

Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association Newsletter

Summer/Autumn 2022



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MONDAY - SATURDAY



GLASTHULE VILLAGE OPP.
THE CHURCH





Dear Resident,

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter.

We very much hope you enjoy reading it. Covid-19 continues to bring challenges. In April, we witnessed a threefold increase in hospitalisations with Omicron since early February. The number of confirmed cases of Covid-19, whilst high, is down significantly on the peak of March 24th.

The last 24 months have been most challenging for many of our residents. Given the number of Covid-19 cases, the committee took the decision to continue to make the newsletters available on online, and to make available the printed edition of the newsletter at Eamonn's Bookshop in Sandycove and at the Spar in Glashule. We are pleased that Phil the Barber, The Punnett and Hatch have offered to stock the newsletter. The Residents Association has highlighted in the past the great strengths of the relationships that exist between the local businesses and our residents, and to this end we would encourage local residents to continue their support of our local businesses whenever they can.

Most excitingly, you will have seen from the cover of the Newsletter that The President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins, unveiled Imogen Stuart's sculpture 'STELE' in Otranto Park. We are delighted to see such a prominent work of Imogen's in our area, and we are so grateful to so many people who worked tirelessly over many years to make this happen.

There is other significant council activity in the area; some of which we expect to be announced by the Council towards the latter part of this summer. We're told that the first phase of the Baths project will be open this year. We understand that the Council will be conducting a review of some of the schemes that were introduced under emergency legislation, hence we suspect that residents' views will be canvassed.

Given the high level of Covid-19 cases, we are choosing to hold our May residents meeting online again. We are proposing to postpone the AGM element of the meeting until November, as clearly it is preferable to meet face to face, and our hope is that by November the case levels will have reduced.

The details of how to attend this event are listed on page 18 in this newsletter. We would encourage as many residents as possible to join this meeting to share your thoughts and views. Our Facebook Group is now over 3,300 members and traffic to our website continues to grow.

Wishing you all the very best for the summer season.

John Conroy
Chairperson

Residents Meeting

Our Residents Meeting will take place over Zoom on Monday **May 30th at 8pm.**

Registration at www.sagra.ie/meeting/

See page 18 for more details.

Subscriptions

We now have a secure online system for paying subscriptions. The system is run through myEasyPay based in Sandymount. There is a direct link on our website under membership.



You can also pay by bank transfer:

IBAN: IE71 AIBK 9334 0621 5851 22

BIC: AIBKIE2D

The rates are unchanged: €15 for individual and €22 for household membership.

Advertising

If you are interested in advertising in our November 2022 edition please email

editor@sandycoveandglashule.ie or phone Liam on **086 804 6938**.

This is a local magazine so we have a policy of only accepting advertising from those based locally.

Contact Us

Email: info@sandycoveandglashule.ie

**c/o Eamonn's Bookshop,
50 Sandycove Road,
Sandycove,
Co Dublin.**

SAGRA Committee

Chairperson: John Conroy

Secretary: Trevor King

Treasurer: Liam Madden

Other committee members (in alphabetical order):

John Elliot

Giles Kerr

Kay Gleeson

Maeve Lynch

James Howley

Mary Roche

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.

Annual General Meeting (meeting held on Zoom)

Wednesday 29 November, 8:00pm

Elected Officials Present:

Richard Boyd Barrett, TD

Cormac Devlin, TD

Senator Barry Ward

Cllr Mary Fayne

Cllr Lorraine Hall

Cllr Melisa Halpin

Cllr Tom Kivlehan

Cllr Justin Moylan

Cllr Dave Quinn

Apologies:

Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, TD

Ossian Smyth, TD

Chairperson's address

The Chairperson noted that there have been profound changes to the Sandycove and Glashule area over the past two years:

some very positive:

- cycle path,
- the public realm layout change to the village, and the fact that many more visitors are able to enjoy the facilities of Sandycove and Glashule.

some less so:

- increased traffic, parking, and noise difficulties for some residents.

Some temporary interventions (the Cowshed layout) created great difficulties for the traders, requiring the lobbying and support of our representatives. The Chairperson wished to thank Cllr Mary Fayne for assistance in resolving this issue.

The Chairperson highlighted the fact that flooding together with the current drainage system is a significant challenge in the Sandycove and Glashule area. The Chairperson thanked Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, TD for facilitating useful introductions with the relevant Council officials to progress resolution of this significant issue.

The Chairperson also thanked Cormac Devlin TD, Ossian Smyth TD, Richard Boyd Barrett TD, Cllr Lorraine Hall and Cllr Melisa Halpin who all made successful representations to the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, working with our committee on the behalf of our members.

The Chairperson noted that the Association's twice annual Newsletter gives real voice to locals and its professional production receives much praise and he thanked the editor Liam Madden for this work.

The Chairperson also noted that the association was actively involved through committee members, James Howley and Mary Roche, with the successful fundraising for the Imogen Stuart project. The unveiling of the statue

will be in 2022.

The Chairperson urged the elected representatives to read the Committee's County Development Plan submission as set out in the May 2021 Newsletter as this sets out the issues on which the SAGRA Community are seeking assistance.

