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# Community News

Edition 19 | SUMMER | June 2026



Welcome to the 19th edition of Community News.

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

## Keyholder Gala for Volunteers' Week

We were delighted, during Volunteers' Week 2026, to host a celebratory event to acknowledge the contribution of tenants who volunteer their time to engage with range of involvement channels. You can read all about the event which took place at Crumlin Road Gaol on Wednesday 3 June.

**Celebrating Volunteers who hold the keys to the success of Woven's service delivery**



## Would you like to join our Newsletter Group?

Community News is produced by tenants, for tenants; co-ordinated and compiled by the Newsletter Group 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](mailto:newsletter@woven.org.uk)

**Claire Wright** has recently joined the Woven team, taking up the role of **Community Organiser - (Common Ground Project)**



She introduced herself in the last Edition... now we look at what Peaceplus will look like for Woven tenants and the events and programmes planned.



## PEACEPLUS Northern Ireland - Ireland

Co-funded by the



European Union



UK Government



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

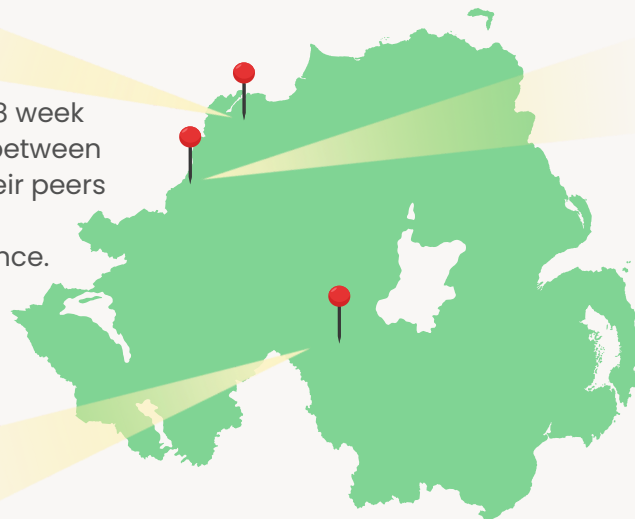


Northern Ireland  
Executive  
[www.northernireland.gov.uk](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk)

**PEACEPLUS** is a cross-border funding programme that is supported by the EU, both the UK and Irish Governments and the Northern Ireland Executive and is designed to support peace, reconciliation and economic growth across Northern Ireland and the border counties. SEUPB oversees the PEACEPLUS funding programmes (such as The Common Ground Project which I work on) and they make sure we are working in the right ways to meet community needs.

### Derry/Londonderry

**Youth Inclusion Summer Scheme** | An 8 week programme aimed at closing the gap between care experienced young people and their peers by giving them summer opportunities they might not otherwise get to experience. This will be open to a mix of care experienced youth and unaccompanied minors to help them build friendships and self esteem.



### Strabane



**TBC** | Planning for events in and around Strabane is ongoing

### Dungannon

**Stories Underfoot** | Immersive storytelling & walking programme where tenants will be able to go walking in different locations around Mid-Ulster and then hear about stories, myths and legends related to the places they visit. To be open to a mix of tenants and members of the public.

**The Big Blether** | A multi-cultural language programme where participants will be able to enjoy food, music and spoken word while also learning a few words in new languages and having the opportunity to teach a few words of their own language to their neighbours in a very relaxed way.

**The Culture Kitchen** | A 6 week culinary programme where participants can enjoy learning different recipes from around the world as well as traditional Northern Irish recipes.

All dates are to be confirmed but the above programmes will be rolled out in Summer/Autumn 2026

# OUT AND ABOUT



As ever, the Communities Team has been busy all across our schemes. With the better weather (kind of!), there have been lots of planting events. We are hoping this means we will see lots of entries for our Gardening Competition! Tenants have also enjoyed bingo, boccia, arts and crafts and much more. The latest round of Regional Panels are currently taking place and there are lots of plans for Summer events. Keep an eye on Facebook and our website!



