

## **Sandymount Hotel celebrates 65 years as Dublin's Oldest Independent Family-run Hotel**

### **From humble beginnings as a 4-bedroom B&B to a leading 4-star, 187-bedroom Hotel.**

In May 2020, Sandymount Hotel celebrates 65 years in business.

Sandymount Hotel, Dublin City's oldest family run hotel, owes its roots to George Loughran and his wife Rosaleen. They opened on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1955 under its original name, Mount Herbert Hotel. It was also their home. Three weeks after they moved in, Rosaleen gave birth to the second of five children, John, who currently runs Sandymount Hotel with his son Gerard.

George came from a large farming family and his talent for carpentry and building soon had the business up and running. Raising a family was not without challenges and in the busier summer months, they all slept in one bedroom to cope with the demand during high season.

The couple were able to extend by purchasing neighbouring properties. The hotel now comprises 8 Victorian Houses! The Loughran's were often ahead of the trends. In the 1960s they were one of the first hotels to have central heating and ensuite bathrooms.

A formidable team, George & Rosaleen instilled an ethos of heartfelt care and service for their guests. This legacy continues right into the 21<sup>st</sup> century through father and son John and Gerard Loughran.

For many years, the hotel was known as a temperance hotel because it did not have a public bar. That changed in 2000 with the welcome addition of the Line Out Bar.

In May 2010, when Lansdowne Road Stadium reopened as the spectacular Aviva Stadium, John decided it was the right time to rebrand as Sandymount Hotel and commissioned the impressive 5mtr bronze Sandymount Lineout sculpture which stands proudly at the front entrance. Notwithstanding the cost in the middle of a recession, it was important not to miss the opportunity with the reopening of the stadium.

Sandymount Hotel adopted a 'greener' approach to its business in 2012, by introducing a dedicated Green Team to improve the carbon footprint of the hotel. A Green Policy was introduced, and many awards have been received including 'Europe's Leading Green Hotel' three years in a row at the World Travel Awards, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

In 2016, under the guidance of George and Rosaleen's grandson Gerard, Sandymount Hotel began an €8 million total refurbishment project which led to the awarding of 4 Star status from Failte Ireland. 2020 marked the final stage of refurbishments with the remodelling of the front façade of the hotel and car park.

Just 3 DART stops from Dublin City, the hotel is situated in leafy Dublin 4. The beautiful Sandymount Village and beach are just a 10 minute stroll, making hotel an ideal spot for quiet relaxation away from the hustle and bustle of City Centre.

### **Family and Employees of Sandymount Hotel**

As an extension of the family, the continued success and longevity of the business is attributed hugely to the people employed at the hotel. Several of the team have worked at the hotel for decades.

Beatrice O'Donoghue on the Front Desk team has been working at the hotel for 38 years.

Rose Foley the hotels Accommodation Manager is celebrating 32 years at Sandymount Hotel.

Maria Condron has been John's secretary for 21 years.

In fact, John met his wife Audrey at the hotel in 1975. Audrey was interviewed by John's parents and secured a role at reception. John and Audrey are celebrating 40 years of marriage this year.

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