

# co-opnews Oct. 2005

newsletter of the Dublin Food Co-Op

## Dublin Food Co-op October 12/10/2005 CO-OP NEWS

Welcome back to another edition of Co-Op News. As you are aware it has been some time since we have had a newsletter. This edition comes at a busy and important time for the Co-Op. The current Co-ordinating Body (CB) have followed on from previous boards and have been examining the possibility of moving to a new premises, this time in Blackpitts. They are in the final throes of this process and believe it to be a worthwhile option for the Co-Op. There is a Special General Meeting (S.G.M) of the members on 26<sup>th</sup> October to provide an opportunity to further consider this and full details are supplied in this new-sheet. The views of our Chairperson and one of our Producers on this issue are also outlined here. Unfortunately we have been unable to obtain any written documents from those who have concerns about this move in time for this edition of the newsletter.

I'd also like to draw your attention to the date of our next "Information Meeting" which is on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 11.00 a.m. in the Fáilte room in St Andrews. This is to give members another opportunity to hear about the proposal and bring any issues or concerns they may have prior to the SGM.

Monica Haughey (Editor).

## Developments In Dublin Food Co-Op

Dear Co-Op Member

After years of searching, the CB believes that it has secured for the Co-Op suitable premises in Blackpitts which will enable us to develop, grow and to provide long planned services to our membership. This is as envisaged in an exciting development plan adopted for that purpose. The Board's plans for a move to larger, full-time premises will enable us to increase our product range, the number of stallholders, and our membership. The resulting increased buying-power and the provision of a wholesale warehouse can lead to significant savings in costs and therefore our food prices. It will also enable us to build up adequate reserves to buy our own premises - our long term goal.

The business plan and premises layout adopted by the Board provides for an almost doubling of stallholder space, a trebling of shelf space (including refrigerated units), the construction of a proper kitchen, servery and

dining area, the provision of office space for the co-op and meeting rooms for members. We also plan the registration, on a rolling basis, of the Co-Op and premises as an organic entity for the purposes of re-packaging, retailing, cooking and the provision of a restaurant for members and their guests.

The Plan envisages an increase in membership over its 5 year period to 5,000 whilst facilitating our further and (hopefully!) final move to permanent Co-op owned premises.


The changes that these moves anticipate have caused concern to some members and the CB has called an SGM for Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> October in The Holiday Inn Pearse St (almost opposite St Andrew's) to explore these issues, and to consider a motion to amend our rules to enable our membership to grow. Notices of that SGM are being circulated and it is important that any members concerned about the future of the Co-Op should attend and participate. Full participation will not be possible unless you are a paid-up member.

To access our Business Plan, or other relevant discussion documents, visit [www.dublinfoodcoop.com](http://www.dublinfoodcoop.com).

Anthony Harris (Executive Chairman)

DUBLIN FOOD CO-OP

(Oct. 11, 2005)



### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Agenda Item 1: An exploration of all our options in relation to the CB's proposal to move the Dublin Food Co-Op and all its related activities to a temporary premises in Blackpitts.

Agenda Item 2: That the rules of the Society be amended by the deletion of paragraph 4(d) of the rules of the Society which reads: "[D] The total number of members at any time shall not exceed 1,500 without the prior of the Society in General Meeting" and that the amendment be thereafter registered with the Registrar of Friendly Societies".

**7pm Weds 26th October 2005**  
at: Holiday Inn, 99-107 Pearse St., D2.

**PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE A FULLY PAID-UP MEMBER!**

## Nothing Ventured Nothing Gained

*Deidre O' Sullivan a "stall-holder" at the Co-op for fifteen years, was asked for her views on the Co-op's proposed move. She clearly welcomes the current proposals to move premises.*

We have had so many possible moves over the years it's hard to believe it's going to happen, but at long last we are going to move – Hallelujah! As a producer member in the Dublin Food Co-Op for the last 15 years I am delighted. It has been a nightmare trying to set up a stall in the confined space we are given every Saturday and it limits the range of produce we can have available to you the customer. A case in point was last week - I ran out of eggs however with only half an hour to go I found 2 crates of eggs buried under a stack of crates. With longer opening hours the queuing will disappear and I will have more time to chat with everybody. The move will, more than likely, affect my income (downwards) initially but as everything settles down it will recover and then more than likely increase. From the customer point of view, the availability of organic produce all week should be a bonus as it will free up their Saturdays, possibly to start their own organic garden. It won't be easy at first but I would encourage everyone to look on the positive side and in a few months after moving everyone will have gained something from our venture.

