

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

Meeting: 16th November 2021

Item No: 11

RE: Area Wide Post Halloween 2021 Report

As both Ballymun and Finglas were not able to have their large events this year due to Covid 19 restrictions we decided a number of months ago to work collaboratively this Halloween on “Otherworld meets Finglas Fright Night – a Monster mashup!” There was also area specific projects in both Finglas and Ballymun. The schedule of events was advertised through a leaflet drop to all residents in the Northwest Area, press advertisement and social media. Overall the feedback from the events has been positive. Across Twitter the Festival content reached over 11k engagements. Total views for video content for the festival were 7,222 across multiple platforms, Facebook was our top platform with YouTube getting our lowest traffic.



Travelling light show

We were not able to have a fireworks display this year as it would have run the risk of a large gathering it was decided to have a light show travel across Ballymun and Finglas. The lights were beamed across all 5 sites with the hope that it could be seen from a distance. All Health and Safety procedures were managed by Safe Events Ltd. This event was supported by Gardaí from both areas.

School Engagement Projects

Axis Theatre worked with schools in both Finglas and Ballymun on a number of Halloween themed projects with footage being uploaded and shown during the virtual Halloween programme on 31st October. School activities included flash mobs, scary stories project titled “tales from the other side”, and spooky garden projects. Axis worked on a Halloween themed arts project with Scoil Chiaráin.

Stories Project

Better Finglas in conjunction with Young Ballymun preformed a reading of a book entitled “The Scarecrow’s Wedding”. Families participating in the Better Finglas and Young Ballymun Programmes received the book and activity packs so they could participate with the reading on the 31st October. This project aims to engage families in shared reading and ancillary activities. Finglas and Ballymun Libraries participated in the event by promoting the activity and having additional copies of the book available for participants.



Library Activities

In addition to supporting the Better Finglas / Young Ballymun Reading Project both Finglas and Ballymun Libraries ran a Halloween Art Competition for 4-7year olds.

Planned Outdoor Events

Anita Nicholson from the Imagination Clinic paid a visit to local crèches in both Ballymun and Finglas to entertain the children with fun and games. Cúpla Clowns popped up in Poppintree and Finglas Youth Resource Centre, Mellows Road to entertain families during the mid-term break. *Due to the bad weather these events were held indoors.*



Spooky Garden Competition

Both Ballymun and Finglas organised a spooky garden competition. There was a good level of interest and entrants into both competitions. The winners were announced on Halloween and prizes distributed to the lucky winners.

Cinema Showings

Axis, Ballymun ran two “little spooks fancy dress cinema” showing Coco and Hocus Pocus. Both showings were held on 31st October. The tickets were free with a selected amount of tickets donated to family resource centres in both areas. People attending were encouraged to dress up with characters greeting them as they entered the spooky cinema showing.

Community Engagement Interviews

Each area chose community leaders to be interviewed to get their thoughts on the year past and their memories of Halloween. This project was titled “bright lights of the community”. The interviews featured as part of the virtual Halloween package.



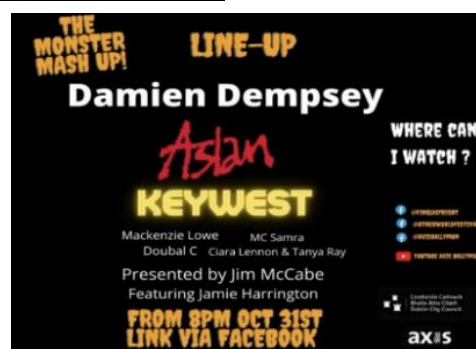
My Area has Talent competition

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 and stage performance time featured as a carrot to participants. The five chosen local acts took part in the package of online entertainment.

Virtual Halloween Event

The virtual Halloween events were live on all three social media platforms (Axis, Otherworld and Finglas Fright Night) from 2pm to 9pm on the day itself. The first half of the day focused on family fun content starting off with Pat’s Creepy Crafts, kitchen disco, tales from the Northside which is a creative stories project with local schools, flash mob tutorials, light show footage, pumpkin and fancy dress competitions.

The main evening show started at 8pm, hosted by Radio Nova DJ Jim McCabe. This online concert included performances from the winners of My Areas got Talent, interviews with local hero’s hosted by Jamie Harrington, performances by Aslan, Damien Dempsey and Keywest.



Finglas Specific Projects

Youth projects

Finglas CSDS funded Halloween specific projects in the youth centre. This funding covered the cost of the group's trips to Halloween themed venues during the mid-term break.

Go Fly Your Kite

Dublin City Council in conjunction with Better Finglas ran two Halloween Workshops entitled "Go Fly Your Kite". The programme is family friendly and involves the design and making of a kite by 5 to 12 year olds alongside parents/guardians. Better Finglas targeted families that they would link in with on a continual basis and the event was also advertised for general registration.



Meeting Place Club

Finglas CSDS funded the Meeting Place Halloween calendar of activities. The MPAC organised a Halloween line dancing party event for all, costume competitions, pumpkin competition and best picture. MPAC hope to display their work in the library in November.



Ballymun Specific Projects

Youth Activities

Ballymun CSDC funded the following spooky youth activities:

- A Spooky range of activities in Ballymun Regional Youth Resource and Poppintree Youth Project
- A Halloween Hurling Programme in Setanta GAA, Hurliton,
- A Pumpkin Patch Halloween Party in GLAS Community Garden on Halloween Day, which included storytelling, a pumpkin carving competition and much much more.
- A schools poster competition which was extremely successful with over 650 entries and amazingly high standards.



There was a Witch Walk and Halloween Party for the Older Persons who attend the weekly Poppintree Park Walk, which took place in the Sillogue Neighbourhood Centre and was also great fun and a great success.

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