Election of committee members

The Chairperson put forward the motion for the existing committee members for re-election. The current committee members are John Elliot, Kay Gleeson, James Howley, Giles Kerr, Mary Roche, and Maeve Lynch (who was coopted onto the committee in the year following the decision by Roger Courtney to resign). The Chairperson thanked Roger for all his help and support.

Motion for re-election of committee was carried.

Election of officers

The Chairperson put forward the motion for the re-election of the following officers:

John Conroy, Chairperson

Liam Madden, Treasurer

Trevor King, Secretary

Motion was carried.

Treasurer's report

The Treasurer presented financial results for the accounting year to 31/04/2021, noting:

- The association had a deficit for the year of €1,753.12 reflecting no advertising revenue and lower membership subscriptions

- Assets of the association in the form of bank balances and prize bonds is €11,436.96.

General discussion

Cycle lanes: Wide agreement that the cycle lanes were popular. There was an overall view expressed in the meeting by members and elected officials that a public consultation on the changes was needed to allow residents' views to be heard and to address a number of matters including pedestrian safety, traffic flow issues and improvements to the current layout.

Traffic around Sandycove Point: There are serious traffic and parking issues around Sandycove Avenues East, North and West caused by the significant increase in sea swimming and as a result of the road changes. Cllr Mary Fayne noted that there had been several meetings between DLR traffic engineers, councillors, and residents to discuss solutions to the problems facing the area.

Antisocial behaviour: An increase in antisocial behaviour by teenagers in Hudson Park with considerable damage caused at Halloween was discussed. The dominant view of the meeting is that the park is not being proactively monitored by An Garda Síochána for such behaviour. Dialogue between the community, the Council, and An Garda Síochána to highlight this serious issue should be encouraged.

Joyce Tower Update



Observant residents will have noticed that the Tower has reopened and volunteers are once again welcoming visitors and inducting them into the mysteries of Joyce. The Tower has re-opened on a part-time basis Thursday to

Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Government guidelines in relation to COVID are being followed.

A change of operating model is imminent with a new management company formed by FJT and DLR CC which will take responsibility for the operation of the Tower and Museum. Protracted negotiations are expected to conclude shortly to enable the leases to transfer. The voluntary ethos will remain and FJT are currently recruiting new volunteers. If you can spare two hours per week, and have an interest in Ireland past and present you should go to joycetower.ie and register as a member. Training will be provided to volunteers. It's a fun activity and there are many ancillary events. You may have spotted FJT members in the media or eating gizzards outside Cavistons recently as they celebrated 100 years of Ulysses on 2.2.22. The Chamber Music concert in The Pavilion was the highlight of their Centenary celebrations. No doubt they will be visible again as Bloomsday approaches. For latest news follow them on Twitter @JoyceTower or on Instagram joycetower.ie.

During the lockdown a local pigeon took up residence in the tower and has successfully hatched two eggs. Mistakenly named Penelope at first, her identity has been confirmed as Mrs. Mina Purefoy and the hatchlings named Mortimer and Edward.

The new committee was affirmed at the the AGM in Killiney Castle on 9th March: Cristina Abaca, Andrew Basquille, Séamus Cannon, Joe Gallagher, Denis Gill, Kay Gleeson, Charlie Hulgraine, Julie Larkin, Eoin O'Cuir, Grainne O'Malley, Brian Rankin, Olive Rolestone. Julie Larkin was subsequently elected Chairperson.



Newly elected FJT Chairperson Julie Larkin (seated centre) with committee members.

Sandycove Point Update

SANDYCOVE AVENUES & LANES
NORTH EAST & WEST - The Loop

As the weather improves and summer approaches, residents of the Sandycove Loop are bracing themselves for the traffic mayhem that has become the hallmark of recent summers. We dread those sunny days of huge traffic volumes that bring gridlock to these small streets, with cars parked on every footpath and in front of every gateway. We know how this level of congestion impacts on the ability of emergency services to get access to our neighbours when they are in need – as happened with the ambulance that was delayed by 90 minutes when it tried to get access to an elderly resident in the Forty Foot area last July.

Everyone deserves better than this, visitors and residents alike. We want our County Council to acknowledge the problem here and to work with us to make it a better place for us all. We have asked the Council to draw up a Traffic Management Plan for the area, to measure the traffic volumes and develop strategies that will take account of the needs of all the different users including the residents, to ensure that this is a safe area for all to enjoy. More than a year has passed and our Council has not yet accepted that this is an urgent matter.

Some small progress has been made, however. When we met Council officials last October, we took them on a walkabout of the Loop to share our local insights into those particular black spots that most contributed to the congestion. Arising from that walkabout, the Council arranged to have flexible bollards installed along the double yellow lines on Sandycove Avenue North. Since their arrival only a few weeks ago, they have already made a difference in easing congestion in this street as cars can no longer park illegally on the kerb, blocking both roadway and footpath alike. So we say thank you to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council for the bollards, but we ask - what about the rest? What about the alterations that were to be made to improve pedestrian safety at the entrance to the beach as well as at the entrance to the Forty Foot? What will it take to make those charged with the care of our environment realise that there are too many cars in this small area, and not enough room for the people who want to enjoy it? Together we can surely do better.

