



BALLYMUN

REGENERATION NEWS

February 2009 Issue 75

INSIDE

- Global Warming (Climate Change) Awareness Week
- Ballymun welcomes new Community Safety Co-ordinator
- IKEA open days – Ballymun
- Ballymun schools playground improvement programme
- In Memoriam – Eamonn Elliott

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



The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese looks on as Archbishop Desmond Tutu accepts a presentation from Ballymun Regeneration Ltd Chairman, Ronan King

ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU VISITS BALLYMUN

President Mary McAleese and Archbishop Desmond Tutu were in Ballymun on Tuesday 17th February to launch the two new facilities provided by BRL; The Music Room at St. Joseph's School and the BRL Umbro Sports Arena at the Trinity Comprehensive School and to attend a Civic reception to celebrate the Archbishop's visit to Ballymun. The Archbishop was visiting Ireland at the invitation of ISABA (Irish South African Business Association).

The BRL Umbro Sports Arena, situated on the grounds of Trinity Comprehensive school, will make Ballymun one of the top destinations for FAI's 5-a-side indoor futsal tournaments. The two Trinity schools have also joined the Amawale project that twins them with South African schools. This gives the school children opportunities to connect with each other, to learn about their similarities and differences and thus create new friendships.

The Music Room is a dedicated practice and performance space for the children of Ballymun Music Programme, and will be open to community groups and local societies. The facility was designed by BRL and is built to a very high acoustic standard, with a sprung timber floor suitable for both, St.

continued page 2

Continued from page 1

Joseph's Wind Band and dance. The DIT Ballymun Music Programme - started ten years ago - has grown to involve seven primary and secondary schools in the area and has about 700 children involved each year.

Children from the music programme treated our President and Archbishop Tutu to a very special piece called "A New Day". Archbishop Tutu paid tribute to the children of the music programme when he described their performance as "fabulous". Over 500 guests gathered for the reception in the Civic Centre to celebrate these achievements where both President McAleese and Archbishop Tutu gave warm heart felt speeches. At one stage Archbishop Tutu got all the guests up off their seats, swaying their arms in the air while echoing his words how they were "very special people".

President McAleese also paid tribute to the regeneration of Ballymun when she said "This is a place to be very, very proud of and where once it seemed the rest of



The Archbishop and two of the pupils from St Joseph's Senior School, James Halpin and Martin Maughan

Ireland was racing ahead of Ballymun, now this is the place we look to, to see what we are capable of overcoming if only we work well, fluently and generously together".

Global Warming (Climate Change) Awareness Week

The students of Trinity Comprehensive, Ballymun assisted by Global Action Plan, have taken it upon themselves to spread the word about climate change in Ballymun!

During the 9th–13th February, the school hosted a Global Warming Awareness Week, where students were engaged in various activities to raise awareness of Climate Change and how we can meet the challenge of combating it.

The week of activities focused on bringing the science and policy of climate change to the students of Trinity

Comprehensive through a series of workshops, talks and visits from experts including Eco-UNESCO, the Science Gallery, DCU and Sustainable Energy Ireland.

One of the highlights of the weeks' events was a talk from Trinity Comprehensives' Transition Year student Dylan Sheridan, who recently returned from the Antarctic, where he learnt about climate change first hand. Dylan was selected with other Transition Year students from around the country, to be part of the Voyage of Discovery and learn about global issues first hand.

IN MEMORIAM

Last month saw the passing of our friend and colleague, Eamonn Elliott.



Over the past ten years, Eamonn was involved in every aspect of the regeneration project, from the publishing of the original masterplan in 1998, to the recent 'Timeline' exhibition for the BRL ten-year celebrations. His contribution to the regeneration of Ballymun was immense. His work on graphics, the BRL website, photography, and the Axis Centre, will be admired and remembered for a long time to come. He will also be remembered for providing guidance and support to countless community groups and organisations throughout Ballymun and beyond, and was never too busy to help anyone who asked for his expertise. One of the original members of the team at BRL, he was diagnosed with cancer last summer, and he finally passed away on the morning of the 7th February surrounded by his family. Our thoughts are with his wife and children at this time, and his dedication, energy, ability and generosity will be sorely missed by all of us who knew him.

Ballymun welcomes new Community Safety Co-ordinator

Attendees at the last Safer Ballymun meeting extended a warm welcome to the appointment of Elise Finnigan as the new Community Safety



Elise Finnigan, Community Safety Co-ordinator

Co-ordinator for Ballymun. Elise is no stranger to Ballymun, for the past year and a half she has been

working with the Ballymun Neighbourhood Council and the neighbourhood forums.

