

Esker stroll into next round of cup

(See page 71)

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# Echo



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## Chef's Larder Award for Cherry Orchard Community Garden

A COMMUNITY Garden which supplies local cafés and shops with high-quality produce has been recognised with a prestigious Chef's Larder Award at the 2023 Blas na hÉireann Awards, reports Hayden Moore.

Cherry Orchard Community

Garden, a local climate-action social enterprise managed by Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership and supported by Dublin City Council, was rewarded at the awards last Friday.

The prestigious Chef's Larder Award was given for the garden's

mixed salads which it grows and provides to local cafés and shops at the 2023 Blas na hÉireann Awards.

The garden plays an important role in Cherry Orchard by providing an amenity for residents and volunteers, and also offering

training and employment opportunities.

The garden provides an avenue for people from low-income communities to participate in climate action, something that has become increasingly important.

See page 28



AWARD: Peadar Lynch in the garden



Gardai praised after rescuing woman from house fire page 29



Faces of the community page 32



# 'I feel so lucky to return to normal life'



A YOUNG woman who was diagnosed with heart failure just days after giving birth to her first child is now hoping to raise awareness of postnatal heart failure to prevent other women from ignoring the signs, reports Aileen O'Flaherty. See page 19

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# THE Echo

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## Next Edition

The next edition of *The Echo* in the shops from Thursday, Oct 19, 2023. Don't miss it!

# Operational staff on grass-cutting duties reminded about leaving hard surfaces clean

SOUTH Dublin County Council's Council's Public Realm Operations staff carry out the vast majority of grass-cutting in the county, with only the meadow mowing programme assigned to contractors.

According to the council, the issue of grass cuttings left behind on hard surfaces is one that Public Realm management and supervisory staff are mindful of and raise with operational staff on a regular basis. When

conditions for grass-cutting are good – that is the grass is dry and not excessively long – then the issue of grass cuttings left on hard surfaces does not arise in general.

Grass cuttings can build up on grass-cutting machinery and then be deposited on the ground for a number of reasons. These include the necessity to continue to cut grass even when it is wet, the wet grass cuttings stick together in a clump and then

drop off when the mower hits a hard surface.

In some circumstances there is excessive driving on and over footpaths and in these circumstances staff are instructed to keep this to a minimum.

Where crossing a footpath is unavoidable then it should be done with care to avoid the depositing of grass cuttings on the footpath. Where this does occur however it is the

responsibility of the mower operator, and the supervisor, to ensure that the area is cleaned afterwards.

Regular cleaning of mowers is also required to maintain the mowers in good condition, but also to remove any build-up of grass cuttings.

Public Realm management and supervisory staff will continue to monitor this issue and remind staff as necessary of the standard that is required.

# Tackling litter problem costs over €9m per year

## South Dublin Council employs five full-time litter wardens



LITTER: Rubbish at St Cuthbert's Park in Clondalkin

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

TACKLING litter is costing the public up to €9 million per year, with South Dublin County Council employing five full-time litter wardens and providing different services to address the issue.

At the recent full meeting of South Dublin County Council, Cllr Charlie O'Connor asked for a report into how litter issues are dealt with.

In response, the council outlined that five full-time litter wardens operate throughout the

county but are assigned the specific areas for operational purposes.

The public realm section of the local authority provides a variety of cleansing services, with on-street litter bins services daily and daily cleaning of town and village centres.

Parks undergo daily cleaning while there is mobile cleansing crews dedicated to cleaning and litter-picking in parks and estate open spaces, including response to illegal dumping and collections from community clean-up events.

Oxygen Environmental Ltd provides the road-sweeping service under contract to the council, with Public Realm painting staff working to aid in graffiti removal.

In relation to tackling graffiti, the council is currently procuring for a specialist contractor in graffiti removal from block and stone face walls, along with other specialist graffiti removal.

"These services are considered to be priority

services within Public Realm, and in this regard they are the first tasks to be assigned to staff each day," the council said.

"What this means in effect is that where a regular operative is not available on a given day a replacement is assigned to their task as a priority, before any other tasks are assigned."

The total provision for running all of these services in the revenue budget is between €8m and €9m per year.

While all reported and detected incidents of littering and illegal dumping are investigated, it is found that less and less evidence is found, meaning action cannot be taken.

"Increasingly it is found that no personal information relating to polluters is contained within the dumped material, with personal information having been removed or shredded," the council said.

With this, the local authority is encouraging assistance and support from residents "in their investigations of such incidents as they arise".

"In the absence of substantive evidence / witness statements and the presence of such witnesses in court it is not possible for us to bring successful prosecutions," it said.

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## Businesses are feeling confident about growth potential this year

Two in five businesses in Ireland are planning for international expansion in next 12 months

By **Maurice Garvey**

**GROWTH POTENTIAL:** Peter Lantry, Managing Director for Ireland at Equinox

## Project management firm PM Group adds another honour to trophy cabinet

By **Maurice Garvey**

**TROPHY:** The PM Group has offices in Tallaght

“Increasingly it is found that no personal information relating to polluters is contained within the dumped material, with personal information...”

This week's business news starts on page 37

# Katie plays a key role in helping Ireland darts team to gold medal

## 19-year-old Katie Sheldon secures gold at World Darts Federation World Cup

By Hayden Moore

hayden@echo.ie

TALLAGHT'S Katie Sheldon was on point as she played a pivotal part in helping Ireland to a first ever gold medal at the World Darts Federation (WDF) World Cup in Esbjerg, Denmark.

Battling alongside 40 teams from all around the world, the Irish team consisting of Katie Sheldon, captain Robyn Byrne, Caroline Breen, and Aoife McCormack, came out on top after eight excellent matches.

19-year-old Sheldon has added another global gold medal to her collection, having been crowned World Masters Under 18 Champion back in 2019.

"It was absolutely amazing to win the World Cup, it's what we work so hard for travelling around the country qualifying for your team so to come home with gold is just fantastic,"

**“Coming home with a gold medal is what every sports person dreams of when they are going away ...**

**GOLD MEDALS: WDF World Cup champions Katie Sheldon (second left), captain Robyn Byrne, Caroline Breen, Aoife McCormack and manager Kevin Devaney**



Sheldon said.

"Coming home with a gold medal is what every sports person dreams of when they are going away for their selected sport so to have won one is something I'll cherish.

"It was a very special day and there was definitely some tears of joy shared.

"I couldn't ask for a better bunch of ladies to have won this with, we all played our part. We went as a team and we won as a team."

On their way to the decider, Ireland bettered Norway, France, Mongolia, and Luxembourg to the top their group and set up a tantalising clash with

tournament favourites Netherlands in the Last 16.

It was a tight game, but the Irish women came out on top on a scoreline of 9/7 to progress into the quarter final against a strong Australian team.

A 9/6 win against the team from Oz and victory over Sweden in the

penultimate round put them into the final, where Ireland recoded a brilliant 9/7 triumph against a very strong Wales outfit.

Managed by Kevin Devaney from Galway, the victory marks the first time that an Irish team won a gold medal at a Women's World Cup event.

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# Food bank secures new storage spaces at Firhouse CC grounds

‘People shouldn’t need food banks in this day and age – we’re a very rich country’

THE Ballycullen Food Bank has secured a new storage space in the grounds of Firhouse Community College, which officially began being used last Monday.

Representatives from the food bank and staff from Amazon Web Services (AWS), which helped to kit out the storage units, were on hand on the day.

The voluntary service has struggled with a lack of storage space for donated goods in recent months, as requests for help continue to spiral.

One of the volunteers from the food bank, Sue Ralph, told *The Echo*: “It’s getting out of control, the number of people coming to the food bank.

“With social welfare payments being cut left, right and centre, people are struggling.

“There are also people who are still working, but they’ve fallen behind with their mortgage and bills going up and they can’t cope – there’s no help for anybody who actually works.

“You go out and earn a hard day’s living and you still might not be able to afford to live.”

The Ballycullen Food Bank provides a monthly service where they supply groceries for upwards of 120 people, who make contact with them through their Facebook page and get an appointment.

At the appointment, they’ll get to meet one of the service’s four volunteers, Tracy Griffin, Roisín Cosgrove, Paula Murray or Sue Ralph, and will collect their groceries confidentially.

The service has been supported by Knocklyon United Football Club who provide some storage space for it, but the food bank has felt the strain of having limited storage space.

It is hoped that this will now be alleviated by the new spaces in Firhouse CC, which have been kitted out with fridges, freezers and shelving.

By Aideen O’Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

“It’s great, because there was a time when we had a massive influx of donations and sometimes we’ve to turn them away, but we hate turning down stuff because we have no room for it,” said Sue.

“We approached Firhouse Community College because we knew the Educate Together school was there for a couple of years, but now those units are empty.

“So we just broached the subject with them, and my son goes to school there and we supply some of the families there, so we have that link.”

The school happily supported the food bank, while AWS helped to get the spaces into good working order for the service.

There has been no reduction in demand for the services of the Ballycullen Food Bank since it was set up in 2020, and Sue believes that requests for help will continue to increase.

“We shouldn’t need food banks,” said Sue. “If we were running a business, we’d be multi-millionaires because we’re growing exponentially.

“We want it to decline, but I don’t think that’s going to happen – I think we’ll keep going because people keep needing us.

“People shouldn’t need food banks in this day and age. We’re a very rich country, but it’s not given out fairly.”

Requests for assistance can be made by contacting Ballycullen Food Bank on Facebook, while donations can be left into the Park Community Centre from Monday to Saturday every week.



HELPING: At the foodbank at Firhouse Community College



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# Fire Brigade respond to 7,759 incidents in six months

## 85 new firefighters are being recruited to the force following extensive campaign

By **Hayden Moore**

hayden@echo.ie

DUBLIN Fire Brigade responded to over 7,750 incidents in the first half of the year with 85 new firefighters being recruited to the force.

Following an extensive recruitment campaign earlier in 2023, a panel of 216 potential firefighters was created with two classes getting underway.

At the recent meeting of South Dublin County Council, in response to a question posed by Cllr Charlie O'Connor, the local authority gave a

rundown of the Dublin Fire Brigade services.

"The first class of 37 recruit firefighters from this panel passed out in September and a second class of 48 recruits will commence training in late October," the council said.

More recruits are expected to commence training in 2024 with classes already budgeted for firefighters and Emergency Service Controllers, according to the local authority.

A recruitment campaign for Emergency Service Controllers (ESC)

was also advertised for earlier this year, with ESCs expected to be deployed into the East Region Communications Centre.

"A panel of 52 ESC's was subsequently created," the council said.

"The first class commenced in early September with the second class due to commence in late October 2023.

"Discussions on required manning levels into the future are ongoing between management and unions."

While these recruitment campaigns were ongoing, members of Dublin

Fire Brigade (DFB) responded to a total of 7,759 incidents.

Of that, a minimum of one DFB resource was deployed, with the ambulance responding to 6,875 and firefighters responding to 884.

In giving a detailed overview of those 884 fire services incident types, small fires were the most common with 254, following by 229 alarm related incidents.

After that, car related incidences were the most common at 85 incidents.

DFB deployed special services to

respond to 22 road traffic incidents and made 10 scenes safe while one oil spill was responded to, six water leaks, three gas leaks and there were six animal rescues.

There was a grand total of 10,955 appliance mobilisations, with fire service mobilising 2,014 times and ambulance service mobilising 8,941 times.

"DFB are committed to ensuring that the Councils and residents alike will remain proud of their Fire & Ambulance service," the council concluded.

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# Residents 'serious concerns' over 136 rapid build homes

Concerns raised over strain on school places/childcare services and long term future of site

WORK is taking place for the construction of 136 rapid build homes in Lucan amid concerns about the strain on school places/childcare services in the area, and the long term future of a housing site, located on agricultural lands, reports Maurice Garvey.

The development is part of the Irish government's Rapid Build Housing Programme for Ukrainians, and the build of 700 homes at a number of sites across the country.

The provision of accommodation for Ukrainians was given exemption from the requirement to obtain planning permissions earlier this year.

This particular modular site is located on the Old Celbridge Road, west of Adamstown and scheduled for completion in early 2024.

Leaflet drops were made by the government to houses in the vicinity of the development on Tubber Lane and the Hallwell Estate, ahead of an "information session" in Adamstown Youth and Community Centre on Tuesday night.

The leaflet states that the 136 units will house 544 people and the site will be delivered in 2024.

It says the units have a life span of 60 years.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) were asked to develop the rapid build programme on behalf of the Dept Children.

Cllr Paul Gogarty (Ind), who



**HUGE CONCERNS:**  
The modular homes in Adamstown

posted a report of the works on his website, says as the homes are two-bed, they are "not necessarily suitable for accommodating growing families long term and is probably best used for emergency accommodation - the question is where."

The site which is zoned agricultural, and *The Echo* understands it is owned by the Dept of Agriculture.

Cllr Liona O'Toole (Ind) says residents have "huge concerns" about what will happen to site in three years - a temporary time period allocated

for similar sites - noting that councillors would need to adopt a rezoning in the County Development Plan.

"I am not in favour of rezoning agricultural land," said Cllr O'Toole.

O'Toole said councillors were given short notice about a presentation of the site in June, and that "people have to have information about it."

Cllr Gogarty would have "serious concerns" about "any type of permanent housing" at the site, and that any long term housing "needs proper facilities and infrastructure and

should be dealt with as part of a Strategic Development Zone-type plan."

Councillors were told Tuath Housing will manage the site.

In the information leaflet, it says the site will have no impact on social housing as Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BTOP's) do not have rights to social housing and will be required to pay charges.

The Echo asked the Dept of Children what are the charges, and they said BTOPs will be required to make a "contribution payment for

living in the units, and includes a utility charge to cover electricity, internet, waste disposal, etc., that will be provided in all units."

*The Echo* also asked the Dept what "alternative arrangements" will be made to bring occupant children to schools, where the nearest schools are already full.

A Dept of Children spokesperson said: "From the outset of the war, the Department of Education established Regional Education and Language Teams (REALT) to support BOTP families in securing school places for their children. In all cases, the REALT co-ordinators have access to data that helps them identify capacity across all schools in an area. They continue to work closely with the Department of Education and stakeholders including management bodies to help ensure that BOTP children can access a school place as quickly as possible. Where families are relocated to units as part of the rapid build programme, the Department of Education will continue to work closely with REALTs and DCEDIY to help them remain in the schools where they are currently enrolled where possible. Where this is not possible, the REALTs will continue to support and work with parents and schools to help children access a place in school for the 2023/2024 school year as quickly as possible."

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## court reports



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# Men caught in possession of €2.3m worth of cannabis get seven years

TWO men caught unloading over €2.3 million worth of cannabis in a consignment of frozen chicken have been jailed for seven years, reports Jessica Magee and David O'Sullivan.

Daniel Bowker (40) of Empire Rd, Bolton, United Kingdom and Ibrar Sharif (47) with an address at The Belfry, Kilmainham, were arrested in Dublin three days before Christmas last year.

They were both sentenced on Monday at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court.

In her sentence, Judge Orla Crowe said "the impact of drugs upon society is well known" but that the men had "put their time to good use" since being arrested.

The sentence was backdated to their arrest last December and Judge Crowe suspended the final year of the eight-year term on the condition that both be under probation supervision for two years upon release.

The two men told gardai they had been trying to gather some money to buy presents for their families.

Both men came forward on signed pleas from the District Court of possessing €2.364 million worth of cannabis for sale or supply at Kilmainham, Dublin 8 on 22 December, 2022.

They have been in custody in Cloverhill Prison since their arrest.

Detective Garda Patrick Hearne told

Diarmuid Collins BL, prosecuting, that a surveillance operation was put in place after gardai received confidential information concerning an expected delivery of pallets of illegal drugs.

At 9am on the day in question, gardai observed a white Ford Transit van driven by Bowker arriving at a unit in the Chapelizod Industrial Estate.

Both of the accused got out of the van and about an hour later, interacted with the driver of a transport truck that arrived.

Bowker was seen driving the van closer to the shutters of the unit, before the van left in convoy with another car.

The van was driven to a house in the Kilmainham area where Sharif directed it into a driveway and both men began to unload cardboard boxes from the van into the house.

The van was driven off and then stopped by gardai, whereupon two men tried to flee before they were arrested.

Gardai got a search warrant for the house in Kilmainham and seized 12 cardboard boxes containing a total of 119 kilos of vacuum-packed cannabis.

Bowker admitted putting boxes into the van and driving them to the Kilmainham address but initially told gardai he didn't know what was in the boxes.

During subsequent interviews, he admitted

that there were bags of cannabis underneath frozen chicken and that himself and Sharif had taken the drugs out and put them into new boxes.

Bowker has five previous convictions from the UK for minor offences including criminal damage.

Det Garda Hearne agreed with counsel for the defence that both Bowker and Sharif had been cooperative with gardai and both had long-standing alcohol problems.

The garda also agreed that both accused were at the lower end of the ladder of the organised crime gang and had been used by those higher up to courier drugs.

It was also agreed that neither man displayed any signs of wealth or a lavish lifestyle, nor did they stand to benefit materially from the crime.

Defence counsel for Bowker said he was suffering from severe anxiety, depression and PTSD after he was assaulted in January 2022 by three men who broke into his house to try and steal a dog.

The court heard Bowker suffered a facial fracture and had to get two plates inserted into his jaw in the attack.

Bowker told gardai he was a heavy drinker, on medication for anxiety and depression and had wanted to make some "quick money" to buy Christmas presents for his three kids.

Bowker wrote a letter of explanation and remorse and said he had been "very naive".

Letters were also presented from Bowker's former wife describing him as a caring, sensitive person when sober.

Another letter from Bowker's housing manager describes him as "a lovable man and a model tenant" with "a big heart but a tortured soul".

Maurice Coffey SC, defending Sharif, said his client had similarly found himself vulnerable, broke and with a drinking problem coming up to last Christmas.

Mr Coffey said Sharif began working at the age of nine in markets and later worked in restaurants, factories and Marks & Spencer's until he was made redundant during Covid.

"He had no money, he was unemployed, he foolishly agreed to get involved and let his moral compass shift," said counsel.

Defence counsel said that organised crime gangs often prey on people who have dependency problems and no money, cajoling them to do their dirty work and suffer the punishment while those at the top are protected from the law.

A letter from Sharif spoke of his remorse, regret and hopes for the future. Letters were also presented from his sisters describing his good heart and hardworking ethos.

# Suspended sentence for woman who forged 51 prescriptions

## Accused admitted to gardai that she was taking 20 sleeping tablets each night

A WOMAN with an addiction to sleeping tablets has been given a one-year suspended sentence for forging prescriptions, reports Eimear Dodd and David O'Sullivan.

Lynsey Ryan (39) pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to 51 counts of forging prescriptions at five pharmacies in west Dublin over a two-year period between August 2018 and August 2020.

Ryan, of Errigal Road, Drimnagh, told gardai she was taking 20 sleeping tablets each night and had come to rely on the tablets to help her sleep.

Sentencing Ryan on Tuesday, Judge Orla Crowe said she "has an addiction that she is dealing with" and that "her personal circumstances were very difficult".

Judge Crowe took into consideration Ryan always paid for the tablets, but she said that was "not to condone in any way what happened". She handed down a sentence of one year and suspended it on a number of conditions.

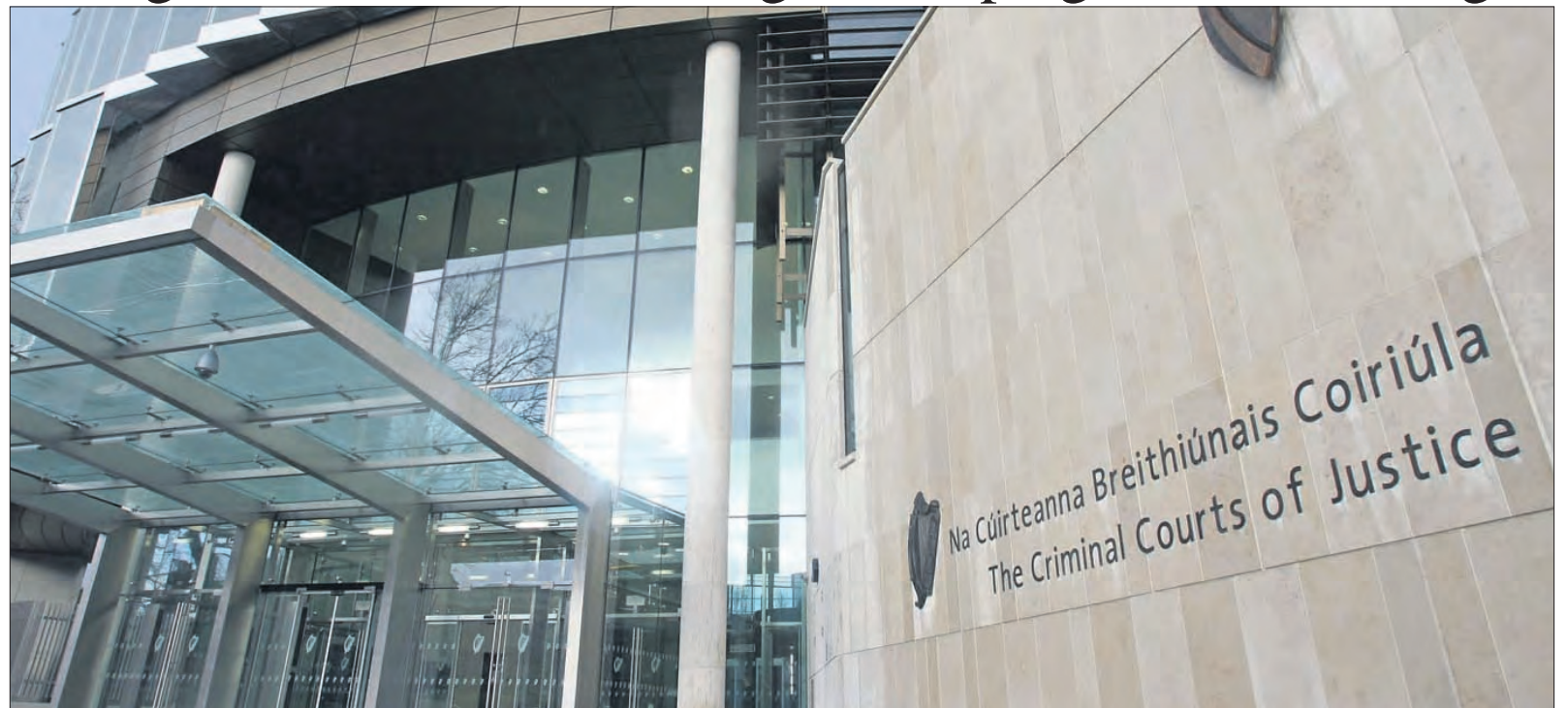
As part of her sentence, Ryan is to engage with employment services.

She must also undergo urine analysis and if drugs are detected, the case may be reintroduced to the court.

Ryan has 159 previous district court convictions, including 67 for using a false instrument.

Garda Dylan McGrath previously gave evidence that gardai were contacted by staff at Maher's Pharmacy, Churchtown after a woman visited the pharmacy with a forged prescription for sleeping tablets.

The pharmacist became suspicious and contacted the doctor named on the



prescription, who said it was a forgery.

Gardai also spoke to the doctor, who confirmed that it was not his signature on the prescription and he did not know the patient name.

A forged prescription alert was later issued by the HSE, which led to reports of forged prescriptions from four other pharmacies.

Gardai obtained CCTV from each of the pharmacies.

There were 12 incidents at Lloyds

Pharmacy Tallaght and 36 incidents at McCabe's Pharmacy Tallaght.

Three further incidents occurred at three other pharmacies, including Maher's Pharmacy.

In each case, a woman using a fictitious name "Aisling Dunne" handed over a prescription for sleeping tablets.

Gardai made contact with the defendant, and Ryan was arrested on March 27, 2021.

She made full admissions during interview and expressed her remorse.

Garda McGrath agreed with defence counsel that Ryan had a copy of headed paper, which she would photocopy, cut out and then write the prescription.

Ryan told gardai she did not try to get a legitimate prescription and she was ashamed of her actions, which she recognised were criminal.

Ryan said she had been addicted to

sleeping tablets for 15 years and she takes more than could be prescribed.

She also takes other medication prescribed by her GP.

Ryan said her addiction issues started following the death of two family members and she relied on the sleeping tablets to help her sleep.

A letter of apology from Ryan was handed to the court, as well as a letter from her partner.

# Students get to turn that business dream into reality

## Over 25,000 students from 500 schools will be setting out on an entrepreneurial journey

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

STUDENTS get to turn their business dreams into a reality and figure out what floats through the Social Enterprise Programme in schools across South Dublin.

This year, 115 transition year students in groups of up to five students are participating in the business development initiative at Kishoge Community College.

Over 25,000 students from around 500 second-level schools nationwide will be embarking on their entrepreneurial journey as they create, establish, and run their own businesses.

The top business get to go forward and compete for the top prize of Student Enterprise of the Year, with the programme run through Local Enterprise Offices, Entrprise Ireland and local authorities.

Marie Lyons is business coordinator in Kishoge Community College and she is excited for her students to get stuck into the Student Enterprise Programme once again.

“This is something we have done in Kishoge Community College for the past few years and the support is great,” Ms Lyons tells *The Echo*.

“The Local Enterprise Office connects us with people who have experience running a business, so students get to listen to people who have real-life experience and it’s not just us harping on.

“A lot of our students have great ideas for businesses in the future and want to be entrepreneurs when they get older, like Bill Gates or Elon Musk, but they really don’t know where to start.”

In Kishoge, they break the Student Enterprise Programme down into different sections starting with an idea generation session and business plan development session.

From that point on, students get to pitch their ideas and apply for a nominal loan from the school, to get experience of achieving funding for their businesses before floating it at an internal winter fair.

What the school has found is that its students get a tremendous amount of practical ideation, marketing, finance and sales experience along the way.

“It’s all about application,” Ms Lyons details.

“Our students hear a lot about business and how it’s done, but the reality is that you won’t know until you sit down and figure out how to run one, discover what is successful and what isn’t.

“It is an opportunity for our students to understand business more when going into the Leaving Certificate, and all of the aspects of how to run one and what it takes to do it successfully.

“What we have found is that our students usually list the programme and their business journey as one of their highlights of the year.”

Students from first to sixth year can participate in the Student Enterprise Programme across Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories.

Schools across the county are encouraged to sign-up and participate in the initiative, with some 325,000 students doing so since it began in 2003.

Schools interested in getting involved can visit: [www.studententerprise.ie](http://www.studententerprise.ie) or email [sepleodublinsouth@realnation.ie](mailto:sepleodublinsouth@realnation.ie)

“Our students hear a lot about business and how it’s done, but the reality is that you won’t know until you sit down and figure out how to run one...”



SHOWCASE: Students from Kishoge Community College who previously participated in the programme

**Student Enterprise PROGRAMME**

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil  
Local Enterprise Office  
Áth Cliath Theas  
South Dublin

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Government of Ireland



# Over 1,700 social and affordable homes in the pipeline for delivery

Plans are also progressing to bring forward planning applications for 1,400 homes

By Hayden Moore

hayden@echo.ie

OVER 1,700 new social and affordable homes on lands owned by South Dublin County Council are on site or in the pipeline for delivery.

In the quarterly progress report on the local authority's capital projects, it gave an overview of progress under its Housing Deliver Action Plan (HDAP) 2022 – 2026.

According to the council, over 500 social and affordable homes have been delivered to date under the HDAP with 1,000 on track for delivery this year through Part V, Approved Housing Bodies and leasing.

Plans are progressing to bring forward planning applications for 1,400 homes in the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) phases three to five, and it is expecting to get a planning exemption to progress plans for 365 homes by the end of 2024.

"Over 1,700 new social and affordable homes on Council lands . . . are either currently under construction or with planning permission in place," the report said.

There are five primary large-scale housing projects outlined in the report by the council – Clonburris SDZ, Kilcarbery, Belgard Square North, Killinarden Foothills and Rathcoole.

Phase three works to deliver 103 social and 29 affordable homes at Kilcarbery have recently commenced with a projected completion for 2023.

**PROGRESS:** Construction work at Belgard Square North this week - the first standalone local authority cost-rental development in Ireland



“Plans are progressing to bring forward planning applications for 1,400 homes in the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) phases three to five, and it is expecting to get a planning exemption...”

## Cllr. Charlie O'Connor PC



ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO MY CONSTITUENTS TO DEAL WITH ALL MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THEM

Email: [charlie.oconnorff@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.oconnorff@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 087 2982079

Charlie O'Connor working for our community with the Fianna Fail team of:

Barry Andrews MEP, John Lahart TD, Cllrs Yvonne Collins, Teresa Costello, Emma Murphy, Lilian Gueret and Local Area Rep Adam Smyth.

