Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Regenerating Kilkeel with
A Celebration of Mourne Culture
KDA is delighted to celebrate its 25th anniversary, a milestone for any organisation, with “A Celebration of Mourne Culture”.

KDA was formally established in October 1991. It recognised the need to address the physical and economic decline of the Kilkeel area, brought about by the tough economic climate that the core industries of fishing, farming and construction were facing. One thing we have learned is that history does indeed repeat itself and Kilkeel along with the wider Mourne area is again just beginning to emerge from one of the worst global downturns.

The organisation was born from its sister organisation the Kilkeel Chamber of Commerce. Gordon Coulter MBE, Victor Aiken MBE and Sean Magee, originally set up the cross community committee a couple of years prior to 1991. The organisation met for over 200 meetings with the directors financing operations out of their own pockets. They received £20,000 funding towards employing a full time Chief Executive and the organisation has grown in success from then.

KDA has attracted approximately £11million and delivered over 150 successful projects ranging from small grants of £500 up to in excess of £1million. These projects are aimed at regenerating Kilkeel through supporting business development, creating employment, improving the environment, increasing tourism, and developing good community relations.

The KDA has been cited as an example of excellence in terms of how the organisation is run, its success in delivering projects and the value for money that it delivers. It could not achieve this without the financial support from a number of funding organisations and working in partnership with many other local people, groups and organisations.

KDA’s success is down to the enormous contribution of its very committed voluntary directors and local community members who give of their voluntary time, knowledge and skills towards the betterment of the local community. The many thousands of voluntary hours that have been donated over the last 25 years is immeasurable. The volunteers work in partnership with the very dedicated and enthusiastic KDA employees who diligently and expertly develop and manage the projects to ensure that targets are delivered and more often than not, exceeded. These current projects, along with many previous have contributed to the culture of Mourne, along with the renowned friendliness of its people.

The Kilkeel and Mourne area is known for its entrepreneurial spirit and can do attitude. The beauty of the Kingdom of Mourne has inspired writers and poets for generations with such luminary lights as C S Lewis and “The Mountains of Mourne” which have been immortalised in song by Percy French. There is a rich culture that has passed down through the generations and this book along with the exhibition celebrates the many talented local artists, writers, poets and musicians that call the Mournes home.

Chairman
Mr Victor Aiken MBE
A CELEBRATION OF MOURNE CULTURE

This project is supported by Newry, Mourne & Down District Council (£2400) and is a celebration of the Mourne Culture over the last 25 years. The project includes a cultural exhibition looking at music, literature, poetry, art, dance & food at the Nautilus Centre, the production of this Mourne Cultural Booklet and celebration event.

Music
The Mournes area has a rich and talented heritage in traditional music.

There are 21 bands including flute, drums, accordion, pipe bands with hundreds of talented musicians from the very young to the old. This tradition is passed down through families over the generations.

Accordion Bands
Ballymageough Band
Brunswick Band
Cranfield Band
Holy Cross Band
Roden Accordion Band

Pipe Bands
Aughnahoory Pipe Band
Attical Pipe Band
Ballymartin Pipe Band
Longstone Pipe Band
Glasdrumman Pipe Band

Silver Band
Kilkeel True Blues Silver Band

Flute Bands
Ballyvea Band
Banna Fluit Naoinh Phadraig
Derrymore Band
St Joseph’s Parish Band
Glenloughan Band
Mourne Young Defenders Band
Orangefield Band
Pride of Ballinran Band
Rising Sons of the Valley Band
Schomberg Fife & Drum

Holy Cross Accordion Band
Holy Cross Accordion Band Attical in 2016 celebrates 42 years of existence and is growing in strength and success.

The band participates in parades and cross community events throughout the year. The band has paraded in many successful and prestigious events with the highlight of being asked to take part in the St Patrick’s Day Parade Dublin 2002, Rose of Tralee Festival 2003 and they then led the Lord Mayor’s Parade Belfast 2011. The band members are aged from 7 to 40+ and participate in Marching Band and Fleadh competitions throughout Ireland. The band won 3 Senior/Junior Ulster Fleadh Titles and won their First Senior All Ireland Title in 2010 and successfully retained the Senior Titles in 2011 and 2014.

Pride of Ballinran

The award winning Pride of Ballinran was formed in 1980. The band is currently the NIBA All Ireland Indoor Champions and consists of approximately 60 members. The Pride of Ballinran has taken part in the Belfast Tattoo in 2014 and 2015 and has been invited to attend the Glasgow Tattoo in 2016. They also took part in the Lord Mayor’s Show, London last year.

There is also a more modern and contemporary music scene with rock and country bands, such as What’s Wrong Barry, the Phillips Sisters, Silver’s Got Strings, Split Lips (previously Idle Hands), Tyrannasconic Deaf Rays, Jane & Frank Cassidy, Café 180 Band, Linda Gawley Boucher (singer) Natalie Stevenson (singer), Graham Noels (singer), John Wilson (accordion player).

