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READ IT, BELIEVE IT, READ LOCAL NEWS - SERVING CLONDALKIN, BALLYFERMOT AND LUCAN - BE PART OF THE STORY

Programme targets social exclusion and poverty

MINISTER for Community Development, Integration and Charities, Joe O'Brien was at the Cherry Orchard Centre on Tuesday, to announce the expansion of the Empowering Communities Programme to Cherry Orchard, reports Maurice Garvey.

The ECP specifically targets area-based deprivation, identified by the Pobal HP Deprivation Index, through a community development approach.

Additional funding of up to €150,000 has been approved for the expansion of the programme to the Cherry Orchard area, following analysis of deprivation in the locality.

As part of this programme, a community engagement worker will be recruited for Cherry Orchard to develop and facilitate relationships between community stakeholders, community groups and statutory agencies and structures.

Speaking at the launch Minister O'Brien said: "I am delighted to announce the expansion of Empowering Communities Programme to now include Cherry Orchard. page 17



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HANDS UP: Victoria Poplawska of Scoil Ide in Clondalkin, centre, and team mates during the Leinster Rugby Girls Primary School Mega Blitz at Clontarf FC on Tuesday.

Civil servant caught with over €310k worth of drugs

OVER €310,000 worth of drugs were found in a container in County Kildare belonging to a civil servant, Dublin Circuit Criminal Court has heard, reports Eimear Dodd. See page 8

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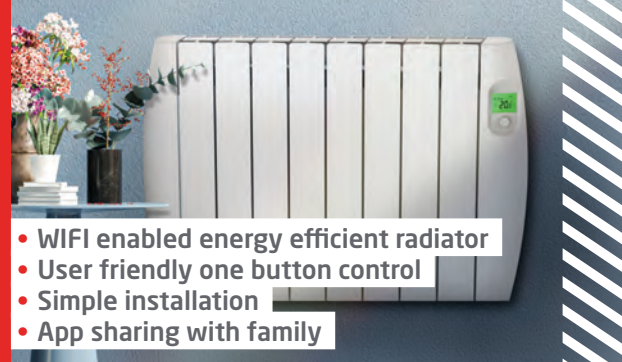
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WINNING TEAM: Former Kilkenny hurling manager Brian Cody with Shamrock Rovers manager Stephen Bradley along with Stephen McPhail, Glenn Cronin, goalkeeping coach Josh and Tom Rooney from LEO South Dublin during Brian's talk on Building & Sustaining a Winning Team on Tuesday as part of Local Enterprise Week. Defending Airtricity League champions Rovers played out a 4-4 draw with Cork City on Monday night and will be hoping for a first victory of the new season when travel to Tolka Park on Friday to play Damien Duff's Shelbourne. *See more photos on page 46*

Sister Sheds event

THE Sister Sheds organisation will be holding an event in the Belgard Community Centre today, Thursday, March 9, at 7pm to mark International Women's Day.

The event will feature a number of guest speakers from TED X talks, for what Sister Sheds promises will be an empowering experience – and all women from the Tallaght area are welcome to attend.

The co-founders of Sister Sheds, cousins Shereen and Rachel Hughes, will also give a presentation on the day detailing the success of the group which provides a social outlet for women.

Church needs volunteers

VOLUNTEERS for church cleaning would be most welcome at the Holy Spirit Parish, Greenhills.

The church plan to do cleaning on Thursdays March 23 and 30, at 7pm.

The cleaning team would appreciate volunteers to help with the general cleaning duties.

THE

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news@echo.ie

01-468 5350

Demand to see report on ‘iconic’ cypress tree

Residents expressed scepticism at the council’s decision

QUESTIONS have been asked of South Dublin County Council in relation to the criticism over the felling of trees in Corkagh Park, including a demand to see a report that determined ill health for an “iconic” Monterey Cypress tree, reports Maurice Garvey.

The Echo understands a number of Clondalkin councillors have questions on the agenda at the Clondalkin area meeting on March 15.

The issue stems from recent tree cutting works at the park, and in particular a Monterey Cypress tree near the council compound.

The council said the tree was suffering with a fungal infection and was beginning to cause “die-back in some of its larger limbs”.

Residents have criticised the move, expressing scepticism at the decision, citing plans by the council for a coffee shop at the location of the Monterey Cypress tree.

The Part 8 proposal was passed by members at a council meeting in February 2022, and while there is mention of tree removals in the Part 8, local councillors say it was not clear what was to be removed.

Cllr William Carey (SF), accepts there is an onus on councillors to look at the details of proposals but does “not think it plausible for us to identify particular trees from drawings or presentations”.

Referring to two documents in the Part 8 plan that refer to tree removal, Cllr Carey said: “I am not sure if we could be expected to ascertain which specific trees might be removed unless this is flagged as a possible contentious issue that might need to be addressed during the process.

Carey doesn’t doubt the report the council used in a tree survey for the park, but wants to know “to what extent” the Monterey was damaged and if it could have been saved.

Cllr Trevor Gilligan (FF) said there is a demand in the community for residents to see the reports.

“There seems to be a discrepancy between what residents want in terms of tree works, and what the council decide. Often I have residents on to me, looking for a tree to be pruned, not cut, because it is causing obstruction, but the council decide otherwise.

“That tree was there longer than most of us, it was part of our heritage, you can see why it upsets residents. A lot of the time there is public consultation, meetings, but then people feel that has been changed.

“The tree was chopped down but we never saw the report. It comes back to people asking ‘what’s the point of a county councillor’. Residents are asking can we see the reports,” said Cllr Gilligan.



Active travel project aims to increase safety outside schools

Pilot initiative will engage with schools and wider communities to improve safety measures

By **Hayden Moore**
hayden@echo.ie

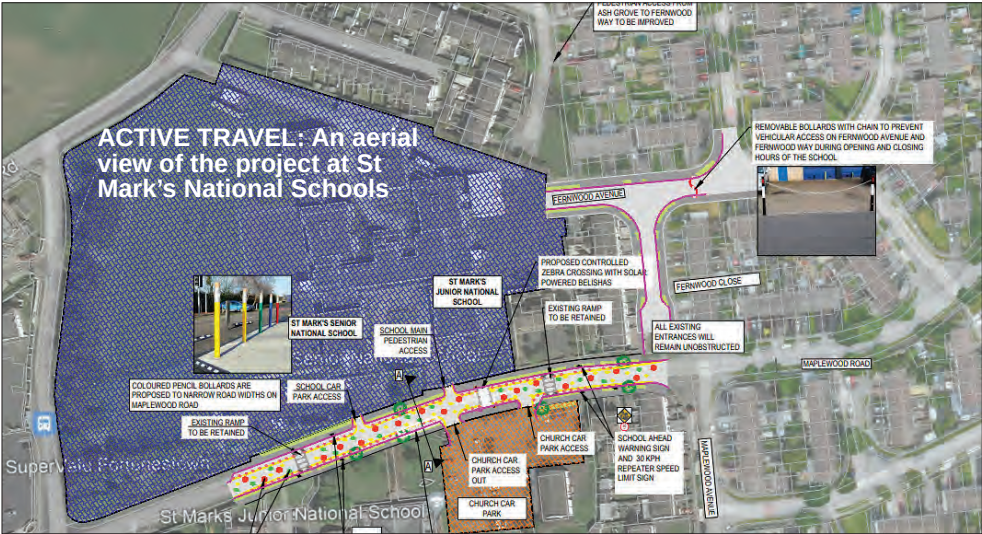
A TRIAL of an active travel school zone project is set to take place at St Mark’s National Schools in Springfield, which will see measures to increase safety installed this summer.

The aim of the Active Travel School Zone Project is to engage schools and their wider communities in order to improve safety outside the school gate and to better support active travel modes on the journey to and from school.

The project is supported by the National Transport Authority (NTA) and delivered by South Dublin County Council.

As reported in *The Echo*, St Mark’s Junior and Senior national schools were selected as pilot schools for the project (previously referred to as the School Street project) at a council meeting for the Tallaght area in October 2020.

Sometimes referred to as the ‘school street’, ‘safer to school’, ‘school zone’ project by South Dublin County Council, the initiative was supported by the authority for St Mark’s NS in November 2021.



A statutory public consultation known as a section 38, which is specifically for traffic calming and minor road improvements, was held last year about the proposal for Springfield.

“Since the [Section] 38 consultation held in May 2022 the council has taken on-board feedback received and devised a drawing for a trial school zone to be delivered at St Mark’s JNS and SNS for a period of one academic year,” the local authority told the councillors.

“The trial period is to enable an extensive review of the measures and will provide opportunity for engagement on aspects of the

scheme that works, those that do not and, therefore, better inform a detailed design for the schools and wider community.

“The council will engage with the school and church on details of the trial.”

It is envisaged the trial measures will be “up and running by Q2 2023”, meaning students, parents and teachers could be able to use the new travel amenities before the academic year is out, or at the start of the new academic year in September.

The new proposed design will see the width of Maplewood Road narrowed from 9.6m to 6m, with coloured pencil bollards and coloured roundels on the road put in place.

“School ahead” warning signs will be erected, a controlled zebra crossing with solar powered belishas, and parking spaces for church events on the road are part of the new plans.

Drop-off and pick-up at the school from Fernwood estate has been a contentious issue for residents in recent years.

An aspect of the new proposal incorporates removable bollards with a chain to prevent vehicular access on Fernwood Avenue and Fernwood Way during the opening and closing hours of the school.

Pedestrian access from Ashgrove estate to Fernwood is also to be improved.

Little Orchard will show children lifecycle of growth

Pupils in Scoil Íde will be responsible for fruit trees that will go through different seasons

By Aideen O'Flaherty

aideen@echo.ie

THE ten classes in Scoil Íde Primary School in Clondalkin are now responsible for one fruit tree each, following a tree planting in the school last Friday.

The project, spearheaded by teachers Laura Moore and Aine Crowley, saw ten fruit trees being planted in the school which the students will now take care of.

The school developed the project as part of the Green Schools Initiative and Challenge to Change, which focus on bringing environmental awareness to young learners.

Catherine Keane, principal of Scoil Íde, told *The Echo*: "We have limited green space available in our school, so we wanted to have a little orchard."

"It will show the children the lifecycle of growth, they will actually see what happens when they plant something – it grows, and it will go through the different seasons."

"The children have learned about why we planted the trees, and about looking after and nurturing them."

The children are keen for the trees to begin sprouting fruit, which they will then get to enjoy and see the real-world effect of their tree-planting endeavour.

"They're keen to see the fruits of their labour," added Ms Keane. "They're really looking forward to the summer, when the trees will grow fruit that they can eat."

"And for the children who planted the trees who are now in junior infants, they're going to grow with the trees as they progress through the school."

See photos on page 51.



THUMBS UP: Ms Moore with pupils from Scoil Íde during the tree planting ceremony



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Celebrating International Women's Day 2023



SELFIE: Celebrating International Women's Day 2023 are some of the women who are working on delivering the new children's hospital project, as Deirdre Gaffney from Children's Health Ireland (centre) takes a selfie with colleagues on the elevated helipad. Women are playing a leading role in the construction of the hospital, as well as in planning for the delivery of paediatric healthcare in the hospital when it opens. Works are at an advanced stage now including on this elevated helipad, which will have direct and rapid access to the critical care, theatre and emergency departments within the hospital. Elevated helipads, when compared to ground helipads, increase accessibility and are widespread in hospitals across Europe. The helipad will be shared between the new children's hospital, St James's Hospital, and the maternity hospital.

Photo by Naoise Culhane

Litter Mugs appeal for more people to get involved

THE Springfield Litter Mugs are appealing to more people to take part in their weekly litter pick, which is held at 8am every Sunday morning across from Mix Flowers.

Litter pickers and bags will be provided for volunteers, with Springfield Litter Mugs being quite keen to up their manpower so they can clean more areas in Springfield.

"We still have a few neglected areas so if anyone wants to just focus on a particular area please get in touch and we can guide you," stated the group on the Springfield Litter Mugs Facebook page.

The group has collected dozens of bags of rubbish over the last few weeks, and are hoping to increase their haul with the assistance of new volunteers.

THE Echo
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'Don't carry a knife' teen charged with crimes told

16-year-old accused of assault causing harm at Sean Walsh Park

By Tom Tuite

news@echo.ie

A TEENAGE boy has been ordered to obey a curfew and "don't carry a knife" after gardai charged him with violent crimes in Tallaght, Dublin.

The 16-year-old boy was brought before Judge Brendan Toale at the Dublin Children's Court on Tuesday.

He is accused of possessing a knife and assault causing harm to a male at Sean Walsh Park on May 8, 2022.

He is accused of assault causing harm to a male and a female, production of a blade during a fight and robbing the male of a phone and attempted robbery of the female on February 19 at another location in Tallaght.

He also has a knife possession charge for an alleged offence on January 10 at Belgard Square. The court heard he "made no reply" to the charges.

The teen was not accompanied by a parent, a legal requirement in Children's Court cases.

Defence counsel Doireann McDonagh explained the teen's mother could not attend because of childcare commitments.

However, counsel confirmed the boy was consenting to abide by bail terms.

Judge Toale ordered the youth to abide by a curfew, to sign on three days a week at a Garda station, remain contactable by phone at all times, stay away from witnesses and "don't carry a knife".

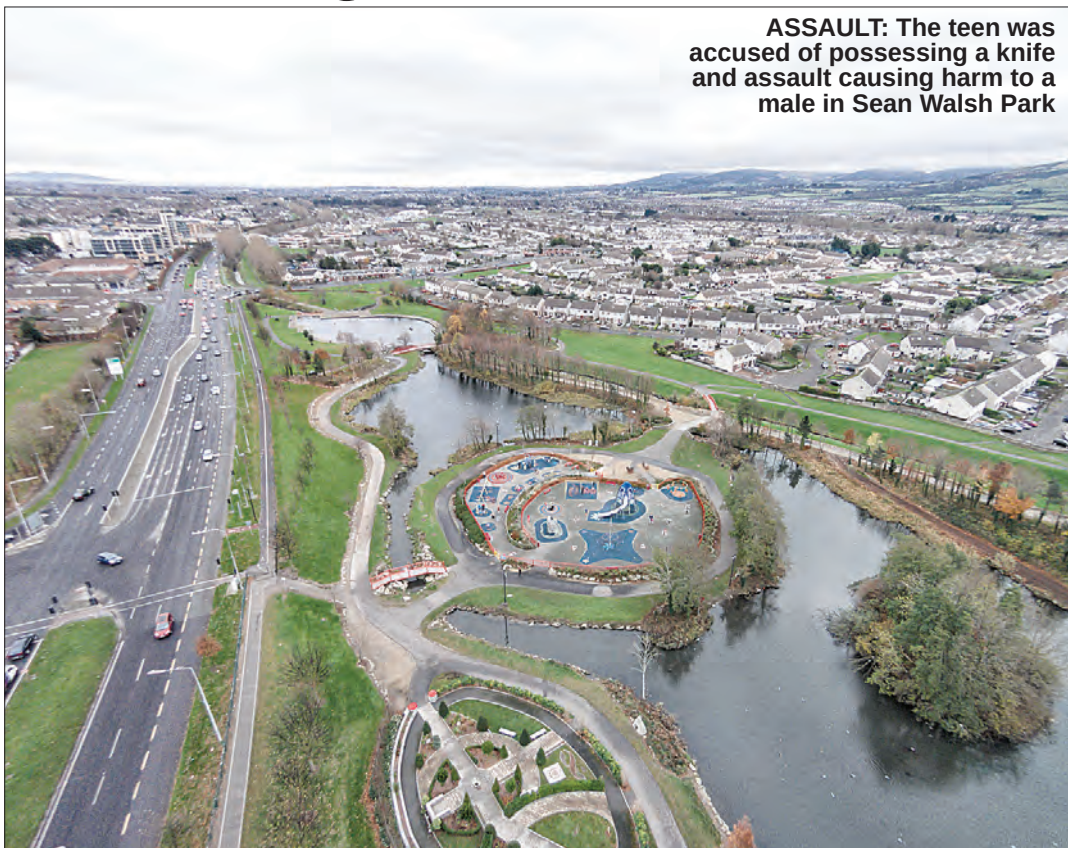
The judge warned the boy that gardai could come to his home to check the curfew.

It was also stressed to the boy that he risked being held in custody for the duration of the proceedings if he broke the terms.

He was granted legal aid and ordered to appear again in April for directions from the Director of Public Prosecutions to be obtained.

The teen, yet to indicate a plea, cannot be identified because he is a minor and spoke only to confirm he understood the bail conditions.

ASSAULT: The teen was accused of possessing a knife and assault causing harm to a male in Sean Walsh Park



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Event honouring Gary and raising funds for defibrillator

Gary suffered a heart attack last year while driving a taxi on Wolfe Tone Quay

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

A HORSE drive to fundraise for a community defibrillator will take place at the long green in Cherry Orchard at midday this Saturday, March 11, in memory of community stalwart Gary Nugent.

Gary passed away on March 14, 2022, after suffering a heart attack at age 61, and he was involved in many fundraisers over the years and had a lifelong passion for horses.

He was originally from Bluebell, where his passion for horses began in the fields near the flats in the area, and he moved to Ballyfermot in the late 70s and lived there for the rest of his life.

Gary worked as a taxi driver, and he also worked with horses in a variety of capacities including horse-and-carriage rides and film and TV work.

Gary's son, also named Gary, told *The Echo*: "He drove the horse-and-carriage at Stephen's Green, and he did background work with horses on 'Penny Dreadful', 'Into the Badlands' and 'The Count of Montecristo'.

"He was into animals in general, but with horses, he always seemed to have an affinity for them and he was great with them."

The father-of-three had been involved in numerous fundraising drives over the years, which led the family to hold a fundraiser in Gary's memory.

Explaining why his family has decided to raise funds for a defibrillator, Gary said: "My dad died from the effects of a heart attack.

"He was in town when it happened, driving his taxi on Wolfe Tone Quay. Had there been a defibrillator closer to him, and someone there who knew how to use it, it could've helped him.

"The Horse Drive is about honouring him and his legacy in the area, and he always did the most that he could in the area with what he had.

"It's something that we thought about doing to help the area, and if it could give anyone in the area more of a chance if they're in the same situation my dad was in, then we want to do it."

The event will feature a one-hour horse drive, followed by a raffle and refreshments in the Bluebell Club afterwards.

There will also be a talk about defibrillators, how to use them, and the importance of taking care of them and not vandalising them.

Tickets for the Fundraiser Horse Drive in Memory of Gary Nugent for the Heart of Our Community are €10 each and can be purchased on the day.

PASSION: The late Gary Nugent with one of his horses



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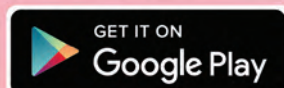
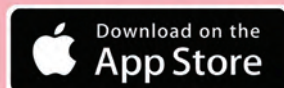
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Civil servant sentenced to four years after pleading guilty to possession of over €310k worth of drugs

OVER €310,000 worth of drugs were found in a container in Co. Kildare belonging to a civil servant, Dublin Circuit Criminal Court has heard, reports Eimear Dodd.

Paul Storey (36) of Woodford Meadows, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine and diamorphine for sale or supply at Baronrath, Straffan, Co. Kildare on April 24, 2021.

Storey was handed a four-year prison term on Friday at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court.

The investigating garda told John Moher BL, prosecuting, that a warrant was obtained to search a property in Kildare which contained a number of sheds and containers.

The owner of the premises

contacted Storey, who was not present during the search, at the request of gardai.

The defendant told the owner of the premises: "I'm fucked".

Gardai removed the lock of the green container belonging to Storey and found a black Honda Accord inside.

Gardai found 3.3kg of cocaine, with a value of €232,603 and 560g of diamorphine worth €78,456 in the boot of the car.

Mix material and other drugs paraphernalia were also found. Storey's fingerprint was identified on a blender.

Storey was arrested at his home on May 17, 2021 and denied any knowledge of the drugs when

interviewed.

The investigating garda agreed with Anne Marie Lawlor SC, defending, that her client was not the primary target of the search and that Storey was holding the drugs on behalf of a third party.

The garda agreed that Storey would be low down the chain and had no trappings of wealth.

Storey has eight previous convictions, including four for minor drugs offences and four for road traffic matters.

The garda agreed that the most recent of Storey's previous drugs convictions dates from 2017 and relates to cannabis.

Storey has one previous conviction for possession of drugs

for sale or supply from 2012, and the amount involved was €500.

Defence counsel said Storey was in a relationship with a person with a drugs debt, and for a "foolish but understandable" reason sought to help them by holding these items.

Ms Lawlor asked the court to consider this separate to Storey's previous convictions for drugs offences, which had related to his use of cannabis.

Her client entered an early plea, and is remorseful for his actions.

Storey works full-time in the civil service and supports his parents, who are in poor health.

References from family and a co-worker were handed to the

court.

Defence counsel said Storey had made an "enormous error" but was a productive and useful member of society.

Judge Martin Nolan said Storey had made a "serious misjudgement" in becoming involved with this level of drugs.

He said Storey's level of culpability was reduced as he got involved to help another party.

Storey also had previous relevant convictions, though of a less serious nature.

Judge Nolan said he would take Storey's early guilty plea and his good work history into account as mitigation and he imposed a four-year prison sentence.

Man jailed after driving car as passenger tried to get out

Accused has 174 previous convictions including two for assault and 10 for drug offences

By Eimear Dodd

news@echo.ie

A MAN who continued to drive a car while his female passenger tried to get out, resulting in her being dragged beside the vehicle, has been jailed for four years.

Patrick Kinsella (44) of St Ronan's Gardens, Clondalkin pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to one count of endangerment on Nangor Road, Clondalkin on June 21, 2022.

He also pleaded to one count of assault causing harm and driving without insurance at St Cuthberts Road, Clondalkin on the same date.

Kinsella has 174 previous convictions, including two for assault causing harm and 10 for drugs offences.

Garda Kian Logan told Dublin Circuit Criminal Court on Friday that the female victim, who was homeless, accepted an offer from Kinsella to stay in his car.

The pair went to a garage to beg at around 11pm. A short time later, they got into Kinsella's car and drove off.

During the journey, Kinsella and the injured party got into an argument. The car later hit a kerb, puncturing a tyre.

Kinsella started to blame the woman for this, and the argument escalated as Kinsella thought the victim had stolen money from him.

The woman was afraid and asked to leave the car. Blows were exchanged and the woman tried to leave the car, but Kinsella sped up.

He also called her names and started to throw things at her. At one stage, Kinsella told the woman he would kill her.

The victim attempted to leave the moving car, but was dragged alongside it. Gardai spotted the



car at 11.20pm and observed the woman hanging from the passenger door with her legs on the ground.

Gardai switched on their blue lights and followed the car, but Kinsella didn't immediately stop.

The woman fell as the car turned right at a roundabout. Kinsella stopped the vehicle around 50 yards later.

The woman's shoes had worn through during the incident and

she sustained soft tissue injuries to her left foot and right ankle.

A victim impact statement was handed to the court, but not read out.

Kinsella was arrested and gave an account of events to gardai during interview. He later became uncooperative and a second interview was suspended. He has been in custody since this incident.

Gda Logan agreed with Paul

Greene SC, defending, that drug addiction was at the root of this incident. The garda also accepted that the victim had nothing against the defendant.

Mr Greene said Kinsella's behaviour was not rational when he blamed the woman for the punctured tyre or refused to cooperate when she wanted to leave the car. Kinsella is on an enhanced prisoner regime and has a history of addiction. He

moved to Wexford, where he worked in the equestrian sector, but fell back into bad behaviour upon his return to the city.

Kinsella is in a relationship and is likely to have work available to him post-release, the court heard.

Kinsella and the injured party were known to each other. Mr Greene asked Judge Martin Nolan to consider his client's guilty plea and the fact he is

doing well in custody.

Judge Nolan said Kinsella had a "bad record of offending", including some serious offences.

He took Kinsella's guilty plea, expression of remorse and work history into consideration as mitigation.

Judge Nolan imposed a four-year prison sentence, backdated to June 21, 2022 and handed Kinsella a four-year driving disqualification.



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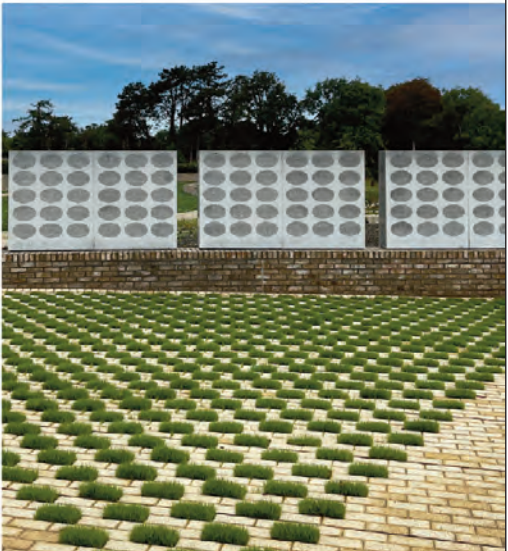
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Our Lady of Assumption Church celebrates 70th anniversary

THE Our Lady of Assumption Church in Ballyfermot celebrates 70 year anniversary this week with a special mass featuring speakers who were at the opening Mass on March 15, 1953, *reports Maurice Garvey*. Residents are invited to attend the Service of Reflections and Thanksgiving at the Assumption Church on Wednesday, March 15, at 7pm. The celebration will also feature people who were involved in the early years of the church's work in the community. Many of the congregation attending the first mass in 1953 had to stand – despite the installation of 1,980 mahogany seats costing £10,000 - a reflection of the excitement surrounding the opening of a new church in Ballyfermot, an area which was only five years old at the time. The iconic structure was and remains to

this day, a focal point for the community. Work started on the building in May 1951. It was designed by Robinson, Keefe and Devine, and cost £68,000 to build. In a jubilee book published in 2003 'The Assumption Parish – Celebrating 50 years of community in Ballyfermot', the then parish priest Fr Joe Kett, spoke of how "influential" the church was in forming the community. "The interesting thing to realise is how influential the church was in the whole story – the school going population was enormous." One of the first Ballyfermot priests Fr Donal O'Scannail, wrote about how he "started from scratch" after his appointment to the parish in December 1949. During the build of the new church, Fr

Donal said the parish was "growing rapidly" with "houses numbering 2,500 on the left hand side of Ballyfermot Road, up to Le Fanu Road", and "no sign of other priests arriving". Fr Donal was "delighted" when Fr Canon Troy and Fr Paul Boland were appointed to Ballyfermot in July 1951. "I went on holidays immediately," said Fr Donal. On Wednesday, March 15 at 7pm, the celebration mass will be led by Fr Adrian Egan and Fr Seamus Davitt. Sacristans Margaret Killeen and Ann Marie Murray will also be on hand, joined by the Assumption Choirs, Susanne Plummer and Tom Phelan for the music. The service can be watched on the website link assumptionballyfermot.ie/parish-tv/



SPECIAL MASS: Assumption Church

Funding for community-based Women's Health Unit approved

Development will see the expansion of the hospital's gynaecological services

By **Mary Dennehy**
mary@echo.ie

FUNDING confirmation has been received by Tallaght University Hospital for the development of a community-based Women's Health Unit. The development will see the expansion of the hospital's gynaecological services into a 1,200sqm space in Tallaght Cross West, facilitating an additional 3,000 out-patient appointments per year. Currently, the local hospital's gynaecological services, which are limited on space and resources, are based within the Outpatient Department. However, the move to a new, dedicated

1,200sqm space within the community is expected to reduce outpatient appointment times for gynaecological services and related procedures to less than three months. It will also increase surgical procedures for patients with advanced endometriosis 'almost threefold', from an average of 80 patients per year to 224. This week, the hospital confirmed to *The Echo* that it had in recent days received funding confirmation from the HSE to progress with the development of the Women's Health Unit. The new unit in Tallaght Cross West will provide a suite of investigations, such as pelvic ultrasound, diagnostic hysteroscopy and endometrial biopsy.



VISIT: Dr Aoife O'Neill, Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist, Minister of Health Stephen Donnelly TD and Lucy Nugent, Chief Executive of TUH with members of the of the Women's Health team at TUH Photo TUH Medical Photography

According to the hospital, the clinics will provide 'see and treat' services for abnormal uterine bleeding or suspicious cervix symptoms, a GP training room and first-line incontinence services. The hospital said: "[When fully operational this unit] will reduce outpatient appointment times for gynaecological services and related procedure waiting lists to less than three months. "A 'see and treat' approach will be implemented for all appropriate Outpatient appointments – this is not currently possible due to limited physical space and resources." The hospital added that the unit will also have full provision for management of patients with chronic and/or advances endometriosis. As reported previously, Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) has been selected as one of two supra regional centres in Ireland for advanced endometriosis. The new unit will see surgical procedures for patients with advanced endometriosis increasing 'almost threefold from an average of 80 patients per year to 224', the hospital said. "It is estimated that approximately 24 of these patients will require surgery with colorectal/urology involvement," the hospital added. "Additional consultant posts funded by

NWIHP [National Women and Infants Health Programme] will fully service this requirement, resulting in minimal wait times for patients. "The Women's Health Fund has supported annual funding of all additional posts required, and recruitment for these posts has already started." On Monday of this week, the Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly visited the local hospital to meet with the multi-disciplinary team in place to care for patients with endometriosis. Minister Donnelly visited Tallaght on the same day he announced the development of the National Endometriosis Framework, which sets out for the first time a defined clinical care pathway for women with endometriosis. Developed by the HSE's National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP), the Framework will be implemented on a phased basis, commencing this year. According to the Department of Health, the Framework is a 'significant development' in the approach of endometriosis care, as it 'ensures women will receive timely, effective treatment at the appropriate level of intervention'. The team in Tallaght presented Minister Donnelly with a yellow lapel pin, the symbol for World Endometriosis Month, which is being held throughout March.

