

## Biography of Winners, dlr Celebration of Volunteerism 2017



### ENVIRONMENT

Vincent Barnett

Vincent is the kind of neighbour everyone would love to have, according to several of his nominators. He's not afraid to lend a helping hand, organises meetings and clean up days and goes to extraordinary lengths to keep the area looking well.

He's been volunteering in Ballyogan for ten years, making lives better and garnering quite the fan club!

Georgina Potts

Georgina has been described as the person to go to, regarding anything to do with estate management, clean ups and the day-to-day workings of the Rathsallagh/Shanganagh/Clifton Estate Management Forum. She's always happy to do whatever she can to help, and always does what's best for the community. According to her nominator, nothing is ever too much trouble for Georgina and she undertakes her tasks with a smile on her face.

### ARTS AND CULTURE

James Holahan

James is one of the co-founders of the Friends of Joyce Tower Society. He's been chair of the Society for 3 years, leading by example and empowering members. James has demonstrated great energy and commitment in promoting the Tower as a cultural and tourist destination. He's known for encouraging the individual talents and initiatives of volunteers and his

efforts ensure that the Joyce Tower offers an important historical and cultural experience to visitors.

Lua McIlraith

Lua has been a volunteer for over 20 years, giving a significant amount of time to Dalkey Players. During her time as Chairperson, Dalkey Players secured the coveted title of RTE All Ireland Winner in the 2017 All Ireland Drama Festival. She's a great support to new members and according to her nominator, "she brings warmth, friendship and an incredible work ethic that is a model for all new members."

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Toby Mole

Toby is a treasured member of the team of volunteers who run CoderDojo Dún laoghaire.

He is dedicated to helping children learn about technology in a fun way. He is a wonderful mentor to children, encouraging them to work with code but he also guides them so that they can figure out solutions on their own. His patience knows no bounds, which has been noted by several parents whose children have benefitted from Toby's help and guidance.

Michelle Buckley

For the past nine years, Michelle has co-ordinated a team of volunteers who organise and run the Summer Project in Shanganagh Park House. The Summer Project provides 4 weeks of fun and safe activities for children aged 5 – 12 years. She uses her expertise in childcare to build strong relationships with both children and parents and has been described as, "a wonderful, kind-hearted person." She has passed on her passion for volunteering to her children, who also volunteer on the Summer Project.

## **COMMUNITY**

Kay Gleeson

Kay is involved in so many groups in the County – Meals on Wheels, Public Participation Network, James Joyce Tower and dlr Volunteer Corps to name just a few. She gives a huge amount of her time to causes that add to the quality of life of people living in and visiting Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. Her meringues are possibly the best in the county – something we've heard from the users of Meals on Wheels. She's the kind of person who makes you feel comfortable and her positive attitude never falters. As her nominator said, "she is a shining example of a sincere altruistic lady in being part of and supporting her community."

Peggy Crowley

Peggy is a founding member of the Ballinteer Active Retirement Association and the Network for Older People in dlr. She's known for extending a helping hand and never sparing herself when she can do a good turn. She's popular because of her prolific work ethic and 'can do' attitude. She has organised plays, book clubs and exhibitions and took part in the consultation process prior to the development of the dlr Age Friendly Strategy. Her nominator told us that Peggy is a " woman with great vision for the future and works hard to make the local community a better, safer and friendlier place to live."

Sheila Hurley

Sheila is the President of Marlay ICA and doesn't let anything stop her – even illness. She organises events and makes sure that the Marlay ICA ladies enjoy their days out even if she can't. This is Sheila's second year as President and she's been on the committee for many years before that. She is dedicated to offering friendship, education and classes to the ICA members.

## **OLDER PERSONS**

Ethel Fingleton

Ethel is a founding member of Simon of Cyrene and has been active in this group for 17 years, working to end loneliness and isolation among the housebound, sick and elderly in her local community. Her nominator told us that Ethel is "humble, cheerful and willing to go above and beyond the call of duty".

Margaret McCarthy

Margaret volunteers with Dún Laoghaire Neighbourhood Watch and acts as Treasurer of the Garda Older Persons Association. She administers the Senior Alert Scheme and has co-ordinated the distribution of over 250 pendant alarms to older people in the last 2 years. She has built up an excellent working relationship with community gardaí and public health nurses and doesn't allow her own difficulties to interfere with her commitment to helping others.

Austin Hynes

Austin has been volunteering with Geraldines P Moran GAA Club for 60 years! He has done everything from ensuring that the grass is cut, putting out flags and nets as well as bringing players to away games. Austin's family has a long history of helping the Club, starting with his father when he moved to the area during World War 2 and continuing to the present time with his son and grandson. He has been described as a true legend in the club.

## **SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Peter Ryan

Peter has been volunteering with St. John Ambulance for 35 years and is a founding member of the Cabinteely Division. Peter puts his skills as Emergency Medical Technician to very good use. He is the lead instructor on first aid courses and the lead mentor for new recruits. Peter has been described as a modest and unassuming man who epitomises the term volunteer, giving his time willingly to serve the community.

## **HEALTH AND DISABILITY**

Norma Sexton

Norma has been volunteering for more than 20 years with several groups, organising outings and activities for members of CASA Blackrock, helping with Meals on Wheels and is a member of the Parent's Association of two schools to mention but a few.

Despite being a very busy woman with family commitments, she is always in good form.

Conor Hannon

Conor volunteers with the Side by Side Clubhouse, a project that helps people with acquired brain injuries to participate in gardening and DIY. He has the sensitivity to recognise the capacity within each member, supporting each person so that everyone can make a contribution while developing their social and cognitive skills.