There is a rich choiral heritage with the Mourne Male Voice Choir, Mourne Presbyterian Choir, Kilkeel Presbyterian Choir, Church of Ireland Choir, Baptist Choir, Free Presbyterian Choir, Massforth Choir & Grange Choir.
The scenic beauty of the Mourne landscapes, from the Majestic Mournes, sweeping Irish seascapes to the mystical backdrop of Carlingford Lough has inspired writers and poets for centuries. This tradition continues on from those international literary giants of C S Lewis, Percy French and Eoin McNamee.

Here is a just a sample of the local literary talent: John Newell, Lexy Higgins, Catherine Hudson, J S Doran, Rosalind Davis, Hugh Irvine, W J Fitzpatrick, Gemma Jackson, Niki Hill to name but a few. Below is a selection of poems from local writers and poets Gerry Doyle, Thomas Patterson and Wendy Hanna. Gerry will be launching a book of short stories in the near future.

Poem By Gerry Doyle

John Thomas McDowell, a chara (a friend)

We sailed together, you and I, for more than thirty years.
And landed many a hard-won catch in places far and near.
Through many a winter storm we wrought, and many long summer days.
From the ‘Humber’ to the ‘Nor-west Bank’, ‘Fladden Ground’ to ‘Sandy Bay’.

Herring and haddock at ‘Flamborough Head’, and cod at ‘Stormy Bank’.
We worked the ‘Minches’, the ‘Flannen Isles’, ‘The Butt’ and ‘Barra Head’.
‘Oigh-Sgeir’ and the ‘Hillys’, ‘The Passage’ and the Dutchman’s Cap’.

We played chess in Tobermory Bay, you taught me how to play.
And we got the cod-end in the screw, in the lee of ‘Erriskay’. (Ref. “Working in a Hebredean Gale”)
We set new records in our time, and reset some ourselves!
And poked our way through blanket fog, in round ‘St David’s Head’.

We fished in close at ‘Inishtrahull’, and the ‘Sandbank at Bushmills”
Seine’d for place in ‘Coleraine Bay’ and sheltered in ‘Moville’
We fished ‘Nor-West of Tory’ and ‘West of Arranmor’
At ‘Stags’, ‘Broadhaven’, ‘The Eagle’ and all along that western shore.

Good friends we made in every port, and even more at sea,
For the fishing folks communion, needs-must, is strong and free.
We helped many men and we were helped, by colleagues of all creeds.
And no pay was asked from anyone within the Irish fleet.

Do you remember, John a chara, the day at Inishtrahull (Ref “Heavy weather damage”)
When you put the ‘Croidte an Duin’ about, to run into Moville.
A big sea smashed the port rail down from the gallows to the winch.
You jacked it back in place next day, and carried on to fish.

We kept some long, long watches, John! But the worst one of them all
Was the watch we kept by your death-bed, when cancer made its call.
John, -I treasure still the priv’lege of your comradeship those years,
And of your wife and family, with who we shared the tears.
Poem By Gerry Doyle

Be Still Beside The Ocean

Be still beside a rock-pool and watch it come to life.
Be still and watch the breakers to rid yourself of strife.
Think of all the living things that dwell in that great sea.
From the huge ‘blue whale’ to its ‘plankton’ food and of eternity.

Throw a flat shingle ‘skimmer’ and watch it bounce along
Then sink into oblivion, like the singers of the song.
But the song lives on to comfort us and keep us on the path,
Although our pride and reasoning tend to draw us toward the wrath.

Poem by Thomas Patterson

Mourne Presbyterian Church (1696 - 1996)

Three hundred years long, long ago
A seed was sown which began to grow.
God’s spirit breathed upon this place
A church began through God’s own grace,
You sent the early and latter rain
Your tenderness was not in vain,
Down through the years you did us bless
With showers of blessing we must confess,
In times of peace in times of strife
Through all the ups and downs,
In faithfulness you answered prayer
And our burdens Lord you did share.
Now our tercentenary has come around
And many souls with you are found,
Both young and old, small and tall
Before you Lord we humbly fall,
As into the future we look ahead
In spirit and truth as the scripture hath said,
We’ll worship our God and glorify him
With Jesus our saviour seeking others to win,
To God the father, God the son
The Holy Spirit, three in one,
We give to you all heartfelt praise
For Christ our King and saving grace.
Poem by Wendy Hanna

Majestic Mourne

Adventure is waiting, today is your day
The hills are calling, so be on your way.
There’s no better place than the Kingdom of Mourne
For with natural beauty this land is adorned
If you dander around the Valley
Climb the steps to Ben Crom dam
You can marvel at the structure,
where creation pairs with man.

