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**PILOT
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ISSUE**

Volume 2 Issue 7 Positive News for the Greater Ballymun / Poppintree Area May / June 2000

£1.8 Million Development of St Pappins church and private nursing home for the elderly

In an exclusive interview with the Ballymun Concrete News, Mr. Joe Kenny of Woodgreen Builders Ltd and Mr. Eric Dixon, of Baystaff Ltd, Homes for the Elderly, revealed their proposed detailed plans for the refurbishment of St Pappins church and the building of a private nursing home next to the church in Ballymun. 40 new jobs are also expected to be created for local residents.

nearby Drumcondra and Mr. Eric Dixon Group manager of Baystaff Ltd Homes for the elderly, exclusively told the Ballymun Concrete News of their plans for the church and the building of the proposed new two storey private nursing home for the elderly. Recently, Woodgreen Builders Ltd, purchased the historic building for £201,000

**Exclusive by
Seamus Kelly**

A £1.8million ambitious project to renovate St Pappins Church and the building of a private two storey nursing home for the elderly at the rear of the historic building is expected to start before the end of the year.

First built in 1846, the church is now to be transformed into a modern visitors reception area, lounge and church oratory. There are also plans to create an area where visitors and their children can sit and meet with the nursing home residents.

The proposed new changes are expected to create at least 40 new jobs for local residents. With planning permission, it is expected that work will commence on the building in October and be completed by the end of 2001.

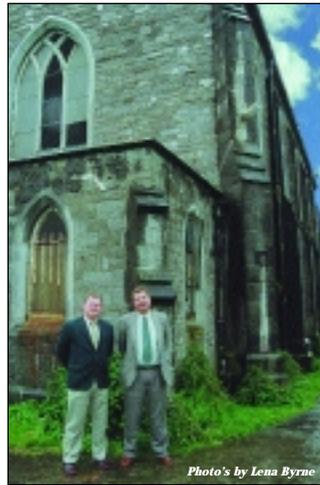
Mr Joe Kenny, managing director of Woodgreen Builders who hails from

Conversions

Woodgreen builders has renovated such buildings as the Old Mill apartment complex at Cross Gunns Quay, Phibsboro and the conversion of the old coach house Glasnevin, into six luxury apartments. Although Woodgreen concentrate on volume house building, it also handles construction work for Baystaff Ltd.

Church Interior

Mr Green indicated that the church interior, will be turned into a modern visitors reception area. "There will be a reception and lounge area with a television where visitors can relax with their relatives and friends. "They can also bring their children and have tea or coffee in the lounge. A small oratory where residents can



Mr Joe Kenny and Mr Eric Dixon at rear of St. Pappins

receive mass and Holy - Communion is to be built at the rear end of the church. Some landscaping will also be carried out on the church grounds," said Mr Kenny

Listed Building

Other than cleaning and sandblasting the outside structure, refitting new windows, painting and decorating, the exterior of the church will remain unchanged. "As it is a listed protected building there's not much we can do to the outside other than decorate and clean up the

stonework, replace the broken windows and any other exterior work needed to be done. "We are also building an oratory at the rear of the church where the residents living in the home, can get mass regularly each day," said Mr Kenny. **En-suite rooms** Speaking of the proposed new two - storey building for the elderly with a capacity to house 49 residents, he pointed out that every room, will be modern and well equipped.

Continued Page 2

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An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern T.D. launched Phase one of the €360m regeneration of Ballymun in Shangan Avenue last week. Mr. Ahern, assisted by Dublin's Lord Mayor Mary Frechill, turned the first sod signifying the beginning of the huge building project.

By Seamus Kelly

Addressing over 100 people, the Lord Mayor and guests, the Taoiseach said that this project is the largest integrated regeneration ever seen in Ireland. He is also



An Taoiseach announces launch

looking forward to the day when the development is finally completed.

"This is a great day for Ballymun and the people of Ballymun and for 8th Dublin. Today we launch phase one of the Ballymun building project and begin to build a better Dublin for the people of the community of Ballymun.

An Taoiseach launches phase one of the regeneration of Ballymun

"For me personally, the redevelopment of Ballymun, will be a dream come true. We create a new town with five neighbourhoods, a town centre and a commercial business district.

"It will be the largest integrated housing economic and social regeneration ever seen in the country and certainly ever seen in Dublin or indeed anywhere else," said Mr. Ahern.

