

Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association Newsletter

November 2015

Circulation 2,500

Cruise Terminal

Neighbours Evening

Local Artist Honoured

Dublin Bay Biosphere



Residents Meeting

**23rd November 2015, 8pm
St Joseph's Pastoral Centre**

ALL WELCOME



info@sandycoveandglasthule.ie

Annual General Meeting May 2015

The Chairperson's Introduction

John Elliot, Chairperson, welcomed all to the meeting, including Councillors Patricia Stewart, Michael Merrigan, Mary Hanafin, Cormac Devlin, Melisa Halpin and John Bailey. He also welcomed Richard Boyd Barrett, TD.



John Elliot, SGRA Chairperson

John introduced the committee members.

He thanked Liam Madden for the excellent production of the Association's latest **newsletter**.

He reminded all that the SGRA is a very active residents association and that the newsletter is a very important part of the Association.

He informed us that the association was formed in 1975 as the Sandycove Residents Association. To mark the 40th anniversary there was to be a special extra newsletter which was to be published in September. He thanked the newsletter distributors in advance for their help in distributing the newsletter and announced a special neighbours evening in September to celebrate the newsletter distributors.

He emphasised that without the contribution of the voluntary distributors the association would be a shadow of itself. This was greeted with applause.

He highlighted two new initiatives. Starting from this meeting,

members were to get a membership card. Payment of subscriptions by standing order was also being looked at.

John emphasised that this is the member's association and that the committee is always interested in hearing the views of members.

He mentioned the development plan for the Baths which have been derelict for 20 years.

He referred to the county development plan and that the association has made a submission, the text of which can be found on the SGRA website.

Treasurer's Report

Our finance report showed income of about €500 greater than outgoings.

Election of Officers and Committee

John Elliot was proposed as chairperson by John Cowdrey and seconded by Michelle Rice. This was put to the floor and John was deemed elected.

Liam Madden was proposed as secretary by John Elliot and seconded by Paul O'Callaghan.

Mary Roche was proposed as treasurer by John Elliot and seconded by Bob Waddell.

Sean Coakley stepped down from the committee. John thanked him very much for all his work over the years.

The following current members of the committee offered to continue: John Conroy, Kay Gleeson, Patsy Ashe, Bob Waddell, Paul O'Callaghan, Caitriona McCarthy. After a call for further candidates, this was proposed by John Elliot

and seconded by Bro Ray Dwyer. This was put to the floor and the committee was deemed elected.

Issues from the floor

Harbour Cruise Berth Proposal:

The impact on dredging was pointed out. It was mentioned that in 2017, the harbour will be 200 years old. It was pointed out that this is of strategic national importance.

Rather than trying to lure cruise ships to Dun Laoghaire we should be trying to attract events like the Tall Ships Race or the Volvo Ocean Race.

Carlisle Pier:

It was suggested that this would be a good location for a diaspora centre.

Potholes:

The findings/observations of the article on potholes in the May newsletter were echoed.

Otranto Park:

It's unclear what's happening (or not happening) here.

Other issues:

- Cycling on footpaths
- East Pier
- Graffiti
- People's Park

John thanked all present and extended an invitation to join in refreshments and chat at the end of the evening.

Committee

Chairperson: John Elliot

Secretary: Liam Madden

Treasurer: Mary Roche

Other committee members
(in alphabetical order):

Patsy Ashe	Kay Gleeson
John Conroy	Bob Waddell



Dear Residents

Welcome to this November edition of our newsletter, which announces our autumn residents meeting on 23 November in St Joseph's Pastoral Centre and marks the lead in to Christmas.

This edition follows the great success of our special 40th anniversary edition which celebrated the good things about where we live. However, we do not ignore the problems of the area and equally all that we, both as a residents association and the wider community, have done over the years, and continue to do, to look for alleviation of those problems.

One of the major issues we currently face is the risk of irreparable damage to the uniquely historic Dun Laoghaire Harbour. The Sandy Cove and Glashule Residents Association lodged an objection to the proposed cruise berth facility and was represented at the oral hearing which took place over a number of days. I believe we were the only residents association to speak at the oral hearing. We are hoping for a good outcome.