The vast expanse of water, let’s stop and take it in
The shimmering surface dances,
around the overflows brim.
The trees, the streams, the slope so green
The boathouse built in stone
The walks, the stops, the silence
What a pleasurable place to roam.

Come spring, summer, winter or fall
There’s beauty unfolding throughout it all.
Perhaps you’ll ramble onward to the famous Mourne Wall
22 mile of Mourne granite stone, 1.5 metres tall
And taking 18 years to build, crafted with tremendous skill.

They travelled by foot, for miles and farther
The stone was tough but the men were harder
The wall extends over steep mountain faces
Yet no cement was used only in extreme cases
And still standing strong, almost 100 years
Not built with machines but with blood, sweat and tears.

Onto Slieve Binnian, standing so high
You may be relieved to reach the stile
Ask the ramblers why they climb?
Well it tests the body, rests the mind.

Let’s fly with the raven for a birds eye view
Over Dunny water where Binnian tunnel runs too
Past the brandy pad where the smugglers walked
What stories?...if only those hills could talk.

Slieve Donard summit, a deafening hush
Time stands still no need to rush
Absorb the view, take in the sights
And O how Percy French was right!
The well renowned fairways of Royal County Down
On a clear day two yellow giants may be found
If you know where to look, look very hard
Afar off is Harland and Wolfe shipyard.

The quarries on our mountainsides
Once supplied stone to here and worldwide
Famous monuments have been built on request
With craftsmanship known to be best.

There are many sights in the world to be seen
And we know that far off fields look green
But whether you settle, visit or roam
It’s a wonderful gift, to call Mourne your home.
ARTISTS

Mourne is a haven for artists who are spoiled for choice, with mountains, castles, forests, ancient burial monuments, coasts, rivers and lakes all under an ever constant changing sky.

The area boasts a number of talented and creative artists who work in a range of media. Here is a selection of these artists and their artwork. Heather Cirefice, Victor Cirefice, Colin Turner, Steven Rooney, Naomi S L Hanna.

**Fionnuala Rooney**

My name is Fionnuala Rooney and I specialise in working with acrylic paints. This I decided to explore a couple of years ago as a form of relaxation therapy while recovering from cancer. This experience developed into a very gratifying and fulfilling pastime which I thoroughly enjoy and hope to be able to continue and improve in the future.

**Ashley Widman**

The works of Ashley Widman are rooted in the tension between the serene environment and undercurrent of unease. Silent, rock strewn quarries contrast with dappled swampland, all equally devoid of human presence. Her landscapes are unfamiliar expanses, both inviting and foreboding, confronting the viewer with the unknown.

**Puss in Boots**

**Drawing Deposits III**
Roisin Cunningham

After many years of practicing to embrace each challenge as an opportunity for growth I have landed in a place where I am allowing myself to fully share my passions for nourishing and inspiring the soul. Aromatherapy is one of them, and my painting is my significant other.

Susan Gordon

Susan is passionate about child art since graduating with BEd Hons in 1992 in Education and Art. My project ‘Mini Masters’ created art on canvas by pre-schoolers and featured in ‘Young at Art’ and ‘UTV life’. The Annalong Main Street mural achieved a Youth Justice Award for creating together in a place of conflict.

DANCE

For the more senior members of the Mourne community who can remember back to the many dances that were held in various village halls, they still remember those waltzes and country dances. Of course Strictly Come Dancing has again inspired a new generation to take to the dance floor, with many Strictly Come Dancing Competitions taking place across the Mourne area.

Dance has also inspired the younger generation and there are a range of Irish, Ulster Scots and other dance schools:

Ulster Scots

Kirknarra School of Dance
Mourne School of Dance
Forsythe School of Dance

Irish

Murtagh School Dance

Forsythe School of Dance - Pictured: Front Row: Ruth Fraser Middle Row Left to Right: Kelly Forsythe (Dance Tutor), Chloe McKelvey, Back Row, Left to Right: Grace Boyd, Joanna Singleton, Lauren Freeburn.

Many young children enjoy hip hop, ballet and modern dance as well.

Ballet & Modern

Rowan Dance Academy – Ballet & Modern Dance
Jason Hill School of Dance – Line Dancing

Jive and Swing

Dance to the sights and sounds of the 1940s at GI Jive, our annual American themed summer festival at Mourne Esplanade, Kilkeel.
This is a perfect year to celebrate the food and produce of the Mournes as part of Tourism NI’s Year of Food & Drink 2016.

Kilkeel is not only renowned for its great seafood, as it is home to Northern Ireland’s largest fishing fleet but has a wide range of artisan food and drink producers. The scenic beauty of the Mournes and it’s rich fertile landscapes make for great meat, dairy, poultry, vegetables, cereals and local beverages. There is a long held tradition of baking in Mourne with family recipes handed down through generations for local soda, wheaten breads, Christmas puds, cakes and tray bakes which compliment the more modern influences such as American inspired chilli jams and BBQ sauces.

