



## European Safety Week – October 2011



Pictured are Mary Pyne, Acting Personnel Officer, and City Manager John Tierney.

European Safety Week takes place from the 10th to the 20th of October. This year's theme is 'safe maintenance'. The Health and Safety Campaign aims to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of maintenance for workers' safety and health
- Raise awareness of the risks associated with maintenance and the need to carry it out safely
- Raise awareness of employers' legal responsibilities to carry out safe maintenance
- Help reduce the number of people who are being hurt or are experiencing ill health as a result of inadequate maintenance or lack of maintenance

## Health screening available for all staff

The Human Resources Department has organised a health and lifestyle screening programme, which is open to all staff. HealthWatch, Ireland's largest independent provider of workplace health and lifestyle screening programmes will deliver the screening.

Staff will be offered three different screening options. Full details and costs of each option are available on DubNet/HR Info and on the staff noticeboard section of DubNet. The costs of each option will be subsidised by LANPAG, which means that the basic screening option will cost €20 per person.

Each option will:

- Screen for pre-existing health problems
- Assess risk factors for disease
- Give recommendations on lifestyle and health that will encourage a longer and healthier life.

The entire health check process is completely confidential.

Maintenance affects every workplace and concerns staff at every level. It can involve inspecting workplace buildings or testing, servicing, adjusting, repairing or replacing work equipment. Maintenance is easy to overlook, but without regular maintenance, things can go very wrong. Poor maintenance may cause serious injury or even death. It is essential to eliminate workplace hazards and to create a safe working environment.

### Safety Week Events

The following Corporate events are taking place between 10th October and 20th October. Check with your local Health and Safety Officer to find out about other events, which are being organised locally in your department.

#### ■ Local Health and Safety Officers' Briefing

Wood Quay Venue, Civic Offices  
Monday 10th October 9.30am – 12.30pm

#### ■ Launch of Health and Safety Week and address to Senior Managers

Wood Quay Venue, Civic Offices  
Wednesday 12th October 11.30am

#### ■ Safety Representatives Briefing

Croke Park Conference Centre  
Thursday 20th October 9.30-2.00pm

This includes the election of representatives to the Corporate Health and Safety Partnership Group and the Safety Person of the Year Awards.

#### ■ Safety Week Competition

A health and safety crossword will be available on the homepage of DubNet and from the Corporate Health and Safety Office. The prize will be a €100 shopping voucher.

For more information, contact the Corporate Health and Safety Office, T. 222 5360.

The results of your health screen will be reported directly back to you only.

The screening programme will begin at the Civic Offices and Marrowbone Lane on 25th October. You can now make appointments for these two locations by phoning T. 299 0650. You must pay on the day of your appointment. Cash, cheques and credit cards will be accepted.

The service will move to the following locations over the coming months; Ballyfermot Civic Centre, Ballymun Civic Centre, Finglas Civic centre and St. Anne's Park. Staff based in these areas will receive advance notice of dates. Staff will only be allowed to attend the service location which is closest to them.

For more information, contact Aileen Williamson, Health Promotion Officer, T. 222 5913, e-mail aileen.williamson@dublincity.ie.



# firstpost

## Survey

The Communications Section would like you to take part in the following survey, to get your comments and feedback on firstpost.

1. Do you receive firstpost every fortnight?  
 Yes  No
2. How often would you like to receive firstpost?  
 Please tick one box only (✓)
- Fortnightly   
 Monthly   
 Bi-monthly   
 Never
3. How often do you read firstpost?  
 Please tick one box only (✓)
- Fortnightly   
 Occasionally   
 Never
4. How do you normally hear about what is happening in the Council? Please indicate from 1-9 which of the following channels keeps you informed.  
 (1= most informed, 9 = least informed)
- Departmental line manager   
 Dubnet   
 Email   
 External media   
 Firstpost   
 Notice boards   
 Rumour/grapevine   
 Teamtalk   
 Website
5. How relevant do you find the information in firstpost?  
 Please tick one box only (✓)
- Very relevant   
 Somewhat relevant   
 Not at all relevant
- Please comment
- .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

6. Which of the following topics would you like to see featured in firstpost?  
 Please tick one or more of the following boxes (✓)
- Organisational changes and initiatives   
 Finance and pensions   
 Health and wellness   
 Promotion of staff events/sport and leisure activities   
 Other
- Please comment
- .....  
 .....  
 .....
7. What suggestions would you have to improve the design, content and layout of firstpost?  
 Please comment
- .....  
 .....  
 .....
8. Any other comments about firstpost?
- .....  
 .....  
 .....
9. Which of the following best describes you?  
 Please tick one box only (✓)
- Clerical/Administrative  Fire Brigade   
 General Operative  Inspector/Analogous   
 Libraries  Management   
 Professional  Technical   
 Trade  Elected Member

Please complete the above survey and send it to the Communications Section, Corporate Services Department, 3 Palace Street, Dublin 2. Alternatively you can complete the survey online on the homepage of Dubnet. The closing date is **Monday 24th October**. All responses to the survey are confidential. Thank you for completing this survey.

# Staff ideas scheme

Here are some more ideas shortlisted as part of the Staff Ideas Scheme.

## Distributing firstpost to retired staff

Michael Doherty works in the IS Department as an IT project manager. Retired colleagues mentioned to Michael that they would like to stay informed about what is happening in the City Council. He came up with the idea of sending them an electronic version of firstpost. This would allow them to keep up to date with colleagues and events taking place within the Council.

Michael designed a flyer that will be sent to retired staff members, asking them if they would be interested in receiving firstpost. If they are interested, they can fill out their name and email details on the flyer and return it to the Council. Firstpost can then be emailed to them. Staff in the Communications Section, Salary and Wages Section and Human Resources Department helped Michael with his idea.