Speaking on the governments commitment to the regeneration project, Mr. Ahern said £70million has already been allocated to the project, through the Minister for the Environment and local government Mr. Noel Dempsey T.D. He also paid tribute to all

involved in the planning and consultation process in the redevelopment of Ballymun.

"The government is committed to over €350m to the project for the housing alone, and €70m will be given in this year alone. For that I want to thank my colleague Noel Dempsey for his support for the project.

"In eight years time, Ballymun's regeneration will stand as a testament to the commitment and the vision of all of us who believe the people of Ballymun had a right to redevelopment and the best quality living environment.

"The Ballymun Regeneration project, is a great project, I think in any meaning of that word. It's been made stronger by the public consultation and the partnership between the planners, the architects the engineers, the residents of the wider community as a whole.

"I'd like to pay tribute to Ballymun Regeneration Ltd for the leading role they've played in ensuring top class consultation

and partnership, I'd also like to salute the parts played by Dublin Corporation, the Ballymun Housing Task Force, the forums the local representatives and the people of Ballymun themselves and anyone else who has played their part in any way.

"There will be 137 houses in this phase, by the end of the summer, 650 houses will be underway, and the plan is to reach 4,000 houses by the end of the project.

"Of course the co-operation of the residents on the estates, who's homes will back on to the development has been invaluable and thank you for the part you have played and I believe that the high standard of co-operation which you've shown is the key to future here in Ballymun.

"Both Noel Dempsey and I can say to the public representatives that represent this area, my own brother Noel Ahern, to Pat Carey my party T.D., to Deirdre Heaney, to Dessie Ellis Sinn Fein, to all of the other people here, this is all for real. The Ballymun regeneration programme is a scheme designed and targeted at local people and local communities. It shows that we are serious about putting people first as we build a better Ireland for our people.

"The result of the strong consultation and co-operation, the homes you are beginning to build today are homes built with the strongest possible foundation. They are homes rooted in the community, designed to meet the needs of the community. They will stand the test of time. I hope I am alive in



Young boy helps Lord Mayor and Taoiseach turn the first sod in Shangan Avenue.

eight years to see it finished in about eight year's time," concluded the Taoiseach.

Mr. Claran Murray managing director of Ballymun Regeneration Ltd, said the turning of the first sod is to mark the construction of almost 3,000 homes as part of the regeneration of the area. He also said the builders are now on site to start building the first 137 home at Popinette, Shangan and Coultly and demolition of a number of flats will be carried out next year. He also said that a number of homes are to be sold on the open market.

"As soon as they are built, the residents will move into their new homes and when the balance of phase one is completed next year, ten of the high rise flat blocks will be demolished. The new home designs are all very different visually and are of very high quality. "As well as re-housing existing residents of Ballymun, we'll be building a number of homes in each phase for sale on the open market. All will be affordable homes and we expect demand for them to be very strong."

Photos by Lena Byrne

Seamus Kelly talks to An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern T.D. and Minister for the environment and local government Mr Noel Dempsey T.D and gets their views on a positive Ballymun.

An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern T.D. and Minister Noel Dempsey T.D., speaking exclusively to the Ballymun Concrete News after launching phase one of the regeneration of Ballymun, talked of the positive events here in Ballymun. They both also paid tribute to the Ballymun Concrete News being a positive newspaper for Ballymun. Mr Ahern said, "I wish the Ballymun Concrete News good luck and every success in the future and anything that's positive, in this era of positive news. I hope it will be supportive of all the regeneration over the next decade.

"Clearly the new sign coming into Ballymun about the business in Ballymun, is very positive. I think we will see a lot of employment. There's a huge amount of efforts that's going on here already with training schemes, employment schemes. I

think as the regeneration of an area goes on it carries with it all the added benefits of it." Mr Ahern, also felt there were great positive opportunities for jobs and private



Minister Noel Dempsey and Taoiseach talk positive.

investment coming to Ballymun as a result of the redevelopment of the area.

"We seen how that's worked in town, it worked in the heart of the city in places

that did not have much future a decade ago like North Wall. We see how good they are today. So I think we will see it here in Ballymun as well," said Mr. Ahern. Minister Noel Dempsey, speaking on the value of positive news and how important it is today, to have a good balance between positive and negative news.

