



# BALLYMUN

## REGENERATION NEWS

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## MacDERMOTT TOWER GOING, GOING, GONE

**E**xplosives weighing 60kg brought the 15-storey MacDermott Tower down with a bang in only 5 seconds at 10am on Sunday 13th March. The event was kept low-key out of respect for the demolition worker, Mr Billy Helm, who was tragically killed earlier in the month. Even so hundreds of local people came out to watch the spectacle and cheered as the tower was reduced to 8,500 tonnes of rubble.

“The demolition of Ballymun’s tower blocks is changing Dublin’s skyline and is a symbol that another stage in Ireland’s biggest physical, social and economic regeneration has taken place,” said Minister Noel Ahern. “It is a wonderful tribute to Ballymun Regeneration and Dublin City Council to see so much social and economic activity underway here. I know that the community in Ballymun will make sure that all this new housing and new facilities are valued and that the new Ballymun becomes known as a good place to live in, work and visit.”

#### HEALTH & SAFETY

If you see anything outside of working hours, that you are concerned about on the building sites, please contact Ballymun Gardaí at 01 666 4400



Dublin City  
Baile Átha Cliath

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MacDermott Tower was the seventh block of Ballymun flats to be demolished and the first to be demolished by explosives. The highly successful operation was choreographed with meticulous timing by Tinnelly Demolition. Pearse Tower was demolished in July 2004, while McDonagh and Ceannt Towers are currently being slowly demolished by mechanical means.

Many of the 90 families who lived in MacDermott Tower and who have been re-housed in new homes in the area

were there to bear witness to the demolition of their former homes. The names of the seven signatories to the 1916 Proclamation will remain associated with Ballymun even when the towers which are named after them are long gone. One of the ways the association will continue is through a newly commissioned art work which Jochen Gertz launched on 24th March 2005. The National Memory Grove will consist of 400 oak trees and people from all over Ireland are invited to subscribe for one of the oak trees which are selling at €60 each.

## Prestigious award for AXIS play



*Dermot Bolger accepting his award for best new play 'From These Green Heights' at the ESB/ Irish Times Theatre Awards 2005.*

**C**ongratulations to Dermot Bolger and the team at AXIS who won an award for Best New Play at the Irish Times/ESB Theatre Awards for Dermot's play

about Ballymun called "From These Green Heights". The play was commissioned and produced by Axis and directed by Ray Yeates.

In his acceptance speech, Dermot Bolger paid tribute to the people of Ballymun saying he considered it a "rare privilege to write for the people you live next to and have them appreciate your work".

The play featured two young Ballymun actresses making their professional stage debut and ran in the Axis Centre from the 23rd of November to the 11th of December 2004. It will return to Axis in May 2005 before touring to the O'Reilly Theatre in Dublin's city centre and The Lyric Theatre in Belfast.

## Gardening Madness



**A**lthough the weather has been cold, the gardening season is starting to warm up.

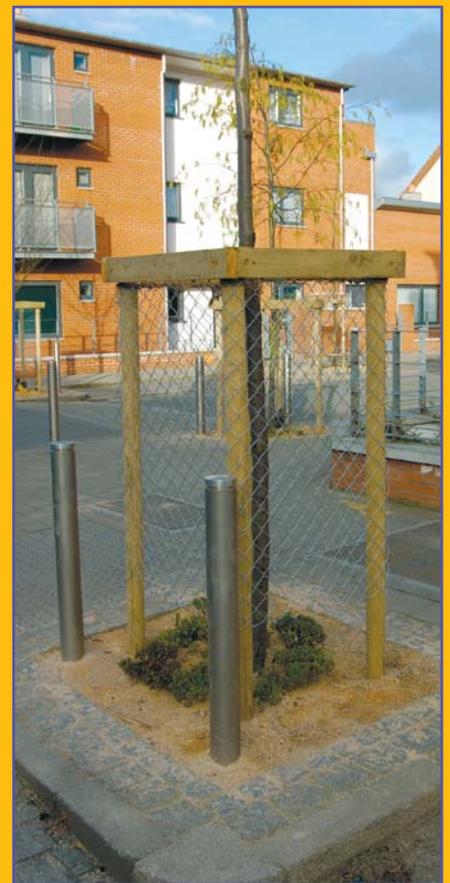
GAP Ballymun welcomed in Spring and kick-started the gardening season by holding a plant sale in the Ballymun Shopping Centre on the 1st March. There was a great selection of

plants for sale, from climbing roses to primroses. Over half the plants were bought in the first hour, with some people making return trips to buy more plants. GAP Community Gardener, Sinéad Finn, was on hand to give advice about the plants and to explain how to look after them in the months ahead. Sinéad was impressed with the amount of plant advice she received from many of the customers!

