

NEWSLETTER

THE DUNLAVIN & DISTRICT FORUM

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

JUNE 2009

WHY DON'T YEZZ DO SOMETHING ABOUT.....

"Why don't yezz do something about.....!" A refrain heard by anyone working with the community, in public service or sitting on a committee. At dinner recently, the subject of the local elections arose. As expected there were varied opinions voiced concerning party and individual performances.

Then arose a litany of issues and opportunities that, in the opinion of those present, had been screwed up or squandered. I of course threw in my tuppence worth. As the exchange got more heated my wife spoke in my defence which gave me a moment to party and catch

my breath. Then a thought occurred to me. How many people that are so vociferous in their opinions about the rights and wrongs actually do



anything to either back up their opinions or to support their arguments with action. I will state for the record that I am not interested in party politics nor indeed politics in general. Though in direct contradiction of that statement I will say

that I am interested in helping improve my community and environment by getting involved. This of course involves listening to and talking with my neighbours. "Politics is the process by which groups of people make decisions. The term is generally applied to behaviour within civil governments, but politics has been observed in all human group interactions, including corporate academic and religious institutions."

From Wikipedia.org.

The long and short of it is, if you have something you want to change or a view you want to express then lets see yezz do something about it!

ML

YOU LIVE AND LEARN?

Lets be honest, with the historic rise and fall of the popularity of allotments clearly aligned with the economic health or a country, on this litmus alone, we can safely say were in recession.

So too in times of hardship we see an increase of those

taking up further education. And why wouldn't we? If the choices are, leave school and join the dole Q or further your education till better times arrive, the choice is a simple one.

For those of you who feel you are past the point of no return (to school that is)

the good news is it's never too late to learn.

Between, Dunlavin, Baltintras & Blessington there are a litany of different courses for all ages and interests. All ya need to have is the desire to get stuck in and do it. Want to know more ? Read on for more details.

VIVA LA DIFFERANCE

Another project being worked on by the Forum is the twinning of Dunlavin for the purpose of bringing additional people to our community by way of commerce and cultural exchange. A few prospects are being considered, in particular the French farming community of Savignies. Four members of their twinning committee recently visited Dunlavin in April. Savignies lies north of Paris and about 11 km from Beauvais. While primarily an agricultural community, Savignies is also known for it's cheese making. The 750 strong community have their own community hall and swimming pool, and like Dunlavin host an annual music festival similar to our Arts festival. It is hoped that a small group from Dunlavin will visit Savignies in the near future. We will keep you all informed with progress.

Their visit could not have happened without the generosity of Mary and Barry Deering ,as well as the O'Flynn Family and Rathsalagh House.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WHATS GOING ON.....!	2
BYGONE DAYS-	2
TEEN SCENE CAFE	2
DID YOU KNOW	3
FOREIGN EXCHANGE	3
ELDER FLOWERS	3
THE FESTIVAL	4

WHATS GOING ON WHATS GOING ON.....

- We finally get the go ahead for Dunlavin Sewerage scheme -WCC then declare it no longer has the funds to match!
- Jonathan Swift picks up two awards. An Taisce Green Schools & an Excellence in Science award from Forfas.
- An over 50's computer course is being planned for the Autumn.
- The Milltown Singers & Friends will perform "The

Armed Man" also knows as the Mass for Peace in St.Nicholas' church June 27th 7pm.

"A Willow Basket Weaving Display will be part of this year's Arts Festival. See piece on page 3.

- Dunlavin's 27th Festival of Arts will take place 19th – 21st June . See itinerary on page 4

- Koolcamps 5 day summer camp 17th –21st Aug Dunlavin National School. Contact Karen Moore 087 9609855

- Long considered world class in effectiveness, the Pacific Institute has created it's PX2 course to help young people make the right career choices. The course will run in Baltinglass from June. Contact Michael O'Brien on 087 2289534 or WIN at 0404 29960

email:mobrien@wicklowleader.ie

2nd Annual Dunlavin Vintage Tractor Rally will take place Sunday July 26th

A Film Club is being planned to run throughout the Autumn and winter season whereby Dunlavinites will be able to see Arthouse & Foreign films locally and get the opportunity to discuss in friendly surroundings. *More information later.*

BYGONE DAYS IN DUNLAVIN! BY CHRIS LAWLOR

The following description of Dunlavin on the eve of the Famine is taken from *The parliamentary gazetteer of Ireland*.

