# Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association 40th Anniversary Eptember 2015



Neighbours Evening 28th September 2015, 8pm Presentation Brothers Hall ALL WELCOME





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Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association Newsletter September 2015



#### **Dear Residents**

I wish you a warm welcome to this special commemorative edition of the newsletter of the Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association to mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the association in 1975 - then called Sandycove Residents Association. The chosen theme of this edition is What is Good About Sandycove and Glasthule. We think this theme is especially suited to the 40th anniversary and, we hope, will be uplifting and popular with readers.

Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association is an active and thriving residents association which represents residents in the Sandycove and Glasthule area. We regularly publish this newsletter, which is distributed to 2,500 households in the area. Our, usually twice yearly, newsletter is the flagship activity of the association, creating and maintaining a high profile in the local community and helping to enhance local community spirit. The newsletter is planned, written and distributed by voluntary efforts of committee members and other local residents.

This edition includes articles specially written on the chosen theme and I hope you find them interesting and enjoyable. I wish to express my grateful thanks to all who have contributed articles and all who distribute it.

Thank you also to our advertisers - all local businesses - and to the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council which has given a grant to cover part of the production costs of this commemorative edition.

For myself, living directly looking out over Dublin Bay, it is a wonderful view, no matter what the

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. weather. It is best in brilliant sunshine, but when there is a storm out at sea, the view is well worth looking at as well. To me it is the kind of view I would go on holiday to see. On a sunny weekend we get a lot of visitors here. The place is packed. Some see that as a negative, but it is the flip side of living in a lovely area. It may be a cliche to some, but we do have a village atmosphere here. I have got to know many people through the residents association. We have had our battles over the years to protect the area as a very pleasant residential and recreational area. We are not against change. We are all for improvements. We just want to make sure they are the right ones.

Best wishes to all

John Elliot Chairperson

### Neighbour's Evening

#### Sep 28th, 8pm in the Presentation Brothers Hall



This is our fourth time running this event. It promises to be another enjoyable and informative evening. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to meet fellow residents.

# Quick Quiz

- 1. What is/was the "Divil's piano"?
- 2. Where are the "Hundred and Ones" and why are they called that?
- 3. Why is the "Forty Foot" called that?
- 4. Where are these?





# Thank you to dircoco

Financial assistance from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council towards production costs of this newsletter is acknowledged.



# The Sandycove and Glasthule area...Simply the best.

There is a reason why the area attracts Ireland's biggest sailing event; the Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta, and it is the start point of top events like the Wings for Life World Run and the Dublin IRONMAN 70.3. The area is recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) as a biosphere reserve, in recognition of the area's unique ecological habitat and biological diversity.

It is a picture postcard beautiful area and is the home to a huge number of mammals, birds, insects and plants. It's positioning in Dublin bay with a backdrop of the Dublin and Wicklow Mountain means that it enjoys its own special micro-climate, bringing the area many extra hours of sunshine.

Newtownsmith Green located on the waterfront of Scotsman's Bay, is simply the jewel that the locals enjoy on their daily walks between the harbour and Joyce's Tower, and this large unspoilt green is the backdrop to the aforementioned events and is the centre point for numerous families that choose to visit a special place for their family day out.

The area is a hive of activity. On almost every day, you will see an array of sail boats of all sizes; along with the kayakers, the rowers, the swimmers and the divers. You will see the lobster boat men plying their trade.

The area boasts some of the Best Shops in Ireland; with three of our shops (Caviston's, 64 Wine and Nuala Woulfe Beauty Salon) being recognised in the Best Shops in Ireland competition. No other village in Ireland can boast such an achievement. Any local, however, can equally tell you, that any number of the shops in our two villages, are equally deserving of such recognition.

The area is full of wonderful eating and drinking establishments, perfect for a pre-theatre meal for the Pavilion Theatre or a social gathering. The Readers amongst us are blessed to have access to a superb library that caters for every interest. The area is also well served by the Dart, so visits to our Capital is but a short journey away.

