

Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association Newsletter

Summer/Autumn 2023



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MONDAY - SATURDAY



GLASTHULE VILLAGE OPP.
THE CHURCH





Dear Resident,

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter.

It was fantastic that so many members were able to attend the November AGM meeting. The evening was filled with a range of important topics, and the questions asked prompted good debate and ensured that our elected officials, who were in excellent attendance, heard first-hand the issues being raised from the floor.

In this edition, we have invited our local TDs to share their thoughts on the local area to help provide, for our residents, a better insight into their views.

TDs are tasked with a national focus, but many residents will know that our TDs are most helpful in supporting local issues. They almost always make themselves available to our members at the twice annual meetings, so we thought it was important to capture their views.

Our thanks as always to our advertisers whose advertisements help fund the production of the newsletter. Our thanks to the local shops who make available the printed edition of the newsletter in their businesses. We would encourage our residents to buy local and support our fabulous traders.

My thanks to all the contributors and to Liam Madden, our Editor, for once again pulling together a great edition.

Please do come and attend on the 29th May. It promises to be a great evening.

John Conroy
Chairperson

Residents Meeting

Our residents meeting will take place on Monday **May 29th at 8pm in St Joseph's Pastoral Centre.**

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 Sandyford. There is a direct link on our website under membership.



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or

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

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

Advertising

If you are interested in advertising in our November 2023 edition please email

editor@sandycoveandglasthule.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@sandycoveandglasthule.ie

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

SAGRA Committee

Chairperson: John Conroy

Secretary: Trevor King

Treasurer: Liam Madden

Other committee members (in alphabetical order):

Germaine D'Alton

Giles Kerr

John Elliot

Scott Kirkwood

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 28 November 2022

Presentation Brothers, Glasthule

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

Richard Boyd Barrett TD Cllr Lorraine Hall
Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD Cllr Melisa Halpin
Ossian Smith TD Cllr Tom Kivlehan
Cllr Mary Fayne Cllr Justin Moylan

Chairperson's address

The Chairperson noted the following additions to the neighbourhood:

- the unveiling of the Imogen Stuart Stele sculpture in Otranto Park by President Michael D Higgins
- the unveiling of the Mark Richards sculpture of the Roger Casement Statue in the Dún Laoghaire Baths

He also mentioned that Dún Laoghaire had been named Europe's Great Town of 2022. There were also changes in the neighbourhood that are still in need of further discussion, namely the coastal cycle path, the changes to the layout in the village, traffic disruption and parking /noise difficulties for some residents.

The Chairperson thanked the County Council for their engagement with the committee on a number of issues and Liam Madden for producing the Association's newsletter.

Election of Officers and Committee members

Current members re-election: proposed by Ursula Maguire, seconded by Cllr Mary Fayne.

Current officers' re-election: proposed by Ursula Maguire, seconded by Cllr Mary Fayne.

Minutes of previous AGM as recorded in the Spring 2022 newsletter were agreed unopposed.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer gave the following report on the financial position on 31 October 2022.

- Surplus for the year of €2,089.67
- Revenues were €6,256.44 – revenues increased on previous year as revenue for advertising in the newsletter was resumed after a hiatus during the Covid 19 pandemic.
- Expenditure was €4,166.77, of which €3,595.38 was newsletter related costs.

Floor discussion

PAT MCGLOUGHLIN

James Howley (committee member) gave a tribute to Pat McGlouglin who died in the previous week and who had been a member of the Imogen Stuart sculpture committee. James noted her tireless and enthusiastic work and organisation on the committee, contributing enormously to the project success.

PLAQUE FOR BOB WADDELL

A question was asked about the progress on a plaque for Bob Waddell. Cllr Kivlehan said that any plaque proposal would need to go to the DLRCC Memorials Committee, and the normal process is that a plaque cannot be put up by DLRCC until 10 years after the death of the honouree. Cllr Halpin mentioned that were other ways to remember him and she offered to help with this.

DERELICT PROPERTY O'DONNELL GARDENS

There was a question on what the Council was doing about a derelict property on O'Donnell Gardens which is causing concern to residents. Cllr Moylan confirmed that the property went on the derelict register and the Council did do

some work on the property. It will be discussed at the Area Committee meeting on 5 December.

TRAFFIC ISSUES

It was noted that there are serious traffic safety issues regarding the lane that runs from Sandycove Avenue East to the entrance of the 40 Foot, in particular the corners around the James Joyce Tower.

Cllrs Fayne and Hall noted they are working on getting it pedestrianised with exemptions for wheelchair access and access for the few residents. The Garda have also raised the issue with the Council.

James Howley also mentioned that the Sandycove Avenues residents' subgroup had put together a report on the traffic issues around the 40 Foot and sent it to DLRCRC. It can be sent again to anyone interested.

Residents of Albert Road raised two issues that they have engaged DLRCC on without any progress, namely parking and road safety. Local garages are parking cars on the street. As a result, residents are forced to park elsewhere. Residents took a survey on the introduction of paid parking which was backed by 85% of Albert Road households. This was submitted to the DLRCC two years ago.

Cllr Kivlehan said an official was doing up a report and it should be published shortly. Cllr Moylan said the residents will need to connect with municipal services as an official plebiscite will need to be taken for paid parking to be introduced.

Residents deem Albert Road not safe due to its narrowness, with cars going up on to the pavement to allow two-way traffic. Likelihood of an accident involving pedestrians very high. This was also an issue on Hudson Road. Cllr Kivlehan said that traffic changes were being brought in to reduce the speed limit in a number of areas including Albert Road and Hudson Road. Cllr Hall also indicated it could be possible to get ramps on road.

