

Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association Newsletter

November 2017

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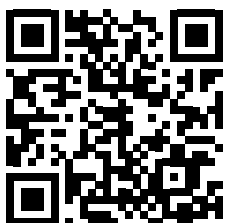
Local Locals

Clubs and Activities

Sporting Action

Defibrillators for the Village

Local News and Events



Residents Meeting
Monday 27th November 8pm
St Joseph's Pastoral Centre
ALL WELCOME

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Dear Resident

It's great to see so much happening in the area especially activities to improve the quality of life of those living here. Two examples from this newsletter would be the activities around keeping the beach clean and the fundraising and installation of the defibrillators.

We continue to raise issues of local concern with our Councillors, TDs and the council. For instance in this edition we highlight broadband, the outdoor gym and Otranto Park.

I'd like to thank our newsletter distributors. They make it possible for this newsletter to drop into the letter boxes of homes and businesses all over Sandy Cove and Glashule.

It's five years since we started taking advertisements. I'd like to acknowledge the local businesses who advertise with us and hope you continue to support them.

It would be great to meet you at our Residents Meeting on 27th November. It's a great opportunity to meet and chat with your fellow residents and Councillors. You also find out what's happening in the area. If you are new to the area, this is a great way of introducing yourself.

Regards

Liam Madden

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 27th 2017 at 8pm** in St Joseph's Pastoral Centre.

All are welcome.

Newsletter Distributors

Our newsletter distributors are a vital part of our organisation. If you would like to help out please contact any member of the committee.

Letters to the Editor

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

Advertising

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

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

Our next newsletter will be published in May 2018.

Support Our Local Businesses

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

Thank You

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



SGRA Committee

Chairperson: Liam Madden

Secretary: Kay Gleeson

Treasurer: John Elliot

Other committee members (in alphabetical order):

John Conroy

Maria O'Mahony

Grainne Dempsey

Mary Roche

James Howley

Annual General Meeting 29th May 2017

John Elliot, Chairman, opened the meeting by welcoming all present.

Apologies had been received from following Councillors: Patricia Stewart, Mary Fayne, Cormac Devlin and Dave O'Keeffe. Present were Richard Boyd Barrett, TD, and Councillors Melisa Halpin, Michael Merrigan, and John Bailey. Clodagh Hannon represented Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor, TD.

The Chairman thanked Liam Madden, editor of our Newsletter, for another excellent edition. He also thanked all our loyal distributors who had spent their time delivering the Newsletter from door to door. He thanked our local advertisers whose businesses featured in this edition, and recommended that we all shop local.

He welcomed all new residents to the area, and recommended they become members of the Association. All paid-up members are given annual membership cards. It is also possible to pay the membership fee by Banker's Order.

He recalled the last Residents Meeting, held in November, and the most enjoyable Neighbours' Night, held in September, which celebrated Cavistons winning an Irish Times Best Shop Award. Neighbours' Night will again be held this year, on Monday 25th September.

Congratulations are sent to Cuala GAA on their historic win of the All Ireland Club Senior Hurling Championship in Croke Park.

The new Ulysses map, promoting local businesses, and guiding visitors to and from the James Joyce Tower, has proved very successful. It was the brainchild of Bob Waddell, and was designed and edited by Liam Madden. The Tower attracts around 40,000 visitors a year from all around the globe. It is a fixture on the Spring/Summer Heritage maps and booklets issued by DLR Co. Council.

The Chairman mentioned the main items discussed over recent Residents' Meetings – the ongoing saga of the Dún Laoghaire Baths site, the plans for the Pres field, and the plans for a new design for Otranto Park. As no work has started on any of these sites, they will, no doubt, feature again in future meetings. Other topics discussed in the past were the inadequacy of broad-band coverage in the area, the Outdoor Gym on Newtownsmith, and the cruise ships planning situation. Save our Seafront are involved in the legal procedures in this matter, and keep our Association up to date.

The Chairman next introduced the business section of the Annual General Meeting. The Minutes of the 2016 AGM were approved by all present.

Treasurer's Report : Total funds : €9135.64, covering current account, deposit account and prize bonds.

Election of Officers:

John Elliot stepped down after his term as Chairman.

