



Cork City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí



Autumn/Winter 2008 Issue 2

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**Lord Mayor,
Cllr. Brian Bermingham**

Welcome to this edition of City News.

This is a publication by Cork City Council which is distributed to every household in the city as part of our ongoing commitment to inform the public of the services available to them from Cork City Council and the work we do on your behalf.

Restoration of Ringmahon House, Blackrock



Dr. Margaret Heffernan, Director, Dunnes Stores, was a guest of honour at Ringmahon House on Tuesday 30th September, 2008 in acknowledgment of the company's generous support of the restoration of Ringmahon House.

The restored Ringmahon House will function as a community resource with a strong emphasis on provision of services for the elderly. Ringmahon House will also provide services and training for the youth. Cork VEC will locate a Youth Outreach Programme in the house with a range of services being provided for young people. A total of 16 units of accommodation for senior citizens has been constructed beside Ringmahon House and Cork City Council will work closely with SHARE in providing support services for the elderly.

Register of Electors

Local and European Elections 2009..... are you registered?

The Draft Register of Electors for Cork is currently on display at Garda Stations, Post Offices, Libraries, Cork City Council and Cork County Council offices.

If you are aged 18 or over you should check that your name and address are present and correct on the Draft Register, and if there is a mistake tell your City or County Council.

To check if you are registered you can:

- telephone the Franchise Section, Cork City Council (if you live in the city) 021/4924107;
- check online www.corkcity.ie / **Register of Electors**; or
- check online at www.checktheregister.ie

Application Forms for inclusion in the Supplement to the Register are available at:

- Garda Stations, Post Offices and Libraries
- Reception Desk, City Hall
- Franchise Section, Cork City Council, City Hall
(tel. 021 4924107 / 4108 / 4109 or email franchise@corkcity.ie)

Christmas Message from the Lord Mayor

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the people of Cork a Happy and a Holy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Beannachtaí na Féile oraibh go léir.

Beware of bogus callers

Cork City Council has issued a warning to the public to beware of bogus callers to homes in the city. It has come to the attention of Cork City Council that bogus callers alleging to be from the Water Services Section of Cork City Council are operating within the city.

Cork City Council advises the public to be aware of such callers and reminds the public that all Cork City Council Water Services employees carry Official Identification Cards issued by the Personnel Officer and Authorization Cards in accordance with the Water Services Act, 2007.

These Identification Cards and Authorization Cards must be produced upon request. The Official Identification Card also contains a telephone number you can contact to verify the details should you wish to do so.

Cork City Council advises the public to seek such identification before allowing City Council employees access to their home or property. If such identification is not forthcoming you should not allow access and should contact your local Gardaí to advise them of your concerns.

Christmas Celebration on the Grand Parade

A Christmas Celebration on the Grand Parade, organized by Cork City Council, is being held in the newly refurbished Grand Parade over the three weekends leading up to Christmas - 5th/8th, 12th/14th and 19th/22nd December.

A Christmas Celebration on the Grand Parade brings a real festive feel to the city and includes an outdoor food market, an indoor craft marquee, all sorts of fare on sale from spit roasts to hot chocolate, festive preserves to mince pies, a fantastic range of arts and crafts, performances from a wide range of choirs and carol singers and music from some of Cork's most famous big bands – all under the illumination designed by Peter Kelly from Weddings by Franc.



**Bank Holiday Monday
1st June 2009**

Competitors can enter the Marathon race online at
www.corkcitymarathon.ie.

Awards

Vodafone Innovating Government Awards 2008

The Access Cork website www.accesscork.ie won the Best Project – Services to Citizens in the Vodafone Innovating Government Awards 2008 which was held in Dublin Castle on 9th October 2008. The Awards, presented by Government Chief Whip and Minister of State at the Department of An Taoiseach, Pat Carey TD, seek to recognise excellence and creativity for innovative initiatives in the public sector. The Access Cork website www.accesscork.ie provides information which helps people with disabilities, their families and friends, identify accessible shops, restaurants, pubs, accommodation and entertainment venues in Cork city.



Cork City Council, winners of Best Project – Services to Citizens
Tony Power, Community and Enterprise Directorate, Ruth Buckley, Head of Information Systems and Eileen O'Leary, Information Systems



Jerry Moynihan and John Twomey, Environment Directorate, Cork City Council. The Lifetime Lab project won a Merit Award in the **Best Community Project**



The Access Cork website was shortlisted for the **Inspired IT Awards – Government Category**. The Awards Ceremony, attended by Donie O'Leary, Cork City Partnership & Al Devine I.S. Dept. Cork City Council, was held on 9th October 2008 at the Mansion House in Dublin.

