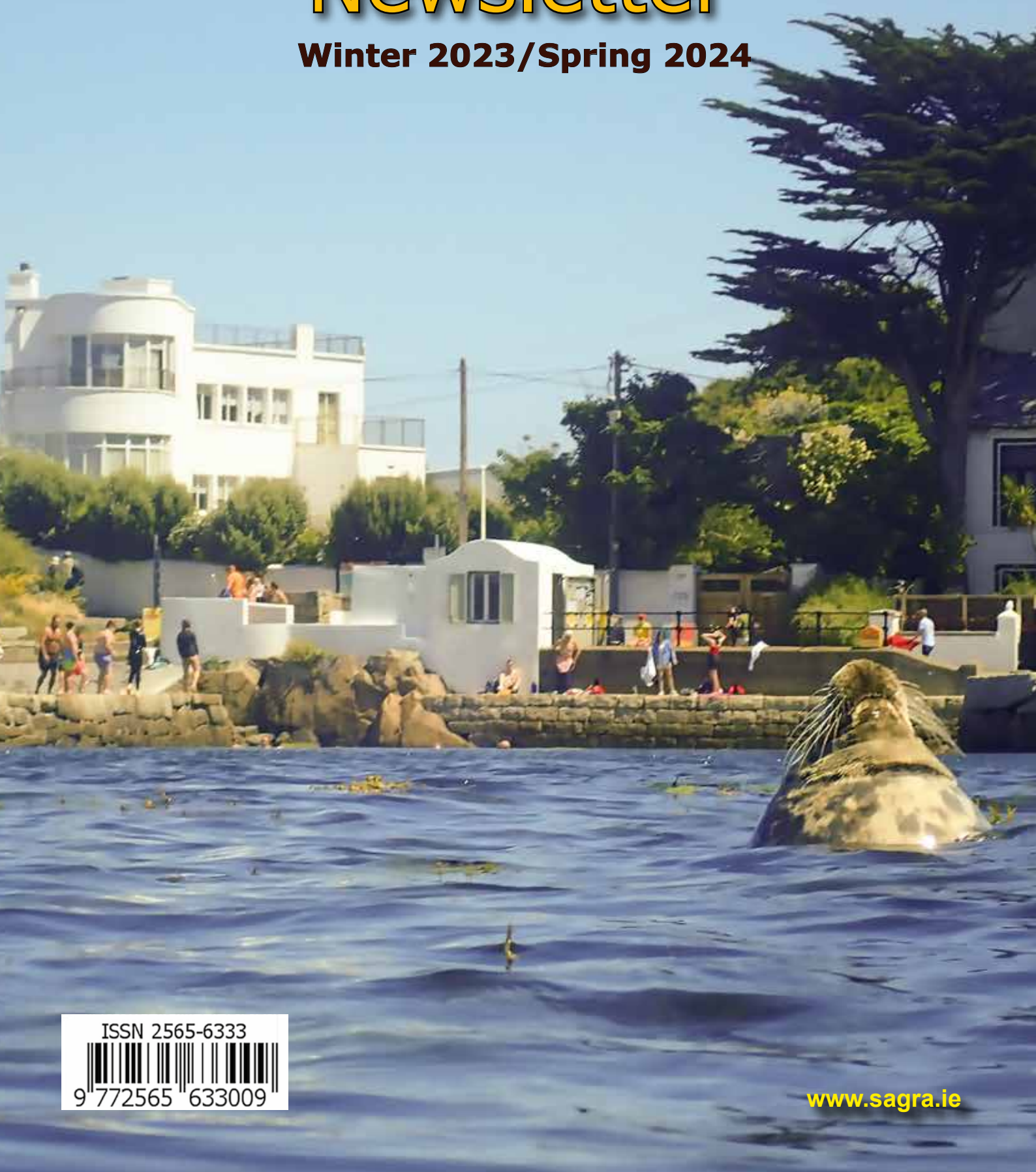


Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association Newsletter

Winter 2023/Spring 2024



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MONDAY - SATURDAY



GLASTHULE VILLAGE OPP.
THE CHURCH





Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will take place on Monday **November 27th at 8pm in St Joseph's Pastoral Centre.**

See page 22 for more details.

Subscriptions

We 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:

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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.

Letters to the Editor

If you would like to be considered for inclusion in the May 2024 newsletter please get in touch. Please provide your name, postal address and phone number.

Contact details are below.

Advertising

If you are interested in advertising in our May 2024 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 Sandy Cove Road,
Sandy Cove**

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.

Dear Resident,

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter.

The past three years of my role as Chairperson have been more than turbulent. The societal changes that we have witnessed, that derived from covid, have radically altered the way many of us live our lives, and indeed altered the way we engage with our local community and our workplace.

The pandemic sadly took away the lives of some wonderful members of our community, and this has had a profound effect on us all. The changes introduced by the authorities during the pandemic, on an interim basis to help the population manage how we commute are now being revisited, and our views are being canvassed.

We await with interest to learn about the strategic proposals to modify and regularise the design plan to improve the area in which we live.

Despite the turbulent times, we have also witnessed some great additions to the public realm. The historic Dún Laoghaire Baths have opened, with a magnificent statue of Roger Casement, and the Imogen Stuart sculpture in Otranto Park is a triumph of community activity working perfectly in partnership with the local authority to celebrate the best work of a local artist of international renown.

We are extremely lucky to live in such a wonderful location, and we're incredibly fortunate to be served by such a wonderful group of local traders.

I would like to thank our local councillors, our politicians and the County Council officials. I have observed first-hand the incredible work they do for our area; I for one would like to thank them for their support. Finally, I would like to thank the SAGRA committee, for their unstinting efforts. Through their offices, they deliver an excellent forum for members to channel views and they coordinate member views to deliver positive changes in our area.

John Conroy
Chairperson

Residents Meeting 29th May 2023

St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, Glasthule 8PM

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

Cormac Devlin, TD
Richard Boyd Barrett, TD
Cllr Justin Moylan

Cllr Tom Kivlehan
Cllr Melisa Halpin
Cllr Mary Fayne

Chairperson's address

In his address, the Chair:

- mentioned the well-attended AGM in November 2022 which had very lively discussions on several issues.
- introduced new members of the committee.
- updated the meeting on several developments and issues arising from the AGM:
 - re flooding, the Council have communicated that by Q3/Q4 2024 a drain solution will be in situ for Sandycove Green
 - Bob Waddell plaque – investigations made and committee members currently in discussion with family
 - derelict building in O'Donnell Gardens brought to the attention of the Council through a resolution proposed by Cllr Moylan
 - Aircoach – a letter has been written to the MD of Aircoach regarding the current performance of the route operating in Sandycove and Glasthule

Albert Road traffic - a letter outlining the residents' concern has been written to the traffic management department.

- thanked the advertisers for their support of the latest newsletter.

Guest Presentation

The meeting's guest presentation was given by Sgt James Malone, Garda Síochána (together with Sgt Georgina Reilly and Garda Angela Murray also in attendance). The presentation covered key issues affecting areas like Sandycove and Glasthule on an ongoing basis, namely:

- burglary
- car break ins
- theft of cars
- bogus callers/workmen and scams

Regarding unsocial behaviour in Hudson Park, Sgt Malone has met with the parks department to discuss improvements in lighting and access into the park. Sgt Malone also noted that he is available to discuss social behaviour issues and policing. He can be contacted on james.b.malone@garda.ie .

Floor discussion

Sandycove Green:

With the Dún Laoghaire baths re-opening and seafront walking increasing, discussion focused on the questions of what the future of the green is and what can be done to improve it?

- Cormac Devlin, TD, believes the council needs to ensure that there are bins, and more disabled car parking spaces.
- Cllr Kivlehan – believed that it was important to maintain the open space – but could be better landscaped, better

litter facilities.

- Richard Boyd Barrett, TD – enhancements better than major changes

Lack of wheelchair access to the lower areas of the baths – council resistance to urgency.

Regarding the green's carpark, it was noted by several councillors that the carpark reopening was just a reinstatement of what was already there prior to the Baths redevelopment.

POTENTIAL REVERSAL OF THE TRAFFIC ALONG THE COAST FROM LINK ROAD TO THE PEOPLE'S PARK:

As part of Dún Laoghaire Living Streets, it is proposed to change the traffic direction between Link Road and Park Road. There were differing opinions at the meeting about the net benefits of the change with some pointing out that there would be an increase in traffic in the Glasthule area and others highlighting the easier access along the coast road towards Blackrock and Dublin City; or vice versa in the other direction and then others arguing for the status quo to remain. It was also discussed that the planned traffic flow trial at the People's Park was needed. Councillors Kivlehan, Halpin and Moylan commented on the fact that the traffic department was going to trial a free flow (where each direction of the junction will get its own exclusive green light) at the People's Park, but the timeline for the trial was unknown, and the traffic management department had not responded to the councillors' information requests. They also stressed the need for residents to understand how the Living Streets proposals would impact Sandycove and Glasthule and to input into the public consultation.

