



The Skerries Community Association Annual Pre-AGM Flyer: Our Year in Review

The Skerries Community Association CLG,
c/o Skerries Community Centre,
Dublin Road, Skerries K34K377
SKERRIESCA.COM
info@skerriesca.com

June 2026



Greetings from Skerries Community Association! Breda Shankey, Deputy Chair

Who are we? In case you are new to Skerries, or have for some other reason never heard of us, I'll begin with a brief introduction. The **Skerries Community Association (SCA)** is nearly 100 years old and is devoted to enhancing our town and supporting community life in Skerries. We are a voluntary board of 15 directors and (currently) eight committees: **Skerries Tidy Towns, Sustainable Skerries, Skerries Town Twinning, Skerries Autism Friendly Town, the Skerries Cycling Initiative, Age Friendly Skerries** and the **Skerries Sustainable Energy Community Initiative (SSECI)**, all run by volunteers, and **Skerries Community Centre**, which is run by its own Board of Management.

The two core values of the SCA are **sustainability** and **inclusion**. As you will see from this flyer, our work covers a wide range of activities and projects. There are over one hundred SCA volunteers working together for Skerries in so many different ways!

Board of Directors: We thank **Jane Landy**, who has given many years of wonderful service to the Board as SCA Chair and who has recently stepped down from that role. Hers is a very hard act to follow, and at the moment, we are operating on a temporary basis with a three-month rotating Chair. So far, **Ger O'Mahony** and I have completed our stints, and the current chair, until August, is **Eithne O'Connell**. – We also thank **Aoife Malone**, who stepped down from the BoD this year before the arrival of her baby Ailbhe, and we welcome **Kalanne O'Leary**, who joined the Board during the year.

The **Community Centre** continues to go from strength to strength, and in addition to the day-to-day work of this very busy amenity, the Board of Management are working on future-proofing its energy demands. We applaud their ongoing support for Skerries Youth Support Services, a registered charity,

with their Tap to Donate machine at the playing-field side of the Centre.

Skerries Tidy Towns won their 25th Gold Medal and a Highly Commended Award last October. Congratulations to everyone involved on this wonderful achievement, and especially on the installation of the beautiful mosaic in Floraville Park celebrating May McGee. (May's landmark 1973 Supreme Court case established the constitutional right to marital privacy in decisions around contraception and changed access to contraception in Ireland.) May took the case with the support of her husband, Shay. The SCA was very pleased to contribute towards the mosaic, alongside Skerries Business Association and with grant support from Pobal. The unveiling on 30 August was a very special and enjoyable occasion. Sadly, no one could have known that May would pass away less than eight weeks later, after a brief illness. Rest in peace, May.

Skerries Town Twinning brought 29 local people to Guichen in Brittany for a wonderful celebration of 30 years of friendship between our two communities. This was a really special trip, and Town Twinning are busy organising the return visit to Skerries in July. *Vive la France!*

Age Friendly Skerries is preparing a number of plans and initiatives, including a walkability study, for our older residents.

Sustainable Skerries has launched Skerries Climate Conversations, a new monthly event series focused on climate, community and local action. They are also delighted that all 14 Open Orchards around the town now have signs explaining their background, and that the much-loved Toy Library at Skerries South Strand is open again.

Skerries Cycling Initiative continues to run pop-up bike repair sessions, reconditions

bikes for donation and organises fun cycles.

The **Skerries Sustainable Energy Community Initiative (SSECI)** shares lots of valuable information about sustainable energy options such as solar panels and has excellent Home Energy Savings Kits, which can now be borrowed from Skerries Library.

Skerries Autism Friendly Town continues to support families and young people with Autism spectrum conditions. Their beautiful Sensory Garden in Floraville is a peaceful haven for all, and they are very grateful to Skerries Business Association for their ongoing support.

Our **Transport Working Group** has forged new connections with community groups in Loughshinny, Rush and Lusk in their efforts to improve the bus service in the area. Disappointingly, a recent meeting with the National Transport Authority (NTA) showed no willingness to take their suggestions on board, but they will continue to fight the good fight!

