



# BALLYMUN

## REGENERATION NEWS

May 2004 Issue 36

### INSIDE

- The Emerald Project: Green Living in Ballymun
- New Art Director at AXIS
- Aisling Bhaile Munna
- Buying Your Own Home
- Pilot Construction Operative Training Programme
- Monthly Competition

#### 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



Mrs Mary Robinson with the staff of the Ballymun Community Law Centre. Left to right: Breda Redmond, Frank Murray, Nina Maher, Christina Beresford, Trish Scanlon, Josie Matthews, Margaret Fitzpatrick.

## MARY ROBINSON VISITS BALLYMUN COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE

Mrs Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and Executive Director of Ethical Globalisation Initiative, New York, visited Ballymun to launch the first annual report of the new Law Centre in April 2004.

*continued page 2*

#### UPDATE ON DEMOLITION

The difficulty with the demolition and removal of asbestos is still unresolved between BRL and the Health and Safety Authority. It is BRL's intention to make sure that whatever solution is found protects the workers and people of Ballymun and is to the highest standard possible. As soon as any definite word is received either from the HSA or the Government we will issue a press release to keep everyone informed of when the first block will be demolished. Although the delay in demolition is causing problems we are still able to keep going with building works in parts of Ballymun. BRL are trying to ensure that as many people as possible can move into their new homes and that the new community and sporting facilities will be ready as quickly as possible.

*continued from page 1*

In its first year the Centre dealt with 253 family law cases and 123 other civil cases. It also delivered on its education brief by hosting 21 community talks and lectures on legal issues. The newest element is "Mediation Ballymun" which offers mediation services to the local community. It offers an alternative dispute resolution option for people and focuses on disputes within communities. Disputes can arise over issues such as noise, invasion of privacy, litter, respect for boundaries between private spaces, noise from barking dogs etc. In Ballymun, the mediation service has also been useful in helping to resolve disputes between tenants and the local authority as landlord. The Law Centre is also planning to develop a Victim Offender Mediation and Peer Mediation Service for young people. "People in Ballymun have the same legal needs as people elsewhere in the country, but up until twelve months ago, there were no legal services available in Ballymun for the 16,000 people who live there. Difficult as it is to believe, there wasn't even a solicitor's office in Ballymun for the first 40 years of its existence", says Frank Murphy, Community Solicitor. "That we now have a Community Law Centre is thanks to the vision of those involved from the start."

Mary Robinson was presented with a copy of the first Annual Report in recognition of her role in the Josie Airey case which established an Irish citizen's right to civil legal aid. The late Josey Airey couldn't afford a solicitor to represent her in procuring a legal separation from her husband, the Irish State's argument that she could represent herself was not upheld in Europe. Mary Robinson represented Josie Airey when she won her case in Europe. Mary Robinson described the Airey case as "the most groundbreaking case I took as a legal practitioner".

Another reason for her visit was to present two young people with prizes for their essays "What the law means to me". The essay competition was the first annual Maher/O'Cionnaith Memorial Legal Essay Prize and the winners were 1st prize Karl Murphy and 2nd prize Kiara Ann Noonan both pupils of Ballymun Comprehensive School. The competition was sponsored by Sean O Ceallaigh & Co Solicitors and supported by the Ballymun Concrete News.

The other good news for Ballymun was the promise by Ciaran Murray BRL that the law centre would be re-housed near the new District Court House on Main Street.

## Aisling Bhaile Munna



*Caption here*

As part of the Balcurris Hoardings Project, children from the Aisling project worked with artist Aoife Kane to design a mural for the hoarding around the new playground in Balcurris Park. The children's work explores in painting and drawings exploratory maps of the places, landmarks and resources that are important to

them in their area. Then they talked about what they would like to change. As part of the process they visited Derry where they looked at murals which had been created there and participated in an art workshop. 'Aisling Bhaile Munna' an exhibition of the original drawings and paintings made by the children's was shown in Axis Art and Community Resource Centre from 15th April to the 4th May 2004. The paintings in the exhibition forms the basis of the work which will become the mural around the playground in Balcurris Park. Many of these original pieces of art work were sold at the exhibition. Both the original framed paintings and the mural itself will remain as a beautiful example of the vision which these young children have for their new town.

The Hoardings' Project is a cross community arts initiative which includes the Aisling Project, BADIG, Breaking Ground, Columban Youth Project and Community Arts Factory and Balbutcher / Balcurris Forum, BRYR, and Balcurris Boys Home. This project was sponsored by Bowen, Piers and BRL.