Traffic flows are being monitored in Sandycove/Glasthule as there are counters currently on Glasthule Road. One member asked whether given the traffic problems whether a one-way system should be introduced. Cllr Moylan said potentially there could be one but there is a need to have a full traffic plan for the area.

HUDSON ROAD AND HUDSON PARK

These issues were raised:

- multiple residents parking commercial vehicles on Hudson Road
- anti-social behaviour in Hudson Park
- lack of police commitment to control park
- threat of having to pay for callouts to the fire service (regarding Hallowe'en bonfires) which deters calls made.

Cllr Hall said that advice given to her was to get all neighbours to call Gardai if there was an incident. Maeve Lynch (committee member) mentioned that the park opposite the Harold School used to have bonfires and anti-social behaviour. They now have gates, so now no access. Unfortunately, Hudson Park has no gates. TDs Jennifer Carroll MacNeill and Richard Boyd Barrett will investigate about being charged for fire service call outs.

CYCLE LANES

Cycle lane crossings were cited as being dangerous and it was asked whether there could be zebra crossings installed along the route. Cllr Hall said that the Council was trialling crossings in three locations, and they may be introduced to other areas such as Glashule.

COASTAL FLOODING

Giles Kerr (committee member) brought up the subject of coastal flooding as being a major issue for Sandycove/Glashule. Ossian Smyth TD mentioned that there was work under way by Irish Rail on the coast, but the problems experienced in Sandycove/Glashule will require something like a sea barrier and that there will be a need to invest more in flood defence measures. Cllr Moylan stated his belief the reinstatement of drainage that existed before needs to be undertaken as the first step. The Chairperson stressed to the councillors the need to work on getting measures to stop future flooding.

WINDFARMS

As part of discussion on coastal flooding, Richard Boyd Barrett TD was of the view that offshore windfarms could cause additional problems. He felt there was a need for considerable environmental assessments to be made, in particular on the Kish sandbanks.

Jennifer Carroll McNeill TD believed there was a need to ensure that the public received the actual scientific facts about these issues.

TRANSPORT IN GLASHULE

It was highlighted that transport links by bus are poor now for Sandycove and Glashule residents. Both Richard Boyd Barrett TD and Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD noted that bus services have deteriorated since most of the bus operations in the area were outsourced to Go Ahead. This was due to bus driver shortages. It was mentioned that Go Ahead has been in front of an Oireachtas committee because of their service performance.

It was suggested by a member that if information on bus times was updated regularly it would make journeys less frustrating.

DÚN LAOGHAIRE BATHS

It was agreed that compliments should be given to the Council and the architect of the newly renovated Dún Laoghaire Baths.

DOG WARDENS

A member raised the issue of lack of enforcement of rules on muzzling of dogs after her dog was attacked by another. It was confirmed that there are only two dog wardens in the county which is not enough for enforcement of rules. Councillors agreed that there is a need to increase the number of dog wardens. It was noted that there is a list of breeds that need to be muzzled and that there are no specific regulations around keeping dogs on leads as they only mention the requirement of effective control of the dog.

AIRPORT ACCESS

It was noted there has been a deterioration in transport links between Sandycove and the airport via the Aircoach bus (longer journey time, different route, lower frequency) making it difficult to get to the airport without using a taxi or personal car (particularly late at night or early in the morning).

Our Facebook Group



Our Facebook Group, - called **Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association** is growing apace and now has almost 4,100 members. It is active every day and is undoubtedly one of the great successes of the Association. Frequent types of posts include the following:

- Residents Association notices
- Community events locally and nearby
- Lost and found pets
- Lost and found property
- Questions from members
- Local issues
- Photos of local scenes taken by members
- Promotions by local businesses
- Promotions of products of special local interest

We are delighted that the tone of debate is nearly always very civil, which is of great credit to the members of the community. As you would expect, we do not approve of profane language or offensive remarks.

If you are not already a member, we would encourage you to join. The Facebook group is very easy to find in the Facebook app or by a simple internet search or through this link:

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

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



Competition Time



The Pavilion Theatre have kindly given us 2 sets of 2x tickets to Violinist Anton Jablovok on Bloomsday, June 16th.

To enter, answer the following question and send your answer to

info@sandycoveandglashule.ie by 5pm on Friday June 9th.

Anton comes from a family of violinists whose Christmas Galas sell out every year. Can you name his brother, who will make a special guest appearance at this show?

Congratulations to Valerie Lombard and Rachael Kilgallon who won the tickets in our last newsletter competition.

Where is this protected structure?



Letters to the Editor

We'd love to hear from you.