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor PC



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Anam Cara monthly meeting

ANAM Cara South Dublin, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly parent evening for bereaved parents on Monday, March 13, at 7.15pm in the Maldron Hotel, Whitestown Way, Tallaght.

This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not.

For more information, visit anamcara.ie or call their information line on 404 5378.

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€500k EuroMillions still to be claimed in Kilnamanagh

People are encouraged to check their tickets from two weeks ago

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

THE National Lottery is encouraging EuroMillions players to check their tickets as €500,000 from a winning Quick Pick ticket purchased in Kilnamanagh has yet to be claimed.

The ticket was purchased in Dunnes Stores in Kilnamanagh last month, and the winner is advised to sign the back of the ticket and keep it safe until they claim it.

The ticket is one of two winning tickets in the latest EuroMillions draw, with the other winning ticket – which has also remained unclaimed – having been purchased in Cork.

“What an exciting night for Irish EuroMillions players with not one but two players scooping the EuroMillions Plus top prize worth an incredible €500,000,” said a National Lottery spokesperson. “Today we’re asking all of our EuroMillions players, especially in Cork and Dublin, to check their tickets to see if they are the latest winners of a life-changing lottery prize.”

“The ticket holders are advised to sign the back of their winning ticket and to keep it safe.”

“The winner should make contact with the National Lottery prize claims team on 1800 666 222 or email claims@lottery.ie and arrangements will be made for them to claim their prize.”

“What an exciting night for EuroMillions players with not one but two players. . .



Residents have chance to put forward projects

RESIDENTS in Tallaght South and Saggart will have a chance to put forward project proposals for their community following the launch of the €300k Have Your Say initiative, reports Hayden Moore.

€300k Have Your Say is a participatory budgeting initiative which has been run in South Dublin County Council since 2017, enabling and empowering communities to mould their shared spaces.

Along with Saggart, communities from Tallaght South, which incorporates places such as Brittas, Jobstown, Killinarden, Knockmore, Brookfield and Fettercairn, are invited to take put their ideas forward.

Helping to create community-led projects, €300k Have Your Say for Tallaght South and Saggart is set to launch in Brookfield

Youth and Community Centre on Monday, March 13 at 7.30pm.

All members of the community are invited to join the launch. Following the launch, submissions will open to the public for €300,000 to be spent in the local areas and workshops will be held throughout March to facilitate discussion of project ideas and help formulate a ready-made submission.

The first workshop will take place in St Mary's GAA in Saggart on March 21 at 7pm, with workshops also being held in Jobstown Community Centre on March 22 at 7pm and in Killinarden Community Centre on March 29 at 7pm.

Anyone seeking further information about the €300k Have Your Say can visit haveyoursay.southdublin.ie



INITIATIVE: The €300k Have Your Say will be launched in Brookfield

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New initiatives to help tackle deprivation

MacUilliam estate has previously experienced anti-social issues



UPGRADE: The entrance to the estate

By **Hayden Moore**
hayden@echo.ie

DEPRIVATION in Mac Uilliam estate is being tackled through an enhanced estate management programme and community-centric initiatives.

Over the years, issues of anti-social behaviour and littering have continued to crop up in Mac Uilliam and an interagency approach has been taken to give the estate a new lease of life.

South Dublin County Council identified environmental, social exclusion, and representation challenges in the estate and formulated several interventions.

Following a question from Cllr Kieran Mahon (Solidarity) at the Tallaght Area Committee Meeting, the council offered an

update on the “work of the high-level task force” developed for the estate.

Part of the measures for Mac Uilliam include prioritisation under the planned maintenance programme for window and door replacement, painting, upkeep and repair works.

59 properties have already had external painting completed with the second phase of works due to be tendered in March and April.

Capacity building with local residents to foster the development of a local resident’s group, enhanced cleaning, ring-fencing estate management funds for priority works and a review of tenancy allocations is part of the measures.

Other measures include a targeted campaign to address anti-social behavioural issues, a review of repeated repair works to the

playground, waste collection assessment, and engagement with other agencies to deliver support programmes in sports and arts.

Through the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme, funding was secured for a circular walking route on the open space at the rear of the estate.

This programme aims to deliver a ‘Trim Trail’ with distance, time, steps signage on what is an “underutilised open space in the heart of Mac Uilliam estate”.

In addition, €100k funding was agreed in the Council’s adopted 2022 revenue budget to support the improvement and upgrade of the public realm at the entrance to the estate.

These works included physical improvement works, removal of a disused children’s play area and landscaping including mature tree planting and bulbs.

Looking ahead, there are four key initiatives being tabled by the council.

Firstly, a walking group will be set up in conjunction with the local sports partnership following the completion of the Trim Trail.

Over the Easter, events are set to be organised with Barnardos and Connect 4 street workers organising a football tournament.

Connect 4 is a youth project covering Killinarden, MacUilliam, Glenshane and Jobstown with the aim of supporting at-risk young people between the ages of 10 and 24.

Tallaght Community Arts is also running an Easter camp for young people in St Aidan’s school and workshops in Mac Uilliam through the Creative Places initiative.

In the summer, there is provisional plans for a family day on July 1, 2023, as well as a family day out which will see buses being organised to bring residents on a trip out of the area.



PROGRAMME: MacUilliam estate has a new circular walking route

Echoopinion...

Action needed to support local communities

ANOTHER week and another visit to Ballyfermot by a government Minister.

Minister Joe O’Brien was the latest member of cabinet to visit the area on Tuesday, during an announcement of additional funding for a community development scheme.

This follows previous visits in recent months by the likes of Justice Minister Helen McEntee and Children’s Minister Roderic O’Gorman.

However, according to local residents and representatives, visits by government officials will be hollow, if extra resources are not provided to gardai.

In Ballyfermot, garda numbers have dropped by more than 25 per cent in the past 10 years.

There has been a number of high profile incidents involving assaults on gardai in recent months, the latest, two weeks ago when a garda suffered head injuries as a crowd gathered outside a funeral.

Young joyriders ramming a patrol car last September in Cherry Orchard, and two gardai assaulted outside a pub on Ballyfermot Road in November, have fuelled desire in the community for a stronger garda presence on the streets.

The latter incident led to a vigil outside Ballyfermot Garda Station as local groups rallied to show support for their local gardai.

The Garda Representative Association (GRA) have previously said they “need action rather than platitudes” from elected officials if gardai are able to go about their duties without fear of serious injury.

Residents of Ballyfermot are keen to see the same.

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Tenants will be prioritised for transfer based on demand for their adapted property

TENANTS living in adapted social properties looking to surrender their property will be prioritised for a transfer based on the demand of their adapted home, according to the council, *reports Hayden Moore.*

At the recent Tallaght Area Committee Meeting, Cllr Mick Duff raised a question regarding the number of families or individuals in Tallaght on the waiting list who require adapted social housing.

In response, South Dublin County Council outlined that there is “currently 374 applicants approved for medical priority” and of these, 202 have an area preference for south of the Naas Road.

61 of these 202 applicants are wheelchair users, while there is 51 wheelchair users out of 172 applicants with a north of the Naas Road area preference.

Across the board, the most in

demand properties are one-beds with 139 while there is 95 applicants awaiting an allocation for a three-bed property.

Since 2019, there has been 269 allocations to applicants with medical priority.

“Approved applicants for Social Housing supports can apply for medical priority by completing an HMD Form 1 which must be signed by 2 medical practitioners,” the

council said.

“All HMD Form 1 are assessed by the Councils Independent Medical Referee.

“Our construction and allocations teams, along with the AHB bodies, continue to work on planning for new delivery of homes to meet the existing medical priority housing needs.”

Part of Cllr Duff’s query was in relation to the number of tenants who

no longer require an adapted home that are on the transfer list for standard social housing.

“With regard to the query of transfer in adapted properties who no longer require them, we have contacted a number of these tenants to discuss the surrender of their current property,” the council replied.

“We will prioritise these tenants for a transfer based on the demand for their adapted property.”

Preparations for St Patrick's Day parades are in full swing

Parades will take place in Clondalkin, Four Districts, Lucan and Cherry Orchard

PREPARATIONS are in full swing for St Patrick's Day parades around South Dublin County later this month, in celebration of the patron saint.

All of the parades will, of course, take place on St Patrick's Day, March 17, with the Four Districts St Patrick's Day Parade kicking off at 2pm in Rathlawns, Rathcoole.

The parade route will then go through Rathcoole village, past Avoca, and will end at St Mary's GAA Club in Saggart.

The grand marshal for the parade will be popular local sportsman Tony Rooney, who is heavily involved in Rathcoole Football Club and is also head football coach of the Special Olympics' eastern region.

The parade coordinator, Sharon Redmond, said: "The theme this year is 'Our Planet, Our Home'.

"We are asking the participants to include the theme in their entry.

"As usual we are keeping it community- and local-based with the focus of the parade being our children's groups representing GAA, soccer, rugby, youth clubs, dancing, scouts, schools and playschools etc.

"We have also reached out to



CELEBRATION: The St Patrick's Day parade in Clondalkin last year

the representatives of the Ukrainian refugees in Citywest Hotel and we have invited them to take part in the parade this year.

"We will also have some surprises along the route and welcome back our many parade favourites."

Over in Lucan, the village's St

Patrick's Day Parade will commence at 3pm sharp at Hillcrest, opposite Tesco.

The parade will then go through Dodsboro Road, the Old

Celbridge Road, the village, St Mary's Church, Adamstown Road from Courtney's to the N4, and Chapel Hill.

The grand marshal of the parade will be 'Fair City' actor and singer Sorcha Furlong.

The parade organiser, Caroline Brady, said: "The parade presents an opportunity for community organisations to present and showcase what they do, especially the children's groups.

"It's designed to be a family day out with activities for all the family to enjoy.

"It's great fun watching the children's energetic and colourful performances demonstrating skills like dancing, tai-chi, cricket, football, hurling, all at the review stand in the middle of Lucan village..

"Plus, we have marching bands, music, face painting, balloons, etc., great craic for the day and free with the support of South Dublin County Council, businesses in Lucan and the gardaí."

The grand marshal for the Clondalkin parade is fast-rising rapper Sello, with the festivities kicking off at 2.30pm in Clondalkin village with a route taking in the Old Nangor Road and Tuthills.

In Ballyfermot the Orchard Community Services will be coming together to celebrate diversity, strength and community spirit for St Patrick's Day.

This will be the first St Patrick's parade in Cherry Orchard for many years – a move welcomed by many in the community as a positive addition to the festivities this year.

Fr Michael Murtagh, parish priest Cherry Orchard said: "Many thanks to all the local community groups and activities who have made this possible."

The parade will start from Cherry Orchard Integrated Youth Services, Equine Centre, Cherry Orchard, at 11am on Wednesday, March 15, and move down through Cherry Orchard Avenue bringing joy to all along the way.

"It will be a day full of colour joy, laughter, music, culture and plenty of community spirit," said Fr Michael.

Tallaght, however, will be without a St Patrick's Day parade this year as the voluntary committee who organised it in previous years has since disbanded.

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Proposals to install new raised pedestrian crossing outside school

Parking and speeding are endangering students and teachers at Cookstown Road

PROPOSALS to install a new raised pedestrian crossing outside a school, in a bid to combat incessant speeding, have been put forward to South Dublin County Council targeting a 2023 delivery.

The local authority has stated that “illegal parking is enforced by An Garda Síochána” in response to concerns raised in relation to St Mark’s Community School, where parking and speeding in its vicinity is endangering students, teachers and other road users.

Speeding is a daily occurrence and ongoing issue along the Cookstown Road, which serves as the main travel route for those attending St Mark’s CS and St Mark’s GAA club.

By Hayden Moore
hayden@echo.ie

In December, shortly after students from St Mark’s had finished school, there was an incident which left a car overturned on the road with a trail of debris, including shattered glass, behind it.

The car mounted the footpath, hitting a bus stop and fence before flipping to a halt.

“That incident involving the car overturning highlighted the daily issues on the road and to some extent the panic in the community, the council had to move on it,” Cllr Charlie O’Connor says.

This incident prompted action, with representatives from South Dublin County Council and St Mark’s Community School meeting on January 31, 2023 to discuss several issues.

One of the core concerns raised is how at peak times, when children start, go on a break and finish school, there is “inconsiderate and illegal parking by parents” outside the entrance.

Crossing points for students, teachers and other road users were also discussed at the meeting and a new proposal is underway by the traffic section in the council.

The proposal, which the traffic section is working to secure funding on, is for a raised belisha beacon crossing points

near the pedestrian access to the school on Cookstown Road.

A road safety audit is required in advance of works and procurement of this audit is currently underway, targeting works being carried out this year.

“The roads team have been working to properly address the concerns and suggestions from the school and parents’ association,” Cllr Charlie O’Connor said to *The Echo*.

“I know that the parents’ association is quite happy with these plans but something that was highlighted to me is that the yellow lines at the entrance to the school have faded.

“I have asked the roads team to take

immediate action and for the lines to be repainted.”

Double yellow lines were requested near the Cookstown Road entrance to the school.

However, a double yellow line is “not recommended” as there is an existing solid white line place – with parking prohibited opposite a solid white line.

On the other side of the school, along the Fettercairn Road, there is an uncontrolled/courtesy crossing where there are line markings, a refuge island, ramps and ‘Slow School Ahead’ markings.

It is also proposed to relocate one of the existing warning signs closer to the crossing point, and these works will be carried out within eight weeks.



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1-2pm

Palmerstown Youth & Community Centre:
Every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month
11-12am

Ronanstown Youth Service (Beside Neilstown Shops):
Every Friday
10-11am



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Gino Kenny TD
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gino.kenny@oireachtas.ie

Celebrating International Women’s Day and Seachtain na Gaeilge in County Library

THERE’S a bumper week of events in the County Library, Tallaght, this week, as the service will celebrate both International Women’s Day and Seachtain na Gaeilge.

International Women’s Day will be marked with an involving panel discussion today, Thursday, March 9 from 6.30pm to 8pm.

Titled ‘Embrace Equality: A Panel Discussion’, the event has been organised by Women’s Collective Ireland and has been described by them as a celebration of women in Tallaght Library.

Topics covered during the panel discussion will include challenging gender stereotypes, calling out discrimination and bias, and striving for inclusion.

The panel will be composed of Linda O’Sullivan, campaigner and FORSA equality officer, Blessing Dada, an award-winning Black-Irish writer and advocate, and ROSA activist and councillor Leah Whelan.

Jacqueline Kelly, executive life coach and maternal mental health speaker, and Brona Harding English, a social media influencer will also take part in the panel discussion which will be chaired by Jennifer Phillips, a Women’s Collective Ireland coordinator and former CEO.

If you’re feeling in the mood for indulging in your cúpla focal, the library has an impressive list of events marking Seachtain na Gaeilge this Saturday, March 11.

At 12pm, there will be a workshop on Sean Nós singing and ceili dancing that will take attendees through the basics, and is suitable for all ages.

At 1pm, there will be an Irish music and song workshop for children, where the children will learn a few songs – and get the opportunity to play the bodhrán.

The library’s Seachtain na Gaeilge events will be concluded with a concert by trad musician Claire Sherry and friends at 2pm.

‘Blood on the floor and sink, urine on walls’ angers parents

Parents are frustrated with a lack of cleaning in the school which is impacting children

ISSUES with cleanliness in a secondary school in Citywest continued this week, with a parent contacting *The Echo* with photos that appear to show dried blood and urine in the school, reports Aideen O’Flaherty.

One of the photos shows what appears to be dried blood, on the floor, at the base of a toilet in Coláiste Pobail Fola, while another shows what appears to be urine in a toilet roll dispenser.

As reported in *The Echo* last week, parents are frustrated with a lack of cleaning in the school which has seen dirt being tracked through classrooms and sinks being clogged.

This week, another parent whose child attends the school, and who asked to be unnamed, told *The Echo* that the issue is severely impacting her child.

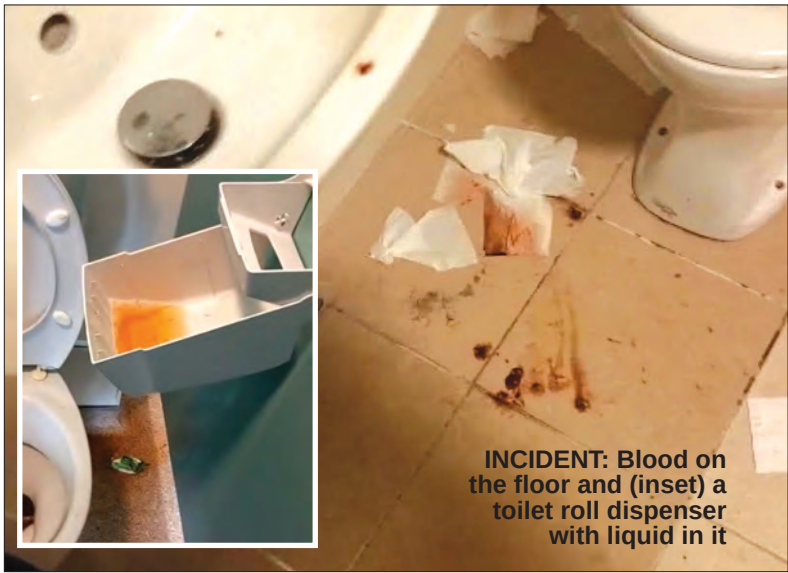
“The teachers and the principal would not have their children use these facilities,” she said.

“My child was forced to hold themselves with an upset stomach all day and had an accident while walking home.

“They were absolutely humiliated and so upset and embarrassed.

“In another incident, they were forced to use bandages from a first aid kit to wipe.

“There are toilets with blood on the



INCIDENT: Blood on the floor and (inset) a toilet roll dispenser with liquid in it



FRUSTRATION: Toilet paper blocking a sink in the school

floor and sink, urine on the walls and all over the floor, disgusting graffiti on the walls, urine in the paper dispenser.

“There’s no tissue, no soap. This is not acceptable.”

The parent queried why more action hasn’t been taken by school staff and management and has questioned whether the school has received funding for essentials like soap and toilet tissue.

As reported in *The Echo* last week,

another parent said that it was their understanding that the school didn’t meet the criteria for funding for a cleaner as there are only just over 450 pupils.

The Echo contacted both the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB), which is the patron of the school, and the Department of Education for comment.

The DDLETB told *The Echo*: “I can advise that DDLETB are actively

working with the principal and the Department of Education in progressing and resolving a number of issues in the current building, including the provision of additional cleaning and completion of building works.

“The principal will be updating the school community as developments arise.”

A spokesperson for the Department of Education said responsibility for the day-to-day running of the school rests

with the ETB.

“The Department provides a staffing allocation to each ETB in respect of the administrative, caretaking and cleaning requirements of its schools,” said the spokesperson.

“The staffing allocation is calculated based on the enrolment of the schools in question. It is a matter for the ETB to utilise same taking into account the overall priorities and needs of the organisation.”

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Raising awareness about the energy data centres consume

Students will be encouraging people to delete unwanted and unnecessary data

By Aileen O'Flaherty
aileen@echo.ie

STUDENTS from a local secondary school have devised an innovative project centred on raising awareness about the energy that data centres consume.

The pupils from Firhouse Community College developed the idea after being selected to participate in a pilot project called STE(A)M in Action in Schools.

STE(A)M in Action is aimed at Junior Cycle students and supports students and teachers in connecting school subject, curricular and classroom learning with real world societal issues.

The second year Firhouse Community College students turned their attention to the energy usage of data centres and data storage, in a bid to reduce energy consumption and their carbon footprint.

Nadia McCormack, a teacher in Firhouse CC, told *The Echo*: "We needed to come up with an innovative idea to engage and empower students to make a difference in their community and society as a whole.

"We listened to a psychologist discussing anxiety amongst young people and how they feel about the future of the planet and the quality of life that lies ahead of them.

"Students realised that if each

"Students realised that if each of them took individual responsibility, the collective effort could lead to effective change. I discussed with my second-year students, topical environmental issues and decided



PROJECT: Students discussing their project with Cllr Madeleine Johansson

of them took individual responsibility, the collective effort could lead to effective change.

"I discussed with my second-year students, topical environmental issues and decided

to focus on the area of data centres in Ireland, particularly Dublin, and the effect their power usage has on the energy grid.

"The project involves raising awareness among students and the wider community on the energy consumption of data centres and how each individual can effect a change in the amount of energy data centres use."

In the coming weeks, the enterprising young students plan to work with local schools and the community to carry out small

tasks that could make a big difference.

These tasks include encouraging people to delete their junk mail, clear their browser history, save files to their hard drive rather than a cloud, and to delete duplicate photos and videos.

"Every week, we will give the students and others involved, a simple task to reduce their data storage and, accordingly, the energy output of data centres," added Ms McCormack.

"The students will make posters advertising the dates and tasks we would like people to complete, and post them around the schools and local shops etc.

"We hope that by raising awareness about these data centres and the energy they consume, it will encourage people to delete unwanted and unnecessary data on a habitual basis.

"It will in turn reduce energy consumption and the students' carbon footprint."

Crime Victims Helpline is recruiting

THE Crime Victims Helpline is currently recruiting for their Spring Volunteer Training Programme 2023.

They are looking for friendly, reliable people to provide telephone support to the helpline callers for three hours a week.

As the helpline is being expanded Monday through Thursday from 5pm to 7.30 pm, they are particularly looking for volunteers available at these times.

The volunteering will be done remotely, requiring a decent internet connection, either a laptop or PC, and a private space.

There are also limited opportunities available from 10.00am to 5.00pm remotely and at the Crime Victims Helpline's office in Dublin 2.

Due to the nature of the work, fluent English is a must and basic IT skills are required. Volunteers must be living in Ireland and over 18 years of age.

A minimum two-year commitment is required, and extensive training is provided. All volunteers are subject to Garda vetting and reference checks.

Visit CrimeVictimsHelpline.ie for an application form.

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From the Community and For the Community

Registration open for National Spring Clean

REGISTRATIONS are now open for the National Spring Clean 2023.

Throughout the month of April, the National Spring Clean will encourage communities in County Dublin to tackle the problem of litter in local areas and to see the benefits of a litter-free environment.

National Spring Clean is operated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce in partnership with Local Authorities and supported by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Mars Wrigley.

Groups such as Whitestown Estate Management in Tallaght and Dodder Action have taken part in National Spring Clean.

Over the past 24 years, the National Spring Clean has been focused on the message of the collective responsibility we share in tackling and preventing our national litter problem. By participating in organised clean-ups, groups and individuals of all ages come together to make a meaningful and positive contribution to their communities – to date this has resulted in the collection of almost 45,000 tonnes of litter across Ireland!

This year, the National Spring Clean is also raising awareness about how the adoption of a circular economy model, will reduce our litter,

and climate impact.

The circular economy is a waste prevention approach to keep resources in use for as long as possible, enabling us to extract the maximum value from them before recovery and regeneration.

This is based on three principles: eliminating waste and pollution, keeping materials and products in use (through re-use and recycling), and protecting nature.

This means that as we transition to a more circular economy, we'll see less waste, less litter, and lower emissions, and thus, a cleaner planet.

These principles of a circular economy have been central to the ethos of National Spring Clean for the past 24 years. Last year some 35% of all waste collected was recycled, thanks to recyclable waste bags provided to groups and individuals who register, while the removal of litter from our natural environment has helped tackle biodiversity loss.

Throughout this year's campaign, National Spring Clean also hopes people will consider their waste output and moderate consumption behaviours that produce excess waste, and look at alternatives that will move us away from a throwaway culture to a more sustainable circular culture.

Programme targets area-based social exclusion and poverty

Expansion of Empowering Communities Programme is announced for Cherry Orchard

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

MINISTER for Community Development, Integration and Charities, Joe O'Brien was at the Cherry Orchard Centre on Tuesday, to announce the expansion of the Empowering Communities Programme to Cherry Orchard.

The ECP specifically targets area-based deprivation, identified by the Pobal HP Deprivation Index, through a community development approach.

Additional funding of up to €150,000 has been approved for the expansion of the programme to the Cherry Orchard area, following analysis of deprivation in the locality.

As part of this programme, a community engagement worker will be recruited for Cherry Orchard to develop and facilitate relationships between community stakeholders, community groups and statutory agencies and structures.

Speaking at the launch Minister O'Brien said: "I am delighted to announce the expansion of Empowering Communities Programme to now include Cherry Orchard. This programme uses a community development approach to address social exclusion and the impacts of poverty and disadvantage in very specific target areas. The ECP targets specific small areas with an intensive, one-to-one approach led by community engagement workers, tackling the very significant impacts of poverty and disadvantage in local communities."

"The key aim of the programme is to support communities in developing and delivering their own appropriate responses to the specific challenges they face as a community every day, guided by the community engagement workers. No one knows better what the specific challenges facing Cherry Orchard are than the people of Cherry Orchard, who experience the consequences of these challenges in their daily lives."

"The key aim of the programme is to support communities in developing and delivering their own appropriate responses to the specific challenges. . .



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Kidney transplant recipients hail new lifestyle programme

Participants took part in eight-week virtual programme twice a week which also included an exercise element

By **Mary Dennehy**
mary@echo.ie

AS WORLD Kidney Day is celebrated, kidney transplant recipients have hailed a new lifestyle programme at Tallaght University Hospital (TUH).

Those who took part in the new diet and exercise programme have this week said that the classes not only improved their overall physical health but also boosted confidence.

The eight-week virtual programme took place twice a week and included an exercise element led by a

physiotherapist and an education session with a dietician.

Sarah Williams, who is 14 years post kidney transplant, said that the programme came “at a time” when she needed it most for her physical and mental health.

“It has been great, the combination of exercise and nutrition is so important”, Sarah said.

“I have even started sea swimming.

“I am more confident and the regular checks with the team in TUH, help keep me on my toes.”

Sarah was among a number of people to complete the second round of the

programme, which fellow participant Simon Appleby said resulted in a “marked improvement” in his health.

Simon, who is nine years post kidney transplant, said: “This was the first time I had done something like this, the programme was great.

“The focus on diet and fitness means I am a lot healthier than I was and can do a lot more.

“It also gave me the confidence to try up new things and I have taken up yoga and am doing a lot more walking.

“I can see a marked improvement.”

Oonagh Smith, the Clinical Specialist Renal Dietitian at the local hospital, this week explained how the healthy eating element of the programme took the form of a 15 to 20 minute discussion.

“As part of this, participants were encouraged to ask nutrition-related questions with a different topic discussed each time,” Ms Smith said.

These topics included, for example, what constitutes a healthy diet for

kidney disease alongside menu planning and behaviour change techniques.

According to Professor Peter Lavin, Consultant Nephrologist and lead Clinical Director at TUH, chronic kidney disease affects over 11 per cent of patients in the Irish Health System.

“There are currently 5,000 adults and children requiring treatment by dialysis or kidney transplantation in Ireland,” Prof Lavin said.

“This is an increase of nearly 50 per cent in 13 years.

“I want to compliment the team at TUH for introducing this important initiative.

“It is showing real benefits not just for the physical but also the mental health of our patients.”

To mark World Kidney Day this Thursday, March 9, Tallaght University Hospital has an interactive stand in the atrium to help raise awareness around what individuals can do to prevent kidney disease or detect it at an early stage.

EATING ELEMENT:
Oonagh Smith,
Clinical Specialist
Renal Dietitian with
Francis Davis a
Kidney Transplant
Patient

“It has been great, the combination of exercise and nutrition is so important. I have even started sea swimming. I am more confident and the regular checks with the team in TUH, helps me keep on my toes



LIFESTYLE: Sarah Williams
Kidney Transplant Patient
Photos by TUH



Forest classroom developed in Coláiste de hÍde



IMPACTFUL: Students and volunteers planting the forest in Coláiste de hÍde

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

COLÁISTE de hÍde in Tymon, Tallaght, is the site of a new stepping stone forest which was launched last Friday, which the school hopes will develop into a 'forest classroom'.

Over 20 different species of trees have been planted there, primarily by fifth year students with the assistance of Transition Year students and volunteers from Dodder Action and Tallaght Litter Mugs.

The project was devised by trainee teacher Cian Ó Finn Mac Oistigín, who wanted to carry out a project in the school that would be impactful and have a sense of permanence.

"I chose the forest classroom project at the start of my placement at Coláiste de hÍde, because I had heard how other trainee teachers at schools tended to run things like book clubs and debating clubs among other things," Mr Ó Finn Mac Oistigín told *The Echo*.