Since the sale was such an outright success, Sinéad will be planning another sale in the summer, where you will be able to pick up more great plants to add colour to your garden and pots. So keep an eye out for more events brought to you by GAP Gardening! See also **BALLYMUN IN BLOOM** on the back page.

## LET TREES GROW to improve the air we breathe

**T**rees improve the appearance of a street and they help to provide clean air to help us all to breathe," says Bernie Kinsella, Horticulturist, BRL. "The more we have trees on streets and in gardens the better the quality of air for everybody."



"Unfortunately, some new young trees in Ballymun have been vandalised since they were planted," continues Bernie. "Broken branches can weaken a tree as it grows older. Worst of all, when bark is stripped from the trunks of trees they can die. So please don't damage the trees"

Over the coming months, BRL will be replacing damaged trees in the new housing schemes.

## Ballymun - a model of innovation on an international scale



*Dr Anne Power with local residents in the Civic Centre*

In January 2005 during her visit to Ballymun, Dr Anne Power, Professor of Social Policy at the London School of Economics, was delighted to meet with residents, members of the Area Forums and practitioners from the voluntary, public and community sectors. A renowned

expert in urban regeneration Dr Power said that the regeneration of Ballymun “is an outstanding international model attempting to break the mould”.

She went on to say that “It will take at least another 5 years to finish the current program in full, and it will need at least another five years after that to bed in and work through the teething problems of such a large and complex site. If all the commercial opportunities are to be exploited, it may take a lot longer.”

“The emphasis from now on must clearly combine the social, economic and environmental regeneration of the area”, said Dr Power. She felt the challenge was to turn an area with a poor reputation into a popular and mixed town for up to 30,000 people.

Following her meeting with the local residents, Dr Power said that people who have moved into new homes are very happy and those waiting to move are worried, but that’s completely normal. Her message was clear, everyone living and working in Ballymun must keep working together to create a positive and sustainable environment.

## In the swim

Crunch Fitness who will be managing the new Leisure Centre and Swimming Pool for BRL and Dublin City Council are about ready to begin marketing the centre within Ballymun. The finishing touches are being put in place so it can be ready to open as soon as Ceannt Tower is gone.

The centre will cater for pay-per-visit at the same price as other new Dublin City Council pools, such as the one in Finglas. It will be open till late Monday to Friday when it will be open until 10pm, and at the weekends it will be open until approximately 7pm both Saturday and Sunday. There are two gym areas, plus separate weights, spinning, aerobics/yoga studios where there will be regular classes. The biggest attraction will surely be the brand new swimming facilities designed to attract everyone, regardless of age or swimming ability.

- The main swimming pool is 25m long with 4 lanes and is fitted with a ‘disability’ hoist so the pool is fully accessible.
- The second pool has a learner area and an adult relaxation area and is very convenient for the sauna and steam rooms which are at the pool side.
- There is an interactive water playground for smaller



*Locker rooms in the new swimming pool*

children with climbing frames and slides.

- Sports groups, youth clubs and schools will be able to pre-book swimming times.
- The learner pool and slides are separated from the viewing area by a glass partition so parents and guardians will be able to sit in the juice bar and watch their children enjoying themselves in the water without getting wet themselves!
- For more serious thrill seekers there are two big drop slides, one 8 meters long and the other 9 meters long.

## BG2: Exciting arts opportunities



Selection panel members Frank Scalzo and Fergus Breatnach in the Civic Centre with the Local Artists' Commissions Brief.

**B**reaking Ground 2 BRL Art project is entering its second phase of commissioning. BG2 is providing a wide range of projects to ensure opportunities for local, national and international artists.

The first series of BG2 commissions includes a totally innovative departure - Local Artists' Commissions open to all emerging and established artists living, working or born in Ballymun. There will be commissions in the categories of visual arts, video/film, performing arts and writing.

"We are confident that the pool of local talent is of such a standard that the commissioned artists will make a valuable contribution not only to the cultural life of Ballymun, but also further afield," says Aisling Prior, BG2 Director.

