

## **SAMRA : SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2 - 2022**

**Dear Members,**

Here's our 2nd newsletter of the summer season – keeping you abreast of developments, updates and the work that SAMRA is engaged in.

### **Lorna Kelly**

We are saddened to have to tell you of the passing of Lorna Kelly, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, after a lifetime of dedication and support for the area. Only recently in April, did we celebrate her 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with SAMRA as a founder member. She gave a lifetime of support to Sandymount & Merrion, in particular, centred on the Village Green in the centre of what became acclaimed as an Architectural Conservation Area, most of which originated from her supreme efforts. We will miss Lorna's contribution to the committee.

Here is a linkage to a full obituary in the Dublin NewsFour Newspaper

<https://twitter.com/SAMRASandymount/status/1555858450441183232?s=20&t=-esjIS3gO-l8j15Lu0-Fw>



SAMRA is working with the family on some form of lasting tribute to Lorna's lifetime contribution to the area of Sandymount & Merrion

### **Village Green**

As a community, as reported previously, we now have the pedestrianised area at the Village Green to enjoy - from midnight Thursdays until midnight Sundays through until Halloween following the successful trial and consultation last year.

<https://samra.ie/press-release-village-green-pedestrianisation/>

We all know that there is more that can be done to improve this and we are continuing to work with DCC to find the best formula to make best use of the space, whilst meeting the needs of all.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June we had a meeting with DCC SEA Services Director and Manager and formally outlined our thinking for the future, reflecting feedback to date. Please continue

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to feed in your ideas and thoughts on this, to ensure that we can continue to improve, and make the best use of this invaluable additional outdoor public space.

Combined efforts led by DCC's Community Team (Ronan) in conjunction with local shops, SAMRA and Tidy Towns have facilitated the return of the hanging flower baskets.

Additionally, DCC have advised that the previously very popular Latin Jazz guitar music is booked on Saturdays (Mario) and Sundays (Robson) throughout August

### **UPDATES**

**From the Planning & Development sub-committee**

**From the Flood Risk Sub-Committee :**

**From the Transportation & Access Sub-Committee –**

On 19<sup>th</sup> June – Minister Eamon Ryan, invited SAMRA to a meeting. The agenda centred around SAMRA's call for a single Taskforce to combine the management of scopes : Flood Defence; Beach Sewage Spills; Cycle Route.

<https://samra.ie/sandymount-strand-seafront-works-task-force/>

SAMRA also lobbied Minister Ryan on the position taken with regards to the Dublin Port expansion, as posted to the website 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

<https://samra.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Dublinport3fm-30-12-2021.pdf>

<https://samra.ie/dublin-port-3fm-expansion-plans-samra-submission/>

No commitments were made and we await developments...

**Heritage & Natural History Sub-Committee –**

### **Yeats Day**

We need to thank Tony Jordan for his efforts over many years for stewarding the annual celebration event held on Sandymount Green. The event on 13<sup>th</sup> June this year was his last with a transition coordinated by member Joseph Lynch and I am very pleased to be able to tell you that from next year onwards that SAMRA will take responsibility for maintaining this special event.

### **Seamus Heaney**

The "Bust" of Seamus Heaney in Sandymount Green was recently sadly defaced but thanks to some quick footwork and engagement of a specialist sub-contractor, it has

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been cleaned and returned to it's former glory. This is seemingly an isolated incident but Gardai have been involved and we also are investigating provision of funding to cover clean-up costs involved.



### Accidental Damage incident - Gilford Road "An-Post" Heritage Box -



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The heritage box dates back over 100 years and was accidentally damaged during the water main replacement works. This was escalated by SAMRA and Irish Water have committed to a full repair/reinstatement

## Heritage

### Heritage Week



THEATRICAL ENTERTAINMENTS AT  
ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL, SANDYMOUNT  
1883-1963

St John's Church, Park Avenue, Sandymount, will mark Heritage Week 2022 with a display featuring amateur dramatic societies and choirs that appeared on stage at the former St John's Church Hall from its opening in 1883 until 1963, when it was closed.

The display will be on view in the church on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August between 12 noon and 4pm, and on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August, also from 12 noon to 4pm each day.

St John's Hall was built on land leased from the Earl of Pembroke for "purposes ancillary to the church and for meetings connected therewith, and for the schools belonging thereto". Records show that the Hall was actively used by many church, community and local groups at different times throughout its history. The Hall was once a hive of cultural activity, bustling with a packed programme of meetings, classes, bazaars, exhibitions, concerts, and what were termed "theatrical entertainments".

