

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY IN WEST TYRONE



The endangered freshwater pearl mussel, which Dalradian has been helping local organisations to protect.

Community, cultural, social, sporting and environmental groups and clubs play a pivotal role in any local area. So do local schools and further education colleges. In recognition of the vital work these groups undertake every day, Dalradian is committed to providing funding and to volunteering on local projects in west Tyrone.

We began work on the Curraghinalt Gold Project in 2010 and since then, from modest beginnings, we have supported the local community in a variety of ways.

In the early days, we assisted some local community and sporting groups financially, our staff helped at festivals and fundraising events and we identified environmental projects where our help was needed. Over the years we have continued our involvement with these projects to maximise the benefit of our help and donations.

In 2015, Dalradian established the Tyrone Fund. Since then we have donated almost £270,000 to a

range of sporting clubs, community and cultural groups and sporting organisations. Our funding has supported local churches, local community and farming associations, schools and sporting clubs and environmental projects.

For example, we are proud to support conservation efforts for the Freshwater Pearl mussel. The mussel populations in the Owenkillew and Owenreagh rivers are two of the six remaining populations in Northern Ireland and are vulnerable to various threats. Since 2012, the local Owenkillew mussel has benefitted from £25,000 of funding, enabled by Dalradian. This money went into projects to protect the river banks and maintain water quality.

We have also facilitated the local Community Development Association's funding application to the Challenge Fund to create a dedicated space where children and adults can learn about unique local wildlife. These efforts resulted in the 'Enviro Shed', a space which has been used regularly as a hub

to facilitate groups from the locality to learn about all aspects of local flora and fauna and create a sustainable environment where local species can flourish.

We are delighted that this year's Tyrone Fund has been an outstanding success. We have received a record number of applications, with 48 separate submissions from groups and organisations spread across west Tyrone. This round of funding is now closed but will open again in June 2018.

Our environmental support and funding plans are an important part of our Corporate Social Responsibility commitments. Continued support for the local Pearl Mussel, increasing environmental awareness programmes and support for local education are integrated in our plans going forward.

In November 2017 Dalradian submitted a planning application to build an

underground gold mine. Within the application is a commitment to create a larger community fund, which will support projects in west Tyrone that have either a demonstrable social, educational, health or environmental focus. When mining begins, an initial grant of £2 million will be made to the fund, with a further £100,000 to be added each year the mine is operating.

The fund will be overseen by an independent committee, formed in consultation with the community.

At Dalradian we take a hands-on role in community activities. Between 2014 and 2016 our team spent almost 600 hours on community initiatives; at a local children's activity day we held a "gold-panning" event and "rocks are fun" geology introduction. Our staff also volunteer at Christmas and summer events for local communities. Last year we provided the capital cost to enable a local broadband provider to introduce a high-speed broadband service to parts of the Owenkillew valley where little or none previously existed. A similar arrangement with DfI roads in 2017 resulted in a brand-new road surface all the way from the Camcosy site to the Crockanboy Rd junction.

Over the past number of years, we have offered annual bursaries at the South West College, providing financial assistance to students who show a flair for entrepreneurship.

The dedicated groups who play such a crucial role in developing and empowering their communities rely first and foremost on the tireless voluntary efforts of local people who often receive little or no recognition or reward for their efforts. It is a privilege to help and support that endeavour as a responsible member of the business community.



The Enviro Shed near to the community gardens in Owenkillew Community Development Association. It is used to facilitate learning about local flora and fauna.

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DALRADIAN GOLD LTD.
NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
67 Main Street Gortin,
County Tyrone,
BT79 8NH
Tel: 028 8164 8012
Email: community@dalradian.com

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