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

Concerns drug project Neart Le Chéile to close doors next month

A DRUG outreach community organisation that supports close to 50 families, and has a growing waiting list, is set to close at the end of December, leading to grave concerns in the community, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

Neart Le Chéile, has served Clondalkin communities for 25 years, providing support via two projects – Cairdeas, for individuals with drug use, and Cumas, which supports children and families negatively impacted by drug use.

It has been instrumental in saving lives.

Three existing board members of the group have stepped away from their involvement, and as such, the HSE are winding down the project by the end of the year.

Compounding matters was that two managers have been absent for personal reasons.

However, staff (7) at Neart Le Chéile are trying to keep the organisation afloat, and say they have appropriate replacements for the board members.

See page 16



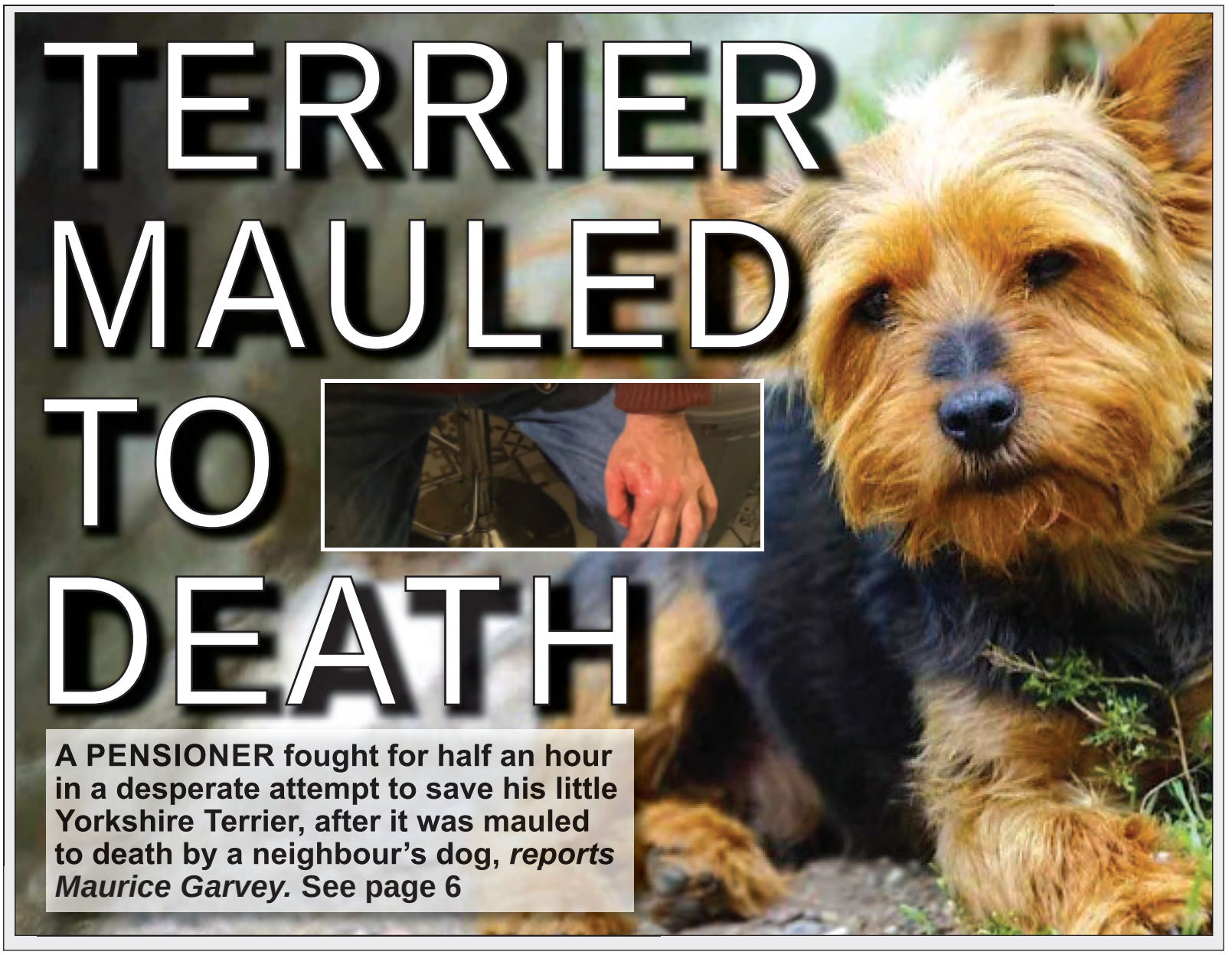
UNIQUE SERVICE: Neart Le Chéile staff at the facility on Tuesday



Families criticise HSE 'devote of empathy' plans to move patients

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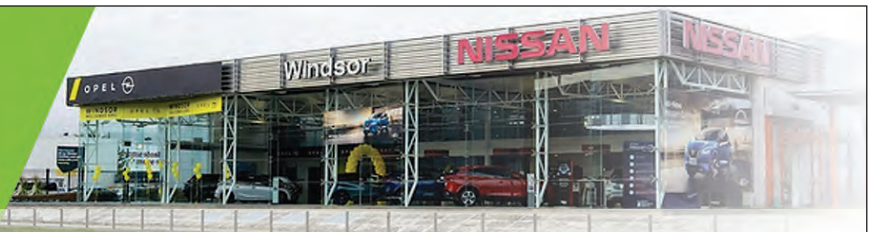
A PENSIONER fought for half an hour in a desperate attempt to save his little Yorkshire Terrier, after it was mauled to death by a neighbour's dog, *reports Maurice Garvey.* See page 6

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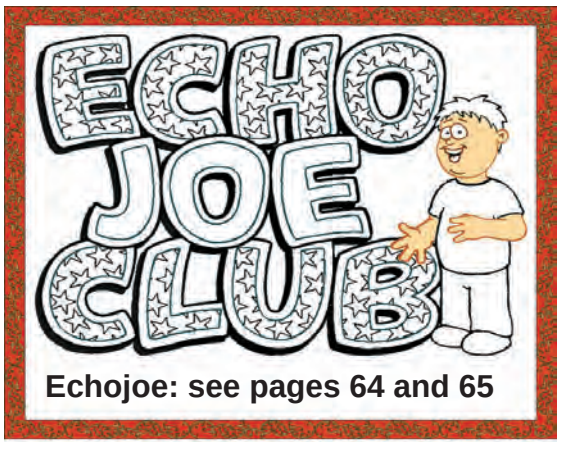
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Next Edition

The next edition of ***The Echo*** in the shops from Thursday, Nov 23, 2023. **Don't miss it!**



Echojoe: see pages 64 and 65

Lieutenants glide aircraft safely into Baldonnel after engine loses power

Defence Force members honoured for their courage



RECOGNISED: Justice Síofra O'Leary, Lt Kenneth Godden and Lt Eoin Blake with the Defence Forces Chief, Lieutenant General Seán Clancy

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

MEMBERS of the Defence Forces (DF) were honoured at the Annual Defence Forces Values Awards this week, including two lieutenants who safely glided an aircraft into Baldonnel after it lost engine power.

The awards took place in Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel, last Monday, November 13, where Lt Kenneth Godden and Lt Eoin Blake were two of the several DF members who were recognised.

On February 26, 2021, the aircraft that Lt Godden and Lt Blake were on experienced engine power loss at 16,000 feet over Co Kildare.

Lt Godden acted under intense pressure and conducted precise and accurate actions to ensure the engine shut down in a timely manner giving optimal glide performance.

The DF said Lt Godden displayed moral courage and engaged in textbook actions which resulted in the safe recovery of crew and aircraft.

His colleague, Lt Blake, secured the engine, preventing further damage which ensured that the engine did not disintegrate, with potential crew ejection avoided.

With obscured vision, he glided the aircraft back to Baldonnel and landed safely and directed his student pilot, Lt Godden, through relevant check lists and cross-checked all required actions.

It should be noted that Lt Blake qualified as a flight instructor the day before this incident – and was conducting the first instructional flight of his career when the incident occurred.

Other award winners included Pte Sean Martin, Pte Neil Martin, Cpl Lorraine Byrne, F/Sgt Thomas Deveraux, the late Sgt Maj Kenneth Hurley, and Cpl Barry Foley.

The event was the sixth iteration of the awards, whose recipients are Defence Forces personnel who have best displayed selflessness, loyalty, integrity, moral courage, physical courage and respect.

Nominated by their peers, these personnel were chosen as those who best exemplify the values and standards of Óglaigh na hÉireann.

The President of the European Court of Human Rights, Ms Justice Síofra O'Leary presented the Defence Forces members with their Values Awards in the company of Defence Forces Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Seán Clancy, award winners and their families and colleagues.



Gardai renew appeal following fatal road accident near Red Cow

GARDAI have renewed their appeal for information on a fatal traffic road collision on the Naas Road in the early hours of Sunday.

As previously reported, the collision occurred at approximately 12.20am on Sunday, November 12, in the Red Cow area when a pedestrian (20s) alighting from a car was struck by a second car and fatally injured.

A male, aged in his 20s, was arrested and detained under Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1984 at a Garda Station in South Dublin.

On Tuesday, gardai confirmed that the man arrested has since been released, with a file being prepared for the Director or Public Prosecutions.

Gardai have renewed their appeal for information and are asking any witnesses to the collision to come forward.



Investigating officers wish to speak to pedestrians who were walking on the Naas Road in the direction of the M50 Red Cow Junction and who may have witnessed the incident.

They would like to speak with any road users travelling on the Naas Road in the direction of the M50 Red Cow Junction and who may have witnessed a red Volkswagen Golf driving in the direction of the Red Cow Junction immediately prior to the road traffic collision.

Gardai are appealing to taxi drivers who may have collected passengers from the vicinity of the Red Cow roundabout and brought them in the direction of Ballyfermot between 12.20am and 12.30am.

Any road users who may have camera footage (including dash-cam) and were travelling on the Naas Road or in the Red Cow area between midnight and 12.45am are asked t make footage available to gardai.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Clondalkin Garda

Lorraine's health motivates friend to set up GoFundMe

Mother of six begins gruelling treatment for aggressive breast cancer

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie



STRUGGLING: Lorraine Finn receiving treatment in hospital and (inset) before she was diagnosed with breast cancer

WHEN Lorraine Finn was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer over the summer, her world was turned upside down – and her best friend has set up a fundraiser to help her through it.

Lorraine, 49, who is originally from Kilnamanagh but has lived in Gorey, Co. Wexford, for the last decade, is a mother of six with children aged from 11 to 29 years old.

Over the summer, she noticed a small dimple on the side of her left breast and went to her GP to get it investigated.

A biopsy then followed, which found that Lorraine had an aggressive type of breast cancer called invasive lobular carcinoma.

This form of cancer begins in the milk-producing gland in the breast and typically spreads into the surrounding breast tissue.

Lorraine Finn's close friend, Drimnagh native and Old Bawn resident Lorainne McAuliffe, told *The Echo* about how the cancer has affected her friend.

"It goes in chains," said Ms McAuliffe. "It's not just in one spot, and with Lorraine, it spread to her other breast.

"Her lymph nodes under her left arm were taken out and they had an over 90 per cent rating of cancer.

"They've found spots in her lungs and kidneys, but it's not confirmed yet if they're cancer. She's waiting for a scan in December to find out."

In the meantime, Lorraine recently commenced a gruelling six-month course of chemotherapy which will then be followed by radiation therapy.

She has struggled with symptoms including vomiting, mouth and throat ulcers, and fatigue, and her hair has fallen out.

"Lorraine is normally the life and soul of the party," said Ms McAuliffe. "She's very outgoing, very glamorous and very fun.

"But now she's just tired, sore, sick and worried. She's just not herself at all."

This motivated Ms McAuliffe to set up a GoFundMe page for her friend, as Lorraine and her family have been grappling with financial worries alongside all of her health concerns.

Lorraine frequently travels down to St Vincent's University Hospital for treatment from her Gorey home, with her husband Peter, who works as a head chef, by her side.

As Lorraine can't drive herself because of the treatment, her husband has to take time off work to bring her, while she has had to stop working as an over-the-counter assistant in a Gorey pharmacy.

"Lorraine's husband has been sick for the last couple of years," said Ms McAuliffe. "He had an inner ear infection, he got a condition from it and was off work for a year-and-a-half, so their mortgage was frozen.

"I know that she's worried that they won't be able to freeze the mortgage again, and Peter has to keep taking time off work – but they still have bills to pay."

Four of Lorraine's children are also still in school, and she recently found out that she will realise her dream of becoming a grandmother, as her son and his partner are expecting twins in March.

For the immediate future, though, Ms McAuliffe just wants to keep the financial pressure off her friend as she undergoes treatment.

"I just want her to focus on her treatment, get well and get the best outcome she can, without worrying about bills," she said.

Donations can be made at www.tinyurl.com/Lorraine-Finn, and the money raised will be used by Lorraine to cover bills, travel expenses for attending hospital appointments, and medical treatment.





Gaelscoileanna band together to push for a Gaelcholáiste

‘We chose an education through the medium of Irish and we don’t want this to stop’

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

FIVE Gaelscoileanna in Dublin, including Inchicore’s Gaelscoil Inse Chór, are involved in a campaign to establish a Gaelcholáiste in the wider community they are located in.

The schools have banded together in an effort to achieve a Gaelcholáiste in Dublin 2,4,6,8.

There is currently no Gaelcholáiste available for students in these areas when they finish primary school.

On Friday, at Blitz 2468, the five schools played in a football competition to start interaction and create friendships between students who want to attend a Gaelcholáiste in their own school area in the future.

Football teams from third and fourth class as well as some local politicians and a special guest were present on the day.

Colm Ó Nualláin, Principal at Gaelscoil Inse Chór, said: “More than 180 students from third and fourth class from Bunscoil Synge, Gaelscoil Inse Chór, Gaelscoil Lios na nÓg, Scoil Bhríde and Scoil Mológa attended the football competition today in our school and the day was a great success. It was fantastic to see the students getting to know each other.

“It is incredible, however, that a Gaelcholáiste is not currently available for these students in their own school area when they finish primary school. The system is failing them by not facilitating them to continue their fluency and their educational experience through the medium of Irish which they have been able to do so far. This should be rectified now and a Gaelcholáiste should be established for them in their own school area.”



ACTION: Pupils from Gaelscoil Inse Choir during the blitz

> “More than 180 students from third and fourth class from Bunscoil Synge, Gaelscoil Inse Chór, Gaelscoil Lios na nÓg, Scoil Bhríde and Scoil Mológa attended the football competition today in our school and the day was a great success. It was fantastic to see the students getting to know each other

Clare Kavanagh, a parent with a child in Scoil Bhríde and Louisa Ní Eideáin with a child in Bunscoil Synge said:

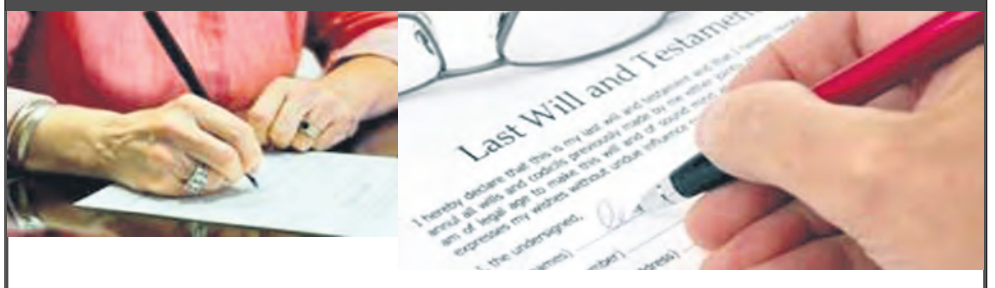
“We chose an education through the medium of Irish for our children and we don’t want this to stop when they leave primary school. That is not fair to our children or to any other child in the five schools that are part of the campaign to achieve a Gaelcholáiste in our school area.

“Blitz 2468 was organised as part of our campaign calling on the Minister of Education, Norma Foley, to establish a Gaelcholáiste in our school area.

“We hope that she takes this decision without further delay.”

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Pensioner's terrier mauled to death by neighbour's dog

Council dog warden said that a dog that kills another dog can be let back out later

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

A PENSIONER fought for half an hour in a desperate attempt to save his little Yorkshire Terrier, after it was mauled to death by a neighbour's dog.

Patrick Keating (72), from Ronanstown, was walking his three dogs Billy, Molly and a Yorkshire Terrier Gucci, at 6am on Monday morning.

As he was nearing home, he heard a yelp, and the nightmare began.

Patrick's daughter Megan believes it was either a "Pitbull or a Bully breed" which locked onto Gucci's neck and didn't let go until the little dog was dead.

"Dad didn't know what to do. He was trying to think of anything he learned, kicking the dog in the ribs. The attack went over half an hour."

Speaking to *The Echo*, Megan said: "It was traumatising for my dad. He had to listen to him screaming for half an hour. It wouldn't let go of the poor things neck."

"He goes for walks early to avoid any off-leash dogs. He rang the guards three times before they came around. The dog got tired from killing and lifted its head for a second, and my dad wrapped a lead on his neck, but not before it went and tried to kill my Dad's other dog."

The Echo understands the attack dog got out a side gate from his owner's home.

"He didn't even know it got out. This area is full of kids. If it happened to a child, the child would be dead. Gucci was nearly decapitated, his neck was in shreds," said Megan.

"We are a family of dog lovers, we have always had dogs. But this is about irresponsible dog owners."

A Garda spokerspon said: "Gardai received report of a dog attack on another dog in the Ronanstown area yesterday morning, Monday, November 13.

"The offending dog has been transferred to the Dog Warden and this matter is being managed by the local authority."

Megan said the council dog warden informed them that a dog that kills another dog, can be let back out later that day if it is impounded.

"There is no law for this, it feels like there is no sympathy. Dad was covered in Gucci's blood after the attack."

The Echo contacted South Dublin County Council for comment.

Megan has started a petition calling for the enforcement of laws requiring restricted dog breeds to be muzzled and leashed when in public areas.

"Yesterday we were in shock. The house was so quiet. Dad was due to go to hospital for checks. He called me and was in tears, I never saw him like this. He went back to work as a volunteer in a local charity shop, but he can't sleep. This has broken him," said Megan.



HEARTBROKEN: Patrick Keating with his dog Gucci (inset) Patrick's jeans covered in blood following the attack of his dog

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FUTURE PLANS: A new GAA Facility is planned for the Spawell

Plans are lodged for €9m GAA 'cluster' facility at Spawell

Proposal will centre on the Spawell Golf and Leisure Centre and includes a 500-capacity stand

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

PLANNING permission is being sought for an extensive 'GAA cluster' facility at the Spawell in Templeogue, including three floodlit pitches and a sports pavilion with ten changing rooms which is estimated to cost in the region of €9 million, *The Echo* understands.

The plans have been lodged by the Dublin GAA County Board, which bought the 35-acre Spawell site in 2018.

Their proposal includes one synthetic all-weather and three floodlit GAA pitches, and the construction of a single-storey pavilion.

The pavilion is to comprise ten changing rooms, showers and toilets, a kitchen preparation and service area, a team meeting room, a gym, a medical room, a physio room and a tuck shop.

Other aspects of the proposal include a 500-capacity spectator stand, a hurling wall, a walking/jogging trail, and 112 car-parking spaces.

A decision on the proposal, which centres on part of the Spawell Golf and Leisure Centre, has yet to be reached by South Dublin County Council.

This follows on from the Dublin GAA submission on the County Development Plan last year, where rezoning of part of the land was sought at the Spawell for a "state-of-the-art playing pitch cluster".

The submission was officially made by Clusters Company Limited – which was set up by the Dublin GAA County Board to run, own and operate the Spawell – and said that if the site was rezoned it would enable them to meet one of their objectives to address "deficits" of GAA facilities in the county.

One of the solutions offered by the County Board to address these deficits is the development of clusters of playing pitches with floodlights and all-weather pitches.

The clusters are also to contain ancillary facilities, such as walking and jogging trails and outdoor exercise stations.

The facilities will be made available to local clubs "on a shared basis", according to the submission.

The County Board stated this would "represent a very significant addition to the area's active recreational infrastructure" and would enable the continued growth of GAA games in the locality.



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Suspended sentence for woman who assaulted teenage boy with cricket bat

A WOMAN has been given a suspended prison sentence after admitting she hit a teenage boy over the head with a cricket bat after she mistook him for a person harassing her daughter, *reports David O'Sullivan.*

Julie Maughan (38), of Kimmage Manor, Terenure, appeared before Judge Martin Nolan in the Dublin Circuit Criminal Court on Friday having pleaded guilty to assault causing harm to a 15-year-old boy whom she thought was harassing her daughter on October 8, 2022.

