



Secretary: Michael McKenna

CRO 100983

Muintir na Tíre-registered charity CHY 6865

Registered Offices:
Skerries Community Centre, Dublin Road, Skerries Co. Dublin
Contact: info@skerriesca.com

Website: skerriesca.com

AGM Invitation & Skerries Community Association Report September 2016 to 2017

You are invited to attend the Skerries Community Association **Annual General Meeting**
Little Theatre, Dublin Road on **Friday 8 September 2017** at 8pm.

After the official business, our annual **Jim Quigley Award** will be presented to the Skerries Volunteer of the year 2017.

See the official Notice on the reverse side of this page. Copies of our Financial Statements are on our website and in the Community Centre.

The **Skerries Community Association Ltd.** is an umbrella group comprising many committees, made up of several hundred volunteers, devoted to making the quality of life in Skerries even better. Skerries Community Association is also the parent organisation of Skerries Community Centre. In legal terms, the SCA has the structure of a Company Limited by Guarantee. We are, of course, not-for-profit - but we still must comply with all relevant legislation and requirements for companies.

Our **board of sixteen directors** has the same responsibilities as that of a Board of Directors of any company. In addition to these duties, directors are almost always members of committees as well and form an essential link between the Board and these committees. It is an interesting and very rewarding role.

Over the last year the SCA agreed a written Volunteer Policy which is now on our website. We want to open up more volunteering opportunities for people in the area and to give opportunities to people suited to the time available to them for volunteering.

Garda vetting has been completed for over thirty volunteers, mainly coder dojo mentors and coaches. SCA is now finalising a Health and Safety policy and a Child Protection policy (available on our website) and procedures for adoption and use by all committees which organise activities involving children.

On 11 March the SCA held its annual Strategy Day in Ardgillan Castle. The event was expertly facilitated by Skerries resident Joanne Martin. Among the outcomes proposals for a membership building project which would also tie in with raising the profile of the SCA generally and helping new residents become part of their new community. If you are not already a member you can join by filling in a simple online form on skerriesca.com/member. Membership is open to all Skerries residents over eighteen and is free.

Nomination forms for the Board of Directors of the Skerries Community Association, as well as for the Skerries Community Centre Board of Management, can be obtained at the reception desk of our Community Centre and must be with our secretary c/o the Skerries Community Centre by Tuesday 6 September at the latest. You must be a member of the Association to go forward as a director.

The commencement of the Companies Act 2014 and the new charities legislation requiring registration for community organisations, provides an opportunity to review our constitution

(Memorandum and Articles of Association) and we have started this process.

A key role of the SCA is to support the work of our committees, and to facilitate the emergence of new committees and projects. The committees which are part of Skerries Community Association are (in alphabetical order):

- Age Friendly Skerries Committee
- Crann Padraig
- Skerries CoderDojo
- Skerries Community Centre Board of Management
- Skerries Cycling Initiative
- Skerries Guerrilla Gardeners
- Skerries Rás End Stage Committee
- Skerries Reaching Out
- Skerries Skatepark Committee.
- Skerries Soundwaves Festival
- Skerries Tidy Towns
- Skerries Town Twinning Association
- Sustainable Skerries

And of course one of our favourite memories of the past year: Skerries is Ireland's Tidiest Town! Here is a photograph of most of the Tidy Towns Committee and Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D. Higgins, on his visit to celebrate this achievement.



Photograph: John Coleman

Directors: Geoff McEvoy (Chair); Michael McKenna (Secretary and Vice Chair); Mary Conway (Treasurer); John Coleman; Shay Fanning; John Fitzgerald; Brendan Friel; Tony Graham; Jane Landy; Dee Langton; Nuncie McAuley; Karen McCaffrey; Mary Marsden; Joyce Moore; Brendan Sherlock.

NOTICE OF THE SCA AGM TO MEMBERS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of The Skerries Community Association CLG (SCA) will be held **in the Little Theatre, Dublin Road, Skerries on Friday the 8th of September 2017 at 8 pm** to transact the Ordinary Business of the Company, that is to say: –

1. To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
2. To receive and adopt the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for year ended 31 Dec. 2016
3. To elect Directors to the Board
4. To elect Members to Skerries Community Centre Board of Management
5. To reappoint Dempsey Mullen as Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration
6. To transact any other business proper to an Annual General Meeting of the Company.

