

# BETTER BALLYMUN

**BALLYMUN 2020: THE START OF THE REVOLUTION!**  
BE INSPIRED, BE PROUD, BE MOVED! GET INVOLVED!!

## BETTER BALLYMUN DAY OF ACTION

Back in January, on a cold day dark day, a brilliant bright idea was born - by the awesome students from Trinity Comprehensive. The idea, simple. Create a Better Ballymun for everyone to live in. Supported by Ballymun Tidy Towns, teachers & the principal of Trinity Comprehensive, students rallied together clubs, agencies, organizations, Dublin City Council and locals from the area to take part in a day of action.

On the 28th of February, after weeks of meticulous planning, encouragement, support, begging, borrowing, and charming people into action- an army of volunteers invaded Ballymun and what unfolded was positively brilliant!  
The start of a REVOLUTION called 'BETTER BALLYMUN'



**700 STUDENTS (from local primary & secondary schools), 60 (Teachers & SNAs), 36 SITES, 7 SCHOOLS, 3 SPORTS CLUBS – 1 AMAZING DAY OF ACTION**

Who said learning was just for the classroom, Better Ballymun action day brought learning, development and purpose into the community in a practical and exciting way. Creativity shined as students busied themselves preparing fairy doors, bug hotels, bee bombs, history trails, bird houses – you name it! They also put into practice the theory of biodiversity, ecology, pollinators and got their hands dirty planting wildflower seeds, building bug hotels and planting pollinator seeds. Best of all the didn't travel in busses to some far-flung location to do this – they did it in their area, their playgrounds, their streets, their clubs – their community.



**Dublin City Council** collaborated with Trinity Comprehensive to create a cycling and running track around the school grounds. To accompany this track, they created a Slí na Sláinte walking route to encourage people to walk more and feel the health benefits.

**Trinity Comprehensive and the FAI**, with the assistance of Development Officer Neil Keohan, painted rules of street games in the school grounds and in Whitacre Park and Shangan Park.

**The Rediscovery Centre** hosted an educational stand in Trinity Comprehensive, highlighting the detrimental impact of litter, and the benefits of waste reuse and recycling. They also held demonstrations on how to divide litter in to recyclable, compostable and general waste. Seems simple right? Actually not, according to Repak – A THIRD OF all recycling bins in Ireland are contaminated.

**Biodiversity trails & signs**

Transforming a dull landscape to a delightful vision. Our students and volunteers planted up the site entrance at Musgraves with wildflowers and a Biodiversity Trail sign. If you are driving or walking by, take time have a look.





### Ballymun History Trail

Inspired by the rich history of Ballymun, students created a history trail for Better Ballymun day with eleven featured sites. Why not take a walk down memory lane and rediscover the history of Ballymun. From its origins, the seven towers, St. Pappins erection of St. Pappins Church in 1797 by the Christian king of Munster, to more recent history of our much loved shopping centre.



**Every CAN helps ! CAN you?** A group of young environmentalists (10-12 yr old) came together in the Reco centre, and decided to make a positive impact on the environment and the community. They linked in with Every Can Counts and collected cans, channelled their creativity, repurposing the cans into art. Taking the form of a recycling bin to remind their friends to recycle.

**Painting projects** – Brightening up the area with a lick of paint



Another highlight of Better Ballymun day was the **Sports Scholarship Garden in Trinity Comprehensive** which was transformed from a bare patch of ground to having a Hedgerow, some raised beds, and a mini orchard within a few hours. All working together with the expertise from Muriel Farrel and Stephen Hayden from 'The City Farm Ballymun' to build the garden. During lockdown, the garden has bloomed and has become productive, and were able to share the delights with the first harvested, Potatoes, Peas, Beans, and herbs – *From Garden to Fork – All Organic.*



And it didn't stop there! Since February, the spirit of a 'Better Ballymun' lives in the work and initiatives from local groups. Keep reading to see highlights of how locals took back control, took action and spread positivity in the area.



