ARTS AND HERITAGE GUIDE
January – April 2019

The New Year welcomes an exciting programme of arts events and activities, creative classes and exhibitions plus all the latest community arts news and professional development opportunities across the Borough.

Our performance programme highlights include the hugely popular Friday Night Live music series at Ards Arts Centre. It’s the hottest ticket in town so make sure you book early to avoid disappointment! Or join us for the eclectic programme of Music in the Chamber at Bangor Castle featuring David C Clements, Daoirí Farrell and Los Dramaticos.

If your New Year’s resolution is to get creative then we have the perfect class for you with an extensive programme of arts and craft activities on offer at Ards Arts Centre including one-day workshops in Colour Theory, Silver Jewellery Making and Poetry.

Ards International Guitar Festival is back with a bang in April 2019 with an eclectic new programme of guitar-inspired gigs, free fringe events, and guitar clinics with industry professionals.

The Arts Team

"Ards Art Centre is a hub of diversity. A place to meet friends, make new friends and share. A place to learn and to teach, a place to create wonder and wonder at what has been created. A place to reach out and a place to be reached. A place of music, song, talent and hospitality. A great place in the centre of Ards with much to offer" – customer feedback, November 2018

OFFICE OPENING HOURS
Monday – Thursday: 9am – 5pm
Friday: 9am – 4.30pm
Saturday: 10am – 4pm
Sunday: Closed

GALLERY OPENING HOURS
Monday – Thursday: 9am – 4.30pm
Friday: 9am – 4pm
Saturday: 10am – 4pm
[Subject to Exhibitions]
Sunday: Closed

Admission is FREE

BOOKING
Tickets can be purchased via Ards Arts Centre and North Down Museum plus any of Ards and North Down Borough Council’s Visitor Information Centres or you can book online at www.ardsarts.com

ARD ARTS CENTRE
Ards Arts Centre, Town Hall,
Conway Square, Newtownards BT23 4NP
Email: arts@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)28 9181 0803
Web: www.ardsarts.com

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This publication is available in alternative formats on request."
The Rapparees, a five-piece folk and traditional band based in Belfast, are about as exciting an act as you’re likely to encounter on the circuit at the moment. A unique chemistry formed between friends at school and they soon began playing music around local pubs and clubs.

The lads are proud to present their fourth album RECHARGED with a launch night at Ards Arts Centre which is sure to have that special, hometown electricity associated with this dynamic folk outfit.

Foot stomping belters and heart-warming ballads, are the Rapparees’ currency, an evening well spent.

This is a one-off opportunity to catch the lads at such an intimate venue, book early to avoid disappointment.

www.therapparees.ie

David C. Clements has been grabbing the attention of music lovers through his exceptional live performances for quite some time. His is an epic and heavenly alternative folk singer with swelling melodies and vocals touched with the ache of experience, retelling tales that feel at once both insightful and familiar.

Clements is a well-respected musician, having cut his teeth performing with former band, SixStarHotel, yet it is his solo material that demands most attention, notably with Ed Sheeran and Passenger, as well as in collaboration with Gary Lightbody (Snow Patrol).

Praise for Clements’ debut album, The Longest Day In History:

“Skillfully balanced between anthemic, heartfelt and Springsteen-esque.”

The Irish Times

“The brilliant title track is a slice of indie-pop perfection and sees Clements move away from Americana into epic shoegaze electric guitar-centric goodness that recalls Iain Archer at his very best.”

The Irish News

“Still one of the greatest pieces of music ever to be made by a Northern Irish artist – Hurricane by @DavidCClements from 2016. It’s seven minutes long but you gotta listen all the way through as the best bit’s the last few mins!”

Gary Lightbody (Snow Patrol)
THE IRISH SONGBOOK

ARDs ARTS CENTRE / FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY / 8PM
£8 / BYOB, NO SPIRITS PLEASE!

This is a fabulous ‘feel good’ evening of all time greats by Irish artists.

Performing popular classics and rearrangements of traditional folk from Raglan Road and the Hot House Flowers to Sinead O’Connor, Thin Lizzy and nods to Gary Moore and Rory Gallagher.

Performed by the house band O.M.G (of Rumours Retold fame) – with special guests Cormac Neeson (The Answer), Tony Wright (Verse Chorus Verse) and the great haunting voice of Irish singer Niamh Lund.

Friday Night Live, bring a bottle, sit back, relax and enjoy the best affordable live music in town.

MUSIC IN THE CHAMBER

DAOIRÍ FARRELL

BANGOR CASTLE / THURSDAY 21 MARCH / 8PM
£12 / INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS

Winner of two BBC Folk Awards, Dublin-born traditional singer and bouzouki player Daoiri Farrell has quickly become one of the most important singers in Irish folk music. With his powerful and distinctive voice it is no wonder he has been championed by the likes of Christy Moore and Donal Lunny.

Six months after releasing the album True Born Irishman, Daoiri had picked up two prestigious BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards in 2017 for Best Newcomer and Best Traditional Track, and also performed live at the awards ceremony at London’s Royal Albert Hall.

“Daoiri is one of the most important traditional singers to emerge in the last decade.”
Dónal Lunny

“Effortless, instinctive, natural...the real deal.”
Mark Radcliffe, BBC Radio 2

“...one of the most significant Irish releases of recent years.”
Songlines

“True Born Irishman is definitely one of the year’s outstanding Irish music albums; you owe it to yourself to hear it.”
Fatea
ANTHONY TONER

ARSE ARTS CENTRE / FRIDAY 22 AND SATURDAY 23 MARCH / 8PM
£8 / BYOB

Anthony Toner (once memorably described as ‘James Taylor meets John Prine in a second hand book shop’) returns to Ards to celebrate the release of his ninth album, Our Lady of the Wind and Rain.