Dated this the 18th of August 2017, by order of the Board, Michael McKenna, Secretary.

- NOTE 1. No person other than a Director of the Company retiring at the meeting shall, unless recommended by the Directors, be eligible for election to the office of Director at any general meeting unless, not less than three (i.e. 5th September 2017) nor more than 21 days (i.e. 18th August 2017) before the date appointed for the meeting, there has been left at the registered office notice in writing, signed by a member duly qualified to attend and vote at the meeting for which notice is given, of his/her intention to propose such a person for election, and also Notice in writing signed by that person of his/her willingness to be elected. [A Nomination Form is provided below].
- NOTE 2. The names of candidates who have consented to stand for election to the Board of Management of the Community Centre, together with the names of their proposers and seconders, shall be given in writing to the Secretary, and shall be posted on the Community Centre Notice Board at least seven days prior (1st September 2017) to the holding of the Annual General Meeting. [See Nomination Form hereunder].
- NOTE 3. Copies of the Directors' Report and Financial Statements will be available to members at the Community Centre at least seven days prior to the holding of the Annual General Meeting.





Nomination for election to the Board of Directors of SCA CLG

or to the Skerries Community Centre Board of Management [please underline the appropriate Board]

I wish to nominate _____ for election to the Board of:

Skerries Community Association CLG OR Skerries Community Centre (underline one)

Printed name and signature of Proposer: _____

Printed name and signature of Secunder: _____

I consent to my nomination for election

Signature of nominee _____ Date: _____

NB: Nominee, proposer and seconder must be members of the SCA

NB: Please return nomination forms to the Community Centre no later than Tuesday the 5th September 2017

Chairperson's Report

Less than a month after our last AGM the news came through that, after 57 years taking part, Skerries had won the Tidy Towns competition. Skerries Tidy Towns had been winning gold and county medals for 10 years and the committee always took each achievement as a springboard to the next. This year that spirit and all that hard work paid off – big time! That great achievement was also the springboard for another great year in Skerries.



The An Post Rás finished in Skerries again this year. The sponsor decided to mark the special contribution Skerries has made to this international event by commissioning a commemorative T-Shirt. For one glorious day in May it was the must have fashion item of the summer.

The Tidy Towns result brought the President to Skerries. The third presidential visit that I can remember and the second of Michael D Higgins' term. It cemented 2017 as the year that put Skerries on the map.

The Tidy Towns Committee are quick to attribute a lot of their success to the support they get from the community. Every year they do a door to door collection (one of the few Tidy Towns groups to do so) and they get a great response from the town. The same goes for the Rás. One of the reasons Skerries has continued to host the stage end is the welcome the organiser know the residents will give the racers as they cross the finish line. But they also have the confidence of knowing that there is a dedicated team of volunteers who will work tirelessly towards making the event a success. We have Soundwaves (its younger sibling Artwaves is growing into an event in its own right), a trad fest, and thriving sports, community and cultural clubs too numerous to mention. It all speaks volumes about the spirit of volunteerism and community in Skerries.

The SCA is proud to support our member committees in all they do to contribute to this spirit. There is so much we're trying to work on for the future. We are engaging with Fingal County Council on many aspects of the Town Park Masterplan which will provide improved accessibility across the town, a community garden, and a skatepark – this last was the focus of a design workshop this year. We are also supporting the provision of a cycle way, making the most of the tourism potential of the town.

None of this would be possible without the tremendous volunteers who give their time so readily.

That's why it was a special privilege this year for the SCA to hold a tree planting ceremony commemorating Diarmuid Ó Súilleabháin, himself a longstanding, dedicated community volunteer and the recipient of our Jim Quigley award last year. I would like to personally thank the officials from Fingal County Council who assisted in this event and the staff, students and community of Skerries Educate Together who were such warm (and helpful!) hosts. It is people like Diarmuid who make the achievement of our committees and community possible and they all deserve our gratitude.