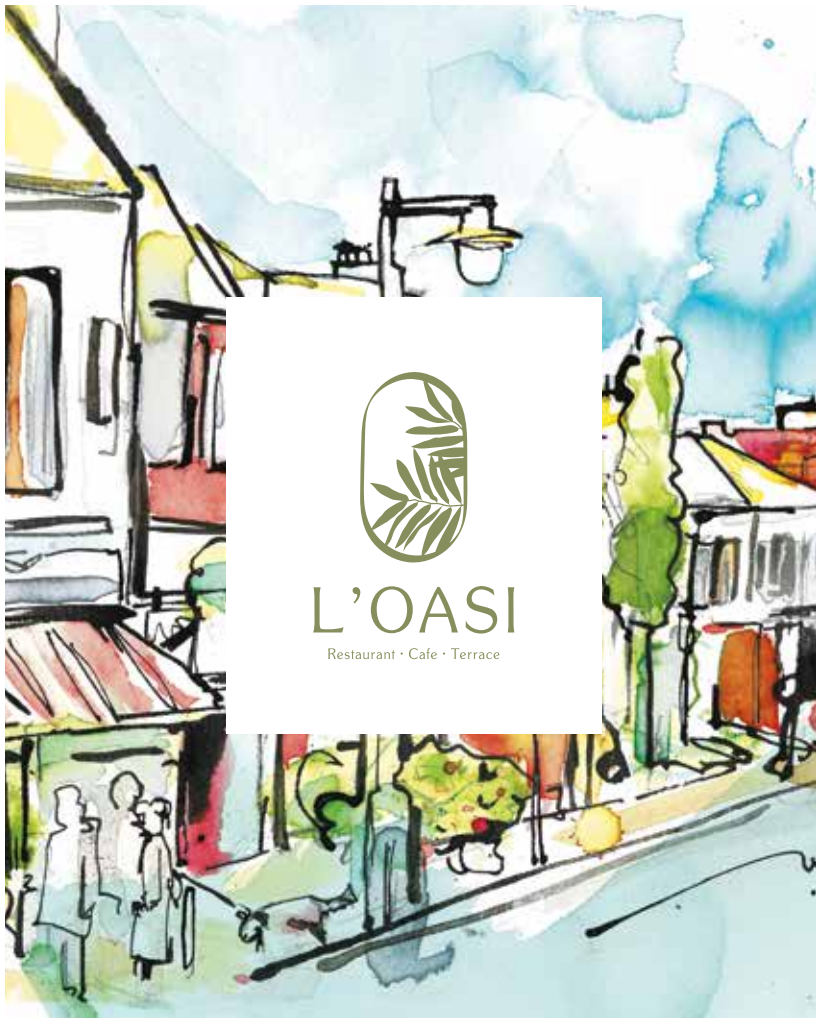
If you would like to be considered for inclusion in the November 2023 newsletter please get in touch. Please provide your name, postal address and phone number.

Letters may be edited or cut.

Email: editor@sandycoveandglashule.ie

or post to

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Out and About, Then and Now



Boys from St Brendan's Youth Club, Glashule in the 60's. Do you recognise anyone?



Brian Whiteside and Fergal MacCabe outside Mitchell's



Heron in Sandycove



Margaret Browne weeding on Sandycove Road

Local TDs

In our last newsletter we spotlighted our local Ward Councillors. For this edition we look at our TDs (Dún Laoghaire constituency). We asked them to address the following questions.

- **What do you like most about Sandycove and Glasthule?**
- **What do you see as the biggest issue facing Sandycove and Glasthule?**
- **What would your vision for the Dún Laoghaire constituency be?**

This is how they answered.

Richard Boyd Barrett (People Before Profit)



There is a great village atmosphere, with a nice variety of small independent shops and hospitality venues, with a focus on local shopping. The locals and business owners are proud of their village and there is a great sense of community. The seafront and coastal area is an amazing amenity to have which brings lots of people to the area as does the Joycean heritage and small museum.

Some of the biggest issues in my mind are cost of accommodation and lack of social and affordable housing, this is hollowing out the community as more ordinary people are pushed out due to the inability to afford housing. With the removal of the No.8 and the ever shrinking timetable of the No.59 public transport is also an issue including the lack of connectivity by bus to St. Michael's and St. Vincent's hospitals.

My vision for Dún Laoghaire would include more social and affordable housing, not driven by profit and commercial considerations. Unless we address this we going to continue to lose the very fabric of the community that makes this area so unique. I would like to see more frequent and free public transport with more community oriented routes creating better connectivity.

Richard.BoydBarrett@oireachtas.ie, www.richardboydbarrett.ie

Jennifer Carroll MacNeill (Fine Gael)



The lovely community feel, always a friendly face in any shop you go into...and of course the good coffee!

I think traffic is currently a big issue facing Sandycove and Glasthule, particularly as we move into summer and improved weather. It's lovely that so many people think to come to this village on the fairer days, however the impact is really felt by locals through increased traffic. This can only be helped by continuing to improve infrastructure to encourage walking, cycling and taking public transport.

My vision would be Dún Laoghaire becomes a net contributor of renewable energies to the European grid through offshore wind farms, and that the local funding that comes from that benefits the constituency, our local people, our local businesses and our local amenities.

jennifer.carrollmacneill@oireachtas.ie, www.jennifercarrollmacneill.ie

Cormac Devlin TD (Fianna Fáil)



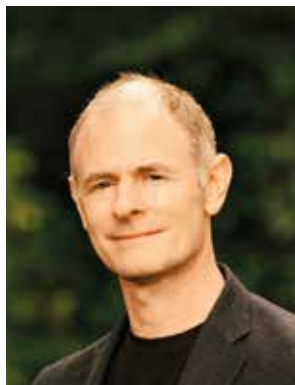
Sandycove and Glasthule have one of the most beautiful coastlines on the island. I love walking along Newtownsmith with my family and enjoying a Teddy's ice-cream, but the community and the people have always made the area, from Peter Caviston's warm welcome in Glasthule to Margaret Browne's work for Tidy Towns, Sandycove and Glasthule have a wonderful community.

