



Co-operative
housing
Ireland



Co-operative Housing News

Summer 2022

Dear Member,

Welcome to the Summer Edition of Co-operative Housing News.

I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well and have been enjoying the summer.

The team have been delighted with the level of engagement in CHI's activities, particularly our 'Walking to Connect' series and 'It Takes a Village' mental health and wellbeing initiative. We're delighted to have established a Gardeners' Corner in this newsletter, which is written by our, 'Growing Community', a group of CHI Members who meet each month online to exchange advice and stories on their gardening efforts.

There are lots of opportunities to get involved in events and activities in this issue, including our Member Engagement Working Group, which organises and develops community initiatives for Members at a national level.

Remember, if you have any events or activities that you have organised in your community please contact us at members@cooperativehousing.ie to have them featured in future newsletters - we're always interested in hearing your stories.

The team wishes you and your loved ones an enjoyable summer and looks forward to engaging with you later in the year.



A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Kieron".

Kieron Brennan

CEO

Co-operative Housing Ireland

Reporting Repairs

How Members report repairs has changed.

If you have a repair to report, please use one of the options below to bring it to our attention:

- Call our Members Services Hub: **01-6403074**. Once on the call, you can select the option for “Repairs”
- E-mail: You can report repairs directly at **repairs@cooperativehousing.ie**
- Web: Repairs can be reported via the ‘Members area’ on our website by selecting the ‘Log a repair’ tab and completing the form. Visit cooperativehousing.ie/members-area.

Hello, I would like to report a repair please.

01-640 3074



Member Associations

Throughout the first half of the year the Member Engagement Team worked with Housing Officers and communities across the country to set up Member Associations.

Member Associations are beneficial to communities for several reasons. They help Members to:

- Create a sense of belonging within the community
- Run events and activities that benefit the community as a whole
- Share advice and information with other people in the community
- Campaign on issues that relate to all the members in the community

Co-operative Housing Ireland believes in creating flourishing and sustainable communities and provides community funds for people who have set up Member Associations.

Once a community sets up their Member Association, they can apply for a community fund directly from CHI. This is the equivalent to €12 per home in the estate or community.

The Members of Cashen Court, Dun Alainn in Listowel have moved in during the last two months and are curious to find out about setting up a Member Association and making plans for activities and events in their community.

Members in Brookhill, Cork, moved in in two phases with some living on the estate for 18 months before the last family moved in. They have been eager to get their committee up and running and its main purpose will be to organise events on the estate so neighbours can get to know each other better.

If you are interested in setting up a member association in your community, speak to your housing officer, or contact Anthony:

anthony.burrowes@cooperativehousing.ie



It Takes a Village

Co-operative Housing Ireland's partnership with SOAR on the mental health program 'It Takes a Village' has kicked off with huge success.

Two teen workshops have taken place in both Carlow and Cork City. These workshops were aimed at young people aged 13-16 years. They focused on:

- Understanding what stepping outside your comfort zone means
- How it feels to be a teenager
- What it means to be a hero
- What community means
- How supportive a community can be

The first workshop for adults took place on 29th and 30th June. The conversation was both fun and informative.



They focused on:

- What mental health is
- How to support our own mental health
- Remembering what it was like to be a teen
- Learning what teenagers want adults to know
- Being more aware of the supports around you
- The importance of listening

There will be another adult workshop taking place on 7th and 8th September. These workshops take place in the evening on Zoom. If you are interested in taking part in this workshop email members@cooperativehousing.ie.



Walk to Connect

Walk to Connect is a Member-led initiative to bring both Members and staff together in three separate walks across the country.



So far, walks have taken place in Howth, Dublin, and Muckross, Kerry. They have given people connected to CHI an opportunity to meet more people in their community, share mutual interests and build a stronger sense of community. The feedback from people who have taken part has been positive. The walks have been chosen by Members and staff to ensure that they are accessible to all levels of walkers.

The first was the Howth Cliff walk, in Dublin, which included a stroll through the spectacular rhododendrons.



Members walking with Member Engagement Manager Anthony Burrowes

The second was in Muckross, Killarney, Co. Kerry. There are many different trails and paths for all abilities. The scenery was amazing. The walk included the Torc waterfall, which is beautiful. The next walk is the Clashganny Forest Loop, in Clashganny, Carlow, and takes place on the 6th August. This is a mostly flat surface walk along the River Barrow.

