

THE DUNLAVIN & DISTRICT FORUM

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DECEMBER 2008

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR!

The Forum has made great headway since its inception in June 2006. As a community it is evident that there is renewed sense of spirit in our town re-invigorated by positive change and positive action. In particular, the last 18 months has seen focused work carried out on prioritised issues identified by the community as a whole and excellent progress has been made.

A host of new events and initiatives took place this year, some initiated directly by the Forum, others by members of the community not directly associated with the Forum but acutely attuned to making a change for the better and improving our little corner of West Wicklow.

During the coming months and into 2009, will see our new Christmas

Lights illuminated, a reinstated Christmas Fair take place, the Teen Scene Café open and our Wicklow Uplands Interpretative Panel take it's place in the town.



A lot of work has been undertaken with Government agencies to bring about positive changes to the infrastructure by submitting reports on town planning, corresponding with senior officials and voicing clearly and unwaveringly your views and wishes.

We have initiated and supported the setting up of

a local residents associations to try to identify and deal with issues in each locality.

On behalf of the community I'd like to commend every active group whether associated with the Forum directly or working tirelessly within their own community group.

In closing, thanks is due to every single person who contributed in whatever capacity; whether it be to attend meetings, raise money, offer advice or just simply offer words of support and encouragement.

To one and all, a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Jim O'Neill—Chairman of the Dunlavin & District Forum 2008.

*Next Forum Meeting 8th Dec
AGM February 3rd 2009*

ST.KEVIN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE GOES TRIBAL!

Next year N.A.A.L.A Ireland will be hosting its inaugural conference in conjunction with St. Kevin's Community College, Dunlavin.

For the two weeks prior to the three day conference, a group of Sicaugu Lakota Youth from the Rosebud Reservation will participate in daily activities with our local community.

The youth will participate in daily activities, learning about themselves and others, learning about their own culture as well as sharing their diversity with others in a safe environment.

DUNLAVIN - CARTE D'OR!

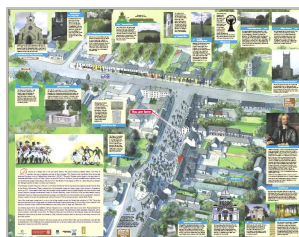
Due to the tireless work of the Forum's interpretative panel committee, Dunlavin's historic past is being brought to life on an installation soon to be erected in the town.

Under an initiative driven by the Wicklow Uplands Council, The Heritage

Council, IRCHSS and partially funded by Dunlavin & District Forum, the project has come to life.

Working with local photographer Peter Barrow a map of the town with local points of interest has been created. This format is replicate across many towns across the county

with the intention of providing an easy to understand map for visitors highlighting local points of interest.



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2008 A VERY GOOD YEAR FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Mags Lynott raising funds and spirits, at the inaugural Dunlavin Vintage Tractor Rally

- 1798 Monument Restoration is completed.
- Twinning with European Town Initiated.
- St. Nicholas Juvenile Club's has great success across a number of competitions.
- Milltown Singers Represents Dunlavin in Karl Jenkins A Mass for Peace at the Royal Albert Hall, London.
- Kay O'Flynn wins hostess of the year award.
- Dunlavin Soccer Club Re-establishes itself after a few years absence..
- Shay O' Byrne wins the Fergus O'Ryan RHA Memorial Award.
- School won €3k as runners up in National Owl habitat competition.
- Jim Toomey was presented with a Benemerenti Award. A Pontifical decoration conferred in recognition of distinguished service in civil affairs.
- Improved traffic system within the town.



Jonathan Swift National

Send your stories to:
forum@ddf.ie

FIT FOR A KING! BY SIOBHÁN SLEVIN

“BLESSED IS HE WHO EXPECTS NOTHING, FOR HE SHALL NEVER BE DISAPPOINTED”.

