

# talk of the town



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The weddings, parties, the buzz – we've got it all

## Top spot Repak Recycling Awards

# Fingal are the local authority of the year



Visitors from St Wendal in Germany with Fingal Mayor Michael O'Donovan and Rory O'Byrne at the photo exhibition Doors of St Wendal. Pics: Tony Healy

## Exhibition highlights local links to Germany

An international flavoured exhibition was unveiled at Fingal County Hall last week, depicting scenes of a German community with close links to Fingal.

Entitled 'Doors of St Wendel', it featured 45 photographs by Photo Club Tele Freisen from Germany.

Way back in 1985, the arts office of Fingal County Council was attempting to develop international links, through the work of our then photographer, Michael Johnson.

He established cultural links with several European Countries, one of which was the Tele Freisen Club of Freisen, in the Saarland district of Germany.

Since that time, friendships have grown



Peter Klos with former Fingal County Council photographer, Michael Johnson at the exhibition.

and photographers from Fingal and St Wendel, a city close to Freisen, have had an opportunity to travel and experience each other's countries.

The exhibition gives us a unique insight into the daily life of people in

a community similar to many such communities here in Fingal.

St Wendel is now twinned with Balbriggan and representatives visited Town Councillors earlier in the year.



Franz Rudolph Klos and Rory O'Byrne, County Arts Officer with Fingal County Council at the photo exhibition Doors of St Wendal.

Fingal County Council has been named local authority of the year in the annual 2008 Repak Recycling awards, fending off stiff competition from Louth and Galway.

The awards took place in the Four Seasons Hotel in Dublin and were presented by Minister for the Environment Mr. John Gormley.

The authority received the award for demonstrating an all round good performance in terms of availability of local collection facilities for the general public to bring dry recyclables too.

Packaging waste that is difficult to manage such as Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) is now accepted at their civic amenity site. The collected EPS material is sent to Rehab Recycle at the Navan facility for further processing.

In 2007 the bring collection system yielded 11% more recycled tonnage than the previous year. All households with-



Accepting the Local Authority of the Year 2008 award for Fingal County Council were: Minister for the Environment John Gormley, Councillor Joe Corr, Councillor and Mayor of Fingal Michael O'Donovan, David O'Connor, Bob Rowat, Rehab, CEO of Repak Andrew Hetherington.

in Fingal are serviced by kerbside collections for dry recyclables and residual waste collection.

This service has now been expanded to include the third bin (compost).

Awareness, education and marketing programmes undertaken by the Council are exampla-

ry. The awards were presented as part of Repak Recycling Week 2008 at the 7th Annual Repak Awards ceremony.

The awards recognise and commend both businesses and schools that are exemplars in packaging minimisation, prevention and recycling

and that are actively seeking to make a difference to recycling and to the environment in Ireland.

Commenting Dr Andrew Hetherington, CEO Repak said: 'We are delighted to see the range and quality of initiatives undertaken by Irish business and schools increase this year.'

## Retail excellence at Malahide store

Shiel's Londis, Malahide was a worthy winner of a Certificate of Achievement at the Londis Retailing Excellence Awards 2008, which were announced at the group's recent annual conference.

A total of 19 stores were presented with the coveted prize of the Certificate of Achievement Award, and Shiel's was among those selected as a finalist of the Londis Retailing Excellence Award audits, recognising the superior standards that these stores maintain throughout the year.

Owned and managed by John Shiels, this busy Londis employs 40 staff. The store was delighted to collect the thoroughly deserved award.

The awards ceremony took place in the wonderful setting of



Jerry McDonnell, Sales Manager of Londis, John and Maeve Shiels, Shiels Londis, Malahide, winner of a Certificate of Achievement at the Annual Londis Retailer Conference, pictured with Marty Whelan.

the Heritage Spa and Golf Resort and was hosted by Marty Whelan, with music provided by Dave

Browne and the All Stars ensuring celebrations continued well into the night.