

Community News

Edition 14 | SPRING | May 2025

Welcome to the 14th edition of Community News.

We hope you enjoy all the latest news, activities, upcoming events and items of interest from around our Woven communities.

Tenant Conference 2025

Members of the Editorial Panel were delighted to join with tenants from schemes across NI for the second Woven Tenant Conference at the end of February. Many thanks to all those who joined us on the day for variety of workshops, presentations interactive sessions as well as entertainment and lunch.

Conference this year was held at Belfray Country Inn, Derry/Londonderry



Would you like to join our Editorial Panel?

Community News is produced by tenants, for tenants; co-ordinated and compiled by the Editorial Panel and members of Woven's Homes & Communities Team.

We are on the lookout for willing tenant volunteers. Gain experience of newsletter production and share news with tenants across NI. Email: newsletter@woven.org.uk

woven GARDEN COMPETITION 2025

theme: **WILDLIFE FRIENDLY GARDENS**



Woven is delighted to launch our inaugural gardening competition. We plan for this to be an annual competition to encourage our tenants to get in their gardens or greenspaces on scheme and take an active role in looking after the environment. Each year's competition will focus on a different theme and in 2025, we are looking for the best 'Wildlife Friendly Garden'

We are looking for ways tenants have encouraged wildlife in their green spaces and allowed it to thrive - think pollinator friendly planting, bug hotels, bird baths, bird/squirrel feeders, etc.)



There will be 3 categories tenants can enter to encourage tenants from all types of housing to enter:

Best Communal Garden

This category is for tenants in schemes with shared greenspaces/communal gardens. Tenants are free to enter as a group. This is a great opportunity to get together to make a positive impact and have fun creating a vibrant greenspace for your scheme



Best Traditional Garden

This category is for tenants who are lucky enough to have their own private gardens! We are looking for innovation and ways in which wildlife have been considered when designing your garden. Why not get the whole family involved in a Summer project?



Best Small Space

This category is for tenants who don't have their own private garden or don't wish to enter as a communal garden. This might include a balcony or a small paved outside area etc. Don't let your space limit you - you can still make a positive impact to the environment!



- One entry per household/scheme (if you have front/rear gardens etc., it will be judged as a whole)
- All entries will be judged by members of Woven staff, plus a guest judge.
- There will be prizes for the Top 3 in each category:
 - £50 gardening voucher
 - £25 gardening voucher
 - £10 gardening voucher
- There will then be an overall winner of 'Best Garden 2025' chosen from the 3 category winners - in addition to their voucher, they'll also win a hamper of gardening goodies!
- Entry will be made via short form on Woven website (hard copies will be available)
- Entries by Friday 5th September 2025

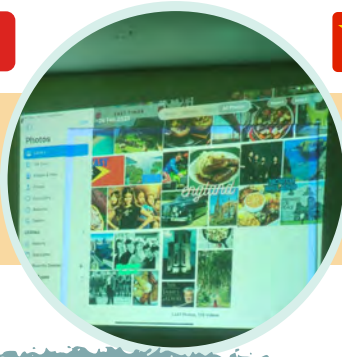
Keep an eye on the Woven website and Facebook page and in the meantime - get out in your gardens!



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Cultural Celebration in Dungannon

Tenants in Dungannon recently took part in a number of cultural workshops and enjoyed a St Patricks Day Celebration thanks to funding Woven received from the Community Relations Council. The aim of this programme was to allow tenants to celebrate their own culture and learn about others. Our schemes in Dungannon are very diverse with tenants from Portugal, East Timor, Lithuania, China, Poland and Russia to name a few!



Woven used the funding to get Beam Creative Network to run a 'Cultural Calendar' programme. This consisted of two workshops held at Castle Gardens. The first of these workshops focused on celebrating culture. Tenants engaged in discussion and shared experiences through a variety of fun exercises!

The second session was a 'Digital Workshop' where tenants took their ideas from the first workshop to design a page reflecting their country/culture for print in a calendar. This calendar is due to be distributed to tenants across Dungannon. The photos above show these workshops.

