

Whitemountain News

The Whitemountain Programme Newsletter
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CELEBRATING SUCCESS



Máirtín Ó Muilleoir MLA joins Ulster Wildlife's Deborah McLaughlin and Jane Waugh, Whitemountain's Managing Director, Aidan Mullan, and Whitemountain's Communications Officer, Niamh-Anne McNally to celebrate the group's Highly Commended award in the Best Open Space Improvement Project category. Ulster Wildlife used a £50k Whitemountain Programme grant to transform public access and develop environmental education facilities at Bog Meadows nature reserve in West Belfast.

June saw the Whitemountain (formerly Alpha) Programme acknowledge the success of some of our favourite projects through the inaugural Whitemountain Awards. Groups who had completed projects within the past four years were invited to make the case for the impact of their work under one of four award categories: Best Small Grants Project; Best Community Sports Project; Best Open Space Regeneration Project and Best Community Building Refurbishment Project. The winner of each category received a £1,000 prize and a bespoke

trophy, with two 'Highly Commended' runners-up in each category also receiving trophies.

Liam McDonald, Whitemountain's Finance Director, commented, "The Whitemountain Programme is successful primarily because of the efforts of local community groups, sports clubs and environmental organisations, and we wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge this commitment and hard work through the Whitemountain Awards. It was great to hear from previously

funded recipients, and it was a difficult task shortlisting the submissions as there were so many very worthy entries."

Niamh-Anne McNally, Whitemountain's Communications Officer, added; "To date we've awarded over £6m to almost 200 projects. At Whitemountain we're very proud of the Programme, and the opportunity it gives us to engage with local communities and promote biodiversity projects."

WHITEMOUNTAIN AWARD WINNERS



Malone Rugby Club Chairman, Patrick Baird, chats to Dromara GAC Chairman, Declan McCann, at the awards ceremony. Malone RFC won the Best Community Sports Project category for their work to develop Gibson Park as a community sports venue and their efforts to promote women's rugby. Dromara GAC were highly commended in the Best Open Space Improvement category for their sterling efforts to make their grounds more family friendly, more accessible to disabled spectators and more environmentally valuable.



Juliann Jackson from Seymour Hill and Conway Residents Association and Youth Council receives the Best Small Grants Project trophy from Whitemountain's Landfill Manager, Gary Flaherty. The group used a £10k Whitemountain Programme grant to successfully bring a derelict portacabin back into use as a venue for youth and community activities.



Whitemountain's Niamh-Anne McNally joins Ballynaveigh Community Development Association's Chief Executive, Katie Hanlon, to celebrate their award for Best Community Building Refurbishment Project. The Association used a £50k Whitemountain Programme grant to help transform the ground floor of their building into a welcoming and multi-functional space for their user groups.



St Francis Primary School in Lurgan were awarded the trophy for Best Open Space Improvement Project. Eco teacher, Dwyer Coleman, explains how the school used two Whitemountain grants, totalling £57k, to establish a red squirrel breeding programme and to develop a community gardening facility.

£6M AND COUNTING.....



Mandy Gilmore and Gay Sherry-Bingham from Atlas Women's Centre in Lisburn give a presentation on how they plan to use their £10k award to transform a derelict space next to their building into an attractive and vibrant community garden.

The June award of £285k to eleven new projects took the Whitemountain Programme past the £6m total funding awarded milestone.

Russell Drew, Whitemountain's Environmental Manager, commented; "This is another big landmark for the Whitemountain Programme, and we're delighted to reach it with another group

of very diverse and exciting projects. We continue to be impressed by the quality of the proposals we receive."

Successful applicants range from Belvoir Players who received £3.5k to install recycling facilities at their community theatre to Saintfield Parish who were awarded £50k towards their 'Hall 4 All' project. This will see Saintfield Parish Hall

reconfigured and renovated as a modern, fit for purpose venue for a broad range of community activities.

Community sports clubs were also successful with funding for Gaelic sports, soccer and tennis facilities in Belfast, alongside support for modernisation works at Goodyear Sports Club in Lurgan.



Atlas Women's Centre receive their award from Cllr Sorcha Eastwood.



Eoghan McGonagle from St Oliver Plunkett Football Club receives their £37k Whitemountain Programme award from Whitemountain's Environmental Manager, Russell Drew. The club will use the funding to enhance facilities for players, officials and spectators at their Lenadoon base.

A NEW NAME



Cllr Jonathan Craig joins Whitemountain's Niamh-Anne McNally and Cllr David Honeyford to present Trevor Ogborn from Lagan Rivers Trust with a Highly Commended trophy in the Best Open Space Improvement Project category. The Trust used a £27k grant to create new public access paths to the Lagan at Seymour Hill and to tackle invasive species.

Niamh-Anne McNally, Whitemountain's Communications Officer, commented; "Whitemountain remains committed to using the opportunity presented by the Landfill Communities Fund to support community facilities and biodiversity projects in the vicinity of our landfill site at Mullaghglass. Although the

programme has been re-branded as the Whitemountain Programme there is no change in the programme's ethos or eligible area, and funding criteria remain the same."

Applications to the programme are accepted on a quarterly basis under

two strands. Through the Main Grants programme applicants can apply for between £10k and £50k for capital projects which create or improve a public amenity; or for schemes which protect or enhance biodiversity. Under the Small Grants programme, applicants can seek awards of £3k to £10k.



The Whitemountain Programme uses landfill tax credits from Whitemountain's operations at Mullaghglass landfill site to support community amenity & biodiversity projects within a 15 mile radius of the site. The Programme is managed by Groundwork NI.

Red Squirrel © Ronald Surgenor.

For further information and an application pack, visit www.groundworkni.org.uk or contact whitemountainprogramme@groundworkni.co.uk