

**The Chairman and Members of
North West Area Committee.**

Meeting: 19th October 2021

Item No: 12

RE: Area Wide Halloween 2021 Report

Due to Covid-19 restrictions neither Ballymun or Finglas can have their usual large events this year. Instead we decided, a number of months ago, to work collaboratively this Halloween on "*Otherworld meets Finglas Fright Night – a Monster mashup!*"

There will also be some area specific projects for each area. We would encourage Elected Officials and residents in both communities to keep an eye on Finglas Fright Night, Otherworld and Axis Theatre social media pages for additional updates. Below are some of the highlights to look forward to.

Travelling Light Show

As planning for our Halloween Event started a number of months ago it was decided to organise an outdoor visual light show that can be seen within a 10km radius. Thereby reducing the risk of large crowds gathering and the event can be watched from the comfort of residents' gardens and streets.

The travelling light show features large light beams and will travel through 5 sites in the Northwest Area. Two of these sites are in Ballymun (east / west) and three sites in Finglas (east/south/west). Advertising of the event will take place on social media and by a leaflet drop to all doors in Dublin Northwest. Community Policing Units in Finglas and Ballymun will support the event.

School Engagement Projects

Axis Theatre is working with schools in both Finglas and Ballymun on a number of Halloween themed projects. Selected projects are targeted for uploading and showing on 31st October.

Activities include flash mob tutorials, scary stories project titled "tales from the other side", and spooky garden projects. Axis is also working on a Halloween themed arts project with Scoil Chiaráin. These activities will be filmed and a highlights show shown as part of the virtual Halloween Show.

Stories Project

Better Finglas in conjunction with Young Ballymun will be reading a book entitled "The Scarecrow's Wedding". Families participating in the Better Finglas and Young Ballymun Programmes will receive books and activity packs so they can join in with the reading on the 31st October.

The project aims to engage families in shared reading and ancillary activities. Finglas and Ballymun Libraries will promote the event and have additional copies of the book available for participants.

Library Activities

In addition to supporting the Better Finglas / Young Ballymun reading project the Finglas Library is running a Halloween Art Competition for 4-7year olds and Ballymun Library will run some Halloween Themed Workshops.

Outdoor Events

There will be outdoor entertainment on Halloween week in both Finglas and Ballymun in conjunction with the DUBLIN ALIVE! Project.

Spooky Garden Competition

Both Ballymun and Finglas organised a spooky garden competition, which runs until 24th October. Announcement of the winners will take place on 31st October. In Ballymun, the competition is being managed by the Ballymun Tidy Towns Group. A make and do presentation will be uploaded onto social media to give people ideas on how to upcycle and create their own decorations.

Spooky Cinema Showings

Axis Ballymun will run "Spooky Cinema" over the mid-term break. Spooky films for all the family will be shown. Axis Ballymun will promote and take bookings for this event.

Community Engagement Interviews

Each area has chosen community leaders to be interviewed about their thoughts on the past year and their memories of Halloween. This project is titled "bright lights of the community". The interviews will feature as part of the virtual Halloween package.

My Area Has Talent Competition

Dublin City Council NWA in conjunction with local Youth Centres ran a search for talent entitled "my area has talent". A prize of recording time in the Axis Recording Studio, stage performance time featured as a carrot to participants. Chosen acts will feature as part of the package of entertainment on the 31st October. All other acts who auditioned will feature as part of a music room collaboration.

Virtual Halloween Event

Similar to last year we will have a virtual element to Halloween, which can be enjoyed in the comfort of people's own homes. There will be entertainment for the little ghouls and goblins during the day which will include a virtual disco, performances by local artists, costume competitions, scary stories and much more.

Virtual entertainment is organised for the evening, which will include performances from the winners of my areas got talent, scary stories after dark, music corner entertainment, community messages and headline performances from some well-known faces!

The main platform will be Axis Theatre's YouTube and Facebook page. However, the uploads will be shared on both Halloween social media pages (Otherworld and Finglas Fright Night).

Finglas specific projects

Youth projects

Finglas CSDS have funded Halloween specific projects in the youth centre. This funding will go towards their centre-based activities and their trips on the midterm break.

Go Fly Your Kite

Dublin City Council in conjunction with Better Finglas will run a workshop entitled "Go Fly Your Kite". The programme is family friendly and involves the design and making of a kite by 8 to 12 year olds alongside parents/guardians.

Better Finglas will target vulnerable families in the area, up to 50 people will participate in the programme.

Ballymun specific projects

The Ballymun Community Team is organising a spooky poster competition with local schools and a witch/warlock walk in Poppintree Park and are also supporting Halloween Themed activities in BRYR, Poppintree Youth Project, GLAS Community Garden, Sillogue Neighbourhood Centre and with other community projects. They will also decorate some windows in the Council Chambers and encourage a similar decoration project in Axis and BRYR.

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