Photograph: Brendan Sherlock

I would also like to thank those Council officials and elected representatives who have been helpful and supportive of our work this past year, and welcome new directors, John and Brendan, who were co-opted onto our board.

Again, I would like to extend the fullest appreciation of the board to everyone who gave their time and effort to making 2017 such a memorable year for Skerries.

Sincerely,

Geoff McEvoy, Chairperson, Skerries Community Association

August 2017

Our Committees

Tidy Towns Committee

Skerries was the overall winner of the National Tidy Towns Competition 2016. Skerries also won the Best Large Town Award, the Regional Award, County Award and a Gold Medal. Skerries was also awarded the National Value Water Award.

Skerries Tidy Towns Committee continue to be inspired by the natural beauty of the town and is strongly committed to the protection of the environment, enhancing and maintaining the town's character and working towards a sustainable future for Skerries.

We believe the success of Skerries in the National Tidy Towns Competition has contributed to the great pride of place evident in the residents of the town.

Apart from the huge pride everyone has in the town, winning brought a great understanding of how significant this win is. It gave meaning to all the hard work by so many people over so many years. From a commercial point of view it has put Skerries on the tourist map, with a big influx of visitors to the town.

We acknowledge the great contribution the residents and businesses of the town have made to the success of Skerries in the National Competition.

We thank all the volunteers who help us in numerous ways, from picking litter to adopting flower containers or coming out to help with work parties. They were instrumental in our winning the National title of Ireland's Tidiest Town 2016

Although prize winning is the ultimate goal it is pride in your place that keeps everyone going and having won the highest accolade in the competition it behoves us to live up to the title. Certainly Skerries Tidy Towns have not taken their eye off the ball. It is almost impossible to win the title two years in a row but once a winner that is what you are remembered for so Skerries will always be known as one of Ireland's Tidiest Towns. **Ní neart go cur le chéile!**



Photograph: Ray Watts

- Contact: tidytowns@skerriesca.com

Skerries Cycling Initiative

Skerries Cycling Initiative (SCI) continues to work with local representatives, council officials and local groups such as Skerries Tourism to improve cycling and walking in and around Skerries and along the beautiful coast of Fingal.

Like many in Skerries we await the completion of the Distributor Road (aka Barnageera Road) which will link the Dublin Road and the Coastal Road at a point some 200 metres before Barnageera Railway Bridge.

The opening of this link will bring about new traffic patterns and is likely to mean less traffic on the coastal road but a lot more on the new road. In the interests of safety and sustainability we will need improved

cycling and walking infrastructure both within Skerries (and its new housing estates) and between Skerries, Balbriggan and Ardgillan.

Working with local representatives, council officials and groups such as Skerries and Balbriggan Tourism, the SCI is pressing for the speedy development of the Fingal Coastal Way, which will create an important amenity running from Balbriggan to Sutton and which will eventually become part of the proposed East Coast Trail, a coastal route connecting us north and south along the east coast.

Ray Ryan, Chairperson Skerries Cycling Initiative.

- Contact: cycling@skerriesca.com



Crann Padraig Committee



Crann Padraig is an environmental group which promotes and encourages the planting of broadleaf trees. Crann Padraig were happy to assist with the planting which took place at the Educate Together school grounds in conjunction with Fingal Parks Department to commence a green corridor and an appreciation of the work of Skerries Tidy Towns to enhance the environment. Keep planting!

- Contact: crann@skerriesca.com

Skerries Reaching Out

Skerries Reaching Out was set up to identify, using reverse genealogy, those who left Skerries, tracing them and their descendants worldwide, proactively engaging with them and inviting them to reconnect with their homeland. We also assist anybody seeking information on any past or present relative living in Skerries. We are a member of the Ireland Reaching Out Community - www.irelandxo.com.

If anybody is interested in joining us to proactively research and assist Skerries' descendants to trace their ancestors do get in touch.