"I think what's so important is so much of the comment that's in the media generally nowadays is negative.

"They highlight what's negative, what's wrong, what's bad and I'm not saying it doesn't have to be highlighted, but it doesn't have to take prominence the whole time.

"The good news stories are forgotten and I'm delighted that there's a newspaper that's going to highlight in the community that's going to highlight the positive. This can only be good for the community, the concrete news, the concrete good news," the minister said. ■

Photos by Lena Byrne

From Page 1

"There will be 49 en-suite single bed-rooms fitted with showers and baths. All rooms will have their own T.V. and the kitchen and dining area will be linked together."

High standard homes

Mr. Eric Dixon, of Baystaff Ltd Homes for the Elderly, operates five private nursing homes for the elderly in Ireland. One of these homes, Nengah Manor based in Nengah Co.

Tipperry won an award for best nursing home in the Mid-West region in 1998. Mr Dixon said "Our company has been able to attract the best in staff, especially top matrons.

"Our policy is to produce nursing homes of the highest standard. In general, we try to maintain the atmosphere of the original building. This is what I propose to do here in Ballymun."

Local jobs

On the jobs front, Mr. Dixon said he expected that at least 40 jobs will be

created and his focus is on local employment. "Our policy is to use local labour and there will be work for nurses aides, a matron, cooks cleaners and others," he said.

He also spoke of the importance of the local community involvement, in these type of homes. "I encourage people to go in and take part. I expect to get on entertainment for the elderly through using children from the local schools. Entertainment will consist of puppet shows and pantomimes for the old folk," said Mr Dixon. ■

Mr Dixon, Group Manager, Baystaff Ltd.

Advice Centre



Sinn Féin Councillor Dossie Ellis will be available from 11am to 12noon Every Saturday at the Penthouse

Tel 8343390 / 086-8541944

Alderman Pat Carey, T.D.



Wishes the Ballymun Concrete News all the best for the future.

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Saturday: 6.30am - 10.2 Fairtown Road, 10.30am - 12.30 pm - Scouts Hall, Cardiffbridge Road
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Photos by Lena Byrne

Dublin North Central Mental Health Association

A series of mental health talks will take place in *Ballymun Library*. Tuesday June 6th at 11am to 12.15pm

Relaxation

Speaker Ms Christina McDermott, Health Promotion officer and Ms Ann Marie Reynolds, Behaviour Therapist. St. Vincent's Hospital Fairview, Tuesday 13th June 11am to 12.15pm

The New Mental Health Bill.

Speaker, Mr Brian Howard C.E.O. Mental Health Association of Ireland

The Penthouse —Ballymun—

*Best wishes to the new-look Ballymun Concrete News

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Robbie

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For a better Night Out

Aslan Live at the Penthouse Ballymun

By Seamus Kelly

Aslan played one of their most electrifying gigs in Ballymun's Penthouse last month, just before preparing to take off, on a tour of Australia towards the end of July.

Speaking exclusively to the Ballymun Concrete News in a back room of the Penthouse, the lads said they owed their music success in not forgetting their origins.

Christy Dignam lead singer commented, "We attribute everything to our roots around here because that's what made us what we are.

"To be honest, it's great to play in places like the Penthouse here, because you're performing to the real people.

Out of all the top gigs they played at, Ballymun means a lot to the lads and helps keep them alive and on their toes.

"If you're playing a place like the Point Depot or something, it's a more mixed audience. But in Ballymun, you're looking into the whites of people's eyes," said Christy

Billy McGuinness, joining in with the interview said, "When we're playing a song in a place like this, we really do learn quickly, because we see people getting bored and know there's something wrong with the song.

"If it passes the test here, then it will pass the test anywhere and that's a fact. Our fans in Ballymun, and Dublin in general, are very loyal, because they actually tell us when we do something wrong.

Made up of Christy Dignam, Billy McGuinness, Tony McGuinness, Alan Downey and Joe Jewell, Aslan are a great success throughout the world.



Photos by Lena Byrne

Billy and Tony are Ballymun lads and they reflected their earlier memories of Ballymun. "When I was in Ballymun, there was a great sense of community and people would even wash down the stairs in the flats all the time.