In contrast the significance of the designation of Dublin Bay as a UNESCO biosphere reserve shows a very welcome trend in a good direction.

I am especially pleased that this edition includes several articles on notable members of our community who contribute so much to the vibrancy and variety of the locality.

We are hugely delighted with our recent Neighbours Evening this year, which was by far the best attended so far of this now annual event.

We especially remember with fondness and sadness

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.

the passing of our committee member and former Treasurer Caitriona McCarthy - a truly lovely person who is very much missed.

Wishing you all the very best for the coming Christmas season.

John Elliot
Chairperson

Association Boundaries

Bounded by:

(a) on the north by the foreshore;

(b) on the east by Castlepark Road and a line extending north from the northern end of Castlepark Road to the foreshore; and

(c) on the south and west by the Metals from Castlepark Road to Eden Road and from there by Eden Road, Glenageary Road, Park Road and a line extending north from the northern end of Park Road to the foreshore.

Support Our Local Businesses

This is especially important coming up to Christmas. Here are four 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 businesses help create local culture and community.
4. Local stores help to sustain a vibrant, compact, walkable village attracting visitors.

There will be Sunday opening in Sandy Cove and Glashule from November 15th.

Advertising

You will notice advertising on the back pages of 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 May 2016.

It is hoped that this will be the first of a new regular feature of Letters to the Editor. Letters may be marked "for publication" and sent by email to the address above. 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.

Let's not forget

Sir, - I and members of my family and indeed the overall majority of the residents of Glasthule and Sandycove are absolutely delighted to live in this area and avail of its natural and man made facilities. This was particularly obvious from reading our recent 40th anniversary newsletter.

I would however like people to remember and reflect on the not too distant past and various issues that have arisen.

- Plans to build either a 10 storey luxury apartment block or a hotel on the Baths site. This was strongly supported by the County Manager, Senior Council Officials and 26 of the 28 Councillors.
- The introduction of probably the highest parking charges in the villages of Sandycove and Glasthule, let alone Dun Laoghaire main town.
- The imposition of a large exercise area on the lovely Newtownsmith

Green. This was an ideal opportunity to place this either next to the proposed rejuvenation of the Baths site or in the People's Park area where it would come under supervision.

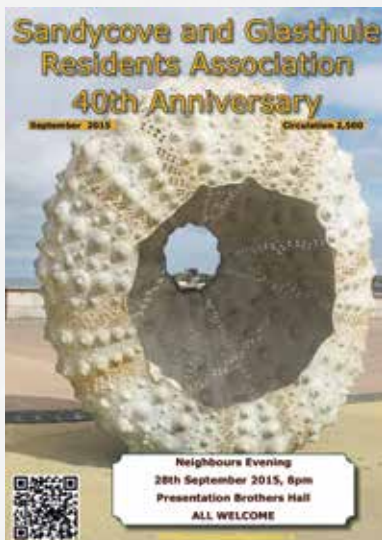
- The lack of toilet facilities in a Seaside Town, known once as the Gateway to Ireland.
- The proposed imposition last year of a €250 tax on tables and chairs outside the premises of cafes and restaurants in the villages of Sandycove and Glasthule.
- The neglect of our seafront from Sandycove to the People's Park including the Baths site.
- Planning approval of buildings of more than two storeys in the villages and along the seafront.
- The imposition of a one way street on Lower Albert Road, Sandycove so that people coming to shop in Sandycove village coming down Avondale Road had to turn right towards Dalkey or left towards Dun Laoghaire. During the period of this one way street, business in the area fell by

25/30%.

- Neglect of Sandycove beach with litter 10 years ago. This was tackled by the Sandycove Tidy Towns led by Margaret Brown and shamed the Council into taking action.
- Neglect of "Sandycove Gardens". This must be one of the greatest eyesores in a beautiful Sandycove area. It is on the way to the Tower, Sandycove beach and the Forty Foot. It is just up from here where tourist coaches stop to allow people to visit these beautiful areas.
- The total neglect for years of Sandycove Baths. This was one of the most popular changing rooms for the back beach of Sandycove with its small pier facilities.
- The building of the Lexicon. They failed to address that it is in the wrong place, an outlandish price, huge maintenance costs and architecture not in keeping with our seafront.- Yours, etc,
BOB WADDELL,
Sandycove

40th Anniversary Newsletter

In September this year the Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association published a special commemorative edition of our newsletter to mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the association in 1975 – then called Sandycove Residents Association.