The range of local seafood landed at Kilkeel harbour is what Kilkeel is famous for, with langoustines, lobsters, crabs, haddock, gurnard, pollack, scallops, oysters, mussels, herring and mackerel being just some of the rich bounty landed fresh from the Irish Sea and Carlingford Lough. For those who want to learn how to fillet, cook and enjoy our fresh seafood, then come and visit the Mourne Seafood Cookery School which uses our great local produce in many of its recipes. You can also enjoy these wonderful food and drink offerings in many local restaurants and cafés as well as across N Ireland.

The award winning Mourne Seafood Cookery School was opened in 2010, as part of KDA’s strategic aims of promoting the great local seafood and produce that comes from the area. It has also had a number of celebrity chefs through its doors including: Nick Nairn, Paul Rankin, Noel McMeel, Nick Price, Andy Rea & Danny Millar to name but a few. Our current chef Roger Moynihan, entertains and educates across a range of seafood Master Classes. We have even held a cook off with local politicians!

Throughout our wide range of events such as Fish Fest which ran for 10 years, Kingdom of Mourne Festival, Easterfest and Harvestfest we have celebrated our great local food and drink offerings.

To celebrate our 25th anniversary and the Year of Food & Drink 2016, we are implementing a range of events and activities, such as developing a walking taste tour of Kilkeel, adding a Seafood and Food & Drink Pavilion to the annual Gi Jive event, along with a range of celebrity chefs.
KILKEEL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
WHO WE ARE

KDAs success has been built by the talented and hardworking directors, members, advisers, staff and of course funders. Listed below is the current Board of Directors (voluntary), previous Chairpersons and the current employees of KDA.

2015 KDA Current Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mr Victor Aiken MBE</th>
<th>Mr James Cunningham</th>
<th>Mr Harold Nicholson MBE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Sidney McKee</td>
<td>Miss Diane Coulter</td>
<td>Mr Alan Hanna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chairman</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<td>Mr Gordon Coulter MBE</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Brian Rogers</td>
<td>Mr Kevin Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>Director</td>
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KDA Chairpersons

| Mr Gordon Coulter MBE | 1990 - 1999 |
| Mrs Irene Adair MBE   | 1999 - 2003 |
| Mr Iain Gibson        | 2003 - 2004 |
| Mrs Lorraine Black    | 2004 - 2005 |
| Mr James Cunningham   | 2005 - 2009 |
| Mr Harold Nicholson MBE | 2009 - 2011 |
| Mr Wesley Newell      | 2011 - 2013 |
| Mr Victor Aiken MBE   | 2013 - Current |

KDA Employees - Current

| Mrs Pamela Houston - Chief Executive |
| Mrs Sandra Spiers - Visitor Information Centre Manager |
| Mrs Kathleen O’Hare - Visitor Information Centre Assistant |
| Miss Stacey Edwards - Visitor Information Centre Assistant |
| Miss Kelly Forsythe - Harbour Haven Forum Project Co-ordinator |
| Miss Lauren Newell - The GI Trail, Project Co-ordinator |
| Miss Jessica Clews - Seascope, Project Co-ordinator |
| Miss Elizabeth McConville - Seascope, Project Assistant |
| Miss Sarah Campbell - Seascope Apprentice |
| Mr Mel Harper - Nautilus Centre Caretaker |
OVERVIEW OF MAJOR MILESTONES WITHIN THE MOURNE AND KILKEEL COMMUNITY

Below is a selection of some of the projects and events that have taken place over the last 25 years within Kilkeel that has improved the lives of the local community economically, socially and culturally.

25 Years of Regenerating Kilkeel & Mourne in partnership with the local community.

1990
Formation of Kilkeel Development Association by Gordon Coulter MBE (chairman), Victor Aiken MBE & Sean Magee. LLB, Ballinran Community Association formed.

1991
Kilkeel Development Association Ltd registered as a not for profit, cross community voluntary company.

1992
RNLI New Lifeboat Station Opened

1993
Alan McCulla OBE appointed as ANIFPO Chief executive

1994
KDA launches Kilkeel Tourist Information Centre at Newcastle Street offices.

1995
Mourne Stimulus Day Centre Opened

1996
KDA appoints Noreen Kettles as Development Manager

1997
KDA launches Lower Square Environmental Improvement Scheme
KDA assist’s in securing funding for opening of Kilkeel Leisure Centre & Swimming Pool.
KDA opens The Nautilus Centre, at Kilkeel Harbour
KDA runs KITE Training Programme
Mournesports Ltd opens new Synthetic Sports Pitch, Mourne Esplanade.
Hanna’s Close redevelopment opened by River Valley Development Association
Mourne Heritage Trust was launched.
Kilkeel Community Association (KCA) launches Mourne Youth Zone project.

