

Woodstown Village Residents Association Newsletter

December 2015



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What's inside this issue?

What's been happening on your doorstep in 2015?

What's planned for 2016?

For Kids, by Kids

Kindly Sponsored by



Chairperson Brian Good **Vice Chairperson** Mark Fleming

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Secretary Gillian Treacey **Tidy Towns Co-ordinator** Gabriel Curtis

Committee Kevin Almond, Steve Costello, Gary Deegan, Orla Dunne, Olga Gibbs, May Lynott, John O'Doherty, Eamon Power and Alan Shortt.

Slow Down Campaign Working to Save Lives

According to the Road Safety Authority, in the period 1997-2009, there were 246 child fatalities, of which 83 (34%) occurred during the hours of 4pm - 6:59 pm, 18% of children were killed on a Friday. 43% were killed during the months of May through August. These are frightening statistics. Why is our Woodstown 'Slow Down' Campaign so important? Because 57% of all children (0-14 years old) injured, were inside built up areas like ours. 26% of all child (0-14 years old) fatalities occurred in counties Dublin & Cork.

On Saturday September 26th, the Woodstown Junior Committee (made up of kids of all ages), supported by their parents, took this fantastic campaign to the streets, to send a 'wise up' message to drivers, telling us all to 'Slow Down'. The campaign began on Ballycullen Road and the kids were soon joined by 2 Garda cars and a Garda motorbike from Rathfarnham Garda Station, who used speed detection radars to monitor the traffic speed during the afternoon. The Woodstown Junior Committee was soon joined by kids from Daletree, Oakdale and members of Knocklyon United. This is a campaign that needs to be on-going, and needs you to show your support. The next time you see notification of this great event, think of the statistics and come out and join us... together we can send an even more powerful message to drivers young and old.



Tidy Towns 2015

Did you know that the national Tidy Towns initiative was launched by Bord Fáilte in 1958, as part of the 'Tóstal', a nationwide festival celebrating all things Irish? Tidy Towns rapidly developed its own identity and has gone on to become Ireland's most well-known and popular local environmental initiative.

Right from the start, the primary focus of Tidy Towns, was to encourage communities to improve their local environment and make their area a better place to live, work and visit. In 2015, Woodstown Village entered the competition for the second year running and although we didn't win this time around, we were awarded a respectable 229 points (out of a possible 450) and in doing so, we improved our 2014 result by 20 points. However, the emphasis was always on participating rather than winning, as the very act of taking part brought benefits to Woodstown Village residents. And with a focus on long-term results, rather than quick returns, we look forward to getting ready for our 2016 entry! A big thank you to everyone who championed this initiative.



Woodstown Champion

Congratulations to Sam Leonard from Woodstown Court who has been crowned 2015 Dublin Boxing Champion. And that's not all; Sam also reached the Semi Finals in the National Boxing Championship and was the Winner of the Monkstown International Box Cup.

Sam has 2 younger brothers, Ben and Zak, who are also involved in boxing. Like all parents, Dad Mel and Mum Sinead are very supportive and proud of their children. Not only does Mel bring the boys training 2 to 3 times a week, he also coaches at St. Mary's Boxing Club in Tallaght. In their 'spare time' Mel and the boys regularly help out around Woodstown with our Clean up Days and grass cutting as well as our Christmas event and Residents Day. Congratulations and thank you to the Leonard family for your achievements and contribution to our small community.

Watch this space

Woodstown Village may be celebrating an Irish champion or even an Olympic champion in the near future!



Christmas 2015 Let the countdown begin

With only 42 sleeps till the big day, it's time to get some all important dates in the diary!

Woodstown Village is starting our official countdown to Christmas on Friday, November 20th with the arrival of our very own Christmas tree! On Sunday, November 22nd between 2pm and 4pm we are calling on all residents young and young at heart to wrap up warm, come out and help us decorate the tree - why not make a special decoration that represents you or your family?

Sunday, December 6th will be a very special day - Santa & Mrs Claus will be in Woodstown between 1pm and 3pm and word has it they are both very excited to meet as many boys and girls as they can - so get your list ready and be on your bestest behaviour

Review of 2015

It's hard to believe that another year has passed. So what have we actually achieved in 2015?? Actually quite a lot when we sit down and try to remember... Spring, Summer and Autumn Clean Up days, repaired fences, planted shrubs, planted wild flowers, erected bird boxes, joined Garda Text Alert scheme, re-built exterior walls, painted gates & fences, invested in lawnmowers and strimmer's, created a new look newsletter, developed content for our Facebook page, hosted our Residents Day & Woodstown Dog Show, launched our Slow Down Campaign, entered Tidy Towns... and all this done to ensure our Village remains a place that residents enjoy and visitors admire.

All this would not have been possible without the annual funds contributed by you, the residents. A big thank you for paying your subs and to the committee for ensuring these funds was appropriately allocated.

So what's next? We have 3 clear priorities for 2016

1. Tidy Towns Entry 2016
2. Promoting Wildlife Diversity within the estate
3. Drive Recycling Initiatives

It has been said before and it still rings true, to make this happen we need more people to get involved in 2016. It could be an area where you have a particular interest, or perhaps you can lend a hand for an hour, either is fine by us! Just get in touch on Facebook or drop us a text.

Annual Subscription 2016

Thanks to the subscriptions that were paid in 2015, there was considerable investment in many areas of the estate within the past 12 months and hope you feel that the work done represents good value for your money.