Other traffic matters discussed included the lack of parking enforcement on Dundela Park and potential safety issues for residents because of the current parking environment.

OTHER ISSUES:

Meeting attendees made the following remarks:

- Lexicon library – children's area on an inappropriate level – given need for evacuation. (Cllr Moylan asked for an email to be sent to him for discussions with the Lexicon)
- Derelict building on O'Donnell Gardens - Cllrs Moylan and Halpin thanked for their assistance in dealing with this issue.
- Council grass cutting - Lack of consistent approach by the Parks department to the mowing of grass throughout the council area.
- Loss of diversity of retail in Glasthule - there is a notable lessening of retail diversity in Glasthule (e.g., loss of butchers)
- 40 Foot bathing area - maintenance teams in Sandycove be thanked as well as thanks for installation of the new railings.
- Minimal maintenance of parks, e.g. Eden Terrace – Cllr Moylan happy to intervene with Parks on this matter

Sheehan's

Sheehan's Medical recently moved to Dún Laoghaire Shopping centre but did you know that it started in Glasthule over 85 years ago?

John Sheehan was born in Cahirciveen, Co Kerry in 1905. He was the fourth of six children. His parents ran The Iveragh Stores in Cahirciveen. In 1923 John moved to Dublin to study Medicine at U.C.D. He qualified with honours in 1929 and undertook postgraduate studies in the U.K. and Vienna. In 1932 he returned to Ireland and became a General Practitioner (G.P.) in Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare. He married Jenny Joyce in April 1933. In 1934 he moved to Duleek, Co. Meath and in 1937 he moved to Dún Laoghaire where he was appointed as the Dispensary Medical Officer in the Dún Laoghaire No 2 Dispensary District, a position he held until he retired in 1975 at the age of 70.



1970, Left to right: John Sheehan, a cousin, Eileen Sheehan, a cousin

In 1937 John purchased Bella Vista (21 Summerhill Road) to use as a medical practice and family home. The family moved in in January 1938. John described the house as somewhat ramshackle and a bit of a



Bella Vista in the 1930's

rookery but he could see the potential in the place as very suitable for a medical practice and as a home so it was decided without delay to purchase the house with its great location and ample spacious gardens with plenty of drive in and parking space. It proved a providential purchase for all those reasons.

In 1958 Bartley (John & Jenny's eldest son) qualified as a doctor. In 1961 he joined his father making it a two person practice. Sadly, Bartley died in April 2000 shortly after he retired as a GP.

John Sheehan's daughter, Catherine is currently writing "a fond remembrance of my early life in Glasthule". If you have a memory of the house or the Sheehan's that you would like to share, she would be delighted to hear from you at catherinesheehan98@gmail.com.

Our Facebook Group



Our Facebook Group, - called **Sandy Cove and Glasthule Residents Association** is growing apace and now has over 4,800 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

Pavilion Theatre Tickets Competition



The Pavilion Theatre have kindly given us 2 sets of family (4) tickets to A Christmas Carol on Thu 14 Dec, 4.30pm.

Back by popular demand following a sold-out run in 2022! A Christmas Carol is Aaron Monaghan and Bryan Burroughs' playful, physical

storytelling, stage adaptation of Charles Dickens' much loved novella.

To enter, answer the following question and send your answer to editor@sandycoveandglashule.ie with the subject "Pavilion" by 5pm on Friday December 8th.

In a Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, what is the name of Ebenezer Scrooge's faithful clerk, and the father of Tiny Tim?

Congratulations to Deirdre Somers-Groves and Hilary Graham who won the tickets in our last newsletter competition.

Children's Art Competition

Looking for something creative to occupy the kids over the Christmas? How about an art competition?

The theme is:

"What I love about Sandycove and Glashule".

There are two categories

- Primary school students
- Secondary school students

Entries should be scanned or photographed and emailed by a parent or guardian to editor@sandycoveandglashule.ie with the subject "Art Competition".

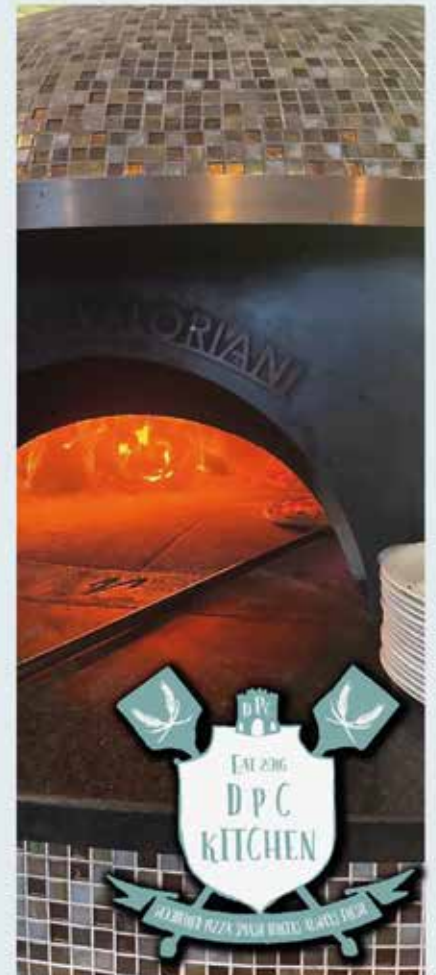
Please include the child's name, school and class/year.

The last day for receipt of entries is Wednesday January 31st 2024 at 5pm.

The prize for each category is a Family Pizza Night, delivered to your door.

The winning entries will be published in the May 2024 SAGRA newsletter.

Any questions can be sent to the above email address.



Out and About, Then and Now



Swimming at the 40 Foot



Santa about to head to Glashule by helicopter c 2008. Recognise anyone?



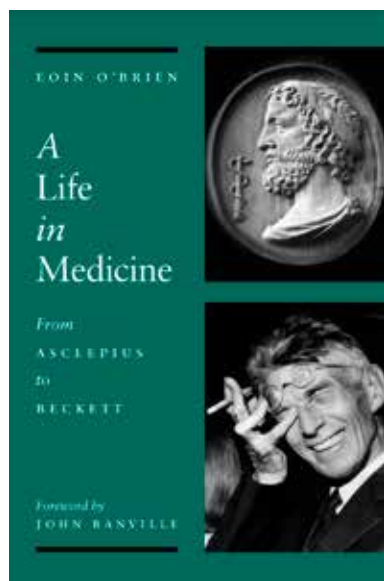
Bloomsday 2023



St Brendan's Boys Club c 1964. Can you spot "The Legend"?

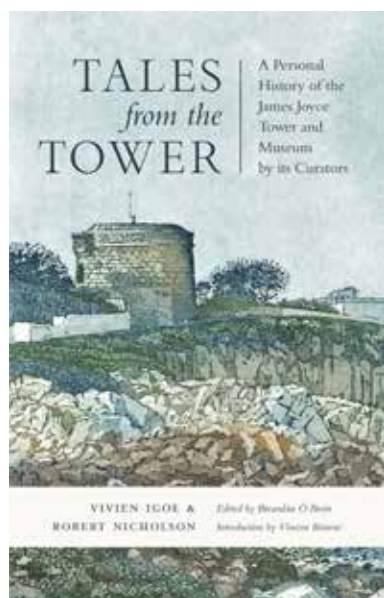
Recent publications by local authors and of local interest

In 'A Life in Medicine: From Asclepius to Beckett', Eoin O'Brien, an Irish cardiologist and clinical scientist of international repute, recounts his life in medicine and his friendships with doctors, scientists, writers and painters.



O'Brien's love of literature and the arts brought him into close contact with some remarkable writers and artists, among them Samuel Beckett, Nevill Johnson, Con Leventhal, Brian O'Doherty and Niall Sheridan.

