

Cllr. Marcia D'Alton writes ...

Flower Festival at Sacred Heart Church, Monkstown

Since 1871, the Sacred Heart Church has stood on the side of the Monkstown hills, watching over Cork Harbour. This coming weekend, 28th – 30th September, the Sacred Heart Church is celebrating 136 years of a pivotal role in the life of the Monkstown community by hosting the Monkstown Heritage Flower Festival.

The Flower Festival promises to be a uniquely sensual experience of scent and visual beauty. For the entire weekend, Flower and Garden Clubs from across the Munster region will be displaying flowers, plants and bouquets. The wonder of the spectacle will be enhanced by its setting: a church designed by world-renowned architects, Pugin & Ashlin, who also designed Cobh Cathedral, Killarney Cathedral and St. Peter and Paul's, Cork.

This Flower Festival is truly a community event. Preparatory work by local residents has been ongoing for months. Assisted by the professional hand of Ms Chriss Bailey, President of the Owenabue Flower and Garden Club, all local communities and visitors from further afield will be rewarded by a trip to the Sacred Heart Church during this weekend.

The Gala Preview Evening on Friday 28th September at 8pm will include a Special Preview of the Floral Exhibits and a Cheese and Wine Reception. Ms Alice Taylor will officially open the Flower Festival, while Mr. Charles Hennessy will act as Master of Ceremonies. Tickets for this Friday evening event are €15.

There will be public viewing of the floral exhibits on Saturday, 29th September from 11am – 5.30pm and on Sunday, 30th September, from 10am – 5pm. Special and rare plants reared by local nurseries will be available to purchase at a dedicated Plant Stall. Admission to viewing is €10, including refreshments and a programme of displays. Raffle tickets for a Super Draw will be offered throughout the weekend.

All proceeds from the Monkstown Heritage Flower Festival will be put towards the Sacred Heart Church Restoration Fund. All are welcome and directions to the event will be evident for all passing through the town. Any queries in relation to the Flower Festival should contact 087 – 2920689. Additional information on the Sacred Heart Church can be found on www.passagewestmonkstown.ie.

Dust causes concern in Passage West

Major upset has been caused to residents in the southern end of Passage West town by dust released by Haulbowl Industries Ltd. during a recent unloading at the Royal Victoria Dock.

Standing orders were put aside at the September meeting of Passage West Town Council to facilitate a presentation by Mr. Joe Snow on behalf of the local residents in relation to the dust which settled over houses, cars and streets as a ship unloaded animal feed from 22nd August – 26th August. The ship left Passage during the early hours of the morning on Monday, 27th August. Mr. Snow stated that unloading continued on until late at night and that the sprinklers operated by the Dockyard were quite ineffectual. Subsequent to the departure of the ship, houses had to be washed down.

Mr. Snow expressed the frustration of the residents at the ongoing nature of the dust problem from the Royal Victoria Dock. He asked that the Town Council should meet with the Environmental Department of Cork County Council such that the issue might finally be put to rest. Although it was generally acknowledged that the anticipated redevelopment of the Royal Victoria Dock by Howard Holdings would mark the end of dockyard activities in Passage West, it was also agreed that the plight of long-suffering residents living close to the Dock could not go unsupported.

Passage West Town Council has agreed to seek a meeting with Cork County Council to discuss dust emissions from the Royal Victoria Dockyard.

Urban and Village Renewal Funding

Passage West Town Council has been awarded funding for two significant projects by Cork County Council under the Urban and Village Renewal Grants system.

The 19th century limekiln at Buncoille is to be exposed, while the area in its immediate vicinity is to be cleared and landscaped. A plaque explaining the operation of the limekiln is to be erected, while new seating will also be installed. A new sign welcoming visitors to Monkstown/Passage West will be provided and it is anticipated that the project will be a major enhancement to the southern entrance to the towns.

The second project will enhance the northern entrance to Passage West. Landscaping at the entrance to Rockenham, adjacent to the Pembroke Wood roundabout, will see the steep bank of grass being removed and replaced with attractive rocks and shrubs. This will facilitate easy maintenance and will be complemented by the provision of proper off-road car parking for local residents.

Under the terms of the Urban and Village Renewal Grants scheme, both projects must be carried out by the end of September.

Clean-up day in Pembroke Wood

On Sunday 16th September, the residents of Pembroke Wood, Passage West, turned out in force to take part in a litter-pick. The sense of community generated by working together for benefit of the estate was enhanced by the fun had thereafter when the children took to a bouncy castle and treats were enjoyed by both the younger and older participants.

The Pembroke Wood Residents Association extends its grateful thanks for the generous sponsorship of the event provided by Gala, O'Donovan's Off-Licence, Cashmans Bookmakers, Klassic Hair Salmon and Donal Desmond. It is also very appreciative of the support shown by Cork County Council.

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.