Liam Madden was proposed as Chairman by John Elliot, and seconded by Bob Waddell.

Kay Gleeson was proposed as Secretary by John Elliot, and seconded by Susan Hedigan.

John Elliot was proposed as Treasurer by John Conroy, and seconded by James Howley.

Patsy Ashe has resigned from the Committee. She was thanked for all her excellent contributions to the Committee over a number of years. She has agreed to continue to organise Neighbours Night with Mary Roche.

As members of the Committee – Maria O'Mahony, Grainne Dempsey, John Conroy and James Howley were proposed by John Elliot and seconded by Sean Coakley.

Any resident who wished to join the Committee would be very welcome to express their interest.

The meeting was then thrown open for any discussion by those present.

Open Forum:

The matter of **parking fees** in the hour 6/7pm was raised, and many of those present felt that a cut off at 6pm would be preferable. Cllr. Michael Merrigan said he had attempted a review of this, and had approached the relevant Strategic Policy Committee, but it had been delayed for political reasons. Cllr. Melisa Halpin said that parking fees brought in a lot of money every year, and she felt that the Council would not consider any changes. It was mentioned that parking on Link Road is free on Saturdays.

A resident requested details of Departments, and a who's who of officials in the Council. Some of these details are on the Council's website.

There was no update on **Otranto Park**, but it is expected that work on the renovation of the area will not be long delayed.

The submissions on **Hudson Road Park** (Pres field) are being considered at present.

The **lack of staff at the local Dart stations** was discussed. There is real concern that anti-social behaviour will become a frequent occurrence now that the Dart stations are empty most of the day. Any efforts to persuade Irish Rail to change their policy has fallen on deaf ears. Richard Boyd Barrett, TD, spoke on this matter, and said that one person mans both Dalkey and Sandycove, spending some part of the day in each station. This was one small concession, and he doubted if any more were forthcoming. The constant question of mobility issues arose, but yet again, Irish Rail were not anxious to discuss them. Richard suggested that residents keep up the pressure, and point out other issues such as lifts being out of action, or just shut down, and visitors not being able to seek directions.

A resident mentioned the **Christmas lights in Glasthule & Sandycove**. The Residents Association makes an annual contribution of €150.00 as a goodwill gesture to the Traders Association towards the cost of the lights.

A resident asked what the Committee would do if the Association won a large sum of money in the **Prize Bond Draw**, and it was agreed it would be spent appropriately.

Bob Waddell mentioned the success of the **Ulysses map**, which had brought the Tower and the local businesses closer together.

Brett McEntagart felt that proposed **Art Gallery on the Baths site** was not a suitable place for Art exhibitions, and it was suggested that at least we should wait and see what the finished place will look like as it is essential that work should start on the site as soon as possible. Residents were urged not to give up on a public swimming pool. It was pointed out that the Harbour Co. seems to have given up on the idea of a Badshift in the Harbour. The governance of the harbour is likely to come under the control of DLR shortly. These developments should be carefully watched.

The use of the old **Carnegie Library** is open for proposals at present, and no decision on its future use has been decided.

The question of **traffic calming** in suburban areas was raised, and after some discussion it was agreed that some of the local residents involved in different areas should meet and maybe suggest some ideas for a solution. Parking on the seafront, and in adjacent roads, on sunny Summer days was again discussed. A request to the Council to empty overflowing litter bins was raised.

The Chairman, John Elliot, closed the meeting by thanking all present for their attendance, and inviting them for the usual refreshments and chat.

Glasthule Community Defibrillator Plan

Larry Costello lived in Glasthule for over 30 years. On 29th of October 2016 he suffered a cardiac arrest. On the phone the emergency services asked if there was a defibrillator (AED or Automated External Defibrillator). There was none available in Glasthule. Tragically Larry died.

The “**Help to save a life - Larry Costello**” campaign was launched by his family and friends to raise funds to purchase a defibrillator for Glasthule village and help save a life. The response was well beyond their expectations.

The campaign has raised over €14,500. The money was given to Dalkey Community First Responders and was used to fund six defibrillators. Two have been installed in Glasthule: one on Link Road and one at 101 Eden Villas. Four others are earmarked for the wider community.

