



From Bonna to Summer Fun Nights

10 years of The Community Bonfire Night / Family Fun
Nights Project in Cork City

Progress & Partnership

Bonfire Night - Origins

- Bonfire Night, or “Bonna” as it is known in Cork , is celebrated on June 23rd
- Fires were originally lit as part of a Celtic celebration to honour the goddess Áine, who was associated with the sun, fertility, and protecting crops and animals. The tradition comes from an old pagan Celtic celebration to honour the goddess Aine.
- The Catholic Church absorbed the event and linked it to the birth of Saint John the Baptist. Fires became symbolic with commemorating St John as he had baptised Jesus and in doing so, according to the church, brought the world out of darkness. Hence the bonfire element

Bonfire Night - The Problem

- Though enjoyed by many there were problems emerging and by the the mid 2000's, Bona Night was causing difficulties
- many neighbourhoods experienced anti social behaviours , damage to green areas, littering etc.
- Increasingly everything combustible was being burned including all sorts of harmful and toxic material
- Community groups grew very concerned and approached the City Council to explore options to deal with the negative side effects of the night
- A solution was needed and at the same time all wanted to keep the tradition alive

Environmental Problems

Damage to Green Areas was substantial cleanups and restoration are costly

Risk of injury was high

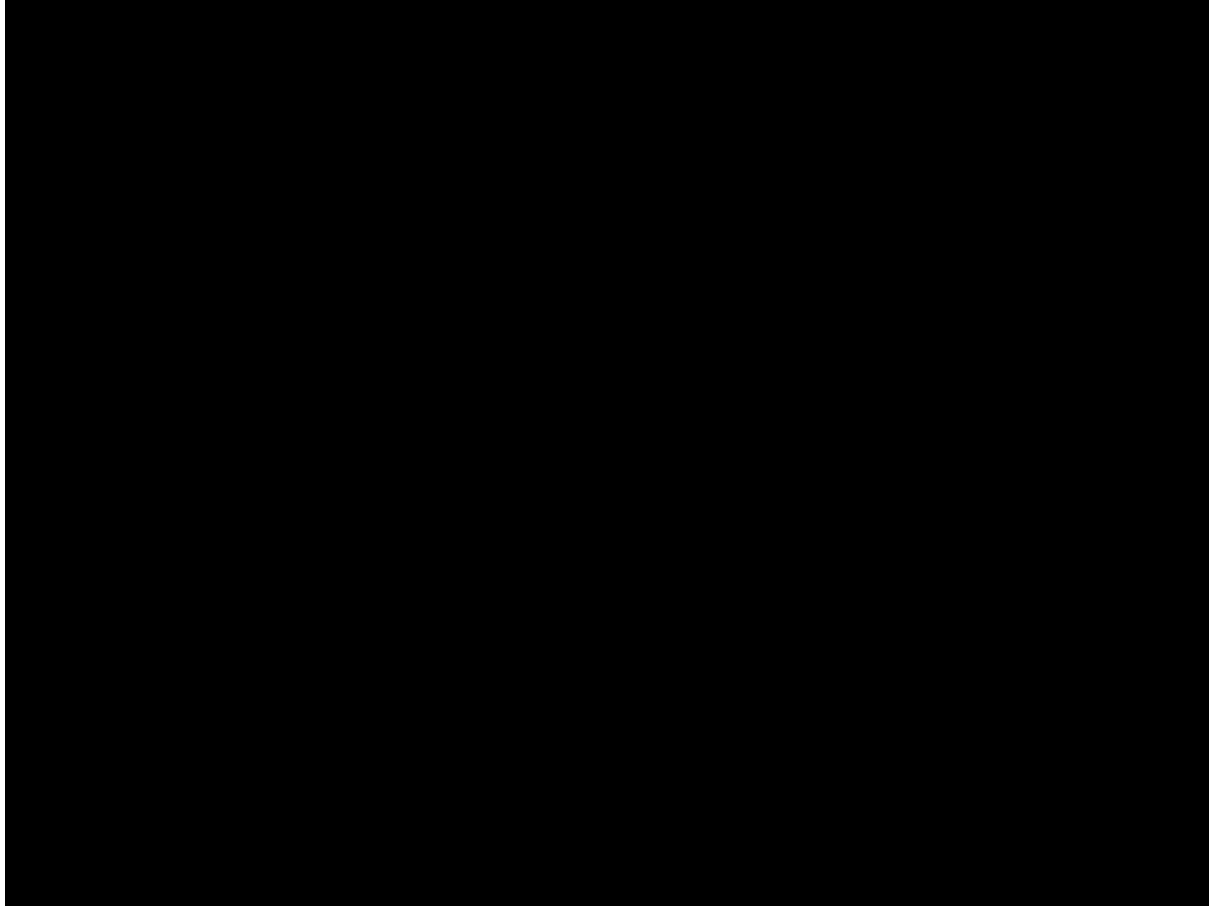
Emergency services often experienced intimidation—preventing and extinguishing fires was a flash point

