



New Bridge For Dublin



Samuel Beckett Bridge arriving in Dublin. Photo Digital Post Production.

Dublin's newest bridge, the Samuel Beckett Bridge, made the 628-mile journey by sea from Rotterdam to Dublin Port. Engineering consortium Graham Hollandia JV constructed the Bridge in Holland before shipping it to Dublin by barge. The bridge was secured adjacent to the south quayside on the 13th May and will be placed on its supporting pier in the river during the coming weeks.

The bridge's design gives the appearance of a harp lying on its side, acting as a national symbol at the maritime gateway to Dublin. The bridge can rotate through an angle of 90° between an open and closed position. This will allow ships to travel up the river past this point on the Liffey.

The bridge's design is something that City Engineer Michael Phillips believes will impress Dubliners and visitors. "The bridge is a stunning piece of design and engineering. It's a cable-stayed bridge – a concept which anyone that has seen the Luas bridge in Dundrum will be familiar with. This gives it a graceful, almost weightless appearance. Its position across the Liffey at Dublin's maritime gateway sends a confident, forward looking statement about today's Dublin."

Dublin City Council commissioned the landmark structure, which will link Guild Street on the northside of the city with Sir John Rogerson's Quay on the southside. The bridge is 120 meters wide and 46 meters high. It will have four traffic lanes, cycle paths and footpaths. It will greatly improve the road network in the inner city and could reduce traffic on O'Connell Street by as much as 23 per cent. The bridge is due to open to traffic early next year.

World famous architect and engineer Dr. Santiago Calatrava designed the bridge. Calatrava has worked on a number of high profile projects, such as the Turning Torso Tower in Malmo, Sweden, which was the tallest residential building in the EU when built in 2005. Calatrava also designed the James Joyce Bridge, which opened in 2003. He has received many awards, including 16 honorary doctorates and he is a Permanent Honorary Guest of the University of Zurich.

Did you know?

There are 19 bridges on the River Liffey from Sarah Bridge in Islandbridge to the Eastlink Bridge in Dublin Port. They are:

Sarah Bridge	Built in 1791
Liffey Viaduct	Built in 1877
Sean Heuston Bridge	Built in 1828
Frank Sherwin Bridge	Built in 1982
Rory O'More Bridge	Built in 1863
James Joyce Bridge	Built in 2003
Mellowes Bridge	Built in 1768
Fr. Mathew Bridge	Built in 1818
O'Donovan Rossa Bridge	Built in 1816
Grattan Bridge	Built in 1755 and widened in 1875
Millennium Bridge	Built in 1999
Ha'penny Bridge	Built in 1816
O'Connell Bridge	Built in 1880
Butt Bridge	Built in 1932
Loopline Bridge	Built in 1891
Talbot Memorial Bridge	Built in 1978
Sean O'Casey Bridge	Built in 2005
Samuel Beckett Bridge	Expected completion in 2010
Eastlink Bridge	Built in 1984



An artist's impression of how the bridge will look in position. Picture Digital Post Production.

Staff World Development Fund Update



Improved irrigation has enabled local workers in communities to grow their own crops allowing for self sufficiency and sustainability.

Thanks to all staff and retired staff who contribute to the city council's World Development Fund, which has been in existence for the last 23 years. A group of staff volunteers manage the fund with all money raised used to fund projects in the developing world.

Projects assisted by your contributions include education, water, agriculture and infrastructure projects, devised by locals or where locals can be trained to take over the running of the project. All projects must be capable of sustaining themselves after an initial period of assistance.

In 2008 your contributions supported projects to the value of €72,745. Examples include:

- Nepal – Farmer field schools in poor conflict affected communities
- Kenya – School construction in Nairobi
- Honduras – Improved irrigation and farming methods

The fund is now registered for charitable status, which in time will enable the fund to support more projects through increased income from tax relief on donations.

Throughout 2009 we will continue to support projects in the developing world through the generous contributions made by council staff and retired staff and will update you on the progress later in the year. For further information and for a copy of the Annual Report 2008 see DubNet/Noticeboard/DCC Staff World Development Fund.

Certificate in Local Government Studies – Info Session 4th June



There are a limited number of places available on the Certificate in Local Government Studies which starts

this September. It is considered to be of great value to staff in understanding the role and functions of local government. It provides staff with knowledge that is beneficial in the development of their careers. The Institute of Public Administration delivers the course at their premises in Lansdowne Road.

All applications for this course must be made directly to the Training and Development Unit, Human Resources Department, Block 4, Floor 4, Civic Offices. The cost to Dublin City Council participants will be €50. Official application forms are available on request from the Training and Development Unit and at the reception desk in Human Resources. The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 26th June 2009.

An information session outlining course content takes place in the Training Rooms, Block 3, Floor 1, Civic Offices on Thursday 4th June at 4pm. For further information contact Karen Kerr, Training and Development Unit T. 222 3047, E. karen.kerr@dublincity.ie

Switching Off For The Better

Codema's recent 'Switch Off' campaign for Dublin City Council was a great success. Over 500 staff completed the recent survey.