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Design work is also progressing for 88 additional homes in Kilcarbery, and is set to utilise a temporary Part 8 planning exemption.

Belgard Square North, which comprises of 133 cost-rental apartments and is scheduled for delivery in early 2025, will be the first standalone local authority cost-rental development in Ireland.

There is planning permission in place for 635 social, affordable and private homes in the Killinarden Foothills, with the council working with "joint venture partners to finalise agreement to see commencement on site".

A presentation in the Killinarden development will be given to councillors with updated cost projects and a potential revision of the tenure mix to incorporate cost-rental homes in place of private units.

Meanwhile, consultants have been engaged to progress design work for the Rathcoole masterplan, which will incorporate housing, a school and sports facilities.

There are sections and phases of the Clonburris SDZ, most of which are earmarked for completion by summer 2024.

Under approved social housing developments, tenancies are expected to commence at St Mark's and Templeogue village with 379 units across 12 different developments

either on site or in the tender phase.

Age-friendly homes at Old Bawn, Maplewood, Fernwood, and Riversdale are on site with a completion date targeting before Christmas.

On track also are 93 units at New Nangor Road, 19 at Lindsifarne and 69 in Balgaddy for completion in the first half of 2024 with a new contractor on site at Homeville, targeting completion by quarter three next year.

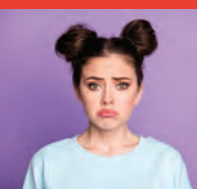
Construction tenders have commenced this month for the age-friendly developments at St Aongus, St Ronan's and Pearse Brothers Park, with a projected completion date of this time next year.

There are 10 development sites consisting of a total of 365 units, which have received temporary planning exemptions with proposed tenures of social, affordable and traveller accommodation.

All of these sites with temporary planning exemptions – Rossfield, Owendoher Haven, Deansrath/Melrose, Alpine Heights, Sarsfield Park, Stocking Lane, Castlefield, Oldcastle Park, Kilcarbery and Kishogue Park – are expected to commence construction at sometime in 2024.

"These sites are required to commence no later than the end of 2024 to avail of the temporary derogation," the council said.

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# Pool works unlikely to finish by year end

## Contractor unable to increase resources on swimming pool site

By Maurice Garvey  
maurice@echo.ie

THE latest delay in the opening of Lucan Swimming Pool is the “least surprising announcement of the year”, according to Cllr Paul Gogarty (Ind).

The pool had been scheduled to open at the end of October, but works are not yet completed, and unlikely to be finished by the end of this year.

Lucan has been waiting for decades for a swimming pool and it is a running joke on local social media sites.

In a briefing to councillors this week, South Dublin County Council said “the contractor has been unable to “either increase the resources on site to a sufficient level or to effectively coordinate the work from sub-contractors to meet the key deliverables and dependencies to be in a position to complete the project by the end of this month as they had projected.”

“This has had a knock-on effect on the timing of the connection of utilities to the site and, more



DELAYS: An artist impression of the Lucan Swimming pool

significantly, delayed the ordering of the moveable floor for the secondary pool.”

The council say it is their intention to pursue “appropriate remedies available under the building contract for any unjustified delays over and above the previously submitted programme.”

The have been advised by the

contractor that the lead-in time for the moveable floor to be delivered and installed can be up to 12 weeks.

The council and their selected facility partners, Aura Leisure, will arrange an information session for local councillors next month.

Cllr Paul Gogarty said the project is a continuation of “multiple delays that SDCC has

described as ‘embarrassing.’

“However no meaningful action ever appears to have been taken to make anyone accountable. There are very few works remaining, but the pace has been slower than a sloth crossing a road. As such, it’s now highly unlikely the pool will be open before 2024,” said Gogarty.

## Echoopinion...

### Once-off budget measures will keep heads above water

BUDGET 2024 included a raft of measures including the €2.7bn cost-of-living package, to combat crippling energy prices over winter.

Minister for Finance Michael McGrath and Minister for Public Expenditure Paschal Donohoe outlined the Budget in full in the Dáil.

Minister Donohoe said all households will receive a further set of credits to help with energy bills over the winter.

Three credits of €150 each will be provided between the end of this year and April of next year.

The minister also said a €300 lump sum payment will be made to recipients of the Fuel Allowance in the last quarter of this year, while an additional €200 will also be paid this year to recipients of the Living Alone Allowance.

Two multi-billion euro funds are to be established to futureproof the economy, fund infrastructure and climate projects.

The social welfare package of €2.3bn is also a huge increase. Yet many benefits - like Christmas bonuses and double payments - are once-offs.

Minister Donohoe said that Budget 2024 has provided for a total allocation of €22.5 billion for the public health system.

There are almost 900,000 people on some form of waiting list, most of these waiting for an outpatient appointment.

Overall, Budget 2024 increased core spending by around the rate of inflation.

There are lots of once-off measures that will help keep heads above water for another winter but how long will it last.

# €14bn budget sees increases in social welfare and three €150 energy credits

A €4 billion Budget spend was announced on Tuesday, with three €150 energy credits, increases in social welfare and further reductions in childcare costs among the measures.

There is also targeted relief for mortgage holders and an increase in the national minimum wage to €12.70 per hour, an increase of €1.40.

Speaking in the Dáil on Tuesday afternoon, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe TD said that recent Budgets responded to Brexit, a pandemic, the war in Ukraine and now, to the rising cost of living.

He said he is “conscious” that many people are concerned about rising costs and particularly the challenges of heating and lighting their homes this winter.

Minister Donohoe said that all households will receive a further set of credits to assist with energy bills – alongside a number of once-off payments to help with rising living costs.

### Winter / once-off cost of living supports

- Three credits of €150 will be provided between the end of 2023 and April of next year.
- €300 Fuel Allowance lump sum
- €200 Living Alone Allowance lump sum
- A double payment of Child Payment, worth an additional €140 for each child, will be made to all qualifying households before Christmas.
- A once-off €400 payment for people on the Working Family Payment this year.
- €100 Working Family lump sum this year.
- Double week for all weekly welfare schemes (January 2024)
- €400 lump sum to selected welfare categories: Carer’s Allowance, Disability Allowance etc.
- A double payment of the Foster Care allowance



### Tax

- Increase of €1,500 in the income tax standard rate cut-off point for all earners
- €200 increase in the Incapacitated Child Tax Credit
- €100 increase in the personal tax credit
- €100 increase in the PAYE tax credit
- €100 increase in the Earned Income Credit
- €100 increase the Home Carer Tax Credit
- €100 increase in the Single Person Child Carer Credit
- A reduction in the middle rate of Universal Social Charge (USC) from 4.5% to 4%
- Increase in the Rent Tax Credit from €500 to €750.
- 75c Increase in Excise Duty and VAT on a pack of 20 cigarettes
- Extension of VRT relief for Battery Electric Vehicles to the end of December 2025.

### Health

- A total of €22.5bn allocated to public health system, including an €800m increase in core current funding to tackle demographic and service pressures.

### Education

- Free School Book Scheme for Junior Cycle at post-primary level
- Hot School Meals extended to all DEIS primary schools
- Extension of Child Benefit to pupils over 18 years in full time education
- Restoration of maintenance grants to postgraduate students on a similar basis to undergraduates

### Childcare

- A further 25 per cent reduction in the cost of childcare from September 2024.

### Housing

- Help-To-Buy scheme extended to end of 2025. Scheme is being amended so that applicants of the local authority affordable purchase scheme can avail of Help-To-Buy. Changes will take effect from tomorrow.
- Tax relief for mortgage holders will be available on the increased mortgage interest

paid in 2023 compared to 2022.

- Rent Tax Credit is being increased from €500 to €750 per year.
- An amendment is being made to allow parents who pay for their student children who have tenancies to claim the Rent Tax Credit. This will be back dated to 2022 and 2023 tax years.
- 6,400 affordable homes for sale and rent

### Business

- Range of new measures in Budget to help businesses, including a €250m fund to assist small and medium sized firms with the rising cost of doing business.

### Climate

- There will be a €7.50 increase on the current rate of Carbon Tax applied per tonne of carbon dioxide emission.
- Carbon tax will increase by the same amount in every budget until 2029.
- The increase will be applied to petrol and auto diesel from midnight on budget night (October 11) and all other fuels on May 1, 2024.

### Other expenditure measures

- 1,000 new Garda and 250 Garda Staff.
- 20% fare reduction on public transport continued to end of 2024.
- €12 increase in the Weekly Social Welfare Rate for working age recipients.
- €12 increase in weekly payments for pensioners.
- €54 per week increase in the Working Family Payment threshold.
- €4 increase in weekly rate for a Qualified Child.
- Up to 2,000 additional staff to enhance capacity across acute and social care services.
- €67m to provide 16,000 craft apprenticeship programmes.
- Additional €50m for school transport scheme
- €207m to bring back vacant and derelict units.

# Man fined €500 and costs for tampering with gas meter

## Gas Networks Safety Manager says: ‘Anyone who interferes with a gas meter is risking their life’

By Aideen O’Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

A TALLAGHT man was recently fined €500 for tampering with a gas meter, and has to pay a further €500 to Gas Networks Ireland.

Last week on Monday, October 2, Connor Mulligan, of Mac Uilliam Avenue apartments in Tallaght, pleaded guilty in Dublin District Court to the dishonest use of gas.

The court heard that Gas Networks Ireland had carried out an investigation at the property in February 2023 and found the gas supply had been unlawfully tampered.

Judge Anthony Halpin convicted and fined Mr Mulligan €500 on the offence of dishonest use of gas contrary to Section 15(2) of the

Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1995 as amended.

Two further offences under sections 15 (3) and 15 (6) were also taken into consideration, and costs of €500 were also allocated to Gas Networks Ireland.

Mr Mulligan has been given three months to discharge the total sum of €1,000.

Gas Networks Ireland’s Networks Safety Manager, Owen Wilson, said: “This verdict sends out an important message to the public that meter-tampering is a serious crime with potentially deadly consequences.

“Theft of gas is a very serious issue, but far more serious is the risk to life that meter-tampering poses to the perpetrator and to people nearby.

“We are working to end unlawful interference with gas meters and the dangers associated with this activity.”

Due to the dangers involved, gas meter tampering is a criminal offence with possible fines of up to €5,000 and prison sentences of up to six months for those found

guilty of the crime.

Gas Networks Ireland has been actively engaged in identifying and making safe installations where tampering has been found and has detected over 2,900 cases of meter-tampering across the country since 2013.

By law, only Gas Networks Ireland representatives and registered gas installers are authorised to work on natural gas meters and pipework.

It is illegal to ask, pay or allow someone else to tamper with a gas meter.

Mr Wilson added: “Rogue contractors can make seemingly attractive offers, but the dangers involved in allowing someone who is not registered and qualified to do the work, are very real.

“Anyone who either interferes with a gas meter themselves or agrees to allow someone who is not a registered gas installer to work on their gas installations is risking their own life, those of their family, and of people living nearby.”

Members of the public are asked to report any suspicions of gas meter tampering to Gas Networks Ireland in strict confidence by calling 1800 464 464.

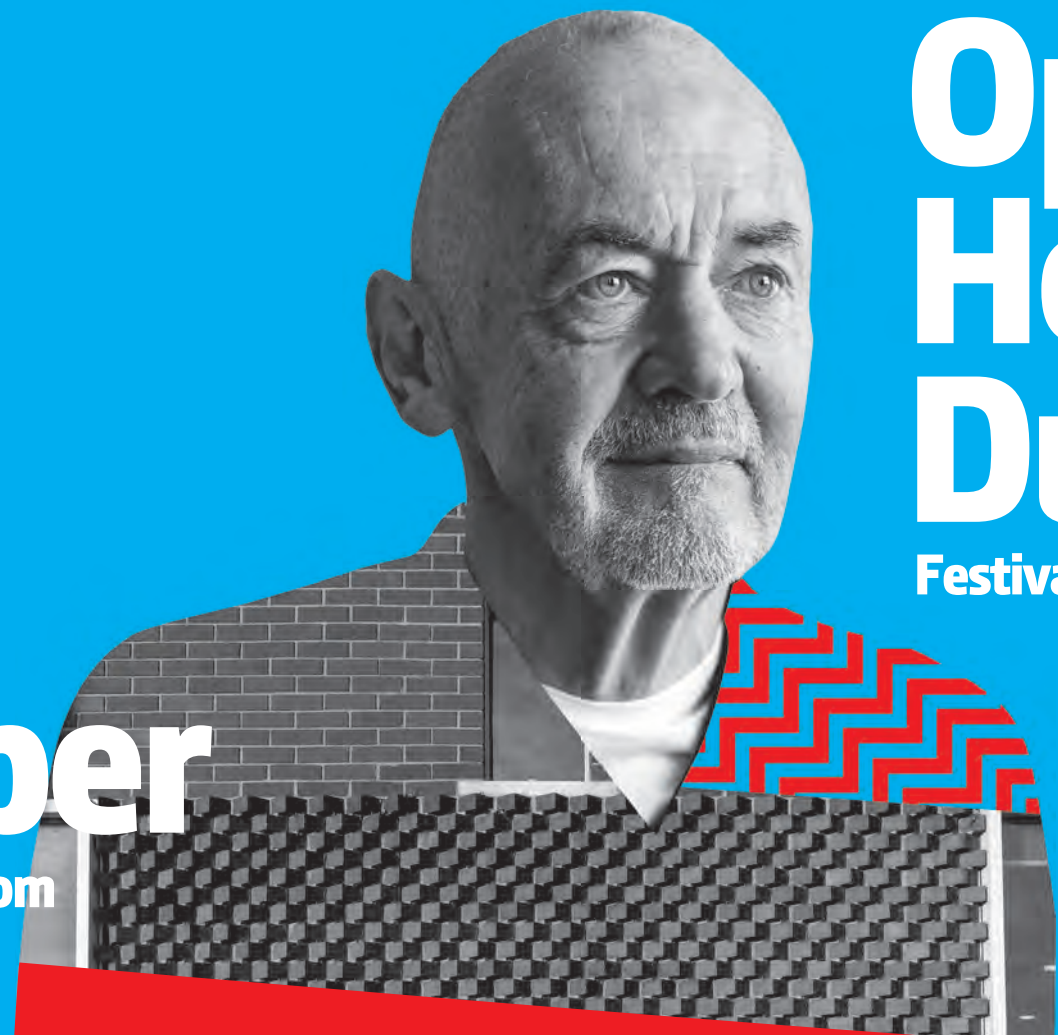


“ Theft of gas is a very serious issue, but far more serious is the risk to life that meter-tampering poses....

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Castletymon Library, Tallaght, South Dublin

# Time to nominate your local hero in the 40th Tallaght Person of The Year

## Tallaght Community Council Encourage you to make nominations – Only 10 days left

TALLAGHT Community Council (TCC) launched the milestone 40th Tallaght Person of the Year Awards in The Station in Tallaght village earlier this month.

These awards offer a unique opportunity in Tallaght to recognise those around you, across all walks of life in the community, from environment to youth, who give selflessly and positively impact others.

Nominations are easy to make, the forms are online and you are guided through the process, once you have all your nominee contact details to hand, it will take less than 5 minutes to make your nomination.

All validated nominees receive a certificate of appreciation in the post to acknowledge their community contributions. The early nominations received have already been validated and certificates issued to the nominees.

Keep an eye out for the "Special Delivery" stickers in the post this week.

"Nominees tell us year after year how proud they felt when the envelope popped through their letterbox with a certificate.

Some nominees feel so excited they share the news with family and friends, others sometimes keep the news to themselves.

"The important thing is both categories of nominees know they are appreciated and valued. That is key", said Tara De Buitléar, TCC PRO, Awards PR and Marketing Manager.

Nominations must be made online, see [www.tallaghtcommunitycouncil.ie](http://www.tallaghtcommunitycouncil.ie)

The closing date is midnight, Saturday 21st of October. This leaves a little over 10 days for any individual, organisation, school, business or club to make nominations.

"There is no upper limit on the number of people or groups you can nominate. But it isn't a voting system. The nominees are adjudicated based on the information included in the nominations form for the panel of judges.

Deciding on the award winners doesn't operate on the number of nominations an individual nominee gets. It is on the content in the nomination form. So tell us

lots about your nominee. What makes them so special", said Liz Kennedy, Vice Chair of TCC 2023/24.

All nominees are listed in the press shortly after the

nominations close, on the Roll of Honour that is published in *The Echo* newspaper.

"There is no upper limit on the number of people or groups you can nominate. You can nominate a different nominee in all 9 categories if you wish.

"Businesses, sports clubs and schools are encouraged to nominate from their employees, students, teachers or volunteers who make a difference in their organisations.

"Think of it as an easy way to spread recognition for others as we draw into the end of 2023."

Tallaght Community Council are proud to have the Tallaght comedian and writer, Al Porter at the helm of the milestone awards this year as MC.

"The awards will be in safe hands with Al as the MC. No one knows the strength of the Tallaght community or the importance of the awards as well as him. We are beyond thrilled his busy touring schedule has allowed him to be with us on the special night in The Civic this year", added Tara De Buitléar.

Nominations close at midnight on Saturday, 21st of October, 2023. TCC urges anyone interested to nominate and not to leave it too late, or assume someone will nominate that amazing neighbour.

[www.tallaghtcommunitycouncil.ie](http://www.tallaghtcommunitycouncil.ie)

For a look back at Tallaght Person of The Year 1993, see page 60.

“Some nominees feel so excited they share the news with family and friends, others sometimes keep the news to themselves. The important thing is both categories of nominees know they are appreciated and valued. That is key





# TALLAGHT PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2023



# Nominations are now **OPEN!**



[www.tallaghtcommunitycouncil.ie](http://www.tallaghtcommunitycouncil.ie)

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**GREEN LIGHT:** An artist's impression of the plans for the Speaker Conolly pub site

# Major plans for Speaker Conolly pub



**If permission is granted, construction of an 85-unit apartment block will proceed**

A PLANNING application for the demolition of the Speaker Conolly pub in Firhouse and the construction of an 85-unit apartment block has been submitted to South Dublin County Council, reports Aideen O'Flaherty.

The proposal by Seabren Developments Limited, which is led by Michael Moran of Moran's Red Cow Hotel, includes the demolition of the Speaker and the construction of a five- to six-storey block.

The block will house 36 one-bed apartments, 48 two-bed apartments, and one studio apartment.

The development will also consist of non-residential uses at ground-floor level, including a public house, a restaurant, a health care unit, a café and two micro-enterprise units.

A decision on the application is due from the council by November 20.

As reported in *The Echo* last month, a deal was struck for the pub, with a local developer acquiring the property for an estimated €3.5m,

subject to securing planning approval for apartments and a pub among other uses.

The Moran family, synonymous with the Red Cow Inn and Red Cow Moran Hotel, reached an agreement with the Murphy family for the purchase of the Speaker Conolly.

Should South Dublin County Council give the green light for the proposed development, the purchase will be finalised, having been legally agreed between the Moran and Murphy families.

If permission be granted, the acquisition will be completed, and the tendering process will begin, with construction expected to commence shortly thereafter.

It is understood that the plan is to maintain the full operation of the Speaker Conolly during the construction phase.

In the meantime, while the proposal goes through the planning process with the local authority, the Moran family will operate the Speaker Conolly on a lease agreement.

The Moran family took over the reins at the

end of July and have conducted a soft refurbishment, with a new kitchen in order to hopefully start providing food again in the next few weeks.

Core staff remain in the Speaker Conolly, with senior management coming across from the Red Cow in recent months to run the business.

Named after William 'Speaker' Conolly of Hellfire Club fame, the pub was built for two Tallaght publicans, James Murphy (The Dragon Inn) and Harry Morton (The Firhouse Inn) in 1985.

Costing an estimated €600,000, local builder John McDermott developed the new pub for the two publicans, and it served its first pint in July of that year.

A few years ago, the Murphy family acquired the majority stake in the pub and recently agreed the deal with the Moran Group, which is run by the six Moran siblings and their mother Sheila Moran.

"The Murphys are long-term family friends,"

Michael Moran told *The Echo* last month.

"The Murphy's are in a similar transition as ourselves – the family business went from the parents to the siblings and their desire was not to continue in the bar business.

"Our desire was to grow our business and we felt we could do a slightly convoluted deal that gave everybody their desired outcome.

"We all trusted each other to go on a bit of a journey there that we got to in the end.

"We're from Rathfarnham ourselves, we've spent all our life working in Clondalkin and The Speaker is basically halfway between the two, it's in our catchment area.

"We do see a great opportunity there to take what is a 1980's building, bring it up to 2025 standard, modernise the offering on the ground floor and provide much-needed accommodation on the upper floors because, as we all know, there's a housing crisis.

"It fits us because we are in hospitality and the development business."

## Cllr Mick Duff

*"I am here for my constituents, to help in any way I can. Please get in touch"*

Mick can be contacted on:  
087 2865570

Email: [mduff@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie](mailto:mduff@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie)

Twitter: @CllrMickDuff



**Mick DUFF**

From the Community and For the Community

## Over €18k in grants go to community groups

TWELVE grants totalling €18,133 have been awarded to 11 community groups under South Dublin County Council's Community and Sport Development Grants scheme.

The highest amount in this round of grants was awarded to the 142nd Dublin Esker Scout Group in Lucan, which has received a grant of €5,000 for the purchase of major equipment.

St Mark's Youth Club will be updating its IT infrastructure with a grant of €3,500, while DCT United in Kiltipper will receive €1,783.84 for the purchase of minor equipment.

The Dublin Community Games has been awarded €1,450, while running costs' grants

of €1,000 each have been awarded to Dominic's Active Men's Social, Dominic's Ladies' Crochet Group and the Knocklyon Men's Shed.

The Castlefield Manor Residents' Association has secured a grant of €851.69 for a community activity, while €850 has been awarded to the Cypress Residents' Association in Templeogue.

Serve the City CLG has received two grants for running costs, one for €835.58 and another for €500.

The Killinarden-based active retirement group Golden Circle has been approved for community events funding of €362.50.

## Choir members wanted

THE parish of Divine Mercy, Lucan South, is looking for new singers to join their variety of choirs.

The choirs are: Childrens' Choir: from Second Class onwards, rehearsal Thursdays 6pm to 6.45pm, and singing on 10.30am at Sunday Mass every second week.

Teenage / Youth Choir: From Sixth Class onwards, rehearsal Fridays 7pm to 8.30pm,

and singing at 10:30am Sunday Mass every second week.

Family Choir: All ages! Rehearsal Fridays 6pm to 7pm, singing at 12 noon Sunday Mass. Adult Choir: Rehearsal Monday 7.30pm to 9pm and singing at 6pm, Saturday Vigil Mass.

New members are invited to attend a rehearsal or talk to the parish team after mass.

# Resounding 'yes' to maximum discount on Local Property Tax

Main criticism of 'unfair' tax is that it does not take home circumstances into consideration

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

COUNCILLORS in South Dublin County Council voted to retain the maximum discount allowable for Local Property Tax (LPT) in 2024.

At the monthly meeting on Monday, councillors voted by 27 votes to seven, with one abstention, to apply the maximum 15 per cent discount.

The 15 per cent reduction to LPT, was also passed by the members in SDCC 12 months ago, but this period was up at the end of October 2023, and needed a new vote on whether to allow a 5 per cent, 10 per cent or 15 per cent reduction.

According to an LPT report by the council, 100 per cent of the €32.2m in LPT taxes in 2023 was retained locally unlike previous years when "20 per cent was paid into an equalisation fund to



**RETAIN:** Councillors in South Dublin County Council voted to retain the maximum discount allowable for Local Property Tax (LPT) in 2024

ensure no local authority was worse off from local retention of LPT in 2023 compared to General Purpose Grant allocations in 2014."

At the meeting, councillors main criticism of the "unfair tax" is that it does not take into consideration financial circumstances of the home.

Cllr Madeleine Johansson (PBP) voted in favour of the reduction, citing the cost of living crisis, and her opposition to property tax "from the very beginning."

"The tax burden should not disproportionately fall on the shoulders of our residents, especially when it is not directly tied to their financial capacities," said Johansson, who reiterated her support to see a "real wealth tax to tackle inequality."

Cllr Ronan McMahon (Ind) said the "unfair tax" does not "take into account income in the home."

"There has been a huge increase in mortgage payments. I'd suggest you prioritise collecting the €8.2m owed in rents, which can be used for services," said McMahon.

Cllr Paul Gogarty (Ind) said the tax is impacting people and that the council have potential to chase millions in derelict housing and rebates on vacant commercial sites.

"Let's focus on people who have the money, and not those that don't," said Gogarty.

**“I'd suggest you prioritise collecting the €8.2m owed in rents, which can be used for services**



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Tallaght Choral Society

## Joels teams up with Dublin Lions Basketball Club

THE much-loved family restaurant and the Dublin Lions have been working on an exciting new sponsorship ahead of the new season.

This will see the Men's Senior National league team as well as the under 18 Boys team and the Kid's Club Academy named the Joels Dublin Lions!

Joels has teamed up with Dublin Lions Basketball Club to give back and support the local community. The restaurant has played host to thousands of families and community dining occasions since opening over 30 years ago in 1991.

Commenting on the new sponsorship, Niamh Fitzgerald, director of the Louis Fitzgerald Group, said 'We're delighted to be the new named sponsor of the

Dublin Lions Men's national league team as well as the Kid's Academy. Joels has always been a place for families and the wider community to gather and celebrate occasions. Supporting the Dublin Lions was an easy decision having been involved in the original partnering club growing up. I have great memories of this, which I often look back upon. We look forward to supporting the future generations on their basketball journeys and the success of the Lions!

To launch the sponsorship, a very special friend of Joels has returned, the restaurant mascot, Leo the Lion! He's looking forward to visiting the Lion's academy, hosting family parties in Joels and of course, getting to some of the games!



LAUNCH: Players from Dublin Lions outside Joels at the launch



CONCERNS: An image from the NTA presentation at the monthly South Dublin County Council meeting on Monday

# 'Not possible' to attend local bus forums – transport CEO

National Transport Authority supremo says they would be happy to meet at council meetings

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

DESPITE pleas for the National Transport Authority (NTA) to attend local bus forums in Tallaght and Lucan to discuss resident concerns on

transport issues, this is not possible due to the scale of requests nationwide, according to CEO of the NTA, Anne Graham.

Speaking at the monthly council meeting during a presentation of the NTA's public transport update, Ms Graham said: "We have been asked to

numerous area meetings around the country but we would find it very difficult to serve every area meeting."

Ms Graham said their preference would be to meet at council meetings and that they are also happy to meet representatives outside of council meetings.

Tallaght Cllrs Kieran Mahon (Sol) and Mick Duff (Lab) were among those who asked the NTA to take up an offer to attend Tallaght area meetings and meet the local transport forum, in particular in relation to many "unique problems in Tallaght."

Lucan featured heavily among the questions, with the loss of the 25 route following BusConnects among the main concerns for residents in the area.

Councillors also raised the frequency of bus no-shows in Lucan, leaving residents stranded at bus stops, questioning how driver recruitment is being addressed.

Cllr Paul Gogarty (Ind) said anytime services are rolled out, it seems to affect other routes, and asked if the NTA should pause BusConnects until bus operators can address the recruitment issue for drivers.

"There needs to be a 25 route and specific need to address bus users in Adamstown and Dodsboro. Driver no-shows – is any scope for increasing fines for the company," said Gogarty.

Cllr Derren Ó Brádaigh (SF) said there was a "general grievance" at the loss of the 25 for residents in Dodsboro, Hillcrest, Woodview, and

that community meetings have been attended by up to 150 people.

Cllr Liona O'Toole (Ind) noted that the growth of Adamstown is "not able to cope with demand" while Cllr Joanna Tuffy (Lab) feels the Luas to Lucan village is "vital" in terms of the "huge investment" going into the village, including plans for tourism links.

With regard to driver recruitment, Ms Graham said funding is not an issue, they put drivers down as essential workers "so operators can apply outside the EU."

As for BusConnects, Ms Graham said the idea is to try and improve the services and that they have seen a good response from people travelling on the C Spine.

“Cllr Joanna Tuffy (Lab) feels the Luas to Lucan village is 'vital' in terms of the 'huge investment' going into the village, including plans for tourism links . . .