Deirdre O' Sullivan, Producer Member/Stall holder

## Information Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> September 2005-10-10

An open meeting was held for members wanting to discuss the proposed move to new premises. The meeting was attended by about 15 members and four Board members. Overall the meeting was a positive one and the Board were congratulated on moving so far with new premises. One member, who lives in the Blackpitts area re-assured some of those present of the safety of the area and the ongoing development of the area. Others queried whether we had considered alternative energy supplies for the premises, which unfortunately isn't feasible given the lease we have. There were also discussions about environmentally friendly modes of transport and our Co-op Chairperson suggested we all cycle and get our goods delivered for us! It was also suggested we liaise with local communities in the area and this is highlighted in our marketing strategy as documented in the business plan.

Next Information Meeting Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – especially useful for those attending S.G.M. who would like more specific information or have concerns addressed prior to the meeting.

A members' briefing document has been put on our website([www.dublinfoodcoop.com](http://www.dublinfoodcoop.com))

## Help Rota Teams and Dates

The Help Rota is the backbone of the Co-Op's functioning every week, carrying out the essential tasks of setting up the Co-Op on Fridays and Saturday mornings and taking it down on Saturday afternoons. There are seven teams the duty of which comes around every seven weeks, for a two hour shift Fridays (9-11am, 11am-1pm, 1-3pm, 3-5pm) and Saturday afternoons (3-5pm). Duties include such tasks as unloading pallets, stacking shelves, stock-taking, moving trolleys etc. As an incentive Help Rota volunteers receive a 10% discount on the Co-Op's goods. The Help Rota is always looking for new volunteers so if interested please get in touch via email to: [co-ophelprota@dublin.ie](mailto:co-ophelprota@dublin.ie) to Pauric Cannon (Help Rota Co-ordinator) or Anthony Dillon (Volunteer Co-ordinator). Alternatively ask at the welcome desk.

The timetable of teams for the remainder of the year are as follows:

<u>Team</u>	<u>Dates 2005</u>
<b>A</b>	26 Nov. 05
<b>B</b>	15 Oct. 05
<b>C</b>	22 Oct. 05
<b>D</b>	29 Oct. 05
<b>E</b>	5 Nov. 05
<b>F</b>	12 Nov. 05
<b>G</b>	19 Nov. 05

## Letter From Hiroshima

*This is an abridged version of Pauric Cannon's letter from Hiroshima to the Co-op during his August visit.*

A Cairde, (Dear Friends)

I'd like to share with you if I may, some of the trials and joys that I experienced while attending this year's Hiroshima commemorations, which marked the 60th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on that city on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945.

## [letter From Hiroshima continued]

My point of arrival in Japan was Osaka's, Kansai airport some 200km north of Hiroshima. I arrived there from Beijing on August 4th at 6.00pm local time. My plan was to join the Hiroshima Peace Walkers, ie. the Nipponzan Muji Buddhist monks, their supporters and friends, who had reached the final stage of their walk from Tokyo to Hiroshima. They had started their walk in Tokyo on 28th May and had by then, reached a point north of Hiroshima city. They would spend that night there, in a 'fisherman's hall' where I had also hoped to spend the night.

I arrived at this 'fisherman's hall' at midnight. After a



"No more Hiroshima's, no more Nagasaki's, no more wars". Hiroshima 6/06/2005 60th Anniversary of bombing

few minutes a woman came to the door and led me inside to a large hall, which was in darkness. I recognised vaguely, the outlines of snoring bodies packed like sardines on the floor. The woman then led me to a corner where I lay down; pulling the thin end of my backpack under my head, I quickly fell into a deep sleep.

I was awakened by the chant of monks and the chirp-chirp of cicada insects at 5.30am. A simple communal breakfast consisted of green tea, bread and fruit. At 7am there were introductions and short speeches. Then I was asked to introduce myself and I managed to say: "Watashi wa Poorikku. Aiurando-jin desu". I explained with the help of an interpreter that I would be presenting a letter of solidarity to the Hiroshima Peace Walkers from the Chairperson of Irish CND, Fr. Fergal Brennan, later that morning.