Christmas Gift Initiative: The SCA was happy to again support the Christmas Gift initiative for the children among the international protection applicants and refugees in the Red Bank, which was started by local resident Katie Byrne. All the children were assigned a donor family, who then gave them a Christmas gift.

Skerries is Ireland's Greenest Town! We were delighted to be named Ireland's Greenest Town last year by the Irish Times and Electric Ireland. Many of our committees were involved in this. What an encouragement for our sustainability work!

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation): This new initiative was launched in 2026 by SCA director Eric Byrne and other local

Skerries Community Association Annual General Meeting 2026:

See who we are & what we do! Thursday 25 June 2026,
8 p.m., Little Theatre, Skerries Community Centre
No need to register, just come along!

Preceded by a presentation on SEAI Retrofit Grants, organised by SSECI, from 6.30 pm
7.30 to 8 pm: Refreshments

The official Notification for our 2026 AGM and the audited accounts for 2025 are available at skerriesca.com/category/news

volunteers. An introductory two-hour course in the use of an Automated External Defibrillator and basic CPR skills, run by Irish Heart Foundation-certified trainers, was organised, and to date, almost 100 Skerries people have done it. We hope this will lead to the formation of a group who will take their training further and become certified Community First Responders. Survival after a cardiac arrest depends on early CPR and defibrillation, so the more people who are proficient in these crucial skills, the better.

Thank You! A huge thank you to all my co-directors, especially to our Company Secretary, Paul Walsh, and our Treasurer, Brid Grimes. To all of our committee and working group members, manager Sharon Guinane and her staff in the Community Centre, as well as all the others who help us (Sabine McKenna for compiling, designing and editing this newsletter, Dee Langton for the Newsflash etc) - a huge and heartfelt Go Raibh Mile Maith Agaibh!

Hoping to see you at our AGM on 25th June in the Little Theatre, starting at 8 pm - and if you're interested in learning more about SEAI Retrofit Grants, pop down at 6.30 pm on the day for a talk by Eric Dennis, followed by refreshments at 7.30 pm to get you ready for the AGM proper!

Breda Shankey

The current SCA Directors

WG = Working Group; SCLC = Skerries Community Liaison Committee

- **Eithne O'Connell**, Rotating Chair; SSECI
- **Paul Walsh**, Company Secretary; SCLC rep; Governance WG
- **Brid Grimes**, Treasurer; Finance and Communications WGs
- **Breda Shankey**, Deputy Chair; Tidy Towns; SCLC rep; Governance WG; Minutes Secretary
- **Brendan Friel**, Town Twinning; Finance WG
- **Brendan Sherlock**, Age Friendly; Fingal Public Participation Network
- **Eric Byrne**, Community Centre; Board of Management; CPR/AED WG
- **Ger O'Mahony**, Autism Friendly Town; Governance WG
- **Helen Scullion**, Sustainable Skerries; Governance WG
- **Jane Landy**, Governance & Finance WGs
- **John Coleman**, Town Twinning; Transport WG
- **Kalanne O'Leary**, Governance WG
- **Mary Conway**, Tidy Towns; Age Friendly; Finance WG
- **Michael McKenna**, Cycling Initiative; Finance WG
- **Rowena Walsh**: Communications WG, Deputy Minutes secretary

The Skerries Community Liaison Committee (SCLC)

Four times a year, the SCLC meets in Skerries. Representatives of local groups, including the SCA, Skerries Tidy Towns, Skerries Business Association, Prosper Fingal, Skerries Tourism, and Loughshinny residents, meet with officials from Fingal County Council (FCC) and local elected councillors. It's a very useful forum to discuss plans for our area and to make sure there is local input into any decisions being made.

SCA input to the SCLC

We have advocated for **safe crossings** on Millers Lane and at the junction of Golflinks Road and Shenick Road.

At our **sea swimming areas**, FCC is conducting more regular, and more efficient, **algae cleaning at both the Captains and Springers**. The new composite seating is much appreciated by swimmers, and a new swim shelter is to be installed. We have voiced concern about the **planned relocation of the allotments** and have asked for **cats eyes** on the Lusk / Skerries road.

We also asked for the **Martello Tower** at Red Island to be restored to some type of public use, e.g. as a Dark Sky Observatory or a Visitors Centre. A study was undertaken by FCC, but the cost of an upgrade is considered too high at this time.