# Raising awareness of postnatal heart failure after giving birth

Initiative highlights the fact that one in four women die from heart failure and stroke

By Aideen O'Flaherty

aideen@echo.ie

A YOUNG woman who was diagnosed with heart failure just days after giving birth to her first child is now hoping to raise awareness of postnatal heart failure to prevent other women from ignoring the signs.

Clondalkin woman Emma Connors, 35, had a largely healthy pregnancy during which she managed a diagnosis of gestational diabetes, and gave birth to her and her partner Chris's son, JJ, in 2021.

Shortly after he was born, JJ was admitted to hospital with jaundice, and after he was allowed to go home Emma noticed something wasn't quite right with her.

Her legs had doubled in size, and she began to experience breathlessness and decided to go to hospital as her condition continued to worsen.

"I was unsure if I should go to the hospital because I thought it might be Covid, but I felt that if I didn't get to a hospital soon that, very shortly, I wouldn't be able to breathe at all," said Emma.

"My partner brought me straight to the hospital, where I really struggled to walk to the door. I stopped and leaned up against a railing to catch my breath.

**“ I thought I did all the research when I was pregnant, but I didn't see anything about postnatal heart failure anywhere . . .**

"When I entered the Emergency Department tent at the Mater Hospital, the triage nurse took my vitals, oxygen, blood pressure, and heart rate, all of which were alarming.

"The triage nurse immediately admitted me.

"Within 20 minutes I had a Covid-19 swab taken, a chest X-ray, and blood taken. The X-ray showed that I had fluid in my lungs which needed to be removed.

"The catheter removed over 8kgs in weight of fluid from my body over the five days I was in the hospital – I felt like a deflated balloon. I lost a further 8kg in fluid over the next few weeks."

Later that day, Dr Emer Joyce, the heart consultant in the hospital, diagnosed legal secretary Emma with postnatal heart failure.

Emma is now managing her condition well and has made some lifestyle changes, including eating more oily fish, being more physically active, and weighing herself to monitor fluid gain.

She decided to speak out about her condition as part of the Irish Heart Foundation's recently launched 'Her Heart Matters' campaign.

The initiative highlights that one in four women die from heart disease and stroke, and outlines the importance of keeping your heart healthy and paying attention to any warning signs.

"I thought I did all the research when I was pregnant, but I didn't see anything about postnatal heart failure anywhere," added Emma.


"It's so important for women to listen to their bodies. I wrote off my breathlessness so many times, but my body was drowning in fluid.

"I feel so lucky to be able to return to normal life. Your heart does matter, look after it."

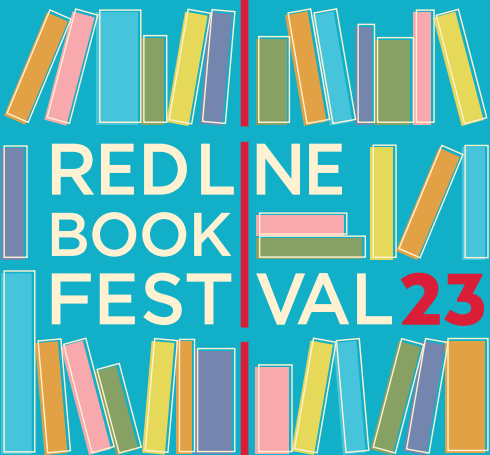
For practical tips and support and further information about the campaign, visit [irishheart.ie](http://irishheart.ie).



**WARNING:**  
Emma Connors  
with her son JJ




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**ADMISSION:** Free, Booking essential







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# Hundreds flock to community centre to explore health options

## Health fair showed wide engagement from people all across the life cycle

A WELL-ATTENDED health fair was held in the Jobstown Community Centre on Tuesday morning, which saw hundreds of people find out about health services in the locality, reports *Aideen O'Flaherty*.

The event was organised by Connecting for Life Jobstown to coincide with World Mental Health Day, October 10, and featured 25 stallholders.

The event was officially opened by Mayor

Alan Edge and footballer Graham Gartland, with attendees getting to explore their options in relation to physical and mental health.

Marsha Williams from Connecting for Life Jobstown told *The Echo*: "I'm on a high. It was beyond what I was expecting."

"We had wide engagement from people all across the lifecycle – from mams, to people in later life and young people."

"We held the fair so national and local

services could come in and get face-to-face time with the community and advocate for them.

"It came out of a couple of key services and personnel who contacted me and said there was a need to address what's going on with mental health in the community."

"The fair meant we could share information about supports. There's a lot on offer, but not many people know how to access the services and where they are, so that was the basis of it."

"At one point the room was completely full. We also had Transition Year students from Mount Seskin Community College who came. "It made us feel good to know that people were leaving knowing that they were supported."

Reflecting on the success of the event, Ms Williams said there are plans to make the Jobstown Health Fair an annual event going forward. *See photos on pages 56 and 57....*

# Leading dietician team delivers new eLearning course for doctors on nutrition



ESSENTIALS: Siobhan Glynn (Meath Foundation), Manon Van Alphen (Technology Enhanced Learning Manager, CLD), Kate Muldowney (Senior Dietitian), Mary Hickey (Quality Improvement), Sinéad Feehan (Dietitian Manager) and Tom Martin (Educational Technologist, CLD)

THE Department of Nutrition and Dietetics at Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) has just launched a new eLearning course for doctors. It is called, "Nutrition Essentials for Non Consultant Hospital Doctors and Healthcare Practitioners in the Acute Care setting." This course is the first of its kind in Ireland.

The dietitians at TUH have years of experience in delivering nutrition education to doctors. They designed this module to ensure that doctors are able to identify the signs of malnutrition and the components of good nutritional care.

Many key nutritional topics are covered, including malnutrition (identification and management), re-feeding syndrome, and methods of nutrition support provision (oral, enteral and parenteral) in addition to addressing many common nutritional misconceptions. Currently, there is no

requirement for health professionals, other than dietitians, to receive education and training in nutritional care. Whilst this module is designed primarily for doctors, it is relevant to all healthcare practitioners.

The module was written by Kate Muldowney, Senior Dietitian in Critical Care (primary author) and Sinead Feehan, Dietitian Manager. The content evaluation team was comprised of members of the TUH Dietetics Department and Dr Paul Maguire, Medical Intern (currently in Saint James Hospital). The technical team comprised Tom Martin, Clodagh McLoughlin and Manon Van Alphen from the TUH Centre of Learning and Development.

The module is currently available for all health professionals to complete on the HSeLanD online platform. This project was generously supported by the Meath Foundation

# ‘Enjoyable’ ecumenical service sees over 40 pets being blessed

## Homily delivered by Canon Deverell centred on responsibility for God’s creation

By Aideen O’Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

OVER 40 pets received blessings from Fr Frank Drescher and Canon William Deverell in an ecumenical service in St Kilian’s Church in Kingswood last Sunday.

The event was held just before St Kilian’s Church closed to undergo extensive renovations and repair works before it will reopen on October 27.

In the meantime, Masses will be held in St Kevin’s Church, but Sunday’s service served as a fitting event before the temporary closure of the church.

The majority of the pets were dogs, and Fr Drescher’s own dog – a five-month-old German Shepherd called Charlie – was also there on the day.

A homily was delivered by Canon

Deverell at the service, which centred on a spirit of Christian unity and co-responsibility for the preservation of God’s creation.

Commenting on the success of the day, Fr Drescher told *The Echo*: “It was very well attended, 60 people were there at the beginning and more people came.”

“Dogs were almost exclusively the pets that people brought. I’m under the impression, from the feedback that I got afterwards, that it was a very enjoyable occasion.”

Fr Drescher said the idea for the event came about after he realised there was appetite for a service of this nature in the area.

“The interest from the community and the response has been remarkable,” he explained.

“People have already approached me and told me how much they enjoyed it and asked if I’d do it again next year – and I’m open to it if there’s interest in it again.”



GREAT INTEREST: Works ongoing at St Kilian’s Church on Tuesday afternoon (inset) Fr Frank Drescher, Canon William Deverell, and Charlie the German Shepherd

“ It was very well attended, 60 people were there at the beginning and more people came. Dogs were almost exclusively the pets that people brought . . .

**Paul Murphy TD**  
**Jess Spear**  
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**Kay Keane**  
Tallaght South

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# Vandalism did not deter Lemass commemoration

THE Captain Noel Lemass Centenary Commemoration was held on Military Road in the Dublin Mountains last Sunday, reports Aideen O'Flaherty.

The event organisers were undeterred from holding the event after an act of vandalism that saw a monument in his memory being daubed with red paint just hours before.

Mr Lemass, brother of then-future taoiseach Seán Lemass, was an anti-Treaty IRA captain who was

abducted in broad daylight from Wicklow Street in the city centre on July 3, 1923.

His mutilated body was discovered along Military Road on October 13, 1923, where there were apparent signs of torture on the 25-year-old's body. He was later buried in Glasnevin Cemetery.

The centenary event was marked by members of Fianna Fáil, including Tánaiste Micheál Martin, who outlined the details of Mr Lemass's gruesome death and subsequent

discovery.

Local Fianna Fáil TD John Lahart acknowledged the distress caused by the desecration of the national monument dedicated to Mr Lemass, but emphasised that the attendees remained undeterred.

He stated that everyone present was resolute in not letting this incident overshadow the importance of the occasion.

A wreath was laid at the wall that surrounds the monument to Mr Lemass, while a bagpiper played.



RESPECT: Tánaiste Micheál Martin placing a wreath



South Dublin County Partnership  
Páirtíocht Chontae Átha Cliath Theas

## Health Awareness Month 2023

### Tallaght Schedule of Events

#### Week 3:

Oct 16	<b>Tallaght West Credit Union Information Session</b> Fettercairn CHP Butterfly Room, 7pm-8pm	Oct 16	<b>Blood Pressure &amp; BMI testing available in local pharmacies:</b> Killinarden Pharmacy Hub • McCabe's Citywest Hickey's Springfield • Rossfield Pharmacy Killinarden Pharmacy • Jobstown Pharmacy
Oct 16	<b>Health Checks</b> Killinarden Community Centre 10am-12pm	Oct 17	<b>Co-operative parenting following parental separation</b> Killinarden FRC, 10am- 11am
Oct 17	<b>Your Sexual Health What You Need to Know</b> TU Dublin Tallaght Campus, 6pm-8pm	Oct 17	<b>COPD Exercise class Under Professional Instruction</b> Rua Red, 10am-11am
Oct 17	<b>Functions of the Skin</b> Firhouse Community Centre 10:30am-11:30am	Oct 17	<b>Activator Poles/Falls Prevention Workshop</b> Belgard Community Centre 10:30am-12pm
Oct 18	<b>Jewellery Making Workshop</b> Fettercairn CHP CLOSED GROUP	Oct 17	<b>Irish Heart Foundation</b> Fettercairn CHP 9am-4pm
Oct 19	<b>Health Check / Flu Vaccines</b> Mountain Park 10am-2pm	Oct 18	<b>Jigsaw - One Good Adult</b> Belgard Community Centre 10:30am
Oct 20	<b>Holistic Therapies</b> Belgard Community Centre 9am-1pm	Oct 19	<b>COPD Exercise class Under Professional Instruction</b> Rua Red, 11am-12pm
		Oct 20	<b>Osteoporosis Talk &amp; Blood Pressure Checks</b> Killinarden FRC, 10.15am-11.30am

Follow Fettercairn health project on Facebook for more information on Health Awareness Month events! Search 'Fettercairn Health Project' or scan the qr code below:






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# The 'horrors' of navigating child disability services

A PUBLIC meeting is being organised in Tallaght for parents "dealing with the horrors of navigating children's disability services", according to local TD Paul Murphy.

The People Before Profit representative has been working with parents who have had to take High Court cases in order to receive services they believe their child should be automatically entitled to.

He has stated: "Parents are having to fight for these services which are considered basic human rights in most countries. Our Government is failing the most vulnerable in our society. We need huge investment in every area of children's disability services; from assessment of need, to financial and respite support for parents and carers, also support for staff working in the children's disability sector. These workers are underpaid and overworked."

The Ombudsman for Children recently accused the state of a "profound violation of children's rights" in the areas of mental health and disability care. Nowhere to Turn, a report released by the Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO) described how children with complex disabilities are left in inappropriate settings for months as the government has failed to provide them adequate home supports.

The meeting will be addressed by Rachel Martin who founded FUSS (Families Unite for Services and Support) Ireland after two of her children were left in limbo. In a statement she said;

"For decades, services for our disabled and neurodivergent children/young people have been grossly underfunded and neglected. Every child deserves timely access to assessment, interventions, and appropriate educational settings. It is time for the government to be held accountable for their failures."

The meeting will be held in The Maldrone Hotel, Tallaght on Thursday, October 19, 7.30pm. Speakers will include; Rachel Martin founder of FUSS (Families Unite for Services and Support), a solicitor specialising in High Court cases against the state in relation to children's disability services and Paul Murphy TD.

“Parents are having to fight for these services which are considered basic human rights in most countries. Our Government is failing...”



CONCERNED: Paul Murphy, TD

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ALL SET: Volunteers at the clean-up of Brookfield Community Centre

# Volunteers ‘boxing clever’ with community centre clean-up

Clubs attached to Brookfield Community Centre have produced world champions

A TEAM of volunteers from the Brookfield Community Centre carried out a clean-up of the centre last Saturday, as they feel it has been “forgotten about”.

By Aideen O’Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

The centre is in the grounds of St Aidan’s Community School and hosts a number of successful sports groups, including the Black Panther Kickboxing Club and Westside Boxing Club.

“It has the Black Panther Kickboxing Club and Westside Boxing Club with a number of other activities going on in the centre.

“The centre has been quite busy but needs renovation and upgrading, which it has not received in a long time.

“The community centre is vital to the area and has been the heart of the community for many years.

“It has proven itself within the community and has survived, to date, on limited funding.”

Volunteers from the community and the sports clubs carried out the clean-up to highlight the community centre and the work that is carried out in it.

Norman Kelly from Black Panther and the Brookfield Community Centre told *The Echo*: “[The centre] has been running for the last 30 years.

**“We feel that the community centre and the area has been neglected and has not received the attention that it deserves in a positive way. All of the community would be lost without this facility . . .**

Mr Kelly pointed out that the sports clubs in the centre “have produced world and national champions in their respective sports” and shows a positive aspect of the area.

“The clean-up was a very important day for us to highlight and to have come together as a community,” he said.

“We feel that the community centre and the area has been neglected and has not received the attention that it deserves in a positive way.

“All of the community would be lost without this facility.

“We feel that we have been forgotten about and had to do a clean-up to get our community centre highlighted and back on the map.

“The clean-up was a great success and all the families and clubs from the community all enjoyed helping and cleaning up. It was very positive with smiles on their faces at the end of the day.”

Mr Kelly added that he wanted to thank Cllr Charlie O’Connor, and local TDs Seán Crowe and Francis Noel Duffy for their support, and Erin Ballesty from South Dublin County Council for attending on the day.



READY: Michael Finnegan and family



WILLING: Malecki and Pramod Sakre Families during the clean-up



ABLE: Pat Harding and McDonagh Family (Black Panthers)

## Active Travel Roadshow

SADDLING up, South Dublin County Council is set to be the first local authority to run an Active Travel Roadshow after launching the first Active Travel website.

At the recent monthly meeting of South Dublin County Council, the authority detailed the steps being taken to promote the use of cycle lanes.

Active Travel is making a journey by walking, cycling or other sustainable modes and are typically short, like cycling to school or walking to the shop.

The Active Travel team is set to embark on a series of roadshows, which will be targeting the promotion of such infrastructure and modes of transport.

A pilot bike library scheme has also been launched in two primary schools on Rossmore Road, with the aim of encouraging parents and children to cycle to school safely. Should this be a success, the council intends to roll it out in more schools.

Separately, Bike Week is something that the council runs annually, delivering events such as community cycles, bike maintenance clinics, and school events.

Information about all of the different cycle schemes across South Dublin County and the benefits of Active Travel are available through [www.sdcc.ie/en/active-travel](http://www.sdcc.ie/en/active-travel)

# Call-out for restoration of 'bulky waste' collections

## Council says it spends around €1.4m on removal of illegally dumped items

By Maurice Garvey  
maurice@echo.ie

BULKY waste collections should be reinstated by the council, according to Cllr Derren Ó Brádaigh (SF).

At the South Dublin County Council meeting this week, Cllr Ó Brádaigh asked for an estimated cost of removing discarded bulky household items.

In response, the council said it spends approximately €1.4m per year on the removal of illegally dumped materials.

These costs include "substantial wages", together with the "provision of vehicles complete with lifting equipment, fuel costs and the cost to dispose of the waste."

"In my view, bulky items such as household furniture, doors, wardrobes, beds, mattresses, etc account for a substantial percentage of the overall amount, whether in their originally dumped state or in the eventual embers of illegal burning," said Ó Brádaigh.

"Whilst there may be some **Bulky items such as household furniture, doors, wardrobes, beds, mattresses, etc, account for a substantial percentage of the overall amount...**

disagreement about the exact percentage that 'bulky waste' is responsible for within the illegally dumped figures recorded, it is nonetheless significant. The impact on our environment is a problem that still exists since this service was discontinued in 2008.

"I also support the re-municipalisation of domestic waste collection services for the simple reason, that I believe privatisation of services has been responsible for a further sizeable portion of the ongoing problem in terms of the 'black bag' dumping element," said Cllr Ó Brádaigh.

"The equated annual cost previously for providing a bulky waste service to households on a semi-annual basis was in the region of €500k to €600k. This service covered 20,000 homes at the time removing 1,500 tonnes per year, and whilst any reintroduction could be expected to have increased costs with more homes, it is worth remembering that many householders have adopted better and more responsible recycling practices in the intervening years."



DISGRACE: Councillor Derren Ó Brádaigh standing beside bulky waste

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SMILES: Lilly, Mary C, Mary Kelly, Linda, Therese, Mary T, Marie and Adam

# Parents, paint and progress

An army of volunteers worked hard at restoring St Anne's parents' room to



GRAND OPENING: Mayor Alan Edge with Marie Mulligan, Mary Cullen, Cllr Charlie O'Connor, Mary Kelly, Ray Lynn, Bobby Page, Lisa Vaughan and John Fell

By Aideen O'Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

A NEW parents' room was officially opened in St Anne's Primary School in Fettercairn on Thursday, and it coincided with a coffee morning that saw the school raise over €1,000 for a hospice.

The parents' room is an essential component of the St Anne's community, but it fell by the wayside during Covid-19, and when normal classes resumed, the room had to be turned into a classroom.

Because of this, the school approached the local parish and managed to secure another room on the school grounds, but in a separate building.

Over several weeks, owing to the dedication and work of school staff, parents, school caretaker Peter King, and Mary Kelly from the parish, the room was brought up to scratch and is now open.

"We had a lovely parents' room, but about four years ago people stopped going in because of Covid, and two years ago it became an ASD classroom because we had no other space," said principal Ray Lynn.

The school approached the parish about using a room on the school grounds belonging to them and received a positive response and got

to work on re-establishing the school's parents' room.

The room was in a state of disrepair when the school received it, but through hard work and donations they created a vibrant, welcoming space for parents to unwind and attend courses.

The team of volunteers cleaned out the room, painted it all, put in new lights, got an electrician to fix the wiring, and put new appliances in the room.

The room has already been in use for a year, but the official launch only occurred last week as Mr Lynn wanted to solidify the space after it became a part of the school again.

"Last year, we just wanted to get the room up and running, but this year is about getting it moving," he told *The Echo*.

The room is in use every day, with parents using it in the morning after dropping their kids off, in the afternoon while waiting for their children, and for classes on topics such as healthy eating.

Alongside the launch of the room, the school also held a coffee morning in aid of Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross, which saw parent Erroll Flynn shave off his hair for the cause.

The school community raised over €1,000 for the hospice, adding to the feel-good factor on the day.



HAPPY: Deirdre, Cheryl and Monica

# Maryfield residents break out the brushes and the knitting needles



TIME OUT: Cllr Vincent Jackson with residents Helen Carroll, Sr Mary Ward, and Sr Eileen Creedon

THE annual art exhibition by Maryfield Nursing Home was launched this week in Ballyfermot Library, reports Maurice Garvey.

The expo features works by residents at the Chapelizod nursing home, and includes paintings, drawings and knitwear.

One stand was dedicated to a special former resident Máirín Hughes, who sadly passed away last month, and was Ireland's oldest resident at 109 years of age.

Máirín enjoyed a wonderful life in her later years at Maryfield with her fellow residents, looked after tenderly by staff, at the peaceful surroundings, which overlooks the Weir river and the Phoenix Park.

A trailblazer for women in the workplace between the 1930s and 1960s, Máirín did a degree in science and a diploma in education at University College Cork, and worked in the

pathology lab in UCC's Department of Medicine for 14 years.

An avid fan of classical music, walking, and literature, Máirín attended Mass every day at the nursing home chapel.

Maryfield Nursing Home expressed a "big thank you" to Ballyfermot Library for "being incredibly accommodating and welcoming to everyone at our art exhibition grand opening."

"Special thanks to Councillor Vincent Jackson for opening the event and delivering a heartwarming speech.

"A huge shout-out to everyone who came out to support us, leaving us with lovely feedback and compliments. Your presence made our opening night truly memorable. If you would like to see our fabulous works of art call into the library, display will be there for next two weeks." See photos pg 50

## full use after years of disrepair



CLOSE SHAVE: Erroll Flynn (had his head shaved for charity) with Mary Kelly



BROWSING: Erinna and Richard (father and daughter) enjoying the residents' artwork

# Community garden wins top Chef's Larder Award

## Garden provides an avenue to participate in climate action

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

A COMMUNITY Garden which supplies local cafés and shops with high-quality produce has been recognised with a prestigious Chef's Larder Award at the 2023 Blas na hÉireann Awards.

Cherry Orchard Community Garden, a local climate-action social enterprise managed by Ballyfermot Chapelzod Partnership and supported by Dublin City Council, was rewarded at the awards last Friday.

The prestigious Chef's Larder Award was given for the garden's mixed salads which it grows and provides to local cafés and shops at the 2023 Blas na hÉireann Awards.

The garden plays an important role in Cherry Orchard by providing an amenity for residents and volunteers, and also offering training and employment opportunities.

The garden provides an avenue for people from low-income communities to participate in climate action, something that has become



**AWARD: Peadar Lynch in the community garden**

increasingly important. "We are so proud that the Blas na hÉireann Awards have shone such a positive spotlight on our wonderful community and the impact we are able to generate,"

said Peadar Lynch, who operates the Cherry Orchard Community Garden alongside a group of trained and enthusiastic volunteers.

President Mary McAleese

officially opened the Cherry Orchard Community Garden and Allotments back in 2010.

The goal of the garden was growing organic fruits and vegetables to reduce the carbon

footprint of imported alternatives and provide an amenity for locals to become more self-sufficient.

In the garden, the team grow fresh seasonal produce using traditional techniques to produce salad, kale, spinach, cherry tomatoes, herbs, flowers and a lot more.

In addition to its fruit and vegetable sales, the social enterprise lease allotments to local people to grow their own and it sells composted horse manure recycled from the neighbouring Cherry Orchard Equine Centre.

When people buy the locally grown vegetables, they are supporting a social enterprise which strives to be sustainable with low energy output, low food miles and a low carbon footprint.

All of the profits gained through the garden are reinvested into the project and locality, such is the nature of a social enterprise.

What is next? Well, the gardening crew are hoping to achieve full organic producer status through the Irish Organic Association sometime within the next year.

## Becoming aware of risk factors for thrombosis

TO CELEBRATE World Thrombosis Day, Thrombosis Ireland will host an awareness and fundraising bucket collection in The Square, Tallaght on Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

There will be an awareness created in the Tallaght community about the Risk Factors, Signs and symptoms of blood clots so lives can be saved.

There will be an information Table and Blood Clot Alert cards for distribution on the day.

There will also be an education and awareness event in Tallaght Hospital on Friday morning.

**THE Echo**  
**Real Local News**  
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### TOGETHER FM - HOW TO FIND US



Together FM is your local Community Radio Station based in the Ballyfermot Civic Centre.

Please support us by spreading the word among your family, friends and colleagues.

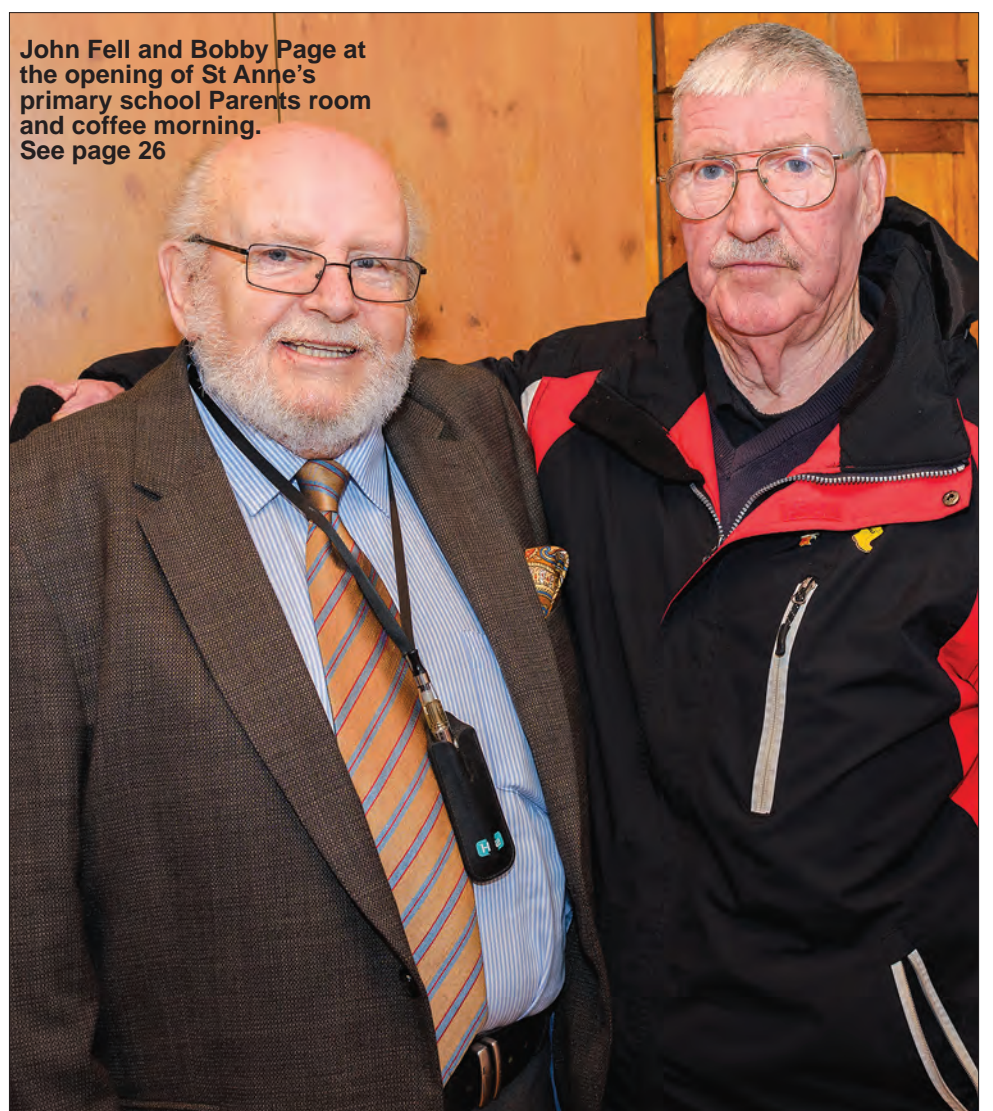
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## Parents room opening



John Fell and Bobby Page at the opening of St Anne's primary school Parents room and coffee morning. See page 26

# Gardai lauded as ‘heroes’ after rescue of woman from blaze

‘In their daily work, gardai embody bravery and this one example reinforces that’

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

TWO gardai were commended for their bravery in saving a woman from a house fire last month.

Gardai Conor Treacy and Nigel Murphy, were the first responders at the scene of a house fire, and they used a ladder to access an upstairs window, lifting a woman in her 50s to safety.

The blaze engulfed a home in Buirg an Rí Walk in Clondalkin at around 1.30am, on September 8.

The bravery of the two gardai, who are attached to Lucan Garda Station, was acknowledged by Garda Commissioner Drew Harris this week, and by many members of the public, who praised them as “heroes” who “went above the call of duty.”

An Garda Síochána posted a picture of the gardai with Commissioner Harris, and some background details.

It was a regular night’s duty for Garda Conor Treacy and Garda Nigel Murphy when they were deployed to respond to fire at a home in

Lucan, in the early hours of Friday, September 8.