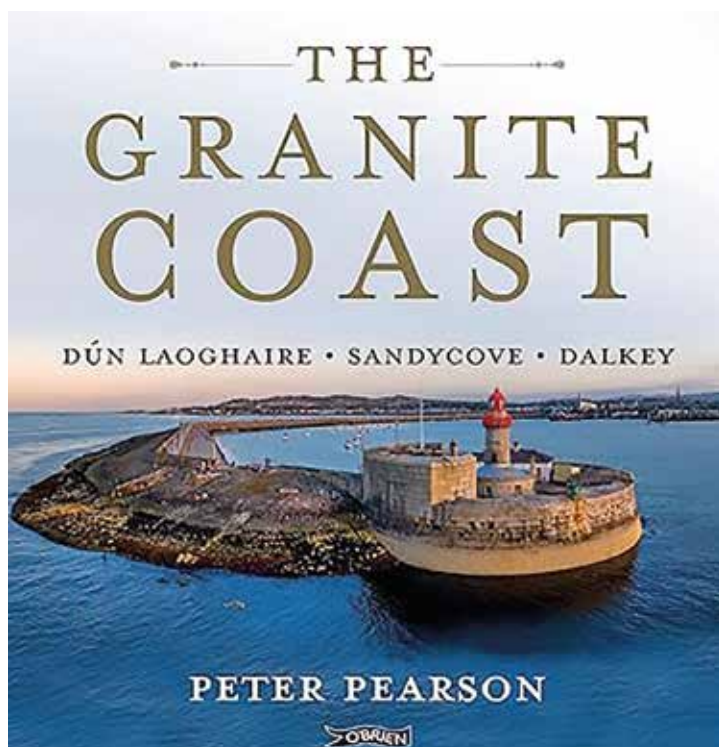
Eoin O'Brien is a local resident and wrote the book in Sandycove.



The year 2022 marked the centenary of the publication of Ulysses and the sixtieth anniversary of the opening of the Joyce Tower in Sandycove, Co. Dublin, as a museum. It was also the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Friends of Joyce Tower Society, a group set up by local Joyce enthusiasts to keep the museum open at a point when its future looked doubtful.

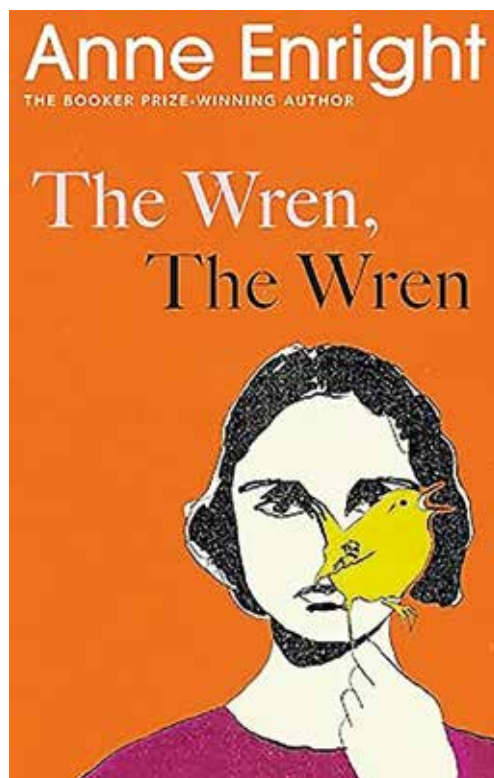
As well as celebrating these three milestone anniversaries, Tales from the Tower is a deeply personal and often hilarious account of the Tower and Museum from its opening in 1962 through to the present day, as recalled by its two main curators, Vivien Igoe and Robert Nicholson.

Both worked in the Tower at a time when it was still possible to meet many of the people who knew Joyce and his contemporaries.



Explore Dún Laoghaire and its coastal surroundings with local painter, historian and writer Peter Pearson as he reveals the story behind its transformation from rocky granite shoreline to grand Victorian 'watering place'.

Peter Pearson is a Dún Laoghaire man, familiar with every brick and stone of the harbour and town. Here he traces the social, historical and architectural development of Dún Laoghaire, Sandycove and Dalkey, from a stretch of granite coastline with a small fishing village up to the present day.



A contemporary novel of daughterhood and motherhood, from the Booker Prize-winning Irish author and local resident.

The Mirabeau

In 1972, a more informal fine dining restaurant opened in nearby Sandycove. The Mirabeau was run by Chef Seán Kinsella and his wife Audrey. Kinsella had spent years perfecting his culinary skills. He had trained in the Gresham Hotel and Restaurant Jammet, and worked as executive chef on the world's biggest cruise ship. According to the menu, their policy was to serve "food for the Gourmet in a homely atmosphere". The restaurant soon attracted Ireland's wealthiest citizens and also an international clientele, in addition to local business men, politicians and celebrities. The Mirabeau entertained Hollywood stars including Richard Burton, Laurence Olivier, Burt Lancaster, Fred Astaire, Peter Ustinov, Seán Connery and Michael Caine. Other celebrities included Neil Diamond, Demis Roussos, the Kennedys and the Rockefellers, along with former Taoiseach Charlie Haughey and Terry Keane.



Seán and Audrey Kinsella 1977

meet them or I'd meet them. And when they were going, either Audrey would say goodnight or I'd say good night, and this had never happened before. If you were there at two or three in the morning, the chairs were not being put up on the tables around you and "would you mind paying your bill at reception", and this had never happened before, plus the fact that we were buying the best produce and if it wasn't as we wanted it, we didn't serve it. And then all the big food people around the world got to hear about it, and all the awards we all got, we never dreamed or wanted to be known as "you can't afford to go in there". It is twenty four years since we closed and people still talk about the restaurant.

The Mirabeau was one of the top 50 eating establishments in the world. Due to financial and tax issues however it went into liquidation and closed in 1984.

EILEEN O'DUFFY

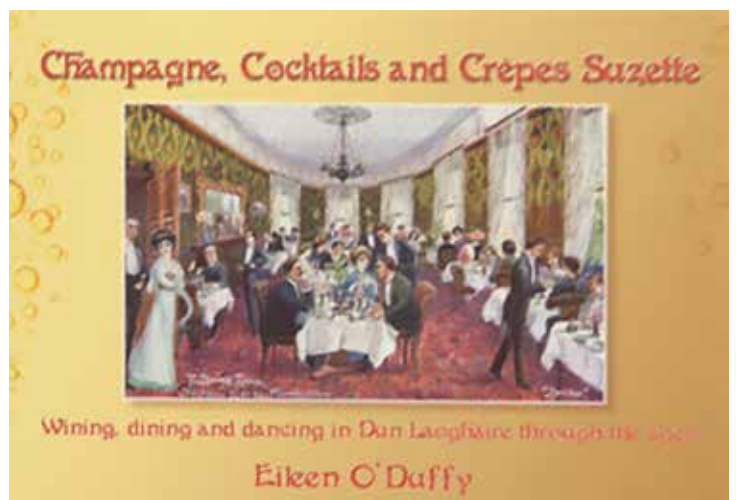


The food in the Mirabeau was firmly influenced by Kinsella's classical French training and the menu included dishes such as Escargots Bourguignon, Entrecote Marchand de Vin and classical French fish dishes Caprice, Bonne Femme, Colbert, Veronique, Mornay, Newburg and Meuniere. Crêpes Suzette featured on the dessert menu.

The Mirabeau became infamous for not printing prices on the menus. Kinsella suggests that this was out of respect for the businessmen who entertained their clients and did not want them to be aware of the cost. Prices appeared on the host's menu. A restaurant listing for the Mirabeau around 1977 warned that "you can get by on £10 per head at the Mirabeau, but if you have to worry about the prices, don't go there."

In an interview with Máirtín Mac Con Iomaire in 2008, Kinsella described the restaurant's unique selling proposition:

It was word of mouth, that here was something different happening, there was no "you are in at seven and out at nine", fifty seats is all you did, we never double booked tables, you were in at eight and you could be there until eight the next morning if you wanted to be. We made people feel that they were coming into somebody's home, either Audrey would



(Extract from Champagne, Cocktails and Crêpes Suzette - Wining, dining and dancing in Dún Laoghaire through the ages) On sale in Eamonn's Bookshop, Sandycove.)

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Going Back to Glasthule

Joe Jackson

You can't go home again. So, novelist Thomas Wolfe said. And it's something many people believe to be true. I did, until recently, in relation to Glasthule. Especially given that I no longer have family living there and, a decade ago, I sold the old family home in Eden Villas.



Glasthule 1980, photo © Joe Jackson

Done deal, door closed, in every sense, I moved on, and into Dublin city. But ten days ago, something weird, wonderful and unexpected happened. I'm writing a play set in Glasthule during the 70s, so, I decided to go back, have lunch in The Greedy Eagle, soak up the atmosphere, and take notes. I'm still not sure about that new name for The Eagle House pub.

Either way, afterwards, I wandered down the Link Road, stood at its end, looked to my left in the direction of Dún Laoghaire, then right, towards Sandycove, and finally straight ahead at that breath taking vista crowned in the distance by the hill of Howth. Then I took a deep breath. That's when it hit me. I thought, 'Good God, I love Glasthule. It's in my blood, part of my DNA. I never breathe as purely as I am breathing now. This is like coming home.'

Then the white clouds parted, and a host of heavenly angels sang Handel's Hallelujah chorus. Or maybe it was Cohen singing his song of that name. I'm kidding. But that sea air really was a balm to my soul and senses. And a large part of the magic I attribute to glorious Glasthule.