Gary Hayes from Dalkey CFR was instrumental in getting the AEDs installed and maintained.

Larry’s daughter Jennifer Costello emphasises the importance of keeping the units in working order. Under normal conditions the unit gives out a white light. If it changes to red there is an issue and Dalkey CFR should be informed.

Dalkey CFR hold monthly training course for using defibrillators and first aid each month on the second Monday in Loreto Dalkey from 8 to 10pm. They also are a looking for volunteers. Full training will be provided.

For more information see www.dalkeycfr.ie.

St Joseph’s Houses Sold



The two houses that the priests of Glasthule have lived in since they were built in 1870 have been sold.

One has been sold for a business, the other as a family residence.



Defibrillator on Link Road



Some of the Costello family with members of the Dalkey Community First Responders on Link Road



Defibrillator in place in Eden Villas

40 Foot: Best place to swim

In a recent article in the New York Times entitled “The 10 Best Places to Swim in the World, According to Me” Loudon Wainwright III named The 40 Foot as his number 1.

He’s not the only one to think that!



Awards for local businesses

Congratulations to some local businesses who received awards recently.

Cavistons Food Emporium and **Mitchell & Sons** received awards in the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Business Awards in the Small Retailer of the Year category.

At the National Hospitality Awards **64 Wine** won the Best Wine Bar and **Rasam** won the Best Local Restaurant award.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP)



The aim of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is to tackle poverty in all its forms through the provision of practical assistance to those in need. This includes financial help, visiting the sick and lonely and the imprisoned. Other services include shops, resource centres, accommodation for vulnerable people and various holiday schemes among other things. The SVP also works in the area of Social Justice which includes Research, Pre-budget Submissions and Media Work.

The Society mainly operates in small groups, called "Conferences", which are based on local parishes, which meet regularly and their work is usually concentrated on local visitation.

The local conference of the Society is based in Glashule and is called 'Saint Joseph's'. The core of our work is to visit people in their homes on a weekly basis. This is usually done following our weekly conference meeting. We always try to be non-judgemental and to treat everyone with respect, dignity and compassion. We try to be good listeners and we maintain confidentiality at all times.

The support we provide includes helping families or individuals struggling to keep their homes warm or put

nutritious food on the table or to help them with basic health or school costs or even help them with their rent in a crisis situation. Many people today are really worried about being made homeless. We also provide Vouchers for food or for our Charity Shop.

Some of the people we visit do not require any monetary help at all but may be lonely and just want to chat. Some are elderly and just want a hand with their shopping.

The need for help is greater now than it has ever been. The Vincent de Paul Conferences all support each other. If a Conference has surplus money it is channelled to less well off Conferences through Head Office.

Our funding is by way of monthly church gate collections and an annual appeal and collection. To enable us to make long term planning we would greatly appreciate donations by direct debit.

Our bank details are:-

IBAN: IE16BOFI90111688646489

BIC: BOFIE2D

At the moment there are 8 active members in our Conference. We are always open for new volunteers to join our Conference. If you enjoy helping people who are marginalised and less well off in their struggles you might think of joining the Saint Vincent de Paul. If you are interested in our work you can enquire in the first instance to our Head Office in Sean McDermott Street Telephone No.8848200 or indeed enquire from any of our members.

If you require any further information you can visit the website at www.svp.ie or e-mail info@svp.ie.

Sandy Cove Beach Clean

Flossie Donnelly is ten years old. She was upset at the state of the beach area and decided to do something about it!



Flossie and friends at a beach clean

During the summer she organises a beach clean at 6pm on Fridays. During the winter she organises a clean up once a month.

She's currently trying to raise € 3,000 for a Sea Bin. The Sea Bin is a floating bucket with a pump which can catch an estimated 1.5 Kgs of floating debris per day.

For more information on Flossie and her work see www.flossieandthebeachcleaners.com



Dún Laoghaire Musical and Dramatic Society

DMDS is a 70-strong musical society with a proud tradition of musical performances since 1959. They produce musicals and concerts, compete in choral competitions and also perform at a range of events either as a full choir or in smaller choral groups.

The society was originally founded in 1959, by members of the Methodist Church in Dún Laoghaire. However, as membership grew over the years, the society attracted members from all parts of the Dún Laoghaire and wider community.