JONATHAN SWIFT”

Earlier this year we attended a meeting with Wicklow VEC regarding a new youth initiative, under FIT (Fast track to Information Technology). The initiative would implement a free computer course for teenagers. Several volunteers came forward and we set about creating a local group to run the project. The core Committee of six attended training on youth work with

the VEC, sourced funding for equipment and are ready to go.

As a hub for the programme, the committee are in the process of setting up a youth café Teen Scene Café (TSC), in the local Parish Centre which will be run as a café environment for teenagers aged 13 to 16. Local advertising and word of mouth will be used to identify teenagers who are inter-

ested in attending the FIT Course on computers and media applications such as digital photography and associated software applications, all **free of charge**.

Places will be on a first come first served basis. The Teen Scene Café will have an open night shortly after Christmas for all parents and teenagers wishing to meet team leaders and see the new TSC. All welcome. SS.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS UP THE COMMUNITY!

Lighting up Dunlavin always generated interest and lively response from everyone - all believing that over the last few years Dunlavin has been a sad sight at Christmas with a tree sometimes (or sometimes not!)



and the Nativity Crib thanks to Mary O Sullivan being the constant beacon of light about the town. As a result the

Dunlavin lighting committee was set up and charged with the duty improve the festive spirit of Dunlavin for Christmas. With generous support and guidance by many who attended our meetings especially; Tony Allen (local electrical contractor), Larry Whelan (ESB) and Paul Carey Blessing-

ton committee). A plan emerged. Funds were required and the people and businesses of Dunlavin were asked to contribute, which they did with great generosity and all contributors will be recognised individually with appreciation from the Forum lighting committee. The lights, electrical boxes, timers etc are now being installed and all will be ready for our lighting ceremony at 5pm Saturday the 6th of December. **All welcome.**



As wet as our summer was, it was no deterrent to the Peacock Butterfly in it's courting of the Butterfly Bush (Buddleja dividiij)

FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA TO WEST WICKLOW BY PATRICIA DOWLING



A rainy day in Lugatryna Lower, looking East towards Church Mountain as dawn awakes.

I have lived away from Dunlavin since going to college in 1993 and in the last 5 years, have lived in China, Kuala Lumpur and more recently in Perth, Australia. For me living in Dunlavin means living in a place where everyone knew one another where there is still a sense of community. Returning after a long absence, still gives you the feeling of really being at home. Some new faces

have arrived, some new buildings have risen up but not so much so that you still don't feel it's comforting and familiar feel. For me, it's still a beautiful town with the Courthouse welcoming you in full view as you drive in; the shops houses and churches looking like a picture postcard in winter snow or summer sun. My fondest memories are of summers spent relaxing around the Green and on St.

Stephen's Day watching the hunt meet, catching up with relatives and friends outside Sunday Mass for a chat and the buzz around what used



to be Angela's chip shop after the Imaal disco. It's a

DUNLAVIN LOCAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

- 1. What does the Fairgreen Monument commemorate?
- 2. When was the new GAA facilities opened?
- 3. When was the present National School opened?
- 4. The Market House was built in 1700's, 1800's, 1900's?
- 5. Where was the official CIE bus stop?
- 6. Name the river that rises in Tober.
- 7. Where was the old Railway Hotel located?
- 8. Who is the patron saint of Dunlavin?
- 9. Who designed the Market House?
- 10. Where are the two local forts located?
- 11. Who founded the Dunlavin Arts Festival in 1983?
- 12. Where in the area is there a holy well?
- 13. What is the name of the Druid's graveyard at Colbinstown?
- 14. What famous playwright spent time in Dunlavin?

See answers on the back page.

"IF WE WANT LOCAL SERVICES WE MUST SUPPORT OUR LOCAL RETAILERS AND BUSINESSES" SHOP LOCAL!"

FUNDRAISING - A COMMUNITY EFFORT

"There is no such thing as an unworthy cause!"

