

# THE HUB & THOMAS STREET NEWS

ISSUE 3 | AUGUST 2013



Guests enjoying The Digital Hub's 10th Anniversary Networking Social in the Guinness Storehouse.



Scan the QR code to view the networking social photo album.

## DHDA'S 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

This year, The Digital Hub is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Digital Hub Development Agency (DHDA) is holding a series of events to mark this milestone. In June, the DHDA held a networking and social evening in the Gravity Bar in the Guinness Storehouse. Past and present member companies of The Digital Hub, public sector partners, community groups and other local stakeholders were all in attendance, and a very enjoyable evening was had by all. Also in June, a group of eight 'digital clusters' came together at The Digital Hub. A digital cluster is a project, which – like The Digital Hub – is home to numerous digital enterprises located around

the same space. The event at The Digital Hub was attended by representatives of digital clusters from eight European regions: Scotland, Spain, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Portugal, England, Malta and Ireland. Its aim was to discuss the future of digital in Europe and to explore how European digital clusters can better collaborate to ensure European policy is supportive of digital innovation and enterprise. This gathering marked the first occasion for these clusters to officially come together, and their meeting preceded the Digital Agenda Assembly, which ran in Dublin at the end of June as part of Ireland's EU Presidency programme.

## NEW COMPANIES AT THE DIGITAL HUB

The Digital Hub continues to bring news businesses to the Thomas Street area. The most recent arrivals are **Buzzea**, **eMaint**, and **Infocare**.

Buzzea is a French company, specialising in online marketing, while eMaint is a world-leader in the development of computerised maintenance management systems and is in the process of setting up its European headquarters at the Hub. The company is expected to create 25 jobs in Dublin. Infocare specialises in healthcare management systems.

Other companies that recently joined The Digital Hub include international games developer and producer, **Kama Games** and global leader in the field of video interviews and screening, **Sonru**. **Big Bang Design** and **Casimir Investments** have also recently joined The Digital Hub.

For a full list of companies at The Digital Hub, see [www.thedigitalhub.com/companydirectory](http://www.thedigitalhub.com/companydirectory).

## FUTURE CREATORS UPDATE

Future Creators is an after-schools programme run by The Digital Hub and the National College of Art and Design (NCAD). The programme held an event at the NCAD in June to mark the end of the 2012 / 2013 year and to showcase work produced by participants over the course of the year. Future Creators targets secondary-school students from the Liberties to help them to develop digital media skills. It aims to encourage them to consider a career in digital media or technology. The 17 students that participated in the 2012 / 2013 programme received certificates of recognition from NCAD at the showcase event. The work they created over the course of the year was on display, including short films addressing issues such as addiction and smartphone apps focusing on puzzles, games and quizzes.



Scan the QR code to view the video page.

In other Future Creator news, students participating in the programme attended a workshop in Dublin Castle as



RTÉ presenter Stephen Byrne, pictured at the Future Creators showcase at NCAD, with Future Creators participants Melissa Comerford and Iris Bruda. Pic: Marc O'Sullivan.

part of the EU's Digital Agenda Assembly, which took place in June. Attendees at the workshop included Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission with responsibility for the Digital Agenda, Lord David Puttnam, Digital Champion of Ireland, and other innovative thinkers, policymakers and industry representatives. Keep up-to-date with the Future Creators at [www.thedigitalhub.com/futurecreators](http://www.thedigitalhub.com/futurecreators).

## DIGITAL HUB TV: PROFILING CREATIVE SPACES IN DUBLIN 8

Digital Hub TV are producing a series of videos about the studios, galleries, classes and shops that together to make the Liberties one of the most creative places in Dublin. Production has already begun with a view to publishing the

videos on [www.youtube.com/TheDigitalHub](http://www.youtube.com/TheDigitalHub) in October. Get in touch if you have suggestions about the creative people, places and events in Dublin 8 that would be worth a visit by emailing [exhibit@thedigitalhub.ie](mailto:exhibit@thedigitalhub.ie).