1998
KDA launches new Riverwalk project & Narrows Journey sculpture.
JIMS Youth Project launched.

1999
Co Down Fishing Villages Network formed and KDA acts as secretariat.
KDA launches Mourne Activity Breaks
Mr Gordon Coulter MBE resigns as Chairman and Mrs Irene Adair MBE is appointed.

2000
KDA launches Manus’ Lane Environmental Improvement Scheme.
KDA organises first Nautical Festival in Kilkeel.
The Royal Hotel is redeveloped.

2001
Lifebuilders Gym moves to Alfred Eadie Hall
KDA launches new Mourne Walking & Cycling Heritage Trails
2002 The inaugural Festival of Fish is held in Kilkeel. KDA relocates offices from Newcastle Street to Bridge Street, Royal Mews. The Mourne Seafarers Memorial is launched at the Nautilus Centre.

2003 Mrs Irene Adair MBE resigns as Chairperson and Mr Iain Gibson is appointed as chairman. KDA launches new development strategy. New Jobs & Benefits office is opened. KDA promotes Festival of Fish & Kilkeel Summer Buzz Campaign.

2004 Mrs Pamela Houston is appointed as Chief Executive. Mrs Lorraine Black takes over as Chairperson from Mr Iain Gibson. KDA organises research visit to fishing communities in Portugal for Co Down Fishing Villages Network. KDA promotes Festival of Fish & Kilkeel Summer Buzz Campaign.

2005 KDA in partnership with Newry & Mourne Enterprise Park launch Binnian Enterprise Park. Mr James Cunningham takes over as Chairperson from Mrs Lorraine Black. KDA promotes Fishfest & Kilkeel Summer Buzz Campaign.

2006 KDA relocates from Bridge Street to the Nautilus Centre. KDA organises research visit to fishing communities in North East & West of England for the Co Down Fishing Villages Network. Launch of Kilkeel - Seafood Capital of the Kingdom of Mourne Marketing Project. KDA promotes Fishfest & Kilkeel Summer Buzz Campaign.

2007 KDA hosts Mournemade Craft Fayre. KDA Fishfest with Celebrity Chef Jenny Bristow. KDA progresses Binnian Enterprise Park, Phase II. Mourne Esplanade & Lower Square Environmental Improvements, Nautilus Centre Car Park & Redevelopment Schemes. KDA promotes Fishfest & Kingdom of Mourne Festival.

2008 KDA & NMEA launch Phase II of Binnian Enterprise Park. KDA renovates Units 4 & 6 in the Nautilus Centre to include new shop fronts and prime office space. KDA launches new Nautilus Centre Car Park Environmental Improvement Scheme. Launch of new Events Area in the Lower Square. CCTV launched throughout Kilkeel Town Centre. KDA promotes Easterfest, Fishfest & Kingdom of Mourne Festival.

2009 KDA launches major renovation of Nautilus Centre to include the Kilkeel Tourist Information Centre, Mourne Maritime Visitor Centre, Mourne Seafood Cookery School and new office space. New pontoons launched at Kilkeel Harbour. Mr Harold Nicholson MBE takes over as Chairman from Mr James Cunningham. KDA promotes Fishfest & Kingdom of Mourne Festival.

2010 Kilkeel Town Centre Regeneration Scheme & Sculpture is launched. Mourne Seafood Cookery School hosts a number of Celebrity Chefs, Paul Rankin, Danny Millar, Andy Rea, Nick Nairn. Mourne Seafood Cookery School wins Prestigious Tourism Award. KDA holds Mourne Maritime Festival & Harvestfest. KDA launches Families at Sea heritage project. KDA promotes Fishfest & Kingdom of Mourne Festival.

2011 Visit to Nautilus Centre by HRH Prince Charles & HRH Duchess of Cornwall. Kilkeel Sustainable 2020 Vision launched by KDA. Launch of Mourne Rural Tours project. Launch of Harbourside Tea Room in Nautilus Centre. Mourne Seafood Cookery School stars in the Great British Menu. Mr Wesley Newell takes over as Chairman from Mr Harold Nicholson MBE.
2012  KDA promotes Fishfest & Kingdom of Mourne Festival
      Kilkeel Restore Marketing & Environmental Improvement Scheme
      Development of South East Coast Masterplan
      KDA develops Mourne Coastal Tourism Forum

2013  Tracing Your Mourne Roots Heritage project and the Harbour Haven Senior Citizens Centre launched at the Nautilus Centre
      Mr Victor Aiken MBE takes over as Chairman from Mr Wesley Newell.
      KDA joins Kilkeel Strategic Partnership who will progress the Outer Harbour project.
      Re-location of Kilkeel Library to Nautilus Centre
      Launch of Restoring the Links project
      KDA promotes Fishfest & Kingdom of Mourne Festival