## Back to the future – The Tailteann Games revisited

Cormac Healy works as a supervisor in Poppintree Community Sports Centre in Ballymun. Drawing on his background in sports, tourism and economics, He wanted to come up with a positive response to the current economic and social situation.



Cormac decided to find out if it would be possible to reinvent The Tailteann Games. The Tailteann Games were held in the Dublin region in 1924. The aim is to combine the best of Irish sporting, cultural, artistic and scientific interests to attract a wide audience made up of native Irish, the Irish diaspora and other tourist markets. The month long festival could provide economic and social benefits to Dublin and the Greater Dublin area.

Cormac is continuing to research proposed activities, financing, marketing and partnerships for his idea.

## Installing photovoltaic panels on a council building

Matt Carroll works in the City Architect's Section. He has an interest in renewable energy. He would like to install photovoltaic panels on the roof of a City Council building.

Photovoltaic panels produce electricity from daylight, even on cloudy days. The panels can be installed at no cost to the City Council. They are installed by an energy supply company, which continues to own the panels but sells the electricity produced to the Council at the same cost as electricity from the grid. Panels have been installed on this basis on Limerick County Council's new headquarters building and the arrangement is working well.

Installing the panels on a prominent roof of a Council building would demonstrate the City Council's commitment to renewable energy. It would reduce the Council's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and reliance on oil and gas. It would also

demonstrate that the City Council is leading the way in fitting renewable energy systems to existing buildings.



## Travel Pass Scheme 2012

Dublin City Council is running the Travel Pass Scheme for 2012.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms (for tickets that commence in January/February 2012 only) is **Friday, 28th October 2011**. No late applications will be accepted.

Under this scheme, an employee has his/her annual travel tickets purchased by Dublin City Council and the relevant gross amount is deducted from his/her salary/wages on a weekly/fortnightly basis, thereby not incurring benefit-in-kind and resulting in a saving on tax, depending on tax rate applicable. The Scheme covers Dublin Bus, Iarnród Éireann, Bus Éireann and LUAS annual tax saver tickets. Private bus companies will now be considered for inclusion in this scheme, subject to terms and conditions.

It is now possible to join the Travel Pass Scheme in any month during the year. Only annual tickets can be purchased and a minimum of one month's notice is required in advance of applying. More information, application forms and pricing structures are available on Dubnet/HR Info/HR Policies/Travel Pass Scheme.

As application forms must be signed, applications sent by e-mail will not be accepted.

Full details and forms are also available at the Human Resources Reception – Block 4, Floor 4, Civic Offices. For more information, contact Elaine Mulcahy or Ann O'Donnell, Human Resources Department, T. 222 2016/2011.

## Anna Livia moves to new home

Lord Mayor Andrew Montague officially unveiled the Anna Livia sculpture at its new location in the Croppies Memorial Park, Wolfe Tone Quay on Monday 19th September.

Anna Livia is a bronze sculpture created by the late Eamonn O'Doherty. It symbolises the River Liffey in female form. Dr. Michael Smurfit commissioned the sculpture to mark Dublin's millennium in 1988. It was originally located on O'Connell Street but was moved during the regeneration of the street.



Pictured is Lord Mayor Andrew Montague beside the Anna Livia Sculpture in the Croppies Memorial Park.

## Staff Noticeboard

### exhibition with pur-*pose* – 6th october to 3rd november

The sixth annual Pur-*pose* Collective Amateur Photography Exhibition takes place at the Bernard Shaw pub, 11-12 South Richmond St, Portobello, Dublin 2 from 6th October to 3rd November.

This exhibition is organised by staff member Paul Grant Joyce. The participating photographers are: Anthea, Sushil Sharma, Brendan Donnelly, Paul Grant Joyce, Crucial333, Donal Russell, Brendan Walsh, Paul Heffernan, Esther Moliné, Keith McGovern, Baz Keogh, Kieran Hynes, Gwen De Vita and Michael Mann. For further information E. [purposecollective@gmail.com](mailto:purposecollective@gmail.com)



### codema to unveil energy screen

Sustainable energy advisers Codema will unveil an updated version of the Energy Screen in the Atrium of the Civic Offices on Wednesday, 19th October. This event will take place as part of Innovation Dublin. Codema will use a live, interactive energy screen to educate staff about how much energy is consumed in the Civic Offices at any given time. This screen will show the amount of electricity, gas and water that is being consumed and it will also display important energy savings messages. The aim of the screen is to communicate energy use in the building in a clear and simple manner. Codema hopes that the screen will help staff to make the connection between their own individual energy use and the overall energy demand of the building. For more information, contact Aine McCarthy, e-mail [aine.mccarthy@codema.ie](mailto:aine.mccarthy@codema.ie) or T. 707 9818.

### kilmainham arts festival

The second Kilmainham Arts Festival took place at the end of August. Its success was thanks to the funding and support from Dublin City Council, the support of local business and the many artists involved. The ambitious festival included a wide range of events in a tightly packed programme. These included an outdoor art exhibition, drum, dance and voice workshops and a performance of a one-man play by local actor Simon Toal. Kilmainham Arts Club would like to thank everybody who helped make the festival possible and all those who helped out on the day. For more information, see [www.kilmainhamartsclub.com](http://www.kilmainhamartsclub.com).

### open house dublin

Open House Dublin takes place from 7th – 9th October. This year's theme is the architecture of change. It examines how design can positively touch our lives. Urban buildings and historic landmarks will be open to the public. Events will include walks, cycles and boat tours in the Open Space programme. All events are Free. For full details, see [www.architecturefoundation.ie](http://www.architecturefoundation.ie).



The closing date for inclusion in the next issue is 12.00 noon on **Tuesday 11th October 2011**.

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](mailto: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 Format on request.

