



### Skerries Community Centre Ionad Pobail na Sceirí

The **Skerries Community Centre** is finally getting over the effects of covid and back in full swing. The Centre is almost at full capacity with over 50 groups. We are happy to welcome back all our long-time groups, and new users where time slots are available. Here are some of our accomplishments during the year:

- New solar panels and heat pumps on the main building, which helps with environment and finances.
- A purpose-built modular building has replaced the old prefab. It houses a Montessori and afterschool. Plans are in progress for evening use.
- Extensive work was carried out on the all-weather pitch, financed by Fingal County Council and the AWP pitch sinking fund: Raising of the ground, new carpet and upgrading of the flood flights.
- The refurbishment of the reception area and corridor in the main building is a work in progress and so far has been well received.



#### Future Plans

- Getting the old school roof completely overhauled and insulated.
- Replacing the antiquated heating system with a more environmentally friendly system.
- Upgrading of the surface of the tennis courts and lights.

Shay Fanning, Chairperson,  
BoM Skerries Community Centre



**Skerries Autism Friendly Town** (SAFT) is a community-based committee whose purpose is to make the town of Skerries a more inclusive environment for Autistic children and their families.

2023 was another exceptionally busy and rewarding year for our committee. We managed to deliver and enhance several activities for children and young adults which have been up and running for several years now. These activities include events such as 'Skerries Sailing for All' in partnership with Skerries Sailing Club and 'Sensory Santa' in partnership with Skerries Mills.



In January 2023 we received the **Community Engagement & Inclusivity Award** from AsIAM, Ireland's Autism Charity. This is a powerful validation of the work of the committee and was a massive endorsement of the wonderful community spirit in Skerries. Another partnership event took place in July: The **Skerries Community Centre** kindly hosted a **fun day** for children and their families. This was a wonderful event with magicians, bouncy castles and loads of ice cream.

In August, we had a fantastic **inclusive summer camp** as part of the **Skerries Sailing Initiative**. Over 40 children aged between 7 and 17 attended these

sessions. Importantly, the camp catered to a wide spectrum of children with additional needs, including wheelchair users. - Also in August, we held a successful and enjoyable **All Inclusive Soccer Camp** for children with Skerries Town FC.



The **Floraville Sensory Garden** project, which is being completed in partnership with Skerries Business Association, made great progress through the design and funding phases in 2023. We expect the garden to be completed this summer - a specifically designed and purpose-built quiet space in the middle of Skerries for people with sensory needs to enjoy.

- Ger O'Mahony, chair, SAFT
- Contact us on Facebook or Instagram



As part of Bike Week 2023, **Skerries Cycling Initiative**, with support from Fingal County Council's Cycling Officers, organised a **Fun Cycle** around Skerries. We also participated in the **Eco Festival** in September with a practical talk on "Pedal Power: Tips on Bike Repairs, Safety, and All-weather cycling," as well as operating a pop-up bike repair workshop. We had been hoping to run more such workshops, but have run into difficulties regarding insurance cover, a situation which we are currently trying to resolve.