"I found the idea more appealing to leave something a little more permanent than a simple club that could end up dying out without me there to run it.

"My university had placed a lot of emphasis on the idea that we should 'leave a mark' on whichever school we were in, something that we could possibly still see there if we were to return in five or even 10 years' time.

"The organisation of the project was not overly difficult, as I have family who are somewhat involved in the Stepping Stone Forest initiative and they had previously asked if

I could possibly mention the idea to the school's leadership."

The enterprising trainee teacher received the full support of the school community, including the school's secretary, Sadhbh, and one of the caretakers, Ciarán, who helped to develop the project.

Fifth year students, however, took the mantle when it came to implementing the project and upped their green credentials as a result.

"We had a few year groups involved with the project over the year, however, the fifth years really took a shine to the project," said Mr Ó Finn Mac Oistigín.

"[They] were involved in both the soil preparation and the actual planting last Friday.

"They learned a fair bit from volunteers around how to plant trees, how deep they should dig and how to ensure that the soil is compacted, and the sapling will not simply be blown over in a light breeze."

The stepping stone forest is now going to be a key feature of the school, which Ailbhe Ní Fhearraigh, a maths and science teacher in the school, said will hopefully develop into an outdoor classroom.

"The trees are planted in a horseshoe shape, so the idea is that, when they grow, it'll be sheltered so we'll be able to take classes outside," said Ms Ní Fhearraigh.

"The launch on Friday went really well, in terms of the kids getting involved, so we're really looking forward to seeing how it will turn out and what it will be like."

This sentiment was echoed by the principal of Coláiste de hÍde, Conchubhair Mac Ghloinn, who added: "It was fantastic to see such great community spirit in action last Friday.

"We look forward to seeing the growth of our trees over the next few months and what this space might provide us with in the future."



LEAVE A MARK: Teacher Cian Ó Finn Mac Oistigín

court reports



tel: 4685350 email: news@echo.ie

Man jailed for 18 months for his part in stealing rental Go Cars to help pay off his drug debt

A MAN who took part in the stealing of rental vehicles across a number of counties to help pay off a drug debt has been jailed for 18 months, reports Isabel Hayes.

Michael Deegan (37) pleaded guilty to four counts of taking Go Car vehicles without consent at locations in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow on various dates in October 2021.

The court heard that Deegan was the driver in the operation, which involved him driving his car, or his wife's car, to various locations where Go Cars were parked, before

another man broke into them and stole them.

The court heard the keys to each rental vehicle were inside, so the person who broke into the vehicle was then able to drive away.

Damage amounting to €3,000 was caused to one car and two vans which were later recovered by gardai, the court heard.

Another van was never recovered, with a loss of €26,000 to the company, Aoife McNickle BL, prosecuting, told the court.

Deegan, of Tymon North Green,

Tallaght, Dublin, was tracked down by gardai after the registrations of the cars he was driving were linked to him and his wife. He has seven previous convictions for road traffic offences.

Eoin Lawlor BL, defending, said Deegan had a violent and abusive childhood, but managed to avoid entering criminality in his youth.

After leaving home at 16, he met his wife at a young age and she encouraged him to seek help, the court heard.

Deegan worked in the building

industry and had to work away from home for a period of time to earn money for the family, Mr Lawlor said.

He started taking drugs and ran up a drug debt with a criminal organisation.

Deegan was then made to pay off the debt by driving third parties around to steal the Go Car vehicles, the court said.

He was a "sacrificial lamb" in the operation, Mr Lawlor said.

Sentencing Deegan on Tuesday, Judge Martin Nolan accepted he

had good mitigation in the form of his guilty plea, cooperation with gardai and lack of significant criminal record.

He noted there were many testimonials in court which showed Deegan is a good person.

The judge said that he would have considered a non-custodial term but for the fact that Deegan engaged in the activity on four occasions.

"He deserves a custodial term," Judge Nolan said. He handed down an 18-month sentence and declined to suspend any portion of it.

Suspended sentence for three men involved in violent incident

Judge said it was 'no doubt a highly barbaric attack' with no regard for people

By Eimear Dodd

news@echo.ie

THREE men have received suspended sentences for their role in an attack on the adult occupants of a car while children were present on a busy Dublin Road.

Glen Keegan (41), Karl Keegan (31) and Thomas McAllister (48) each pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to two counts of assault causing harm at Killinarden Heights, Tallaght to two men on April 25, 2017.

The three men were not directly involved in an ongoing dispute between two particular families, but agreed to take part in this incident, during which children were present.

Two motorists' vehicles were damaged in the incident as the men reversed their car in a bid to escape the attack.

Passing sentence on Monday, Judge Pauline Codd acknowledged that the original dispute had settled down and that the occupants in the car had not engaged with the investigation.

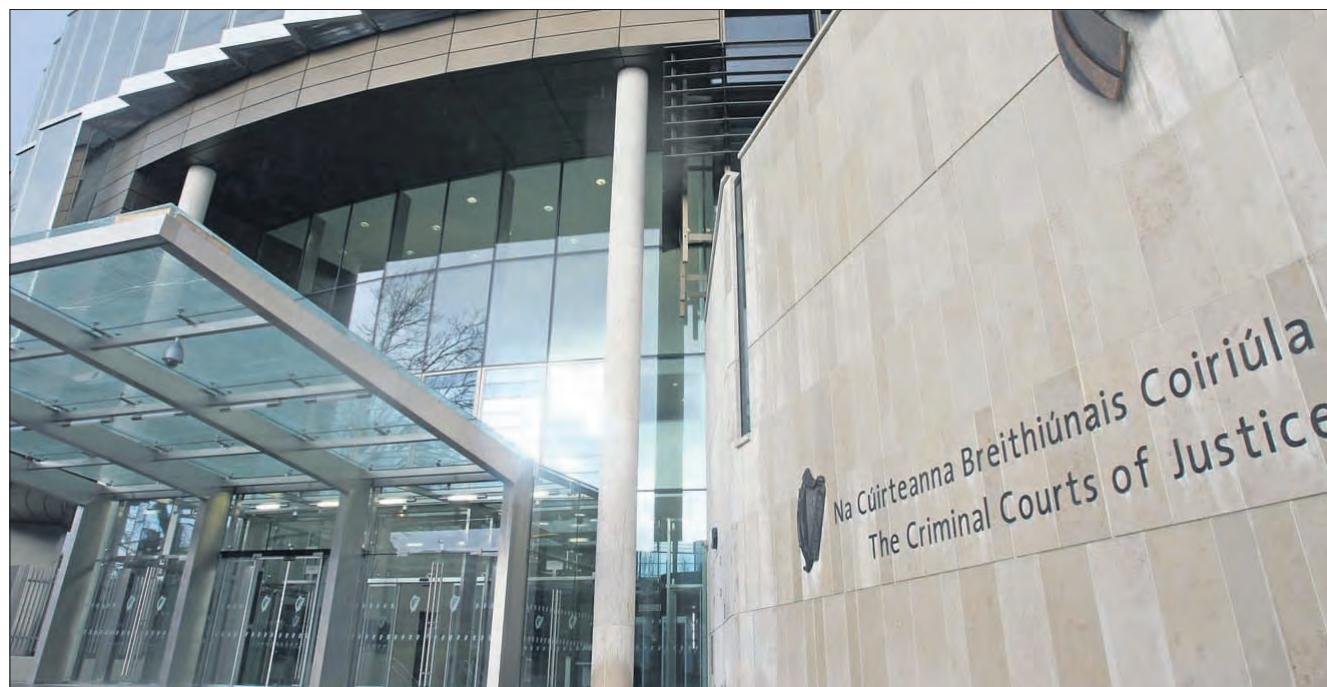
She also acknowledged that the mother of the children had expressed the family's forgiveness and said she does not want to see the three men in prison.

The judge said it was "no doubt a highly barbaric attack" and the three men had no regard for people in the vicinity or their property.

She noted the use of balaclavas and weapons during the attack and said it would have been a "frightening experience" for members of the public who witnessed it.

Judge Codd sentenced both Karl Keegan and McAllister to four years in prison which she suspended in full on strict conditions, while Glen Keegan got a three and half year suspended term.

She noted that both Karl Keegan and McAllister were on



bail at the time of the offence and acknowledged that all three had "made considerable progress in terms of self-rehabilitation" and not come to garda attention since.

The court heard that the men had €6,000 in court as a token of their remorse.

Garda Detective David Jennings told John Berry BL, prosecuting, that gardai were called following reports of a violent incident on a busy road between the Killinarden and Knockmore estates in Tallaght at around 9am on the day in question.

A taxi driver told gardai that he saw a maroon car coming up on the wrong side of the road behind him.

The maroon car then crashed into an orange car, that was one vehicle in front of the taxi.

Three people wearing balaclavas got out of the maroon car carrying implements and began to strike the orange car, which contained two children.

The orange car attempted to

drive away, but there was heavy traffic.

It then reversed into the vehicle behind it with such force that this other car was pushed into the taxi.

The men continued their attack on the orange car, which drove to a nearby green area.

The two adult occupants of the orange car left the vehicle, while two children remained inside.

The adults were followed by their assailants.

The maroon car also drove to the green area, then the driver also got out.

There was an altercation, then the four occupants of the maroon car got back into the vehicle and left the scene.

When gardai arrived, the two victims were still in the area, but refused to engage with them.

The two men were observed to have superficial cuts to their faces and arms and an ambulance was called.

Gardai made arrangements for the two children to be taken home.

The maroon car was later found in a nearby estate.

An attempt had been made to set it on fire. Some weapons were found in the boot of the partially-burnt car.

Glen Keegan, of Russell Lane, Jobstown, and McAllister with an address in Rhode, Co. Offaly were arrested by gardai nearby and their clothing seized on drugs search charges.

They were re-arrested in relation to this incident at a later stage.

DNA from their victims were found on various items sent for analysis.

Karl Keegan, of Kilcarrig Crescent, Fettercairn, Tallaght, was identified as a suspect by gardai using CCTV from the area.

His DNA was found on a balaclava recovered from the maroon car.

Det Jennings said gardai did not identify the fourth man in the maroon car and could not say who had been the driver.

When interviewed by gardai,

the three men maintained their right to silence.

No victim impact statements were made.

Karl Keegan has 35 previous convictions including seven public order offences, nine road traffic offences and eight for theft.

He was on bail at the time of this incident.

McAllister has 15 previous convictions including five for possession of drugs for sale and supply and nine road traffic offences.

He was also on bail at the time of this offence.

Glen Keegan has 28 previous convictions including three for assault and 13 for road traffic offences.

Det Jennings agreed with defence counsel for the three men that they had been courteous in their dealings with gardai.

He accepted that their guilty pleas were valuable to the prosecution.

The investigating garda

agreed with Sarah Jane O'Callaghan BL, defending McAllister, that her client's previous drugs convictions related to one incident and occurred because he was helping his brother with a drugs debt.

Her client spent six months in hospital following an incident in the weeks after this offence, which was not reported to gardai.

Ms O'Callaghan said her client had brought €4,000 to court as an expression of remorse to convey his "utter disgust" at his involvement.

Det Jennings agreed with Shaun Smyth BL, defending Glen Keegan, that his client is known to gardai in Tallaght, but has not come to any recent attention.

Most of his client's convictions relate to his addiction issues.

His client had been "persuaded" to take part in this attack at a late stage, though he was not involved in the underlying dispute, the court heard.

The investigating garda agreed with Seoirse Ó Dúnlain BL, defending Karl Keegan, that his client had become involved in a "pathetic dispute which spiralled out of control".

He also agreed that Karl Keegan's upbringing was "chaotic" following the death of his parents and he lived with family members, who had their own addiction issues.

Testimonials and letters from family were handed into the court on behalf of the three men.

Defence counsel for the three men outlined mitigating factors.

They also said that all three men had willingly become involved in this dispute and they should not have done this. Family members were also in court to support them.

The court heard that the dispute between two families allegedly related to a small amount of cannabis herb, but tensions settled down after this event.

Temporary footpath removed to allow completion of homes

Developer is progressing work on site with a completion date in the summer

By **Hayden Moore**

hayden@echo.ie

A TEMPORARY footpath, which was put in place to facilitate the development of age friendly social homes in Springfield, is due to be removed.

Initially valued at €9.5m, the 23 homes at Fernwood Park and 17 homes with a community room at Maplewood Park were voted through South Dublin County Council in 2018.

There have been several delays to the project over the years, with Cleary Doyle Construction recommencing construction on the two sites at the beginning of February.

Cleary Doyle Construction were appointed as the new contractors for the developments by Clúid Housing, who will manage the schemes on behalf of South Dublin County Council.

FORRME Construction were the initial contractors tasked with carrying out the development, but their contract was terminated after it had "become clear that the contractor is no longer able to



PROGRESS: An artist impression of the Maplewood site

complete the project".

A temporary footpath was installed to the east of the Fernwood development when construction first started in 2020.

Now, with Cleary Doyle Construction busy working towards a summer completion date, the temporary footpath will be taken up with a diverted route in place from March 20.

"To facilitate the completion of the rear gardens of the houses at the east of the site it will be necessary to remove the

temporary footpath," a Clúid Housing letter circulated in the community reads.

"It is proposed to close this footpath from 20th March 2023 and divert pedestrian along an existing footpath route as indicated on the attached layout.

"Once the House Construction works are complete pedestrians will once again be able to traverse through Fernwood on the newly constructed public footpaths."

Cleary Doyle is progressing works on site with a plan to deliver the project on the third quarter of this year.

On the ground, there will be a diverted route in place out towards Maplewood Road and back around through Birchwood.

"I presume there is going to be a temporary inconvenience and I hope that people will be able to cope with that," Cllr Charlie O'Connor tells *The Echo*.

"I get the sense that people

are really looking forward to this development opening."

There has been issues of anti-social behaviour, which have occurred at the location for several years, even prior to this development at Fernwood when it was known locally as the "x-path".

Temporary laneways were created when the hoarding was erected to facilitate the 23 age-friendly social homes at Fernwood Park, with anti-social issues filtering into the narrow spaces.

"I have had some reports about issues and on some occasions I even sought the assistance of community gardai, who work in community policing in Tallaght Garda Station," Cllr O'Connor says.

"Thankfully, I've had no reports recently and I am hopeful that when the development does open, those issues will no longer be issues."

The Maplewood site is due for completion in the second quarter of the year with Fernwood projecting completion by the third quarter.

Along with the 40-unit age friendly housing developments in Springfield, the council also has projects in Old Bawn and Whitestown through the same scheme.

Work to deliver 12 homes at Brady's Field in Old Bawn commenced in August 2022 and construction programme is aiming to be completed by the third quarter of 2023.

The Whitestown Way project is due for delivery in the final quarter of this year, with all projects "being closely monitored to ensure satisfactory progress".

Eco Week launch



OPPORTUNITY: Firhouse Community College students at the launch of Eco Week with Mayor Emma Murphy

ECO Week was launched this week with the help of students from Firhouse Community College

Eco Week runs from March 6 to 10 and goes from strength to strength each year and promotes awareness of the environment and is a fantastic opportunity for schools in the County to educate each other on environment / climate change challenges and to become part of the solution.

All events held during Eco week are FREE. This year there are over 80 workshops to choose from. These topics range from biodiversity and climate change to our natural peatlands.

Speaking at the launch, Mayor Emma Murphy said: "Welcome to South Dublin County Council's annual Eco week, which aims to highlight awareness of the climate to school children across South Dublin.

"Now more than ever children and young people of all ages need to become a part of the solution by increasing their understanding of the issues and influencing previous generations on what needs to be done.

"Eco week is a great opportunity to learn from the experts in the field, to train and gain experience on how your actions impact on your local environment.

"Eco week has something for everyone and covers a variety of topics."

Fionnghuala Ryan, Climate Change and Environmental Awareness Officer for South Dublin County Council said: "Eco Week aims to deliver an important message to pupils and teachers in South Dublin County - That everyone can play a role in reducing their impact on the environment and climate, by changing their behavior to live in a more sustainable manner."

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Students scholarship awards

FIVE students from the local community in the Nangor Road area of Clondalkin, where Baileys main production facility is located, have received special scholarship awards in recognition of their academic achievements and commitment to their education.

Pictured from left is Aimee Prendergast, Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Drimnagh; Kelsey Dunne, Rosary College, Crumlin; Emma Kenny, from Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore who was the overall winner; STEM award winner, Najma Khan, Caritas College, Ballyfermot; and Robyn Leonard, Caritas College, Ballyfermot.

Photo by Naoise Culhane





Comhairle Contae
Atha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

**ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75
PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE
OF SHADY LANE (L7461)
CO. DUBLIN**

To facilitate essential road works, South Dublin County Council propose to temporarily close Shady Lane (L7461), Co. Dublin from **Friday 21st April to Monday 24th April 2023 inclusive**. Time of closure is from 9:30 am to 5:00pm.

Detour Route:

- R114
- N81
- Detour length 0.2km

Local access will be maintained.

Any person interested may lodge an observation/submission in writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Land Use, Planning and Transportation, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 or by email to seoroads@sdublincoco.ie not later than **5.00 p.m. on Monday 13th March 2023**.

Web: www.sdcc.ie



Youth Club is praised for impact it has on community

150 young people attend first anniversary celebrations of club



VOLUNTEERS: Newcastle Youth Club Committee and Youth Leaders



Comhairle Contae
Atha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

**ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75
PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE
OF ALLAGOUR ROAD (L7014)**

To facilitate essential road works, South Dublin County Council propose to temporarily close Allagour Road, (L7014), from **Monday 17th of April to Wednesday 19th April 2023 inclusive**. Time of closure is from 9:30am to 5.00pm.

Detour Route:

- Ballinascorney Rd. R114 - Piperstown Road - Glassamucky Road - Brakes of Cunard
- Route length 7.5km

Local access will be maintained.

Any person interested may lodge an observation/submission in writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Land Use, Planning and Transportation, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 or by email to seoroads@sdublincoco.ie not later than **5.00 p.m. on Monday 13th March 2023**.

Web: www.sdcc.ie



OVER 150 people attended Foróige Newcastle Youth Club's one-year anniversary celebration last Friday, March 3, in Newcastle Community Hall.

While the club is still in its infancy, it already has 145 members aged between 10- and 16-years-old who have happily engaged with its activities.

Each week, four different groups of young people gather to participate in the youth club, which is run by a dedicated team of volunteers.

Explaining what young people get out of their involvement with the club, chairman of Foróige Newcastle Youth Club, Declan Loneragan said: "It gives them the opportunity to take part in a social outlet while working with each other or working on a project.

"What we do is try to get the youth engaged and we do events every year, like parades and charity walks, and games – they love it.

"They're exposed to things they're not normally exposed to, like arts and crafts, playing things like bingo and draughts, and tug-of-war.

"Those things have kind of gone off the radar of young people with the explosion of

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

video games, a lot of the kids weren't aware of them.

"They really enjoy it, because it's something different for them to do."

The success of the first year of the club was celebrated last week by the young people who attend the club, the volunteers, and other local community groups joined in as well.

"We invited the community," said Mr Loneragan, who is originally from Rathcoole.

"All of the club's members were invited to bring their families and friends along, and we had the local Tidy Towns group, folk group and women's group.

"And anything we do, we make – we made the banners and the decorations. It was brilliant."

Two members of the youth club, John Hally-McGrath and Isabelle Hayden gave speeches at the event and praised the impact of the club.

John detailed his positive experience of

being a member of the club's youth council and the new organisational and event management skills he has developed as a result.

Isabelle extended her thanks to all of the volunteers who have given their time to the youth club, and expressed the importance of volunteerism in the community.

"We just want to help them with social interaction and social engagement," explained Mr Loneragan.

"In the youth club, they get to mix, share ideas and learn how to develop new friendships."

Now that the group has been established for 12 months, Mr Loneragan is keen for the club to continue to grow in the coming months and years.

"The biggest one, for me, is that we remain stable and that we have longevity," he said, "so that the 10-year-old that starts with us stays until they're 18.

"The hope is that those 18-year-olds will then help us out, and volunteer in the youth club too."

For more information, visit newcastleyouthclub.ie See photos on page 40

Football Club's all-weather pitch plans refused permission

Local authority cited concerns over impact flood-lit pitch would have on local wildlife

By Aileen O'Flaherty
aileen@echo.ie

TALLAGHT Town Football Club's plans for a new all-weather pitch in their grounds in Carolan Park, Kiltipper, have been refused planning permission by South Dublin County Council.

The local authority cited concerns about the impact the proposed flood-lit pitch could have on local wildlife, including bats, and that it could be “intrusive” in the overall landscape of the area.

The football club submitted its application for planning permission for a new all-weather pitch complete with perimeter fencing and floodlights and all associated site works in December.

The planning application received five third-party submissions, with the objectors expressing concern about a number of factors of the development.

The concerns included the history of flooding in the area, the lack of a sustainable surface water drainage system report, and potential issues with pedestrian safety and traffic congestion.

On February 23, South Dublin County Council refused permission for a floodlit pitch as it “considered that the introduction of floodlighting in a darkened environment could negatively

REFUSED: Tallaght Town Football Club
have been refused permission to construct
an all-weather pitch at Carolan Park

impact protected species, including bats, which are light averse.”

It further added in its decision to refuse planning permission: “The site is located in an exposed area within the Athgroe and Saggart Hills Landscape Character Area (LCA) as per Appendix 9 of the Development Plan.

“Intensive floodlighting at this location would be visible from a distance and intrusive in the landscape.

"This could result in an impact to the setting of the LCA, which is deemed to have a medium/high sensitivity."

Speaking to *The Echo* last January, Alan Merriman from Tallaght Town

AFC explained the importance of the proposed pitch to the future development of the club's facilities.

"We built a clubhouse three years ago, so we'll be in a position to have that paid off this year so now's the time to get an Astro pitch," he explained.

"It would make a massive difference

to us. For six months of the year, some of our pitches are not playable.

"The amount of times we've had to cancel training or matches...to have our own Astro means matches won't be cancelled, and it'll make a massive difference to know we can play games in winter."

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Budding young musicians invited to take part in subsidised lessons

YOUNG people from Clondalkin, Kingswood, Rathcoole and Citywest are being invited to take part in subsidised music lessons in the current session of the Clondalkin Music Hub.

Run by Music Generation South Dublin, the initiative offers weekly lessons for budding young musicians who want to learn to play guitar, drums, violin, or develop their vocal

ability.

The Clondalkin Music Hub caters to young people of all abilities, with classes available for complete beginners right up to intermediate musicians.

Musician Niamh Keane, who is from Clondalkin and is the hubs manager for Music Generation South Dublin, told *The Echo* about the benefits of joining the Clondalkin

Music Hub.

“The main goal is to offer subsidised lessons in music performance to children and young people,” said Ms Keane.

“It’s an opportunity to learn the basics of an instrument or get more experience playing an instrument.

“They get to play popular music they enjoy and join in group jam sessions with other students.”

The current session of the Clondalkin Music Hub kicks off today, Thursday, March 9, at St Peter the Apostle Junior National School in Neilstown from 3pm.

It will then be held in the same location at the same time every Thursday for the next ten weeks at a cost of €85, and people who’ve missed the first class today can join further into the programme.

The final class of the current session will take place on May 25.

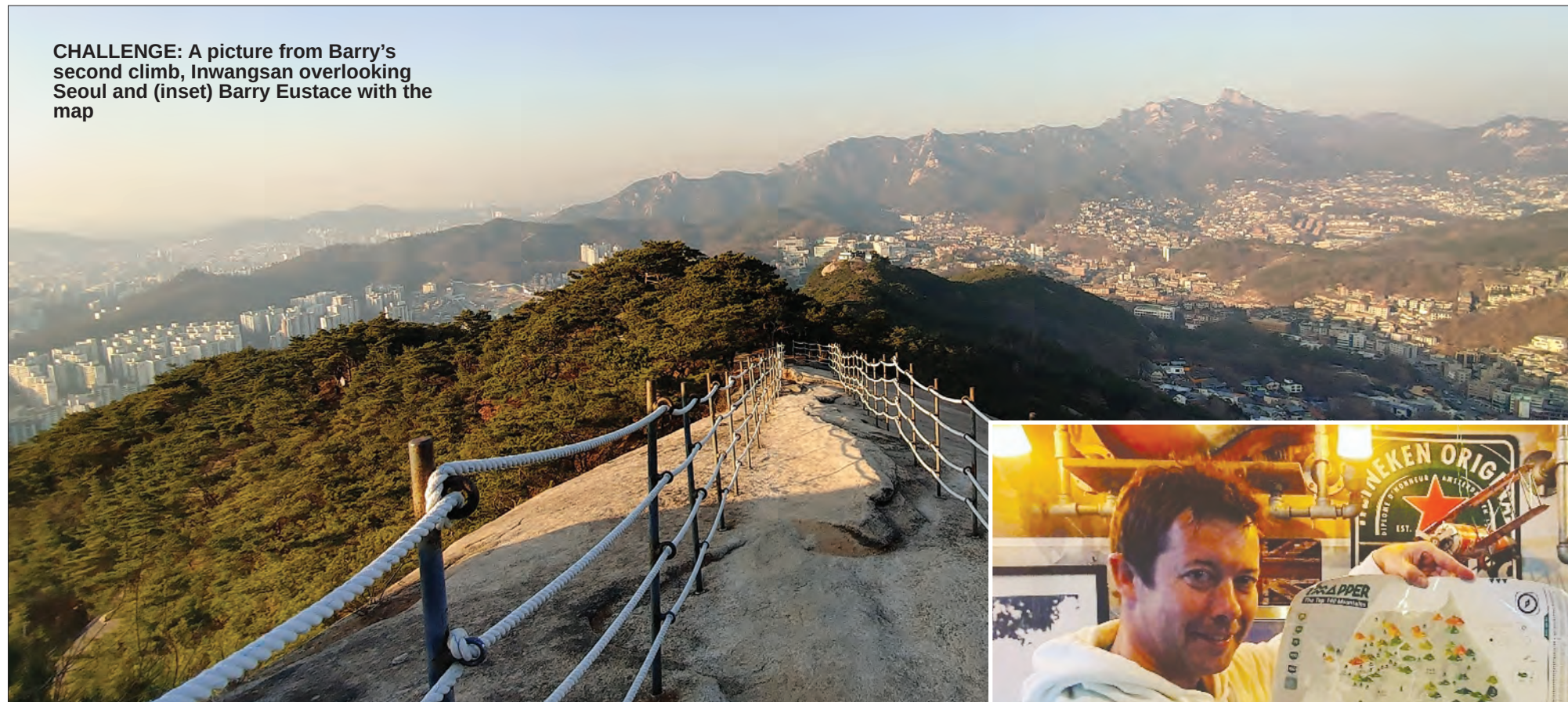
“They can sign up the following week and the cost will be adjusted accordingly,” said Ms Keane.

For more information, contact the club via email at clondalkinmusicclub@gmail.com, or visit the Music Generation South Dublin website at www.musicgenerationsouthdublin.ie

Barry climbs 205 mountains in South Korea featured on map

It marks the culmination of 18 months of hard work by the former Old Bawn CS students

CHALLENGE: A picture from Barry’s second climb, Inwangsan overlooking Seoul and (inset) Barry Eustace with the map



By Aideen O’Flaherty

aideen@echo.ie

A TALLAGHT man climbed 205 mountains that were featured on a map of South Korea – and became the first non-Korean to do so.

Barry Eustace, who grew up in Old Bawn and has worked as an English teacher in Seoul for the last 20 years, completed the impressive feat when he scaled his 205th mountain last Sunday, March 5.

It marked the culmination of 18 months of hard work by Barry, who was determined to mark off every single mountain on the map that he brought with him for every climb.

He climbed his first mountain, Seoraksan, in November 2021, which he described as one of the hardest mountains he had to climb.

“It is on the east coast of Korea in Seoraksan National Park,” Barry, who is a past pupil of Old Bawn Community School, told *The Echo*.

“‘San’ means mountain in Korean, so Mount Seorak. It’s just over 1,700m and is one of the toughest hikes.

“Looking back, I was probably a little unprepared on that one and definitely not hiking fit!

“You are not allowed to enter after 11am because they want everyone off the mountain before dark and I’d arrived at about a quarter past 11.

“Luckily, I managed to convince the ranger and he let me go in

but I didn’t really have the right gear and it was freezing at the peak, so I didn’t hang around.

“Sadly, the next day two Koreans died on the same mountain after falling and freezing to death so that was a reminder to always be prepared for the unexpected.”

Not one to be deterred, Barry took the experience of his first climb in his stride and was enthusiastic about the challenge that lay ahead of him.

“Often I’d start hiking before sunrise and hike, drive to the next, hike and on and on until after dark,” he explained.

“The most I did in one day was six peaks. My original plan was to finish at the start of this year but in February I still had 37 more and couldn’t quite make that.”

He added: “There are over 7,000 mountains in Korea and the country has a ridge that runs down the centre of it from China, through North Korea and down through South Korea.

“This ridge has some of the highest mountains. Of the 205 mountains I hiked, 70 were over 1,000m and I got to visit all 22 national parks.”