In 2003 the society was reconstituted as a community group without formal linkage to the Methodist Church and was renamed the Dún Laoghaire Musical and Dramatic Society. In the same year, DMDS moved its productions from the local church hall to the Pavilion Theatre on Marine Road. The Pavilion stage and facilities offers scope for more ambitious productions and has been very successful for the society, which has attracted more members, and also bigger audiences.

They provide an opportunity for those in the local area who are musically (or dance) inclined to indulge their interests. A member of the current SAGRA committee, a local pub landlord and several other locals have been involved. Their production of **'Oliver!'**, in **March 2018 in the Pavilion Theatre** will involve the vast majority of the active membership in different capacities. In addition, this show will require the participation of children who will be recruited from schools (including stage-schools) within the area. This offers an unrivalled learning experience for them. They will be provided with an opportunity for involvement in a full production in a public theatre, with professional directors, an orchestra and with a full cast. **Auditions will be held on November 19th.**

They provide local entertainment and an opportunity for the community to see their fellow-citizens (and families) in action. They will perform for 5 nights to a live audience the vast majority of whom will come from the community.



Fiddler on the Roof



Oklahoma!



Pirates of Penzance

Photos Gareth "Skippy" Craig

Competition Time!

Thanks to Pavilion Theatre Dún Laoghaire we have 2 tickets to give away to **'Waiting for Godot'** by Samuel Beckett **on Tue 3rd March.**

To enter, answer the following question:

Who is "Frazzled" in the Pavilion?

Email (with subject "SAGRA Competition") your answer, name and contact number to lisa@paviliontheatre.ie by December 8th.

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

Dog Poo

Looking back over newsletters since 1999 the issue with the most mentions is dog poo. If you are a dog walker please think of children, parents with buggies and wheelchair users.

Here's the back cover from our May 2011 edition. You'll find a printable poster of this on our website. Maybe you could print it out and put it in a prominent place.



Neighbours Evening

This was our fifth neighbours evening and it was chaired by the excellent John O'Hagan. All our evenings have a theme and the theme for this event was outdoor activities in the area.

Our speakers for the night were Martha McGuinness, Niall Stapleton, Michael Counahan, Brendan Henderson and Tom Fitzgerald.

We heard about walking and in particular the Camino, diving in Dublin Bay, kayaking around Dalkey Island, the history of tennis in Sandycove and the joys of cycling.

The neighbours evenings were initiated to provide a less formal, friendly evening to meet the neighbours and share stories and experiences of living in the area. The topics and themes chosen generate banter and discussion. They're not just speeches.

Special thanks are due to Patsy Ashe and Mary Roche for organising the evening.



John O'Hagan with Tom Fitzgerald

We're grateful to the Presentation Brothers and in particular Br Ray for facilitating us.

We followed up by visiting three clubs that provided a speaker for the evening.

We're already looking forward to our next neighbours evening which is on Monday 24th September 2018.



Martha McGuinness talking about the Camino



Niall Stapleton of the Curragh Sub Aqua Club



Michael Counahan of Sandycove Kayak Club



Brendan Henderson of the Sandycove Tennis and Squash Club

Sandycove Kayak Club

The club grew out of the Sea Scouts or rather the sea scouts grew up and the club developed in 2002.

The club meets Sunday mornings and also Wednesday evenings in the summer.

New members with some proficiency in kayaking are welcome.

The club also facilitates people with spinal injuries.



Members of the Sandycove Kayak Club

Sandycove Tennis & Squash Club

The club was founded in 1886. It has six all weather tennis courts and two squash courts. As well as tennis and squash, the club has a very active social side.



Action on four of the courts

Curragh Sub Aqua Club



Niall Stapleton and Colin McAnaspie

The club was founded 1958 and is in Sandycove since 1968. It's one of a few clubs on the coast!

They meet three days a week in the

summer. They use RIBs (Rigid Inflatable Boats) stored in Dún Laoghaire Harbour to get to the dive sites.

There are quite a number of wrecks in the bay suitable for exploring for example HMS Guide Me II, Leinster, Vanguard.

Other dive sites are The Muglins and Dalkey Island

There's an abundance of life in the water- codling, crayfish, lobsters.

On Bank Holidays the club goes on tour. This year they visited, Kilcrohane in Cork, Sligo, Inis Oirr, Boffin, Tory Island, Quilty in Clare.

For more information on the club see www.csac.ie



On tour this year in Cork

For more information on the club have a look at www.sandycovetsc.ie.



Club president Conor O'Reilly (second from left) with other members of Team B at one of the famous fish 'n' chips nights

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Sports Partnership

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership is an initiative of Sport Ireland and work closely with their partners to promote participation, inclusion and coordination in sport at a local level.

They work closely with state, sporting and local bodies to support the work done by those who are delivering physical activity opportunities to the local community. This includes sports clubs, schools, active retirement groups and other community organisations.

The collaborative work involves the delivery of national programmes, supporting all to participate, attracting funding, developing new initiatives and providing information.

The highlights of the 2017 programme have included; training for over 500 volunteers, flagships events such as the dlr Community 5K, Operation Transformation, Street Velodrome, Go For Life Games (totalling 2,000 participants of all ages and abilities), and a range of targeted physical activity programmes including a number facilitating children and adults with a disability.

For more on the range of programmes and initiatives they are involved in see

www.dlrsportspartnership.ie .

You can contact Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Sports Partnership at 01-2719502 or email sportspartnership@dlrcoco.ie.



Local Updates

The Hudson Road Field: A report is expected to come before the November meeting of the county council. This will once again mean it will be into next year before any works begin.

Dún Laoghaire Baths: Tenders are under consideration but not yet awarded and no start date has been set as yet. This will probably start next spring but it could be before this.

Otranto Park: Members of the SAGRA committee met with council officials. DLR Co Co is going ahead with its plans for Otranto Park. This also looks to be starting next spring.

Outdoor Gym: One of the outdoor gym units will be removed altogether and the other 2 placed much further along Newtownsmith and a distance from each other where the grass is at its widest. The council have monitored usage and wish to retain them in the area but feel separating them will discourage people congregating there.

Thanks again to Cllr Patricia Stewart for keeping us informed.

Notable Sports Events

dlr 10k

This took place on the August Bank Holiday Monday starting in Newtownsmith.

It included a 1.5km Family fun run.



Ironman 70.3

This also started in Newtownsmith but is a very different event from the dlr 10k!

The “70.3” refers to the total distance in miles (113.0 km) covered: 1.2-mile (1.9 km) swim, 56-mile (90 km) bike ride, 13.1-mile (21.1 km) run.



When is a Vote not a Vote?

The Councillors at the Dún Laoghaire Area Committee on the 23rd January 2017, unanimously passed a motion - **“That the Chief Executive will relocate the outdoor gym on Newtownsmith to a place where it will be protected from repeated vandalism and will not provide a focal point for disturbance to nearby residents especially at night time.”**

Your association lobbied extremely hard on behalf of our residents to locate the Gym in an area where it can be locked at night time. Since that vote what has happened? We have continued to lobby. We sent a letter to the Senior Executive Park Superintendent, Ms Treacy and we published the letter in our newsletter. No response was received and some eight months on the Gym hasn't been relocated.



We have now learnt from one of our elected Councillors that the Executive seek to interpret the Councillors' motion, as being acceptable to reduce and split the Gym equipment and locate the remaining Gym equipment on two locations on the very same Newtownsmith green albeit where the grass is at its widest. So, in short therefore we shall have two smaller Gyms, not one large gym, providing two focal points for disturbance. You couldn't make it up!

Relocating these pieces on the Newtownsmith green will do nothing to protect them from repeated vandalism. This is a big issue for the residents facing the green. We highlighted the obvious difficulties associated with locating gym equipment in an unlocked evening location. We were told there wouldn't be a problem. We were told the equipment was so robust that vandals could not break it. Well the vandals have repeatedly damaged this equipment. We were told that if it was a problem and if the equipment was damaged an alternative location would be found. Moving the Gym equipment on the green isn't the solution asked for and it is far from the spirit of the Councillors' motion.

We are looking for the help of our elected representatives to support us on this. How many times do we need to ask? Our Association was of the opinion that our Councillors were responsible for policy-making and the implementation of their decisions resting with the County Manager. We need our Councillors now to stand by their motion and get this Gym relocated to an area that can be locked during the evening.