Cork City Council has also been nominated for:

- **Chambers Ireland Awards 2008** – “Energy Optimisation” - an energy conservation project
- **Green Awards 2008** – Green Transport Initiative (biodiesel) project
- **Local Government, City & County Council Awards 2009** – Best use of External Communications (www.corkcity.ie/news)



Excellence in Local Government Awards 2008

Chambers Ireland, in association with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, presented Cork City Council with an Excellence in Local Government Award at a ceremony in Dublin on 6th November 2008. The Award was made for the **Library Link** service to housebound library users. Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr. Dara Murphy accepted the trophy on behalf of Cork City Council /Cork City Libraries. The Deputy Lord Mayor was accompanied at the ceremony by Valerie O'Sullivan, Director of Services, Recreation, Amenity & Culture and the City Library staff pictured.

L. to R. Cork City Council 'LibraryLink' staff Gerda Ryan, Sineád Feely and John O'Sullivan.

Community Wardens Service Launched

Cork City Council has launched a new service to help the City Council and other agencies enhance local communities, both environmentally and socially. The scheme aims to foster community spirit, look after and improve the local environment and raise the confidence of the community.

Initially, funding has been secured through the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to appoint six Community Wardens to focus on the RAPID areas of the city, which are Farranree, Fairhill and Gurrabraher – Knocknaheeny, Holyhill, Churchfield – Blackpool, the Glen, Mayfield – Togher, Mahon. Each warden will be based locally and will be available to community and voluntary groups to offer support and assistance where needed.

The wardens will assist local initiatives and be proactive in organising events, clean-ups, residents groups and giving talks to schools and other groups – in order to help improve the local environment.

They will also be visible in the local areas, walking about, meeting people – monitoring and reporting local authority issues, such as litter dumping, traffic, abandoned vehicles and taking enforcement action where possible.

The wardens have already had a huge impact on the local environment by ensuring that a €120,000 programme of graffiti removal in the RAPID areas is carried out efficiently and in consultation with local residents.

City News is produced by the Communications Section, Corporate Affairs, Cork City Council

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International – Relations

Cork / Shanghai Schools Project

Following the very successful visit in 2007 by Cork schools to their counterparts in the Shanghai districts of Changning, Lu Wan and Zhabei, a return visit was held from 30th September to 7th October 2008. This culminated in a formal ceremony to sign Memoranda of Understanding between the nine Shanghai and nine Cork schools on 3rd October which coincided with the National Day holiday for the People's Republic of China.

The ceremony in the City Hall, addressed by Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin TD, was attended by 600 local schoolchildren. There were short performances by each of the Cork schools ranging from traditional Irish music, dance, singing and other performances. It is hoped that this level of activity will help to promote the active citizen to citizen relationships that have emerged from the Sister City relationship with Shanghai and Cork. The Shanghai teachers also met the Minister for Education & Science, Batt O'Keeffe TD, on a visit to the Blackrock Castle Observatory.



Ms. Sun Wei Min, Shanghai Heng Feng Middle School, Zhabei District (linked to Scoil Mhuire Boys NS) pictured with Pat Ledwidge, Director of Services, Docklands and Lord Mayor Cllr. Brian Bermingham.

Womens and Schoolgirls Soccer League, would travel to San Francisco to compete in the Games, which were held from 10th to 15th July, 2008.

Prior to their departure, the team of eight players, along with their coaches, paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor Cllr. Brian Bermingham, who wished them the best of luck in the competition.

The team's visit to San Francisco was opened by a wonderful reception given by Cork's sister city committee at the Irish Cultural Centre and host, Diarmuid Philpott, presented the team with certificates. The following day the team paid a visit to Emer Deane and staff at the Irish Consulate.

The team enjoyed tremendous success at the Games and topped their group, having won all their pool games. They progressed to the semi finals where they met Los Gatos and were again victorious. In the Final the girls came up against highly rated opposition, San Mateo. The team was beaten after a penalty shoot out, but were delighted with their silver medal performance.

The players were a credit to their city, their schools and indeed their parents throughout the trip and were highly commended by their supervisors. The team paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor on their return. The Lord Mayor commended them on their wonderful achievement on finishing as runners-up in the competition. He praised their attitude and behaviour and especially how they conducted themselves as ambassadors of the city.

