



BALLYMUN

REGENERATION NEWS

September/October 2005 Issue 48

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The Murphy family outside their new home

HAPPY TO BE HOME AGAIN

Edel Barrett, her husband Stephen Murphy and three children, Lauren (11), Kelsey (8) and Jamie (4), moved from their home on the 10th Floor of Clarke Tower to their new 3-bed roomed semi-detached house in August. Edel and her family love their new house with front and back garden at Sandyhill Way.

"We had some great times in the flats and I was sad leaving, but the house is gorgeous," said Edel who was up all night packing for the move.

Stephen and the children all agree.

"The best bit about the new house is that the kids will have freedom because they can play in the garden and go outside when they want. After living in the flats for ten years I never thought I'd hear myself asking the kids if they want to go out the back and play," said an excited Edel.

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

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After checking out his new bedroom which he said he loves, 4-year old Jamie had great fun with an unlikely new toy - the doorbell on the family's front door.

Edel did all of the Transition courses organised by CAFTA and she said they were brilliant as they helped her prepare for moving from the flats to a house. She also met other people who are moving to her new estate through the Transition course.

We wish Edel and her family a very happy time in their new house. If you want to follow their move from Clarke Tower to Sandyhill Way tune in to Townlands on RTE early next year.



Jamie Murphy having fun in his new garden

Housing update

So far this year we have made great progress in developing new housing. Over 130 families had moved into their new homes by September, that's an average of nearly 4 families per week. Furthermore, we expect to hand over homes to 200 more families by the end of this year.



New housing - Poppintree 4

Poppintree 2, a site bordered by Balbutcher Lane to the South and Burren Court to the North, is a mixed development comprising 59 houses and 12 apartments. By the end of September, 71 families will have moved to this development. They came from Coultry Road, Balcurris Road, and Sillogue Road.

Poppintree 4, development located at the north of Belclare Park and bordered to the North by Balbutcher Lane, comprises 11 houses and 14 apartments, which will be completed in September. 25 families from Thomas



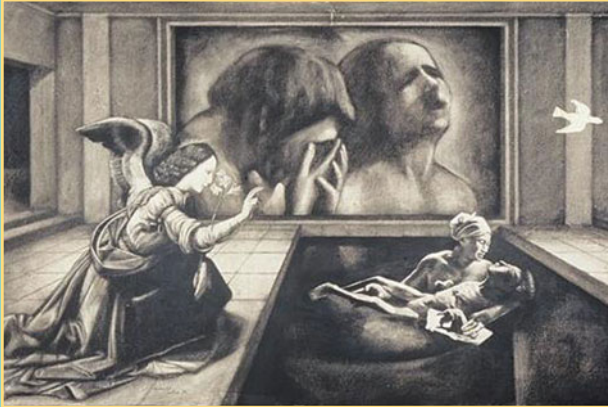
New housing - Balcurris 2

Clarke Tower, Balcurris Road and Sillogue Road moved into this development.

Balcurris 2, situated at the southern side of Balbutcher Lane adjacent to Sandyhill Gardens, comprises 42 apartments and 32 houses. 74 families moved into their new homes during the summer. They came from Balcurris Road, Sillogue Road and Thomas Clarke Tower.

Central to these new housing developments is the new Poppintree Neighbourhood Centre which is due to be completed very soon. The Neighbourhood Centre has 37 housing units, 24 of which have already been bought by private owners. There are also 6 shop units and 4 workshops. Two of the shop units have already been fitted out by Centra convenience store, while three others have been rented to a pharmacy, a barber shop and a beauty salon.

axis autumn/winter arts programme



Launched 5th September

Highlights

October

Drawings by Lorcan Walshe 8th - 29th Oct

A collection of powerful large scale drawings from renowned artist Lorcan Walshe. This exhibition is in conjunction with a series of life drawing workshops

that incorporates both modern and classical drawing methods, which the artist will conduct at axis.

November

Darklight Digital Festival 17th Nov Tickets €7

axis hosts the Darklight Digital Festival with a series of specially curated film screenings presenting the work of rising talent in filmmaking, video, graphic design, post-production, art, music and animation.

December

axis presents

'A Christmas Dream', featuring Sleeping Beauty's Codladh Cead Bliain, Doodle All the Way, Jack & the Beanstalk, Babes in the Wood, Sleeping Beauty and Humpty Dumpty.

Our autumn/winter programme also features axis regulars The House of Fun Comedy Club & The Peanut Club. For more information on the above events pick up your copy of the arts programme at axis.

Classes in Yoga, dance, and drama for all ages resumed in September. Contact axis for details.

Ballymun's first new park opens soon

Coultry Park, the first large new designed Neighbourhood Park is very close to completion. As well as extensive and well thought-out landscaping throughout the park, there will be activity areas for all age groups and interests in the new park

- Toddler play area and parents' seating
- Playground for older children
- Play area for young teens
- Pathway around the park for walking, jogging and cycling
- Granite seats at the four main entrances
- Full-size grass football pitch
- Five-a-side all weather soccer pitch / basketball court
- Public Square for local events - such as musical and theatrical performances

"The park will provide the entire community of Ballymun with excellent outdoor facilities in a tranquil and safe setting," says Dorothea Burger, BRL's Landscape Architect. "Comments and suggestions from existing

residents in Coultry and Shangan helped to inform the design and we are confident that everybody in Ballymun will enjoy this fantastic new park."



