

Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association Newsletter

May 2017

Circulation 2,500

Better Broadband Needed

Otranto Gardens Concern

Outdoor Gym Problems

Cruise Berth On Hold

Local News and Events



**Annual General Meeting
Monday 29th May 8pm
St Joseph's Pastoral Centre
ALL WELCOME**

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Dear Residents

In this letter I would like to extend a special welcome to all new residents in the area. I hope you will enjoy living here as I do.

This newsletter comes out twice a year and is distributed to all homes in the area by a loyal group of volunteer distributors whom I wish to thank very much once again. Thank you also to our advertisers whose advertisements help fund the production of the newsletter.

In this edition, leading up to our 2017 AGM, we draw attention to the issues of the need for better broadband in the area, our concerns about plans for Otranto Gardens, the still continuing problems with the outdoor gym and the cruise berth plan.

On a happier note other items in our newsletter include articles on the new principal at Rathdown School, recognition of the Irish Naval Service, the bicentenary of Dun Laoghaire Harbour, the activities of the Presentation Brothers and the continuation of our A Day in the Life of a Councillor series.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM on 29 May. Please join our Association or renew your subscription if you are already a member.

Your sincerely

John Elliot

Chairperson

Unless expressly attributed, the views expressed in this newsletter are based on editorial decisions broadly reflective of the policies decided by the committee of the Association and should not necessarily be attributed to any individual committee member.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on **Monday May 29th 2017 at 8pm** in St Joseph's Pastoral Centre.

Subscriptions will be taken on the night. All are welcome.

Association Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now due. Rates are €15 for individual or €22 for a household. You can pay at the AGM, by dropping into Eamonn's Bookshop, direct bank transfer or by standing order.

Our bank details are:

IBAN: IE71AIBK 9334 0621 5851 22

BIC: AIBKIE2D

Membership cards will be issued.

Letters to the Editor

Letters should be marked "for publication" and sent to **editor@sandycoveandglashule.ie**. Please give your name and a contact telephone number for verification purposes. Letters may be edited or cut. We cannot promise to publish all letters received.

Advertising

You will notice advertising in this newsletter. This is an effort to defray costs and support local businesses.

If you are interested in advertising with us please email **editor@sandycoveandglashule.ie** or phone Liam on **086 8046938**.

Our next newsletter will be published in November 2017 in time for Christmas.

Support Our Local Businesses

- Local businesses recycle a much larger share of their revenue back into the local economy.
- Local businesses create more jobs locally.
- Local businesses help create local culture and community.
- Local stores help to sustain a vibrant, compact, walkable village attracting visitors.

Thank You

We'd like to acknowledge the support Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council give to our association.



SGRA Residents Meeting November 2016

John Elliot, Chairperson, welcomed a large attendance to the Autumn meeting of the Association.

He welcomed the **local councillors** present, Patricia Stewart, John Bailey, Cormac Devlin, Melisa Halpin, and David O’Keeffe, who replaces Karl Gill, of PBP. He also welcomed Richard Boyd Barrett, TD. Apologies were received from Councillors Mary Fayne and Michael Merrigan. Clodagh Hannon represented Minister Mary Mitchell O’Connor who was unable to attend.

The Chairman thanked all members of the current committee, and asked for new members who would be very welcome. Anyone interested could approach the committee after the meeting.

He particularly thanked Liam Madden for all his excellent work in producing the **Newsletter**. He also wished that all would support the local businesses who had advertised in the current edition. He thanked all the volunteer distributors, without whom the Newsletter could not reach such a wide audience. He mentioned the series – a day in the life of a councillor – and said all councillors who have not featured so far would be included in turn in future editions.

Mary Roche and Patsy Ashe were thanked for organising a most enjoyable **Neighbours Evening** recently. This event celebrated Peter Caviston, his family and staff, on winning an Irish Times Award for Best Food & Drink Shop in 2016. Peter regaled a large audience with tales of the shop’s beginning and many funny incidents down the years. The long hours Peter put in to the business have paid off in making his shop a cornerstone of Glashhule, and long may it continue.

The Chairperson announced there would be no guest speaker at this meeting, and, following a lot of feedback from the attendees at the AGM in May, each speaker from the floor could just have one topic to bring forward at a time. This method was agreed by all present.

