

Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association Newsletter

Winter 2022/Spring 2023



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- *** CHRISTMAS PARTIES ***
- ***CHRISTMAS DRAW 21ST DEC-***
- *** DPC PIZZA ***
- *** NEW WINE LIST ***
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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. At the time of writing, we're planning to host our AGM, the first in person meeting since the start of the Covid pandemic, in the Presentation Brothers Hall on Monday 28th November 2022.

Certainly, we have all been through a challenging and testing time. During the pandemic, the committee took the decision to continue to make the newsletters available online and to make available the printed edition of the newsletter through the very kind support of the local businesses. The distribution of the newsletter appears to have been a success, but we would value your ideas on this topic.

Since we last met, you will have observed many changes in our area: the unveiling of Imogen Stuart's sculpture 'STELE' in Otranto Park, the erection of the Roger Casement statue, the cycleways and imminently the opening of the Dún Laoghaire Baths.

There is a great deal to celebrate. It will be good to have our Councillors present at our AGM so our residents can share their views with them.

The Council have been busy looking into, and supporting us regarding, one of the coastal flooding issues in our area. We would like to share these discussions and the planned solution, which will require a funding allocation.

The newsletter is full of interesting articles. My thanks to all the contributors and to Liam Madden our Editor for once again pulling together a great edition.

You will observe, that once again our local businesses have very supportively taken out adverts in the newsletter. We would encourage our residents to buy local and support our fabulous traders.

We look forward to meeting you all, and to hearing your thoughts and views.

Wishing you all a very happy festive season.

John Conroy
Chairperson

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will take place on Monday **November 28th at 8pm in the Presentation Brothers Hall.**

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW VENUE.

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.



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 May 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,
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.

Residents Meeting (meeting held on Zoom)

Monday 30 May 2022, 8:00pm

Elected representatives in attendance:

Ossian Smyth, TD
Cllr Justin Moylan
Cllr Tom Kivlehan
Cllr Mary Fayne
Cllr Lorraine Hall

Apologies:

Cormac Devlin, TD

Chairperson's address

John Conroy outlined:

- New developments in Sandycove and Glasthule
- The new Imogen Stuart sculpture in Otranto Park (he also thanked the fundraising committee for its successful fundraising and project management)
- The unveiling of the sculpture this summer
- Issues facing the area:
- The Kish bank wind project
- Flood defences
- Antisocial behaviour

2. Tribute to Pat McGloughlin

James Howley gave a tribute to Pat McGloughlin 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.

3. Public discussion

TRAFFIC ISSUES

It was noted that the creation of the coastal road bicycle lane had resulted in traffic diversions and significant traffic jams at the People's Park. There needs to be a traffic plan, in particular around the lights at Peoples' Park

John Elliot: thought the cycle lane well used. With regard to the traffic changes, there was a need for signposting for motorists as to direction of travel along the coast

Cllr Lorraine Hall: noted that there had been injuries caused by individuals falling across the barriers which had resulted in claims. There is need to have a look at making the cycle path safer

Cllr Justin Moylan: thought the cycle lane is good but there should be a consultation about the changes that were made during Covid-19. With regard to the People's Park traffic lights, DLRCC traffic engineers were going to change the light sequencing to allow unimpeded access in one direction at a time. He also noted that the George's Street pedestrianisation will impact on traffic routings and congestion.

Cllr Tom Kivlehan: need to get signage right to get people to know where the quickest routes are.

SANDYCOVE STORE AND YARD

The subject of noise and lane obstruction caused by the Sandycove Yard was raised by a resident. New evening wine licence has resulted in high noise levels and the lane up the side of the Yard is obstructed by customers' bicycles and prams. Sandycove Yard is also in an appeal process for planning permission to An Bord Pleanála for change of use from auctioneers to café and shop.

A letter was written by the resident to DLRCC, to councillors and to Ossian Smyth about nuisances and issues about the business. DLRCC planners have sent a warning letter to the business owner.

Cllr Mary Fayne: noted that wine licence was not an issue for DLRCC as it is under the auspices of the Revenue Commissioners

Cllr Tom Kivlehan: spoke to Gardai about it – any complaints should be passed on to the licencing sergeant

Cllr Lorraine Hall: noted that there were 30 days to complain to court clerk and Gardai

SANDYCOVE FLOODING

Giles Kerr: brought up the pressing issue of flooding in Sandycove given recent report that stated that Dublin will face severe future flooding

Cllr Justin Moylan: responded that there was a consultancy (NWP) working on a report on flooding with key stakeholders (IE, OPW, DOE). He felt there was an urgent requirement around Newtownsmith and the Council need to work on this

Cllr Tom Kivlehan: noted that it is important for Irish Rail that the coastal defences are strong. Consultant's report will come back in September identifying key risk areas needing a defence strategy

John Conroy: thought that the Council needs to undo the 2000 change to the 'gut' that channelled surface water back into the sea

Giles Kerr: thanked everyone for their comments. He thought flooding issue in Sandycove and elsewhere was in danger of "falling between two stools". There needed to be a task force and ring-fenced funding

GLASTHULE VILLAGE ARCHITECTURE INTEGRITY

The issue of the redevelopment of the Hank's café site to a 5-storey apartment building was brought up. A resident felt it would ruin the village look.