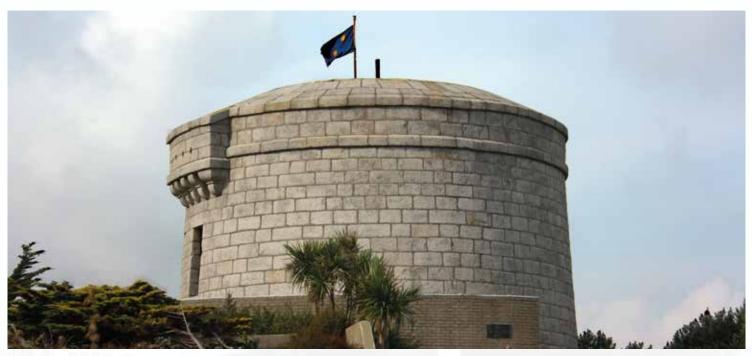
The people living and working in the area help to make the place feel so special; the area is very fortunate to have so many people working tirelessly for the area. Sandycove and Glasthule, simply is one of the finest places to live in the whole world. These images show why the area is such a special place in which to live.

#### John Conroy





# A Towering Presence



Did you know that the iconic Martello tower at Sandycove Point shares some history with the Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association?

Michael Scott, renowned architect and former local resident, was a founder member of our wonderful association forty years ago. As such, he left a terrific legacy which we now celebrate in this special issue of the Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association newsletter.

Before becoming involved in our association, Michael Scott had, however, already made an even more important contribution to his local community by placing our Martello tower firmly on a worldwide literary stage.

After he designed and built his beautiful home 'Geragh' in 1938, Scott recognised the importance of the neighbouring run-down Martello Tower. He purchased it in 1954 and donated it to a group calling themselves the 'Friends of James Joyce'.

With some support from film director John Huston, the tower was renovated and Sylvia Beach (first publisher of Ulysses) officially opened The James Joyce Museum at the tower on Bloomsday, 1962.

Since its opening, the museum and tower has undergone some changes both in structure (an extension was added in 1978) and in terms of its management.

Most recently, in 2012, its day to day staffing was taken over by the 'Friends of Joyce Tower Society' (FJT) which was formed to save the tower from threatened closure. The FJT is a voluntary organisation drawing its membership largely from the local area. Its wonderful local volunteers staff the tower by working in pairs and committing to a two hour shift per week. These volunteers are knowledgeable and friendly and engage visitors to our area in a most welcoming way relating stories of Napoleonic threat, of Gogarty and Joyce, of black panthers and frightening gunshots.

Now, thanks to the efforts of the FJT volunteers, the James Joyce Tower and Museum has become even more important to the cultural and commercial wellbeing of this area. It attracts circa 40,000 visitors per year from all corners of the world and is among Ireland's top 100 visitor attractions.

The FJT volunteers take great pride in the fact that, as a result of their community service, the tower remains open and free to the public 365 days a year.

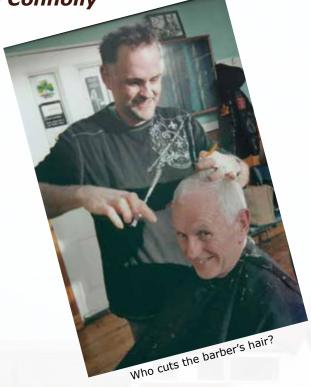
I hope that you will allow me to take this opportunity, on behalf of the 'Friends of Joyce Tower Society', to thank the Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association newsletter for its support for the James Joyce Tower & Museum. We greatly appreciate the promotion of this wonderful attraction in your publication over the years.

We look forward, with your support and that of our volunteers, to continuing as a towering presence in this area for many years to come!