Fear in Communities

Anti social behaviour was on the increase



Bonfire Night Cork Pre 2007



Terrible for communities



Dangerous and Unsafe



Toxic Poisons – Pollution





The aftermath was ugly and expensive









An Agreed Approach

- Calls for change were growing
- Strong community links were used to start a discussion
- Committees formed in each locality
- The City Council, Gardaí, and other agencies supported the initiative
- Months of planning took place in the communities
- Official events would take place in the City Parks
- Illegal bonfires were to be discouraged

A Plan

- In 2007, a pilot Bonfire Night Project was initiated
- The Community project was and is supported by the City Council
- Over 40 local community groups, the Cork City Council, Youth groups, Gardaí – on Local Organising Committees
- An event was conceived with a diverse range of fun activities on the night as an alternative to the illegal bonfires
- 5 safe family friendly events were organised in the City's parks
- 10 years later these 5 locations are key to the event

The Benefits

- The project was very well received
- It has grown and continues to develop this day
- Its has made a very significant impact in the City
- In 10 years there has been a serious reduction in the number of problem fires throughout Cork
- Substantial reduction in incidents with the Fire Brigade
- Gardaí report reduced anti social behaviour on the night
- Cooperative approach has strengthening community links

A Community Effort



Building Community Relations



Making It Fun



Everyone plays a part







On the right track ...





Garda Mounted Unit – always a great hit



The Lord Mayor helps Celebrate 10 Years



Supporting Roles Volunteers and Parks Staff



It took a while but our Bonfires are safer and grow ever more creative from this one in 2013 ...



To this one in 2017 where bonfires are developed as art installations in the communities



Positive front page news 2017

xxx2 - v 1

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Harder stance likely on vacant houses

■ Minister vows 'carrot and big stick' approach to tackle crisis

Juno McEnroe
Political Correspondent

Mr Murphy. "It's going to be a carrot-and-stick approach and it is going to be a big

Up in flames



The 'Devil/Angel Fidget Spinner' sculpture by Downtcha Puppets at the Bonfire Night Family Fun Night event in Kilmore Rd, Cork.

Picture: Michael O'Sullivan

London to evacuate five tower blocks

Henry Vaughan

Eight hundred households will be evacuated from five tower blocks in Camden, north London, while urgent fire safety works are carried out, council leader Georgia Gould has said.

It comes as four more victims of the Grenfell Tower disaster were formally identified, and as it was revealed that manslaughter charges are being considered by detectives investigating the blaze in the tower in west London, which had failed fire safety tests.

Ms Gould said last night that the Taplow building would be "temporarily decanted" to allow "urgent fire safety works" to take place.

The council had already announced it would immediately begin preparing to remove cladding from five towers on the estate discovered in checks following the fire in Kensington in which at least 79 people died.

Earlier, detective superintendent Fiona McCormack said a faulty fridge-freezer started the inferno. Cladding and insulation encasing the building did not pass any

Echo Reports on Family Fun 2017

City marks bonfire



Lord Mayor Tony Fitzgerald with Lady Mayoress Georgina Fitzgerald at Kilmore Road. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

THOUSANDS of people attended bonfires across Cork city last night, marking a tradition that goes back centuries.

Cork City Council was also celebrating the tenth year of its official bonfires in communities throughout the city, with major events taking place in Knocknaheeny, Mayfield, Mahon, Toghra and Farranmore.

Huge crowds could also be found in Douglas, Bishopscourt and numerous other parts of Cork as the entire city came together to mark the occasion.

The ever-popular Dowricha Puppets contributed a number of eye-catching sculptures to mark the occasion, with everything from giant cars and buses to Viking ships and even a giant fidget-spinner going up in flames.

Family fun events, including bouncy castles and even a fire eater, were provided on the night. Unlike previous years, the weather even played its part.

Cork city fire services were on hand to ensure that a safe night was had by all, with two trained fire technicians on site at each of the official events.

The night had previously been renowned as one of the busiest of the year for fire crews and gardai in Cork city.

Antisocial behaviour and dangerous activity has decreased in recent years though, coinciding with Cork City Council taking control of the events.

While a number of unauthorised events did take place throughout the city, gardai at Anglesea Street said there were no major incidents to report.

A spokesperson at the station said: "It was quite busy in terms of calls but there were no major incidents to report. It was busy but there was nothing unusual in terms of a normal Friday night."



Crowds at the Bonfire night celebrations at Mahon last night. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

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EuroMillions 3, 4, 21, 31, 38, Lucky Stars 3, 7, EuroMillions Plus 16, 19, 31, 45, 49.

Daily Million (Open) 17, 19, 27, 28, 35, 38, Bonus 34.

Daily Million (Prize) 2, 4, 9, 11, 17, 34, Bonus 38.

Daily Million (Prize) 2, 17, 20, 33, 34, 39, Bonus 16.

Daily Million Plus 11, 21, 22, 27, 29, 31, Bonus 1.

Water shutdown for city on Tuesday night

THE city centre and surrounding areas will be without water again on Tuesday night when a planned shutdown of the service is undertaken to facilitate repair works.