Last Sunday, Barry completed his final climb as part of the challenge, and was relieved to finally mark the 205th mountain off the map.

“As you can imagine, I was delighted to finish,” he said.

“There were so many times I didn’t want to get up at 4am and drive to the other side of Korea, or to get up day after day and keep at it, but it was definitely worth the effort.



“To be honest, if I didn’t have my daughter Ina for inspiration and motivation, I don’t think I would have kept going.

“She joined me on a few of the mountains too and hopefully by completing this challenge it can inspire her to achieve her own goals in life.”

The company that produced the map confirmed to Barry that he was the quickest hiker to have completed the map, and the first foreigner to complete it.

Teens take on challenge to complete Silver Gaisce award

The Presidents Award is a self-developing programme for young people aged 14-25

By **Maurice Garvey**
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A MASSIVE learning curve was undertaken by two teenage girls from Cherry Orchard, who organised an expedition as part of their Gaisce award.

Amber Eastwood (17) and Abbie Gibbons Forte (18) are members of Ballyfermot Youth Service, and took on the challenge of the Silver Gaisce award.

The Presidents Award is a self-development programme for young people aged 14-25.

Silver takes a minimum of 26 weeks to complete and is made up of four parts - personal skill, community involvement, physical recreation and adventure journey.

Amber said: "We decided to get involved as a way to challenge ourselves in many ways mentally and physically. It is an amazing project and we really enjoyed completing our silver Gaisce together."

Abbie said: "Overall our project went amazing. We did activities like kayaking, dancing, boxing and being involved in our local bmx club to complete this award. We also completed a three-day and

two night adventure, where we walked and cycled from our hometown Ballyfermot, to our youth hostel in Oakwood, Wicklow. It was an amazing experience, especially with the group of people we shared this experience with."

The project was supported and mentored by Allegra Lalor and Ger O'Reilly of BYS, and Sharon Kelly of Dublin City Council is their Gaisce pal.

Allegra, Adventure Centre Manager in BYS, praised the pair for exhibiting exceptional leadership skills.

"They took on quite a big challenge. There was a lot in it, 75k, a walk and a cycle, organising a group of 12 young people to go on the expedition, finding accommodation," said Allegra.

"They deserve huge credit. Taking on all that is a huge learning curve."

The girls completed Bronze last year and intend to go on for the Gold.

After school, Abbie plans to "complete an outdoor adventure management course to become an outdoor instructor".

Meanwhile, Amber is assessing her options, but would like to "do something with young people, to teach and be part of their progression".

“We decided to get involved in a way to challenge ourselves in many ways mentally and physically. It is an amazing project and we really. . .



Boxing pilot project success for youngsters

A GROUP of seven children received medals and certificates in North Clondalkin Library last month, in recognition of them completing an innovative boxing pilot project, reports Aileen O'Flaherty.

Jesse Costello, Fionn Disney, Zoey Gissane, Tori Gissane, Leah Rafferty, Jayme Lee Perry and Brooklyn Brown all proudly received their medals at the conclusion of JumpStart Boxing Academy.

The children, aged between eight- and ten-years-old, are the first tranche of students to graduate from the six-week pilot project.

The JumpStart Boxing Academy was devised by Andre Roode from North Clondalkin Library and local boxing coach Paddy Jennings.

The youngsters were put through their paces during the six-week programme, which has been a resounding success for both the library and the participants.

Rosena Hand from North Clondalkin Library, who helped to



facilitate the programme, told *The Echo*: "We're a new library in the locality so we're always trying to come up with something different to embed ourselves in the community."

"We do quite a lot of work with children and with Healthy Ireland."

Andre Roode from the library was having a chat with Paddy Jennings when they were trying to come up with a way to improve the

fitness of young people in the area, which marked the beginning of the JumpStart Boxing Academy.

"Because the library is seen as a community hub, they thought it'd be a good place to have it,"

explained Ms Hand.

The weekly training sessions have had positive results for many of the young people, whose confidence and fitness has soared as a result.

"One of the guys who came in had been bullied," said Ms Hand.

"His mother told us. At the first session, he didn't want to go in, he was outside crying."

"But I'd be going in every week, and I could see that he had lost a bit of weight, his confidence had improved and he was very agile - he loved it."

"The kids all loved it. They didn't know each other going into it, but they were really friendly with each other."

The second round of the pilot project is already fully subscribed and is set to commence this week.

However, any parents who want to sign their kids up for the boxing academy can contact the library on (01) 414 9269 to be added to a waiting list for future rounds of the JumpStart Boxing Academy.

Green Eye

Nature on our doorsteps

Rosaleen Dwyer is the County Heritage Officer at South Dublin County Council – every week she gives us an insight into the natural heritage around us and the beautiful biodiversity of the plants and creatures



Flashy springtime buttercups



GLOSSY: The glossy surface of Lesser Celandine's petals reflect light

THE first of the buttercup family to flower in springtime is the Lesser Celandine. Like all springtime plants that flower in woodlands and along damp hedgerows, Lesser Celandine will bloom while the trees are still bare, usually between February and late April. Once the leaves emerge on the trees and cast their shade onto the woodland floor, it will be too dull for most plants to flower and set seed. Lesser Celandine looks like a typical buttercup in that it has bright yellow petals. Lesser Celandine's petals tend to be longer and narrower, and their surfaces have a high gloss finish that extends from the tip of the petal almost to the centre of the flower. This glossy surface makes the flower look star-like in bright March sunshine. Because of the shady locations where these plants grow, however, the shiny glossy petals serve a very practical function.

They reflect any light that might be available. This ability to reflect light helps attract the few insects that are flying in early spring. As the flower dances in the breeze, the petals are reflecting and flashing light into the space around them. Insects see these flashes from a distance and come to investigate. As they approach the flower, the ultraviolet colouration in the petals that we can't see will then direct the insect towards the nectar at the centre of the flower. Also, even for flowers that only barely open on dull overcast days, light is reflected back into the centre of the flower. This helps to keep the delicate nectar and seed-producing areas warm and ready for pollinating insects. Drawing attention by being flashy is therefore a vital adaptation for flowers growing in shady places, particularly when springtime insects are not very plentiful.



CLUMPS: Lesser Celandine grows in clumps in shady woods and hedgerows

REPORT: People attending the launch of the report and (inset) Concepta de Brun, Michelle Kearns, Lynnsey Kavanagh and Doreen Carpenter



‘We can’t look we have to look

There are nine recommendations

By **Hayden Moore**
hayden@echo.ie

INTERGENERATIONAL racism and consistent discrimination is the primary root cause of suicide in the traveller community, according to a new report. The Nature, Extent and Impact of Suicide Among the Traveller Community in South County Dublin and Ballyfermot is a recently launched report commissioned by three local groups. Funded by the HSE Social Inclusion Unit, Ballyfermot Travellers Action Project, Clondalkin Travellers Development Group and Tallaght Travellers Community Development Project all came together for the joint report.

“I am hardened to it; I know I will be treated badly in every place I go that day. . . I am used to it, but my heart breaks. . .

On the afternoon of Thursday, March 3, after being initially launched in Dáil Éireann, there was a launch of the special report a little bit closer to home for the three groups, in North Clondalkin Library. It found that, in Ireland, the rate of suicide is seven times higher for traveller men and six times higher for traveller women than the general population. Identifying racism and discrimination as a root cause, travellers shared their experiences of sending their children out into the world knowing how poorly they will be treated. One parent, in the report, says “when I am getting my kids ready for school my heart sinks, they are too young to know what is coming but sure enough it will hit them at some stage”. “I am hardened to it; I know I will be treated badly in every place I go that day. . . I am used to it, but my heart breaks for them every day.” Other experiences detail the “looks that pass between members of the settled community”, their “experience of being followed around shops” and the rudeness of some service providers when they realise that the person in front of them is a traveller. The burden of responsibility lies with



at the other person k at ourselves’ as a result of South Dublin Travellers Report

each individual, with everyone needing to take steps to respond to racism across the board.

Speaking at the launch, Shay L'Estrange from Ballyfermot Travellers Action Project said: "We can't look at the other person we have to look at ourselves and our own organisations and see the impact of what we say and do is having."

There are nine recommendations as a result of the report, with the first one focusing on the need to address racism whenever and wherever it happens.

Other recommendations focus on empowering the traveller community in respect of mental health and on improving mental health services.

Bernard Joyce, director of the Irish Traveller Movement, who launched the report, calls upon the authors of the report to take the lead on a cultural competency project.

This project would be rolled out to other statutory and voluntary groups in the communities.

A digital copy of the detailed report can be found on the Clondalkin Travellers Development Group at www.ctdg.ie



LAUNCH: Boxer Winnie McDonagh (center) with Carla Jakes and Doreen Carpenter at the launch of the report

Scoil Maelruain are proud at reaching All-Ireland quiz final



ALL SMILES: Scoil Maelruain principal Caitriona Hogan, Darragh Van der Krogt, Mason Delves, Jack Curran, Orla Maher and teacher Joanne Walsh

Four-strong team make it to final after topping leaderboard

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

SOME budding young boffins from Scoil Maelruain Senior National School in Tallaght are set to compete in the All-Ireland Final of the Schools Credit Union Quiz next month.

The four-strong team made it to the final after topping the leaderboard at the regional semi-final in Cherrywood Educate Together National School last Sunday.

Composed of fifth class pupils Jack Curran and Mason Delves, and sixth class pupils Orla Maher and Darragh Van der Krogt, the team put on a strong performance over the weekend.

They soared up the leaderboard in the under 13 category with 59 points, while the school's under 11 team also put on an impressive performance having amassed 40 points.

Commenting on the under 13 team's success, Caitriona Hogan, principal of Scoil Maelruain SNS, told *The Echo* about her delight at their achievement.

"I'm so proud and very delighted for them, and in our school, every child gets an opportunity to shine,"

she said.

She praised both the under 11 team, who won the Dan McCabe Cup in the first round of the competition several weeks ago, while the under 13 team won the Fr Pious Doherty Cup at the same time.

"Both teams came first in the first round, then went on to round two last week where our senior team got 59 points," she explained.

"Some of the questions were so difficult, so I'm very proud of them and very impressed with all of their knowledge."

The achievement didn't come about without a healthy dose of commitment and hard work, however, with the students being assisted by their teacher Joanne Walsh and undertaking independent study.

"Joanne took them for two lunchtimes a week to prepare," said Ms Hogan.

"These children are like sponges, with the knowledge they take in. Joanne helps them, so do their parents, and the kids are studying away themselves too."

The team's sights are now firmly set on the All-Ireland Schools Credit Union Quiz Final in the RDS next month, with a total of €4,000 up for grabs for the overall winning schools.

“Both teams came first in the first round, then went on to round two last week where our senior team got 59 points. Some of the questions were so difficult, so I'm very impressed with all of their knowledge

AS PART of *The Echo* celebrating over 40 years, we're celebrating you, and local faces and places. Over the last two years we've shared the stories of local people, and remind ourselves of the great community spirit alive across local areas. This week, **Maurice Garvey** talks to John Feehan who swapped the oval ball for the Basketball to become Basketball Ireland's new CEO in November 2021.





BASKETBALL is growing more popular in this country and if current trajectories by Basketball Ireland move in the direction they anticipate, the number of registered members will increase by a third over the next five years.

Five years ago, registered membership was 23,865. The current total is 37,000 but the governing body for the sport in Ireland, expects this number to move well above 50,000 by 2028.

Tymon-based Basketball Ireland has over 33,500 playing members, but this does not account for approximately 41,000 post-primary school participants, nor vast amounts of casual players, who play on courts in parks but are not affiliated to a club.

In a Sport for Business report for January 2023, basketball was number one in terms of engagement per 1,000 followers, across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The sports potential for growth, is one of the reasons John Feehan was attracted to join as Basketball Ireland's new CEO in November 2021.

Feehan spent 16 years as the CEO of the Six Nations and the British & Irish Lions, between 2002 and 2018, and was also CEO of the PRO12, now called the URC, from 2011 to 2015.

This period from 2011 to 2015 meant John was leading three different organisations and reporting to three different boards, three different sets of directors, but there is only so many hours in the day, and something had to give.

"I just didn't have the time, but I enjoyed every minute of it," he acknowledged.

Coming from a background in marketing and business, Feehan's experience in overseeing growth in the organisations he led, is something he is keen to continue with basketball, even though his background was of the oval ball variety.

"I'm not a basketball guy, I come from a rugby background, but managing any sport is about 95 per cent the same," said the former tight head prop, who played at a "fairly decent level" with Leinster seniors, Irish Universities, Old Belvedere, Trinity, Old Wesley, and in school at CBC Monkstown.

"The only difference when you get down to the nitty gritty is how you play the game. Capital investment, governance, disciplines, commercial and digital programmes, they are all the same.

"How you manage a team, how you inspire people, how you address a team, lead systems, it's all the same. I bring that 95 per cent and the amazing staff here know the rest."

John cites basketball as the world's second biggest sport globally, behind soccer, and while he would love to see more courts in public parks, as they are "all-weather, not expensive and low maintenance", he believes ease of access is a major benefit for people who want to play.

"You don't need a lot of specialist gear, just a ball and a court, you can even throw some hoops by yourself."

Access for clubs is a challenge, because the "biggest issue" is that "most clubs don't own" their own premises.

"There are some practical issues that need to be resolved."

Speaking to *The Echo* from his office upstairs at the Basketball Arena in Tymon, it has been nearly 16 months since his appointment to the new role, and John is enthusiastic about the positive strides the sport is making, reflected in new technological developments which are helping to fuel that growth.

"Last year we introduced a huge digital programme on an OTT platform basketballireland.tv, where you can watch over 600 games per year."

The launch of basketballireland.tv in September 2022 features every game from the InsureMyHouse.ie Super League and Division 1, the MissQuote.ie Super League and Division 1, along with the InsureMyHouse.ie National Cup, Pinergy Schools Cup, Schools League, colleges basketball and Masters Basketball.

"We are going to broaden that in time, I would envisage 1,000 games will be available on it," said John.

Basketball Ireland also launched a partnership with Spanish sports tech digital platform NBN23, which provides live scores and match trackers via the Swish All Hoops app for many of their league, cup, college and schools finals.

Plans are in place to have advanced stats for national league competitions

in 2023/24 along with an extensive rollout of the basic digital scoresheet to the grassroots game.

Basketball Ireland also launched a new consumer database in October 2022 for some 30,000 plus users on the platform.

"We have a deal with Elverys, who are effectively our partner in delivering kits. We're on TG4, they are great drivers of the game and have increased output which is fantastic, said John.

"It's a process, but amazing things have happened in the last year."

John's extensive background in business and marketing, built up experience working with international partners, and he was involved at one stage or another with cycling, motorsport, horse racing and naturally, rugby.

"It gave me quite a good understanding of sponsorship. My first taste of sponsorship was in the beer business - we sponsored Killester basketball with Lucozade," said John.

While primarily a sports hub, the Arena is a multi-use facility and has hosted an array of events, including lego shows, TUD college exams, tradeshow, boxing tournaments, musical performances and during covid, monthly South Dublin County Council meetings, as the space allowed for social distancing.

"The trade shows are great, they bring revenue into the area, a lot of hotel rooms were used because of what we had on here," said John.

However, he is keen to stress that this is a venue for all in the community.

"We are not just here in isolation, we are part of the community. We are also the only national governing body for a sport in the South Dublin County Council, which is a fantastic facility for the county."

Built in 1993, the Arena is still a fine structure, but it could do with an upgrade befitting a venue of its stature.

"They say buildings like this have a 30-year shelf life, that is beginning to tell. As time goes on so does the expectation," acknowledges John.

"We will have to do something about that. This is a building for all in the community. Investment is not a choice, but we have to make it better. It is a fantastic facility."

More immediate plans will see the busy basketball calendar bring big international matches in both mens and womens codes to the Arena.

The 50/50 split in terms of men and women playing basketball in Ireland is something those involved with the game are proud of.

"We are probably the only sport in the country with that rate," said John.

All manner of competitions will play out in the Arena over the coming months, including summer camps and academies, while last year, saw eight US college teams over - with ESPN in tow - to watch them play at the Tymon facility, including North Carolina, Marist and East Kentucky.

A big NBA name is in the pipeline to make a visit to Tallaght this year, but John is remaining tight lipped about that until such time as it can be confirmed publicly.

"I'm not a basketball guy, I come from a rugby background, but managing any sport is about 95 per cent the same. . . The only difference when you get down to the nitty gritty is how you play the game. Capital investment, governance, disciplines, commercial and digital programmes, they are all the same. How you manage a team, how you inspire people, how you address a team, lead systems, it's all the same"

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Seachtain na Gaeilge



Don't forget to improve your cúpla focal in a fun way

Former Dublin manager Jim Gavin proud to be involved with Seachtain na Gaeilge

IS MÓR an onóir dom a bheith páirteach le Seachtain na Gaeilge Átha Cliath Theas (SnaGACT) 2023. Is deis iontach é dúinn ar fad ár gcuid Gaeilge nó cúpla focal a úsáid agus a cleachtadh i rith Sheachtain na Gaeilge.

Tá féilire iontach d'imeachtaí atá ag tarlú i mbliana le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge ó GIG mór le KILA ar an Aoine 10ú Márta, Dianchúrsa Gaeilge le Ray Mac Manus in Áras Chrónáin ar an 9ú agus 10ú Márta, ceardlanna éagsúla idir ealaín agus ceol, agus ar ndóigh maidineacha chaife agus ciorcail comhrá tríd an Chontae.

Ná déan dearmad ar na ranganna Gaeilge agus dianchúrsaí Gaeilge sna leabharlanna agus in Áras Chrónáin a bhéas ina chabhair agus spreagadh dúinn ar fad an Ghaeilge a úsáid inár saol laethúil, lenár gcairde.

Is linn an Ghaeilge, is cuid dár n-oidhreacht, dár gcultúr, de muid mar Éireannaigh.

Táimid ag iarraidh níos mó deiseanna a chruthú agus a spreagadh do dhaoine an Ghaeilge a úsáid gach lá, ag tosú le rud simplí ar nós 'Go raibh maith agat' agus 'Slán' agus iad a úsáid Gach lá, Gach áit le Gach duine. – Gaeilge le Chéile.

Bronntanas SnaGACT– Tá bronntanas speisialta agam do gach duine chun cabhrú leat feabhas a chur ar do Ghaeilge labhartha. Úsáid an cód seo

ECHOSNAGACT23 ar shuíomh gréasán <https://araschronain.ie> agus gheobhaidh tú lascaine speisialta ar chostas an Dianchúrsa Gaeilge.

Molaim gach duine atá tar éis cuidiú leis an gclár leathan d'imeachtaí a bhéas ar fáil i 2023 idir Áras Chrónáin Ionad Cultúir, na Leabharlanna sa Chontae, comhairle Conate Átha Cliath Theas agus SnaGACT (Seachtain na Gaeilge Átha Cliath Theas). Is deis iontach í dúinn ar fad níos mó Gaeilge a úsáid.

Déan iarracht do chúpla focal a úsáid gach lá. Go raibh maith agat.

I am very proud to be involved in SnaGACT, Seachtain na Gaeilge in South Dublin County for 2023. This is a great opportunity for us all to use a few or a lot of spoken Irish during Seachtain na Gaeilge.

There is a great calendar of events taking place this year during Seachtain na Gaeilge from a big Gig KILA on Friday 10th March, Intensive Spoken Irish Weekend with Ray Mac Manus in Áras Chrónáin on the 9th and 10th March, many workshops from art to music, and of course coffee mornings and conversation groups throughout the county.

Don't forget to Improve your cúpla focal in a fun way at Spoken Irish classes and intensive courses in Irish at the many Libraries throughout the county and Áras Chrónáin, D22X845 in the heart of Clondalkin village.



PATRON: Jim Gavin, Patrún SnaGACT, Méara Cllr Emma Murphy agus Brian Ó Gáibhín Áras Chrónáin)

The Irish Language belongs to us all, it is part of our heritage, our culture, and part of us as Irish citizens. We want to create more opportunities and encourage more people to use spoken Irish every day, starting with the easy step of using 'Go raibh maith agat' agus 'Slán' and to use them Every day, Everywhere with Everyone. – Gaeilge le Chéile.

Bronntanas – a present for SnaGACT – To kick start your path to improving your Spoken Irish I have a special discount code for you to use when registering for the Dianchúrsa Gaeilge – Fun Weekend Spoken Irish Course at <https://araschronain.ie>. When booking a place on the course use this code ag get a fantastic discount ECHOSNAGACT23.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped in putting together the evens for 2023 from Áras Chrónáin Irish Cultural Centre, the Libraries, South Dublin County Council and our Irish Festival, SnaGACT (Seachtain na Gaeilge Átha Cliath Theas).

It is a great opportunity for us all to use more spoken Irish. *Ádh mór, Jim Gavin, Patrún*

Seachtain na Gaeilge i dTamhlacht

TÁIMID ar fad ag baint taitnimh as Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023 i dTamhlacht, agus an Coróinvíreas curtha taobh thiar dinn faoi dheireadh, tá go leor ar siúl againn!

Seo a leanas cuid de na himeachtaí a bhí is a bheidh ar siúl; •'Saor ó Teic', gníomhaíocht saor ó theicneolaíocht do pháistí, i gCafé Aon Scéal, Dé Sathairn seo caite. •Siúlóid staire dhátheacht faoi stiúir Thomás Ó Meachair.

•Ciorcal Ceoltóirí i gCafé Aon Scéal, le sólaistí agus péinteáil aghaidhe do pháistí, Dé Sathairn, 11/03, 12-3 i.n.

•Oíche shóisialta i gCafé Aon Scéal, Déardaoin, 16/03, 7- 9.30 i.n. •An tAifreann Gaeilge á cheiliúradh ar 9 r.n. i bPríóireacht Mhuire, ar Lá Fhéile Pádraig.

Tá ana chuid scannáin Ghaeilge á dtaispeáint sa cheantar, le Róise agus Frank agus Amhrán na Mara i bPictiúrlann na Cearnóige. Cuireadh tús le Seachtain na Gaeilge le taispeántas den scannán clúiteach, an Cailín Ciúin, i Leabharlann Thamhlachta. Is

scannán é seo a bhfuil an t-uafás gradaim idirnáisiúnta buaite aige agus atá ainmnithe anois do ghradam Oscar ag an 95ú Gradaim Acadaimh!

Tá na céadta páistí ó na scoileanna áitiúla ag dul ar thuras go Café Aon Scéal le linn na coicise chomh maith! Bíonn Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl gach lá den bhliain sa chaife bríomhar seo, atá suite i gcroí lár Shráidbhaile Thamhlachta, ag 518, an Phríomhshráid. Tá sé ag dul ó neart go neart agus é ar oscailt gach lá den tseachtain.

Fuair an café trí bhonn óir ón scéim ghnó, Gradaim Gnó na hÉireann le déanaí dá Chomharthaíocht, Mhargáíocht agus Sheirbhís.

Tá rath ar an nGaeilge le fada i gceantar Thamhlachta le Gaelscolaíocht bhríomhar, a chuireann Scoil Santain, Scoil Chaitlín Maude agus Coláiste de hÍde ar fáil, a dtugann eispéireas saibhir oideachais sa bhunoideachas agus sa mheánoideachas araon. Cuireann club óige Feachtas

Thamhlachta leis seo, a thagann le chéile gach tráthnóna Dé Luain i Scoil Santain ó 6.30 go 8 p.m., do pháistí idir 9 agus 17 mbliana. Tá oideachas Gaeilge tríú leibhéal ann anois freisin, An Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge, cúrsa de chuid Ollscoil na Gaillimhe, atá ar siúl san Ionad Ghaelphobal Thamhlachta, Sráidbhaile Thamhlachta.

Le tuilleadh eolais i dtaobh na ngníomhaíochtaí agus n-imeachtaí seo agus Gluaiseacht na Gaeilge sa cheantar, coinnigh súil ar mheáin shóisialta Ghaelphobal Thamhlachta agus Café Aon Scéal – táimid ar fáil ar Facebook, Twitter agus Instagram.

We are all enjoying Seachtain na Gaeilge in Tallaght and with the Coronavirus finally behind us we have a lot of activities planned!

Here are some of the events that, have or, will be taking place; •'Saor ó Teic', tech- free activities for children in Café Aon Scéal, last Saturday.

•A bilingual history tour led by Tomás Ó Meachair, also last

Saturday.

•A trad session, Café Aon Scéal, with light refreshments and face painting for children, Saturday, 11/03, 12-3 p.m.

•A social evening, with live music at Café Aon Scéal, Thursday, 16/03, 7-9.30 p.m.

•Mass as Gaeilge, St. Mary's Priory, 9 a.m., St. Patrick's Day.

There are a number of Irish language films shown, such as Róise agus Frank and Amhrán na Mara at the Square Cinema. An Cailín Ciúin was shown to kick start Seachtain na Gaeilge at Tallaght Library. This is a film that has won several international awards. It is also now the first Irish language film ever nominated for an Oscar at the 95th Academy Awards!

There will be over 500 pupils from the local schools visiting Café Aon Scéal during the fortnight! Every week is Seachtain na Gaeilge in this vibrant café, located in the heart of Tallaght Village, 518 Mainstreet. Open every day of the week, it is going from strength to

strength.

It has recently won three awards in the inaugural Gradaim Gnó na hÉireann, business scheme, for Signage, Marketing and Service.

The Irish language is thriving in the Tallaght area with vibrant Gaelscolaíocht, provided by Scoil Santain, Scoil Chaitlín Maude and Coláiste de hÍde, giving a rich educational experience in both primary and secondary level.

This is further supplemented by the Feachtas Thamhlachta youth club, which meets every Monday evening in Scoil Santain from 6.30 to 8 p.m., for children between 9 to 17 years.

There is also now a third level programme, An Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge, a course of University of Galway, ongoing in the Ionad Ghaelphobal Thamhlachta, Tallaght Village.

Pól Ó Meadhra,
Cathaoirleach/Chairperson, of
Gaelphobal Thamhlachta.

Uniphar has up to €100m available for acquisitions

Citywest based company says acquisitions enhance its strategy of becoming global leader

By **Maurice Garvey**
maurice@echo.ie

HEALTHCARE services group Uniphar has up to €100m capacity to make further acquisitions following an active year of dealmaking for the healthcare services company.

Uniphar, its head office located in Citywest Business Park, nearly doubled its bank debt last year to just over €91m as it made four acquisitions valued at a total of €185m.

That left the business at a modest 1x leverage ratio, at the bottom end of Uniphar's preferred range. But Chief executive Ger Rabbette said the company could easily go as high as 2.5 times to support more buying.

Mr Rabbette said he was prepared to more than double the group's leverage in the short term to take advantage of buying opportunities.

"As a business we are very comfortable because we generate so much cash," he told analysts after Uniphar's annual results on Tuesday. "We're quite confident letting [gearing] drift up because we can get it back down quickly."

Finance director David Power added that the company had €50m-€100m available to spend.

The group bought McCauley pharmacies last year in a deal that "put a moat" around its Irish retail distribution business.

The group also added medical



ACTIVE YEAR: Uniphar is based in Citywest Business Park

affairs capability in nine European markets and acquired US market research company Inspired Health last October.

It bought Australian-headquartered Orspec Pharma, which specialises in the supply of unlicensed medicines, and

Netherlands-based BModesto, a healthcare services business focused on improving access to pharmaceutical and healthcare products across Europe.

Uniphar said the acquisitions enhance its "strategy of becoming a global leader in providing access to

ethically sourced unlicensed and difficult to source medicines".

Gross profits were up 11.7 per cent to more than €306m at Uniphar last year as organic growth and acquisitions added to its success. Revenues jumped more than 6 per cent to over €2bn.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) grew 13.4 per cent to over €98m, Uniphar said in its full-year results announced this week.

The company said it expects continued organic gross profit growth across all divisions this year.

Outdoor area at pub would 'seriously injure' residential amenities says council

CITY planners have refused planning permission for an outdoor area at a pub in Inchicore, determining it would "seriously injure" residential amenities in the vicinity.

The Black Lion Public House was seeking permission to retain the use of an outdoor area that is heated and partially covered with seating for up to 80 people.

The site comprises a former car park located to the rear of James Plunkett House – a mixed use development consisting of ground floor commercial with apartments above.

According to a Dublin City Council planners report, the site is presently occupied by a number of open sided former storage containers and covered seated areas, which includes a public bar.

The outdoor area is located within car parking that adjoins the rear of James Plunkett House. It sits detached from the Black Lion Public House, on the

By **Maurice Garvey**
maurice@echo.ie

opposite side of a narrow private laneway, off Grattan Crescent.

The outdoor seating area runs along the entire ground floor façade of James Plunkett House which is occupied by a parade of commercial properties at ground floor level with residential apartments contained within the 4-storied above.

Issues raised in submission received according to the plans include the "entire carpark has been saturated" with shipping containers, and the impact of noise disturbance and privacy for people living in the adjoining apartments.

The planners report said the development of 'superpubs' will be "discouraged and the concentration of pubs will be restricted in certain areas of

the city where there is a danger of overconcentration of these to the detriment of other uses.

