

# Ballymoney Bulletin



Ballymoney Borough Council, Riada House, 14 Charles St, Ballymoney, BT53 6DZ,  
Tel: 028 2766 0200 Fax: 028 2766 0222 Email: [info@ballymoney.gov.uk](mailto:info@ballymoney.gov.uk)

Everyone welcome!

## Carols Together

Funded by Good  
Relations Unit

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009

- 7pm Church of Our Lady & St Patrick Castle Street  
7.30pm Ballymoney Methodist Church - Seymour Street  
7.40pm First Ballymoney Presbyterian Church - Meetinghouse Street  
8pm St Patrick's Parish Church - Queen Street  
8.30pm Supper at St Patrick's Parish Hall

## What's On

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>  
November  
Christmas Lights  
Switch On in  
Ballymoney at  
7pm

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> & Wed  
2<sup>nd</sup> December  
Dick Whittington  
Town Hall  
7.30pm

Friday 4<sup>th</sup>  
December  
Christmas Craft  
Fair  
Town Hall  
11am - 5pm

Tues 1<sup>st</sup>  
December - Sat  
30<sup>th</sup> January  
Working the  
Causeway  
Landscape  
Exhibition  
Ballymoney  
Museum, Town  
Hall

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>  
December  
Family Fun Day  
Ballymoney  
Museum  
2pm - 4pm

## CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

### Refuse Collection

The following refuse collection arrangements will operate over the Christmas/New Year period:

#### Public Holiday

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010

#### Alternative Collection

Householders / traders to be notified

Unchanged

Unchanged

The brown bin collection service is suspended to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

### Civic Amenity Sites

Knock Road and Crosstagherty Civic Amenity sites will be closed on -

Christmas Day Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Boxing Day Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2009

New Year's Day Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010

And will have limited opening times on the following date:

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2009 8.30am - 1.00pm

The civic amenity sites will be open as normal at all other times.

Crosstagherty Waste Handling & Transfer Facility will be closed on -

Christmas Day Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Boxing Day Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Bank Holiday Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2009

New Year's Day Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010

**For further information on recycling contact Head of Environmental Services**

**Tel 028 2766 0257, Email [environmentalservices@ballymoney.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalservices@ballymoney.gov.uk)**

If you wish to provide feedback, comments or suggestions please contact us:

By email [comments@ballymoney.gov.uk](mailto:comments@ballymoney.gov.uk) or via the comment line on

[www.ballymoney.gov.uk](http://www.ballymoney.gov.uk) or fill out the comments card available at Riada House,

Town Hall, Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre and post to our team at Council

Headquarters, Riada House, 14 Charles Street, Ballymoney BT53 6DZ

For details on Council Services, facilities and initiatives and events visit

[www.ballymoney.gov.uk](http://www.ballymoney.gov.uk)

## Take extra care in the home this Christmas

Follow the safety tips below and keep you and your family safe.

### Christmas Tree

Use a proper stepladder when decorating the tree. Make sure trees are securely fastened so toddlers can't pull them over.



### Christmas Lights

Buy good quality lights that conform to British Standards. If bulbs blow - replace them and check fuses. Turn them off when you are going out or to bed.

### Christmas Presents

Don't leave wrapped presents near an open fire. Tidy toys, paper and presents up to prevent tripping.

### Decorations

Keep paper decorations away from lights or heaters. Decorations are not toys so don't let young children play with them. Christmas crackers contain small parts, which young children can easily choke on.

### Candles

Keep candles away from curtains, cards and furniture. Don't leave them unattended and make sure they are out before going to bed.

### Entertaining

Take care in the kitchen - keep hot saucepans and sharp knives away from the edge of worktops, wipe up spills immediately and don't overload sockets.

### Alcohol

Have fun but in moderation! Cigarettes, chip pans, grill pans and candles are lethal if used whilst under the influence of alcohol. Make sure you have enough ashtrays and don't leave matches or lighters lying around.

### Smoke alarm

Smoke alarms are essential all year but especially at Christmas - check your battery and give it a vacuum to remove the dust.

For further information contact the Home Safety Officer  
Tel. 028 2766 0257 Email [homesafety@ballymoney.gov.uk](mailto:homesafety@ballymoney.gov.uk)

### Fireplace

Use a spark guard in front of an open fire. Don't place stockings, garlands or cards around the fire. Make sure you have your chimney cleaned.

### Toys

Choose safe toys with a safety mark - look for the CE symbol and Kite mark to ensure good quality. Make sure the toy is suitable for the child - check the age range. Be careful with young children playing with older children's toys.

## CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPENING/CLOSING TIMES

### Council Headquarters

Christmas Day Friday 25<sup>th</sup>  
December CLOSED  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December  
CLOSED  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010  
CLOSED

### Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre

Christmas Eve Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>  
December close at 12noon.  
Christmas Day Friday 25<sup>th</sup>  
December CLOSED.  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December  
CLOSED.  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December  
CLOSED.  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday  
30<sup>th</sup> December OPEN.  
Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December  
closed at 5.30pm  
New Year's Day Friday 1<sup>st</sup>  
January 2010 CLOSED  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January OPEN

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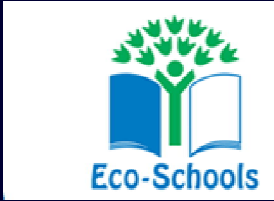
In order to undertake essential maintenance the Swimming Pool and Sports Halls will be closed as follows:

**Sports Halls closed 19<sup>th</sup>  
December 2009 until 28<sup>th</sup>  
December 2009.**

**Swimming Pool closed  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
2009.**

**Pool changing closed  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
opening 28<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

**Pools reopen Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
January 2010**



## Ballymoney Schools

A brighter and more sustainable future

Following on from the environmental successes of Ballymoney Nursery School and St Brigid's PS, Ballymoney High School has embarked on the first crucial steps towards achieving a Green Flag, the highest honour under the Eco Schools programme. Eco Schools is a European wide initiative and Ballymoney schools are setting standards, proving that our pupils, teaching and support staff are of the highest quality. Ballymoney Borough Council is delighted to support schools and community groups with a programme of talks, activities and visits to Council facilities, all free of charge.