Fionnuala Hayes for SAL NEW



SAGRA Facebook Group

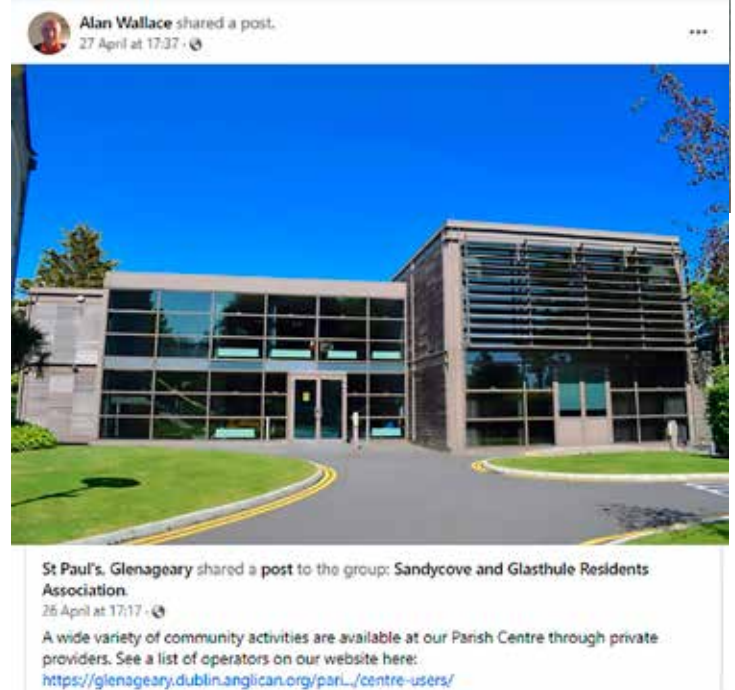
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sagra.ie/>

Our Facebook group now has over 3,000 members.

Thank you to all who have so far been contributing.

If you would like to join the group, the web address is above or you can find a link on our website.

Please: keep it kind, keep it relevant, keep it local.



Competition Question

What do locals call this?

See page 16 for details of how to enter.



Fr Denis Kennedy Diamond Jubilee

Congratulations to Fr Denis Kennedy CSSp on the 60th anniversary of his ordination which was on 8th July 1962. There will be a special celebration in St Joseph's Pastoral Centre after 10:15 mass on Sunday July 3rd.



A Fight for the Boxing Ballerinas



Cathy McGovern outside her house with the planning notice

It all started on a graffiti tour in New York where Cathy McGovern was referred to the work of Irish artist Solus. She didn't realise it but she was already familiar with a piece of his work in Dalkey.

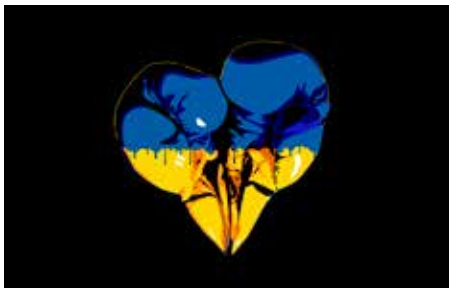


Solus's work in Dalkey

Determined to do something about the greyness (physical and environmental) in the area she contacted him and commissioned him to create a mural on her wall. It was done in July and August 2021. Three weeks later she received a letter from DLRCCO asking her to remove the art work or apply for retention. She applied for retention. Despite receiving no observations, retention was declined.

It is now with An Bord Pleanala and a decision is expected in July.

Meanwhile Cathy is involved in another collaboration with Solus: www.solusukraine.com. A limited edition print has been created by Solus to raise funds for the Irish Red Cross Ukraine Appeal. The image is a symbol of strength, resistance and love.



A new Era in Fitzgerald's

Nearly 18 years ago Will Agar started working in Fitzgerald's, planning to stay for six months. In time he became bar manager and on 15th February this year he became co-owner of the pub.



Will Agar, Robbie McDonagh and bar manager Stephen McGoohan

Will is determined that not much will change in the pub. "Why mess with tradition?"



Will with Tom Fitzgerald on the day of the handover.

Fitzgerald's has had an association with James Joyce and Ulysses for many years. Tom Fitzgerald has kept up this tradition. The walls are papered with pages from the book and there are references all over the place. Will will be dusting off his copy of Ulysses so maybe he can join in the readings every Wednesday at 1:30pm in the pub.



Will Agar, Ed Sheeran, Stephen McGoohan and Anthony Richardson
Stephen is "testing" a pint that Ed poured.

It has been a lively start to the new ownership. They had a recent visit from Ed Sheeran who was looking for a beer after his visit to Rasam.

Will points out: "The support from locals has been incredibly heartwarming to date and is hugely appreciated by owners and staff alike."

Kish Bank Windfarm Project

Note to readers: This article has been provided by Coastal Concern Alliance. It is published here as an information service for members and should not be read as representing a policy position of SAGRA. SAGRA welcomes reader feedback and is open to publishing contrary views.

In our May 2021 newsletter we published an article from Dublin Array.

Coastal Concern Alliance are pleased to comment on the current proposal by the German energy company, RWE, to construct a windfarm on the Kish and Bray Banks (named Dublin Array).

Since 2006, Coastal Concern Alliance have campaigned for offshore planning reform, but the system today remains seriously flawed.

Careful pre-selection of an appropriate site is the single most important consideration when planning a windfarm, to ensure that adverse environmental impacts are avoided. In the late 1990s, when offshore wind-energy was in its infancy, Irish sites were earmarked by developers without any site-selection oversight or environmental assessment. At that time, turbines could only be erected in shallow water, so many of the sandbanks off Ireland's east coast, including the Kish and Bray Banks, were targeted. Almost a quarter of a century later, much has changed.

Ireland's east coast sandbanks are now listed for protection in the EU Habitats Directive because of their vital ecological and structural importance and EU Conservation Assessment Reports repeatedly flag the threat posed to the banks from windfarm development.

Technological advances also permit construction in much deeper waters, with floating windfarms fast becoming the norm. In a recent round of leasing in Scotland, 60% of sites were allocated for floating windfarms, their first floating project, Hywind, having been commissioned in 2017.

In their latest Licence Application (2021), RWE claim that licences granted for a 4000-hectare site on the Kish/Bray Banks almost a quarter of a century ago, with a view to constructing 80m high turbines, validates their right to lay claim now to 112,986.34-hectares and construct 240-310m turbines. Failures of successive governments to put in place appropriate planning legislation and conduct robust assessment of environmental impacts has allowed this.

The Dublin Array proposal has not been subject to proper planning or environmental assessment.

Kish and Bray Banks, EU Annex 1 Habitat 'sandbanks slightly covered by seawater all the time', have rich biodiversity, are important spawning areas for fish and feeding grounds for birds and play a role in reducing coastal erosion and carbon sequestration.

Due to undue proximity to shore, from any point around Dublin Bay the visual impact of the huge

turbines currently proposed (50% taller than the Poolbeg chimneys and ten times the height of the Kish lighthouse) will be severe, profound and negative.

While an exclusion zone of 22Km from shore is not recommended in all EU countries, distance from shore is a significant consideration when determining site suitability. For example, UK authorities restricted RWE to a maximum turbine height of 220m for Triton Knoll windfarm, sited 33Km from shore. On Kish it's 310m, 10km from shore.

This coastal area has seen unprecedented levels of footfall in the last two years with people recognising its unique amenity value as Ireland's answer to Italy's Amalfi coast, yet situated alongside the most densely populated city in the country. In their 2022-28 development plan, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council are seeking to preserve the character of the area by limiting housing density in parts of Dalkey and Killiney. It seems ironic to focus on preservation of the character of the area while apparently supporting the dramatic industrialisation that would result from the construction of enormous wind turbines that would change the character of the area for ever - and would not be considered in RWE's home country, Germany, where contracts are awarded based on a tendering system and subsidies are quickly being phased out. Time for a re-think?

Website: www.coastalconcern.ie

Email: info@coastalconcern.ie

Twitter: @coastalconcern

Irish Offshore Wind Farms



Eden Park Recycling Centre

Located at Eden Park, next to Sandycove & Glasthule train station, Eden Park Recycling Centre has been an excellent amenity for the community for the past seventeen years, the past ten years of which have been under the diligent and watchful eye of Aidan Gibson, who has been responsible for the working of the centre since 2012.



Aidan, who hails from Killiney Village, had a varied working life before taking on this job, having worked at one time as a bicycle courier in the depths of Winter in Canada, and also for a period as a scaffolder. Aidan joined the staff of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (DLR Co.Co.) in 2010 when for the first two years he provided cover at Eden Park Centre before taking up fulltime responsibility for the running of the centre.

Eden Park centre is one of the three recycling centres in the area of DLR Co. Co. - the other two being at Ballyogan and Shanganagh. The Ballyogan centre is the largest of the three and caters for the greatest variety of items, but second to that the centre at Eden Park is the busier of the two remaining centres. The centre is open every day of the week with the exception of Sunday.

The centre accepts domestic recyclable items only such as - paper, cardboard, plastic (containers & bottles), polystyrene, glass, aerosols, batteries and bulbs, cans and clothes.

When we bring our recyclable items, hopefully clean and empty, to the centre, Aidan makes sure items are deposited in the appropriate compacting banks and keeps the banks working efficiently. Aidan keeps an eye on everything and is responsible for all the logistics involved in keeping the centre working efficiently, such as notifying the different companies that collect items when a load is ready for collection by their trucks. It is evident on any visit that Aidan keeps the centre clean and tidy to a very high standard and he agrees that this centre is indeed very busy as, in particular, the compacting banks for paper, cardboard and plastic require emptying approximately every two days when generally in a local recycling centre this would only be necessary on a weekly basis.

THORNTONS collect what are classed as mixed dry recyclable items, such as paper, cardboard and plastics for recycling in a plant in Ballyfermot before being shipped out of the country.

A company called ENVA collects aerosols for transportation to its Portlaoise depot where shredding takes place and different components are taken out and sold on, mainly to Germany.

The residual waste left after shredding and dehydration of solid waste goes to make solid recoverable fuel which can be used in cement kilns.

REHAB RECYCLE collects polystyrene, compacts it and ships it to countries such as Holland and Germany where it is recycled and used to make plastic. This leads to high but currently necessary transportation costs as this country is not dealing with the same scale of waste as in larger European countries.