2014  KDA holds the inaugural GI Jive event with US Consul General Gregory S Burton as guest of honour.
      KDA promotes Fishfest & Kingdom of Mourne Festival
      Seascope project begins development.
      Kilkeel Strategic Partnership undertake Business Plan & Economic Appraisal into Outer Harbour Development Plan

2015  The Nautilus Centre gains Green Tourism Silver Accreditation
      KDA Launches The Northern Ireland GI Trail at the GI Jive Event.
      KDA launches Seascope - Northern Ireland’s Lobster & Marine Hatchery Research Centre.
      Children’s Cookery Classes, Active Older People Increasing Wellbeing & Vitality, The Big Beach Crusade - Keep Our Beaches Clean

2016  KDA 25th Anniversary Event & Celebration of Mourne Culture
      Year of Food & Drink Celebrations
KDA could not deliver the projects and benefits to the local residents without financial support and we would like to acknowledge the following funders and groups who have worked with us over the last 25 years.

**List of KDA Funders**


**Groups KDA has worked with:**


**Funders & Partners Logos**
OTHER GROUPS, CHARITIES & ORGANISATIONS IN MOURNE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE LOCAL CULTURE OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS

The Kilkeel and Mourne area has a great community spirit and is represented through a large number of groups, charities and organisations. Here is a selection of some of those groups and the valuable contribution they make to the local community.

The Schomberg Society
Reivers House,
8-12 Newcastle Street,
Kilkeel,
BT34 4AF
Tel: 028 4176 9678
Email: schomberg@schombergsociety.plus.com

The Schomberg Society was formed in 1998 and is based in Reivers House, Kilkeel. It is an umbrella organisation for local Ulster-Scots groups and our primary purpose is to build a strong and dynamic Ulster-Scots community within the Kingdom of Mourne and beyond through empowerment and education. From humble beginnings, the Society now oversees one of the largest Ulster-Scots Festivals in N. Ireland, broadcasts an Ulster-Scots Community Radio Station, FuseFM Mourne, live from Reivers House and facilitates a wide variety of training, tuition and youth development in schools, churches, youth clubs and in Reivers House.

The names of the student presenters in the picture are: (Back Left) Robert Annett, Shane Ferguson, Deane Hanna, Matthew Irvine (Front Left) Tamsin Hyland and Chloe Hanna.

Mourne Gospel Fellowship

Mourne Gospel Fellowship (MGF) is a non-denominational community church based in the Nautilus Centre in Kilkeel. The people of MGF are from many different walks of life and have come to encounter God and His love for them. We believe that the Gospel has the power to transform individuals, families and our community. We are passionate about telling local people about God’s love for them. We aim to share this passion through Footsteps Team Ministries and other outreach events. We desire to meet the practical and physical needs of local people, showing them that God can meet our every need.
Hanna’s Close Clachan

In 1990 Hanna’s close self-catering cottages were not in existence. The Hanna’s originally came from Sorbie, Galloway in Scotland around 1642. They were granted the lease of some acres of land in Aughnahoory. They built their cottages on the bank above the river plain. The houses were built close together for safety. The Clachan remained occupied until the 1990s although many of the cottages were in very poor condition. In 1997 they opened as self-catering cottages with central heating, open fires and modern amenities. They are open all year round. Tommy’s cottage is used for storytelling and social events.

Lisnacree Community Association, Kilkeel

Chairperson: Kathleen Colgan
Treasurer: R. Colgan
Secretary: Anne Trainor

Lisnacree opened its doors in 1984 and is a much needed centre in an area of isolation in regards to social events. The committee works hard to ensure all ages are catered for. We have parents and toddlers, after school youths and senior members in regular attendance and we hold many classes and farmers meetings. We had a very successful social evening for our senior members which was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. We are working hard to increase our numbers and new members from the younger generation. The community centre brings local people together and is a great support system for those in the area who feel isolated.

Mourne Camera Club

Nautilus Centre, Kilkeel, 7.30pm, second Tuesday each month.

The members are from all walks of life with one common interest...photography

Each month we have a homework topic which results in a monthly competition. In addition to this there are occasionally monthly speakers. Members may also give a talk on a chosen subject and most important of all we learn from each other. We give support to each other, and have a most enjoyable evening.

New members are welcome and if you want nothing more than to take better holiday snaps, Mourne Camera Club is for you.
**Life Builders**

Life Builders is part of the ministry and outreach of Kilkeel Presbyterian Church on Newcastle Street. Life Builders is a Community Gym seeking to promote physical fitness and good relations among the people of the Kilkeel area regardless of race, class, gender or religious affiliation.