Even so, an hour later, as I sat sipping wine with Peter Caviston outside his legendary establishment, Caviston's Restaurant, in its latest incarnation, I was taken aback by something he said about Glasthule. Peter told me, almost conspiratorially, "It's now the most sought-after village on the Southside of Dublin, if not in the whole of Ireland!" Potential hyperbole aside, why did that faze me? First, it was news to me that I grew up in a "village."

When I was a kid, what I would say to my parents, Phyllis and Joe Jackson, was either, "I'm going down the road" or "...to the shops." If I had said, "I'm going down to the village," my very hip father might have joked, "Jesus, Joseph, do you think we live in Manhattan?"

www.64wine.ie

Village DNA Changes

We thank Joe Harvey of Grace & Harvey for the huge support to the village each Christmas and wish him success in the next chapter

AND

Welcome Nicola in Papermint wishing them a successful festive season.

From the team at 64 Wine

Second, what Peter said struck me with the kind of wonderful irony we Irish adore. I remember when Glasthule was seen as one of the least sought-after places to live on Dublin Southside, “a kip,” in fact. Once, when I was 12 and attending the CBSS in Dún Laoghaire, a Christian Brother read the address I wrote on a mock job application, slapped me on the head and said, “Jackson, when you are old enough to apply for a job, never admit you come from Glasthule. Write ‘Eden Villas, Sandycove,’ or your application will go straight into a bin.”

Tellingly, when I told that tale, sitting outside Caviston’s, Cameron Madden, the 24-year-old who runs Peter’s restaurant, nearly slid off his chair in shock. “You are shitting me!” he said, probably quoting *The Shawshank Redemption*. “I thought Glasthule always had a great reputation, and that people always saw it as a great place to live. It definitely is, now.”

I told him it always was, despite any dumb-ass claims to the contrary. Peter Caviston agreed and began to reminisce about “the time in 1966, when the Animals played in Club Caroline.” Cue my “Animals story” not related to the Zoo. I was too young to go to that gig, so I sat on a wall at the back of the venue, listening to the show. But when I heard the opening bars of *House of the Rising Sun*, which I loved, I thought, ‘I must get closer to the sound of that music.’ So, I climbed onto the roof over the stage door, wrenched a loose-fitting ventilation grill off a wall, and crawled through the ducting until I could see and hear, more clearly, the Animals. This moment may even have led later in life to be becoming a music journalist.



Glasthule 1980, photo © Joe Jackson. Can anyone identify the man on the bike?

On a free-associational roll, fittingly enough not far from where Joyce set the opening of *Ulysses*, this then brought back to mind similar memories. Being a DJ in Saint Brendan’s Youth Club during the late 60s, bonfires attended by hundreds of people from other areas, and jam-packed festivities in Eden Villas every

New Year’s Eve. That’s Glasthule to me.

But here’s the thing. In hindsight, I now see something that wasn’t apparent to me at the time. I was too young, living at the centre of such experiences and not aware of the sociological history of our home turf. All those gatherings were predominantly working class. Put another way, they were true to the roots of Glasthule, which we locals always called, “the holla,” as in, hollow, because it is a natural dip in the land. And into that dip town planners initially poured working-class people to service the homes, shops and factories owned by folks who lived, as the songs says, ‘on the hill.’ Whether that ‘hill’ was in Dalkey or Killiney or just higher ground “up in” Sandycove. Glasthule is not unique in that sense. It’s the same all over Dublin, Ireland, and the world. Rich people live on hills and look down at, or on, the poor.

That said, even though my parents, knowingly or unknowingly, bought into this social order when I was a child, neither the Dunne’s, whose home my mother cleaned on the nearby Adelaide Road, nor the Connelly’s, for whom my father worked as a labourer, in Connelly’s Builder’s Suppliers, on the same road, looked down their noses at us. On the contrary, they were lovely people. But nearly everyone in Glasthule knew that there were those who lived in “posh” areas like Dalkey who thought we all were “a pack of plebs.” Some probably still do. One night not so long ago, I was drinking in Finnegan’s, a fabulous pub in Dalkey, and a friend introduced me to two local guys. They asked where I was from, and when I told them, one “joked” to the other, “Do we recognise Glasthule?” His friend said “Maybe!” Hilarious.

But life can be funny. More recently I heard that home buyers in Dalkey, who can’t afford houses there, maybe because it’s now being over-hyped as, “the Hollywood of Dublin Southside,” have no choice other than to “recognise” Glasthule as a more economically viable place to live. I’ve even heard Glasthule is being called, “the new Dalkey.” God forbid!

More seriously, two former council houses in Glasthule selling recently for over three quarters of a million, in one case, and more than a million, in the other - great as that may be for those sellers, and good luck to them, and

good luck to the buyers - is a development that takes Glasthule into a new era. I hope it doesn’t lose more than it gains. Or lose its soul.

This article originally appeared in the Sunday Independent.

Local Beauty

Our Facebook group members are frequently inspired to post photographs showing the beauty of the area. These two pages include some of the photos posted.