Cllr Justin Moylan: noted that the current planning policy is one of compact urban development – 40% of zoned land to be infill sites. He is happy to facilitate a meeting to explain the planning system

Cllr Tom Kivlehan: noted that Quinn's Funeral got permission for a 4-storey building extension which could impact permission for Hank's site. He also noted that councillors are not involved in any planning process decisions.

Harold Record Attempt

On Friday 18th November the pupils of the Harold School, Glasthule will attempt to break the World Record for the most Christmas crackers pulled simultaneously in one line. The 662 pupils of the school have been busy in their classrooms crafting their own crackers out of recycled material including cardboard toilet roll tubes.



The festive fundraiser for the school is taking place outside in Hudson Field from 11am with parents, students from neighbouring secondary schools, and over 50 staff from The Harold set to pull together to make sure the event goes off with a bang. They are aiming to snap open at least 1200 crackers at this community event, which will be fuelled by lots of festive cheer, music, treats and some surprise guests on the day. The crackers will be pulled at midday.

Glasthule 2022

Our May 2022 newsletter featured a drawing of the streetscape of Glasthule - "Glasthule 2022" by Fergal MacCabe. Fergal generously decided to donate the piece to the community. The photo below shows Fergal (centre) with his wife Brid and Fr Denis Kennedy when he recently presented the work. The artwork is now on display in St Joseph's Pastoral Centre.



Brid MacCabe, Fergal MacCabe with Fr Denis Kennedy

A new generation?

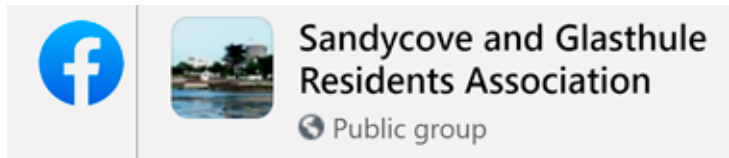
Phil "Pip" Connolly has been running his barber business in Glasthule for over 40 years.

He started working with his father at the age of 16. His grandson is now showing an interest in the business. Maybe he'll follow in his grandad's footsteps.



Pip "the legend" Connolly with his grandson Alex John O'Hagan

Our Facebook Group



Our Facebook Group, which is appropriately called Sandy Cove and Glashule Residents Association, now has over 3,600 members and is active every day. It 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
- 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.

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>

Competition Time

The Pavilion Theatre have kindly given us 2 sets of 2x tickets to Pat & Faye Shortt in Well on January 14th.



To enter, answer the following question and send your answer to info@sandycoveandglashule.ie by 5pm on Friday December 16th.

Alongside Pat Shortt, which actor made up the other half of comedy duo D'Unbelievables? Hint: he is starring in John B. Keane's *The Matchmaker* in March in the Pavilion Theatre.

Boxing Ballerinas

In our May 2022 newsletter we featured an article on a mural that Cathy McGovern commissioned Dublin artist Solus to paint on her house in Sandy Cove.

Shortly after that she received a letter from DLRCCO asking her to remove the art work or apply for retention. After a retention application and subsequent Bord Pleanala appeal failed, the end of the road was reached. With the threat of fines and legal action she felt she had no option but to have the mural painted over.



John McMahon about to paint over the last of the mural.



The ghosts of the ballerinas.

On 20th October she rang local painter John McMahon to see if he could do the job. On 26th October John painted over the mural.

After the mural was gone Cathy expressed how she felt: "Yes I'm very disappointed but I don't want that to take away from all the joy the project has brought to myself and others in the community – and further afield!"

She'd also like to say how really grateful she is for all the support given locally – the lovely comments, letters, cards etc.



The mural in April

Local Services – Good News?

It is easy to talk negatively about public services and it often comes less naturally to many of us to acknowledge when services have improved. I have lived for 28 years in Sandycove and I am happy to acknowledge that over that time, and especially in recent years, my experience of the quality of the services provided by Dún Laoghaire County Council has noticeably improved. I am happy to take this opportunity to tell you about this.

The sight of workers out and about in the seafront area doing routine maintenance, such as clearing drains and pulling up weeds on footpaths, is much more frequent than it used to be. Some time ago on a Saturday or Sunday morning Newtownsmith Green would often be strewn with litter from the night before, but it appears that a big increase in litter bins and encouragement to take litter home when the bins are full has made a field of litter a thing of the past.