Garda Dean Maxwell told the court that the teenage boy had been at a birthday party with some friends earlier that night. The boy and his friends left and were on the way to get some food. The court heard there was nothing to indicate the boys were up to no good.

A van being driven by Maughan passed them, before reversing and coming back. She told the boys to leave and said they were terrorising her teenage daughter.

Maughan drove the van towards them, got out with a cricket bat and hit the victim over the head. He was treated in hospital and required four stitches.

A video of the incident was played in court. No victim-impact statement was provided to the court.

The boys called gardai, who stopped Maughan in her van later that night. Maughan was questioned at the scene but denied being involved in any incident.

She was arrested and brought to a local garda station along with her daughter. Their mobile phones were seized and video clips found on a phone showed Maughan encouraging her daughter to cry in front of gardai.

Maughan told gardai her daughter had been walking their dog when a group of young men began harassing her. She said the boys told her daughter they "would do whatever they wanted" to her.

Oisin Clarke BL, defending, said the assault was "completely out of character" for Maughan. He said she came across the wrong group of young men, and that she is "completely mortified by her actions on the day in question."

He said "she shouldn't have done what she did" but that "she is very unlikely to come to garda attention again".

Maughan has seven previous convictions, the majority of which are for road traffic offences and one for possession of drugs for sale or supply. Defence counsel told the court this offence dated back to 2013 and the drugs did not belong to Maughan.

In sentencing, Judge Nolan said Maughan was under the "mistaken impression that one of these young fellows had accosted her daughter" but that he "would not be justified" in imprisoning her.

Judge Nolan said "the assault is reasonably bad" but that "I don't think she deserves prison at this point."

He sentenced her to two years' imprisonment, but suspended the sentence in full on strict conditions.

Young woman had over €19k worth of cannabis in her home

Judge noted that her compliance with Probation Service was 'not 100 per cent

A YOUNG woman who had more than €19,000 worth of cannabis herb in her home has been handed a fully suspended prison sentence, *reports Eimear Dodd.*

Rebecca Yeats (21), with an address at Greenhills Court, Tallaght, pleaded guilty to one count of possession of cannabis for sale or supply at her home address on November 13, 2020.

Yeats has no previous convictions and has not come to recent garda attention.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court Judge Elma Sheahan adjourned the case for 12 months in November 2022 to give Yeats an opportunity to put further mitigation before the court.

Finalising sentence, Judge Sheahan commended the Probation Service for their detailed report and their "level of engagement with Yeats". She said it was "impressive to see" the level of support available in the community.

She noted while Yeats cooperated with the Probation Service, her compliance was not "100 per cent", however, they were willing to continue to work with her.

The judge said it was "clear" that Yeats had taken up many of the supports offered to her, but she still has "some way to go".

She handed Yeats a two-year sentence suspended in full under strict conditions. She directed Yeats to remain under the supervision of the Probation Services for this period and to engage with other relevant services.

The court previously heard gardaí searched an apartment after receiving a 999 call about an alleged domestic incident, which turned out to be false.

During the search, gardaí found a shopping bag containing 952g of cannabis herb with a value of €19,040 beside Yeats's passport.

Yeats arrived at Tallaght Garda Station a short while later and admitted to possession of the drug. It is believed that Yeats made the 999 call herself to gardaí.

She was arrested, and during interview, Yeats told gardaí that she had addiction issues and had been holding the cannabis to clear a drug debt. She said she had received the cannabis earlier in the day and was told to bag it.



The investigating garda told Jane Murphy BL, prosecuting, that gardaí cannot say definitively who placed the 999 call as it was made from a pay-as-you-go number.

He agreed with Kieran Kelly BL, defending, that his client had been cooperative and accepted responsibility for her actions.

Mr Kelly said his client is training to be a barber. A letter of apology written by Yeats was handed into the court. Other letters, including from Focus Ireland, were also handed to the court.

Yeats had a difficult start in life and lost her parents at a young age. Mr Kelly said his client has mental health and addiction issues, which she had taken steps to address. She was homeless for a period.

Mr Kelly said the probation report indicated that his client had made efforts to distance herself from negative associates and deal with her issues. His client had also brought her own role to the attention of gardaí.

His client's drug debt had been paid by her family, and she is making repayments to them. A debt may be outstanding in relation to the seizure, but his client is not engaging with this as part of her efforts to stay away from negative influences.

At the earlier hearing, Judge Sheahan said she was concerned by Yeats's continued use of cannabis, which meant she was "still involved in the trade that brought her before the court".

"This must stop," Judge Sheahan said, as she ordered the defendant to come under the supervision of the Probation Services for 12 months and imposed strict conditions, including random drug testing.

Judge Sheahan noted Yeats suffered great loss in her early years, which the court would take into consideration. However, she warned this may not carry the same weight should the accused come before the courts again.

She noted that Yeats continues to take cannabis, and the probation report places her at moderate risk of re-offending.

Judge Sheahan set a headline sentence of three years.

She noted the mitigating factors include the early guilty plea, Yeats's previous good character, her addiction issues, her work and education record and her engagement with Focus Ireland.

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Hats off to Nico as he is ann as Tallaght Person of the Ye

‘There are so many good volunteers and groups out there and I see the work they do.

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie



MAGIC MOMENT: Nico Crowley after being named Tallaght Person of the Year 2023

WHEN Nico Crowley was announced as this year’s Tallaght Person of the Year at a glittering awards ceremony in the Civic Theatre on Sunday evening, he was in utter disbelief.

The Millbrook Lawns native, who is well known in the community for being involved in sports clubs, charitable causes and as a well-liked taxi driver, proudly wore his late father’s trilby on the night.

His father, Robert Crowley, passed away in 2005 and Nico always wears his father’s beloved hat – which is nearing 40 years old – at important events.

He briefly took it off when outgoing Tallaght Person of the Year Zak Moradi presented him with the ceremonial chains, and swiftly put it back on again.

“The hat was a hat that my dad wore, and it sat at the end of his coffin when he passed away,” Nico told *The Echo*.

“It’s stayed with me since he passed away, and I wear it so that he comes with me to events.

“He’d be very proud, and I know, deep down, there’d be a little tear in his eye from the sky.

“I’ll drop up to him in Bohernabreena Cemetery in the next few days to show him the chains.”

Being crowned Tallaght Person of the Year wasn’t something that humble Nico, 51, had expected, despite many years of charitable work in the community.

He has visited seriously ill children in Crumlin Children’s Hospital while dressed as Spiderman and handed out awards including Superhero and Princess for a Day, to the delight of the patients.

Nico has also pounded the pavement as a marathon runner, to raise funds for Suzanne House, Aoibheann’s Pink Tie, Debra Ireland and LauraLynn Children’s Hospice.

A keen sportsman, Nico has managed teams for Tallaght Town FC and is heavily involved with Thomas GAA Club as his sons, Ryan and Zak, play for the club.

> “Nico is the most unassuming man, who does so much and never realises how much of a big difference it makes . . .

He also treads the boards as a performer for the St Mary’s Priory-based theatre group Now and Then Production Company, and his daughter, Rebecca, also has an interest in the performing arts.

Cara Davey from the Now and Then Production Company said: “Nico is the most unassuming man, who does so much and never realises how much of a big difference it makes.”

The group that organised Tallaght Person of the Year, Tallaght Community Council (TCC), decided that, this year, Nico would be recognised for the difference he has made – much to his surprise.

He was one of many members of the community who had been nominated for the role by locals, with a panel of judges formed by TCC choosing Nico as this year’s winner.

“Just to be nominated for it is nearly enough,” Nico said. “There are so many good volunteers and groups out there and I see the work they do.

“I don’t deserve the award. I just do bits and pieces. But we all have one thing in common: keeping the community going.

“[Being Tallaght Person of the Year] hasn’t really sunk in yet. I’m just very honoured.”

While Nico said he’s unsure of what the next 12 months will bring, he knows he has the support of his wife Natalie and their children, and he’s keen to get to know the community even more.

As for his ambitions as this year’s Tallaght Person of the Year, Nico has a simple aim: “I’ll try to be the best version of me that I can possibly be, and that’s all that I can be.”



STEPPING OUT: Xquisite performed during Tallaght Person of the Year in the Civic. See our 8-page photo feature on pages 56 - 63

ounced ar 2023

I'm just very honoured'



All the glitz and glamour on display

TALLAGHT Community Council hosted the 40th Tallaght Person of the Year awards in The Civic theatre last weekend. The event was attended by the Mayor Alan Edge, SDCC CEO Colm Ward, the gold sponsors and nominees. There was a full house at the landmark awards ceremony event celebrating 191 nominees across nine categories.

The glitzy event opened with a red carpet Prosecco reception for all the nominee guests and supporters. The Betelnut served over 10 types of hot and cold canapés while the nominees and supporters were entertained by the local trad band, Thirsty Sessions who play in St Anne's GAA club.

The Civic theatre was transformed into a luxurious and glamorous venue for the night with the full theatre team on hand to ensure the event passed off without a hitch.

The event ceremony had a full, high end stage production and was MC'd by Al Porter fresh from a nationwide tour and a sell-out gig in Vicar Street. The full house was entertained by Xquisite Dance led by John Nolan, Tallaght Choral Society conducted by Fr Donal Sweeney and the event was closed by a unique line-up of the brightest Tallaght musicians, who got together for the milestone event, and were "For One Night Only". Many of the attendees commented about the lively and varied entertainment in the event which made it truly a highly engaging celebration of all types of local talent – from choral music to comedy and the cha-cha-cha.

Current Tallaght Community Council committee members were joined by a selection of past winners to announce every single nominee and to present the winners with their perpetual trophies on the Civic stage.

The category winners were:

Arts & Culture: Janine Nagle, De Selby;
Business: Jackie's Florist, The Square;
Sgt Andrew Callanan Community: Tom Lillis, Kingswood
Michael Dooley Environment: Thomas Murray, TU Tallaght;
Jim Lawlor Special Needs & Carers Marta Gorska, Tymon North
Learning & Innovation: Sherin and Rachel Sister Sheds, Tallaght
Heart of Gold: Ben & Alisha Kelly, Emily Nulty, Sean Guerrine, Mia Luttrell,
Philip Preston Sports: Jodie Brown and Maurice McConnell
Youth: Paul Perth

Tallaght Community Council awarded four special merit awards during the evening in addition to the winners as adjudicated by the panel of independent judges for the programmeme. These were presented to:

Stephen Brennan (Walk and Talk),
Lorraine Reynolds and Antoinette Barry (Primary Pals)
Pauline Dalton (Kingswood Choir)
The Orla Byrne Cup, St Anne's GAA Club

Tallaght Community Council also bestowed the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Awards to recognising decades of community giving in Tallaght to: Glenville Pitch & Putt club celebrating 75 years; Frances McNulty for years guiding Tallaght Marching Bands and more recently the Tallaght Cancer Society; and Tony Byrne for a lifetime helping, coaching and supporting others.

The night was crowned by the announcement of the new Tallaght Person of the Year 2023 by the Chair Roderick Smyth. The coveted title went to Nico Crowley – a very popular decision.

Nico is a man of many talents and wears many hats. He is an active sportsman in Tallaght Town FC and Thomas Davis GAA, as well as running to fundraise over the last few years for local charities. Nico is a talented singer and takes to the stage with the Now & Then Production Company. He is also known to serenade his taxi passengers, especially if they are going to hospital appointments.

Tara De Buitlear, TCC PRO and awards marketing manager said: "The awards took months of preparation and organisation. We wanted to mark the landmark 40th anniversary in style with a big stage event.

"A hearty thanks goes to the whole TCC committee, who pooled all their skills to make this extraordinary awards ceremony happen. Thanks also to the sponsors who were supportive and committed to the programme from early on this year.

"The entertainers were simply amazing and Al Porter was an outstanding MC, a unique mix of sincerity, comedy and real pride to lead the awards proceedings."

She added: "A special note of thanks to The Civic team who were committed to making the event special and running very smoothly. We are simply ecstatic with the whole evening and the feedback from the guests has been excellent, making all the hard work worthwhile."

"We very much look forward to working with Nico in the 12 months ahead," said Liz Kennedy, Vice Chair of TCC, " And a massive appreciation to Zak Moradi for his commitment during his tenure of the 12 months."



CONGRATULATIONS: Comedian Al Porter congratulates Nico Crowley who was named Tallaght Person of the Year 2023



Over 300,000 now live in South County Dublin an 8% increase

Census figures show there was an 8 per cent population growth since the last census in 2016

THERE are over 300,000 people now living in the South Dublin County Council region, an eight per cent increase since the last census was taken in 2016.

According to the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the population of South Dublin County increased by 22,308 people between 2016 and 2022 – with the population now recorded at 301,075.

An eight per cent population increase locally reflects national growth, with 5,149,139 people in the State when the most recent census was taken on Sunday, April 3, 2022.

This reflects an 8.1 per cent increase nationally and is the first time in 171 years that Ireland's population exceeded five million.

The average age of the population nationally increased from 37.4 in 2016 to 38.8 in 2022, which is mirrored in the South Dublin County area – where the largest age group falls between 35 and 44 years.

In relation to diversity and migration, there were almost 632,000 non-Irish citizens living in Ireland at Census 2022, which was 12 per cent of the population.

Here in South Dublin, there is a diverse mix of nationalities, with the largest groups being Polish citizens (5,739) and Romanian citizens (4,943).

There are also people from India (4,443), Britain (2,522), Lithuania (2,247), Brazil (1,217) and China (1,130) among the many nationalities calling South Dublin home.

Employment

There were 2.3m people at work nationally in April 2022, 87 per cent of whom were employees.

The Census unemployment rate dropped in every county between 2016 and 2022 – with the unemployment rate in South Dublin County dropping from 13.3 per cent to 8.7 per cent.

In terms of employment nationally, Fingal was the area with the highest labour force participation at 66 per cent.

Here in South Dublin County, the labour force participation was recorded at 63 per cent – with over 137,000 at work.

The top four occupations for people living in South Dublin County are Commerce and Trade (38,964), Professional Services (33,900), Transport and Communications (15,916) and Manufacturing Industries (11,351).

Nationally, nearly 750,000 people, a third of workers, indicated that they worked from home for at least some part of their week.

In South Dublin, of those who responded to the question, some 46,583 people stated they work from home while 75,915 said they never work from home.

Other figures show that 34,562 people are retired in South Dublin County, 15,269 are looking after home/family, 25,822 are students and 2,208 are looking for first regular job.

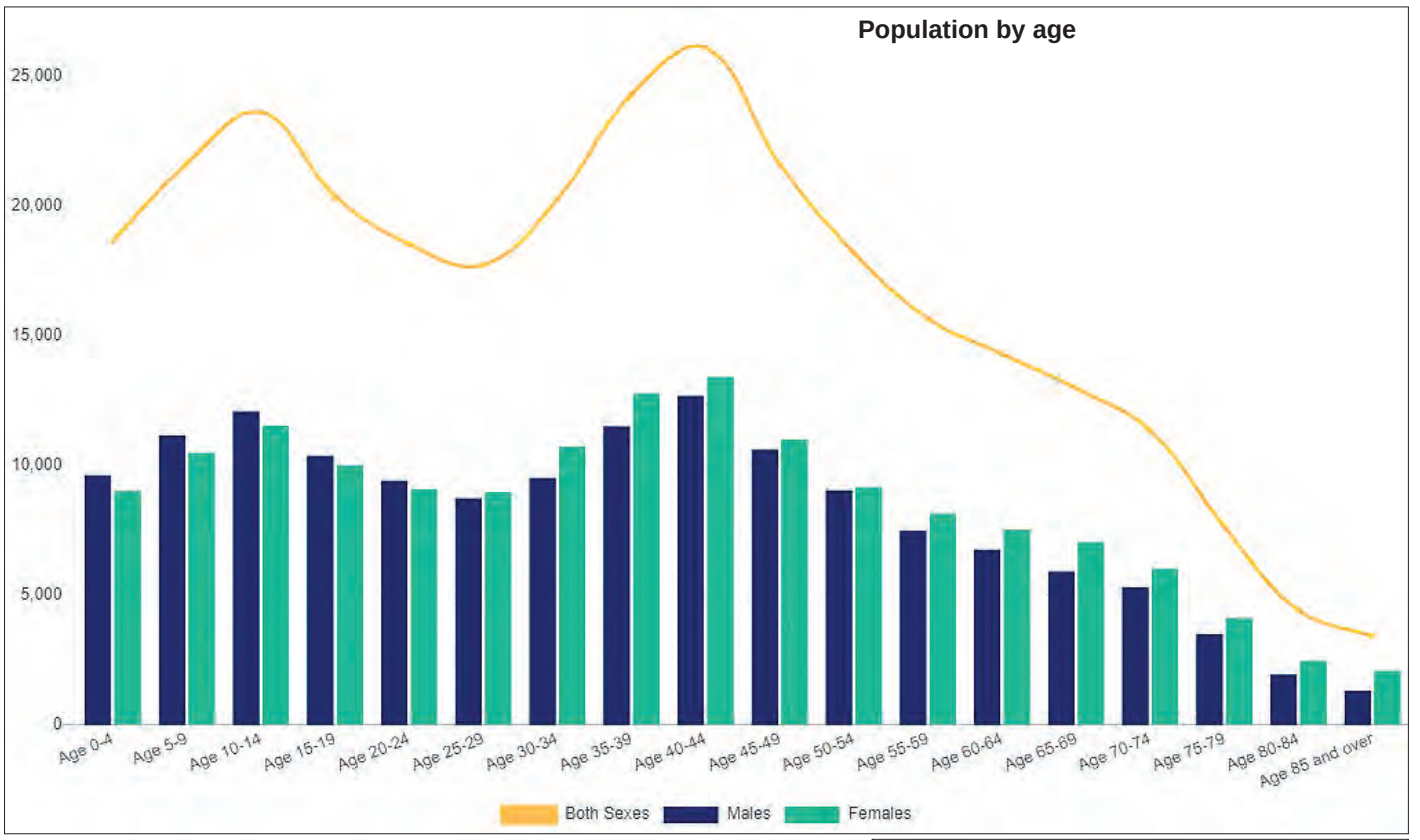
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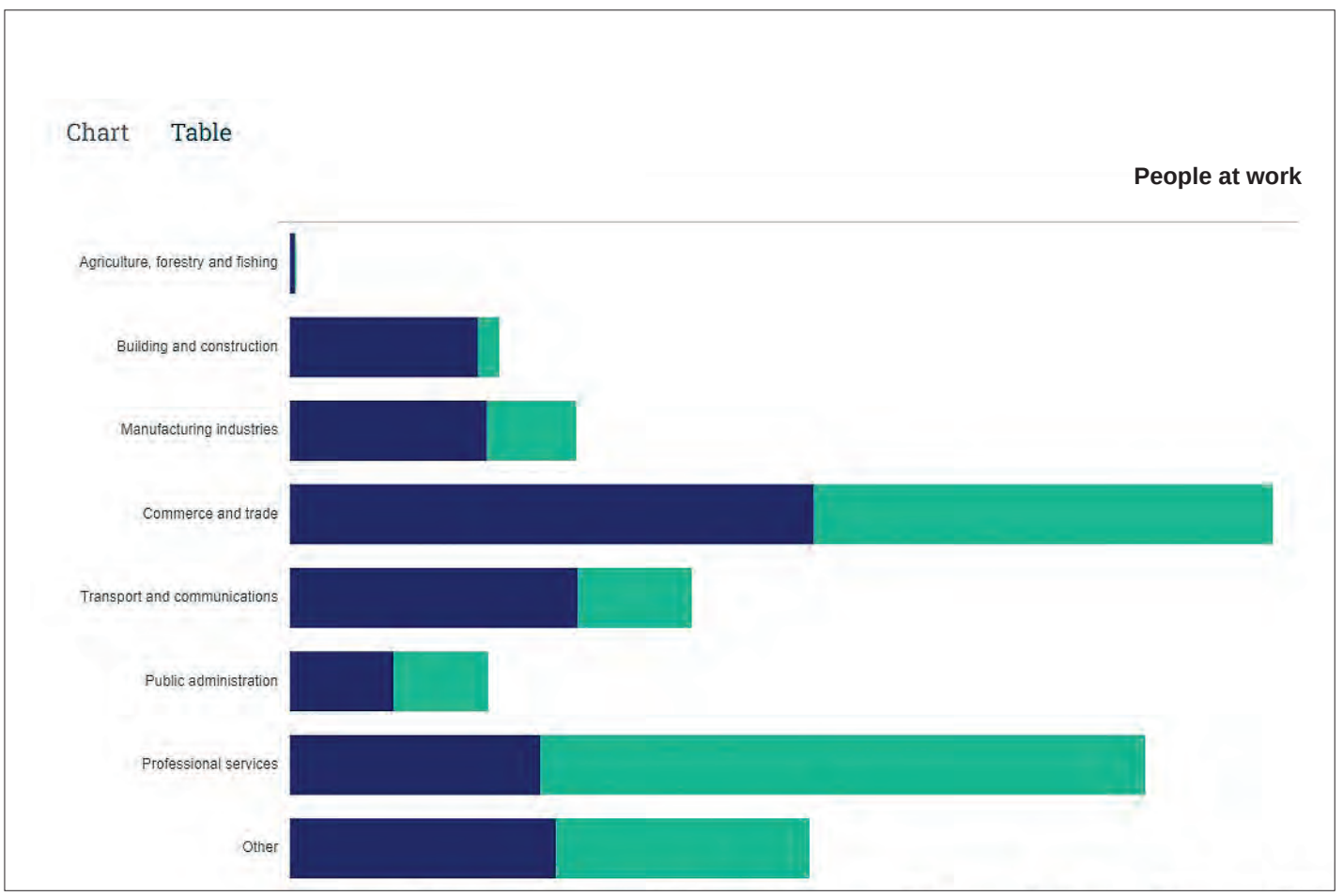
According to Census 2022, some 71,037 people living in South Dublin County drive to work, school or college by car, with 33,297 travelling as a passenger.