"We used to rehearse in Ballymun but then we got another place near the Airport. We would get our amps and gear from here and walk to the new place, which was like an old barn with a shopping trolley (borrowed) - that was back in the early eighties, cracked the lads.



Christy spoke about drug abuse and from his own personal experience said that drugs only buried his talents.

"Once you've tasted something that's nice to you, it is harder to look back. The feelings and emotions that I looked for in drugs I have now found through my music.

As far as I can see, there are people in Ballymun who have drug problems and are not musicians, so it's not just because we're in show-biz, I would just urge them to get out of that straight away.

Aslan are heading for Australia in July and are confident that their 'Best Of Aslan' album will be a major hit down under.

Finishing the interview the lads graciously allowed our photographer to take some great snapshots and then took to the Penthouse stage. What an exciting performance the lads put on - it was pure electrifying. Let's hope they will pay Ballymun a come-back on their return from Australia. All the best boys and thank's for your good wishes to the Ballymun Concrete News. ■

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**SUMMER MADNESS
THIS JUNE BANK
HOLIDAY WEEK-
END**

St Josephs Church celebrates Silver Jubilee in Poppintree

The Silver jubilee of St Joseph's Church took place in Poppintree Sunday May 7th, where two years ago, a gunman had burst into the church and fired shots amongst a group of young children making their first Holy Communion.

By Seamus Kelly

President Mary McAleese also attended the special mass and ceremony to mark the 25 years of St Joseph's Church in Poppintree. Concelebrating the mass were: Fathers: Noel Kerins, PPSSC, Kevin McDonagh and Fr, Terry Twohig. The principal celebrant was His Grace, Dr. Jim Moriarity, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin.

During his homily the Bishop reflected on the sad events of two years ago. He also spoke of the children who had been caught up in the cross-fire being invited and

entertained by the President soon after the tragic incident.

"I remember the sad occasion, the shooting incident which took place during the first Holy Communion

service. I remember visiting the school shortly afterwards and again we mentioned the appreciation of their visit to the presidents house Aras An Uachtairain shortly afterwards, it was a great sign or token of support," said the bishop.

The bishop also spoke briefly of the tragic deaths of young people who take their own lives through drink and drugs and how the local community are dealing with problems. "We have death mainly of young people, deaths from suicide and misuse of drugs. Mainly as a commu-

nity. I know that many of you are trying to build and fight to make this a real caring community," he said. On a brighter note the bishop told the story of a man who fell into a vat of Guinness and was going round and round in the vat shouting out a prayer. This went on for some time until one man managed to make out the words of the prayer he was crying out as he was swirling round in the vat of Guinness. He listened carefully as he heard the prayerful words: "Dear God, Please, please give me the mouth to fit this occasion." At this point the congregation burst into laughter including the President.

Local community activist Mr. Sean O' Cionnaith, said the silver jubilee of St Joseph's, is a wonderful moment for Poppintree. But he also indicated that it was also a reminder of the tragic shooting two years ago. "It is a great celebration of a silver jubilee and it shows, that people can overcome tragedies and can closely work together to improve situations. It shows human beings can get over any kind of tragedy. The greatness of the day of two years ago, is that nobody got

"The greatness of the day of two years ago, is that nobody got killed"

any. I know that many of you are trying to build and fight to make this a real caring community," he said. On a brighter note the bishop told the story of a man



Photos By Lena Byrne

killled," said Mr. O' Cionnaith. Father Kevin McDonagh of St Joseph's parish, also spoke of the incident and how this silver jubilee is for all communities and to put the past tragic events behind. "The last time it was also a celebratory occasion as well, it was the first communion of the kids here.

the people who contributed to the school and the parish in various ways," said Fr. McDonagh. Fianna Fails Noel Ahern T.D. commenting after the ceremony, said it was celebration of not just the mass, but also the community life and community activity over 25 years. He also spoke of the sadness



Sean O' Cionnaith and Fr. Kevin McDonagh

"Yet two years later we're having this the 25th celebration. I suppose it was unfortunate that a very special and sacred occasion and a celebrity occasion for the people, was marred by that incident.

"But it is behind us now and this is a celebration for all the communities, not just for the priests or the sisters or 25 years of a church building. It's a celebration of the people of this area of Poppintree. All

"we're celebrating 25 years of community life and let's look forward to the next 25"

of the tragic shooting, being one of the darker days but with brighter days ahead.