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## DUBLIN'S DIGITAL MASTERPLAN

A Digital Masterplan for Dublin was officially launched in June by the then Lord Mayor of Dublin, Naoise Ó'Muirí, and the Vice-President of the European Commission, Neelie Kroes. The Digital Hub played a significant role in developing the Masterplan. The plan provides a guide for the city in terms of adaptation, creation and adoption of digital technologies and processes. Its aim is to improve how the city works and to make it a better place to live, work, study and visit. It also aims to make Dublin more attractive for technology companies and digital start-ups. A summary of the Digital Masterplan is available at: [www.digitaldublin.ie/masterplan](http://www.digitaldublin.ie/masterplan).

## IRELAND'S NATIONAL DIGITAL STRATEGY

A National Digital Strategy for Ireland was launched in July by the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Pat Rabbitte TD. The strategy aims to promote digital in areas such as entrepreneurship, business and education. It focuses on helping small businesses expand online, preparing young people for future jobs, and ensuring that all people in Ireland benefit from digital. The Digital Hub Development Agency welcomes the Government's focus on digital and looks forward to working with national and local government to implement the new strategy. For more information on the National Digital Strategy, see [www.dcenr.gov.ie/nds](http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/nds).



The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Oisín Quinn, joins representatives from Thomas Street to promote the 'Bin It Your Way' campaign.

# PROGRESS REPORT: 90-DAY PLAN FOR THOMAS STREET

A 90-Day Plan to improve Thomas Street was launched by the Thomas Street Business Association (TSBA) and other local stakeholders at the beginning of May 2013. Over the past three months, a number of significant developments have been rolled out as part of the plan. In June, the TSBA, Dublin City Council and St. Catherine's Church organised a community clean-up focusing on Thomas Street, Meath Street, Francis Street and surrounding areas.

Dozens of volunteers turned up to participate in the clean-up, including residents of Thomas Street and surrounding areas, as well as business-owners, service-providers, retailers and other local interest groups. Armed with bags, gloves and brushes, the volunteer cleaners were sent on their way to the sounds of Brazilian drumming by MaSamba Samba School, a locally-based performance group. Another community clean-up is now being planned for Sunday, 8th September, in conjunction with Junior Chamber International.

In the aftermath of the community clean-up, the newly-elected Lord Mayor of Dublin, Oisín Quinn, joined representatives from Thomas Street to promote 'Bin It Your Way', a campaign run by the National Gum Litter Task Force to promote the correct way to dispose of chewing

gum. This followed a commitment from Dublin City Council to steam-clean Thomas Street on a regular basis – a process which includes the removal of chewing gum.

Another exciting development is the Thomas Street Volunteer Ambassador Programme. Volunteer Thomas Street Ambassadors – wearing distinctive purple bibs – work in pairs for two hour slots from 10am to 4pm, Wednesday to Saturday. They greet visitors, direct them to local business and services and encourage them to spend more time in the Liberties.

The programme is a joint venture between Volunteer Ireland and the Thomas Street Business Association. If you would like to get involved, please contact Clare Byrne, Volunteer Ambassador Coordinator by email at [thomasstreet@volunteer.ie](mailto:thomasstreet@volunteer.ie).

Other activities under the TSBA's 90-Day Plan included redecorating properties; graffiti removal; adding flower-boxes to windows; and implementing an Urban Art programme to enhance the street's appearance. A new website for Thomas Street has also been launched as a result of the 90-Day Plan: [www.thomasstreet-dublin.com](http://www.thomasstreet-dublin.com). Further information about the activities of the TSBA is available on this site.



Minister Varadkar joins Laurence Foster from Dickens in Dublin, Deirdre Byrne from Fáilte Ireland and Lesley-Anne Carey from Christchurch Cathedral to launch the new Dublin App. Pic: Fáilte Ireland

# DUBLINE

Fáilte Ireland, Dublin City Council and the Office of Public Works are working together to create Dublin, a tourism trail stretching from College Green to Kilmainham. The Dublin route passes by some of the city's most historic attractions, including Trinity College, Dublin Castle and Kilmainham Gaol. Dublin aims to bring together all the cultural organisations, local businesses, community members and public stakeholders along the route to provide

visitors to Dublin with a unique cultural experience. A new app and website package – the Dublin Storymap – is now available free on Android and iPhone platforms. It allows visitors to explore the city while watching or listening to stories. Each story is told by a different local person and stories range from childhood memories to Dublin at war. For more information on Dublin, please visit: <http://dublin.failteireland.ie/>.