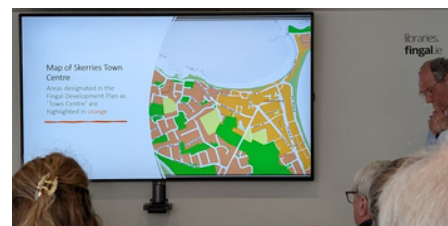
FCC has asked us to promote the email balswooparea@fingal.ie for all in Skerries to inform the county council of issues in their remit, e.g. a broken exercise machine on the South Strand, loose paving etc.

- SCA SCLC Representatives: Breda Shankey, Paul Walsh
- contact: info@skerriesca.com

Skerries Town Centre First

The **Town Centre First process** for Skerries is now under way, facilitated by Fingal County Council. It will lead to an agreed **action plan** for the designated town centre area, roughly speaking the "triangle" and parts of Hoar Rock, Harbour Road and Balbriggan Street, and is likely to influence which projects are prioritised and best placed to attract future funding. For the Skerries Community Association, this process is particularly relevant because it connects directly with our aims of sustainability and inclusion. **A good town centre should be welcoming, accessible and lively**, support local businesses, encourage walking and cycling, provide good public spaces, and work well for residents, visitors, older people, young people and community groups.

The Town Centre First process is a valuable chance to bring residents, businesses, community groups and local organisations into the same conversation.



The first two of five "capacity-building" work-shops took place in May and early June and have already shown how much common ground there is across Skerries.

There is still an opportunity to join the **remaining workshops**, all of which take place in Skerries Library. They are scheduled for 30 June, 15 July and 28 July, with sign-in from 6 pm and sessions expected to start at 6.30 pm. You can contact Fingal County Council at townregenerationoffice@fingal.ie and ask to be put on the Skerries Town Centre First email list.

There will also be a **public survey** later in the process. It will be shared via various channels, including the **SCA Newsflash**.

- Sign up for the Skerries Community Association Newsflash by sending an email with the subject "Subscription" to newsflash@skerriesca.com
- More detail about the process: sustainableskerries.com/blogposts



After years of excellent service, **Mary Conway** has stepped down as Chair of **Age Friendly Skerries**. The committee is very grateful to her. **Brendan Sherlock** has taken over the role.

The committee has agreed to develop a new **plan of action** for the next five years. The **Walkability Guidelines** are currently being reviewed. Representatives from Age Friendly Skerries are taking part in the **Town Centre First process**.

The committee is keen to compile a **directory** which will list who exactly is currently providing which services and who is organising which activities for older people in the town. Information compiled would include initiatives such as Cricket Club Tea Dance, Man O'War Group, Forget-me-Nots, Meals on Wheels etc. **We'd love to hear from anyone involved in age-related projects around the town** and we will do all we can to spread the word.

We are liaising with Skerries Library to promote the **Monthly Movie Meet Up** in the

library and make the Kanopy video streaming service available. We are also organising age-friendly **computer training** there. Looking to the future, we are advocating for a local town bus and age-friendly housing.

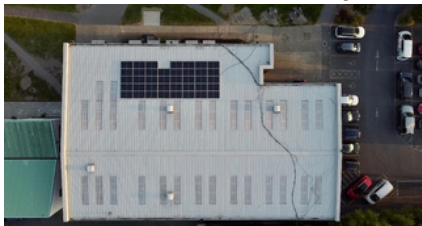
- Brendan Sherlock, Chair
- agefriendlyskerries@skerriesca.com



Skerries Community Centre
Ionad Pobail na Sceirí

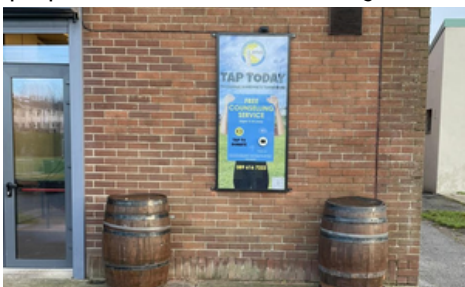
Within the past year, the **Skerries Community Centre** Board of Management (BoM) has undertaken a variety of work to improve the Centre and the Old School for all users.