Maintaining the strong sense of community as we tackle issues such as Climate Change and Housing, it is critical urban villages such as Sandycove and Glasthule are supported so that local business thrives, and people can live in safe, clean, attractive communities.

Dún Laoghaire is a wonderful place. We have an amazing coastline, mountains on our doorstep, and access to Dublin City. We need to protect our amenities and all that is good about Dún Laoghaire while developing much needed housing, infrastructure and services for the people living in the borough and beyond.

cormac@cormacdevlin.ie, www.cormacdevlin.ie

Ossian Smyth (Green Party)



I love the community atmosphere in Glasthule village. Walking along Sandycove seafront lifts the spirits to see people socialising and swimming with family and friends. If anything, the area has become more vibrant since the pandemic since people started working from home.

The cost of housing is making it difficult for children to live near their parents. We can fix this by building more high density affordable housing in places like Cherrywood. A bigger threat is flooding. Our coastal defences will need to be strengthened to protect the community. I have been working with the Dutch embassy to learn from their experience of flooding infrastructure.

Dún Laoghaire constituency stretches from Shankill to Booterstown and inland to Cherrywood and Foxrock. I would love to see it safe for children to walk and cycle to their schools. I would like to see daily real-time, year-round testing of bathing water quality. I would like to see space for nature, raising our quality of life. Families should be able to live close together with an abundance of local housing.

ossian.smyth@oireachtas.ie, www.ossiansmyth.ie

Dún Laoghaire Winner of Great Town 2022

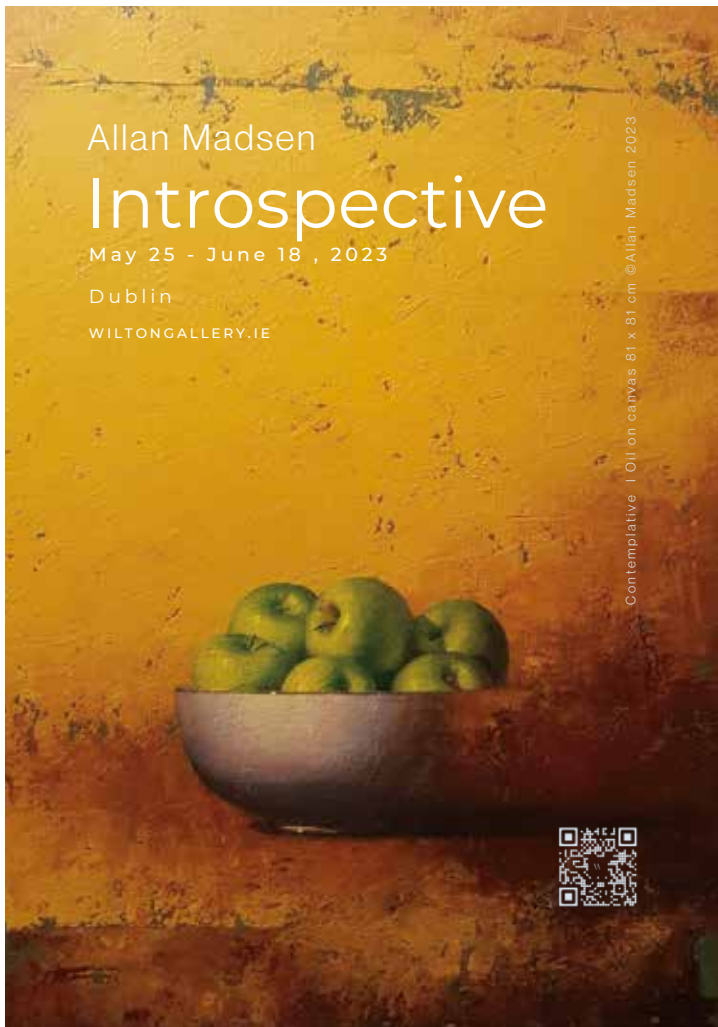
Since the last edition of this newsletter Dún Laoghaire won the award for Great Town 2022 from the Academy of Urbanism. The Academy of Urbanism is a politically independent, not-for-profit organisation that brings together urban leaders, thinkers and practitioners. The Great Places Urbanism Awards are the Academy's primary platform for recognising the best, most enduring or most improved urban environments throughout Europe. The other finalists for Great Town 2022 were Inverness in Scotland and Grantham in England. There were finalists in other categories in countries including Belgium, Italy, and Spain. The award for Dún Laoghaire is very significant.

The Academy said "Dún Laoghaire has identified opportunities to improve the town and is carrying these through to implementation. This is creating lively

urban spaces that people value and use, demonstrating an innovative and open-minded approach to sustainable urban change." The Academy's assessment referred to the Coastal Mobility Cycle Route and Village Public Realm Project, connecting urban villages, bathing places, walks and parks along the coast, and to the creation of lively urban spaces that people value and use and the flourishing shopping street with a broad range of retail and services.

An Cathaoirleach Councillor Mary Hanafin said that the judges were particularly impressed with the energy in the town, the political and executive leadership, the inclusive nature of voluntary and business groups and the willingness to incorporate active travel, landmark buildings like the Lexicon and our natural environment into a vibrant town.





Sandycove & Glashule Tidy Towns

Sandycove & Glashule Tidy Towns has been set up and has received seed funding from DLR Co Co.

They are looking for active volunteers to get this up and running.