When they arrived at the address they were met by frantic nearby residents who were all gravely concerned that there was someone trapped inside the blaze.

A woman could be initially heard shouting for help but it wasn’t possible to gain entry via the front of the house.

She had then gone silent.

Garda Treacy and Garda Murphy kicked into action and plucked a ladder they had spotted in a neighbour’s garden – they managed to get in an upstairs bedroom window.

In the midst of heavy plumes of smoke, they found a woman in her 50s on the floor and together they lifted her to safety.

The woman received medical treatment and is now being looked after as she recuperates.

Both gardai were treated in hospital for smoke inhalation and returned to duty the following week.

“In their daily work, gardai embody bravery and this one example reinforces that each day they go above and beyond to help keep people safe.” says Garda spokesperson.



HEROES: Gardai Conor Treacy and Nigel Murphy with Garda Commissioner Drew Harris

“The bravery of the two gardai, who are attached to Lucan Garda Station, was acknowledged by Garda Commissioner Drew Harris this week, and by many members of the public, who praised them as ‘heroes’ who ‘went above the call of duty’...”

## Echo on tour in Egypt



WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN: Reading his Number One local newspaper, *The Echo*, while on holiday in Sharm El Sheik in Egypt is Gerry Coughlan from Tallaght

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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



## Mushrooms, fungi and fairy rings



### RINGS: Fairy rings in grass can grow metres wide

MUSHROOMS and fungi are plentiful in autumn, particularly after mild and damp weather.

Mushrooms are the fruiting cap of fungi. They produce the microscopic spores which float away to start a new colony elsewhere.

The fungus itself is a mass of tiny white root-like threads called a mycelium which lives underground in the soil or within rotting leaves and wood.

Sometimes we can see the effects of an underground soil fungus long before the visible mushroom appears.

These are the 'fairy rings' that are often seen in grassy lawns.

They look like large rings of dark, lush green grass that remain even when the grass is cut.

These rings represent the visible growth of an underground fungus.

When its spores first land in the grass and form a new colony, it grows outwards in a circle. As the fungus grows, it breaks down nutrients along its growing point at the edge of the ring. These nutrients

cause the grass at the edge of the ring to grow lush and tall. In autumn, mushrooms will appear along this growing edge.

A different type of a fairy ring occurs in woodlands where they appear as curving lines of mushrooms around the base of trees.

These mushrooms are the visible part of the complex mat of underground fungi that work in partnership with the trees.

Woodland trees need certain nutrients from the soil for their growth. The mat of underground fungus breaks down these nutrients and passes them directly to the roots of the trees.

In return, the trees pass sugars that they have made for themselves on to the fungus.

Because they look so unusual, fairy rings were once said to be places where the fairies danced and feasted at night.

It was said that if you stepped into a ring on the night of a full moon, the fairies would hold on to you and not let you go.



FAIRY RINGS: Woodland fairy rings form in association with tree roots



# Principal re Maelruain c

## Pupils at her retirement concert sang Van Morrison's 'Days Like This'

CAITRIONA Hogan retired from her role as principal of Scoil Maelruain Senior National School last week, having spent the majority of her teaching career in the Tallaght primary school.

Ms Hogan first walked through the doors of the school in 1985 when she commenced a teaching practice placement and remained at the school since then.

When she started working in the school, she was struck by the positive atmosphere and dedicated staff and knew it was the school for her.

"There was a fantastic atmosphere, great sports teams, the kids went on trips to places like Croke Park, and there was brilliant staff," Ms Hogan told *The Echo*.

"It was unique. It was a very big school, it was well-run and the kids were fabulous."

Over the years, Ms Hogan has witnessed changes in the education system that have cultivated a more inclusive learning environment.

"The biggest changes were the reduction in class sizes, and the introduction of SNAs," she said.

"When I started, there were no SNAs in the school to help the children who needed it, but now we have seven SNAs."

There were also challenges during Ms Hogan's tenure, with the implementation of Covid rules being particularly difficult.

"My worst day was when the government said children had to wear masks," she recalled.

"It was so hard, especially for children

By Aideen O'Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

with special needs. The children would be going around in masks, so you couldn't see their smiles and we couldn't get the school together for events."

A pressing challenge that Ms Hogan has witnessed is the ongoing teacher shortage in Dublin, as she said the school advertised for a teaching role for this academic year and received no applications.

"Now, as I leave, staffing is a huge challenge," she explained. "There is a vacancy in our school, but no one has applied. We've never had that before – but it's happening in nearly every school in Dublin."

However, Ms Hogan takes great joy from the years she spent in Scoil Maelruain SNS and the impact she has had.

When asked what her proudest moment has been, she said: "A past pupil came back to the school last week and met me at the gate."

"He said I taught him to read and write when he was ten or 11, and that he wasn't able to do it before."

The current school community gave Ms Hogan a strong send-off last week, which included a school concert where the pupils sang one of her favourite songs, Van Morrison's 'Days Like This'. See photos page 52



**JOB DONE:** Caitriona Hogan has retired from her role as principal of Scoil Maelruain Senior National School

# tires from Scoil on a high note



**FAREWELL:** Retired principal Caitriona Hogan with Scoil Maelruain pupils Daisy, Keane and Jack

# The importance of keeping the body healthy with exercise



**EXPLORING:** Students from St Mark's Community School

TEENAGERS from local secondary schools recently attended talks led by Trinity College and got to explore the importance of exercise and health within the community, reports Aideen O'Flaherty.

The transition year pupils who took part were from Old Bawn Community School, St Mark's Community School, Firhouse Community College, Coláiste de hÍde, and Mount Seskin Community College.

The event took place in the Trinity College School of Medicine's Discipline of Public Health and Primary Care in Tallaght Cross.

Researchers from Trinity delivered short, 15-minute talks to the students, and afterwards the school groups rotated through six interactive stations.

While at the stations, they engaged with the researchers, and learned more details about the impact of the research on their communities and on the healthcare system as a whole.

The ExWell research study challenged the students to test their grip-strength, do squats and press-ups and benchmark against what the research shows as the average for each age group.

Undergraduate students from the Human Health and Disease programme challenged students to guess the sugar content in some common foods.

Other interactive stations included under-desk cycling to reduce sedentary behaviour in adults, and there were discussion groups about some ongoing addiction research.

Last year's Trinity Access Programme (TAP) Bridge to College participants also did peer presentations of their school-based projects for the young people.

The event was run as part of the Academic Primary Care Collaborative whose ethos is 'Innovating Community Health' and was held to mark European Researchers' Night.



**IMPACTS:** Students from Firhouse Community College

AS PART of *The Echo* celebrating over 40 years, we're celebrating you, and local faces and places. Over the last three years we've shared the stories of local people, and remind ourselves of the great community spirit alive across local areas. This week, **Ken Doyle** talks to Sr. Mairead Hughes, one of the founder members of Youth Horizons, a unique Jobstown based education programme.



**REDOUBTABLE:** Sr. Mairead Hughes who has been working with the youth of Jobstown for more years than she cares to remember

***The Echo* – celebrating community for over 40 years**



YOUTH Horizons is a unique Jobstown based education programme which has been a resource for the area's families since 1987.

Originally there were three founders, Dr Kate Ganter, who has now sadly passed on, Fr. Denis O'Connor, who moved to another parish some years ago, and the redoubtable Sr. Mairead Hughes who has been working with the youth of Jobstown for more years than she cares to remember.

And it is Sr. Mairead who is the focus of our Local Faces feature this week.

Originally from Clontarf, it's safe to say that education is in her DNA.

The daughter, and indeed, granddaughter of teachers, she went on to ply the family trade in various places before fortune smiled on her and she ended up in the bucolic splendour of West Dublin 24.

Sr Mairead's own education took her to secondary school at St Louis' in Rathmines, where she would eventually become a member of the Sisters of Saint Louis. As she tells me, "In those days it was very easy to cross the city. The school was great and it was worth the extra shoe leather getting there and back."

Leaving certificate acquired, Sr. Mairead then set her sights on a

Languages degree at UCD. Once that was achieved, she added an H.Dip in education and her varied career duly commenced.

"My first position was at a school in Kilkeel in County Down in 1969," she tells me. "I really enjoyed it and the people and the town were fantastic. I suppose things were complicated somewhat by the troubles which were really starting to become very serious during that time."

Apart from her regular duties, Sr. Mairead became the school's camogie coach, a role she loved and was very passionate about.

"I was definitely more of a coach than a player," she laughs. "It was much easier to tell the players what to do than show them!"

Having spent eight happy years in Kilkeel, Sr Mairead moved back south of the border in 1977 to accept a position at her alma mater, St Louis'.

Then in 1985, Sr. Mairead moved to Jobstown and things would never be the same again.

When Jobstown Community College was founded in 1986, our heroine was immediately installed as its first chaplain to go along with her teaching duties.

"I instantly loved it here," she says. "I knew I'd found a home in Jobstown and I wanted to do what I could to help

this developing area thrive."

After a very happy and gratifying time at Jobstown CC, Sr Mairead, along with her close friends, the aforementioned Dr Kate and Fr Denis began to speak seriously about the need for an extra facility which could help kids who face struggles in mainstream education.

Together, they took the initiative, and founded Youth Horizons.

The Youth Horizons vision is for a society in which everyone has the opportunity to complete their education to the best of their ability despite any challenges they face in mainstream education and in their home lives along the way.

Youth Horizons has achieved some great successes in recent years but its beginnings were humble to say the least.

Sr Mairead takes up the story; "When Sundale estate was being built, the first two houses were showhouses and had been, for the want of a better word, trashed. Between the three of us and many volunteers in the local community, we raised the funds to put in an offer on them. Eventually we were successful in acquiring and renovating both houses and they have been our home ever since."

"The services we provide have certainly evolved over the years," Sr

Mairead tells me.

"Initially, our aim was to respond to the needs of young people in the Jobstown area. For the first decade, we offered community building initiatives focusing on personal development courses, homework clubs, peer tutoring, chess and musical education.

Since 2000 we have responded to an expressed community need to provide support to early school leavers who found mainstream school challenging yet wanted to complete the Leaving Certificate."

She continues; "All young people need a safe space to achieve their full potential. Some children however, face challenges that prevent them from blossoming in mainstream education, be they socio-economic or otherwise, and we aim to provide them with the helping hand they need."

Services provided by Youth Horizons a Leaving Cert completion programme, along with a crèche for those students who may need childcare facilities.

It also offers a wide range of enrichment programmes including counselling, mentoring, career guidance, cooking & nutrition, life skills, wellbeing, work experience, cultural awareness, travel opportunities and transition to university.

For my research, Sr. Mairead was

kind enough to provide some beautifully written testimonials from former students, among them Matthew Phelan, Lorna O'Neill and high praise from Marian Fennell of Mount Seskin CC, a close collaborator with Youth Horizons.

Matthew is now flying in his chosen discipline of Electrical Engineering, and is now living and working in England having graduated from IT Tallaght.

Lorna is now a Teacher at the Secondary school that she left when she was sixteen!

Naturally, Sr. Mairead is keen to get the spotlight off herself and thank the people around her who make Youth Horizons such a success. Particular praise is given to the Manager Geraldine Cullen, and all the teachers, not to mention the ETB which sponsors them.

To sum up, although she'll never realise it, Sr. Mairead is quite simply one of the great hidden assets that make our community a better place. An hour in conversation with her feels like five minutes, and we're truly lucky to have her.

*The Echo* salutes her and offers our sincere thanks for all she's done for us.

For more information on Youth horizons, visit their website on <https://youthhorizons.ie/>

**“ All young people need a safe space to achieve their full potential. Some children however, face challenges that prevent them from blossoming in mainstream education, be they socio-economic or otherwise, and we aim to provide them with the helping hand they need**

**SPOTLIGHT: Sr Mairead says she is keen to get the spotlight off herself and thank the people around her who make Youth Horizons such a success**



# Tributes paid to impressive scores for Tidy Towns



SUPPORT: Clondalkin Tidy Towns out in force in the village

## Clondalkin Tidy Towns now proudly stands in 12th place while other groups in Rathcoole, L

By Aideen O'Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

A NUMBER of local Tidy Towns groups got impressive scores in this year's SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition, including Tallaght Tidy Towns who were first-time entrants this year.

The results of the competition were published last Friday, with Tallaght Tidy Towns being credited as "helping to transform the area" and it being "difficult to believe that this is just your first year".

All of the groups that took part in the national competition received scores, with higher scores meaning they were higher up the league table, with winner Abbeyleix in Laois receiving 376.

Tidy Towns groups in South County Dublin and Dublin South Central had a strong showing on the league table and garnered respectable scores for their hard work.

Lucan Tidy Towns received a score of 357, with Clondalkin following closely behind with a score of 337.

The adjudicators told Clondalkin Tidy Towns that their hard work was evident and noted that "many high quality projects" were visible.

Cllr Eoin Ó Broin said: "Clondalkin Tidy

Towns continues to go from strength to strength.

"This year's results were announced on Friday 6th October, with the group achieving an overall score of 337 in this year's competition – an increase of 14 points on our 2022 score.

"From an unofficial league of 47 Tidy Towns groups in the Dublin area, Clondalkin now proudly stands in 12th place. It is great to receive such recognition of our hard work."

Rathcoole earned a score of 264, Woodstown Village in Knocklyon achieved a score of 298, Crumlin got a score of 262, followed by Ballyboden with a score of 260.

Rathfarnham Tidy Towns's efforts were recognised with a score of 240, with Drimnagh, and Tymon North in Tallaght, both getting a score of 237 each.

Saggart Tidy Towns got a score of 233, which was welcomed by Lynn Tierney from the group who told *The Echo* about the work that had been undertaken by the volunteers.

"We are delighted to have the hard work of all committee members and volunteers recognised with increasing award scores for three consecutive years now," said Ms Tierney.

"We organise a range of projects and activities. Our monthly village clean-ups take place on a Saturday morning, where new volunteers of all ages and abilities are always welcome to join.

"Other projects include the upkeep of the flowers and plants in planters throughout the

village, running the Global Goals Book Club in local schools, water quality testing, trap neuter release programs for stray cats and liaising with South Dublin County Council for maintenance and funding of new initiatives.

"We are very proud of all we have achieved and are thankful to the committee and volunteers who put in the work, along with the support of South Dublin County Council, local businesses, and local community groups."

Tallaght Tidy Towns received a score of 217 with the adjudicators encouraging them to "keep up the good work" and compete again next year.

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced the winners at the awards ceremony last week and praised the competitors for cleaning their communities.

"As always, the standard of competition was extremely high this year in all categories, with 887 entries received overall," said Minister Humphreys.

"I want to pay tribute to all the winners today across all the various categories.

"In particular, I want to recognise the vital role of Tidy Towns volunteers across the country who are working so hard all year round to ensure our communities are vibrant, sustainable places to live, work and visit.

"You are truly an inspiration, and the embodiment of everything that is good in our communities."



CLEAN-UP: Volunteers in Saggart Village cleaning up the village

“As always, the standard of competition was extremely high this year in all categories...”

# ressive s groups



**TIDY BUNCH:** Just some of the Tallaght Village Tidy Towns volunteers, delighted with their first year in the competition



Lucan, Saggart and Drimmagh impressed



**QUALITY PROJECTS:** Volunteers cleaning up in Clondalkin



**GOOD WORK:** Members of Saggart Tidy Towns were encouraged to 'keep up the good work'

# Man tried to put faeces soiled hand in female garda's face

39-year-old violently assaulted two gardai at the Mater Hospital has been sentenced

By Jessica Magee  
news@echo.ie

A MAN who violently assaulted two gardai at the Mater Hospital in Dublin has been sentenced to three years in prison, with the final six months suspended.

John Paul Duncan (39) of Drumcain Avenue, Tallaght, Dublin 24 pleaded guilty to possessing €8,500 of cocaine contained in six condoms at Store Street Garda Station on January 31 last.

Duncan also admitted assaulting two gardai who took him to the Mater hospital on the same day, after he became unwell upon swallowing cocaine.

Passing sentence on Wednesday at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court, Judge Orla Crowe refused to suspend Duncan's sentence in order to allow him attend residential drug treatment.

Keith Spencer BL, defending Duncan, had requested a fully-suspended sentence so that his client could take up a place in a rehabilitation centre from next week.

Judge Crowe set a headline sentence of four years for possessing cocaine, but reduced this in light of Duncan's early plea, his remorse and his efforts at rehabilitation.

Duncan's assaults on gardai, described by Judge Crowe as "nasty", were taken into account.

Garda Clodagh Doyle told a previous hearing that gardai were called to Lott's Café Bar on Liffey Street Lower after a man was seen wrapping up white powder underneath a table.

Duncan was arrested and brought to Store Street Garda Station, where he produced six condoms from his trousers, filled with over 122 grams of cocaine.

The cocaine had a total street value of just over €8,500, the court heard.

A few hours later, Duncan complained of being unwell and said he had swallowed cocaine earlier.

Garda Doyle and two colleagues accompanied Duncan to the Mater Hospital at around 7pm, where he became distressed and threw himself to the floor, retching.

Duncan said he needed the toilet and was



**JAILED:** The man assaulted two gardai at the Mater Hospital

brought to a private room containing a commode.

Gardai waiting outside heard him roaring and moving furniture around, and when they entered, Duncan took his hand, which had been inserted in his behind, and tried to put it in a female garda's face.

Gda Doyle told Olan Callanan BL, prosecuting, that Duncan then became extremely aggressive, leapt up from a chair and headbutted her colleague.

The three gardai sought to restrain Duncan, and he went to bite one of their legs, then bit Gda Doyle's hands so hard that he penetrated two pairs of gloves.

Medical staff sedated Duncan, but he continued his aggressive behaviour and tried to flee until he fell asleep, continuing again when he awoke.

Duncan has 139 previous convictions in Ireland and 11 in other jurisdictions, including drug offences, assault causing harm, theft and escape from lawful custody.

He was sentenced to eight years in prison for his role in a €1.8 million cocaine haul in 2007.

Duncan escaped from Loughan House open prison in 2016 and fled to the UK, from where he was extradited in June 2017.

Mr Spencer BL, defending, said Duncan has a well-documented and long-standing drug addiction from the age of 15, progressing from cannabis to benzos, to cocaine and then to smoking crack.

Mr Spencer said his client's entire life has been blighted by drugs, and his attempts to set up a construction company fell asunder.

Duncan took the stand and agreed that his drug

use began when he suffered domestic violence as a child and turned to drugs to "block everything out".

He told the court he has been drug-free for a couple of months and is now motivated to get clean for his fiancée, his five-year-old son and everybody.

"I've never been clean since I was 15. You're talking 20 years," he said.

"My client is doing very well in custody and has an opportunity now to address his addiction. He's willing to throw himself into any course that the court orders," said Mr Spencer.

Judge Crowe suspended the final six months of the sentence for 18 months, and ordered Duncan to be of good behaviour for 18 months on release and abide by the supervision of the Probation Services.

## 'We're talking about the history of Tallaght, will there be a statue of Charlie O'Connor?'

PLANS for the development of a heritage centre in Tallaght are gathering pace after councillors approved the public consultation stage of the proposal at a council meeting on Monday, reports Aideen O'Flaherty.

The proposed centre will be adjacent to the Civic Theatre and will feature artefacts and interpretive exhibitions exploring the history of Tallaght.

In the discussion before the approval of the Part 8 public consultation process, local councillors shared their enthusiasm for the development of the centre.

Cllr Mick Duff (Ind) said: "It's an auspicious moment for us to get this, specifically knowing that the Tallaght councillors are fully behind this."

"My colleagues Cllr Charlie O'Connor (FF) and Cllr Teresa Costello (FF) led this charge on this, they put their weight behind this, and I think it's just an amazing thing for us to have in Tallaght."

"There's such a wonderful store of history that's out there, from across the county, that is now being brought in in real-life terms or digitally."

"It's something that we're really looking forward to, and I'm delighted that it's here before us to vote on today."

Cllr Cathal King (SF) also voiced his support for the centre and said that he is confident that it will be "hugely utilised" by people "from near and far".

Cllr Costello, who alongside Cllr O'Connor has been a strong proponent for a heritage centre in Tallaght, shared her excitement for the development.

"I'm very, very excited about this heritage centre," she enthused. "Have I ever mentioned I'm fifth generation Tallaght and very proud of it?"

"I always think that, if you know the history of where you're from, you have more respect for where you live, and I think this is going to be such an amazing addition to our community."

"It's going to raise people's pride in where they live."

At the conclusion of the discussion, Cllr Brian Lawlor (FG) congratulated council management for bringing the project to this stage, and quipped: "We're talking about the history of Tallaght, will there be a statue of Charlie O'Connor?"

The councillors approved the Part 8, which will now allow the project to progress to the detailed design stage, with plans for construction to commence at the beginning of 2024.



**HERITAGE:** An artist impression of the Tallaght Heritage Centre

# Businesses are feeling confident about growth potential this year

Two in five businesses in Ireland are planning for international expansion in next 12 months

By **Maurice Garvey**

[maurice@echo.ie](mailto:maurice@echo.ie)

MORE than two-in-five businesses in Ireland are planning for international expansion in the next 12 months – up 10 per cent on the previous year – according to the Equinix 2023 Global Tech Trends Survey.

Research by the US data centre builder, who operate data centres at Citywest, Kilcarbery Park, Northwest Business Park, and Blanchardstown, suggests that enterprises in Ireland are being more bullish about expansion versus the average business worldwide.

Equinix's survey, which included 100 IT decision-makers in Ireland, explored IT leaders' perceptions and plans relating to expansion.

It found that 79 per cent of enterprises anticipate expansion at some level – either in Ireland, into a new market, or internationally – up from 74 per cent the previous year.

However, anticipated expansions face external threats such as issues relating to data sovereignty, which has come into focus due to recent geopolitical events. The majority of IT leaders in Ireland (84 per cent) said that the implementation of new, stricter laws would impact their plans.

Peter Lantry, Managing Director for Ireland, Equinix, said: "Our research shows that businesses in Ireland are feeling far more confident about their growth potential this year. With that, we are seeing a marked shift in how enterprises are viewing international expansion. It no longer needs to be a labour-intensive and costly move with boots on the ground. Digital infrastructure is enabling businesses to deploy virtually via hybrid multi-cloud, providing them with the flexibility to scale their operation up and down as needed, without the cost and commitment associated with establishing a physical presence."

Last year, Equinix joined the Gaia-X initiative, an international nonprofit bringing businesses, the scientific community and political representatives together, to confront the challenge of data sovereignty in today's world.



**GROWTH POTENTIAL:** Peter Lantry, Managing Director for Ireland Equinix

# Project management firm PM Group adds another honour to trophy cabinet

TALLAGHT project management firm PM Group added another honour to the trophy cabinet at the L&DI Awards 2023.

PM Group, who manage the design, construction and project delivery solutions to clients in the pharmaceutical, food, mission-critical, med-tech and advanced manufacturing technology sectors, won the category of 'Best Coaching or Mentoring Initiative' at the 2023 Excellence in Learning Awards.

The L&DI awards is cross industry national event to celebrate learning and development excellence, professionalism and outstanding achievement.

According to an annual report in June, PM Group had a 29 per cent rise in revenues last year.

In the year ended 31 December 2022, overall revenues for the group were €612m.

Around 51 per cent of the group's projects are undertaken outside Ireland, with operations

By **Maurice Garvey**

[maurice@echo.ie](mailto:maurice@echo.ie)

in the UK, mainland Europe, United States and Asia.

The group opened its fourth US office in Philadelphia in 2021, while a new location in North Carolina recently opened.

Meanwhile, to mark PM Group's 50th anniversary this year, the company's annual innovation awards fund increased to €50,000.

Eight of the ten category winners announced this week by the group are eligible for the overall prize. They will present their innovations to the judging panel at an event in early November.

"The breadth and depth of ideas from people right across our global office network has surpassed our expectations" said Niall O'Loughlin, Strategy Development. "Their ideas offer some really smart solutions."



**TROPHY:** The PM Group has offices in Tallaght

# Data centre saved 13 tonnes of CO2e with recycling partnership

Rathcoole company Vyta Group returns €77,000 in revenues to Servecentric

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

RATHCOOLE company Vyta Group, has enabled Servecentric, a data centre and connectivity services provider, to save 13 tonnes of CO2e (carbon dioxide equivalent) with its secure IT recycling and refurbishment services.

The partnership enabled Vyta to return €77,000 in revenues to Servecentric.

Based in Greenogue Business Park, Vyta is an IT recycling company, that collects, refurbishes, and resells retired IT equipment.

The deal with Servecentric, a provider for businesses in the US, UK, India and Ireland, represents a growing focus on sustainability from the data centre industry.

In the last year, Vyta collected, processed and reused or recycled 2,222 devices for Servecentric as a part of its IT retirement service, including servers, network units, and mixed WEEE (Waste electric and electronic

equipment).

Vyta refurbished a total of 205 items for Servecentric and resold them through Vyta's extensive network of sales channels, therefore enabling Vyta to return revenues to Servecentric. The CO2e savings enabled through the refurbishment of Servecentric's retired IT equipment represent the annual carbon dioxide absorption equivalent of 619 mature trees.

By recycling the remainder of the equipment, Vyta has helped Servecentric to keep all of these items out of landfill.

Faye Thomas, CCO, Vyta, said: "Through this partnership, Servecentric has helped to reduce the CO2 emissions involved in the destruction of old IT equipment and the manufacturing of new replacements, while also yielding substantial financial returns through the resale of the refurbished equipment. We are delighted to collaborate with such a forward-thinking business and look forward to our continued partnership in supporting the circular economy."



**PARTNERSHIP:** Faye Thomas (CCO, Vyta) and Brian Roe (CEO, Servecentric)

## Dalata Group looks to expand its operations in Edinburgh

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

DALATA Hotel Group, which operates all the Maldron and Clayton brands in Ireland, has acquired a development site in Edinburgh as it looks to expand its presence in Scotland.

The site, which is located at St Andrew's Square in the Scottish capital, was acquired for €14.4m from Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited.

Dalata plans to submit a revised planning application at the beginning of next year for the construction of a new 4-star Clayton Hotel at the site, which includes proposals for 153 bedrooms, a bar, restaurant, dry gym and two meeting rooms overlooking St Andrew's Square.

The group anticipates that this hotel would be ready to welcome guests by mid-2026. It will be Dalata's third hotel in Scotland.

Dalata estimates that the investment into the Clayton Hotel in Edinburgh will be around £48m, including the purchase of the site. It expects to create 60 jobs after opening.

"Edinburgh has long been a target city for us to locate our brands and we are delighted to have secured such a prestigious building in the centre of the city," chief executive Dermot Crowley said.

Dalata also announced last month that it had acquired the leasehold interest in Hard Rock Hotel Amsterdam American for a total consideration of €29.5m.

"In the year to date, we have announced four new opportunities in three of the strongest city hotel markets in Europe – London, Amsterdam and Edinburgh," Mr Crowley said.

"We will continue to seek out further opportunities in our target markets."

**TARGET CITY:** Dermot Crowley, CEO



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# CRH 'uniquely positioned' to capitalise on opportunities

## Building materials giant has announced a successful transition to NYSE

By **Maurice Garvey**

maurice@echo.ie

BUILDING materials giant CRH announced the successful transition of its primary listing to the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) last week, which marks a historic milestone for the group.

Headquartered at Belgard Castle, the group decided earlier this year to shift its primary listing to New York and also opted for a secondary listing in London.

CRH shareholders approved the move from Dublin to Wall Street at an EGM in June.

CRH is the largest building materials supplier in the US and generated about 75 per cent of its core earnings there last year.

The group believe a US primary listing will bring increased commercial, operational and acquisition opportunities for the business.

North America is expected to be a key driver of future growth for CRH due to continued economic expansion, a growing population and significant construction needs.

As the leading building materials solutions business in North America, CRH believes it is "uniquely positioned" to capitalise on strong growth opportunities in the US construction market, underpinned by "long-term structural tailwinds from federal, state and municipal funding support."

Albert Manifold, Chief Executive of CRH, said: "Today marks an important milestone in CRH's development which will enable us to fully participate in the significant growth opportunities that lie ahead for our business".

**HISTORIC MILESTONE:**  
CRH is located on Belgard Road



# Oonagh is voluntary Lead Entrepreneur at programme

GOING for Growth, the award-winning business development scheme for female entrepreneurs determined to grow their businesses has begun accepting applications for the 16th year of the programme.

The programme, which is supported by Enterprise Ireland and KPMG, helps ambitious female entrepreneurs to achieve their growth ambitions – helping to build stronger companies, create new jobs and increase revenues.