- John Coleman, Skerries Reaching Out.
Contact: reaching@skerriesca.com

Skerries CoderDojo

Skerries CoderDojo is a monthly coding club that any young person aged 7 to 17 can join and attend for FREE! At the Dojo, they learn skills such as building a website, creating an app or a game, and explore technology in an informal, creative, and social environment.



Bookings for our monthly sessions open about a week before the event on our Eventbrite page. Sessions are free but participants must bring a laptop (or book one of our four laptops) and also bring a parent if they are under 12. Sessions take place on the second Sunday of each month, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., in the Little Theatre. As well as being an SCA committee, we are also part of the international CoderDojo movement <http://coderdojo.org/>. We're always on the look-out for helpers to assist as time allows. We're especially looking for mentors who'd like to pass on their coding skills to the next generation!

- Contact: coderdojo@skerriesca.com

Our Committees

Age Friendly Skerries Committee

This Committee, in operation for just two years aims to make Skerries a better place in which to live, work and grow older. Age Friendly is a World Health Organisation initiative based on 8 key themes, outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communications and information, community support and health services. Skerries has benefitted from the OPRAH (Older people residing at home project) with great support from the HSE and District Nurse. The Crosscare befriending programme is working well. Information on "Message in a Bottle" and a list of important phone numbers is available in Citizens Information and the Library. The Care and Repair Scheme, organised with Leader Partnership and Age Action to help people get small jobs done, is running well. A new wheelchair, suitable for use on the beach, can be booked with suitable ID, at the Lifeguard's hut. There is a nice video on YouTube ("Skerries Age Friendly Town") and on the SCA website.



Age Friendly hosted a workshop with Red Cross International. They were impressed with the services available here in Skerries, especially the First Responders.

- Contact: skerriesagefriendly@skerriesca.com

Rás Stage End Committee



The An Post Rás is Ireland's number one cycling event. It is an annual, eight-day, stage race around Ireland. In 2006, it finished in Skerries for the first time. Sunday 28th of May 2017 was the 11th anniversary (12 years in a row) of the An Post Rás (Ireland's oldest international cycle race) finishing here. Thousands of people lined the streets to cheer on the riders as they completed a week of gruelling competition, and many thousands more watched the event on television. It was the biggest and brightest stage end finish for the An Post Rás that took place here in our streets in Skerries and the "Street Party" – which for the first time featured a children's fun race - was a triumph of community spirit and cooperation, even the weather continued to smile down on us.....

The continued success of the Rás in Skerries is due in no small way to the fantastic support given by the local people here in the Town. It would not be possible for us to organise the local community events and for that we thank the people of Skerries.

- Paul Deans for the An Post Rás- Skerries Stage End Committee; Contact: skerriesrasendstage@gmail.com

Sustainable Skerries

Skerries Allotments was established in 2012 and now has approximately 220 families growing their own food. The Allotments also include a sustainable water system and a hen co-op. Skerries Community Harvest group are in their seventh year of supplying organic vegetable boxes on a weekly basis from May by a local farmer. A foraging walk in Skerries was organised early this year. Sustainable Skerries are currently negotiating the setting up of a Community food growing garden in the town. In May Zaneta Wright of Sustainable Skerries hosted a very interesting workshop about "Low Waste Living". Following on from this the group in attendance decided that we should start a local campaign to have the shops reduce the plastic packaging in their stores. We hope to run some workshops over the winter months.

- Contact: sustainable@skerriesca.com

Skerries Skatepark Committee

The Skatepark Committee was set up in October 2013 in response to an email to the SCA from a local teenager. He sought advice on how a campaign for a local skatepark might be put in place. He noted that while Skerries is well served by plenty of traditional sporting activities more and more young people enjoy skateboarding, biking and scooting. However there were no safe public spaces available to he and his friends to practise and enjoy their hobby.

In December 2016 we were very happy to announce that funding had been allocated by Fingal Council for the design and build of the skatepark for Skerries at the agreed site at Skerries Mills which would form part of the Townparks Development Plan. We were also delighted to hear that Balbriggan received funding too for a similar development.