The anti-social behaviour occurring around the **Outdoor Gym** on Newtownsmith was raised. This is an ongoing disruptive situation for local residents who have complained of noise etc. since the Gym was installed. It was agreed that this Gym should not have been placed where it is presently situated. Despite the Council’s insistence that the equipment is vandal proof, some items have had to be removed as they are no longer operable due to wanton destruction. It was agreed that the Association renew their plea to the Council to move the Gym to a more secure location, like the Peoples Park. Cllr Patricia Stewart concurred with this view, as did other councillors present.

The prospect of an **unmanned Dart Station** at Sandycove/Glashhule in the near future was raised. Several speakers spoke, citing the lack of security, the need for help for disabled train users who were not keen to use the lift on the Metals, and as a tourist guide for local landmarks. A discussion followed with several contributions from the floor, all supporting the continuing manning of this vital service in the community.

The new gym at Jenkins’ Yard was mentioned. It is said to be operating from 6am to 11pm. Questions are asked as to how this gym got planning permission. It seems that any objections have been put on the long finger for six months. There were queries over this, and councillors present said they have no control over **planning issues**.

Cllr Patricia Stewart said that **local issues** can be looked at in Area Committee Meetings, held once a month, as councillors can have some influence in matters of public interest.

The matter of **heavy traffic** on Albert Road was raised, and it was suggested that indenters were needed on it. Parking along the footpaths along Newtownsmith, especially during the Summer months, was raised by a resident who also said that pedestrians, and people using wheelchairs, mobility scooters or pushing buggies could be in danger from road traffic. The narrow part of the road outside Teddys was also mentioned as being a danger to cyclists, and Elton Park in Sandycove was mentioned as an area which was prone to speeding traffic. The matter of large piles of fallen leaves creating **hazards** was raised, and it was suggested that an email to enviuron@dlrcoco.ie may help to solve the problem. It was pointed out that all householders are responsible for clearing the footpaths outside their own properties.

Bob Waddell mentioned his intention of forming an action group of businesses from Blackrock through to Dalkey to encourage the growth of local business. He mentioned many positives in the area, including the Joyce Tower Museum which now attracts up to 40,000 visitors a year. With the help of the Glashhule & Sandycove Traders, Bob initiated a **local map** detailing all businesses, restaurants and cafes etc. in the Glashhule and Sandycove area. Over 10,000 of these maps have already been distributed. Bob acknowledged Liam Madden’s great input into this project.

A discussion of the granting of facilities for a **cruise ship berth** in Dun Laoghaire Harbour was led by Richard Boyd Barrett TD. He explained that the Government had enacted legislation in December 2015 to transfer control of the harbour to Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council. The Council has commissioned a due diligence report on the harbour company, and this report is on the agenda for discussion by the councillors shortly. A Judicial Review of the granting of planning permission for the cruise berth will be sought by Save Our Seafront. A decision is expected within a few months. A long discussion followed with speakers both for and against cruise ships, and encouraging other maritime ideas for the harbour. In the meantime, it was pointed out, the Harbour Board will need to find some money for essential maintenance of both the harbour and, in particular, its piers.

The **Sutton to Sandycove** cycle/walk path was mentioned, and residents were reminded that the deadline for submissions on the proposed flyover near the Merrion Gates was 16 December 2016.

The evening ended with a Thank You from the Chairman, and the meeting adjourned for the customary refreshments.

SGRA Committee

Chairperson: John Elliot

Secretary: Kay Gleeson

Treasurer: Mary Roche

Other committee members (in alphabetical order):

Patsy Ashe

John Conroy

Grainne Dempsey

James Howley

Liam Madden

Maria O’Mahony

St Joseph’s Houses for Sale



The two houses that the priests of Glashhule have lived in since they were built in 1870 have been put on the market.

From a booklet marking the 50th Anniversary of St Joseph’s in 1919:

“With the aid of £1,000 borrowed from the Glebe Loan Department, and a special collection made through the parish, he raised up the very commodious parochial houses that now stand beside St. Joseph’s.”

The houses are for sale individually or as one lot.

Glashhule Community Defibrillator Plan

Larry Costello lived in Glashhule for over 30 years. On 29th of October 2016 he suffered a cardiac arrest. On the phone the emergency services asked if there was a defibrillator. There was none available in Glashhule. Tragically Larry died.

