

S&GRA

Sandycove & Glashule Residents Association

November 2012

Circulation 2,500

Providence Resources
Granted Foreshore
Licence to drill
6 km off coast

James Joyce Tower
Reopens

Local Artist Designs
Sculpture for
The Gathering

Get to know your Neighbours

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Today
See Page 3

RESIDENTS MEETING

Monday 19th November 2012, 8 pm

St. Joseph's Pastoral Centre

ALL MEMBERS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS FROM
SANDYCOVE AND GLASHULE ARE WELCOME

FREE
ADMISSION



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 14TH MAY 2012

This is an abridged version of the minutes of the AGM. The full text can be found on our website.

The Chairman's Address

To open the AGM the Chairman Paul O'Callaghan welcomed all present, thanked the committee for their work on behalf of the Association. He expressed particular appreciation to Liam Madden for his dedication in producing the **Newsletter**. The Newsletter is an essential element of the Association's function. Thanks were extended to Members who volunteer with the distribution of the newsletter. More volunteers would be appreciated.

A welcome was extended to **local representatives** who were in attendance, apologies had been received from two who could not attend.

The Chairman reminded Members that the **annual subscriptions** were due, he pointed out that the biggest expenditure is the production of the Newsletter. The Newsletter serves everyone in our community, most especially those who are not in a position to attend the Association's meetings.

Condolences were expressed to the Presentation Brothers who had recently lost a member of their Community – Br. Eunan.

The reopening of **The Maritime Museum** in Dun Laoghaire was welcomed and members were encouraged to avail of this local amenity which has national importance. The Chairman reported that members of the Committee had recently organised a **'Neighbour's Day'** with a view to extending the profile of the Association while appreciating the area we are fortunate to live in. A further event is planned for the Autumn.

Garda Presentation

We welcomed 3 members of An Garda who addressed the meeting. Statistics from the Central Statistics Office were presented reflecting the level of criminal activity; there was a recent drop of 7%.

Householders were advised to exercise a sensible approach when leaving their properties unattended; notifying neighbours of your plans, displaying a 'No Junk Mail' sign to avoid the accumulation of post in the letter box, storing valuables out of sight and being vigilant regarding unlocked doors and unattended opened windows and to exercise caution when dealing with 'door callers' offering household services.

Dun Laoghaire station 6665000 will now respond to any call from the area. Assurances were given that the level of

service would not be eroded because of the closure of the Dalkey Garda Station as the resources were now pooled. House alarms left ringing are a clear indicator that a property is vacant. Members were again encouraged to ensure that a key holder for their property was notified of any absences.

It was further reported that the **grant scheme** for the supply of specific security aids for senior citizens which can cover part-funding of personal alarms, external security lighting and carbon-monoxide and fire alarms is under review. The Chairman thanked the Gardai for their attendance at the meeting.

The Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported on the Accounts. A full report was made available to Members. It was pointed out that the greatest expenditure is for the production of the Newsletter. Members were reminded that the subscription was due. The Treasurer thanked those members who had already paid the subscription.

Open Forum

A discussion on the **Gym** on sea-front followed. There was frustration expressed about the lack of consultation before the decision was made re the placing of this facility. We will wait to see how the Gym and surrounding works fare in future.

A number of concerns were expressed about the safety of the **Upper Albert Road Roundabout**. Some members considered it to be dangerous and believed the roundabout should be removed. The decision to install the roundabout and the cost of installation was borne by the National Transport Authority.

A summary of a **survey** taken from the traders in the Dun Laoghaire area was given to the meeting. Traders had expressed grave concerns regarding the parking difficulties in the area. There is a suggestion that the business interests in the Killiney, Dalkey and Monkstown area join forces in order to strengthen their representation as they have many shared issues and interests. It was stated that more businesses in the area would be closing shortly.

A suggestion from the floor was that councillors be proactive in ensuring a **public transport** service be available to residents who need to access Saint Vincent's Hospital.

Comments from the floor related to the neglected condition of **Sandycove Park**.

The Chairman asked a local representative for an update on the **Dun Laoghaire**

Baths. In response it was stated that no approval had been made yet, that there are plans to fill both pools and to develop a walk-way to the East Pier and the demolish the buildings known as 'Little Egypt'. The Chairman sought information as to when an announcement might be made with regards to the Harbour development.