## Fairtrade fortnight

**T**he FAIRTRADE mark is an independent guarantee of a better deal for the Third World producers. Buying products with the FAIRTRADE Mark ensures that much needed extra money goes back to the farmers and workers who produced them.

GAP Ballymun, in conjunction with Tesco Ireland, hosted a FAIRTRADE coffee morning and customers sampled a variety of FAIRTRADE products.

This event helped to raise awareness within the local community about how people can play a part in supporting FAIRTRADE. To find out more call GAP at 01 862 5846.



### HOTEL ON SITE

A new mixed development, including a hotel, shops, apartments, offices and a small number of live work apartments for artists will be built on the site of MacDermott Tower. Bennetts, who are the contractors, are currently on site.

This development is a 93-bed hotel with 163 apartments and shops at ground floor on Main Street and Coumry Road, and offices at the north end of Main Street. It will be built around a landscaped courtyard.

A new road will be built to provide access to the residential units south of the existing boiler house along with the underground car park.

## NOTICE BOARD

### DREAMING OF A SUMMER DAY IN AXIS

In the *Dream of a Summer Day* Storytellers Theatre Company present a rich and imaginative tale, vividly told through live music, dance and humour. Interweaving Lafcadio's timeless stories with his fascinating life, this promises to be a magical evening of theatre.

Axis, Ballymun, present *Dream of a Summer Day* for two shows only on 22nd and 23rd April 2005. Tickets are available from the box office in axis at 01 883 2100, priced at €12 and €10.

Workshops will be available and for further information about workshops contact Mark O'Brien on 01 883 2147.

### BALLYMUN IN BLOOM 2005

Dublin City Council will also be selling plants in various locations around Ballymun in April 2005 as part of its Ballymun in Bloom 2005 initiative.

It will commence at 7:00pm on 7th April with a launch at the Civic Centre, and then a series of public plant sales will be held at the following locations:

- St Joseph's School: Friday, 8th April, 1pm-3pm
- Holy Spirit Girls' school: Monday, 11th April, 1pm-3pm
- Ballymun Civic Centre: Monday, 11th April, 5pm-8pm
- Virgin Mary Boys' School: Tuesday, 12th April, 1pm-3pm
- Scoil An Tseactar Laoch: Wednesday, 13th April, 1pm-3pm

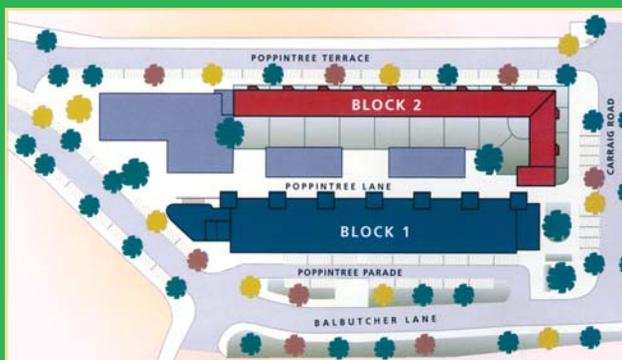
### START GARDENING NOW WITH GAP!

Have you moved into a new home in Ballymun yet? Would you like to learn some gardening skills? Keen to meet your neighbours who share an interest in the garden?

GAP runs Garden Team courses over 7 weeks in team-members' own homes. All you need is four neighbours to come together to help each other to dig and plant an area

of their gardens. GAP provides a selection of plants to get you started. GAP Community Gardener, Sinead Finn, meets the team each week for two hours to plan and discuss a different garden each week. The team prepares a plant bed in each garden. Sinead will be running garden teams throughout the Spring and Summer so if you are interested in joining or would like more details, contact Sinead on 01 883 2115.

### HOUSES AND APARTMENTS FOR SALE AT CARRIG COURT, POPPINTREE



BLOCK 1 - APARTMENTS BLOCK 2 - HOUSES

Carrig Court at the new Poppintree Neighbourhood Centre is a small development of one, two and three bedroom apartments and two bedroom townhouses. The apartments are situated above shops, with townhouses situated to the rear. Prices range from €180,000 for one bedroom units and are already being sold, so if you are interested you should contact Lisney at 01 884 0700. There will also be apartments for sale in Coultry shortly.

There is one Retail Unit available for rental out of a total of six. Please direct enquiries to Emma Coffey at Lisneys on 01 638 2700. There are also three Workshop Units for rental out of a total of four. Please direct enquiries to Mary Woolhead at BRL on 01 675 5618.