

Portmarnock Arch Club Newsletter August 2021

Chairperson's address

Hello everyone

First of all, I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to act as your chairperson in the coming year. It's a great honor and I promise to work hard and fulfil my duty in doing the best for our club.

It has been a long year with COVID 19 constantly chasing us and keeping us on our toes, but we are finally ready to reopen in a new format with everyone's best interests at heart.

The club is blessed to have a core volunteer group who have maintained contact with our members and kept forging ahead. I want to Thank them all for their commitment and dedication to our club.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank my ex-chairperson Andrew Nolan and Hon sec Adrienne Ryan. Andrew although quiet always had the interests of the club at heart and was always doing his best for our club. Thanks Andrew. Adrienne Ryan is gone to a full-time job and I wish her success in all she does. Her family have always been supportive of club which we are grateful for.

Lastly, I wish to take a moment to ask everyone to remember those gone in the last 12 months both personally and belonging to the club. Especially Kay Moriarty who was significant in helping with the making of the Arch Club. She dared to believe in the club and helped parents develop and bring it to the fore. We will do something in the coming months to remember her and others we hold close that we have lost.

Recently we lost a ex volunteer and family sibling of Emmet Ni Duill. We will be thinking of those close and sending our thoughts their way. Our thoughts and prayers are with you always. I went to school with Shay and always found him to be sweet and funny and polite. My year at school have all expressed how we have been blessed to have known him. RIP Shay.

The club is in a strong position and with time moving on we are realizing the need for a junior club within our Centre that will address peoples needs within our ever-growing community.

We hope to get this underway and we intend to readdress the issue of respite and see if we can develop something for our members, so watch this space.

The AGM took place recently and although a year late it had a good turn out with a great selection of new volunteers for committee. I wish to welcome Amanda Brennan as our new hon treasurer and look forward to handing over to her and working towards the future of club. Also I wish to welcome Sinead Foley who is going to help develop our junior club .

AGM

This years' AGM was held in July and had a good turnout.

It was noted that although our constitution is long standing it needs to be addressed and updated so the committee along with a subcommittee will do so in the coming months and then return to you our members for input before formalizing the document.

The AGM saw the end of office term for Andrew and Adrienne and Sinead in their officers' roles and moving forward Sinead has now taken up the role of Chairperson.

The committee is now as follows

Chairperson: Sinead Mc Gowan 086 340 1524

Vice Chairperson Shay Smyth

Hon Secretary: Finbarr O Connor/Colum Hanifan 0868193380

Hon Treasurer: Amanda Brennan

Brid Finn

Barbara Carberry

Eamon Coffey

Fiona Loughran

Sinead Foley

Declan Crilly

Colum Mc Fadden

If anyone requires assistance or questions they wish to ask they can address them to myself Finbarr O'Connor or Colum Hanifan (0868193380) rapturmanster@gmail.com or Sinead herself will still be available to all correspondence (0863401524)

Club News

The club hopes to return to club activities in September. We hope to run a morning of meet and greet for our members in smaller pods to get them back to meet the volunteers

August 28th (co coordinators will be in touch)

We will then run clubs from 13th of September, and they will run every second week for a period with zoom clubs on the other weeks

Capacity is an issue so we will be limited to numbers and run a format that will be compatible with covid regulations.

At this point let me say that we are first Arch Club to get back and be functioning, we also will be bringing in new volunteers via zoom portal with the intention of them joining clubs in the future (vaccinations depending).

We also hope to run Halloween Camp and Christmas camp that will take place 23 and 24 of Oct or 30/31 and Dec 30/31

We hope to offer those who didn't get a chance to be part of summer camp a chance at these.

This year we trialed a summer project for a small number of members with COVID in the front of our minds.

This was a great success and the decision to run other clubs similarly would be that attention and time would be given to members and quality is better than quantity.

The members loved the detail and the reduced numbers which resulted in more interaction and more content within clubs. The projects consisted of outside integration in local restaurant and a beach walk and games and then on-site arts and crafts and sports

We had 9 volunteers deliver the club and had some reflective time to discuss with members what they wished for going forward for their club.

The clubs ran 12 to 3 and overall, we felt it was enough for the members as concentration was intense.

The feedback from carer's and guardians was that the members got a lot out of the days and came home happy and tired.

The volunteers where delighted to get back and remarked on how it was their need to get back as soon as possible.

We were the first Arch club to test this as most clubs have not resumed due to the risk of the unknown. We will continue our path and hope to deliver clubs in full swing.

On a health and safety aspect it is best to err on caution so please be advised we will keep you all in the loop and do always what is in the club's best interest.

Potential Dates to Remember

7th of October Golf Classic

Halloween project 30/31 Oct

Christmas project 30/31st December

Christmas Fair (potential Date) 5th of December

Raffle for Christmas 18th of December

All information pertaining to these events will be disseminated closer to the time