

Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association Newsletter

November 2016

Circulation 2,500



Residents Meeting
Monday 28th November 8pm
St Joseph's Pastoral Centre
ALL WELCOME

info@sandycoveandglasthule.ie

SGRA Annual General Meeting May 2016

John Elliot, Chairperson, welcomed all to the meeting, including Councillors Patricia Stewart, Cormac Devlin, Melisa Halpin, Karl Gill, Mary Fayne, John Bailey and Richard Boyd Barrett TD. Apologies were received from Councillors Michael Merrigan and Ossian Smyth and Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD.

John introduced Sgt James Malone and Garda Marion Power. They combined to give an excellent **presentation on crime prevention**.

TOP 5 BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS



- 1 Secure all Doors and Windows
- 2 Light up your Home, use timer switches when out
- 3 Store Keys safely and away from windows & letterboxes
- 4 Record details of Valuables and don't keep large Cash amounts at home
- 5 Use your Alarm, even when at home

See www.garda.ie for more information



An Garda Síochána | Supporting Safer Communities 2014

He introduced each of the committee members. He thanked Liam Madden for yet another excellent **newsletter**. He gave special praise to the newsletter distributors and our loyal advertisers. He highlighted the fact that advertising in our newsletter is only available to local businesses.

We were hoping to have the Bord Pleanála decision on the Dun Laoghaire cruise berth but it had not been issued. He highlighted the development at The Baths and the Hudson Road field. He drew attention to the redevelopment of Otranto Park and the possible sculpture by our local artist Imogen Stuart.

John gave details of the facility to pay subscriptions by standing order and the issuing of membership cards.

There then followed the formalities of the AGM. The minutes from the previous AGM as published in the November 2015 newsletter were approved.

Treasurer Mary Roche presented the **financial figures**. These showed growth from the previous year. Interest was expressed from the floor that some funds were held as Prize Bonds.

Next was the **election of officers and committee**. John Elliot expressed his willingness to remain as chair for a further year. He was proposed by Ursula Maguire, seconded by Bob Waddell and approved by the floor. As Liam Madden had served three years he had to step down as secretary. John Elliot proposed Kay Gleeson as secretary. This was seconded by Susan Heddigan and approved by the floor. John Elliot proposed that Mary Roche remain as treasurer. This was seconded by Kay Gleeson and approved by the floor. John Elliot proposed the remaining members of the committee (Patsy Ashe, John Conroy, Grainne Dempsey, James Howley and Liam Madden) be re-elected. This was seconded by Ursula Maguire and approved by the floor.

John acknowledged the contributions made by Caitriona McCarthy, Paul O'Callaghan and Bob Waddell.

John opened the meeting to the floor.

Issues from the floor

- **The Baths:** 20 years. Swimming, artist studios (not public), seaweed baths (Enniscrone, Lanzarote).
- **Hudson Road Park:** no consultation with locals.
- **Sunday lawnmowers**
- **Potholes**
- **Public toilets**
- **Strand cleaning:** seaweed, jellyfish
- **Magenta Place:** Cul de Sac. Danger to children. Sign should be placed.
- **Overgrown laneways:** Dundela.
- **Joyce Tower:** helps local businesses.

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

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



Dear Residents

Welcome to this November edition of our newsletter, which announces our autumn residents meeting on 28 November in St Joseph's Pastoral Centre and marks the lead in to Christmas. I hope you enjoy reading it.

We are hugely delighted with our enormously successful recent Neighbours Evening this year, which celebrated the achievements of the unique local, and internationally known, institution of Cavistons, winner of the Irish Times award for best food and drink shop in Ireland.

At this time last year, as I wrote to you, one of the major issues we faced was the risk of irreparable damage to the uniquely historic Dun Laoghaire Harbour. I told you that the Sandy Cove and Glashule Residents Association had lodged an objection to the proposed cruise berth facility and was represented at the oral hearing which took place over a number of days (as far as I know the only residents association to speak at the hearing). At the time of going to press, we are still waiting for a decision from An Bord Pleanála.

We continue to look forward to great improvements to the Dun Laoghaire Baths site, the field on Hudson Road and Otranto Park - updates on all in this edition.

We continue our series A Day in the Life of a Councillor. The committee are conscious of the fact that many residents are not quite sure of what our Councillors do. This series hopes to make us more aware of what they actually do. This time we feature Cllr Patricia Stewart and Cllr Melisa Halpin.

As always, I am especially pleased that we cover notable members of our community who contribute so much to the vibrancy and variety of the locality.

Thank you, as always, to our advertisers - all local businesses which enhance the life of our community.

Above all, thank you to our loyal team of newsletter distributors, who bring the newsletter to your door, and without whom there would be no newsletter.