Since the release of the popular single Sailortown ten years ago, Anthony has been in constant motion, releasing a string of popular albums and playing countless live performances, the songs interwoven with insightful, moving and funny stories.

Along the way he has chalked up a string of memorable songs, including Well Well Well, The Road to Fivemiletown, East of Louise and recently An Alphabet, a moving song inspired by his father’s Alzheimer’s condition.

Expect an evening of peerless guitar playing and songs old and new.

www.anthonytoner.net

MUSIC IN THE CHAMBER

LOS DRAMÁTICOS

BANGOR CASTLE / FRIDAY 12 APRIL / 8PM
£12 / INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS

Los Dramáticos (Chile, Spain, Ireland) invite you to accompany them on a musical journey through the cultures of the Latin world. Stunning arrangements of well-known songs played with soul and bravura from around Latin America and Spain on 10-string charango (Victor Henríquez), flamenco guitar (Paddy Anderson) and percussion (Steve Davis and Marty McCloskey) are interspersed with surprising and humorous stories from their personal encounters with Latin music and culture.

Joyful melodies, hot rhythms and beautiful harmonies combine with tragic lyrics in music from the melting pots of Cuba, Chile, Bolivia, Mexico, Argentina and those other mysterious places where Africa, Asia and Europe meet.

Friday Night Live, bring a bottle, sit back, relax and enjoy the best affordable live music in town.
Mandy’s emotional and compelling debut album, *Bury Me Deep*, showcases her unique brand of Folk Noir and Americana perfectly.

At first listen you could easily be deceived into thinking that Mandy is a downtrodden country girl from south of the Dixie line. In fact, she is the eldest daughter of the acclaimed Northern Irish musician, the late David McWilliams. Mandy pays a moving tribute to her late father by closing her album with a beautiful and heartfelt rendition of his iconic song *The Days of Pearly Spencer*, which features the Arco String Quartet.

Mandy writes her own songs very much from the heart. With her wealth of life experience and acoustic guitar she creates beautifully formed lyrics and melodies. Her voice is pure and crystal clear and has earned her recent comparisons to Janis Ian and Dory Previn. Her live performances, alongside her lap steel guitar-playing husband Graham, are equally delightful and captivating.

Mandy and Graham will be joined on the night by the wonderful Ballymena-based band The Hideaways.

“Mandy Bingham’s voice is outstandingly beautiful. She has inherited her father’s songwriting skills and talent.”

Folk and Tumble

“A real talent, such mature song writing…”

Ralph McLean, BBC Radio Ulster

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**ARDS INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL**

VENUES THROUGHOUT NEWTOWNARDS / WEDNESDAY 3 – SUNDAY 7 APRIL

The Ards International Guitar Festival is back with a bang in April 2019 with a fresh new programme of guitar-inspired gigs, free fringe events, guitar clinics with industry professionals and an exhibition *In Your Town* featuring Rory Gallagher memorabilia.

Expect a jam-packed line up of blues, folk, rock, bluegrass and classical and contemporary music for guitar aficionados across the Borough.

Highlights of this year’s festival include Winnipeg born, Cork-based guitarist Ariel Posen, classical virtuoso Gary Ryan and a contemporary line up featuring Ali Todd, Mike Dawes and Shane Hennessey amongst others. You’ll also find a screening of the iconic Metallica documentary *Some Kind of Monster* and George Lowden in conversation with special guests.

The Ivy Bar welcomes plenty of action with gigs featuring The Hard Chargers and The Dunwells.

For updates on headline acts still to be announced please keep an eye on:

www.facebook/ardsinternationalguitarfestival
www.ardsguitarfestival.co.uk
YOUR LITTLE TINY WELCOME
TO THE GREAT BIG WHOLE WIDE WORLD
by Patrick Sanders

SUNBURST GALLERY, ARDS ARTS CENTRE / SATURDAY 19 JANUARY / 12NOON, 1PM, 2PM
FREE / DURATION: 25 MINUTES / SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES

Come and take a closer look and listen to Your Little Tiny Welcome at Ards Arts Centre, a wonderfully funny and touching introduction to our world for babies, children, parents and, well, everybody really.

This family event will give you the chance to view Patrick Sander’s wonderful exhibition and listen to some songs inspired by Patrick’s intriguing illustrations, specially written and performed by Rachael McCabe.

Sadly, Patrick left our world far, far too soon but in this work, his extraordinary and unique world view lives on as his legacy, as his wonderful gift to future generations.

Copies of the book containing all the illustrations from the exhibition will also be on sale.

Patrick’s exhibition continues at Ards Arts Centre until Saturday 26 January. See P16 for exhibition details.

SING TO ME WITH KYLE RILEY
ARDS ARTS CENTRE / SATURDAY 6 APRIL / 11AM
£5 / DURATION: 60 MINUTES / SUITABLE FOR AGES 2 TO 7 YEARS

The Sing to Me tour features songs from Kyle Riley’s 2018 release by the same title. With some traditional children’s music and a couple of tunes for the adults too, join us for this entertaining and engaging family concert as part of the 2019 Ards International Guitar Festival.

There’s the fast paced Astronaut, a whirlwind tour of our solar system, or the slower Do You Ever Feel Sad About the Dinosaurs?, a ballad about asteroids and dealing with change. There’s even a song about ‘Irish’ wallabies, they might not be native, but they’ve made Lambay Island off the coast of Dublin their home! That’s only the tip of the iceberg.