## Tenant Volunteer Recognition Celebration at Crumlin Road Gaol

We were delighted, during Volunteers' Week 2026, to host a celebratory event on Wednesday 3 June to acknowledge the contribution of tenants who volunteer their time to engage with range of involvement channels.

Tenants joined with representatives of Staff and Board at Crumlin Rd Gaol for an afternoon of recognition with contributions from Alan, Grainne and Philip, a retirement presentation for Community Assistant Jeanine, followed by lunch and a tour of the Gaol.

Tenants were thanked for their input to service delivery, with examples given of the many significant outcomes from their direct involvement through engagement and consultation.

# ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



**Woven** is currently on a journey to net zero and are looking to become greener and more sustainable. This feeds through into all aspects of our works from new developments to on-scheme initiatives. Below are a look at some environmental success stories. These are just a selection of the great work going on all across our schemes. We will share more stories in future editions...

## Sullivan Close, Hollywood



Sullivan Close is the perfect example of what happens when tenants work together for the benefit of all!

The communal garden at this scheme in Hollywood is taken care of by tenants, who also have a raised bed on site for growing seasonal produce that everyone is able to pick.

It is a relaxing and tranquil spot for tenants to relax in – you wouldn't know it was in the middle of a busy Hollywood!

The space won 'Best Communal Garden' in the Woven Gardening Competition last year and will be one of the favourites again this year!

## The Cloisters, Dungannon



The Cloisters in Dungannon was recently our pilot scheme for 'No Mow May'.

This initiative involves leaving a designated grassed area to go untouched throughout the month of May, to allow grasses and wildflowers to bloom, providing nectar and pollen for pollinators.

We are delighted to report that 100% of the tenants who were engaged with supported the pilot.

A Bio Blitz event was held at the end of the month to catalogue plants and insects found in the grass areas. The initiative and event were both a success and more schemes will be targeted next year!

# ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



## Castle Gardens, Dungannon

Renovations are planned to start at Castle Gardens in the coming year, to modernise the apartments.

The Communities Team have taken this opportunity to tackle the communal garden at the same time, which is currently underused by tenants.

A planting event was held in Spring where tenants planted pots in the garden and shared their ideas for the space.

A planter will be installed in the garden this year for tenants to grow their own food and further events are planned!

Exciting times on scheme.



In the past couple of years, Woven have been working hard, in partnership with Colin Neighbourhood Partnership

More than 20 years ago, this waste ground site was fenced off due to antisocial behaviour. It became neglected and overgrown. For our tenants, it was a daily reminder, a wasted space that could have been so much more.

The space is currently being transformed into a valuable community asset for use by tenants and local schools. Early projects include land preparation, educational workshops and a native herb garden in a raised bed.



## Springbank, Belfast

### Did You Know?



75% of our workforce has now successfully completed Carbon Literacy training (as well as some tenants!)