"That was obviously one of the darker days but it was good to hear, that the community has bounced back from that sad day and that today, a nice sunny day, we're celebrating 25 years of community life and let's look forward to the next 25 years," said Noel Ahern

St Joseph's was inaugurated in 1979 the foundation stone was blessed by Pope John Paul when he came to Ireland in 79. The Pope didn't come to Ballymun but it is believed he blessed the stone in Ireland. Two years later the church was open to the people. ■

Congratulations!

Ballymun Regional Office of Dublin Corporation

We wish to congratulate the Coultury residents, Coultury Forum, Air Concern and MABS for their tremendous success in organising a visit by 70 Americans to Ballymun on 7th May. This initiative was part of an environmental awareness programme for the Ballymun area.

The ground floor of two blocks of flats on Coultury Road was painted by the visitors. Other activities included face painting, a puppet show, pony rides, a bouncing castle and a penalty shoot out between the adults. There was also music and the swimming pool was specially opened for the occasion. Great fun was had by all.

Dublin Corporation with the Ballymun Canopy have the very best for the future.



Dublin Corporation



Auxiliary Bishop Dr. Jim Moriarity (2nd left) and colleagues

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The Ballymun Job Centre wish the Concrete News every success for the future

Launch of Acorn in Ballymun

A group of mental health users launched the official opening of their new Acorn drop in centre at Balbutcher Lane recently. Acorn is made up of local residents and others who want to empower each other and live their lives to the full.

A number of local representatives including Sean O' Conniaith, WP. Cllr Dessie Ellis SF, Derek Fitzpatrick Ballymun Partnership, Noel Martin, Ballymun Housing Task Force, Martin Griffin Town Centre Manger and many others attended the official opening. Jim Mitchell TD (FG) also paid a surprise visit to the launch.

First set up a year ago, their numbers have grown from eight to thirty members. A number of these people have at some stage received psychiatric services.

Brendan Core, a founder member of the Acorn group (also a founder member of the Ballymun Community Coalition), said the group are seeking funding. He indicated that in the past year they had received €600 from Ballymun Partnership, which helped take the group on a weekend trip to Roscrea.

They also raised €500 themselves through a fundraiser at the Penthouse Pub.

"We have a 'Take Flight' club which goes away regularly as a working group and for pleasure. We have also gone away on weekend trips to Glencree, Tipperary, Dalgen, and Co Cork."

"These trips away, helped the members to find their talents through discussion by exploring areas of homelessness, housing and the Mental Health Bill," said Brendan.

He also stated that one of Acorns aims are to examine a white paper on the Mental Health Act, which seeks to bring Irish Law into line with the European Convention of Human Rights.

"This act is very important for mental health users, as it is the first change in the act in 55 years and we are not satisfied with the document yet. We are currently researching it and we will make our points known in the near future," said Brendan.

Acorn also believe all mental health sufferers, who hold a medical card, should also have free access or low cost counselling and psychotherapy. They are also calling for immediate free public transport for their members to visit patients going from Ballymun to St Vincent's Hospital.

"This is non-existent at the moment and costing one of our members €30 per week in taxi expenses," said Brendan.

Acorn are also calling for provision of a psychiatric social worker in the Ballymun Clinic and in other areas. They want employment as nurses aides or catering and housekeeping duties in hospitals at trade union rates for recovered or semi recovered and patients themselves.

They are also requesting a 24-hour service for psychiatric emergencies in the Ballymun community.

Brendan stated, as the group is not funded, they would welcome any subscriptions from anyone. For further information please contact Brendan Core at 8620352.



MOLLOY'S

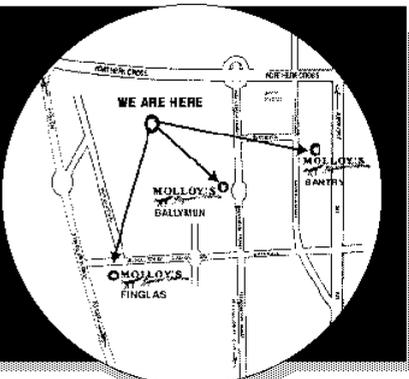
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Editorial

Welcome to the new look *Ballymun Concrete News* newspaper. This pilot issue of a free tabloid size regular is a positive newspaper for Ballymun. Poppintree is funded by a small grant of €500 from the Ballymun Partnership. Being a positive newspaper it is believed to be the first of its kind in Ballymun and possibly Ireland. The newspaper still remains the creation of editor and proprietor Seamus Kelly.