A discussion took place about the **Dun Laoghaire Library** with members believing that the resources could be better spent. It was pointed out that cost is being met from Central Funding.

The meeting heard of the grave concern regarding the deficiency in trust in those who should regulate. Most recently concerns have been raised about the proposed off-shore licence for **oil exploration**. The Association has asked for a public enquiry. A member of the committee informed the meeting of recent findings relating to international practice relating to off-shore exploration. He expressed concerns about the safety issues, having the exploration so close to land.

Safety for the population living around the bay and possible impact on **wildlife and tourism** must be seriously researched. The Chairman encouraged all present to express their opinions to the public representatives, to avail of every opportunity to voice concerns. The Chairman tabled a motion which proposed "That the Minister convene a Public Inquiry into the proposed granting of a Foreshore Licence to fully debate all issues before a decision is taken". The motion was carried by the overwhelming majority of the meeting, 6 members voted against the motion.

A number of the **local representatives** spoke on various issues. A comment from the floor expressed that as members of the public we vote for councillors, however the councillors do not appear to have power to influence Council officials. The new Library building, the Harbour and Seafront Development and the Upper Albert Road roundabout were all indicative of an enormous deficit in public consultation. The Chairman pointed out that an article in the current Newsletter points this out, that indeed there does appear to be a democratic deficit.

The meeting closed with thanks from the Chairman to all for attending, reminding all present that **volunteers were needed for the distribution of the Newsletter** and that the Association membership fee was now due. He then invited all present for a refreshment and informal chat.

Clarification: The Chairman acknowledges that Councillor Stewart had indeed conveyed the sentiment of the members at the spring meeting against the Gym proposal to the officials concerned.

Ask Not What your Association can do for you but...

What your Residents Association has done for you in the last 12 years:

- Regular **newsletters** delivered to 2,500 homes and businesses
- Twice a year **residents meetings** which are always well attended – believed to be one of the best attended regular residents meetings in Ireland – a “must be there” event for Councillors and often for TDs – with a wide range of interesting speakers
- Monthly **committee meetings** throughout the year
- Responsible for the **Denis Burton Memorial** which has been included in the local heritage guide
- Built up relationships with **County Councillors** and in particular our 6 local ward Councillors and our 4 TDs
- Attendance at every **County Council meeting** to keep abreast of key decision making affecting our area and to keep our profile with Councillors high
- Participation in various County Council forums and **committees**
- Built up good and beneficial working relationships with **County Council officials**
- Ongoing liaison with local **Gardai**
- Successfully represented **individual members** interests under numerous headings
- Liaison with **neighbouring residents** associations and participation in the Dublin Bay Task Force
- Fought and won the “Battle of Dun Laoghaire **Baths**”
- **Planning submissions** with key objective of retaining two storey height limit on the seafront and in the village – constantly watchful monitoring of planning applications
- Made detailed **submissions** over the years on seafront plans
- Continually and proactively bringing to the attention of the County Council **local matters** which cause concern like traffic problems, litter and graffiti
- Actively supported Sandycove shopkeepers in their campaign to restore **Lower Albert Road** to two way traffic
- Inaugurated the “**Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award**” first awarded posthumously to Eamonn Gunn
- Initiated the annual **garden and shop front awards**

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.

Become a Member Today

1. Download application form from our website
2. Pay at our Gathering on November 19th or post form (address on form)
3. Only 15 euro (or 22 euro for a family)

SGRA Committee

Chairperson: Paul O’Callaghan

Secretary: Kay Gleeson

Treasurer: Caitriona McCarthy

Other committee members
(in alphabetical order):

Patsy Ashe
Sean Coakley
John Conroy
John Elliot

Liam Madden
Mary Roche
Bob Waddell

Newsletters Through the Years



Advertising

You will notice advertising on the back page of this newsletter. This is an effort to defray costs and support local businesses.

Get Involved

This is **your** residents association. Get in touch. Talk to us at the meetings or send us an email: info@sandycoveandglasthule.ie

Please Support Local Businesses

This is especially important coming up to Christmas.

Here are some good reasons:

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

Church Houses Sold

The two houses to the left of St. Joseph's Church in Glashule have been sold. This reduces the church debt to €1.7m.