Cork delegation visit Cologne

In October 2008, a delegation from Cork visited Cologne to attend Civic Ceremonies hosted by the City of Cologne to celebrate their strong ongoing Twinning Programme. Cologne has a total of 21 International Twinning Agreements in place and the visit of the Cork delegation coincided with the 20th Anniversary of Cork's twinning with the German city.



At the luncheon (pictured L to R): Cllr. Mairin Quill and Herr Peter Wolf of the International Affairs Office, Stadt Koln receiving presentation of gift from Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. Dara Murphy.

42nd International Children's Games in San Francisco

Cork city has been twinned with San Francisco since 1984. In early 2008, the Office of the Mayor of San Francisco extended an invitation to the City of Cork to send a delegation to the 42nd International Children's Games. The Games, which are endorsed by the International Olympic Committee, are the only global youth athletic event that combines sports, educational programmes and peace motivated cultural exchange. The Games are a large scale sporting event, comprising 1800 athletes from over 50 countries, competing in 8 different sports.

Cork City Council, through its Sports Development Officer, issued invitations to various sporting organisations, and finally it was decided that a schoolgirls team from the Cork



The team paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor prior to their trip to San Francisco

Distinguished visitors call to the Lord Mayor



President of the Czech Republic, H.E. Václav Klaus, and his wife, Livia, paid a courtesy visit to City Hall, Cork, on Wednesday, 12th November 2008 as part of a three day State visit to Ireland. The President is pictured above signing the Visitors Book with Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr. Patricia Gosch and City Manager, Joe Gavin.



Lord Mayor, Cllr. Brian Bermingham with Chinese Ambassador H.E. Mr. Liu Bieui signing the Visitors Book when he paid courtesy visit in August, 2008



Chilian Ambassador Ms. Cecilia MacKenna signing the Visitors Book for the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Brian Bermingham in the presence of John O'Donovan, Corporate Affairs, and Lady Mayoress Elma Bermingham when she paid a courtesy visit in July, 2008



Israeli Ambassador H.E. Mr. Zion Evrony receiving a gift from Lord Mayor, Cllr. Brian Bermingham during a courtesy visit in September 2008

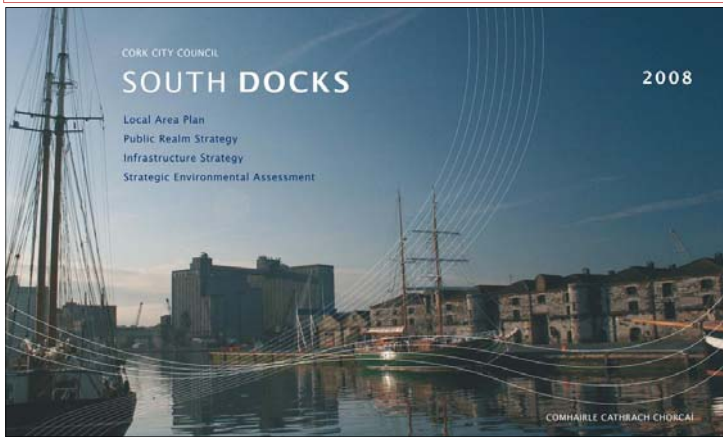


Czech Ambassador H.E. Mr. Tomáš Kafka signing the Visitors Book for the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Brian Bermingham in the presence of Paul Moynihan, Corporate Affairs, when he paid a courtesy visit in August, 2008



The Lord Mayor of Belfast, Cllr. Tom Hartley during a courtesy visit in October 2008 to City Hall examining the scroll of Lord Mayors of Cork accompanied by Kerry County Councillor Toireasa Ferris, Lord Mayor, Cllr. Brian Bermingham, Cllr. Annette Spillane and Cllr. Jonathan O'Brien.

Docklands



Availability of South Docks Local Area Plan 2008

The South Docks Local Area Plan was adopted earlier this year. The plan area extends from The Marina in the east to Albert Street in the west and includes properties along Albert Quay East, Custom House Quay, Kennedy Quay, Centre Park Road, The Marina and Monahan's Road. A population of 23,000 persons and a working population of some 25,000 persons is envisaged for the area along with three new schools, a medical facility, a sub regional park, and a public riverside walkway from Albert Quay to the Marina. The Plan is available to download from www.corkcity.ie/docklands, to view in any Cork City Council public library or at the Reception Desk, City Hall during normal working hours or to purchase at a cost of €80 from the main Reception Desk, City Hall, Cork.