The display recalls several groups that performed in the Hall or used it for rehearsals including the St John's Society (1883-1899), the Pembroke Choral Society (1886-1895), the Pembroke Players (1919-1939), the Park Avenue Players (1939-1955) and the Dublin Religious Drama Group (1946-1965).

Individual musicians, conductors and actors are remembered, some of whom went on to pursue professional careers on stage and in the media. The groups also provided a meeting place for young people: many a romance blossomed at St John's Hall!

The Hall ceased to be used for theatrical entertainments after 1963 when it was sold by the church. It became a School of Fencing. It is now awaiting restoration and redevelopment by new owners.

The principal sources of information for the display are newspaper archives: national and Dublin newspapers gave extensive coverage of amateur productions in their theatre and music columns. Church and family records and personal reminiscences are also utilised.



Heritage Week in Sandymount

THEATRICAL ENTERTAINMENTS AT  
ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL,  
SANDYMOUNT  
1883-1963

A display for Heritage Week featuring amateur dramatic societies and choirs connected with the former Church Hall, including the St John's Society, the Pembroke Choral Society, the Pembroke Players, the Park Avenue Players and the Dublin Religious Drama Group.

Admission is free

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 12 noon to 4pm  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August 12 noon to 4pm

Venue: Church of St John the Evangelist, Park Avenue, Sandymount

Nearest DART Station: Sydney Parade  
Buses: C1, C2 and 47 stop at St John's; 4, 7 and 7A stop at Allesbury Road

Check out our website: [www.sandymount.dublin.anglican.org](http://www.sandymount.dublin.anglican.org)  
Follow us on Facebook: St John the Evangelist, Sandymount, Dublin 4

**Pop-Up Gaeltacht :** Since Sandymount has a large number of Irish language speakers, it has been proposed that we formulate an event - (tob- ghaeltacht). The current thinking is that it will coincide with St Patrick's Day when there is an existing Irish speaking 2 weeks : 'coicís na gaeilge'/

Here is a link for more information.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pop-Up\\_Gaeltacht](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pop-Up_Gaeltacht)

*Please contact Irene Duffy Lynch directly if you have ideas or would like to contribute in any way.*

## Notifications / Forward Events for your Calendar



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- **Sandymount Green** – DCC have advised that latin, jazz guitar music will return to every weekend in August.
- **Heritage Week** : St John's Church; 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> August as per above

- **Stradbally Rail Heritage Group** :

*"My name is Niall and I'm part of a new voluntary committee organising the "Premier Rose" diesel tour in Ireland from Dublin Connolly to Tralee (flyer attached) on Aug 20th. Our aim to is to raise funds and awareness for Ireland's smaller rail heritage groups, such as that in Stradbally.*

*We'd like to offer your members a special discount (15%) on this trip. All they need to do is use the coupon code SAMRA at the checkout <https://www.tailtours.com/events/the-premier-rose-railtour> (coupon code entry is to left as you fill name & details at booking stage)*

*If they want to bring friends that's fine too, all we ask is that the code isn't published on websites/social media etc but distributed internally.*

*As well as a fundraising event, we're also hoping that this tour can bring together different parts of the community so should be a nice sociable day out.*

*Passengers will have the option of just under 5 hours in Killarney or 3 in Tralee. There will be a catering trolley on board. Any questions give me a shout.*

*Kind regards,  
Niall Kelly  
The Táilte Tours Committee  
[www.tailtours.com](http://www.tailtours.com)"*

### **SAMRA Committee**

We are eager to continue to extend our reach through Twitter and it would be good if you would follow, share and like posts at the SAMRA account : @SAMRASandymount

Please do share this link with friends, neighbours and family. We do need more members to join.

<https://samra.ie/join-samra/> (\*\*please note that Paypal or cc/debit options are on this link\*\*)

**Committee Vacancies** : In particular, the role of **Secretary** but also in the **Planning & Development Sub Committee** run by Niall McElroy, where an interest and technical background would be of assistance.

We are also now looking for more support on the other sub-committees, since we have opened out those areas.

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Come and join us - we are making a positive difference to the beautiful area that we live within !!

<https://samra.ie/join-samra/> (*\*\*please note that Paypal or cc/debit options are on this link\*\**)

Please contact me directly, or any member of the committee.

**Best wishes from myself and the rest of the hard working SAMRA committee**

David Turner  
Chairman  
SAMRA  
Sandymount & Merrion Residents Association

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