Sing to Me features an hour of folk and rock music, sure to get your little ones moving. For your under 8s, your rock toddlers and the little boppers in between, it’s fun for the whole family.

www.kylejamesriley.com
ISOSCELES THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS
JEKYLL AND HYDE
STUDIO 1A, 1A HAMILTON ROAD, BANGOR / THURSDAY 25 APRIL / 8PM
£10 / INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS / SUITABLE FOR AGES 12+

“All human beings are commingled out of good and evil.... Edward Hyde alone, in the ranks of mankind, was pure evil.”

Isoceles Theatre Company [Pat Abernethy and Dave Marsden] return to Bangor after a sell-out performance of Murder, Just What the Doctor Ordered in 2018 for this fast-paced adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson’s classic novel that has enthralled audiences throughout Britain and Ireland.

An experiment to separate virtue from wickedness in his own nature results in the respectable Dr Jekyll releasing the demon within: a malevolent force which will eventually possess him body and soul.

A story that has captivated and fascinated the world for more than a hundred years, perhaps because a Mr Hyde lurks deep within us all, watching... and waiting...

“Done in fine style... A good, vivid, popular version of a great story, told with notable passion.”

The Scotsman

“Every emotional nuance is wrung out of it, and a packed audience sit rapt at such conversely dark materials.”

Glasgow Herald

BIG TELLY THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS
FREAK SHOW
PORTICO, PORTAFERRY / FRIDAY 15 MARCH / 7.30PM
£15 / SUITABLE FOR AGES 12+ (NO STRONG LANGUAGE OR CONTENT, DARK HUMOUR)

Inspired by the true story of the 17th-century Portrush Giantess, Mary Murphy, Freak Show is an original blast of irreverent theatre from Portstewart’s Big Telly.

Mary married a dashing French sea captain who gave up his seafaring to manage her ‘freak show’ celebrity. After years of international acclaim, Mary was reported destitute, no longer with her captain, her celebrity forgotten.

The script uses material from Moyra Donaldson’s collection ‘Miracle Fruit’ which explores a fascination for the Enlightenment era, the physical freakery of those living on the margins of society, and a personal, tangible sense of loss.

Premiered in The MAC at the Belfast International Arts Festival in November 2018, Freak Show examines themes of performance, exploitation and consent and reflects a contemporary fascination with fame, scandal and privacy. Clashing dark with light, it will contain maximum craic and heartbreak in spades. And an Irish jig. On stilts.

Freak Show features original music by Garth McConaghie, and stunning choreography from the team that brought you The Faerie Thorn.
MIXED FEELINGS
AN EXHIBITION BY KATRINA COBAIN
GEORGIAN GALLERY, ARDS ARTS CENTRE
THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER – SATURDAY 26 JANUARY

"Mixed Feelings" is an exhibition of sculpture with glazed expressions, dysfunctional properties and stories to tell. By displaying a range of objects from various performances or contexts, in their own right they communicate another time, place or narrative. These objects have a sense of error about them: there is something off-kilter, not quite right, that puts you off. Whether you laugh, smile or grimace, "Mixed Feelings" has something to show you.

Patrick Sanders [14 July 1976 – 16 January 2017] was a clown doctor, an illustrator, a performer, an artist, an activist and a loving husband.

In 2015, Replay Theatre Company created the world’s first BabyDay; a day celebrating all of our tiniest citizens. A day that was about hope, about the future and about the family that Northern Ireland could be. As part of that celebration, Patrick was commissioned to create this exhibition and the beautiful book which it celebrates – which had started life a few years previously for his littlest friend, Aoife Beggs, on the occasion of her glorious birth.

"Your Little Tiny Welcome" is a wonderfully funny and touching introduction to our world for babies, children, parents and, well, everybody really.

Sadly, Patrick left our world far, far too soon but in this work, his extraordinary and unique world view lives on as his legacy, as his wonderful gift to future generations.

AN EXHIBITION BY PATRICK SANDERS
SUNBURST GALLERY, ARDS ARTS CENTRE
THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER – SATURDAY 26 JANUARY
MUSICAL PERFORMANCES: SATURDAY 19 JANUARY [SEE PAGE 12 FOR DETAILS]

BEYOND THE SEA
A SOLO EXHIBITION BY LEILA HENRY
SUNBURST GALLERY, ARDS ARTS CENTRE
THURSDAY 31 JANUARY – SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY
PREVIEW: THURSDAY 31 JANUARY, 7PM – 9PM

The works shown in this exhibition by Leila Henry are taken from a series of drawings exploring the effects of coastal erosion.

Over the last two and a half years, Leila has been observing the impact of unusually high tides on the dunes at Ballyhernan Beach on the Fanad Peninsula. This erosion is occurring all along our coast, and while it is presumed that the dunes will eventually regenerate, the topography of the landscape will be irrevocably changed.

AND THUS: A STREAM WEPT IN THE GARDEN
A SOLO EXHIBITION BY HANNAH CLEGG
GEORGIAN GALLERY, ARDS ARTS CENTRE
THURSDAY 31 JANUARY – SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY
PREVIEW: THURSDAY 31 JANUARY, 7PM – 9PM

This exhibition by Hannah Clegg is rooted in notions of spiritual quest, substantiating allegories of human nature, the tangible Divine, and the mystical landscape. The paintings draw illumination from poetic religious ecstasies, the medieval bestiaries and corresponding biblical tapestries, mythology and lore.
AESTHETIC
AN EXHIBITION FEATURING CURATED WORKS FROM RECREATIONAL ARTISTS IN ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH

GEORGIAN GALLERY, ARDS ARTS CENTRE
THURSDAY 28 FEBRUARY – SATURDAY 23 MARCH
PREVIEW: THURSDAY 28 FEBRUARY, 7PM – 9PM

Ards Arts Centre is pleased to host the return of the Aesthetic exhibition to the visual arts programme for 2019.

The aim of this curated exhibition is to showcase the high calibre artwork produced by recreational artists of the many art clubs in the Ards and North Down Borough Council area.