In addition to the workshops and calendar, tenants also enjoyed a St Patricks Day Celebration at the Hill of The O'Neill. Tenants were treated to traditional music, Irish dancing and food. This event was also used to launch the 'Cultural Calendar' that our proud tenants can be seen holding below.

Woven would like to give their thanks to the Community Relations Council for the funding, Beam Creative Network for facilitating the workshops and celebration event and to our tenants that participated for their enthusiasm and creativity!



Tenants at the St Patricks Day Celebration Event with their cultural calendars

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COMMUNITY
RELATIONS
COUNCIL

beam creative
network



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Out and About

As ever, the Communities Team have had a busy few months. Below is just a snapshot of events that have taken place recently...



Easter Egg Hunt
📍 The Cloisters, Dungannon



Planting Workshop
📍 Ardnacloy House



Planting Workshop
📍 Johnston Way, Lisburn



Easter Planting
📍 Clifton Park, Coleraine



First Aid Training
📍 Conway Walk



Flower Arranging
📍 Inch View, Londonderry



HfA Boccia Tournament
📍 Hollywood



Easter Decoupage
📍 Clifton Park, Coleraine

There are plenty of events already planned for the coming months and lots of exciting ideas in the pipeline for the year ahead. Keep an eye out for posts on our website and social media! Any events local to you are often advertised via texts and flyers too!

Tenant Conference

We enjoyed our second Tenant Conference as 'Woven' at the end of February.

This year we were kindly hosted by Belfray Country Inn in Londonderry and tenants from all over Northern Ireland joined us for a packed day which included important updates from Woven, environmental workshops, fun, games and prizes with the day rounded off with a performance from country star, Ritchie Remo!

We hope to see even more tenants along next year...



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Tenant Conference 2025

The Belfray
Country Inn Hotel



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Spring Baking

Lemon Drizzle Cake



Ingredients

- 225g unsalted butter, softened
- 225g caster sugar
- 4 free-range eggs
- 225g self-raising flour
- 1 unwaxed lemon, zest and juice
- 85g icing sugar

Method

- Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan
- Grease a 900g loaf tin with a little butter and line with baking paper.
- Tip the remaining butter and caster sugar into a food processor and blend for a few seconds. Add the eggs one at a time, blending after each
- Add the flour and lemon zest and blend until smooth.
- Pour the batter into the lined baking tin, flatten the top with the back of a spoon and bake for 50–55 minutes.
- Meanwhile, stir together the lemon juice and icing sugar.
- When the cake has cooled a little, poke holes in the top using a skewer and drizzle over the icing, set aside for a few minutes, and serve.



Ingredients

- 200g softened butter
- 200g caster sugar, plus 3 tbsp for topping
- 3 large free-range eggs

Rhubarb Cake

- 1 tsp vanilla or almond extract
- 200g ground almonds
- 200g self-raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 300g rhubarb, trimmed and cut into 2cm lengths



Method

- Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan. Grease a 23cm springform cake tin with butter and line base with baking paper.
- Put the butter, sugar, eggs, vanilla or almond extract, almonds, flour and baking powder in a food mixer. Beat until smooth and thick.
- Spoon the cake batter into the prepared tin. Top with the rhubarb, pressing it down gently. Sprinkle with 3 tablespoons of sugar.
- Bake for 1 hour 15 minutes.
- Cool in the tin for 20 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack. Serve warm or cold.



Star Tenant!

Here at Woven, we like to give recognition to tenants that go above and beyond for their local communities and that is definitely true for Beechmount Avenue tenant, Maria Corr!

Maria started to attend some of our weekly community events at Ardnaclooney House over a year ago and now she is part of the furniture - throwing herself into all the activities and even taking the lead on some of them. She has become our resident bingo caller!

Maria is always full of enthusiasm and makes it her mission to make sure everybody has a cup of tea at all times!

She also sits down with Community Involvement Officer, Tom Cummings and Community Assistant, Alison Cameron to help plan events that she thinks other tenants would enjoy.

Maria enjoys coming to all the events as she loves giving back to her local community. She says that the weekly events get her out of the house and help with her overall wellbeing. It certainly wouldn't be the same without her!