Our chosen theme was What is Good About Sandycove and Glasthule and the special edition included articles specially written on the chosen theme. We have received tremendous reaction to this initiative with the flagship activity of the association. Thank you again to all our contributors, distributors and advertisers.

Mitchell's Generations

Mitchell's is the only wine company in Ireland of its era to be owned and run by descendants of the founder.

It all started in the early 1800's when William Mitchell started a bakery business in Fairview. In 1805 he purchased 10 Grafton Street. This year they are marking 210 years.

The wine shop in Glasthule was opened in 1997.

It might be a while before the next generation joins the business - Robert's son is only four!



Robert with his father Jonathan. His grandfather Bobbie is shown inset. (5th, 6th and 7th generations)

Presentation Brothers Appointment

This summer, the Presentation Brothers appointed John Quinn as their new Evangelisation Officer. He will be based at Presentation Brothers, Glashule.



Originally from Cabinteely, John has a strong connection with this area; with his grandmother Sue Quinn living on Eden Road, and his father John a past pupil of Presentation College, Glashule. He worked as Youth Minister in the parish of Wimbledon, which is one of the biggest Catholic parishes in the UK, for the past four years. We look forward to working with John in the years ahead.

Br Andrew Hickey

Local Ironman

Sandycove Road resident and former SGRA committee member Derek Leahy competed in the inaugural IM Dublin 70.3 on the 9th August.

The 1.9 km swim took place in our own Scotsman's Bay with over 2,500 professional and age group competitors from all over the world taking part. Once out of the swim the 90 km bike route then took the competitors into the city centre, through the Phoenix park along a circular route through Dunboyne and Maynooth finishing back in the Park where they then completed the final leg - a 21km run. Following on from his recent National Championship age group win in Athlone in July over the same half Ironman distance - Derek again won his 50-54 age group at IM Dublin in a time of 4 hours 41 mins placing 55th overall. This secures Derek a slot to compete in the Ironman World Championships next year in Australia.



Ása Björk Ólafsdóttir

Ása Björk Ólafsdóttir is the Church of Ireland Vicar of Christ Church in Dún Laoghaire, a Parish which overlaps that of our area. She is Icelandic. Before coming here from Iceland she lived in The Faroe Islands, Greenland, Sweden, Finland and the UK.



In April 2010, The Archbishop of Meath & Kildare put out a call to Iceland looking to fill three positions in Ireland. Ása answered the call and was offered the three positions! The next month she was working in Kells. Having spent two and a half years in Kells, the position of Vicar arose in Dun Laoghaire. She applied for and got this role.

After arriving in Dun Laoghaire in January 2013, it quite quickly became apparent to her that there was a need for a facility to provide a hot lunchtime meal and human contact for the area's homeless and lonely. After much research, in February 2014 she set up "The Dining Room" serving lunch on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in the church hall. It quickly outgrew the hall and was moved to the Dun Laoghaire Evangelical Church on lower Glenageary Rd. Plans are afoot to move the facility to Eblana Avenue where it will operate Monday to Friday.

Ása was originally an art teacher. She tries to keep her creative side active. Her kitchen currently resembles a candle factory.

Like many of us she appreciates living in the area. She loves being by the sea. Although here less than three years, she's already thinking of spending the rest of her days here.

Wherever she goes Ása seems to shake things up, pull people together and make things happen. It will be interesting to see what project she tackles next.

Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company – Cruise Berth Facility

The Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association made a submission to An Bord Pleanála regarding why planning permission should be refused.

We said there is no justification for granting planning permission for the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company cruise berth facility for the following reasons.

Adverse environmental impact

1 Visual impact

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) states: “Dún Laoghaire Harbour, comprising the East and West piers and several of the internal historic marine structures, buildings and artefacts, is of high architectural quality, both in design and foremost, construction.” It is the policy of the 2010-2016 Dún Laoghaire Development Plan to “protect and enhance” the protected structures within the harbour.