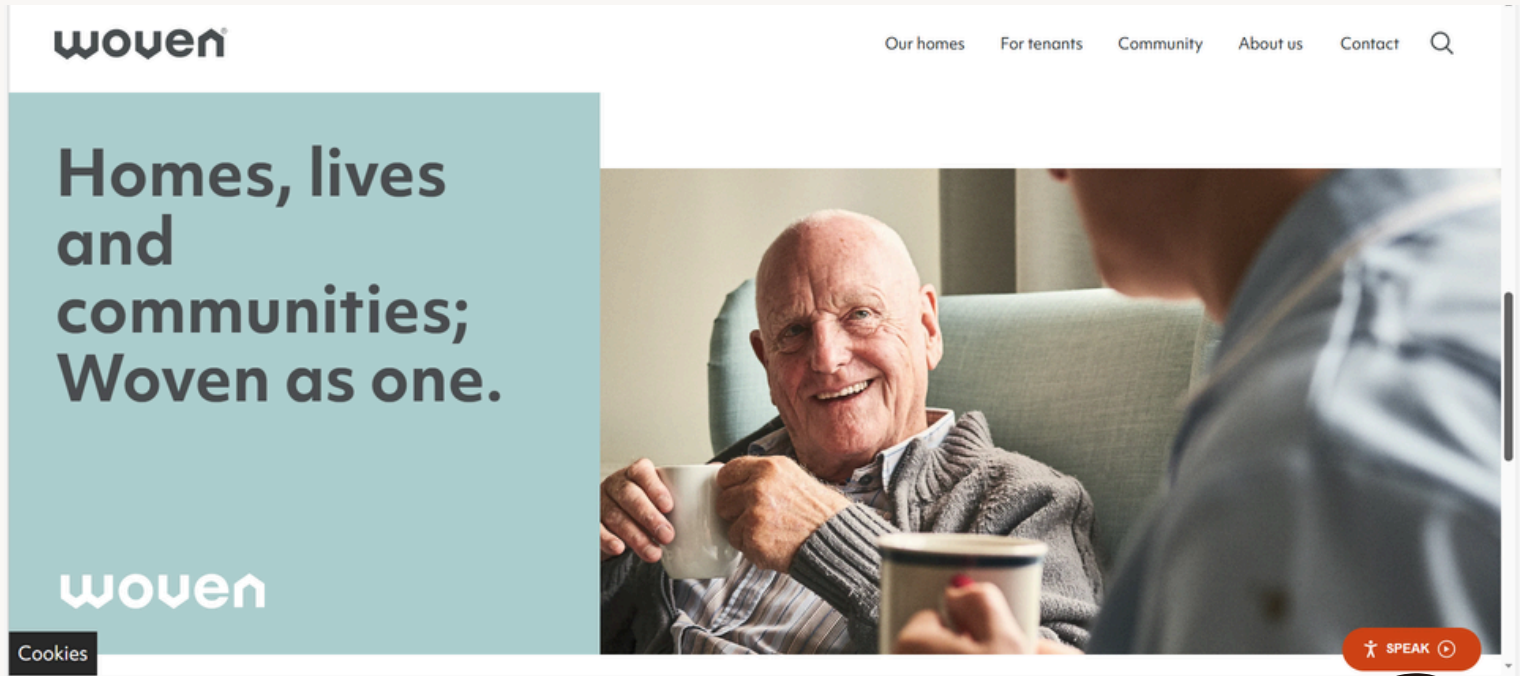
Our 'Journey to Net Zero Strategy' ensures we are working to reduce emissions and become greener and more sustainable



Woven is a certified member of All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) National Biodiversity Data Centre

# WEBSITE REVIEW

The **woven** Service Improvement Group recently undertook a review of Woven's website. In addition to their meetings, a survey was sent out to all tenants and we received 112 responses. These were collated and recommendations from tenants were recorded. The Service Improvement Group then presented their findings to Woven's Executive Leadership Team.



*The current Woven homepage*

**Just a selection of the recommendations put forward were:**

- Make it more tenant focused
- Make it 'task first'. not organisation first
- Make 'MyTenancy' more prominent and encourage use
- More content by/about tenants (good news stories, real life case studies etc.)
- Make it more mobile-friendly
- Streamline navigation
- Simplify key processes (video guides, step-by-step etc.)
- Make it more user-friendly
- Add landing page with large clickable buttons (Pay Rent, Report Repair etc.)
- Fix search option
- Make complaints page more prominent
- Involve tenants in website re-design

## What is the Service Improvement Group?

The Service Improvement Group is a group made up of Woven tenants that come together and choose a service area to closely examine, gather evidence and make recommendations.

The meetings are led by members of the Communities Team but the tenants take the lead with the ideas and recommendations.

Who better to shape the services we offer than the tenants that use them everyday.

Want to learn more or join the group?

Email [communities@woven.org.uk](mailto:communities@woven.org.uk)

# THE FUTURE OF HOUSING...

## WHAT MIGHT HOUSING LOOK LIKE IN 2040?

Words by Woven  
tenant, Dave Maher

It's only fourteen years away, close enough to imagine, far enough to surprise us.