Life Builders started small, when initially, a few Christian men belonging to Kilkeel Presbyterian Church trained together in a garage. When the group outgrew the garage they moved temporarily to premises belonging to the Church. By 2001 the number of members had increased to the point where even larger premises were required and the gym moved into the then unused Alfred Eadie Hall on Newcastle Street. Extensive work has been carried out to the premises over the years with a major refurbishment carried out in 2010/2011 and further work done in the summer of 2015.

The gym, which has a significant female membership continues to be run by volunteers from Kilkeel Presbyterian Church and is a non-profit making resource. Life Builders offers a unique facility, where members from across the community can meet and train together at an affordable cost. It provides a much-needed healthy alternative to pubs and clubs, while introducing fitness and weight training as a common interest.

“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength” Philippians 4 vs. 13

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**Save the Children Fund**

The Kilkeel branch of this organisation has been in existence for sixty years. This fund works in 120 countries throughout the world, helping to save children’s lives, fighting for children’s rights and helping them reach their full potential.

Over the many years the P7 pupils of Kilkeel Primary School have helped at the Annual Coffee Morning and Cake Sale. They work tirelessly and provide tremendous support. We have many helpers, who come on board, to help with the yearly house to house and street collection.

New members, would be most welcome to this worthwhile charity. Contributed By: Margaret McBride (Chairperson)
Kilkeel Credit Union Limited

Twenty five years ago today Kilkeel Credit Union had already established itself as an important financial institution in Kilkeel. From its inception in 1968 to the present day, Kilkeel Credit Union has offered the local community a safe place to save and borrow.

The Credit Union has greatly developed in that time but the ethos has remained the same. The motto of ‘not for profit, not for charity, but for service’ is as true and relevant today as it has always been.

Twenty five years ago the membership was 685 with assets of £396,821. Currently membership is 3945 and assets £10,195,252. Since 1979 we have occupied the beautiful listed building at 20 Newry Street, once owned by the Munster and Leinster Bank.

The first renovation was completed in 1993 and as the Credit Union grew it was necessary to extend the building and this was completed in 1993. The Credit Union continued to grow significantly therefore another extension was required. This was completed in 2009. Now we have a fine building, housing an up to date modern Credit Union where the members matter most.

Kilkeel Chamber of Commerce

The Kilkeel Chamber of Commerce has been in existence for over 50 years and is still very active today. It brings together a range of businesses both rural and urban to discuss the issues that affect them and seek to address any issues of concern and work in partnership to support and attract more business to the area.

The Chamber meets with the Council and government agencies to address issues such as rates, parking, roads, town centre renewal projects, infrastructure projects, floral displays and events to attract visitors to Kilkeel.

The Chamber is one of the members of the Kilkeel Strategic Partnership which is seeking to bring a new Outer Harbour project to fruition, along with Kilkeel Development Association, ANIFPO, NIFPO, Kilkeel Collaborative Network, B/E Aerospace and the local seafood producers.

Dickens Day

Olden Days and Olden Ways

As the name suggests we are an organisation which looks back in time to a period which appeals to older people’s nostalgia and also to the curiosity of the younger generation. With a collection of artefacts from the past to kindle everyone’s interest, we were delighted to assist and contribute to some of KDA’s very exciting projects such as Tracing Your Mourne Roots and GI Jive. Along with this we now concentrate on raising funds for the local hospice and have raised around £75,000 for them over the years.

Joe Boden, Chairman
LOOKING BACK OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS OF KDA

When looking back over the past 25 years we need to acknowledge the tremendous talent and drive of all those who assisted in KDA’s success. Many have passed away but their legacy lives on for the benefit of current and future generations. Kilkeel has a wealth of talent and creativity, driven by a passion to put something back into their community.

Previous KDA Employees

Mr Conor Keenan, Mrs Pam McCartney, Miss Eithne Carragher, Mrs Margaret McKee, Ms Jenny Neave, Miss Victoria Nugent, Miss Vilma Grudzinskaite, Mr David Bamford, Miss Jean Millar, Miss Margo Doran, Mrs Jody Higgins, Mrs Zita Gibson, Mrs Wilma McCullough, Ms Noreen Kettles, Ms Michelle Burden, Mr Brian Larkin, Mr Alastair Wiggins, Miss Rosemary Young.

