

Woodstown Village Residents Association Newsletter

Autumn 2016



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Go 

Woodstown Residents Association Committee

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Vice Chairperson: Olga Gibbs
Treasurer: Orla Dunne
Asst. Treasurer: Eamon Power
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Committee: Kevin Almond, Stephen Costello,
Gary Deegan, Nysa Griffin, Keith Kelliher,
May Lynott, Tony McGaley, John O'Doherty,
Rosemary O'Hagan

Inside this issue

What's been happening on your doorstep?

What's planned for Autumn?

For Kids, by Kids

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Tidy Towns 2016

As you will be aware, Woodstown Village has entered this year's Tidy Towns competition and as part of our ongoing investment, we have recently upgraded all road signage throughout the estate. In addition and where needed, we have replanted bedding & to keep them looking attractive, we are looking for residents on each road to look after the plants (minimal effort required - simply water & weed). We have also revamped the estate entrance with new plants and landscaping, as well as erecting a new fence in Woodstown Crescent.

Our Sundial and Rock, located in Knocklyon Park, is looking fantastic after a makeover. The granite at the base of the sundial was taken up and reset and the Rock was striped back and replanted. These are just some examples of the ongoing work carried out around the estate over the last few weeks and months.



Tidy Towns 2016 Results

The countdown has officially begun. The results of the SuperValu Tidy Towns National Awards 2016 will be announced on Monday, September 26th in the Helix, DCU.

This is our third year participating in this great competition and after all the hard work by the committee, junior committee and residents we are confident that we can improve on our 2015 result (229 points). So fingers and toes crossed and keep an eye out for the results on our Woodstown Village Facebook page.

Junior Committee

The Woodstown Junior Committee is going from strength to strength. They deliver newsletters, help with events, such as Residents Day and the Christmas festivities, pick litter & play their part in supporting our environment by building some unique Bug Hotels!!! We are always looking for new kid's to join in, so why not get involved?

EURO 2016

In June, some members of the Woodstown residents committee travelled to France, to support the Republic of Ireland football team at EURO 2016. They travelled in their own van, decorated and wrapped with Irish football flags and Leprechauns. They had their own bar in the back of the van and in between sipping pints, watching the football & having the craic, they held several fundraising events in support of the Ronald McDonald House in Our Lady's Hospital Crumlin and managed to raise in excess of €4000. Well done boys.

Electrical Recycling

We have now completed our Electrical Recycling Collection throughout Woodstown Village, in conjunction with Recycle ♻️ It. This initiative has been a phenomenal success, collecting old electrical items from all 600 houses. A big thank you to everyone who got involved - we hope to repeat this recycling drive every other year.

When Autumn Leaves Fall

by Tony McGaley



Time to bring in the harvest. Daran Rahill posted a picture of some juicy blackberries and there are still plenty more left for picking. If you fancy collecting blackberries this month. The tip is to bring your litter picker-upper to hold a branch rather than reach in among the thorns. It is now much easier to recognize our native Dog Rose among the bramble, by the profuse growth of Rose Hips. As a youngster I would collect bags full of Rosehips as my Mam had a great recipe for Rosehip jelly. However, if you want to encourage the Mistle Thrush (pictured) to return, leave them where they hang, as they are his favorite food. Other berries on display are the Wild Cherry, the Whitebeam, the numerous Rowan trees (Mountain Ash), Elderberries, and Cotoneaster. Of these the Cotoneaster is now considered an unwanted invasive species, with claims wild birds are spreading it far and wide. Well, as one who spent the year trying to photograph birds in action, I've yet to see a bird go near the Cotoneaster, nor have I seen this plant cropping up all over the place. However, since Biodiversity Ireland place it in their bad books, I plan to remove the one at the start of the Drive.

September is usually the month when we see more Wasps. These have done all their pollinating at this stage and are at "a loose end", just waiting to die off. Don't kill one, for if you do, it will emit a scent that will attract all the rest of them. If they do become a nuisance in your garden, put a jampot with some leftover jam in it at the end of the garden to distract them.

Our insect hotels, like birdboxes, may lie idle for a year before they start to be occupied. Our main target are Solitary Bees, which are not easy to recognize. However, if they do move in, the last one in will shut the door. Have a peep at the end of the month to see if any of the holes are blocked with mud or leaves, this will prove they are hibernating. But do it quietly, and don't disturb them.

We can now legally cut our hedges without fear of prosecution. However, some of us may need to look at the bigger picture. A number of back gardens have trees which were allowed to grow very tall. These may need cutting back before they find themselves in their neighbor's garden, as happened during last Winter's storms. The garden shops are now stocking up with Bulbs to plant for Spring. While Daffodils and Tulips are a joy to watch, they are of no use to Bees and other pollinators. You might try some Alliums, Snowdrops, Crocus or try the "Bulbs for Pollinators" collection box available in B&Q from Verve.

SCRUFFS Dog Show

It certainly was raining cats & dogs on the morning of our annual SCRUFFS event, but that didn't deter our contestants who showed dogged determination, put their best paw forward and continued to wag their tails all morning despite the miserable weather. With 11 classes from the Cutest Puppy to the Golden Oldies, Dog with the best trick to the Dog with the loudest bark, that definitely was a suitable class for everyone in the audience. With each entrant receiving a Royal Canin Goody Bag and all proceeds raised going to the DSPCA, it certainly was worth getting out of the dog house. Thank you to our esteemed judges Mr. Vincent O'Brien, Linda Matthews and Ann Cuthbert The winner, a very cute rescue dog was a worthy champion - and no bones about it!