The “Help to save a life- Larry Costello” campaign was launched to raise funds to purchase a defibrillator for Glashhule village and help save a life.

On Sunday April 30th a day of events was held in Glashhule to raise money for a much needed defibrillator in Glashhule village. There was a sponsored walk, a sponsored swim, football matches, prizes, music and auction in The Eagle House.

They have an online campaign here:

www.gofundme.com/help-to-save-a-life-larry-costello



A fundraising match in Pres Field

Neighbours Evening




Monday September 25th at 8pm
Presentation Brothers Hall
All Welcome

Cruise Liner Berth Plan On Hold

The plan to build a giant cruise liner berth in Dun Laoghaire Harbour, previously reported in this newsletter, cannot go ahead for now as An Bord Pleanala decided not to defend a High Court challenge taken by Save Our Seafront to the decision to grant planning permission.

It was argued that, contrary to EU law, the environmental effects of the proposed development had not been assessed and the impact on protected species, such as otters, whales, porpoises and birds and on recreational users, including walkers on Dun Laoghaire pier, had not been taken into account. Save Our Seafront also argued the proposed development would lead to dumping of toxic sludge in Dublin Bay and Special Areas of Conservation and that cruise ships would discharge waste directly into Dublin Bay.

Sandycove and Glashhule Residents Association has consistently opposed this unsuitable development.



Society of St Vincent de Paul
Glashhule

If you need help or advice in any way - or would like us to visit you - perhaps you might be lonely - then please contact us in strict confidence by e-mail (anytime) glashhulesvp@gmail.com or call **087 2552589** between 9-5 Monday to Friday

New Principal in Rathdown School



After 44 years in existence Rathdown School has appointed its first male Principal. Brian Moore started last August. Previously he had worked in St Mary's Rathmines for 17 years. He was deputy principal there for his last six years there. Before that he was in Wesley College where he was boarding house master.

Mr Moore is a keen fan of cricket and rugby (spectating and playing). Cricket is played in Rathdown but there are no immediate plans to introduce rugby.

Fees at Rathdown are almost €7k and around €20k for boarders. The money allows the school to offer a variety of subjects not usually provided in a school of their size. They offer scholarships and bursaries. Details of these can be found on their website.

The junior school has 200 pupils, the senior school has 300 pupils and there are 70 boarding. There are around 60 staff in Rathdown.

The 16 acre site has a quiet, tranquil feel to it. Mr Moore describes it as a family feel – quoting the school motto: “One Campus, One Family”.

Mr Moore is keen to emphasise the holistic aspect of the school education. As well as focussing on the academic aspects of education, pupils get involved in a range of non-academic activities: Lego, debating, sports, music, model UN.

Transition year pupils get involved in Habitat for Humanity Ireland in Romania where they help build houses for local families. Students Unite for Children's health (SUCH) was set up to promote charity work.

The school has a very “world centric”, outward looking view. This fits in with its Church of Ireland ethos. The school is affiliated with nearby St Paul's.

Patsy Ashe who is on the SGRA committee, is Chairperson of the Board of Governors of the school.

dlr Awards Freedom of Entry to Irish Naval Service



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council was honoured to bestow the Freedom of Entry to the County on the Irish Naval Service. The Award was accepted by the Captain of the LÉ Eithne, Commander Brian Fitzgerald, and crew of the LÉ Eithne, which berthed in Dún Laoghaire Harbour especially for the occasion.

Local schoolchildren and members of the public gathered to witness this very special occasion as An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Cormac Devlin, presented the Award to the Irish Naval Service in recognition of its humanitarian service on behalf of the people of Ireland and the European Union. The award is also to acknowledge the duties undertaken by officers and crew of the Irish Naval Service as part of Operation Pontus - the international effort to aid migrants in the Mediterranean.

The Army Number 1 Band led the Colour Party and the crew of the LÉ Eithne into the Harbour Plaza in a stirring display of military pageantry as local schoolchildren waved Irish and EU flags in celebration of the event.

Competition Time!

Thanks to Pavilion Theatre Dún Laoghaire we have 2 tickets to give away to **Every Brilliant Thing** on Tue 11 July at 8pm.

To enter, answer the following question:

Who wrote “The Successful TD”?

Email (with subject “SGRA Competition”) your answer, name and contact number to lisa@paviliontheatre.ie by June 9th.