On display you will find an eclectic collection of portraits, landscapes and creative compositions painted from the heart.

FACE VALUE
AN EXHIBITION BY ANNA DONOVAN AND LENKA DAVIDIKOVA

SUNBURST GALLERY, ARDS ARTS CENTRE
THURSDAY 28 FEBRUARY – SATURDAY 23 MARCH
PREVIEW: THURSDAY 28 FEBRUARY, 7PM – 9PM

Face Value is a collaborative exhibition featuring the artwork of Belfast-based visual artists Lenka Davidikova and Anna Donovan.

The concept behind this exhibition is to raise awareness of one’s mindset, touching on the fragility of the persona, which is a lot more prevalent in our society at the present time. Lenka and Anna express an interest of similar ideas represented in different forms including painting, drawing and sculpture.

IN YOUR TOWN
AN EXHIBITION OF RORY GALLAGHER MEMORABILIA

GEORGIAN GALLERY, ARDS ARTS CENTRE
THURSDAY 28 MARCH – SUNDAY 14 APRIL
PREVIEW: THURSDAY 28 MARCH, 7PM – 9PM

The In Your Town Rory Gallagher Memorabilia Exhibition is a fantastic collection of items, dating back to Rory’s early days with Taste right up until the present day. The exhibition features the complete original back catalogue of all of Rory’s official vinyl releases including LPs, 7” singles, early Taste memorabilia, various signed pieces, a complete inside look at tour programmes and many magazine articles as well as the original Rory Gallagher guitar tab book!

Also on display are The Irish Legends Rory Gallagher stamp, articles and in-depth information on Rory’s stunning guitar collection, rare CD releases such as the G-Men box set, the entire collection of Dino McGartland’s legendary Stagestruck fanzine and lots more.

THIS LAND
A SOLO EXHIBITION BY WENDY FERGUSON

SUNBURST GALLERY, ARDS ARTS CENTRE
THURSDAY 28 MARCH – SATURDAY 27 APRIL
PREVIEW: THURSDAY 28 MARCH, 7PM – 9PM

This Land is a new series of oil paintings by Wendy Ferguson which explores the manipulation and process of oil paint through the subject of the Irish landscape. Her work is redolent of her sense of place in rural County Fermanagh which has preoccupied and informed her relationship with the rural, agricultural landscape and her visual response to it. Ferguson delivers striking juxtapositions of colour, texture and shape which impart tactile qualities that enhance each work’s presence.

Ferguson translates the elemental through energetic, yet considered brushstrokes which respond to the changes in the land, the weather and the seasons.
VISUAL ARTS

OF MOVEMENT
A SOLO EXHIBITION
BY DRYDAN WILSON

GEORGIAN GALLERY, ARDS ARTS CENTRE
THURSDAY 18 APRIL – THURSDAY 23 MAY
PREVIEW: THURSDAY 18 APRIL, 7PM – 9PM

Of Movement, the title for the exhibition by Drydan Wilson, is inspired by the Richard Serra work Verb List and the idea of movements being the medium through which artworks can be created.

The exhibition will consist of works that explore and examine movements, gestures, interaction, interpretation and negotiation of space, architecture and landscape highlighting the beauty and creativity in the everyday things we see and do.

EXHIBITION VISITS
FOR SCHOOLS / COMMUNITY GROUPS

Did you know that exhibition visits are available to schools, youth groups and community groups?

Visits to Ards Arts Centre galleries are free of charge and are a great way to introduce young people and community groups to a variety of different artworks and artists.

Art workshops inspired by the exhibition series and led by professional artists are also available on request [costs associated to cover materials and artist fees].

For more information or to book a group visit, contact Ards Arts Centre on 028 9181 0803 or email arts@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

CREATIVE CLASSES

ENROLMENTS
Enrolments will be taken in person and by telephone on Wednesday 9 January between 9am and 5pm.

Please note: ALL class and workshop fees are payable in full on enrolment and are non-refundable unless the class is cancelled by Ards Arts.

We make a decision on whether to run a course one week before the start date. Please help us to help you by enrolling promptly.

Participants will be required to bring their own materials unless otherwise stated.

DRAWING SKILLS

10 WEEKS, COMMENCING 21 JANUARY
MONDAYS, 10AM – 12NOON
(EXCLUDING 18 MARCH)
FACILITATED BY LEE BOYD
FEES: £65/£60 CONCESSION

Drawing is easy, anyone can do it and you can draw anything you want to... that's lesson one. Lee will help you to explore the mediums, techniques and styles of drawing, ways of looking and how to capture mark making that builds your confidence and enjoyment of the process of drawing.

From beginner to the more advanced, this class will offer you the chance to refine and develop your skills and find new ways to express your art.

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SCULPTURAL CERAMICS FOR BEGINNERS

8 WEEKS, COMMENCING 21 JANUARY
MONDAYS 7PM – 9PM
FACILITATED BY SANDRA ROBINSON MA(RCA)
FEES: £80 INCLUDING MATERIALS AND KILN FIRING

In this short course designed specifically for beginners, participants will be given a hands-on introduction to the various hand-building methods of sculptural ceramics including coiling and slab-building. These methods will then be used to create an original clay sculpture. Participants will also explore various surface techniques including texture and patterning, oxidising and glazing.

No experience required. This class has been designed specifically for beginners, so if you have always wanted to try ceramics now is the perfect time!

WATERCOLOUR

10 WEEKS, COMMENCING 22 JANUARY
TUESDAYS 11AM – 1PM
FACILITATED BY TRISHA CAMPBELL UWS
FEES: £65/£60 CONCESSION

This class will guide you through the basics of watercolour painting. It is perfect for beginners and those with previous watercolour experience who would like to learn the traditional techniques in a relaxed, creative environment.