In the distant past I worked with an extraordinary woman from America, a professional fundraiser - Ms. Amy Hynes. Amy pointed out that "people give to people" and that if the right person does the ask it is very difficult for a donor to say no. This year through the Forum's efforts alone the community managed to raise over €16,000 to fund various community projects. This is testament to the individuals who made up the respective fundraising committees and who

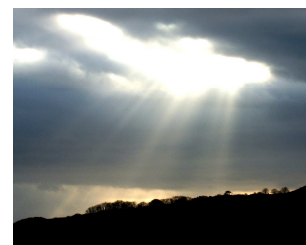
worked tirelessly asking friends and neighbors to contribute to the betterment of our community. We are asked time and again what the funds will be used for and to this we have a stock answer, whatever the community needs most! In the present climate supporting local business is as good as a donation. Already Dunlavin is seeing friends close their business due to a the changing social and economic climate. If we want local services we must support our local retailers and businesses.

So thanks to everyone who gave and who continue to give in many ways. ML

DUNLAVIN'S NEWEST HISTORIC SITE!

With a little help from our friends we now have a web site for Dunlavin and it's comings and goings.

The site is updated regularly with minutes from all the Forum meetings, notifications and events. If you have stories pictures or things that you would like to see on your site please let us know or pay us a visit. www.ddf.ie



"A wise man should have money in his head, but not in his heart".

Jonathan Swift

Foum@ddf.ie

NEWSLETTER

Jim O'Neill - Chairman: Sparrow Road,
Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow
Geraldine Cole - Secretary: Griffinstown
Cottage, Grangecon, Co. Wicklow

Phone: Jim O'Neill 087 275 3723
Phone: Ger Cole 087 289 8043

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.

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. 1798 2. 2005 3. 1952 4. 1700's 5. Burkes 6. The Grease 7. Teac de Grás 8. St. Nicholas 9. Richard Cassells 10. Tournant & Tuber Moat 11. Gloria Cloyne 12. Tournant 13. Killeen Cormack? 14. Jonathan Swift

DUNLAVIN
DISTRICT FORUM



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - FR. TONY O'SHAUGHNESSY

I like this time of year as it draws our hearts, to re-evaluate what really matters to us. It also draws us to the heart of God, who has shown us a deep and abiding love in the birth of Jesus, his Son. In recent years we have left familiar pathways and followed ones that offered new and different opportunities. We were led to believe that the good times were here forever. How things have changed in a short space of time for all of us. Now, we are taking a more honest and reflective look at what's important to us and what we value most. The Christmas season should inspire us to re-find our sense of God, to appreciate the Gospel of Christ and allow it to shape our lives. This season invites us to look at our family, our neighbourhood, our Parish Community—and see what contribution we can make to these important areas so that we become better human beings. Perhaps as we face an uncertain future, we might give attention to the enduring values of love and compassion, being concerned for one another, offering friendship to the lonely, ensuring that our children and young people are led in ways of goodness, truth, integrity, decency and care for others. "The story of Christmas speaks of the faithful love of God for us, and tells us that all our lives are of infinite value to God. This truth urges us to see each other in the same way. To live this calling will make a difference to us all."

God's blessings for Christmas and for 2009.

Fr. Tony O'Shaughnessy

AN ADVENT PRAYER REV. DECLAN SMITH

We reclaim this Holy Season — your gift to us:

*a poor, humble child in a stable —
this is your idea of wealth, Creator God
to be surrounded by loved ones and animals
in a lowly barn under the limitless
stars of the clear night sky.*

*So this Advent: we turn our back on waste,
on excess and destruction,*

*We vow to build up lives of simplicity,
to use our gifts to nourish each other in
loving community as sisters and brothers,
and to put the "waiting back into wanting."*

This Advent will be a particularly difficult time for many people as the rigours of recession bite deeper. Churches in Ireland and around the globe are seeing this as a challenge to society which has lost its way in excess and commercialised materialism. This grey cloud affords us all a real opportunity to rediscover Christmas by focussing on Jesus, the man for others. What homeless person will we assist this Christmas or stranger/alien welcome in our land? May we find the silver lining of God's love for us.

A joyful, peaceful Christmas and enough to get on with throughout 2009!

Declan.