Winner will be chosen at random and contacted directly by the Pavilion. Best of luck!



Dún Laoghaire Harbour Bicentenary

May 1817 saw the commencement of an incredibly exciting project, the construction of Dun Laoghaire Harbour. In 2017 we celebrate the bicentenary of this event.

Dun Laoghaire is set for a summer of celebrations to mark the Harbour's 200th anniversary. The Dun Laoghaire Harbour Bicentenary Steering Group has announced its programme of activities to coincide with the milestone event.

The Opening Ceremony will be officiated by President Michael D Higgins & the group's Patron Minister Mary Mitchell O Connor on 31st May.

Other featured events include an International Harbour Food Festival featuring over 25 unique vendors (4th & 5th June), a live Viking Invasion re-enactment with longboats as seen on the hit TV Show 'Vikings' (20th August) and The Kingstown 200 Classic Boat Race (8th July).

100,000 visitors are expected to visit the harbour this summer to enjoy the variety of free public events.

A schedule of exhibitions, workshops, lectures and events to mark the Bicentenary has been put together.

More information can be found at www.dlharbour200.ie

Exhibitions & Events

Diaspora Exhibition

Ferry Terminal Building, Autumn 2017

Construction of the Harbour, Nautical Maps & Charts Exhibition

National Maritime Museum of Ireland. May - Dec 17

Dublin Painting & Sketch Club Exhibition of works

DLR County Hall - May 2017

Exhibition of artefacts & paintings from the Dún Laoghaire Borough Historical Society

LexIcon Library. May - June 2017



'The Iris Sails Again 1895' by Aidan Hickey part of the Dublin Painting & Sketching Club's special maritime theme in celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the foundation of Dun Laoghaire's East Pier

The Exhibition of local contemporary maritime art

Terminal Building. May – June 2017

Irish Lights 1911-1923 exhibition, as created by the Commissioners of Irish Lights.

Autumn 2017

Summer Musical Performances

East Pier

International Themed Harbour Swim

East Pier.
13th August 2017

Hobblers Race.

Autumn 2017

10 Week Summer Walking Heritage Programme.

Starting Mid June – Duration - 10 weeks.

DLR Guided School Tours of the Harbour.

June 2017.

Harbour Rally – Vintage Car Rally

October Bank Holiday Weekend 2017.

Otranto Gardens Development

The small triangular-shaped green space that lies between Otranto Place, Sandycove Avenue West and the coast of Scotsman’s Bay is an attractive, informal and somewhat neglected pocket park. Over the years it has been given different name from Sandycove Park to Otranto Park and most recently Otranto Seaside Gardens.

On the first edition of the ordnance survey of 1843, the area of the current park fell within what appears to be the grounds of Sandycove Lodge, which extended from Sandycove Road to the seashore. By the second edition published in 1867 the first two houses on what would later become Otranto Place had been constructed as a cul-de-sac off Sandycove Avenue West, or West Sandycove Avenue as it was then known. The

commemorate their much loved postman Denis Burton and at that time some new seats were also installed by the council at the western end of the park apart from which little else has been done. In recent years the paths have become uneven, the fine veronica shrubs have been undermined by wave action and a few years ago one of the mounds was removed to the west of the former Sandycove Baths, which is now used by kayaking and scuba diving clubs.

Last year plans were drawn up by DLRCC to upgrade and alter the park. While the committee of the residents association welcomes proposals to upgrade and enhance the park, it has concerns about some details of the design. Recently a letter outlining these concerns was sent to both



View over Otranto Park from the 40s

Sandycove Baths, or possibly a forerunner of the current building also appears on this map with an un-named open area to the south that would in time become the park we know today.

At that time the coastal strip to the west of Sandycove Harbour was entirely in private ownership with the only access to the coast provided by West Sandycove, Ballygihen and Burdett Avenues all of which extended right up to the shore line. Marine Parade was constructed in the 1920s bringing this stretch of the coastline into the public realm at which point the current park attained its current shape, which is fairly close to a right angled triangle.

The layout of the park is informal, consisting of a network of paths threading between grassy mounds, with a small sunken rockery in the centre and a flatter open area to the west from which there are fine sea views and views back to the harbour. A large planting bed was created on Otranto Place by local residents and maintained for several years, but this has now rather gone to seed. Most of the other planting in the park consists of a few mature trees and shrubs, which have survived fairly well despite the very exposed coastal location.

