

Woodstown Village Residents Association Newsletter

Spring 2017



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Chairperson Brian Good **Vice Chairperson** Olga Gibbs **Secretary** Gillian Tracey
Treasurer Orla Dunne **Social** Rosemary O'Hagan / May Lynnot **Tidy Towns** Gabriel Curtis
Security Nysha Griffin **Landscaping** Stephen Costello / Gary Deegan
Biodiversity Tony McGaley **Assistant Treasurer** Eamon Power
Planning Keith Kelliher / Kevin Almond **Secretary** Gillian Tracey
Newsletter Olga Gibbs / Rosemary O'Hagan / Orla Dunne / Nysha Griffin

Inside this issue

What's been happening on your doorstep? What's planned for Spring?



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Woodstown News

Woodstown Village Christmas event



Well done to everybody who made the Woodstown Village Christmas event so special for the children. Santa Mrs Claus, our Snow Queen and Santa's Elves done a brilliant job and made fantastic memories for all 300 children who turned up on the day.

A special thank you goes out to Garda Alan Murray from Rathfarnham Garda Station who turned up with RSA Hi-Viz vests for all the children on the day, and Shane Guest who organised all the Selection Boxes from Cadbury Ireland.

Woodstown Biodiversity Sub-Committee

Congratulations to Tony McGaley and our Biodiversity Sub-Committee who completed their Wild Flower Meadow project with the help of Stephen Lawlor from Rathfarnham Equestrian Centre who came down to help with his tractor and scarifier to break up the ground before Tony spread over 2 million wild flower seeds, Tony said he'd like to thank all the residents who helped over the last few weeks and he's delighted to be finally finished but if he sees anyone acting the Julie Andrews and running down the hill and through the flowers next Spring, They'll have him to deal with!



An update from Tony McGaley, Biodiversity Sub-Committee

This year Woodstown will be entering the special Tidy Towns Special Award for Pollinators. We already attract Bees and other pollinators in our gardens and up in Knocklyon Park, so our entry will mainly be documenting what we attract and taking measures to attract even more. Biodiversity Ireland ask us to simply walk the same walk once a month, from March to October, and count how many Bees we see.

This should be done in the morning, as you may know Solitary Bees only work a half-day, and are rarely seen in the afternoon.

I've planned to lead a walk around the Estate at 11.00 am the last Saturday or Sunday of each month. No experience is necessary in recognizing the different species but if anyone wants an I.D chart, send me your e-mail address to tonymcgaley@gmail.com and I will post you one. Facebook doesn't handle PDFs. It's important to note that Bees and other insects pollinate Trees as well as flowers. The abundance of trees bearing berries are evidence of pollinators, and besides the ones we've planted, the recent appearance of Waxwings and other berry eating birds will, in a less laborious fashion, lay the seeds for more trees, and thus facilitate more pollinators.

If you don't wish to join the walk, you can be a big help to pollinators by doing nothing! What I mean by that is DON'T bother buying or using Pesticides or Weed killers. While these may not kill Pollinators outright, it has been proven that Honey Bees absorb these chemicals, bring the back to the hive, and eventually cause ill health that destroys the whole hive. Try to do without them for a year and see can you live without them.

All garden shops now supply a long handled steel brush which will clear weeds from patios or kerbsides for about 10 Euro so give it a try.

So I'll finish with a little quiz. The Oak Tree is claimed to support as many as 284 different insects. I have a special prize for anyone who can name them all, and an extra special prize for anyone who can catch them all so I can take some photographs!
Roll on the long days.