Participants will build on their skills throughout the course through fun, informative classes and learn to create simple yet effective watercolour paintings of their own.

Please bring own materials.

BEAD JEWELLERY

6 WEEKS, COMMENCING 22 JANUARY
TUESDAYS 2PM – 4PM
FACILITATED BY ROSEMARY MISKIMMIN
FEES: £46/£43 CONCESSION (INCLUDES INITIAL MATERIALS)

This is a great opportunity to explore a variety of jewellery-making techniques. You will have the chance to make unique necklaces, bracelets and earrings to complement your wardrobe. Individual colour preferences will be taken into account.

Materials for the first class are included in the course price. Other materials can be purchased by arrangement with the tutor.

ACRYLIC AND OIL PAINTING

10 WEEKS, COMMENCING 22 JANUARY
TUESDAYS 2PM – 4PM
FACILITATED BY SANDRA ROBINSON MA(RCA)
FEES: £65/£60 CONCESSION

During these classes we will focus on learning and developing acrylic and oil painting techniques. We will look at colour theory, blending and brush techniques, composition, layering, light placement and more.

As the term progresses, students will have the option to either continue with acrylics or move on to oils.

Suitable for all levels.

Please bring own materials.
**OIL AND ACRYLIC PAINTING**

A relaxed and informative painting class exploring all aspects of approaching oil and acrylic painting.

We will explore the use of mediums, colour theory, drawing techniques, mark making, composition and the application of paint. From beginners to the more advanced, this class will offer you the chance to build your skills, confidence and develop your own painting style.

*Suitable for all levels.*

*Please bring own materials.*

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**LEARN TO PLAY THE GUITAR**

Have you just bought yourself a guitar and want to learn to play or are looking to improve upon your playing skills? Darren can teach you the skills to make you a better player.

Playing along with your favourite song or learning how to write your own is easier than you think!

*Please bring along your own instrument, acoustic or electric.*

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**ILLUSTRATION**

Course participants will begin to develop their own individual style of illustration by sketching/drawing a variety of subject matter using the simple technique of pen and watercolour wash.

*Please bring own materials.*

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**PATCHWORK**

This popular and sociable course covers all aspects of the timeless craft of patchwork and quilting.

Participants will learn a number of techniques from traditional compositions and stitching to the more innovative and contemporary applications that have seen a recent resurgence in popularity.

*Please bring along your own materials/patterns.*
**EXPERIMENTAL DRAWING**

10 WEEKS, COMMENCING 24 JANUARY
THURSDAYS 10AM – 12NOON
FACILITATED BY JO HATTY
FEES: £65/£60 CONCESSION

There is no right or wrong way of drawing. These classes focus on the possibility of drawing and not the ‘how’ of drawing. Through a series of exercises, the aim is to improve ways of seeing, develop mark-making skills, improve decision making and above all encourage each unique and individual style.

“Drawing is the root of everything.”
Vincent Van Gogh

Suitable for all levels from complete beginners to those wishing to take a fresh approach to their drawing practice.

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**FLORAL ART**

10 WEEKS, COMMENCING 24 JANUARY
THURSDAYS
ADVANCED CLASS: 10AM – 12NOON
BEGINNERS CLASS: 1PM – 3PM
FACILITATED BY MAUREEN MULLIGAN
FEES: £65/£60 CONCESSION

Learn to make traditional, modern and contemporary floral arrangements in a friendly atmosphere.

*For the first class, please bring a bunch of irises or similar single flowers and some small-leaved foliage.*

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**CALLIGRAPHY**

10 WEEKS, COMMENCING 24 JANUARY
THURSDAYS 7PM – 9PM
(EXCLUDING 7 MARCH)
FACILITATED BY JACQUIE BRACHI
FEES: £65/£60 CONCESSION

Students will learn a range of skills that can be applied to write letters, cards and invitations as well as create beautiful artwork for the home. Small projects will be included and will be adapted to suit all abilities.

Suitable for all levels.

*Please bring a pencil and paper for the first class.*

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**DRAWING SKILLS**

10 WEEKS, COMMENCING 26 JANUARY
SATURDAYS 10.30AM – 12.30PM
FACILITATED BY LEE BOYD
FEES: £65/£60 CONCESSION

Drawing is easy, anyone can do it and you can draw anything you want to… that’s lesson one. Lee will help you to explore the mediums, techniques and styles of drawing, ways of looking and how to capture mark making that builds your confidence and enjoyment of the process of drawing.

From beginner to the more advanced, this class will offer you the chance to refine and develop your skills and find new ways to express your art.
SILVER STACKING RINGS WORKSHOP
ARDS ARTS CENTRE
SATURDAY 30 MARCH / 10AM – 4PM
FACILITATED BY DIANE LYNESS
FEES: £40 (INCLUDES ALL MATERIALS)
SUITE FOR ALL LEVELS
Spend a day of fun in the workshop and create beautiful silver stacking rings.
Each participant will be taught traditional jewellery-making techniques by Jeweller Diane Lyness, such as piercing, soldering, rolling, annealing and filing, enabling you to design and make a beautiful piece of jewellery to take home.
Lunch break 12.30pm – 1pm.
Please bring a packed lunch.
Tea/coffee provided.

READING AND WRITING POETRY WORKSHOP
ARDS ARTS CENTRE
SATURDAY 9 MARCH / 11AM – 3.30PM
FACILITATED BY KELLY CREIGHTON / FEES: £15
SUITE FOR BEGINNERS AND THOSE WISHING TO IMPROVE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF POETRY
This one-day workshop is for anyone with an interest in reading and writing poetry. During this class you will study published poems and discuss. You will also work on writing exercises and gain feedback.
By the end of the day you will have a greater understanding of your natural and authentic voice.
Participants are encouraged to bring along a poem for feedback.
Lunch break 12.30pm – 1pm.
Please bring a packed lunch.
Tea/coffee provided.