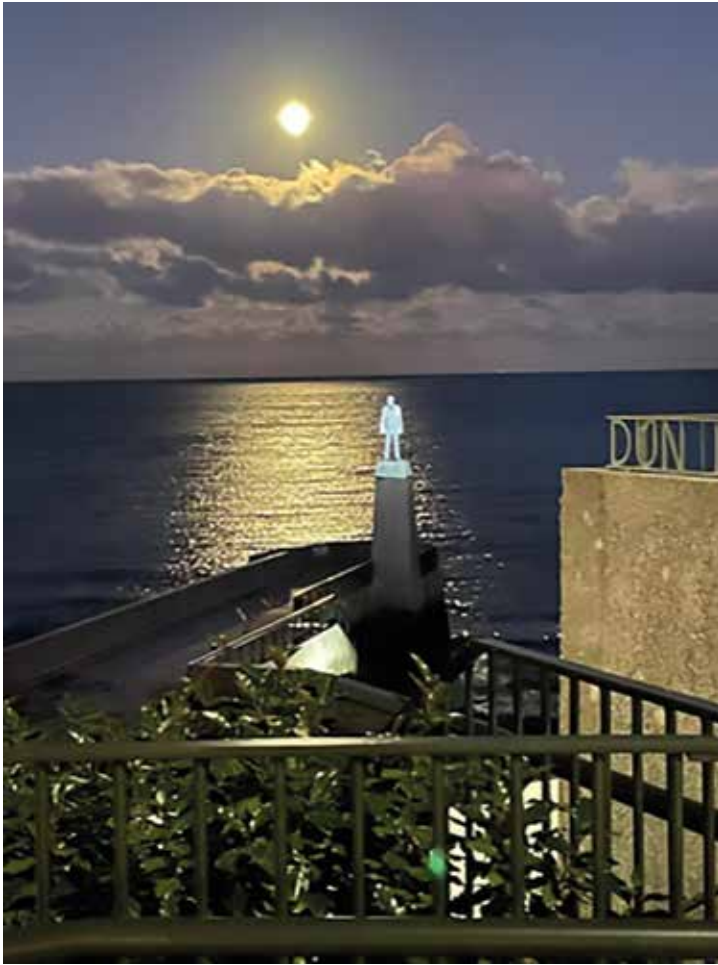


Photo by James O'Connor

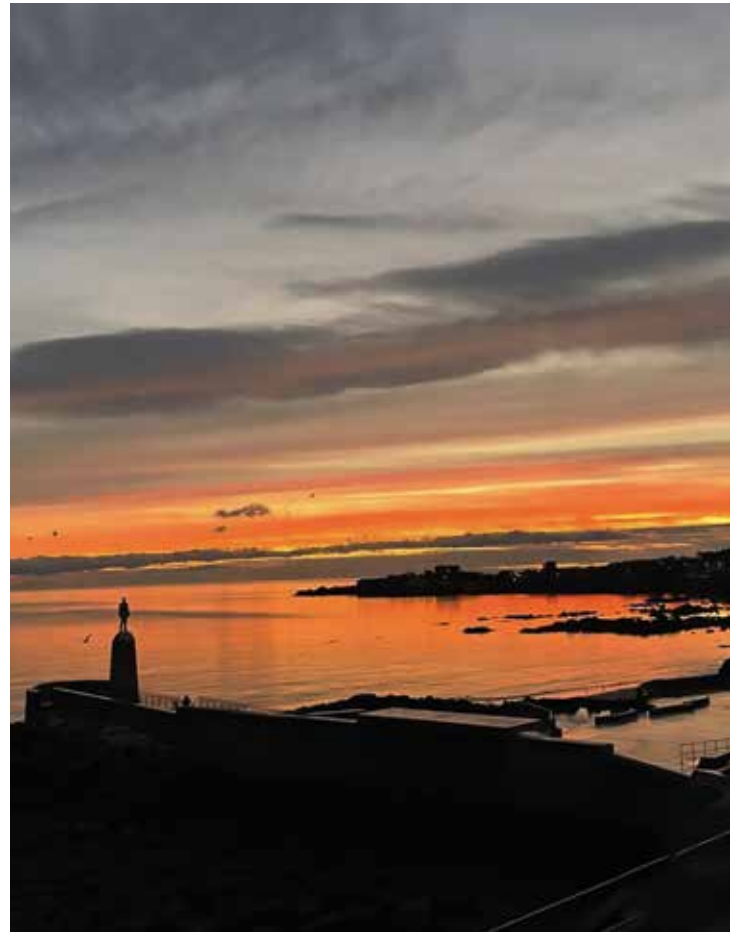


Photo by Andy Edge



Photo by James O'Connor



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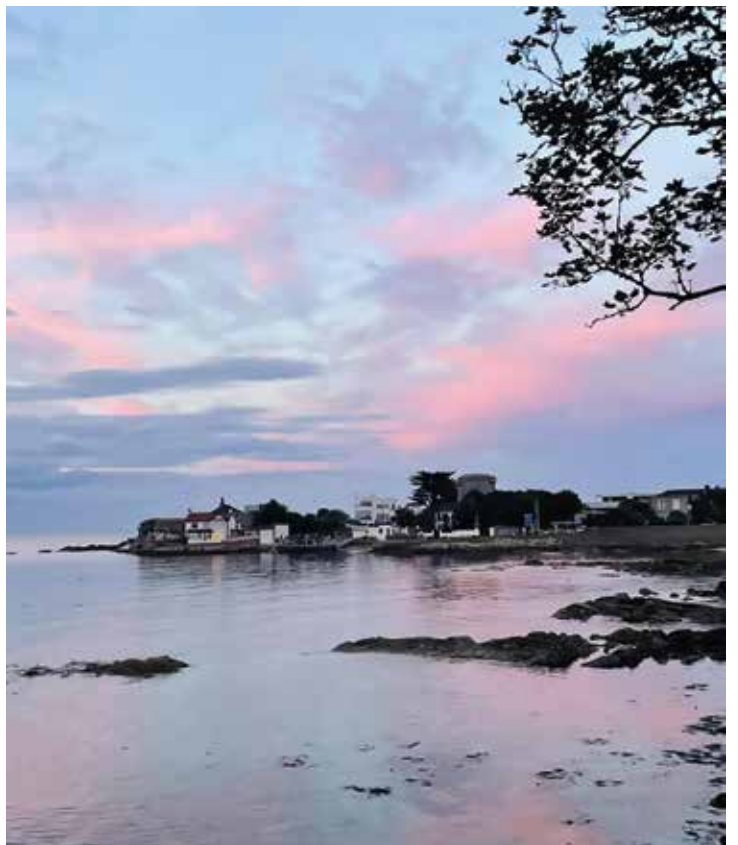


Photo by John Elliot

GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 111



by Breandán Ó Broin

Alan, Albert and Aonghus are the three men at the heart of this story, but Alan died before you got to read it. Alan then went on his eternal journey to “Destination Unknown”.

“Pretty soon”, joked Alan, “I will be ‘Out of Service.’”

‘Out of Service’ referred to the fact that the three men all had Bus Passes and travelled freely three times a week on the somewhat-irregular 111 Route which started in Dalkey, taking the scenic route via Sandycove and Dún Laoghaire, before ending up thirty minutes later out in Brides Glen where few have ever ventured.

“We got our kicks on Route 66,” recalled Alan, who had become forgetful of late.

“Route 111,” corrected Albert who was a bit of a stickler.

“It was my last little joke” said Alan, “give a dying man a break.”

Their relationship had started by accident, or coincidence, call it what you like. They never knew each other before finding themselves as accidental passengers on the 111. The coincidence was they were all headed to the same destination: the A&E Department in St Michael’s. Alan was having a problem with his ticker, Aonghus was having his bunions looked at, and Albert ... well Albert preferred not to say, except to indicate there was something not quite 100% right with the waterworks. Enough said; no whit of further information was offered or sought. These were men after all.

Hospital wasn’t the outer limit of their travelling ambitions. The 111 Route became their passports to undiscovered delights of the Borough. Often, Albert got off at St Joseph’s in Glasthule to call into the Parish Centre for “the best value coffee and biscuits in DLRCOCO and a grand chat with some lovely old girls, all lovelier and some even older than myself.” Most of them had been at morning Mass and Albert

reckoned being in close-contact with people who had been in close-contact with God was an easy way of earning celestial bonus brownie points, sort of like Tesco points but in a spiritual setting. There was also the fact that the Parish Centre boasted impeccable lavatories; very accommodating for an elderly gent with malfunctioning waterworks leading to unexpected micturition needs.

Aonghus had sometimes left their company by that stage. He alighted near Fitzy’s and, as the bus pulled slowly away, could be seen visiting Eamonn’s Bookshop or Sandycove Classics or even entering the licensed premises. To what purpose? A second-hand Mick Herron? A vintage check shirt? Or perhaps a slow black pint to push back the silent terrors of the lonely nights? The unspoken truth was Aonghus was ‘learning to read Finnegans Wake’ at a Joycean study group, but to say so might seem like boasting.

The Travelling Trio had an unspoken pact. Generalities excepted, one never questioned. Subjects were offered up for discussion, often tentatively and mostly non-contentiously. The newly-revived baths that had no bath to swim in, for example. Or Roger Casement showing his bum to the Brits who hanged him in Pentonville was also deemed a suitable subject for conversation. As was the cycle-way on the seafront with two being for it and the other staunchly against. But as to who was on which side of the argument, well that was for them to know and you to ponder. Things were said and left unsaid and sometimes hinted at. Every secret shared on the 111, stayed on the 111. Albert and Aonghus had both indicated they were widowers of many years, but Alan-of-the-Dodgy Ticker stayed mute on the matter. The other two assumed he was either a lifelong bachelor or a long-term married man. The latter was deemed the more likely option as Alan was always well turned out, a habit that took training. Bachelors had a tendency to let themselves go. All three kept a gentle eye on each other’s hygiene and sometimes advised that a visit to Phil the Barber in Glasthule was in order. Phil not only provided a decent and decently-priced haircut but would also take care of intimate hirsute tendencies such as protruding nasal hair or over-flourishing eyebrows. Once, Aonghus lost the run of himself and got off at the People’s Park to visit Paddy the Turkish Barber where he was given the obligatory Number 1 Buzzcut, meaning he had no hair left to all intents and purposes. This was deemed to be a cut too deep. Alan and Albert clubbed together to buy Aonghus a tweed cap from Frewen & Aylward as an early Christmas present which Aonghus obediently donned and never once caught a cold in the head. Instead, it was Alan (whose ticker got the better of him) who passed way, leaving just the two to travel on.

This was a situation that didn’t last long, as things turned out.

One Spring morning with the sun glinting over Scotsman’s Bay, a woman got on the 111 and sat down

across the aisle. They thought they should recognise her but they weren't sure.

"I wonder did we see her at Alan's funeral?" whispered Albert, quietly.

"You did," the woman said. "I was Alan's wife. Fifty-six years. No children."

The bus had arrived at the stop near Spar and Quinn's Undertakers.

"Could we get off here and share a coffee and chat in 64 Wine?" she suggested.

Albert and Aonghus looked at each other

"I see no reason why not," said one, standing up.

"I'll pick up my prescription at Glennon's" said the other.

"I'll get a few slices of ham in Caviston's," said the woman. "Alan loved a ham sandwich for his tea. With pickle. My name is Alice", she added.

"Too much information" thought the two men simultaneously, to themselves.

And so, the partnership of two sometimes-lonely men and one newly-lonely woman blossomed on the bus, free of charge. Now Albert, Aonghus and Alice sometimes ventured even further. One fine day, they got off at Dún Laoghaire and took the Dart all the way to Greystones, forsaking Dalkey and the 111.

"Isn't it great the way the BUS Pass works on the Dart" said the bus-driver, somewhat sniffily, the next time he saw them.

And now, an interruption in service. In order for this story to end happily, we fast-forward into the near future; a bleak December day, just short of Christmas, 2023.

There was yet another funeral in Glasthule. "More funerals than baptisms" the Parish Council reported, noting a worrying trend. But this funeral was not headed towards the church. It was earthbound. The deceased was of the belief that "when you're gone, you're gone". No bell would toll. The 111 halted as the undertakers were taking the coffin to the hearse and the hearse to the crematorium. Ashes to ashes in 3.5 hours, give or take, depending on body-weight. Alice and Aonghus knew the corpse in the coffin and even though they didn't know much about him, they knew everything about him. Armed with this information, they could and would remember him.

Albert. Over and out. Suddenly. Waterworks burst. Apparently.