She never misses an event, will try her hand at everything and sometimes brings her daughter and beautiful granddaughter, baby Olivia.

Our tenants love to see her coming and the craic is always mighty.

Thanks again Maria you are a true asset!



Do you know a tenant that you think deserves recognition?

A community champion, a great friend, somebody who always looks out for others?

Contact us at newsletter@woven.org.uk and they could feature in our Community Newsletter!



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SCHEME WALKABOUTS

Woven staff are currently planning a series of Scheme Walkabouts at schemes across NI through Summer and Autumn.

During Scheme Walkabouts, members of Woven staff from Housing, Assets and Communities Teams are on site to walk around the development and note any issues.

Tenants are invited to join staff to ask questions or raise any concerns relating to the scheme. We encourage you to get involved.



Woven staff are currently planning a first phase of Walkabouts at the following schemes:

Old School Lane, Conars Court, Abercorn Court, Riverview, River Court - Derry/Londonderry; Anderson Crescent - Limavady; Upper Newtownards Rd - Dundonald; Platers - Coalisland McGurks, Parkgate - Belfast;

The first of these Walkabouts will take place in June and Woven will share dates and times on their social media platforms and notifications to the relevant schemes. Look out for messages.

DAMP & MOULD

Woven will soon be reissuing a survey on Damp and Mould which was first conducted in Autumn 2024. It is being shared on the Woven website and promoted via text and on social media. Keep an eye out for notifications.

We encourage all tenants to respond to the survey. If you are not in receipt of text messages from Woven, you can check their website or ask to receive the survey by email.

MOULD

Too much condensation in your home can lead to problems such as mould growth. Mould Growth can affect your health and the health of your home.

RISING DAMP

Rising damp is caused by water in the soil moving up through a wall and only affects ground floor rooms or basements. It isn't very common and is usually prevented by a barrier called a damp-proof course. Rising damp can occur if the damp-proof course in your home is either missing or damaged.

Signs of rising damp include damaged skirting boards and floorboards, crumbling or salt stained plaster, and peeling paint or wallpaper. It often has the appearance of a tide mark running along the bottom of a wall.

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Menu of Tenant Involvement Options