Member of Metro Saint Brigid's Athletic Club, Kate O'Neill, is joined by Dr. Sylvia O'Keeffe and junior doctors from St. James's Hospital at the launch of the St. James's Hospital Liberties Fun Run.



The winning image on display at the 'One Day in the Liberties' exhibition, captured by Louise Doyle.

## LIBERTIES FESTIVAL

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Liberties Festival took place from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July, featuring the best of music, film, photography, theatre and community events, as well as exploring the history of the Liberties area. Over 32 events were held in 16 venues, with most completely free of charge.

The Festival was a resounding success, bringing the entire community together. A highlight was the photography exhibition, 'One Day in the Liberties', which displayed 60 photos taken by members of the public of the people, places and happenings of the Liberties.

The Dublin Gospel Choir raised the roof of Saint Patrick's Cathedral on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> July, while 'Nighthawks at the Guinness Storehouse' showcased music from Elevens, Keith Moss & The Tightrope Walkers, The Rockets, and

Sinead White. There was slam poetry from John Cummins; Kevin Gildea performed a reading; and there was laughter all round thanks to stand-up comedians Colum McDonnell and John Colleary.

The St. James's Hospital Liberties Fun Run was also an integral part of the Festival. The run involved a six-kilometre route that included James's Street, Thomas Street, The Coombe and the Guinness Storehouse, and finished in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham. The Fun Run raised much-needed funds for the development of the hospital.

Community events remained central to the ethos of the Festival, with favourites including the 25<sup>th</sup> annual competitive football match between Kevin Street Garda Station and The Traders; the Blue Rinse Ball and the Children's Talent Competition.

## DIAGEO COMMUNITY UPDATE

Last May, Diageo Ireland announced an investment of €30,000 to support local community events in Dublin 8 and, over the summer, this investment has come to fruition. Diageo Ireland was the primary sponsor of the hugely successful Liberties Festival, including the St. James's Hospital Fun Run. The company also supported the play 'Mr Joyce is Leaving Paris', directed by Ronan Wilmot, which is being staged in the Back Loft on Augustine Street until 31<sup>st</sup> August.

## THE THOMAS STREET POCKET PARK

The Digital Hub Development Agency collaborated with Fieldwork & Strategies Landscape Architects and Artists and the Probation Service / IASIO on the 'Thomas St. Pocket Park' - a project which recently vied for a bursary of up to €50,000 from The Arthur Guinness Projects. Voting closed on 23<sup>rd</sup> August and we will learn if the project was successful in the coming weeks. The idea behind the Thomas St. Pocket Park is to show how fruit, vegetables, salads and herbs can be grown, water harvested, chicken kept and waste composted in a sustainable and beautiful manner on a small plot. If successful, the plot will be situated on a vacant site at 14-16 Thomas Street, which belongs to The Digital Hub and is earmarked for building in the long-term, but in its current vacant state its use as a temporary community garden is welcome.

## BILLY O'CONNELL CONTINUES HIS MOTHER'S LEGACY

Billy O'Connell has worked for Dublin City Council all his life, at 3 Palace Street in front of Dublin Castle. His main roles include meeting and greeting, and dealing with public enquiries. As well as his work, one of Billy's passions is fundraising. His love of fundraising was inspired by his mother Mamie's fundraising efforts for the Children's Medical and Research Foundation and Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin.

In 2012, Billy raised an impressive €250,000 in support of the Children's Medical and Research Foundation. The funds have led to the establishment of the Mamie O'Connell Research Fellowships, which give young clinicians the opportunity to conduct two years of full-time research aimed at improving the health of children.