In other news

- Tidy Towns - this will be our 4th year to enter and again we're going all out to increase our points
- Woodstown Village Junior Committee would like to ask residents AGAIN to please clean up after their dogs, BIN THE POO.
- At our last committee meeting it was agreed to have a coffee morning / information meeting for our senior residents so that they could get to know each other and maybe join in some activities / walking clubs / Gardening



Projects for 2017

- Included in this year's projects are the planting 100 native Irish trees
- Planting hedges and wild flowers and 6 trees both sides of the wall and green at Woodstown Abbey
- Cutting back the shrubby and replacing with new at Woodstown Crescent near side gate at shops

- Erecting some park benches in Knocklyon Park
- Clearing away around the base of the mature trees on the large green at Woodstown Place
- Looking at the possibility of a bottle banks near the shops area
- Spring clean date to be arranged
- Planting beneath the remaining road signs
- Biodiversity/ information signs
- Keep Woodstown Village litter free signs In English, Spanish, Italian, French, erected at shops and Knocklyon Park area
- Inscribing the large rock on the hill in Knocklyon Park with information, including arrows pointing at surrounding hills and mountains and naming them
 - Montpelier Hill (Hellfire Club). It will also be inscribed with a compass

Crime Prevention Meeting

Fantastic meeting held on Friday the 27th of January at St Colmcille's School to discuss recent crime in the Knocklyon/Ballycullen/Rathfarnham area. With standing room only and with passionate contributions from many in attendance this event proved a major success.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Deirdre O'Donovan and attended by members of An Garda Siochana, Colm Brophy TD, John Lahart TD, Cllr Paula Donovan and Cllr Pamela Kearns.

Also attendance were representatives of residents associations from Woodstown, Daletree, Moyville, Orlagh, Templeroan, Templemanor and many more. What was clear, no matter which area you came from the same issues were taking place.

An Garda Siochana were very clear in what they need from everyone

Catching criminals is only possible if crimes are reported to the Gardai. Placing a post on Facebook is NOT reporting a crime. Anyone who has been the victim of theft, robbery or any crime, no matter how small MUST report it to the Gardai.

The Gardai do not monitor Facebook and have no plans to monitor it in the future.

Please everyone - if you have been the victim of crime you must report it to the Gardai.

If you have seen anyone suspicious in the area, pick up the phone and tell the Gardai. If there was an attempted burglary but nothing actually taken or if only something small was stolen, pick up the phone and alert the Gardai. Reporting of crime is vital in helping the Gardai actually catching the criminals. If you don't make the call and report it - nothing will change.

Rathfarnham Garda Station: (01) 666 6500

Woodstown Crime Statistics:

Burglary	Theft from MPV
December - 3 houses	November - 1
January - 2 houses	December - 1
	January - 0

How to prevent burglary?

See advice given last night by Sgt Mark Redmond who is a specialist in burglary prevention at Tallaght Garda Station

1. Lock up

a surprising number of burglaries are 'walk in' where doors have been left unlocked. This is particularly common for the cases where someone has 'just popped out'.

2. Don't leave windows open

window limiters are a good idea where they can be opened to a degree but can't be accessed from outside.

3. If you have an alarm use it

teach your older children / teenagers to use it. Some newer alarms have built in cameras which are triggered by the sensors helping crime detection, and are linked to your phone for text alerts and camera viewing.

4. Have a neighbour key holder

for when your alarm goes off and Garda need to gain entry to your home. Especially when you are on holidays.

5. Invest in timer light switches

6. Do not keep large amounts of cash in your home.

7. Any valuables such as jewellery should be kept hidden and not in obvious places such as jewellery boxes.

8. Your locks are very important.

Invest in anti-snap locks which act as a major deterrent.

9. Garda Sgt Mark Redmond of Tallaght

has offered his services to come to anyone's home and review their security and make any recommendations for changes.

Other points from the meeting

- You must call Rathfarnham Garda station to report break ins, attempted break ins, theft or suspicious activity. All information will be recorded and followed up.

- A Garda Victims Office has been set up where all victims of crime can get the most up to date details on the investigation into their case. This is a major development and should be used by all victims of crime.

