



Latest Updates

In this difficult and worrying time, one heartening ray of hope is the way communities have come together all over the North to support each other and help the isolated and vulnerable. Here at MHS Heritage & Culture many of our volunteers and members are in an older age group. While we may not be physically out in the community ourselves, we are working to put together a programme to help keep us all connected, engaged and involved.

We are making adjustments to our building too, so that people can drop in and meet up socially a safe way. The National Lottery Community Fund has granted us an uplift in funding for this work, and we are extremely grateful for their support. Thanks to all the National Lottery players

who made it possible. Halifax Foundation and The Community Foundation have given grants to aid with programme delivery and we would also like to thank them very much for this assistance.

James Armour (Director MHS Heritage & Culture Ltd.)





Online Paper -Making Workshop: Learn a new talent with artist Tunde Toth



Knitting Together: Maghera

Why not put your talents to good use while you have time on your hands? Join our Knitting Group



Silk Fibre Paper -Making

MAKE YOUR OWN SILK FLOWER OR STAR

Live online workshop with Tunde Toth artist and educator 25th July and 1st August (Saturdays) 3 - 4 pm each day. Each participant attends the two ZOOM sessions.



This live workshop introduces Silk Fibre Paper Making: a contemporary technique using raw, untreated silk fibres and fabric dyes to create lightweight, 'fabriclike' silk papers. This is a natural process, resulting in beautiful silk fibre pieces made without any added mediums or adhesives. The workshop is suitable for complete beginners. There is a fee of £5 to take part as each participant will receive a small pack of materials together with a sample piece in advance of the workshop. Places are limited so book early if you are interested.

info@maghera-heritage.org.uk



Schoolday Memories

Schooldays.....The best days of our lives? Or maybe not.... Either way they are an important time for us all and leave lasting memories.

On the first of August we are starting a **Back to School Reminiscence Project** based on people's recollections of their schooldays in Maghera before the 1970s. Hopefully, later on, we can do a follow-up project covering the years after that.

This idea grew out of an article in our last magazine, (Maghera Times) on the old Beagh School. Many people have come forward since to ask if we will be writing about other schools in the town.

So if you would like to share your recollections of this time or if you have photos of your schooldays we would love to hear from you.

Further details in our July Newsletter.

Maghera Quiz:

Congratulations to Raymond McNamee who is the winner of our Quiz, and who has a very impressive knowledge of Maghera and the history of the town!!

KNITTING TOGETHER: MAGHERA

Inspired by the great work of the Derry Square Knitters we are starting a group:

Knitting Together: Maghera, to support their project. The Square Knitters ask people to knit 6 inch squares from left-over wool. The squares are joined up to make blankets and these are shipped out to refugee camps where they are distributed to help those with babies and young children. Aideen Hughes from the group explained that they came together in response to the heart-breaking picture we all remember of little Alan Kurdi's body lying on a beach in Turkey as his family fled from persecution.



joined together and passed on to the Derry Square Knitters who run regular shipments abroad.

When the current crisis is over, and we can meet up again, we hope to continue the work in our new craft room and have more social occasions – but until then we can work together from home and feel we are doing something useful..

In addition it has been found that knitting reduces stress, can give an increased sense of well-being and promotes social connection. So all the more reason to get started!!

Let's Get Knitting

The Derry Square Knitters' project works to help other children who are still suffering as refugees. Already, well over 1000 blankets have been distributed and with people from the North going out to see the situation on the ground you can be sure that they are reaching those who need them the most. As many of us have more time on our hands at the moment it seemed a good opportunity to start something positive and get involved in this great project. All you have to do is knit the squares and drop them in to us at either The Hub or at 11 Main Street, our new building next door. We will arrange to have them



Help Needed for New Outdoor Social Space

To make it easier for us to meet up socially while still staying distanced we are developing the yard at the side of 11 Main Street into an informal outdoor seating area (a bit like the picture on the right hopefully) where people can drop in for a coffee and where we can hold bigger events when that becomes possible again.

We have lots of old and re-cycled timber and we would be delighted with any offers of help to make benches, tables, planters and screens for the new garden. If you have the time and the skill and are willing to get involved we would love to hear from you. All help and ideas for planting also welcome.



Creative Writing Workshops



June saw the launch of our creative writing workshops, which are proving extremely popular—not surprising with author Sheena Wilkinson at the helm. Sheena effortlessly engages her students from the get go and encourages them to let their words flow freely on the page without being too self-conscious about the content. We know many of you were disappointed not to be able to join in the workshops as numbers were limited, but Sheena has agreed to run another series in September so look out for news of these on facebook or join our mailing list by dropping us an email at <u>info@maghera-heritage.org.uk</u>



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