The harbour company’s own website records: “The harbour was built between 1817 and 1842 and is widely recognised as one of the finest man-made harbours in the world.” The height and length of the cruise ships will have a strongly negative effect on these structures and they will distort the harbour skyline and the surrounding area.

2 Dredging/dumping/piling

The EIS states “dredging will be carried out for 14 – 17 weeks”. There is inadequate detail about the continuous dredging which would be needed within the harbour and at the turning circle outside the harbour into the future. By comparison, the work to be carried out for cruise ship access to Dublin Port will continue for 5 years. There needs to be more clarity about the full extent of dredging and dumping needed for the Dún Laoghaire project.

There is inadequate detail about the effect of dumping and piling work on walkers, harbour users, marine and bird life.

There is no assessment of the cumulative effect of three simultaneous developments in Dublin Bay:

- new outfall sewage dumping (planning permission granted);
- Dublin Port cruise ship terminal dredging/dumping (planning permission granted);
- proposed Dún Laoghaire Harbour dredging/dumping.

3 Effect on coastline

The approach channel to the proposed turning circle at the harbour mouth (mostly outside the remit of the harbour company) will run mostly parallel to the coast and will terminate almost exactly due north of Bullock Harbour, about one and a half miles offshore. We have concerns about the impact of cruise ships on the foreshore, which includes the amenities of Bullock Harbour, Sandycove Harbour and the Forty Foot. The direction by which the approach channel is entered could also affect Dalkey Island,

Coliemore Harbour and Killiney Bay. These issues are not adequately addressed.

4 Irreversible nature of new pier

The proposed 435 metre pier is, as we understand it, a permanent structure. It is unclear how this could be removed at the end of its life-cycle or if the cruise ship project proves to be uneconomical or unworkable.



5 Effect on amenity users

Dún Laoghaire Harbour is the largest amenity area in south Dublin and one of the most important and highly frequented amenity areas in Ireland. Dún Laoghaire yacht and boat clubs have approximately 5,000 members. It is the base for a wide variety of clubs and users – swimming, scuba diving, wind and kite surfing, fishing and bird-watching. One million people walk on both piers of the harbour throughout the year. All of these would be seriously impacted by the visual impact of the cruise ships, by air and water quality deterioration and by noise levels from the cruise ships. The EIS does not adequately address the impact of these factors on walkers, amenity users, and the general public.

Cruise ships are responsible for significant air pollution from the dirty fuel they burn, which can lead to serious

human health problems, especially in port communities. Even while at dock, cruise ships often run dirty diesel engines to provide electrical power to passengers and crew. The fact that Ireland is not part of the Sulphur Emission Control Area means that Dún Laoghaire harbour is potentially exposed to unacceptable levels of pollution. The Sulphur Emission Control Area convention requires a reduction in the sulphur content of cruise ships, as emissions above the prescribed level are believed to be harmful. The harbour company submission does not have any regulation regarding sulphur emissions for cruise ships using Dún Laoghaire Harbour.



Another concern is water pollution. We understand that it has been authoritatively estimated that a 3,000-person cruise ship generates 30,000 gallons of sewage a day. It appears that there are no proposed regulations for sewage.

Inappropriate location

An Bord Pleanála has recently granted planning permission to Dublin Port Company to redevelop the Alexandra Basin that will include a twin berth cruise ship facility. This will be capable of accommodating the next generation of cruise ships. Dublin Port has the support of Fáilte Ireland and Dublin City Council for this project and has been recommended for co-funding under the Connecting Europe Facility. Two large and expensive cruise ship facilities

within 5 miles of each other make no economic sense and could lead to financial disaster for both ports. Dublin Port is Ireland's most popular cruise ship destination and we understand industry observers believe it has the potential to become a turnaround port, where cruises start and finish, as well as a port of call for one day visits. In 2015 Dublin Port is projected to receive 83 ships and Dún Laoghaire 22. The Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company plan is projecting that by 2040 this will grow from 22 to 230 ships a year in Dún Laoghaire, while Dublin Port will stagnate at 79. There is no basis for these figures except unsubstantiated speculation.