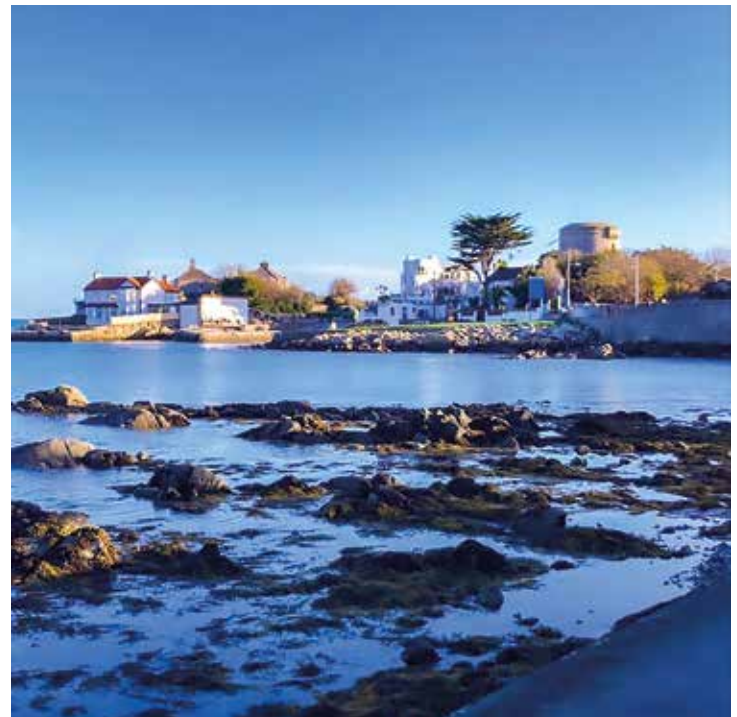
email: sgtt@wiltongallery.ie

or drop in for a chat with Ritika in the Wilton Gallery.

A New Role for Br Barry



Congratulations to Br Barry Noel of the Presentation Brothers in Glashule. He has been elected Congregation Leader of the Presentation Brothers, responsible for the Brothers worldwide. Br Barry has been based in Glashule for the last five years and before that for three years from 2006.



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James Joyce Tower, a New Era

In our November 2022 newsletter we published an article written by Seamus Cannon of the Friends of Joyce Tower Society detailing the developments in the management of the Tower. He described how the tower is now being run by Joyce Tower and Museum CLG with a board of seven members and how they had appointed a manager who started on December 1st last.



This article follows up with the results of an interview with the new manager of the museum, Dr Alice Ryan, a Joycean expert - her PhD was on James Joyce.

She is being kept busy. Apart from the day to day running of the tower, she has ambitious plans for the future of the tower.

One of these plans is to get MPSI (Museum Standards Programme for Ireland) accreditation for the Tower. MPSI is a programme run by the Heritage Council and promotes professional standards in the care of collections in Irish museums and galleries. Lesley Ann Hayden is the MPSI Programme Manager and recently visited Alice in the Tower as part of the museum's journey towards accreditation.

There is a substantial collection in the Tower. There are 500 books and 305 other items. Just two of the collection exist outside Just two of the items in the collection are kept outside the Tower. - Joyce's piano from his time in Trieste and a painting by Basil Blackshaw. She has already made a good start converting paper records of the collection to digital.

Safety in the tower is also a priority. One idea in enhancing safety is to look at using the original entrance to the tower (see image to the right).

Use of technology is of interest to Alice. She is keen to build on the current website with its "digital twin" of the tower. She is also looking at audio tours, not just of the Tower but expanding into the local area eg Glasthule Village.

She is looking forward to her first Bloomsday as manager. This year Bloomsday is on a Friday. There is a full programme of events from the Wednesday through the weekend. See page 19 for details.

One thing that has worked incredibly well over the last 10 years is the contribution of the enthusiastic, knowledgeable and helpful volunteers. She is keen to keep this going and expand the network.

She encourages anyone who might consider volunteering to get in touch. Training is provided. (She is updating "the handbook".) The time commitment is generally two hours per week but this is flexible. Details are on the website.

It will be interesting to see how this all develops. It looks like the tower is in safe hands.

LM

Entrance to the Tower is free.

Opening hours are:

Tuesday - Sunday, 10:00-16:00

joycetower.ie

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View of the Tower showing the original entrance on the first floor.



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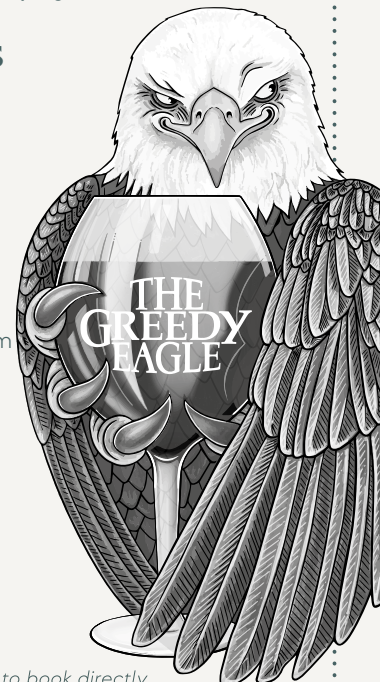
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Business Updates

As summer 2023 approaches it is great to see businesses opening or developing but sad to see some close.

L'Oasi

L'Oasi ("The Oasis" in Italian) restaurant opened on 2nd April. Tom O'Carroll had retired from Calor Gas and was looking for another challenge. He is a certified pizza maker having done a pizza making course in Italy.



The menu has an Italian slant to it with pizza, pasta, meats, fish and salads. They also have a selection of desserts such as tiramisu. Their coffee comes from an Irish roaster.