There were several high powered political speeches on the morning of 6th August at the Hiroshima Memorial Peace Park. The Nipponzan Muji monks and their supporters had gathered near the Atomic Bomb Dome building, images of which, you are already familiar with. Six hundred meters above this dome, the A-bomb exploded on 6th August 1945 at 8.15am; but because the bomb blast pressure came from directly above this building, most of its walls and steel roof structure, remained intact. The occupants were of course, killed instantly. The monks

chanted, prayed and drummed – a special drum that looked like a cross between an Irish bodhran and a tennis-racket – on heaven's doors for several hours. Later, I was invited to speak in a temple overlooking Hiroshima after the religious ceremonies had concluded. This was my first visit to Hiroshima but my second time meeting the Nipponzan Muji monks. I first met them in Ireland, during the Irish anti-nuclear campaign in 1982, when they arrived in our country bearing witness to the message of Hiroshima. I commented on how moving the ceremonies had been and emphasised Irish CND's sincere desire to work with the monks and all who wished for a nuclear-free world. I mentioned that the US with Britain were currently collaborating on the development of a new range of nuclear weapons and that Hiroshima's message to the world, was now more urgent than ever.

Afterwards, I experienced a wonderful moment; two of the Nipponzan Muji monks who had come to my village in Lettermacaward, Co. Donegal in 1982, came up to speak with me. They had both come to Donegal with four other monks, during the Donegal Anti-Uranium Mining campaign of 1981/82, bringing the message of Hiroshima to the people of Donegal.

I'd like to end this letter on a note of hope. I learned that the children of Hiroshima and Nagasaki had come up with a plan to rid the world of nuclear weapons. Their idea is to ask the major nuclear weapons states to dismantle just two nuclear weapons (out of the thousands which they possess) and that they, the children, would pay for the cost of disman-



The Atomic Dome, an atomic bomb exploded 600 meters above; Hiroshima 06/08/2005

ting and rendering the weapons safe. Such profound wisdom from the mouths of children!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Go dti an cead uair eile go dte sibh slán, (until the next time, may you go safely)

Pauric

## Memories Of Michael Brennan

*This poem was written in memory of a long-term active member of the Co-op who died on 1<sup>st</sup> Setember 2005. He is missed greatly by many.*

Dear Michael we have laid to rest  
Quite close to his families nest  
A man of wisdom that's for sure  
Steeped so deep in his country lore.  
He also loved the ancient ways  
And practised them near passage graves.

With science he'd lecture you and me  
He could dissect a cup of tea  
Or see a plan in tumbled stones  
And speak with awe of stars and bones.

He always had something to do  
Of bright ideas quite a few.  
His fortune lay just round the bend  
If he could but adapt or mend  
His latest bargain from the hill  
if not he'd store it just until...

On Saturdays in Andrews hall  
His fresh popped corn would feed us all  
Or healing hands could heal the ills  
Of women working on the tills.

At Co-op meetings he was best  
He'd open up a hornets nest  
And let the sparks fly everywhere  
Then say "I wanted for to clear the air  
Now its time to get things done  
And not stay sitting on your bum"

Of women he would often say  
How he wished to be led astray.  
But those who would he'd let them go  
And those who could would say oh no!

From worthy campaigns he'd not hide  
But he could argue for each side.  
For him the campaigns over now  
His laurels rest on others brow  
We'll look for water fluoride free  
And say no to G.M.O's for me.

So slán abhaile Michael dear

We'll laugh and sing and shed a tear  
You have returned to Great Earth Mother  
Like you there'll never be another.

**(Seosamh P. O Duinn 3-09-05)**

## Events:

### Co-op Walk:

Trooperstown Hill and Avonmore river (near Laragh,) Co. Wicklow

Meet 12 noon Yellow House Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. A beautiful autumn walk

Bring rain gear, food and sensible footwear.

For further details contact Larry Gordon 2882957 or 086 8328745

### Cookery Class

Dorene Palmer (Co-Op member) is running a six week cookery course at Airfield House, Dundrum.

This starts Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.00pm.

Dorene has trained in macrobiotics and traditional Chinese medicine and her cooking is influenced by this. She uses organic fresh produce as much as she can and enjoys conveying her enthusiasm for food and its energising effects to others!

For further details contact Dorene at 2149662/0857062039

## News from Vendemia Wines

New wine Caledoc, South of France 2004-this wine is a mixture of the grenache and malbec grapes and is a very interesting wine and well worth a try ! Retail price 10.90 euro

This week the wine for tasting is a wine from Puglia in the south of Italy.Selvate (IGT) is a soft warm and mellow wine – particularly good for those getting prepared for the Co-op SGM!

(Note from editor –I look forward to getting news from other stall-holders for the next newsheet.)

### Co-Op News:

Layout and design of Co-Op News was done by Anthony Dillon Co-ordinating Board member.

Editor was Monica Haughey Co-ordinating Board member and Communications Officer

Co-op articles for inclusion in next newsletter should be sent to The Editor, Co-op News, 12 A North King St., Dublin 7 or e-mail to: mhaughey@iolfree.ie