Survey Findings:

- 99% of staff felt the campaign encouraged them to switch off lights and office appliances when not in use
- 97% of staff agreed the campaign has raised energy awareness throughout the organisation

Codema's Communications Officer, Suzanne Morgan, said: "Dublin City Council staff should be commended for giving the 'Switch Off' campaign such a warm welcome. We have received many interesting energy-saving suggestions and we will be working in partnership with the council to see how these suggestions can be implemented in the further roll-out of the campaign."

Staff Comments

- "It is an excellent way to help the environment and to conserve energy. The Switch off campaign has made me more aware of switching off lights and appliances and not leaving anything on standby."
- "I was very surprised at the level of savings and reduction in CO₂ that can be achieved by 'switching off'."
- "I think this is a great idea, especially in the current economic climate... It is positive financially and environmentally."

Switch Off Campaign

The Switch Off campaign encourages staff to switch off lights and appliances such as computers, photocopiers and printers in the workplace. By participating in the campaign, employees could save thousands of Euro on their department's annual energy bill – money that could be better spent on more deserving areas.

The campaign is part of the Minus 3% project – a European initiative which aims to reduce local authority energy consumption by 3% every year, with a goal of 33% for Dublin City Council by 2020. With the co-operation of staff, Codema are hopeful that Dublin City Council can achieve their target this year.

Competition Winner

Congratulations to Aisling Byrne, Planning Department who was the lucky winner of the 32" Sony Bravia LCD TV. A big thank you to all who took part in the survey and competition.



Aisling Byrne, winner of the 32" Sony Bravia TV with Suzanne Morgan, Codema.

Dublin Writer's Festival – 2nd – 7th June

The 11th annual Dublin Writer's festival takes place from 2nd – 7th June. This year, 25 writers from around the world will come to Dublin to read from their most recent works and take part in conversations about their writings. These writers have published a total of 233 books between them, with some 8,000 pages making up the books featured in this year's festival.

Highlights to watch out for

- Seamus Heaney, who celebrated his 70th birthday recently, will read a selection of his poetry.
Tuesday 2nd June, 8pm at the National Concert Hall.
- Writer and broadcaster Simon Schama CBE will talk about his latest book based on his BBC series, 'The American Future, A History'.
Wednesday 3rd June, 8.15pm at Liberty Hall.
- There will be a focus on crime writing and the murder mystery novel with author of 'The Suspicions of Mr Whicher' Kate Summerscale and one of the world's best selling crime writers Val McDermid.
Sunday 7th June, 5pm at the Abbey Theatre.

For a full listing of events and to book tickets, see
W. www.dublinwritersfestival.ie

Competition:

Our Arts Office is kindly offering five lucky readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to an event of their choice, subject to availability. Just answer the following question and return your answer by post to Communications Section, Floor 4, 3 Palace Street, Dublin 2 or email [E. comms@dublincity.ie](mailto:comms@dublincity.ie) before 2pm on Thursday 28th May.

Q. What milestone birthday did Seamus Heaney celebrate recently?



Dublin Fire Brigade Recruits Fireman Sam

Dún Laoghaire Fire Station and Make-A-Wish Ireland helped Samuel O'Riordan achieve his dream of being a Firefighter recently. The Make-a-Wish foundation grants the wishes of children aged between 3 and 18 years living with a life threatening illness. Samuel



Fire fighter Paul Fox with Samuel O'Riordan, aka Fireman Sam.

worked with D Watch for the day. John Halstead District Officer collected Samuel from his house and brought him back to the station. The highlight of the day for Samuel was rescuing a woman from a fire in the tower of Dún Laoghaire fire station. He also got to see a demonstration by the Community Safety Unit from the Dublin Fire Brigade Training Centre. The Dún Laoghaire crew also made presentations to Samuel and his parents.

Samuel released a tropical fish into the garden pond of Dún Laoghaire Fire Station as a memento of his visit. A very tired Fireman Sam and his parents and Granddad were then brought home by the Fire Brigade.

It was with great pride that Dublin Fire Brigade was able to make Samuel's wish come true. A big thank you to all the crew of D Watch Dún Laoghaire for making the day an unforgettable experience for Samuel, and thanks also to Dublin Fire Brigade Training Centre and Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology for the colourful hand painted banner welcoming Samuel. Also the staff of the Make A Wish Foundation deserve great praise for the tireless work they carry out that brings joy to the children who have life changing illnesses. For further information W. www.makeawish.ie.

Post Your Bacon

An Post and Q Design have recently celebrated the centenary of the birth of well loved Irish born painter Francis Bacon with two distinctive stamps; a 55 cent stamp portraying a self-portrait of Bacon from 1969 and an 82 cent stamp showing a photograph of the artist's studio.