We are told that Conor's efforts have resulted in a lovely garden for all clients to relax in and a good supply of home-grown produce for the cookery class.

Michael Finn

While Michael has been a volunteer with Kilmacud Crokes Camogie for over 12 years, it is his work in introducing the Healthy Club initiative and the Green Ribbon campaign that is perhaps the most valuable. He is a big believer in talking about mental health and is constantly looking at ways to increase awareness and acceptance of mental health issues within the Club. Michael tries to reinforce the importance of both mental and physical health and remove the stigma that sometimes come with mental health.

## **SOCIAL INCLUSION**

Jill Fleming

Jill has been nominated by WeSail, which is a Royal St. George Yacht Club sailing initiative for adults with intellectual disabilities. She has been volunteering with this group since it started 10 years ago. In fact, she was the one who came up with the idea.

Jill had to work hard to convince the Sailing Committee of the value of this initiative but she gathered a team of qualified instructors supported by volunteers. Since then, the initiative has gone from strength to strength through Jill's determination.

Jill is a shining example of inclusiveness.

Viola Di Bucchianico

Viola has been involved with the dlr Ethnic Minority Integration Forum since it was established in 2011. She served first as a committee member and is the current Chairperson. Viola is an ardent supporter of the Forum and despite her busy schedule with family and study, she continues to attend events bringing together people of all ethnic backgrounds and supporting them in their new lives.

Viola was described by her nominator as an excellent role model for social inclusion in dlr.

Shem Romanowski

Shem volunteers with Serve the City as a Project Co-ordinator, helping refugees and asylum seekers in direct provision. He has shown great skill in organising and training other local volunteers in dlr, thereby helping refugees and asylum seekers but also helping his fellow dlr citizens to find a way to give their time to a cause that they want to support.

Shem is currently developing Tour the City Cultural Tours for refugees which includes trips to dlr landmarks such as Dún Laoghaire Pier and the LexIcon.

## **SPORTS AND RECREATION**

Olwyn Dunne

Olwyn set up the Cabinteely Park Run in 2015 and since then, she has acted as the main Run Director leading a team of 6 Run Directors and 10 Volunteers. This provides an opportunity for the local community, male or female, young or old, of all fitness levels to come together on a weekly basis to get physically active in the beautiful surrounds of Cabinteely Park. And as we all know, an active lifestyle is recognised as an important factor in both physical and mental health outcomes.

Cabinteely Park Run has gone from strength to strength with numbers increasing each week and Olwyn even manages to recruit volunteers from the participants.

Kevin Barry

Kevin was a founding member of the Cabinteely Athletic Club in the '70s and helped to restart it in 2010. In the past 7 years, he has brought the Club from 30 members to over 200 currently. He coaches athletes between the ages of 7 and 18 years and turns up at all events to support the Club's athletes.

Kevin has been involved in training hundreds of athletes over the years including a number of Dublin Champions and national athletes.

Trish O'Hanlon

Trish has been volunteering with the Kickboxing and Self Defence Club Sandyford since day one, back in 2008. As well as coaching, she helps to organise events and has filled the roles of Children's Officer, Youth Development Officer, Secretary as well as being an agony aunt, taxi driver and cook.

In her nominator's words, Trish is always positive and never misses a class

## **AN CATHAOIRLEACH'S AWARD FOR LONG SERVICE**

Professor P.J. Drudy

P.J. has been a volunteer with the Parents, Family and Friends of Carmona Services for over forty years. He has led and motivated a team of volunteers to advocate on behalf of the dlr Intellectual Disabilities Community. For more than a decade, he was the driving force behind the promotion of inclusiveness within the community. He has helped to raise significant funding to support the provision of essential facilities and services, thereby improving the quality of life and well-being of the dlr Intellectual Disabilities Community.

He has guided the organisation in providing support to families which helps them support their children and relatives, while ensuring that good governance is adhered to.

Una Moore

Una has been volunteering with Loughlinstown/Ballybrack Meals on Wheels for 27 years. She is the lynch-pin between Loughlinstown Hospital, where the meals are cooked, and the HSE Community Team working to ensure that 20 people in the Loughlinstown/Ballybrack area receive a hot meal 6 days a week.

Una has also been a volunteer with the Vincent de Paul Society for 27 years, filling roles from Volunteer Supervisor to sales assistant.

She has been described as a dynamo of a certain age with a heart of gold, who has worked to support disadvantaged and vulnerable people in her community.

Caroline McDermott

Caroline has been volunteering for over 40 years with several groups in her local community. She divides her time between Shanganagh Park House Summer Project, Rathallagh/ Shanganagh/Clifton Estate Management and Recycled Teenagers.

Caroline began volunteering as a young mother who had moved to a new estate and helped to set up a childcare drop-in service in Shanganagh Park House. Her efforts have seen the transition of this wonderful house into a multi-purpose thriving community facility.

Her nominator told us that the community of Shanganagh/Rathallagh would not be the wonderful community it is today without Caroline.

## **OUTSTANDING GROUP**

Kilcross Estate Management Forum and Kilcross Residents and Development Group

These 2 groups work together for the good of all the community, striving to deliver a healthy, friendly, caring community and an estate that residents are happy and proud to live in. In fact, they collaborate so much that some members serve on both committees.

Kilcross Residents and Development Group was established in 1999, while Kilcross Estate Management Forum has been going since 2006. Together, they run the Resource Centre, providing a welcome for everyone and a cup of tea and a chat.