If you are interested in participating, contact the Member Engagement team:

members@cooperativehousing.ie



Growing Community

An online group called the 'Growing Community', made up of Members from across the CHI network has recently come together.

This group meets on the second last Tuesday of every month to discuss and share tips around gardening. Everyone is invited to take part even if you are just starting out in your planting and gardening journey. If you are interested, contact Christine: Christine.meehan@cooperativehousing.ie

Gardener's Corner

Each newsletter now will provide tips and tricks from Members on gardening.

Members of Growing Community will share their advice from dead-heading a bee-loved rose bush to keeping the dandelions at bay. If you have any tips that you would like to share for the next newsletter, get in touch with members@cooperativehousing.ie.

What advice would the group give someone starting off on their gardening journey?

The best advice to give to anyone starting off, is to start. Start small as you don't want to turn it into a chore. Make sure to leave space between your plants and seeds. You wouldn't think it, but your plants will grow fast. Remember to take your time, enjoy the experience and weed regularly.

What are some overall tips for gardening?

Planting plants from seed

If you are planting seeds a good idea is to put toilet paper rolls around them so that they are protected as they grow. The paper rolls are

biodegradable, and it is a nice way to recycle.

Tackling greenfly

This is the season for greenfly and a great way to remove them from your plants is to get a colourful plastic cup and cover it with Vaseline. Place the cup beside the plant and the greenfly will think it is a flower and attach itself to it.

What to look out for this season

Most of your planting should be done at this stage. It's important at this point to make sure your soil has enough water. Keep flies at bay and if you see any slugs around your flowers, move them away with as much care as possible.



Member Engagement Working Group

The Member Engagement Working Group is a group of Members from across the country who support the Member Engagement Team to deliver national events for CHI Members.

The group meets a maximum of six times a year. It has an informal structure, which is a great way to meet other Members and have your voice heard in the planning of events and initiatives that take place nationwide.

If you are interested in joining the group, get in touch with Anthony: anthony.burrowes@cooperativehousing.ie

Steps to Success Community Leadership Pilot Training in Cork

The Steps to Success Community Leadership pilot training took place in June and was run in Blackrock GAA club in Cork.

The training supports Members setting up members associations and was run over two consecutive evenings from 6- 8pm.

Members from three different CHI estates in Cork city participated. The energy and enthusiasm in the room was great, with Members engaging well in activities and discussions.

At the end of the first session some participants had developed a set of actions and first steps, towards setting up their committees.



CHI Book Club

The CHI 2022 Book Club, recently renamed 'All Booked Up', are on their third book, 'The Silent Patient'.

Their next book will be, 'After the Silence', the An Post Irish Crime Novel of the Year by Louise O'Neill. Each Member votes for the book they wish to read next. Each Member's taste is different, so you don't know what is going to be chosen until the last vote has been cast. If your book is chosen, you are invited to lead the conversation at the next book club meeting.



New Book Club Members

Mandy is an avid reader who re-reads her favourite books again and again.

She joined CHI's 2022 Book Club and it was her first experience of attending a Zoom meeting. The second book of the book club was Mandy's choice and because of this she was encouraged to lead the conversation. Mandy led the group through an interesting conversation on the chosen book 'Breaking Point'. She has such great taste in books that discussions on the 3rd book 'The Silent Patient' will also be headed by her.



Inner City Enterprise

Calling all Aspiring Entrepreneurs!!!

This year we are working with Inner City Enterprise, an organisation that works with people to help set up their very own social enterprise. In September they are going to deliver a set of four training workshops for all CHI Members who are interested.

The training workshops will cover:

- Developing your business idea
- Skills and traits needed to run a business
- Steps to set up a business
- Marketing for business

This training is for any Member whether you run a business, have an idea for a business or don't know where to start. If you are interested in taking part, contact Anthony:

anthony.burrowes@cooperativehousing.ie



BE YOUR OWN BOSS!