Dunlavan, a market and post town in the above parish, stands at the intersection of the road from Ballymore Eustace to Castledermot with that from Kilcullenbridge to Donard, 5 miles south by east of Kilcullenbridge and 26.5 miles south-southwest of Dublin. The Tynte family are still proprietors of a large circumjacent estate that belonged to their ancestors; and they have of late years very much improved the town. The market house, constructed of neatly cut mountain granite, and occupying a commanding site, is remarkable for the classical

elegance of its architecture, and for being surmounted by a fine dome: it was built at the close of the 16th century [sic] by Robert Tynte Esq. [sic], and restored in 1836 at a cost of £500, and under the superintendence of Mr. Cross of Athy, by Lady Tynte. Fairs are held on May 20, the first Friday of July, old style, August 21 and the third Tuesday of October.

The Dunlavin dispensary is within the Baltinglass poor law union, and serves a district of 38,000 acres, with a population in 1831 of 7,911, and in 1839-40 it expended £109 12s 10d, and administered to 2,318 patients. On the road to Ballytore, and about two miles from Dunlavin, is the demesne of Rathallagh; and in the vicinity is the seat of Lady Tynte.

Area of the town 41 acres. Population in 1831 1,069; in 1841, 990. Houses 143. Families employed chiefly in agriculture 56, in manufacturing and trade 87 and in other pursuits 54. Families dependant chiefly on property and professions 15; on the directing of labour 85; on their own manual labour 81 and on means not specified 16.

Chris Lawlor is indebted to the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences for its generous support of the research project to which this article relates.

The West Wicklow Historical Society is currently inviting the submission of articles, photographs, illustrations and any other relevant material for its

TEENS SEEN AT THE TEEN SCENE! BY SIOBHAN SLEVIN

Since opening six months ago local teenage participation has been fantastic. Those attending have had the chance to learn, hang out and have fun in a safe environment. Following suggestions from the kids pizza, hotdogs and drinks were made available each night.

In addition to learning basic computer skills the kids have been on three adven-

ture days in Baltinglass Outdoor Education Centre, had a lesson in photography from Norrie and to finish off the course we have a day horse riding, fun and games and a barbeque. Now that we are finishing for the summer months, the committee would like to thank most sincerely all those who have supported us through the first course, especially Fr. Tony and the Parish Coun-

cil, Mary O'Toole our teacher, Dunlavin Forum and all those who dropped in throughout the time for a cup of tea and a chat.

We will be opening back up in September so if anyone is interested in joining as a leader to help out or if your children want to join up please contact Siobhán Slevin or any other member of the Committee. SS

"It is important that students bring a certain ragamuffin, barefoot, irreverence to their studies; they are not here to worship what is known, but to question it."

J. Bronowski
The Ascent of Man

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES AN ALL TIME HIGH IN WEST WICKLOW!



Shauna Rouse & Miziway Migizi des Jarlait plant part of a Laurel hedge at the recent N.A.A.L.A Gathering

The definition of Community Spirit came alive for a special gathering in Dunlavin GAA pitch on the 6th April 2009. The NAALA gathering was organised as a shared community event by the Dunlavin Forum, Dunlavin GAA Club and Dunlavin 12th Scout Troup.

Rural communities such as Dunlavin are considered by some to be insular and closed, yet the coming to-

gether of 12 “foreign” Lakota Indian students with 12 local students from St. Kevin’s managed to inspire and mobilize and entire community.

On the face of it “outsiders” appear to be different but any who heard Le Moine Le Pointe speak on the evening was left in no doubt that there is more that unites us than divides us. He spoke of community and history of adversity, honour and respect. The Indian history, is

it transpires, not that different from our own.

We would like to thank all



DID YOU KNOW THAT.....!

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. In the 1400’s a law was set forth in England that allowed a man to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have ‘rule of thumb’ | English language! | ers & laser printers were all invented by women. |
| 2. Many years ago in Scotland a new game was invented. It was ruled Gentlemen Only... Ladies Forbidden. Thus GOLF entered into the | 3. The first couple to be shown in bed together on Prime television were Fred & Wilma Flintstone | 7. 111,111,111 x 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321 |
| | 4. It is impossible to lick your elbow. | 8. Coca Cola was originally green |
| | 5. The first ever novel written on a typewriter was Tom Sawyer | 9. The only food that doesn’t spoil is Honey |
| | 6. Bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windscreen wip- | 10. At least 75% of people who read this will have tried to lick their elbow! |

“A COUPLE LYING IN BED, THE MAN SAYS, I’M GOING TO MAKE YOU THE HAPPIEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD”

I’LL MISS YOU HIS WIFE REPLIES”.

ANONOMOUS

A TASTE OF BASKETRY MAPPING OUR SAFETY

Make and bring home a beautiful round basket during this years Arts Festival. You will need to allow yourself 3 hours on the day to take part.

