

# around the Point

## News from Drumgath Ladies group

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Last Thursday the Group was delighted to welcome along Patricia Eccles to demonstrate a few Christmas Nibbles – and she didn't disappoint, creating the most fabulous fudge, shortcakes and chocolate brownies.

Then she forced everyone there to sample the goodies! As you can imagine it was a difficult task but no one wanted to be rude. Needless to say, Patricia will be back.

Friday was the Cross-Community Christmas Dinner and as usual Drumgath Ladies Group couldn't be satisfied with just a meal, no, they had to add a day trip into the equation.

The group left Rathfriland around 11am and headed off to Dobbies Garden Centre for tea and scones, then onto Lisburn for some shopping therapy.

The day ended with a delicious meal in Del Torro restaurant – a great day was had by all.

This event was sponsored by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Drumgath Ladies Group with funds awarded to the group by the Provident Good Relations Fund earlier in the year.

#### DIARY DATES

#### THURSDAY DECEMBER 7

Maureen Ward is back 7.30pm-9pm in the Parish Centre with 'Delicious makes with your Christmas leftovers'. So, if you don't want to be looking at the remains of your turkey for a week, why not come along. Everyone welcome - £2 members and £4 non-members.

#### THURSDAY DECEMBER 14

Christmas Wreath Making in the Parish Centre from 7.30pm-9pm. More details to follow.

Names are still being taken for the day trip to Dublin and the theatre next August to see WICKED. The show starts at 2.30pm with a two course meal in the Carrickdale on the way home, with a total cost of £85. If you are interested please contact Mary Brannigan 07813808558

Why not become a member of the group? That way you save money on each event and you also get prior notification and priority booking on events and outings.

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Patricia Eccles demonstrates a few Christmas Nibbles. R1749124

# Izak9 revolutionising maths

St Mark's High School has adopted a revolutionary approach to teaching maths, adding fun to the classroom by taking away the pencil and copybook.

Some pupils are making the Warrenpoint second level school their first choice simply because of the new approach to classroom maths facilitated by the interactive Izak9 learning resource.

The new teaching tool focuses on making maths class more enjoyable through practical learning and is boosting both the confidence of children and their positive attitudes to the subject, says St Mark's teacher Shauna Quinn.

Facilitating fun with numeracy certainly lives up to the school's motto, she explains.

"Our school motto 'Enjoy, Believe, Succeed' is lived out using Izak9," she said.

"The pupils enjoy the hands on experience, allowing them to work together, believe in themselves and achieve success in a fun and non-threatening learning environment."

Mrs Quinn's demonstration of the colourful cubes in one primary school was even "responsible for a girl changing her mind about which school she wanted to go to" in favour of St Mark's.

She added: "Classes who have used it have reacted very positively to it. They love maths with no books, pen or paper.

"I can see a great improvement in their thinking skills and they are so aware of using the correct terminology when using Izak9."

"Children are very keen to share their strategies and I have observed some quiet children beginning to speak out more as a result of using Izak9."

Izak9 consists of 27 cubes with different combinations of colour, number and shape.



St Mark's teacher Shauna Quinn. 1749120

Joint research by Trinity College Dublin and Queen's University Belfast, which was recently published in the International Journal of Education Research, found that students' enjoyment of mathematics was significantly boosted by using the resource.

Mrs Quinn was introduced to Izak9 by a student teacher and "immediately recognised its potential as

an invaluable teaching and learning resource".

She explains that one of the "most notable benefits" is the increased confidence of children and improved attitudes. "Pupils have told me that Izak9 has been solely responsible for changing their negative attitude to maths and parents have approached me outside of school to tell me how much their child loved Izak9," said Shauna.

"Children of all abilities can experience success - in one primary school the class teacher was amazed at the participation and answers from a pupil who had never shown any flair or enthusiasm for maths. Being able to engage and motivate pupils after six years of complacency shows how magnificent Izak9 is as a maths resource."

St Mark's has employed the innovative resource - which was created in Northern Ireland - with all year groups from 8-12.

"Pupils from each year have been fantastically enthusiastic," says Mrs Quinn, who trained as a primary teacher with maths specialism and has been passionately teaching the subject for 17 years at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3.

"They have become more aware of using correct mathematical terminology and explaining things clearly and concisely. They are also amazed to realise that other pupils have a different way of arriving at the same answer."

Mrs Quinn has embraced all things Izak9 for the past year, even daring to use it in a lesson observation by ETI [Education Training Inspectorate] - "despite being a novice" at the time.

"As part of my cross-phase placement with the KS2/KS3 Numeracy and Literacy Transition Project, I have also used Izak9 with pupils in all classes in Key Stage 2 - P4 to P7. The enthusiasm of these primary school pupils was refreshing," she says.

For more information on Izak9 log on to www.izak9.com

## Bowling Green work to begin early 2018

By Ryan Sands  
ryan@newryreporter.com

Work is set to begin on the £140,000 upgrade of Warrenpoint Bowling Green's pavilion in early 2018.

Planning permission was granted for the 'extension and upgrades to existing bowling

pavilion to include new changing rooms and new external cladding' at November's Planning Committee meeting, and, last week, the Council tendered for a contractor to 'design and construct the facilities'.

"The existing building comprises of toilets, storage, kitchen facilities and a larger multi-purpose room," the tender documentation states.

"The works include internal alterations, external upgrades to include new cladding and a new extension to include provision of 2no. changing rooms.

"The existing building is a pre-fabricated, modular-type timber framed construction on a steel chassis sub-structure supported by foundation loading points and was erected on site circa 2004."

The document's budget section notes that the 'current budget for the scheme is £140,000', though adds that

'tenderers should be aware that activities may be removed from the activity schedule if necessary to meet budgetary constraints'.

Commencement of works is expected to commence in February and last for three months.



How the upgraded Warrenpoint Bowling Pavilion is set to look. R1744113

## Further Arkwright awards for St Louis

A trio of bright young engineering minds from St Louis Grammar School in Killeel completed a series of challenging interviews and aptitude tests for the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship during the 2016/17 academic year.

Year 13 students, Cormac Hardy, Sean Quinn and Rory Quinn, were recently informed of the success of their applications via letters acknowledging that they were now Affiliated Members of the Arkwright Scholarship.

The success of Cormac, Sean and

Rory follows on from the previous successes of Caitlin Sands (2016) currently completing her A2 studies at St Louis and Ryan Rafferty/Steven Flood, joint winners in 2015, who have now commenced their MEng Engineering Degree programmes at Queen's University Belfast.

The trio will have a sponsor from industry for the duration of their A-Level course studies and their engineering degree courses at universities, including £300 p/a towards their studies.



St Louis GS Arkwright Engineering Scholarship recipients l-r: Sean Quinn, Rory Quinn and Cormac Hardy, pictured with St Louis Principal Kevin Martin and teacher of Engineering Anthony Monaghan. R1749302