The deadline for applications for the 16th cycle of Going for Growth is Friday, November 17.

Up to 60 places are available and applications are sought from female entrepreneurs across all sectors who are strongly focused on growth. There is no charge for those selected and the six-month initiative will begin in January 2024.

Going for Growth has seen more than 900 businesswomen take part since its first cycle in 2008. Some of the past participants include Aimee Connolly of Sculpted by Aimee; Andrea Doolan of Atlantia Clinical Trials; Derval O'Rourke of Derval.ie; Kate Scott of HoloToyz; Louella Morton of TestReach; and Vanessa Creaven of Spotlight Oral Care.

Going for Growth has been repeatedly recognised by the EU, OECD, and European

Institute of Gender Equality as a key initiative in helping to foster greater ambition among female entrepreneurs and to support their growth aspirations.

The programme brings together female entrepreneurs for monthly peer-to-peer roundtable discussions facilitated by successful businesswomen. They are known as Lead Entrepreneurs.

Their participation is completely voluntary and is done in a spirit of altruism and the wish to share their experience and insights with others at an earlier stage of their growth journey.

Seven of this year's Lead Entrepreneurs are former Going for Growth participants.

This year's voluntary Lead Entrepreneurs include Anne Cusack, formerly Critical Healthcare; Chupi Sweetman-Durney, Chupi; Jeananne O'Brien, Artizan Food Co.; Leonora O'Brien, formerly Pharmapod; Louise Phelan, Phelan Energy Group; Marissa Carter, Carter Beauty; Monica Flood, formerly Olas IT; Oonagh O'Hagan, Meaghers Pharmacy Group and Tara Beattie, Prepsheets.com.

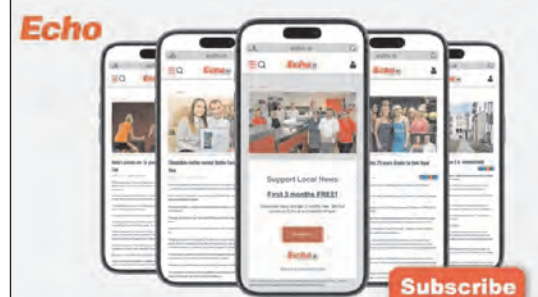
The 15th cycle of Going for Growth reported significant results for its 69 participants. Combined turnover increased from €80.6m at the start of the cycle to almost €2.3m by the end, almost a 15% increase in just six months.



**SCHEME:** Oonagh O'Hagan from Meaghers Pharmacy Group with Emma Kennedy (MD, *The Echo*)

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# Cookstown buildings fire safety alterations approved

One of the sites includes the building for international protection applicants



RETENTION permission has been approved for fire safety alterations to a number of buildings in Cookstown Industrial Estate – including one which is used by international protection applicants.

The subject sites are building 1, Units 1a, 1b, 1c and buildings 81a and 81b on Cookstown Estate Road, and buildings 2 and 3 at Old Belgard Road in Cookstown Industrial Estate.

The buildings were formerly owned by Joseph Costello Absolute Limousines and were the subject of an unsuccessful planning application for the development of 1,104 build-to-rent apartments.

By Aideen O'Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

Most recently, 81 Cookstown Industrial Estate – a former office building – has been turned into asylum seeker accommodation for up to 200 international protection applicants.

They are accommodated across the building's three floors in 102 bedrooms or 'accommodation pods' containing two standard beds and storage furniture.

A total of 42 toilets and 16 showers are

located within the building and are available all day long with an on-site laundry facility, according to a statement from the Department of Integration in late 2022.

A planning application for retention permission for the building, and a number of other buildings in the industrial estate, was lodged by Onyx Ireland 2022 Propco 1 Ltd last August.

Retention permission was also granted for over cladding of a brick facade at ground floor level, blocking up of roller shutter doors and over cladding of same and new fire escape doors.

These alterations are at building 1, Units

1a, 1b, 1c, Cookstown Estate Road.

Retention permission was also secured for the removal of dormant fire escape stairs, over cladding of facade, and the blocking up of roller shutter doors and over cladding of same and new fire escape doors.

These alterations are at buildings 81a and 81b on Cookstown Estate Road.

Permission was also being sought for the demolition of a car wash annex building and over cladding of facade at buildings 2 and 3 at Old Belgard Road.

Retention permission for the alterations was granted by South Dublin County Council on September 28.

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## €495k guide price for retail unit and three-bedroom house on Crumlin Road

A RETAIL unit and a three-bedroom property on Crumlin Road have gone on the market with a guide price of €495k, reports Aideen O'Flaherty.

The property comprises a retail space on the ground floor, while the residue of the house it is situated in consists of a three-bedroom property.

The property has been renovated and offers spacious accommodation with an excellent garden to the rear, according to selling agent Rory Crerar of Herman White.

There is also a garage and off-street parking all within close proximity of Our Lady's Children's Hospital.

In addition, there are many main amenities within easy reach including shops, schools, transport and "good footfall for the shop", it is stated in the property listing.

The property benefits from parking to front and rear, and easy access to the city centre and the M50, and measures circa 190 sq.mt including the retail space.



**BENEFITS:** The retail unit and three-bedroom house on the Crumlin Road

# 68-unit apartment block plans are lodged for Somerton Gate

Proposal from Quintain Developments includes 49 one-bed and 19 two-bed apartments

**PROPOSAL:** The site planned for the 68-unit apartment block at Somerton Gate



PLANS for the development of a 68-unit apartment block at Somerton Gate in Lucan, have been submitted to South Dublin County Council.

If the proposal gets the green light, it will form an amendment to an existing permitted development which will see the number of apartment spaces in the overall scheme increase from 237 to 242.

The proposal by Quintain Developments Limited includes the development of 49 one-bed and 19 two-bed apartments in a single block

**By Aideen O'Flaherty**  
aideen@echo.ie

ranging in height from four to five storeys.

The reconfiguration of car parking along part of Somerton Gate and provision of a new road and car parking layout to the south and east of the block, forms part of the plans.

The reconfiguration will result in an increase of 12 car parking spaces, with the end result of 77 car

parking spaces in total.

Provision of a secure bicycle parking facility, totalling 93 spaces, to the east of the block and additional visitor bicycle parking, with 36 spaces, to the west of the block is included.

Permission is also being sought for the reconfiguration of a permitted bin store adjoining an existing apartment block, to provide a smaller bin store and new plant room.

A revised landscaping layout to the east of the new apartment block, and provision of plant at

ground floor and roof level including provision for PV panels is noted in the planning application.

The lands are bounded to the northwest by the Hillcrest residential development, to the northeast by SuperValu Lucan, to the south by permitted public open space and Somerton View.

The subject site is bounded to the north by a completed apartment block.

A decision on the planning application is due from South Dublin County Council by November 13.

## Self-storage facility plans approved with conditions

THE planned construction of a self-storage facility to the east of Tay Lane in Greenogue, Rathcoole, has been given the go ahead by South Dublin County Council, reports Aideen O'Flaherty.

Applicant Sandymark Limited's proposal is for the construction of a self-storage building with ancillary facilities and associated development.

The self-storage building will have a maximum height of 9.745 metres with a Gross Floor Area of 1,796 sq.

m including a storage area (1,698 sq. m) and ancillary facilities (98 sq. m).

The development will also include a vehicular entrance/exit to the site via Tay Lane, six ancillary car parking spaces, including one accessible parking space, loading bays and external fire escape stairs.

Provision of an external canopy, boundary treatments, hard and soft landscaping, lighting, and all associated site and development works above and below ground are included.

On September 19, the council granted permission for the self-storage facility with a number of conditions.

These include entering into a wastewater connection agreement with Irish Water, and the submission of a Green Infrastructure Plan.

Sandymark Limited, led by founder and managing director Con McCarthy, is behind the development of Greenogue Business Park, Greenogue Logistics Park and the adjoining Aerodrome Business Park.



**APPROVED:** The site for the facility at Tay Lane in Greenogue

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# E letters

Letters and emails should be kept as short as possible. We reserve the right to edit any submissions. Letters must be received by Tuesday, 3pm prior to publication

## Single-use vapes with flavours to attract children are set to be banned by Govt.

Dear Editor

Ministers are reportedly poised to ban single-use vapes, after a series of calls from councils, leading paediatricians and public waste campaigners to make selling the disposable devices illegal on health and environmental grounds.

The move comes after the government concluded the products disproportionately target children, who then become addicted. The bright colours and fruity flavours of disposable vaping

devices are seen as attractive to children and teenagers.

Disposable vapes are the most frequently used vaping devices among young people. And paediatricians have sought a ban on disposable vapes and raising of legal age for buying tobacco and vapes to 21.

A prohibition on the use of flavours in vapes, with the exception of tobacco flavour, and stronger advertising and marketing restrictions have been called for by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland's faculty of paediatrics.

The faculty said the use of vapes by children and young people poses serious health risks to them.

Prof Des Cox, a consultant in paediatric respiratory medicine says: "Exposure of children and adolescents to nicotine can lead to long-term negative impacts on brain development, as well as addiction. Aerosols in most vapes contain toxic substances, associated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease and lung disorders. Nicotine, which is highly addictive, is the major psychoactive component of vaping solution."

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly wants to ban all single use e-cigarettes saying he will target flavours and point of sales in shops. He is planning a second piece of legislation to clamp down on vapes, curbing flavours and where they're advertised in shops.

Minister for the Circular Economy Ossian Smyth echoed calls for disposable vapes to be banned, saying they are "making the world a worse place".

Yours sincerely,  
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh.

## Does Bank of Ireland's disdain for its customers know no bounds?

Dear Editor,

I RECENTLY experienced another Bank of Ireland ATM failure at their branch on Tallaght Main Street, a location where one would expect all to be well with the 'Hole in the wall'.

On approach to the machine, the now all-too-familiar 'Out of Service' was disappointingly displayed on the screen.

As the branch was open, I went into the cashier to make a withdrawal the old-fashioned way. I remarked to the staff that their two machines outside weren't operating only to be casually told that there wasn't any money in them.

This was approximately midday on a Wednesday, hardly a time of urgent activity at both ATMs. It appeared the bank simply had not bothered refilling either ATM.

This blatant disregard of customer needs is absolutely appalling, especially when the customers are the people who kept the banks afloat when they needed bailing out.

They certainly have zero regard for their customer needs which was again displayed with the recent withdrawal of ATM services in The Square without any prior warning.

Is The Square shopping centre the only one in Dublin to be affected like this? Are we considered a soft target?

Does Bank of Ireland's disdain for their customers know no bounds? I hesitate to ask if they can get any worse because I fear I already know the answer.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Keogh,  
Kingswood Heights.



## Time for United Nations to step in

Dear Editor  
IT IS quite clear that there isn't a trusted government who could do something in the Palestine/Israel area regarding a settlement. It is time for the United Nations to step in for peace.

Paul Doran  
Dublin 22

## Credit to Tidy Towns Groups

Dear Editor  
WELL done to all the local Tidy Towns Groups on their brilliant results this week.

All their hard work has paid off in the community. With Halloween approaching it's important that we continue to keep our communities clean.

Name and address with editor

## One-day strike staged by criminal law barristers in row over pay restoration

Dear Editor,

THE on-going failure by the State to adequately remunerate barristers practising criminal law is unsettling.

Currently barristers are paid €1,144 fee per case they take ahead of its first hearing, notwithstanding the time a case may take to prepare.

Thereafter, the remuneration comes to €572 per day in daily 'refresher' fees. District Court defence barristers are paid €25.20 for a remand, €50.40 for a plea in

mitigation and €67 for a full trial hearing and the level of under-resourcing is replicated throughout the system.

The one-day strike on October 3 was backed by criminal defence barristers and solicitors who advocate in civil cases.

This led to the adjournment of all 22 cases listed in Dublin Circuit Criminal Court.

Among the cases adjourned was the trial of a Slovakian national, Józef Puska, of Lynally Grove, Mucklagh, Co Offaly, for the alleged murder of schoolteacher Ashling Murphy at Cappincur, Tullamore, on

January 12, 2022.

The pre-trial hearing of legal issues went ahead the next day.

Barristers participating in the CCJ strike were former High Court judge Barry White, who practices at the criminal Bar post retirement, as well as Labour Party leader and barrister Ivana Bacik, together with Labour's Justice spokesman, Aodhán Ó Ríordáin TD, and Senator Marie Sherlock.

Speaking in the Dáil, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said barristers have "every right to protest".

"I can understand the case they're making, just like public servants and the vast majority of people across the public and private sector, they've seen their pay and fees restored, but that has to be done by negotiation."

The walkout is a first by criminal barristers and unique in that they are the only sector not to have pay restoration.

Yours sincerely,  
Gerry Coughlan,  
Kilnamanagh

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# No ordinary Joe

*We speak with award-winning comedian Joe Dowlin ahead of his show in the Civic Theatre* **Page 47**

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Sharon and Tracey Redmond



Tom O'Brien, Frank Keane, Frank Allen and John Reardon in St Mary's GAA Club on Saturday



Sam, Jimmy and Anna Daly



Twins Eli and Rua O'Callaghan



Mick O'Keeffe, Pat Farrelly and Brendan Murray



Ellen, Greta, Gerda and Oran



Rebecca Nolan and Claire Colgan



Dominic, Gertie and Grainie



Derek, Leah, Louise, Paddy and Michelle

# Joe Dowlin and Friends

## AWARD-WINNING COMEDIAN TO PLAY IN CIVIC THEATRE

by Ryan Butler / news@echo.ie

**F**ollowing the triumph of four fully booked performances (two of which took place at the Civic Theatre), Joe Dowlin returns to the main auditorium, and he's bringing some pals along!

Award-winning comedian Joe, a native of Tallaght, has been the main attraction at every major comedy club and festival in the nation for the past eight years.

Right now, Joe is one of Ireland's most sought-after comedians.

Comedians Al Porter (of the sold-out work-in-progress tour), Willa White (of the Talking Bollox podcast), and Paul Marsh (of the Irish dad jokes) will be joining Joe that evening.

'Joe Dowlin and Friends' will be TWO hours long with an interval.

It has an age rating of 16+.

This week, we sat down to interview Joe about the show, which will be performed in the Civic Theatre at 8pm on October 14.

**Can you give some information about yourself?**

Sure! I started off in Jobstown, and now I do events with the Craic Den Comedy Club. The club performs four nights a week in Dublin City: every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at Workman's, and the last Sunday of the month at Juno Bar.

**How did the idea for 'Joe Dowlin and Friends' first come about?**



Tallaght comedian Joe Dowlin will play in the Civic Theatre

The Civic contacted me with the biggest gig of my life! I have performed before, but this is the first time I'm hosting my own show with my own support act. I'm really looking forward to it!

**What kind of work is involved in preparing for a show like this?**

Having jokes and stories ready to tell to the audience, people might relate to these anecdotes if they're from a working-class area like I am. We also need to build sets. I'm usually very animated when doing shows like this, tending to skip from one end of the stage to the other; it tends to be a blur to

me.

**What are your future plans after the show?**

I have gigs coming up in Vicar Street and Electric Picnic. I also have a gig booked for Boston in November this year. That will give me a lot of space to move around in!

**Who would you like to thank for helping you with the show and your career in general?**

The Civic Theatre, the Civic's director of staff, my mam, Jobstown House, John Kilbride, Al Porter, Willa White, and Paul Marsh.

Advertorial

# EZ Living Furniture's Octoberfest Sale 2023: Furnishing Your Home For Less



EZ Living Furniture's Octoberfest Sale is here! Once again, during the month of October, you can avail of huge savings across all ranges of furniture including sofas, dining, bedroom, mattresses, living, accessories and more! The sale, which officially launched on Friday 6th October, is available both online and in EZ Living Furniture's 18 stores nationwide. So, what are you waiting for? Furnish your home for less by grabbing yourself a bargain today!

#### Sofas

Sofas are one of the largest and most expensive items of furniture a person can make. No living room can function properly without one, and because this is an essential item of furniture for a home, you won't be able to fully relax without one. Still, it doesn't have to be costly, pick up your 2-seater, 3-seater, corner or chaise sofas for even less during Octoberfest! **Octoberfest Savings: Sofas start from as little as €549.**

#### Dining Tables

Dining tables are essential for those family meals, whether that's breakfast, lunch or dinner. The size you choose is dependent on the size of your dining room and the amount of people you expect to cater to every day. There are various sizes available with some even having the option to expand further. Shop all dining table sizes as part of the Octoberfest Sale! **Octoberfest Savings: Dining tables start from as little as €169.**

#### Mattresses

Did you know that a good-quality and supportive mattress can mean the difference between a good day and a bad day? It's true! You should never underestimate the importance of a good mattress and while they may seem costly at first, the comfort and rest they can afford you, make it all worthwhile. Still, why pay more when you don't have to? Shop for your mattress in the EZ Living Furniture Octoberfest Sale! **Octoberfest Savings: Mattresses start from as little as €129.**

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The *Echo* – Telling the whole story

“ You may not be there yet, but you are closer than you were yesterday.

Unknown

# Health & Fitness

## FITNESS FOR THE BUSY PERSON

by Ursula Frawley / info@moveitfitness.ie



**A**re you so busy that your fitness and health have crawled slowly down the list of priorities? Like so many of us, the demands of working, family, caring for others and making time for friends has meant that our own self-care has gone to the bottom of the list.

There is also so much pressure to look, eat and perform a certain way. This outside pressure can be counterproductive, as we see the unachievable, feel confused and, therefore, continue to push it down the priority list.

If this is you, here are 5 tips to get you started, no matter how busy your schedule.

1. Combine your caring activities with an activity. Perhaps you can leave a little earlier and walk to your destination, or maybe the person may enjoy a walk to the local coffee shop and home, which allows you extra movement time.
2. Try to prioritise your sleep. Just last week, I was promoting sleep for health, and this is even more important when you are busy. If you lack adequate sleep, you will not have the energy to fit in any exercise the next day. So, skip that last episode on Netflix and replace it with an extra hour of sleep.
3. Walk on your lunch hour or break. Every little helps, so leave a pair of comfortable shoes or runners at work and get out for as long as you can before or after your lunch. You may find your workload is much more productive afterwards too!
4. Skip the housework or odd job. It's so easy to get distracted by tasks that may seem like they need doing now. Instead, give yourself the gift of energy and those positive endorphins that a brisk walk will give you. You may get through the housework or job much quicker with a clearer head!

**Ursula Frawley** IS a PERSONAL TRAINER and OWNER OF MOVE IT FITNESS. HER ONLINE STRENGTH & FITNESS CLASSES, WHICH RUN LIVE SEVEN TIMES a WEEK, HAVE BEEN HELPING WOMEN TO FEEL STRONGER and FITTER SINCE 2020. HER ONLINE and IN-PERSON PROGRAMMES ARE FOCUSED ON MOTIVATING and CHANGING a MINDSET TO ENJOYING THE FITNESS JOURNEY, WHILE FEELING EMPOWERED WITH a POSITIVE MINDSET. SHE LIVES WITH HER Husband and FOUR CHILDREN IN dublin 24. YOU MORE INFORMATION YOU CAN EMAIL HER AT INFO@MOVEITFITNESS.IE OR WWW.MOVEITFITNESS.IE

5. Only sign up for activities and exercise you enjoy. Exercise will be guaranteed to fall down the list when it is an activity you don't enjoy. The simplest, cheapest and most fun form of exercise is a walk, so pop on the audio book, music or podcast and you're less than an hour away from feeling fantastic!

Enjoy putting exercise back up the to-do list! Remember, always consult with your GP before embarking on any change in diet or new health & fitness regime.



# Art Exhibition

## LAUNCHED BY MARYFIELD NURSING HOME IN BALLYFERMOT LIBRARY

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Joe Harris, Sr Elizabeth and Sr Mona



Rebecca and Keelin from Coláiste Chillian



Joe and Anne



Joanne Breen and Cameron Nugent



Orla and Cllr Vincent Jackson



Linda, Claire and Michelle (Activity Team)



Erinna and Richard (Father and Daughter)



Cameron Nugent and Sr Eucharia



Cllr Vincent Jackson with Helen Carroll, Sr Mary Ward and Sr Eileen Creedon in Ballyfermot Library

# The Alternative Social Sunday Club

## JAZZABELLES HAVE A UNIQUE BLEND OF GROUNDBREAKING WORKS

by Chiara-Lian Gruschke / news@echo.ie

“**T**hird time's a charm" as the Jazzabelles make their eagerly awaited return to the Alternative Sunday Social Club at The Wild Duck on Sunday, October 15, at 4PM.

Presented by The Alternative Sunday Social Club, this event promises to be an unforgettable showcase of jazz talent.

The Jazzabelles, renowned for their innovative interpretations of jazz classics, have meticulously curated a program that focuses on living female jazz composers.

Their selection comprises a unique blend of groundbreaking works, ranging from haunting ballads to groovy riffs and modern sounds that are bound to captivate the audience.

The band is no stranger to the enchanting Orangerie nestled within the scenic embrace of Marlay Park, where their rehearsals often come to life.

Their music has graced diverse stages, from the colossal Tallaght Stadium to the cherished halls of Áras Chrónáin, and even

the pulsating energy of the Urban Picnic at Corkagh Park.

Jazzabelles, known for their bustling energy and passion for live music, showcase a unique blend of soul, jazz, blues, and contemporary songs, all delivered in their distinctive style. They continue to make their mark as the seminal all-women Jazz Collective on the Irish music scene.

Adding to the excitement, Jazzabelles will share the stage with Dublin's jazz scene pianist extraordinaire, So Young Soon, and her newly formed SuMal Nori Trio. This collaboration promises to infuse the evening's jazz melodies with a delightful twist of Brazilian flair.

The Alternative Sunday Social Club, created to provide music enthusiasts with top-tier Sunday afternoon entertainment, has been a hub for diverse musical experiences since its launch in 2015.

It has hosted gigs spanning various genres, from rock and guitar pop to punk, Americana, blues, and ska. The club's intimate atmosphere and diverse musical offerings have made it a beloved destination for music lovers of all ages.



Jazzabelles performing on stage

Don't miss this opportunity to witness the enchanting melodies of the Jazzabelles at The Wild Duck on Sunday, October 15, at 4PM. Especially for fans of live music, this event is a must-attend. Secure your tickets now via Eventbrite and experience jazz the way it was meant to be heard, for an evening filled with electrifying performances.

# Freya On Song In

## 'LU & THE BALLY BUNCH'

by Ryan Butler / news@echo.ie

**L**ucan native Freya McLaughlin is expected to have great success in her lead voice role in 'Lu & The Bally Bunch', a new animated comedy.

After only a few weeks of its premiere, 'Lu & the Bally Bunch' has already expanded internationally after being selected by CBeebies to air in the upcoming months.

The series debuted earlier this year on CBC Kids Canada, Cartoonito UK, and LatAm. It will soon make its debut on Cartoonito US and

throughout EMEA. ABC Australia, TVNZ+ (New Zealand), SVT (Sweden), YLE (Finland), RTÉ (Ireland), and PCCW (Hong Kong) have also been granted licenses to use Lu & the Bally Bunch.

Freya, who is a client of Thomas Spratt's Dance-Act-Sing Agency, was just 8-years-old when she and numerous other young actors auditioned for the role.

After more than a year, the casting process was put on hold, and Freya had to reaudition.

This time, she was chosen for the lead role, Lu, and she was thrilled to record a staggering 75 episodes over a 13-month period, produced in association with Warner Bros. Discovery and CBC Kids by Brown Bag Films, the award-winning production company behind 9 Story.

Only a few weeks after the show's worldwide premiere, it was made available to the public.

Now, we learn that CBeebies will be launching the show in the EU, ME, and Africa.

Lu and her pals go horseback riding in one of the episodes that was inspired by Freya, who also requested that they write a story about horseback riding.



Freya McLaughlin from Lucan



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SCAN FOR TICKETS

# Craic Agus Ceol

## CAIFE LE CÁIRDE IN ÁRAS CHRÓNÁIN IN CLONDALKIN

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Ann May, Máirín Uí Mhaoieir, Carmel Shirley, Mary Dardis and Catherine Hurley



Brendán Ó Broin



Joe Strick, Pat Craig, Brian Corcoran and Vinny O'Brien



Paddy Reilly, Liam O'Shea and Ken Larkin



Agnes and Joe Gannon



Fintan, Celine and Cait



Marie Harrinton, Kay Lee and Nuala Ryan



Pat Mockler and Eoin McMahon



Gerry Donnelly and Geraldine Lowe

“Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread and pumpkin pie

Jim Davis

# Food with Passion

## SPICED CARROT CAKE

by **John Paul Kennedy** / jpkennedy.kennedy@gmail.com



**D**eliciously spiced carrot cake is one of my favourite cake recipes and one I am constantly requested to bake for family and colleagues at work. The recipe is for a loaf cake but sometimes I make it as cupcakes that way everybody gets an individual sweet treat or a round celebration cake – depending on the occasion I'm baking it for. I'm craving seasonal spiced desserts as we move into the midst of Autumn and this carrot cake, lightly kissed with spices and an indulgent orange flavoured cream cheese icing fits the bill perfectly. You will not be able to resist licking the bowl used to make the icing – it's incredible especially with the addition of grated orange zest. I promise this is one recipe you will come back to over and over again!

### Ingredients: (serves 6-8)

200g self- raising flour  
220g light brown sugar  
400g grated carrots (I blitz them in a food processor)  
3 large eggs  
140ml vegetable oil  
100g chopped walnuts  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon of bicarb  
Pinch of sea salt

### Icing:

300g cream cheese –(must be full fat)  
300g icing sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
Zest of 1 orange

**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 and oil your loaf tin and line with baking parchment paper.
2. beat the eggs in a large mixing bowl then add the oil, brown sugar, grated carrots and walnuts.
3. sift in all the remaining dry ingredients and mix together well using a wooden spoon or food mixer if you have one.
4. Pour the cake batter into your prepared tin and place in the oven to bake for between an hour and an hour and 15 minutes - ovens do vary! Insert a metal skewer into the cake to check if it's baked. Once it comes out clean your cake is baked! If you are making as individual cupcakes (batter will make 14 -16 cupcakes) bake for 25 minutes. If making in a round cake tin, bake for 40 -45 minutes.
5. Allow to cool fully and prepare the icing. This icing is out of this world.
6. mix the icing sugar and cream cheese until well combined and there are no lumps. Then add the vanilla and grated orange zest and smear over your cake which is fully cooled by now. decorate with walnut halves, cut a slice and enjoy with a cup of tea or coffee. sheer heaven on a plate.

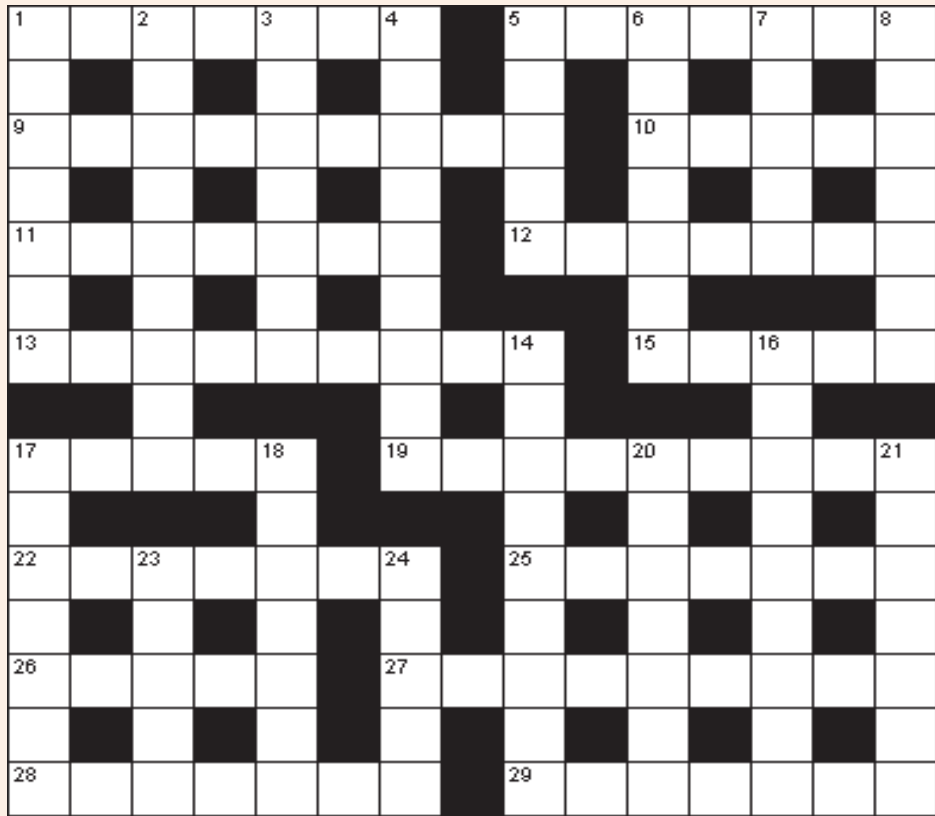


You can of course omit the walnuts if you're not a fan but I love the texture they give this cake. The cake is light, fluffy and deliciously spiced. It's quite a wet batter because of the oil instead of butter but don't worry it's meant to be. The cake will last up to a week in an airtight container in the fridge. If storing in the fridge take out about 15 minutes before you plan to eat it; to allow to come to room temperature. It's a really easy cake to make; merely a bit of measuring, little bit of prep and one I guarantee will fast become one of your favourite cakes to bake.

