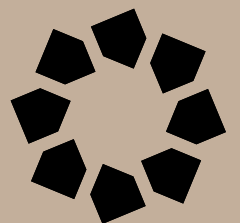


Aug 2025

Oaklee

Summer Newsletter



Dear Residents,

I am delighted to introduce this summer edition of the Oaklee Resident newsletter. I hope that you find the content both informative and relevant to you as an Oaklee resident. The Resident Newsletter is now jointly produced by the representatives that sit on the editorial panel, working alongside Oaklee staff that are responsible for communication. This gives the resident voice much more influence and prominence in helping to shape this and future publications.

As autumn approaches, it is good to see some helpful, practical advice included in the newsletter for residents, helping to keep us all safe and adjust to changing weather conditions.

We are conscious that the ongoing cost-of-living crisis is a concern for residents. We ask that if you are struggling with household costs, to contact your Housing Officer, there are also services at the back of Oaklee's Resident Handbook where residents can find additional support contact information.

I hope you enjoy this publication. If you would like to get more involved with the work of the Tenant Forum or editorial panel, just email us at tenantengagement@oaklee.ie with your details and our new Resident Engagement Officer, Sarah Louise Grey, will be in touch. We would love to hear from you.

Sharon Cosgrove



Getting Involved In Your Community



We at Oaklee are always looking at ways to engage more effectively with our residents and to provide opportunities for residents to become more involved with us and help us deliver the best possible services to our neighbourhoods. These are the various options open for you;

Join the Oaklee Resident Forum – the Forum meets via Zoom every 2 months and is chaired by an Oaklee resident. Meetings usually last about an hour, and are attended by a member of Oaklee management. The Forum is a fantastic resident engagement model and provides a great opportunity to find out more on key issues and challenges are impacting on Oaklee.

Editorial Panel – the editorial panel consists of Oaklee residents, the Oaklee Communications Manager, and the Resident Engagement Officer Sarah Louise Grey. The panel works together to produce the Oaklee newsletters and gives input into other publications throughout the year. If you are interested in writing articles, photography, design, or editing, then this is the opportunity for you. The panel meets about 6 times per year, either in person or virtually, to discuss content.

Focus Groups – If you are not keen on joining the Forum or Editorial Panel but would still like to get involved, then we also have opportunities for you to participate in our focus groups. These are informal virtual meetings to discuss specific themes with Oaklee members of staff. These are a great way to get your perspectives and views heard.

Community Groups – You may just want to get involved in making your neighbourhood a great place to live, and a good place to start is by getting involved in a community group. The Oaklee Resident Engagement Officer can help support you in this either by linking you in with an existing group or helping you and others from your community start one up. The community voice is always stronger when we have a group to work with. There are so many benefits for your neighbourhood, including better engagement with Oaklee staff, assistance to organise local events, reducing ASB, community clean ups, and so much more.

Would you like to be more involved in any of these opportunities? If so, contact tenantengagement@oaklee.ie and Sarah Louise will follow up with you directly with more details.

Oaklee Summer Events

Hawthorn Court 20th Anniversary

This year marks a remarkable milestone for Hawthorn Court, Oaklee's sheltered housing scheme in Celbridge, Co. Kildare: its 20th anniversary. For two decades, Hawthorn Court has stood as a beacon of independence, dignity, and community for older people and individuals with disabilities. Managed by Oaklee, Hawthorn Court has grown into a vibrant and diverse community of over 45 residents, each living in self-contained apartments designed to support independent living.

"A Legacy of Care and Connection"

At the heart of Hawthorn Court's success is its unwavering commitment to resident well-being. Over the years, the development has become more than just a place to live - it's a place to thrive. From communal activities to personalised support, residents have found not only a safe haven but also a true sense of belonging.

One of the most influential figures in this journey has been Gerardine "Ger" Corkey, who served as the Community Co-ordinator for 16 of those 20 years. Ger's dedication, warmth, and tireless advocacy transformed the lives of countless residents. She was often the first person residents turned to in times of need, and her ability to foster trust and compassion earned her a nomination for "Housing Hero" at the CIH All-Ireland Housing Awards in 2023. We were delighted to honour her recent retirement by hosting a separate celebration with Hawthorn Court residents earlier in the year and we all wish her well for the future.



James's Street 20th Anniversary

This year also marked a significant chapter in Oaklee's journey—the 20th anniversary of our flagship development at James's Street, Dublin 8. Since its establishment in 2005, the James's Street scheme has stood as a cornerstone of Oaklee's mission to provide high-quality, secure, and inclusive housing for individuals and families across Ireland.

"A Vision Realised"

Located in the heart of Dublin, the James's Street development was one of Oaklee's earliest and most ambitious projects. Designed to meet the needs of older people, mature single residents, and those with complex housing requirements, the scheme has grown into a thriving community that reflects Oaklee's values of dignity, independence, and support.

Over the past two decades, the development has undergone thoughtful enhancements - from fire safety remediation works to upgrades in communal spaces - ensuring that residents continue to enjoy a safe and welcoming environment.



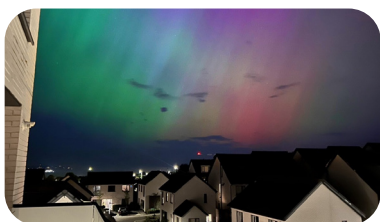
Oaklee would especially like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to James's Street resident Trish McMahon, whose dedication and service have left an indelible mark on the organisation and the communities it serves. Trish has been a driving force behind Oaklee's commitment to tenant engagement, inclusion, and excellence in housing services. Trish's love of gardening, photography, and Dublin history has been influential in shaping Oaklee's approach to resident engagement and we look forward to continue to work with her through our Editorial Panel.