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT RUNNING YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

JOIN US IN SEPTEMBER FOR A WEEKLY TRAINING MODULE AIMED AT GIVING YOU SKILLS TO HELP YOU START YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

Co-operative housing Ireland

ON THIS COURSE YOU WILL DISCOVER:

- HOW TO COME UP WITH AN IDEA FOR A BUSINESS
- DO YOU HAVE THE SKILLS/TRAITS TO RUN A BUSINESS?
- HOW TO SET UP A BUSINESS
- INTRODUCTION TO MARKETING FOR BUSINESS

Hosted by Inner City Enterprise

TIME & DATES:
THURSDAYS IN SEPTEMBER
8TH, 15TH, 22ND, 29TH
FROM 6PM TO 7PM
ON ZOOM

Email:
anthonyburrowes@cooperativehousing.ie
to register

Do you run a business, have an idea for a business or don't know where to start? Get in touch!



Board Skills Training

The Autumn Board Skills training will be taking place during the months of October and November.

The board skills training equips Members to be ready and comfortable to sit on a board or committee in the future. The course will provide information around communication, governance, finance, leadership and the co-operative structure. In the coming weeks you will receive information to sign up. If you would like more information, please contact Anthony; anthony.burrowes@cooperativehousing.ie



St. John's Night in Westport, Co. Mayo

St John's Night, or Midsummers' Eve, often involves lighting a bonfire. The feast is very popular in Mayo as well as being a Spanish tradition.

Its roots are pre-Christian, and the events were held to ward off evil spirits that were said to be present as the Sun changed its direction southwards.

Led by CHI resident Katrina Kelly, a group of CHI members, local house owners and renters have formed a resident group called the Glenlara Gorillas. In preparation for the event a community clean-up of the estate was undertaken, rubbish was bagged, and vegetation cleared. The event itself involved the lighting of a small and well-supervised bonfire. Neighbours prepared food including traditional Chinese food, and dishes from many other parts of the world. A group played Irish traditional music and a good time was had by all. Speaking about the event, Katrina said "A few weeks ago we decided to take action to improve the area, but also to get neighbours talking to each other."

Katrina continued, "It was a great success, one elderly neighbour who had not been outside her door since Covid, finally got the courage to come out and enjoyed the company of neighbours and a few glasses of wine. We have now secured a grant of €1,000 from the County Council and want to develop activities for the children living on the estate over the summer period."



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Photos



Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council, Thomasina Connell, cuts the ribbon with Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, Brian O'Donoghue at the launch of Graigue na hAbhainn, CHI's new estate of 77 homes in Graiguecullen, County Laois. The two are pictured with CHI Chairperson Pearse O'Shiel, and CHI Members and Graigue na hAbhainn residents, Martin Platadis and Kim Byrne who MC'd the event.

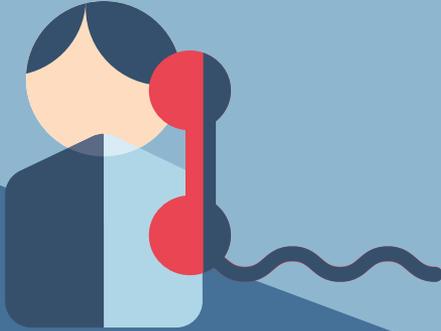


The balloon artist fashions a dog for children gathered at the launch of Graigue na hAbhainn.



Gillian and Matthew Kirwan with three of their five children and Maria Butler of CHI after receiving the keys to their new home in The Drive, Kilruddy Glen, Southern Cross, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Contact information



CHI's Out-of-Hours Emergency number has changed

Please contact the new number 01 669 2098 in event of any of the incidents below:

- Where major damage is caused to the property
- Where damage may cause a risk to life or safety
- When CHI's offices are closed, however, please do not contact the emergency number unless you are certain it is an emergency and there is a risk to your life or the property.

The out-of-office service is available from 5pm to 9am, weekends, public holidays and over Christmas.

Office Contact Numbers

Member Services Hub

123 Avondale Park,
Mulhuddart,
Dublin 15.

01 6403074

Cork Office

Link Business Centre,
Link Road,
Ballincollig,
Co Cork.

021 4879010

Enniscorthy Office

Unit 5D,
Enniscorthy Enterprise and
Technology Centre,
Milehouse Road,
Enniscorthy,
Co Wexford.

053 9189034

To email please contact
info@cooperativehousing.ie