St. Joseph's Pastoral Centre

The debt mostly comes from the building of the Parish Pastoral Centre which opened in 2008 and provides a valuable resource for the area.

Peter Dunne Retires

After 33 years in Glashule, butcher Peter Dunne has announced his retirement. Prior to that Peter had worked for 20 years as a butcher in Dun Laoghaire.



We will miss him - and Pat!!

New Art Space Opens in Dalkey

A new venue to buy original art has opened in the Old Tramyard in Dalkey. Piergroup art will open each Saturday and Sunday until



Christmas with paintings, etchings, prints, ceramics, fine art photography and mixed-media pieces. Buy direct from the artist.

John Langan Cars Site

On 19th October Dlr Co. Co. decided to grant planning permission for a temporary car park use for 5 years but refused permission for the office building.



Waste Guidelines

- Bins must not harm the environment or cause a nuisance through either odour or litter.
- Bins must not cause an obstruction to pedestrians or traffic.
- Waste Bins should not be left out for collection before **6pm** on the evening prior to your normal collection day.
- Bins must be brought back in before **10am** on the morning after your normal collection day.
- Waste should not be presented for collection on top of or at the side of a waste container.

Information courtesy of Environment, Culture and Community Department, dlr Co. Co.

Sandycove & Glashule Postcards - Not



Sculpture for Sandycove Park

Below is an image of the “**Arch of Welcome**” sculpture proposed by Imogen Stuart for Sandycove Park. The concept is for a Gateway between the land and the sea, and between the Diaspora overseas and their homeland - very apt with “The Gathering” next year.



Computer generated image of sculpture

The landward side of the sculpture features King Laoghair and St Patrick. (The name of our area commemorates King Laoghair and Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland.) The seaward side features meaningful wording associated with each man. King Laoghair will have a poem of the 9th century, St. Patrick will have a part of his beautiful breast-plate.



Imogen Stuart with a model of her sculpture

At present the Parks Department are developing their plans for the area, which should see the Park made much more attractive and safe, and eliminate many of the overgrown, narrow pathways. S&GRA are in discussion with the Department and with local Councillors, and there is much enthusiasm for the project. We look forward to seeing their plans, and hopefully realising this beautiful sculpture by our pre-eminent local artist.

James Joyce Tower Reopens



Thanks to over 100 volunteers, the James Joyce Tower and museum has reopened. The tower had been closed this Summer (except for Bloomsweek). This is the first time that this has happened since 1978 when the exhibition hall was being built. This was a major blow to the area.



Volunteers Bob Waddell, Maurice Coleman and John Walshe in the Museum

The tower was built in 1804. Originally the door to the tower was 12 feet off the ground and one entered by ladder. There was once a gun platform at the top of the tower which swivelled on rails. James Joyce stayed for six days in the tower in 1904. He went on to feature the tower at the start of *Ulysses*. In 1962 the tower was opened as the James Joyce Museum.



Anyone interested in being a volunteer should leave their name and contact details at the tower.

Dublin Bay Drilling Licence Granted With No Public Inquiry

Local Safety Fears Intensify

The Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association is dismayed and deeply frustrated that the Department of the Environment has granted Providence Resources the very controversial Foreshore Licence to drill a well in Dublin Bay, just 6 kilometres off the coast, without allowing the Public Inquiry that local people demanded. The drilling is scheduled to start in the spring of 2013.

6 kilometres is far too close to shore.

The Residents Association had called on the Minister for the Environment to convene a Public Inquiry regarding the granting of a Foreshore Licence. The Minister has allowed a licence to be granted without any form of public inquiry.

We have received no assurances whatsoever regarding the significant and legitimate health and safety fears many residents have about oil or gas drilling so close to our homes.



Picture of an oil rig on fire – it can happen

A potentially explosive gas leak 6 kilometres from Dalkey Island could be expected to trigger the evacuation of all the residents of Sandycove and Glasthule and neighbouring areas from their homes.

Before now nowhere else in Ireland has any company been allowed to drill this close to the coast. As previously reported, in Norway, renowned internationally for its oil and gas industry safety standards, drilling is not allowed anywhere near this close to the coast for safety reasons.