A simple memorial seat was installed by the Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association in May 2001 to

officers and members of the council and we are currently awaiting their response. As there has been no formal planning carried out for these alterations, we are also circulating details to all residents who live close to the park to draw their attention to the proposals.

We also acknowledge that interest in the park extends to all Sandycove and Glashule residents and indeed to the many visitors who enjoy the wonderful public amenities provided by the Sandycove coastline from Newtownsmith to the Forty Foot and on to the end of Sandycove Avenue East, where it becomes private once more.

If any of our members or other local residents who receive this newsletter have observations about these proposals, we would like to hear them and would urge you to pass these on to your local councillors. The Sandycove seafront is a remarkable asset for all of the citizens of South County Dublin and beyond, and at some times of the year it comes under immense pressure due to the sheer weight of numbers of people that are drawn there. While the vast majority of visitors enjoy and respect these amenities just as much as the residents, a small minority engages in anti-social behaviour that is a nuisance to visitors and residents alike. It is our hope that the much needed refurbishment of the park will not encourage more behaviour of this type.

Letter Regarding Otranto Gardens Development

This letter was sent to the Senior Parks Superintendent.

24 April 2017

Dear Mr O’Dulaing

Otranto Gardens

We are writing to express the concern of the Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association about the landscaping works proposed for the park known as Otranto Gardens that lies between Otranto Place, Sandycove Avenue West and the sea shore.

While we are happy to see improvements to the park the Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association and particularly those who live around the park, are concerned about some aspects of the proposals.

Sandycove is a very popular destination and An Garda Siochána are often challenged with frequent and serious anti-social behaviour, This occurs through much of the year and particularly in the summer months. After the hours of darkness any areas that are out of public sight become a focus for rowdy behaviour, often fuelled by excessive alcohol.

Your proposal to create a sunken, paved area in the middle of the park will in our opinion attract such unsatisfactory behaviour, We also believe that the formal design of this large paved area is out of character with the scale and informal layout of the park.

We welcome the proposal to improve the paths and would be pleased to see the replacement of the small hill that was levelled a couple of years ago, removing one of the four small mounds that create the character of the park.

On another practical matter about which the authors of this design may not have been aware is that during high spring tides with an north easterly wind, the sea will surge up the steps flooding the proposed paved area depositing pebbles, shingle and seaweed. Evidence of this wave action can be seen in the adjoining banks to the north where the roots of the hebe speciosa bushes have been eroded.

We believe that a simple reinstatement of the removed hill and an upgrading of the paths and rockery, with some new planting, and protection of the exposed hebe to the north, would be very well received by the local residents, would reduce the risk of creating another anti-social black spot and could be achieved at much less cost to the County Council.

We were also surprised to learn that this proposal for the park did not require Part 8 Planning Approval, falling as it does within the Sandycove Architectural Conservation Area.

Should you or any of your department wish to discuss the matter further we would be happy to arrange for a representative of our members who live close to the park to meet you.

We look forward to hearing from you and hopefully to a revised design approach to the park,

Yours sincerely

John Elliot

Chairperson Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association

Councillors - Time to Lobby Please!

In our May 2016 Newsletter, in an article entitled Speed Matters - Let’s not get left behind, we asked our politicians to lobby hard on the behalf of their electorate, to ensure that the published roll out broadband fibre cable to the homes and business, comes to the Sandycove and Glashule area.

Councillors, we really need you Lobby on our behalf. Nearly a year has passed, and still many of our residents report struggling to achieve speeds of 5 Mb/s, whilst others happen to have fibre. There is huge inequity and /or bad luck in the distribution in the Sandycove and Glashule area. You can be very close to a new cabinet, and still fail to connect to fibre. The screen grab for the Open eir Fibre Roll Out website - www.fibrerollout.ie/where-and-when/ right, illustrates the situation.

The Seabank block of apartments on Marine Parade and Glashule Road, can’t pick up Open eir Fibre broadband from the Burdett Ave cabinet DLA1_005 or from the Glashule Buildings cabinet DLA1_108. The shops in Glashule village are no better off.

You also have to question the accuracy of the information presented on the Open eir Fibre Roll



Out website. Over a year ago, this showed that the fibre build commenced on cabinet DLA1_007 on the Link Road. Well a cursory walk of the area shows that cabinet DLA1_007 is actually on Adelaide Rd.