"In cases where new uses, including uses such as casinos and private members' clubs, or extensions to the existing use are proposed, the onus is on the applicant to demonstrate that such proposed development will not be detrimental to the residential, environmental quality or the established character and function of the area," said the report.

Planners acknowledged that the Inchicore pub invested to adapt to covid and changing times but that this needs to be "tempered by protection of existing amenities".

Ultimately, the city council refused retention, ruling that it would cause "serious injury to the residential amenities in the vicinity" and set an "undesirable precedent for similar such development in the future".



REFUSED: The Black Lion Pub

Zeus creates 40 new jobs with opening of new facility

Rathcoole packaging group opens new facility in Cork that will open in April

By **Maurice Garvey**

maurice@echo.ie

RATHCOOLE packaging group Zeus to open a new logistics facility in Cork in a move that will create 40 new jobs at the site.

The 70,000 sq ft facility, which is located in Watergrasshill in Cork, will commence operations in April.

The new positions, which will be created over the next 18 months, will be focused on logistics, distribution, commercial and administration.

"As Zeus has expanded organically through strategic acquisition, we now need to future-proof our operational capacity and capability in line with both customer expectation and company growth," chief operations officer Adrian Lannon said.

"This new modern facility will allow optimised placement of stocks around the country, bringing products closer to our customers."

The fast-growing company also plans to increase investments in its Limerick

logistics, consolidating its own operations alongside those of acquired businesses, Limerick Packaging and JJ O'Toole.

Zeus acquired packing firm JJ O'Toole last July, while it bought Limerick Packaging in October 2021.

The group reported that it had added a further €75m in revenues through acquisition over the past year following the completion of six deals across Ireland, the UK and Canada in 2022.

Zeus, which is targeting sales of €500m in 2023, also unveiled its first acquisition of 2023, with the purchase of Polish company Polpack last month.

This is the first step in Zeus' 2023 acquisition strategy, further consolidating its operations across Europe.

Customers of the packaging supply chain company now include Clipper Logistics, Lidl, Harrods, Ryanair and McDonald's.

Established by Brian O'Sullivan in 1998, Zeus now employs over 900 people worldwide. In 2021, Mr O'Sullivan was announced as the winner of EY Entrepreneur of the Year.

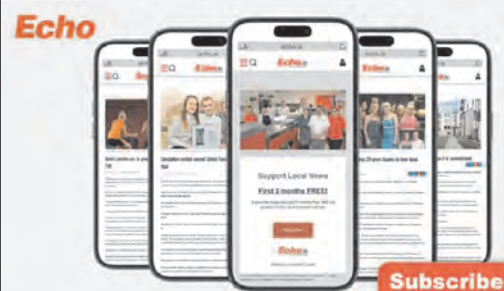


FACILITY: Kamil Wolinski (Commercial Director), Brian O'Sullivan (owner and founder of Zeus Group), Wojciech Zdzieborski (Company owner) and Maciej Gomolka (General Manager)

“As Zeus has expanded organically through strategic acquisition, we now need to future-proof our operational capacity and capability in line with both customer expectation and company growth

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Sales at CRH rise to 12 per cent across year to €30.7 billion

By **Maurice Garvey**

maurice@echo.ie

BUILDING materials group CRH recorded another year of growth despite "significant" cost inflation throughout 2022.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) were €5.3bn, up 13 per cent from 2021.

Headquartered in Belgard Castle, group sales for CRH rose 12 per cent across the year to €30.7bn.

Profit after tax also increased in 2022, rising 10 per cent to €2.5bn, as a result of the strong trading performance across the year, according to CRH.

CRH will now pay a full year dividend of €1.20, up 5 per cent from 2021.

CRH said North America now represents

approximately 75 per cent of the group's EBITDA, with the business now considering a US primary listing.

The group said such a listing would offer "increased commercial, operational and acquisition opportunities."

It added that any change in listing structure would have no impact on CRH plc, which will remain headquartered, incorporated and tax-resident here.

Sales from the Europe Materials unit also jumped by 11 per cent, with price increases offsetting the impact of lower activity levels here.

CRH also pointed to the impact of the conflict in Ukraine, as well as energy costs and inflation, in the region.

Overall, the group's building materials unit maintained "good" activity levels due to ongoing demand for critical utility infrastructure and outdoor living solutions,

with sales up 26 per cent from 2021.

"Despite significant cost pressures throughout the year, we delivered further improvements in profits, margins and return," chief executive Albert Manifold said.

"Our strong cash generation together with our relentless focus on disciplined capital allocation has also delivered the strongest balance sheet in our history, providing us with significant opportunities for further growth and value creation going forward."

The group now anticipates "resilient" demand in 2023, with further price increases expected due to ongoing macroeconomic uncertainty and lingering inflation.

The building materials supplier added that rising prices in Europe are expected to offset lower volumes.

Pharmacy celebrates 5 years in business with plans to grow

Business employs nine people who are committed to providing personal healthcare service

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

A PHARMACY celebrated five years in business this week, amid plans to expand and grow its services for the wider community.

Located inside Mace Killinarden store, Pharmacy Hub was opened in February 2018, by Michelle O'Hagan, a Community Pharmacist with over 25 years experience in the industry.

The business employs nine staff with the range of skills required to offer a consistent professional service.

"We are like a family and everyone is dedicated to providing a real personal service which is the core of Pharmacy Hub," said Michelle.

"We have been welcomed by the community and our business has grown considerably over the past five years. We have built a loyal customer base and we receive great support. The focus is to continue to provide a committed personal healthcare service and to expand our services. We had a refit last year to enable expansion of our services and more comfortable experience for our customers and staff."

Covid was a challenging time for frontline workers but Michelle believes staff "learned a lot" from the experience, building up a



CELEBRATION: Michelle O'Hagan and staff with Tallaght Person of the Year Zak Moradi

delivery service to the most isolated and vulnerable in the community. "We provided travel antigen testing and developed a robust covid vaccination service, and continue to improve on health outcomes for our patients, and as always focus on customer service," said Michelle.

"We have the most wonderful customers who are very loyal, many just come in for daily chats and we feel due to our personal service we offer an outreach in a way."

Pharmacy Hub aims to embed itself deeper into the community and become one of the first port of

call for community healthcare needs.

"We have plans for expanding our shop here in Mace and continue to keep updated with HSE and private services. The team are always enthusiastic and we attend courses which adds value to our overall service," said

Michelle.

Along with a range of services such as free prescription deliveries, blood pressure testing, cholesterol testing, and free contraception, the pharmacy also offers health advice over the counter, corporate health checks and seasonal vaccinations.

Dalata Hotel Group revenue for 2022 was €516 million

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

DALATA Hotel Group, who operate all Maldron and Clayton brands in Ireland, has reported a record set of results for 2022.

Its revenue for the year was €516m, the first time it breached the €500m mark and 20 per cent higher than in 2019.

Its adjusted earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation for the year was €184.3m, which is up 13pc compared with 2019.

The group added 1,900 hotel rooms in 2022 and has a pipeline of 1,333 more. It also plans to reintroduce a dividend later this year.

Meanwhile, according to chief executive Dermot Crowley, soaring inflation prompted the group to take a fresh look at productivity.

Mr Crowley said initiatives are not about making staff work harder, but more efficiently. He said the group undertook a complete time motion study audit of how a room is cleaned, for example.

That resulted in Dalata introducing cordless vacuum cleaners rather than ones with cords which take more time to set up.

"The task was to try and improve



productivity without actually making people's jobs harder," he said.

The group is also introducing check-in pods across its hotels in the next four to five months, where customers can do an automated check-in if they wish, without having to engage with reception.

Ireland's biggest hotel operator, Dalata, has explored opportunities in cities including Madrid, Barcelona, Berlin, Brussels and Amsterdam as it looks to grow its mainland

European footprint.

While the group continues to scout for locations, Mr Crowley said the UK remains the primary growth focus for the company.

Recently, Dalata acquired a 192-bedroom hotel on Seven Sisters Road in north London, the group's first hotel to open in the British capital.

Dalata opened its first mainland European hotel in Dusseldorf last year, as a Clayton property, and is already cashflow positive.

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DEVELOPMENT: Finches pub will be demolished to allow for 26 new apartments and a new pub

Plans for 26 apartments and new pub approved at Finches

Mixed development plan will consist of the demolition of existing single storey public house

PLANS for the construction of 26 apartments and a new pub at the former Finches site on Neilstown Road in Clondalkin have been given the green light by South Dublin County Council.

Located at Neilstown Shopping Centre, the mixed development plan will consist of the demolition of the existing single-storey public house and the construction of a four-storey apartment block.

The proposed 26 apartments will

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

be made up of four one-bedroom units and 22 two-bedroom units along with a smaller pub at ground level.

The plans provide for a 12-space car park that includes one disabled space along with bin stores and bicycle stands at ground level.

All apartments will have balconies/terraces and communal areas while the first floor will have a courtyard above the car park, and the third floor will have roof terraces for apartments.

There are also streetscape proposals within site boundaries to facilitate and enhance the public realm.

On February 20, South Dublin County Council granted planning permission for the development,

with a number of conditions.

These conditions include the requirement for public services to the development, such as electrical and street light cables, to be located underground.

The developer is also required to pay a financial contribution totalling €283,118.19 to South Dublin County Council.

The financial contribution is in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development

within the area of the council, that is provided, or intended to be provided by or on behalf of it.

The Finches pub went up for sale in 2018 and Morrissey's, the pub and hotel specialists, were seeking offers with an auction scheduled for April of that year.

Morrissey's were later acquired by real estate agents Lisney, and it is understood that Old Nangor Road Ltd then purchased the Finches property.

Developer seeking extension to duration of planning permission

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

A FIVE-YEAR extension to a pre-existing grant of planning permission for a partially constructed residential development at Ballyroan House is being sought by a developer.

Homeland Investments Ltd lodged a planning application for the development in 2017, and received planning permission for the construction of 20 units on the site in September 2017.

The units are a combination of houses and apartments, and in their application for the extension of planning permission, Homeland

outlined works that had already been undertaken on the site.

All site development works at the site are complete, foundations have been poured, including at first floor/slab level for various units in the development. However, the planning permission for the project is due to lapse in May, so Homeland is

seeking an extension to the duration of planning permission for a five-year term, to August 2028.

It is noted in the application that the developer expects the project to have reached completion by the end of March 2025.

A decision on the application is due from South Dublin County Council by April 19 this year.

Unmanned petrol station plans appeoved for Fonthill Road site

Plans include a single-storey services building structure comprising a car wash and plant room



UNMANNED SERVICE STATION: The site planned for the station on Fonthill Road

THE Fonthill Road in Clondalkin is set to be the site of a new unmanned petrol station, after the plans received the approval of South Dublin County Council.

Applicant Certas Energy Ireland Limited lodged a planning application last year for the construction of a new petrol station forecourt with four dispensers and two underground fuel storage tanks.

Provision of a canopy structure (covering c. 235sq.m and 6.2m in height) with associated signage is included in the plans.

Permission was also sought to widen the existing site entrance to the north-east of the site and create a new egress location onto the

By Aideen O'Flaherty

aideen@echo.ie

Fonthill Road along the northern boundary.

The new egress location will allow a one-way internal road network incorporating new pedestrian crossing over an existing footpath at site egress location, according to the applicant.

The proposal includes an automatic brush car wash and adjoining jet car wash with a water recycling system.

The construction of a single-storey services building structure comprising a car wash, plant room and comms room area forms part

of the plans.

Parking provision will be in the form of four electric charging bays, and an air/water services area with two car parking spaces.

Certas Energy's plans also include the placement of two internally illuminated double-sided totem signs.

On February 20 last, South Dublin County Council decided to grant planning permission for the development.

In 2020, Certas Energy Ireland Limited, with an address in Drogheda, County Louth, received approval from the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission to acquire petrol stations owned by Tesco Ireland.

Appeal against council's decision to refuse planning at Copper Kettle is lodged

A DEVELOPER has lodged an appeal against South Dublin County Council's decision to refuse planning permission for the construction of a dwelling in Rathcoole, reports Aideen O'Flaherty.

The subject site is at the rear of the former Copper Kettle Café premises on Main Street in Rathcoole.

Applicant Garcoal Limited submitted a planning application for the construction of a two-storey, two-bed dwelling to South Dublin County Council in January 2021.

The property was to be serviced by a private amenity space to the rear and one on-curtilage vehicular parking space accessible via Barrack Court.

Provision of two replacement vehicular parking spaces for use by residents of Barrack Court was included.

The application attracted two third-party objections, where issues raised

included the potential impact on car parking in Barrack Court, the scale of the scheme, and potential overshadowing.

On January 26 last, South Dublin County Council refused planning permission for the dwelling because of issues related to vehicular access, traffic, and pedestrian safety.

"The applicant has not sufficiently demonstrated legal interest or appropriate consent to utilise the indicated right of way through Barrack Court," stated the council in its decision.

"[The applicant] has failed to demonstrate the successful deliverability of the revised car parking arrangement for the existing and proposed residential units without compromising the comfort and safety of pedestrians, cyclists and residents within Barrack Court.

"The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and development of the area."

However, Garcoal Limited lodged an appeal against this decision last month, arguing that the proposed development is in accordance with proper planning and development in the area.

The appellant stated that their proposal was "acceptable and compliant with" zoning policies and objectives and noted that the design and scale of the property had been informed by the character of adjoining properties.

They added that the dwelling would "harmonise with the existing built-form of the area" due to the selected finishes for the property and would provide a "high level of residential amenity".

A decision on the application has not yet been made by An Bord Pleanála.

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State has let down Thalidomide survivors

Dear Editor:

DURING Friday's Late Late Show, Ryan Tubridy hosted Irish Thalidomide Association advocates Finola Cassidy and John Stack, and quizzed two mothers in the audience: Peggy Murphy from Cork, and Mary Clarken from Portlaoise, both in their 90s: whose children had been adversely affected by Thalidomide.

"Thalidomide was a wrecking ball to the embryo," Finola Cassidy, Thalidomide survivor and ITA spokesperson said.

"They failed us as children, they are still failing us now. This did not happen on their [the present Government's] watch but they are the custodians of the State's stance on how we get closure: 61 years of this is just cruel."

"It is horrific to read the old government briefing documents I found in the National Archives and see first-hand how they tried to manipulate the Thalidomide story and not accept their hand, act, and part in it."

The criminal trial of Grünenthal the German

firm that marketed Thalidomide under the trade name Contergan, opened on 27 May 1968 and promised to be comparable in scale and emotional intensity to Nuremberg.

The firm charged with intent to commit bodily harm and involuntary manslaughter went free with explicit approval of the prosecution that granted Grünenthal immunity from any further criminal proceedings.

Thalidomide was withdrawn in 1962 after it caused foreshortened bones and appendages to

be compressed or not develop at all.

Thalidomide survivors are unable to wait any longer in their 61-year battle for a State apology.

A mediation process for Thalidomide survivors including compensation and a State apology chaired by Kieran Mulvey is set to get underway.

Responding to calls, after the Late Late Show, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar acknowledged they: "deserve an apology".

Yours sincerely, Gerry Coughlan, Dublin 24

Do we really require all these TD's, ministers and junior ministers

Dear editor;

THE government wants to increase the number of TD's although we have one of the highest TD / populations ratio in Europe.

Now they are about to increase the number of Judges because of the increase in population.

The same government want to give TD's €5K to increase their personal security.

For a country of five million do we really require all these TD's, Ministers and Junior Ministers not to mention the plethora of expensive advisers.

What is the Civil Service for if not to advise the ministers.

Our defence forces are under manned for years with planes, ships and army



equipment lying idle for lack of crews, but they only receive lip service.

There is never enough money to increase the numbers. They talk about being proud of our defence members when attending public occasions or overseas but fail to mention some of the same members are sleeping in their cars or that the wives of the service personnel had to

demonstrate to improve their living conditions

The defence force members like the ordinary Joe Soaps must wait years for their pension but not our TDs.

Our TDs tell us they are not in it for the money, yet they have some great perks, subsidised bars, restaurants, gym, crèche and parking.

Added to that a nice pension even though they go

back to their old jobs or join boards of industry.

We even supply extra services to retired Taoiseachí.

We have had examples of greed, corruption, lying, offshore accounts, breaking the law and planning rules so what does this tell us. Talk is cheap, action speaks louder than words.

We have buildings that now require huge remedial work and the companies who built them and did the shoddy work are now going to be paid by the taxpayer to repair them. Can we trust them.

What is the true cost of running this country when you include the salaries, expenses, transport, accommodation and security. Compare us to Manchester which has the similar size population as us.

We are constantly being

told "pay peanuts and you get monkeys" we paid top dollar and got a banking, housing, health crisis.

So, ask yourself can we the taxpayer really afford all these frills.

We have seen how our millionaires increased during Covid.

How much tax do they pay is it time to shout stop and reassess what type of government we the taxpayer can afford.

It is no surprise we don't have money to improve the services required by the poor at the bottom when the top tier are looking after themselves.

At the next general election can we have a reduction of TDs, do turkeys vote for Christmas.

Yours,
Leo Oman, Tallaght.

Car parking issues during Rovers matches

Dear editor,

I would like to raise the issue of parking in Old Bawn for Shamrock Rover's home games.

At Monday's fixture against Cork some fans parked on both sides of the entrance to Dun an Oir and Cois na hAbhann.

Parking was not good and public service vehicles would not have been able to access either road.

Up until now the fans have been observing parking on one side only so I would like to request Rovers to raise this issue with their and other club's fans.

It is very important that all fans respect the residents of Old Bawn and particularly respect the need for

ambulances and fire engines to have clear access.

Hopefully with the impending opening of the fourth stand and the increase in fans to 10,000 the problem will not become an ongoing issue.

Yours sincerely,
Name and address with the editor.

Teaching porn in schools will place an 'explosive issue' in the minds of young people

Dear Editor:

ALAN Whelan, President of the Catholic Secondary Schools Parents Association CSSPA said educating pupils porn in schools will put an: 'explosive issue' in the minds of young people distorting their view of sex.

Viewers were shocked after watching a debate on porn during Upfront with Katie Hannon on RTE One on Monday night.

The panel comprised of Dr Kate Dawson, a lecturer at University of Greenwich who

researches Porn Studies, Fine Gael TD Josepha Madigan, Peadar Tóibín TD leader of Aontú, and journalist Alison O'Connor.

Pornography will now be studied as part of a new Relationships and Sexuality Education programme at Junior Certificate level in secondary schools.

The latest diktat from the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), Minister for Education Norma Foley described the proposed revamp of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) for the Junior Cycle as: "a step

in the right direction" as students cope with the 21st century.

The NCCA has launched a public consultation on the draft Social, Personal and Health Education Curriculum due to be introduced in schools from 2023.

It follows a review of sex education in 2019 concluded most students' experience of sex education to date could be summed up as being: "too little, too late and too biological".

It suggested taking into account issues such as consent; the effects of pornography on sexual

expectations and relationships; and LGBT matters.

Peadar Tóibín TD, leader of Aontú, said more should be done to limit access to pornography rather than educating young people about it and provide an opt-in safe internet service for families permitting homes to be: "safe of the most violent material on the internet".

A revamped syllabus at primary level is due in 2025.

Yours sincerely Gerry Coughlan, Dublin 24

Time to teach the facts

Dear Editor

I REMEMBER the catholic church calling Homosexuality an "Intrinsically Evil" and now calling Trans a psychological issue!

Catholic primary school managers oppose teaching gender identity to pupils saying it might add to a growing psychological contagion, Trans rights are human rights, we live in a diverse world and the teaching of age-appropriate education in our schools must be the states responsibility!

All education should be fact based and based on the laws of our land and relayed in an age-appropriate manner.

If we are to promote diversity, inclusion, tolerance and acceptance than we must teach it in our schools!

CLlr Francis Timmons
Clondalkin

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HUMOUR, PASSION AND TRUTH

Killinaskully star Jack Walsh has written and stars in 'Welcome to Ireland – Meltdown of an Irish Tour Guide', which will be performed in the Civic on March 16. Photo by Fiach O'Neill

Page 47

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Youth Club's First Anniversary

NEWCASTLE YC GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**
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Committee and Youth Leaders at the First Year celebrations



Jude and Nathan



Sarah, Jody and Faye



Harry, Frankie and Luke



Alex, Conor and Daniel



Harry, Colm and Evan



Committee Members



Isabelle and Olivia



Cara, Eabha and Leah

KiD V is no 'Spoofer'

VICTOR WILLIAMS IS ONE TO WATCH IN IRELAND'S RAP SCENE

Rapper Victor Williams, who records music under the name KiD V, is definitely one to watch in Ireland's burgeoning rap scene.

Currently living in Jobstown, Victor also spent parts of his childhood living in Old Bawn and Springfield and attended St Mark's Junior School and St Dominic's National School.

It was during his formative years in Tallaght that Victor developed an interest in break dancing, which led to his passion for rapping and creating music.

Victor told *The Echo* about his experiences of growing up in Tallaght, having moved to the area at age four from Nigeria, the healthy status of the Irish rap scene, and his new single 'Spoofer'.

You moved to Tallaght when you were four, can you remember what your first impressions of the area were?

Well, I was pretty young, so I did not really think about this at the time, but for me it was a neighbourhood the same as anywhere else, and with saying that I have always been the type of person to not worry about stuff that is not in my control. But, looking back now, and thinking about the time where my parents' car got stolen and set on fire less than a minute's walk from our house, and the times our house got burgled, is when I started having a little bit of a clue in terms of what the area was like.

How would you describe your experience of growing up in Tallaght?

As we all know, Tallaght is not the safest place to live, and the people were not the most welcoming. I went through a lot of racial problems growing up here, from bus drivers, peers, even fully grown adults. Irish folk back then found it hard to accept me as Irish, even though the way I speak and my mannerisms are similar. There was always this annoying question I got asked: 'Where are ya from?'. My answer will forever be Tallaght, obviously, because it's all I know. Then they would always reply with: 'I mean, where ya from?' It was very confusing for me as a kid. I knew the answer they were looking for, but it always annoyed me. But one thing about where I grew up, everyone lived for football, so I connected with many people that way, which was great.

At what point did music start to become an integral part of your life?

It was from about the age of 14, as that was when I got into dancing – break dancing as well as other styles of dance – and then wrote my first rap at age 16.

How would you describe the Irish rap scene at the moment?

I would describe it as a wave that keeps gathering momentum and will surely turn into a tsunami at some point. I would like to call it a movement, however in my opinion there is not enough unity in the scene to call it that yet.

What do you enjoy the most about being a rapper?

I love everything about it, and I am not just saying that. I have free rein over everything I create, from writing, to enunciation, to even creating my own modes of speech. As a rapper starting, it can be very difficult, but those difficult times become amazing material for you to write about in the future.

You recently released your new single 'Spoofer', what's it about and how would

by Aileen O'Flaherty / aileen@echo.ie



Tallaght rapper
Victor Williams
AKA KiD V

you describe its sound?

It's in reference to an Irish term used to describe a person who tells tall tales or lies. The aim of this track is to call out these types of people, for example, those who act in a certain way to maybe portray a certain type of lifestyle in order to fit in and so on. In a roundabout way, I'm just trying to make people learn from this and be themselves.

What other plans do you have in the

pipeline?

My New Year's resolution is to release at least one track every month and, by the end of the year, a project.

Where can people go to find out more about your music?

The best places to keep up with my music would be Instagram and TikTok, which both have the same handle @Kidv_official. You can also follow KiD V on all major streaming platforms.

“ I quit smoking. I feel better. I smell better. And it's safer to drink out of old beer cans laying around the house.

Roseanne Barr

Health & Fitness

YOU CAN QUIT....

by Lee Moroney / info@coachapproach.ie



This week I speak to Alan Mc Donnell about quitting smoking. He is the Slaintecare Healthy Communities Health Promotion Officer with the HSE who has a background in working in addiction and mental health in Tallaght, as a nurse, and works between Fettercairn and the Kilnamanagh/Tymon Primary Care Centre over 2 days a week for 1:1 tobacco cessation support.

Q1. What advice do you have for someone who wants to reduce or quit cigarette smoking?

Firstly, my main advice is that it is never too late to quit and the benefits of quitting start from Day one. It is really important to prepare to quit, writing down the reasons why you would like to quit and then weigh up the pros and cons. As a Stop Smoking Advisor our recommendation is to quit smoking by setting a quit date. I offer support to all my clients regarding preparing to quit as the client identifies the best strategies for them to support them on this journey. We also discuss the best form of Nicotine Replacement Therapy or Stop Smoking Medication, which will help relieve withdrawal symptoms. The most frequent combination of Nicotine Replacement Therapies are a combination of a nicotine patch and other nicotine products including chewing gum, mouth spray or lozenger. It is so important to have good support on your quit journey with your Stop Smoking Advisor, family, friends and work colleagues.

Q2. I have heard that food sometimes replaces cigarette smoking, and people put on weight is that true or a myth?

The truth is that it varies for everyone. It is important to say that it is possible to stop smoking and maintain your weight. Some people can gain weight when they quit smoking and some do not. However others who have quit smoking have actually lost weight after they quit. Most of the weight gained after quitting smoking is due to eating more food and the wrong types of food. It is important to plan ahead and snack on healthy foods. I would also suggest trying to remember the hazards of smoking including lung disease, heart disease and cancer will affect your health a lot more than temporary weight gain.



LEE Moroney HAS BEEN COACHING ADULTS, TEENS AND CHILDREN FOR OVER 20 YEARS, SPECIALISING IN TUTORING FOR DDLETB IN SPORTS, EXERCISE AND FITNESS QQI LEVEL 5S, ALONG WITH MANY COMMUNITY EDUCATION COURSES AROUND WELLBEING. THE 1,450TH PERSON COMMENCED IN 2020 BY GETTING OFF THE COUCH FOR HIS 'COUCH TO 5KM' PROGRAMME — OVER 500 PEOPLE HAVE USED HIS ONLINE WEIGHT-LOSS PROGRAMME.

Q3. What strategies do you advise for people to replace the urge to smoke cigarettes?

Your recommended Stop Smoking medication will help reduce your urges to smoke. Alongside these supports the most effective methods to deal with urges to smoke a cigarette consist of what we call the '4D's'. These are tips we ask our clients to consider when they experience an urge to smoke.

1. Drink Water – or fruit juice. This helps to pass cravings.
2. Delay – Wait at least 3-5 minutes and the urge will pass.
3. Distract Yourself – Move away from the situation, keep yourself busy.
4. Deep Breaths – Breathe slowly and deeply for 5 minutes and the urge to smoke will pass.

Other tips to avoid the urge to smoke includes: Change your routine and plan ahead – replace or change activities that you usually associate with smoking. Think positively- you may have withdrawals once you quit smoking but these are positive signs that your body is recovering from the harmful effects of smoking and they will disappear once the body gets used to the change.

Q4. If someone wants more information around quitting smoking, where can they get more information online?

Visit www.quit.ie/clinics for more tips or advice. People can also call the National HSE Quitline on 1800201203 to talk to someone who understands and can help you to quit. They will also advise you on Stop Smoking services in your area. Those on Facebook who are interested to experience other people's stories or share their own are invited to do so by joining www.facebook.com/HSEquit

Lastly anyone looking for more information about the one to one smoking clinics I run or the We Can Quit Group Programme with Fettercairn Health Project and Kilinarden Community Centre can contact me on my mobile or email address 0876131061 or alan.mcdonnell2@hse.ie

There are so many health related and financial related benefits to those who quit so I encourage anyone thinking of it to contact me or any of the above contacts listed for more information.

“Anyone can make a good roast chicken.

Thomas Keller

Food with Passion

PERFECT LEMON & THYME ROAST CHICKEN

by **John Paul Kennedy** / jpkennedy.kennedy@gmail.com



Who doesn't love and enjoy a delicious roast chicken? I usually make a roast chicken at least once a month for the Sunday Roast and it always goes down a real treat. This is a really flavoursome version that will take the staple roast chicken to the next level! Tiny bit of prep, bung it in the oven and allow it to infuse the house with the welcoming aroma of a fantastic Sunday lunch. Serve with your favourite sides; buttered cabbage, roast carrots, fondant or roast potatoes or use for salads and sandwiches, what ever version your opt for you are guaranteed maximum flavour.

Ingredients:

One large organic Chicken
3 tablespoons of Rapeseed oil
5 springs of fresh Thyme
One lemon
5 banana shallots
5 carrots
Sea salt & freshly ground black pepper



John Paul Kennedy IS a Self-Taught COOK and an avid fan Of COLLECTING COOKERY BOOKS WITH a PASSION FOR good Old-faShioned home COOKING. HIS PASSION FOR PROPER family COOKING STeMS FROM HIS gRandMOTHeRS, who weRe BOTH exCellenT COOKS, One Of whOM waS a TRaIned Chef. **JP** PROMISes TO bRIng uS PlenTy Of famIly-InSPIRed ReCIPeS and TaSTy TReaTS whIle ShOWIng uS hOW TO gET The baSICS RighT.