The Greedy Eagle put on a fine spread for the mourners. Paninis instead of prayers. On the return journey from Albert's obsequies, Aonghus and Alice catch the 111 on its way from Dún Laoghaire towards Dalkey. They sit silently close-up, side-by-side this

time. Huddled. They only need the one seat now. As the bus slows approaching Stop 3053 at the junction where Sandycove Road meets Castle Park, Alice turns to Aonghus and quietly asks:

"Would you like it if we both get off at my bus-stop?"

"I would quite like that" Aonghus says, quietly.

He presses the Stop Button, the bell rings loudly, and the 111 Bus does exactly as it is told.

There were still kicks to be got.

Breandán Ó Broin

October 2023

Ceart nó Micheart?

Brid ni Dhubhlaoidh

Here are examples of some of the inconsistent Irish versions of street names around the area. Have you seen any others?






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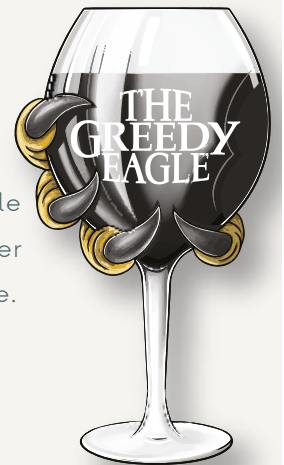
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Business Updates

Happy Out Cafe



The Happy Out Cafe opened in July in the newly renovated Dún Laoghaire Baths building.

The cafe is a collaboration with the Together Academy which provides young adults with Down syndrome training, work experience and support.

Therese Coveney (pictured right with Brian Hanratty of Happy Out) is the founder of the Together

Academy. Challenged by the fact that 90% of adults with Down syndrome are unemployed in Ireland she set out to do something about it.

Happy Out was started in Bull Island in 2017 by Brian Hanratty and his uncle Karl McCullagh as a cafe built from two shipping containers. A second cafe was added in Donnybrook.

Wanderers Rugby Club had facilitated a pop-up cafe for the Together Academy and it was through the club that Therese met Brian and the idea of this collaboration developed.

Therese and Brian are delighted with the cafe and the reception from the local community.

happyout.ie,
togetheracademy.ie



Papermint Store

Papermint Store have opened on the site of the Mirella gift shop. They sell a "huge selection" of greeting cards. They stock gifts and stationery as well .

They have shops in Dalkey, Donnybrook, and Rathgar as well.

See papermintstore.com



Grace and Harvey Closes

Joe Harvey and Ken Grace opened their car dealership in Glasthule in August 1986. Ken left the business in 2003 but Joe continued on until he closed up at the end of October this year. Grace and Harvey had always been a Mitsubishi dealer but had also been agents for other brands such as Fiat, Kia, and Suzuki.

Joe describes his time in Glasthule as 37 wonderful years with many happy memories such as Christmases in the village and a fashion show that they facilitated.

Joe is not retiring (but rewiring). He will continue to buy and sell cars and can be contacted on 087 777 6855, or through graceharvey.ie.



Ken Grace, Harry O'Leary and Joe Harvey c 1993



Joe Harvey 2023

Noel Kavanagh RIP

We are sad to hear of the death of Noel Kavanagh in Dalkey. He ran a butcher shop in Glasthule for many years. It's only two years since we wrote an article about

him in our May 2021 newsletter on his retirement. Noel was a great supporter of SAGRA, advertising with us from November 2012. May he rest in peace.

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A Glasthule Promenade - Reimagining Newtownsmith Park

Fergal Mac Cabe

As it is

A frisson of pearl clutching rippled around the room when I raised the future of Newtownsmith Park at the Spring SAGRA meeting. Visions of massive car parks, proliferating exercise equipment, portaloos and - God forbid ! - more public art, were conjured up and roundly rejected by the attendees with the support of local politicians who sensed the mood of the meeting.

Except of course, that wasn't what I meant at all.

With the improvement of Otranto Park some years ago and the recent opening of the pedestrian and wheelchair link across Dún Laoghaire Baths (which is presently being extended to the East Pier) the seafront promenade of Newtownsmith Park has become ever more popular. The reopening of the car park and the Sutton to Sandycove Cycleway has visibly increased the number of visitors over the Summer.

The Park is used by more and more families for letting dogs run loose, flying kites, throwing frisbees, having picnics, spotting seals and herons, climbing rocks and the occasional concert and festival. Its open unplanted nature makes it both useful and attractive and this will always remain as it is susceptible to wave overtopping which can only worsen in the coming years.

Known locally as Sandycove Green, the Park frames the iconic view of Joyce's Tower and the Point. It is the location of one of the most popular sculptures in Dublin, Rachel Joynt's 'Mothership'. Though they don't receive as much attention, Eileen McDonagh's polished granite pillars recalling sea creatures are charming also. Unfortunately the centre is occupied by the battered remains of a work which was designed to depict an archer sending an arrow over the Tower, but his bow vanished long ago and the meaningless remains should now be removed.

Vaguely reminiscent of a Greek Doric temple and featuring an elegant bronze plaque honouring the members of Dún Laoghaire Urban Council, 'The Piano' which celebrates the opening of Link Road in 1922, is a much loved local landmark.

As it might be

The unheralded introduction of cycle lanes and exercise equipment caused a degree of local unease and hopefully a realisation in the Council that change should not be foisted on local communities without consultation. Ideally, agreed plans, however broad brush, should be in place so that there is a general awareness of what the future holds. The successes of the seafront improvements at either end will inevitably create new pressures and I believe that DLRCC



Glasthule

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 Glasthule, Parish Centre,
Summerhill Rd, Dublin A96 W6D6

2. Electronic funds transfer to:
St Joseph's Conference of SVP
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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

should now begin to prepare a plan for the future management of the Park based on the following general principles:

-The central open area will always remain free and uncluttered

-The community should be consulted as to whether any significant new facilities or works are required and where they might go

-The visual and functional linkage to Glasthule village should be enhanced to attract the increasing numbers of passing seafront visitors to its restaurants, pub and shops.

I suggest that apart from providing some survivable wild planting and bulbs on the edges, absolutely nothing should happen in the present green area. However the path from the seafront to Glasthule might be upgraded to a wider and more formal Promenade. A distinctive entrance could be formed

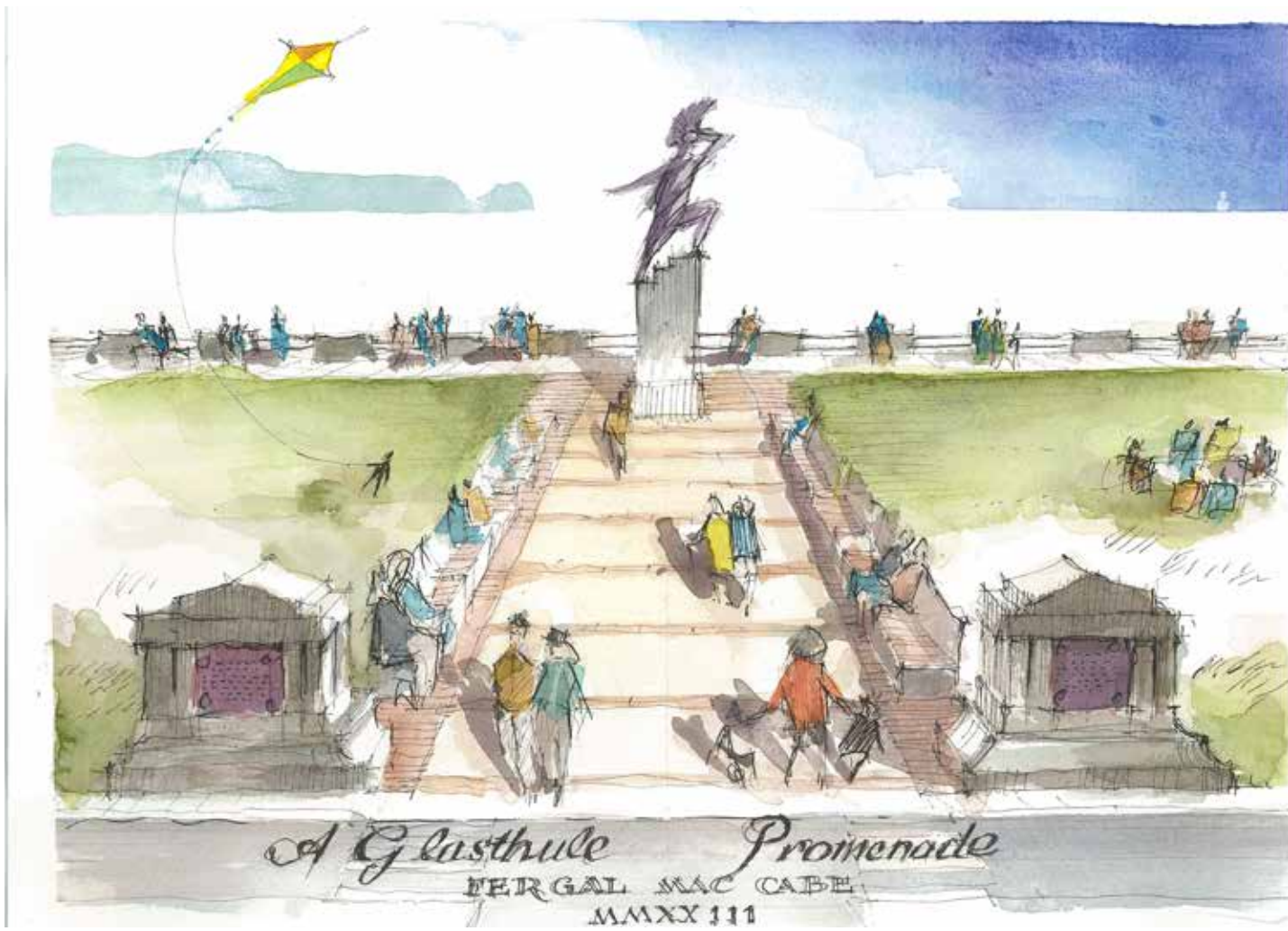
by a renewed 'Piano' balanced by a new identical twin whose plaque would celebrate the numerous distinguished writers and artists who made their homes in Sandycove/ Glasthule over the years.