Irish Water and Cork City Council plan to carry out maintenance and repairs on the network supplying Cork city centre and surrounding areas from 11pm on Tuesday until 7am on Wednesday. The supply interruption will affect approximately 35,000 people.

This work is necessary in order to carry out repairs on a section of old water main which has been identified as being in poor condition and at risk of bursting.

A burst on a different section of pipe last week resulted in water outages for up to seven hours.

Jim Fitzgerald, Irish Water's operations lead for Cork, commented: "Addressing the poor condition of much of Cork's ageing water network is a key priority for Irish Water. We are investing over €18 million to replace more than 27km of water mains in the city and we will continue to invest in the network to bring it up to modern standards, thereby providing a much more secure and reliable water supply for all our customers in the city."

Irish Water and the council said they will be liaising with all vulnerable customers, hospitals and other large water users to ensure that the impact on them can be managed and minimised.

Cork soldier found dead in Limerick barracks

GARDAI are not treating the death of a 23-year-old Cork soldier in Limerick as suspicious.

The soldier, named locally as Private Daniel Donoghue from Malrow, was found at approximately 1.30pm on Thursday in his bed at Sarsfield Barracks in Limerick.

He passed away having fallen ill while working at the barracks.

The soldier fell ill during his unit's organised recreational physical training on Thursday morning and was found in an unresponsive state by his colleagues a short time later.

The unit's medics were called to the scene and administered CPR.

The soldier was then transferred to University Hospital Limerick.

Despite the best efforts of the defence forces' medics and hospital staff, he sadly passed away.

The defence forces are providing a liaison officer to support his family during this time.

The soldier had recently completed his two-year training course. He was stationed with the 12th battalion in Limerick city.

A garda spokesperson confirmed that the incident is not being treated as suspicious. A file will be prepared for the coroner, the spokesperson added.



Fire eater Tony Baloney shows his skills at Bonfire night in Mahon. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Enjoying the fun in Mahon were Patrick Murphy, Teresa, Abbie and Stephen O'Shea. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Youngsters give the thumbs-up to the fun at the Mahon event. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Kade Gaffney and Sophie Liu from Knocknaheeny, at the Bonfire night event in Kilmore Road. Picture: Michael O'Sullivan/OSM Photography

night with family fun



Sam Pepper and Holly Ryan from Fair Hill pictured at the family fun event in Popham's Park. Picture: Michael O'Sullivan/OSM Photography

Organiser defends Junior Cert disco after shock images sent to radio station

THE organiser of a Junior Cert disco at Neptune Stadium has defended the security at the event after images of teenagers engaged in sexual activities were sent to a local radio station.

Adam Courtney, of the Pineapple Entertainment company, told *The Neil Prindle Show* on Radio FM that the event was run smoothly and he had not been aware of any incidents at the disco, which took place on Thursday.

The station received an image from an unknown listener of a young girl allegedly engaged in a sex act with a young male. Two other couples were also pictured in the image, also involved in sexual activity.

The event, hosted by Gaz Beadle of Geordie Shore fame, was attended by almost 1,000 teens and security was provided by Tekken — who Mr Courtney praised for helping to make the disco a safe event.

Mr Courtney said: "You have a thousand kids in there and this is the only incident. Unfortunately, someone took a picture and they got it out there."

"We got people in within half an hour, we get them home. The event was brilliant, but these things happen. Our job is to get the people in and out and have a safe night. I would imagine the security people would have stopped it within a few minutes of it happening. It's one issue in a million positive things that happened from this event. Anyone with even a smell of alcohol on their breath would have been refused entry," he added.

Pineapple Entertainment was at the centre of a controversy in 2015 relating to a similar disco at the Clayton Hotel Silver Springs.

The company made 1,300 tickets available for the event but the hotel said they had only agreed to rent out their premises for 1,000.

As a result, hundreds of ticket holders were locked out as security said the venue had reached capacity. Scenes were described as "chaotic" by eyewitnesses.

A month after the event Mr Courtney met with ticket holders, presented them with a refund and apologised.



Ben Madden on the shoulder of his dad, Daniel Madden, Hollyhill. Picture: Michael O'Sullivan/OSM



Jay Grinnian, Hollyhill, with Alan De Prati from Gurrabraher at Kilmore Road.



Cousins, Katie-Anna and Molly O'Driscoll from Knocknaheeny, all smiles at the Bonfire night 'Family Fun Event' at Kilmore Road. Picture: Michael O'Sullivan/OSM Photography

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Numbers Speak for themselves

5 PARKS

13,000 people

Fun not Fear

€40,000

100'S OF VOLUNTEERS

Fire Dept. call outs halved

Over 50 community groups

The future



- Planning begins for next year ...
- Educate on environmental impacts
- Maintain volunteer commitments
- Develop new parks or venues

The Final Word

Mr Paddy Daly aged “just over the ninety” lives in Knockpogue Avenue, Farranree

One of the largest bonfire sites used to be outside his front door ...



THANK YOU!

