

We encourage residents to participate in NO MOW MAY, to allow a small patch of garden to go uncut until autumn, to wait for temperatures to rise above 10 degrees before clearing dead leaves and to plant their grass verges with wild flowers.

In April, we joined in the **Annual National Spring Clean**, and together with members of our local walking club, and other volunteers, had a very successful morning, covering both beaches, our town parks and pathways.



The **Stream Huggers** are an offshoot of STT and have received Local Area Water Programme (LAWPRO) funding for a study of the lowest stretch of the Mill Stream, between the town park and the sea. They continue to work on clearing rubbish from this stream and carry out monthly tests for nitrate and phosphate levels and are evaluating how to tackle invasive species in the area. They have also planted native tree whips in St Patricks Close and near the Mill pond and stream, 148 so far.

We had our **annual awards night** on 29th Nov '23, a great night with awards going to local residents and businesses. This year's Best Presented Business was Crilly and McNally Opticians. Best Floral Display on a Business went to the Brick House, and Greg Reddin's received an award for Best Visual Display. There were also awards for best presented house in, and not in, an estate, **best presented estate, sponsored by the SCA and awarded to Barnageeragh Cove** (see picture), and best accessible business. This year we hope to add an additional award for The Best Presented Laneway.



We have set up a new adoption scheme with the residents and businesses in **Church St** to take responsibility for weeding (without pesticides) the section of kerb in front of their residence or premises.

Our town-wide **Adopt A Patch initiative** continues and we are so grateful to those who maintain their patches and welcome anyone who would like to join in. **Contact Stephanie Hynes, 087 9582342, or Breda Shankey, 087 7575350, for further information.**

We continue to promote the use of **re-usable keep cups** and the To Go cup scheme.



None of our work would be possible without the help of our volunteers, Fingal County Council and donations to our iDonate.ie page, which you can access through our Facebook page. Alternatively, you can give your donation to any member of the committee, or leave an envelope, addressed to us, in the Community Centre.

We thank everyone in Skerries for their continued support.

- Maeve McGann, Chair
- Tidytowns@skerriesca.com



**Sustainable Skerries is 15 years this summer!**

And the past year has been another very busy one. We particularly enjoy working together with other groups on larger projects like the **Eco Festival**, the **Open Orchards Project**, the implementation of the **pollinator action plan** or the new **water project**. Through our email newsletter, our Facebook and Instagram posts as well as regular blogposts on our website,

SustainableSkerries.com, we try make it easy to keep in touch with our work.



Over the last year, we've continued our work providing habitat and food for **Pollinators** as part of our **Biodiversity Action Plan**. Our focus is the Large Carder Bee, which is endangered in Ireland but doing relatively well in Skerries. This included creating a corridor from the wildflower meadow at the Educate Together school to Skerries Mills. We've led walks around the Ballast Pit and other parts of Skerries, with adults and school kids.



The next walk is planned for **Fri 7 June, 7 pm, at the Ballast Pit. Join us!** We recently had two very well-received talks on biodiversity: *Tiny Worlds, Big Impact: Leo Carroll on Insects and Biodiversity* and *Gardening for Pollinators with Charlie Heasman*. You can watch them on **our YouTube channel**.

We've just begun a **Water project** in Skerries, thanks to funding from LAWPRO, the Local Authorities Water Programme. With the help of water-management expert Féidhlim Harty, we'll identify nature-based solutions to run-off from hard surfaces like pavements and roads after heavy rain. These help reduce localised flooding, and at the same time remove pollution from this water before it gets to our stream or bathing waters. Since the solutions are nature-based, they also increase biodiversity. So it's win-win-win!