The decision by An Bord Pleanála to grant permission to Dublin Port for a twin berth facility means that there is no need for a cruise berth facility in Dún Laoghaire.

Cruise tourism is important to Ireland. We believe that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport should develop a rational and coherent national policy for cruise tourism that takes account of the benefits that both harbours can offer, while not impacting on the historic aspect of Dún Laoghaire Harbour and the existing users of the harbour.

Piecemeal planning

The Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company application for a cruise berth facility is only part of a planned redevelopment of the harbour. The Dún Laoghaire Harbour Master Plan is proposing a €200 million commercial development of apartments, retail outlets, and offices, within the confines of the existing harbour.

The application for a cruise ship berth does not contain these proposals. This is piecemeal planning. An Bord Pleanála should take account of the overall plan for redevelopment rather than accept an item-by-item application process that does not take into account the impact of the totality of the future proposed developments on the existing structures, the visual impact in the existing built heritage of the town, the environmental impact, and the future governance of the harbour.

The proposed developments in the master plan do not take account of and appear to contravene the Dún Laoghaire Urban Framework Plan 2010-16, that sets out the framework for the regeneration of the town, and contradict Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council's guidance for planning where they suggest that new developments should contribute to the regeneration of the town and should reconnect the town centre to the sea front.

Oral hearing

We requested an oral hearing.

Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association gratefully acknowledges the work of Save Our Seafront on this issue which has greatly assisted the preparation of our independent submission.

Caitriona McCarthy RIP

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain!

Caitriona is no longer with us but by her example she has shown us all how to dance. She was inspirational in how she dealt with her cancer and how she lived her life to the full right up to the very end.

Caitriona grew up in Clonmel in an Irish speaking family and added French and Italian to her repertoire at UCG. She was quite a polyglot!

After she married in the 70's she moved to Dublin and lived from then on in the Sandycove area where she raised her two sons, Cian and Donal. She taught with the VEC in Sallynoggin until her early retirement due to ill health in 2004. She was highly esteemed as a teacher by both her colleagues and her students as was evident by the large numbers who attended her funeral.

Caitriona led a very active life. She loved to walk the pier and did so every day no matter what the weather was like. She loved to wear bright colours, which matched her bright smile. And she had equally brightly coloured rain gear for the wet days. She was a very fast walker and few could keep up with her but she always slowed down as she returned home through Glasthule village. She would pop into the various shops where she knew all the personnel by name, sometimes to shop, sometime to check on the latest arrivals in the boutiques, and sometimes just to say hello! She had a cheery smile and a kind word for everyone.

She was a wonderful neighbour, always the first to welcome new people to the street, and to help them settle in. She never lost her ability to make new friends and could count several of her neighbours among her friends. She always kept an unobtrusive eye on elderly neighbours and willingly drove them to hospital appointments and so on. However, she was fiercely independent and was very loath to accept offers of help herself.



She had a very active social life and often had different appointments for morning coffee, then lunch, finishing up the day with dinner in one of the local restaurants. She used to say she didn't know how she ever had time for work. She loved to go on holidays and had no trouble in finding travel companions be it family or friends. She was such an easy person to get on with.

For Caitriona, family came first and she really enjoyed her role as Mamo (granny). A few weeks before she died she hosted a wonderful party for something like 35 family members.

Caitriona was a selfless person, evident in her willingness to help others and to help to better her community in whatever way possible. She got involved with the Residents Association, firstly, by delivering newsletters and then joining the committee in 2009 and was elected as Treasurer and served for three years in that role. She was a very active member and will be sorely missed. Her last social outing, actually, was dinner with the lady members of the committee two days before she passed peacefully away.

We will miss her vivaciousness, her cheerfulness, her warmth, her sense of fun and her kind concern for everyone.

Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís.

Imogen Stuart Award

Congratulations to renowned local artist Imogen Stuart who has been elected Saoi by the members of Aosdána.

The honour of Saoi is bestowed for singular and sustained distinction in the creative arts. No more than seven current members may be so honoured at one time.

The symbol of the office, a gold torc, was presented to her by President Michael D Higgins at the Arts Council in September.