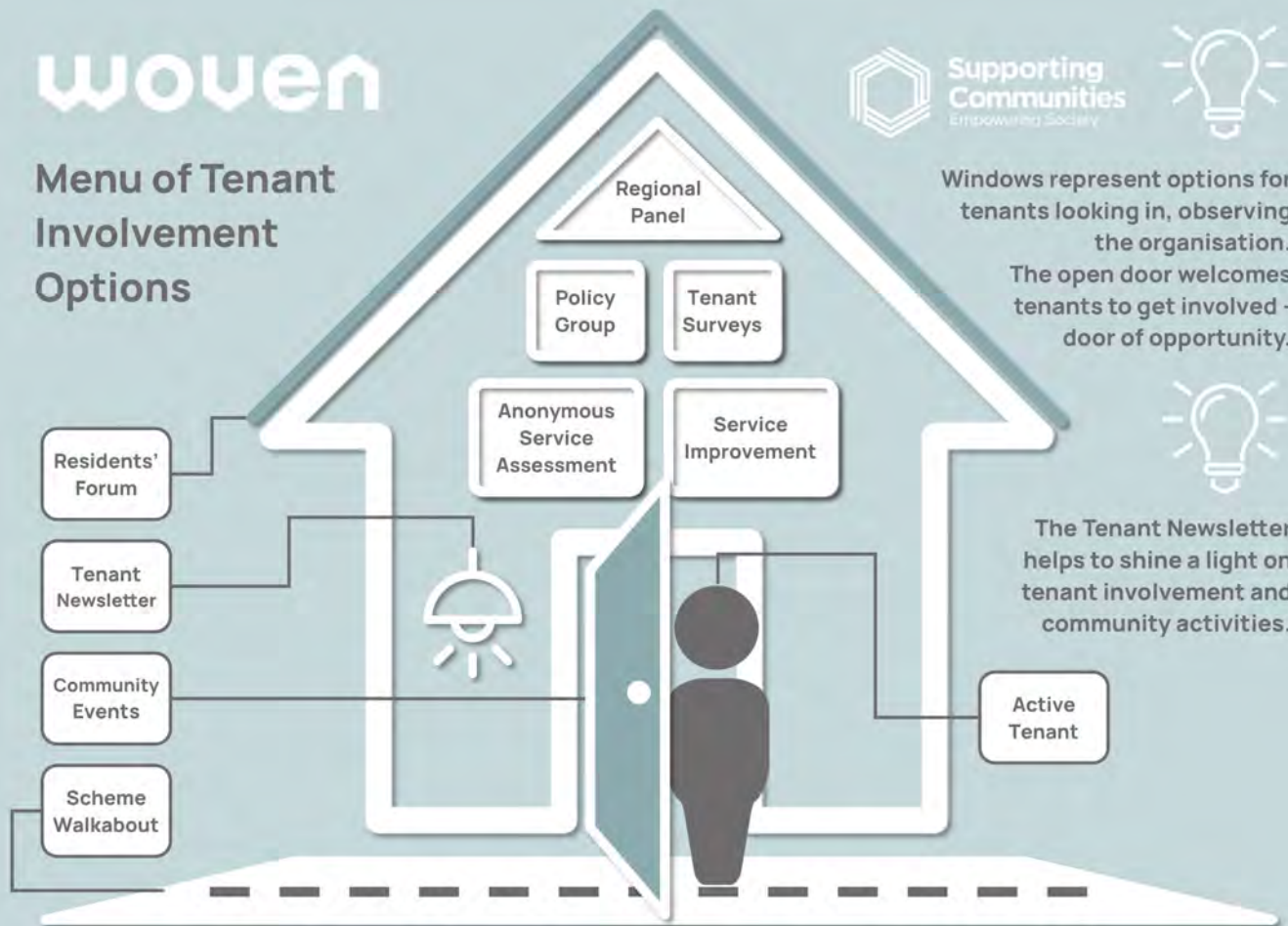
Supporting
Communities
Empowering Society



Windows represent options for tenants looking in, observing the organisation. The open door welcomes tenants to get involved - door of opportunity.



The Tenant Newsletter helps to shine a light on tenant involvement and community activities.



MENU OF INVOLVEMENT DRAFT

Members of Woven Residents' Forum have been working with Supporting Communities to develop a new Menu of Tenant Involvement for Woven.

This is an ongoing project involving Residents' Forum, members of Woven staff and Supporting Communities.

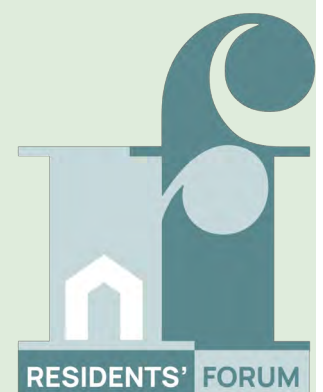
After considering structures belonging to other social landlords, the tenant group designed and agreed on a visual house infographic to demonstrate how tenants can get involved with the range of options and how to better convey the two-way communication across the organisation.

The Infographic is still being developed by tenants in consultation with Woven staff and, when complete, will be uploaded to the Woven website and will replace existing Menu of Involvement Options in Woven publications.

The tenant led Editorial Panel are sharing a sneak preview of the draft infographic here to show the work in progress. The live version when complete, will link the menu items, to a description of each - e.g. click on the item and read more.

The new Menu will be signposted in Woven social media and promoted to tenants when complete.

Watch this space!!



Tenant Zone

Welcome to Tenant Zone! This section is all about our tenants. Got a photo, a story, a poem or anything else to share? Get in touch and we could feature it here.

This is also your opportunity to get involved and have your voice heard.



Castle Gardens in Bloom!

*Words by Dungannon Community Assistant,
Mandy Scullion*

Urati and Hong a lovely couple who live at Castle Gardens have taken to planting flowers and tending the soil borders in front of their window in all seasons.