When the park is complete and ready to open, Ballymun Regeneration Ltd will organise a special launch and all residents will be invited.

Gardening evening

Global Action Plan (GAP) Ballymun, once again held another successful event on the evening of July 20th in the Atrium of the Civic Centre. This time the event combined a summer plant sale and a composting workshop.



Many residents came to browse and purchase plants on the night and they were able to talk with their neighbours about their gardens and also to the GAP Community Gardener, Sinéad Finn, who was recruiting for more Garden Action Teams that evening. Advice and help was also available from Dorothea Burger, Landscape architect (BRL) who had some great suggestions on different plant combinations.

There was a raffle on the night with three prizes of planted up pots and a large purple-flowered Clematis. Congratulations to our three lucky winners, Maureen McKenna, Marcella Gibbons and Alice Hanney who had the prizes delivered to their door.

A compost workshop was held on the same evening in an effort to support the great uptake of composting bins in the Ballymun area. Roger Warburton (GAP) and Sarah Miller (BRL) were the Compost Doctors giving advice and tips on how to achieve a healthy compost bin. The 'Doctors' were able to chat to the residents about their different composting experiences and exchange ideas on what to use in a compost bin.

There will be more Global Action Plan (GAP) events coming your way in the autumn, so watch this space! If you are interested in joining a Garden Action Team or would like more information call Sinead Finn at GAP on 01 862 5846.



30th birthday for Ballymun Citizens Information Centre

Ballymun has the distinction of having the oldest Citizens Information Centre in the country whose 30th anniversary was celebrated in July.

Ballymun CIC is unique in that it has operated on a wholly voluntary basis since its establishment. Indeed two of the volunteers, Marie McVeigh and Brenda Tyer have been involved as volunteers since its inception - a remarkable achievement in this era of declining participation. That spirit of voluntarism is alive and well in Ballymun as the CIC is still providing the community

with impartial and independent advice. Their vision, inspiration and determination have been hugely beneficial to the local community over the past 30 years.

Citizens Information Centres provide the public with information and advice on all rights and entitlements. It is a free, impartial and independent service covering a wide range of subjects including employment, housing, legal matters, health, welfare payments and immigration issues. The service is part of an integrated network with over 220 locations around the country.

Exciting summer for Ballymun youngsters



Ballymun Regeneration Limited's annual "Summer Activities Programme" was a great success again this year. 90 children took part in the programme which ran over three weeks in July and August. Activities included dance, drama, arts, drumming, soccer, Gaelic games, tag rugby and other fun games.



"We are delighted that all our hard work in organising and running the Summer Activities Programme was appreciated by so many local children who really enjoyed themselves and we look forward to next summer already," said Debbie Clarke, Play Development Officer with Ballymun Regeneration.



Tumbledowntown, a Performance Lab/Roundabout Youth Theatre production, and a Breaking Ground 2

(BG2) commission, has just won the Spirit of the Fringe award, the main award of the Dublin Fringe Festival.

Writer and director, Louise Lowe was commissioned through the BG2 Local Artists' Commissions Strand to create this new piece of site-specific theatre in collaboration with artist Owen Boss and ten young people from Ballymun. The fifty minute show was performed three times a night, over seven nights, in an empty flat in Sillogue in September.

They receive a commission to produce a new piece for next year's Fringe Festival, prize money of €5,000 and the opportunity to work with Project Arts Centre.

The Reco is back



BRL is delighted to announce the completion of the construction phase of the new Reco. For three years BRYR managed the small Reco on Sillogue Road for a wide range of youth activities, but now the old hall and small computer room have had an extensive makeover and an impressive extension, resulting in bigger and better facilities for young people.



“The new Reco will be a place where young people will feel comfortable and at home. BRYR has lots of art and other projects planned to help young people gain a sense of ownership of the new building,” says Éimear, BRYR. “The centre is built around a beautiful courtyard with one of Ireland’s only mature olive trees and is likely to be the setting for many artistic and other performances.”

BRL and the Ballymun Youth Development Group (City of Dublin Youth Services Board, the Local Drug’s Task Force and DCC) led a design process involving over 30 adults and 105 young people to create the vision of the Reco that will shortly become a reality for the young people of Ballymun. With money from the National Development Plan, through the Young Peoples’ Facilities

and Services Fund for 10-21 year-olds, the Lotto and Dublin City Council, BRL’s architects and development team have managed the construction of this major new contribution to young people.

“Patrick Elliott Construction completed their contract on time and has handed over the keys to BRYR. BRYR has started to fit-out the facility with a phased opening of all the Reco’s facilities, building up to a grand ‘official’ opening next May,” says Matthew Stevens, BRL Architect.