Design of Cork Docklands Public Realm and Marina Park

As a first step in the realisation of the development of the Docklands, Cork City Council will shortly engage consultants to design the area's Public Realm including the main streets and associated street furniture/lighting etc, the riverside amenity area (North and South Docks), pocket parks and plazas and also to design Marina Park – a major sub-regional park of some 30 hectares. Procurement of consultants is to commence in November 2008 with detailed designs to be completed in 2009. Implementation of the two projects is expected to cost in the region of €100 million.

Lifelong Learning Festival & Discovery

The Cork City Learning Forum brings together people involved in learning at all levels - primary to university, learners to lecturers, including community groups and training providers, aiming to increase the 'culture of learning' in Cork. Members of the group share information and work together to develop actions to encourage and support learning. Key activities include 'Discovery - Cork's Interactive Science Exhibition' and the Lifelong Learning Festival.



A study in concentration by young Robert Keating at Discovery

'**Discovery**' encourages the choice of Science Engineering and Technology as subjects and eventually careers, by showing 10-16 year olds that science is INTERESTING and FUN. Linked to Science Week Ireland (November 9-16), in this 4th year of the event over 5,000 visited the City Hall show, and another 4,000 attended events such as robot building workshops, 3D tours of the solar system, engineering challenges and science magic shows in schools, libraries and other venues across the city. Events at the City Hall started on Sunday, November 16th with a corporate preview and Family Day. Launched with the Pat Falvey 'BE ABLE' transition year expedition, this 'ultimate field trip' has taken young people from all over Ireland to the Antarctic - including 2 students from Terence MacSwiney Community College. Another special feature of the opening was the launch of Blackrock Castle Observatory's 'Stardome', a portable planetarium which will be available to visit schools from the new year.

Cork's Lifelong Learning Festival is the only event of its kind in Ireland, showcasing and celebrating learning for all ages, interests and abilities. The 2008 festival was the biggest yet, with over 230 events taking place across the city – all free. Events during the week took place in a variety of venues – from parks to shopping centres, sports facilities to theatres, colleges to family centres. Among them were a Lisbon Treaty debate; information session for newcomers to Cork and a week-long programme of events in the new CIT School of Music. All branches of the City Library and all VEC Community Education networks also took part.



Interested in participating in the sixth festival – March 30 to April 5 2009 - contact Tina Neylon at 4924527 or learningfestival@corkcity.ie

Ardbhaile Community Centre celebrates 10th Anniversary

Ardbhaile Community Centre celebrated its 10th Anniversary on Friday 11th July 2008. Managed by Cork City Council staff, the Building is home to the City Council's North East Area Housing office, the VEC's Write-On Literacy group, FÁS community employment schemes as well as providing a meeting place for community groups.

Ardbhaile is a good example of how community development can bring about positive change in an area. The Community Centre in Ardbhaile, in particular the activities located here, have played a central role in both encouraging and developing Community initiatives. This, together with refurbishment of the social housing stock by Cork City Council, all contribute to provide a better environment for all. Both the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Brian Bermingham and City Manager, Joe Gavin, acknowledged the contribution made by the community in Mayfield. "I would like to congratulate the local community, residents' and community associations and City Council staff", said the Lord Mayor, "for making Ardbhaile a template which could be followed by many, as to how positive interaction between all concerned can produce more than the sum of its parts in a vibrant, effective participative programme in the community's best interest. Following the launch by the Lord Mayor at 11.00am a packed programme of events for the Family Fun Day followed, including falconer, Samantha Murphy, who provided an outstanding display with falcons and a young owl. Face painting, puppet shows and storytelling, balloon modelling, a disco with party games and a bouncy castle completed the line-up. Truly a day to remember.



Pictured at the Falconry Display, L to R: Cllr. Annette Spillane, Anita Lenihan, Housing & Community, Lord Mayor, Cllr. Brian Bermingham, Niamh Carmody and Samantha Murphy of Ravenstone Bird Control, Cllr Dara Murphy, Lady Mayoress Elma Bermingham and Joe Gavin, City Manager.

Christmas and New Year Information

DRY RECYCLABLES COLLECTION

For your Health and Safety and that of Cork City Council's collection crews, please do not put more than 12kg (26lbs) weight in your dry recyclable bag.

