



From Budapest to Brussels, from London to Lisbon, millions of people will be participating in events across Europe to celebrate European Neighbours Day on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. And in Dublin it will be no different with activities taking place all over the City. Through Dublin City Council's Community Development Section, residents will be encouraged to host a wide variety of events to celebrate goodwill, reduce barriers of isolation and develop a better sense of community in our neighbourhoods.

"European Neighbours Day gives us a way of celebrating our existing friendships and building on new contacts in our communities" said Lord Mayor Cllr. Paddy Bourke. "Being the Year of Intercultural Dialogue, I urge all Dubliners to make a special effort this year to celebrate with your neighbours on 27th May. The Day is a reminder to each and everyone of us to reach out to those who feel isolated by simply having a chat with your neighbour or by taking part in the activities organised."

## EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS' DAY – EVENTS PROGRAMME 2008

Events will take place on European Neighbours Day, unless specified:

- **European Neighbours Day Ceremony** at the Mansion House on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May at 12.30pm. The President of the European Federation of Local Solidarity and creator of the European Neighbours Day, Atanase Perifan will be arriving from Paris to present the Lord Mayor with the European Neighbours Day diploma and officially thank the City of Dublin for its continued support to the initiative.
- To also mark European Year Of Intercultural Dialogue, European Neighbours Day will see the launch of the **'Let's Walk & Talk – New Shores, Ancient Footprints'** initiative, the purpose of which is to educate Irish people and new communities about other cultures that exist in the city. The theme for the evening will be **'The Jewish Community in Dublin'** and taking place will be an historical walking tour of the old Jewish Quarter (Meeting Point: Outside The Barge Pub, Charlemont Street at 7pm) led by leading historian, Pat Liddy followed by a reception (8.45pm) at Tailors Hall which will provide an opportunity for participants to sample Jewish culture. This will include a screening of the short film 'Blind Eye' and a panel discussion about how the Jewish Community has contributed to life in Dublin. Fine Gael Spokesperson on Children, Deputy Alan Shatter, Joe Briscoe and producer of 'Blind Eye', Mary Rose Doorly will be on the panel. Other panellists are yet to be confirmed.
- The finale to the music & dance programme for over 50s, **'Too Young to be Old'** will take place at the National Concert Hall on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 4.30pm and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 1pm. Run as part of the Bealtaine Festival in association with the National Concert Hall, H.S.E. and one of Ireland's premier contemporary dance companies, CoisCéim Dance Theatre, Dublin City Council ran over 20 taster dance and music workshops in sheltered housing schemes and local community centres from March to May in preparation for the big event.
- **'A Time to Dance'** photographic exhibition will be launched at Ballyfermot Civic Centre on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> May from 6-10pm with an evening of song and dance. The exhibition will feature photos of residents from our Sheltered Housing schemes who appeared in the Ann Henrick/Maeve Binchy book, 'A Time to Dance'.
- Sport will be the theme of European Neighbours' Day celebrations at Cabra Sports Centre, John Paul Park, Cabra where an **Intercultural 7-A-Side Football Tournament** for boys and girls will take place on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-8pm.

- A wide selection of flowers will be on offer at reduced prices as part of **Santry In Bloom** which will be held in Santry Community Resource Centre from 5-7pm. Tea & coffee will also be available so people can relax, have a chat and get to know their neighbours.
- Two further **Plant Sales** will take place on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> May at 11am in St. Finbarrs GAA Club, Fassaugh Avenue and in Cabra Sports Centre, John Paul Park.
- The **California Hills Clean Up** will take place in Ballyfermot all day and involve local school children. Refreshments will also be served throughout the day.
- Ballygall Women's Group are hosting a **Coffee Morning** in Fr. Maloney Hall from 10.30-12.30pm for the local community. This friendly get together will enable the Ballygall Women's Group to outline and promote their activities as well as providing an opportunity for the local community to find out about the entire range of activities taking place in Fr. Maloney Hall on a daily basis.
- A speaker from Finglas for Diversity Group will be invited along to a **Coffee Morning** organised by Project West C.D.P from 10.30-1pm. The focus of the day will be on inclusion and to highlight diversity of cultures in the area.
- Finglas South C.D.P. are also organising a **Coffee Morning** for users of St. Helena's Family Resource Centre and the local community at St. Helena's Family Resource Centre, St. Helena's Road, Finglas South from 11.30 -1.30pm. A local resident who is originally from Nigeria will be invited along to speak and compare life in Nigeria to life in Finglas today.
- An **All Day Open Day** will take place at Ringsend & Irishtown Community Centre, the hub of much community activity in the area.
- A **Tea Dance** will be hosted by Ringsend Active Retirement Association at St. Patricks C.Y.M.S. from 2-5pm.
- Rathmines Close will be a hive of activity from 5.30-8.30pm where a **Street Party** will be organised by residents of Rathmines Road Upper and Close.
- Following on from the success of previous years, Leinster Road West in Rathmines will again host a **Barbeque** for local residents. This will be supported as always by The Salvation Army Community Ministry.

- A **Community Musical Evening** will take place at Smock Alley at 9pm
- **Mass, Procession and Community Get Together** will take place on Ascension Thursday at Westland Row, organised by Boyne Street Residents Group
- A **Street Party** will take place from 7-9pm at Markievicz House
- Another Community **'Let's Walk & Talk'** will take place from outside the Barge Pub on Charlemont Street at 2pm. The leisurely walk will go along the Canal and surrounding area.
- On the Northside of the City, a Community **'Let's Walk & Talk'** of the Phoenix Park will take place on Sunday, 25th May. Meeting Point is the Parkgate Street Entrance to the Phoenix Park at 2pm.
- A Community **'Let's Walk & Talk'** to Bull Island & Dollymount Strand will take place from Raheny DART Station at 2pm on Wednesday, 28th May
- A **Musical Evening** hosted by Pearse House Development Group will take place at St. Andrew's Resource Centre for the residents of Pearse House, St. Andrew's Court, and Leo Fitzgerald Housing Complexes. Entertainment will be provided by St. James Brass & Reed Band.
- A **Coffee Morning** will take place at Cabra Sports Centre on Thursday, 29th May at 10am
- A **Celebratory Party** will take place in Westcourt, Dublin 8 from 4-6 pm for local residents.

**A host of other events** from street parties to environmental projects to tea parties are yet to be confirmed!

**For further details and updates, please contact Ronan O'Donnell on 2223726 or visit [www.dublincity.ie](http://www.dublincity.ie)**