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

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.

Residents Meeting

Our Residents Meeting will be held on **Monday November 28th at 8pm** in St Joseph's Pastoral Centre. All are welcome.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Competition Time!

Thanks to the Pavilion Theatre Dun Laoghaire we have four tickets (valued €30) to give away to the Christmas Special Screening of **'Meet Me in St Louis'** on Sunday 18 December at 8pm.

To enter, answer the following question:

Which famous Hollywood actress stars in the lead role of **'Meet Me in St Louis'**?

Email (with subject "SGRA Competition") your answer, name and contact number to **lisa@paviliontheatre.ie**

Winner will be contacted directly. Best of luck!

Congratulations to Brenda Whiteside who won four tickets to 'The Weir' in our May competition.

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.

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.

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 2017.

Spot the Difference



Congratulations to Cavistons on winning the 'Best Food and Drink Shop' category in Irish Times Shop of the Year 2016. The countrywide event had over 30,000 entries.

Iron Man 70.3 Dublin



©INPHO/Ryan Byrne



©INPHO/Ryan Byrne

The Iron Man 70.3 event took place in August. It consisted of a swim, followed by a 56 mile cycle and finishing with a run. 1,908 athletes took part one of whom was over 70. The event started with a swim around Scotsman's Bay. Despite the threat of jellyfish, the swim went well.

New Principal in The Harold



Dervla Nic Mhathuna is the new Principal in the Harold School. She started on 31st August. One is struck by her energy and enthusiasm.

She is originally from Leitrim. She comes from a real teaching background with her father, mother, sister, sister in law and grandmother all being teachers.

She is part of an active family: her husband into triathlons and three sons (the eldest a doctor) who do swimming and skiing at a competitive level. She likes to start her day with a swim.

This is her third principalship. Her first was in Screen NS in Wexford. She took a career break in Chamonix, France. She even became a local Councillor. She's now fluent in French.

The Harold, Glashule has nearly 700 children and over 50 staff. She considers it a privilege to be part of the Harold tradition. Her vision is one of collaboration and inclusion. She sees herself not as the leader but one of the leaders. The school is only one part of the development of the children but includes the parents, board of management, community and church.

She has great praise for the staff in the school. She talks of their commitment, hard (above and beyond) work and their interest. Some have spent their working life at the school. Some pupils return as teachers. She is a big advocate of professional development and in service training. She herself is doing a Diploma in Inclusion & Special Education.

The school is very progressive in the use of technology and teaching methods eg smart boards, team teaching and multi sensory approach among others.

She is keen to make the school a welcoming place. Her office door is usually open so she can see and be seen. The social committee initiated the 'Feel Good Friday' on foot of her first Friday when she brought croissants and French patisserie to school for the staff. Now each week two members of staff bring in home baking. This fosters community which she is keen to support.

We wish her well.

Newly Opened



Pat Lynch outside with a Big Green Egg

We welcome 'A Room Outside' to the village. They stock a range of BBQs, accessories and garden furniture.

If you're looking for any cooking advice or inspiration go talk to Pat. Ask him about his recipe for roasted cauliflower.

Local Brochure Now Available

Look out for a guide to the area with map and details of local businesses available in tourist offices, local businesses and in the James Joyce Tower.



Spar Sandycove Closes



We are sorry to see the closure of the Spar in Sandycove.

The notice on the shop reads: "Due to continuing challenging trading conditions it is with regret that SPAR, 48a Sandycove Road will close Friday October 21st."

Hopefully a new similar business will be started soon.

Roger Casement Statue Planned for Baths Site



Martina Devlin, Cathaoirleach Cllr Cormac Devlin, Dr Anne Casement, Patrick Casement and Kay Gleeson

On the centenary of the death of Roger Casement, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council welcomed Mr. Patrick Casement, relative of Roger Casement, and his wife Dr. Anne Casement, together with An Cathaoirleach Cllr Cormac Devlin, to launch the competition for a major statue commission to commemorate Casement's life.

The launch took place at Doyles Cottage, Lawson Terrace, in Sandycove where Casement was born and spent his very early childhood.

This statue commission will celebrate Casement's significance to the local area. It will be prominently located in the redeveloped former Dún Laoghaire Baths site which will include a new public walkway connecting Newtownsmith and the back of the East Pier. The statue will be located on the seaward side of the new promenade.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is seeking a full sized representational sculpture of Casement, which will be recognisable as such for generations to come and will celebrate all aspects of Casement's career, including his well-documented humanitarian work.

It is the first statue to be commissioned in the history of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.