I have had excellent results from the “Report It” facility on the Council website. On two occasions in recent months I reported graffiti on public property visible from my home using the facility and on both occasions I received a prompt response and contractors for the Council removed the graffiti reasonably soon after.

Recent interactions between members of the Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association Committee and Council officials about flooding issues have been among



Otranto Park

the most positive and constructive I have known in my time as a committee member. It is a very refreshing development.

Compared with the way it used to be, Otranto Park has been transformed and is now a really pleasant place to walk through and to sit looking out to sea. Moreover, in part thanks to cooperation with the Council, it has become the site for Imogen Stuart’s new striking and fitting sculpture.

Finally, at the risk of being controversial, I wish to mention the seafront cycleway. It has improved the seafront hugely. Some people perceive a conflict between motorists and cyclists, but must the two groups inevitably be opposed? This need not be so. I am a motorist and walker, but not currently a cyclist. I am more than happy to share some road space with cyclists for a harmonious way of living. I have heard it alleged that the cycleway is hardly used. This is simply not true. I live beside the cycleway and I can see with my own eyes that it is very well used by many cyclists from cycle sport enthusiasts to families with children.

I know not everything is as good as we would wish all the time, but I think we should acknowledge when some good happens.

John Elliot
Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association
Committee Member

DLR “Report it” Form

Letters to the Editor

We’d love to hear from you.

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

Letters may be edited or cut.

Email: editor@sandycoveandglasthule.ie

or post to

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

Local Councillors

The last local elections took place in 2019. Three years on we asked the councillors for our LEA (Local Electoral Area) of Dún Laoghaire the following questions:

- **What do you like most about Sandycove and Glasthule?**
- **What do you see as the biggest issue facing Sandycove and Glasthule?**
- **As a Councillor, what would you still like to achieve for Sandycove and Glasthule in the remainder of your term of office?**

This is how they answered.

Clr Mary Fayne (Fine Gael)



What I like most about Sandycove and Glasthule is how near the sea we are and the close community interaction we enjoy. This has been enhanced by incredible work of local business and the support of the council in the recent upgrades to the layout of Glasthule. The opening of Hanks and the upcoming arrival of Butlers chocolate and coffee will be a great addition to Glasthule village. Whilst Sandycove has suffered in recent times with closures of shops and restaurants, the reopening of Fitzgerald's under the management of Will and the opening of Sandycove Store and Yard, which is an emporium of small independent business including a coffee shop and arts & crafts, provides locals with plenty of choice to meet and socialise.

The biggest issue facing Glasthule is traffic delays in part due to queues at traffic lights.

The completion of the baths will be a highlight for many and a great addition to the sea front. I'm looking forward to being part of a new Tidy Towns Initiative being set up in Glasthule. I'd like to finish by wishing Peter Caviston and his team every success in their fabulous new restaurant.

086-461 1626, mfayne@cllr.dlrco.ie

Clr Lorraine Hall (Fine Gael)



I love visiting the village to spend quality time with friends and family. A perfect day for me involves a swim at the Forty Foot, followed by coffee in Glasthule, and a wander around Sandycove & Glasthule's great independent shops. You can find everything you need in Glasthule and have a really great day out.

I was glad the Council reversed the changes it made to the Cowshed Carpark, and I was happy to contribute to making that happen. Sandycove & Glasthule are fantastic but I feel the village could benefit from public realm investment, similar to what was done in Monkstown Village. As part of this, I'd like to see the road and pavements upgraded and attractive seating, trees, and planting introduced throughout the village.

I am always available to assist residents and traders with any issues they encounter. I will continue to work closely with residents and traders to secure Council funding for festivals and events, improve traffic management throughout the village, eliminate flooding risk, introduce better signage, reduce trip hazards within the village, as well as the provision of better public amenities.

087-790 5555, llhall@cllr.dlrco.ie, www.lorrainehall.ie

Melisa Halpin (People Before Profit)



086-380 5793
mhalpin@cllr.dlrco.ie
www.melisahalpin.ie

Tom Kivlehan (Green Party)



087-373 2518
tkivlehan@cllr.dlrco.ie

Cllr Justin Moylan (Fianna Fáil)



There isn't one thing that I like most, but I do love June the 16th and the fantastic celebration of Ulysses in Sandycove & Glathule. The unique culture and heritage make the area a joy to represent in local politics. The community and traders have come together to create a celebrated and unique atmosphere in the village and it is this atmosphere that I really enjoy in Sandycove & Glathule.

Traffic is a significant issue. The introduction of the CMR (Coastal Mobility Route) has been excellent on the coastal side of the village however exiting the area along the Glathule road towards Dún Laoghaire has become problematic and is an issue that requires attention.

The flooding that can occur on Newtownsmith is one issue I would like to resolve. This has been raised on many occasions and has caused distress to homeowners previously. I would also like to see a resolution to the parking issues around Sandycove avenues east and west which have been exacerbated with the increased interest in sea swimming.

