**News from the PCA**

**Spring Clean Day**

At the time of writing it is anything but spring like weather. The first week of April has been unseasonal with wind and rains a plenty. It is certainly not a time for those among us with green fingers to venture into our gardens!!! However we are having our Spring Clean Day on Saturday 18th April. National Spring Clean is Irelands most popular, well recognised and successful anti-litter initiative. It is sponsored by An Taisce and has been running for 17 years. The campaign encourages every sector of society to actively participate and take responsibility for litter by conducting clean-ups in their own local environment. It traditionally takes place throughout the month of April. Last year it was estimated that 550 tonnes of litter was collected of which 35% was recycled. In the current era of climate change the more we recycle the more we reduce our carbon emissions.

Portmarnock has been doing its share in combatting its litter problem in recent years. We got our Green Coast flag last year for looking after our beach and dunes as well as winning the Fingal Cleaner Communities Award four years ago. Great credit is due to our two community Employment workers Paul and Imelda. Don’t forget to thank them if you see them working in your area. Starting with Spring Clean Day our volunteers will have a fortnightly clean-up of beach/ dunes and other black spots throughout the summer and early autumn. Why not join us this year? We meet at the kiosk on the promenade on Saturday mornings at 10.00AM and finish around 11.30AM. Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links will continue to provide us with tea/coffee and scones after our clean-up. Gloves, bags and litter pickers will be supplied for our workers

**Adopt a Patch---- Keep Portmarnock Beautiful!**

This is an initiative promoted by FCC. It simply entails choosing a patch in your local area and looking after it. It involves collecting litter, maintaining flower beds or painting walls if they are defaced by graffiti. You could simply look after the patch outside your own house by cutting the grass and maintaining the edges as well as planting some flowers around a tree or a lamp post. The scheme works very successfully in Fingal with groups adopting parts of beaches, bottlebanks or litter black spots. Fingal will remove any litter collected. For more information contact the Environment Department FCC on at 8906721

**PortmarnockTidy Towns**

Continuing with the environmental theme, at the time of writing effort is continuing to recruit volunteers for our entry into the Tidy Towns Competition this year. The competition is sponsored by SuperValu and has been administered by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for the past 20 years .It has been running for nearly 60 years and last year attracted entries from over 800 cities, towns and villages throughout Ireland. Our first meeting took place in the White Sands Hotel on Thursday, 26th March. Tidy Towns can operate independently of the PCA. Portmarnock village looked very well last summer with floral displays very prominent that gave it a long overdue facelift. Credit is due to all involved in this splendid effort. Both Portmarnock Village Days in summer and winter were also very well supported .Our promenade could do with a similar facelift. Hopefully the bandstand /shelter will be tacked shortly by FCC now that the toilets are open again. Our thanks to FCC for the work done. Planters and benches on the promenade would help considerably in making it more attractive. Maybe some of our businesses might consider sponsorship in this area

**Contacting PCA**

**If you wish to contact the PCA on any issues in our community or volunteer for any of the above projects why not call us at 087 3858254 or email** [**portmarnock1@gmail.com**](mailto:portmarnock1@gmail.com)**. You can visit our website/Facebook at www.portmarnock**.**org**