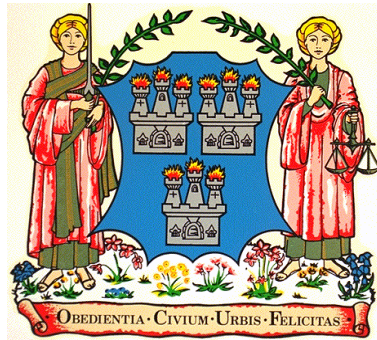


COMHAIRLE CATHRACH BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH



Miontuairiscí Chruinniú Míosúil a tionóladh ar 28ú Feabhra 2015 i Seomra Cruinn at Teach an Ardmhéara, Sráid Dhásain ag 8.00 i.n.
I Láthair an tArdmhéara Christy Burke sa chathaoir

Comhairleoir:

Catherine Ardagh
Paddy Bourke
Janice Boylan
Tom Brabazon
Christy Burke
Claire Byrne
Cathleen Carney Boud
Anthony Connaghan
David Costello
Patrick Costello
Ciáran Cuffe
Daithí De Róiste
Daithí Doolan

Comhairleoir:

Pat Dunne
Declan Flanagan
Mannix Flynn
Gary Gannon
Seán Haughey
Deirdre Heney
Jane Horgan-Jones
Vincent Jackson
Andrew Keegan
Teresa Keegan
Greg Kelly
Frank Kennedy
Mícheál Mac Donncha

Comhairleoir:

Paul McAuliffe
Paddy McCartan
Ruairí McGinley
Denise Mitchell
Emma Murphy
Críona Ní Dhálaigh
Damian O'Farrell
Ciáran O'Moore
Naoise Ó Muirí
Larry O'Toole
Noeleen Reilly
Noel Rock
Paddy Smyth

Oifigigh

Owen Keegan
Margaret McCann
Alan Breen
Paul Heffernan

Oonagh Casey
Miriam Ní Chleirigh
Angela Walsh
Ray Murray
Fanchea Gibson

Vincent Norton
Christine Gonzalez
Elaine Norton
Stephen O'Neill
Ken Devine

The MC for the occasion, Councillor Deirdre Heney, welcomed the invited guests to the Round Room at the Mansion House on this historic occasion. The ceremonial procession, the Sword and Mace bearers, the Lord Mayor accompanied by his ADC, Brother Kevin Crowley and John Giles followed by the Chief Executive, Owen Keegan, then entered the Round room at 8pm and made their way to the stage.

The Chief Executive, Mr. Owen Keegan, read the resolution of the City Council that approved the conferral of the Honorary Freedom of the City of Dublin on Brother Kevin Crowley OFM Cap and Mr. John Giles. The resolution, adopted unanimously by Dublin City Council at its meeting held on 1st September 2014, was as follows "That Dublin City Council hereby resolves that the Honorary Freedom of the City of Dublin be conferred on Brother Kevin Crowley and Mr. John Giles and that their names be inscribed on the Roll of Honorary Freedom of Dublin, pursuant to the provisions of Section 74 of the Local Government Act, 2001, in recognition of their enormous contribution to the City of Dublin in relation to Social Justice and Sport respectively."

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The Lord Mayor Christy Burke welcomed the recipients of the Freedom of the City of Dublin Brother Kevin Crowley and John Giles and their families and friends, Members of Dublin City Council, Minister Michael Ring, Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan, the Chief Executive and all the invited guests, saying they were very welcome to the historic Round Room for this event to confer the Honorary Freedom of the City of Dublin.

The Lord Mayor gave a brief history of the Honorary Freedom of the City of Dublin, saying it was the highest honour that can be given by the City of Dublin and since 1876, only 78 people have received the honour. Previous recipients have been people who contributed significantly to the life of Dublin City or were important international visitors. Previous recipients have included Isaac Butt, John Count McCormack, Charles Stewart Parnell, Maureen Potter, George Bernard Shaw, U2, Stephen Roche, Ronnie Delany, John F. Kennedy, Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Aung San Suu Kyi and Nelson Mandela. He outlined some of the ancient privileges and duties attached to the Freedom of the City including the right to graze sheep in St. Stephen's Green. He went on to humorously advise the new Freeman that they would have a range of duties including being ready to defend the city from attack.

The Lord Mayor then spoke about Brother Kevin Crowley and outlined why he had nominated him for this honour. Brother Kevin, originally from Cork, opened the Capuchin Day Centre in Bow Street in 1969 after seeing people leaving hostels with nowhere to go and nothing to eat. The Centre currently feeds 800 people a day and gives out 1,800 food parcels a week. He called Brother Kevin the most humble man he knew and a 'walking saint'. The Lord Mayor then introduced a short video highlighting Brother Kevin's work and commendations from public figures. He then called on Brother Kevin to come forward to sign the Roll of Honorary Freedom and receive his Award and Scroll. Brother Kevin received a standing ovation from the audience.