WEEE IRELAND (Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment), a company subsidised by the Irish Government, collects batteries and bulbs from the centre. It is particularly important that we bring all Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) to the centre as waste batteries contain dangerous items such as mercury and can cause serious damage to the environment but also as batteries also contain valuable materials such as gold and platinum. By bringing WEEE to the centre the valuable materials can be used again in new products and the dangerous materials will not cause any damage to the environment or to humans. (Environmental Protection Agency).

Clothes are collected from the centre by a company called TEXTILE RECYCLING LIMITED and are exported for re-wear in Eastern Europe or Africa depending on market conditions. If the clothes are not suitable for re-use they are cut up to make cleaning cloths for different heavy industry in Ireland. Some experts report that this has led to the flooding of fast fashion items, when no longer wanted by western countries, in particular into African countries, and that this is proving detrimental to local market economies of those countries.

A company called GLASSCO RECYCLING LIMITED collects glass and cans from the centre for recycling and re-use.

All in all Eden Park centre provides us as a community with a clean and efficiently managed recycling centre which the area can be proud of and this is in no small way due to the daily hard work of Aidan Gibson. This enables us to do our bit for the environment. It is important that we continue to utilise the centre to its fullest extent.



Glasthule 2022

The County Dublin village of Glasthule is a visually incoherent jumble of structures of various shapes, styles, dates and conditions. Like Topsy, it just grew.

Today, only two of the buildings which appear on the first Ordnance Survey map of 1838 remain. The picture in those early days was of commodious villas with direct access to the seashore and served by a huddle of small cottages and a few local shops at the junction of a country lane running up to Rochestown from the Kingstown to Dalkey road. However, within a few years, the opening of the local railway station would bring rapid change.

The provision at the beginning of the 20th century of high grade educational facilities together with a parish church, formed the perception of Glasthule as an independent village. The years between 1900 and 1910 were marked by confident stone built ecclesiastical architecture and elegantly pedimented red brick shop fronts.

The 1920s saw a major redevelopment programme which resulted in the clearance of substandard backland housing to create Devitt and Dixon's Villas together with the provision of a useful local car park. The cutting of the Link Road around this time gave direct access from the hinterland to the seafront and the extension of Newtownsmith eastwards to Marine Parade created sites for new seaside villas. An enterprising builder infilled eight suburban semi-detached houses around the village and some years later, further shops, a cinema and a local petrol station appeared.

The next thirty years saw little building but the arrival of the five storey Sea Bank Court apartment block in 1978 and the redevelopment of the Forum cinema site in 2003 indicated rising site values and increasing development interest. An expanding population catered for by enterprising local businesses, began to create an enviable retail and social ambience.

The excellent refurbishment of 'The Glasthule Buildings' and the sensitive conservation and redevelopment of an historic shop to provide a new Cavistons restaurant demonstrate a recognition of the agreeably muddled but charming character of a village whose architectural delights range from the glorious facade of St Joseph's Church to the eagle surmounted, marble pillared entrance of its local public house.

Today, the original two storey domestic scale is in a state of flux and the development potential of several large or underused sites suggests that it is time for a new vision for the future of Glasthule to be explored.

Fergal MacCabe

Fergal MacCabe is an architect, town planner and topographical artist. He is a former President of the Irish Planning Institute.



GLASTHULE

The Street Frontages of Glasthule from St Joseph's Church to the Sea

Signed copies from a limited edition of ten high quality prints



HULE

2022

FERGAL
MAC CABBÉ

a Bank Apartments' on the North and from Daniel's to The Presentation Brothers on the South in Pen and Wash

nts are available by contacting fergal.maccabe@gmail.com

STELE UNVEILED

On Saturday 30th April, Ciaran Byrne completed the carving on Imogen's Standing Stone, the official title of which is STELE. This is a term used in ancient Greece for a monument or standing stone that was generally taller than it was wide. Ciaran's final task was to carve the monograms of both artist and craftsman, Imogen's in the form of a tortoise and his own initials in the form of a fish and with that this great work was completed. The next undertaking was the challenging task of moving and installing the stone, which stands at 3.25m high and weighs three and a half tons. Funds having been raised by the residents association for the quarrying, shaping and carving of the stone, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, who are now the guardians of the piece, agreed to pay for the installation costs. These included the engineering, construction of foundations, haulage, crane and fixing in place, together with all the health and safety considerations and traffic management that were required.

Exploratory excavations revealed that the hill, on which the stone was to be placed, is not the natural feature concealing a rocky outcrop that we all thought, but an artificial hill made of loose boulders and clay. The structural engineer, Lisa Edden, designed the reinforced concrete foundation and with the assistance of stone masons, James and Craig Snell of Conservation and Restoration, and Ruairi O'Dulaing and Finnian Ward of the Parks Department, we planned the final stages of this long journey. The stone, which was carved in its vertical position had to be lifted and placed on its side so that three stainless steel dowels could be inserted. Receiving pockets then had to be drilled in the foundations with great precision before the stone was transported to Sandycove and lowered vertically into place. This required a very large crane with which Gallen Cranes did the heavy lifting to allow James and Craig to guide the three and a half ton monolith snugly into place. It was an exciting event to watch, particularly for Imogen, who could at last see her STELE fixed in its final home.