In January a very successful public consultation day took place at Skerries Mills and over 140 interested people from a wide age group turned up to share their ideas with Fingal Co Co and the Skatepark Committee. Many of the results from this have been shared on our Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/skerriessc>

We are now waiting for the final tender document to be produced and made public by the Council which will allow skatepark building companies to pitch for the work. We have been assured this will be done by end of September 2017.

- Contact: skatepark@skerriesca.com



Our Committees

Skerries Town Twinning

Since 1992 Skerries has been twinned with the Canton of Guichen in Brittany, France. The aims of twinning are to foster friendship between two areas by means of cultural, sporting and interest-centred exchanges. It works by people opening their homes to each other.

Now in the twenty-third year of our link with the Canton of Guichen, in beautiful Brittany, our focus this year was on a six-day walking trip in June. Thirty



adults and five teenagers, who had been involved with our sports group last year in 2016, travelled. The group left Dublin on Saturday 3rd June and most stayed until Friday 9th. For most people the highlight was the long trek across the Bay of Mont St. Michel, often wading through the waves, to eventually reach the iconic mount. The group was accompanied by an experienced guide, who explained the various aspects of the marine life found along the way. Other walks focused on the natural and historic heritage of the Canton.

Accommodation and entertainment was provided as usual by the welcoming hosts of the area. There was an evening out for a celebration dinner, an evening of song and dance in a local hostelry and an opportunity to watch an open-air screening of "Carmen".

For 2017, we will be focussing on planning the return leg. We have no doubt about the walking opportunities which exist hereabouts in Fingal. We will be seeking help in planning and we will be looking to the community to help us welcome our French visitors to sample the joys of Skerries. Anybody interested in becoming involved can contact us through our Facebook page or on our website www.skerriestwinning.ie

- Contact: twinning@skerriesca.com

Soundwaves Festival



This year the Soundwaves Festival opens with the launch of **Artwaves** by the Mayor of Fingal on 12th September in Floraville and finishes with **Tribal Drumming** in the Little Theatre on 29th September.

Artwaves will enable everyone to enjoy many artworks around the town, the art exhibition at Skerries Mills, the Sculpture Garden in Ardgillan and the Art Trails. There will be art workshops for children and adults during the festival (tickets available on Eventbrite).

On 21st September the new **Community Orchestra** will present an Instrumental Disney Themed Concert at Skerries Mills Courtyard - a free event for everyone to enjoy.

The **Battle of the Bands** (15 September) will be in The Little Theatre. On **Theatre Night** (16 September) a James Joyce Play by Declan Gorman will be performed in the Little Theatre.

The **Skerries Soundwaves Minecraft Project** servers will be open from Wed 20 Sep, to Sat 23 Sep – the competition winners will be announced during the annual **Wrap Party** from 12 to 1 pm on Sun 24.



Culture Night (22 September) will feature a Classical Night in Holmpatrick Church with a medley of opera, ballads, string quartet and grand piano.

The **Gig at the Mills** (23rd September) will feature The4Of Us supported by The Fontaines and Philip Dunne.

Poetry - Words from High Wood (24 September) at 2.30pm in Ardgillan.
Friday Night Effect Play - 5.30pm in Little Theatre (24th September) There will be **Storytelling in Holmpatrick School** with Deborah Wiseman, and Sheila Ryder.



The **Street Festival** will be held at Floraville where you can hear the Community Orchestra, the Ukulele Band and the winners of the Battle of The Bands.

The **Kids' School Night Parade** gathers at the Community Centre where they get the opportunity to showcase their artwork as they parade goes through the town with Drummers and Fire Jugglers. The finale will be a magnificent fireworks display out on the harbour.

- Contact: soundwaves@skerriesca.com

Skerries Community Centre

Over fifty clubs and groups use the Community Centre facilities on a regular basis which means many thousands of adults and children enjoying this great facility in our town. There can be few facilities in Fingal that get so much use and still manage to look so attractive, due to the efficient and hardworking team managed by Sharon Guinane.

This year saw the opening of bright new offices and meeting space in the Old School which adds to the attractiveness of this lovely heritage building.

- Contact: info@skerriescommunitycentre.ie

