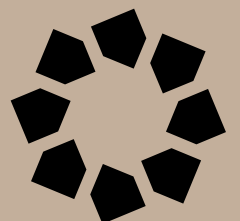


May 2024

Oaklee

Spring Newsletter



Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to introduce the Spring version of the Oaklee Resident Newsletter. As we all emerge from the dark, cold winter months it is great to see all the signs of Spring around us with brighter evenings, warmer weather and spring flowers blooming everywhere. It certainly puts a “spring in your step”.

The Oaklee Editorial Panel working alongside the Oaklee Communications Manager and Resident Engagement officer have put together a very interesting newsletter with all sorts of information and articles that hopefully will be of use to you as a resident. We are always looking for new stories from residents to highlight, if you have any good news stories from your community you would like to share then please sent them in to our Resident Engagement Officer Richard at richard.mealey@oaklee.ie and we will include them in future newsletters.



As Chairperson of the Oaklee Resident Forum it is important that we continue to be a strong voice and advocate for residents in all our dealings with Oaklee, we recently welcomed 4 new resident representatives onto the Oaklee Resident Forum in the past few months, and this continued growth of the Forum is essential in maintaining a long term, sustainable resident engagement structure within Oaklee. We would love to see more residents come on board, if it is something you would like to consider then please get in touch.

We hope you enjoy this Spring edition of the Oaklee Newsletter.

Dr. Robert Sinnott



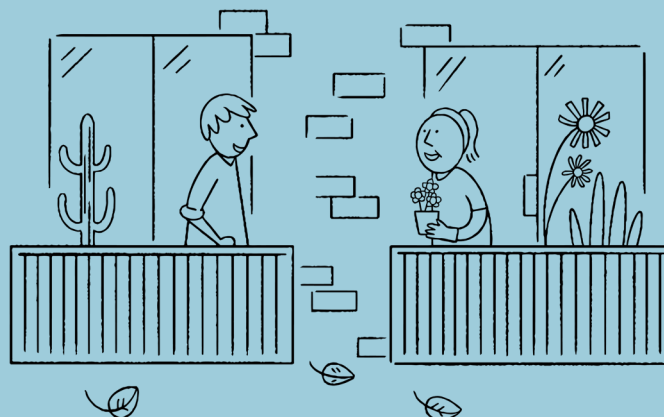
Stormanstown Community Group



The Stormanstown housing development is located on the Ballymun Rd, Dublin and consists of 43 units of general needs housing over 3 apartment blocks and a small row of 3 and 4 bed bedroom houses. The community is a very culturally diverse, with a large number of children residing at the complex. Local residents have been working with Oaklee from September 2023 to establish a formal residents group at the scheme. A public meeting was held on 23rd November 2023 in Ballymun library and officially formed the Stormanstown Community Group.

The Stormanstown Community Group committee have had numerous meetings with Oaklee staff over the past couple of months and seen things improving at our scheme. We have had a community event at Halloween, a visit from Santa at Christmas, conducted a community survey and delivered an Easter fun day event at the end of March.

Ife Uzor, committee member highlighted that the level of help and support they have received “We have had major support from TEO, relationships with Oaklee staff has really improved, we have also joined the Oaklee Resident Forum and met other residents from different schemes. We have also met with Oaklee Senior Management including the Director of Operations and this all really helps us resolve the issues we were facing.





Our Housing Officer Sandra and facilities assistant Costel have been excellent”.

Mandy Sherlock group Treasurer advised residents in other Oaklee communities thinking of getting involved to contact Oaklee and make the call, “there is great benefits in setting up or getting involved in a community group and brings communities together.

You feel a sense of pride and achievement, it helps build up the community, You get to know the system and how to get things done”.

Great Homes - Thriving Communities



Your Resident Forum Representatives

Trish McMahon

My name is Trish McMahon and have been a resident of Oaklee since they moved to the South of Ireland in 2005. I live in the largest Oaklee complex at James's street, Dublin 8 where there are 92 apartments.



As a community, we quickly organised a resident association and within the group we had different projects from kiddies club, to old folk tea/coffee mornings etc. We also established a gardening club and much to the delight of residents we put planters with trees shrubs and flowers around the grounds, as the complex is in the heart of the city and was a development that was built with no outdoor amenities or green space. So these projects brought much excitement to residents within the complex. We were also able to secure funding from Dublin City council on a regular basis to help pay for events and gardening needs.

I was involved in the residents committee at James's Street until it was dissolved some years ago, and presently am a member of the Residents Forum and the Editorial Panel but my greatest delight is still being a member of the gardening club that was started back in 2006.

Being an active member of any community makes a difference as you can be a contributor to how Oaklee treats their residents. Each individual can make a difference to their own environment and Oaklee are very much wanting to engage with their residents and hear their ideas on how to improve things where you live and they are willing to assist us in many different positive ways.

Oaklee is eager to establish good communication and give support so residents can lead events and create an environment/community that is safe and enjoyable to live in.

Wherever you live please think about getting involved in your community and see what a difference you can make locally and in the bigger picture with Oaklee as your landlord listening to your voice.

Your Resident Forum Representatives

Deirdere Wareham

I have been an Oaklee resident for over 13 years, living at Barley House, Cork St in Dublin 8. There is a very rich history in the area, called the Liberties and is known as the heart of Dublin.

I am currently a representative of The Resident Forum and a member of the Editorial Panel. Getting involved with Oaklee and working on projects with them is both rewarding and interesting.



If any resident wants to get involved, give it a go. It's a chance to have a voice. My interests are art, local history and current affairs. Painting is my first love and try to do it as often as possible.

Aisling McAuley Ryan

I am the chairperson for Stormanstown Community Group. I am a Resident Forum Member who is hoping to attend these lovely coffee meetings that Oaklee and Richard have been successfully hosting since setting up The Forum.

I have been added into so many groups over the past few months regarding what's happening in Ballymun on a daily basis and a lot of people want to link in with us! Local representatives such as TD's, GAA clubs, axis centre teachers from the local schools and The the DCC (Dublin City Council) have all reached out to us. I can't express how happy I am that we have this interaction since setting up the Community Group as previously it was very difficult to contact these people. I would encourage everyone to get involved in their local communities.

We set up the Community Group as we wanted people to get to know their neighbours but most importantly we wanted the kids to come together and Oaklee were able to facilitate this. We are very grateful to Richard enough for giving us this opportunity and for his guidance and patience

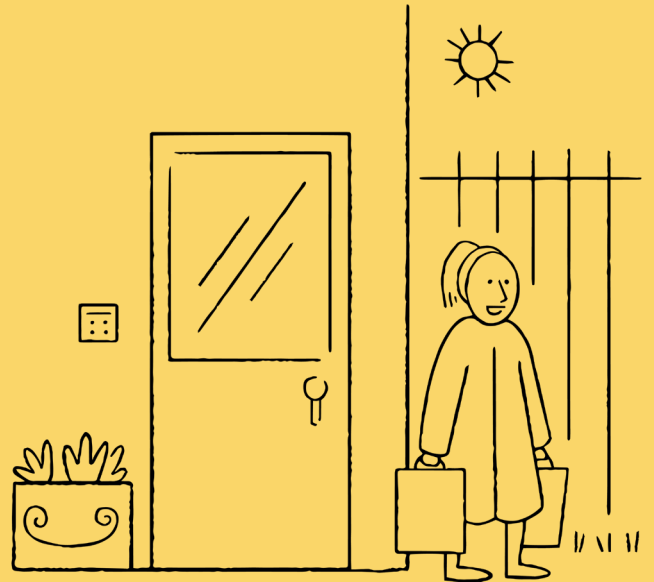
Oaklee Resident Forum - Working For You



Spring Gardening Tips

You can sense it in the longer evenings, the higher skies, the shifting quality of light, and the noisy chatter of birds. And you can see it in the flowering hellebores, witch-hazel and sweetly perfumed daphne, as well as the snowdrops, daffodils, cyclamen, aconites, crocuses and dwarf irises that have pushed their snouts through cold, wet soil to burst into determined, brilliant bloom.