## The Emerald Project: Green Living in Ballymun

The Emerald Project in Sillogue is an exciting new project that sets out to develop one of the country's most sustainable, and affordable, housing communities. The scheme comprises 35 homes in a mix of apartments and houses, and includes a small crèche and a visitor space. The Emerald Project is being developed by the CLUID Housing Association in conjunction with the members of the Emerald Housing Co-Op. Its environmental features are supported by BRL and Sustainable Energy Ireland. It is currently seeking a partner for the childcare element of the project. The essential features of the Emerald Project are:

- Houses and apartments with private gardens and terraces as well as a large shared garden capable of supporting food growing areas and compost facilities.
- Homes that will be built to the highest standards for healthiness, including use of low allergy materials,

natural finishes, and an avoidance of synthetic materials such as PVC.

- The community's group heating system will be powered by solar electric panels that magnify the heat from the ground, to create comfortable, healthy homes while avoiding carbon dioxide emissions. Where possible recycled materials and innovative construction methods will be used.
- Over 90% of the water used will be cleaned in the community's 'living machine', the first in Ireland, with rainwater being re-used in WCs.
- All ecological systems have been designed to be low (or no) maintenance and there is a proposal to include an electric car co-op instead of private traditional cars.

Emerald Project is on exhibition in the Civic Centre. Anyone interested in living in the Emerald Project should contact GAP at 01-8625846.

### Monthly Competition Winner Mar 2004,

**Michelle Mckevitt from Sandyhill Gardens wins a tree donation to amaptocare. Michelle chose the Oak tree, " because it is strong, durable and beautiful--a symbol of the Ballymun we wish to become."**

## New Art Director at AXIS

Dubliner Ray Yeates has just taken up his new position as Art Director in Axis. Having recently returned from New York where he ran a



*Ray Yeates, the new Art Director of AXIS*

successful theatre, Ray is very excited by the facilities at Axis and by the talent in the community as shown by the recent production of BLOOD BROTHERS by Roundabout Youth Theatre.

"I hope to develop an international reputation for AXIS as a centre of excellence with the community at its heart," says Ray who will spend the next couple of months getting to know the area and making plans for the future of Axis as an art centre. "I hope that Axis will have a major role as a developer of talent through training and opportunity."

Axis was closed over Easter for refurbishment and opened its doors under its new arts director with a theatre bar in future instead of a public bar. "The centre will soon have shows running every evening and we will need to be able to use the bar in conjunction with these events just as they do in all the other theatres and arts centres around the country," says Ray.

## Pilot Construction Operative Training Programme

**B**allymun Regeneration Ltd worked with Ballymun Local Employment Centre (BLEC) and FÁS to develop a 4-month Pilot Construction Operative Training Programme to meet the needs of the construction industry for trained staff able to use site equipment and machinery safely. It started in January 2004 and involved people from all over North Dublin.

BRL and BLEC are hoping to arrange work experience and job options for the trainees. The site foremen were interested and offered to visit the FÁS training site in Finglas and to talk to trainees. FÁS will re-run the course if trainees secure jobs and they get more participants.

If you are interested in participating in future training course, contact Mary Woolhead, BRL on 6575618 or Michael Bowden, BLEC on 8425722.



*The 2004 Construction Class - Left to right Donny Conlon, John McMillan (FÁS Instructor), John Martin Dowd, Anthony Carberry, Christopher Crennell, John Keggan, Dessie Mulligan and Kenneth Patrick Power at their simulated construction work site FÁS Finglas Training Centre.*

## Buying Your Own Home



*Tremendous interest to buy new homes at Santry Cross*

**A**lready there have been several opportunities to purchase homes in the new Ballymun at affordable prices. Properties sold recently by Pierse at Santry Cross at prices from €175,000 to €225,000,

they all sold out on the day they were released to the market. More opportunities will be coming up for affordable & market priced properties across Ballymun.

Habitat for Humanity Ireland (HFH) are going to be building two 2-bed and two 3-bed homes on an in-fill site in Coumry. As well as organising the contractors they also provide interest free loans to the right applicants. Their income rules are different to most lenders, e.g. Income cannot be more than €26,000. You must also be prepared to partner with HFH and work a minimum of 500 hours, actually working on the scheme to help build your new home. HFH are a world wide organisation who have helped hundreds of low income people to buy their new homes elsewhere.

If interested, contact Mary Woolhead, BRL on (01) 675 5618 for further details. Their first scheme is quite small but if it is a success they will be offered other sites in Ballymun for local people.

Ballymun Regeneration Ltd (BRL) Civic Centre, Main Street, Ballymun, Dublin 9  
Tel: 01 675 5660 Fax: 01 842 1443 Web: [www.brl.ie](http://www.brl.ie)