If someone in 2012 had tried to describe today's homes, Wi-Fi in every room, video doorbells, heating controlled by a mobile phone, it would have sounded ambitious, yet here we are. It's hard to believe but the first iPhone only went on sale in the USA in June 2007. Dial-up modems finally went out of service in the U.K. in 2013. Change is happening so quickly that it's difficult to make predictions, but it's interesting to speculate.

Let's take a thoughtful, and slightly imaginative, walk into the future...

By 2040, many homes may not wait for something to go wrong before action is taken.

We already have smart meters. The next step is predictive maintenance, technology that notices small problems before they become big ones. Sensors detecting damp, a boiler losing efficiency before it breaks down, small water leak before it damages floors or ceilings etc.

Instead of reporting a repair, your home could report the issue itself. This kind of technology is already used in aviation and manufacturing. It is gradually making its way into housing. The result? Fewer emergencies, quicker fixes, and less disruption.



Energy efficiency is likely to be one of the biggest changes between now and 2040.

Across the UK and Northern Ireland, housing providers, including the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, are already working toward lower-carbon, more energy-efficient homes.

By 2040, we may see:

- air-source heat pumps replacing traditional boilers
- better insulation in walls and roofs
- solar panels on more rooftops
- battery storage systems that save electricity for later use.

For tenants, the important part isn't the technical detail, it's comfort and affordability. Homes that stay warmer in winter, cooler in summer, and cost less to run.

Future housing is also likely to reflect the aging population. Instead of adapting homes after mobility becomes difficult, properties may be designed from the outset with:

- step-free entrances,
- wider doorways,
- easy-access showers,
- better lighting
- safer flooring.

Some homes may include discreet tele-health systems, allowing people to live independently for longer, while staying connected to support if needed.

In short, homes will be built not just for today's tenants, but for their future selves.

The Covid-19 pandemic changed how many people use their homes. Remote work, online appointments, and digital services are now part of everyday life.

By 2040, even modest homes may include:

- small built-in workspace areas,
- more effective sound insulation,
- faster and more reliable broadband infrastructure.

New housing developments may also include shared community workspaces.



Climate patterns are changing. Heavier rainfall, warmer summers and increased flood risk will influence how homes are designed which may include:

- improved drainage systems,
- more tree planting,
- shaded communal areas
- better water management
- green spaces for wellbeing and environmental resilience

One concern about "smart homes" is that technology might make life feel impersonal. The opposite may be true.

By handling routine issues quietly in the background, technology could free up housing staff to focus more on people rather than paperwork.

For all the innovation, some things will remain constant. A good home in 2040 will still mean safety, warmth, affordability and stability.

# SUMMER RECIPES



## BEEF/LAMB CURRY Serves 4



A curry in Summer may sound strange to some but spicy foods actually cool you down in hot weather. Lots of countries enjoy a bit of spice in the sun! Add more or less depending on what you can handle

### Ingredients

- 450g lean beef/lamb chunks
- 10ml vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 3 tbsp curry paste
- 1 apple, peeled and grated
- 2 beef stock cubes dissolved in 1lt of boiling water

### Method

- Preheat oven to 180C
- Heat oil and fry meat, onion and garlic over low heat until meat is browned. Place in casserole dish.
- Add curry paste to pan and cook for 2 minutes
- Add the apple and stock
- Stir continuously to avoid lumps
- Bring to boil and add to casserole dish
- Cook in oven for 90 minutes until tender

## FRUIT SALAD Serves 4

A fruit salad is a super simple way to get on your way to 5-a-day. You can use any fruit you like but make sure to add some fruit juice to keep it fresh for longer!