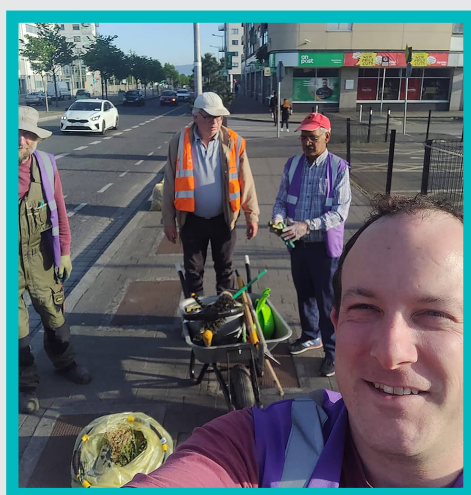


## MARCH: BALLYMUN TIDY TOWNS

Ballymun Tidy Towns have teamed up with Repak and Sunflower Recycling to help local community groups earn money through recycling aluminum cans and plastic bottles. If you want to join in just call into Nan's SuperValu or get in touch with Ballymun Tidy towns for more details.



Ballymun Tidy Towns volunteers are out on Wednesday, on our main street, cleaning, preening, and planting every week. It's a great organisation, a chance to meet likeminded people, contribute to the community and have a lot of fun along the way. If you are interested in finding out more, to join or set up a group – contact the Ballymun Tidy Towns Facebook, Instagram page or email [ballymuntt@gmail.com](mailto:ballymuntt@gmail.com)





## APRIL: LOCKDOWN JOY – BRYR STAY AT HOME GARDEN GAMES 2020

This year BRYR ran a programme called “Stay at home garden games”. We ran this in place of our Parks Programme which has run for the past 9 years and is funded through Dublin City Council.

Due to the pandemic & restrictions people had to stay at home, we were trying to come up with innovative ways of getting out into the community safely and stay in line Covid-19 restriction.

The games started at the beginning of April with two session per week covering up to four areas, and ran until 26th of August.

The Outreach & youth work staff from BRYR along with CE participants from BRYRs re-engage programme made up the team. To drum up interest our little army dropped leaflets, we then arrived the next day with information packs, and game toolkits. People joined in the fun from the safety of their front garden. During a time of isolation, worry, and boredom, the games were a welcome distraction for all ages.

Our team brought their ‘A -game’ with bundles of energy, fun and compassion – and for at least one hour, residents forgot their worries. We supported residents by providing practical support, having the chats and of course having fun playing games. The feedback we received was so humbling, the games lifted everyone spirits.

We finished on the 26th of August with a beautiful clean up and memorial day in Josephs way in memory of Devin and a celebration of his life, his family, friends and residents did an amazing job on the day and it was a privilege for us in BRYR to be part of that and a very special way for us to complete the programme for 2020. There is now a beautiful colourful bench in memory of Devin were his family & friends can sit and remember him.



## MAY: DRIVE THRU – PLANT COLLECTION – THANKS TO DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

As the world changed, and Covid-19 hit, many local environmental groups began to work hard in Ballymun in small groups to clean up, tidy up and spruce up their areas. Dublin City Council Community Development and Public Domain Staff Members organising a Covid Proofed plant donation and delivery day. 52 local groups received plant donations, some drove to Trinity Comprehensive and for those who couldn't make it Ballymun Tidy Towns (And Nans SuperValu) were on hand to deliver. Ballymunners don't let a global pandemic get in the way of progress!





## MAY: GREENING NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECTS – BOOSTING NEW GROUPS

Every year Dublin City Council Community Development and Public Domain Staff collaborate with Sharon Harvey from Global Action Plan Ballymun to carry out tree planting and educational workshops with newly formed environmental groups in the local area. The idea is to support & encourage new groups who want to get involved in making their area a nicer place to live- the impact is lasting with groups committing to maintaining & enhancing their area into the future. A lot have entered City Neighbourhood Competition for this year.



## JUNE :CLEAN UP, CLEAN UP. NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN DAY –

**7 sites , 4 new groups joining in this year:**

Areas included. Coultry Terrace, Coultry Crescent, Sillogue Park, Druid Court, Knowth Court, Trinity Comprehensive School and the Reco. As well as all the residents coming out to clean their area, Ballymun Tidy Towns volunteers and the staff of Trinity Comprehensive and BRYR came together to lend a hand. More hands make less work!!!

"A great day was had by all! Following the National Spring Clean day, an additional 3 groups of residents got in touch with Ballymun Tidy Towns and started doing regular clean ups in their area and their bit for our community."





