microscopes. Their findings are recorded and compared over time against previous analyses and the records of the other schools. The community is encouraged to play their part as well. The stations have a receptacle for litter pickers and bags and anyone can take these and tidy up any material they see.

(Photo courtesy of Newtownards Chronicle)

Thanks

The total cost of displays this year is estimated at £7,000.

However all this would not have been possible without the funding provided by Ards and North Down Borough Council and the support of all our participating individuals and traders. Taken across the 20 weeks of the displays this support all adds up to a considerable amount of volunteer input which has been estimated as follows:-

Administration – Planning displays, co-ordinating volunteers, collecting payments, ordering plants, distribution, grants	120 hours
Killard planting Window Boxes	100 hours
Planting and Maintenance Maintenance of displays	400 hours
Watering Twice a week	80 hours

This would equate in value to close on £8,000.

We should also mention the Parks and Cemeteries Team of Ards and North Down Borough Council who are always ready to help with advice and guidance. This is much appreciated

Hanging Baskets

Alex Easton	John Minnis
Bailie Property	Kelly Cowan /Wild Thing
Bow Bells	Mackey Opticians
Bridewell	Maritime
Captains Table	Mauds
Coast	Meadowbank Social Club
County Hardware	Pattons
Dee Café	Petals and Buds
Dunn's Footwear	Peter Irwin
Farina Pizza	Pier 36
Gordons High Street	Rainey's Chip Shop
Gordons New Street	Robin's Nest
Grattans	Saints & Sinners
Harbour & Co	Shields
Harbour Dental Practice	Springs Hairdressers
Help Computer	Sweeney Opticians
Home Sweet Home	The Cabin
Inn Trim	The Stormy Cup
Jax Hairdressers	Tivoli
Jill Hamilton	Warriors Hairdressers
Joe Wright & Son	Wells Tyres

Window Boxes

The staff and pupils of Killard School, staff from Wild Thing and the residents and owners of the various town centre businesses and houses where they have been installed.

Jubilee Crowns

Dee Light Furniture Facelifts NI

Hightrees Intersection

Rotary Club of Donaghadee

Shorefront Maritime Displays

Donaghadee Methodist Church,
Donaghadee Primary School,
Donaghadee Rugby Club and
Donaghadee Women's Institute

Shorefront Containers

Alan Couser	Jenny Carmichael and Gary Craig
Ards Peninsula U3A	Live Love Yoga
Cara McConville	Maxine Porter
Dee Runners	Norman Kirk
D'dee Local Hist. Forum	Patricia Nickell
Gordon Semple	Pier 36 and Harbour & Co
Home Sweet Home	Terry and Louise Angus
D'dee Community Choir	The Chunky Dunkers
The Wild Collective	The Women's Institute

Early Morning Watering Team

Alan Couser	John Blewitt
Alan Maxwell	John Caldwell
Denis Waterworth	Mark Brooks
Jody Waterworth	Trevor Rodgers

Ards & North Down In Bloom

Donaghadee's Bloomin' Marvellous forms a part of the Ards and North Down in Bloom initiative. The initiative has been developed with three overlapping objectives which are: horticultural excellence, community participation and environmentally sustainable practices. These are in line with objectives of Translink Ulster in Bloom and other regional awards schemes.

The Ards and North Down in Bloom Community Competitions are coordinated by Ards and North Down Borough Council. This community competition encourages everyone who lives or works in the Borough to think about their local environment and how attractive flowers, plants, trees and gardens can enhance it.

There are nine Ards and North Down in Bloom community competitions with great prizes available for winners and runners up in each category. Alongside Community Competition categories are categories specifically aimed at young people and one of these, the Tallest Sunflower Competition, was won in 2021 by Lola and Grace Monteith pictured here with Deputy Mayor Robert Adair.





DONAGHADEE

THE BEACON ON THE COAST

This booklet was printed by Donaghadee Community Development Association with support from Ards and North Down Borough Council