

Welcome to the New Year and January edition of Schull District and Community Council Newsletter.

Lots of babies have celebrated their very first Christmas and more of us have celebrated more than we care to remember. Now we look forward to a New Year with all that it will bring us, political uncertainty, environmental issues and dancing priests. Lots of imponderables!

Christmas in Schull is always lovely. There is a wonderfully festive, expectant atmosphere, built up by the traditional rituals. First the boxes of biscuits, of Roses and of Quality Street appear in the shops, then decorations start to sparkle in homes and businesses, the street lights go up, (thank you Denis O'Leary), Santa arrives in the Fire Tender to illuminate the Tree of Light, there is singing, sweets and hot chocolate for all hands. Santa, busy man, also makes a visit to the Schull Pre-School Christmas concert, more sugar-fuelled fun! Seeing the lights on in the newly-opened Townhouse OD's on Main Street added to the cheer this season.

The Christmas Swim



The Carol Services in both churches are wonderful celebrations of Christmas. On the day the religious services are well-attended and joyful. The last public event is the Christmas Swim, held in aid of the Cope Foundation. This year there were hundreds of people there, to swim and to spectate. An estimated 200 people, some in their eighties and one who was only three, ran enthusiastically into the grey and chilly (6.5°) North Atlantic at midday on Christmas Day. After all the splashing and whooping there was a bit of swimming, not a lot in fairness, but there WAS swimming. Afterwards everyone gathered to wish each other Happy Christmas and to enjoy being together on this special day. The contents of several thermos flasks, which may have (or may not have) contained tea and coffee circulated freely and promoted comfort and joy to the frozen swimmers and to their loyal support teams. There is great credit due to everyone who took part and to the tireless organisers. An estimated 200 swimmers took part and over €2,200 was collected on the pier on the day. Additional donations and sponsorship cards have yet to be added to the total. Well done, everyone.

The Schull Baubles have been a great success. Lots of them decorated Christmas trees in Australia, Canada, America and more exotic locations where our children and grandchildren are living and working, a small, but important connection. A large amount of the baubles was sold online as well, destination unknown. Our little town has a big influence.

The Council has been working on several projects over the last few weeks. The damaged barriers on the pathway "south the fields" have been replaced with handsome vandal-proof fences made from recycled material. They look really well. Along the Tracks a new hedge has been planted, consisting of dog rose, hawthorn and blackthorn. These are native species and will provide a valuable habitat for insects, birds and small animals. With their abundant sharp thorns they should also be an effective repellent to larger, human animals with scant regard for the environment. The third addition to the pleasures of the foreshore walk is a delightful flagged seating area at the eastern end of the pathway, beyond the tennis courts and The Acres.

New Year, new resolutions... according to the media and the supermarkets we should be leaping, lycra-clad and de-toxified, via a rigid regime of vegan-fuelled activity, into 2020. The reality is different and much more attainable. We live in a beautiful place, enjoy it, get outside, walk on the beaches, in the woods and on the way marked tracks. Use the outdoor gym, jump in the sea, it won't kill you, join a book club, all these activities are free, they will cost you nothing and the benefits are beyond price. Enjoy the amazing local fish, meat, dairy products and vegetables that are so readily available. Careers have been built on stating the blindingly obvious fact that everything I've just mentioned is good for you and makes you feel good. Aren't we lucky....!

To all the little people who are celebrating their first new year, to those of us who have celebrated many, many of them and to everyone, we wish you everything that's good for 2020.

Schull & District Community Council is very grateful to all who got involved in the fund-raising Baubles project during Christmas. Thank you to Sabine Lenz for the excellent and meaningful design and to her team at Enibas for facilitating us in selling the 2019 Schull Bauble online. There are now over 100 baubles in treasured collections all over the world! Thank you to all the shop owners who very kindly sold them throughout the village and thanks to every one of you who bought one or two or three or more! Special thanks goes to Julia Zagar for managing the project and for pulling it all together. The S&DCC appreciates this show of support and will use the funds generated by this initiative for future local community based projects.

The Shop Local for Christmas initiative also had great support from locals and visitors alike. Many people mentioned that they did all their Christmas shopping in Schull and were rightly proud of doing so. The winners of the prizes are listed below. Well done to the organisers and in particular to Miriam Pyburn and Finola Quinlan.