Our very own Ithaca.

Sandycove and its Tower are world famous as the starting point of the journey of Ulysses and yet there is no physical reference in the district to his subsequent Odyssey. Why not finish the story where it first began?

I propose two complementary works, one as the focus of the Glasthule Promenade visualising the homecoming hero on the prow of his galley searching anxiously for a first glimpse of Ithaca, while on the pier at Sandycove Beach, Penelope and her unravelled weaving awaits the longed for return from Troy of her loving husband.

It would probably take ten years for both of them to arrive of course.



Changes in St Joseph's

Masses between Dalkey, Dún Laoghaire and Glasthule are being consolidated. The 6.30 pm Saturday Mass in St Joseph's is being discontinued. The last 6.30 pm Mass will be December 2nd.

The new Mass schedule will be:

Monday - Saturday: 10.00 am

Sunday: 10.00 am and 11.30 am





Happy Christmas

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Creating Positive, Remarkable Experiences

The Seal Whisperer

Michael Cullen

With hopes of enjoying a reasonably mild winter in the months ahead, people's thoughts now turn to how best they might avail of our local amenities in trying to keep fit and healthy, both physically and mentally. For some, it may mean wrapping up well and taking a brisk walk along the east pier in Dún Laoghaire or enjoying a stroll in one of our local parks.

For those who prefer to engage in something a little more strenuous, they may opt for a workout at the gym. Given the wonderful bathing spots we have in Sandycove, and at nearby Dalkey and Seapoint, it's no surprise that some people find nothing more stimulating than a dip in the sea. For those who swim regularly all year round, winter is just another season.

The fact that the official bathing season runs from early June until mid-September doesn't matter a jot. Earlier this year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rated most bathing waters around Ireland's coastline as 'excellent'. So what's there not to like about sea swimming? The shock of cold water? It's fleeting. Jellyfish? Most of them have floated elsewhere.

What about people's fear of swimming on beaches near to where seals congregate? Mark Leslie, a seasoned sea swimmer and seal aficionado, says there's little reason to be concerned. Mark is none happier than when he's underwater filming a plump of seals. It's why his fellow swimmers in Sandycove call him the Seal Whisperer. He's on first name terms with the Wa-Woo tribe, the local herd of seals whose HQ is Dalkey Island.



Seals Doris and Beamish at play in the kelp fields at Sandycove

If Mark is not down at the Forty Foot for his early morning dip, chances are he's over by the Old Baths, where sub aqua divers gather at weekends, exploring the depths with his shoreline friends in Scotsman's Bay. He calls it the Seal Garden. There he swims with Beamish, Doris et al amid the green and orange fields of kelp. Other less energetic Wa-Wooers take to the nearby rocks, lazing in the winter sun and rolling over in slow motion.

The Seal Garden is also a Ballroom of Romance for those in search of their ration of passion. Once Juliet adopts a banana pose and gets a little frisky on the rocks, Romeo knows it's time for action. When the deed is done, the couple perform a victory swim. They breach the surface of the water and jump into the air to let their Wa-Woo colleagues know they had a whale of a time.




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Mark Leslie who took our front cover photograph

How does Mark tell the seals apart? It's fairly straightforward when it comes to a bull or a cow. Size and shape determines that. A bull like Beamish is stout, dark and has a white snout. Doris is, well, a lady... just like Doris Day. But how does the Seal Whisperer separate Doris from Bronagh? And Bronagh from Speckles? It's down to body markings and personality – how they behave in the water.

The local herd of grey or harbour seals at Dalkey Island numbers around 50. They swim to and from Sandycove in channels, occasionally stopping off at Bullock Harbour for a snack. They can spend up to thirty minutes submerged. Seals love to mimic humans. Mark recently saw a fisherman in a boat with his arms in the air and a seal waving back at him, Flipper-style.

Grey seals are intelligent, sociable creatures. If they see a swimmer one day, they may recognise and acknowledge the same individual months later. They pick up on vibes from bathers and are fascinated by human smell. They roll over in the water, not in readiness to attack, but because they want someone to tickle their tummies – just like a dog.

Mark understands why people might be nervous around seals. They are put off by how big they are in the water, particularly a bull – and how fast they move. Seals are territorial. Pups are highly inquisitive and find the actions of humans intriguing. It's advisable to avoid a cow during the breeding season and when she has young alongside her in the water. As with any wild animal, if a person is unfortunate enough to be bitten - even slightly - it's important to get a tetanus vaccine as a seal's mouth is a sanctuary for bacteria.

Can bathers and seals safely share the sea? First and foremost, Mark insists, people must remember that the ocean is the seal's home – and they know it. Having said that, should you find yourself close to a seal when bathing, move slowly. Stop in the water and face the seal, like you would a dog. Don't turn your back and never kick out or make physical contact with a seal.

If it's a beach or bathing area like the Forty Foot, with seals close by, one precaution Mark would recommend is for swimmers to wear goggles, fins or a pair of booties. Being the clever mammals they are, seals are aware of bathers and the wet suits they don. By wearing goggles, you get to witness the wonder of a grey seal navigating the depths.

Mark is convinced that any intentions seals have in relation to bathers are benign. "They have incredibly sharp teeth," he says. "If they wanted to be hostile to humans, they could wreak havoc. My advice to anyone swimming in the sea is simple – enjoy the company of seals, but please don't seek them out."

Michael Cullen is a resident of Sandycove who swims year-round at Sandycove



Living Streets Dún Laoghaire



“Living Streets Dún Laoghaire is a new scheme involving sustainable mobility and public realm improvements. It aims to make our local streets safer and greener, our communities more connected, and to keep our economy vibrant. “

There a number of measures being proposed. The following is a summary of the key road and traffic flow ones.

Pedestrianisation of George's Street Lower from the junction at the top of Marine Road to the entrance to Bloomfields.

Use of Modal Filters

A modal filter is a design feature at a single point in a road that prevents vehicles passing but allows pedestrians and cyclists to pass through.



Example of a Modal Filter

These will be implemented at:

1. Clarinda Park - at the entrance from George's Street Upper.
2. Cross Ave - if you come up Patrick Street and turn right onto Cross Ave just after the junction with Convent Road.
3. Tivoli Road - if you come up Patrick Street just to your right, ie motorists will have to turn left here.

Traffic Flow on Windsor Terrace

The traffic direction between Link Road and the Baths will change. The traffic direction between Link Road and Sandycove Ave West will be unchanged.

At the time of publication, the project is about to open for public consultation which will run until the 14th of December. It will then come to the Council for a vote at either the January or the February meeting.

For more information see:

<https://dlrcoco.ie/living-streets-dun-laoghaire>

Dates For Your Diary

SAGRA Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will take place on **Monday November 27th at 8pm** in St Joseph's Pastoral Centre Hall.

The AGM is one of two residents meetings held each year by the Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association. The other is on the last Monday in May at the same time and in the same venue.

The main part of the meeting is an open forum where attendees can raise issues of concern in the area. We will be joined by several of our elected representatives (Councillors, TDs and Senators) so this is a great opportunity to get their views and move issues forward.