Tom Cook (owner of 29A, site of original Doyle's Cottage where Roger Casement was born), Patrick Casement and Bob Waddell (local 1916 committee) standing outside Roger Casement's birthplace

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. The plan is to feature two this newsletter, two in the May 2017 newsletter etc. The order of featuring in the newsletter will be based on length of service in the council. We continue with the next two longest serving: Cllr Patricia Stewart and Melisa Halpin.

Cllr Patricia Stewart



First thing, I check emails and Twitter over early morning coffee for urgent queries and local news. Twitter's a great shortcut to local, national and international news – with no verbiage. I also check the Irish Times online. Then off to the group office in County Hall where I'll spend a good few hours most days progressing constituents' issues. Several

days a week I'll do a bit of leafleting in different areas.

Often I have a morning meeting. It could be a DL BID meeting [Business Improvement District], or the local Policing Forum. Both of these have sub-committees dealing with specific issues, like the new Dining Room, opening its doors very soon in Eblana Avenue, which has many volunteers from the Sandycove and Glathule area.

I also try to keep in touch with local business groups. In the evenings there are often Residents' Association meetings and of course I have my own Fine Gael Branch and Constituency meetings. I'm also active

on the S2S committee [Sutton to Sandycove Walk & Cycleway]

Several days a week I'll meet people who have specific issues- parking, speeding, blocked drains, trees, planning, housing, employment, disability and - surprisingly often - personal problems. I advise them as best I can or make representation to the council on their behalf. A substantial part of the job is to listen. There are always (at least) two sides to every story. Living as we do in an urban setting which we all share gives rise to competing interests. Compromise is usually the fairest solution. If I'm struggling to make a decision, I apply the test of the public interest, although even that isn't always straightforward.

We have a heavy compliment of meetings in County Hall taking up a great deal of our time, often with agendas over 500 pages long. They are important, but not my main focus. We 40 councillors have some influence and a little power: there are too many of us!

Being a councillor has made me realise how essential a good local authority is to maintaining civil society and a pleasant environment to live in. It's a varied, full-time job.

Cllr Melisa Halpin



Last Monday the day started with an early morning swim; it is getting a bit cold for the sea now so it was the pool and then a cycle along the seafront, where I silently applaud those courageous constituents still taking their daily dip, to our office on Dun Laoghaire main street.

Our clinic opens at 10am, and in the following few hours we experience the best of times and the worst of times as a Councillor. The best of times – meeting all those wonderful people who call into our office every week. The worst of times - the frustration of listening to so many harrowing stories and knowing that there is very little that can be done. Since we opened our office in 2012, about 80% of the people we have met are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless or living in deplorable conditions. There are nearly 6000 people on the housing list in Dun Laoghaire yet only 42 houses

will be built this year and 114 in 2017. Despite endless announcements of investment in housing the policy is still to rely on private landlords to deliver housing to those in need. Campaigning to change this is one of the central planks of PBPA policy.

After our clinic, I met with our other councillors to discuss the Council meeting that evening. Usually I get my lunch as we work: happily there's a great choice of cafes and businesses selling tasty and healthy food in DL these days. The big issues on the agenda is the ongoing saga of the Glenalbyn Pool which is still closed after 3 years, the boarded up council houses in Stillorgan, and the delayed start to the safety works to the roads at the back of Dun Laoghaire. It is always an uphill battle but we do win some victories; we get a qualified commitment on the safety works, none at all on the council houses, and there is probably some room for optimism about Glenalbyn.

I rush directly from the Council Meeting to a local campaign group meeting about Repealing the 8th Amendment. Finally at 10 pm I clear my head with a cycle home – very grateful that the next day will be marginally less hectic – or so I hope!

Neighbours Evening



There was a great turn out for our annual Neighbours Evening at the end of September in the Presentation Brothers Hall.

There was wine, cheese, music from the Brook Singers, and entertainment from Peter Caviston and John O'Hagan.

The theme of the evening was to celebrate our village doing so well in the All Ireland Irish Times shop awards - a real coup for our little village and for Caviston's family owned shop.

Local Updates

Otranto Park: the final technical drawings are being completed and it will go to tender in the next 2 to 3 weeks. They have had to be especially careful as they will be changing ground levels in a difficult site, which is costly. They expect to be onsite in spring of next year. It will depend on the weather as they have to avoid the flooding that comes with persistent easterly winds.

Presentation Field: the drawings were being adjusted and the plan is due to go out to public consultation within weeks. The new Chief Parks Superintendent has visited and walked the field and surrounds and is aware of the boundaries with residents. They will be given a chance to have their say.

The Baths: contractors are to be onsite in the first Quarter of 2017 and it is expected works will take approximately a year, depending on what difficulties they encounter once they begin to clear the site.