6 people max pre-booked at €30.00 per person (materials incl)

Book through: Beth Murphy 087/6462528

A review of all signage around Dunlavin is underway. Once completed, it is planned to put in place an upgrade plan to improve directional signage so as to better direct emergency services. Also it is planned to improve the overall aesthetics of Dunlavin with the assistance and guidance of the

Elder Flowers and Computer Training!

Following requests to the Forum from community members, planning has begun to run a computer course for the over 50’s this autumn.

The course will cover basic computer skills; e-mail and internet browsing. This will enable users to keep in contact with their children & families and “surf the internet”. Lets see what all the fuss is about.



“Teachers open the door but you must enter yourself”

Email Us Foum@ddf.ie

NEWSLETTER

Jim O'Neill - Chairman: Sparrow Road,
Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow
Kay Hogan - Secretary: Mullica Lower,
Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow

Phone: Jim O'Neill 087 275 3723
Phone: Kay Hogan 087 647 7587

Departed Friends

We would like to extend our sincerest sympathy to anyone who may have suffered bereavement due to the loss of a loved one during the course of the year.

WE ARE ON THE WEB

WWW.DDF.IE

IT IS THE FORUM'S MISSION
TO PUT IN PLACE A WAY BY WHICH
THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY
CAN VOICE THEIR VIEWS
CONTRIBUTE TO OUR DEVELOPMENT
AND MAKE DUNLAVIN
A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

DUNLAVIN & DISTRICT FORUM

OUR CREDO

The Forum's first responsibility is to serve the wellbeing and quality of life of every single member of our community irrespective of their Circumstances, Creed, Ethnic Background or Political Affiliations. In achieving this goal we must strive to do so in a mindful and respectful manner while at all times paying particular attention to the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment that sustains us.

We must encourage improvements and growth, while recognising that whether out of civic duty or for profitable gain, such developments are fair and equitable but above all in the best interest of the greater good. In our interaction with government bodies or private developers, we will refer to the principles of sustainable development as set out in the most up-to-date Sustainable Development – A Strategy for Ireland and the Dunlavin Local Area Plan.

The Forum must be representative of all elements that constitute Dunlavin and its surrounding districts encompassing: Rural, Village, Social Housing and Commercial/Retail; Greenbelt and Natural Heritage; Townscape & Architectural Conservation; Archaeological Heritage; Community Facilities and Recreation, while ensuring that the population's age demographic has a balanced voice. Our deliberations should be undertaken with forethought and an open mind allowing for healthy debate. We must provide clear channels of communication to and from our neighbours so that all individuals in our community are heard.

We will communicate our recommendations and conclusions in a truthful and as clear a manner as possible to our community and the greater Diaspora. In all our endeavours we will strive to do so with honest hearts and open minds.

DUNLAVIN
DISTRICT FORUM



DUNLAVIN FESTIVAL OF ARTS 19TH – 21ST JUNE 2009

Friday 19th June

7pm Live Music outside Market House
7.30 Official Opening of Art Exhibitions
by Sean O'Rourke
8pm All Art Exhibitions Open; Market House, Old
School house & Blue Door Gallery.
9pm Funfair Dunlavin Green
9.30 Set Dancing - Jonathan Swift School

Saturday 20th June

Noon Art Exhibitions Open - Market House Gallery,
Old School House Gallery & Blue Door Gallery
2pm Dog Show - Ball Alley
3.30 Fun Fair
8pm "Elizabeth Smith of Baltiboy's" Market House *.
9pm Bingo

Sunday 21th June

Noon Blacksmith Display Grounds - Old Schoolhouse
Basket Weaving Class & Display - Market Square

Woodcarving Display - Grounds Old Schoolhouse

Live Drawing - Grounds Old Schoolhouse

Noon Craft Fair Imaal Hall & Farmers Market - M.Square

1pm Clay Pigeon shoot - Adrian Deering's Milltown

2pm Children's Parade - Scoil Nicholas Naofa

3pm Street Music with Jammie - Stephen St. & Main St.

7pm The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace - St.Nicholas of

THE ARMED MAN - A MASS FOR PEACE COMPOSED BY KARL KENKINS

The Milltown Singers are the catalyst that will see this Mass performed in Dunlavin. Requiring over 100 voices, our local Milltown choir will be joined by singers from Naas, Bray Loughrea and beyond. The piece deals with the carnage wrought by war and was last performed in London's Royal Albert Hall. **Tickets €15 on sale Dunlavin Post Office**

***Elizabeth Smith** is a play adaptation of the journal of a Scottish woman who lived near Blessington in the 1800's. Her comments and views are frank and uninhibited concerning the people and events that occurred at the time.