

Welcome to our latest Brittas newsletter. This newsletter is to update you on the activities of the Brittas Committee. Future updates will be posted on our recently relaunched website: www.brittascommunity.com. We also have a Brittas Community Facebook page.

The Community Association

The Brittas committee is currently made up of 14 volunteers from the local community who meet on a regular basis to discuss issues relevant to the community of Brittas. They include:
Chairperson - David Lehane,
Vice Chairperson - David Cleary,
Secretary - Michelle Whelan,
Treasurer - Mary Weakliam,
Tommy Doyle, John Foster,
Sean Healy, Ruth Frost, Stephanie Broe, John Moriarty, Kathleen Keogh, Gillian Justice, Tara Quinn and Rita Keogh.

Annual Running Costs Of Community Centre

It currently costs approx € 4k to maintain the Community Centre. This does not cover costs for maintenance and repairs. Costs are mainly made up of:
Insurance - € 1,800
Text System - € 1,000
Heating Oil - € 400
Accounting Fees - € 600
Water Charges - € 200

SDCC CE Programme

Davy Dillon is employed by the council as part of the SDCC CE Programme to maintain the village areas. We are delighted with all the hard work, and would like to acknowledge his contribution to how well the village is looking.

Grants

A number of grants have been applied for and awarded. We received € 20k from the 'Rural Leader Fund' to renovate part of the Community Centre and to create a Tram Stop memorial & seating. SDCC provided grants towards railings, doors, gate & benches for the grounds. We are currently seeking a grant to install CCTV in the Centre.

Defibrillator

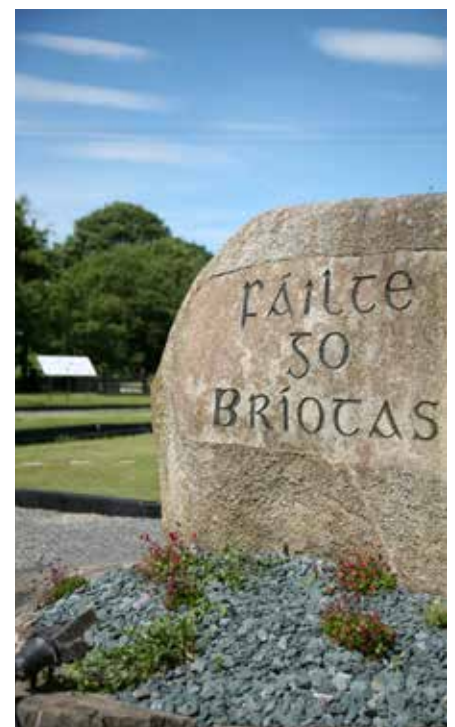
A defibrillator was purchased for the Community with funds raised from a fundraiser night. It is located at the front of the Community Centre. A code is required to access the Defibrillator. The code is C4582 and is also located under the defibrillator box. There is also a list of mobile numbers to contact for assistance in using the Defib. We have run some Basic Life Support courses, where a number of Brittas residents have been trained in the use of the Defibrillator and in basic life saving skills. We hope to run more of these courses in the future. If interested, please call Stephanie on 086 0889018, or see website www.brittascommunity.com

Brittas Tidy Towns

18 months ago a Brittas Tidy Towns subcommittee was formed under the direction of Ruth Frost, with the intention of entering Brittas in the national Tidy Towns competition.

Following our successful first year entry, (we didn't win, but we did well for newbies!), we are now preparing for the second year of judging. We would like to thank all our volunteers but would love to further increase the community involvement in order to improve our overall marks this year. A Tidy Towns newsletter will be circulated with all details on scoring etc.

Taking part in Tidy Towns is good fun, a bit of exercise and most of all - very sociable! Please let us know via Brittas Tidy Towns Facebook or through a Committee member if you would like to get involved. Ideas are always welcome but active participation is really needed!



Recreational Area / Playground

Following the Community vote in favour of the playground, the committee continues to liaise with SDCC in relation to same. At our last meeting with them, they advised that they will supply a playground and install it on the Community land, but only if the land is signed over to them. We are currently looking to see if there are any feasible alternatives to this. We plan to hold another public meeting to discuss this on **Sunday 8th April at 11.15am** (after mass).

Events

A number of events were held over the last year. A lot of effort goes into hosting these events and we would like to thank everyone who helped out and supported these.

- Spring Social Night
- Midsummer BBQ
- Harvest Social Night
- Halloween Kids Disco
- Christmas Tree Lighting
- Christmas Social Night
- Santa comes to Brittas
- Homeless Clothes collection

Crooksling Action Group

A fundraiser night was held last June to raise money to fund the work of the Action Group to keep Crooksling open and thus continue to provide employment to the local community. A public meeting was held on December 2nd, with Brittas residents, Public representatives, Minister Zappone and architects.

On January 25th of this year, Councillor Emer Higgins arranged a meeting with Crooksling Action Group, Dept of Health, & Senior HSE Officials in Leinster house to show proposals for possible development of Crooksling into a National Centre for Excellence of Elder care. A further meeting in March will be arranged to discuss more details with relevant parties.

Notice Board

We are in the process of organising an outdoor community notice board. This will be updated with postings and notifications of upcoming events and information for the Brittas Community.

Text Alert

A Community text system was set up a few years ago to advise everyone of upcoming community events. In conjunction with our Community Garda, we are also part of the Community alert scheme. We have also erected a number of Community alert signs in the area. If you are not receiving our text alerts, and would like to opt in, please see website, email us at info@brittascommunity.com, or contact a member of the committee.



Current Hall Use

- Mass - 10.30am, every Sunday
- Kim's Fitness Class - 7-8pm, Mondays & Wednesdays, plus 9-10am, Tuesdays
- Meditation Meeting - 11am, Wednesdays.

BRITTAS COMMUNITY

Mobile Library

The SDCC Mobile library comes to the Brittas Community every second Thursday from 3pm - 3.50pm. It has a great range of books including large print and talking books, DVDs and CDs for all ages. Books borrowed from other libraries can also be returned at the mobile library. The staff are very friendly and helpful, and if they don't have what you are looking for, they will source it, and have it for you the next time they visit. It really is an invaluable service to the community so please try and support it if you can to ensure it continues to come to our community!

FixMyStreet.ie

If you have any concerns or issues with public roads or pavements in our community, this website is the place for informing the council. It can be used to alert the council to Potholes, Footpath / Kerb damage, Fly Tipping, Vandalism, Graffiti, etc. Simply log onto Fixmystreet.ie, enter your area, locate the problem on the map, add a brief description and hit submit! This gets forwarded onto the council to be actioned.

Website & Social Media

Our website has recently been redeveloped, so please visit the site and take a look around it. All comments and feedback welcome. We also have a very vibrant Facebook page, moderated by Stephanie Broe, which was accessed by over 400 people during the recent Storm Emma. Well done to her for all her support to the Community. Both sites are looking great and are updated regularly with the latest news. We are always looking for contributions, so please feel free to make suggestions and contributions on either site, plus send us any relevant old or new photos to add to the sites: www.brittascommunity.com