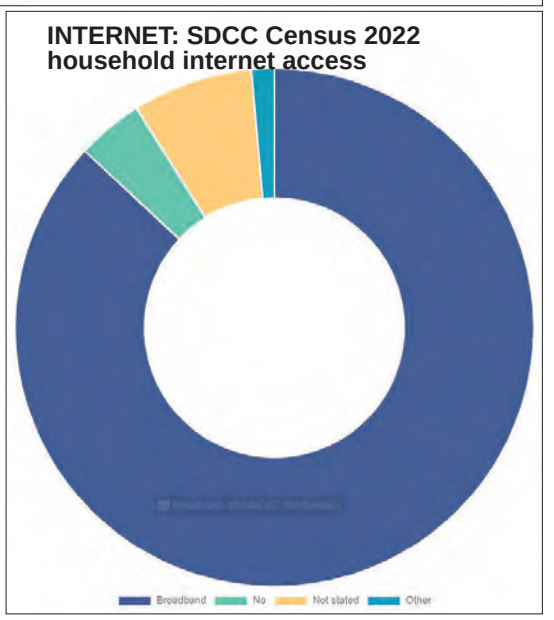
More than 32,600 travel by foot while 26,778 go by bus, minibus or coach and 5,311 take the train, Dart or Luas.

The peak time to leave home in the morning for people living in South Dublin County is between 8am and 8.30am – when 42,656 leave for work, school or college.

The next busiest time is 7.30am to 8am, when 36,413 start their morning commute.







According to the CSO, the most common journey time to work, school or college for people commuting in South Dublin County is between 15 and 30 minutes.

Health

When asked about their general health, 160,979 people living in South Dublin County said 'very good', with 88,984 stating 'good'.

Some 24,951 people said 'fair', 4,369 said 'bad' and 998 'very bad'.

In relation to smoking tobacco products, 238,029 (79.6 per cent) said they never smoked or have given up.

Over 39,800 (13.22 per cent) people stated they smoke daily or occasionally.

According to the Census results there are 63,479 people living in the county with a disability, and 16,569 carers.

Other

There are 33,134 volunteers in the South Dublin County Council area.

There are nearly 100,000 (33.78 per cent) people who speak Irish.

National statistics show that almost 80 per cent of households had broadband internet connection in 2022, up from 70 per cent on the previous census in 2016.

South Dublin County Council is above the national percentage for broadband access, with 86.94 per cent of households being connected.

Visit https://www.cso.ie/en/ to learn more.

Echoopinion...

Scrambler laws is a step in the right direction

THE recent passing of crucial legislation to address the misuse of scrambler bikes is being heralded as a step in the right direction for tackling the issue.

It's a sight that many people find distressing, football pitches and green spaces being damaged by embedded tyre tracks after people on quads and bikes have torn through the grass.

It is hoped that this may become a thing of the past, however, as the new laws empower gardaí to seize and detain quad bikes and scrambler motorcycles when used unlawfully, or in an anti-social manner, especially in public parks and green spaces.

Labelling scramblers as a "danger, a menace, and a scourge," Deputy John Lahart had introduced anti-scrambler legislation while in opposition, the thrust of which has been incorporated into the Government's new legislation.

This will help in the fight against the menace of scramblers in our communities and on our roads, hopefully creating a safer environment for us all.

New law empowers gardai to seize quads and scramblers

THE passing of crucial legislation to address the rampant misuse of scrambler motorbikes in our communities has been welcomed this week.

The newly enacted law, an amendment to the Road Traffic Acts 1961 to 2020, empowers Gardaí to seize and detain quad bikes and scrambler motorcycles when used unlawfully, or in an anti-social manner, especially in public parks and green spaces.

Labelling scramblers as a "danger, a menace, and a scourge," Fianna Fáil Dublin South West TD, John Lahart said he had introduced anti-scrambler legislation while in opposition, the thrust of which has been incorporated into the government's new legislation.

Lahart points to recent events in Limerick, where 44 scramblers were seized by Gardaí, using the new powers, which underscores the urgency of the issue.

Deputy Lahart is determined to see this success in Dublin South West.

"I have written to the Superintendent of Tallaght Garda station, reinforcing the message to them that these powers are already being successfully used by Garda divisions in other regions and that the same approach needs to be replicated speedily in Dublin South West where the anti-social use of scramblers continues on a daily basis."

The legislation equips An Garda Síochána with the authority needed to combat the illegal use of scramblers, ensuring public safety takes precedence.

"He urges community support for this crucial initiative, emphasising the collective responsibility to create secure neighbourhoods.

As the law comes into effect, Deputy John Lahart remains steadfast in his commitment to eradicating the dangers associated with scrambler misuse, fostering safer communities for all.

HR Person of the Year Award for dedicated Lisa



SUPPORT: Lisa Cassidy

HOME Instead announced this week that HR Manager, Lisa Cassidy was named as HR Person of the Year at last week's annual Home Care and Community Ireland (HCCI) Awards.

Lisa, a dedicated professional who works in the Home Instead Dublin West office in Rathcoole, emerged as the winner among numerous submissions from home care companies nationwide. Her outstanding achievement was celebrated at an awards ceremony hosted at The Alex Hotel.

Lisa began her illustrious home care career as a Caregiver, providing in home care to older adults. Six years ago she joined Home Instead's Dublin West office, where she took on an administrator and recruitment role. In that time, Lisa has shown a drive and ambition to develop and progress in her career. She transitioned from admin and recruitment to HR, completed her master's degree in the subject and now holds the position of HR manager for the Dublin West office.

Home Instead Dublin West Managing Director, Páraic Curtis said, "Approachable and compassionate are just two of many words to describe Lisa. She is an exemplary person. Driven, kind and a continuous source of support and encouragement to colleagues in her role as HR Manager."

Lisa's nomination and subsequent win is a testament to the commitment, enthusiasm and determination that she has shown in her work and career to date. She has developed into an integral part of the Dublin West team, helping to create a great place to work while assisting in changing the lives of ageing adults.

Curtis continued, "Anybody who spends time with Lisa leaves her company with a smile on their face, a full heart and the tools to help them succeed in their job. We are thrilled that Lisa has won this award and it is a pleasure to have her as part of the Dublin West team."



High threshold criticised for 'affordable' houses

Councillor takes issue with the amount of qualifying factors involved

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie



CRITICISM: An artist's impression of Clonburris

A COUNCILLOR has criticised the high threshold needed to qualify for affordable housing in Clonburris and added that one of his constituents "feels discriminated" against because of it.

Speaking at a South Dublin County Council meeting on Monday, Cllr Derren Ó Brádaigh (SF) took issue with the amount of qualifying factors needed to be eligible for affordable housing in Clonburris.

Criteria includes being mortgage-approved, first-time buyers, they must have three or more people in their household, and their total household income must be less than €73,362.

The affordable purchase price to be paid will be linked to applicant's income and mortgage capacity – the minimum price payable will be €245,600 and the maximum price payable will be €285,300.

Commenting on this, Cllr Ó Brádaigh said: "I decided to look at who's actually excluded from the scheme.

"It would seem, to me, that households or couples who are on the social housing list, obviously, they're excluded because they're certainly not earning enough.

"Singles on under €40k on the housing list, we know they don't qualify, and single people earning between €40k and €90k, or in fact, single people earning any amount, are excluded from this scheme."

He added that a constituent from the Clondalkin area had contacted him last week and shared his difficulties with securing affordable housing.

"I had an email last Thursday from a constituent who lives in Clondalkin, grew up there, is working as a teacher for 13 years and, in his own words, is on a decent income," said Cllr Ó Brádaigh.

"But he feels discriminated against and has automatically not qualified for this scheme.

"Who are these schemes really aimed at, and why are these schemes discriminating against singles?"

The chief executive of South Dublin County Council, Colm Ward, responded to Cllr Ó Brádaigh's concerns and highlighted the positives of the scheme.

"There's a €100,000 discount on market values in Clonburris, which is significant by any measure," said Mr Ward.

"I do appreciate that the threshold for eligibility is reasonably high in terms of the incomes, but there will be more affordable housing delivered there and elsewhere and we will try and address that."

The Clonburris SDZ will see over 8,700 homes built on a 280-hectare site between Clondalkin and Lucan, providing housing for around 23,000 people.

An Bord Pleanála approved the project four years ago, with the Government providing €186.3m in funding for the Clonburris SDZ.

Residents, raffles, Santa lists and subs

THE next meeting for the Sarsfield Park Residents Association in Lucan, will be held on Monday, December 4, in Kenny's pub at 8.30pm.

Residents are encouraged to attend and get involved.

The group will be holding their Christmas raffle and finalising the Santa list for visits at this meeting.

This is only open to paid-up members of the association as of Sunday, November 12.

Sarsfield Park Residents Association encourage members to pay outstanding subs, and acknowledge the support of the local businesses that contribute to the draw.

The group planted spring bulbs as supplied by South Dublin County Council over the weekend.

Christmas Fair in Kilnamanagh centre

A CHRISTMAS Fair will be held in Kilnamanagh Family Recreation Centre on Sunday, November 26 from 3-6pm.

The event will feature some local businesses and crafts.

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HSE gives warning to drug users about heroin clusters

There were three reports of overdoses in the area in just three days

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

THREE reports of overdoses were reported to Jobstown-based drug project JADD over the course of three days last week, as the HSE has issued a warning about heroin overdose clusters.

In a statement published last Friday, the HSE advised that a nitazene type substance – which is a type of synthetic opioid – had been identified in a brown powder associated with a Dublin overdose.

Tommy Gilson, the manager of JADD, said he'd been made aware of three overdoses in the Tallaght area from Wednesday to Friday last week.

"We've received three reports of overdoses locally," he told *The Echo.* "We've extended our services and we're providing [overdose reversal drug] naloxone and are asking people to be careful.

> **"The risk is high. I can't remember a period of time where we had three overdoses in 60 hours**

"The risk is high. I can't remember a period of time where we had three overdoses in 60 hours."

Mr Gilson offered some advice to drug users to keep themselves safe as testing of the batches that are linked to the overdoses continue.

"Sometimes people have a fear of calling an ambulance if someone has overdosed because they're scared the police will come, but they shouldn't fear making that call," he said.

"And we also want people to use together and not take substances alone in case they do overdose."

He added that JADD has trained 16 service users in the use of naloxone and, if anyone else is interested in receiving this training, they can call JADD on (01) 459 7756.

The HSE advises that there is extra risk at this time and strongly recommends people do not try new types of drugs or new batches being sold on the market.

Professor Eamon Keenan, HSE National Clinical Lead, Addiction Services, said: "We are urging extreme caution following a sharp rise in the number of overdoses related to a powder being sold as heroin in the Dublin region.



"Preliminary laboratory analysis has confirmed that recent overdoses may be caused by heroin mixed with nitazene, a potent and dangerous synthetic opioid.

"These pose a substantial risk of overdose, hospitalisation and death."

The HSE has noted that naloxone is available free from every Dublin Addiction Service.

Naloxone temporarily reverses the effects of opiate-type drugs like heroin, keeping the person alive until emergency services arrive.

The HSE asks people who use drugs to follow harm-reduction steps, which can help reduce the harm if they are using substances.





UNIQUE SERVICE: Neart Le Chéile staff at the facility on Tuesday

Concerns drug outreach project is set to close doors nexth month

Organisation supports children and families negatively impacted by drug use

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

A DRUG outreach community organisation that supports close to 50 families, and has a growing waiting list, is set to close at the end of December, leading to grave concerns in the community.

Neart Le Chéile, has served Clondalkin communities for 25 years, providing support via two projects – Cairdeas, for individuals with drug use, and Cumas, which supports children and families negatively impacted by drug use.

It has been instrumental in saving lives.

Three existing board members of the group have stepped away from their involvement, and as such, the HSE are winding down the project by the end of the year.

Compounding matters was that two managers have been absent for personal reasons.

However, staff (7) at Neart Le Chéile are trying to keep the organisation afloat, and say they have appropriate replacements for the board members.

This includes local TD's Mark Ward (SF), Gino Kenny (PBP), Cllr Francis Timmons (Ind), and Adrienne Hayes, project director at the Pacific Institute.

"We received informal notice five weeks ago from the HSE but there has been no more communication," said Lisa Collins, Community District Support Worker, Neart Le Chéile.

"This is a unique service, I don't think it should be lost. We are getting constant referrals from local schools but we can't take anyone off the waiting list. There is nowhere else to refer them to," said Ms Collins.

Deputy Mark Ward, who has a working background in addiction services, is willing to go on the board, and has asked the HSE and Health Minister Stephen Donnelly, to allow the appointment of an interim board for six months to steady the ship.

"What Neart Le Chéile does, nobody else does. It operates in one of the most disadvantaged areas in the constituency. The board is not in operation and two managers are not available, but it is to the staff's credit that they have continued to operate and provide a service to some of the most vulnerable families in Clondalkin," said Deputy Ward.

In a statement, Clondalkin Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (CDATF) said they are in discussions with the HSE to retain funding for the services.

"The Clondalkin Drugs and Alcohol Task Force would also like to clarify that there have been no funding cuts made to Neart le Cheile," they said.

Following a June meeting with the board of Neart le Cheile, CDATF were informed on October 16 that the board had made the decision to "wind down the Neart le Cheile project by the end of 2023."

"The winding down of the project is a matter for the board of Neart le Cheile," said CDATF.

"The priority of Clondalkin Drugs and Alcohol Task Force at this time will be to ensure that a plan is put in place to support these people in the short term. In the longer term we will aim to ensure that funds are retained in the area and that any new service offering is in line with our local drugs strategy."

Cllr Francis Timmons, who is also willing to go on a newly formed board, says the board failed to turn up at a scheduled meeting with staff to inform them what is happening, and has asked Minister of State Hildegarde Naughton to keep the service open.

Deputy Ward says staff have a number several proposals to keep Neart Le Chéile open "but feel that no one is listening to them."

"The workers need clarity and assurances about their livelihood," said Ward.

Meanwhile, staff at Neart Le Chéile have started a petition to try and keep the service open.

"They say they will try and retain funding for services in the area, but if this is gone, it won't be replaced," said Lisa Collins.

"We won't give up without a fight."

> "We received informal notice five weeks ago from the HSE but there has been no more communications. This is a unique service, I don't think it should be lost. We are getting constant referrals from local schools but we can't take anyone off the waiting list. There is nowhere else to refer them to.

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:
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Oscar Wilde awards to honour Richard Baneham


EXCEPTIONAL: Richard Baneham (right), making waves in animation

DOUBLE Oscar winner and Tallaght native Richard Baneham is set to be honoured at the Oscar Wilde Awards in California next year, *reports Aideen O'Flaherty.*

The awards ceremony is an annual event of the US-Ireland Alliance, which traditionally takes place three days before the Oscars and celebrates the achievements of Irish people in the arts.

The ceremony will take place in Santa Monica on March 7, with Richard Baneham being announced last week as the first honouree for the event.

Mr Baneham, who won Oscars for his animation work in the 'Avatar' film franchise, is a past pupil of Old Bawn Community School and he went on to study animation in Ballyfermot College.

He has made waves as an animation supervisor in Hollywood, having worked on films including 'Lord of the Rings' and 'The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'.

US-Ireland Alliance founder Trina Vargo said: "We're delighted to honour Richie – not only is he creatively exceptional but he is also beloved in the industry as someone who has always remained connected to his colleagues and friends in the film and animation industries in Ireland."

The 18th annual Oscar Wilde Awards will be held on March 7, 2024, at Bad Robot – the production company of JJ Abrams and Katie McGrath.

Tales of Tallaght that haven't been told before

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

Fascinating stories of character and families


RAMBLES: Albert Perris signing one of his books

A POPULAR local historian who aims to "tell the tales of Tallaght that haven't been told before" launched his new book last week.

The well-attended function for the launch for 'A Ramble About Tallaght: History, People, Places' by Albert Perris, published by O'Brien Press, took place in Tallaght Library last Wednesday, November 8.

Albert's blog, which shares a name with his book, has become a popular fount of knowledge over the years as he engagingly and accurately recalls little-known aspects of Tallaght's intriguing past.

Speaking at the launch of the book last week, Albert said: "The vast majority of people now living in Tallaght didn't live here before 1970.

"For 50 years, thousands of people have been passing landmarks in their local community without ever really knowing very much about them – and they are the landmarks that are still standing.

"What about the ones that are no longer landmarks, the ones that are no longer there?

"How many people living in Killinarden now would know about the old Georgian residence of Killinarden House?

"How many people in Brookfield would know what went on in Brookfield House, or even know that it was once there at all?

"How many people in Fettercairn would know of the history of Fettercairn House, or New-Hall – the loves and losses of the family there?

"All of these estates were built in fields that once had a story, and it is these stories that I believe can give a place, a community, its own unique identity.

"I have set out to tell the tales of Tallaght that haven't been told before."

Much like on Albert's 'A Ramble About Tallaght' blog, the book gives fascinating accounts of characters and families from years past, and the changing landscape of the places where they lived.

The tome also contains numerous striking photos charting Tallaght's heritage, many of which were taken by JP Flanagan, Pete Smyth, and Brian MacCormaic.

Speaking at the launch, Mayor Alan Edge referred to the rich history of Tallaght, and praised Albert for producing such a definitive and accessible catalogue of the history of the area.

"The history of this place goes back thousands and thousands of years," said Mayor Edge.

"In the last 50 or 60 years we have seen the transformation of this place – we are now dealing with an area that is effectively a city. "But, still, the history of the place is being preserved by people like Albert Perris, with this beautiful new book.

"It is really important for the new people coming into the county to realise that they are moving into an area with a past – that the estate that they are living in has a particular name, for a particular reason, because of what stood there before, hundreds of years ago."

'A Ramble About Tallaght: History, People, Places' by Albert Perris is available in Easons in Tallaght, local bookshops, and online from Easons and the O'Brien Press websites.

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Man guilty of growing cannabis worth over €25.5k

A ZOO cleaner caught cultivating 32 cannabis plants in a rented house in Dublin has been given a fully suspended sentence at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court, reports Jessica Magee.

Artur Bromirski (45) pleaded guilty to the cultivation of cannabis worth €25,600 at an address in Moyville estate, Rathfarnham, on December 8, 2017.

At his sentencing last Thursday, Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard that Bromirski originally faced the more serious charge of possessing drugs for sale or supply, but that this was dropped, leaving just the count of cultivation.

The court heard that Bromirski said the plants were for his own use and that gardaí found no evidence in the house of the usual drug-dealing paraphernalia, such as weighing scales or tick lists.

Bromirski had a previous address in Broadfield, Naas, Co Kildare, but now lives in Poland, where he works as a cleaner at a zoo, the court heard.

Garda Padraic Syon told Garrett McCormack BL, prosecuting, that neighbours at Moyville estate alerted the landlord after their suspicions were raised.