Method:

1. Preheat your oven to 180 degrees / 160 fan for 15 minutes and remove the chicken from the fridge and allow to come to room temperature. never put cold meat into a hot oven!
2. Pat dry the chicken with kitchen paper and place into a ovenproof baking dish.
3. Peel and chopped the carrots and shallots into rough chunks – these are just to add flavour and scatter around the chicken.
4. drizzle everything with the oil, smearing the chicken to ensure evenly coated and it roasts lovely and golden.
5. Zest the lemon and scatter all over the chicken, cut in half and stuff into the cavity of the chicken.
6. garnish with lots of fresh thyme and season generously with salt and pepper and pop into the oven and roast for 1 hour 45 minutes. Once cooked cover with tinfoil and allow to rest for 15 minutes to allow the juices to flow back through the meat. This will give you a super juicy chicken.
7. Serve with your favourite roast accompaniments, lashings of gravy and enjoy!

This is a really simple and flavoursome way to roast a chicken that believe me will go down a real treat. The lemon adds a lovely sweetness to the carrots and shallots which can be served with the deliciously moist chicken. I made this over the weekend with potato fondants, buttered cabbage and my spicy chilli peas and there wasn't a scrap left on anybody's plate! Simple, classic comfort food at its very best.

Contact JP on:

Twitter: @JPKCooking
Email: JPKCooking@gmail.com
Instagram: jpkennedy.kennedy

World Book Day

HELD IN ST BERNADETTE’S JUNIOR SCHOOL IN QUARRYVALE

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Darcie Canning and Pennie Cleary



Christy and Francis Kelly



Elizabeth Breen and Kiya Heffernan



Dani Greene and Aariah O'Reilly



Darcie Canning and Tanya Thompson



Jade Moloney and Bodhi Doran



Catherine Byrne and Calvin Brunton



Halle and Romi Keane



Ms Curley's First Class

Final is in Sight

LUCAN NATIVE LAURA IS THE LAST DANCER FLYING THE LOCAL FLAG

by Aideen O’Flaherty / aideen@echo.ie

Competitors in this season of RTÉ’s ‘Dancing with the Stars’ are shaking in their sequins as the nail-biting final of the show draws ever closer.

Last Sunday night’s show saw the departure of Panti Bliss and professional dance partner Denys Samson as the show reached the quarter-final stage.

Only one dancer from South County Dublin – Lucan woman Laura Nolan – remains, with her performance alongside comedian Kevin McGahern garnering positive results.

The duo were the second couple to dance on the night for judges Brian Redmond, Arthur Gourounlian and Loraine Barry.

Kevin and Laura performed a fast-paced salsa to ‘Stay with Me’ by Calvin Harris feat. Justin Timberlake, Pharrell Williams and Halsey.

Arthur said: “You’ve come a long way from the Viennese waltz in week one. I saw you moving your hips. The lifts are not easy to execute.”

Brian added: “This was a perfectly traditional salsa, a perfect summer vibe. Laura wants to challenge you.

“She loaded the choreography in it, some of the salsa basics were a bit dodgy but it’s the quarter final, Laura had to increase the intensity for it.”

Loraine remarked: “The one action you had a lot of was turns – they can get tricky – you did it very well. Kept rhythm going, hips came out.

“A little tip: put more weight onto the balls of your feet, a bit too much in the heels. Stakes are high, you had to do risky lifts and you pulled it off.”

The couple netted a respectable score of 23 from the three judges, and are safely through to next Sunday’s show on RTÉ One at 6.30pm.



Kevin Mc Gahern with his Dance Partner Laura Nolan



Broadcaster Carl Mullan with his Dance Partner Emily Barker

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Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Peter Byrne, CEO of South Dublin Chamber; Tom Rooney, LEO South Dublin, Mayor Emma Murphy, former Kilkenny hurling manager Brian Cody, Sandra Hickey (LEO) and Peter Connolly (LEO)



Ailish Smyth and Sean Darcy



Peter Connolly (LEO), Sarah Power (Lucy & Me), Tom Rooney (LEO) and Shoshannah Wood (Blossomwood Toys)



Alan Jordan and Leon Kelly



Caroline (Weightless Wonders) and Adrian (Surpassport)



Peter Campbell and Jennifer Healy



Peter Boland, Tom Rooney and Mohammed Rashid

The Victory

TALLAGHT BAND GEAR UP FOR WORKMAN'S CLUB GIG

by Aileen O'Flaherty / aileen@echo.ie

A Tallaght band is gearing up for their first gig as a three-piece in the Workman's Club this Friday, March 10. The Victory is composed of frontman Shane O'Reilly from Jobstown, guitarist Alan O'Flaherty from Old Bawn and bassist Chris Platt.

The band's sound veers between rock and pop, and they released their well-received debut EP last year.

The Victory recently reduced from a five-piece to a three-piece, and are keen to bring their new style show to The Workman's.

Frontman Shane O'Reilly told *The Echo*: "As we've gone from a five-piece band to three members, there's been quite a shift in terms of sound now."

"I feel there's more of a rockier sound than before, maybe a bit more upbeat with the new songs...to try to fill the gap with the loss of two members hasn't been easy."

"We've been trying to somehow fill the sound and make it as energetic as possible with just us three."

"It's pretty much like a different band, really."

Other bands performing on the night include Morda, The Telling and The Group, and doors will open at 6.30pm on Friday.

Tickets are €11.70 each and are available on Eventbrite or at the door on the night.



Band members Shane O'Reilly and Alan O'Flaherty

Walsh's Comedic Exploits

WELCOME TO IRELAND -MELTDOWN OF AN IRISH TOUR GUIDE

by Aileen O'Flaherty / aileen@echo.ie



Killinaskully star Jack Walsh
Photo credit Deirdre Molloy

Follow the comedic exploits of a Dublin city tour guide who is trying to keep his head above water in a precarious housing situation in a new show in the Civic Theatre next week.

'Killinaskully' star Jack Walsh has written and stars in 'Welcome to Ireland - Meltdown of an Irish Tour Guide', which will be performed in the Civic on March 16.

Jack portrays a frazzled tour guide who is at his wit's end, with the play combining humour, passion and truth in the midst of Ireland's ongoing housing crisis.

Drawing on his own experiences, Jack said: "The life of an actor, selling Ireland as a tour guide and a close shave with homelessness."

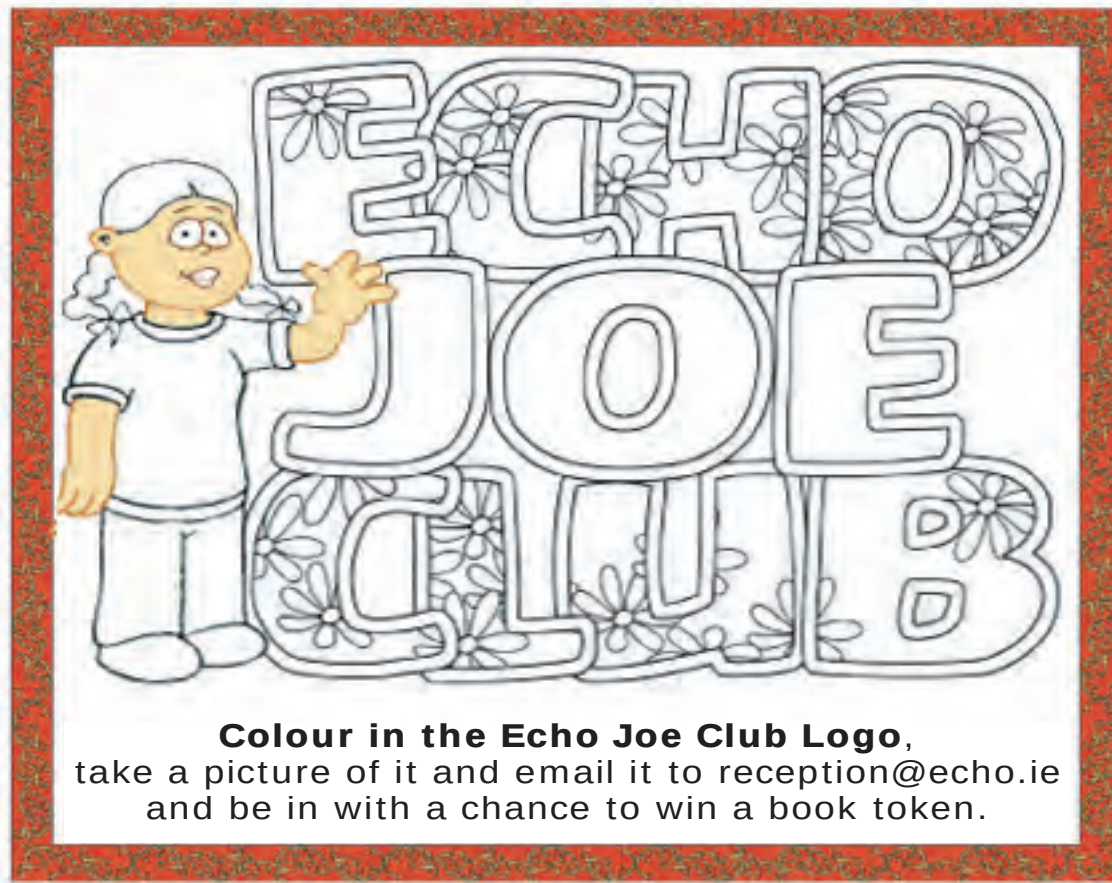
"I've put it all into a show, full of madcap characters, lots of humour and some stark home truths. Ireland without the plámás. Everyone in the Dáil should see it."

Alongside his role as Jimmy Bourke in 'Killinaskully', Jack is also well-known for starring in the Netflix series 'Vikings - Valhalla'.

As a stage performer, he has appeared in 'Arrah na Pogue' at the Abbey Theatre, and 'Metamorphosis' and 'Arturo Ui', both at the Lyric Belfast.

'Welcome to Ireland - Meltdown of an Irish Tour Guide' will be brought to the Civic Theatre stage on March 16, at 8pm.

Tickets are €24 or €22 concession and are available at civictheatre.ie.



A Word with Echo So...

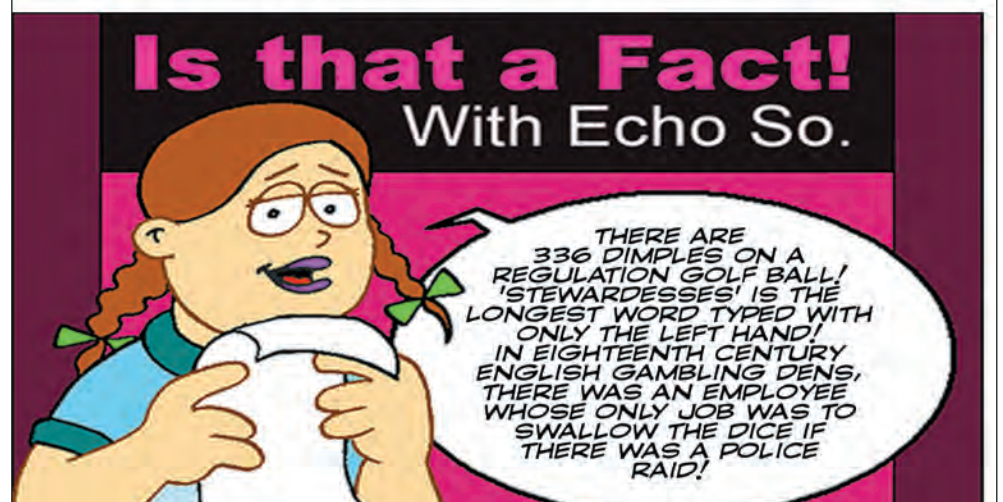
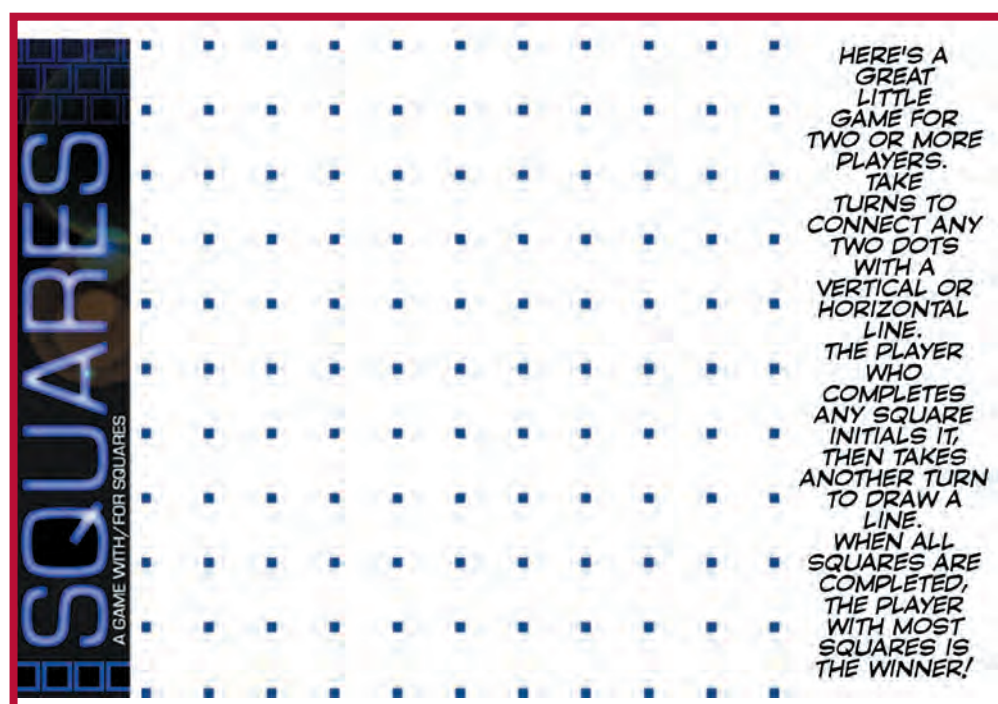
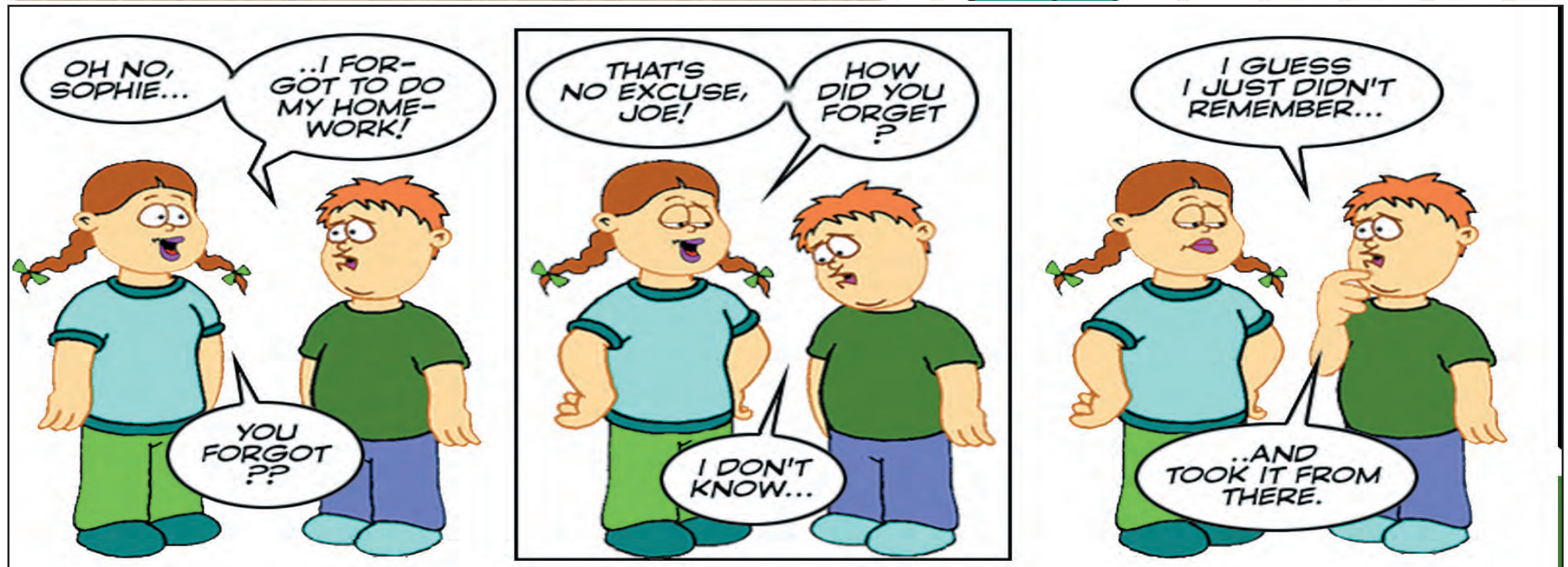
exasperation



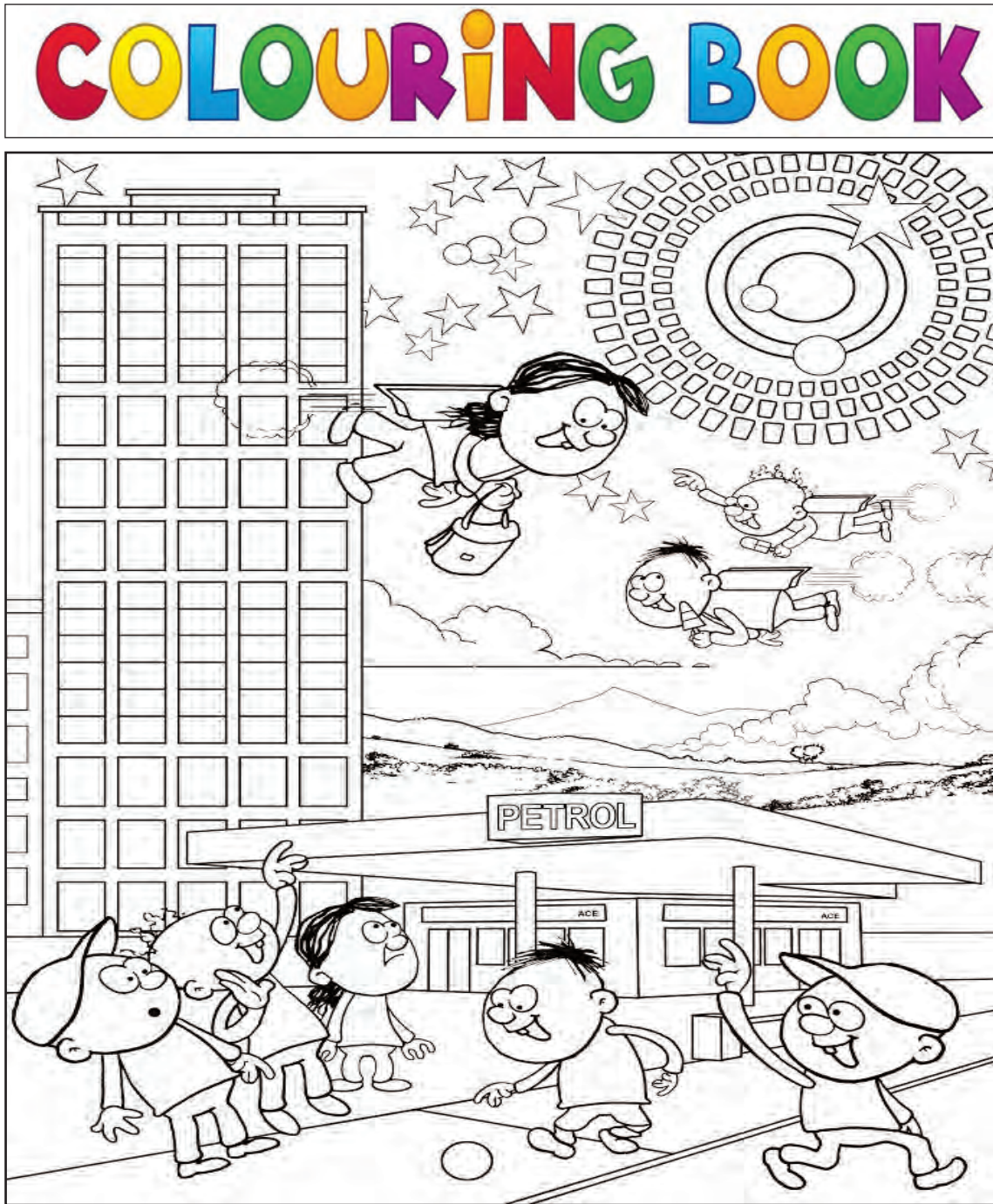
CLUBBERS,
HOW MANY WORDS
(TWO LETTERS OR MORE)
CAN YOU MAKE FROM
THE ABOVE WORD?

5-20 pretty good! 21-35 excellent!
36 and over - you do realise these
have to be real words, don't you!

1	14	27
2	15	28
3	16	29
4	17	30
5	18	31
6	19	32
7	20	33
8	21	34
9	22	35
10	23	36
11	24	37
12	25	38
13	26	39



These 2 pages of Awesome, Amazon, Activities



LETTER LINK LOG-JAM

A MISSING LETTER ON EACH ROW FINISHES ONE WORD AND STARTS THE NEXT...

BUT WHAT ARE THE LETTERS?

FIN		ATE
SOU		OOT
FAK		DGE
LOA		ORM
SLO		UCK
LOO		ILT
FOL		ANK
ELS		NVY

the missing letters: D, R, E, F, T, K, D, E.

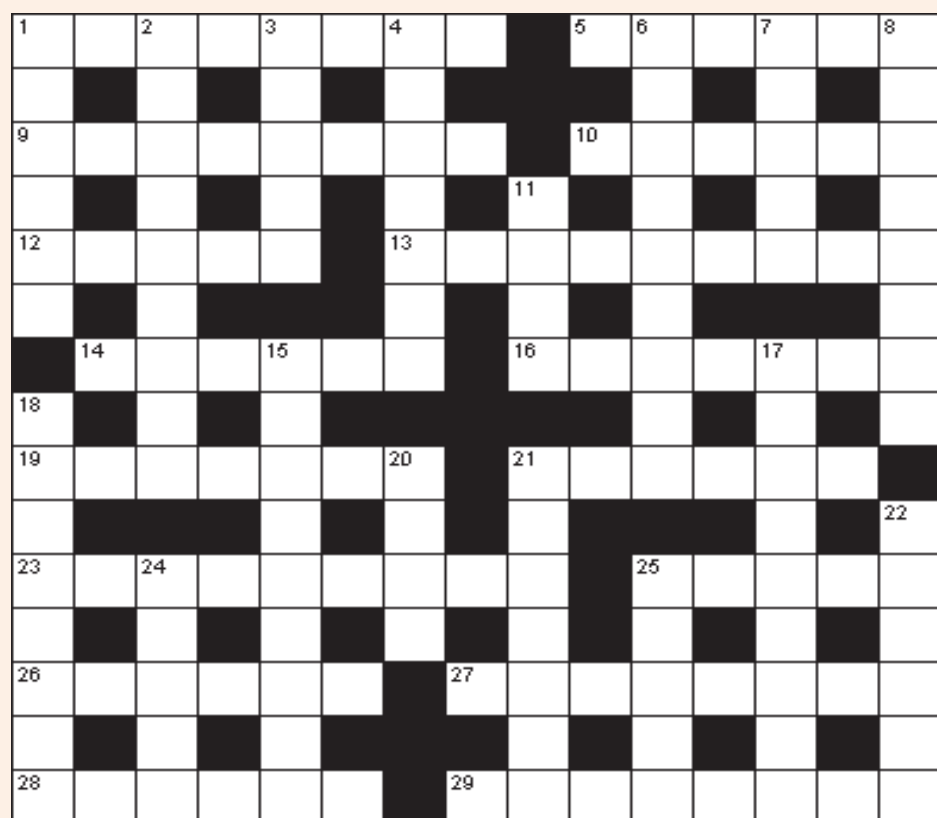
winner

Zoe McHugh, aged 5, is this week's winner of The Echo Joe Club logo colouring competition. Zoe, your prize will be on the way to you soon.

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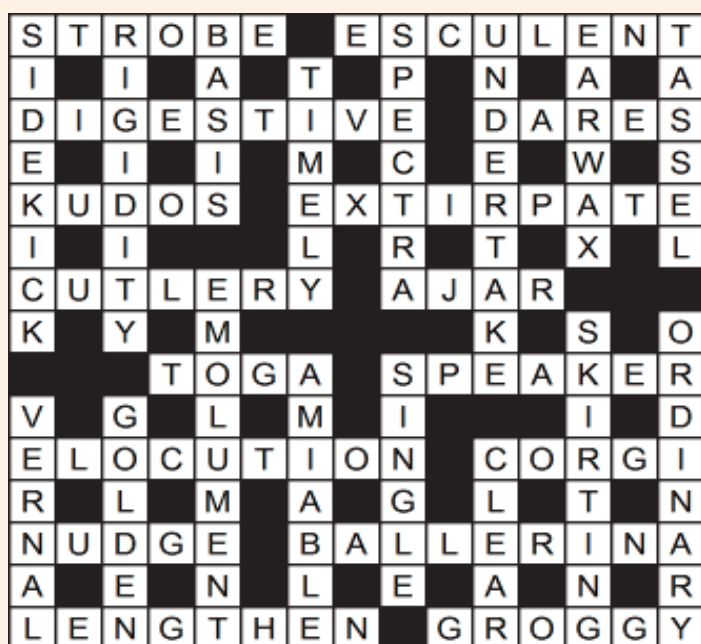
ACROSS

1. Antiquated (8)
5. Grinned (6)
9. A feeling of intense dislike (8)
10. Weak (6)
12. A soup or stew thickened with okra pods (5)
13. Reasoning (9)
14. Make brighter (6)
16. Put (something somewhere) firmly (7)
19. Understanding another's feelings (7)
21. Indolent (6)
23. It frightens birds (9)
25. Marsh plant (5)
26. Consecrate (6)
27. A hinged door in the floor (8)
28. Electricity, for example (6)
29. Killer (8)

DOWN

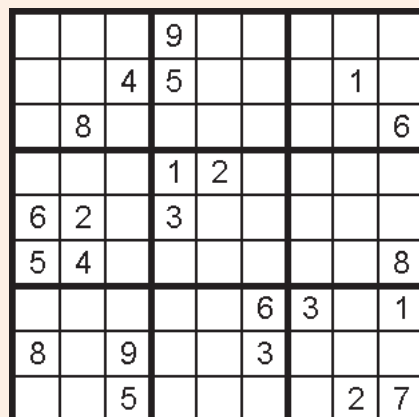
1. A citrus fruit (6)
2. Paddle-wheeler (9)
3. Lariat (5)
4. Trampled (7)
6. Large stuffed pasta tubes (9)
7. Fifty-eight in Roman numerals (5)
8. Affected with madness (8)
11. Tallies (4)
15. Having lost stability (9)
17. Diligent (9)
18. Mainstay (8)
20. Tall story (4)
21. In a forward direction (7)
22. Nerve (6)
24. Befuddle (5)
25. Old photo color (5)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 0203

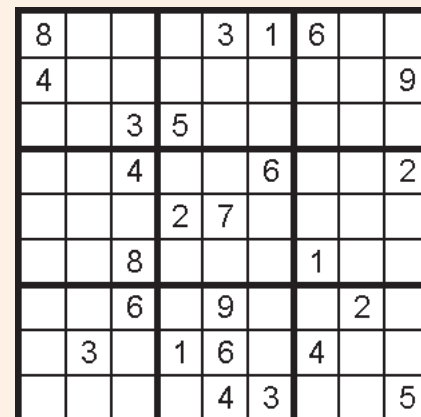


CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

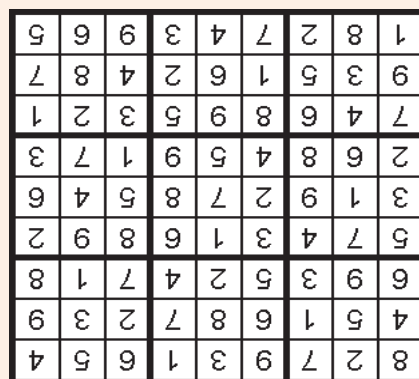
SUDOKU 1



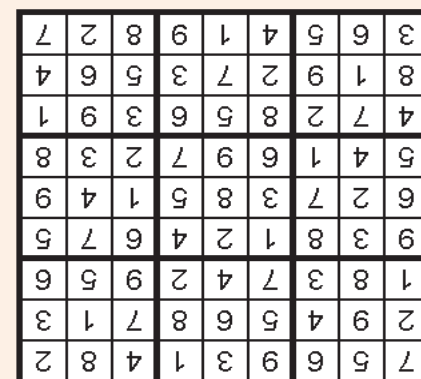
SUDOKU 2



ANSWERS



SUDOKU 2



SUDOKU 1

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Little Orchard

SCOIL ÍDE PUPILS PLANT FRUIT TREES IN SCHOOL

Photos by **William O'Connor**
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Lilly and Molly



Kevin, Bobby, Rua and Evie



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Ms Moore with pupils at one of the trees



Harvey planting a tree with Ms Moore



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ANNIVERSARY



Strong, Charlie
In loving memory of Charlie Strong, 7th Anniversary occurs March 11th. Late of Killinarden Estate. R.I.P.