SCHULL SHOP LOCAL WINNERS 2019

SCHULL HARBOUR HOTEL -MARGARET O'SULLIVAN	BROSNANS HARDWARE -COLETTE NEWMAN
NICKIE'S CAFÉ – JOEL DAVIS	CENTRA -ROISIN WALSH
NEW HAVEN -EVA O'CONNOR	MODERN BOTANY -EILEEN MC CARTHY
VILLAGE BOUTIQUE -DON O'DONOVAN	HARBOUR BAY FLOWERS -IRENE MCSWEENEY
CLASSIC TOUCH -ELEANOR O'DRISCOLL	COURTYARD CRAFTS -VERA LAVIN
NEWMAN'S WEST -MICHAEL SUPPLE	ANNA B'S BOOKSHOP -BILLY MCCARTHY
NEWMAN'S WEST -MAEVE HOURIHAN	EAST MEETS WEST -CATHERINE KELLEHER
HACKETT'S -NOREEN MCGIBBON	ENIBAS -POLLY BARETT
TOWNHOUSE O'D'S -TIFFANY CLEARY	PEBBLES -ALAN OLLIER
BARNETT'S -MATILDA ROYCROFT	BUNRATTY INN -VLADIMIR
DRINAGH PHARMACY -MARGARET LEAHY	MCS -TIM O'LEARY
ROARING WATER HEALTH FOOD -PEGGY MURPHY	VALERIKA'S BEAUTY STUDIO -PAUL CAHILL
PRESENT COMPANY -TARA MANN	HERMANN BRUNNER ART -WHELTON FAMILY

Schull Community College will have its Open Evening on Thursday January 16th 2020 starting at 6pm and the **SCC Parents Association's** next meeting is on Monday 13th January at 8pm. All are welcome.

Brú Columbanus On behalf of everyone who has benefitted from the home-away-from-home facility in Cork, from everyone who volunteers there, and from all of the dedicated volunteers that run the charity shop here in Schull we would

like to thank you, our generous donors and enthusiastic shoppers for supporting this very worthy cause. It has been a tremendous year. Funds raised in Schull have contributed hugely to the running of the centre in Wilton. This year saw the renovation and updating of the kitchen facilities, making them more comfortable, efficient and welcoming. So pat yourselves on the back and know that what you do DOES help. A big thank you must go to everyone who helped make our move earlier this year, go as smoothly as possible, we are well settled in now. We enjoy being more in the centre of the Main Street, though we reckon we wouldn't have been flooded if we had been up the street! We are looking forward to another great year and are planning a couple of workshops aimed at repairing, repurposing and restyling clothes, look out for posters or follow us on Facebook for details. And please, remember us when the spring-cleaning and the clearing out bug strikes! We welcome donations of pretty much anything (though unfortunately we are not in the position to accept any electrical goods) as long as they are in good repair, clean and safe. We wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2020.

Mizen Tennis Club had its annual Winter Tournament on 29th December, and 16 keen players fought with commendable enthusiasm for glory on Schull's beautiful court. This is the only playable public court on the entire Mizen Peninsula – but what a view! Luckily on the 29th there was almost no wind, and the overcast conditions were perfect for concentrated play - no distracting glare off the sea! In the closely-fought finals, Julian van Hasselt and Richard Gordon lost narrowly to Daniel Joyce and Anthony Neuberger. Prizes were presented by Councillor Katie Murphy (who actually also played in the first half of the Tournament but generously gave up her racquet then to Shane who had drawn the wild card from Ballydehob). Newman's provided the delicious pizza refreshments afterwards. Altogether the success of this Tournament shows that Schull needs a second court re-furnished by CCC as soon as possible - a game for life and a game for all ages, and all seasons indeed! And a growing sport on the Mizen Peninsula.

Scoraíocht & Company This month's theme for the S&C gathering is Circles. That whole sense of cycles, of things coming around again, of wheels turning, Karen & Julia will accept almost any interpretation! Join in if you want to, or just come down and be the audience. (we really want to emphasise that you are under no obligation to perform, you will not be put on the spot to contribute unless you want to! We are delighted if you do, but we really do appreciate an audience!). As always, Bridie will have lit the fire on Thursday 23rd and expect a fabulous evening of shared stories, songs, poems and maybe a bicycle or two?? From 8pm. For more information follow the facebook page.

Schull Tidy Towns Committee would like to thank everybody who supported them financially or manually over the past year in aiming to ensure that Schull is presented as a clean, tidy and pleasurable place for its residents and visitors. Also the support of Cork County Council, Schull Community Council and CE workers is very much appreciated.

Here's What's Happening!



Acapellabella Community Choir is a women's choir that meets weekly at The Old Bank House in Schull from 7.30-9.30pm every Thursday. New members are very welcome - no previous experience needed. Contact Caz on 0831425599 or by email at cazjeffreys@gmail.com for more info.

Pop-up Gaeltacht over coffee every Monday morning at 10am in Schull Harbour Hotel. Open to all and you only need a cúpla focal to participate.

Schull Bridge Club meets every Thursday evening at 8 to 11pm at the Satellite Centre (Old Boys School) Cost €5. Cash prizes. Free lessons (individual or group) are available – tel Martin on 028 28292 for info.

Fastnet Trails There are eight signed Walks branching out from the Schull Trailhead that is located at the entrance to the East End car park in Schull. These walks vary from easy to moderate in grade and they “offer the walker a unique tapestry of landscapes and seascapes, where every turn allows a fresh view of the heart of West Cork”

Outdoor Gym is located beside the Tennis Courts and is free to use by anyone over the age of 16.

Mizen Head opening hours for the winter are Weekends from 11am to 4pm. Enquiries to Mizen Information and e-Centre, Goleen on 028 35000.