Thanks to Cllr Patricia Stewart for keeping us informed.

Out and about



Jonathan Mitchell, Peter Caviston and Sir Michael Parkinson



At the start of the dlr Bay 10k



Members of the Local Traders Association



Lifelong local resident Helen Regan on her way by DART to get married. She is accompanied by her brother Ciaran Ashe and serenaded by off-duty DART driver Eddie Keating. (photo Jason Clarke Photography)

Smyth and Sons - in Glasthule since 1943

In 1916 while the volunteers were fighting for Irish freedom Tiger Smyth was busy in his bric-a-brac shop at 58 Glasthule Road, Glasthule, Co. Dublin. Today 58 Glasthule Road is the premises of the internationally renowned Caviston's Seafood restaurant.



3 generations: Grandfather Pat, father John then, brothers John and Trevor now

After closing his bric-a-brac shop the premises was taken over by his son, Bob Smyth. Bob ran a vegetable shop for many years and was a legend in the area as he only had one arm.

Above the vegetable shop at 58 Glasthule road lived Pat and Annie Smyth with their three children Joseph, Brendan and John. Pat ran a small haulage business delivering milk, coal and furniture by horse and cart. He stabled his horse in an area behind what is now Quinn's Funeral home in an area now used for storing coffins!

Pat died on New Year's Eve 1992. Coincidentally a week later the death took place of John Buckley, "The Auctioneer". Pat Smyth had worked closely with John

Buckley for over forty years. The Buckley family run weekly furniture auctions in Sandycove. Brothers John and Brendan Smyth worked with Michael and Sean Buckley. Currently John and Trevor Smyth are the third generation of the Smyth family working with Michael Buckley the second generation of the Buckley family.

After Pat's death, his sons John and Brendan took over the business. The horse and cart was replaced by motorised transport and the fleet expanded to two trucks. John's sons John and Trevor joined the firm in 1990 and 1993 respectively.

Brendan decided to follow a different career path so John, Trevor and John continued with the business and the firm John Smyth and Sons was born.

On November the first 2013 John died after a long battle with cancer. His funeral was considered to have been one of the biggest ever seen in Glasthule. Trevor and John took up the mantle of running what was now a busy and popular removal firm.

In 2001 they received Presidential approval when they were employed to deliver a spinnet to the Aras for Mary Mc Aleese. For the last four years they have been delighted to be part of a Christmas in Dublin as they move the iconic GPO crib into position for its annual display.

The area has certainly changed dramatically since Trevor and John's grandad Pat delivered coal, milk and furniture by horse and cart. It seems that the Smyth family will continue for a few generations to come.

Architectural award for *A Window into the Park*



The Irish Architecture Awards are the RIAI's annual awards intended to recognise the best of each years' architecture and the contribution of clients to achieving quality in the built environment. This year The People's Park Pavilion was selected as the joint winner of the 2016 Commercial / Retail category.

Howley Hayes Architects (with SGRA committee member James Howley) were appointed by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Co. Co. to prepare a scheme for

the conservation and re-use of two park structures in People's Park. The tea rooms were extended introducing south light into a much enlarged and airy dining space, creating a window into the park where once was a blank brick wall.

Access to the roof terrace was restored, an important aspect of the original design. The new extension re-uses these bricks to create pods for WCs, and the oversailing roof responds to the original design in a contemporary way.



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) glasthulesvp@gmail.com or call **087 2552589** between 9-5 Monday to Friday

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Some Events in Pavilion Theatre

1st Dec, Deirdre O'Kane: 1Dee
3rd Dec, Special Cinema Screening: Mary Poppins (1954)
3rd Dec, Michael Harding: Talking to Strangers
14th Dec, Abba Forever: The Christmas Show
16th Dec, The Henry Girls
18th Dec, Bosco's Magical Christmas with Hansel & Gretel
18th Dec, Special Cinema Screening – Meet Me in St Louis
22nd Dec, Special Cinema Screening – It's A Wonderful Life
5th Jan, Reeling in the Showband Years
6th Jan, The Puccini Scandal
2nd Feb, Des Bishop
9th Feb, Jason Byrne
25th Feb, Midge Ure



www.paviliontheatre.ie

Christmas Festival in Sandycove & Glashule

November 25th: Turning on of the Lights

December 10th: Santa arrives
 Make sure you're there for the Christmas festival in the village from 1pm with Santa arriving.

December 17th: Treasure Hunt All Day

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



Winter Fair

Toys, books, bottle stall, jewellery, candles, bric-a-brac, Christmas decorations and much more.

Saturday November 12th, 10:30am - 2:30pm
 St. Joseph's Parish Centre.

Joyce Readings

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



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