087-313 8815, jmoylan@cllr.dlrcco.ie

Cllr Juliet O'Connell (Labour Party)



The business community that comes together to support each other in local initiatives is always a joy to support in Glathule village. It is always inspiring when local Glathule business owners collaborate to strengthen the community experience for customers and residents. In addition to a coastal walk the village is very inviting and welcoming. It's just magic!

The current energy crisis will affect small businesses and residents of Sandycove and Glathule along with its neighbouring towns and villages across the county. We need to unite together to highlight that indigenous national supply is not affected by war. The price hikes need to be questioned by us all to combat this issue.

I am an advocate for economic vibrant growth for Sandycove and Glathule and I urge readers to continue to shop local and support the local economy as much as possible. As a valued and loved coastal town it is imperative. I continue to support climate resilient initiatives of DLRCC. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting me in my endeavours to be of assistance to you all.

087-270 7745, joconnell@cllr.dlrcco.ie, www.julietoconnell.ie

Dave Quinn (Social Democrats)



087-247 3448

dquinn@cllr.dlrcco.ie

Note:

The Councillors are listed in alphabetical order of their surname.

Where a Councillor's listing is incomplete, we hadn't received their response to our questions at the time of going to the printers.

Councillors were contacted by email and text.





Thank you to our neighbours and all the community for your support while we created our new restaurant. We are now open and look forward to welcoming you.

Phone 01 2809245 or book online at cavistons.com

New Restaurant Opening Hours
(Subject to adjustment):

Wednesday 5pm-9pm
Thursday 12pm-9pm
Friday 12pm-9.30pm
Saturday 12pm-9.30pm
Sunday 12pm-5pm

Tidy Towns

Arising out of interactions with the local DLR council since Covid, the following group has been formed:

Glasthule & Sandycove Tidy Towns.

The main objective for which this group was established is to develop, enhance and sustain the physical and social environment of Glasthule & Sandycove. The main objective will seek to incorporate the sustainable goals which incorporate biodiversity and sustainability to the environment.

This was established 25 October 2022. A temporary committee has been set up to be able to apply for grants that closed on that date.

Chairperson: Rithika Moore Vadera

Secretary: Fiona O'Reilly

Treasurer: Robert Mitchell

On the basis of getting start up grant funding, volunteers of all ages are being sought from the community.

They require volunteers and anyone who would like be an active Committee Member.

It is aimed to have the first collective gathering in a month's time, when funding is approved.

All enquiries please email gstidytown@wiltongallery.ie, call 01 5472158 or drop into the Wilton Gallery.

A copy of the constitution is available on request by email.

Beach Cleaning

If you're a local looking to volunteer or a company seeking opportunities to work on your CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) or ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) goals this could be the answer.



Flossie and the Beach Cleaners is a CLG and a registered charity.

For more information see:

www.flossieandthebeachcleaners.com



Joyce Tower: the end of an odyssey!

On July 27th DLR County Council took over the lease for the Joyce Tower from the OPW, replacing Fáilte Ireland. This was first mooted in 2012 and it has taken till now to realise. Readers will recall that the closure of the Tower during the economic downturn gave rise to the establishment of the Friends of Joyce Tower Society. At the time of its foundation, at the instigation of Vincent Browne, FJT was expecting to provide volunteers to staff the Tower for about 3 months! It was never expected to go on for 10 years. Several times we thought that we were within touching distance of our objective, only to be disappointed. It is worth noting that this project has close parallels with the Odyssey itself – ten years of setbacks and challenges with the occasional tantalizing sight of the final destination.

At the same time as DLR took over the lease, a new management company Joyce Tower and Museum CLG (JTM) signed a licence with DLR to manage the Tower. This is the same mechanism as DLR have used in the case of the Pavilion Theatre and Dalkey Heritage Centre. The board members include two nominated by FJT – Andrew Basquille and Séamus Cannon and two nominated by DLR – Dave Lawless, Tourism Officer and Deirdre Black, Heritage Officer. Trish Cronin, Helen Gallivan and Frank Cogan are the other board members, with Frank, a former ambassador as chair. Fáilte will no longer be involved in management though it has some responsibility for the collection of artifacts in the museum.

The first priority was to appoint a manager/curator and we're delighted that Dr. Alice Ryan, a noted Joycean expert with a strong business background will take up the position on December 1st. Other urgent issues are dealing with the pigeons that got used to living in the upper reaches of the Tower during Covid, and water ingress arising from structural defects in the building.

