

THE BALLYROAN-DRUMCREE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

(FOUNDED 1998)

27 January, 2010

Dear Parishioners,

We confirm that the group known as "The Parishes of the Ballyroan & Drumcree Friendship Group" has come to a natural end. This decision was made at our last annual General Meeting in Portadown with the members of the Groups in Ballyroan, Dublin and the Bannside Centre Group in Portadown. There were also many of the children in their early twenties who enjoyed their time in Dublin at the meeting. It was indeed very nice to meet them and we appreciated their presence.

The Group thank you and Ministers for Foreign Affairs for the very generous contributions of money which ensured the Project would **not** fail. We also thank you most sincerely for the moral support over the years.

As regards our funds – we are in the fortunate position having paid all our bills we still have a substantial surplus of funds which is € 9,165.53 to distribute.

1. The committee decided to return the contribution of € 3,500 (2008) to the Department of Foreign Affairs to help any organisation of a similar kind.
2. It is also our intention to return the Church Gate Collection of € 1,530 and the prize money of € 1,500 from South Dublin County Council Community Awards Scheme totalling € 3,030 to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Sunshine Fund).
3. € 1,000 to the Bannside Community Group for childrens projects in that area.
4. € 785.53 to the Saplings School – St. Mary's Convent House, Ballyroan Crescent for the children who are challenged with Autism.

Note:

The committee has set aside a sum of € 550 to cover expenses of a possible committee trip to Portadown for the launch of a booklet to cover the 10 year project. If this does not happen, the money and any savings will also go to the Saplings School.

5. In the new Parish Centre in Ballyroan, Dublin and it is proposed that a suitable plaque be incorporated to acknowledge the generosity of the Parishioners and others in supporting the 10 year project to get children out of the conflict situation at a time when the situation was very difficult for all concerned. The children 7 to 12 years came from different Political and Religious backgrounds in Northern Ireland.

The cost of the nameplate for under the plaque will cost € 300.

So there the matter rests and again many thanks for your help and kindness to our Friendship Group.

Seventy families in the parish were involved in the 10 year project.

Yours sincerely,

Tony O'Toole – Secretary, Phone: 01 - 4943273