The torc is passed on when a Saoi dies. Imogen's was originally given to the writer Seán Ó Faoláin, who lived in our borough, in 1985 for his distinction as a writer. After Seán's passing it went to Benedict Kiely, also a writer, in 1996. In 2007 it was given to the artist and painter Patrick Scott before it was presented to Imogen.



Dublin Bay Biosphere

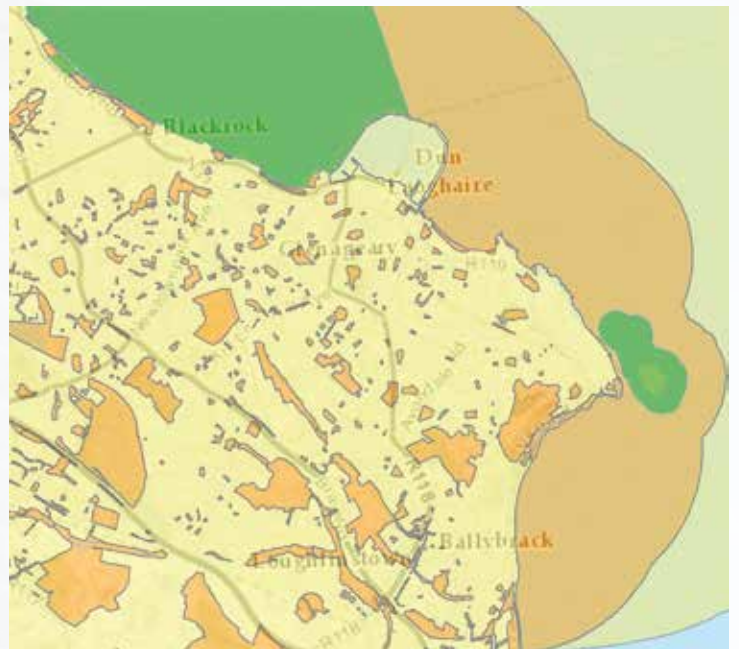
Sandycove and Glasthule is part of the recently designated UNESCO Dublin Bay Biosphere Reserve which encompasses over 300 square kilometres of marine and terrestrial habitat. This designation is in recognition of Dublin Bay's unique ecological and cultural status. It is one of only two UNESCO biosphere reserves in Ireland and one of only 651 in the world.

The biosphere supports a wide variety of wildlife and plants. A huge diversity of mammals, birds, fish, insects and plants live and breed in the coastal habitats. The designation reflects Dublin Bay's environmental, leisure, cultural and tourism significance.

A UNESCO biosphere reserve is a special designation for areas recognised for their biological diversity awarded by UNESCO and managed in partnership with local communities, NGOs and local and national governments.

In connection with the award it was announced that the Dublin Bay Biosphere Partnership is to promote and protect Dublin Bay through:

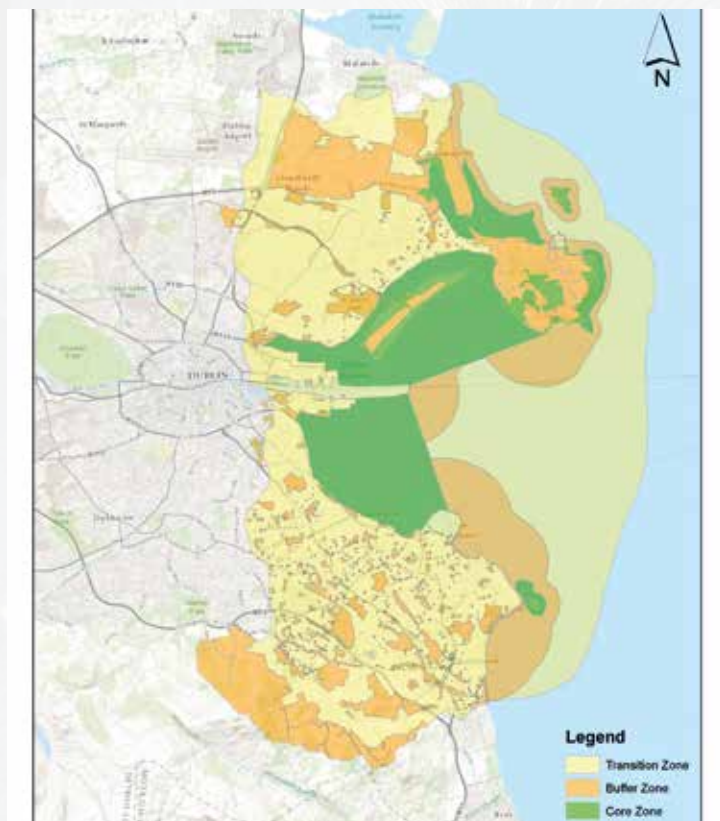
- **Conservation** – protection of the biosphere through habitat management and monitoring;
- **Learning** – third level colleges, research institutes and schools are to be facilitated and encouraged to study the habitat and this knowledge is to be shared with the wider public;
- **Development** – links are to be developed with communities and businesses to promote sustainable development in Dublin Bay.