Currently there is a three-phase plan to improve the **energy efficiency of the Old School**, which includes installing a new heating system. Phase 2 will see the installation of **LED lights** across the Centre and the installation of **new taps**, which will reduce water waste. Phase 3 will see the installation of additional **solar PV panels**.



Over the last 12 months, both **kitchens** in the two buildings were replaced.

The Community Centre fully endorses the work undertaken by **Skerries Youth Support Services (SYSS)** on behalf of the young people in the locality. In order to support their work, the BoM have placed a **Tap to Donate machine** at the side of the Community Centre building, near the Coffee Dock, and are asking users to donate to the very valuable work undertaken by this organisation. All funds raised go directly to SYSS, a voluntary body and registered charity helping the young people of Skerries and surrounding areas.



This year, **Gerry McKenna** stepped down from the BoM. We thank him for his hard work and the great contribution over the

years. And we are delighted to have **Graham Cotter** join us as his replacement.

The BoM wish **Richie McCormack**, Maintenance Supervisor at the Community Centre, a very long, happy and healthy retirement. Thank you, Richie, for all the work you undertook over the years!

- Shay Fanning, Chair
- info@skerriescommunitycentre.ie



Skerries Autism Friendly Town (SAFT) is a community-based committee whose purpose is to make the town of Skerries a more inclusive environment for children with Autism and children with additional needs, as well as their families.

Over the last year, we managed to deliver and enhance several activities which have been up and running for a few years such as, in partnership with Skerries Town FC, **Football4All** and an **All Inclusive Soccer Camp**. The much-loved **Sensory Santa** was brought to our families in partnership with Skerries Mills. We also saw attendance grow at a new initiative that was launched in 2025 – the monthly **play sessions** for children with additional needs in the Community Centre.



The **Sensory Garden in Floraville**, delivered in partnership with the Skerries Business Association, has gone from strength to strength. This garden has delivered a quiet, calm space in the middle of Skerries and provides an excellent resource for people with sensory needs and, indeed, anyone who might like a quiet space to relax in the centre of our town.



We would like to thank the **Skerries Autism Friendly Town committee** for their tireless work and dedication, and the many individuals, clubs, organisations and generous donors.

In relation to the Football4All, we would like to give a special mention to Reg Armstrong, David Coleman, Grace Gallagher, Andy Armitage and Jack Murtagh for their great work and kindness.

- Ger O'Mahony, chair, SAFT
- Instagram: @saft_allabilities



Skerries Cycling Initiative (SCI) – Building a Bike-Friendly Skerries. Over the past year, SCI has continued to promote cycling as a healthy, practical, and sustainable choice for our community.



You may have seen a cheerful group of 120 people, adults and children, cycle around Skerries recently: On 10 May, as part of **BikeWeek 2026**, we were proud to work with Fingal County Council in organising the Fingal Community Cycle around the town. It was a huge success. Our next social cycle will be on **Wed 17 June**, in cooperation with Sustainable Skerries. Details and the sign-up form are on sustainableskerries.com.

Other highlights were two four-day **bike repair workshops** for young people, run with Foróige, The Bike Hub, and Fingal County Council in June and July. Over each course, 12 young people aged between 10 and 16 learned how to fix brakes, tune gears, repair punctures, and carry out safety checks—hands-on skills that make cycling safer and more accessible. As well as working on bikes, they enjoyed a social cycle around Skerries with a stop at Storm in a Teacup for ice cream and a slow bike race in front of the RNLI. Thanks to generous bike donations from residents, several participants were able to take home bikes they'd repaired themselves!

In July 2025, fourteen children from 6-10 years attended our **Summer Cycling Camp** at the Community Centre. As part of the Eco Fest 2025, we had **bike repair demonstrations** and a **social cycle**. Both were well attended and appreciated by local cyclists of all ages.

In January 2026, we made a submission in response to the **Draft Skerries Active Travel Plan**, supporting the provision of improved walking and cycling infrastructure to reduce congestion in our town centre and to provide safer routes from housing estates to the town centre and other amenities. We look forward to the next iteration of the Plan and the implementation of projects, which will work for residents both in the older and newer parts of the town.