When the landlord tried to gain entry into the premises, he found the locks had been changed and went to gardaí.

Gardaí got a warrant to search the house and, noticing a smell, found that two upstairs bedrooms were being used to cultivate cannabis.

They discovered two growing tents, lighting equipment, irrigation materials and 32 cannabis plants at various stages of maturity.

Bromirski was not present, but he returned within a few days and told gardaí he was a long-term user of cannabis.

He was arrested and remanded on bail, during which he travelled back and forth to Poland, abiding by his bail conditions at all times, the court heard.

Garda Syon agreed with Garret Baker SC, defending, that Bromirski made early admissions and has no previous convictions.

He had been subletting the property in Rathfarnham from another tenant, counsel said.

Bromirski told gardaí that he had suffered a significant back injury while working as a gardener in Ireland and that the cannabis helped him.

The court heard that Bromirski's wife died tragically in 2015 and that the frequency of his cannabis abuse spiralled out of control after this bereavement.

Mr Baker presented a doctor's letter showing that his client is now receiving medical marijuana on a legal basis in Poland as a treatment for his back injury.

Bromirski has three children, and Judge Crowe acknowledged that he is working and contributing to society.

Judge Crowe set a headline sentence of three years but reduced this on account of Bromirksi's personal and mitigating circumstances to two years, suspended in full.

'I would rather do honest work' says man with drugs worth €66k

Paid €20k for cannabis but he said it was bad quality and he wouldn't make any money

A MAN, who will be sentenced later at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court for possessing over €66,000 worth of illegal drugs, told gardaí he would "rather do honest work", *reports Jessica Magee.*

Boris Barcanec (35) pleaded guilty to possessing cannabis, ecstasy tablets and amphetamines for sale or supply at his home in Willbrook, Whitechurch Road, Dublin 14 on July 5, 2021.

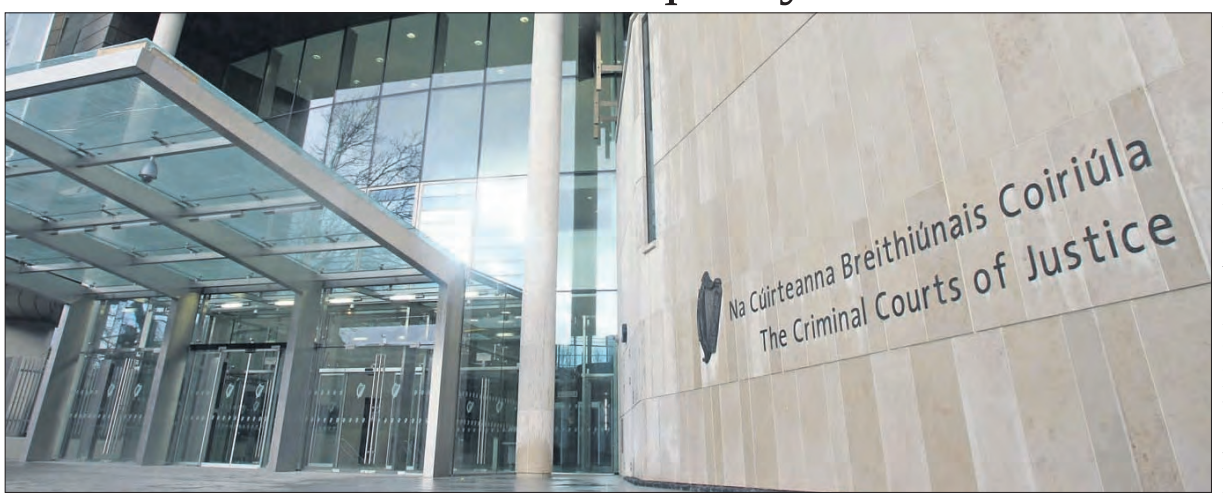
At a hearing on Wednesday the court heard that gardaí monitored the address after they got a confidential tip-off that drug-dealing was taking place.

Gardaí got a warrant to search the house after they saw a suspected drugs transaction taking place outside the premises.

Sergeant Niall Ryan told counsel for the State that gardaí found multiple plastic bags of cannabis in the garage with an estimated street value of €62,248.

Amphetamines valued at €2,527 were also found in the garage in a white plastic bag, while 156 MDMA tablets worth €1,560 were seized from the living room.

Gardaí also found drug paraphernalia including digital weighing scales, a tick list and bagging material.



Barcanec, who is originally from Croatia, was arrested and made significant admissions.

He told gardaí that the cannabis was for selling and that he also smoked cannabis and took ecstasy himself.

Barcanec said he had paid around €20,000 for the cannabis but that it was bad quality and that he wasn't going to make any money out of it.

He said he had bought around 300 MDMA tablets the previous weekend for around €1,000, paying something like €88 per gramme. This ecstasy was for himself and for friends to be used at a party, the court heard.

Barcanec said he had been in Ireland for five years and was in trouble with debt.

He had had numerous jobs and was working at the time as a garden landscaper, earning €460 per week.

He has no previous convictions.

Sgt Ryan agreed with Padraig Dwyer SC, defending, that the accused was "generally of good character" and has not come to garda attention since this offence.

The court heard that Barcanec told gardaí: "I'm sorry for this. I'd rather do honest work. I don't know what I was thinking."

Mr Dwyer cited what he said was an excellent probation report which placed his client at low risk of reoffending.

The court heard that Barcanec takes full responsibility for the offence and was "relieved" when gardaí arrived.

Mr Dwyer said Barcanec has insight into his offending and victim-awareness and has managed to deal with his drug addiction, citing his arrest as a "turning point in his life".

Barcanec wrote a letter to the judge saying that he had experienced the horrors of war in Croatia and later fell into drug addiction to cope with his PTSD.

Mr Dwyer also said that Barcanec commits in the letter to his "decision to heal himself rather than continue to numb his pain with drugs" and has attended a relapse prevention programme as part of "his unwavering commitment to a drug-free lifestyle".

Judge Orla Crowe adjourned the case for finalisation until November 15.

Man allowed bank account to be used in 'smishing' fraud in attempt to clear cocaine drug debt of €3,000

A DUBLIN man who allowed his bank account to be used in a "smishing" fraud in an attempt to clear his drug debt will be sentenced later at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court.

Josh Reidy (23) pleaded guilty to two counts of possessing over €19,000 as the proceeds of crime at unknown locations within the State on August 30, 2021 and July 21, 2022.

The court heard that "smishing" involves the use of sending text messages containing spurious links purporting to be from banks or other financial institutions.

When the injured party clicks on the link, they are brought to a website and money is rerouted to other people's bank accounts.

At a hearing on Wednesday, the court heard that Bank of Ireland has managed to recoup all of the money, apart from €900, for its two customers who were victims of this offence.

Detective Garda Jason Weir told Emmet Nolan BL, prosecuting, that the alarm was raised when a Bank of Ireland customer in Clonakilty reported a suspicious transaction in August 2021.

The victim had been sent a link to what he believed was a genuine Bank of Ireland web page and subsequently noticed that €19,421 had been withdrawn from his account without his permission.

Bank of Ireland stopped the transaction, recalled the funds and traced the transaction to a German banking company called N26.

This company provided details of the beneficiary of the transaction, an account holder who turned out to be Reidy, then living on Sundrive Road in Dublin.

Gardaí searched Reidy's home under warrant while he was in hospital for an operation and found his passport and a Bank of Ireland withdrawal slip.

Meanwhile, a Bank of Ireland customer in Co Galway notified gardaí of a suspicious withdrawal from her account of €19,877 on July 21, 2022.

The beneficiary account was again traced to Reidy, whose current address is Landsdowne Gate apartments, Drimnagh, Co Dublin.

Bank of Ireland was only able to recall €18,973 of this second withdrawal, leaving the customer at a total loss of €904.

Reidy met gardaí by arrangement and was arrested.

He said he had a drug debt of about €3,000 for cocaine and that he had been made to give his passport and mobile phone details to other people for the purpose of paying off this debt.

His drug bill was to be reduced by €500 for handing over his phone number, the court heard.

Garda Weir agreed with defence counsel Luigi Rea BL that Reidy was cooperative with gardaí and answered every question, also that he had been threatened.

Mr Rea said Reidy described "an atmosphere of fear and dread" with his life when he got caught up with this group who "punched him a few times" and also threatened his mother.

The court heard that Reidy has a good work history and hopes to resume work in January when he will pay off the €900 owed to the Bank of Ireland customer.

"He was by no means the brains behind this operation," said Mr Rea.

Judge Orla Crowe adjourned the case for finalisation on November 28 next.

She also requested documentation proving Reidy's drug-free status and his commitment to drug treatment.

Just over 5,000 rent accounts have been assessed

SOUTH Dublin County Council has assessed over 5,000 of its tenants' accounts, which has led to some arrears being retrospectively applied to some accounts.

The council's total rental arrears are "stagnating" at €10.7m, according to Cllr Ronan McMahon (Ind), who asked at a council meeting this week what the council is doing to collect the shortfall.

In response, council chief executive Colm Ward said over 5,000 of its tenants' accounts "has had some impact on the level of arrears applied retrospectively to accounts.

"That's probably affected some of the gains we've made in terms of in-roads into arrears, but there is a substantial arrangement in place in terms of pursuing some of the more serious accounts.

"I think we're starting to see the impact of that and will continue to see it in the coming months."

The Chase's Darragh leads table quiz for school funds

All 250 tickets at the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel sold out within two days

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

HOLY Family Community School (HFCS) is gearing up for a sold-out school fundraiser this Friday, November 17, led by past pupil and star of ITV's 'The Chase', Darragh Ennis.

The 250 tickets for the table quiz event at the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel sold out within two days of going on sale, and it promises to be a highlight in the school community's social calendar.

Denise O'Keeffe, deputy principal at HFCS, told *The Echo*: "Darragh Ennis is a past pupil of the school, and he's volunteering his time and donated prize money for the second raffle.

"We are really grateful to Darragh, he's a huge supporter of the school and always has been, and some of his family members still attend the school."

The table quiz came about with the support of the school and the school's parents' council, after Darragh suggested it as a fundraising idea.

"It's very much a collaboration between the school and the parents' council, and Darragh is the linchpin of it all," added Ms O'Keeffe.

"There's a great buzz around the school itself and within the school community about it."

The school had initially expected to raise €10,000 but, owing to the success of the table quiz ticket sales, they're expecting to exceed this.

When asked what the funds will be used for, Ms O'Keeffe said: "The school and the parents' council will sit down [after the quiz] and look at and see what is needed for the students.

"In the past, we've used fundraisers for outdoor benches and a polytunnel, and it will be very student-led and student centred."

> **"Darragh Ennis is a past pupil of the school, and he's volunteering his time and donated prize money for the second raffle. We are really grateful to Darragh, he's a huge supporter of the school and always has been . . .**



QUIZZICAL: Darragh Ennis, the linchpin of the fundraiser

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for goodies, live entertainment and more!



Local history with Monica McGill

‘Woodman, spare that tree –touch not a single bough!’

We need to plant more trees, especially with climate change upon us

REGULAR readers of *The Echo* may recall Maurice Garvey’s article “Criticism over the felling of ‘iconic’ Monterey Cypress tree” published on page 10 in the 2nd March 2023 edition. (Link: https://www.echo.ie/criticism-over-the-felling-of-iconic-monterey-cypress-tree/).

Felling this tree (and many others around one of the car parks in Corkagh) caused a local outcry. Our council said it was because the trees were diseased or in a dangerous condition.

Some people doubted these reasons. They were dismayed and angry and voiced their opinions on social media, but it was too late to save the trees.

The felling seems to have started with the rag tree (a venerable ash) at St Bridget’s Well in Clondalkin village in December 2022. “Okay,” people said in response to the council’s information given post factum, “it’s a pity, but if the tree has ash die-back disease, if it will infect other ash trees in the area and it has to be felled and burnt to prevent this, then what can be done?”

A flower bed has replaced the old tree, but maybe the council will plant another rag tree somewhere inside the precincts of St Brigid’s Well if possible.

Some years ago, the council said we had 67,000 trees in South Dublin. Sounds a lot, but an independent survey carried out reported that we need even more, that South Dublin County area is comparatively short of trees.

Many local trees have numbered discs embedded in them, so there must be a tree databank somewhere.

There are Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect a tree or a number of trees, but because the planning laws are undergoing reviews, the council is reported to be reticent to consider applying TPOs.

For years, there are only two trees in the Clondalkin area protected by TPOs.

The council’s Tree Management Policy 2021-2026 (“Living with Trees”) is available online at https://www.sdcc.ie/en/climate-action/image-library-pdfs/pdf-folder/living-with-trees-south-dublin-county-council-tree-management-policy-2021-2026.pdf.

It’s a lovely publication generally giving the council’s policy and protective attitude towards all trees in the South Dublin area (not just Clondalkin) – to protect, cherish, and appreciate, for lots of wholesome reasons.

Trees existed long before humans walked our planet. They are an important part of our heritage. Our ancestors valued various species of Ireland’s trees, for example the Druids before St Patrick arrived here in 432AD.

The druids considered some trees sacred, especially ash trees. Living Irish heritage includes poems learned years ago in our Primary Schools, in both English and Irish. “Trees” by Joyce Kilmer is just one. Other poems, such as the 18th century “Cad a dhéanfaimid feasta gan aghmad?/Lament for Kilcash” mourned the ransacking of Irish local timber forests.

Such natural resources were used to construct trading ships, warships and global exploration craft by nations whose power and interests lay in those directions. As “Kilcash” indicates, with the trees gone, life itself was depleted. These poems and their history can be accessed at

https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/12744/trees

and

https://tipperarystudies.ie/1797-cad-a-dheanfaimid-feasta-gan-adhmad/

The poem “Trees” was famously rendered in song by the American bass-baritone Paul Robeson. See stereo recording on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Suje4Rxm7OQ – “Trees (Stereo) Paul Robeson – Topic”.

Still true today, timber warms us twice – first when we cut down a tree, and second when we burn the timber in our hearths – and we use it to build our homes and make furniture.

Even though the price of timber products has increased greatly in recent times, we still use them to build homes in an effort to fulfil local housing requirements.

Science shows us that trees are truly amazing. Underground links exist between fungi and trees. They form a symbiotic relationship to share food, protect other trees in a radius of about 180ft/54m, and to nurture saplings. This below-ground system depends on “hub trees” – the oldest, tallest, most mature ones.

They are the main connections in the system. Felling mature, healthy trees destroys this vibrant underground system and takes years (or even centuries) to fully recover. (See National Geographic video on YouTube “How Trees Secretly Talk to Each Other in the Forest / Decoder” at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kHZ0a_6TxY).

Cutting down a tree – especially a mature one like our now-gone Monterey Cypress in Corkagh Park – is a serious matter.

A single sapling will take years to accomplish all the good work of a mature tree.

Above ground, trees provide sleeping quarters and feeding places for many other animal and insect species who could be badly affected if the trees are felled. Trees also provide us with their fruits and nuts in season, they shade us in sunny weather, and their leaf-litter becomes necessary nutritious elements for the soil when they shed their leaves in the autumn.

In ever more frequent devastation through flooding (as reported in the media) it is timely to remember that each tree is in effect a column of water, soaking it up from the land in which the tree grows.

Even by their breathing capacity, trees improve our environment by exchanging carbon dioxide for oxygen. The more mature trees we have, the cleaner the air.

Many Clondalkin people still mourn the loss of the Monterey Pine and other mature trees in Corkagh Park. To be fair, though, council officials have been swift to investigate when a tree is felled contrary to planning permission.

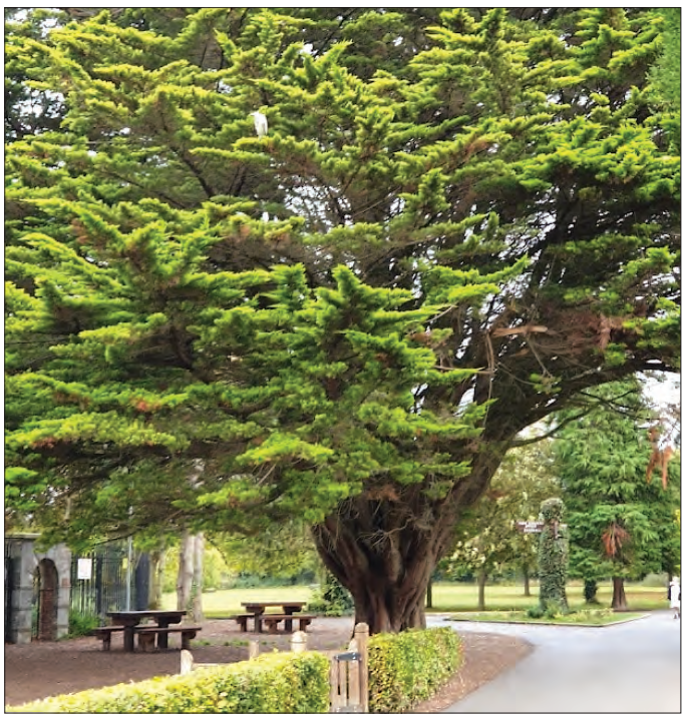
Of course, this depends on someone being aware of the situation and notifying the council in time to protect the tree, or trees. That’s not always so.

Also, the tree (or trees) may already be gone by the time the council is contacted. At present, the only determent appears to be an affordable monetary fine on the developer.

Perhaps a better remedy could be an insistence to replace one felled tree with two others nearby, as well as imposing a heftier fine on the transgressor.

Clearly, we need to plant and grow more trees, especially now when climate change is upon us.

Fewer homes have gardens nowadays, so maybe we should contact all our County councillors asking them to request our local authority to plant more trees, preferably native deciduous ones, please?





FELLING: Residents were angry back in March when the tree was cut down in Corkagh Park



SADNESS: Tree felled, Clondalkin. Fifty years or more to grow, an hour or less to fell.

Photo © Monica McGill

We've a special guest dropping in.

Join us for some magical festivities and entertainment on **November 18th** at **1pm** and await **Santa's arrival at 4pm** to turn on our lights and officially open our Christmas Grotto!

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Liffey Valley

‘Delight’ at official opening of new library and sensory room at Crumlin’s Scoil/Coláiste Eoin

THE opening of a new library and sensory room took place at Scoil/Coláiste Eoin in Crumlin, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

Invited guests to the Armagh Road school included Lord Mayor of Dublin Dáithí de Róiste, Senator Catherine Ardagh, TD Patrick Costelloe, along with principals and Home School Community Liasion officers from other local schools.

Richie Doran, Deputy Principal, Scoil/Coláiste Eoin, said they were “delighted to celebrate the opening of their new library and sensory room on October 25.

“Principal Debbie O’Neill and I used the opportunity to highlight the fabulous work done by the whole school community in developing the library, and outlined plans for how this will enhance our bespoke literacy programme.

“Student librarians were on hand to show the visitors around and the school is immensely proud of all its students and how they have embraced the teaching and learning opportunities provided by this wonderful new space.”

> “Principal Debbie O’Neill and I used the opportunity to highlight the work done by the school community in developing the library, and outlined plans for how this will enhance our bespoke literacy programme



CELEBRATIONS: Student librarians showed visitors around including Lord Mayor Dáithí de Róiste

Councillors reject proposals for new Knocklyon 3G pitch

A record number of submissions objecting to the project have been received



SAVE KNOCKLYON PARK: Residents out protesting against the planned 3G pitch earlier this year

By Aideen O'Flaherty

aideen@echo.ie

COUNCILLORS unanimously voted to reject South Dublin County Council’s proposal for a contentious 3G pitch in Knocklyon Park at a council meeting on Monday.

The council presented a report on the Part 8 public consultation stage of the proposed development, during which 2,029 submissions were lodged by members of the community.

Teresa Walsh from South Dublin County Council said the artificial grass pitch was proposed as part of the South Dublin Sports Pitch Strategy, and that Knocklyon Park was chosen following a feasibility process.

> “I propose, based on the . . . views of the public in Woodstown and surrounding areas, over 90 per cent opposed, and with the unanimous decision of the area committee that . . .

Speaking at the meeting, Ms Walsh said: “An Bord Pleanála confirmed South Dublin County Council’s determination findings that the project will have no significant impact on the environment.

“The scheme is in compliance, however, we are cognisant that there is significant local opposition to the proposal, but the proposal does align with County Development Plan policy.”

The proposal has been a point of contention in the community, with a record number of submissions being received from residents opposed to the project during the public consultation process.

The proposed enclosed 3G pitch is to be developed in place of an existing grass pitch which is currently used by Ballyboden St Enda’s GAA Club.