- The **core zone** of Dublin Bay Biosphere comprises areas of high natural value. Closest to us would be Dalkey Island.
- The **buffer zone** comprises public and private green spaces such as parks, greenbelts and golf courses, which surround and adjoin the core zones.
- The **transition zone** forms the outer part of the Biosphere. It includes residential areas, harbours, ports and industrial and commercial areas.

Garden Awards

Congratulations (in no particular order) to our certificate winners Brendan Kenny, Jennifer Luby and The Presentation Brothers for their wonderful gardens.



2 Devitt Villas



1 Devitt Villas



Presentation Brothers

Neighbours Evening



Another wonderful evening.

Our theme for the evening was **“The Distribution of the Newsletter”**. Special thanks to our panel Grainne Dempsey, Maura Moran, Sean Coakley, Roland Evans and to John O’Hagan who chaired the evening. It was a most enjoyable and very friendly occasion. Thanks also to The Butlers Pantry for supplying the tasty bites.

We’re already looking forward to next year’s event.

People’s Park

Well done to Tom Byrne and his team on the great work they do keeping our parks looking so well.



Tom Byrne (centre) with his team



Society of St Vincent de Paul

Glasthule

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) glashulesvp@gmail.com or call **086 3447631** between 9-5 Monday to Friday

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Some Events in Pavilion Theatre

Dec 1st: Beowulf: The Blockbuster

Dec 4th: Carols at Christmas with Chamber Choir Ireland

Dec 16th-17th: Eimear Quinn

Dec 20th: Cinderella featuring Bosco!

Jan 3rd: Finbar Wright

Jan 28th: Reeling in the Showband Years

Feb 27th: Patsy Cline 50th Anniversary Tour

Apr 5th-9th: Oliver! - Dun Laoghaire Musical and Dramatic Society



www.paviliontheatre.ie

Christmas Festival in Sandycove & Glashule

December 4th: Turning on of the Lights

December 12th: Santa arrives

Make sure you’re there for the Christmas festival in the village from 1pm with Santa arriving.

December 19th: Treasure Hunt All Day

See traders’ windows in Sandycove and Glashule for more details.



FESTIVAL OF FAITH St Joseph’s Church Glashule



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This year's flu season is upon us. There are natural alternatives to combat these nasty bugs. The obvious first line of defence is diligent hand washing, getting plenty of sleep, regular exercise and eating a wholesome diet.

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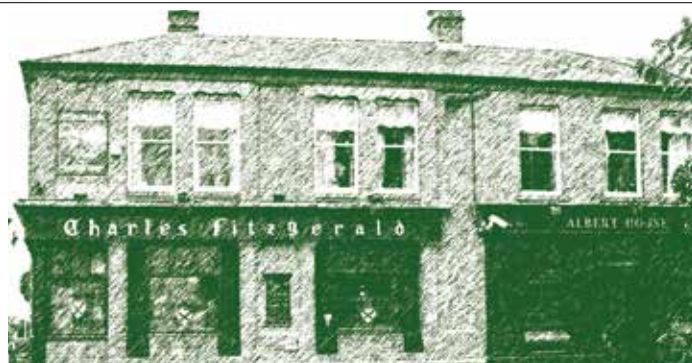
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