Brother Kevin addressed those gathered and expressed his gratitude to the Lord Mayor and Dublin City Council for awarding him the Freedom of the City. He congratulated John Giles for his award. He accepted the Award on behalf of all those who work in the Capuchin Day Centre and all the volunteers and benefactors of the Centre without whom it would not be possible to keep the doors open. Above all he accepted the Award on behalf of the poor, homeless and needy people of Dublin City. Brother Kevin spoke of the work of the Capuchin Day Centre and advised that the Centre is very much guided by the spirit of St. Francis which focuses on the poor and needy and treats everyone with dignity and respect. Anybody who asks for food will be fed without questions asked.

Brother Kevin referred to the celtic tiger years in Ireland and commented that there were many people who had been left behind and were trapped in a cycle of poverty and hopelessness. He commented on the drugs scene in Dublin and said it was worse than ever before and is a huge problem in Dublin City. There are new and more dangerous and addictive drugs which are causing huge problems. He said that half of the 306 people in the Capuchin Day Centre that morning were involved in drugs. He appealed to the Government to help these people who are crying out for help. He referred to the recent focus on homelessness and advised that it was time to stop talking and come up with workable solutions. He advised that people had died on the streets over the years but it took someone who died in the vicinity of Dáil Éireann to put the issue centre stage.

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Brother Kevin also highlighted the recent housing crisis that affects families when emergency accommodation means families being accommodated in hotels and B&Bs which are totally unsuitable for family needs. He advised that in the Capuchin Day Centre they witness the casualties of failed Government policies and appealed to those charged with caring for the children of the State to tackle this housing issue now and help these families and children.

Brother Kevin thanked the Lord Mayor for his years of assistance and friendship to the Capuchin Day Centre. He also thanked the Provincial of the Capuchin Order, his fellow friars and his family and gave special mention to his late parents who were responsible for his vocation. At the conclusion of his speech Brother Kevin received another standing ovation.

The Lord Mayor then turned his attention to John Giles. John was born and raised in Ormond Square to a footballing family and left to go to Manchester in 1956 to play with Manchester United. He made his international debut for Ireland in 1959. He moved to Leeds United where became a firm favourite with the fans and won medals in a range of competitions. He played in Ireland with Shamrock Rovers whom he also managed and finished his career managing in Vancouver, Canada. His international reputation was confirmed when in 2003 he won the UEFA Jubilee Award as best Irish player of the past fifty years. He is known to a younger audience through his punditry on RTÉ sport and helps those less fortunate through his John Giles Foundation which uses football to build community spirit and promote health.

The Lord Mayor said that John Giles has been a great Ambassador for Ireland and entertained millions of people throughout the world. He said John is a humble man who has never looked for reward or award. When listening to his punditry the Lord Mayor said John commanded respect and he would sit up and listen to his words. He said John promotes health and sport to prevent young men and women going down the avenues that Brother Kevin spoke of. The Lord Mayor spoke of the great honour when Dublin City Council put a plaque in Ormond Square to mark John's place of birth.

The Lord Mayor then introduced a short video highlighting John Giles' skills and commendations from public figures. He then called on John Giles to come forward to sign the Roll of Honorary Freedom and receive his Award and Scroll. John received a standing ovation from the audience.

John Giles addressed those gathered and expressed his gratitude to the Lord Mayor and Dublin City Council for awarding him the Freedom of the City. He also congratulated Brother Kevin on receiving the award and said he was humbled to receive his Award with a man who has done so much for the people of Dublin. He said that receiving the Freedom of the City of Dublin was a great honour for him, his family, his friends and the greater soccer community. He said he felt he was very lucky as he worked doing something he loved and when he reached the end of his playing career, he started work with RTÉ as a pundit which was another job he loved. At the conclusion of his speech, John received another Standing Ovation.

The Lord Mayor concluded the ceremony saying that both men were worthy recipients of the Freedom of the City of Dublin. He said the short summing up of the recipients would be "One played and the other prayed". He thanked the elected members of Dublin City Council for their support for the Freedom of the City. He thanked the Chief Executive and his staff in particular the staff of the Media Relations Department and

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the Mansion House staff who organised the event with professionalism, dignity and integrity.

The MC, Councillor Deirdre Heney, declared the formal part of the ceremony to be over and invited the ceremonial party to process from the stage. A meal was served and the dignitaries mingled with guests, family and friends.

Correct.

LORD MAYOR

MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR