

## **Cllr. Marcia D'Alton writes ...**

### **Celebrating 10 years of Twinning**

Chasseneuil du Poitou, Western France, and Passage West/Monkstown will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Twinning in November 2007. A delegation of 25 people headed by the Mayor M. Claude Eidelstein and President Gisele Méchain will visit Passage West and Monkstown from 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2007 to mark this anniversary.

The local twinning group and President Nora Callanan have prepared an attractive programme to welcome their French friends, who will be hosted by local families. The Mayor of Passage West, Cllr Dominick Donnelly, will receive the delegation, the local twinning group and host families at a reception in the Town Hall, Passage West, on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 6.30pm. Alliance Française de Cork will host a reception for the French visitors during their stay. The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner will be hosted by Mary Donnelly and Passage West Town Council on Saturday evening, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, in the Monkstown Golf Club.

The full programme for our French visitors and further information on the town of Chasseneuil du Poitou is available on the Passage West/Monkstown website at [www.passagewestmonkstown.ie](http://www.passagewestmonkstown.ie). Bien venus à nos amis français !

### **Planning permission granted for marina at Monkstown**

An Bord Pleanala has granted planning permission for the development of an 82 berth marina in Monkstown. The application had been previously approved by Cork County Council but was appealed by local residents, primarily on the grounds of inadequate parking.

The 3-acre development will comprise a 22 metre-long steel gangway connecting the footpath opposite Alta Terrace with a square shaped floating structure. This structure will have a breakwater on its outer perimeter and pontoons and fingers providing berths for the boats. It is also proposed that the road should be widened to provide for 23 car parking spaces parallel to the road.

The Inspector examining the case on behalf of An Bord Pleanala recommended that although a marina would be generally suited to Monkstown, the proposed location was too far from existing infrastructure and sailing facilities and that inadequate parking was available immediately adjacent to the proposed development. However, An Bord Pleanala agreed with Cork County Council that the proposed location was suitable and that the development should proceed.

Although the marina is expected to be up and running for the 2008 sailing season, a foreshore lease must be obtained by the developer before works may commence. In addition, a Construction Management Plan must be agreed with Cork County Council. The development will contribute towards the delivery of additional parking spaces in Monkstown and towards a traffic calming scheme for Monkstown village.

### **Water taxi to serve Passage West and Monkstown**

Planning permission is to be submitted for the development of a water taxi service linking the Lower Harbour and Cork City before the end of November.

The scheme proposes a regular run between Cobh and Cork, stopping off at Monkstown and Passage West. A second route will link Cobh with Crosshaven, Aghada and Whitegate. The boats to service the route are to be low-wash catamaran ferries developed in Singapore and currently used with success on the Thames in London. Each boat will have capacity for 235 passengers and will be able to accommodate some bicycles. The ferry station at Passage West is planned to be off Steam Packet Quay, north of the apartments, while that at Monkstown will be off the Bosun car park, just south of the old toilet block. The Lower Harbour terminus will be at the Town Hall in Cobh. It is not expected that a planning application will be submitted for the City Terminus at Horgan's Quay until some time in the near future.

It is hoped that the water taxi service will be up and running by 2010. If so, it will be a wonderful asset to residents of both the Lower Harbour and the City. Not merely will it relieve worsening road congestion, it will also provide an easy conduit for both locals and visitors to the waters of Cork Harbour.

#### **Doggie poo bins – responses please**

There has been much talk around the Passage West Town Council table in relation to the benefits or otherwise of doggie poo bins. The promenade walk, particularly along the footpath from Glenbrook through Monkstown, is badly affected by dog fouling. Doggie poo bins were purchased by the Carrigaline Area Office of Cork County Council several years ago. However, the Area Office is reluctant to erect them, primarily because of fear of their being abused. Current County Council policy is to reduce the number of street litterbins in an effort to encourage the public to bring litter home. Consequently, the Area Office concern that doggie poo bins may be used as litterbins is legitimate. Equally legitimate is the concern that the public may not carry the necessary scoopers or bags to facilitate their proper use.

What do you think? Would you use doggie poo bins correctly if they were provided? Do you think there is potential for their becoming an eyesore rather than an asset? Let me know of your opinion by e-mailing to [info@marciadalton.net](mailto:info@marciadalton.net) and help us to gauge whether there is general support for doggie poo bins in Passage West and Monkstown.

#### **French honour to Monkstown lady**

The President of Alliance Française, Nora Callanan was awarded the prestigious Officier de L'Ordre de Mérite (Officer of the National Order of Merit) at the Alliance Française gala dinner in Cork. The National Order of Merit is an Order of Chivalry awarded by the President of the French Republic, founded in 1963 by the then President Charles de Gaulle.

Nora, who is from Monkstown, received the award from Yvon Roe D'Albert, French Ambassador to Ireland in the name of the president of the French Republic for her work with France and Franco-Irish relations in cultural, artistic and educational domain.

#### **Health Promotion Award for Scoil Barra Naofa**

Scoil Barra Naofa has been the proud recipient of the Health Promotion Award from the HSE for this year, 2007. The Award challenges schools to develop their full potential as health promotion settings, where all staff and pupils are encouraged to lead a healthier lifestyle. It recognises the importance of the school ethos, management and teaching/learning environment in combining health, education and environmental health.

The Award was presented to Scoil Barra Naofa by the HSE in a ceremony on 24<sup>th</sup> October in which all students took part. All parents were invited to see each of the classes perform songs, poems and role-plays themed around the topic of good health. The day was aptly chosen to coincide with the end of Healthy Eating Week, an initiative organised by the Parents Association with the support of the teachers, principal and management, to promote the physical and mental benefits of good eating habits.

The school extends its grateful thanks to Mr. Terry Kingston, special Guest Speaker at the ceremony, and to the sponsors who have been so supportive of the school's health promotion initiatives: Barry Collins Supervalu in Carrigaline, O'Regan's Gala Foodstore in Passage West, Green Acres Fruit and Vegetable Shop in Passage West, Xpress Stop Foodstore in Monkstown, O'Mahony Fruit Distributors, Southern Fruit and the Jump Juice Bar in Douglas.

#### **Heritage Council Grants Programme now open**

The Heritage Council is seeking applications for imaginative and innovative proposals from organisations and individuals who wish to carry out projects that conserve Ireland's heritage. An information pack on the 2008 Heritage Grants Programme is available on request by post, fax, e-mail, phone or in person at the Heritage Council offices, or can be downloaded from the Heritage Council website. More than €2.3 million of National Lottery funding has been allocated to the following eight

grant schemes for 2008:

- Local Heritage
- Architecture Research
- Publications
- Buildings at Risk \* (*please see note below*)
- Museums & Archives
- Archaeology
- Unpublished Excavations
- Wildlife

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 2nd November 2007 at 5pm. Further information can be obtained at <http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/grants/grants2008/grants2008.html>.

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](mailto:info@marciadalton.net), by mail at 22, Hillcrest, Pembroke Wood, Passage West or by telephone 4863293 / 085-7333852.