James Holahan Chairman Friends of Joyce Tower Society

## Some Notable Locals

#### **Pip Connolly**



Connolly's gents hairdressing was founded in November 1937 by Paddy (P.K.) Connolly, father of Pip. Pip joined in 1965 and took over the business in 1985. He started off preparing customers for shaving in 1959. He needed an orange box to stand on! His son Alan runs Al's Hair Cutting Shop across the street.

#### Peter Caviston



The story goes that in 1948 Peter Caviston's uncle Jim went drinking with the fish monger from the River & Sea Fish Co. in the Eagle House after buying some fish. He woke up the following morning to discover that he'd bought the fish mongers. Caviston's was born.

#### Sean Buckley



Sean Buckley has worked at Buckley Galleries for over 45 years.

Originally called the Casement Galleries, since 1957 almost 2,850 auctions involving an eclectic mix of over one million lots have taken place at Buckley Galleries, 27/28 Sandycove road.

#### Tom Fitzgerald



Tom Fitzgerald's parents Charlie and Annie took over the pub in 1960. They had come from the Temple Bar Pub which they took over in 1951.

If you ask nicely he might sing "To Life" from "Fiddler on the Roof" for you!

## LIVING IN SANDYCOVE – a blow-in writes

Several years ago the Irish Times ran a competition to discover the best place to live in Ireland. Readers were invited to make a "pitch" describing their home in no more than 500 words. It did not matter if you came from a large town, a small town, a city, a suburb, or a village – everything qualified. Westport cleaned up, and Sandycove did not even get a mention. How could it? Who in Sandycove would have the time to sit down and write such a missive – and who in Sandycove would be sad enough to even want to? Notwithstanding these obvious difficulties, I did scan each entry half expecting to see words like – Forty Foot, harbour, Caviston's, wine shops, butchers.... jump off the page, in the hope that some poor ejit would feel generous enough to let the world know what is obvious to everyone who lives here, that clearly Sandycove is not only the best place to live in Ireland, but probably the best place to live (full stop).

Not that I have anything against Westport, which is fine in its own way, if you like that Wild-western, Wild Atlantic Way, sort of thing. I would have to admit that Croagh Patrick and Clew Bay have their qualities and come a close second to Killiney Head and Dublin Bay as decent vantage points and settings, but after that and a few pubs and a bit of formal town planning, there is not that much to write home about in Westport. And of course the train time to Dublin is about four hours shorter from Sandycove, not to mention the convenience of just ten stops on the Dart, rather than ten counties to cross, to get to Lansdowne Road.

Of course I am somewhat of a parvenu when it come to Sandycove citizenship, having only landed, in that big harbour to the west of Scotsman's Bay, some 20 years, two months, three weeks and four days ago, (yes I am still counting). So I am still a blow-in and for the time being retain my licence to be snobby and superior about having accidentally stumbled on the best place to live in Ireland, or probably, as we have already established, to live.

Our first-born is a cockney, but he has been here for twenty of his twenty one years, so he hides it well. Fortunately the two younger children are natives. They have all three enjoyed the pleasures of making sandcastles in on the beach, freezing enthusiastically in the sea with their skinny arms, complete with water wings, clamped tightly across their skinny chests. Or catching blennies, and gobies, and prawns, and crabs, and pipefish and butterfish in the rock pools - and colds in the process. They have braved Christmas swims, learned to cycle on the yellow brick road, climbed into the big sea urchin, played football and rugby and cricket on Newtownsmith, swung on swings in the People's Park, sailed little boats in the Coal Harbour, or off the West Pier, while at the same time becoming life long patrons of Teddys. Much more fun than living in the middle of London, where we had moved from, or than Dalkey, or Dublin 4, or indeed than Westport.