FJT volunteers will continue to play a key role in staffing the Tower. The volunteer role has been stitched into all aspects of the programme of the new management. FJT, established as a stopgap measure ten years ago, has grown into an important community organization in its own right. Through its many activities FJT provides a great service to its members. It was a huge help to many of us through Covid, and recently organized a most enjoyable visit to St. Gerand le Puy, Joyce's last place of residence in France. It's worth mentioning that the Finnegans Wake reading group has resumed in Fitzgeralds on Tuesday mornings. A particularly significant contribution is the planned publication by FJT of the history of the Tower as a museum through the personal recollections of previous curators Vivien Igoe and Robert Nicholson.

Local management is what FJT has been looking for since its foundation. It has been a long three months, but it is a huge credit to the members of FJT and to early chairpersons Tom Fitzgerald, Julia Beckett, James Holohan, Séamus Cannon and their committees. Current chairperson Julie Larkin has presided over this latest development and is anxious to recruit new members for a new phase in the life of the Friends of Joyce Tower.

The establishment of JTM as a new local management company and the appointment of a manager means that the Joyce Tower will be in a position to face the future with real confidence and a sense of purpose. There will be challenges obviously but there is also determination to make it work.

Séamus Cannon Friends of Joyce Tower Society



An Cathaoirleach Mary Hanafin with some volunteers, including Julie Larkin, in front second from the right. (Photo Peter Cavanagh)



An Cathaoirleach Mary Hanafin handing a key to the Tower to Frank Cogan, chair of Joyce Tower and Museum clg, which now takes over management. (photo Peter Cavanagh)

Business Updates

As 2022 draws to a close it's great to see businesses opening or reopening but sad to see some close. Overall there seem to be more opening.

Cavistons

September saw the opening of Cavistons new premises. It consists of a restaurant downstairs and a seabar upstairs for small plates. The fare in both is mainly seafood, but there are meat and vegetarian options.

Congratulations to Peter Caviston who was named "Business Leader of the Year" at the recent DLR Chamber awards night.



David, Peter, Maura and Mark Caviston at the opening of the restaurant



Peter Caviston accepting his award

DPC Kitchen

DPC Kitchen is a new venture in the village by Michael Ryan. DPC stands for Dublin Pizza Company, but Michael is keen to point out that it's not just pizza that they offer. They also serve burgers, charcuterie boards, gelato and beer & wine.

DPC Kitchen and Hank's is an interesting cooperation. Hank's caters for the daytime and DPC Kitchen caters for the evening customers. They also supply Fitzgerald's with their pizza offering.

There's live music Friday evenings from 6-8. With the new surrounding, the seating area should be a bit more comfortable when the weather is inclement.

dpckitchen.ie



The Greedy Eagle



The Eagle House has been renamed The Greedy Eagle and is due to open soon. It is now owned by the Loyola Group who also run The Old Spot and The Leopardstown Inn among others.

From their director of marketing: "At the heart of The Greedy Eagle, lies a passion for quality food and an excellent pint. Step into our brand-new venue where you will be met with a warm welcome from our dynamic and energetic team, delicious menus, and comfortable atmosphere to relax with family and friends.

We are looking forward to welcoming in all our neighbours to our venue soon."

ODELLS Bistro



After almost 32 years chef proprietor of ODELLS Bistro Johnny Waddell has decided it's time to hang up his apron.

Having studied hotel management in Cathal Brugha Street, Johnny had been working in the US. He came home for Italia '90. An opportunity arose to take over an Italian restaurant in Sandycove and so the much loved neighbourhood restaurant opened its doors in January 1991.

One of the restaurant's claims to fame was the visit of Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman during the filming of "Far and Away".

The restaurant closed on October 29th 2022 and will be dearly missed by its many customers.

Johnny thanks all staff, past and present, and wonderful customers for their service and support over all those years.

Tom O'Connor's

Not that long ago there were three butcher shops in Glasthule. Now there are none. Peter (Peadar) Dunne retired in 2012, Noel Kavanagh in 2021 and now Tom O'Connor is leaving Glasthule.

On 6th October 1997 he set up a butchers - "O'Toole's" in Glasthule with his business partner Danny O'Toole. In 2011, Danny left the business, but Tom stayed and the butcher shop was renamed with his name.

Tom's shop was an organic butchers: "meat produced as nature intended".

Tom speaks about the great sense of community in the village, even among competitors. He recounted how on one occasion he had to close the shop because of ill health and Noel Kavanagh bought all his stock. On another occasion Noel's vacuum packer broke down and Tom facilitated the use of his machine.

Tom is from Clane, Co Kildare. He still lives there. After 25 years working in Glasthule Tom was finding the daily commute from and to Clane stressful and dangerous. He would leave home at 05:45 but it was the drive back that was taking a toll. Recently after an accident blocked the M50, he ended up trying to get home via Glendalough!

Tom is taking a short break before going back to work as a butcher but not running a business.



the eagle has landed

AND HE CAN'T WAIT TO
MEET HIS NEIGHBOURS

OPENING SOON
& NOW HIRING!