### Ingredients

- 2 apples
- 2 pears
- handful of grapes
- 2 oranges
- 2 bananas
- 2 kiwis
- handful of berries
- 150ml orange/apple juice

### Method

- Wash apples, pears and grapes
- Peel oranges, bananas and kiwi
- Chop fruit and place in large bowl
- Pour over juice, cover and store in fridge



## Got a recipe you want to share?

Get in touch at [newsletter@woven.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@woven.org.uk) and we will feature it in the next edition!



# HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS...

## More Than Walls

A poem by Woven  
tenant, Dave Maher

A home is never just bricks.  
It is the hallway where school shoes pile up in winter.  
The kettle singing before dawn shifts.  
The photograph on the mantelpiece  
that has followed a family  
through three different addresses  
and twenty different years.  
It is neighbours who become friends  
without either side noticing when it happened.  
A waved hand through steamed-up windows.  
A borrowed bag of sugar.  
Someone checking in  
when curtains stay closed too long.  
Social housing has always carried stories like these.  
Not headlines. Not statistics. Stories.

Of fresh starts made quietly.  
Of families rebuilding after difficult times.  
Of children growing taller against kitchen doorframes.  
Of communities holding together  
through hard winters and harder years.  
Across our towns and estates  
there are lives unfolding every day  
behind ordinary front doors.  
A grandfather tending flowers outside his flat.  
Teenagers kicking footballs against gable walls  
until the streetlights come on.  
Parents trying their best  
to build something steady for their children.  
And perhaps that is what matters most.  
The chance to feel settled.  
To turn a house into somewhere familiar.  
Somewhere safe. Somewhere yours.  
Because dignity lives in ordinary things:  
a warm room, a secure tenancy,  
a neighbour who knows your name,  
a key that turns in your own front door.

These things may seem small  
until you have gone without them.  
Social housing is often spoken about  
in terms of budgets, demand and waiting lists.  
But behind every application  
is a person hoping for stability.  
A place to exhale. A place to belong.

And while buildings change over time,  
the heart of every community remains the same:  
people looking out for one another  
in ways both big and small.  
That spirit cannot be measured on paper.  
But you can see it  
in every shared smile,  
every community garden,  
every resident meeting,  
every child riding a bicycle safely home.  
More than walls. More than roofs.

A foundation for ordinary life  
which is, after all,  
where the most important things happen.

## Homes Through Time

NEW

There is a saying that a house becomes a home through the lives lived within it. Every street, terrace, estate and village has its own memories, not only of buildings, but of the people who gave places their character.

In this new feature, 'Homes Through Time', we hope to look back at the changing face of home life across the years. From coal fires and outdoor toilets to modern heating and busy new developments, housing has changed enormously within a generation or two. Yet many of the strongest memories people hold are not always about the houses themselves, but the communities around them.

Perhaps it was the corner shop where everyone met, the local pub where stories were shared, the neighbour who knew everybody's business, or the characters who became legends in their own streets. Many of us remember the sounds of children playing outside until dark, doors rarely locked, and communities where people looked out for one another.

We would love this feature to become something shared by Woven tenants themselves, so if you have old photographs of your street, home, local shops, workplaces, pubs or community events, we would be delighted to hear from you. We would also welcome memories and stories about the people and places that helped shape your community over the years.

Any photographs and memories sent in may be featured in future editions of the magazine as we build a picture of how homes, and the meaning of home, have evolved through time.

Send all submissions to:  
[newsletter@woven.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@woven.org.uk)



*Bangor Seafront in the 1970s.  
Do you have memories of holidaying here?*

# ARE YOU MAKING THE MOST OF MYTENANCY?

Did you know that you can log into MyTenancy on the Woven website to manage aspects of your rent account and property repair history at your own convenience via laptop, pc or smartphone, and view your rent statement online wherever and whenever you choose.

## Getting started

To get started, you must first have a valid email registered with Woven\*. If you haven't already done this, contact Woven and register your email. Once this is done, you're ready to set up your account with MyTenancy.

Scan the QR Code alongside to visit the '**For Tenants**' section of Woven's website.