Councillors - Time to Lobby Please!

Speed Matters - Let’s not get left behind

Congratulations Cuala



On St Patrick's Day in Croke Park, the Cuala senior hurlers became the first Dublin team to become All-Ireland club hurling champions.

The day started with a parade along the main street in Dalkey to the railway station where two DARTs were booked to transport the fans.

Afterwards the team arrived back to the club with the Tommy Moore Cup to a huge reception and celebration.

Peter Dunne RIP



Peter Dunne just before his retirement

In November 2012 we published an article announcing the retirement of Peter Dunne after 33 years as a butcher in Glashule. Less than five years later we mark his death.

Peter lived in Johnstown. He was a big part of Cuala and he passed away just before their historic win in Croke Park.

Our sympathy goes to his family and friends.

Local Updates

The Hudson Road Field is currently being used by Dalkey United Football Club and local schools. The public consultation on the proposed development of a sports pavilion, pitches, boules area, paths, seating, children's playground, outdoor gym and landscaping has ended. A report is currently being prepared to bring back to the June council meeting for approval. It is hoped that work will begin later this year.

Dún Laoghaire Baths: The Council is currently receiving tenders for this work. There have been delays because of foreshore ownership issues followed by the discovery during site explorations that the demolition, coastal protection and renovation work required was more extensive than originally estimated. This project should be underway in the last quarter of the year and is expected to take more than 12 months.

Thanks to Cllr Patricia Stewart for keeping us informed.

Public Consultation: Proposed renovations and alterations to County Hall



It is proposed to carry out renovations and alterations to County Hall, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council as follows:

- New Customer Service Area with office space and adjoining meeting rooms at ground floor level of the existing Concourse;
- Changes to the existing Housing meeting area and to the existing LEO Office area;
- New Plant Room and IT space at third floor level within the existing roof;
- New ramped access to the Old Town Hall from the Concourse and a new meeting area on the ground floor of the Old Town Hall;
- Demolition of the existing single storey office adjoining the Town Hall;
- Repairs and renovations to the glazed Concourse roof, new insulation and new services to upgrade the area;
- New Council Chamber with staff and spectator gallery;
- New Stairs to the mezzanine space, accessed from the stairwell in the Old Town Hall
- New lift to the first floor mezzanine space, the top floor of the Old Town Hall and the Assembly Room;
- A new glazed bridge access from County Hall first floor level to the new Council Chamber and spectator gallery.

The Part VIII documents are available for inspection in Council offices from 24th March to 19th May 2017 at locations and times as described in public advertisements.

The closing date and time for receipt of submissions and observations is on **Friday 19th May 2017**.

Presentation Brothers in Glashule



The Presentation Brothers have been a mainstay of the local area since the founding of Presentation College Glashule in 1902. Even after the College closed in 2006, the Brothers maintained their presence in the Monastery, and continued to minister to the community. Today, the four Brothers who live in the house are well integrated into Sandycove & Glashule, and seek to continue the work of Blessed Edmund Rice.

Since the Brothers ceased running schools, a new emphasis has arisen: youth ministry. While Br Raymond Dwyer, Glashule's Community Leader, is chaplain in Presentation College Bray, most of the ministry done by the Glashule community happens outside of school walls.

Perhaps the most well-known initiative which the Brothers are involved in running is Alpha: a 10-week, informal course exploring the meaning of life. It has attracted many participants from a diverse range of backgrounds since it began in Glashule in 2012, and recently, Br Andrew Hickey led his 10th series of Alpha to completion. Alpha will return to Glashule in September.

The Brothers also run Youth Alpha in Presentation College Bray, allowing Transition Year students the opportunity to ask the big questions in life in a fun,

Out and About



At a perfect height for bilingual dogs



The East Pier from the West Pier - Nearly 200 years old

relaxed environment. Only a few weeks ago, the Youth Alpha retreat day was held in St Joseph's Parish Pastoral Centre. The teens even managed to take in a walk along the seafront during their visit.

Mondays at the Monastery is another popular initiative run by the Brothers, which began in 2013. The informal series of talks on faith and life takes place in the seasons of Lent and Advent each year, with some extra talks having also taken place in May. To date, speakers at the series have included George Hook, John McAreavy and Maria Steen. The most recent series of talks attracted large crowds, forcing the talks to take place in St Joseph's Church. Most of these talks can be heard for free via the Presentation Brothers' website.