EXPERIMENTAL LIFE DRAWING
ARDS ARTS CENTRE
SATURDAY 13 APRIL / 10.30AM – 3.30PM
FACILITATED BY JO HATTY / FEES: £25
SUITE FOR ALL LEVELS AGED 18+
By exploring a range of media and approaches to drawing the figure, the aim is to improve your observational drawing, inspire your interest in the subject and access new ways of approaching your drawing.
The class will feature a nude life model in a series of short poses, longer poses, and the model in movement.
Please bring a sketch pad/loose paper, charcoal, pencils, pens, or other drawing materials of your choice.
Lunch break 12.30pm – 1pm
Please bring a packed lunch.
Tea/coffee provided.

PAINTING WORKSHOP:
UNDERSTANDING COLOUR FOR BEGINNERS
ARDS ARTS CENTRE / SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY / 10AM – 4PM
FACILITATED BY SANDRA ROBINSON MA(RCA)
FEES: £25 / SUITABLE FOR BEGINNERS
Open up the world of colour in this one-day workshop where you will get to grips with Colour Theory. Learn about value, hue, tone and, most importantly, how to mix up more convincing blends of greens, browns and greys.
By the end of the day, you will have a colour resource to refer to for future paintings, feel more confident in approaching a painting.
Participants are required to bring paints (any medium) and paper/canvas to work on. Tabletop easels are provided, but you are welcome to bring your own.
Lunch break 12.30pm – 1pm.
Please bring a packed lunch.
Tea/coffee provided.
OUTREACH TASTER PROGRAMME - BRINGING THE ARTS TO YOU!

MOSAIC
SALLY HOUSTON
DONAGHADEE COMMUNITY CENTRE
TUESDAY 19 AND 26 FEBRUARY / 7PM – 9PM
OR
COMBER LEISURE CENTRE
THURSDAY 21 AND 28 MARCH / 7PM – 9PM
COST: £20

Design and make a small piece of mosaic to decorate your home using basic mosaic technique. You will get the chance to experiment with a variety of materials and choose from a large range of colours.

WILLOW WORK
CLIVE LYTLE, WELIG CRAFTS
COMBER LEISURE CENTRE
THURSDAY 7 AND 14 MARCH / 7PM – 9PM
OR
PORTAFERRY MARKET HOUSE
WEDNESDAY 20 AND 27 MARCH / 7PM – 9PM
COST: £30

Over the two sessions create a woven bird feeder and a Catalan flat round tray suitable for practical or decorative use.

PET PORTRAITS
SHARON REGAN
PORTAFERRY MARKET HOUSE
WEDNESDAY 6 AND 13 MARCH / 7PM – 9PM
COST: £20

Create a portrait of your favourite pet, using the memory of stroking their precious head to sculpt and mould the clay. The process will be broken down into doable, easy steps. Plenty of back up material to help you create your own masterpiece. Please bring photos of your pet, hand towel, apron and box to bring your creation home.

PAINTING AND DYING WITH SILK
JAN CAMPBELL
PORTAFERRY MARKET HOUSE
WEDNESDAY 20 AND 27 FEBRUARY
7PM – 9PM
COST: £30

Using the ‘gutta’ or outline technique and a silk frame, create your own piece of textile art. Jan will guide you through the various techniques and materials used to release your inner creativity. Also learn the basics of ‘Shibori’, an ancient Japanese dying technique that involves tying, gathering or twisting the silk before dying to create truly original pieces.

CROCHET
CHRISTINE CASEY
DONAGHADEE COMMUNITY CENTRE
TUESDAY 5 AND 12 MARCH / 7PM – 9PM
COST: £16

Learn how to crochet ‘Granny Square’ style triangular bunting, and embellish them with beads, buttons and tassels. No experience required. All materials provided.

NEEDLE FELTING
ELAINE McCULLY
COMBER LEISURE CENTRE
THURSDAY 21 AND 28 FEBRUARY
7PM – 9PM
COST: £20

Become familiar with the fundamental techniques required to sculpt wool fibres by attending this taster session and create two-dimensional and three-dimensional pieces ranging from wearable brooches to small forms.

ARDARTS.COM / 028 9181 0803
If you want to bring your imagination into real life, then these four-week ceramic sessions are for you!

We will explore hand building and decorating techniques to produce a range of different and exciting sculptures and models. By taking inspiration from stories and the world around us, we will build, squish, roll, construct and paint, to produce permanent memories of our creativity.

The aim of these four-week art sessions is to inspire young minds to grow their artistic talent and practical skills while encouraging imagination and creativity. Most of all, it’s about having fun while creating wonderful artworks to take home! Materials and expert guidance are provided. Please bring along an art shirt or wear old clothes.

Calling all Easter bunnies who want to get creative over the holidays! Put down that chocolate egg and hop along to Ards Arts Centre to enjoy a whole day of arts, drama and clay activities.

Including painting, crafting, modelling and games, this is a fun-filled creative day that everyone will enjoy. Be sure to book early to avoid disappointment.

Participants will be required to bring their own packed lunch plus a snack for breaks.
**FRIDAY FRIENDLIES**

**FRIDAYS / 1 FEBRUARY, 1 MARCH, 5 APRIL**
**FACILITATED BY SANDRA ROBINSON**
**£2 / INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS**

Join us for an inclusive art club on the first Friday of each month, suitable for anyone requiring a gentler pace of class with less focus on skills or for those that maybe just need a little extra help to bring out their creativity.

