



BALLYMUN

REGENERATION NEWS

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INSIDE

- Minister and Lord Mayor join the 1000th home celebration
- The Ballymun Otherworld Festival
- Coultrey Park to get new artwork



1000th resident, Lisa O'Neill, celebrates with Lord Mayor Vincent Jackson.

METRO WILL BRING NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO BALLYMUN

The Metro is coming to Ballymun. The recent announcement by the Rail Procurement Agency (RPA) will give a real boost to the regeneration of Ballymun and will bring further opportunities to the area.

Welcoming the announcement Ciarán Murray BRL Managing Director, says the Metro will be a boon for people in the area. "Metro will provide a vital new link for people from Ballymun to access the city quickly. Along with the new quality bus corridor it will open up the area like never before, providing them with another choice of public transport. It will also encourage others to visit the area and businesses to invest here."

No decision has been made on whether the Metro will go over or underground. In the coming weeks the Railway Procurement Agency will provide people with developed proposals for the various possible options. These proposals can then be considered. The recent announcement is the beginning of a process that will see BRL in continued consultation with the RPA regarding detailed design of the new Metro route through Ballymun.

Come and see 'Green' Santa at the Ballymun Market

Eco-Friendly Products & Local Crafts

Organic Produce, Plant Sale & more ...

Thursday December 14th 3.30pm - 7.30pm
Ballymun Civic Centre Atrium
Santa will be arriving to his grotto at 4:00pm.

Global ACTION PLAN

For further information contact GAP (01) 862 5846
info@globalactionplan.ie www.globalactionplan.ie

HEALTH & SAFETY

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

Minister and Lord Mayor join the 1000th home celebration

On 25th October Mr Noel Ahern, T.D., Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal and Lord Mayor, Cllr Vincent Jackson joined BRL, DCC and Ballymun residents in celebrating the move of the 1000th resident into her new home.



A toast to the 1000th Resident

Lisa O'Neill, her son Paul, and daughter Donna are delighted with their new home in Poppintree, "This will be the first house our family have lived in and we love it. We

are really looking forward to life in Carton Court, with a front and back garden."

This is a great milestone for the whole project and is a reflection of the hard work that has gone into Ballymun over the last number of years.

Ciaran Murray, Managing Director of BRL says, "we always knew that the regeneration wouldn't be easy, but the great commitment shown by the people of Ballymun during some difficult times has helped us achieve so much since 1997."

Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal, Noel Ahern T.D. also had lots of praise for the project he describes as the biggest in Europe. "Presenting the keys to the 1000th family to move into a new Ballymun Regeneration home symbolises how far the regeneration programme has progressed in just a few years. More flat block demolitions are planned for the coming months and new residents are moving into new homes all the time."

Lord Mayor, Vincent Jackson said how impressed he is by how completely transformed Ballymun is - "Ballymun is becoming a vibrant and fashionable place to live", he said proudly.

Launch of 'Every Picture Tells a Story'

Ballymun Adult Read & Write Scheme works with individuals on a one-to-one basis to improve their reading and writing skills. They can be contacted on 01 862 2402 if anybody is interested in getting involved, either as student or tutor. All are welcome.

Last October 19th in Ballymun Library, Martin King (the TV3 Weatherman) helped the group to launch their book 'Every Picture Tells a Story', which consists of a collection of short pieces, all based around participant's photos. An extract from the book, re-produced below, arose from a mother's photo of her two children and undoubtedly echoes the sentiment of many Ballymun parents.

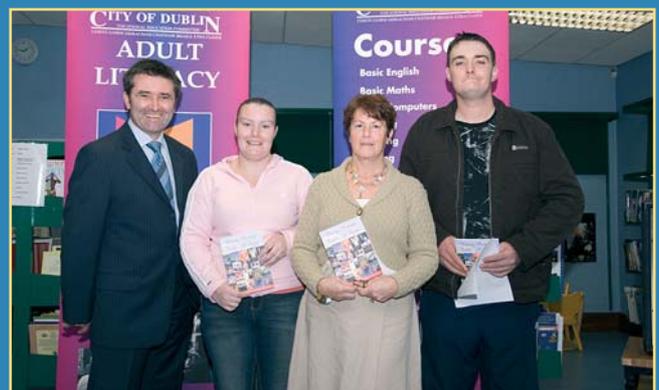
My Pride and Joy

This is a picture of my son Ciaran and my daughter Sinéad. It was taken on my son's first day at school. He was very nervous on his first day but he had his older sister to look after him.

I am very proud of my son and daughter. When they come in from school they always sit at the table and take out their homework. Sometimes when Ciaran gets stuck on a few sums or spelling, Sinéad will try her best to help him as much as she can.