Br Andrew with George Hook

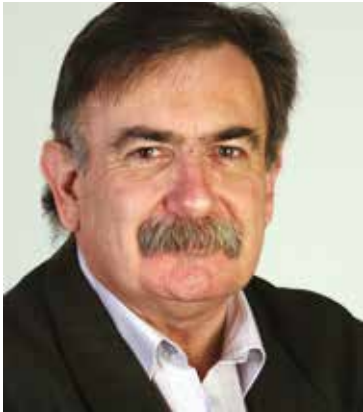
The Brothers have also been central to the creation of the Young Adults Dublin group – an outreach ministry which seeks to create a vibrant community for 18-40 year olds from Monkstown, Glashule and Dalkey. And so, while the Presentation Brothers might no longer be primarily dedicated to working in schools, their ministry continues to the young – and not so young – of Sandycove and Glashule.

To keep up to date with the work the Presentation Brothers are doing today, check out their website: www.PresentationBrothers.org

A Day in the Life of a Councillor

This is a feature highlighting what our councillors do on a day to day basis. There are eight councillors from our local area. We feature two councillors in each newsletter. This time it is the turn of Cllrs Michael Merrigan and Mary Fayne.

Cllr Michael Merrigan



First thing every morning I check my email, text, and social media messages and endeavour to answer as many as possible, however, some require other actions such as entering the matter on the Council’s CRM system, contacting a Council official directly or tabling a Question or

Motion for the Council or Area Committee meetings. Depending on the numbers of messages received this could take from one to several hours to complete each day, including at weekends.

Living in the centre of Dún Laoghaire from a family going back six generations in this area, walking to the shop each morning often takes hours with many residents bringing matters of concern to my attention. Phone calls, text messages and emails arrive at a steady pace throughout the day, which is never nine-to-five, as attendance at residents’ association and other meetings takes up many evenings.

The role of the Councillor is far from adequately resourced. Unlike Oireachtas Members, Councillors

have no secretarial or research supports – we must do this ourselves. This can be extremely time-consuming and especially, as many matters raised require further research to inform, strengthen or support the tabling of Questions or Motions.

I take preparation for meetings extremely seriously. The document packs for Council meetings contain over 500 pages with detailed and technical reports that may require further research, especially if I intend to speak on the subject. As the only Independent Councillor in Dún Laoghaire, I am free from party political diktats when dealing with any issue.

I am also a member of four other committees, including two Strategic Policy Committees, Social Housing and Planning; the Joint Policing Committee and the Organisation, Procedures and Protocol Committee.

Sometimes residents raise matters that are more national than local and therefore, working closely with my colleague Senator Victor Boyhan, I often arrange for parliamentary questions to be tabled to the Minister or matters to be raised in the Seanad.

As a full-time Councillor, days off are few, however, when time allows I like to catch up on my reading, research and writing and I am currently building a website www.votemerrigan.ie.

Cllr Mary Fayne



At about eight oclock every morning I read my emails over a cup of tea and reply to them or else just ring some of the people.

I take the dog for a walk down by the seafront and drop into some constituents regarding issues like double yellow lines, potholes or in the case of the other day looking at the field on Hudson road from the

aspect of Spencer Villas, St Peter and Paul Terraces etc.

A lot of days I have meetings. I’m on various boards and committees: DLR Properties, DLR Leisure, the Pavillion Theatre and the OP&P (Organisation, Procedure and Protocol).

During the day I try to speak to as many Officials here in the Council about various local issues. This is very beneficial as they are very helpful about getting things done and advising re updates on different projects.

In the evenings and weekends when I’m not at meetings I try to attend local activities such as plays, sports clubs etc. Dun Laoghaire is a hive of activity and culture. We are so lucky to live here.

I was born in Dun Laoghaire where I went to school before I went to work in St. Michael’s Hospital.

My four children went to school in the Harold Glashule and then on to CBC and Loreto Dalkey. While they were growing up I got involved in various things for instance The Glashule Summer Project, the Schools Committees and the Sandycove Sea Scouts.