We note the ongoing improvement works at junctions and busy crossings, which are already helping to improve road safety.

Along with other groups, we are making full use of the Community e-cargo bike loaned to us by Fingal County Council.

We see great potential for more cycling in and around Skerries. Want to help us do even more? **New members are always welcome** – get in touch, get involved and be part of creating a more connected, bike-friendly town.

- Conor Keegan, Chair
- skerriescycling@gmail.com



Skerries Sustainable Energy Community Initiative (SSECI) is a small committee of the SCA, with just 6 members. The main purpose of the group is to share information about sustainable energy and work together to make Skerries a more energy resilient community.

Our **social media presence** includes a Facebook page, YouTube videos on EVs etc. Our WhatsApp group *Chat-SSECI* is a handy forum for asking questions about energy saving and domestic retrofit and is proving popular with over 60 participants. Send us an email with your phone number if you're interested in joining!

We've been busy over the last year: We invited Solar PV vendors and SEAI speakers to attend the **Skerries Eco Fest**. We **lobbied politicians**, advocating for the removal of VAT from retrofitted and stand-alone solar PV batteries.



We donated a second **Home Energy Saving Kit** to Skerries Library. The kits can be borrowed free of charge.

Our next event will be on **Thursday, 25 June 2026 in the Little Theatre from 6.30pm to 7.30pm**, when **Eric Dennis** will talk about the **latest SEAI Home Retrofit Grants**. Come along - **Fáilte roimh chách** - and maybe stay on for the **SCA AGM at 8pm**.

We'll also run an **information evening on domestic energy saving tips and home retrofit grants** in Skerries library on 9 September 2026, 6.30-7.30 pm. Speakers will be **Eric Dennis (SEAI)** and **Paddy McMenamin**.

SSECI has helped **Skerries Community Centre** monitor energy usage after installation of LED lights and solar PV panels and has provided input in relation to planned upgrades of the Old School. SSECI was delighted this year to offer **advice on specifications** to two groups in Skerries applying for funding to improve sustainability under **FCC's Climate Action Fund**. Michael Mullan-Jensen was part of Skerries Town FC's application, and the club was awarded a grant for an energy upgrade, a bike shed and a water refill station. For Skerries Men's Shed, Colm Clancy assisted the team to achieve a grant award for solar PV panels, a composter and a water butt. SSECI hopes to be able to help other organisations in Skerries with similar grant applications in the future.

With the town expanding and energy shortages and the climate crisis on everyone's mind, our efforts have never been so important. If you'd like to get involved with SSECI, we'd be interested to hear from you.

- Michael Mullan Jensen, Chair
- skerries.seci@gmail.com



Skerries Tidy Towns had another busy year. Our **weekly work parties** painted all the sea-front benches, planted and maintained beds, hand-weeded kerbs, removed graffiti, painted walls and carried out litter picks, including every evening after the Skerries Mid-summer Festival. Amazing work has been done repainting the green street signs, as well as by our ever-vigilant graffiti removers.

Skerries Men's Shed has again been very supportive, including repainting the Community Centre railings and the old water pumps in the town. We are grateful to everyone who joins our schemes, whether adopting a beach or town area, watering and weeding flower displays, or keeping kerbs weed-free.



Work parties usually meet on **Mondays at 1.50pm** and on **Wednesdays at 6.50 pm** at the former Fire Station on Quay Street. We have worked with the local Grow Remote group and workplace volunteers, and the Walking Club and Sea Scouts have organised several beach clean-ups. **Contact us by email** with suggestions or offers of help (tidytownsskerries@gmail.com) and follow us on **Facebook** for recent activities.

In early summer, we held our annual pollinator-friendly plant giveaway, promoting the Pollinator Corridor from Barnageeragh to the Rush Road, which supports butterflies, moths and bees, especially the endangered Large Carder Bee. In July, we were involved in the Irish Times Greenest Town judging day, which Skerries subsequently won!