Possibly some people might take the view that some risk should be tolerated if there would be financial benefits, but it is a fact that **the Irish State will receive no royalties** from any oil or gas and that a national asset would be given away free of charge. Moreover, Providence Resources will be under no obligation to supply any oil or gas to Ireland.

The Government claims that, environmentally, this drilling is nothing to be concerned about and that if there was a find of oil or gas in Dublin Bay there would be a full Environmental Impact Assessment before a commercial exploitation licence was granted. However, by then it will be too late. Is it at all likely

that the Government will refuse a commercial exploitation licence to a company that has invested in exploration? Now is the time to address the safety and environmental issues.

Appropriately, some beautiful photos of our coast by Enda Cavanagh can be seen in the Copper House Gallery until 24th November.



Man and Dog at the Forty Foot - Enda Cavanagh

Would it not be preferable to see this in the bay?



Tall Ship in Dublin Bay, Photo Paul O'Callaghan

PUBLIC MEETING to brief Dublin Bay residents on Offshore Drilling

FitzPatrick's Castle Hotel, Killiney.
Tuesday, November 13th, 8pm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Neighbours Gathering

Join us for a Neighbours Gathering in the Presentation Brothers Hall on Monday **December 3rd at 20.00**. Come along to hear how others have found living in this area.

John O'Hagan will be in conversation with Imogen Stuart, Pat and Micheal Johnston and Helen Regan.

Looking forward to seeing you there for what should be a very interesting evening.



Some Events in Pavilion Theatre

November 19th-23rd: An Triail

November 23rd: Celtic Choristers in Concert

December 4th-6th: Faulty Towers...the dining experience (in the Royal Marine Hotel)

December 8th: Christmas Puppet Workshop

December 8th: Jason Byrne

December 9th: Dún Laoghaire School of Music presents Celebration of Christmas

December 12th: ABBA Forever

December 21st: O Holy Night, An evening with Eimear Quinn

March 18th: Dun Laoghaire Musical and Dramatic Society presents Fiddler on the Roof



paviliontheatre.ie

Christmas in Sandycove & Glasthule

There will be plenty of festive events in Glasthule and Sandycove for the Christmas: the arrival of Santa Claus, the lighting of the Christmas tree lights, Treasure Hunt and many other festivities.

See traders' windows for details.



dIreland Biodiversity Events - Natural Carving

Sunday December 9th 10am - 12pm.

Killiney Hill; meet in the main carpark.

Come along to this workshop and make your very own woodland tools from natural materials. Mallet, walking stick or anything the imagination desires. This event will involve the use of tools.

Promenade Cafe Theatre

November 17th: Jamie Evans Trio

December 6th & 7th: Derby Browne "The Life and Music of Edith Piaf Chanteuse"

December 8th: "Jamie Evans Trio" "Totally So Smooth Smooth Jazz Jazz"

December 13th: Pat Coldrick Classical Guitar

December 14th & 15th: The Minnelli and Garland Songbook

www.promenadecafe.com

Christmas Day Swim in the Forty Foot

After this, you'll really appreciate your Christmas dinner!

National Maritime Museum of Ireland

Open 11:00-17:00 **every day**.
www.mariner.ie

The Shackleton Endurance Exhibition

Now until September 2014

Ferry Terminal Building,
Dun Laoghaire



27 men followed Irish explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton to Antarctica along with two fellow Irishmen, Tom Crean and Tim McCarthy. Now you can witness THE most incredible survival story in Polar history through stunning photographs, artifacts and a life boat replica.

www.shackletonexhibition.com

CoCo Market Dun Laoghaire

The People's Park **every Sunday 11:00 - 16:00**.



**St. Paul's Theatre Group presents
Local Pantomime Cinderella**
St. Paul's Church Hall, Glenageary

St. Paul's Theatre Group has been producing Pantomimes and Musicals since 1975 and, with very few exceptions, have run a show in early January virtually every year since. Attending the St. Paul's Theatre Group's production has become somewhat of an annual post-Christmas tradition for many years and is very much a family event to be enjoyed by all.

Saturday January 5th 3pm

Thursday January 10th and **Friday January 11th** 8pm

Saturday January 12th 3pm & 8pm

€8 for Children and €12 for Adults – all tickets on Saturday 12th evening show are €12.

Box Office Telephone – 086 0556972. The Box Office will open at the end of November 2012.

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