The Parks Department then made good the ground around the stone and on the morning of the unveiling replaced the protective wrappings with a large green cloth. President Higgins was greeted at the entrance to the park by the Cathaoirleach and the Chairman of the fund-raising sub-committee, with an enthusiastic crowd. Imogen shared guest of honour status with her good friends, the President and his wife Sabina, who had graciously agreed to come and unveil the sculpture. The speeches proceeded along with the rain and the President spoke with his usual passion and deep intelligence about Imogen's work and her "generosity of spirit that has ensured that her beautiful sculptures have become firmly rooted in public spaces to be shared by all." Undaunted by the steady rain that was now falling, President Higgins also acknowledged how "Time and again Imogen has demonstrated a profound understanding of the value to society of public art, of its power to reflect not only what is mythic, but what is beautiful in our evolving culture, and of how it adds meaning and uniqueness to our towns and cities and suburbs."

The unveiling was made to great applause and finally Imogen was able to see her work revealed for the first time, for all to see in its final resting place. To conclude the formalities, Imogen and Ciaran spoke about their collaboration, which over the past two years has evolved into a very special working relationship and friendship.

This has been a remarkable special community project, to which many have contributed. Donations from the public have included money, works of art, gifts, or craft and artistic skills, while others have given considerable amounts of their time, in helping to raise a very large sum of money. In his speech the President was generous in his acknowledgement of this significant effort. "May I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Sandycove Residents' Association for their community service and farsightedness. It is they who successfully raised funds to enable this piece to be made through generous private donations and proceeds from an exhibition of works donated by other artists." Sandycove is a special place, and with the arrival of this new piece of public art, it has become even more special. The beautifully carved text on Imogen's STELE is both ancient and, in light of current events in Eastern Europe, chillingly contemporary. Like much of Imogen's work it is timeless and if our decorated high crosses are any guide, this large, carved piece of stone will be around for a very long time to come.



The Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association committee would particularly like to recognise the members of the Sub Committee who tirelessly drove this project forward. This group (Pat McGloughlin, Mairéad Mullaney, Mary Roche, Deirdre Torpey, Anne Sheppard & David Cox and Liam Madden for all his publicity work and catalogue) ably led by James Howley, devoted enormous time, energy and effort, to coordinate, promote and successfully fundraise for the Imogen Stuart sculpture. Their commitment to this project transformed a wonderful idea, into a magnificent reality; delivering a fabulous sculpture that we and future generation will enjoy.



October 2013



Introduction to Mr Frank Curran the new Chief Executive of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

The association would very much like to welcome Mr Frank Curran the new Chief Executive of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to his new role in our area. We are most grateful to him for sharing a short introductory piece about himself. The association would like to place on record its appreciation of the support received for local residents from the County Council and we are grateful for the access afforded to the association to share local issues. We wish Mr Frank Curran every success in his new role, and it was very welcome to see him and his team attend the opening of the Imogen Stuart statue on Otranto Place Park.



Dear Residents,

My name is Frank Curran and I am the newly appointed Chief Executive of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

I graduated as a civil engineer from UCD in 1991 and have worked in the local government sector for my entire career, most recently as Chief Executive of both Wicklow and Leitrim County Councils.

I have found serving the public over the last 30 years very rewarding and thoroughly enjoy working with Councillors, staff and external stakeholders in ensuring that our Counties are better places to live, work and visit.

Since joining dlr in January of this year, I have worked with staff colleagues and Councillors on many exciting projects.

I will highlight below some items of interest to note in the Sandycove and Glasthule area and very much look forward to seeing these projects come to fruition over the coming months and years.

Most recently we have seen the adoption the dlr County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, which sets out a

comprehensive vision for the necklace of towns and villages that make up the County and this includes the distinctive area of Sandycove and the village of Glasthule. This vision centres around championing quality of life through healthy placemaking. Both Glasthule and Sandycove are well placed to deliver on the sustainable and climate resilient ten minute neighbourhood concept which is espoused in the Plan, where people can walk, cycle or use public transport to access their day to day needs and services such as schools, shops, parks and employment.

The unique coastal character in terms of the harbour and the designated Bathing areas, and the architectural heritage of the Sandycove area is recognised by way of the Architectural Conservation Area designation contained in the Plan, along with a requirement in the Plan that any public realm projects shall have regard to the concept proposals that are contained in the 2020 Masterplan for Sandycove and Bulloch Harbours.

Our Beaches department have an upcoming accessibility enhancement project taking place at the Forty Foot Bathing Area. The scheme will entail accessibility improvements to a number of the access points to the water within the Forty Foot, including the replacement/refurbishment of ladders and handrails and improvement works to stepped access points. The design for the scheme is complete and the tender process run, with the project now at the point of contract award and it is hoped that works will be completed by year end.

Housing, is of course, a priority for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and I am delighted to inform you that 44 homes in our older persons housing development in Beaufort, Glasthule will receive an energy upgrade in 2022 under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme. Works planned for the homes include external wall and attic insulation, solar panels, new doors, new windows, blocking of fireplaces, low energy lighting and the installation of a new air to water district heating system. When the works are complete, all of the properties will receive a minimum of a B2 BER rating.

We have seen a great improvement over the last number of years in Dlr's cycling infrastructure and Active Travel routes also remain a high priority for the Council going forward. We are currently progressing a review of the Coastal Mobility Route. This is an independent review by TU Dublin.