On 30 August, a colourful **mosaic celebrating the Supreme Court win in 1973 by May and Shay McGee** and designed by Wexford artist Helen McLean was officially unveiled in Floraville Park by Deputy Mayor Gráinne Maguire. This major project was made possible by a Pobal grant, with support from

the SCA and the Skerries Business Association. The inscription reads:

Mary McGee (May): A bold and determined woman, who challenged tradition and prevailed.

Supported by her lifelong partner Seamus.

May attended and was in great form, in spite of the weather. She was joined afterwards by family, friends, supporters and members of her original legal team gathered in Skerries Harps for refreshments and speeches. Sadly, May passed away on 28 October after a brief illness. Rest in peace, May.



Skerries Tidy Towns had a stand at the **Skerries Eco Fair** in September, supporting the circular economy by giving away pre-loved cookbooks, fiction books, plants and food composting bins. It was also a welcome opportunity to explain our work and find more volunteers for work parties and our Adopt a Patch litter-picking team.

We were delighted to win another **Gold Medal** (our 25th) and a **Highly Commended Award** at the Tidy Towns National Competition 2025. Congratulations to Carrick on Shannon, the overall winners last year. Our entry to the 2026 competition has now been submitted, and the judges will make their unannounced visits over the summer.

Our **Annual Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Night** in October in Skerries Harps was very well attended. You can see the prize winners on this page. Well done!

We are **strengthening links** with Tidy Towns groups in Balbriggan, Rush and Lusk, and attended an FCC-organised biodiversity event hosted by Lusk Tidy Towns. Topics included swift conservation, river restoration, hedgerow management and sustainable measures in new housing estates.

Following this, we submitted an Expression of Interest for a triple **swift nesting box** in Skerries, close to an existing nest, and are looking for other suitable locations. Nest boxes with calling systems have already been installed at the newly reopened library.

We also attend the quarterly meetings of the **Skerries Community Liaison Committee**, which provide useful direct contact with FCC staff. FCC have also given us shared use of an **electric cargo bike**, already proving very useful for work parties.

None of our work would be possible without our volunteers and the financial support of the people of Skerries. As we can no longer do house-to-house collections, we are very grateful for donations to committee members, by bank lodgement (email us for details), or via iDonate:

www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/skerries2026

Thank you from all in Skerries Tidy Towns!

- Maeve McGann, Chair
- tidytownsskerries@gmail.com



Skerries Neighbourhoods Network

Are you in a **local WhatsApp or Facebook group**? Then make sure your group is part of this growing network of neighbourhoods, street groups, and residents' associations for information sharing and consultation at a truly local level.

*Would you like to **set up** a neighbourhood group or residents' association? Then look at our web page to get some ideas on how to get started.*

SkerriesCA.com/Neighbour

Join us!

How can you help make Skerries even better? To get involved in any of our activities, contact one of our committees using the email addresses in this flyer, or visit skerriesca.com.

Are you an SCA member yet? Members should have received an email from us in late May. If not, go to skerriesca.com or use the QR code below. Anyone aged 18 or over and living in Skerries can join.



To **keep up with local events**, sign up to our free community Email Newsflash by emailing newsflash@skerriesca.com with the subject line Newsflash Subscription.

Anyone interested can sign up to the Newsflash. SCA membership is for Skerries residents only.

Our 2025 STT Local Awards Winners

Kelly's Bay Weir: Best-presented house in an estate. *Theresa McManus*



Glenbeigh, South Strand: Best-presented non-estate house
Therese Sherwin



Whizz Kids: Best Visual Display
Anne-Marie Dowling



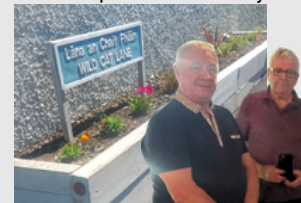
Skerries Frameworks: Best-Presented Premises.
Siobhán and Gerard Boylan.



Hair, Strand Street: Most accessible business
Sarah Jane Donnelly



Wild Cat Lane, Mourne View: Best-presented laneway



Churchfield: Best-Presented Estate





Sustainable Skerries aims to make our town resilient, regenerative, and a great place to live – now and for future generations. We're active in biodiversity, water management, sustainable energy and transport, waste reduction, and raising awareness. We collaborate with local groups and Fingal County Council, influencing plans and actions that support sustainability.

