

WELCOME TO OUR

Quarterly Newsletter

the community voice is needed now more than ever

SANTRY FORUM STRATEGIC PLANNING

No group can thrive without planning for the future. With this in mind, the committee set aside two dates to discuss a strategic plan to help Santry Forum thrive. The outcomes from these meetings include:

Introducing a Paid Membership Model to help fund the work of the Forum. Government funding has been secured to support future projects, such as 'Meitheal', which the Forum hopes to launch in November. However, the need to be self-funding is critical and the paid membership model has been introduced to achieve this. To support the work of the SantryForum and become a member, a €20 per year fee applies, which can be paid using the stripe link - <https://santryforum.ie/become-a-member-santry-forum/> or by bank transfer using the IBAN: IE096 AIBK 9323 5334 9580 63 (BIC AIBKIE2E).

A commitment to a stronger Online Presence, including the aim of posting on social media at least once a week. If any community groups have news or events they wish the Forum to share, email using the address included in this newsletter so it can be added to the website and social media platforms.

Collaboration with Local Resident Associations to create a deeper understanding of the community's needs. Santry Forum will contact Resident Associations that they have contacts for over the next few weeks. If you are a recently revived Resident Association and Santry Forum doesn't have your details, get in touch via e-mail.

If anyone is interested in helping out with fundraising activities who may not be able to commit to a committee, please get in touch. All support is very much welcomed and needed.

CHADWICKS SITE UPDATE

In May, Santry Forum became aware of another submission by Dwyer Nolan to develop this site with 321 units over 13 stories. With a tight submission deadline of three weeks and a proverbial mountain of paperwork and submissions to review, this was no easy task. Nevertheless Santry Forum produced a submission to DCC covering some eight significant deficiencies of the scheme, including density, creche and school places.

The application was approved by DCC with some minor adjustments, including increased creche spaces. The approval was appealed to An Bord Pleanala, who are still considering the matter. Santry Forum also became aware of a legal dispute between Chadwicks and the site owners over entitlement to a new lease. This matter is still before the courts and it is likely that An Bord Pleanala will issue their decision only when the courts rule on the legal case.

A VISION FOR SANTRY – THE SANTRY COMMUNITY QUARTER UPDATE

As part of the vision development by Santry Forum for Shanowen Lands (the Garda station site), work was recently completed on a project with students from the DCU Masters in International Business, seeking to commercialise our proposals.

Their paper, extending to 120 pages, incorporates the identification of strategic partners that would have a fit with the location and currently have capacity constraints of their own, while providing estimated costings that allow a high-level quantification of an annual rental cost as a feasibility measure. This work has provided us with a template that requires refinement, particularly with regard to costings, and an accountant aims to have completed this work during the next month.

Separately, Santry Forum has met with the Executive Director of DCU's Innovation Campus and Roisin Shortall TD, who made several useful suggestions. As a result, adjustments may be required to the original plan in order to enhance community gain.

Public meetings will be planned once adjustments are completed to discuss the proposals further. Following those meetings, the next step will be to approach the stakeholders / possible strategic partners to advance the project.

NEW BIODIVERSITY ACTION GROUP IN SANTRY

A warm welcome to the NEW Santry Biodiversity Action Group. This group only started up in June and have already a few projects under their belt. Members have attended biodiversity and climate action workshops sponsored by Dublin City Council. Alongside members of the Greenfield Residents Association and Santry Forum, the Santry Biodiversity Action Group had an outing to the Mud Island Community Garden and learned all about how that garden started up and how it thrives today.

In August, they undertook a big task, namely a clean-up day of Santry River. This was done in conjunction with Santry Tidy Towns and the Santry Community Garden. One observation from the clean-up was the noticeable decline in bottles and cans for collection, possibly due to the new deposit return scheme.

Members also had a field trip to Finglas Library to hear (&see)all about planters and how to create urban green spaces. They also hosted an outing in Santry Community Garden, with locals invited along, where they learned all about the history and the current workings of the garden. In September, they hosted their most widely supported event to date - a bat walk in Santry Demesne where they saw lots of Soprano pipstrels. Check out the video - <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/MBRJMkHDPV6mZdem/?mibextid=KsPBc6>

We wish the Santry Biodiversity Action Group every success in their future projects and encourage the community to support them in any way they can. Give them a follow on Facebook where you'll find group updates and videos, or pop them an email at santrybiodiversity@gmail.com.

FOREVER CHEMICALS - WHAT ARE THEY?