## JULY: BALLYMUN TIDY TOWNS COMPETITION

The highlight of the calendar, showcasing months of planning, planting, dreaming and back breaking work pays off! **Ballymun Tidy Towns Competition** has been running for nine years and the organization itself is growing in numbers, and from strength to strength every year. With 2020 seeing double the number of entries vs 2019, across seven hotly contested categories. Drum roll please !

Winners take a bow!



**Best Young Person's Garden - Alex Fitzsimons**



**Best Front Garden - Joe O Grady**



**Best Open Area - Joe's Patch**



**Best Enclosed Area - William Boland**



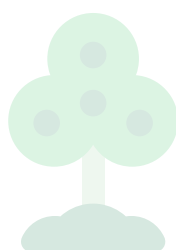
**Best Shop Front - Lavery's Pharmacy**



**Best Community Garden - Muck and Magic**



**Best Youth Group Garden - Sports Scholarship Garden**







## JULY: Sika COME ON BOARD FOR 'BETTER BALLYMUN' COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

There is a saying - "positivity breeds positivity", that's was the case when Sika Ireland staff volunteered with young people from Better Ballymun, Poppintree Youth Project and The City Farm Ballymun for an initiative. Time was spent cutting grass, collecting waste and planting – with a few extra hands and a few hours of time the road instantly transformed.

Declan Carroll, Managing Director at Sika Ireland said: "We are extremely delighted to be involved and be able to contribute to the community clean-up project. It's very rewarding to see young people and our staff come together, so we can make our community a better place for all."

To maintain the good work and support the community, Sika Ireland will undertake an ongoing clean-up on a monthly basis.

Well done to all for playing their part in this initiate which aims to bring a Better Ballymun.





## JULY: BETTER BALLYMUN GET SERIOUS

Illegal dumping is a widespread in Irish community, it has such a negative impact on the environment and community. Students of Trinity Comprehensive got serious and created posters to highlight the devastation and encourage people to recycle & reuse



## AUGUST: THE BUTT STOPS HERE !

Ballymun Tidy Towns have teamed up with NoButts.ie to install 10 Stashtrays around Ballymun. NoButts.ie recycles the cigarette butts collected into reusable plastic – who knew? This stops the butts from being washed out to sea in storm drains or going to landfill.

Smokers, if you're out and about in Ballymun do your bit for community & the environment, PUT YOUR BUTT IN THE STASHTRAYS!





## SPOTLIGHTS

### A MAP TO CARE PROJECT

This project was one of the great initiatives which ran alongside Ballymun regeneration. The premise was to invite the local residents of Ballymun, as well as people from other areas, to purchase, or, in Gerz's terms to 'donate', a tree for Ballymun and thereby contributing to the future prosperity, beauty and greening of the area. Over a period of 18 months, each of the 637 trees were planted.

Did you donate a tree as part of the Amaptocare (A map to care) project? Would like to locate a tree? Do you have a tree beside you whose plaque is broken/damaged? We would like to map and try to fix the plaques from the original Amaptocare project. Please get in touch with us at [ballymuntt@gmail.com](mailto:ballymuntt@gmail.com) or through the Ballymun Tidy Towns Facebook and Instagram pages



### A City Farm For Ballymun

The Ballymun City Farm Project is truly amazing project that has been developed by a group of local residents over the last few years. A sustainable community project, built by our community, run by our community, for our community.

The project aims to put the heart back in Ballymun by creating a welcoming, safe, thriving community space where all members of our community, our children, teenagers, adults, senior citizens and families can come together to learn and have fun.

The idea is inspiring, build a city farm on a few acres in the middle of an urban area – Ballymun. The vision includes creating community gardens, kitchen gardens, rearing native Irish animals, nature trails (accessible to all) in an area surrounded with native trees and hedge rows. Creating an educational and recreational space for Ballymun and surrounding communities and a visitor attraction that will contribute to the social, environmental and economic regeneration of the area.

The city farm will work with other attractions in the area to create opportunities for local businesses to bloom, create opportunities for employment and training and make a contribution to create a sustainable town centre and a thriving community for generations.

Agreement has been reached with Dublin City Council on the location for the city farm and discussions are underway about how much land will be provided.