And where else would you get a village with two pubs, two chemists, two Spars, two grocers, two butchers, three wine shops, four women's clothes shops and five restaurants? Whatsmore, everyone who owns and works in these shops and businesses is almost unbearably friendly. It must be something about the air. Almost all neighbours are neighbourly and some, like the late Bernie Lyons, so remarkably so that you could only marvel at her warmth and her generous good feelings about everyone. Our former postman, Dennis Burton was an equally friendly soul, beloved by all and remembered in stone through a memorial in the park erected by the residents. And of course we have the Johnston family.

There is certainly something very special about a place where all five senses are bombarded simultaneously, every time you walk out of your front door. Or perhaps it is just a matter of getting into the rhythm of the tides and the ever-changing, inter-tidal coastline. And where else on the east coast of Ireland do you get a west-facing view over the sea - except on Sandycove Point.

bed and board on offer in our very own Martello tower. He came with a dual purpose (1) to find a suitable opening for his great literary masterpiece, believed by many scholars to be the greatest of novel of the twentieth-century; and (2) to let the world know, just how wonderful it was to live in Sandycove and be a Sandycove Bather - (even if a mad Englishman thought Joyce was a panther and started firing his revolver at him in the middle of the night.) Clearly Mr Joyce did a good job, for on most sunny days it appears that the entire world (and its dog) turns up in Sandycove - to lie on the beach, on the harbour, on the grass, on the road, on the rocks; or to splash in the water, jump in the water, dive under the water, paddleboard or canoe on the water - some even swim in the water. And many of these happy folk express their gratitude by leaving votive offerings to the locals in the form of – single flip flops, towels, teashirts, trousers, wet underwear, swimming costumes, buckets and spades (and a few less savoury things that I would rather not mention.) But who's complaining - you wouldn't want them to have to go to Westport now, would you?

James Joyce was no fool - he didn't just come here for the delux

Living in Sandycove is a bit like living in a holiday home and even if you don't have time to do all the wonderful recreational activities on offer, you do see them almost every day. This reassures you in the knowledge that they are there - and that someday, at sometime in the future, you will take up paddle boarding, or scuba diving or any of a number of relaxing and life-extending activities

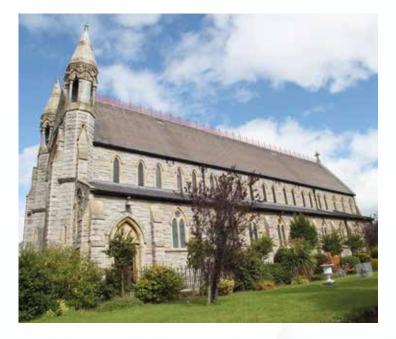
> available. I know this to be true, as it took me only eighteen years to discover the joys of daily swimming in the Forty Foot. Although some days I wonder if it is as "life-extending" as it is cracked up to be, when your heart stops beating temporarily due to thermal shock, after a swim. You are, however, compensated for this, on miserable, freezing cold, drizzling mornings in June – with that warm glow

of smug superiority you feel as you wander home nonchalantly in your bathrobe, past goggling Japanese tourists from the Wild Wicklow Tour bus, parked on Otranto Place, who stare at you too shocked to take photographs. And for those who are even more active than me (and my two minute daily swim) there are sporting opportunities galore. From jogging or cycling, to serious swimming in those seal-suits with the funny little plastic hats, to canoeing, to football and soccer at Cuala, Tai-chi on Newtownsmith, or for the "clubby" types – sailing in any number of yacht clubs, or golf at Killiney. And there is also that cabaret place on Elton Park, where I understand that they sometimes put on tennis matches.

We Sandycovians are proud of our cultural heritage, and delight in that great annual pageant of the intellect on the 16th June that both stimulates and destroys brain cells, in equal measure. We also delight in our nearby Pavilion Theatre, our maritime museum, our annual ukelele festival and more poetry and literary festivals than you could ask for. And of course there is our beautiful new library that every intelligent, literate and discerning resident of Sandycove loved from the moment it started to rise majestically, out of the ground. A great cathedral of knowledge, where the elderly can go to snooze undisturbed while reading the National Geographic, and simultaneously listening to Mozart. Or where toddlers can go to take yoga classes while giving their exhausted mothers an all to brief respite break. Or where young children can make art, or study local history, and where teenage junior-cert boys can go to pretend to study, but instead meet girls (and vice versa.) We should all be very proud that our little pocket of perfection falls within the shadow of such an iconic cultural building, even if the shadow it casts is a little longer than some would have liked - and I'll bet Westport doesn't even have a Carnegie to boast about!