The decision was taken to keep the annual subscription at €35, while we continue to push ahead in 2016 with the various projects planned. To allow these projects to be actioned early in the New Year, we would welcome payment in January where possible.

Advance Notice of AGM (2016)

A date for the diary.....
On Wednesday, April 13th we will hold our Woodstown Residents Association AGM. This is a great opportunity to have your say, or share your ideas about how activities could be improved. Perhaps you have experience or a particular skill set you could put to use to the betterment of the estate? We would love to hear your ideas and would encourage as many residents as possible to attend.

Easter Commemoration 2016

As reported in the October issue of our Newsletter, we are currently planning an event to mark the centenary of the Easter Rising.



This event, which is being planned to meet the criteria and guidelines of the South Dublin County Council Commemoration Fund, is scheduled to take place in Knocklyon Park during March next.

The main focal point will be our Woodstown Village Time Capsule, where each household will have the opportunity to have their very own envelope with a waterproof sleeve that will be placed in the Time Capsule for future generations to discover!

As part of this event, we are seeking to make contact with descendants or relatives of those who served in the Rising or the War of Independence, to hear your stories and perhaps have the opportunity to view any memorabilia, medals, artefacts etc. from the period that you may like to share. We would also like to contact serving or former members of the Defence Forces, ONE and IUNVA whom may like to participate in the event.

If that's you, please get in touch!

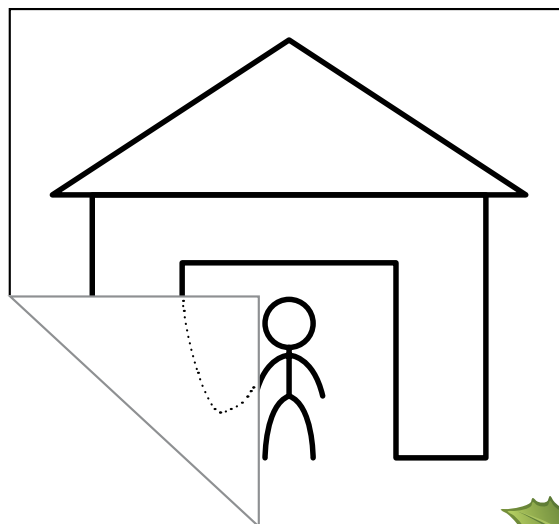
Finally...

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year!

Brain Teaser ANSWER

Can you copy the image without ever lifting your pen from the paper? (it is possible!)

Draw the house outline and then turn over the corner of the paper to transfer the pen without ever removing it from the paper.



BY KIDS, FOR KIDS

(And the 'not so grown up' Grown Ups!)

Why Crafty Crocodiles May Be Sleeping With One Eye Open

While for humans the expression "sleep with one eye open" is just a metaphor to keep alert, for some animals it is a way of life. Called unihemispheric sleep, it is the ability to snooze with one eye open and the corresponding half of the brain awake, while the other half rests.

Researchers believe that this talent that has been observed in marine mammals like dolphins and seals as well as numerous bird species, serves many purposes. Birds use it to keep an eye out (literally) for predators while dolphins do it to keep track of their pods and young ones. Many social animals are also believed to use the technique to keep track of any interesting activities going on around them.

Now researchers from Australia's La Trobe University have discovered that crocodiles may have also evolved this capability. While there has been plenty of anecdotal evidence about the reptiles 'sleeping' with one eye open, this is the first formal study that confirms the fact.

The scientists began by placing three juvenile saltwater crocodiles inside a large enclosure at the University's aquarium and filming their behavior.

They noticed that when left undisturbed, the reptiles spent less than an hour with one eye open. The crocodiles instead seemed to prefer snoozing with both eyes shut just like the rest of us!



Would you like to see your article in our next edition of By Kids, For Kids?

Whether its fashion, music, green issues, school stuff or you just have a good story to tell, we'd love to include it next time round.

The best article published will receive a €25 voucher for Easons!



5 Top Tips for feeding wild birds in your garden this winter

1. Feed regularly. Don't put out lots of feeders and then forget to refill them. Birds can become dependent on a food source during harsh weather.

2. Only use fresh peanuts and seed. Do not feed mouldy, wrinkled or wizened peanuts or seed.

3. Ensure fresh water is always available for drinking and bathing. An upturned dustbin lid with a stone in it is often all that is required. Be sure to remove the ice in cold weather so that birds can drink.

4. Birds often feed on the ground below a feeder. Make sure that there is no shrubbery nearby that could conceal a cat, and try to keep all feeders at least 5-6 feet above the ground.

5. Remember to wash all feeders and to change the water in the bird bath on a regular basis.



A Dog's Tale

By Esme O'Hagan, aged 9.

On Wednesday, the 21st of October I was walking to school with my brother. We were walking out of the estate and suddenly a dog ran out behind us he had no leash on.

We thought that his owner was at the lights. He never stopped at the lights and they were red. We all waited at the red lights and when they were green we ran across the M50 Bridge.

The dog ran to the other side when all of the cars were passing and we were very worried about him getting knocked down. He nearly got ran over.

Thankfully these three kids caught the dog and asked a man 'can we please use your mobile phone to call this dog's owner?' The man said 'yes'. They called the dog's owner, who came to take him home and the dog's name was 'Bruce'.

