

Cllr. Marcia D'Alton writes ...

Presentation on behalf of Passage West to Marymount Hospice

Angela Sweeney, local author and historian, presented a cheque to the value of €20,000 to Marymount Hospice at the Passage West Town Hall on 23rd May last. The large sum of money presented to Marymount Hospice was raised from the sales of the book "*A Penny for Your Thoughts: A slice of life from Passage West*". The book was written and collated in its entirety by Angela. The publishers, editor and advertising agent all volunteered their services free of charge, while the fundraising for the printing was raised by community sponsorship. The bookshops through which it was distributed took no profit and so the entire purchase cost of "*A Penny for Your Thoughts*" went directly to Marymount Hospice.

"*A Penny for Your Thoughts*" is a celebration of Passage West in pictures, verse and stories, illustrated by age-old photographs of local residents and events.

Broadband update

Passage West Town Council has liaised with Laing O'Rourke, contractors for Cork County Council for the laying of the new broadband network, throughout their work in Passage West and Monkstown. However, it is sorely disappointed with the condition in which the pedestrian walk along the railway line from Hop Island to Passage West has been left after installation of the broadband cable. Rather than lay the cable up the path of the walkway, as was the Town Council's understanding, the work has been done in the green verge running between the Suez Pond and the path. Consequently, there has been significant disturbance of both trees and undergrowth. I feel particularly strongly that reinstatement of the public path, which we understand to have been included in the contract, will be paid for by the taxpayer when in fact this work was avoided when the ducting was laid in the grassy verge.

Passage West Town Council will be seeking a meeting with Laing O'Rourke with regard to its work on the railway line between Hop Island and Horsehead, the delay in final reinstatement of the main road through Passage West and the continued delay in the full resurfacing of Chapel Hill and Fairy Hill in Monkstown.

Passage West Town Council to meet Howard Holdings

On Thursday, 5th July, Passage West Town Council is to meet with Howard Holdings, RKD Architects, Gehl Architects Copenhagen and Cunnane Stratton Reynolds to discuss the proposed development at the Royal Victoria Dockyard. The plans will by this stage be largely complete. On the following Friday evening and Saturday morning, 6th and 7th July, Howard Holdings will display plans of the proposed development publicly such that all who are interested may get an opportunity to view them before submission to Cork County Council's Planning Department. Details of the location and time of the public viewing are yet to be confirmed.

Passage West score falls in Cork County Council Anti-Litter Challenge

Passage West's score in the Cork County Council Anti-Litter Challenge has fallen from two leading scores in Weeks 1 and 2 of the challenge to bottom of the table in Week 3. Passage West scored a total of 65 points, the lowest of all 10 towns in its category. The high scores for this, Week 3 of the Challenge, went to Blarney and Macroom, each of which scored 90 points.

For the purposes of judging, Passage West town centre is divided up into 10 areas. Those four areas which mitigated particularly badly against the town were Back Street, where 69 pieces of litter were found on the judging day and Strand Street from the Post Office to the bus stop, where the judges found 46 pieces of litter. The judges also found 55 pieces of litter in both Fr. O'Flynn Park around the playground and along the bottom of Church Hill.

Review of Irish Public Service needs your opinion and comments!

The OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-Operation & Development) is currently undertaking a major review of the Irish Public Service. The purpose of this is to benchmark the Public Service in Ireland against that of other comparable countries. The outcome of the review will guide recommendations for Public Service reform in Ireland. As part of this review, your views and comments on various aspects of the Public Service are being sought. You can do this either on-line through <http://www.bettergov.ie/index.asp?locID=220&docID=-1>, by sending an e-mail to oecdreview@taoiseach.gov.ie or by posting a completed questionnaire to PSM Division, Department of the Taoiseach, Government Buildings, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2. The closing date for receipt of comments is 31st July 2007.

The Heritage Council's Biodiversity Watch

The Heritage Council of Ireland has launched a new Biodiversity Watch Project. The aim of the Biodiversity Watch Project is to increase awareness of the huge variety of natural life in Ireland. This web-based interactive project can be accessed at <http://www.biology.ie/home.php?m=biodiversity>. It allows you to enter sightings of the plants and animals you see in your local environment – whether your garden, adjacent fields or the mudflats of Glenbrook and Monkstown Creek.

Participation in the Biodiversity Watch Project is easy. Just register on the site and go to the Submit Your Sightings section. See the green button on the right – there you can zoom in on your own home area and mark where you have seen a particular plant, bird or animal.

With you and your support, I am working through the Passage West/Monkstown Town Council to help our community realise its potential as a place to live, work and play. Please contact me by e-mail at info@marciadalton.net, by mail at 22, Hillcrest, Pembroke Wood, Passage West or by telephone 4863293 / 085-7333852.