We hold you close within our hearts,
And there you shall remain,
To walk with us throughout our lives,
Until we meet again,
So rest in peace dear Charlie,
And thanks for all you've done,
We pray that God has given you,
The crown you've truly won.
Sadly missed by your loving wife Kay, sons David and Paul, Brother Bernard, Grandsons, Daughter-in-law, Extended Family, Friends and Neighbours.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Murphy, Eamon
Birthday remembrance occurs 12th March, 7th away from home. Late of Kilnamanagh.

Time goes by,
Another year,
A silent wish,
A heartfelt tear.
Loved and missed,
Beyond any measure,
Memories of you,
We will always treasure.
Happy Birthday Nedser!
Sadly missed, never forgotten.
Your loving wife Marie,
daughters Lisa & Sinead, son Declan, daughter-in-law Catherine, son-in-law Gary, Brian and Grandsons Finn & Cian. xxxxxxxx

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Dalton, Katrina
8th Birthday away from home occurred 7th March.

We are sending a dove to heaven,
With a parcel on its wings,
Be careful when you open it,
It's full of beautiful things.
Inside are a million kisses,
Wrapped up in a million hugs,
To say how much we miss you,
And to send you all our love.
All our love from your loving husband Liam and children William, Barry and Tina and grandson Sean. xxx

ANNIVERSARY



Corrigan, Mary
Treasured memories of a wonderful Sister, Friend and Aunt, whose 3rd Anniversary occurs on the 14th March. We remember also her 56th Birthday which occurs on the 7th April. Late of Baldonnell Road. Also remembered with love our parents William and Geraldine and infant brother William Jnr. May they RIP.

We sit and ponder how very much,
We'd love to talk to you today,
There are so many things,
We didn't get to say.
We know how much you loved us,
And how much we loved you too,
And each time we think of you,
We know you miss us too.
An angel came and took your hand
And said your place is ready in heaven, far above,
And you had to leave behind,
All those you dearly loved.
You had so much to live for,
You had so much to do,
It seemed impossible that God,
Was taking you.
And though your life on earth is past,
In Heaven it starts anew,
You'll live for all eternity,
Just as God had promised you.
And though you've walked through Heaven's gate,
We're never far apart,
As every time we think of you,
You're right here deep within our hearts.

Loved always and never forgotten by your loving sisters Ann and Bridget and brother John, brothers-in-law Maurice and Declan, Nieces and Nephews and all the Family. xxxxx

ANNIVERSARY



Blake, Monica
2nd Anniversary away from home occurred 7th March.

Deep are the memories,
Precious they stay,
No passing of time,
Can take them away.
We lost a Wife and Mother,
With a heart of gold,
How much we miss her,
Can never be told.
She shared our troubles,
And helped us along,
If we follow her footsteps,
We will never go wrong.
She was a mother so rare,
Content in her home and always there.
On earth she toiled,
In heaven she rests,
God bless you Mother,
You were one of the best,
O Jesus, for the sake of thy passion,
And the sorrows of thy immaculate mother,
Have mercy on her soul,
And let the light of thy countenance shine upon her.
Loved and missed by husband Brendan, daughter Elaine, son-in-law Jason and grandchildren Aine & Oisín.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Blake, Mona
4th Birthday away from home occurs on 11th March.

Today your memory is quietly kept,
No need for words, we will never forget,
Each one of us, in our own way,
Have special thoughts, of you today,
Deep in our hearts you will always stay,
Loved & remembered, every day.
Lots of love from Mam & Dad, sister Elaine, brother-in-law Jason, niece Aine and nephew Oisín. Love and Kisses.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Healy, Jonathan
Whose 36th Birthday occurs on the 9th March.

The day god called you home,
It broke my heart in two,
But heaven needed an angel,
And the one he picked was you,
I wish he could have waited,
And let you stay with me,
But you have left beautiful memories in my heart,
And that's where they will always be,
No matter how much time passes,
I'll miss you every day,
Keep shining bright in heaven Jon,
So you can light my way.
Always loved and missed Mam & Alan. xxx

We are sending a dove to Heaven,
With a parcel on its wings,
Be careful when you open it,
It's full of beautiful things.
Inside are a million kisses,
Wrapped up in a million hugs,
To say how much we miss you,
And send you all our love.
Happy 36th Birthday Jon,
miss you always, Shell,
Keith, Jack and Chloe. xxxx

Jon
Missing you on your Birthday
Remembering you is easy,
I do it every day,
But missing you is a heartache,
That never goes away.
I hold you tightly within my heart,
And there you will remain,
Always in our thoughts,
Forever in our hearts.
Love you loads Bro, from Mandie, Mikey, Jay, Ryan, Emma, Dan and Annabelle. xxx (FUB)

A birthday wish for you today,
We miss you more than words can say,
The pain and tears we try to hide,
Though our hearts are broken deep inside,
No cards to send or gifts to give,
But you'll have our hearts as long as we live.
Always loved and remembered Nanny. xx

On your Birthday
The day that God called your name,
It broke my heart in two,
But Heaven needed an angel,
And the one he picked was you,
I wish he could have waited,
And let you stay with me,
You have left memories in my heart,
And that's where they'll always be,
I wish I could rewind the clock,
Or make it turn real slow,
I could have hugged you one more time,
Before you had to go,
No matter how much time will pass,
I'll miss you everyday,
I carry you in my heart,
And that is where you will stay.
Love and miss you always, Tina. xxx

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Carthy (nee O'Dea), Helen
Late of Aylesbury, Tallaght, Co. Dublin.
Husband Terry, children Anthony, Debbie, Linda, Helen, Terence, Michael & Lisa & her 6 grandchildren & all her family wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for the many expressions of compassion and support we received throughout Helen's sad passing. Thank you to everyone who attended Helen's wake, removal, funeral mass & burial, sent Mass cards, letters, pictures and texts, those who shared happy memories & warm messages online, those who travelled long distances to offer comfort & support & those who couldn't be present but joined us in the celebration of Helen's life via webcam. Our most sincere thanks to the doctors, nurses & staff of Tallaght hospital for their great care. Special thanks to Fr James for his prayers, comforting guidance & uplifting funeral Mass, & to Kevin, Roisin & Joanne for their beautiful singing. Thanks also to the management & staff of Thomas Davis GAA club for their hospitality & to all the team at Fanagan's Funeral Home. As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, we trust that this acknowledgement will be accepted by all as a token of our sincere appreciation. Helen's Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated on Sunday the 12th March at 12:30pm in St Martin De Porres Church, Aylesbury.

ANNIVERSARY



Cardiff, Alice
5th Anniversary away from home occurs 13th March. Also remembering her birthday and her husband Joe and son Paul.

There is 1 in heaven,
So precious & so rare,
That person is our Mother,
The best beyond compare.
Sleep peacefully dear Mam,
You have earned your rest,
Take care of her Lord,
She was one of the best.
Sadly missed, never forgotten by your loving family.
Mass is offered.

NOVENA

Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
O most beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein that you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart, to succor me in this my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. O show me herein that you are my Mother. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us that have recourse to thee. (3 times). Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. (3 times) L.G.

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planning notices

All planning applications must be in before 5pm Monday

tel: 468 5350
email:reception@echo.ie

South Dublin County Council
Centrica Business Solutions Ltd is applying for permission for Amendments to a previously consented natural gas Combined Heat and Power System and associated infrastructure (Reference: SD21A/0013) at Land at Tallaght University Hospital, Tallaght, Co. Dublin, D24 NR04. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am – 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

South Dublin County Council
I Derek Bowes am applying for permission for demolition of existing shed to rear, construction of 1 detached 2 bed house (storey and half to front, 2 storey to rear), with 2 storey bay and roof light to front, new vehicular access + car parking in front garden and all associated site works at 337 The Lawn, Belgard Heights, Tallaght, Dublin 24.The Planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town

Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24. During its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9.00am - 4.00pm, and may also be viewed on the council's website - www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of (20.00 euro) within the 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

South Dublin County Council
I Gheorghe Golvolin intend to apply for planning permission for development at the site 93 Avonbeg Gardens, Tallaght, D24, D24F3CP. The development will consist of: demolition of two walls and a single story shed to the rear of the existing house. Construction of a 34 sqm two storey overground extension to the rear of the existing dwelling accommodating new Living spaces/kitchen. Existing boundary walls to be retained and all associated landscaping and drainage works. The Planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24. During its public opening hours of

Monday to Friday from 9.00am - 4.00pm, and may also be viewed on the council's website - www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of (20.00 euro) within the 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

South Dublin County Council
I Rui Sun, intends to apply for planning permission and retention permission for development at this site 8 The Avenue, Rathcoole, Aubrey Manor, Co. Dublin, D24 V5WR The development will consist of: Retention permission for side porch. And a new single-story extension to the rear The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the Planning Authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 24, 2023

SD22A/0442 21 Feb 2023 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Gowan Distributors Limited
Location: Unit 2007 & 2008, Orchard Avenue, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24
Description: Erection of a new external car wash structure (64sq.m) at the south east corner of the existing building, including for all associated site works, excavations, pumps, drainage, kerbing and landscaping.

SD22B/0326 20 Feb 2023 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Muhammad Iqbal
Location: 1, Rossberry Avenue, Lucan, Co Dublin
Description: Extension and refurbishment of existing dwelling to include construction of two storey extension to side and rear; internal alterations to existing layout; alterations to front, side and rear elevations including canopy area and roof to existing dwelling; alterations to side boundary; maintenance works and all associated site works.

S25423/02 21 Feb 2023 SECTION 254 LICENCE APPLICATION New Application
Applicant: Cignal Infrastructure Ltd.
Location: Public grass verge at Junction of R136 and, Katherine Tynan Road, Fettercairn, Dublin 24.
Description: Proposed 23m Alpha 4.0 Streetpole Solution with antennas and ground equipment cabinet.

SD17A/0064 23 Feb 2023 Extension Of Duration Of Permission New Application
Applicant: Homeland Investments Ltd.
Location: Ballyroan House, Ballyroan Heights, Dublin 16
Description: A residential scheme (total GFA c.8,704.4sq.m) on a site at Ballyroan House (a Protected Structure) to provide for 23 residential units (ranging in size from 83.9sq.m - 348.4sq.m) in the form of 21 houses and 2 apartments, all in an overall proposal of 1 - 3 storeys in height. The development shall comprise: (a) The demolition of an existing 2 storey stable block in use as a garage/former office accommodation (c.587.72sq.m) and the demolition of single storey print shop on site (c.150.12sq.m); (b) The vertical separation and restoration of Ballyroan House (c.710.2sq.m) in to 3 residential units (2 - 3 storeys in height) in the form of House Types A, A1 and A2, the demolition of extensions to the original Protected Structure including a two storey block work extension and a single storey extension to the rear and the removal of an old ruin (total demolition of extensions/old ruin c.170.8sq.m), the removal of internal walls and partitions, modifications to elevations including the removal of windows, the provision of new window and door openings, the construction of a modern glass and metal entrance to the fore of the protected structure and the construction of a modern glass and metal extension to the rear, and (c) the construction of 18 house units on site in the form of Types

B, B1, B2, C, C1, C2, C3, D, F1 and F2 (varying in height from 1 - 3 storeys) and 2 apartment units in Block E/Type E units (2 storeys). There are options to provide for a number of variations to Unit Types B, B1, B2, C, C1 and C2 and permission is sought to implement a combination of these options within the scheme. These options will determine development mix with provision made for accommodation generally in the form of 1 - 4 bedroom units in a combination of detached, semi-detached, terraced and apartment units across the site. Type F units are single storey in nature with split level access and associated courtyards (Type F1 entrance FFL 70.81, ground FFL67.81; Type F2 - entrance FFL 71.26, ground FFL 68.26). The proposal shall also provide for 43 car parking spaces, vehicular and pedestrian access via existing access point from Ballyroan Heights; new pedestrian access to adjoining park; private open space areas in the form of side/rear gardens, courtyards and balcony/terrace spaces; public open space areas, new boundary treatments, public lighting and all associated site development, site services and landscape works.

SD23A/0035 22 Feb 2023 Permission New Application
Applicant: Vantage Data Centers DUB11 Ltd
Location: On lands to the south of the New Nagor Road, Dublin 22
Description: Amendment and modification of SD21A/0241 including the replacement of the permitted 2 sprinkler tanks and pump room with a two storey battery energy storage system (435.56sq.m) over a single level basement that will contain a sprinkler system, water tanks and pump room that will serve the overall permitted development as granted under Ref. SD21A/0241; A single additional car parking space will be provided adjacent to the new building that will be accessed via permitted access road from Falcon Avenue within Profile Park that was granted under Ref. SD21A/0241; 2 new transformers to be located to the north of the permitted switch rooms; 1 life safety generator to be located adjacent to the permitted step up transformer compound within the site.

SD23A/0036 22 Feb 2023 Permission New Application
Applicant: CRH Group Services Ltd
Location: Belgard Castle Demesne, Belgard Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.
Description: Removal of the three existing grounds keeping sheds and a portacabin unit and replacement of these with a new single building facility in the same location to contain all staff and storage requirements for the groundskeeping and maintenance of the Belgard Castle Estate; The proposed building is 795sq.m in area and consists of areas for storage of machinery ground maintenance equipment, general storerooms and a mechanical and electrical plant room; A part mezzanine floor will provide for additional storage space at first floor; Staff facilities to be provided include for an office area, a canteen, changing/locker rooms with toilets and showers; Externally there will a vehicle and equipment wash area, general hardstanding and staff car parking; Associated civil works include connections to a rainwater storage and

connection to a RW soakaway, and a connection to the existing mains for foul water services; The building will be clad in green corrugated sheeting, while burnt timber sheeting will clad the staff area, which will also have a sedum green room. A roof mounted PV array, heat pump technology, rainwater storage and all associated site works also form part of the application; Belgard Castle is a protected structure Ref 206, and a recorded monument - reference SMR DU021-026

SD23A/0037 24 Feb 2023 Permission New Application
Applicant: Albert and Siobhan Price
Location: Blessington Road, Moanaspick, Dublin 24, Dublin
Description: The development will consist of an extension joining the existing permitted garage and the existing permitted house that will form a single dwelling and the conversion of the existing permitted garage and extension to a family flat under section 6.8.3 of the current development plan, a new waste water treatment system and associated site works.

SD23B/0063 20 Feb 2023 Permission New Application
Applicant: Stephen & Evanne Letch
Location: 18, Cypress Park, Dublin 6w
Description: Conversion of existing attic to non-habitable space, raising of existing gable to form mini hip roof, window to side, Velux and solar panels to front & dormer to rear; Demolition of existing garage & shed; Single storey extension to side and front of existing dwelling; Single storey shed/garden room to rear garden and widen vehicular access with dished kerb, all associated site works.

SD23B/0064 21 Feb 2023 Permission New Application
Applicant: Emma Mills
Location: 116, Cherryfield, Walkinstown, Dublin12, D12H2P8
Description: First Floor Extension (circa 505sqm) over existing ground floor extension to rear of existing dwelling

SD23B/0065 21 Feb 2023 Retention New Application
Applicant: Pascal Kidd
Location: 166, Whitehall Road, West Roebuck, Dublin 12, D12 FW71
Description: Planning Retention for 1. The widening of existing driveway & 2.for the first floor bathroom Extension at the rear of existing dwelling and all associated site works

SD23B/0067 21 Feb 2023 Permission New Application
Applicant: Bernie Dunne & Gerry Hughes
Location: 22, Limekiln Drive, Dublin 12, D12 DX26
Description: The proposed development will consist of a velux rooflight to the front of dwelling,size:980mm X550mm and all associated site works

Contact *The Echo* to have a planning notification published

Call 468 5350 or email reception@echo.ie

Echo Sport

Deputy Sports Editor: William O'Connor

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Lawlor impresses for Lucan Sarsfields

JACK Lawlor scored three goals for Lucan Sarsfields senior footballers as they recorded an impressive 3-9 to 0-12 win over St Vincent's at Pairc Naomh Uinsionn at the weekend.

Lawlor was in flying form for Sarsfields, scoring his first goal in the opening half as the visitors led 1-4 to 0-5 at the interval.

Bren Gallagher also helped himself to two points while Alan Murphy and Conor Callaghan also split the posts with good scores.

Seven players were among the scorers for Lucan with Colm Walsh, Mark Lavin and Sean Cleary getting on the scoresheet.

Lawlor helped himself to three goals and two points to his credit.

It was an impressive win for Lucan who overcame Ballinteer St John's 1-16 to 3-8 in the first round of games.

Glenville see off Dublin Bus in promotion race

GLENVILLE FC have found themselves in the thick of a Leinster Senior League Major 1A promotion fight after Sean Animashaun inspired them to a 4-2 victory over Dublin Bus in Coldcut on Saturday.

By Hayden Moore
sport@echo.ie

Animashaun was sprung from the bench after half-time and ran the Dublin Bus backline ragged, being torn down in the box for the equalising penalty and sending Glenville into the lead thereafter.

Originally, it was Glenville who took the lead after 15-minutes when Rian Allen fed Joey O'Sullivan down the flank and he whipped it into the far post, where Billy Keogh nodded the ball home.

That combination play between Allen and O'Sullivan was a consistent threat for Glenville, while Sam Newman was their main provider out of midfield.

After falling behind, Dublin Bus upped the ante and drew parity through a cool Shane Merrigan finish before Dylan Moore nudged them into a slender 2-1 advantage.

Merrigan was a great source of energy for the hosts, with his excellent hold-up play bringing his teammates into the game and pressing providing a challenge for Glenville throughout.

Likewise, Anthony Byrne was a great outlet for Dublin Bus down the left wing, providing both stability in defence and width in the attack to take his team into the interval a goal up.

However, Dublin Bus were somewhat caught cold coming out of the break, with Glenville hot out of the traps with Animashaun being clipped in the box and Keogh converting the resulting spot kick.

A few minutes later, Newman's freekick was parried by Dublin Bus goalkeeper Wayne Joyce directly into the path Animashaun and he slipped the ball between the 'keepers legs to regain the lead.

Glenville's fourth goal was proof of the hard work of the management, Robert Hegarty, Paul O'Connell and David Keogh.

Through methodical build-up play, nearly every player in their squad touched the ball as they worked it into a half space for Newman, who dragged the ball back for Dylan Byrne.

Popping up nicely for him, Byrne buried the ball into the top corner to push Glenville into a two-goal lead.

Any chance of a Dublin Bus comeback

was snuffed out when they were reduced to eight-men, with three men being sent off through ill-discipline.

The victory marks Glenville's sixth league win in a row since the turn of the year and puts them in fifth place on 20 points after leapfrogging Dublin Bus.

A victory over Collinstown FC on Saturday could push Glenville into third-place on goal difference.

Meanwhile, Dublin Bus are currently in seventh place on 18 points.

Although, they do have a game in hand and a win over second-place Portmarnock on Saturday could easily re-establish their foothold in the promotion race.



Glenville FC are in the fight for promotion after beating Dublin Bus

Lucan Harriers celebrate women's day



page 58

Mary's juniors battle back against Davis'



page 61

Dublin minors slip up in Leinster Camogie Final

THE DUBLIN minor camogie team put in a brave show in the Leinster Final at the weekend but were pipped at the post by Kilkenny in Abbotstown.

The minor team had a strong St Anne's connection full

forward Emily Fogarty scoring a goal while Katie Murphy was on the bench.

There was also a strong link with local clubs involving the management team Ashling Kennedy (Good Counsel),

Adam McManus (head coach from Lucan Sarsfields), Paddy Baker (assistant coach from Good Counsel/Liffey Gaels), Liam Marron (assistant coach from St Anne's), Louise Magaharan (selector with St

Anne's), Cian McMahon (S&C from St Anne's), Martin Quinn (Statistically Video Analysis from St Anne's), Susan Kennedy (Sports Therapist from St Anne's), Faye McCarthy (Goal keeper trainer from

Naomh Jude) and Karl Coleman (Goal keeper trainer from Good Counsel Liffey Gaels).

Dublin were down 0-7 to 1-6 but the Cats pulled away in the second half to win out 3-15 to 1-12.

McCabe at the forefront as Gunners win League Cup



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The Dublin minor camogie team that participated in the Leinster Final at the weekend with members of St Anne's GAA Club

Boxing

Hayden claims first county title for Greenhills Boxing Club



Greenhills BC 57kg Boy Four Dublin Champion, James Hayden with opponent Rayden Breen (Monkstown BC)

GREENHILLS Boxing Club has its first county champion, with James Hayden boxing his way to a gold in the Dublin Championships. After getting the better of Glin Boxing Club's Ben Hanlon in the semi-final, recording a comprehensive 5-0 win, Hayden progressed into the Boy Four 57kg decider. James Hayden, who is the younger brother of 11-time national champion turned professional boxer William Hayden, was unstoppable against Reyden Breen in the final on February 27. Turning in a slick performance, Hayden used his superior range to keep Breen on the backfoot, not allowing him inside and firing off several well-timed counterpunches. Delivering his strong jab and straight backhands, Hayden was kept busy throughout the three rounds but he did not waiver and claimed a first county title for his club. In 2022, while still a member of Crumlin Boxing Club, Hayden also won the Dublin Championships by way of a walkover. Next week, Greenhills BC could very well

have its second county champion when Niamh Smith takes to the ring in the Girl Three category. Smith is due to weigh-in this Saturday ahead of the commencement of boxing on Monday, March 13 at the Ringside. With eight coaches and around 70 members, Greenhills BC is steadily building after just six-months existence. There was a Greenhills BC that was formed by Austin Carruth in 1971, but it subsequently closed around 1980. In August of last year, a small group of people who had been involved in boxing locally came together to start a committee with the ambition of establishing a new club. They named the club Greenhills BC, and started training in the park next to Greenhills Community Centre before setting up shop inside the facility. Brimming with potential, former professional Paul Griffin has since joined the club as a coach alongside Nicola Hayden, Paul Hayden, Brian Geraghty and Anto Hyland among others.

Basketball

Busy times for Templeogue basketball in cup deciders

IT WAS a busy weekend for Templeogue Basketball club who competed in five cup finals at the weekend. Templeogue girls U14 basketball recorded a well-deserved victory in Saturdays cup final against Tolka Rovers. Tolka Rovers edged a tense opening quarter 9-6 as it took Templeogue a little while to settle, with some unlucky calls going against them. However, a dominant second quarter by Templeogue moved them into 22-10 halftime lead, an early 3 pointer by Lucy Mander tied the game at 9-9 and was followed with scores from Tea Gjoni and Emily Hannigan which helped Templeogue into a commanding lead. Tolka fought hard to stay in the game and the third quarter was a battle of the defences. With Templeogue defending tough led by Laura Byrne, Isabelle Vince and Nour Selim. The red army were determined not to be denied and combined for some lovely team scores towards the end, winning comfortably by 37-28. This marked this teams second consecutive cup final win to add to their league. They still have it all to play for in the Dublin League and All-Ireland championship to be decided later in the month. The side is coached by Women's National League players, Lynn Tunnah & Camila Casanueva. Meanwhile, Templeogue U16 girls took to court in the Cup Final against a very strong Meteors side. This meteors side have not dropped a single game all season. It proved to be an edge of the seat game! Templeogue produced some lovely basketball and all played to their full potential. With seven seconds left in the last quarter and all square at 42-42, Templeogue had possession, inbounded the ball and advanced the full

court, Sophie Gallagher gave a super pass in to Lauren Neville low on the base, who turned and laid it gently off the back board to clinch the game winning 44-42. Meanwhile, Templeogue's U18 ladies were competing against the current National Cup Champions, Meteors. Although the win was not Templeogue's on the day, the girls played an excellent game of basketball, challenging Meteors in all areas of the court. They showed great skill, tremendous team spirit and kept fighting to the end. A battling Templeogue Under 15 girls team lost out to Tolka Rovers in their Cup final in the Oblate Hall on Saturday. Nine members of the Templeogue squad were involved in the Under 14 and Under 16 games earlier that day. Templeogue had beaten Tolka in the League earlier in the season, but the Northside side used their height advantage to good effect with Aine Clinton leading their scoring on the way to a deserved victory. Templeogue fought to the end, with Katie Behan leading their scoring with 18 points, followed by Eabha Booth, Sophia Kiely and Sophie Gallagher combining for 30 points to go down 52-62. Elsewhere, Templeogue's Senior One Ladies advanced to the Cup Final against Liffey Celtics, having fought off some good opposition along the way in their first year in this division. These girls gave it their all from start to finish and certainly produced a high standard of basketball, keeping Liffey on their toes throughout. Although they did not lift the Cup, they gave an outstanding performance and it is a team that needs to be watched. Losing out in the end by nine points: final score 40-49.



Templeogue basketball senior team progressed to the final



Templeogue U14s enjoyed a good win over Tolka



Templeogue U15s lost to Tols Rovers



Templeogue U16s played Meteors



Templeogue U18s were also in cup action

Hockey

Glenanne captain rescues a draw in race for top four



Glenanne's O'Connor
Lisnagarvey HC hosted Glenanne hockey club in the EY Hockey League at Comber Road, Hillsborough on Saturday.

The teams coming into the match in contrasting form since their Irish Senior Cup quarter-final clash 13 days previously. After triumphing that day, Glenanne had since won their last 2 matches, whilst Garvey had struggled to a draw against Instonians and a loss to rivals Banbridge.

Despite Glenanne winning a penalty corner inside the first minute, it was the home team who struck early-captain James Corry scoring with a far post tap in in the 3rd minute to give Garvey the lead. Both teams had excellent chances to score thereafter but some excellent defending keeping the scores as they were at the end of quarter 1, 1-0 to Lisnagarvey.

The 2nd quarter followed a similar trend but neither team able to add to the tally. 1-0 it remained until half-time.

It was a tale of the two goalkeepers - Irish international GK James Milliken in the Garvey net and former Irish junior international David Lawless in the Glenanne net.

An excellent move from Garvey down the left flank was eventually thwarted by Lawless. However Milliken could do nothing to stop Glenanne drawing level in the 3rd quarter- After a sweeping attacking move the ball broke down with Lisnagarvey winning a free hit and taking the auto-pass quickly.

Equally quick thinking from Richard Couse to dispossess the onrushing Garvey defender and finding Glenanne captain Brad Venter inside the circle. Venter swivelled and struck a rasping shot from a tight angle over the head of Milliken. 1-1 at the end of the 3rd quarter.

Both teams continued to press for the winner but the scoreline remained unchanged, ending 1-1.

Glenanne return to Dublin next week Saturday to host local rivals Pembroke Wanderers in what is a do-or-die match for the visitors in their bid to remain in the EY Hockey League

Sam



Claire Shillington in action for Glenanne against Three Rock Rovers. Photo by Adrian Boehm

Glenanne ladies make it three from three

GLENANNE ladies firsts made it three wins from three following their 3-1 win over local rivals Three Rock Rovers in the league at the weekend.

Glenanne made the trip to Grange Road in Rathfarnham in the hope of taking home another three points.

The home side started strong with their fast forwards trying to sneak their way into the Glenanne circle.

Three Rock's aggressive, high press on Glenanne's defence, was not successful on the score board. Glenanne reclaimed their dominance in quarter two by scoring in quick succession from two short corners.

Audrey McCormack's first goal and Kate O'Connor's return to the top of the D after taking over the role as short corner injector this season.

Glenanne was unable to

hold their 2-0 lead for long. TRR snuck in a goal at the back post from a very quick counter attack to leave it 2-1 at half time.

Glenanne appeared comfortable throughout the second half with Clare Shillington and Grace Lanigan having various chances 1 on 1 with the TRR goalkeeper. Both, unfortunate not to put one of these opportunities away.

Late into the final Q, TRR mgmt. made the decision to

take off their goalkeeper in their last ditch effort to share the points. Shortly after, Grainne McManus won a short corner for Glenanne and Kate O'Connor hit her second consecutive goal into the bottom corner of the TRR's net. The game ended 3-1 to Glenanne.

The ladies' 1sts look ahead now to their last league game of the season versus Trinity College next Saturday, March 11.

Glenanne junior section going strong



Glennane Junior boys and girls

THE boys and girls from Glenanne's U16 groups participated in the Leinster indoor tournament hosted by Boyne Hockey Club.

This is the premier indoor tournament for the age group with 19 teams playing over 62 games on the day.

The teams acquitted themselves extremely well with the girls group coming within a whisker of qualification for the cross over matches.

On the boys side, Adam Stanley opened his account scoring his first goal for the Glens in a one-all draw with Portrane.

The teams are already looking forward to next year's instalment.

Meanwhile in Glenanne Park the 6th class girls faced a formidable Corinthians team.

The Tallaght girls had several chances to score but the Corinthians goalkeeper was having a 'Player of the Match' performance on Sunday.

Glenanne lost 2-1 with our only goal coming from Ella.

Glenanne also hosted local rivals Weston for a super 6 blitz also on Sunday.

Motorsport

Tohill impresses in Mondello

REIGNING Irish rallycross champion Derek Tohill took his maiden win of the new season at Mondello Park on Sunday.