Schools interested in wishing to pursue the Eco Schools programme or requiring more information on other Council environmental education services should contact Borough Services Tel. 028 2766 0257 or email [environmentalservices@ballymoney.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalservices@ballymoney.gov.uk)

## Warmer Winters in Ballymoney

As the weather turns colder, and fuel costs increase again, now is the time to be thinking about the most energy efficient way to keep your home warm during the winter.

Cavity wall and loft insulation will help to keep in the heat and a regular maintenance check of an efficient heating system will ensure that you are getting the most value for your fuel costs.

For homeowners and private tenants, the Warm Homes Scheme can help with insulation, heating and advice on energy efficiency. For those of any age in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits, for example Pension Credit, Working Tax Credit, Rate Rebate or others, the work may be carried out free of charge.

The popular Ballymoney Oil Stamps Scheme can help you to budget for your next oil bill. The £5 Oil Savings Stamps can be purchased from many participating outlets (full list on [www.ballymoney.gov.uk](http://www.ballymoney.gov.uk)) as often as it suits you and they will be accepted by a selection of



## Love Food Hate Waste

As families come together to celebrate Christmas, it is all too easy to perhaps prepare too much food or possibly your guests are so busy catching up with each other they don't have time to eat?

This year, instead of putting leftovers in the bin, why not log onto [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com) and pick up some useful tips on how to reuse food. Better still, why not consider all the ways you might reduce the amount of food you purchase in the first place?

Ballymoney households throw away over £5 million pounds worth of food each year. If Oxfam Ireland converted this amount into crop kits and training for families in Africa, 136,000 families would be able to grow their own nutritious food.

In these challenging economic times, it is estimated that as much as £50 worth of food you buy in the supermarket is thrown out each month. This includes fruit, yoghurts, milk and other items.

This campaign at Christmas isn't just about saving money; it's about a way of life where we consider how our actions impact on others.

local oil companies as payment or part payment for your next fill of oil. Oil Savings Stamps would also be a welcome Christmas gift for a neighbour or relative.

For further information about any of the above or to arrange a talk for local groups please contact the Energy Efficiency Adviser Tel. 028 2766 0257

Email [warmerhomes@ballymoney.gov.uk](mailto:warmehomes@ballymoney.gov.uk)

For details on Council Services, facilities and initiatives and events visit

[www.ballymoney.gov.uk](http://www.ballymoney.gov.uk)

## Reduce the chance of Christmas Crime

A Christmas message from  
Ballymoney Community Safety Partnership

### Protect your home

- Leaving presents under the tree in full view from outside can attract the attention of thieves – keep them out of sight.
- If you store larger items such as bikes in a shed or outer building make sure they are secure.
- Once you've opened all your gifts, don't leave the boxes on view outside to advertise your good fortune to criminals.
- If you go away for Christmas, cancel your milk and newspaper deliveries, set your alarm and lock all doors and windows.
- Neighbours may be able to help you by collecting post, opening and closing curtains and they could occasionally park their car on your drive.

### Look after yourself and your belongings

- Never leave coats or bags on chair backs where sneak thieves can get them.
- Don't accept drinks from strangers or leave yours unattended.
- Stick with your friends and don't walk home alone.
- Never take short cuts late at night, stick to well lit main routes.

### Make the most of Christmas shopping

- Keep your purse or wallet close to your body and never in your back pocket or the top of a handbag.
- Try to pay using a debit card rather than carrying lots of cash.

### If you are taking your car

- Use well lit, secure car parks.
- Don't leave anything in your car – if they see it, they'll steal it.
- Don't return to your car to leave purchases in the boot before continuing with your shopping as thieves may watch car parks.

For further information contact the Community Safety Manager Tel. 028 2766 0257

Email [communitysafety@ballymoney.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@ballymoney.gov.uk)

### Food Safety at Christmas

The holiday season is upon us and with it comes the traditional festive meals.

When preparing and cooking food in the busy Christmas rush, particularly when entertaining friends at home, it can be easy to forget food safety!

Avoiding food borne illness during Christmas festivities, will be easy if you remember the 4C's of keeping food safe - **Cook, Clean, Cover, Chill**

#### Cook

Make sure meat is thoroughly defrosted before cooking.

Cook poultry and meat thoroughly - make sure juices run clear.

Use a probe thermometer to make sure the internal temperature has reached 75°C.

If you are cooking stuffing, the safest way is to cook it outside the bird (if you wish to stuff the bird, stuff the neck end only).

#### Clean

Wash hands with soap and hot water (and dry them well) before handling food.

Clean utensils and scrub chopping boards between preparing raw and cooked food.

#### Cover

Keep food covered, especially when stored in fridge/freezer.

The only time food should be uncovered is when you are eating it.

#### Chill

Keep food chilled. Your fridge should be at a temperature of 5°C or lower.

Do not overload your fridge as this can stop the cold air from circulating properly.

Store raw and cooked foods separately in your fridge (raw foods stored below cooked).

Do not leave foods, which should be refrigerated at room temperature, e.g. fresh cream desserts.

Following these simple tips helps should assure your family and guests a safe holiday meal. **Enjoy!**

**For further information contact**

**Environmental Health**

**Tel. 028 2766 0257**

**Email [foodsafety@ballymoney.gov.uk](mailto:foodsafety@ballymoney.gov.uk)**