Objections were received on a number of grounds, including the potential environmental impact and how it will affect St Enda’s as it could reduce the capacity of the club.

At the meeting, Mayor Alan Edge, who is also an independent councillor for Firhouse-Bohernabreena, outlined his proposed motion for councillors to vote on.

“I propose, based on the clearly expressed views of the public in Woodstown and surrounding areas, over 90 per cent opposed, and with the unanimous decision of the area committee that this should not be proceeded with, that members reject this proposal,” said Mayor Edge.

Mayor Edge’s motion was seconded by Fine Gael councillor Brian Lawlor and was carried by their fellow councillors who unanimously voted in favour.

It was noted by Mayor Edge that the matter centred only on the public consultation report on the proposal and “any issues relating to the allocation of funding and so on are matters for the budget.”

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ANGRY: People protesting outside Cherry Orchard Hospital

HSE 'devoid of empathy'

The HSE has said that it had considered several plans that would have allow



FURY: People protesting outside Cherry Orchard Hospital

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

PROTESTS have taken place this week outside Cherry Orchard Hospital (COH) following the announcement that elderly residents are to be moved to a private nursing home in Clondalkin to facilitate flooring works at COH.

Families and representatives have criticised the HSE's "devoid of empathy" plan to move 68 vulnerable patients, with medical needs, including dementia, to Clondalkin, amid fears some might not survive the transition.

Care Champions, an advocacy group, sent an open letter to the HSE this week, demanding answers to questions by staff and families.

The letter says residents and families "do not accept" the HSE proposal to relocate patients which was "made without any consultation with residents."

"We are highly critical of the lack of skill and empathy of HSE management, in their actions on this matter to date.

"It has been left to families to point out to well-paid HSE managers that residents are citizens with rights, protected under legislation, most recently the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015, which enshrines their right to be consulted and part of decisions which impact their own lives.

"The approach of the HSE once again mirrors an outdated medical model approach which views residents simply as people to be placed anywhere it suits the HSE, rather than as individual rights holders."

"The decision to relocate residents outside of their catchment area, disrupting continuity of care from their care staff and from St James's Hospital is stark evidence of the lack of person-centred care from the HSE.

The HSE is a public service. HSE managers are there, not to make decisions that are easiest or most cost-effective for the HSE but to provide quality, person-centred care which aligns with



wed its residents to remain onsite

legislation requirements.

"Families and residents are clearly informing the HSE that any attempt to move a resident is without their consent and could be considered a deprivation of their liberty," said the letter.

Key questions families and residents wish to know the answer to are: who in the HSE signed off on the plan, what efforts were made by HSE management to comply with Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Legislation, what review took place of suitability of other units within COH, and whether HIQA inspected other onsite units to evaluate how much if any work is required to facilitate transfer within COH.

The HSE has said that its management team considered several plans in consultation with HSE Estates and HIQA to address the works required in Sycamore and Willow unit that would have allowed residents to remain onsite during completion of works

However, it said that following consideration of these plans, it was agreed that to ensure the health and safety of residents, to minimise disruption to residents during these works, and to comply with the HIQA requirement for a shorter timeline for completion of works in these units, Sycamore and Willow will close for a period for minimum of 12 months to facilitate the works required for regulatory compliance.

> **"The decision to relocate residents outside of their catchment area, disrupting continuity of care from their care staff and from St James's Hospital is stark evidence of the lack of person-centred care from the HSE**

The Artist, the Minister, and the Connections Arts Centre . . .



SHOWCASE: Samuel Hilliard shows his artwork to Minister Anne Rabbitte

ARTIST Samuel Hillard showed Anne Rabbitte, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth, his artwork when she visited Connections Arts Centre (CAC) last week, *reports Jenna Schweikert.*

This event took place as part of Dublin City Council Inclusion and Integration Week 2023.

Inclusion and Integration Week is a series of free virtual and in-person events designed to bring a focus on anyone who may face barriers to social inclusion, including young people, older people, people living with disabilities, migrants, and other communities.

As previously reported in *The Echo*, Samuel from Tallaght who lives with autism, had his work displayed and exhibited at the Royal College of Surgeons in July as part of the Connecting Artists 2023 programme.

Hillard was one of only 10 artists to be chosen for this programme from across the country.

The Connecting Artists programme is organised by CAC and is designed for visual artists with intellectual disabilities, like Samuel Hillard, who wish to develop their creative practice.

The programme partners artists with mentors and culminates in an exhibition at the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland.

The mission of CAC is to assist people with disabilities to overcome the everyday barriers that lead to them being devalued and excluded from their communities.

"Showcasing my art talents to the world and making my family proud is a goal of mine," said Samuel.

"Being involved in the Connecting Artists 2023 program has been a great opportunity for me to do this."

Santa comes to Liffey Valley



YOU BETTER WATCH OUT: Sisters Penney (5) and Bella (8) Murphy from Dublin patiently awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus to Liffey Valley Shopping Centre on Saturday, November 18 at 1pm. One of Ireland's largest shopping and leisure destinations, Liffey Valley Shopping Centre, will host a series of Christmas celebrations and family entertainment including live music, face painting, and of course, Santa's big arrival to turn on the Christmas lights. The free festive fun will begin on Saturday, November 18 at 1pm, with Santa's sleigh due to land at 4pm.

Gritting runs, hill routes and tonnes of rock salt

Council prepares for the winter with their roads maintenance programme

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

SOUTH Dublin County Council started their winter roads maintenance programme in mid-October and will continue this until the end of April.

During the 2022-23 season, the local authority deployed 52 gritting runs on all routes, eight gritting runs on hill routes, and 2,500 tonnes of rock salt was deposited on the roads.

There are seven main gritting routes in the county, covering 340km of roads to be treated.

Priority routes are also cited in the programme, which include main distributor roads, essential services (hospital, airport, etc) and food distribution points.

According to the council's winter maintenance plan, last season would be considered a "mild winter overall" with one significant cold spell in early December that lasted 10 days.

The 2023-24 season started on October 16 and finishes on April 28.

Gritting runs will generally be carried out at 7pm and/or 5am depending on the forecast.

Standard spread rate will be 10g/m2 but increased in the event of extreme low temperature or snow.

Snow ploughs will be available for all routes but snowfalls must be greater than 30mm to be effective.

According to the council's Winter Service Plan 2023-2024, the responsibility for general and winter maintenance of motorways has been awarded to private contractors employed directly by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

South Dublin County Council is responsible for carrying out winter maintenance on national, secondary, regional and local roads within the county.

SDCC have 100 salt bins located around the county which enable members of the public to access salt and treat locations that are not included in the standard treatment routes if they deem it necessary.



FROSTY WEATHER: Gritting will be carried out at 7pm and/or 5am

Christmas market . . . indoors

RESIDENTS are invited to attend an indoor Christmas market, which takes place in Ballyfermot, on Sunday, November 19.

The family fun market is at Ballyfermot Sports Complex, Gurteen Road, from 12.30pm to 4.40pm.

It will feature a wide array of festive goodies, including a visit from Santa, market stalls, children's colouring competition, entertainment and all-day refreshments.

All proceeds from the market go towards Mary Queen of Angels Primary School.

Kingswood Heights meeting

KINGSWOOD Heights Residents' Association will hold its Annual General Meeting at 8pm on Monday November 20 in the old community centre building.

The meeting is an opportunity for all to come together to hear about what is going on in the area and raise any issues. Representatives from An Garda Siochana and political representatives will be in attendance.

THE Echo

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Remembering school's first principal – a charitable man

Eamonn Tuohy was a popular educator in Tallaght for many decades

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

EAMONN Tuohy, who was the first principal of Scoil Aonghusa in Tallaght and remained in that role for 18 years, has been remembered as an approachable and quietly charitable man.

Mr Tuohy passed away in Lisheen Springs Nursing Home in Rathcoole on October 27, at age 95, and the father-of-four was a popular educator in Tallaght for many decades.

He proudly hailed from Co Clare and trained as a teacher in St Pat's in Drumcondra. His first teaching job was in Marino, and in 1950 he got a teaching job in St Mary's NS in Tallaght village.

When the school separated into separate boys' and girls' schools in 1960, Mr Tuohy was appointed principal of the boys' school.

In 1975 he began his defining and longest role in his teaching career, as principal of the newly opened Scoil Aonghusa.

"It was a brand-new school," said Fr Ben Moran, the parish priest for St Aengus's who had worked with Mr Tuohy on many occasions over the years.

"He went down to the new school with some of the staff and some of the boys from St Mary's, because they lived closer to the new school.

"He was here with us from 1975 to 1993 – 18 years – and he was very involved in preparing children for their First Communion.

"He was also involved in the community project to make sure there were outings for children who might not have been able to have holidays.

"From his early days, he was very involved in St Vincent de Paul and he did a great deal of work in Fettercairn when that parish was set up.

"That's an aspect of his life that a lot of people wouldn't have known about, he didn't wear it on his sleeve."

Fr Moran added that a lot of people turned to Mr Tuohy, who lived in Rathfarnham, for advice as he was very friendly and approachable, and he also described him as "solid and reliable".

"He was greatly treasured, and greatly loved," said Fr Moran.

Eamonn Tuohy was predeceased by his wife Eithne and daughter Gabrielle, and is survived by his sons Dara, Eoin and Colm.

His funeral Mass was held in the Church of the Divine Word in Rathfarnham on October 30, followed by burial in Cruagh Cemetery, Rathfarnham.



APPROACHABLE: Eamonn Tuohy, hailed from Co. Clare

> "From his early days, he was very involved in St Vincent de Paul and he did a great deal of work in Fettercairn when that parish was set up. That's an aspect of his life that a lot of people wouldn't have known about



Councillor said it was 'increasingly more difficult to balance' her workload

SOCIAL Democrats councillor Carly Bailey stepped down from her position on Monday at South Dublin County Council's monthly meeting – her Rathfarnham and Templeogue seat co-opted by party colleague Justin Sinnott, a former Fingal County Council councillor, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

Ms Baily thanked everybody for their support and noted it was a "really good ride" since she was first elected to the council in 2019, and is "proud" to welcome Cllr Sinnott who arrives with a "huge wealth of experience."

With her family in attendance at the chamber, she said it had become "increasingly more difficult to balance" the heavy workload between her role as a councillor, her family and her work commitments, as the reason for her resignation.

Members were effusive in their praise for Ms Bailey, noting her strong advocacy work.

Cllr Leah Whelan (Sol) said they were part of the new crop of councillors in 2019 and praised Bailey's "enthusiastic regular and insightful contributions to all our meetings", and as a "hard hitter representing the community."

Cllr Eoin Ó Broin (SocDems) thanked Cllr Bailey for being a "soundboard" for him, and a big reason why he joined the party, and that her resignation means "big boots to fill."

SDCC chief executive Colm Ward praised Cllr Bailey as a "great advocate for your area and also an advocate in the chamber on lots of social issues."

Mayor Alan Edge recalled her work on the Repeal the 8th campaign and for taking the right decision, but noted it is a "shame that women of your calibre can't stay in local politics."

Newly elected Cllr Justin Sinnott thanked Ms Bailey for her support and for leaving a legacy which he has to live up to.

"It was a privilege to be elected to Fingal 2015 when I lived in Santry. We moved to Rathfarnham, and stress of buying a home I never want to do again. The stress of buying a home is worse than politics.

"I stepped away involuntarily in 2019, didn't think I'd be back, but looking forward to it," said Cllr Sinnott.

Ms Bailey, a lawyer, is currently an employee of the Social Democrats where she works as women's development manager. She is also the social policy officer with the One Family organisation.

Anger at 'attack on community and particularly the volunteers'

GAA Club pitches were vandalised with tyre tracks embedded into the ground

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie



DISGRACE: The GAA pitches in Kilnamanagh destroyed with tyre marks making it unplayable

ST KEVIN'S Killian's GAA Club said the vandalism of its pitch in Kilnamanagh this week was "unfortunate, annoying and preventable".

The pitch was damaged on Tuesday evening, with tyre tracks being embedded into the pitch and rendering it unplayable.

In a statement posted on Facebook, St Kevin's Killian's GAA Club expressed their disappointment and frustration at the situation.

"It's unfortunate, annoying and preventable that we awake again this morning to vandalism to our pitches," they wrote.

"As a club, we endeavour to provide games in a fun environment for our children and community.

"However, when random acts of vandalism like this occur it means our pitches will be out of action for months.

> **"We adhere to cuncil restrictions and keep off the pitch as required but [it] seems that doesn't apply to these mindless idiots! As a result, it's the community, kids and players that suffer!**

"We adhere to council restrictions and keep off the pitch as required but [it] seems that doesn't apply to these mindless idiots! As a result, it's the community, kids and players that suffer!"

The damage to the pitch has "vexed" the local community, according to local councillors Charlie O'Connor (FF) and Mick Duff (Ind) who released a joint statement about it.

"We strongly condemn the vandalism caused in the GAA pitch in Kilnamanagh, which was apparently caused by quads," they stated.

"It has really upset the local community and it's clearly, as far as we're concerned, an attack on the community and particularly the volunteers from St Kevin's Killian's who put in so much work.

"Both of us this morning [Wednesday] have gotten calls from all over Kilnamanagh and people are really vexed about this. It's an absolute disgrace.

"If anybody in the community has any information that could out the people that did this, we'd ask them to contact the guards directly."

Anyone with information can contact Tallaght Garda Station on (01) 666 6000.

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The *Echo* – Telling the whole story

Plans for houses near cul-de-sac 'harmful to open space of area'

Objectors also voiced their opposition to removal of trees planted 40 years ago

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie


HARMFUL: The site in Elmcastle opposite Kilnamanagh Community Centre

A PROPOSAL for the development of two houses on lands adjacent to 21 Elmcastle Court in Kilnamanagh has been refused planning permission.

In reaching its decision, South Dublin County Council said the development would "be harmful to the open space and recreational amenities of the area".

Applicant Noeleen Harte's plans for the site included the construction of two four-bedroom detached houses with dormer structures.

The houses were to consist of a living room, utility room, kitchen, toilet and store at ground floor, three bedrooms, toilet and store at first floor bedroom/attic area with ensuite at dormer attic level.

The proposal also included raising the existing side boundary wall to two-metres-high up to the main building line on the north-east.

Provision of the construction of new boundary wall between two dwellings and new 3.5m wide front entrances to both dwellings formed part of the plans.

Permission was also sought for the removal of existing trees at the south-east of the site and replanting of the same species trees to the north-east.

> **"Elmcastle Court is a small cul-de-sac with 21 homes, and the majority of residents object to building on this site, which is . . .**

Ms Harte also planned to extend the public road and footpath to be taken in charge on Elmcastle Court and to relocate the existing public lighting pole at the south-east of the site.

The application attracted two objections from local residents Chris O'Brien, and Marion and Lewis Meer.

The objectors all voiced their opposition to the proposed removal of the trees, while Mr O'Brien pointed out that Elmcastle residents had planted the trees approximately 40 years ago.

"Elmcastle Court is a small cul-de-sac with 21 homes, and the majority of residents object to building on this site, which is an integral part of our small community," wrote Mr O'Brien in his objection.

"The trees provide cover and a barrier to noise from the busy Kilnamanagh Community Centre which faces us."

On November 1, South Dublin County Council refused permission for the development as it "would set an undesirable precedent for other similar developments, which would in themselves and cumulatively, be harmful to the open space and recreational amenities of the area".

The council also noted that the subject site is zoned to preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities and, as such, the proposal would "materially contravene the zoning objective for the site".

Liffey Sound 96.3fm adds to their trophy collection with two CRAOL Gold awards

LIFFEY SOUND 96.4FM added more awards to their trophy collection at the CRAOL, the national awards for community radio in Ireland, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

Members of the Lucan radio station's outside broadcast team won Gold for their work at the Lucan Festival.

Meanwhile, DJ Ava Vox also won Gold, in recognition of her excellent music show 'The Underground Sessions.'

CRAOL held their annual Achievement awards in the Sheraton Hotel in Athlone on October 26.

A Liffey Sound spokesperson said: "Huge congratulations to our outside broadcast team, Kelly Darcy, Maria Murphy, Gary Gibson, Jon White and Stephen O Sullivan, who won Gold in the category Creativity & Effectiveness – Value to the Community' for our coverage of the Lucan Festival 2022.

"And congratulations to Ava Vox who won Gold in the category Social Benefit Music for her programme The Underground Sessions. Ava's programme is broadcast 7pm-9pm every Tuesday. Tune in for the best of punk, rock and alternative music, interviews and updates on gigs. All our radio presenters are volunteers and it was fantastic that their hard work was recognised in this way."

Anyone who would like to volunteer and present a programme with the Lucan station, is encouraged to email Station Manager Mairéad Cullen for details at stationmanager@liffeysoundfm.ie

Visit www.liffeysoundfm.ie or catch up on their Facebook.



GLITTERS: CRAOL awards for Lucan's Liffey Sound 96.3fm

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

Honey is the sweetest harvest



SWEETNESS: Honey bees visit flat open flowers where nectar is easy to gather

HONEY bees spend the summertime preparing for the food shortages that the coming winter will bring.

In early spring and summer they gather nectar for its sugars, converting this into honey which they feed to their developing young.

Closer to the end of summer, however, their main aim is to make honey for their winter store.

A honey bee sips nectar from flowers through her straw-like tongue.

While she continues to work, she temporarily stores the nectar in a special 'honey stomach'. This is different to her own stomach where her own food is digested.

Flower nectar consists of 70-80 per cent water, with the remaining ingredients being a mixture of sugars like sucrose, glucose, and fructose.

In the bee's honey stomach, special enzymes begin to break down these sugars.

They also make the mixture more acid which helps to kill any bacteria that might be present.

When she returns to the hive, the bee regurgitates the nectar from her honey stomach and passes it to the hive honey bees.

They, in turn, pass it by mouth from bee to bee.

In the warm hive, this process helps to evaporate the water from the mixture and to concentrate the sugars.

The mixture becomes honey when the water content drops to less than 20 percent.

Bacteria and mould cannot grow on such a low water content. This makes honey a clean sterile food for the honey bees, and for us.

The honey is sealed into special wax chambers and used over winter.

In mild winters, honey bees may still be seen collecting nectar from garden flowers.

By collecting nectar whenever they can, they are helping to save the bulk of the stored honey to feed the first generation of new larvae in the following spring.

It is suggested that it takes 12 bees their entire lives working together to make a single teaspoon of honey.



LOVELY: The nectar from Heather produces excellent honey



NEW LEASE: Lisa Fitzgerald

Lisa Fitzgerald shares her experience

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

A TALLAGHT woman who said a kidney transplant "transformed" her life, presented a case study of her own experiences at a briefing session for Oireachtas members last week.

Lisa Fitzgerald, who lives in Kiltipper, shared her experience of being on dialysis and the all-consuming wait for a kidney transplant.

In 2018, when she was pregnant with her second child, Lisa became aware of an underlying issue with her kidneys which escalated after she gave birth.

Both of her kidneys began to rapidly fail after she had her baby, and she had to undergo dialysis both at home and in St Vincent's University Hospital while also caring for her newborn.

"I didn't know what my future held," Lisa previously told *The Echo*. "I didn't know if I'd be around for my children. I was a very sick mam.

"Until you're in this situation you don't know anything about it. There was no family history. I didn't know what the future meant."

In February 2019, however, Lisa received news that would change her prospects and, in a very literal sense, give her a new lease of life.

At that point, she had been on dialysis for over four months when she got the call she'd been waiting for – a kidney had become available, and it was a match for her.

"It transformed my life," Lisa previously told *The Echo*. "Energy-wise, the difference was massive. I'd been on dialysis four times a day with a young baby.

"It was a gift for me and for my family.

"After I received the kidney, I wrote a letter thanking the donor's family not only for my life but also my kids, they knew they were going to have their mam around."

Lisa presented her experience at a briefing session led by the Irish Kidney Association (IKA) last Wednesday,

> **"Earlier diagnosis and intervention are critical and will reduce costs and deliver better health outcomes for the estimated 500,000 people in Ireland with Chronic Kidney Disease. Our briefing session with TDs and senators today was a valuable opportunity to raise awareness about the silent epidemic of Chronic Kidney Disease**



New Kidney changed my life

s in the Dáil with a presentation of her case study

November 8, in Leinster House.

The focus of the event was on how early intervention, as well as transplantation, is essential to improving the lives of chronic kidney disease patients.

The briefing also highlighted that early intervention could lead to direct savings in both healthcare and legal costs.