They really enjoy taking care of this small, previously unused, piece of ground.

Gardening keeps them active and helps create beautiful spaces and views for all to enjoy and also supports pollinators such as bees and butterflies - helping the environment and promoting overall wellbeing.



This Editions featured pet is Bobbi who lives in Church View, Holywood with Michael and Lisa McStraw!



Pets Corner



WE WANT YOU!

Want to join our Editorial Panel and get involved in writing articles as well as designing and editing the Woven Community Newsletter?

Or do you just have a story you want to tell? Maybe you have an article you think other tenants would love to read?

If so, get in touch at newsletter@woven.org.uk



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Colouring Competition



Spring has sprung! And to celebrate, we're giving away a goodie bag! To be in with a chance to win simply colour the above picture and send to newsletter@woven.org.uk. Entries by Friday 27th June. For children aged up to 12 years old.



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Dates for your Diary

Your Communities Team

Margaret McLaughlin

Senior Officer for Tenant
Engagement & Community Services
margaret.mclaughlin@woven.org.uk
07376627940



Deirdre Nash

Community Involvement Officer
deirdre.nash@woven.org.uk
07485396524



Philip Whyte

Community Involvement Officer
philip.whyte@woven.org.uk
07817057846



Tom Cummings

Community Involvement Officer
tom.cummings@woven.org.uk
07485396526

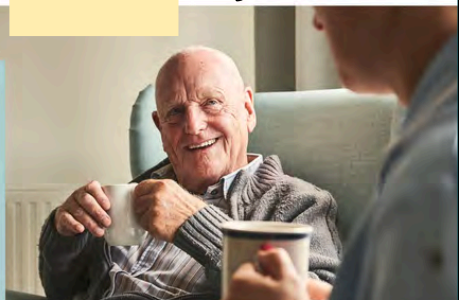


Find our latest
events online at
www.woven.org.uk

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Homes, Lives
and
Communities;
Woven as one.

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MAY
2025

SAVE
THE
DATE

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homeslivescommunitieswovenasone

Community Involvement Events
& Tenant Engagement Activities

DATE EVENT

- 2 Bowling Club Open Day - Holywood PW
- 5 Arts & Crafts (6 WEEK PROJECT) - Upper Newtownards Rd PW
- 6 Bingo @Ardnacloy House TC/AC
- 7 Photography Therapy (8 WEEK PROJECT) - Holywood PW
- 13 NW Regional Panel @Exchange house DN/MMcL
- 13 Annual Big Lunch 'Taste of Italy' @Farland Way MC
- 14 Boccia, Sport Changes Life @Conway Walk/North Howard Walk TC
- 16 Gardening Day @Sullivan Close PW
- 19 Stormont Visit Community Voices in Action DN/MMcL
- 19 Holywood Advisory Group PW
- 20 St James Community Farm Visit @Ardnacloy House TC/AC
- 21 Broadway cross-community History project for teens - Belfast PW
- 21 Boccia, Sport Changes Life @Conway Walk/North Howard Walk TC
- 21 Planting Event @Brianswell TC
- 22 Service Improvement Panel - online MMcL/TC
- 22 Afternoon Tea @Johnston Way TC/LB
- 23 Woven and Radius Advisory Group - Portrush DN/MMcL
- 24 Mens Shed Launch of new space - Holywood (Wofund) PW
- 24 Drumarg Community Allotment Planting @Cathedrals View TC
- 28 Boccia, Sport Changes Life @Conway Walk/North Howard Walk TC
- TBC Courtyard flowers and planting @Conars Court DN
- 27 Spring planting @Victoria Hall DN

Other Events

Check out these events taking place across Northern Ireland
in the coming months

Balmoral Show Lisburn

14th May - 18th May



Spring Discovery Morning Lagan Valley Regional Park

16th May



Guided Garden Walks Mount Stewart

21st May



Rathlin Sound Festival Ballycastle

23rd May - 1st June



Sea Bangor Festival Bangor Marina

24th - 25th May



Buskfest Banbridge

14th June



Read more at: discovernorthernireland.com



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