Schull Tennis Club meets every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 9.30am at the Tennis Courts. New participants are always welcome.

Parking in Schull Free car parking is available in all the car parks in Schull. If you must park on the Main Street please observe the parking regulations and especially do not park on double yellow lines! There is a Traffic Warden on duty who carries out spot checks at random and will issue fines for parking offences.

Schull Primary School offers a morning and afternoon Club service. Contact 087 775 4254.

Schull Toddler Group meets every Thursday from 9.30 to 11.30am in the Parish Hall. For more information contact Katie Ward on 086 35 65 276.

Schull Tidy Towns Volunteers meet every Saturday morning at 10am to do a Litter Pick. Extra hands are always welcome. Meet at the front of the Pier Road Car Park – it's only for a couple of hours. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Shut Up & Write West Cork This writer's support group aims to build community and inspire you to write! The group meets every Saturday from 10:30-12 @Newman's West upstairs. After introductions over tea or coffee and maybe cake, the timer goes off and everyone writes without talking for an hour. Stay after to celebrate and socialize. Admission is free. For more information contact organiser Jeanne Sullivan Billeci at www.meetup.com/Shut-Up-Write-West-Cork

Schull Services

Schull Meals on Wheels at the Social Centre or delivered to your home. Phone Nuala at 086 3159719

Schull Credit Union Opening times - Tuesdays and Fridays 9:30 am – 12:30 and 1:30 - 5 pm. Saturday 9:30 am – 1 pm. Phone 028 28666

Derryconnell Civic Amenity Centre – Open Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 am – 12:30 pm & 1:30 pm – 4:20 pm. Saturdays 9 am – 1 pm. Phone 028 37048

Bus Times Schull to Cork: Mondays – Saturdays 08:05, 12:40 and 17:50. Sunday 16:30 only. Departs from top of Main Street (outside the Film Centre/Old Bank). Also check Bus Éireann on line for up-to-date information. Route number is 237.

Free Wi-Fi There is free Wi-fi access in Schull village which is available by connecting to the **Free-WiFi** internet connection. This service is provided free of charge by our local internet service provider DigitalForge.

Mizen Medical Practice – all enquires and appointments phone 028 28311. Out of hours service phone SouthDoc 1850-335-999

Drinagh Pharmacy Schull – 028 - 28108

Defibrillators are located outside Brosnan's Centra on Main Street, outside Schull Harbour Hotel, at the Pier and at the Garda Station.

AIB Mobile Community Banking – Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays Ballydehob – 9:30 am – 10:30 am. Schull – 10:45 am – 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. ATMs in Schull outside Brosnan's Centra and inside Centra.

Mass Times – Mondays and Fridays 9 am in Schull, Tuesdays and Thursdays

10 am in Goleen, Wednesdays 10 am in Ballydehob. Saturday night Lowertown 8 pm. Sundays – Ballydehob 9:30 am, Schull 10:30 am and Goleen 12 noon.

Church of Ireland Services – Sundays Schull 10 am, Toormore 11:30 am, Ballydehob 11:30 am.

Schull Library Opening Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – 2.30pm-5.30pm. Wednesday – 9.30am-1pm & 2pm-5.30-pm. Saturday – 9.30am-1:30pm. Closed on Saturdays of bank holiday weekends. Closed Mondays. Phone number 028 - 28290

Schull Garda Station – Office (028) 28111 or Mobile 087 980 2865. In the case of an emergency always call 999.

Recycling Facilities There is a collection point at the pier for bottles and cans. Clothing (ONLY) is accepted at the textile recycling point at the rear of the playschool/Church car park.

Public Toilets & Showers are located close to the Pier. Open from 8.30am to 8.30pm everyday. Showers cost €2 for a five minute shower.

Schull Coast Guard is on call 24/7. Call 999 or 112 if you are in trouble or if you see others that need assistance.

Editor's Notes

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this month's Newsletter. We are always delighted to receive updates from any club, business, society, group, voluntary committee, etc.

Being January there isn't as much happening as at other times so it's a slimmed-down newsletter this month! If you have any feedback please email it to our email address below.

If you wish to place an Ad in the Newsletter it costs €10 for a Text only Ad and €20 for a quarter-page Ad (discount for multiple ads).

And special mention to Master JJ Doherty who distributes the newsletter all over town each month.

Please email your news items, ads or notification of upcoming events to schullnewsletter@gmail.com on or before the 24th of each month.

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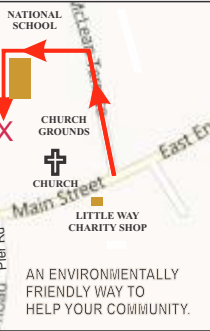
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West Cork Rural Transport

from
SCHULL

to BANTRY

TUES. (10.20am)(2.20pm)

FRI. (10.20am)(2.40pm)

to SKIBBEREEN

WED. (10.50am)

to GOLEEN

WED.(2.30pm)



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Derek Baillie, Barley Cove, Goleen.

This newsletter can be viewed online @ schullcommunitycouncil.ie