



Community Fair Trade Organic

co-op news

October 2007

newsletter of the Dublin Food Co-op

Editorial

Welcome to the October issue of the Co-op News. This issue coincides with the launch of the new premises by Minister for the Environment, John Gormley.

It has been some months since the last issue of the Co-op Newsletter - this has been an extremely busy period for the Co-op, with the move from our part-time home of twenty years in St. Andrews Resource Centre on Pearse St. to our very own full-time home in 12 Newmarket, Dublin 8. The move was of course a joyous occasion for the Co-op and with it brings great possibilities for the Co-op to expand our activities and whole operations.

Although with the move we have lost some long-term members who lived in the Dublin 2, 3 and 4 etc. areas we are delighted to welcome the many new members from the closer vicinities of Dublin 8 and Dublin 12. Since leaving Pearse Street, some members of the Co-op, feeling that there was still a need for an "organic market" in the area have, started up their own in St. Andrews centre, called the Natural Food Market. Of course we wish them well in this venture - better friends than foes!

The difference of course between the Dublin Food Co-op and an "organic market" is that as a members-owned co-operative we are open for anyone of our members to become involved and take an active role in the running of the Co-op. After all we are owned by our members and it is up to the members to ensure that the Co-op is running in a way that meets their needs.

With our bigger premises and extra opening hours, now would be an ideal time to expand our membership. Please feel free to encourage as many of your friends and family as possible to join, or even drop in for a once off visit!

There have been some staff changes since our last issue. Our esteemed General Manager John Lindsey has moved to greener pastures, to head a national charity -he got an offer he could not refuse - best of luck with that one John! Vincent Murray was appointed to the staff as Retailer Co-ordinator on a short-term contract and has been of much help/advice in some areas of our operations. While Vincent's contract has since come to an end, we hope he will continue to have input into the Co-op.

New Opening Times

We are pleased to announce that for the last few weeks we have been opening on Thursdays from 2pm - 8pm, with the market being ready about 4pm. Although it is hard to replicate the same buzz as the Saturday "market", Thursdays are picking up and some members find it a handy time to visit. Stalls on Thursdays include Sonairte Ecology Centre, Laura's Books, George Heise's bread/bakery, one organic produce stall (Deirdre O'Sullivan, Christy Stapelton and Healy's take it in rotation to supply fresh produce).

Our Saturday opening times are now 9.30pm until 4.30pm.

Newmarket Café

We are now operating a café in the back of our hall. Come along for some tasty bites and coffee while you chat with your friends on your next visit!

Meeting Rooms To Rent

As part of our increased space in Newmarket, the Co-op has available rooms and space for rent during the week for events/classes/meetings. Please contact staff members for more details.



Siraj Szaidi with James & Lucy McCann, Art O'Toole, Hanna McCann, Axel Cullen, Ruairí O'Toole, Anna Cullen & Leontyne Darrell get scary to launch the Co-op in its new home!

Photographer: Billy Walsh

Help Rota Volunteers Wanted

Due to our move from Pearse St. and increased need for work to be done in a larger, permanent premises, the Co-op is again in need of volunteers to join the Help Rota. While the Co-op does employ a small staff for essential operations tasks, we are dependent on the input of our members' time to help with some of the weekly duties that otherwise would be time consuming.

Members that volunteer to work on a Help Rota team receive a 10% discount on Co-op goods. Tasks include shelve stacking, stock-takes, floor sweeping, manning the Help and Info desks while we are open on Thursdays and Saturdays. The time commitment is quite manageable, just two hours once every six weeks. Anyone interested in joining please contact Anto, Pauric or Tim.

Help Rota members please note that the Friday shift is no longer rostered, and instead the work will take place on either Thursdays from 2pm onwards or Tuesday/Wednesday mornings. The Saturday morning shift is still available, as is the Saturday close down from 4pm onwards.

Help/Info Desk volunteers please note that since we have moved to Newmarket there is no longer a €2 entrance fee. While some feel that the €2 visitor entrance fee should still stand, others feel it is a deterrent to new people coming through the doors. Perhaps this debate can take place in letters to this newsletter....

Help Rota Dates

	week Mon-Sat	week Mon-Sat	week Mon-Sat
A		5-10 Nov	29 Dec*
B		12-17 Nov	2-5 Jan*
C		19-24 Nov	7-12 Jan*
D		26 Nov- 1 Dec	14-19 Jan*
E	15-20 Oct	3-8 Dec	21-26 Jan*
F	22-27 Oct	10-15 Dec	28 Jan- 2 Feb*
G	29 Oct- 3 Nov	17-22 Dec	4-9 Feb*

*Co-op opening times for Christmas to be confirmed.

World Vegetarian Day

On Saturday October 5th last, the Co-op, along with many of our producer members (Sonairte, Laura's Books, Moorty's Delights, Natasha's Raw/Natural Food) took part in the World Vegetarian Day event which was held in the Cultivate Centre in the Temple Bar area. Long-term Co-op members will wonder perhaps why the 'Day' did not take place in the Co-op as it has done in the past, but logistics connected with our

recent move to Newmarket meant it was not possible this year. Hopefully we will again be able to host this event in years to come. The day was a wonderful one with many people passing through the Cultivate doors. The Co-op stall manned by enthusiastic Help Rota members received much positive interest from passers-by many of whom were lapsed members or potential members to be!

Co-op Bulk Orders

One of the many advantages to joining the Dublin Food Co-op as owner/member is that members can make bulk orders on Co-op goods (any items from rice to oat-flakes to tinned tomatoes to peanut butter to Soya milk). Buying in bulk is cheaper in the long run and cuts down on packaging.

The Co-op has a separate mark up system on bulk buying which works as follows: purchases under €25 the Co-op adds a 25% margin, purchases €25-50 the Co-op adds a 20% margin and purchases over €50 the Co-op adds a 15% margin.

This is a great service to our members and goes to the heart of the Co-op ideal of bulk buying - we would encourage you to make use of it!

Co-op Walks

October Walk

Where: Phoenix Park. Experience the Phoenix Park when the Fallow Deer are in their rutting season.

When: Sunday 28 th October

Meet: Yellow House pub, Rathfarnham 12 noon or the Wellington Monument, Phoenix Park 1pm.

November Walk

Where: Glen of the Downs, Little Sugarloaf. We will be taking a path through dissiduous woodlands.

When: Sunday 25 th November

Meet: Glen of the Downs carpark 11am

For all walks bring comfortable walking shoes, warm and rainproof clothes and some food. For more info or if you need a lift contact Larry Gordon at 2882957(H) or 087-6832827.

Co-op News Team

This issue of Co-op News was put together by Anthony Dillon, editing by Jackie Bourke and some advice from ex-editor Monica Haughey.

The Co-op News is looking for a new co-ordinator/editor any budding journalists out there looking for experience, or non-journalists with an interest in communication get in touch to: editor@dublinfoodcoop.com

Any articles, letters, opinion pieces for inclusion in next newssheet should be forwarded to the same address.