Anyone Listening?

In our May 2017 newsletter we wrote - “Councillors - Time to Lobby Please!” In our May 2016 Newsletter we wrote an article entitled - “Speed Matters - Let's not get left behind”. Just two councillors approached us on the topic. We don't wish to start naming names but sorry this is important to residents in this area and we are being left behind.

We understand that significant effort is being made in rural areas to fix broadband speeds, the perception being that the broadband in properties in Dublin and County Dublin are good. Well the truth is that in our area you can be lucky or unlucky. We understand that none of the shops in Glasthule have Eir fibre broadband. Many residents in the area tell us that their internet speed is very poor and that they are not on fibre.

Unfortunately, the information published by Eir on their rollout in our area is factually inaccurate and its time commitments just don't materialise. When you talk to representatives from Eir, and not we stress at the executive level, you're told that they know there is a problem, however they also state that getting permission from Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council to dig up the pavement is extremely difficult. We are uncertain where the difficulties lie not helped by the fact that our letters to an Eir executive went unanswered.

Many people work and study from their homes. In today's world, it is almost impossible to properly function without a proper broadband speed. Whilst some residents enjoy speeds of 30 Mb/s, other residents complain to our association that they are receiving speeds of under 5 Mb/s which isn't acceptable.

This is the fourth time the Association has written asking our Councillors to help influence Eir and the Council to resolve the broadband speed. Accordingly in our next newsletter we shall report our understanding of how our Councillors have worked to resolve this issue.



A Day in the Life of a Councillor

In the May 2016 newsletter we started this series. Over four editions of the newsletter we asked our eight Councillors what they do on a day to day basis. We finish the series with Cllrs Ossian Smyth and Dave O'Keeffe.



Cllr Dave O'Keeffe

Most days I start with a coffee. There are a lot of great independent coffee shops that have sprung up in Dún Laoghaire so I am spoiled for choice.

The People Before Profit clinic opens at 10am on a Friday. We meet some great characters and have a lot of regulars who drop

in for a chat or to ask about our various campaigns.

Unfortunately, the majority of people who come to see us are there for much more tangible reasons. The one thing we deal with most on a day to day basis is housing. It is absolutely heart breaking to speak to families who don't know where they are going to sleep that night or in 3 day's time. In the past when a placement couldn't be found for families they would be allowed to "self-accommodate" ie if they could find a place in a hotel the county council would pay the costs.

Unfortunately, we have now reached a point where even the hotels are full.

We believe that the government needs to prioritise building social housing on a massive scale. The stop gap measures implemented to date have been wholly inadequate.

After our clinic, we usually do a street stall in Dún Laoghaire where we speak with members of the public. We also use this time to campaign for important issues. At the moment we are campaigning heavily for repeal of the 8th amendment. We find people are very receptive to discussions on this issue.

After the street stall myself and other PBP Cllrs meet to discuss the case work that has come through the clinic that week and to share it out. Being new to the council I have had to learn a lot in the last year from my colleagues on how best to deal with all of the different issues. It can sometimes feel overwhelming when so many people have put their faith in us, but all we can do is fight alongside them.

I generally get to the weekend like a runner crossing the finish line, trying to find some energy and knowing full well that on Monday morning I'll be at the blocks again and will need to get off to a good start.



Cllr Ossian Smyth

I get up before the children and go through my post and email. This is often the only time I have alone all day. Make the lunches. Uniforms. Bags. Out the door. The schools are near to my home in Dún Laoghaire – a luxury.

I cycle in to St Vincent's Hospital in 25 minutes. Cycling is faster than the train and gives me energy for the day. My job is to improve the computer systems so that the medical staff have the information to make decisions when treating patients. I am grateful to have a job that is meaningful.

In the evening I cycle to the Town Hall down the Rock Road and through Blackrock Park. As I make the trip, I note all the things I pass that need to be fixed: potholes, broken road signs, traffic lights. People often stop me

to discuss a problem. I did this anyway before I was a councillor. I was always ringing the council with problems to fix.