For further information on the project on our website: [www.ballymuncityfarm.ie](http://www.ballymuncityfarm.ie) or the Ballymun City Farm facebook page.



## Going Wild in Ballymun

Amateur photographer Mick Keating shares some of this handy work. 'Beauty & the wonders of nature surrounds us every day, take the time to appreciate.'



Buzzard at Ikea



Willow warbler, allotments



Peacock butterfly, muck and magic

## Freshways – inspired to support

As Ireland's award-winning sandwich and Food To Go producer, Freshways is a local, sustainably-minded Irish business, based in Poppintree. Freshways is delighted to be involved in the 'Better Ballymun' initiative.

*'We have been very impressed with the work of 'Better Ballymun' and we commend the students of Trinity Comprehensive, as well as many other local schools, youth clubs and community organisations, for their ongoing commitment to the development and upkeep of their local area. They are a credit to their parents and teachers and a fantastic example of what a community can achieve when it comes together. We are proud to support and encourage their wonderful efforts through our donation of benches for local schools made by PACE social enterprises'*

Diarmuid Shanahan, Managing Director

## Muck and Magic Community Garden

The Muck and Magic Community Garden is a peaceful oasis just off Ballymun main street at Coultry Gardens.

Throughout the year volunteers meet up in the garden on Monday and Wednesday mornings and every Saturday growing a wide variety of fruit and vegetables. Everything grown in the garden is shared by the volunteers.

The garden also has a lovely wooded area, a sensory garden, herb beds, apple and pear trees, raised beds and a large variety of flowers and shrubs.

If you'd like to learn how to garden, how to grow your own fruit and vegetables or you just want to get out in the fresh air and meet other members of our community, the Muck and Magic Community Garden is the place for you.

Come along on one of our volunteer days - Monday and Wednesday 10.30am to 1pm and Saturday from 11am to 2pm and get involved.

For further information check the Muck and Magic facebook page, email: [community.garden@muckandmagic@gmail.com](mailto:community.garden@muckandmagic@gmail.com) or phone Stephen at Ph: 083 1995123



## Get involved ! Better Ballymun Day 18th of September

The spirit of a 'Better Ballymun' seems to have touched so many people & organisations within our community, and we'd like to keep the momentum and inspirational work up! So this is your chance to get involved, be part of something bigger, be part of our community. Do good and feel good! The next day of action is on September 18th details below.

There is a whole movement of positive groups, proammges and associations in Ballymun to get involved with. See below for a flavour of whats planned for the big day, if you would like further details, don't be shy drop us a note. Absolutely everyone is welcome.

## BETTER BALLYMUN DAY – FRIDAY 18TH SEPT, 1PM TO 3PM

Project	Description	Location
Gabion Walls project	Building walls and benches using reclaimed materials from the old Shopping Centre	Trinity Comprehensive RECO, Rediscovery Centre
Ghost Trail launch	Designed and written by pupils with help from the Afric, Aideen and the school JCSP Library.	Trinity Comprehensive
Recycle your old clothes	Clothes collected (must be bagged) for a FASHION SHOW at a future date	Trinity Comprehensive School
Buddy Benches	Freshways to donate Buddy Benches to five local Primary Schools and to Trinity Comprehensive- all schools will clean up outside their school that afternoon, with pizza refreshments kindly donated by Sika	Trinity Comprehensive 5 local primary schools
Traffic surveys	To be completed by Trinity CSPE and Geography classes and BTT and UCD, to increase awareness coming up to World Car free day	TBC
Practical Gardening Workshops	Stephen and Muriel from CITY FARM will deliver outdoor practical workshop to the Sports Scholarship Garden pupils and the Parents Polytunnel group, so that both groups can grow food effectively. This food will help, among others, people in Direct Provision.	Trinity Comprehensive
Outdoor Circuit Training	Dean Scurry and St Mgt residents will design and paint up an outdoor circuit training area	
Planting	There will be planting in several areas	Marewood, Behind SuperValu SantryCross

**For queries call 0861743836**

Well we hope we have inspired you to find out more, get involved in Better Ballymun Day or indeed with any of the organization features. All enquiries please call 0861743836

*There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what is cares about' Margaret J Wheatley*