When they are finished their homework they always run into the sitting room to see who gets the remote control. Sometimes they will play together or sometimes Ciaran will go up to his bedroom and play his Xbox game that he got for Christmas. Sinéad might go out and play with her friends.

When Ciaran grows up he wants to be a traffic cop on a motorbike because he always talks about how much he likes motorbikes. Sinéad wants to be a teacher or a nurse, but she knows how much she has to do to go to college to have a good job. I hope that they do really well and end up as what they want to be. These are my children and I'm very proud of them.



Martin King, Lisa, Sheila and Paul at the launch of 'Every Picture Tells a Story'

John Byrne - the Ballymun Horse Monument

Artist John Byrne has been commissioned by Breaking Ground, the Ballymun Regeneration Limited per cent for art programme, to make a large horse and rider sculpture. It will depict a young female bareback rider and be erected permanently on a plinth in Ballymun.



Some of the teenagers who auditioned as a rider for the sculpture

On the 27th of September auditions were held for a teenage girl to be the model for the rider on this exciting new sculpture. The criteria for selection was that the girl

should be from Ballymun, have a genuine interest in horses and ponies and be within a height and age limit. Other considerations were her ability to pose on a horse and availability to travel to London. Auditions took place at Kill International Equestrian Centre in Co. Kildare where the girls were photographed on a horse, imitating how the sculpture might look. The event attracted considerable media interest with two TV crews, including one from RTÉ News and photographers from The Irish Times and Irish Independent. The twenty girls who auditioned were given a great day out by the staff at the centre with riding lessons and a formal equestrian display.

In November an exhibition of the audition photographs taken at Kill Equestrian Centre was held in the axis Centre when each girl was also presented with a framed copy of their own photograph to take home.

A big thank you from Breaking Ground to all who came along to both the auditions in Co. Kildare and the exhibition in axis. Whoever is selected from these auditions will be travelling to London this month to be scanned by state of the art body-scanning technology at London Metropolitan University. The Ballymun Horse Sculpture is due to be completed in Spring 2007.

Rubbish rocks!

Ballymun Civic Centre rocked to the sound of kids from The Environmental Song Project Committee at the launch of their new CD 'The Rubbish Song' on Wednesday 8th November.

Alex Sproule, who wrote the song, said that he hopes the CD will encourage people to bring home their rubbish instead of littering and that we can 'Get Ballymun nice and clean.'

He also hopes that people will think twice before dumping glass bottles and drink cans into their bins and that they will bring them to one of the local Re-Cycling Centres instead.



Councillor Ray Corcoran with local children performing the 'Rubbish Song'

Coultry Park to get new artwork

Starting in January, Artist Lee Welch will be working with young people to create a new painting in Coultry Park, which will become a permanent

fixture there. If you are between the ages of 8 and 16 and would like to take part contact Debby Clark, Ballymun Regeneration, on 01 222 5609. Debby is based in the Civic Offices on Main Street, Ballymun.

The Ballymun Otherworld Festival

The 8th Ballymun Otherworld Festival, organised by the Ballymun Festival Steering Committee was a huge success this Halloween. The festival is one of the largest of its kind in Dublin.

New to the festival this year was the first ever Halloween Play Day in the Ballymun Shopping Centre from 12–2pm. This event celebrated all elements of children's play, and included The Bug Man from Australia with his bug zoo, Halloween games with face-painting, clowns, storytelling and much more, all facilitated by community groups from Ballymun and co-ordinated by Debby Clarke, BRL Play Development Officer.



Getting up close with some real creepy crawlies

The Otherworld Parade left Ballymun Cross at 5pm and paraded down Ballymun Road to the Shopping Centre car park. Over 200 participants dressed in wild and wonderful costumes. They carried an array of beetles, bugs and creepy crawlies - all designed and made by the young people themselves. The parade included groups from Shangan, Sillogue and Balcurris. Costumes and bugs were made by the young participants as part of the Otherworld Street Art Program during October.

The parade was followed by a highly interactive performance on stage from Munch Samba Band, The



Everyone in high spirits preparing for the festival

Ballymun Beatles, Ballymun Gospel Choir, Energy Free Style, Active Living, Columban Youth Group, and Roundabout Youth Theatre among others.

The night finished at 7pm with the biggest fireworks display Ballymun has ever seen. There was a fantastic picture on the front of the Northside People. The Ballymun Festival Steering Committee is made up of representatives and support from DCC, BRL, axis, BRYP, Youthreach and the wider community.



Ballymun Beatles and Ballymun Gospel Choir entertain their fans

Congratulations to Kathleen Byrne, 1 Whiteacre Close who is the winner of last months competition. She wins a night for 2 in the Ballymun Plaza Hotel including dinner and breakfast.



This is the Christmas edition of our Newsletter and we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very **Happy Christmas**, with all best wishes for 2007.



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