The newspaper replaces the newsletter format, only this time it's a newspaper, in colour. Bigger and still the original Ballymun Concrete News. The newspaper will be distributed monthly from July 27th to all homes including the flats complex in Ballymun-Poppintree. The success of the newspaper is dependant on local advertising, as it is a local newspaper.

What An Inseach and Minister Noel Dempsey say about the Ballymun Concrete News sums up what this newspaper is all about: Positive news. That's what the paper has been doing for the past two years and will continue to report good positive news about this community.

It's positive that now at last it seems the regeneration is becoming a reality. Sure there are problems like any other building project of this nature. But at the end of the day, it's positive for Ballymun. Residents will be getting new homes and the flats are to be demolished. That's what this community has been calling for down the years. We also need private investment to help create social amenities in the area. We don't want a repeat of the estates when no social amenities were provided then, let's get it right this time.

I want to thank the Ballymun Partnership for the €500 feasibility study grant for this pilot issue.

I also want to thank all those organisations who supported the Ballymun Concrete News in the past two years by providing photocopying services free of charge. I want to thank my typesetter for a tremendous lay-out and working so hard, even taking time off work to do such a good job on the newspaper. I also want to thank my photographer for her voluntary professional assistance, this has been invaluable to me. Finally, I only hope the Ballymun Concrete News will help to continue help create a more positive image of Ballymun.

Editor and proprietor of the Ballymun Concrete News.

Seamus Kelly

Letters to the editor



A Chara,

Dublin City Manager, John Fitzgerald, tried to get Councillors at the May meeting of the Corporation to propose a Refuse Tax of £150 per household per year. He claimed that it was in accord with the Waste Management Plan adopted by the Council. However, Refuse Tax has never been accepted by the elected councillors for very good reasons. It is industry and business who cause the vast majority of waste, yet they pay far less tax than ordinary workers - a breach of the Polluter Pays principle. This is despite business profits increasing by well over 10% per year, while workers' wages barely keep up with inflation. Presenting the extra tax proposals as part of a new Waste Management Plan is totally counter-productive. At a time when we are trying to positively encourage recycling and separation of waste into different categories like organic, glass, plastic, paper, etc, these punitive charges will create a negative reaction. In working class areas like Finglas and Ballymun, the hostility to charges could even lead to wheeled bins being stolen or their contents dumped. It would be a disaster for the regeneration of Ballymun and the redevelopment of Finglas, where a new clean environment is vital, to be endangered by the negative effects of Refuse Taxes. This issue has been referred to the Strategic Policy Cite on the Environment, on which I am the Sinn Fein rep. It will be the first test of whether the SPCs achieve their objective of increasing democracy and accountability of the councils.

In mine,
Clr Dessie Ellis
Sinn Fein
Tel 8343390

Address all letters to: The Editor, Ballymun Concrete News, 66 Joseph Plunkett Tower Ballymun, Dublin 11, or you can email your letters to kelly@seamuskelly.com

SoapBox



To Ballymun Regeneration Ltd.

I see from the latest issue of Ballymun Regeneration News that a group of TCD historians have been appointed to document the history of Ballymun. We in Sinn Fein welcome this development as the people of Ballymun have a proud history of struggle against Government and Official neglect, which should be remembered. Ballymun was designed in the 1906s at a time when Establishment politicians still felt safe to commemorate the 1916 Rising, even though they had long failed to live up to the Republican ideal of "cherishing all the children of the nation equally". So they named the 7 towers after the IRA leaders who were executed by Britain. It was left to the people of Ballymun to practically honour one of the Proclamation's ideals by setting up Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch, one of the first all-Irish parent-controlled schools in Dublin.

Ballymun SF therefore welcomes the initiative by our Councillor Dessie Ellis in proposing to the North West Area Cite that the names of the 1916 leaders be retained in the newly regenerated Ballymun. BRL should also ensure that the officially ignored women activists of our freedom struggle are included this time round.