Click on **Create Account**, enter your email and your chosen password (which is case sensitive). You will receive an email containing a link to verify your account.

Click on the link and provide **Tenant Key** and your **date of birth**. Your Tenant Key is a resident code which you will find printed on your rent statement (or you can call Woven to find out).

## Your Account

Once you've created an account, you'll be able to sign in at any time and on any device.

You can access the MyTenancy login page from the '**For Tenants**' section of Woven's website.

## Accessing MyTenancy

From Woven's website - [www.woven.org.uk](http://www.woven.org.uk) - on any device, open the '**For Tenants**' section, click on **MyTenancy** from the drop-down menu, and on the page which opens, follow the 'click [here](#)' link.

Once you've logged in, you will be able to access features such as **Statement of Account** and **Repair History**.

**Statement of Account** shows the balance on your account and any transactions. If your Balance is in arrears a **Red** box with **x** will be displayed. If your Balance is prepaid the box will be **Green** with a **✓**

**Repair History** shows repairs at your property and can be expanded to show details about the work carried out. You can also click to Request a Repair. The Files button is to access uploaded documents.

# LAST CALL FOR ENTRIES - GARDEN COMPETITION



## woven GARDEN COMPETITION 2026

Creativity & Biodiversity

### Categories:

#### 1. Biodiverse Space

(pollinators, bugs, birds)

#### 2. Creative Space

(innovative use of gardens)

#### 3. Small Space

(balcony, paved area, pot or sill)

Over £400  
of prizes



**There is still time to enter the Garden Competition - closing date 31 July 2026**

**Biodiverse Space:** Greenspaces can have a positive impact on biodiversity where nature gets a helping hand. You could add a native pollinator patch, bug hotel or bird boxes, create a nature pathway between you and your neighbours fence etc.

**Creative Space:** For tenants who have their own gardens or tend communal spaces, we are looking for innovation and ways in which wildlife has been considered when designing the space. Why not get family or friends involved in a Summer project?

**Small Space:** For tenants who may not have a private or communal garden. A small space can 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., all areas will be judged as a whole/single entry)

Entries will be judged by the Woven Environmental Panel.

**Prizes will be awarded for the Top 3 in each category:**

- £75 gardening voucher
- £50 gardening voucher
- £20 gardening voucher

A prize will be awarded for **Best Overall Space 2026** chosen from the 3 category

To enter, Scan the QR code or email: [communities@woven.org.uk](mailto:communities@woven.org.uk)



# TENANT ZONE



**! IMPORTANT**

## Dates For Your Diary

Interested in Community Events in your area, or want to get involved in our Tenant Engagement activities?



Follow us on Facebook for the latest updates



Visit [woven.org.uk](http://woven.org.uk) (Community > Get Involved) to view our latest calendars



Call the Community Involvement Officer for your area (028 9042 7211)



Email [communities@woven.org.uk](mailto:communities@woven.org.uk)

## Next Time...

In the next Edition of the Newsletter, expect to see:

- Photos from our Big Lottery Summer Schemes
- Gardening Competition Winners announced
- Homes Through Time

and much more....



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.

**ATTENTION PLEASE!**



## Bin Responsibilities...

As a Woven tenant, you play an important role in keeping your community clean, safe, and environmentally responsible. Residents are asked to use the correct bins for general waste, recycling, and food waste, ensuring items are sorted appropriately to reduce contamination.

Bins should be placed out for collection on the correct day and returned promptly after emptying to avoid obstruction or hazards.

Please take care not to overfill bins and ensure lids are fully closed to prevent litter and pests.

If you have bulky items or additional waste, please arrange a collection through the appropriate service rather than leaving items beside bins.

By working together, we can maintain a tidy and pleasant environment for everyone.

Your local Council website will have information on the bins in your area. If you need further advice about waste disposal or have concerns about the condition of the bins/bin store on your scheme, contact your Housing Officer



**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 or a recipe to share?

Whatever it is, get in touch at [newsletter@woven.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@woven.org.uk) today!