- TD Colm Brophy informed us that there is new legislation coming on board to make custodial sentences more appropriate to the number and severity of burglary crimes committed as the current system is too lenient and lends itself to re-offence.

- A Rathfarnham / Templeogue Public Policing Forum is in the process of being formed. Such forums currently exist in other parts of Dublin. More to follow from our local politicians on this.

Crime affects all of our communities equally, let's tackle it together as one community.

Green Tips for 2017...Start as you mean to go

Changing habits can be hard, but we know change can also be rewarding and if you can consider just one change, you might be surprised what can be achieved. It might be reducing waste, doing a clean-up or reusing or recycling items. This type of change can be achieved through a series of small steps with examples such as using your own coffee cup saving over 500 disposable cups a year, or 1.4 cups per day. This change is simple, saves money and reduces environmental impacts. Recycle IT have compiled some tips which can help you make some changes this spring. just go to www.recycleit.ie

Remember you can always encourage colleagues, family and friends and bring them on same journey! For more information about Recycle IT please visit our website call our office on 01 4578321.

WVRA AGM 2017

Notice is hereby given of the 2017 WVRA AGM which will take place on Tuesday 14th March at 7.30pm in the Iona Centre. The AGM provides an opportunity for residents to learn more about what is being done on their behalf and to have a say in decisions that need to be made.

Agenda

- **Opening greeting & agree Minutes of 2016 AGM**
- **Chairperson's Report** followed by Treasurer's Report
- **Motions** Any motion, having been properly proposed and seconded by paid-up members and received before the AGM, will be considered.
- **Election of 2017 Committee** All paid-up members of the Association are eligible for election

Residents are actively encouraged to consider putting their names forward for election to the committee and assist in the running of the affairs of the Association. New members, with new ideas, as well as those who have served on the committee in the past and would bring a wealth of experience to the committee table are warmly welcomed.

- **Any Other Business** Items for inclusion may be raised by paid-up members by email to woodstownvillage@gmail.com or text to 086 832 4352 before Mon. 6th March please.

Quorum

Should a quorum not being reached at the AGM the following procedure will apply:

The informational element of business will be conducted and the AGM will adjourn until Thurs 23rd March at 7.30 pm. in the Iona Centre when the outstanding business will be completed.

Summary of Minutes of WVRA AGM 2016

The AGM was attended by approx. 30 residents of Woodstown Village.

Brian Good (Chairperson) opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

Minutes of 2015 AGM were agreed and signed

As the necessary quorum was not present the AGM proceeded as 'informational only'

Brian Good reported on another successful year for the association and listed some of the highlights:- Landscaping, Resident's Day, Easter Egg hunt, Santa's Visit, 1916 Commemoration, Newsletter, continuing involvement in the 'Neighbourhood Watch' scheme, our new Biodiversity initiative with its own Facebook page and most especially our Tidy Towns entry where we again achieved a modest increase in our score.

The Association continues to be in a sound financial position with a healthy surplus at year-end due to a successful subs campaign and generous grant-aid from SDCC.

Nominations for the 2016 committee were then sought and received. In the absence of a quorum no vote on the nominations could take place and the AGM was adjourned until the following Tuesday 19th April at 8pm in the Iona Centre, Knocklyon.

Reconvened AGM

The AGM reconvened on Tuesday 19th April 2016 at 8pm in the Iona Centre, Knocklyon with one item only on the agenda viz. Election of the 2016 committee.

The following members, having been duly proposed and seconded, were elected to the Committee:

Brian Good, Stephen Costello, Kevin Almond, Gabriel Curtis, Olga Gibbs, Rosemary O'Hagan, May Lynott, Nysha Griffin, Gillian Treacy, Tony McGaley, Gary Deegan, Keith Kelleher, Orla Dunne, Eamon Power, John O'Doherty

The AGM, having completed its business, then formally closed.

Waste Prevention

Please take a few minutes to read the Waste Prevention booklet included with this newsletter and keep it for future reference