In 1938, a chemist stumbled across a substance that would change the world forever. He was experimenting when he noticed that one compound had transformed into a white, waxy solid. It had extraordinary properties, being impervious to heat and chemical degradation and was also extremely slippery. It was the first of a group called perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), better known as forever chemicals. Almost as soon as it was invented, concerns were raised about its potential impacts on the environment and our bodies.

Today, the world is finally getting to grips with just how dangerous forever chemicals can be to our health and is addressing the problem head on. In January, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added nine forever chemicals to its list of hazardous constituents, and last month, the US imposed its first ever limits on levels of PFAS in drinking water, in a belated bid to reduce exposure to these ubiquitous chemicals.

But what risks do they actually pose and what should we be doing to remove them from our lives? Researchers face a huge challenge in finding the answers but are starting to make real headway. PFAS are a diverse group of about 16,000 artificial chemicals used in a vast array of products. What they all have in common are fluorine atoms attached to carbon atoms. To qualify as one of the PFAS, a molecule must contain at least one "fully fluorinated" methyl or methylene group, a carbon atom with all its available bonds occupied by a fluorine.

The name "forever chemical" is derived from the fact that they are incredibly stable, immensely heat tolerant, resistant to chemical degradation and also thoroughly repellent to water and oils. This combination of properties makes them useful in all sorts of applications, including stain-resistant furniture and carpets, food packaging, personal care products, paints, varnishes and firefighting foams.

It also means that when they inevitably leak into the wild, they hang around for a long, long time, hundreds or even thousands of years according to Zhanyun Wang at ETH Zurich in Switzerland. PFAS pollution has been found extensively in surface water and groundwater, soils and outdoor air, and has adverse effects on wildlife, and can cause suppressed immunity and reproductive issues in some animals, even at tiny concentrations.

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW BUSINESSES IN SANTRY

Wash N Go

Open 7 days a week from 7.30am - 9.30pm, all your laundry needs are taken care of. Located at the Swiss Cottage, drop by, call them on 0852581916, or follow on Instagram @washngosantry.

Recovery@theHub

To aid your health & wellbeing, this new business located at Santry Place caters for ages from 18+. From yoga & pilates classes to access to their cold tub/hot tub/infrared sauna/mobility zone and compression boots. More info at www.recoveryatthehub.com or phone 0873779746.

Spar

A new Spar has opened at the Swiss Cottage including a Deli, to cater for your grocery and general household needs.

CREATING A SENSE OF PLACE

SANTRY WOODS THROUGH THE AGES - PART ONE

Those of us old enough to remember the 'Dark Wood' and the destruction of Santry Woods might be surprised to learn that it was not a new phenomenon! Under the terms of his 1172 grant from Henry II, the Norman, Hugh de Lacy was permitted to make grants around Dublin, establishing the de Feypo family at Santry. In 1303 an orchard in the de Feypo manor in Santry was reported to have 200 apple trees and 100 pear trees covering an area of around three acres. The de Feypos originated in Herefordshire, a part of England noted for its fruit growing and they possibly had a particular expertise in fruit production.

However, in 1302 all was not well! In the previous year, Simon de Feypo alleged a most extreme case of woodland destruction in bringing a case against Theobald de Verdun. He alleged that De Verdun, who was his overlord and had been administering the manor of Santry during the minority of the heir – sometime between 1274 and 1296 – had committed serious damage to manorial buildings and resources. In particular, he had destroyed 200 apple trees valued at £200, 100 pear trees at £10, 30,000 great ash trees valued at £200 and 1,000 great alders worth £60 (approx. £60,400 in 2024).

De Verdun denied the charge, saying that he only cut down twelve ash and twelve alders during his wardship. Whatever the truth of the case, it is clear that there was a very extensive and valuable area of woodland attached to the manor of Santry and the great wood of ash and alder is likely to have been part of the native forest running from Swords and east to Clontarf, with the ash and alder growing naturally together. The ash was valuable for all sorts of farm implements while the alder was prized for its property of absorbing water without decaying and was used to underpin bridges, and make tracks across boggy land etc.

An account by William de Moenes from 1302 details the felling of rods and the construction of hurdles for use in horse stalls on ships. William Dunning of Santry was in charge of the hurdle – makers assembled at All Hallows and it would appear that therods originated in the woods of Santry. The woods survived but were ravaged again in 1689 when on the approach of the Williamite General Schomberg towards Dublin, the woods of Santry were cut and the route palisaded to prevent any attacks by the Jacobite forces.

The story of Santry Woods will be continued in our next issue....

CONTACT US/GET INVOLVED

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Santry Forum invites all residents to participate in the community in any way they can. Together, we can work towards a better future for our community. We hope you enjoy this newsletter, which is testament to the collaborative spirit and historical richness of Santry, reflecting both its heritage and future aspirations.