#### James Howley

#### St Joseph's



Our parish is happy to congratulate all concerned with this historic celebration and I wish the association many fruitful and happy years.

I was delighted when in 2008 the Archbishop asked me to minister here in Glasthule. I like the village aspect of this community very much. Shopkeepers and workers and the many others who provide a service to the community, know one another very well. If you visit any shop in the early morning there is no need to buy a newspaper to get the news or look for the sports results!

Glasthule is a progressive village, that has never lost its spirit or character. It has grown in stature and the admiration of visitors, in recent years. We are fortunate to have the quality of the shops we have; our streets are kept clean and colourful, the DART service is punctual; our recycling service is first class and Scotsman's Bay and the Forty Foot couldn't be bought for gold. God has been good to us in this parish. No wonder the author of our parish booklet titled it "Heavenly Beauty By The Bay".

Fr. Billy Farrell



### Presentation Brothers, Glasthule

The Presentation Brothers are living in Glasthule for over a hundred years. The familiar red-brick building opposite St Joseph's Church was built in 1902 as a residence for the Brothers and a school which came to be known as Presentation College, Glasthule.

Blessed Edmund Rice founded the Brothers (Christian and Presentation) in 1802 to provide Catholic education for young people who were poor and disadvantaged at that time. The Presentation Brothers opened a school in Glasthule to continue the mission of Blessed Edmund.

Fifty years ago (1965-'66) there were eight Brothers in the community. There were 269 boys attending the Primary School and 152 students in the Secondary School. The Easter Week Commemoration Scholarships were offered for the first time by the Department of Education, one for each of the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation of Independence. Conal Thornton from Presentation College, Glasthule won the James Connolly Scholarship. The Primary school closed in 1993 and the Secondary school closed in 2006.



There will be six Brothers living in Glasthule this year and there are three significant offices located in the house: the office of the Province Leader who is the leader of the Brothers in Ireland and England, the Presentation Brothers Evangelisation office, and the Presentation Brothers Schools Trust office (PBST). The Brothers continue the mission today without a school. The old Chemistry / Science laboratory is now a meeting room named in honour of Blessed Edmund Rice where hundreds of people come to courses, lectures, and meetings dealing with the Christian message. It could be 'Monday at the Monastery' talks or the Alpha course on a Tuesday (morning & evening) or classes on the Catechism of the Catholic Church on a Wednesday. The Sandycove & Glasthule Residents Association hold their neighbourhood meetings there.

#### **Brother Andrew Hickey**

# Bloomsday

Just as Rio de Janeiro has its 'Carnival' and New Orleans its 'Mardi Gras', we in Sandycove and Glasthule have Bloomsday - a major global literary party/festival dedicated to the life and works of James Joyce, former resident of Martello tower number 11, Sandycove Point.

Although it is celebrated around the world, the epicentre of Bloomsday is, undoubtedly, our beloved Martello tower – after all, this is where 'Ulysses' begins. This is the renowned site where book lovers come on literary pilgrimage hoping to experience the same magic that prompted Joyce to set the opening of his masterpiece here and so raise our tower and our community to the attention of the world.

It was Sylvia Beach, the first publisher of 'Ulysses' in 1922, who first coined the term 'Bloomsday' to describe the celebration of Joyce and his works on the date he choose as the day on which 'Ulysses' takes place – 16th June. This date had a great significance for Joyce as it was the day on which he had his first date with Nora Barnacle who would become his lifelong partner and wife.