Billy has received wide support from his family and the Dublin 8 community, including



Joe Quinsey, CEO of Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin presents Billy O'Connell with a certificate to acknowledge his donation of €250,000, raised in memory of his mother.

Dublin City Council, the Gardaí, local businesses and The Digital Hub. To donate to the Children's Medical and Research Foundation, visit [www.cmrf.org/in\\_memory/page/36831](http://www.cmrf.org/in_memory/page/36831).

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## LIBERTY FLORIST

Meet Kim Buckley, owner of Liberty Florist, located at 70 Thomas Street.

**How long has your business been on Thomas St?**  
Our business has been on Thomas Street for a year. Before that, we were 22 years on the old Coombe.

**What are the first three things you do each morning when you get to work?**  
Check the flowers, get the orders ready for the day, and have a coffee.

**What part of your work do you enjoy the most?**  
I enjoy doing the wedding flowers the most. It is a huge honour to be part of someone's day. We have two weddings coming up this week.

**What is your favourite thing about Thomas St?**  
The characters on the street. No two days are ever the same on this street. You get to know the homeless community and the local

community, as well as people who work around here as well. There is a broad range of people that you don't get in every community. There is a very diverse background in this area and a very good sense of community.

**What do you think has changed most about Thomas St. in the last five years?**  
I live in the area and work in the area, and have known it for quite a while. What's different in the last 10 years, as opposed to the past five years, is the amount of new people coming to the area. This is partly due to Vicar Street and The Digital Hub bringing different people to the area. There are also lots of tourists in the area that bring another unique part to the street. Thomas Street is a very, very unique street.



*Liberty Florist is a small, Irish-owned flower shop, located in the heart of the Liberties.*

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*A visitor is captured viewing one of the many exhibitions at NCAD this summer.*

## NCAD SEASON OF EXHIBITIONS

On 14<sup>th</sup> June, the National College of Art and Design launched its season of exhibitions and events, entitled 'See the Future'. The season opened with the NCAD's Graduate Exhibition. Using all spaces in the college, the most comprehensive representation of art and design education in Ireland was presented to the public, showcasing all disciplines, from Fashion and Textile and Industrial / Product Design to Fine Art, Sculpture and Painting.

Students of 'Continuing Education in Art and Design' also exhibited their work, giving the public an opportunity to view and purchase a wide range of art and design. The exhibitions

provided a wonderful showcase of the future of art and design, not only appealing to graduates and the creative community, but to cultural tourists and locals alike.

As part of the exhibition season, the NCAD Gallery is showcasing a collection of materials from the College's National Irish Visual Arts Library, the most significant library of archives of the visual arts in Ireland from 1900 to the present. For the first time, members of the public are able to see and read the archive material. The exhibition is running until 20<sup>th</sup> September, so you still have time to check it out!



*Pic: Derek Spiers*

## SAMARITANS TESTING HELPLINE IN DUBLIN 8

Samaritans – the confidential emotional support service – was awarded the European free-to-caller number for people in emotional distress by the European Commission. The number, 116 123, will be available free for callers throughout Europe who feel in need of emotional support. Samaritans are now trialling 116 123, and have selected Dublin 8 as the trial area. The promotion of this number will mainly be undertaken by Samaritan volunteers, who will have a greater street presence in Dublin 8 over the coming months. If there is something troubling you, call 116 123 to speak to a Samaritans volunteer. Volunteers are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For more information on Samaritans, visit [www.samaritans.ie](http://www.samaritans.ie).

### WHAT IS THE DIGITAL HUB?

The Digital Hub is an Irish government initiative aimed at creating an international centre of excellence for digital content and technology enterprises. It is currently home to over 60 digital enterprises, ranging from start-ups to well-established businesses that are significant employers and leaders in their fields. Since the project's inception, 170 companies have progressed through the Hub, including some now well-established names such as Daft.ie, Kavaleer, Havok, Houghton Mifflin (Riverdeep), Amazon and Gala Networks Europe. The DHDA is the Irish state agency that manages the Digital Hub project. Further information is available at: [www.thedigitalhub.com](http://www.thedigitalhub.com).