Speaking at the meeting Elise expressed her enthusiasm about the new position. She said, "Having worked in the community I am aware of Safer Ballymun's good reputation. I know this is thanks, in large part, to its focus on results and I look forward to working with you to keep this focus." Elise encouraged people to contact her regarding any community safety concerns or ideas on how to progress the work of Safer Ballymun 01 222 7870

As Community Safety Coordinator, Elise will be in charge of helping to implement and develop the Community Safety Strategy for Ballymun. Her plans for 2009 include the further development of neighbourhood level community safety initiatives, the establishment of a community alcohol sub-committee, and the introduction of a Community Safety Week in Ballymun this autumn.

The next meeting of Safer Ballymun will take place in the Council Chamber, Ballymun Civic Centre on Monday the 30th of March at 7pm.

IKEA OPEN DAYS - BALLYMUN

Leading home furnishings giant, IKEA, want to meet you!

On Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd March from 10am-5pm the co-workers at IKEA Dublin will be chatting about their work and their company at the Ballymun Civic Centre. For anyone interested in IKEA or considering a career with IKEA Dublin this is a great chance to meet face-to-face informally and get a feel for the business.

At the IKEA Open Days you can look at some of the products, ask questions, learn about our training programme and discover more about sales, logistics, food services, customer services and much more. As it is a fun informal event there is no need to bring your CV, but application forms will be welcome.



**For Further information: Contact Mary McCarthy/Norman Pratt, Weber Shandwick
Tel: 01 676 0168; 086 2568 429 (Mary),
086 151 8921 (Norman)**

A poster for a Fairtrade event titled "Let's go Bananas!". The background is a close-up of yellow bananas. The text on the poster includes:

- FAIRTRADE logo
- Let's go Bananas!**
- Fairtrade fortnight 23rd Feb - 8th March
- You are invited to our **Fairtrade Event**
- "Let's Make Some Noise"**
- hosted by our own **Dean Scurry**
- Music by **Colm C Kearney "C" • Dicoheall**
Aine and Cathal Holland • Andy Wilson
- axis, Ballymun, Friday 6th March 2009, 7:30pm - 9:30pm
- Tickets available from axis, Ballymun €3 each
- Booking & Info: (01) 883 2100 / www.axis-ballymun.ie
- Small logos at the bottom: axis, Fairtrade, Action Plan, and others.

Ballymun schools playground improvement programme

An initiative to address the issue of play in schools has been undertaken by Ballymun Regeneration Ltd (BRL). Through the local education committee eight schools in Ballymun (two secondary level and six primary level) were invited by the BRL Play Development Officer to participate in a school playground improvement programme. The purpose of the programme is to address the limitations (mainly due to fears of injury and litigation) on play provision currently available in schools and to identify and implement actions that will bring about the improvement and/or increase of play opportunities within schools. Through creative thinking and dedication to the importance of play a wide variety of play opportunities in schools can be developed and will provide positive play experiences before and after school hours and during lunch break. This will assist in:

- Providing positive play experiences within the school environment, that will in turn encourage positive usage of play facilities outside of school.
- Increasing school attendance.
- Improving attainment.
- Reducing accidents in the school playground.
- Reducing incidents of bullying.
- Increasing physical and social activity during school hours.
- Enhancing children's social, physical and psychological development.

Programme process

In order to implement the programme, Marc Armitage, Independent Play Consultant, was engaged by BRL Play Development section. The programme will be delivered and implemented through a process that has been developed by the consultant. All of the eight schools have completed the first three phases of the programme that consisted of an initial programme introduction, playground audits and audit presentations for each school. The remainder of the programme will involve each school setting up a working group who will take part in five training/mentoring workshops with the consultant. The workshops will address various issues, i.e.

agreement of timetable and completion date for development actions, identifying local resources, such as environmental, art and building services, and identifying funding sources. The purpose of the workshops is to produce a final redevelopment action plan for the school playgrounds. Each action plan will be unique to each school, as spaces, resources etc. will vary from one school to another.

Duration of programme

Finalising a schedule for the programme is an ongoing process and will depend on the school schedule for the year and the number of schools that will take part in the project. The Ballymun programme has been scheduled over four school terms.

Programme cost

One of the main principals of the programme is to keep costs to a minimum as the concept of the programme is to provide play opportunities as opposed to activities and elaborately expensive play equipment. Also local resources should be used whenever possible. To date the main costs involved in order to implement programme in Ballymun are the consultant fees. The final development action plans will provide the information required for proposals to the relevant funding agencies.

BRL would like to take this opportunity to thank all the eight schools in Ballymun for their interest in addressing the issue of play in schools and their commitment to participate in the programme.



Ballymun Regeneration Ltd (BRL) Civic Centre, Main Street, Ballymun, Dublin 9
Tel: 01 222 5660 Fax: 01 842 1443 Web: www.brl.ie Email: brl.comms@dublincity.ie