ANY QUERIES,
CALL EDDIE; 085 119 6795



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The Baths



Friendly Reminder

The annual rate for SAGRA subscription is €15 for individual or €22 for a household.

You can pay your membership subscription online at www.sagra.ie

You can also pay by bank transfer:

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or

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

The yellow hoardings are down and at the time of this newsletter going to print, the Baths look nearly ready to open. We look forward to an announcement.

Thanks to HeyDublin.ie for permission to use the drone photographs above.

A New Bathing Establishment and a Coastal Drive for Sandycove

Fergal MacCabe

Exciting New Proposals

Two dramatic new projects which will transform Sandycove have just been revealed.

With the increasing popularity of sea swimming in the last few years it has been obvious that facilities in the Dun Laoghaire are not matching demand. In particular, severe pressure has been put on the Sandycove Point area arising from limited changing facilities, the lack of a safe bathing pool and in particular the lack of sufficient car parking for swimmers and visitors.

Also, motorists have been inconvenienced by the interruption of their drive around the shoreline of scenic Dublin Bay when, confronted by the Sandycove Avenue East/West block, they have to divert onto the crowded main road to reach the coast again at Bullock Harbour.

In response, our active local authority has engaged the best town planning and architectural minds to come up with new initiatives to resolve these dilemmas and in response an impressive Sandycove Bathing Establishment together with a broad new avenue linking Dun Laoghaire to Bullock Harbour are proposed.

The New Bathing Establishment

The centrepiece will be a magnificent open air pool with frontage to Otranto Place and Sandycove Avenue West. This will be overlooked by an elegant modern structure providing a basement solarium with ultra violet ray and electro therapy as well as a sun loggia and sun cafe. These new therapeutic methods will impart energy to the body and doctors and nurses will be in attendance to further enhance their health giving regime.

A hydrotherapy pool will also be provided together with a seawater swimming area which will form part of a grand seaside promenade with a central bandstand and Palm Garden linking to Sandycove Green and combining with it to provide a spectacular landscaped park and a large parking area catering to visitors and day trippers.

This dramatic intervention has evolved from a national competition in which the deserving winner was the well known architect Mr J. R. Boyd-Barrett.

A Coastal Drive

The eminent town planning consultant Manning Robertson who advises the local authority on the future of Dun Laoghaire, has long promoted the concept of a continuous coastal drive along the shore of Dublin Bay from Sandymount to Killiney and observes that:

‘The coast road then continues to Sandycove where it ends abruptly, and it is necessary to turn into the main omnibus and tramway route along Breffni Road and continue for some three hundred yards until the coast can again be reached at Bullock Harbour....The linking

up of Sandycove with Harbour Road and the widening of Leslie Avenue in Dalkey present no unusual difficulties and the construction of this road would add greatly to the pleasure of a drive around the Bay’.

Hopefully, this beneficial infrastructural initiative will soon come to pass. Not only will it enhance the pleasure of a Sunday afternoon drive but assist in the opening up of backlands to allow for the construction of further villas in this most sought after location.

Back to the Future

As you have probably guessed by now, the year in which these grandiose schemes were promoted was 1937.

The Bathing Establishment proposal was then costed at £100,000 and its construction was being actively advanced when the Second World War broke out and it was put on hold. Resurrected in 1945, the bill had risen to £160,000 and it was abandoned.

Manning Robertson’s flippant dismissal of the difficulties facing his Sandycove Avenue East and West connection is hard to comprehend as it would have required the acquisition and demolition of six or seven good quality dwellings, three of which are today Protected Structures. Nevertheless, the line of the road link survived until the 1960s and the fine semi-detached houses built on the southern end of Browne’s Lane (the cul de sac from Sandycove Avenue East to the sea) were set back to conform with it.



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The Ghosts Of Fitzzy's Past

A SEASONAL FANTASY

by BREANDAN O'BROIN

'Tis the night before Christmas

Not a seat in the house

Men singing and shouting

And the women are worse

It is Will's first Christmas in charge in the pub where he's worked for many the year. Fitzzy's Glashule is his patch now and he wants Christmas Eve to be observed with the grace, gentility and decorum of former times when the previous owner Tom puts a paper crown on his head and sings 'She Moved through the Fair' while standing on the counter, balancing a pint in each hand. Not a drop spilt. Genius. Sure, you know yourself.

Now it's coming close to midnight and Will wants his clientele to go quietly. He knows there may be other visitors later because Tom had told him so at takeover time.

'The visitors arrive - if they arrive - after midnight and like to be left undisturbed'. Tom didn't have a clue who those visitors might be, or else he wasn't telling.

'But I don't think it's Santa, not with the amount of drink they put away'.

'Time ladies and gentlemen please, have yiz no Christmas Trees to go home to?' Will pleads, and much to his surprise, his voice carries weight. Everyone soon hits the road, literally in some cases, but nothing serious, a few bumps and minor abrasions.