Skerries is officially Ireland's Greenest Town! Ten people from six different groups from our town attended the **Irish Times Electric Ireland Greenest Places 2025** awards ceremony. Sustainable Skerries played a central coordinating role in this group effort, and the award encourages us to continue working together, in all our different groups, to make our lovely town the best place to live - sustainably!



Our **biodiversity team** continues to implement the **Skerries Pollinator Plan** (in cooperation with Skerries Tidy Towns) by planting native species and building awareness with regular biodiversity walks and other events.

Our **Skerries Open Orchards Project** has expanded further this year. We now have 14 mini orchards all over Skerries, and you may have recently seen our new signs appearing in each of them! Send us an email if you'd like to get involved.



We're proud of community projects like the **Beach Toy Library** on South Strand and the **Forest School Summer Camp**, which we are



running again this year. We are also holding a **wetsuit and swimwear swap** during Skerries Water Safety Week sign-up on 14 June (drop-off: 13 June, Community Centre) Keep an eye out on our social media for both of these!

Water sustainability continues to be another focus. With LAWPRO (Local Authority Waters Programme) funding, we're exploring nature-based solutions to reduce flooding and pollution. Have you seen how well the Rain Garden which we helped set up last year at the Old School is doing? The plants at the Community Centre continue to benefit from the water butt installed then, too.

In September, we hosted the **Skerries Eco Festival**, with talks, walks, and a fair celebrating sustainability.

Something new are the **Skerries Climate Conversations**. We started this series of events to create opportunities for people to meet in person, share worries and concerns about the climate crisis, and explore a different aspect or topic each time through a variety of formats. In this way, Skerries Climate Conversations help turn concern into connection and action. They take place on the third Wednesday of every month. So far, we have had short talks by local women, a gardening workshop, and a music night.

For our next event on **Wed 17 June** from 7.30 to 8.30 pm, we are teaming up with **Skerries Cycling Initiative** for a gentle, family-friendly **Rolling Open Orchards Picnic**. Meeting with our bikes at Skerries Train Station and finishing at the Kelly's Bay Open Orchard, we will visit five of Skerries' fourteen open orchards and stop for a picnic along the way. **Sign up at sustainableskerries.com** - the event is free, but numbers are limited.

Would you like to meet other people who care about the environment as much as you do at fun events? Would you like to make a big difference in our town through small actions? We would love to hear from you. Send us an email, contact us on Social Media, or just talk to us at one of our next events!

- Katie Lattimore, Chair
- sustskerries@gmail.com
- sustainableskerries.com
- Follow us on Insta, Facebook, YouTube



Skerries Town Twinning: The highlight of our 2025 twinning activities was a visit by 29 people from Skerries to Brittany from 3 to 7 July to mark the 30th anniversary of our French twinning. We were delighted to have with us two of our public representatives (Robert O'Donoghue T.D. and Councillor Brendan Ryan). We visited local enterprises, Choque Microbrewery and Bertons, which promotes Gallo, the language and culture of eastern Brittany. We were welcomed to the Departmental Council in Rennes, learning about French local government. We visited the historic National Fort of St Malo and the largest SNSM lifeboat station in Brittany (equivalent of the RNLI).



Our Chair, Brendan Friel, presented a commemorative plaque made by Skerries Men's Shed to his French counterpart, Michèle Motel. A **30th Anniversary Twinning Charter** was signed by Brendan and Michèle and by the local mayors. The charter reaffirmed our commitment to keep our friendship alive for future generations and to build together a future based on peace, fraternity and openness to the world.

We were delighted to meet 12 representatives from Villafranca de los Barros (Spain), who travelled to Guichen specially for the occasion. We agreed to explore future possible links with Villafranca particularly in the areas of music and student exchanges.

Twinning aims to foster friendship between people through cultural, sporting and interest-centred exchanges. At its core is mutual hospitality, opening homes to each other and extending the hand of friendship. Skerries will welcome a group from Guichen from 10 to 15 July this year.

- Brendan Friel, Chair
- skerriestwinning@gmail.com
- www.skerriestwinning.ie
- SkerriesTownTwinningAssociation on Facebook

This publication was produced with support from

**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council**