It was not until 2014 that I became involved in FG and local politics and got elected as a County Councillor. I am delighted to be a councillor, working hard and learning every single day.

Newtownsmith Gym

In light of recent development regarding the outdoor gym we have sent the letter below to the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent.



Vandalised outdoor gym equipment in foreground

17th February 2017

Dear Ms Treacy,

On behalf of the Sandycove Glashule Residents Association (SGRA), we welcome the motion - **“That the Chief Executive will relocate the outdoor gym on Newtownsmith to a place where it will be protected from repeated vandalism and will not provide a focal point for disturbance to nearby residents especially at night time.”** that was passed unanimously by the Councillors at the Dun Laoghaire Area Committee on the 23rd January 2017.

We now plead with you to carry this out in as short a time as possible.

For a number of residents, it very negatively affects the quality of their lives. The gym equipment acts as a gathering point for youths at night. This leads to noise and very antisocial behaviours at night time. Dún Laoghaire Garda Station can confirm this.

The outdoor Gym Equipment has been vandalised on a number of occasions. Your own records, will show this.

We would like to record, that from the very outset in 2011, before the Outside Gym Equipment was located on the Newtownsmith Green, a number of our members requested us to lobby the Council, to request that the proposed Outside Gym Equipment would be located in a location where it would be secure at night time.

We hope that this can be satisfactorily resolved very soon.

Yours sincerely

John Elliot

Chairperson

Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Some Events in Pavilion Theatre

14 May I, Malvolio by Tim Crouch
26 May John O'Connor Piano Recital
10 Jun An Evening with Diarmuid Gavin
13-15 Jun We're Going on a Bear Hunt - Live on Stage
15 Jun The Crucible by Arthur Miller - Recorded Live at London's Old Vic Theatre
16 Jun Irish Chamber Orchestra at Monkstown Parish Church
23-24 Jun John B. Keane's The Successful TD
4-9 Jul The Gruffalo - Live on Stage
11-16 Jul Every Brilliant Thing
18-19 Jul Meet the Quare Fellow by Jim & Peter Sheridan
20 Jul La Traviata - Recorded Live at Teatro dell'Opera di Roma
15 Sep Mary Coughlan
20 Sep Esposito String Quartet
19 Oct Celebrating Christie Hennessy with Aonghus McAnally

www.paviliontheatre.ie

Joyce Readings

Readings of James Joyce - currently 'Finnegans Wake'. Fitzgerald's Pub, 11am-1pm each Wednesday.

Bloomsday Festival in Sandycove & Glashule

Bloomsday, June 16th, is on a Friday this year. See traders' windows in Sandycove and Glashule for more details of events in the area. There will be free events daily in the James Joyce Tower from Tuesday 11th until 16th June.



Dalkey Book Festival

June 15th-18th
 www.dalkeybookfestival.org



The dlr Bay 10k

The dlr Bay 10k road race will take place on Bank Holiday **Monday August 7th**
 www.dlrbay10k.ie



A relaxed, informal evening in the company of local residents. Refreshments served. Free. Presentation Brothers Hall
Monday September 25th, 8 pm

The Oratory

The Oratory of the Sacred Heart was created by Sister Concepta Lynch to celebrate the end of World War I. The tiny building is home to some of the most spectacular artwork from the first half of 20th Century Ireland including stained glass windows by Harry Clarke. The entrance is off Convent Rd, Dun Laoghaire. Guided Tours Wednesday and Saturday 11am, 12pm, 1pm and 2pm until June 17th as part of Spring into Heritage. Email dlrheritageevents@dlrcoco.ie Tel: 01-2047011

Dun Laoghaire Harbour Walks

Tuesdays and Thursdays 30th May - 15th June. 11:00 - 12 noon.

Frascati Singers Perform Vivaldi

Performance of Vivaldi's 'Gloria' & Summer Favourites. Guest soloists Soprano Mary O'Sullivan, Mihaela Chirvase Alto and the Aravon Ensemble. All Saints Church, Carysfort Ave, Blackrock. 21st May 2017 at 4pm. Enquiries: tickets@frascatisingers.ie or 087 357 6376

Press Photographer of the Year Exhibition 2017

This exhibition brings the work of the Press Photographers Association of Ireland to communities throughout Ireland on its annual tour. This is the third year that it has been hosted in dlr LexIcon.

1st-30th June
 dlr LexIcon

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