The fit out uses local materials. The wooden table tops came from a tree in Kilruddery. The art work on the walls is by artist Eva Kelly. She also designed their logo and artwork for their menu.

Tom is particularly pleased with the area in front of the restaurant. It is covered, providing shelter against the sun or rain.

Opening times are subject to change at the moment. Currently it is open for lunch Thu - Sun and dinner Wed - Sun. He's planning to offer coffee etc in the morning.

www.loasi.ie



Rocco at the pizza oven

Sandycove Store and Yard

Trevor O'Rourke is a busy man with lots of ideas. His picture framing business "Frame" expanded to include serving coffee when he noticed customers waiting for his framing service.



When he took over the site of Buckley's Auctions he set up picture framing and coffee. For now the picture framing is on hold but he's developing in other directions. The coffee is still there. There's a real ice cream van selling gelato although it might not pass its CVRT! There's a juice bar. There's a wine bar.

The latest additions are two wood burning saunas. There's a changing area, showers, plunge pool and lockers. The Finns are right about a lot of things and know the health benefits of sauna. There are regular Wim Hof (breathing & ice baths) workshops.

Trevor talks about wellness and building a community, so what next?



Mirella

After twelve and a half years, sisters Sandra and Gayle, who ran Mirella gift shop are retiring. We wish them well.



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Beaufort Retrofit



Originally built in 1984, the Beaufort complex in Glathule consists of 58 residential apartments across three blocks. Also included in one of the blocks is a day care center from which a HSE funded day care service is provided to older people living in the County.

Working with SSE Airtricity, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council recently undertook a complete retrofit of the development that included the installation of:

- new windows and doors
- external wall insulation
- attic insulation
- 5 x 405w Solar PV panels per unit connected to an i-boost system for control of individual unit hot water cylinders
- mechanical ventilation
- heating controls
- LED lighting.

The major innovation in the project was the installation of a centralized heat pump system, the first of its kind to be installed in Ireland. The original heat source for the apartments was a centralized gas fired district heating system. The new system for the apartments was designed for space heating only, the hot water being provided through Solar PV i-Boost with a backup immersion if necessary.

The day-care centre, which was also originally heated by the gas fired district heating system, now runs from an independent heat pump system for space heating and hot water.

All works on this project were carried out with the residents in situ.

The upgrade works resulted in the average BER ratings for the apartments improving from an E1, to an A3 rating and a reduction in calculated energy usage of approximately 80% on the pre-energy usage, or an average saving of 7,998 Kwh per unit or a total 463,884 Kwh saved per annum.

Thanks to Jim Ryan, Senior Executive Officer, DLRCOCO for information on this project.



Glathule

Society of St Vincent de Paul

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 :

1. Donate by cheque, made payable to :
"St Joseph's SVP Conference" posted to
SVP Glathule, Parish Centre,
Summerhill Rd, Dublin A96 W6D6

2. Electronic funds transfer to:
St Joseph's Conference of SVP
IBAN IE 16 BOFI 9011 1688 646489
BIC: BOFIE2D

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

The (Almost) Perfect Village

Fergal MacCabe

In a recent article I traced the architectural evolution of the County Dublin seaside village of Glasthule up to the 1970s by which time it was composed entirely of two or at most three storey buildings. That was to radically change with the arrival of large high rise buildings but slowly a more sensitive approach to infill and renewal began to emerge.

The First High Rise

Prior to 1965, owner occupied apartment blocks were rare in the Dublin area, but with the construction of Ardoyne House overlooking Herbert Park and St Anne's apartments in Donnybrook, developers saw their attractiveness to downsizers and those who wished a pied a terre and there was a mad rush to find suitable sites.

19th century villas on the shoreline of Dublin Bay with generous curtilage were much sought after but strenuous local opposition was inevitable. In a landmark case, a proposal for a high rise tower development on the site of the Salthill Hotel at Monkstown was hotly contested and rejected by An Bord Pleanála.

My recollection, as a planning consultant at the time, was that the three local authorities in the Dublin area were vying for development and that Dún Laoghaire Borough Council felt that it was not getting its fair share. Therefore, despite the Salthill refusal, it welcomed a proposal for a six storey block of flats on the lands of 'Seabank' on the edge of Glasthule village.

The Council's decision to grant permission included a condition deleting the proposed balconies on the seaward elevation which, as I recollect, reflected the slightly quirky view of its Planning Officer that each apartment should have exactly the same view and none favoured disproportionately, even though it would create blank unattractive gable walls.

Surprisingly, and considering the furore over the Salthill proposal, there was little local opposition. Had an appeal to An Bord Pleanála been lodged it would most likely have resulted in the outright rejection or significant reduction of the scheme.

Providentially, the new scale did not set a benchmark and when the adjoining St Helens site came up for development some years later, a three storey proposal in a more domestic style was favoured.

Sensitive Infill

As the years went by, successive County Development Plans began to place an increasing emphasis on retaining the original scale and character of the village and seafront. The community and local businesses responded with exemplary designs for a new Community Centre and for well conceived conservation projects including Caviston's chic new restaurant, the refurbishment of 'The Buildings', the delightful conservatory extension of the Greedy Eagle, the reuse of 'The Cowshed' and the sensitive restoration of the former Presbytery.

In particular, the installation by the Council of seating and planting and the streetside cafe ambience provided by 64 Wine and Mitchells, combined with the lively mix of enterprising local businesses, brings delight to us locals and is the envy of the increasing number of visitors to our annual fiesta of Bloomsday.