Contact  
JP on:

Twitter: @JPKCooking  
Email: JPKCooking@gmail.com  
Instagram: jpkennedy.kennedy

# echocrossquiz Q1210



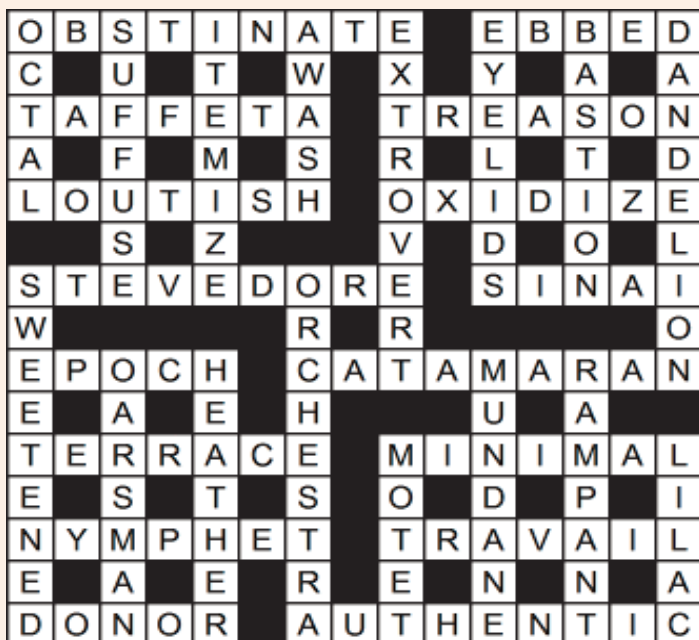
**ACROSS**

- 1. Shaped like a ring (7)
- 5. Adjust (7)
- 9. Consisting of pictures (9)
- 10. Not over (5)
- 11. Responses (7)
- 12. Invade in great numbers (7)
- 13. A poisonous agaric (9)
- 15. Wedding helper (5)
- 17. Possibly (5)
- 19. Deformed (9)
- 22. Podium (7)
- 25. Temporary (7)
- 26. Lifeless (5)
- 27. 6 points in football (9)
- 28. Fiscal shortfall (7)
- 29. Greatest possible degree (7)

**DOWN**

- 1. A dark bituminous substance (7)
- 2. Essential (9)
- 3. The Queen of the jungle? (7)
- 4. Thundershower (9)
- 5. A large stringed instrument (5)
- 6. French for "New" (7)
- 7. Command (5)
- 8. Sailor (7)
- 14. Lethargy (9)
- 16. Exaggeration (9)
- 17. Joined in matrimony (7)
- 18. Unpredictable (7)
- 20. A small ax (7)
- 21. Candidate (7)
- 23. Bundle (5)
- 24. Choral work (5)

**LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 0510**



CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

## SUDOKU 1

8	9						2	
5	7						8	
		1			9	4		
				5	6		9	3
				7		8	5	
4			2					
		6				7	4	
			3	4				
				8				1

## SUDOKU 2

	2	3					8	
	9	4	6					
1					7			
			1	4	2			
	8			2				
3						4		
	5					1		3
		7			8			6
6								9

## ANSWERS

6	4	1	2	3	5	7	8	9
2	3	7	6	1	8	5	4	9
8	5	9	4	7	6	1	2	3
3	1	2	8	6	9	4	7	5
4	8	5	7	2	3	6	9	1
9	7	6	1	5	4	2	3	8
1	6	8	3	4	7	9	5	2
5	9	4	6	8	2	3	1	7
7	2	3	5	9	1	8	6	4

**SUDOKU 2**

2	4	7	6	9	8	5	3	1
1	8	5	3	4	7	9	6	2
9	3	6	5	1	2	7	4	8
4	5	9	8	2	3	6	1	7
6	2	3	9	7	1	8	5	4
7	1	8	4	5	6	2	9	3
3	6	1	2	8	9	4	7	5
5	7	2	1	6	4	3	8	9
8	9	4	7	3	5	1	2	6

**SUDOKU 1**

# Poet's Corner

## GUIDE YOU

by Gerard O'Keeffe



I moved to Tallaght 35 years ago and quickly came to love it. I've been writing poetry for almost 50 years. I'm now retired and I have five grandchildren – they mean the world to me.

The first time I held you  
Was the best ever day  
I swore then I would give my life  
To guide you on your way  
Your first steps  
Your first words  
Were gifts of gold to me  
To see you grow  
And watch you thrive  
It just seemed meant to be  
When you started school  
I cried with pride  
I knew you would go far  
Your first report

And drawings I saved up every star  
Your football matches  
I would not miss  
They were the highlight of my week  
When you scored a goal  
The lump in my throat  
I could not even speak  
Now you have grown  
And it won't be long  
Until you start this journey too  
And I pray to God  
I have taught you  
The right things to do

# The Art of Collaboration

RED LINE BOOK FESTIVAL RUNS FROM OCTOBER 16-22

**W**ORLD Mental Health Day fell on Tuesday, October 10 as preparations are progressing for the Red Line Book Festival taking place on October 16 until October 22 in exciting venues and libraries across South Dublin.

One of the highlights of the festival this year is titled "The Art of Collaboration Presents: Music, Movement & Words to Inspire Well-Being" inspired by the connection of music to wellness and mental health.

The event takes place on Sunday, October 22 at 7pm at the Civic Main Space in Tallaght.

The members of The Art of Collaboration who will perform include Artistic Director Paul Roe on Clarinets, Author & Psychiatrist Jim Lucey, Mick O'Brien on Pipe and Whistles, Ultan O'Brien on Violin and Viola and Ruth Prithika with Bharatanatyam Indian Dance.

They will explore together with their audience, music, movement, dance and words connecting in Irish & Indian culture, including some beautiful music and dance from India and Ireland. Members of the audience will be welcomed to be mindfully

present and will be included in the performance.

The evening will be based on the idea of nine emotions from Indian Sanskrit called Nava Rasa. These are love (shringaara), laughter (haasya), kind-heartedness or compassion (karuna), anger (roudra), courage (veera), fear (bhayaanaka), disgust (bheebhatsya), wonder or surprise (adbhutha) and peace or tranquility (shaantha) and also the three Strains in Irish music:

Goltraí "dirges or laments", from gol- ("weeping, crying") + -traí; The sorrow strain caused people to weep, Geantraí "joy music", from gean- ("smile, affection") + -traí, =; The joy strain incited merriment and Suantraí "lullaby", from suan- ("sleep, slumber") + -traí. The sleep strain lulls people to slumber.

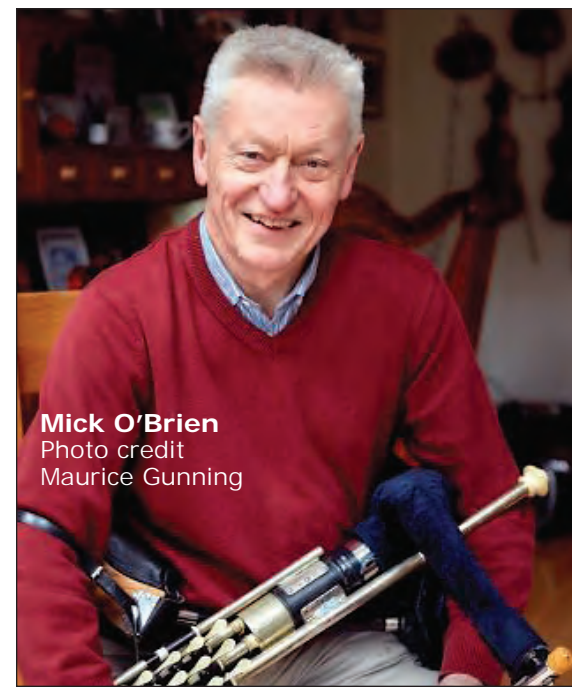
The Art of Collaboration is an interdisciplinary collective formed in 2018 by Artistic Director Paul Roe. It is a community of practice in which professionals from backgrounds as diverse as musical performance, psychiatry,

leadership development, design and education share experience, insight and knowledge, and collaborate on creative projects.

The Red Line Book Festival features over 40 events in county libraries and exciting venues across South Dublin on October 16 – 22.

It is a celebration of all things literary; be it spoken, written or sung will present events in five different strands including 'Family', 'Fiction & Poetry', 'Performance', 'Crime & Horror' and 'History'.

The Red Line Book Festival is produced by South Dublin Libraries and Arts at South Dublin County Council offering a programme of events and workshops that appeals to people of all ages and



**Mick O'Brien**  
Photo credit  
Maurice Gunning

interests, from children to adults, casual readers to bookworms. See [www.redlinefestival.ie](http://www.redlinefestival.ie) for the full programme of events taking place across all venues.

## Our Shed

CELEBRATION OF WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

by **Ryan Butler** / [news@echo.ie](mailto:news@echo.ie)

**I**n celebration of World Mental Health Day, a remarkable new play is set to grace the dlr LexIcon stage in Dún Laoghaire this month.

This collaborative production, titled 'Our Shed,' has been written, staged, and performed by the Loughlinstown, Ballybrack, and Shanganagh (LBS) Men's Shed, in partnership with acclaimed poet Colm Keegan, hailing from Clondalkin.

Colm Keegan is an integral figure in

Clondalkin, known for his significant contributions to the community.

He shares his knowledge generously, conducting educational workshops on poetry and creative writing, benefitting students and aspiring writers in Clondalkin.

'Our Shed,' a poignant five-scene play, delves into the profound impact of male friendships in combating mental health challenges. The production, announced by LBS Men's Shed and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (dlr) Arts Office, promises to be a moving testament to the strength of camaraderie and support.

Drawing inspiration from their own life experiences, the eleven dedicated members of LBS Men's Shed tackle an array of topics, including fatherhood, grief, loss, isolation, and the rejuvenating power of positive memories, all through their captivating performance.

Poet Colm Keegan, known for his powerful words, remarked, "I initially met with the men of the LBS Men's Shed working on a six-week project, and we really clicked. Given the abundance of creative energy when we first worked together, we decided to explore live

literature as a way of reflecting on the men's stories, experiences, and ideas, and decided on writing a play together."

LBS Men's Shed, describing itself as a 'social shed,' plays a pivotal role in providing a safe space for members who may live alone or grapple with mental health issues. Over the years, they have actively raised substantial funds for various charitable causes and have been tireless advocates for mental health support for men.

This unique collaboration between LBS Men's Shed and Colm Keegan, resulting in the creation of 'Our Shed,' has been made possible through funding from the HSE and Creative Ireland, with valuable support from dlr Arts Office and Southside Partnership.

Frank Curran, Chief Executive of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, expressed his delight in supporting LBS Men's Shed and their upcoming performance at the dlr LexIcon. He extended his gratitude to the HSE and Creative Ireland for funding this important project and encouraged everyone to attend the play's performance on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 7.30pm. Admission is free, but due to limited seating, advance registration is required via Eventbrite (Our Shed).



**Colm Keegan from Clondalkin with participants from the LBS Men's Shed**  
Photo by Ger Holland



Chloe McCarthy and Robyn Gibney



Laura Murphy and Audrey Bernay



Alison Balfe, Kasia Milne and Dee Hayden



Aoife O'Brien and Calla Jakes (HSE)



Marie McKeon and Susan Doyle (HUGG)



Marsha Williams and Dan Russell



Keith Ryan (HSE) and Shane Hogan (SDCC)



Darlene Dunne and Elizabeth Marnell (SDCP)



Emer Tyan, Helen Cocoman and Mary Sammon (TAMHS)



Su Clarke and Andrea Molloy (SDCC) with Valerie Scully



Suzanne Meehan (SDCC)



Melissa McKenna and Anita Doody

# Jobstown Health Fair

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTED SERVICES AND SUPPORTS IN COMMUNITY

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Rachel Hughes (Shine)



Barry Dempsey (Jigsaw)



Suzanne Ennis (Turn2me)



Dermot Looney and Julie McKenna



Karen Aguiar and Kimberly Griffith Walsh



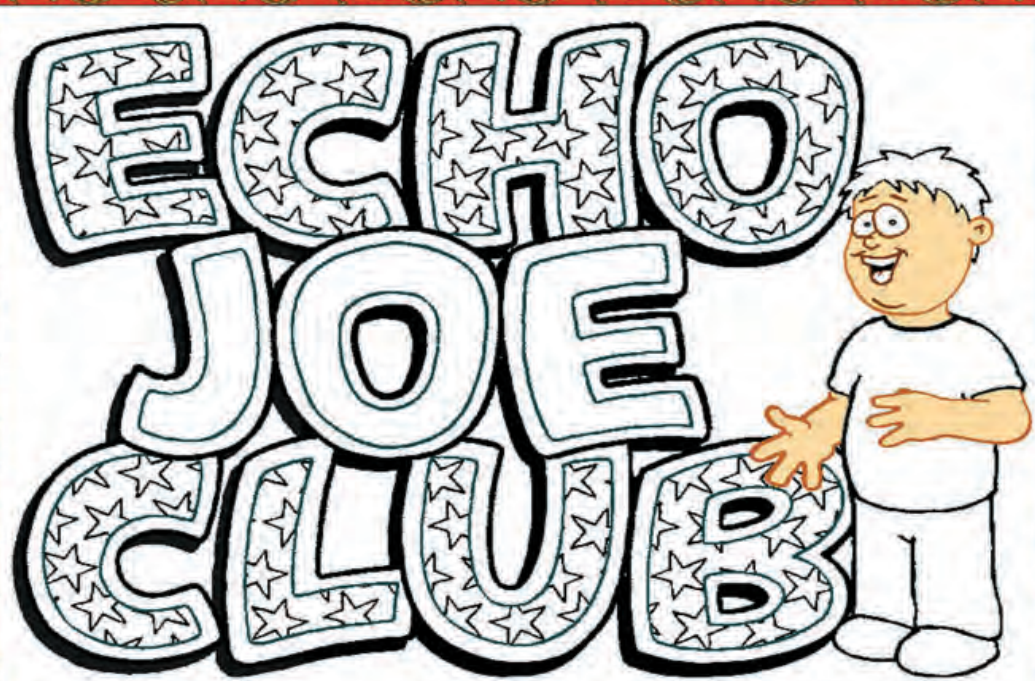
Karl Meehan, Adrienne Kiernan and Suzanne O'Neill



Eileen O'Neill, Audrey Culleton, Mary O'Brien (SCFSN) Danielle Jurj and Megan Cavaliere in Jobstown on Tuesday



Karl Meehan, David Bissett, Julie McKenna, Paul Perth, Rob Whitley and Anita Doody



**Colour in the Echo Joe Club Logo,**  
take a picture of it and email it to [reception@echo.ie](mailto:reception@echo.ie)  
and be in with a chance to win a book token.

A Word with Echo So...

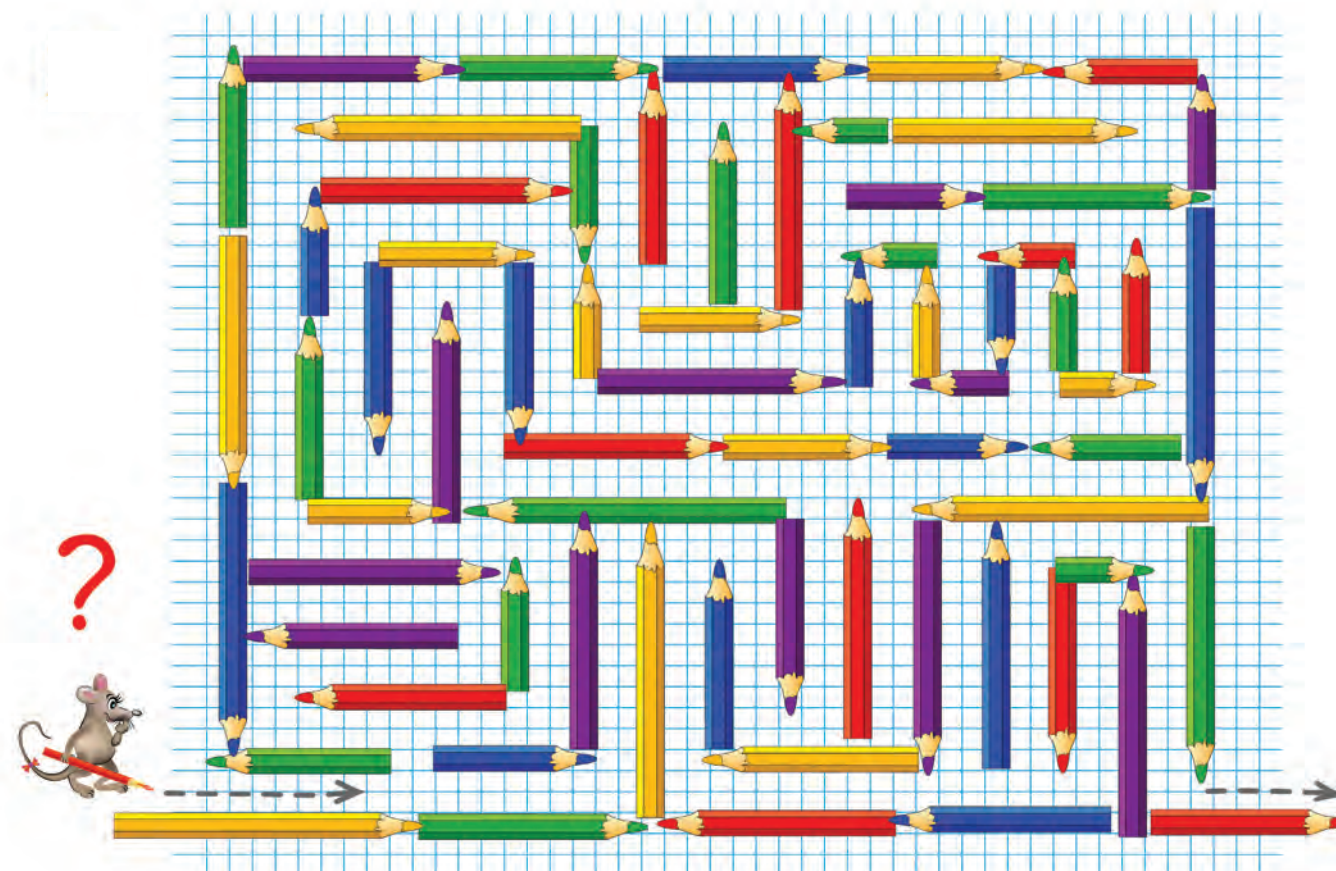
# LANGUAGE



**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
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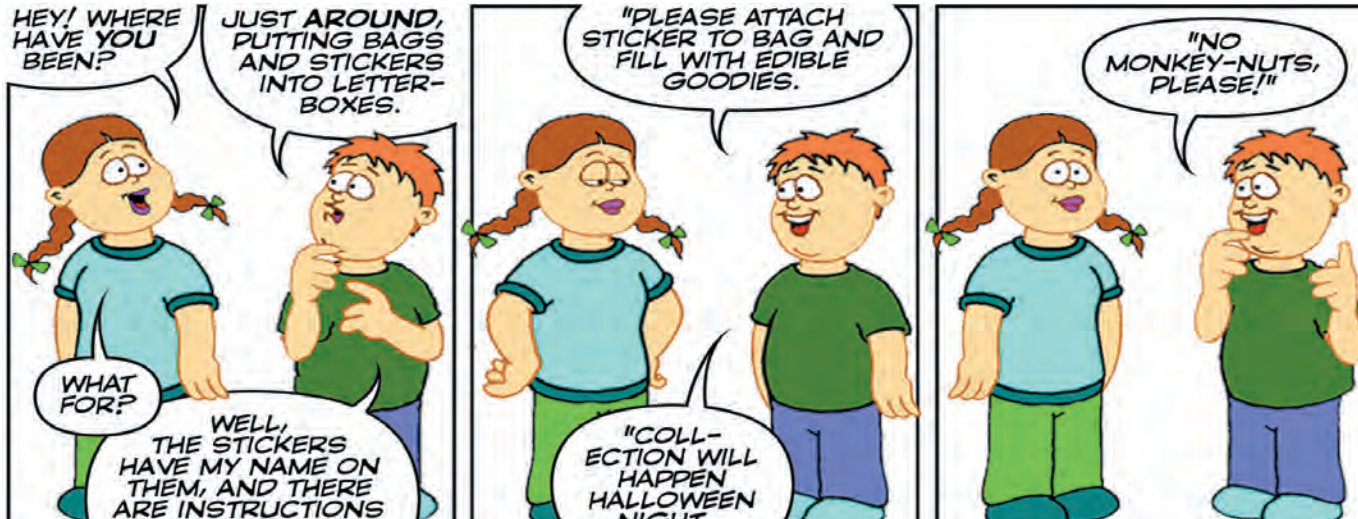
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### Football / Soccer

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A	C	R	E	P	E	E	R	W	E
P	T	L	E	R	H	T	D	O	R
T	A	P	A	O	W	I	N	L	E
A	M	E	G	T	E	R	E	L	F
I	N	N	U	D	A	M	D	E	E
T	L	A	E	E	F	E	N	Y	R
Y	T	R	I	K	E	R	K	I	T
D	S	G	N	I	M	I	D	F	I
R	I	B	B	L	R	E	D	L	E

Find all the words from the word list  
(ignore spaces and dashes):

CAPTAIN	MIDFIELDER
DEFENDER	PENALTY
DRIBBLING	REFEREE
GOALKEEPER	STRIKER
KIT	TEAM
LEAGUE	THROW-IN
MATCH	YELLOW CARD

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"NO MONKEY-NUTS, PLEASE!"

# Find the ten differences between the two pictures



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A MISSING LETTER ON EACH ROW FINISHES ONE WORD AND STARTS THE NEXT...

BUT WHAT ARE THE LETTERS?

RES		RUE
DOP		AST
FIS		EAP
FLA		ILD
OBO		PIC
SPI		OTE
TRI		AIL
HIG		ARP

the missing letters: T, E, H, G, E, N, M, H.

**winner**

Natasha McLoughlin Age 8, is this week's winner of The Echo Joe Club logo colouring competition. Natasha, your prize will be on the way to you soon.

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# TALLAGHT THE WEEKLY Echo

THURSDAY 18th NOVEMBER 1993. 45p



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## Milkman Wins 'Person Of The Year'

Tony Byrne from Kilnamanagh has become the 10th Tallaght Person of the Year.

The 56-year-old milkman has been a member of the West Dublin Athletics Club for 23 years and regularly trains 170 young people. He also trains Kilnamanagh's athletes for the Community Games and is very

much involved in the Inter-Tallaght Community Games.

A very popular figure in Kilnamanagh, Tony says "I don't like the limelight but I am delighted

for Kilnamanagh and for the kids". Tony said the award serves to highlight what they have achieved.

Environment Minister, Michael Smith presented the awards at a

gala ceremony at St. Marks G.A.A. Club, last Friday. He was deputising for Justice Minister, Marie-Geoghegan-Quinn who had taken ill. In a brief speech, Minister Smith said he was "honoured to be among people who had worked so hard to build a Tallaght which was not just a suburb, but a place with its own heart and its own

emphasis on development".

The assembled guests included M.E.P. Niall Andrews, local councillors, T.D.s and over 500 members of the community. During her opening address, Patricia Bryan, Chairperson of Tallaght Community Council said the I.D.A. needed to work harder to create new employment in the area. Patricia

also commented on the controversial Kiltipper rezoning, saying the people of Tallaght "want no more rezoning".

The Tallaght Community Council, who were also celebrating their 21st birthday, thanked the various sponsors, which included Gilbeys of Ireland and 747 Travel and wished the award winners every success.



Tony-Byrne gets a congratulatory kiss from his wife Brigid after he won the title of 'Tallaght Person of the Year'

# Pushers Out-Cry

Community leaders in Killinarden have issued a stern warning to drug pushers - "get out

and stay out". The warning came at a specially convened meeting at Killinarden Community Hall last Tuesday, attended by over 500 people. Representatives of the Garda Siochana were also present.

A major drug user living in the area has now been given one week's notice to move out. The meeting heard allegations of drugs being freely obtained at her house - one youth claimed he was "banged up" there at least 25 times.

Three mothers spoke of how their sons became addicts, allegedly from the same source. Liam O'Brien, Chaplain at Killinarden Community School and P.R.O. for the Community Council said Killinarden is awash with drugs, including "napps" - an opium derivative. "There is a groundswell of anger

at the pushers and the authorities who allow the situation to continue unabated" he said. "We are now crying stop. We will no longer tolerate drug pushers in our community".

The Gardaí were also heavily criticised at the meeting, for what residents described as the "lack of law enforcement in relation to pushers." One woman told of a neighbour who informed the

guards that her own son was in possession of drugs. "Two weeks later, she is still waiting for them to call" she said.

Although Liam O'Brien acknowledges the difficulties facing the Guards, he said the community will have to take action to rid itself of "this evil". He insisted they are not vigilantes. "People have to protect their children" he said.

cont. page 8

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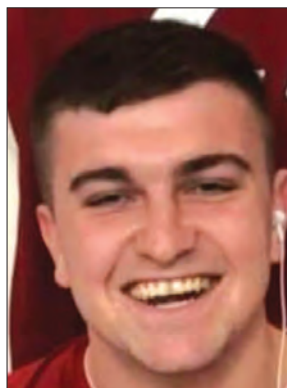
# family notices

## Important Notice

Items for publication for memorial pages must be in by 1pm Friday for next Thursday's paper

Tel: 468 5350  
email: reception@echo.ie

### ANNIVERSARY



Especially when we are thinking only of you.  
**Our brother, our best friend, We miss you more than words can say. Lots of love from your two sisters, Serena and Natasha. xx**

#### Grandson

The moment that you left us, Our hearts were torn in two, One side filled with heartache, The other went with you, Your beautiful smile and caring ways, Your laughter and sense of humour, You were the sunshine of our lives, You brightened up our world, You were a very special Grandson, Bringing happiness to all you knew, I feel you so very near, My only wish is to have you here,  
**Love you forever Dylan, Nanna Sue and Grandad Tom.**

#### Our beautiful nephew Dylan on your 4th Anniversary away from home

Time cannot heal the heartache, Or stop a silent tear, It can't take away the memories, Of a nephew we loved so dear.  
**Love and miss you always Dyl, your aunts Suzanne, Lisa and Laura and Families xxx**

May the winds of Heaven blow softly, And whisper in your ear, How much we love and miss you, And wish that you were here. Sadly missed along life's way, Quietly remembered every day, No longer in our lives to share, But in our hearts you are always there.

**Forever in our hearts, uncles Paul and Thomas, aunts Gillian and Lorraine, cousins Alan, Carl, Chloe, Emma, Shane and Ciara.**

### ANNIVERSARY



**O'Neill, Dylan  
4th Anniversary away from home.**

Those special memories of you, Will always bring a smile, If only we could have you back, For just a little while, The beauty of a memory, Is that it's always there, Like a penny in your pocket, You can take it anywhere, And when our hearts our heavy, And our eyes are filled with tears, We focus on our memories, And travel through the years.  
**Love and miss you Dylan from all your O'Neill cousins.**

They say there is a reason, They say time will heal, Neither time or reason, Will change the way I feel, Gone are the days we used to share, But in my heart you are always there, The gates of memories will never close, I miss you more than anybody knows, Love and miss you every day, Till we meet again.

