



Dear Friends,

A warm welcome on behalf of the Board of the Hellenic Community in Ireland.

The Hellenic Community is the nucleus and the referral point of all Greeks living in Ireland.

We like to think of ourselves as one large extended family whilst trying to create a little corner of Greece

Most of us are on a first name terms and consider themselves friends, socialising together, meeting each other within our homes and sharing family outings.

We meet in three main places:

Our Greek-Orthodox Church in Arbour Hill, where a lot of us gather every Sunday at 11am. Coffee and chatting follows in our little “cafe” next door.

Our School, our pride and joy, is where the Greek teacher manages to inspire the enthusiasm needed for our Children and our non-Greek partners to learn our beautiful but difficult language. Here is the point where we can extend to our children a Greek identity and let’s not forget to thank our non Greek partners for allowing that.

Greek folkloric dancing is also taught here to children of all ages.

Our cafe is where we meet, chat, laugh and argue sometimes, as Greeks do. In the Cafe there is a satellite TV and whenever there is a big football match on, there is a crowd and plenty of banter. Sometime there is a bit of homemade tsipouro available.

We have our own “fantastic” football team, the Greek Pirates, where all ages and levels of skill are welcome.

Our Hellenic Community is our attempt to highlight our Greek identity to the Irish society with whom we have so many things in common (and not just the recent financial woes)!

Irish like we Greeks are a small but proud Nation with a great History. Our countries are stuck on the periphery of Europe, we have both endured centuries of foreign occupation and it is these common experiences and so much more that leave the Greek and the Irish with a soft spot for each other. It is not by chance that James Joyce called his hero Ulysses!

Our goal is to promote the Greek Culture to the Irish society. We also work along with the Irish-Hellenic Society and the Departments of Classical Studies and Philosophy of the Universities with whom we organise joint cultural events.

We are a microcosm of the greater Greek society and as such each one holds his own opinion about Politics, the Economy, the Greek History and Political Parties, but we keep it to ourselves. In such a small community there is no room for ideological conflict.

We are trying to help all the new comers to adjust to a new life in Ireland.

We greet them with a warm, open and friendly welcome.

“Hey guys, Welcome to Ireland”

This is who we are! The Greeks of Ireland.

Dr. Labros Chatzis MD, PhD, BPlast.

President