Bacon was born in Baggot Street, Dublin in October 1909. At the age of 16 he left Dublin for London, Berlin and Paris. He was inspired to become an artist when he visited an exhibition of Picasso drawings in Paris in 1927. His most famous painting is his 'Three studies for Figures at the Base of the Crucifixion'. His original studio at 7 Reece Mews, London was moved to Dublin with a highly qualified team of archaeologists and is now on permanent display at Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane. The original door, walls, floors, ceilings and shelves can be seen. Every item in the studio (over 7,000) was catalogued and replaced with the help of a specially

designed database making the Francis Bacon Studio today the first computerised archive of the entire contents of a world ranking artist's studio. One not to be missed!

The stamps are available at An Post and W. www.irishstamps.ie. The studio is part of the Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane's permanent collection and admission is free.

For further information on Francis Bacon and his studio
W. www.hughlane.ie



Francis Bacon stamp, courtesy of An Post and Q Design.

Letter to the Editor

Litir chuig an Eagarthóir

Email: comms@dublincity.ie

Post: Letter to the Editor, Communications Section, 3 Palace Street, Dublin 2.

Note: Please provide letter, name and address. Letters may be edited.

Dear Mr. Tierney

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff from the Ballyfermot Office for all their outstanding help since the opening of our complex at Claddagh Court.

A special thanks to Tommy Sheridan, Brian Tate and Paul Healy who were extremely helpful to all the residents.

*Yours sincerely,
Thomas Moriarty
Chairman*

Claddagh Court Residence Committee

Staff Issues / Cúrsaí Foirne

staff accidents report published

The Corporate Health and Safety Office recently published the Dublin City Council Staff Accidents 2008 Statistical Report.

There were a total of 571 reported staff accidents in 2008. This represents an overall decrease of 8.5% on 2007. 'Near misses', of which there were 41, have been shown separately for the first time in the 2008 Report.

The Corporate Health and Safety Office maintain a database of all reported accidents. These statistics highlight areas of activity or employment, which give rise to the greatest number of accidents. This enables managers to identify areas requiring attention and therefore will help to improve safety across the organisation.

It is important for your own safety and the safety of others that all accidents, including 'near misses' are reported. Even minor accidents or near misses can reveal gaps in our safety systems that could go undetected until a serious accident or fatality occurs. A near miss is an unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness or damage, but had the potential to do so.

A full copy of the report is available on DubNet/HR info/Health and Safety or from the Corporate Health and Safety Office, T. 222 5360.

danish students visit dublin to learn about climate change

Twenty Danish students visited Dublin City Council recently as part of a climate change fact-finding mission. The students have been studying Ireland's response to climate change and were delighted to see Dublin first hand. Mark Bennet, Green Business Officer, arranged a seminar for the students, explaining what the council is doing to help combat climate change. Elaine Nevin of ECO-UNESCO, Ireland's environmental education youth charity, and John Harrington of the Sustainable Dublin Initiative, joined in a lively discussion about the UN Climate Change Conference, which will be held later in the year. The visit ended with a tour of City Hall.

Staff Notice board / Clár Fógraí

blood transfusion service says thanks



Rachel Ahearne of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service under the spell of Count Dracula. Photo by Jason Clarke.

This year the Irish Blood Transfusion Service received a phenomenal amount of blood donations in comparison to this time last year and it's all thanks to Count Dracula.

Dracula by Bram Stoker was this year's chosen book for Dublin City Council's award-winning initiative: 'Dublin: One City One Book.' The Irish Blood Transfusion Service kindly sponsored the event and the readers on this occasion may have been once bitten but were not so shy about giving blood!

Dublin City Council would like to thank everyone who supported the initiative, with a special thanks to those who donated blood. For further information on Dublin: One City One Book W. www.dublinonecityonebook.ie and for further information on donating blood W. www.ibts.ie

dublin city soul festival – 21st – 24th may

The 3rd annual Dublin City Soul Festival takes place from 21st – 24th May. The Soul Picnic in Merrion Square Park on Sunday 24th May is one of the highlights. The very best of national and international performers will take part in this free family event. For a full listing of what's on during this year's festival, W. www.dublincitysoulfestival.ie.

dubco's first interdepartmental 5-a-side kicks off



Back Row: L-R: John McGuirk, Cian Malone, Dan Givens, Ciaran Holly
Front Row L-R: Miguel Kelly and Charles O'Donnell

Pictured are members of the winning team of the first ever Dubco interdepartmental 5-a-sides held in Ballyfermot Leisure Centre recently. They were a big success and will run again later in the year. Details will be in future issues of firstpost.

The closing date for inclusion in the next issue is 12.00 noon on **Tuesday 26th May 2009**.

Please address any correspondence to: firstpost, Communications Section, Corporate Services Department, 3 Palace Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 222 2266.

The editor reserves the right to edit articles submitted, for clarity and length. Alternatively, you can e-mail to comms@dublincity.ie or Fax to 222 3776.

Please make sure that you enclose your name and work location. Firstpost is available in Large Print and Audio Cassette on request.