You can also feel it: that gardener's instinct that says it's time once again to start riffling through old stashes of seed packets, order seed, get tools ship-shape and begin pottering, pruning and weeding. As another great circle of the gardening year wheels to a close, spring – dare we say that word out loud – is only just around the corner. Below are some tips on how to be as ready as you can.



Show your lawn some love

Your lawn is where you'll spend most of your time, from relaxing on a lounge to playing in the paddling pool. Take some time to spruce up the red carpet of your garden so you can enjoy it in style.

If you have turf that's been lifted by frost, go over it with a roller to flatten it back down. When it's dry it's a good idea to brush over your lawn with a broom to get rid of worm casts. If you spot any patches of moss you can apply some moss killer to get it under control.

Use a sharp hoe to tackle weedy growth on paths, ideally choosing a bright, dry day to do so, then use a spring-tined rake to collect them to prevent the possibility of re-rooting or seeding.

Keep the weeds at bay

Late Spring is the best time to crack down on weeds. If you catch them in their pre-growth season, you'll be able to stop them from sprouting into fully fledged nuisances. You can suppress and control weed growth in your beds and borders with weed control fabric. We have a variety of weed killers for your lawn, patio, and gravel.

Pruned to perfection

The beauty of Spring is in the budding promise of new life about to burst into your garden. Make way for more growth, flowers, foliage and colourful stems by pruning the right plants at the right time. Have a fresh garden knife or a pair of secateurs handy to making pruning easy.

A good starting point for pruning any plant is to remove dead, diseased, or damaged stems as soon as you see them. Dead stems attract insects and invite diseases to develop. Shrubs that will bloom in summer, like fuchsia and buddleja, can be cut right back to the base so you'll get plenty of new flowers in the coming months. Deciduous ornamental grasses can also be cut to ground level ready for new growth.

Managing a garden balcony

Maximise your space by using walls, railings, and overhead structures. Attach pots, shelves, or trellises to the walls. If your balcony has a ceiling, add hooks for hanging plants. Consider covering the railings with chicken wire to support climbing plants or use plant hangers attached to the top of the railing will bloom in summer, like fuchsia and buddleja, can be cut right back to the base so you'll get plenty of new flowers in the coming months. Deciduous ornamental grasses can also be cut to ground level ready for new growth.