The Future Village

Two recently permitted infill schemes will have dramatic architectural impacts but will bring new homes and more business and activity.

As my 'before and after' sketches show, one will extend Quinns Funeral Home towards 'The Buildings' with six apartments above. The other on the site of 'Hank's', will provide a small restaurant space at ground floor, some bike and car parking and seven generous apartments over.

The approach of the Council's planners towards both proposals would appear to be that while the general two/three storey main street frontage scale must be maintained, new developments can rise to four or five storeys at the rear so long as there is no adverse impact on adjoining residential amenities through overshadowing or overlooking. This approach will determine the redevelopment of any remaining infill sites and hopefully ensure the retention of the essential character of the village into the future.

The only suggestion I might make for improving its amenity in the short term, is the painting in a light colour of the long dull boundary wall on the southern approach from Sandycove so that it fits in with its colourful neighbours.

Otherwise, as far as I am concerned, Glasthule is perfect.



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THE GHOSTWRITER

AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR ARRIVES AT A SANDYCOVE TOWER

'What inspired you to set Ulysses in the Martello Tower?' asked the Brave Volunteer.

'Because all stories have to start somewhere' answered the Unexpected Visitor.

It was a Bad Friday, mucky morning, January grey-day best forgotten. Sandycove Snot-Green Sea churning to Snot-Grey. North Wind whipping flotsam and jetsam across Bay. Sludge of Sutton dashing against Forty Foot Rocks.

The Brave Volunteer settles into the snug of the Joyce Tower Round Room, facing the single bed-with-blankets and the wooden table with two bottles of Guinness, long since empty. He had come prepared; a hot coffee and a book, perhaps the most famous book ever written. He had no great expectations, for what foolish visitor would venture out in search of cultural nourishment in the face of such a storm? He expected few signatures in the Visitor Book with paeans of praise from Joycean pilgrims from far-off Kathmandu and Kimmage. He might as well treat himself to a little doze, he's had a muddled night, what with Herself tossing, turning, twisting sheets, tortured by the osteoarthritis, courtesy of the Dublin Damp. If anyone did show up, Monica, the Diligent Desk Volunteer, was downstairs and she'd tip him the wink if anyone was about to tackle the winding-wet stony stairs.

But somehow, an Unexpected Visitor had arrived, uninvited, unannounced.

'Are you Gogarty, better known as Buck Mulligan', **UV** asked? 'No, I can tell you're not. You're plump enough. But in no way stately.'

BV was a bit miffed at being considered non-stately. Plump was accurate however.

'Neither are you the double-barrelled Sassenach with the trigger-happy finger' concluded **UV**.

'I am neither' confirmed **BV**. 'And your name is?', he asked.

Unnecessarily, as the hat, glasses, cane and swagger combined to give the game away.

'The name is Joyce'.

UV pauses for effect ...

'Joyce, James Joyce.' Emphasis on the James.

A snippet from the soundtrack of a rip-roaring movie franchise echoes in **BV**'s ear. He is shaken and stirred.

'So, you are the man himself,' said **BV**. 'Not another would-be look-a-like; we get hundreds of them; particularly on'

'Bloomsday', interrupted **UV**, 'I've heard of it. Sounds like shite and onions.'

BV couldn't help but recall the day Young Minister Leo had paid a visit to the Tower to hand out a Tourist Award.


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A protester with a political crowd to pick had paraded up and down with those very words printed big and bold on a placard. SHITE AND ONIONS. History, like onions, repeats itself. Leo pretended not to notice.

BV was troubled that the globally-recognised literary genius felt unloved.

‘People are always talking your book’ he consoled, but to little effect.

‘Ah, but have they bought it’ muttered **UV**. ‘The pitiful royalties would suggest not’.

‘We get over 40,000 visitors every year’, said **BV**. ‘We assure everyone it’s a great read. A bit long admittedly.’

BV pauses a while, hardly daring to ask:

‘If you were to write it again, would you leave anything out?’

‘About half’ said **UV**, ‘but I’m not going to tell you which half’.

‘Lord Leverhulme used to say that about the money he wasted advertising soap powder, but the trouble was, he said, he didn’t know which half’, commented **BV**.

UV gives a twirl to his cane; a flourish, like a well-placed semi-colon.

‘Place looks good, considering its age. Better than I remember it back in 1904’.

‘You look good yourself, considering ...’ **BV** does a quick mental arithmetic ... ‘considering you’re pushing past the 140 mark. Although 140 is the new 120, or so I’m told’.

‘You don’t think I look a bit ... ghostly’, asked **UV**?

‘Pale as a Ghost Writer’, answered **BV**.

‘What’s that doing here’ **UV** demanded, pointing his cane towards the fireplace.

‘Oh, that’s Black Panther, our visitors love hearing about him’.

‘There was NO Black Panther, that was pulp fiction, completely made-up’.

‘Like a novel, you mean?’

UV sits down on the bed. The life seems to have gone out of him.

‘Lumpy as ever’, he grumbles

‘We have the original death mask of you downstairs along with a first edition of Ulysses, and a Visitor Book; perhaps you’d like to see them?’, suggests **BV**.

‘I have no desire whatsoever to look my death in the face’.

‘So, thinking back, which is it - Je ne Regrette Rien or Regrets I’ve had a few?’ asks **BV**.

UV, also famed for his Feis Ceoil-quality singing voice, instantly launches into a highly-passible imitation of Frank Sinatra doing it His Way.