**Rest in peace our beautiful nephew, love Elaine, Yvonne, Keith, Gary & Colette.**

Always on our minds, Forever in our hearts.  
**Love and miss you so much, Nanny & Grandad O'Neill.**

### BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



**Reddy, Jimmy  
86th Birthday greetings to a very special Husband, Dad, Grandad & Great-Grandad occurs 18th October.**

Days go by & turn to years, Your birthday is here again, Time & Years mean nothing, And the heartache is just the same, We send this birthday message, Especially to say, You were someone very special, And loved more and more every day, A laugh, a joke, a smile or two, That's how we remember you. Have a great party with Shay.  
**Lovingly remembered, Aileen, Sandra, Lisa, Janice, Noelle, Terry, Brendan, Fran, Keith, Ciara, Niamh, Saoirse, Maisie, Ava & Zoe.**

### BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



**Reddy, Seamus  
58th Birthday wishes to our only Son & Brother occurs 14th October.**

*Birthdays in Heaven, Decorations of gold, Where the years come and go, And you never grow old, Where you celebrate with Angels, And Dad is with you there, With no injuries in sight, Just love everywhere, So we don't need to worry, How your birthday is spent, Because you are safe in heaven, Hope there is Guinness there too, And our wishes are sent.*  
**Sadly missed, never forgotten Mam, Sandra, Lisa, Janice, Noelle, Terry, Brendan, Fran, Keith, Ciara, Niamh, Saoirse, Maisie, Ava & Zoe.**

### ANNIVERSARY



**Cole, Stephen  
23rd Anniversary of a loving Brother who died 12th October 2000. Late of Ballyfermot.**

*Somewhere beyond the sunset, Where loved ones never die, You sleep in a beautiful garden, Beneath Gods golden sky, Though Heaven and Earth divide us, We are never far apart, For you are always with us, And forever in our hearts, We think of you with love today, But that is nothing new, We thought about you yesterday, And the day before that too.*  
**Missed and loved so very much by your Brothers, Sisters, Brothers-in-Law, Sisters-in-Law, Nieces and Nephews, Grandnieces and Grandnephews.**

**O'Neill, Dylan  
In loving memory of our beautiful Son on your 4th Anniversary away from home occurs on the 18th of October. Late of Ellensborough Grove, Tallaght.**

#### Son

They say there is no reason, They say time will heal, Neither time or reason, Will change the way we feel, Gone are the days we used to share, But in our hearts, you're always there, The gates of memories will never close, We miss you more than anyone knows, Think of Dylan as living, In the hearts of those he touched, For nothing loved is ever lost, Because he was loved so much.  
**Love and miss you more every day, from your heartbroken Mam and Dad.**

#### Brother

Our hearts still ache with sadness, Our secret tears still flow, For what it was to lose our only brother, No one will ever know, Until the final breath we take, You'll be living in our hearts, There are some moments when we experience Deja Vu,

### ANNIVERSARY



**Corcoran, Jean-Ann  
8th Anniversary away from home of our precious Daughter and Sister. Late of Bawnville Drive. Sunrise 29/9/1972 Sunset 13/10/2015**

Our hearts still ache with sadness, And secret tears still flow, For what it meant to lose you, No one will ever know, May you always walk in sunshine, With Dad who is in heaven with you, Both of you are too dearly loved to be forgotten.  
**From your heartbroken Mam and all the Family.**

### ANNIVERSARY



**Morgan, Rory  
In loving memory of a dear Husband and Dad who died 14th October 2009. 14th Anniversary away from home.**

*We never knew that morning, What sorrow that day would bring, When a special heart stopped beating, And we could not do a thing. The parting was so sudden, We always wonder why, But the saddest part of all was, We never said goodbye.*  
**Sadly missed by your loving wife Betty, Children and Grandchildren.**

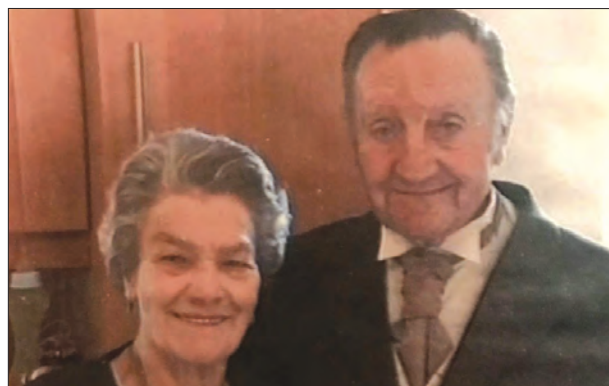
### BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



**Smith, Jason (Jay)  
13th Birthday away from home occurs 14th October. Late of Castle Park.**

*Birthday wishes sent to heaven, From your family below, We miss and love you dearly, And we wanted you to know, Your birthday's not forgotten, And your memory lives on, We celebrate the life you had, Even though you're gone.*  
**Happy Heavenly Birthday Jay, love and miss you always, Mam, Dad, Jade & all the Family. xxx**

### ANNIVERSARY



**Cummins, James (Timber) & Margaret (nee Marie Woods)  
7th Anniversary away from home for our Dad - 12th October 2016 and nearly 14 years since the passing of our Mam 8th November 2009.**

*Remembering Mam & Dad, And thinking of you with love, We know you are together, Looking down from up above, We thank you both for your endless love, That helps us through each day,*

*We thank you both for the memories, That will never fade away.*  
**All our love, always, your children, Anne, Mary, Jean, Charles, Yvonne, Sandra, Catherine, Karen and Belinda, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, Great-Great-Grandchildren, Sons-in-Law, extended Family, Neighbours and Friends. Also remembering their daughter-in-law Irene who sadly passed in August 2015.**

### NOVENA

**9 Day Novena to St. Anthony.**  
*St. Anthony, I resort to thy protection and aid, as proof of my affection and faith, I offer this candle which shall burn every day. Please comfort me in my difficulties and through thy living in the house of my Saviour, intercede for me and all those I love so that we may always hold God in our hearts and be provided for in our necessities, I beseech thee, St. Anthony, to have infinite pity in regard to the favour I ask of thee (here mention your favour). Please help me to overcome all difficulties which I now leave at thy feet. 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's, 3 Glory Be to the Father's. This novena should be said for 9 days in succession. Each day a candle should be lit and a copy of this prayer left in the Church to help another soul in distress and to increase devotion to St. Anthony. This miraculous Saint grants everything no matter how difficult and before the termination of the nine days. But even if your request is granted, the Novena must be fulfilled. Holy St. Anthony pray for us. B.G.*

### 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) P.T.*

# family notices

## Important Notice

Items for publication for memorial pages must be in by 1pm Friday for next Thursday's paper

Tel: 468 5350  
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### ANNIVERSARY



**Mountaine, Tony**  
13th Anniversary occurs 13th October.

*A golden heart stopped beating,  
Hard working hands at rest,  
It broke our hearts to see you go,  
God only takes the best.  
They say that memories are golden,  
Well maybe that is true,  
But we never wanted memories,  
We only wanted you,  
Your life was love and labour,  
Your love for your family true,  
You did your best for all of us,  
We will always remember you.  
We sat beside your bedside,  
Our hearts were crushed and sore,  
We did our duty to the end,  
Til we could do no more.  
In tears we watched you sinking,  
We watched you fade away.  
And though our hearts were breaking,  
We knew you could not stay.  
Our lips cannot speak how we loved you,  
Our hearts cannot tell what to say,  
But God only knows how we miss you.*

*In our home that is lonely today,  
Sadly missed by your heartbroken wife Muriel,  
loving son Tony, daughters,  
Joyce & Amanda, daughter-in-law  
Teresa, sons-in-law  
Tony & Derek, grandchildren  
Jessica, Ross, Ryan, Rebecca,  
Rowan & Sarah and great-grandchildren  
Mia & Myles.*

### ANNIVERSARY



**Campbell, Noeleen**  
13th Anniversary away from home occurred 10th October.  
Late of Donomore Crescent.  
Also remembering our Dad/Grandad/Great-Grandad Douglas Campbell who died in January 2016.

*There are two people in heaven,  
So precious & so rare,  
Those people are my parents,  
The best beyond compare,  
Sleep peacefully dear Mam & Dad,*

*You have earned your rest,  
Take care of them Lord,  
They were the best.  
Missing you both always from  
Barbara, Alan, Nicole,  
Jazmine & great-granddaughter Paisley, Sue  
and Family and great-grandson  
Cade, Michelle and Family,  
Jonathan and Family,  
Lyndsey, Jason and Family  
and great-grandson Daniel.  
xxxx*

### ANNIVERSARY



**Keane, Anne**  
Remembering our dear mother Anne Keane on her 1st Anniversary away from home which occurs 16th October.

*Those special memories of you,  
Will always bring a smile,  
If only we could have you back,  
For just a little while,  
Then we could sit and talk again,  
Just like we used to do,  
You always meant so very much,  
And always will do too,  
The fact that you're no longer here,  
Will always cause us pain,  
But you're forever in our hearts,  
Until we meet again.*

*Always thinking of you, from  
your children Natasha,  
Graham, Rob & Amy, your  
Sons-in-law, Daughters-in-law  
and Grandchildren.*

### ANNIVERSARY



**Cordial, Bridget (Breda)**  
3rd Anniversary occurred 10th October.

*Our house now feels so empty,  
The warmth of a mother's embrace,  
A different life without you,  
Is now what we have to face,  
You filled our hearts with happiness,  
And taught us how to be brave,  
But you never said how hard it would be,  
To weep for you at your grave.  
Fondly remembered by your  
loving daughters Elaine,  
Catherine & Theresa, son  
Robert, Sons-in-law,  
Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren.*

### ANNIVERSARY



**Prendergast, Vera** 21st Anniversary occurred 25th September.  
**Prendergast, Suzanne** 38th Anniversary occurred 10th October.

*Memory is a lovely lane,  
Where hearts are ever true,  
A lane we so often travel down  
Because it leads to both of you.  
Forever missed, eternally  
loved, Brendan, Clodagh,  
Alison & Tony, Mark &  
Joanne, Ciarán & Jane,  
grandkids Hannah, Sarah,  
Caitlín, Faye, Ella, Thomas,  
Joseph & Ollie.*

### NOVENA

**Thanksgiving Prayer**  
*O mother of Perpetual help with grateful hearts, we join you in thanking God for all the wonderful things he has done for us. God our Creator we thank you for the gift of life and all the gifts of nature, our senses and faculties, our talents and abilities. We thank you for creating us in your own image and likeness and for giving us the earth to use and develop to rule and control. Despite our failures you continue to show your love for us by increasing the life of your spirit in us. Finally we thank you loving father for giving us Mary, the mother of your son to be our mother of Perpetual help. We are grateful for all past favours received through her intercession. We pray that these past favours may inspire us to greater confidence to seek the aid of our Mother of Perpetual help Amen. C.G.*

### NOVENA

**Thanksgiving Prayer**  
*O mother of Perpetual help with grateful hearts, we join you in thanking God for all the wonderful things he has done for us. God our Creator we thank you for the gift of life and all the gifts of nature, our senses and faculties, our talents and abilities. We thank you for creating us in your own image and likeness and for giving us the earth to use and develop to rule and control. Despite our failures you continue to show your love for us by increasing the life of your spirit in us. Finally we thank you loving father for giving us Mary, the mother of your son to be our mother of Perpetual help. We are grateful for all past favours received through her intercession. We pray that these past favours may inspire us to greater confidence to seek the aid of our Mother of Perpetual help Amen. G.C.*

### NOVENA

**Novena to the Sacred Heart**  
*Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one (mention favour). Take it dear Jesus and place it within your broken heart where your holy Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine. Amen. Say prayer for 3 days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. A.B.*

### NOVENA

**Novena to the Sacred Heart**  
*Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one (mention favour). Take it dear Jesus and place it within your broken heart where your holy Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine. Amen. Say prayer for 3 days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. J.M.*

### ANNIVERSARY



**Lawlor, Peter**  
11th Anniversary away from home occurs 18th October.  
Late of Kilmamanagh.

*It's been a lonely time without you,  
And nothing is the same,  
All we have are memories,  
And your picture in a frame.  
You hold a spot deep in our hearts,  
Where the sun will always shine,  
For there will never be another to me,  
Like that wonderful dad of mine,  
God bless you, Dad.*

*Sadly missed, love from  
Joyce, Paul, Sarah, Michael  
and great-grandsons Caelán,  
Hunter, Tadhg & Hudson,  
and great-granddaughter  
Honey. Also remembering my  
late Mother Rose.*

### ANNIVERSARY



**Kelly, Trish**  
5th Anniversary away from home occurs 14th October.  
Also remembering her birthday which occurred 1st October.

*We miss her love and cheery ways,  
With her we spent our happiest days.  
In memory we see her the same,  
As long as we live, we'll cherish her name.  
Love you always from Pat,  
sons Stuart & Philip, Amanda  
& Amy and grandchildren  
Erin, Ordhán & Jake.*

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All planning applications must be in before 5pm Monday

tel: 468 5350  
email: [reception@echo.ie](mailto:reception@echo.ie)

## South Dublin County Council

Padriac O'Gara at 7 Wainsfort Manor Crescent, Terenure, Dublin 6W is applying for permission for New attic extension by extending the existing the roof ridge line and raising the gable wall to the existing pitched roof line, complete with new dormer windows to the rear elevation, new Velux roof light to the rear elevation and new window (frosted glass) to the new stairwell in the side elevation with all associated work. 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](http://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

Planning permission sought for to remove existing front aluminium porch and replace with a new two storey extension to the front of the existing dwelling to include extended hall and extended bedroom: extend the existing ridge tiles and roof tiles to form a new dutch type roof structure: new dormer structure to the rear tiled roof: extend existing side gable structure up to new soffit level with a new obscure glazed window in new gable structure: conversion of existing attic area into a new non-habitable area: internal alterations: external finishes to match existing and associate site works at 8. Ferncourt Green, Firhouse, D.24 for Adam & Bernadette Johnston. 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](http://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

## Dublin City Council

Eir (Eircom Limited) intend to apply for permission for development at Eir, Somerville Park, Crumlin, Dublin 12, D12 A243. The development will consist of the construction of telecommunications infrastructure comprised of; an 18m monopole (19.5m overall height to top of lightning finial), antennas, dishes and associated equipment, together with new ground level equipment cabinets and all associated site works. The position of proposed development is to the side of the existing exchange building. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Dublin City Council during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the 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 SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

<p><b>SD22A/0412</b> 26 Sep 2023 <b>Permission Additional Information</b> Applicant: Dublin Simon Community Location: Lands at, Old Nangor Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 Description: Social housing development consisting of 10 one bed units in a two to three storey apartment building, associated car parking and bicycle parking, bin store, water pump house, new vehicular access onto Old Nangor Road, new pedestrian access onto Old Nangor Road, landscaping, boundary treatments, public lighting and all associated site and engineering works necessary.</p>	<p><b>SDZ23A/0019</b> 25 Sep 2023 <b>Permission Additional Information</b> Applicant: Sergiu &amp; Svetlana Lapascu Location: 6, Stratton Way, Adamstown Square, Lucan, Co. Dublin, K78K027 Description: A new ground floor extension to kitchen annex at rear of dwelling, erect a new first floor extension over existing kitchen annex at rear of dwelling comprising of a bedroom, en-suite and wardrobe area and all associated site works.</p>	<p>underground fuel tanks (each fuel tank has a capacity of 75,000 litres and store HVO and BIO fuels), including a network of pipes and inspection manholes. These new tanks are located below ground in the Southeast corner of the site.</p>
<p><b>SD23B/0266</b> 25 Sep 2023 <b>Permission Additional Information</b> Applicant: Laura Hodson and Stephen Millist Location: 43, Muckcross Avenue, Dublin 12 Description: The development will consist of A) The demolition of the existing single storey return and garage to the rear of the existing dwelling, B) the construction of a new single storey extension to the rear of the existing dwelling, C) demolition of the existing rear boundary wall to the laneway, and replacement with a new wall and pedestrian entrance gate, D) provision for bin and bicycle storage bunkers to the front garden, and E) all other associated site works and services</p>	<p><b>SD23A/0087</b> 27 Sep 2023 <b>Permission Clarification of Additional Information</b> Applicant: Rockface Developments Limited Location: Brownsbarn Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24 Description: Provision of a warehouse with ancillary office and staff facilities and associated development; The warehouse will have a maximum height of 13.776 metres with a gross floor area of 1,526sq.m including a warehouse area (1,391sq.m), ancillary staff facilities (113sq.m) and ancillary office area (22sq.m); A vehicular entrance/exit via Brownsbarn Drive; a pedestrian access via Brownsbarn Drive; 7 ancillary car parking spaces; bicycle parking; level access goods doors; hard and soft landscaping; lighting; boundary treatments; plant; and all associated site development works above and below ground on lands generally bounded to the north by Browns barn Drive, to the south by a ramp to the Naas Road (N7)1 to the east by a Car Sales Showroom and to the west by a Petrol Filling Station.</p>	<p><b>SD23A/0240</b> 26 Sep 2023 <b>Permission New Application</b> Applicant: Seabren Developments Limited Location: The Speaker Connolly Tavern, Firhouse Road and Ballycullen Avenue, Dublin 24, D24 E400 Description: Demolition of the Speaker Connolly Public House including the part single part two storey public house, and ancillary stores and structures (c. 411sqm), on a development site of 0.323 Hectares (overall site area 0.332 Ha). The proposed development with a total gross floor area of c. 8,813 sq.m will consist of 85 residential units and associated balconies for all units in one block ranging in height from 5 to 6 storeys in height over round floor and part basement, comprising: 36 One Bed Apartments, 48 Two Bed Apartments, One Studio Apartment. The development will also consist of non-residential uses at ground floor level (c. 596 sq.m), including: 1 no. Public House (c. 143 sq.m), 1 no. Restaurant (c. 169 sq.m) 1 no. Health Care Unit (c. 91.8 sq.m), 1 no. Cafe (c. 55.4 sq.m) 2 no. Micro Enterprise Units (c. 93.6 sq.m and 43.4 sq.m, respectively). The existing basement will be used as a plant room (c. 110.5 sq.m), Vehicular access to the site will be from the existing vehicular access on Ballycullen Avenue, the proposal works include alterations to the existing access and public footpath, including the provision of enhanced pedestrian infrastructure. The development will also consist of the provision of communal open space (c. 653 sq.m) at podium level and related play areas; public open space (c. 300 sq.m) including hard and soft landscaping, internal access road including a vehicular link between Ballycullen Avenue and the Firhouse Shopping Centre, boundary treatment, street furniture, car parking along the internal access road (11 spaces in total including 1 accessible space), below podium car parking (32 no. spaces in total, including 4 accessible spaces); electric vehicle charging points (9 no of spaces); bicycle parking (155 long stay and 58 short stay spaces); ESB substation, piped infrastructural services and connections to existing public services; ducting; plant; waste management provision; SuDS measures including Green/Blue roofs; stormwater management; signage; public lighting; solar panels as well as telecommunications infrastructure including 18 no. antennas enclosed in 9 no. shrouds and 6 no. transmission dishes, together with all associated equipment and all ancillary site development and excavation works above and below ground.</p>
<p><b>SD23B/0313</b> 29 Sep 2023 <b>Retention Additional Information</b> Applicant: Liam Kelly Location: 7 Rathmintin Court, Jobstown, Tallaght., Description: Permission sought for the retention of existing store and glasshouse at rear</p>	<p><b>SD23A/0238</b> 25 Sep 2023 <b>Permission and Retention New Application</b> Applicant: Chadwicks Group Limited Location: Heiton Steel, Ashfield, Naas Road, Dublin 22. Description: Retention permission and permission for development at the existing shotblasting facility. The total planning application site area extends to approximately 0.92 Ha. Retention permission is sought for: a 2 bay portal frame structure at the northern end of the facility and a 153 sq.m floor area extension at the southern end of the facility. Permission is sought for: a 716 sq.m floor area extension at the southern end of the facility; roof to enclose the 2 bay portal frame structure (for which retention permission is sought) minor changes to the internal layout including relocation of toilet and provision of ancillary office space; concrete resurfacing of the main yard area; minor elevational changes; and all associated site and development works above and below ground.</p>	<p><b>SD23A/0242</b> 29 Sep 2023 <b>Permission New Application</b> Applicant: Livingston Properties Ltd., Location: Tam House, Ballymount Trading Estate, Lower Ballymount Road, Dublin 12. Description: Removal of existing window to form new reception entrance together with new aluminium composite wall cladding panel to existing wall.</p>
<p><b>SD23B/0322</b> 25 Sep 2023 <b>Permission Additional Information</b> Applicant: Matthew &amp; Gemma Boylan Location: 7, Cypress Drive, Templeogue, Dublin 6w Description: For the raising of the existing gable wall and forming a new dutch hip roof with dormer structure to the rear and associated works. The space will consist of new bedroom with en-suite bathroom. There is a window proposed on the new gable and a velux window in the bedroom and on the new dutch-hip.</p>	<p><b>SD23A/0239</b> 25 Sep 2023 <b>Permission and Retention New Application</b> Applicant: Campus Oil Retail Limited Location: Lands at Kingswood Truck Wash, Old Naas Road, Kingswood Cross, Dublin 22 Description: Additional 2no. fuel pumps and 2 no. islands. Retention permission is also sought for works completed. The completed works consist of the installation of 4 number</p>	
<p><b>SD23B/0328</b> 25 Sep 2023 <b>Permission Additional Information</b> Applicant: Anna Lennon Location: 175, Woodlawn Park Grove, Dublin 24 Description: Demolishing of existing chimney. Development will consist of a proposed new hip gable wall to the side of the existing house with a new window at attic level. A proposed new dormer roof to the rear of existing house roof. 2 no new Velux windows to the front of the existing house roof and all ancillary works.</p>		

Contact **The Echo** to have a planning notification published  
Call **468 5350** or email [reception@echo.ie](mailto:reception@echo.ie)

# Echo Sport

Deputy Sports Editor: William O'Connor

Thursday, October 12, 2023

## And the Saints go marching on into FAI Cup Final

ST PATRICK'S Athletic will go marching on into the FAI Cup Final after securing an emphatic 2-0 victory over Cork City in the penultimate round last Sunday reports *Hayden Moore*.

It will be an all-Dublin affair when the Saints clash with rivals Bohemians in the decider at the Aviva Stadium on November 12.

Dalymount Park, which has recently gone to Part 8 Public Consultation for redevelopment, will showcase a taster for what is to come in the cup showpiece when the two sides meet in the league.

Bohemian are set to host Jon Daly's men this Friday night at 7.45pm as the team's battle for a European qualification place in the SSE Airtricity League Premier Division.

Aside from when the sides last met in a nil-all draw in August, the Dublin Derby between the two is typically tantalising with a total of seven goals and three red cards in the two previous meetings.

When they collide in the cup decider next month, it will be a repeat of the dramatic 2021 final.

On that occasion, a scoreless opening 90 minutes brought the game into extra-time with Chris Forrester opening the scoring after 105-minutes.

On the restart, Rory Feely equalised for Bohs and it ended that way, with spot kicks needed to separate the teams.

Despite Forrester missing a penalty, the Gypsies' Tyreke Wilson and Keith Ward failed to convert, with Robbie Benson's spot kick taking the cup back to Inchicore.

Last season Derry City captured the cup and en route to this year's final, penalties saw St Pat's past the defending champions.

Also beating Longford Town and Finn Harps on the way, the Richmond Park outfit guaranteed a spot in the final after beating Cork City in the semi-final last Sunday.

An excellent Ryan McLaughlin delivery into the box was directed into the net by Mark Doyle after just 11-minutes and Conor Carty sealed the deal towards the end with a lovely slice inside the box.

## Egan and Simmons become first Irish gold medalists at ICF Ocean Racing World Cup

JENNY Egan-Simmons and Jon Simmons left their first ever International Canoe Federation (ICF) Ocean Racing World Cup in Madeira, Portugal with gold medals in the mixed doubles, reports *Hayden Moore*.

Competing in a first international ocean race, Jenny Egan-Simmons and her husband Jon Simmons completed the grueling 29km race from Funchal to Calheta in Madeira in style last Saturday.

Lining out in the SS2 Mixed Double category on October 7, this was a new discipline for both the Salmon Leap athletes, and it required a slightly different skillset to sprint and marathon racing.

Lucan native Egan is a multiple World Cup medalist, World Championship medalist and European Championship medalist in both sprint and marathon.

Whereas Simmons, who is originally from the United Kingdom, is also a

Marathon World Cup medalist for Great Britain before making the move to Ireland.

Instead, the duo leaned on their endurance to get them across the course on the rough Atlantic Ocean waters for the Madeira challenge.

Conditions in the Atlantic Ocean proved to be particularly challenging, with a max elevation of 6m swells recorded and blistering strong winds howling across the sea during the race.

It was increasingly more difficult too with air temperatures topping out at 31 degrees and an energy sapping humidity to boot.

Despite all the conditions working against them, Egan-Simmons and Simmons worked tirelessly to cross the finish line in pole position.

This meant that the pair created a piece of history, becoming the first gold medalists for Ireland in an ICF Ocean Racing World Cup event.



Jenny Egan-Simmons and Jon Simmons won gold in the mixed doubles in Portugal

## Sexton to lead Ireland out against All-Blacks

IRELAND'S all-time record points scorer Jonathan Sexton has been named to start in a gigantic test against New Zealand in the 2023 Rugby World Cup quarter-final on Saturday.

Multiple records have fallen to the St Mary's College star since the tournament kicked-off in September, and he will captain Ireland into battle with All Blacks at the Stade de France in Paris.

In the group stages, Sexton became the oldest men's international player when Ireland battered Romania 82-8 in the opening round and he appears to be at his very best.

Further Irish World Cup records fell to Sexton in the opener, matching David Humphreys for the most points scored in a match with 24 (two tries and seven conversions) and becoming the all-time leading points scorer with 102.

Since then, across great battles with Tonga, South Africa and Scotland, Sexton has brought his points tally up to 129 in World Cup matches.

38-year-old Sexton captained the boys in green through the group stage with great cadence, acting like the conductor of the orchestra to top Pool A with four wins from four.

Mack Hansen and Clondalkin Rugby Club registered player James Lowe have also been given the nod to start against the All Blacks, after passing fitness tests earlier in the week.

Between their first meeting in 1905 and 2016, Ireland did not record a single win across 28 games against New Zealand.

However, after finally breaking the duck in 2016, Ireland have gone on to record five victories, ultimately toppling them at the summit of the world rankings.

A win against New Zealand on Saturday night will pit Andy Farrell's side up against the winners of Wales and Argentina in the semi-finals on October 20.



Jonathan Sexton from St Mary's Rugby Club will have a key role to play for Ireland against New Zealand in the World Cup quarter-final

## Martial Arts

# Busy times for Tallaght Martial Arts



Members of Tallaght Martial Arts who were in action over the weekend

Tallaght Martial Arts have a very busy last few weeks of international and national competition. Following on from last week success at the Italian World Cup in Jesolo Italy.

Stephen Jones was on top of his game in the Master -94kg and +94 kg points fighting sections winning gold in both sections after some tough competition. He also won a silver in the masters kick light -94kg section. Ann Marie O'Grady won silver

In the Master -55kg and -65kg points fighting sections Jodie Browne was fighting in the ladies team event alongside Tina Baloh and Alexandre Georgieva where they won the Team

event. Jodie put in a solid performance in the +70kg points fighting section to win a bronze medal.

Tallaght Martial Arts were in action at the Bushido Martial Arts open in Leixlip Amenities centre on Sunday.

Eoin Finn put in a solid performance in three different categories, Eoin won gold in light contact advance the 11 to 13 years, and bronze in point's fighting and kick light.

Ellen McCaughey put in an outstanding performance to win three gold medals in the advance points

fighting +65kg, light contact -65kg and Kick light -65kg and silver in the -65kg points fighting advance section. Anna White fighting in the advance 14 to 16 years old points fighting section won a well earned silver medal.

Callum O'Connor won gold in the -69kg kick light section after totally dominating the bout. Isabel Golding was on top of her game in the 8 to 10 years advance points fighting and light contact section winning two Gold medals.

Liam Feeney won silver medal in the 8-10 years points fighting section. Conor Mc Clelland in the under 7

years points fighting and light contact won two well earned silver medals. Mikhail Serbaev fighting in the 14 to 16 years beginners points fighting and light contact section won two bronze medals.

Cian Colvin won a bronze medal in the senior -57kg advance points fighting section. Jack Dunleavy fighting in the senior +80kg points fighting section won a bronze medal. Lisa McCabe won two silver medals in the senior -65kg and +65kg points fighting sections. Next up for Tallaght Martial Arts fight teams the Bristol Open International tournament this weekend.

## Kickboxing

# BMA enjoy success at kickboxing open

The annual BMA Kickboxing Open, hosted by BMA Leixlip, is one of the biggest tournaments of the year attracting clubs from all over Ireland. This event was held in the Leixlip Amenity Centre on Sunday.