The all new look Partsforcars.ie IRX series saw a bumper supercar entry with former champion John McCluskey making a return to the sport in a two car team with Kildare circuit racer Michael Leonard. Both men driving Ford Fiesta's similar to Tohill's and being run by the Murray Motorsport team are a welcome addition to the series this year.

This year's series has a new format which sees the nine round championship compacted into five weekends over the year with four being double headers and one overseas trip to Pembrey in Wales. For the first round on Saturday, competitors had a new track layout. Turn 3 on the racing circuit was now added in. This gave drivers a chance to really stretch the legs of their 600bhp supercars.

Visiting from the UK for the first two rounds at the weekend was Patrick O'Donovan in his Proton IRX RX. The British rallycross champion was no stranger to Mondello Park having competed during the British round at the county Kildare circuit last year

The top two did not disappoint and over the two days battled it out tooth and nail. Both winning their semi-finals on Saturday and lining up on the front row together to battle it out for round one of the championship. However they had not accounted for Michael Leonard who had been making steady progress during the day. As the first three entered turn one O'Donovan tried to sweep round the outside of his two rivals but was pushed wide by Tohill and Leonard who got ahead on the inside. Leonard held the field behind exiting turn 3 and settled into the lead. As the race ran on it looked like his rallycross debut was going to end in victory, but as he exited the joker lap section on the final lap O'Donovan got past narrowly but ran wide and Leonard got back past on the run to the final corner. Tohill could only watch from a distant third place uncharacteristically off the pace of the front two.

As the O'Donovan and Leonard exited the final turn O'Donovan took the inside line and won the drag to the line to take round one of the series. An exciting end that warmed up fans on a bitterly cold day.

Sunday brought sunshine and eager to make up for the day before Terenue's man Tohill was out to take the top spot. O'Donovan however was in flying form taking victory in the heats, but Tohill was not far behind. Leonard, McCluskey and local man Tommy Graham were also there in the hunt if anything happened the top two. There was a different track layout this time as it was back to the normal rallycross track using the famous 'hole in the hedge' corner this time out. As the lights went out to start the supercar final it was O'Donovan who got the better start and lead into turn one but running slightly wide gave Tohill the invitation to take the inside line and make his way past on the run to turn two. He led on the exit and had to drive inch perfect to keep O'Donovan at bay. This he duly did and no matter how hard the British champ tried he could not find a way by the Irish champ.



Derek Tohill leads Patrick O'Donovan on his way to winning the Supercar final at Mondello Park at the weekend. Photo by Jack Cregg

Athletics

Lucan Harriers celebrate women's day



Members of Lucan Harriers Athletics Club give a thumbs up

IT'S time to celebrate all the ladies of at Lucan Harriers Athletics Club for International Women's Week which was marked on Wednesday.

The club want to celebrate every woman and girl who throws, run or jump, coaches, officiates, volunteers in our club. Lucan have over 150 senior lady members,

across the different sections, this does not include all our wonderful underage female athletes who we hope stick with the club

Harriers have a World Champion, European Champions, National Champions, Leinster Champions, Dublin Champions, teams and individuals in our club,

Irish Internationals.

These are all incredible achievements. This is about the ladies in our club that turn up every week to training, out doing their runs at the weekend and doing their various cross training.

They all have their own individual goals and that is their

personal target. For some it's time goals for some it's distance goals.

The club also have throwers and jumpers in the club, which they like to make others aware of, remember Lucan Harriers is more than just a running club. Those like the runners have their own goals and I know they are more than willing to share their knowledge with other club members who may wish to try this aspect of athletics.

Two of our last three Club chairs have been female, ladies are well represented within the committees and coaching volunteers in the club.

With so much emphasis these days on mental health and inclusion in life and sport, it is great that we have so many inspirational female role models in our great club. The theme for International Women's Day 2022 is #EmbraceEquity.

Marked annually on March 8th, International Women's Day (IWD) is one of the most important days of the year to.

If anyone is interested in Lucan Harriers, please feel free to contact us through all the usual channels. We also have various training sessions every evening Monday to Friday and Saturday morning.

Busy times for Donore athletes

LAST weekend Donore Harriers had some impressive runs at the Kinvara Rock n road races in Co Galway in particular and the week before that some of our top athletes Jack Raftery, Abdel Laadjel and Louis O'Loughlin were in action.

Wayne Waldron was second in the marathon in 2.34.45 only 21 seconds off victory while Simon O'Toole was 9th in the half marathon with a PB followed by Barry Potts 1st M70.

In the 10k, Alasdair Brown was 6th Julia Hackett was 1st in the W50 followed by Anna McMahon, Cairiosa Walsh and Deirdre Coyle

It was great to see Jack Raftery lining up with the likes of the current world champion Jereem Richards at the World Athletics Indoor Tour in the Birmingham indoor Arena.

Jack got a great cheer as he was announced in the 400m race, after a fine first lap he negotiated the all-important break well and then into the last lap where he kept up the momentum and a very strong last 100m where he just edged the 3rd place 46.66 ahead of the British runner Ben Higgins

by thousandths of a second.

A great race to really mix it on the world stage - although he was understandably disappointed under the complicated quota system not to secure a berth to the European Indoor Championships in Istanbul despite running faster than some of the entrants from other countries. But lots more to come from Jack in the outdoor season - watch this space

The Donore Harriers duo of Louis O'Loughlin and Abdel Laadjel were back in action in their regional indoor championships in the USA.

O'Loughlin represented the Auburn Tigers competing on both Friday and Saturday in the South-East Conference Indoor Track & Field championships at Fayetteville, Arkansas. On Friday he raced the 4th and final leg in the Distance Medley Relay, running the 1,600m leg in 4.01.94 and in the process gained 4 places to bring his team home in 4th place with an overall time of 9.41.93. Tennessee State won in 9.32.75.



Thumbs up for young Lucan Harriers athletes



Members of Lucan Harriers who play a big part in their club will be celebrating International Women's Week

GAA



Adult Management Team of the Year Anthony Doody, Lenny McSweeney, Tommy Flannery and Andy Harkness with Colm Farrell, chairperson



Patricia Gordon Intermediate Ladies Football with her dad Cormac

Lucan Sarsfields GAA honour players and members at awards night

LUCAN Sarsfields GAA Club Annual Adult Awards were presented on Friday at their clubhouse at the 12th Lock.

Chairperson Colm Farrell announced 36 presentations to Players of the Year across all four codes with these players selected by their management teams.

Two special awards were presented by the Ladies Football Committee. The first was to Siobhan Birnie, to mark the Dublin Under 16 Ladies Football team's victory in the All-Ireland final last year.

The second award was to Triona Leonard, who was coach to last year's All-Ireland winning Dublin Under 16 team, and was a mentor to that team as they progressed through the age grades as a development squad.

The Club Person of the Year Award was presented to PJ Finnerty, in acknowledgement of the many roles he has played in the club, as a team manager, a maintenance volunteer, and participation in a number of fundraisers.

The Juvenile Management team of the year award went to Under 15A Camogie, for their remarkable success winning back to back league and championship finals in 2021 and 2022. The award was accepted by Eoin McDonagh and Laura O'Mahony on behalf of the management team which also includes Eoghan O'Shea and Anthony Nolan.

The Under 19A Hurling Management were awarded the Adult Management Team of the Year, for their achievement in winning the first and last Under 19 Division 1 championship in 2022. The management team was Tommy Flannery, Anthony Doody, Lenny McSweeney, Andy Harkness, Ciaran Murphy and Leon Breen.

Medal presentations were also made to Under 17B Hurling who won their championship and Under 17B Football who won their league.

The latest inductee to the Hall of Fame was also announced, none more worthy than Joe Byrne.



Juvenile Management Team of the Year Eoin McDonagh and Laura O Mahony



Pat Keane, new Club President



PJ Finnerty, Club Person of the Year



Siobhan Birnie, Triona Leonard and Tom Birch



Oran Tully, Intermediate Football



Rachel Boyhan, Intermediate Camogie



Darren Gavin, Senior Football



Erris Smith, Junior A Ladies Football



Jordan Delmar, Junior A Football



Laura Sharkey, Senior Camogie

GAA

Hurling returns to Robert Emmets after three decades



Robert Emmets under 9's before the club's first game in thirty years

By Hayden Moore
sport@echo.ie

MORE than three decades after hurling ceased in Robert Emmets GAA Club, the small ball game returned to Greentrees Park as their Under 9s team hosted Ballyboden Wanderers on Saturday.

When the Dublin minor hurlers ploughed through the Leinster championship and all the way to the All-Ireland decider in 1983, there was a Robert Emmets player in the squad.

That player was Niall Quinn, who was only 16 at the time, and within a few months, he had signed a professional contract with Arsenal football club.

One would wonder how a club that produced one of

the most exciting young hurlers in the capital of the 1980s saw the sport fall by the wayside.

"The area got older, and football just took precedence in the club as other players moved away or started heading down the road to other clubs," Robert Emmets chairperson Stephen Gannon tells *The Echo*.

"This was the idea for the last five years or so, to get GAA really going for young people in the area instead of them going down the road to play.

"We wanted kids to be able to go and play hurling in the field outside their house.

"So, it's been the agenda of the last few committees and in fairness to the GAA, they have been really proactive in helping us get

it going again, providing equipment and things like that."

Four coaches have been at the forefront of developing

hurling for the club, which serves Perrystown, Greenhills and Walkinstown, in recent years.

Frank Dollard, Sinead Kenny, James Kealy and Des Sharkey shepherded a panel of Under 9s out for their first ever game of hurling, and a first for the club in around 35 years, last weekend.

Greentrees Park, or the eight-acres as its known locally, was buzzing with excitement as the first Emmets hurling team in generations pulled on their helmets and donned their hurls.

Played to a high standard, Wanderers and Emmets crossed hurls for the special occasion.

As it was played under the GAA Go Games model,

which is for all players up to 11-years of age, no result was taken and all children participated.

Robert Emmets has around 400 members and it has cultivated a tight-knit family environment for all to enjoy gaelic games in its surrounding communities.

"It was great to see the two smalls clubs playing hurling," Gannon says.

"There were some excellent players, some players only starting off, boys and girls all playing and displaying a great range of skills.

"Hurling is back."

Robert Emmets is open to new players and encourages anyone interested in giving hurling, camogie or gaelic football a try to visit their website www.robertemmetscgl.com



Ballyboden Wanderers are the first team to play Robert Emmets in thirty years Photos by Paddy Barrett

Round Tower U11 hurlers play in Croke Park

Round Tower U11 hurlers played at half time during the Dublin v Tipperary National Hurling League game in Croke Park last week. Over 80 family members, players and grandparents attended the double header in what was great experience for these young players.



Brave show from Dubs against All-Ireland champions

ALL-Ireland champions Kilkenny breathed some life into their ailing hopes of squeezing into the top two and reaching a National League final by overcoming Dublin by 0-17 to 0-11 at Parnell Park.

With 54 minutes gone, Kilkenny's lead was down to just three points, 0-14 to 0-11, after an Aisling Maher score for the Dubs opened the door to a late smash and grab finish from Gerry McQuaid's charges, but Kilkenny finished strongly with the last three points of the tie.

Maher produced a terrific display for the beaten side but Dublin struggled to break down a resolute Kilkenny rearguard in the opening half.

Maher fired in all four of her side's points in the first 30 minutes, just one of those coming from play. Kilkenny meanwhile were able to call upon the reliable Denise Gaule to punish any indiscretions, with 0-3 from Laura Murphy helping the Cats lead 0-9 to 0-4 at the break.

Although Asha McHardy and Gaule

helped Kilkenny keep Dublin at arm's length, Aisling O'Neill and Maher kept the home side in the hunt, ensuring a tight finish.

Included in the Dublin team were defenders Abby Ryan from Crumlin along with half backs Leah Butler and Claire Gannon of St Jude's.

Kerrie Finnegan of Faughs played in the half forwards as did Aisling Gannon from St Jude's and Niamh Gannon in the half forwards.

Boden battle hard to see off Na Fianna

BALLYBODEN St Enda's senior footballers recorded an impressive 3-9 to 1-13 win over Na Fianna in Division One at Mobhi Road on Sunday.

The home team was first to score after three minutes but Daire Sweeney cancelled this out when he converted a free.

Na Fianna seemed to be finding it easier to score and rattled off four more points by the 15th minute. It could have been different if only Ross McGarry's shot had not rebounded off the post when it looked certain to be a goal.

Daire Sweeney again converted a free and Na Fianna then went six points ahead when they scored a goal on 17 minutes.

However, when Ryan Basquel finished to the net, after a good pass from James Holland, and Kieran Kennedy fired over the bar, Boden were back in the match.

Na Fianna scored three more points before half-time but Boden kept in touch when Daire Sweeney and Ross McGarry scored from play.

However, Boden's prospects of winning two league points were not looking good when Colm Basquel was shown a straight red card following an incident with a Na Fianna player.

Trailing by three points at the break., Boden brought on experienced players, Darren O'Reilly, Alan Flood and Donogh McCabe in the second half to help steady the ship.

Na Fianna scored the first two points of the half but, despite being a man down, the Firhouse Road side stuck to the process and were rewarded with a fine drop-kicked point by James Holland from a tight angle.

Daire Sweeney converted a free and then, when Donogh McCabe's punched effort for a point fell short, Josh Hayes followed up and finished the ball to the net leaving the sides level.

However, Na Fianna went ahead again with nearly 20 minutes gone before Ciarán O'Reilly crossed the ball from a tight angle on the left of the goal, Ross McGarry met it with a fist and finished it to the net to put his side two points ahead with 10 minutes still remaining.

Boden were defending as if their lives depended on it and, while Na Fianna reduced the deficit to one point twice more, on each occasion, Boden responded, first when Ross McGarry and later Alan Flood scored crucial points from play to leave Boden ahead by two points when the final whistle sounded.

Impressive win for St Anne's over Sylverster's

ST ANNE'S senior footballers made it two wins from two outings in Division Three at the weekend.

The Bohernabreena side travelled to Malahide and took on St Sylvester's, winning out 3-10 to 0-10 with all of their scores coming from play.

Having been relegated to Division Three last season, Anne's will be determined to earn promotion this year with a young team that was made up of nine U21 at the weekend.

Both Conor Leigh and

Cian O'Byrne registered a goal and two points for the winners while Darragh Fulham helped himself to a goal and a point.

Sean Stewart kicked two points as did Eoin Kennedy while Jamie O'Neill also got in on the scoring act with a point.

Anne's will be pleased with this result which saw Dublin U20s player Alan McGrath along with Sean de Lappe, Dylan Evans and Grey Conway impress.

Anne's overcame O'Toole's in their opening league match.

GAA

Boden juniors cruise to victory over Monica's



Ballyboden junior A footballers beat St Monica's on Sunday

BALLYBODEN St Enda's junior A footballers maintained their good start in Division Five after disposing off St Monica's 3-14 to 0-3 in Pairc Ui Mhurchu on Sunday reports William O'Connor.

Under the new stewardship of Brendan Meaney, Paul Dolan, Tadhg Cashman and Declan Maguire, the Firhouse Road side put together a solid show to cruise past Monica's. Boden found it hard to settle but points from

David Monahan, John McGinn, Enda Cashman and Karl Weldon saw them lead four points to one after the opening quarter.

Enda's lost a few players to injury but goals from Weldon and McGinn had

them in the driving seat by the break.

Ahead by 2-6 to 0-1 at the break, Enda's finished the half strongly with Cashman and Cullen firing between the posts.

The midfield partnership of Daniel Lynch and

Weldon dominated proceedings while McGinn finished with two goals and four points and Cashman four points.

Boden continued to tag on the points in the second half as they cruised to a comfortable win.

Rugby

Tallaght pipped at the post in Mahon decider

TALLAGHT'S men's first team were pipped at the post in the Declan Mahon Cup decider 44-17 to North Meath at the weekend.

The final was hosted by Ashbourne RFC, where Declan Mahon was a long-time member. Tallaght had lost twice to North Meath in the Division Three League this season so they were itching for some payback.

Tallaght got a great start when after a series of carries by the forwards, prop Rosemar Alves got over for a try to give them a 5-0 lead.

Things got even better for Tallaght when winger Leon Tanfin intercepted a ball in his own half and ran it all the way back to make it 10-0.

However, that was as good as it got in the first half. Tallaght suffered a blow when they lost hooker Andy Grace to injury and the North Meath forwards started getting on top.

The North Meath backline took advantage to score four tries and converted one of them to make it 22-10 at half-time.

Tallaght rallied in the second half and Rob Hudson scored and converted his own try to make it 22-17.

Full back Simon Collie



Aaron Hickey shurfs off the attentions of the North Meath players

put in a heroic display making several big carries and crucial tackles. However North Meath were utterly ruthless and just like the first half, they scored four tries and converted one of them to make the final score 44-17.

"Well done on all your efforts in a tough league and league cup campaign, getting this far and putting on a fantastic effort in the Final," said Tallaght coach Matt Gill.

"We've lost to a team who've proven their

credentials in this league and sometimes, that happens. We're a top tier team, we train and play like one, we behave like one. All eyes on the Winters Cup now. Stand tall, push that Tallaght crest out knowing you're a great side, enjoy

the bus home!"

The Tallaght men's seconds team lost 38-14 away to Lansdowne on Saturday evening. Dave Mahon and Tony O'Loughlin scored the tries for Tallaght and Kevin Quinn converted both tries.

Mary's juniors battle back to edge past Davis



Karl Winder of Thomas Davis against St Marys

Photo by Darragh McNicholas

ST MARY'S junior footballers had a point to spare over Thomas Davis 2-10 to 2-9 in Adult Football Division Six in Saggart on Sunday.

The home side staged a brave recovery as they came from 2-5 to 0-2 down at the break to secure the match spoils.

A last minute free from Conrad Clancy secured the win for Mary's after they pushed three clear before the Kiltipper boys battled back to draw level.

Then when Mary's were awarded a free, up stepped Clancy to fire over and seal the win.

Davis had the upper hand in the first half with Neil Daveron and Robbie Sharkey firing home goals.

Robbie Mearns landed a couple of good points for Davis while Fran

Kevlihan also got in on the scoring act.

The visitors were in a commanding position at the break, but Mary's came out a changed side Collie Lawlor scoring a quick goal and a point to give his side a big lift.

Two points from O'Hara, Darach O'Nuallain and Stephen Tynan had Mary's in the driving seat before Clancy broke through for a second goal to push the hosts three clear.

Davis to their credit came storming back to level matters, but Clancy stepped up again to kick the winning score.

In between this, Davis were awarded a penalty but Dano Rooney pulled off a fine save.

Jack, Morris and Dano Rooney put in good shifts for the winners.

Two wins from two for Davis seniors

THOMAS Davis senior footballers made it two wins from two outings in Division One after a well-deserved 2-18 to 2-7 win over Cuala in Hyde Park at the weekend.

Nine different players scored for the Kiltipper side as they registered a goal and seven points in the last 25 minutes compared to Cuala's one score to emerge winners.

Davis were well in control of this match, but a goal just before the interval from the home side pulled them to within shooting distance.

On the changeover, Cuala hit back with point to leave two scores between the sides but the visitors took off after

this with a string of well-worked scores.

Dublin panellist Cian Murphy scored a goal from wing back for Davis while Fionn Murray kept the scoreboard ticking over with a couple of good points.

Murray kicked six points in total for the winners while substitute Kevin Mullarkey came off the bench to fire home a goal.

Conor Guilfoyle also registered scores in both halves for the winners in what was an impressive performance.

"We played well in stages but it was just great to get the result out there," said Thomas Davis manager Ciaran Farrelly.

Soccer

Inchicore keep their promotion hopes alive



Inchicore Athletic drew with St Kevins boys. Photo by Anthony O'Brien

INCHICORE Athletic remain in the chasing pack for promotion in LSL Division ONE A following a hard-earned draw with St Kevin's Boys at Bluebell United's ground at the weekend.

Inchicore are currently fourth in the league behind leaders Usher Celtic followed by Arklow Town and St Kevin's Boys.

The draw keeps Inchicore level on points with St Kevin's but with a game in hand and with nine matches left, it is still all to play for in the league.

It was the hosts that broke the deadlock when Kian Ekhuemeto slotted home before Kevin's missed a penalty just after the half hour mark.

There pressure paid off when they found a way through the Inchicore defence to score an equaliser as the teams went in all square at the break.

The game opened-up in the second half with both teams creating chances to take the lead.

20 minutes into the second half a Luke Rossiter free had Inchicore back in front, but this lead only lasted 60 seconds as Kevin's came storming back to score at the back post.

The game hung in the melting pot for the rest of the half with both teams creating half chances but a share of the spoils was a fair outcome.

Inchicore manager Gareth Zambra will be hoping his side can keep the pressure on the chasing back in the league.

O'Gorman hits late winner for the Hoops

AINE O'Gorman played a captain's role as she scored an injury time 92 minute goal to help Shamrock Rovers to a opening day 2-1 victory over Sligo Rovers in The Showgrounds at the weekend.

With the game looking destined for a draw, the Hoops kept pushing for a winner and it eventually paid off when Lisa O'Leary sent in a perfect cross for O'Gorman to head home from close range.

It was O'Gorman's first competitive start since she joined Rovers from Peamount United and what a win it was as the Hoops who applied the pressure in the second half but could find no way through up to that point.

The visitors got off to a great start on eight minutes when Stephanie Zambra's cross somehow found Shauna Fox and she scrambled home from close range.

Despite all the pressure in the first half, Rovers could not extend their advantage as they pushed forward but could not convert this into scores.

However, in the second half, the hosts pulled onto level terms when they scored from a free kick to stun the travelling party.

To the Hoops credit, they stuck to their task, and it paid off with O'Gorman netting a winner in the dying seconds.

Next up for Rovers, who will be playing in their first match in Tallaght is a clash against Treaty United.

Peamount up and running in league

PEAMOUNT United got their Women's National League campaign up and running with an impressive 3-1 victory over Athlone in Athlone on Saturday.

By William O'Connor
william@echo.ie

The home side were coming into contest on the back of winning the Presidents Cup a week earlier, but Peamount had other ideas with a morale-boosting win.

It was the home side who broke the deadlock after three minutes when Chloe Singleton found a way through to fire to the back of the Peas net.

However this lead was short-lived as Peamount were back on level terms seven minutes later when Kate Mooney latched onto a loose pass and fired the ball to the back of the net.

It was end-to-end action after this and Peamount hit the front for the first time when Sadhbh Doyle won the ball back and squared it to Erin McLaughlin who made no mistake.

With both teams testing each other in the second half, the next goal was going to be important and it did not

arrive until the 81st minute from the penalty spot.

This time Avril Brierley was fouled in the box and up stepped captain Karen Duggan who showed all her experience to fire to the bottom corner and effectively secure the match spoils.

"I'm delighted with the victory. To come to Athlone after them winning the President's Cup a week earlier makes it a great result for us," said Peamount manager James O'Callaghan.



Peamount United manager James O'Callaghan Photo by Sportsfile

"I was pleased with the performance. It was a solid performance and the girls that have come in have done great. The new players have done well along with the players that we have promoted within the club. "We are taking one game

at a time, we are learning each week and it was great for the team to get this result," added James.

Peamount play their first match at home this Saturday against DLR which is also their first match of the season.



Karen Duggan was on the scoresheet for Peamount United against Athlone

Leaders Beech Park shock result

A SHOCK result in John Paul Park last Saturday as York Road FC defeated UCFL Division 3A league leaders Beech Park FC 3-2, a result that leaves Park still top but looking over their shoulders.

By John Mooney
sport@echo.ie

The two behind, Glasnaion and Draiocht Titans, will be chuffed that they suffered a defeat to the second last side in the Division, as



Beech Park FC's Matt Berney and York Road FC's Justin Ryan battle

it opens the door for them to close the gap.

Although this will go down as an upset, make no mistake, York were full value for the points as they closed down the visitors at every opportunity and made life hard for them.

The home side fell behind after 15 minutes through a bizarre goal as Shittu Ilunga sent in a corner from the left hand side that Johnny Rooney went to clear, but the ball cannoned off Louis Comerford's heel and ended up in the back of the net.

However, they were back on level terms on the half hour mark, when Eric Silva floated a beauty of a ball over the defence for Ben Geraghty to run on to and lob home.

They then had a glorious chance to go in front minutes before the break when Shane Lee chased a long ball as Beech were looking for offside, but he couldn't beat Conor Devoy, and on the stroke of half time they paid the price when Comerford bagged his second of the afternoon.

But just two minutes after the restart it was all



Beech Park FC's Louis Comerford keeps the ball away from York Road FC's Shane Lee and Daragh Irwin

square for a second time when Daragh Irwin floated home a great free kick, after Devoy handled outside the area.

York had chances to add to that but Geraghty, Silva and Lee fired wide when they seemed to rush their efforts, while, at the other end, Comerford had two glorious chances to bag his hat-trick but fluffed his lines when he could have done better.

But the more this game went on it looked like an upset was on the cards and with 12 minutes remaining Irwin delivered the goods again, this time with an even better free kick that he floated over the wall into the top corner.

Even though York are struggling

they are still involved in two cups, and if they came play as they did on Saturday it could turn out to be more beneficial than the result itself.

YORK ROAD FC: A. Egan, B. Geraghty, F. O'Brien, M. Hynes, J. Ryan, J. Rooney, D. Irwin, S. Douglas, S. Lee, E. Silva, D. Minogue, K. O'Connor, M. Browne.

BEECH PARK FC: C. Devoy, M. Berney, K. Jackson, D. Kinsella, L. Comerford, J. Kelly, R. Flynn, R. O'Conbrior, J. Fitzgerald, D. Greenghill, S. Ilunga, O. Smith, S. Vincent, P. McManus, C. McManus, I. Kinary.

REFEREE: P. McKittrick.

McCabe at the forefront as Gunners win League Cup

KATIE McCabe was at the forefront of the action as Arsenal came from behind to end their four-year trophy drought with a 3-1 victory over Chelsea in the Continental Tyres League Cup.

By Hayden Moore

sport@echo.ie

There was a Women's League Cup record 19,010 people in attendance at

Selhurst Park to watch Arsenal lift the title, their first piece of silverware since winning the 2019/19 Women's Super Cup.

It seemed as though it was going to be a long day at the office for the Gunners after Sam Kerr's bullet header crashed off the underside of the crossbar and across the line inside two minutes.

Arsenal drew level after 16-minutes when Frida Maanum picked up the ball



Katie McCabe celebrates with her teammates and Arsenal legend Ian Wright



Arsenal's Katie McCabe from Kilnamanagh with the League Cup

in midfield and drove at the opposition box before crossing to Stina Blackstenius, who slotted it home.

Just a few minutes later and the Gunners had the advantage after Kilnamanagh native McCabe was brought down inside the box by Sophie

Ingle.

Arsenal captain Kim Little made no mistake from 12-yards, sending Chelsea netminder Ann-Katrin Berger the wrong way.

Republic of Ireland skipper, McCabe, was dealt an injury scare after colliding

with Berger, with her eventually being substituted after 57-minutes.

The break in play to deal with the injury provided a window of opportunity for both sides, with Niamh Charles' own goal extending Arsenal's lead and pushing them on to the win.

Former Orchard star set for move to West Ham United

ONE of Ireland's brightest young footballers Jessie Stapleton has signed a deal with West Ham United, according to her former underage club.

By Hayden Moore

sport@echo.ie

Over the winter period, speculation has been rife surrounding the future of the 18-year-old, who currently plays for Shelbourne.

Last season, the Ballyfermot girl scored in the FAI Cup final and the last game in the league to secure a double for the north Dublin club.

Since then, it was rumoured that Manchester City were keen on signing her but ultimately, it appears to be the Hammers who have secured Stapleton's services.

Stapleton has long been flagged as a future star and

it when she was just 13-years-old, playing for Cherry Orchard, that she earned a first call up to the Republic of Ireland Senior squad.

"Congratulations to Jessie Stapleton who signed a pro contract with West Ham Utd and will travel over in July to start preseason training," Cherry Orchard revealed on their social media.

"Jessie played for the club since she was 9 years old in the top tier of the DDSL league, where she won many trophies, including an all Ireland winners medal.

"Being a local girl, Jessie can often be seen back down at the club helping out with the younger girls teams.

"Everyone at Cherry Orchard wishes Jessie the very best of luck in her professional career which we all know will be successful."

Due to her exploits last

Former Cherry Orchard player Jessie Stapleton



season, Stapleton was named the Young Player of the Year at the 2022 SSE Airtricity Women's National League Awards.

The former Peamount United player made her senior international debut against the Philippines last summer but was not part of the squad which secured qualification for the 2023 FIFA World Cup.

Instead, Stapleton focused her efforts on playing for the Republic of Ireland under 19s,

ultimately captaining the side to a friendly win over England in St George's Park in February.

Undoubtedly, with a proposed move to West Ham United in the future, Stapleton will have her eyes fixed on securing a spot on the plane heading to the World Cup in July.

Vera Pauw will name her squad heading to the tournament in Australia and New Zealand a few weeks prior to the tournament kicking off.

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