The new Reco has extensive facilities:

- A dance/activities hall - opening October
- A youth gym for 15 people - opening December
- A large internet café - opening December
- A computer training room - opening October
- A Youth Information Centre - due to open March 2006, subject to funding approval
- Youth café - opening January 2006
- A music room - opening November
- A youth club room - opening October
- A conference/training room, with seating for up to 40 people - opening November
- An arts room - opening October
- A roof garden - opening Summer 2006
- Staff offices and storage spaces for sports equipment - opening October



For more information, contact Éimear, Reco Manager, on 01 842 3011.

'From Demo to Breakthrough' Music Competition

The Basement Studios at The axis Arts Centre

Calling all unsigned Musicians / Bands from all music genres!!

The Event

The Basement Recording Studios in the axis Arts Centre in Ballymun have just opened.

To celebrate this opening The axis Arts Centre and Breaking Ground are running a showcase competition for any unsigned artists in Ireland and from all music genres with a prize valued at €15,000.

The Prize

The final winner will get a CD single (including 2 B-side tracks) fully produced in The Basement Studios by Will O'Donovan, Former Head of Recording at Sony.

The last six acts chosen from all entries will get to perform 2 original songs each at a Showcase Gig in the axis Arts Centre in front of a host of A&R and other industry heads.

The five runner-up Bands / Artists will each get 30 hours of rehearsal studio time at The Basement Studios.

How the Competition Will Run

Each artist will be judged on 2 original tracks that they send in. A judging panel made up of various industry figures will select six finalists to perform live in the axis Arts Centre on the 9th of December. The overall winner will be announced at this Showcase gig.

How to Enter

Send a CD Demo of 2 original tracks (in a padded envelope to ensure safe arrival)

Also include: Band name
Small biography
Phone number
Any press cuttings you may have

**To: From Demo to Breakthrough Competition
Axis Arts Centre
Ballymun
Dublin 9**

Closing Date for entries is 31st October 2005

All acts that enter must be available to perform in axis on the 9th of December 2005.

This event is kindly sponsored by Breaking Ground Percent for Art Scheme.

Ballymun in TV spotlight

Viewers to RTE Television have seen plenty of good news about Ballymun recently, on City Folk, Nationwide and About the House, during July and August.

Early next year, another programme about Ballymun, a half-hour documentary, 'Seven Towers', will tell the story of Ballymun from the viewpoint of people who live here.

The programme features two families who have lived in the Towers and are now moving into new BRL homes. Both families talk about the hardship of living in the towers but they also tell viewers what many outsiders don't know about - the fantastic community spirit that is in Ballymun.

The film is directed by independent film maker, Patrick Hodgins, who is the director of the critically acclaimed documentary, Home, about homelessness in Dublin. "I'm really delighted to be working on this project - the flats and their people have a great story to tell. I'm glad that I can bring that to a wider audience," says Patrick Hodgins.

'Seven Towers' will be on RTE ONE early next year, as part of the 'Townlands' series.



Moving in to the new home featured in the forthcoming 'Seven Towers' documentary

Ballymun winner of the 'Race Against Waste' Award in the Tidy Towns Competition

Congratulations to all of Ballymun's residents, businesses and schools who were recognised by the National Tidy Towns competition for their hard work in the 'Race Against Waste'. Ballymun was up against a number of towns all over Ireland in this category (population greater than 5,000) and is the overall winner of this prestigious award.



This national award recognises Ballymun town as a forerunner in Ireland in tackling and implementing real solutions to Ireland's waste crisis. Both Ballymun Waste Working Group and GAP (Global Action Plan) Ballymun have been working with residents, schools and local business in developing innovative waste management awareness and strategies.

Marewood was awarded 3rd place in Best Residential Area in the Dublin City Neighbourhoods competition



(1 - 150 houses). In addition to scooping this award, Marewood was highly commended in the Northwest Dublin Region Area Awards of the Tidy Cities & Neighbourhoods competition, along with Whiteacre, for their hard work in beautifying their neighbourhoods.

These achievements give real evidence of the importance of local environmental actions. Many thanks to all the community groups and areas who are contributing to the development of a better environment in Ballymun.

Well done Ballymun!

If you would like to carry out any environmental projects in your area or get involved in the 'Race Against Waste' get in touch with the staff at GAP Ballymun on 01 862 5846.

Autumn in your garden

The gardens of Ballymun are full of colour at this time of year. Here are some top tips to keep them looking well...

- Keep your sweet pea plants flowering for another few weeks by cutting the blooms for use in the house and making sure that any faded flowers and seed pods are snipped off.
- Keep hedges under control by giving them a cut at this time of year, the clippings can be added little by little to your compost bin, mixing them well with

other composting material.

- For those growing tomatoes, don't forget to pinch out the sideshoots and keep the plants well watered.
- Clip back lavender as soon as the flowers fade. Only trim back this season's growth, don't cut into the older wood as new shoots will not sprout from here and you may end up with bare patches.
- Use a hoe between plants in the dry weather to get rid of any weed seedlings that are trying to grow.

Ballymun Regeneration Ltd (BRL) Civic Centre, Main Street, Ballymun, Dublin 9

Ph: 01 222 5660 Fax: 01 842 1443 Web: www.brl.ie