Our annual Woodstown Village

Best Garden Competition

offers much sought after prestige & honour to the winners!! The categories are 'Best Garden on the Road' and 22 prizes were up for grabs, with the top 5 gardens going forward to win the overall accolade of Best Garden.

This year the title goes to Mr and Mrs Murphy from 15 Woodstown Walk. The prizes were kindly sponsored by Supervalu Knocklyon, Easy Garden, Red Apple and John Lahart TD.



Family Day

It's often been said that Ireland would be a fantastic country, if we could only put a roof on it... and so as the rain fell, we knew it would take incredible community spirit to make the day the success it deserved to be! The Family Day kicked off at 2pm and Knocklyon Park was transformed into a large outdoor playground filled with Bouncy Slides, Obstacle Courses, Penalty Shootouts and a ginormous Amazon Zip Liner enjoyed by over 700 residents! The crowd was entertained by the very talented DJ Cathal, who

created some great energy with the choice of music and provided ongoing commentary to keep everyone updated as to what activities were planned in the course of the afternoon.

Of course, all these activities require fuel and so, for the fourth year running, the boys from Clane Scouts waited nervously for the onslaught - 500 burgers, 500 hotdogs, gallons of soft drinks, crisps and sweets, were ready to be enjoyed by young and old. The Spice Hut in Orlagh were also on hand so people could sample their fabulous dishes.

Rathfamham Equestrian Centre was represented by Harvey & Sparkey, two beautiful ponies who performed a meet & greet with residents.

The DSPCA was represented by Natasha, who brought along their mobile truck & provided helpful advice, from specific questions about the most suitable rabbit pens to use, to the more general topic of responsible pet ownership.



Rathfamham Gardai came down for a visit and answered all home security and safety questions posed by the residents, particularly relevant as the cold evenings & darker nights draw in.

Great support was shown by local businesses, with some great competitions being held during the course of the afternoon - Curves Knocklyon offered a lucky winner a free 12 month membership, while Toyota Long Mile Road, offered a lovely weekend away for two with the use of a brand new Toyota car!

We underestimate the time, effort and real commitment to the village that goes into putting on such a great event - so we'd like to take this opportunity to say a big 'thank you' to all the resident volunteers, who contributed to making this the best Residents Day to date.

Many thanks to SDCC Mayor Guss O'Connell, John Lahart TD, Councillors Deirdre O'Donovan, Pamela Kearns, France Duffy and all our sponsors - Stephen Carr, Mark Ellis Pharmacy, Spar Woodstown, SuperValu Knocklyon, Toyota Long Mile, Royal Canin, Easy Garden, Chuckleberries, Red Apple, Curves, Woodstown Dental Clinic, Spice Hut, Tony Hough, Rathfamham Equestrian Centre, Vincent O'Brien, Clane Scouts, Adventure Bouncy Castles, DJ Cathal, St. John Ambulance, Natasha Eames from DSPCA.

BY KIDS, FOR KIDS

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

It all happens in Rio de Janeiro

The summer of 2016, who could forget it.....

The Olympics, the medals, the glory, the Donovan brothers, even Pat Hickey got the odd headline... but one of the most inspiring sporting achievements comes in the form of the Paralympics...

The Paralympic Games first took place in Rome, Italy in 1960 & featured 400 athletes from 23 countries. Since then they have taken place every four years.

In 1976 the first Winter Games in Paralympics history were held in Sweden, and as with the Summer Games, have taken place every four years. A team representing Ireland has competed at every Summer Paralympic Games but Ireland has never taken part in the Winter Paralympics.

Since the Summer Games of Seoul, Korea in 1988 and the Winter Games in Albertville, France in 1992 the Games have also taken part in the same cities and venues as the Olympics due to an agreement between the IPC and IOC.

The word "Paralympic" derives from the Greek preposition "para" (beside or alongside) and the word "Olympic". Its meaning is that Paralympics are the parallel Games to the Olympics and illustrates how the two movements exist side-by-side. Paralympics Ireland needed to raise €564,000 in 2016 to cover the costs of sending the Irish Paralympic team to Rio.

Ireland's Jason Smyth has the nickname "The fastest Paralympian on the planet". Including his Rio achievements, Smyth has won 5 Paralympic Gold medals to date in the 100 & 200 metre events.



Quiz

A Google Free Zone!!

- How is the number 10 written in Roman numerals?
- In The Simpsons, what are the names of Ned Flanders two sons?
- What is the square root of 16?
- What is the capital of Nepal?
- How many wives did Henry VIII have?
- In which town do the Flintstones live?
- From what country does Lego come?
- How many stars are on the American flag?
- Name the two planets closest to Earth?
- Which country singer was known as The Man in Black?

Send your answers by email to woodstownvillage@gmail.com

All correct entries received by Monday, October 3rd will be entered into a draw to win a €25 voucher for Easons!

JUST FOR FUN! COMPLETE THE PUZZLE