Oaklee Photography Competition - Your Vote Matters

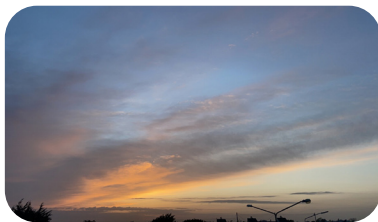
We were overwhelmed with the amount of entries to Oaklee's Photography Competition – “Show Us Your View!”

It's time for you to help choose the winner! Your fellow residents from across Oaklee communities have submitted stunning photos that capture the spirit of home, nature, and locality - and your vote can help crown the standout entry. You can view all entries and vote through the Oaklee website by clicking [here](#). We've provided a glimpse of some of the entries below.

The photos with the most votes will be featured in Oaklee's publications and social media and winners will also receive a one for all voucher and a framed copy of their entry.



Rachel Fink



Sophia Francis



Orla McNamee



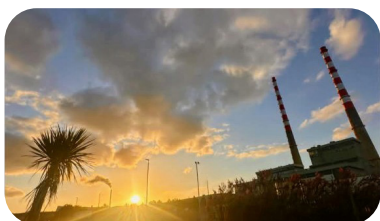
Trish McMahon



Miriam Harty



Halimi Udin



Deirdre Fawcett



Barry Cooper



Dan Reece

Resident Contribution

We're thrilled to feature a special contribution in this month's newsletter from one of our very own residents, Deirdre Fawcett. Her article, "Glasnevin in Bloom: Exploring Dublin's National Botanic Gardens", offers a heartfelt and insightful perspective on one of Dublin's most popular destinations. For more information on The Botanic Gardens, you can [visit their website here](#).

Glasnevin in Bloom: Exploring Dublin's National Botanic Gardens

The National Botanic Gardens were founded by the Dublin Society and are now state owned through the Office of Public Works. The 'Bots' are located in Glasnevin in north Dublin. The Director, Matthew Jebb is chairman of the Plant Collections Network of Britain and Ireland



With a collection of over 20,000 living plants and many dried specimens, it is an extensive array. There are architecturally notable giant glasshouses with both tropical and rare plants living there. There is something for all at the Bots and this time of year is perfect for a visit, when all is awakening.

Autumn Wellness

As the days grow shorter and the chill sets in, preparing your home and lifestyle for autumn is key to staying safe, warm, and well—especially in social housing settings where proactive care can make all the difference.

Here's a practical guide tailored for residents:

Stay Warm

Layer clothing, keep blankets handy, and use hot water bottles. If eligible, apply for fuel allowance or heating grants through your local authority.

Improve Lighting

Shorter daylight hours mean darker hallways and staircases. Use nightlights or motion-sensor lighting to prevent falls

Preventing Damp and Mould

Ventilate rooms regularly and use dehumidifiers if needed. Mould can trigger respiratory issues, especially in poorly insulated homes.

Stay Connected

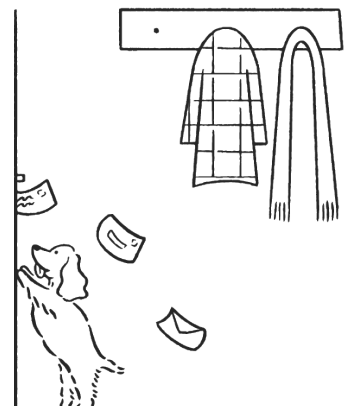
Autumn can bring isolation. Join tenant groups, attend community events, or check in with neighbours to maintain social ties.

Local Authority Contacts

Reach out to your Housing Officer or scheme coordinator for help with repairs, safety concerns, or accessing support services.

Windows

For your safety, your family's safety and that of other residents in the scheme we advise that window restrictors remain engaged. The restrictor should only be disengaged so the window can be opened fully for maintenance purposes. Following maintenance or cleaning you should ensure the restrictor is once again fully engaged. Never leave a window in a fully open, or a reversed cleaning position - not even for a second. This will also help ensure the security of your property and reduce the risk of anything falling from the window.



Helpful numbers and information

50808 TEXT SERVICE	An anonymous, free and 24/7 text messaging mental health service for any age group. 'From calming chats to immediate support during a mentalhealth or personal crisis – big or small'.	Text HELLO to 50808 to start a conversation.	www.text50808.ie
MONEY, ADVICE & BUDGETING SERVICE (MABS)	MABS will advise and help with all money matters including budgeting, debt and dealing with creditors. Contact for general support or due to a specific financial difficulty.	National Helpline: 0818 07 2000 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 8pm). WhatsApp: 086 035 3141. Or contact the local MABS office to make an appointment.	www.mabs.ie/en/contact
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRES	Family resource centres provide family support services, often including individual and group programmes.	Go to the website to find your local Family Resource Centre and details of the services they provide. www.tusla.ie	www.tusla.ie/services/family-communitysupport/familyresource-centres/findfamily-resource-centre
SAGE	Sage is a support and advocacy service for older people, vulnerable adults and people with disabilities. They will meet with you, assess your needs and provide support, advocate and signpost to other services.	Go to the Sage website or contact the Information & Advice/Rapid Response Service on 1850 71 9400 (365 days per year, 8am – 10pm)	www.sageadvocacy.ie/contact
FRIENDS OF THE ELDERLY	A national, free and confidential 'Friendly Call Service'. Regular phone calls from a trained volunteer to listen, share conversations and offer support.	Call 01 873 1855 or contact via email: info@friendsoftheelderly.ie	www.friendsoftheelderly.ie
ENABLE IRELAND	Enable Ireland is a national children and adult disability service providing support and advocacy.	Call 01 872 7155 or e-mail: hello@enableireland.ie to see what services are available in your region.	www.enableireland.ie



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