This club is particularly suitable for those keen to engage in a creative and fun activity following a dementia diagnosis, or for those just wanting to meet like-minded friends and try out arts and crafts in a supported class. Sandra will guide participants through a variety of hand-on arts and crafts activity.

If you would be keen to join our **Friday Friendlies**, please contact Susanna at Ards Arts Centre on 028 9181 0803.

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**KNIT, NATTER, CROCHET & CHATTER**

**TUESDAYS / 10AM – 12NOON**
**FEES: £2 / INCLUDES REFRESHMENT**

If you are a keen knitter and love a good natter, you’ll love this weekly knitting circle but the group has expanded and you are also welcome to come along if you prefer to crochet. If you would like to learn to crochet, this is a self-help group and many of our experienced ladies are willing to show you how. Bring along your latest project and share your skills with like-minded people or bring a pattern, wool and a crochet hook or needles.

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**#ANDDREAM – MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE!**

Our Borough’s giant MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM is almost here. 150 people are invited to join 30 top-flight global artists to make this extravaganza! You can take part in singing, dancing, movement, martial arts, acting, prop making, costume, make up, set building and more.

**Spring:** Free drama or creative writing workshops for groups across the Borough.

12 January: Auditions! For actors, singers and musicians at Studio 1A, Bangor.

23 February: Big Volunteer Info Day! Information sessions to find out how to volunteer for DREAM. 10.30am: The Studio, SERC Bangor Campus, 2.00pm: Ards Arts Centre, Newtownards.

9 March: Big DREAM Weekend – DAY 1!
Free masterclasses with professional artists: 10am – 5pm: The Studio, SERC Bangor Campus

10 March: Big DREAM Weekend – DAY 2!
Free masterclasses with professional artists: 10am – 5pm: Queen’s Hall, Newtownards

**February & March:** Rehearse with professional directors, composer, choreographer and more.

**March:** Look out for pop-up mini performances in shopping malls across the Borough.

**April:** Rehearse with professional actors from Northern Ireland and beyond.


Make your performance dreams come true and make new friends... you can’t afford to miss this!

Go to www.terranovaproductions.net/dream to find out how to get involved or search #ANDdream on social media. No experience necessary. All are welcome.
GET INVOLVED, GET CREATIVE THIS MAY 2019!

Get Creative Festival is an annual campaign to celebrate and support the everyday creativity happening in homes and public spaces across the UK and Republic of Ireland with a whole range of amazing events!

The nationwide festival will take place from 11 – 19 May and Ards Arts Centre is calling all creatives in the Borough to get involved. Whether your skill is weaving, Scottish dancing, woodwork or cake decorating, the Get Creative Festival is a brilliant opportunity to share your skills and pick up a few new ones on the way!

Ards Arts Centre’s Get Creative Open Day will be on Saturday 11 May. Participation is voluntary but there will be the opportunity to promote your group or business through our promotional material and on the day.

If you would like to get involved in Ards Arts Centre’s Get Creative Open Day, please email amy.mckelvey@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

If you have your own free event running between 11th and 19th May then visit the Get Creative website at www.getcreativeuk.com and sign up your event!

WORKSHOPS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

CUAN CRAIC DRAMA GROUP

CUAN CRAIC DRAMA GROUP
TUESDAYS 2PM – 4PM
FREE

The Cuan Craic Drama Group meets weekly in Kircubbin on Tuesday afternoons and is always looking for new participants. Since the group began in 2011, they have undertaken some interesting projects including the creation of several radio dramas, live performance and even a short documentary. The group is facilitated by Jenny Long who has a wealth of experience in teaching drama to adult groups. Each session starts off with a few simple exercises to get the brain going and the creative juices flowing and then is followed on by some further exploration into character development, devising, improvisation and script work.

Absolutely no experience is necessary for these workshops, which, more than anything are about inspiring the imagination, meeting new people and having some fun.

The workshops are designed for people aged 50+ but everyone is welcome. Transportation can be provided upon request.

If you are interested, please contact Ards Arts Centre for further information.

POSITIVE POTTERY

ARDS ARTS CENTRE
MONDAYS 5PM – 6.30PM

Research shows that participating in pottery workshops can have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing. The very tactile nature of pottery helps participants to relax and destress, calming the heartbeat and focusing the mind on the creative process. The positive pottery workshops are facilitated by ceramicist Sandra Robinson and feedback from our pilot project with International Women in North Down was extremely positive:

“I found the experience very grounding and calming.”

“So therapeutic and enjoyable for me.”

“It was a great way to distress.”

If you are a community group (large or small) that could really benefit from a six-week course in pottery then please send a short email expressing your interest to amy.mckelvey@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk
ARTS PROJECT FUND

Available to arts, community and special interest groups throughout the Ards and North Down Borough area who wish to enhance existing and undertake new community arts activities.

A maximum grant of £1,000 is available. Deadline: Friday 15 February, 12noon

INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FUND

Professional artists working and living in the Borough may apply through the Artistic Development Scheme for support towards training costs and artistic residencies.

A maximum grant of £250 is available. Deadline: Monday 25 February, 12noon

YOUTH ARTS TRAINING FUND

Available to young people living in the Borough who wish to undertake short term or one-off youth arts training or development opportunities.

A maximum grant of £250 is available. Deadline: Monday 25 February, 12noon

Applications for all Arts Funding Programmes will be available from:
- www.ardsarts.com and www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/resident/grants
- Email: arts@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk
- Ards Arts Centre, Town Hall, Conway Square, Newtownards, BT23 4NP

ARTS FUNDING WORKSHOPS

ARTS PROJECT GRANT INFORMATION SESSION

ARDS ARTS CENTRE
TUESDAY 29 JANUARY / 6PM – 8PM

If you are considering applying for one of the Ards and North Down Borough Council Arts Grants, then come along to this information session which will assist on how best to approach your application. Booking ESSENTIAL.