I have an office in the Town Hall where people contact me - sometimes in desperation - when the council has failed them in some way. Others want to see a policy changed. Councils manage the local environment: parks, coastline, transport and housing. All of this is up my street as a green.

To get anything done, I need to work respectfully and assertively with others. I am on ten boards or committees. Every small thing achieved is fuel to continue. I spent a year working with a homeless woman with three small children. When she finally found permanent housing she cried. I didn't get it for her – I helped her to find it herself.

As Green Party housing spokesperson, I research policy and write articles and make speeches but there is always a balance between talking and listening. One informs the other. How could I represent people without meeting them and listening? I canvass door-to-door, I go to residents' meetings.

I try to get home before the children go to bed so that I can spend some time with my wife.

Still Crazy (& Swimming) After All These Years

The Johnston clan was out in force on the 5th October for an early morning party. Not surprisingly the venue was the Forty Foot. Where else would they have expected to find the guest of honour at that time of day?

Pat Johnston turned up with Michael for their daily swim on the morning of Pat's eightieth birthday only to find a large number of children and grandchildren and other assorted friends awaiting her arrival. A specially baked thematic birthday cake featuring both Pat and Michael swimming along side an inquisitive seal, was duly produced and if Pat's wide smile and glowing post swim demeanour are anything to go by 80 really is the new 70, or in Pat's case more like the new 65.

Congratulations from the Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association to one of our best loved local residents.



The Johnston clan

Haste

Local film maker Luke Leslie recently won an award in the dlr First Frames film commissions competition.



'Haste' is a short film based on a true story revolving around a runaway train on the Dalkey to Kingstown Atmospheric Railway in 1844.

To complete the project Luke needs to raise another €15,000. If you feel you are in a position to help financially with this project you can contact Luke on 087 914 6278 or by email: buckledcranium@gmail.com



Swimming themed birthday cake

Farewell to Br Ray



There was a big send-off in Glashule for Br Raymond Dwyer of the Presentation Brothers. He heads off to Cork to take up his new role as Anglo-Irish Province Leader of the Presentation Brothers.

Br Ray was very involved in the community and in St Joseph's Parish. We wish him best of luck in his new role.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Some Events in Pavilion Theatre

2 Dec Dublin Gospel Choir
12 Dec Abba Forever
13 Dec Yurodny Ensemble
15 Dec Cara Dillon
16 Dec The Muppet's Christmas Carol
17 Dec A Night Before Christmas with Owen Roe, Phelim Drew, Lisa Lambe and Cormac De Barra
21 Dec-7 Jan What the Ladybird Heard - Live!
21 Dec It's A Wonderful Life
23 Dec Miracle on 34th Street
15 Feb Jason Byrne
16 Feb Eddi Reader
25 Feb Brendan Grace
3&4 Mar Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett
14-18 Mar Oliver! by Dún Laoghaire Dramatic & Musical Society
11 May The Simon & Garfunkel Story

www.paviliontheatre.ie



40ft Sandycove Polar Plunge

2nd December at 11:00

Fundraiser for Special Olympics Ireland

To sign up see: www.specialolympics.ie/polarplunge

St Joseph's Winter Fair

11th November, Parish Centre
 Bottle stall, Christmas Decorations, Books, Bric-A-Brac, Toys, Gifts, Jewellery, Vintage Items, Raffles.

Harold Christmas Fair

26th November, Harold School Hall

Santa's Grotto, Books, Crafts, Coffee Shop Carols, Toys...
 In aid of the Harold School Parents Association.

Dún Laoghaire Borough Historical Society

15th November: "The Complete Guide to the Statues and Sculptures of Dublin"

6th December: "A History of Old Dún Laoghaire with Slides"

Lectures at 8pm in Royal Marine Hotel, admission €3.

Christmas in Sandycove and Glashule

Saturday 25th November - The Turning on of the Christmas Lights in Glashule Village

Saturday 2nd December - Christmas Jumper Saturday

Saturday 9th December - Santa Claus Arrives

Saturday 16th December - Festive Treasure Hunt in Sandycove & Glashule

Check local traders shop windows for more information.

JPK

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Glashule

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 **087 2552589** between 9-5 Monday to Friday



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Happy Christmas

From All at Tom O'Higgins Estate Agent

PSRA: 001730