Will and his team tidy up and Will is spotted leaving out a bottle of Black Bush, four large bottles of stout and a couple of small bottles of Pinot Grigio. Oh, and a packet of Solpadine and two packets of Tayto, one cheese and onion, the other Caviston's Wild Atlantic Sea Salt & Butler's Pantry Mature Cider Vinegar. Posh Glashule like.

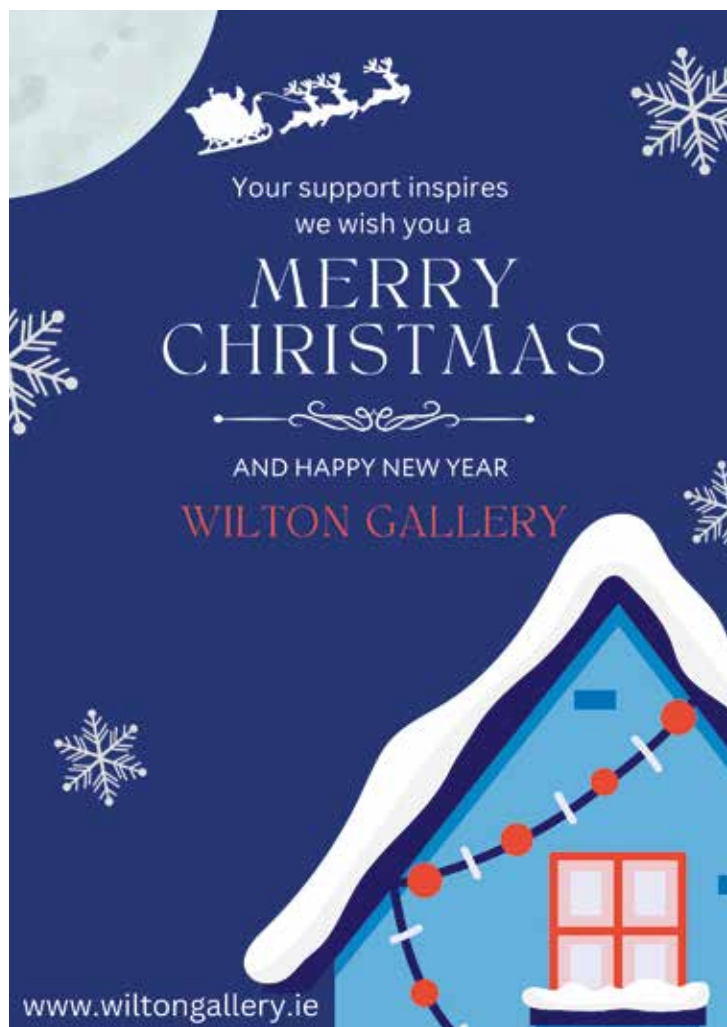
'Who in God's name is that Christmas feast for?' asks a young barman.

'Not a notion' answers Will as he dims the lights and steps into the Silent Night.

Charlie and Annie are first to arrive as it only right and proper. It is still their place after all. Always was, always will be. Fitzgerald's. Their name over the door; the best regarded pub in the whole of the South County. Charlie is dapper as always, a joke at the ready. Annie is elegant as ever, in a tailored coat of shining red, the colour of a reindeer's nose. Charlie reaches out ever-fondly to Annie.

'Another year and still together, alive and kicking. Well, maybe not fully alive', his little joke.

'Wasn't it a grand Vigil Mass' says Annie,



‘Father Denis in his prime, it’s younger he’s looking’.

‘A great crowd’ agrees Charlie. ‘Some of them even older than ourselves’.

‘But no Father Billy’ says Annie, sadly.

Two thinnish men arrive, both wearing paint-spattered overalls. One clutches a notebook of sketches, still damp from the brush. A dramatic red-haired young woman is with them. She appears to have travelled by bike.

‘Happy Christmas Patrick and Edward’, says Charlie.

‘Happy Christmas Shelah’, says Annie.

‘How’s the painting going?’ asks Charlie.

‘Eddie’s still painting people with dead crows in the background’ sniffs Patrick.

‘And Patrick’s still producing swirly misty things, bogs mostly’ harrumphs Eddie.

‘How are things in the Abbey Shelah?’ asks Annie.

‘WB Yeats still regards me as a lion,’ purrs Shelah.

Artists Paddy Collins, Eddie Maguire and actor Shelah Richards (for it is they) sit and sip the Sandycove Christmas Eve away. This too is their patch. This is where they come back to; it’s where they never really left.

‘I think it’s time we had a row’ says Paddy.

‘I won’t argue with that’, says Eddie. ‘Oh alright, I will’.

‘Drama queens, the pair of them’, says Shelah in a theatrical aside capable of being heard in the gods of the old Abbey.