Speaking following the briefing session, CEO of the Irish Kidney Association Carol Moore said: "Chronic Kidney Disease is a widespread health concern in Ireland, affecting approximately 500,000 people.

This equates to between one in ten in the general population and one in seven of the over 65s population.

"Earlier diagnosis and intervention are critical and will reduce costs and deliver better health outcomes for the estimated 500,000 people in Ireland with Chronic Kidney Disease.

"Our briefing session with TDs and senators today was a valuable opportunity to raise awareness about the silent epidemic of Chronic Kidney Disease, with its health, economic and environmental impacts, and focus on the urgent need for comprehensive action by policymakers and its inclusion as part of the HSE Chronic Disease Management Programme."



MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Lisa Fitzgerald outside the Dáil

First the coffee . . . then the wedding – in Bewley's



MAGICAL: Luke Carton and Sarah Brittain

A LOCAL couple became the first to be married in Bewley's of Grafton Street, 20 years after their first date in the iconic café, *reports Jenna Schweikert .*

Sarah Brittain and Luke Carton from Perrystown met as children when both of their families were adopting children from Romania.

"We were always the older kids at the special meet-ups for families who had adopted. I was always looking out for Sarah, and eventually I plucked up the courage to ask her out," said Luke.

The then 18-year-olds agreed to meet in Bewley's for their first date on June 15, 2003.

"We each had a mocha, which was a first for both of us. The place was buzzing, and it has been magical for us ever since," said Sarah.

"We really wanted to do something special for our wedding and we rang Bewley's more in hope than expectation after a friend said they might go for it," said Sarah, a social worker.

"We thought they might think we were nuts, but they said yes and within a short space of time the plans were being laid for the first Bewley's wedding."

The venue hosted the full ceremony and reception for 90 people upstairs in the café and such was the success of the event that Bewley's are now taking bookings for further weddings and other private events at the historic venue.

"Bewley's has always inspired the most magical stories – from their first date to our first wedding, we are thrilled that Sarah and Luke are the first to taste our afternoon tea experience," said Bewley's Café Managing Director, Cól Campbell.

Bewley's first afternoon tea experience, featuring a lavish selection of savoury and sweet treats made in their in-house bakery, launched Thursday November 9.

Sarah and Luke were the first to experience afternoon tea in Bewley's.

"Getting married here was a fantasy of ours, and it went like a dream," said Sarah.

"The whole staff got behind it and it was like we had another family putting on the day. The team at the café took us through the whole process – from the most amazing food-tasting through to fixing my dress on the day.

"The food was unbelievable – a lot of the guests said it was the best wedding food they ever had."

The two children that the families adopted – Luke's brother Aaron and Sarah's sister Anna were witnesses at the wedding.

The couple were also walked down the aisle by their three children Harry (11), Ollie (7) and Milo (3).

> **"We really wanted to do something special for our wedding and we rang Bewley's more in hope than expectation after a friend said they might go for it**

Bumbleance service makes a hospital visit for this schoolgirl a little bit easier

A LITTLE girl has overcome her dread of hospital visits by becoming the first child with epidermolysis bullosa (EB), to use the children's ambulance service, Bumbleance.

Casey Connors attends an outpatient clinic regularly to receive treatment for the painful and incurable condition, which causes skin to break out in blisters at the slightest touch.

But the 11-year-old schoolgirl, who lives next to the Liffey Valley shopping centre in Dublin 22, hated going to Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children in Crumlin because she had to fast before her treatment for EB.

Casey lives with the most severe form of the condition – recessive dystrophic EB.

Also known as Butterfly Skin, EB is caused by the absence of essential proteins that bind the skin together.

Casey's hospital journeys are now a lot more enjoyable after a brightly coloured Bumbleance arrives at her door.

It is the world's first dedicated ambulance service for children, and all of its 15 vehicles have been designed to transform a feared hospital appointment into a fun day out.

Making 2,000 trips each year, each of the distinctive yellow and black Bumbleances are kitted out with flat-screen TVs with access to Netflix, PlayStations and iPad Airs to help keep worried youngsters distracted.

Children can also listen to music or read a book from the Bumbleance library as they travel to hospital.

There is also onboard wi-fi, which allows families to stay in touch with loved ones through social media.

Casey's mum, Rachel, said her daughter used to dread hospital visits, but now can't wait for her next journey aboard the Bumbleance to her appointment in Crumlin.

"Normally, going to hospital can be very stressful for Casey," she said.

"But the Bumbleance experience makes the trip calm and relaxed.

"It was great being dropped off and then collected after a long day in the outpatients' department.

"The Bumbleance staff were really nice and helpful, and they took time to show Casey all the stuff on board for her to do before we drove off.

"Casey was enjoying herself so much that she wasn't thinking about her hospital appointment at all, or annoyed by having to fast beforehand.

"We will definitely use Bumbleance again."



CALM: Casey Connors with her mam Rachel and (inset) Casey in Bumbleance

"Normally, going to hospital can be very stressful for Casey," she said. But the Bumbleance experience makes the trip calm and relaxed. It was. . .

Casey and Rachel also receive support from national charity, Debra, which helps the estimated 300 people in Ireland living with EB.

"Our team are delighted that Casey and Rachel had such a lovely first experience with Bumbleance," said Ian Fallon, General Manager, Bumbleance.

"We are committed to meeting the needs of children and communities nationwide. By working with Debra, Bumbleance has been able to ensure that children with EB receive the necessary care and attention while en route to their medical appointments."

'Seven months of hell' during development of warehouse unit

Resident fears what impact the building has had on houses that are 100 years old

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

THE residents of Colbert's Fort in Belgard have been "forgotten about", according to a local resident who said he has been going through "seven months of hell" due to a development near his house.

A warehouse unit is currently being constructed at Belgard Retail Park, and a local resident, who asked to remain anonymous, said he has had repeated issues with the contractors on site.

Some of the issues he contacted *The Echo* about include work being carried out on bank holidays, and a cherry picker being left at his property's wall overnight with the orange flashing light left on.

He added that a compactor has also been used in close proximity to his property, which he said causes vibrations to be felt around his house.

"It is one thing to state they can build for five years but it truly feels like the residents of Colbert's Fort have been forgotten about," the resident wrote in correspondence to the council seen by *The Echo*.

"It would have me question if the council failed to note this is a residential area when passing the permission for the build.

"The impact this has had on our physical and mental health is beyond anything that anyone should have to suffer.

"Seven months and still going, despite the council suggesting the [developers would] be moving to an internal fit as of September 15.

"Additionally, I fear to think what impact this has had on houses that will be 100 years old next year."

The resident said that large vehicles from the development site have been parked up against his back garden wall on a regular basis, adding to his annoyance.

The Echo understands that the work is nearing completion, but the resident added that "our small piece of Tallaght history seems to have been long forgotten and wilfully ignored by the council regards the disturbances."

A South Dublin County Council spokesperson told *The Echo* last Friday morning: "Planning enforcement inspectors visited the site on the November 9, 2023.

"External works, and car-parking to the side adjacent to Colbert's Fort are finished, and landscaping is nearly completed. The internal fit-out is also ready to accept stock.

"There really shouldn't be cause for more disturbances outside of normal permitted business within the retail park, as the development is now nearing completion."



FRUSTRATION: Project is nearing completion, according to council

Suspect 'B' swung the saddle and struck her to side of face

Man involved in attack on young woman will be sentenced next month

A YOUNG man involved in an attack in which a young woman lost the sight permanently in one eye will be sentenced next month, *reports Eimear Dodd and Jessica Magee.*

Alanna Quinn Idris was hit in the face with the saddle of an electric scooter by a male during an attack by four youths on her and a friend on the Ballyfermot Road on December 30, 2021.

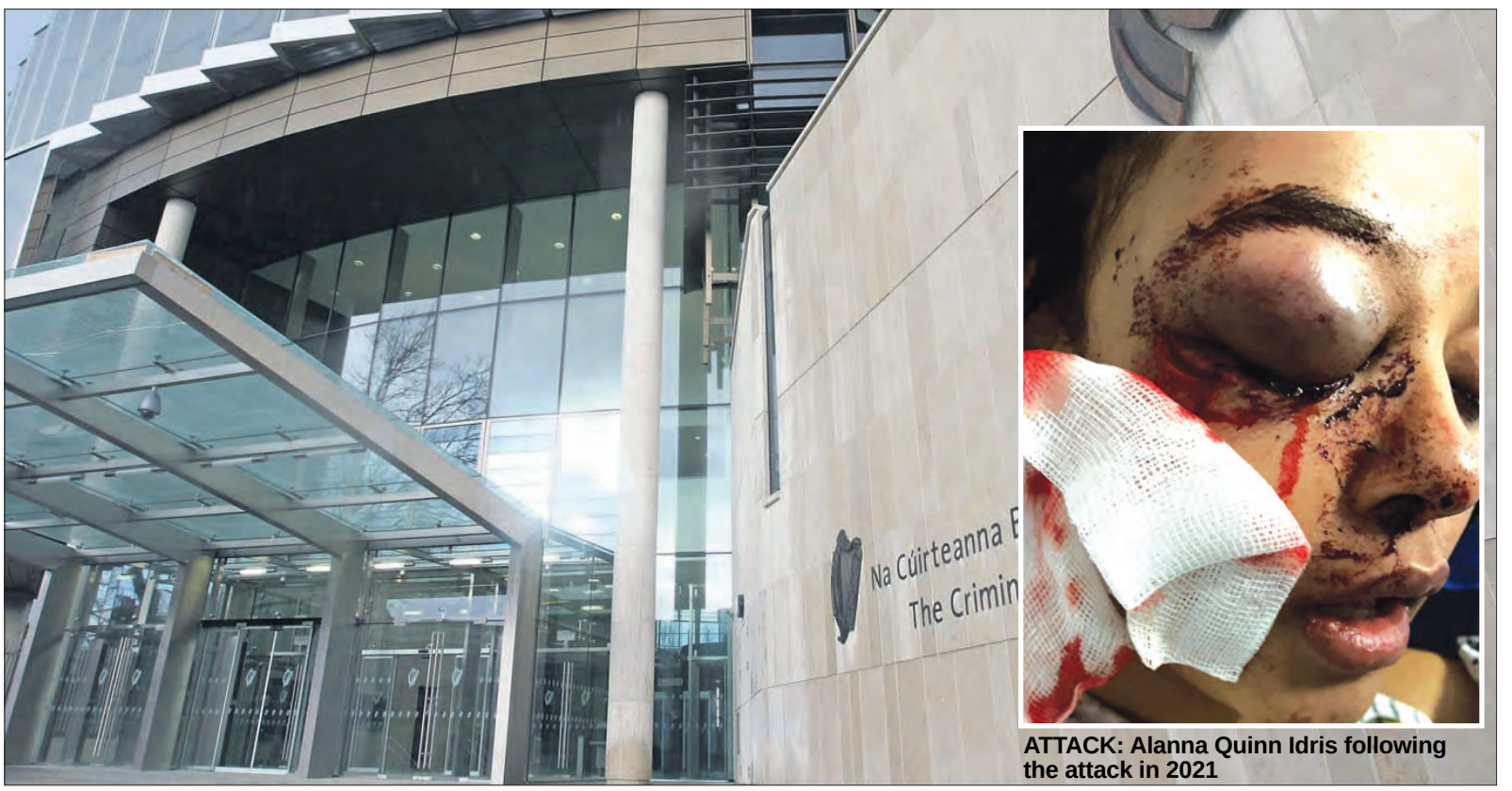
Ms Quinn Idris, then aged 17, was knocked unconscious and left with a shattered tooth, broken cheekbone, and a ruptured eyeball. Despite numerous reconstructive surgeries, she has lost vision permanently in her right eye as a result of the attack.

Josh Cummins (19), of Raheen Drive, Ballyfermot, pleaded guilty to intentionally or recklessly causing serious harm to Ms Quinn Idris.

He further pleaded guilty to a count of violent disorder and one of production of an article, a hurley, in the course of a dispute.

He also pleaded guilty to assault causing harm to Louis O'Sullivan as part of the same incident. Cummins has no previous convictions.

In March of this year, his co-accused, Darragh Lyons (19), was sentenced to four-and-a-half years in prison for assault causing serious harm to Ms Quinn Idris.



ATTACK: Alanna Quinn Idris following the attack in 2021

Lyons, of Weir View, Glenaulin, Chapelizod, pleaded guilty to assault causing harm to Louis O'Sullivan and to violent disorder as part of the same incident.

Another accused, described in court as 'Suspect A' is before the courts. The fourth male, 'Suspect B', has not been identified.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard that the case is based on the principle of joint enterprise, where if two or more people enter into a plan to commit a crime, each person is responsible for the actions of all the others in pursuit of that common design.

Garda Kieran Murphy told Edward Doocey BL, prosecuting, that the four males carried out an organised and violent attack on Ms Quinn Idris and Mr O'Sullivan, who were unarmed.

Garda Murphy told the court that the attack took place in a residential area next to Ballyfermot Civic Centre at 9.40pm on the night in question.

Ms Quinn Idris and Mr O'Sullivan, along with another friend, got a bus home from Liffey Valley Shopping Centre at 9.25pm.

'Suspect A' was on the bus, but there was no interaction between the parties at this stage.

The attack took place a short time after a brief verbal dispute between 'Suspect A' and Mr O'Sullivan after all parties had got off the bus.

'Suspect A' phoned Cummins, who arrived at the scene on an electric scooter with 'Suspect B'.

Ms Quinn Idris, Mr O'Sullivan and their friend crossed the road. The two victims waited outside while their friend went into their house.

The court heard Cummins and 'Suspect B' walked along the opposite side of the road to where the victims were standing, before returning to the bus stop where they were joined by 'Suspect A' and Lyons. Cummins retrieved a hurl he had left by a tree near the bus stop.

Garda Murphy said the four males then crossed the road towards Ms Quinn Idris and Mr O'Sullivan. They were screaming: "Do you want a knock?"

Lyons ask Mr O'Sullivan if he wanted a "straightener". Ms Quinn Idris intervened and was punched by Lyons in the face.

'Suspect B' removed the saddle from the electric scooter. Lyons and Mr O'Sullivan were fighting, and Cummins and 'Suspect B' also began attacking Mr O'Sullivan.

Ms Quinn Idris attempted to pull Lyons and Cummins off her friend. She also tried to stop 'Suspect B' from striking her friend with the saddle.

'Suspect B' then swung the saddle at Ms Quinn Idris and struck her to the side of the face. She was knocked unconscious. The court heard some of the group jumped over Ms Quinn Idris while she was laying on the ground to continue the attack..

Garda Murphy said all four males were involved in the attack on Mr O'Sullivan, during which he was stabbed in the left arm.

The court heard a knife was found at the scene, but it is not attributed to Cummins. The attack lasted one minute and stopped when passing motorists intervened. The four males fled the scene.

Mr O'Sullivan was punched to the head and struck multiple times by the hurley and the saddle.

He was taken to hospital by ambulance and was treated for a cut to the top of his head and a 2cm stab wound to his arm, both of which required stitches. He also had bruising and tenderness.

Ms Quinn Idris was also taken to hospital by ambulance with a broken eye socket and then transferred to the Eye and Ear Hospital where she underwent emergency surgery.

She has since had numerous reconstructive surgeries to her right eye socket and a bone graft taken from her hip.

She has lost vision permanently in one eye, the court heard.

CCTV footage of the attack was played to the court.

Cummins was identified from CCTV. He was arrested on February 6, 2022 and interviewed three times with a solicitor and his father present. Nothing of evidential value was obtained from the interviews.

Garda Murphy agreed with Anne Rowlands SC, defending, that her client arrived at the scene after receiving a call from Suspect 'A', who is related to him. It was accepted that there was no history between Cummins and the victims.

It was also agreed that Cummins is the youngest of the accused and that there is no suggestion that Cummins struck Ms Quinn Idris.

The garda accepted that Cummins gave his phone and pin number to gardai, which was of assistance.

Ms Rowlands told the court this was a "vicious assault" and said Ms Quinn Idris was a "courageous young woman who attempted to defend her friend".

She said her client left school at 13 and was working at the time of the attack.

A probation report and letters from Pieta House and Cummin's aunt were handed to the court.

Judge Codd adjourned the case to December 11, and remanded Cummins on continuing bail. A plea of mitigation on behalf of Cummins will be made on the next date.

Government slammed for its attitude to the funding for mental health services

THE Government has been accused of not prioritising mental health spending for the sixth year in a row, after figures were released by the HSE.

Sinn Féin spokesperson on Mental Health Mark Ward TD for Dublin Mid-West said that successive Governments have failed to prioritise mental health

Deputy Ward said: "Once again the Government has failed to increase mental health spending in relation to the overall health budget.

"A response I received from a parliamentary question stated that the overall percentage of spending for mental health in the health budget remained at 5.8 per cent for 2024.

"We have seen a steady decrease in this figure, with 6.3 per cent in 2019 of the overall health budgets spent on mental health to 5.8 per cent this year.

"We are headed in the wrong direction as international recommendations and those set out in Sláintecare for mental health spending are 16 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively, of the overall health budget.

"We will have to wait until the HSE release their National Service Plan next year, to see where this funding will go.

"But what we can take from the Minister is that the National Clinical Programmes for Mental Health, which include those for eating disorders, self-harm and suicide prevention, ADHD in adults, early intervention in psychosis and perinatal mental health, will go a second year without additional funding. How can these vital programmes expand if they are not funded properly?

"Current and past governments are failing to grasp the mental health emergency that we are facing, and this lack of true increased spending will have knock-on consequences for the service provision, waiting times and the treatment of service users.

"Sinn Féin proposed a new spend of €75 million in our alternative budget. In government we would raise the spending to meet the required recommended percentage.

"The Government has thrown in the towel on mental health. The longer Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael are in Government, the worse things will get.

"People and their families deserve a mental health service that works for them and Sinn Féin is committed to delivering this as a priority."

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 Neilstown stalwart Marie Murray



HAPPY DAYS: Marie Murray relaxes at home

The Echo – celebrating community for over 40 years



STIRRING: Marie Murray making a pudding . . .



WORK AND PLAY: Marie Murray showing off her battered cook book

I'D LIKE to start this week's Faces of the community feature a little differently if that's okay with you dear reader.

This week's subject is close to your correspondent's heart.

Allow me to explain.

I grew up in North Clondalkin, Moorfield to be precise. When we moved to the area in 1978 there was absolutely nothing there.

There were no amenities at all. There were no schools, no church and Mrs Nolan's van in a garden in Neilstown was the closest thing we had to a shop.

Hard as it may be to believe when you look around the area these days, we were surrounded by countryside.

It was positively pastoral and whilst that had a certain appeal in many ways, there was a significant downside to residing in this bucolic splendour.

There was nothing to do.

Eventually we got a small prefabricated building, which we all called The Prefab.

This became the social hub of Neilstown and in the early days of the parish it was our church and our most important resource.

Now that we had a building of sorts, the time came when Neilstown parish could start some groups and activities. This would bring the people of the area together and begin to foster the community spirit which would become Neilstown's trademark.

As is often the case with such endeavours, it took a coterie of local ladies to get things started. This group included my own dear, departed mother and was in many ways, led by this week's luminary, Marie Murray.

Marie has been a pillar of the Neilstown community from the very beginning and recently she sat down with *The Echo* to discuss her life and work in the service of her friends and neighbours.

"We moved to Neilstown in November 1977 and at that time most of the Neilstown and Moorfield estates hadn't even been built yet so while we were delighted with the house, it certainly was basic in terms of infrastructure and services," she tells me.

"By the time they put up the prefab, I'd become friends with a good few of the local women, and between us, we set about using it for projects that would benefit the community."

Marie continues; "The first group I set up was a mother and toddler group in the prefab. There were a lot of women with young children in the area and that proved to be a great success."

Indeed, it was such a success that Marie's next project was to set up a playschool, which she led from its foundation in 1979 to 1981.

She also had a huge hand in setting up the Neilstown Ladies Club, an endeavour she remembers with great fondness.

"The Ladies Club was so much fun," she says, "We did nothing but laugh. You'd really look forward to it once a week and we went on loads of outings and trips. I could tell you some stories," she laughs.

It should be pointed out that Marie is absolutely insistent that the women who worked alongside her get appropriately fulsome praise.

She tells me; "It was a group of us really that got everything going. There was Marie Geraghty, Phyllis Herbert, Emer McCabe, Ann Ward, Geraldine Walsh and Lily Kinsella. To this day we're the best of friends and we've been there for each other through thick and thin."