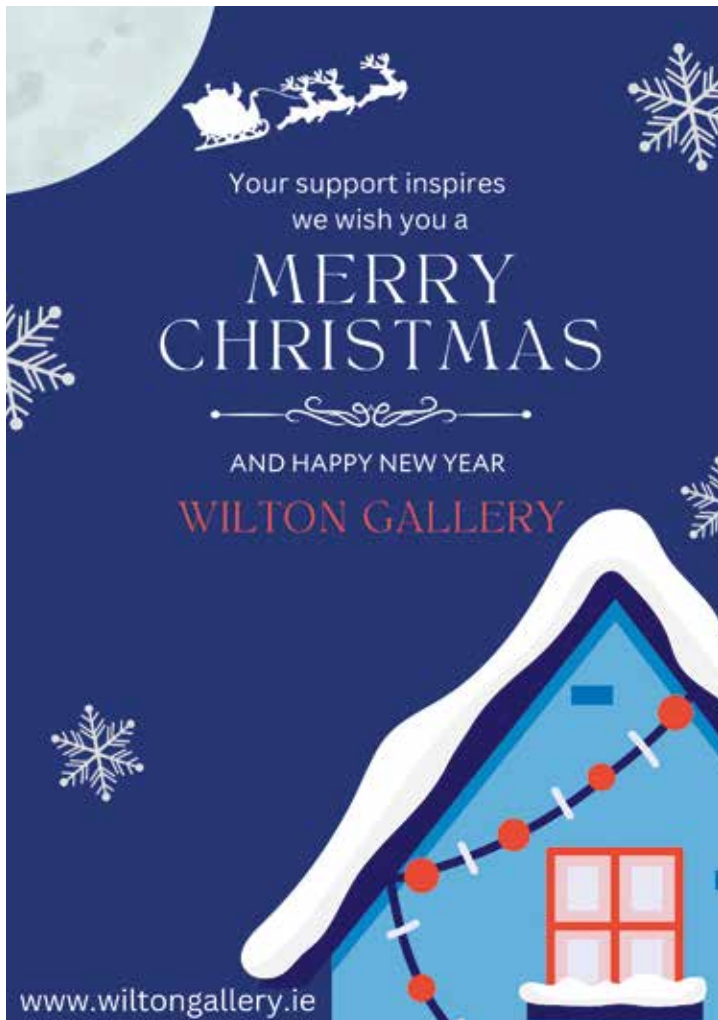
The minutes of our last meeting in May are on page 4. Some issues addressed then were: flooding, Aircoach, traffic, Lexicon Library, grass cutting, Sandycove green, park maintenance.

The formal meeting will be followed by a more casual setting to socialise with other residents over a glass of wine (or water). It's also a chance to talk to our elected representatives on a one to one basis.

If you are new to the area this is a great way to introduce yourself and meet fellow residents.

With the local County Council elections coming up in about six months it should be interesting.

We hope to see you there.



Christmas in Sandycove and Glasthule

Friday 24th November - Turning on the Christmas Lights From 5pm.

Saturday 9th December - Santa Claus comes to the village - grotto and presents. From 2pm.

See the shop windows in the area for more details.

The Three Tenors LIVE in St Joseph's Church

Saturday 25th November

Popular Songs for Everyone

From The Dubliners to Andrea Bocelli & Christmas Favourites



Tickets €30 from Eventbrite or from the Parish Office.

Tara Céilí Band

St Joseph's Parish Pastoral Centre

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

Saturday 2nd December, 8pm to 11 pm, €10.

Christmas Concert

Cuala and Kilmacud Crokes Choirs fundraiser for UNICEF

St Joseph's Church

Sunday 10th December, 5pm.

Pavilion Theatre

7 Dec Dublin Gospel Choir

8 Dec Eimear Quinn

14-17 Dec A Christmas Carol (Family Theatre)

2 Feb Jack Lukeman (Jack L)

3 & 4 Feb Jason Byrne

8 & 9 Feb Reeling in the Showband Years

3 Mar The Legend of Luke Kelly

16-20 Apr Chess - Dún Laoghaire Musical and Dramatic Society



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

See page 6 for a chance to win tickets.

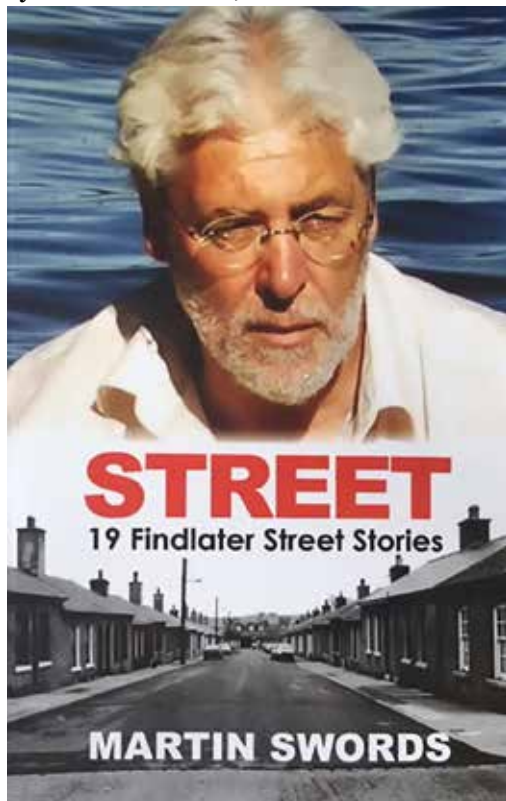
St Patrick's Day Parade

After a long absence Dún Laoghaire Town will host a vibrant St Patrick's Day Parade on March 17th 2024.

The parade will start in Newtownsmith.

It's Not Easy Being a Crab

(An extract from STREET: 19 Findlater Street Stories by Martin Swords)



A group of fourteen year old boys wandering along the seafront, heading home from a day messing about at the Forty Foot, is a very unpredictable thing. We had had great craic heading towards Sandycove and the Forty Foot. Now we were mooching our way slowly in a homeward direction, but

still messing and acting the maggot along the way. It was more fun to walk along the rocks and rockpools, rather than along the path or on the road. Across the rocks and rockpools there were rocks and stones to jump from, leaping from rock to rock, and over the rockpools. Some rocks were covered with seaweed and there was always the possibility that someone would slip and stand into the rockpool, and get soaked. Better still if someone actually fell into the rockpool and sat in the water. This, if it happened, and it did, was a major result producing howls of laughter directed at the poor wet boy. Sympathy, or care, was not much in evidence as we trudged slowly along, still laughing, those of us who were not soaking wet.

Along the way somebody had caught a few crabs, one of them quite big, which were being carried in a little sea water in a child's broken seaside bucket. There was no plan for the crabs. Further along the road towards Glashule, on the inland side of the road, there was a site where a house had been demolished. It would eventually become a block of apartments but for now it was a site full of rubble where the house once stood. It would be cleared soon so it had to be investigated now, or so we thought. With no fence to keep us out, we were in like Flynn. You'd never know what you might find on such a site. Broken dishes, pots and pans, kettles, framed photographs, broken toys and clothes left behind. Books and old magazines were a treasure trove. With bricks and broken concrete we built a circle of stones, and piled in small timbers to start a little fire on the site, which quickly got going. We stood around the fire talking and joking. Then somebody thought of

the crabs and the broken bucket. 'They cook them, you know, crabs, and they turn red when you cook them'. We didn't believe whoever was saying this. 'I'll show you', he said. Obviously we could not put the child's broken plastic bucket containing the crabs on to the now blazing fire. We searched around the site and came up with an empty paint tin. We thought 'That'll do grand', but we didn't have enough water and there was only a small amount of water in the child's broken bucket.

Instead of using our heads and someone going over the road with the paint tin to get water from the sea or from the rockpools, we came up with our own boyish solution. We all pissed into the paint tin, a fair fill. Then we added the water and the crabs from the child's bucket. We were in business. We balanced the tin on the fire and waited to see what happened.

Nothing much.

'Anything happening?'

'Nope'.

'Is it boiling?'

'Nope'.

'Are they red yet?'

'Nope, but they're not moving much anymore'. Patience is not a strong trait of fourteen year old boys and so we began to be impatient with the progress being made. 'It's not hot enough, put it on the hot part of the fire'. 'Put more wood around the tin', were among the pearls of wisdom offered to help progress in this endeavour.

Then disaster.

An overzealous stoker in trying to make the fire work better, delivered a nudge too far, tipping over the paint tin and spilling the contents onto the fire, crabs and all. The effect of this was to put the fire out mostly. There was a large plume of smoke, steam and dirt from the fire which was very worrying and alarming. Worrying because we thought the plume would attract attention from passing public, or worse, a passing squad car from the Gardaí.

It was alarming because we had never seen or expected the firefighting properties of so much piss delivered on a fire all at once.

There was an unpleasant smell. As for the crabs, we gave them little thought as we fled the site in case we were caught. It is to be hoped that the crabs made it out of the warm wet ashes to die quietly in the rubble. We weren't going back to save them.

It's not easy being a crab. What with the natural perils of the sea. Or being eaten by bigger fish or seagulls. They never reckoned on coming up against a crazy group of fourteen year old boys. Not easy indeed.

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