Bloomsday, of course, takes its name from the central character of 'Ulysses', Leopold Bloom.

The first ever Bloomsday was celebrated in Dublin on June 16th, 1954 when a group of Joyce fans (Anthony Cronin, John Ryan, John Kavanagh and Flann O'Brien) hired a horse drawn carriage and went on a (very boozy!) tour of the major Dublin locations mentioned in 'Ulysses' with our Martello tower featuring prominently in their ground-breaking odyssey.

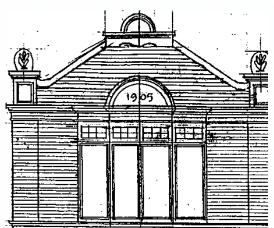
Since then, of course, Bloomsday has developed into a huge festival extending to almost a week of activities around the central day itself. It attracts tourists from all over the world to our locale – some have read 'Ulysses', some come to dress up in Joycean clobber, all come to party!

From our perspective, Bloomsday is a terrific opportunity to promote our area and to give it a character unique unto itself. Nowhere else in the world can claim Bloomsday like we can. Nowhere else can claim Joyce like we can. This, after all, is where his story begins...

#### James Holahan



### Elton Stores



Situated on Sandycove Road at cross roads to the Forty Foot, Elton Stores was built as a public house in 1905 by Weafer & Sons. There were 2 front and 2 side doors. The doors were traditional tall and narrow with large brass handles & leaded coloured glass, similar to the glass above the shop front bay window. The side gratings (now boarded over) allowed the barrels of stout to be rolled down into the basement.

Former patrons included the local Sandycove & Bullock Harbour fishermen, some of whom lived in 4 small houses behind the pub, up along Sandycove Place which is now the back garden.

Later, Tess Bastible, following the death of her husband, completely renovated and modernized the building, with large plate glass windows surrounded by black Vitrolite frontage. She designed it as a general store (one of the first in south Dublin to combine grocery & drapery) which was a smaller version of her parents' country store, Rae's of Castlemaine.

With the advent of large supermarket chains and changing consumer habits, the shop became the 'Traditional & Antique Rooms' for a number of years, specialising in antique clock repairs. The grandfather clocks tic-tocked around the walls while the repairs were carried out in the lower level.

Since 1998 the store operated as a successful beauty salon until recently.

#### Brendan Bastible

# Ursula Maguire Reminisces

I came to live in Sandycove in 1939. I have lived in three different houses on Sandycove Road between West and East Avenues. Then I moved to Summerhill Road where I am the third generation in this house.

Originally Elton Stores general store was run by Mrs Bastible. It changed hands many times and into different uses. However the family continues to live in the residential section. Her son Brendan has always lived there, later married and commenced his dental practice where he still looks after many residents.

There are many living in the heart of Glasthule; for many a very long time. Some were actually born in their current houses.

Buckley Auction Rooms, a great place to visit, meet friends and renew friendships was originally occupied by Byrne's green grocery and Sandycove Drapery. Shortly after we moved to the area my mother was in Byrne's and old Julia (the owner) recognised her saying "you are one of the O'Connnor Glynns". She was, even though her family had been out of the area for thirty years or more.

### Picture Postcards



The Byrne family owned the block of shops on Sandycove Road opposite Fitzgerald's (originally known as Farrell's Pub).

The Sandycove Baths was very much a place to go. I spent summer holidays here. To quote my mother "the best spent 10/6". The Brady sisters who lived there looked after all the children during opening time. However, they refused to allow the wild young boys in.

Things and people have changed greatly in the whole of the Sandycove and Glasthule area. The residents newsletters and meetings of Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association produced over many years have kept so many people together and making more friends.

There is so much more that could be told about this area, but space does not permit, so this is all I will reminisce about.

In finishing I want to say I do not think I would like to live anywhere else but in the Sandycove area.





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