Your correspondent can tell you first-hand that a more formidable and admirable group of ladies you'd struggle to assemble.

"We also had great support and encouragement from many other people. The late and much missed Fr Dolan, our first parish priest, was a tremendous source of support and encouragement."

As the community grew, Marie found herself in the thick of everything that was going on. St Peter the Apostle school was opened in 1979 and following years of volunteering, Marie would eventually be the first layperson to be chairperson of the school.

She also helped start the parish choir, set up a sewing and knitting group, Neilstown Variety Group with her great friend Shay Hegarty, back to work schemes and numerous other ventures which improved the lives of countless people in the Neilstown area.

All of this was voluntary work of course, and she had to juggle it all with her day jobs, first as a social worker and tutor for the Eastern Health Board, and then a seven-year stint in the nineties at St. Luke's hospital.

On top of all of this, Marie was also, from 1998 to 2013 the liaison officer between the church and the community and worked for the Saint Vincent de Paul.

Marie cites Sr Mary, Fr Dolan and beloved former Headmaster of St. Peter the Apostle school Mr Burke-Walsh as great influences on the work she did in the area.

I jokingly ask her how she found time for a home life and she speaks even more passionately about her family.

"Well I'm married to Dave, who worked for Toyota in Ballyfermot before spending thirty years at AIB Donnybrook. We have three boys, Raymond who's now 52, Brian who's 49 and Derek who's 48. Considering we had all boys, it's funny that they had all girls, because we've now got five granddaughters."

Once the nest had emptied, Marie and Dave then took on daycare responsibilities to two little girls who were born with Cerebral Palsy, Carla and Lyndsey.

Marie tells me; "Unfortunately Lyndsey passed away some years ago but Carla is still going strong and is still a huge part of our family."

I could honestly fill the whole paper with tales of Marie's achievements and work in the Neilstown community but suffice to say she is a heroine of the Neilstown community and we're lucky to have her.

"None of it ever felt like work," Marie says. "It was such a pleasure and hopefully I made a difference and helped the community become as strong and vibrant as it is today."

"I had a great time and made lifelong friends who I can rely on for anything to this very day."

"You really can't put a pricetag on that."



AT HOME: Marie Murray could tell some stories

> "It was a group of us really that got everything going. There was Marie Geraghty, Phyllis Herbert, Emer McCabe, Ann Ward, Geraldine Walsh and Lily Kinsella. To this day we're the best of friends . . .

Drugs and Alcohol Task Force to launch Building Voices Project

Community Repesentatives Forum is a group of women who came together to raise issues

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

CLONDALKIN Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (CDATF) Community Rep's Forum will be launching their Building Voices Project in the Vue Cinema, Liffey Valley, on Thursday, November 23, at 10.30am.

The CDATF Community Representatives Forum is a group of local women who have come together over the last two years to highlight issues associated with substance misuse which impact their families and communities.

At the Mansion House in May, the group officially launched their work, which trains local people as community representatives.

The women have developed a training handbook and video in what is thought to be a first across the 24 taskforces nationally.

"It has been a hugely successful project and process and captures the life of a Community Rep and how they got involved in community work and why they did so," said a CDATF spokesperson.

At the Mansion House launch in May, the group said they believe these tools could be used effectively in other drug task force communities, a view shared by then Lord Mayor of Dublin Caroline Conroy, who would "like to see it replicated in other areas."

Speaking at the launch, Anna Quigley, joint co-ordinator of the City Wide Drugs Crisis Campaign, said it is "crucial" the community are involved in decision making with regard to the approach to drug abuse.

"If you don't have knowledge of what is going on, on the ground, you don't have the expertise," said Ms Quigley.

The video illustrates a Clondalkin community from an aerial vantage point, and the viewer hears residents from different parts of the estate in their conversations and meetings they have held to make a change.

To register for the Liffey Valley screening on Eventbrite visit https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/the-building-voices-project-tickets-746053785957?aff=oddtdtcreator



BUILDING VOICES: Sadhbh Lawlor, Fiona O'Brien, Lynda Cunningham, Noreen Byrne, Andrea Malone, Sharon Lysaght and Tara Deacy in the Mansion House in May

> "It has been a hugely succesful project and process and captures the life of a Community Rep and how they got involved in community work and why they did so

ADVERTORIAL

Jingle all the way to Croke Park to join Santa at his Christmas training camp!

Fans of the festive season and Gaelic games will be thrilled to hear that Santa Claus is preparing his sleigh and reindeer for his annual trip to Croke Park!

Santa will arrive at the GAA Museum at Croke Park in Dublin on Saturday November 18th and will be available to meet all the girls and boys on selected dates until Friday 22nd December when he has to depart to attend to the pressing matter of checking lists twice and preparing his Christmas deliveries! This unique Santa Experience is one Christmas 'goal' not to be missed!

Santa's tree-mendous team from the North Pole are setting up their training camp in Croke Park and they'd love boys and girls and their families to visit, as they prepare for their magical journey around the world, on Christmas Eve.

While on the Croke Park Santa Experience all visitors are VIP's as they get fascinating behind the 'winter wonderland' scenes access. Guided by the Ice Patrol team you'll be treated to an exclusive peek inside the North Pole GAA Dressing Rooms, you can see where all your favourite hurling and football stars tog out on game day. Next you'll journey to the super Skills Zone, where you can play a 'cool' selection of fun, festive games. Then it's time to write your letter to Santa at Cú Chulainn's Den, where you can get it stamped with our official Sam & Liam stamps and post it in our GAA Museum post box!

Just as excitement reaches fever pitch' it will be time to step into the very special Croke Park Cabin to meet the Bainisteoir of Christmas himself. You can take a photo with Santa and tell him about your predictions for the 2024 GAA All-Ireland Championship! Here, every child will receive a small GAA-themed gift and photos will also be available to purchase if you wish, or you can capture your own!



The Croke Park Santa Experience also includes access to the award winning GAA Museum, which gives a unique insight into the history of GAA in Ireland and which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. When you are in the museum you can see the original Sam Maguire and Liam MacCarthy cups. Make sure to collect your GAA Museum Junior Explorer passport and follow the North Pole GAA trail - find the answers to the clues that the museum mascot Cluasóg has left throughout the museum and you'll be rewarded with a prize for your excellent efforts!

Not only that, but all Santa visitors will be treated to a 50% discount voucher on Stadium Tours.

After working up an appetite, finish off the perfect day with light refreshments and a festive snack in the museum's Blackthorn Café. And before you leave, you can even pick up a stocking filler reminder of your big day in the GAA Museum Gift Shop or shop there anytime on crokepark.ie/shop!

Santa will arrive at Croke Park on Saturday November 18th and the Santa Experience will run on selected dates until Friday December 22nd. The experience is run in groups, lasts 50 minutes and is wheelchair and buggy accessible. Free parking is available outside the GAA Museum with entry to Croke Park at St Joseph's Avenue (turn at the Daybreak Shop on the Clonliffe Road). All tickets must be pre-booked online in advance at crokepark.ie/santa.

Tickets prices (excluding booking fees) are as follows:

Adults: €13

Children aged 2 upwards: €20 (including gift)

Children aged 13 months – 23 months: €14 (including gift)

Children Under 1: Free of charge and gift included, but ticket must be booked

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please contact us at santa@crokepark.ie if you wish to learn more about sensory visits.

Please note, that if you are booked into the last two slots of each day, access to the GAA Museum is advised before your Santa Experience visit.

For dates, tour times and booking, see www.crokepark.ie/santa

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Oishii Sushi invest €1m in new production facility

State-of-the-art facility in Bluebell will more than double companies production with 10 new jobs

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

OISHII Sushi announced it has made a significant investment of €1m in a 4,000 square foot, state-of-the-art production facility in Bluebell.

The new facility will enable Oishii to more than double its production and meet the business' forecasted growth levels of 50 per cent per annum over the next three years.

Having experienced a growth surge in the last 24 months, Oishii's workforce has grown from a staff of 20 to a 40-strong team.

The move to Bluebell is set to generate at least 10 additional jobs within the business.

Founded by Ciara Troy in 2006, the company operated from a kitchen in Smithfield and weathered many challenges, but this expansion will help to keep up with exceptional growth.

The company's sales have increased by 130 per cent during the past 24 months.

"This is a wonderful milestone for the Oishii business and team," said Oishii Sushi founder and managing director, Ciara Troy.

"This facility sees the culmination of years of hard work and hopes come to fruition. The specification and the future proofing which we have built into this new space will give us all the tools to allow us focus on more new product development and business expansion."

Supplying freshly made, premium sushi, the company say it is the largest supplier of fresh Japanese products to the retail sector in Ireland.

The business, which currently stocks many of Ireland's major retail outlets, will expand operations and increase output at it's dedicated site in Bluebell.

The business added more retail outlets to its distribution channels, not only nationwide in the Republic of Ireland but also across the border in Northern Ireland where Oishii sushi has been selling for more than 18 months.

> "This facility sees the culmination of years of hard work and hopes comes to fruition. The specification and the future proofing which we have built into this new space will give us all the tools to allow us focus on more new product development and business expansion.



MILESTONE: Ciara Troy, founder and managing director at Oishii Sushi

Timbertrove pick up bronze in the small family business awards

TIMBERTROVE picked up another award, scooping Bronze in the Small Family Business Awards.

Located at the foot of the Dublin mountains in Kilakee, near the Hell Fire Club, Timbertrove won an award in the category: Best Small Family Business of the Year, at the annual awards held in the Mansion House.

Timbertrove has introduced many innovations since it was founded in 1986 by Henry and Shirley O'Kelly.

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

The family business has evolved from a timber-based business to one that incorporates a popular country store and café.

Shirley O'Kelly MIMI, Director/Financial Controller, Timbertove Country Store & Café said they were delighted to receive the latest award and look forward to serving the wider community in the years to come.

In 2012, the O'Kelly's saw an opportunity to attract walkers and cyclists visiting the nearby Hellfire Club and Massy's Wood, by opening a country store and café.

It has gained a reputation over the past ten years for it's 'home baking in the heart of the Dublin Mountains.'

The story of Timbertrove by Shirley O'Kelly, was published last year by Oak Tree Press, and available in book stores and from SuccessStore.com, priced at €18.95.



AWARD: Henry and Shirley O'Kelly

E business

tel: 4685350 email: business@echo.ie

Pfizer expects to add 230 roles at Grange Castle and Ringaskiddy

100 job cuts in its Newbridge facility as part of cost-cutting plan

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

PFIZER is set to seek 100 redundancies at its manufacturing plant in Newbridge as part of a global cost-cutting plan.

However, the pharma giant expects overall growth in manufacturing operations next year, including an additional 230 roles at its Grange Castle and Ringaskiddy sites.

It is understood that most of the jobs in Newbridge will be voluntary redundancies, but some will be compulsory.

The Newbridge site impacts approximately 100 colleagues who work on the manufacture of Pfizer's covid antiviral treatment.

Siptu, which has almost 700 members at the Kildare site, said the news will be of huge concern to the workers, their families and the wider community.

Divisional organiser, Greg Ennis, said he believes around 100 redundancies will be sought as part of a €3.27bn global cost-cutting plan announced last month.

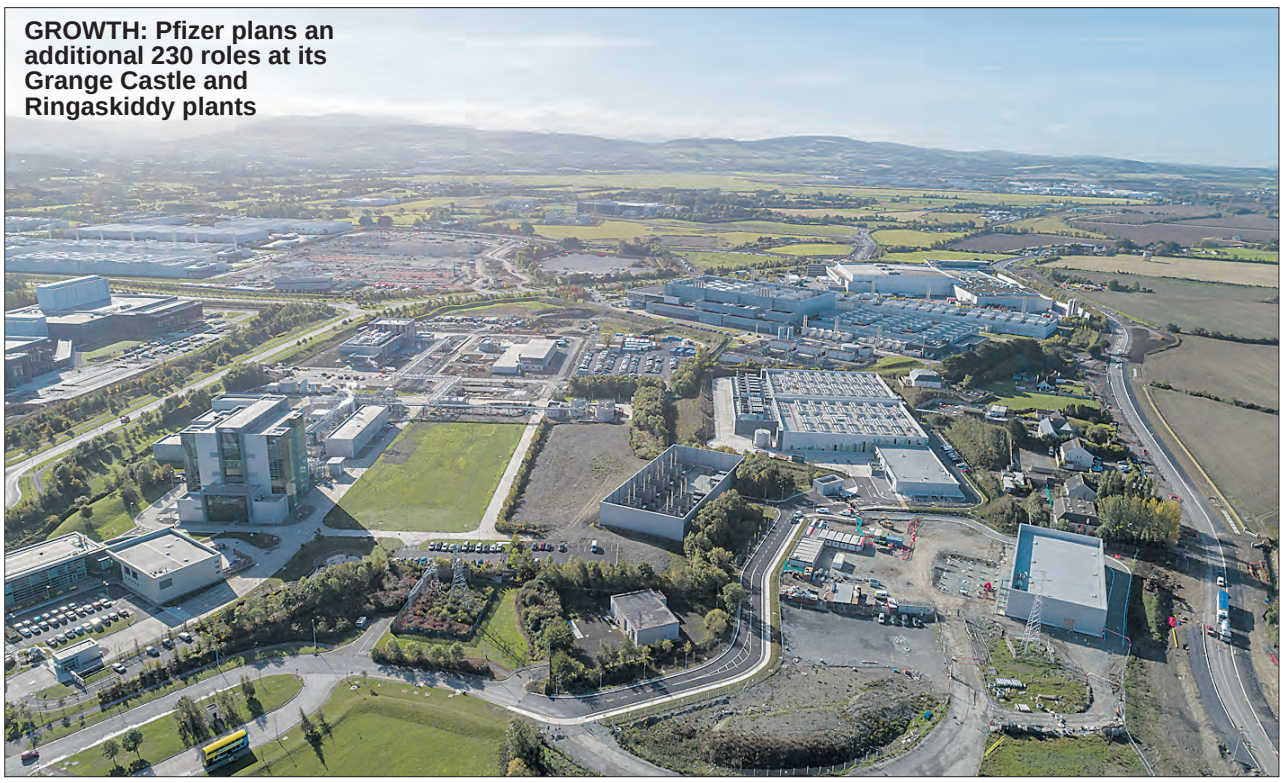
A Pfizer spokesperson said onsite operations were expanded in 2021 to meet pandemic needs but, considering the lower-than-expected utilisation for its Covid products, production is now scaling down due to poor uptake.

The company has launched an "enterprise-wide cost realignment programme" to operate more efficiently and effectively.

Pfizer expects overall growth in manufacturing operations next year, including an additional 230 roles at its Grange Castle and Ringaskiddy sites.

"We will be engaging with our colleagues and their representatives as applicable in relation to the planned changes," she said.

"Pfizer's manufacturing sites in Ireland play a key role in the manufacture of many of our leading and newest medicines. We have invested €8.4bn since operations began in 1969 and remain committed to expanding our Grange Castle site as announced in 2022," said a Pfizer spokesperson.



GROWTH: Pfizer plans an additional 230 roles at its Grange Castle and Ringaskiddy plants

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CarTrawler founder invests into cargo ship tracking technology firm

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

CO-FOUNDER of CarTrawler, Greg Turley, has bought into Net Feasa, Mike Fitzgerald's cargo ship technology firm, through his Roundtown Investments set-up.

Terenure businessman Greg Turley and his brothers Mark and Niall, built up the car-rental technology firm CarTrawler, before exiting the business for €110m in 2011.

They kept a 25 per cent in shareholding, and in 2014, the firm was sold again, in a deal valued at €450m.

Using super-low power internet-of-things technology to track shipping containers as they chug around the world, Fitzgerald has turned the Dingle-based Net Feasa into one of the smartest tech plays on the market.

Net Feasa's sensors provide real-time data for shipping firms and other users.

There are 30 million of these containers around the world and Fitzgerald aims to have a sensor in each one, as well as running the network that tracks them.

Greg Turley is CEO of RoundTown Investments, and also a Director of Ethanol Europe Renewables a developer of renewable energy projects in central Europe.



THE FUTURE: Greg Turley buys into Net Feasa

E business

tel: 4685350 email: business@echo.ie

US aerospace investor takes a majority stake in EirTrade

EirTrade now employs 93 people and had revenues of more than €83 million

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

AIRCRAFT-PARTS seller EirTrade Aviation, with operations at Rathcoole and Knock Airport, has secured investment from an American private equity backer.

Acorn Growth Companies, an Oklahoma-based investor in the aerospace and defence markets, has taken a majority stake in the company.

EirTrade Aviation has its operations in Greenogue Business Park, and at Knock Airport in Mayo.

Ken Fitzgibbon, who set up EirTrade in 2010, will retain a significant shareholding.

Patrick Jordan, the former Siteserv chief operating officer who came on board as an investor and chairman in 2019, also remains a shareholder.

EirTrade provides airlines, aviation asset managers and leasing companies with end-of-life solutions for their planes.

It disassembles the aircraft at its facilities in Rathcoole, Knock and in Dallas, Texas, where it opened a 22,000 sq ft facility in 2021.

Fitzgibbon would not divulge the value of the investment but said the company had "scaled quite heavily over the past four years, which allows us to go on to the next chapter."

EirTrade now employs 93 people. Latest accounts for 2022 show it had revenues of more than €83m and pre-tax profits of €3.5m.

Acorn will invest additional capital for large and strategic asset purchases, as EirTrade plans to scale the business, potentially moving into the Asian market.

Bolt-on acquisitions are also planned.

Adam Nemenyi, group chief executive of Sentry Aerospares, an Acorn portfolio company, will sit on EirTrade's board.

"Acorn knows aviation and knows how to build aviation companies," said Fitzgibbon.

Jordan's Atlantic Aviation Group last year acquired the Lufthansa Technik Shannon aircraft maintenance outfit.

The German company took restructuring charges of €15.7m before selling the former Shannon Aerospace business to Jordan.

"EirTrade provides airlines, aviation asset managers and leasing companies with end-of-life solutions for their planes. It disassembles the aircraft at its facilities in Rathcoole, Knock and in Dallas, Texas



KNOWS AVIATION: Ken Fitzgibbon retains a significant shareholding

'Fr Damo' to appear as guest speaker at Chamber lunch

SOUTH Dublin Chamber are hosting their annual Christmas lunch on December 8 in the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel in Newlands Cross, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

Members are invited to bring along colleagues and clients for one of the most enjoyable events in the Chamber's calendar.

Guest speaker for this year's lunch is actor Joe Rooney 'aka Fr Damo' from Fr Ted.

Joe is a successful actor and writer, having starred in numerous television shows, including Fr Ted and Killnaskully.

In more recent years Joe has had featured roles in TV3's Red Rock, CBBC's Roy and the feature films 'Monged' and 'South.'

The Chamber Christmas lunch takes place on Friday, December 8, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, at the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel on the Naas Road.

There will be the customary mulled wine at reception, a segment of the event which is sponsored by the hotel itself.

Cost of tickets is €85 per person or €800 for a table of ten.

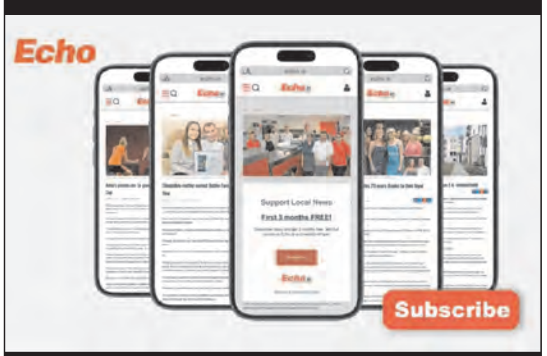
To book a place/table at the Christmas lunch, contact Cliodhna at 458 5247 or email cliodhna@sdchambber.ie



GUEST SPEAKER: Actor Joe Rooney, 'aka Fr Damo' from Fr Ted

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Plans for 25-unit apartment block on the Old Naas Road

Redevelopment entails demolition of existing shop and restaurant structure



REDEVELOPMENT: The site on the Old Naas Road in Bluebell

PLANNING permission is being sought for the construction of a 25-unit apartment block on the Old Naas Road in Bluebell.

Applicant Paul O'Reilly's redevelopment proposal entails demolition of the existing part two-storey/part single-storey shop and restaurant structure.

The construction of a new fully-serviced, five-storey apartment block development housing 25 units is included.

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

It's noted in the application that there are five units on each floor with balconies for each apartment unit, while access to the apartments is through a central lobby and lift.

The central core with stair and lift projects are to be located above the top floor onto a flat roof with a parapet around the roof.