Further Support for Groups
Building on the success of the Arts Grants Programme, the Community Arts Development Officer is offering assistance to groups wishing to apply for arts funding through other charitable organisations. If you feel you have an arts project that requires assistance, contact the Community Arts Development Officer on 028 9181 0803.

BALLINGLEN ARTS FOUNDATION BURSARY

Ard and North Down Arts is offering a bursary for a two-week residency at Ballinglen Arts Foundation.

The Foundation is an Irish non-profit organisation located in the village of Ballycastle on the sea coast of North County Mayo in the Republic of Ireland.

The residency is aimed at visual artists and craft makers providing them the time to develop their artistic practice. Artists are provided with accommodation as well as an artist studio to work in.

The practitioners will be selected based upon their previous achievements and the project they intend to undertake during their residency or how the workshop will support their professional development.

The selected Artist Residency should take place within 12 months of receipt of their award.

www.ballinglenartsfoundation.org

TYRONE GUTHRIE CENTRE BURSARY

Ard and North Down Arts is offering one-week residencies to the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig in County Monaghan to practitioners in all art forms who are currently based in the Ards and North Down Borough.

The Lord Dunleath and Sir James Kilfedder Bursaries, which offer residencies at the centre in Annaghmakerrig, aim to assist and encourage both established and emerging practitioners and to give them an opportunity to work intensively on a ‘project’ alongside others in a very unique environment.

The practitioners will be selected based upon their previous achievements and the project they intend to undertake during their residency. The selected Artist Residency should take place within 12 months of receipt of their award.

www.tyroneguthrie.ie

Application forms for Arts Bursaries will be available from Monday 7 January with a closing date of Monday 25 February at 12noon:
- www.ardsarts.com and www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/resident/grants
- Email: arts@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk
- Ards Arts Centre, Town Hall, Conway Square, Newtownards, BT23 4NP

ARTIST’S BURSARY SHOWCASE

FOR DETAILS SEE PAGE 41
Are you prepared for when something goes wrong?

In their professional lives, artists enter into many contracts: they sell their works; they provide services to organisations; they are commissioned to produce new works; they exhibit in galleries; they give permission to reproduce their works for various purposes. All of these activities involve entering into contracts. In fact, virtually all professional dealings of the artist will involve the question of contract. And when something goes wrong in those dealings, and the artist seeks advice, the first issue that must be addressed is: “Was there a valid contract?”

The Visual Artists Ireland ‘Show and Tell’ Evening, provides artists with the opportunity to give a presentation on their practice in an informal setting where they can network and meet people with similar ideas and interests. We are now inviting artists, curators, etc. to attend/take part in this free event. Information on artists taking part will be available prior to the evening on the booking page.

Artists who wish to present must register their place and send images by Monday 14 January.

For any other information, please email event organiser Rob Hilken: rob@visualartists-ni.org

This informal information evening will talk you through the arts residency bursaries offered by Ards and North Down Borough Council to the Tyrone Guthrie Centre and Ballinglen Arts Foundation. These bursaries support the professional development of practicing artists and this free event will feature short presentations from recent recipients of these bursaries. This event will be an opportunity for artists wishing to apply to the bursary scheme to discuss ideas and network with peers, however anyone is welcome to attend as it will appeal to all practicing artists or those who simply have an interest in the arts.

This event is free, however pre-booking is essential. To reserve your space please call 028 9181 0803 or email arts@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk For information on the Bursaries, see page 39.

If you are looking for feedback on text or images, it is often helpful to send us relevant material a week before your appointment: rob@visualartists-ni.org
TO BOOK TICKETS
Tickets can be purchased with credit cards, cheques, cash and phone bookings can be made via Ards Arts Centre and North Down Museum plus any of Ards and North Down Borough Council’s Visitor Information Centres, or you can book online at [www.ardsarts.com](http://www.ardsarts.com) and [www.northdownmuseum.com](http://www.northdownmuseum.com).

Please note that tickets cannot be held without payment and are non-refundable. Concessionary rate applies to students in full-time education and senior citizens only. There will be a £1 postage charge on all tickets posted out.

TO APPLY FOR AN EXHIBITION
Ards and North Down Borough Council invites professional artists, art organisations, and community groups to apply to exhibit their artwork at Ards Arts Centre. For an application form and Exhibition Policy please contact Ards Arts Centre.

VENUE INFORMATION
BUDDY CARD SCHEME
Ards and North Down Borough Council wants to encourage those with a disability to attend arts and heritage events. If you have a disability and require assistance to attend events then you can apply for a Buddy Card that allows your ‘Buddy’ to attend for free. You can pick up an application form for a Buddy Card at Ards Arts Centre, North Down Museum or any of Ards and North Down Borough Council’s Visitor Information Centres.

FACILITIES FOR HIRE AT ARDS ARTS CENTRE
Rooms in Ards Arts Centre can be hired by members of the public for a variety of uses including meetings, conferences, and events. The Arts Centre has full disability access to all areas on the ground and first floors of the building.

The Londonderry Room is a beautifully restored Georgian function room named after Lord Londonderry, whose portrait dominates the gable wall. This room is suited to meetings, conferences, talks, live music, and functions. Maximum capacity 100.

The Studio is a multi-purpose room ideal for more hands-on arts and crafts classes, talks or meetings. Maximum capacity 30.

Room 1 lends itself to meetings, classes, seminars and talks. Maximum capacity 30.

The Boardroom is a more formal meeting room permanently set for a capacity of approximately 20 in typical boardroom style.

Access for Disabled Patrons
We welcome disabled patrons, but would appreciate knowing your requirements in advance.

A kitchen is also available to hire in conjunction with your desired meeting room.