Past KDA Directors

Mr Roy Teggarty, Mr Ronnie Forsythe MBE, Mrs Mary Tremlett, Mr Jim Allen, Mr Shaun Killough, Mr Tom O’Hanlon, Mr William Holmes, Mr Gabriel Greene, Mr Colin Knox, Mr Sam Knox, Mrs Mary Haughey

Mr Seamus Murphy, Mr Robert Wilson OBE JP, Mr Brian McGinn, Mr Hugh Fitzpatrick, Mr Michael Small, Mr Allan McMullen, Mr Paul Hardy, Mr Alan McCulla OBE, Mr Pat McManus, Mr Rory Milligan, Mr Geoff Hooks

Mr Stanley Tomkins, Mr Robert Connolly, Mrs Mina Nicholson, Mrs Jenny Baird, Mr Eugene Kearney, Mr Harry Baxter, Mr Arthur Coulter

Past & Present KDA Sub Committee Members, Project Advisers & Partners

Lord Kilmorey, Sir Richard Needham, Mr Peter Hunter OBE, Dr Conor Patterson, Mr Liam Quinn, Mrs Jennifer Malone, Mr Jim McCart, Mr John McMahon, Mr Les Campbell, Mr Gerry Doyle, Mr Joe Boden, Mr Bill Quinn, Mr Greg Grills, Captain Robert Annett, Mr Sean McManus, Mrs Dorothy McKee, Mr Leslie Campbell, Mr Noel McStay, Mr Connor Nellis, Mrs Bernie Rocks, Mr Alan Morrow, Mr Ronnie Stevenson

Mr Les Campbell, Mr John Peacock, Mr Davy McKillen, Mr Ronnie McBride, Mr Hubert Annett, Mr Merwyn Hanna, Mr Peter Wilkins, Mr Arnold McCullough, Mr Robert McCullough, Mr Kevin Quigley, Mr Michael Young, Mr David Lyndsey, Mr Roy Jones, Mr John Rooney, Mr John Doran, Mr Harold Henning, Mrs Lou Henning, Prof Paulo Prodohl, QUB, Mr Colin Nelson, Mrs Judith Farrell, Mr Dick James

Mr Michael McGreevy, Dr Lynn Gilmore, Mr Pat Cotter, Mrs Moira Sekules, Mr Jackie Blue, Mr Noel McBride, Mr Roy Burton, Miss Catherine Hudson, Miss Margaret Bingham, Mrs Melanie Skelcher, Mrs Marie Trainor, Mr Newell Bingham, Mrs Rosemary Chestnutt, Mrs Marion Russell, Mr Paddy Gawley, Mrs Cecile Maugy, Mrs Maura Smyth, Mrs Lexy Higgins, Mrs Heather McKee
There have been many hundreds of local people who have given of their time and knowledge over the last 25 years and this booklet is but a sample. We simply could not include everyone or the list would have been endless.

KDA would sincerely like to thank everyone who has given time, expertise, artefacts, advice, financial support or contributed in any way. KDA could not have achieved such success without the support of a range of funding organisations and also the expertise, guidance and assistance of a number of organisations, bodies, groups, businesses and individuals. KDA has had many visits across the years from a range of honoured visitors, below is just a selection.

**KDA Honoured Visitors**

HRH Prince Charles & HRH Duchess of Cornwall
US Consul General Gregory S Burton & Nana Lee Felding
Secretary of State, Rt Hon Owen & Rose Patterson
Lord Kilmorey, Sir Richard Needham
First Minister, Peter Robinson
Minister Ian Pearson & Minister Nick Brown
Minister of Enterprise, Trade & Investment, Arlene Foster MLA, Reg Empey
Minister of Finance, Simon Hamilton MLA
Minister of Regional Development, Danny Kennedy MLA
Minister of the Environment, Alex Atwood MLA
Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Michelle Gildernew MLA, Michelle O’Neill MLA, Brid Rogers MLA, Lord Dubs.
MPs for South Down, Margaret Ritchie & Eddie McGrady
MEPs Jim Nicholson, Diane Dodds, Jim Allister
MLAs, Sean Rogers, Jim Wells, John McAllister, Caitriona Ruane, Chris Hazzard, Karen McKevitt, Dermot Nesbitt, Alban Maginnis
Mayor of Newry, Mourne & Down District Council, Cllr Naomi Bailie

Mayors of Newry & Mourne District Council, Councillors Frank Feely, Jackie Patterson, Henry Reilly, Pat McGinn, Michael Carr, Michael Cole, Colman Burns, John Feehan, Mick Murphy, Charlie Casey, John Mc Ardle, Michael Ruane, Daire Hughes.

Chairman Charlie Smyth, Isaac Hanna

Mourne Councillors: Henry Reilly, Harold McKee, Brian Quinn, Sean Doran, Glynn Hanna, Laura Devlin, Willie Clarke, William Burns, Isaac Hanna, Michael Cole, Martin Connolly, Emmett Haughian, Martin Cunningham, Austin Crawford, Michael Cunningham

We would like to acknowledge the support from the Mournes Councillors and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council who have supported Kilkeel Development Association over the 25 years and we look forward to working with the new Council as we strive to deliver further benefits to the local residents and community of Kilkeel and the wider Mourne area.

Kilkeel has come a long way over the last few years and as KDA looks back over its 25 years it also looks to the future with a renewed sense of optimism and hope that through hard work, determination and co-operation, we can build a stronger, brighter future for the Kilkeel and wider Mourne community.