Finally, I'm sure you will all have seen the wonderful works that have taken place in Otranto Park and I was honoured to witness the unveiling of 'Stele' with Uachtaráin na hÉireann, Michael D. Higgins and An Cathaoirleach Councillor Lettie McCarthy. I understand that you as residents, along with our Parks staff, have put a tremendous amount of work into bringing this project from a vision to a wonderful amenity and attraction to the wider public and it is indeed a fantastic addition to our public realm.

We will of course, continue to maintain and upgrade the public open spaces at Sandycove, Otranto, Newtown Smith and Hudson Road Parks.

Letters to the Editor

We'd love to hear from you.

If you would like to be considered for inclusion in the November 2022 newsletter please get in touch.

Email: editor@sandycoveandglasthule.ie

or post to

Letters to the Editor
SAGRA,
c/o Eamonn's Bookshop,
50 Sandycove Road,
Sandycove,
Co Dublin.

Please provide your name, postal address and phone number.

Letters may be edited or cut.

Sir,

Walking up the steps to my local Sandycove Deli, I tripped and crashed down onto the floor. Immediately, I was surrounded by many caring people. After sitting awhile and sipping water, I wobbled home.

Five minutes later, the door bell rang and my husband answered. A lady I never met had purchased two dinners from the Deli and delivered them to us! Her name is Katherine and her daughter is Sophie.

I would love to thank her for her kindness; hopefully she is a reader of SAGRA, just like me.

IRENE MURPHY,
Sandycove.

Dear Sir or Madam

I write this letter to ask you if anyone can know who wrote this poem that I found among my memories of home.

I lived in Eden Villas. My maiden name was Fagan.

My cousins send me your newsletter. Margo Scales lives in Eden Terrace. Bernie Fitzpatrick lives in Smyth's Villas, York Road. She sends me all the news, which for years I have enjoyed.

I do go home to visit. I have lived here for 70 years. My grandmother was Whelan. She lived in the Buildings. My uncle Kevin lived in O'Donnell Gardens. He wrote lots of poems.

Thanking you once again for a great newsletter. It gives me so much pleasure. Keep up the good work.

MRS C DAVIES age 85,
Northampton

MY LOVELY GLASTHULE HOME

The thoughts that fill my mind today
are just a memory
That take me back to my boyhood days
when I was young and free
My Sweetheart with her flowing hair
her sweet smile lingers still
As we strolled with ease beneath the trees
that skirt Killiney Hill
I ponder on those loving thoughts
as happy times have flown
I sit and dream of what might have been
in My Lovely Glasthule Home

To see the sun sink in the West
and the mist roll from the sea
As the shadows fall from the hill above
this scene is dear to me
And as I gaze through the evening mist
when the stars wink in the sky
I wonder what the future holds
for an old man passing by
And as the moon shines through the clouds
this lamp which God does own
To guide my steps in the place I love
My Lovely Glasthule Home

And often with my stick in hand
I ramble to the stile
And view the Woodlands to the West
that stretch for miles and miles
As the Angelus Bell from the church nearby
rings its message loud and clear
To remind mankind of the links
an event that's far more dear
And here I stand with my cap in hand
I speak to Her above
And say a prayer that She will care
for My Lovely Glasthule Home

As a Lark soars in the summer sky
and the Lark bursts forth in song
I'm enraptured by his music sweet
as I meander slowly on
Oh how I love to walk again
among those fields and braes
That I knew so well in years gone by
how happy were those days
While we romped and played in the leafy shade
where the Elm trees had grown
Beside the stream that rippled by
My Lovely Glasthule Home

Now happiness is hard to find
and peace much harder still
Unless you have some loyal friends
to help you o'er the hill
Those friends thank God I Have
those friends who really care
Who from our little centre here
do always keep and share
To me they bring such happiness
I have no cause to moan
I'm happy and contented in
My Lovely Glasthule Home



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We are so thankful for the support and extreme generosity of so many of you who have helped us to raise funds on behalf of the people of Ukraine



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Sea Swimming

Some swim daily. Some swim weekly. Some swim all year round. Some swim when the water's not too cold. Some swim on Christmas day. Some dip. Some do long swims. Some do really long swims. Some swim alone. Some swim in groups. Some don't swim. Do you swim?

Sea swimming has become very popular recently all times of day, all the days of the year. With names such as "Divine Dippers", "Babes & Buoys" there are several groups that meet in Sandycove according to a schedule to socialise and swim. These are almost like families. If you swim regularly here you might want to find your tribe.

In aid of the RNLI, Catherine Mulvey produced "A Little Book of Swimming Happiness". It takes 50 swimmers and shares their personal swim stories/photos/poems. It's currently out of print but if there was sufficient interest...



After a swim it's important to get heat back into the body. The heart rate can drop and the effects might not be noticed until a while later. There's an article of clothing designed for just this purpose. There's probably no need to mention a name. Have a look at our competition below.



Happy Swimmers

Enter our competition to win a Vico Robe (www.vicorobes.com). See picture below for colours.

The competition question is on page 6.

Enter at www.sagra.ie/vicorobes/

Terms and conditions are available on our website.



Mystery Baby

A Short Story by Breandán Ó Broin

I like it here in Meryemana.

