

The inspiration for that project came from our first **Skerries Eco Festival** last autumn. We held an action packed weekend of fun and informative walks, talks, workshops and events in conjunction with lots of other SCA committees and Skerries groups.



Plans are well underway for this year's festival on **27-29 September**, which will include an update on the Water Project as well as lots of events including comedy, more bird & bee walks, expert guest speakers and a much expanded Eco Fair in the big hall of the Community Centre.



The 12 **Mini Open Orchards** we've planted across Skerries over the last few years are now home to some 150 apple, pear, plum and hazelnut trees for all to enjoy. Our picture shows the Townpark crew. **If there's a local spot where you'd like an orchard next year, get in touch!**



In November, we organised a "**Welcome to Skerries walk**" as part of Fingal's Inclusion Week. Together with other SCA Committees, we and newcomers to Skerries took a stroll around town, and finished with lovely conversations over a cuppa.

Our first **Urban Forest School summer camp** will give children aged six to nine a chance to have a forest school experience within one of the green areas in the town. Activities will include bug hunts, a tour of the Ballast pit, outdoor games

and nature crafts. Details will be available soon.

A large and important part of our work is making **submissions** to local and national plans relating to sustainability and climate change, such as both Fingal's and the National Climate Action Plan. Details are on the website.

We also took part in a Global Action Plan's **Climate Heroes Community Climate Challenge**. A great way to become more aware of the impact of various actions on our carbon footprint, and choices we can make to reduce it.

We'd like to **thank everyone** for their support throughout the year, including those businesses and individuals who supported our recent table quiz. Much-needed funds were raised for our work! We are also grateful for the support we continue to enjoy from Fingal County Council, as well as the SCA and our fellow committees and the many other groups who are participating in our events (like the Ukulele Strummers at the Eco Festival).



We are delighted that Fingal County Council have nominated Sustainable Skerries for the national Pride of Place competition as their **Climate Action and Biodiversity** entry. Judging will take place on the afternoon of Mon 2 September, and we look forward to working with lots of the other SCA committees and groups in the town to showcase all the great work happening in Skerries.

- Helen Scullion
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Skerries Neighbourhoods Network

Are you in a local WhatsApp or Facebook group? Then make sure your group is part of the Skerries Community Association's network of neighbourhoods / resident's associations and street groups, 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.*

Either way, go to: **SkerriesCA.com/Neighbour**



Skerries Town Twinning: Ten people from Skerries enjoyed a **five-day trip** to our twin in Brittany (Canton de Guichen) from 29 June to 3 July 2023. One person said that it was hard to put into words how it feels to discover a community in France that is so profoundly connected to Skerries and described the experience as an amazing intangible asset created by Skerries Town Twinning.

Both our annual dinner in the Golf Club in January, and our Table Quiz in April in Skerries Harps Clubhouse, were very enjoyable and well supported. *Merci bien!*

In August 2024, Skerries hopes to welcome some 30 visitors from Brittany and Srem in Poland (Srem is twinned with Guichen). The visit will mark the **30th anniversary of the official twinning of Skerries with the Canton of Guichen**. It will also coincide with Heritage Week 2024. As part of the celebrations we plan to mount outdoors a joint Photographic Exhibition between Skerries, the Canton of Guichen and Srem. The exhibition juxtaposes aspects of the heritage of the three locations.

We continue to build relationships through our language buddy scheme, secondary school links as well as individual and group exchanges. At the core of twinning is mutual hospitality, opening homes to each other and extending the hand of friendship.

- Brendan Friel, Chair
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