‘Takes one to know one’ shriek the lads in unison.

‘Ah lads, lassies, come on now, no rows, not on the night that’s in it’ says Charlie.

‘We’d be locked by now in the old days’, says Paddy.

‘Locked out more like, how many times did I bar the pair of them?’ asks Charlie.

‘There’s always time for one more’ says Shelah.

‘We’ll drink to that’, chorus the two argumentative artists.

Shelah reaches for the Tayto. The Wild Atlantic Sea Salt option, obviously. Always an actor of great taste. She opens the pack with a theatrical flourish. Eddie and Paddy split the cheese and onion between them.

‘Crisps would put a thirst on a man’ says Eddie.

‘For once I agree with your boring sense of

perspective’ says Paddy.

‘I wish that portrait of James Joyce would stop looking at me’ says Eddie.

‘No dead birds’ comments Shelah.

‘Solpadine all round’ prescribes Annie, sensing things were getting out of hand.

Charlie expertly pours the drinks; Bush for the boys, Grigio for the girls. Annie swizzles up a round of Solpo & Fever Few Elderflower Tonics, the must-have Christmas cocktail of SoCoDu in twenty-two.

It’s good to be home again. Christmas Eve in Fitzzy’s. Heaven.

Outside, the angels are joyfully singing. A boy child has been born.

And the snow falling gently over Sandycove, upon all the living and the dead.



The Ghosts; back in their days.

Patrick Patrick (Paddy) Collins was one of Ireland’s foremost painters of the 20th Century. He was elected to Aosdána in 1981 and had a major retrospective exhibition organised by the Arts Council in 1982. Paddy lived in and around Sandycove and died in 1994, aged 83.

Edward Edward (Eddie) McGuire was best known for his meticulous studies of dead birds and portraits of writers, poets and politicians. He was elected a member of the RHA in 1978 and a member of Aosdána in 1984. Edward lived and worked in his house-cum-studio on Sandycove Avenue West for the last twenty years of his life. He died in 1986, aged 54.

Shelah At age 16, Shelah Richards met W.B Yeats who was reported to have inquired, “Who is the girl with a head like a lion?” Shelah appeared in the world premiere of *The Plough and the Stars* in 1926. She later worked as a Producer in RTE. Shelah lived directly opposite Edward McGuire in Sandycove almost until her death in 1985, aged 82. She was forever on her bike around the village.

Charlie & Annie Fitzgerald’s was home to the one-and-only Charlie Fitzgerald, his wife Annie, and the Fitzgerald family from 1960 until February 2022 when Will Agar, the long-time manager, took over the reins of this iconic literary pub.

Dates For Your Diary

SAGRA Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on **Monday November 28th at 8pm** in the Presentation Brothers Hall (across the road from St Joseph's church).

Enter by the laneway.

This will be our first in person meeting since 2019 and we're really looking forward to it. Formalities will be kept to a minimum.

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.

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

Annual subscriptions will be accepted on the night.

dlr LexIcon

Throughout the year dlr libraries host a wide variety of events for both adults and children. One of the best ways to keep informed of upcoming events is to subscribe to the library e:bulletin, either through the library website at www.libraries.dlrcoco.ie or by contacting your local library. Alongside the e:bulletin, the website contains a wealth of information on all of the services provided by your local library.

A further way to be notified of library events is to follow dlr libraries on Eventbrite. Additionally, events are also shared across dlr libraries social media channels, which include Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Christmas in Sandycove and Glashule

Friday 25th November - Turning on Christmas Lights, meeting at Butlers Pantry at 4.45pm, Turning on in Glashule at 5:30pm.

Saturday 3rd December - Santa comes to the village at 2pm: grotto and presents.

Tara Céilí Band

Fíor Céilí

St Joseph's Parish Pastoral Centre, Glashule, hall beside church.

Free parking across the road.

Tea served. Bring a friend. Please wear soft shoes.

Saturday 3rd December, 8pm to 11 pm, €10.



Antiques Fair

Fiona O'Reilly will host an antiques fair on **3rd & 4th December** at the Wilton Gallery.

Kristmas Komedý

Devised and directed by Lua McClraith, presented by Liliput Players

A fun Christmas Entertainment with Stories, Poems, Sketches and Carols (The Alternative Variety)

In The Lexicon Studio Dún Laoghaire

Friday December 16th: 8pm

Saturday December 17th: 3pm and 8 pm

Tickets €16, kids (11+) €12

Booking Line open now 085 7116921

Pavilion Theatre

10 & 11 Dec Irish National Opera: Don Pasquale

17 Dec Eimear Quinn: A Christmas Concert

18 Dec A Christmas Carol

6 & 7 Jan Keith Barry: Mind Games

14 Jan Pat & Faye Shortt: Well

26 Jan Reeling in the Showband Years

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



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