YES

Clean mixed paper, newspapers, magazines and brochures
Clean cardboard
Washed drink cans (aluminium)
Washed food cans (steel)
Washed paper/cardboard beverage containers (milk and juice cartons)
Washed plastic bottles and containers

NO

Glass
Food / green waste
Wet / dirty waste
Sanitary waste
Polystyrene
Foil
Contaminated food packaging
Aerosols
Books
Plastic wrappings



PARK AND RIDE

County Hall Park & Ride

The County Hall Park & Ride commences on Sat. 29th Nov. and operates on Saturdays and Sundays to 21st Dec.

Saturday Service: **09:30 to 18:15**

Sunday Service: **10:30 to 18:15**

Buses operate every 15 mins. and run from County Hall to South Main Street.

Black Ash Park and Ride

The Sun. service from the Black Ash Park & Ride commences on Sun. 30th Nov. and operates each Sunday to December 21st.

The service runs from **11:00 to 19:15** and buses operate every 15 minutes.

The Black Ash Park and Ride will be **closed** on 25th & 26th Dec. and on 1st Jan.

Paul Street Car Park

The Paul Street Car Park will operate extended opening hours on Sundays as follows:

30th Nov, 7th, 14th & 21st Dec.: **09:00 to midnight**

The Car Park will close at **18:30** on Wed. 24th and Wed. 31st Dec. Paul Street Car Park will be **closed** on 25th & 26th Dec. 25th and on 1st Jan.

North Main Street Car Park

The North Main Street Car Park will operate as follows:

Sun. 16th & 23rd Nov.: **11:00 to 18:30**

Sun. 30th Nov. and 7th & 14th Dec.: **09:00 to 18:30**

Sun. 21st Dec.: **08:00 to 18:30**

North Main Street Car Park will be **closed** on 25th & 26th Dec. and 1st Jan.

Waste Collection & Disposal Arrangements

Refuse Collection (including Household Dry Recyclables)

Normal Collection Date	Revised Collection Date
Monday, 22 nd December, 2008	Saturday, 20 th December, 2008
Tuesday, 23 rd December, 2008	Monday, 22 nd December, 2008
Wednesday, 24 th December, 2008	Tuesday, 23 rd December, 2008
Thursday, 25 th December, 2008	Wednesday 24 th December, 2008
Friday, 26 th December, 2008	Saturday, 27 th December, 2008
Monday, 29 th December, 2008	NO CHANGE
Tuesday, 30 th December, 2008	NO CHANGE
Wednesday, 31 st December, 2008	NO CHANGE
Thursday, 1 st January, 2009	Friday, 2 nd January, 2009
Friday, 2 nd January, 2009	Saturday, 3 rd January, 2009

LANDFILL SITE, KINSALE ROAD OPENING HOURS

Normal Collection Date	Revised Collection Date	Normal Collection Date	Revised Collection Date
Monday 22 nd December, 2008	Saturday 20 th December, 2008	Monday 22 nd December, 2008	8.00 a.m. to 3.45 p.m.
Tuesday 23 rd December, 2008	Monday 22 nd December, 2008	Tuesday 23 rd December, 2008	8.00 a.m. to 3.45 p.m.
Wednesday 24 th December, 2008	Tuesday 23 rd December, 2008	Wednesday 24 th December, 2008	8.00 a.m. to 3.45 p.m.
Thursday 25 th December, 2008	Wednesday 24 th December, 2008	Thursday 25 th December, 2008	CLOSED
Friday 26 th December, 2008	Saturday 27 th December, 2008	Friday 26 th December, 2008	CLOSED
Monday 29 th December, 2008	NO CHANGE	Saturday 27 th December, 2008	8.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.
Tuesday 30 th December, 2008	NO CHANGE	Sunday 28 th December, 2008	CLOSED
Wednesday 31 st December, 2008	NO CHANGE	Monday 29 th December, 2008	8.00 a.m. to 3.45 p.m.
Thursday 1 st January, 2009	Friday 2 nd January, 2009	Tuesday 30 th December, 2008	8.00 a.m. to 3.45 p.m.
Friday 2 nd January, 2009	Saturday 3 rd January, 2009	Wednesday 31 st December, 2008	8.00 a.m. to 3.45 p.m.
		Thursday 1 st January, 2009	CLOSED
		Friday 2 nd January, 2009	Normal opening resumes

Wheel Bins or Dry Recyclable Bags, whichever is the appropriate collection, should be presented by 7.00 a.m. on morning of collection to ensure collection.