‘Regrets? Yes, I’ve had a few. I regret the way I treated Nora sometimes. She was my Towering Rock. I regret wasn’t the best of fathers, but I had a poor role model in that regard. Most of all, I regret the loss of Lucia, the way I lost my daughter before she lost me. I abandoned her in Paris, and died on her in Zurich, leaving her alone, for ever’.

UV perhaps sheds a silent tear; hard to tell behind his thick-lenses.

‘It can’t be good for you sitting up here in this Ivory Tower’ said **UV** to **BV**. ‘It nearly did for me. But perhaps that was because of the company rather than the lack of it’.

‘The Volunteers will keep you company anytime’ offered **BV**.

‘My time’s up, I’ll be off now’, said **UV**. ‘I’ve got a meeting with Sam Beckett – he’s struggling with his post-mortem opus, Waiting for Eternity. It’s taking him forever to write. Oh, and if Gogarty calls, tell him I wasn’t asking for him’.

‘And yourself, never another written word?’ queried **BV**.

‘Portrait of an Artist as an Old Man – toying with it - work in progress’.

On which literary bombshell, The Ghost Writer vanishes the way he had arrived; via the triple-locked double door, high above ground level, no longer with a bockety staircase.

BV stirs to the sound of a Voice from Below; Monica, the Diligent Desk Volunteer.

‘We have visitors, they’re on the way up’, says **DDV**.

‘Real live visitors? Living breathing ones?’ asks **BV**.

‘Are there any other kind?’ whispers **DDV**, in a worried kind of way.

‘Yes’, whispers **BV** in return.

‘Yes’.

‘Oh Yes’.

The Tower Volunteers

Monica and Breandán are two of the enthusiastic Volunteers who open the James Joyce Tower & Museum in Sandycove to visitors Tuesday to Sunday every week of the year. Admission is free, everyone is welcome. Tales from the Tower, a Joint Memoir written by Curators Vivien Igoe and Robert Nicholson and edited by Breandán Ó Broin, is due for publication by Martello Press in September 2023.

BREANDÁN Ó BROIN

Aibreán 2023

Dates For Your Diary

SAGRA Residents Meeting

Our Residents Meeting will take place on **Monday May 29th at 8pm** in St Joseph's Pastoral Centre.

As usual this will be an opportunity to meet your fellow residents and hear about and make your views known on issues impacting the area.

There will be a presentation by An Garda local Crime Prevention Officer.

We expect to be joined by several of our elected representatives.

Have a look at pages 4 and 5 for details of our previous meeting.



A new festival, Coastival 2023 will run **1-9 July** and will coincide with the Volvo Dún Laoghaire Regatta.

Events include:

- Maritime movies on the green and live music in various locations,
- Boat cruises and boat trips, family fun day at the dlr LexIcon Library,
- Free sailing, kayaking and paddleboarding,
- Summer of heritage events and much more!

Events in the Wilton Gallery

May 26 - June 18

Allen Madsen

New selection of sculptures by Vadim Tuzov

1 August 2023
Summer Exhibition



Man & Wife (Quails) by Vadim Tuzov

Visit St Paul's Summer Fair!

27th May 2023

This year's fair promises to be our biggest and best yet!

From Art, Catering, Reading, Fashion, Jewellery, Kids Entertainment, Collectables, Bric-a-brac and more, you'll find it all at St Paul's Glenageary on Saturday 27th May 2023. This promises to be a great day for the whole family so take note of the date and we'll see you there!

St Paul's Church, Silchester Road, Glenageary. From 10:30am to 2:30pm.





SANDYCOVE & GLASTHULE
BLOOMSDAY

Supported by DLRCOCO

Music, Cultural events, Readings, Snot Green Soup, Pampooties...

Stephanie Sloan (artist) has produced a beautiful logo for the villages and there will be t-shirts and boating hats available in the run up through local businesses. John Short (artist) will, through the Wilton Gallery, be showcasing an original work celebrating Bloomsday.

Look out for notices in local business and social media for day events.

Bloomsday at the Tower



There will be a programme of events based in and around the tower.

Bloomsday, Friday 16 June

08:00 An Cathaoirlach raises the flag at the Tower with readings by volunteers and visitors

10:00 Bryan Murray reading from “Telemachus”

11:00 Guided Tour from Joyce Tower to Glasthule

15:00 Readings and songs from “Sirens” with Morgan Cooke & Karen Kelly

16:00 Druidy Druids recital of Joycean songs including “Bid Adieu”

17:00 Il Coro Italiano di Dublino recital of Joycean songs & Italian arias and folk songs

There will be special events from Wednesday 14th June until Sunday 18th June. See the following web address for the full schedule:

joycetower.ie/bloomsday-festival-2023/



27th - 29th July

a brand new, three-day summer festival series

Featuring:

- Ibiza Orchestra
- Dizzee Rascal
- Bingo Loco presents Summerjam



DLR Sports Partnership run a number of programmes to get people in Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown more active.

For more information see: dlrsportspartnership.ie

Pavilion Theatre

16 – 24 May Mikel Murfi’s The Man in the Woman’s Shoes & I Hear You and Rejoice

1 Jun Seamus O’Rourke’s The Ballad of Mossy Flood

6 - 8 Jun The Simon & Garfunkel Story

29 Jun Celine Byrne

4 – 6 Jul Dinosaur World Live

7 – 9 Jul Splash Test Dummies

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

See page 6 for a chance to win tickets.





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