BMA Clondalkin fielded 16 competitors and finished the day with two first places, seven runner-ups and four bronze medals.

First in their fields were awarded to Killian Reid and Louise Shortt. Killian took gold in the novice PF 12-14 year old group and Louise first in the girls advanced 12-14 year olds PF division.

Runner-up spots were awarded to brothers Arthur and Robert Dryja, Jamie Hawkins, Cayden Derwin, Robert Barrett, Donnie Caren and Alex McLoughlin who also finished in third place in her

second chosen fighting category.

Third places also went to Anthony Hollywood, Thomas Reilly and Sean Hawkins.

Unlucky not to medal this time round were Mateusz Tyckowsky, Scott Reilly, Fionn Kelly and Emilia Douglas.



Brothers Sean and Jamie Hawkins



Robert and Arthur Dryja



Sean Hawkins and Robert Barrett

## Hockey

# Big victories for Three Rock and Glenanne in league

GLENANNE men's Division One team overcame Monkstown 3-1 in their EYHL clash at St Andrew's College at the weekend.

Shane O'Donoghue's converted penalty corner in the 23rd minute opened the scoring for Glenanne.

His second of the game which he stuck in the roof of the net made it 2-0 in the 53rd minute.

Shane O'Donoghue's third of the game showed that Ireland's record international goalscorer is as sharp as ever, as he gave Glenanne a 3-0 lead in the 58th minute.

A late consolation goal, four minutes from the end, a penalty stroke scored by Lee Cole for Monkstown made the final score 3-1.

Elsewhere in EYHL Division One, Three Rock Rovers took on Ulster side Instonians at Grange Road and ran out 5-1 winners.

Ben Johnson gave Rovers the lead on 5 minutes from a converted penalty corner. Alistair Empey increased their lead in the 25th minute from open play.

He got his second of the game to make it 3-0 to Three Rock Rovers in the 28th minute and it remained 3-0 at halftime.

Peter Lynch further increased Rovers lead in the 50th minute to make it 4-0 to Three Rock. James Walker got a fifth goal for Rovers in the 57th minute.

Instonians got a very late consolation goal a minute later through Matthew McAreevey from open play to leave the final score.

## Soccer

# Hoops can inch closer to four-in-a-row

SHAMROCK Rovers will inch ever-closer to winning a record-equaling fourth successive SSE Airtricity League Premier Division if they beat Drogheda United at Tallaght Stadium on Friday night reports Hayden Moore.

Stephen Bradley's side sit four-points clear of Derry City at the top of the table with four games remaining.

The Hoops are on course to lift the title at Tallaght Stadium when they face Sligo Rovers on the last day of the season, on November 3.

Before that, in the run-in, the Tallaght outfit need points against Drogheda, Cork City and St Patrick's Athletic, who remain in the hunt in third, six points adrift.

But Rovers cannot look beyond the Drogs either, having failed to secure a win in either meeting this season.

In their first clash in May, Drogheda ran out 2-1 victors despite the Hoops holding nearly 80 percent possession and peppering the opposition goal with shots.

Kevin Doherty's side then hosted the defending champions at United Park in July and held them to a nil-all draw.

Typically, a yo-yo team through the years, Drogheda United have made major strides this season, registering 40 points to sit in seventh place and could pose a serious threat to Rovers on Friday.

While the Hoops have had spells of poor form, they have pieced together a strong run since August, winning four times and drawing three times.

Rovers last played on September 29, due to a gap week to allow for the FAI Cup semi-finals, and battled to a 1-0 win against Shelbourne at Tallaght Stadium

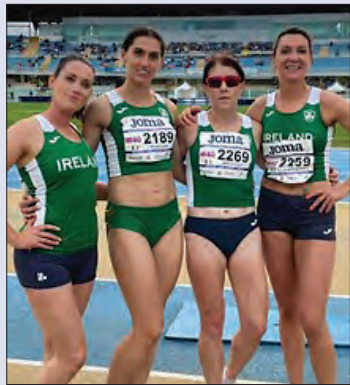
Shels, who are managed by Ballyboden native Damien Duff, were impressive in parts but could not keep apace with Rovers, who took the lead after a piece of Graham Burke brilliance.

Burke was later sent to the stands after a brash challenge on Mark Coyle.

Shamrock Rovers also remain without star midfielder Jack Byrne, who has been nursing a niggling knee injury since July.

**Athletics**

## Metcalfe secures bronze at European Masters



**Michelle Metcalfe, third from right, o35 Irish Relay silver medal winner**

TALLAGHT Athletic Club's Michelle Metcalfe featured on the Irish Women's O/35 4X100m relay team that won silver at the European Masters T&F Championships in Pescara, Italy last week.

Elsewhere, at the Dublin Juvenile League Two and Novice Cross Country Championships in Tymon Park on Sunday, there were some notable performances by several young athletes, including Leonard Deering who produced another good performance to top the U14 league table when finishing second in his 1500m contest, with Eoghan Byrne and Kai Foley securing valuable points a few places behind him.

Both Conor Murphy and Katelyn Bramble also did well to stay in contention in their respective U19/Junior leagues when finishing well up in their 3000m races, as did Ava Casey in her U18 2500m contest. Aliou Coulibaly did well in his second outing in the U12 boys 1200m contest, while Clodagh Byrne and Kirstie McCabe did well in the U13 girls over the same distance.

Emma Kerrigan, Megan O'Driscoll and Abiba Coulibaly battled well in the U14 girls 1500m contest, as did Aoife O'Connor and Leah English in the U15 girls 2000m, while Caitlin Bennet put in a good performance in the U16 2500m and Khalad Kourrini secured points in his U17 2500m contest.

At the same venue, Khumburuka Tuahuky did well to finish 34th overall in the field of over 110 finishers in the Dublin Novice 6000m Championships in his first cross country outing for the club, while Susan Jones recorded a time of 2:33.18 when finishing 9th lady across the line in the Fast Lane three quarter Marathon in Lucan.

There was other good news for the club after Cormac Dixon committed to Providence University after being offered a scholarship.

The talented young athlete who has won Dublin and National track and cross-country titles and has competed for Ireland at the European Youth Olympic Festival and International Schools Cross Country Championships is set to cross the Atlantic in August 2024.

**Motorsport**

# Daire leading the way in JSCC C'ship

Round 8 of the Junior Saloon Car Championship was held at the world famous Silverstone circuit in Northamptonshire.

With no Friday testing Daire Flock from Tallaght had only 15 minutes practice on Saturday to shake the car down and ensure everything was good for qualifying.

Qualifying did not go as expected and he ended up in 4th, 2nd for the double header.

Race One saw Daire get the perfect start from 4th and lead into the first corner, from there he started to put in constant times and pull a lead out to win the first race with a four second lead.

In Race Two, Daire got another good start and led into the first corner, unfortunately there was a red flag and the grid started

from original positions. Again a good start and led into the Wellington straight with cold tyres the car went a little wide and forced Flock into second.

Pushed for the lead, getting the lap record by .04 of a second unfortunately without a clean over take he decided to settle for second.

Daire said "overall a good weekend, I'd like to of got 2 race wins, unfortunately a small mistake cost me, I'm happy with a new lap record for JSCC around Silverstone now I look forward to Donington.

Daire, is still championship leader with 21 points and increasing his win tally to 13 and with 18 podiums with 2 rounds to go at Donington and Brands Hatch, it is still all all to play for.



**Daire Flock in action during round eight of the junior saloon championship**

# McDonald secures British Junior Dragster C'ships

LIAM McDonald from Walkinstown won the British Junior Dragster Championship 2023, defying all the odds by competing with the European racing elite on a shoestring budget.

The 16-year-old dragster racer is also the 2023 winner of the German HARA Club Championship and the German MSJ Club Championship. He also placed second in the French Junior dragster Championship this year.

Liam has just returned to start his fifth-year studies at Presentation College Terenure following a European tour where he raced in Gardermoen, Norway winning the Junior Dragster event. He was also the No.1 qualifier in Tierp, Sweden.

Other countries where he competed this summer were Netherlands, Germany, France and England, travelling over 14,000km to fly the Irish flag at all the

European drag racing events.

Ireland remains the only European country that does not recognise Drag racing as an official sport, as per the motorsport governing body.

Liam began his racing career at the age of 8, when his Dad, Graham had to go through a lot of red tape to get a licence issued. No previous licence existed before Liam's older sister Gabrielle started racing in 2006, and went on to win the British Champion in 2010. Liam grew up on the race track from the age of 4 months old.

The father-son team had great times travelling Europe, sleeping in tents and carrying the winning race car on the roof of their family saloon car.

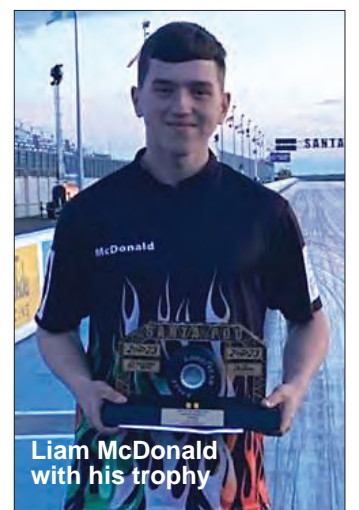
Drag racing is the second biggest motorsport in the US, and is fast taking hold as Europe's most exciting motorsport. Following the rise of F1 it is

bringing more eyes than ever to motor sport.

Liam's journey to winning European Championships has been self-funded, and he has come up against massive European competitors with sponsorship funding and expensive equipment and beaten them on the track.

On a shoestring budget, Liam and his Dad enjoy competing at the European championships where they pitch their tent alongside large motorhomes and trailers of their fellow competitors.

"Liam would arrive with the car on the roof racks to the amusement of the foreign racers who would point and stare and laugh at our setup. That soon changed when we took the car off the roof and bolted together and went out and qualified number one and won the event", says Dad Graham.



**Liam McDonald with his trophy**

**Badminton**

# Frost and Noble secure medals at Bulgarian Badminton Open



**Kate Frost in action INSET: Kate and Sophie on the podium**

THERE was success for Kate Frost and Sophia Noble in the Bulgarian Badminton Open this week.

Frost secured two bronze medals in the women's doubles along with fellow Templeogue woman Sophia Noble and Scott Guildea from Meath in the mixed doubles.

In the opening round of the mixed doubles, Scott and Frost played a Bulgarian pair and they got off to a good start and were comfortable throughout the match as they dispatched the local pair 21-10, 21-6.

In the next round, they met Luxembourg's Yannick Feltes and Zoe Sinico which as a trickier match and a tighter affair.

Although not being the most experienced pair, both Frost and Scott worked together and kept calm in the pressure points to win in two sets 21-14, 21-19.

This set them up with a tough quarter final match against the Polish pair of Wiktor Trecki and Paulina Hankiewicz who had dispatched of the number one seeds from Holland in the previous round. In this match, they got off to a slow start, finding themselves behind and playing catch up for the entirety of the first set as they lost the first game 21-15.

A slight change in game plan at the interval helped them get off to a great start in the second set. Fortunes changed as they led for the entirety of the second game taking it 21-13 and forcing a decider.

The third set was a tighter affair exchanging point for point in the first half of the set. Frost and Scott pulled away after 11 and ran to a 21-15 victory in the deciding set and to secure a minimum of a bronze medal.

In the semi-final however, they went down to Polish pair Robert Cybulski and Kornelia Marczak by 21-13, 21-14 loss.

Meanwhile, in the women's doubles, Frost paired up with Sophia Noble from Templeogue in what was their first competition together. It proved to be a memorable run to the semi-finals, securing a first international medal for 19-year-old Sophia.

GAA

# Jude's pipped at the final hurdle



## Templeogue side battle all the way in Intermediate C'ship decider

LATE goals secured the Go-Ahead Dublin Intermediate title for Fingallians in what was a highly competitive final in Clann Mhuire on Saturday afternoon last, *reports Nigel McCarthy*.

The Swords outfit just couldn't shake off a St Jude's side 6-9 to 2-11 who refused to go away, till late in the game.

Despite scoring three first half goals Fingallians only took a slender one-point lead with them into the break with Judes keeping the scoreboard ticking over throughout the first half.

It was still anyone's game heading into the closing stages, but two late goals sealed the deal for the Swords outfit.

Fingallians headed into the final with a 100% record in the Intermediate championship.

The Swords side raced into a five-point lead inside the opening three minutes, Emma Colgan swung over a point from the first attack of the game. Sarah Power won the ball from the kickout and fed the ball to player of the match Niamh Rickard who ran through the centre of the Judes defence and finished to the net and seconds later Niamh Coleman added a further point.

The response though from St Judes was superb with three quick points from Sarah Delahunt, Lauren Kearney and Caoimhe French who impressed throughout.

Disaster struck though moments later when Judes goalkeeper Sarah Thomas misplaced a kickout straight to Niamh Rickard who finished coolly past the stranded keeper into an empty net.

Again Judes responded with the next three points,

two from Eimear Kehoe and a successful free attempt from Ellie Young to reduce the deficit back to two points.

Emma Colgan picked out Emma McCormack with a pass and the half forward broke up through the middle of the Judes defence to swing over a fine point.

St Judes corner forward Eimear Kehoe had a goal effort saved at the midway point of the first half, midfielder Sarah Delahunt grabbed her second point of the game after some patient build up play from the Templeogue side. Judes were enjoying plenty of possession and Aoife Keyes was unlucky to see her shot at goal just whistle past the right hand upright.

But the Judes pressure finally told with ten minutes to go to the break, Hannah Hegarty intercepted from the kick out and played in Lisa Morris for Jude's opening goal of the final. Caoimhe French added a point to give John Conlon's side a two-point lead.

Fingallians Niamh Rickard then went on a mazy run, worked the ball inside to Leona Barry who blasted the ball to the top right-hand corner of the net to regain the lead.

St Judes carved out another goal chance just before the halftime whistle, but they had to settle going in the break a point down with the score 3-03 to 1-08.

Fingallians worked the ball down the right-hand wing on the resumption and Leona Barry popped over the first score of the second half. Niamh Coleman added another moments later to stretch the lead out to three.

The lead was back down to the bare minimum thanks to two points from Ellie Young, one from a free and

one from play.

Niamh Rickard who was causing havoc with her pace and ball carrying ability popped over a fine point in the 37th minute. The Swords side looked to have given themselves some breathing space at the end of the third quarter, Niamh Crowley went on a powerful run down the left-hand side and played in Emma Colgan who finished to the net.

St Jude's though came roaring back, they moved the ball from defence to attack down the left side, the ball was worked inside, there was a foul inside the square, but the ball squirmed into the path of Aisling Gannon, just as she was about to shoot the referee blew the whistle for the foul, Gannon's shot flew into the back of the net, but to the disgust of the Judes management and players it didn't count.

Luckily Sarah Delahunt held her nerve from the spot kick and blasted the ball past Emer Ní Eafa in the Fingallians goal.

Rickard added another point in the 53rd minute to put three between the sides. An Ellie Young free with five minutes of normal time remaining proved to be St Judes final score of the final.

A mistake in the Judes defence was pounced upon by Emma Colgan who played the ball out to the left to Leona Barry who cut inside and unleashed a powerful finish to the net.

Niamh Rickard added two more points, one from play the other from a free as Fingallians pushed for home. And deep into injury Leona Barry grabbed her sides sixth goal of the final after a scramble for possession.

Hannah Hegarty of St Jude's gets in a pass during the Intermediate Championship decider against Fingallians  
Photos Maurice Grehan



Caoimhe French gets in a shot for St Jude's



St. Jude's lost out to Fingallians after two late goals secured the win

## St Anne's minor ladies celebrate c'ship success



St Anne's worked hard all season to secure the Division Five title

ST ANNE'S were celebrating on Saturday when they secured the Minor Ladies Division Five Championship in Bohernabreena.

The home side put together a solid performance as they brushed aside the challenge of O'Dwyer's 4-9 to 3-8 in a well-contested encounter.

Having lost to O'Dwyer's in the opening round of the championship, it did not look good for Anne's in the opening stages when they conceded two goals and a point.

However, Anne's inspired by Mya Clare came storming back to lead by four points at the interval.

Clare grabbed the first goal for St Anne's, after running the length of the pitch, followed up with another goal before Cara Jones broke through for a point to stun the Balbriggan outfit.

There was no let up in the scoring

for Anne's in the second half with both Clare and Barnes netting further goals while Amy Tyrrell, Jones, Abbey Doran and Katie Doran fired over points.

Captained by Cara Barnes, Anne's pushed forward with Amy Tyrrell at midfield and Abaigh Pollock in the half back line impressing.

On their way to the final, Anne's overcame Ballyboden St Enda's B and Ballymun Kickhams.

"We are absolutely thrilled to come away with this title," said mentor Mark Pollock who runs the team with his daughter Ava and son Ciaran.

"The team have worked so hard this season and to secure the title in brilliant," he added.

Anne's U15s and U16s have also reached the semi-finals of their respective championships.

## Three in a row for Boden minor ladies



Ballyboden beat Clontarf to secure the title Photo by Miriam Doyle

BALLYBODEN St Enda's secured the Minor Football Division One Championship for the third year running.

The Firhouse Road side got the better of Clontarf in the title showdown in Pairc Uí Mhurchú on Saturday.

Boden, who beat Na Fianna by a single point in a thrilling semi-final, were up against a strong Clontarf side, who are current Division One League winners and a side who defeated the Boden earlier this year by two points.

The large crowd that had assembled to support the teams were treated to a highly competitive game where both teams settled quickly after throw-in and worked tirelessly to win and retain possession.

Both defences remained steadfast, forcing some well taken scores from well outside the 20 metre line and the teams were level with four points each after 20 minutes of play. Crucially it was the hosts who took charge over

the following few minutes, registering a further 4 points before Clontarf managed their next score just before the half time whistle.

The Ballyboden girls kept the momentum going into the second half and found the Clontarf net within minutes of the restart putting a bit of daylight between the teams.

However, credit to Clontarf, not to be pushed aside, they responded a few short minutes later by finding the Boden net bringing the game back to four points.

Clontarf managed a further point from play a few minutes later however the Ballyboden girls once again took control of the game through some wonderful defending and good phases of possession to convert a further 3 points that extended their lead to 6points before the final whistle.

Emma Moran impressed for Boden accounting for a goal and seven points, four from frees while Karrie Rudden landed three points and Maggie Donaghy two points.

GAA

# Mary's return to the top ranks



St Mary's senior footballers secured promotion to Division One  
Photos by Paddy Barrett



Blaine Kelly of St Mary's skips past Jack Hussey of Round Towers

THERE were wild celebrations in Saggart on Saturday evening after St Mary's senior footballers secured promotion back to the top ranks in the senior football league.

The Saggart side came out tops in the Division Two league play-offs as they saw off Round Tower's (Lusk) 2-15 to 1-5 in what was a superb display to secure automatic promotion to Division One.

With Whitehall Colmcille's already secured top spot in Division Two, Mary's needed to beat Tower's to secure promotion and what a performance they produced.

Right from the outset, Mary's set the tone for the match and by the break they had established a 1-9 to 0-1 cushion.

Former Dublin player Blaine Kelly led by example in the opening half and kicked three points from play while another stalwart Eoin Murray helped himself to two pointed frees.

Mick O'Keeffe netted the Mary's goal in the first half and they have opportunities for more goals but struck the post on two occasions.

The hard-working Shane Buckley along with Conor Jameson popped up with points in the first half as Mary's were in the driving seat by the break.

The hosts continued to apply the pressure in the second half with Adam Brady, Ed Mahon and Jacob Clarke posing problems while Conor Jameson netted the goal in the second half.

In total, nine Mary's players found the target as they cruised to a comfortable victory and will be playing Division One football, the first time since 2014.

Having lost their three opening games of the season, the Saggart outfit certainly turned their campaign around under the

management team of Jimmy Callaghan, Wes Callaghan, Paddy Brophy, Dermot Redmond, Brian Jacob and Dominic Maguire.

Mary's have now made it back-to-back titles having secured promotion out of Division Three last year.

Its has been a great campaign for the Saggart club who only last week saw their senior ladies team complete the league and cup double.



Eoin Murray of St Mary's and Sean Bollard of Round Towers battle it out

## Boden inters into c'ship showdown



Ballyboden St Enda's Luke Byrne in action in the championship semis against Ballymun  
Photo by Cliona Mellett

A LIVELY intermediate football championship semi-final entertained a large crowd in O'Toole Park on Saturday as Ballyboden St Enda's progressed following their 1-15 to 0-13 victory over Ballymun Kickhams.

Both teams had reached this stage of the competition with some good performances; Boden had suffered defeat at home to Crokes in a torrential downpour in the group stage and Ballymun conquered Crokes away in Silverpark in the quarter final, regarded as a surprise result by many. However, in midsummer in the league, Boden and Ballymun went toe to toe and the game finished in a draw. Neither team was going to take the other for granted in this encounter.

Playing with the aid of a breeze and the gentle slope in O'Toole Park, Kickhams raced into an early lead.

A couple of points from Boden saw them level up the game only for the Northsiders to push on again.

The game was ebbing and flowing with no clear advantage being claimed by either team. Boden went into the break with a nine points to eight lead. Both teams were playing well with patient attacking and resolute organised defending.

The second half was not long underway when Boden bagged a goal from a speculative long ball. The game opened up considerably after this as Ballymun worked hard to create goal-scoring chances. Fortunately, for Boden who are defending their county crown, those gilt-edged chances never materialised. Everytime Ballymun pulled a point or two back Boden managed to squeeze a point or two of their own.

In the final quarter Ballymun threw everything at Boden including former Dublin star Alan Hubbard but Boden held out.

Elsewhere, A brace of goals in an electric 5-minute period for Ballyboden St Enda's junior footballers, from the cultured boot of Jimmy Meaney, set the tone for what was an accomplished performance as they secured a 4-11 to 0-15 win over Fingal Ravens

It was a great win for Boden who were up against a Ravens team unbeaten for over two years.

# Boden face champions in County Final

BALLYBODEN St Enda's senior footballers progressed to the Senior Championship final where they meet current champions Kilmacud Crokes after they overcame neighbours St Jude's 3-13 to 0-9 in Parnell Park last weekend.

This local derby was keenly awaited and very

difficult to predict the result but it was Boden who hit the ground running and in the first minute James Holland raced through the Jude's defence to pop over a point.

This was followed in quick succession by further points from Luke O'Donoghue, Ryan O'Dwyer

and Alex Gavin, all within the first four minutes.

The Firhouse Road side continued to pile on the pressure and Colm Basquel was unlucky not to finish to the net on eight minutes.

Boden were flying in the early stages and after 11 minutes Alex Gavin broke forward again, his pass went to Ryan O'Dwyer was finished to the net to leave the score at 1-4 to no score.

As the mid-point of the half approached, Jude's eventually got the score board working with two points (1 free), but back came Boden with two points of their own from Ryan O'Dwyer and Colm Basquel (fist).

Jude's Darragh Rooney and Ryan Basquel (free) exchanged points before Darragh Gogan was called on to make a good save to prevent Jude's scoring a goal.

The Templeogue side managed two more points before half time with Pat Spillane and Kevin McManamon, but these were cancelled out by good points from Colm Basquel and Alex Gavin to leave the half time score at 1-9 to 0-5.

The free-flowing football of the first half seemed to have been left in the dressing room at half time as it took nearly 20 minutes for Boden's first score of the second half.

Jude's had scored a point on six minutes, and it could have been worse for Boden only for three good saves brought off by Darragh Gogan from Alex Hassett and Spillane.

While Warren Egan got Boden's first point of the second half on 18 minutes, Jude's responded with three points in a row with McManamon among the scorers.

This seems to have reawakened Boden as they kept Jude's scoreless from there on and scored two goals from Basquel and Warren Egan and three points to put them back in the driving seat.

Next up is the county final against Kilmacud Crokes in two weeks.



Cein D'Arcy gathers possession for Ballyboden St Enda's against St Jude's  
Photos by Eamonn O'Sullivan

Soccer

# Esker stroll into next round of cup

ESKER CELTIC strolled into round two of this season's LFA Junior Shield when they defeated Blackforge FC 5-1 in Willsbrook Park, and that was after they fell behind early on.

By John Mooney  
sport@echo.ie

There is no doubt that when they made a

comeback, with two goals just before half time, they looked like they would go on and win.

In what was a good game the Forge went in front inside five minutes, when Luke Kelly capitalised on a poor clearance and set Jamie Stears up for a chance he was never going to miss.

It could easily have been 2-0 at the midway point in the half, only Felipe Silva saw his centre come off the crossbar and away to safety.

However, Esker breathed a sigh of relief and after a couple of smart saves by Forge keeper Jordan Bowden they finally levelled the tie.

On 35 minutes Ben Quinn sent in a corner from the left that saw Robert Bolton rise above everyone and head home, and before the Forge could regather they were behind when Callum Jones fired home a superb free kick.

The home side had a spring in their step when the game resumed after the break and could have been 3-1 up only Jones blazed his effort over an open goal, while at the other end Felipe Silva saw his effort well saved.

But Esker didn't have to wait long for their third and again it was a corner that did the damage, as Ruari Connolly sent the ball over for Darren Barr to head home.

The visitors play began to become a bit erratic and Esker were only too happy to take advantage, and when they added another two to round things off it was really no surprise.

Ravi Mangan bagged their fourth when he cut in from the left hand side and slipped the ball past a helpless Bowden, while, with time running out, Bolton got his second of the game when he robbed a defender of the ball and slotted home.



Esker Celtic overcame Blackforge FC 5-1 to go through to round two of the LFA junior shield in Willsbrook Park



Blackforge FC's Felipe Santos gets away from Esker Celtic's Ben Quinn  
Photos by John Mooney



Blackforge FC scored early on but Esker came back to win the game

**ESKER CELTIC:** C. Cockburn, R. Connolly, B. Quinn, D. Barr, E. Carolan, L. Tracey, E. Murphy, R. Bolton, J. Kearns, C. Jones, Z. Khan, S. Imran, R. Mangana, L. Spollero, J. Molloy, B. Bikoro, A. Kelly, R.

Maher.  
**BLACKFORGE FC:** J. Bowben, L. Hill, J. Santos, L. Kelly, K. Dunne, J. Grey, J. Pedro, J. Fagan, F. Silva, J. Stears, R. Mills, L. Lyons, J. McSrone, R. Vieira.

## Local girls in U17 Ireland squad

Twenty players will travel to Poland as part of the Ireland Women's Under-17s squad for their 2023-24 UEFA European WU17 Championship Round 1 Qualifiers.

A number of Shamrock Rovers players are included in James Scott side who will be targeting top spot in Group A2 as his team take on Norway on October 12, Iceland on October 15 and Poland on October 18.

A recent trip to Portugal proved to be worthwhile as the Girls in Green got to play together as a new group for the first time in three difficult games and they will have taken a lot of confidence from that.

Shelbourne's Rebecca Devereux from Tallaght scored a sensational goal against Shamrock Rovers last weekend, while three members of the squad are part of the new FAI / Fingal Girls' TY Course that recently started.

Shamrock Rovers players Amy Tierney and Lauryn McCabe who play in midfield along with forwards, Katie O'Reilly and Sorcha Melia.

# Fitzgerald named Player of the Month

PEAMOUNT United midfielder Jess Fitzgerald topped the voting to claim the SSE Airtricity Women's Premier Division Player of the Month award for August / September 2023.

The teenager has been in sensational form for the League leaders with an 80% pass completion rate across 11 League starts after forcing her way into the starting line-up.

Ashley Morrow, Head of Brand, Advertising & Sponsorship at SSE Airtricity, said:

"Congratulations to Jess Fitzgerald of Peamount United on being named the SSE Airtricity Player of the Month for August/September. It is an incredible achievement for someone so young to be playing so well and winning this award.

"Jess has been crucial to Peamount United's success so far this season and we're looking forward to see how the last remaining games will unfold and if they can remain on top to become SSE Airtricity Women's

Premier Division Champions."

Fitzgerald was selected ahead of Athlone Town forward Dana Scheriff and Wexford Youths midfielder Aoibheann Clancy to make it back-to-back successes for Peamount following Sadhbh Doyle's recognition in May.

With this award, Peamount jump to the top of the Player of the Month leaderboard with 14 victories in this category since the League started in 2011.

Jess Fitzgerald topped the votes to be named player of the month







## SHAMROCK ROVERS FC

### v SHELBOURNE FC

#### TALLAGHT STADIUM

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#### Women's FAI Cup Semi Final



**Adults: €10**

**Seniors: €7**

**Students: €7**

**U14s: €5**



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