So peaceful, so quiet; exactly what I crave after all the turmoil and confusion of well ... you know ... the death and all that led up to it and all that followed. It's ten years ago now, give or take; ten long Paschas ago.

It was a long road from there to here, as they say. Another donkey ride, but at least this time I wasn't nine months pregnant. It seems so far away now, like a bad dream, a mother's nightmare. Only it was all too real. And then all too unreal. I am still coming to terms with everything that happened.

In the cool of morning, birds sing outside my little house here in the hills south of Ephesus. In the hot heat of the day, young lambs suckle their mother ewes in the shade of the fig trees. In the gentle warmth of the evening, neighbours call to see how I am and often to ask, is it really true, did it really happen?

Yes, I tell them, and yes again.

My baby was often a mystery to me.

From an early age, I didn't understand all his secret thoughts and plans for a Kingdom. Mostly he did what I asked him, like at the wedding when the wine was running low, but other times he could be a bold brat going missing when we went up to the big city and his father and me were at our wits end. He didn't seem one bit sorry when we found him. And when he turned thirty and went off all around the country, I didn't always approve of some of his new friends and hangers-on. That Magdalen one for example. I know it's awful of me but I didn't like the thought of her following him around; very close they were, some people gossiped. Why can't he just get married and settle down I often asked myself? He's good with his hands, he's got carpenter's hands, like his father. But no, he had to go and do his own thing, and where did that lead to? The facts are well known now. On a hill, outside the same big city he once got lost in as a boy. It was a bad Friday

I can tell you, standing there, watching him suffer so. An arrow really did pierce my heart like that crinkly crone Anna predicted it would.

I never much liked her either.

Afterwards, when the fuss died down, John did as my son told him and brought me to Meryemana. John is like a son to me and he shoos the visitors away if I get upset recalling the memories. I act like I am John's mother, cooking and cleaning while he writes down the strange things he sees in his dreams.

I have lots of thoughts myself, but none of our leaders ever come to listen to what I have to say. Peter is away in Rome heading up the firm, and that Paul fellow is a bit too self-important for my liking, always writing letters and banging on about how he's fighting the good fight and winning the race and all that tedious manly stuff. He was up in Ephesus last year paying a visit, but I didn't make the trip. I am almost sixty now and the journey is too long and the city too big. It takes a day to cross, or a day-and-a-half what with my poor feet.

Anyway, no one really wants to listen to me, even though I was his mother and he my baby. I'm only a woman after all, and sure what would I know about anything important? I know a lot more than many of them, let me tell you. But try telling them that. You might as well save your breath to cool your porridge.

If I have a hope for the future of the movement my son set up, it is that women will one day be accepted as the equal of men. But I won't be holding my breath. Maybe in 2000 years. Maybe.

For myself, I do so hope to see my baby again after I die, probably pretty soon now. I mean what mother wouldn't? He told me we would meet and I trust him. Mind you, he still has some explaining to do, but he was a good son to his mother.

Most of the time, when he wasn't being such a mystery.

Bits & Pieces

The Baths are due to open at the end of August.

As part of operation Irene, Garda mountain bike patrols will operate in the area for the summer.



Friendly Reminder

Annual rate for SAGRA susubscription is €15 for individual or €22 for a household.

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you can print the form from our website and drop the subscription in to Eamonn's Bookshop.

Dates For Your Diary

SAGRA Residents Meeting

Our Residents Meeting will take place on **Monday May 30th at 8pm** over Zoom.

As usual this will be an opportunity to meet (virtually) your fellow residents and hear about issues impacting the area. We expect to be joined by several of our elected representatives.

Register to attend here: www.sagra.ie/meeting/

dlr LexIcon

The Second Thursday Book Club meets the second Thursday of the month at 6.30pm.

The Third Saturday Book Club meets the third Saturday of the month at 10.30am.

For more information on events in the LexIcon (and other DLR libraries) see:

<https://libraries.dlrcoco.ie/events-and-news>

Bloomsday



Bloomsday **16th June** is on a Thursday this year but events are planned for the week in Glashule and Sandycove.

Check local traders' windows for details.

Also have a look at www.joycetower.ie.

St Paul's Summer Fair

Saturday 28th May – from 10:30 until 1:30

In St Paul's Church Grounds, Silchester Road

All welcome



Susquehanna Chorale in St Joseph's Church

Monday 18th July at 19:30

Located near Hershey, Pennsylvania (the home of Hershey Chocolate), the 35-voice choir has won national recognition as one of the outstanding choral ensembles in the United States.

The programme will be a selection of uplifting songs from both sides of the Atlantic including spirituals, gospel, classical, traditional folk songs and popular tunes. The music is suitable for all ages.



Pavilion Theatre

2 Jun Seamus Heaney in Irish

3 & 4 Jun The Lost Brothers

12 Jun The Presidents' Letters

16 & 17 Jun The United States v Ulysses

18 Jun The Third Policeman by Flann O'Brien

30 Jun – 2 Jul Druid's The Cavaliers by Billy Roche



For a full listing of events see www.paviliontheatre.ie



Glashule

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The Conference is appealing to your generosity to fund the Society's work and assist local people in need. Contributions can be made as follows :

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Summerhill Rd, Dublin A96 W6D6

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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) info.east@svp.ie or call **01- 855 0022** Monday to Friday, 9-5



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