There is another aspect of Ballymun's history that deserves recognition. The Shop Yans, which have given enormous service to the people of Ballymun in the absence of local facilities, face an uncertain future. Clr Dessie Ellis has proposed that a meeting be arranged between BRL and the Shop Van owners and BRL to discuss their future and the provision of proper shopping facilities in Ballymun.

In mine,
Sean Marlow,
Ballymun Sinn Fein

Disclaimer: The Soapbox does not in any way reflect the views of the Ballymun Concrete News.

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Silloge and Sandyhill Forum members receive awards

Silloge and Sandyhill participants in an estate management course, received their certificates after completing the ten-week course at a presentation ceremony on Silloge Road recently. The course which is designed to help train members in the decision making process affecting their areas.

The ten-week course is part of an ongoing training programme aimed at furthering the Silloge and Sandyhill Estate Forum members communication and problem solving skills. The certificates titled Human Enhancement and Development, were presented by facilitator Brian Colbert to the members at Dublin Corporations

By Seamus Kelly

Estate office 210 Silloge Road. Brian commented that the training the members received, will assist them to be able to consult more with confidence. "Using the new skills they learned over the past ten weeks will enable them to communicate more effectively. They are now quite confi-

dent at public speaking and will have no problem getting their points across at important meetings," Brian said.

Recipients of the certificates were: John Mullen, Jackie Skelly, Mable Murphy, Mandy Murphy, Roisin O' Neil, Teresa Lyndon, Aideen McBride, Linda O' Connor and Michelle Prendegast. Liz Johnson of the Ballymun

Housing Task Force, also received a certificate on the day.

Silloge and Sandyhill Estate Forum are made up of local people who are elected by residents of Silloge and Sandyhill, to represent the residents of their own area. They also have representation on the Ballymun Housing Task Force. ■

Photos by Lena Byrne



Silloge and Sandyhill forum members with Instructor Brian Colbert
Photo Lena Byrne

SPORTS

Walkover!

The Towers Pitch & Patt Club is having a Captains day at the Balrothery, Ballrigan on Sunday June the 4th at 10am.

The senior Group A of The Towers and All Ireland Federation are taking part in a major competition. "With the group success of the Towers club over the past three years, they are expected to walk away with at least 3 of the top prizes," said committee member and senior barman of The Towers, James Murphy.

The first prize in the Pitch and Patt competition is a digital satellite dish, 2nd prize is a portable TV, and the 3rd prize is a Sony compact disk player. ■

Late News

Rapid action by Ballymun/Santry Gardaí, leads to arrest of murder suspects

By Seamus Kelly:

Thanks to the swift action by Ballymun/Santry gardaí, two people were arrested in the past few days and charged in connection with the murder of 34 year old Derek Benson at his flat in Sandyhill Avenue just over a week ago. Mr Benson received multiple stab wounds, which led to his tragic death. Detectives heading the investigation under the direction of Chief Superintendent Jim Murphy of Santry Garda station took just nine days, to capture and charge

the alleged attackers.

Both Paul Hopkins of Silloge Road and Jackie Noble of Knowth Court, have been charged before the court with the murder of Derek Benson and are currently awaiting trial. Chief Superintendent Jim Murphy, commenting on the tragic murder, said that this is a rare occurrence in Ballymun.

"Ballymun is a good decent community and the recent murder of Derek Benson, has sent shock waves throughout the local community.

"I am glad we were able to carry out the arrests so quickly. Thanks to the efforts of my team of detectives in Ballymun and Santry, the suspects are in custody and awaiting trial. We would like to thank the local community for their great assistance," said Jim Murphy. ■

Ballymun United beat Edenmore Celtic in Premier League

Ballymun United beat Edenmore Celtic two goals to nil in a premier league game at Balcurris pitch last Sunday.

According to manger of Ballymun United Jimmy O'Neil, 20 minutes into the first half Paul Kane scored the first goal of the match. Within a few minutes, Ballymun United knocked in the winning goal. "Paul Kane, strik-

er, scored the first goal from a cross by Ken Coakley by heading it into the back of the net. Kane beat the offside to kick the ball over the goalkeepers ad and scored a great goal," said Jimmy. Jimmy said that Edenmore Celtic put on a valiant effort being two nil down in the first thirty minutes of the game but Ballymun United could not be stopped. ■

Ballymun Regeneration Ltd wishes Ballymun Concrete News every success.



Working in partnership with the community to build a bright new future for Ballymun.