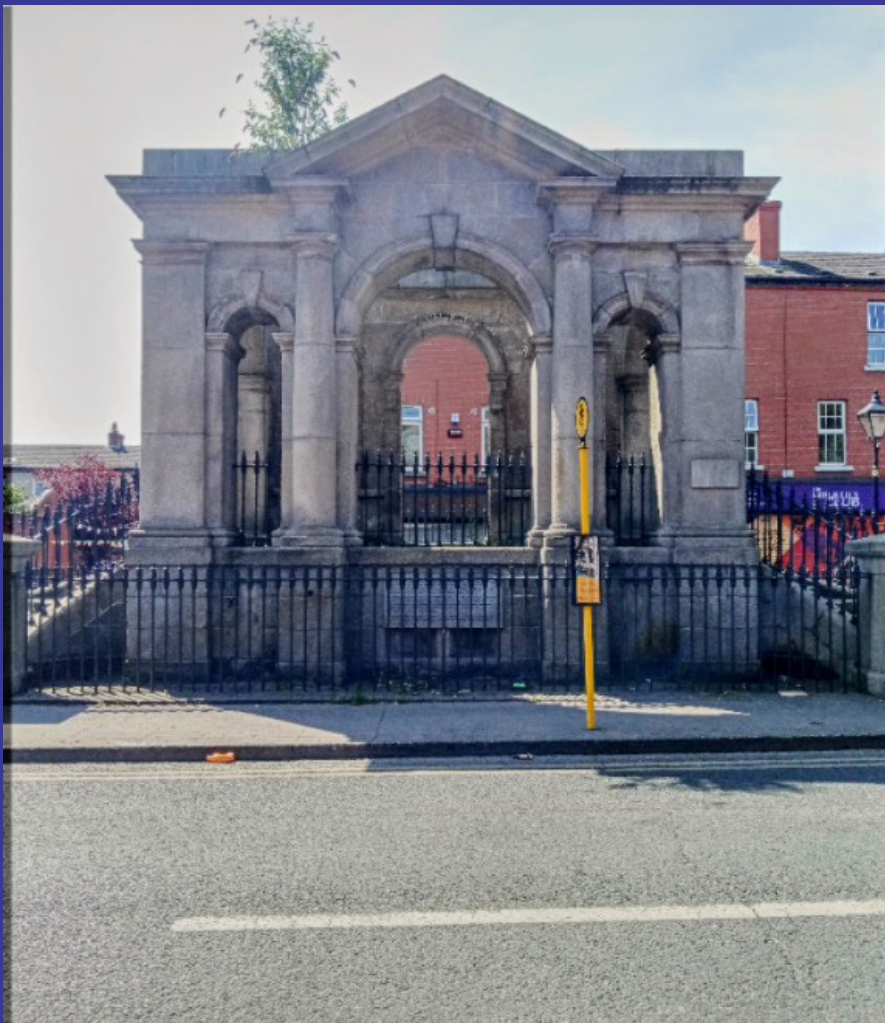
Did You Know?

In the heart of the Liberties area of Dublin lies a memorial to a maternity hospital called 'The Coombe', now known as the 'Old Coombe'.

It opened it's doors in 1829 and was granted a Royal Charter in 1867. So many of Dublin's characters were born there. It closed it's doors in 1967 when it moved to a modern building nearby.

Only the Portico now survives, serving as a record of some well known characters in the 20th century like 'Bang Bang', his story is for another day. Their names are listed on the rear step of the memorial. Indeed I was born there myself.

Deirdre Wareham - Resident Forum Representative



Helpful numbers and information

50808 TEXT SERVICE	An anonymous, free and 24/7 text messaging mental health service for any age group. 'From calming chats to immediate support during a mentalhealth or personal crisis – big or small'.	Text HELLO to 50808 to start a conversation.	www.text50808.ie
MONEY, ADVICE & BUDGETING SERVICE (MABS)	MABS will advise and help with all money matters including budgeting, debt and dealing with creditors. Contact for general support or due to a specific financial difficulty.	National Helpline: 0818 07 2000 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 8pm). WhatsApp: 086 035 3141. Or contact the local MABS office to make an appointment.	www.mabs.ie/en/contact
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRES	Family resource centres provide family support services, often including individual and group programmes.	Go to the website to find your local Family Resource Centre and details of the services they provide. www.tusla.ie	www.tusla.ie/services/family-communitysupport/familyresource-centres/findfamily-resource-centre
SAGE	Sage is a support and advocacy service for older people, vulnerable adults and people with disabilities. They will meet with you, assess your needs and provide support, advocate and signpost to other services.	Go to the Sage website or contact the Information & Advice/Rapid Response Service on 1850 71 9400 (365 days per year, 8am – 10pm)	www.sageadvocacy.ie/contact
FRIENDS OF THE ELDERLY	A national, free and confidential 'Friendly Call Service'. Regular phone calls from a trained volunteer to listen, share conversations and offer support.	Call 01 873 1855 or contact via email: info@friendsoftheelderly.ie	www.friendsoftheelderly.ie
ENABLE IRELAND	Enable Ireland is a national children and adult disability service providing support and advocacy.	Call 01 872 7155 or e-mail: hello@enableireland.ie to see what services are available in your region.	www.enableireland.ie



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