There is a proposed single-storey structure separate for bins, plant and bikes to the side of the proposed apartment block.

The apartment ground will be surrounded by a wall and railing fence with entrance gate and piers onto the Old Naas Road, a green area and landscaping to front and sides, connection to the county council soil water and service water and all ancillary site works.

A decision on the application has not yet been made by Dublin City Council.

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Old post office site on Main Street Rathcoole has gone on the market

THE old post office site on Main Street in Rathcoole has gone on the market, with the price only available at the point of application, *reports Aideen O'Flaherty.*

The property has been billed as a prominent two-storey office building, and potential development opportunity on a 0.2-acre site, by selling agent Coonan Property.

The old post office building houses three offices, two reception rooms, a canteen and a waiting room on the ground floor, and three rooms and toilets are located on the first floor.

The subject site is zoned Village Centre and Residential Amenity in the 2016-2022 South Dublin County Council Development Plan for Rathcoole.

The services connected to the property include mains water and electric heating, and the site benefits from being near numerous public transport services and the M50 and M7 motorways.

"Rathcoole is well serviced by bus and road routes to the capital and is only a short drive to the Luas stop at Saggart which has very easy access to Dublin city," according to the property listing.

It is noted that there are currently no planning permissions pertaining to the land, and it has dual frontage to the main street and a side road.



POTENTIAL: The old post office site on Main Street Rathcoole

property

tel: 4685350 email: property@echo.ie

Proposal for seven warehouses at Greenogue Recycling facility

Permission is also sought for the demolition of existing green recycling structures

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

A PROPOSAL for the demolition of existing green recycling structures and the construction of seven warehouses at Greenogue Recycling's facility in Rathcoole has been submitted to the council.

Applicant John Gargle is seeking permission for the demolition works, and the construction of seven warehouses, with a maximum height of 15.3 metres.

The total floor area of the warehouse development is 16,602.2 m2, made up of seven units.

Unit 1 has a gross floor area of 3,851.1 m2, Unit 2 has a gross floor area of 3,886.8 m2, Unit 3 has a gross floor area of 2,758.3 m2, and Unit 4 has a gross floor area of 1,685.4 m2.

Unit 5 has a gross floor area of 1,062.2 m2, Unit 6 has a gross floor area of 1,679.2 m2, while Unit 7 has a gross floor area of 1,679.2 m2.

Access will be provided from the existing entrance to the site via Tay Lane.

Provision of new footpaths and cycle paths throughout the site, including a new footpath/cycle path connection to the Greenogue Logistics Park to the north of the site, is included.

Permission is also being sought for 170 car parking spaces and 100 secure, sheltered bicycle parking spaces to serve the warehouse units.

All ancillary site development works are included, such as minor realignment of the site entrance, landscaping, internal roads, drainage, utility services, service yards and HGV loading/unloading areas.

Also included are level access goods doors, dock levellers, site lighting, boundary treatments, signage, storm water drainage network, underground water and foul servicing and green roofs on warehouse units.

A decision on the application is due from South Dublin County Council by January 3.



PROPOSAL: The Greenogue Recycling facility in Rathcoole

Seven-unit apartment block approved on Old Lucan Road



PLANS: The site for the seven-unit apartment block on Old Lucan Road

PLANS for the construction of a seven-unit apartment block at Clarkesville Terrace on the Old Lucan Road in Palmerstown have been approved by South Dublin County Council, *reports Aideen O'Flaherty.*

Applicant John Corcoran has secured planning permission for a four-storey residential block, following the demolition of an existing dwelling on the site.

The development is to have an overall height of four-storeys above ground level, with a screened and set back fourth storey studio apartment visible from Old Lucan Road.

The residential units comprise one studio apartment, four one-bedroom apartments, and two two-bedroom apartments, while the plans also include a café unit in the building.

Private amenity space is to be provided in the form of balconies, while a communal amenity space will take the form of a centrally-located courtyard and open space area.

Provision of 23 bicycle parking spaces, hard and soft landscaping, changes in level, boundary treatments, pedestrian circulation, drainage works and communal refuse storage areas is included.

The council granted permission for the development on November 1.

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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

Is Bertie's appearance at FF Árd Fheis a signal for his Presidential ambitions?

Dear Editor,

THE prodigal son has returned to the fold. The Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis was graced by its former leader Bertie Ahern for the first time since he exited the party in 2012 in the wake of the Mahon tribunal findings.

His return has ramped-up speculation regarding his Presidential ambitions in 2025 to the Áras in Phoenix Park, up the road from Drumcondra.

The term Árd Fheis originates from the Gaelic meaning 'high assembly', now used by political parties to describe annual conventions. Parties approach the Árd Fheis in different ways, with Fine Gael holding one every two years with a smaller 'National Convention' in between. Fianna Fáil and Sinn Féin have an annual Árd Fheis.

The Labour Party holds a National Conference, while the Green Party had its annual conference in October. This year's Fianna Fáil Árd Fheis was less extravagant than the infamous Galway tent synonymous with Fianna Fáil's close ties with builders during the Celtic Tiger era.

As alluded to in last week's *Echo*, MEP Frances Fitzgerald (73) who represented Dublin constituency in the European Parliament since 2019 will not contest next year's European elections.

The MEP who served as a Minister under three Taoisigh is one of five Fine Gael MEPs in the parliament alongside Green Ciarán Cuffe, Independent Clare Daly and Fianna Fáil's Barry Andrews.

Senator Barry Ward is tipped to seek a nomination to contest Ms Fitzgerald's seat as FG prefers a non-sitting TD to be nominated to avoid the prospect of a byelection.

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh.

2023 Tallaght Person of The Year at The Civic

Dear Sir,

It was with great pleasure that Tallaght Community Council hosted the 40th Tallaght Person of The Year Awards 2023 at the Civic Theatre last Sunday. It truly was a night to remember.

This year the Tallaght Community Council Committee decided to put on a special theatre event to mark the big 40th.

The night began with a red carpet Prosecco reception for all the nominee guests and supporters. The Betelnut served a beautiful variety of hot and cold canapés while the nominees and supporters were entertained by the local trad band, Thirsty Sessions who play in St Anne's GAA club.

The Civic theatre was transformed into a luxurious and glamorous venue for the night with the full theatre team on hand to ensure the event passed off without a hitch.

The event ceremony had a full, high end stage production and was MC'd by Al Porter fresh from a nationwide tour and a sell-out gig in Vicar Street. The full house was entertained by Xquisite Dance led by John Nolan, Tallaght Choral Society conducted by Fr Donal Sweeney and the event was closed by a unique line-up of the brightest Tallaght musicians, who got together for the milestone event, and were "For One Night Only".

The event was attended by the Mayor Alan Edge, SDCC CEO Colm Ward, the gold sponsors and nominees.



AWARDS: Nico Crowley, Tallaght Person of The Year 2023, withTallaght Person of the Year 2022 Zak Moradi

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors and supporters and everyone who played a part in making the night so special.

It would be impossible for us to host this event without the support of businesses and organisations in the community.

Tallaght Person of The Year is a community centred awards and the support from the audience in the Civic on Sunday night was fantastic and extremely uplifting.

No matter who the winner was in each category everyone in the auditorium cheered.

And of course there was a rapturous applause for the newly crowned Tallaght Person of The Year Nico Crowley.

I want to thank the Civic staff, and the Betelnut staff and the TCC committee for the incredible work they did on the night and in the days leading up to it.

Everybody in the Civic on Sunday played a part in making this a wonderful Tallaght celebration.

A huge thank you to our wonderful compere Al Porter who kept the show going smoothly.

Thank you to *The Echo* who joins in the celebrations every year as media partner to the event. This year they have extended coverage on pages 10 and 11 and on pages 56 to 63 of this edition.

Yours sincerely,
Liz Kennedy,
Volunteer Vice Chair,
Tallaght Community Council

Budget €64m not enough money for disability services

Dear Editor,

THE recently announced budget featured an amount of €64 million for disability services. This is a large sum of money but weighed against what is needed it is wholly inadequate.

The upshot of this deficit is that children, the most vulnerable in our society, will again be left behind. Parents will continue to fight for access to services that are not fit for purpose.

The 90 new residential places for minors that were trumpeted this year must be viewed against the background of the 1,300 applicants seeking residential care. Alongside this lack of residential places, day-care services have had to be cut due to staff shortages.

The staff that are employed are on the minimum wage. How can this be sustainable in the current cost of living crisis?

Outsourcing services to private contractors is the fallback position of successive governments. This is not cost effective and it has no impact on reducing the waiting lists of children thereon. Take for example Chamber House. This is one of the largest Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) centres in the country. It serves areas West of The Square.

Its full-time staff allocation is 31, yet it currently employs only 12, this to provide services to 1.400 children with a further 800 on the waiting list.

All of this points to a real breakdown of services such as respite for parents and their children, and assessments for those on the autism spectrum.

Many parents speak of waiting times of 18 or even 24 months for the initial diagnosing of their child.

This means that many children are missing out on early intervention, thus leaving them in a situation where not only their wellbeing is impacted but also their right to education. This is an intolerable situation.

Pressure needs to be put on the HSE and the Minister for Health to create a fully funded, publicly owned disability service that puts children first. Health services should not have to rely on private contractors whose motivation is profit. We deserve a health service we can all access from the cradle to the grave.

Yours sincerely,
Kay Keane
People Before Profit Representative

Delays in charging infrastructure in garages delaying zero-emission buses in service

Dear Editor,

DOZENS of zero-emission electric buses ordered by the National Transport Authority (NTA) 1.5 years ago are not yet in service, partly due to delays in installing charging infrastructure at two Dublin Bus depots, i.e. Phibsborough and Summerhill.

The NTA announced an order in June last year for 120 double-decker battery-electric vehicles for Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann – part of a framework agreement which provides for the procurement of up to 800 zero-emission buses over five years, representing an investment of €80 million.

Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan said at the time that commissioning and training activities "would get underway by the end of 2022", as would work on installing the necessary charging infrastructure.

While the first phase of buses has been manufactured and delivered by Wrightbus in Ballymena, many of the vehicles are currently parked up at a coach company's premises in Ardee county Louth.

These buses are garaged because Bus Éireann/Dublin Bus don't have appropriate charging points in their depots; nor do they have any mechanics trained to service them, or recovery systems to use in the event of breakdown.

A depot electrification project is under way to install multiple electric chargers in Summerhill and Phibsborough depots for the new electric fleet.

There are substantial costs associated with keeping these electric buses garaged for longer than necessary and some 760 drivers will be trained up in the coming months.

This electric bus shambolic typifies the Green Party's inability to deliver the necessary charging infrastructure in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely
Gerry Coughlan,
Kilnamanagh

NOvember 16, 2023

ELIFE MAGAZINE

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16-page LIFe suppLemeNt



‘On the map freestyle’

Fay’d and Fabu ‘D’ make waves on Olly’s TV

Page 49

CARMEN

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AT ALBERT PERRIS NEW BOOK LAUNCH IN TALLAGHT LIBRARY

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Cllr Charlie O'Connor, Albert Perris and Mayor Alan Edge



Cllr Ronan McMahon, Jackie Mullen and David Kennedy, editor *The Echo*



Noeleen and Martha Perris



Bernie Lawlor, Pat McDonnell, Mary Butler and Evelyn Riordan



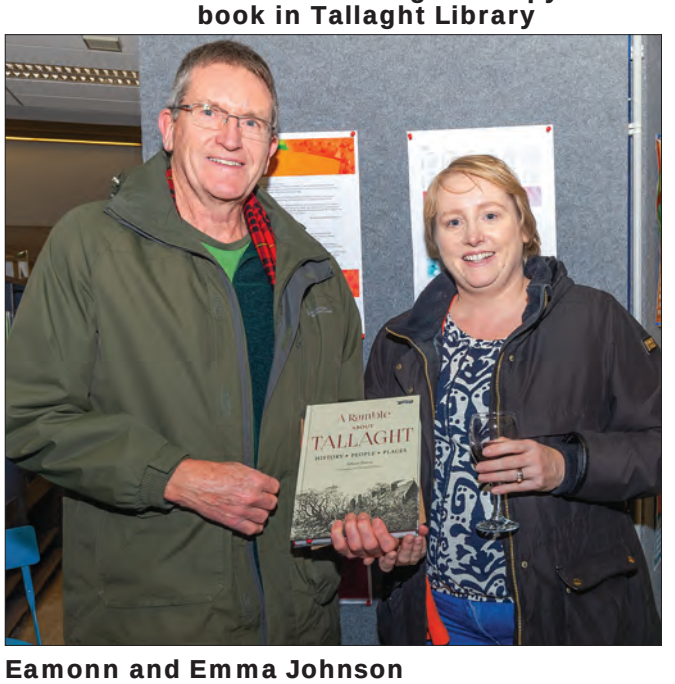
Albert Perris signs a copy of the book in Tallaght Library



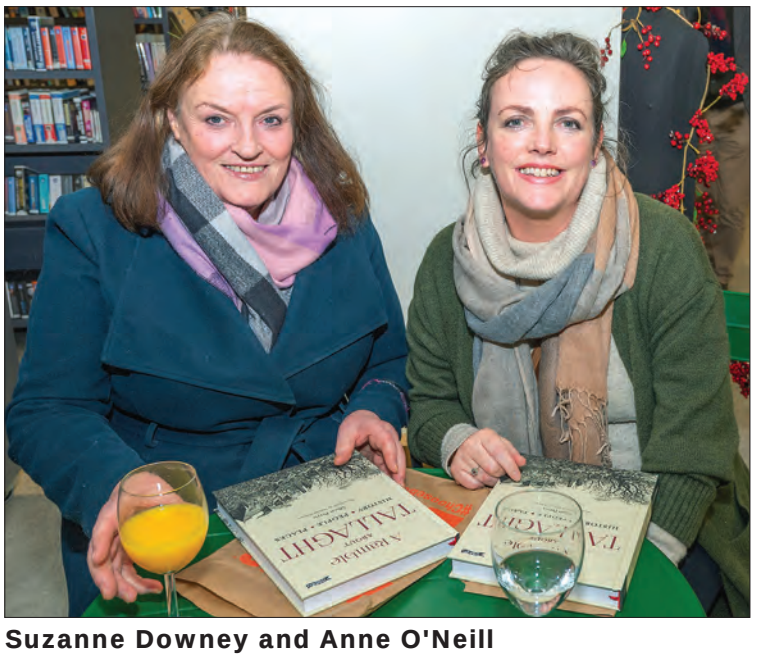
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Suzanne Downey and Anne O'Neill

‘On The Map Freestyle’

FAY’D AND FABU ‘D’ ARE MAKING WAVES ON OLLYS TV

by **Ryan Butler** / news@echo.ie

Ollys TV is thrilled to present a gripping tale that is a wonderful fit for our publication’s emphasis on culture and music. The extraordinary 19-year-old artist and Tallaght native Fay’d combines innovation and tradition in Ollys TV’s groundbreaking ‘On The Map Freestyle’ programme.

He and special guest Fabu D, aka The Black Paddy, are making waves in the rap scene. From his early musical influences to his own artistic expression, Fay’d’s path is a blend of heritage and the modern.

His methodical artistic process blends philosophical depth with Irish vernacular. This week, we sat down with Fay’d to discuss his career and accomplishments.

What inspired you to become a rapper?

My journey as a rapper has been inspired by a combination of factors that have shaped my path in music. Growing up, I was fortunate to have music all around me. My family had a strong church background, and my parents were talented singers. This exposure to music from a young age instilled a deep appreciation for the art form in me.

However, the turning point that truly sparked my desire to become a rapper occurred during my time in boarding school. I used to engage in random freestyle sessions with my friends, where we’d exchange verses and lyrics. These sessions were not only incredibly fun but also served as a creative outlet. It was during these moments that I discovered my passion for creating and performing music.

Another significant influence on my journey was my friendship with a producer. I would visit his room and watch him create beats and experiment with various sounds. Witnessing the process of music production firsthand added an extra layer of inspiration. It motivated me to take the next step and start writing my own lyrics.

So, it was a combination of my early exposure to music, the freestyle sessions with friends, and the experience of watching a producer at work that inspired me to become a rapper.

When did you get your big break?

My big break in the music industry came after I released the song "An Spailpín Fánach." This song was a drill remix of a leaving certificate poem originally written in the Irish language. To be honest, I initially made this a joke, not fully realizing the impact it would have. Long story.

However, "An Spailpín Fánach" quickly gained significant attention and recognition. The song received airplay on numerous national radio stations, and I started receiving messages and inquiries from various sources, including TG4. It also gained massive traction on TikTok, amassing over half a million views. On streaming platforms, it garnered over 50,000 streams. The breakthrough moment for me was when I was invited to perform on the international music series "Other Voices."

This experience opened my eyes to the potential of my music and the niche I could fill in the Irish music industry. It was the moment I realized that I could make a meaningful impact in the music scene using this unique blend of creativity and the Irish language.

How much time is usually dedicated to your work?

In terms of time dedicated to my work, it varies depending on the stage of the creative process. When it comes to writing a song, I can typically complete the initial draft in about 30 minutes, and although I don’t believe in the idea of perfection in creativity, I often spend additional time, sometimes up to two hours, refining my lyrics, honing my flow, and ensuring that my word choices align with the sound I want to create.



Fabu D and Fay‘d

When I’m in a recording session, before I start recording, I take a moment to pray and invite God into my creative space, asking for guidance in the process. I believe that the quality of the sound I create during recording is paramount. This means that the recording session itself can take several hours, ranging from 2 to 3 hours or more, as we focus on capturing the best possible sound.

What kind of preparation is involved before you work on songs?

Prior to working on songs, I engage in extensive preparation. I need a theme or an idea to build the song around. Sometimes, I draw inspiration from elements in nature, such as "Waves in Éire" or "Storm," or I channel emotions that drive my thought process. This stage is crucial in shaping the direction and message of the song.

What are your future goals?

Looking to the future, my goals as a rapper are driven by a desire to put Ireland on the global music map. I believe that the Irish music scene has incredible talent and potential, but it’s still somewhat overlooked on the international stage. I’d love to be a part of the blueprint that elevates Irish music to a higher level of recognition and appreciation.

One of my biggest dreams is to tour the world and perform on large stages. The thought of having my music create a mosh pit during a live performance is something that constantly excites me. I want to connect with audiences around the globe and share the unique sound and message that I bring to the rap scene.

Who would you like to thank for helping you get to this point?

I’m incredibly grateful for my friends and family, who have been a constant source of support and motivation. They push me to step out of my comfort zone.

I’d like to appreciate my producer, Chris (dOnt ch0ke), whose creative contributions and collaboration have been instrumental in shaping my music. His dedication and talent have played a significant role in my artistic journey.

I also want to thank Ollys TV, Other Voices, and Bloc TG4 for providing the platforms that have allowed me to showcase my talents and reach a wider audience. These opportunities have been pivotal in helping me realize my potential and connect with my fans.

Molloys Celebrates 90 Years

WITH LIVE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Sony, Burgie, Jaci, Laura, Lukasz, Richard, Eoghan and Jorge



Fran, Alvin, Fergal, Richard and Sony



Lauren, Sophie, Alex and Sabrina



Caitlin, Nikki, Jake, Carl, Seán and John



Rob and Ramona



Maureen and Peter



Kyle and Enes (Security)



Chloe, Rebecca and Emily

> It's never too late to take your heart health seriously and make it a priority.
>
> *Jennie Garth*

Health & Fitness

LIVE LONGER



by **Ursula Frawley** / info@moveitfitness.ie

Is there a secret to living longer? So many people for so many years have been searching for the magic pill for a long life - the secret to eternal youth!

We all know that there is no magic potion to turn back time, and we can't stop the clock ticking and getting older. However, there are ingredients that are scientifically proven for a possibly longer and much healthier life.

Most importantly, living well is as important as living longer, so let's focus on a few of these elements as we grow older. It doesn't have to be difficult, they are free and science has shown that these three ingredients are proven to boost your chances of living a long and active life.

1. Heart Health The first is your cardiovascular health. Heart health and having a strong cardiovascular fitness is a big factor in living a long and healthy life. Easy ways to increase your cardiovascular fitness are simply by walking, taking the stairs more often, and moving more on a day-to-day basis. if you want to know how much you're moving every day you can get a step tracker or simply use your phone to track your daily movement.

2. Muscle strength The second is strength and muscle mass. Did you know, we lose between 3-8 % of our muscle mass over the age of 35 and after the age of 60, that rate increases even more. One very interesting study was done in adults over the age of 60 and it highlighted that the death rate was halved in the strongest third of the large sample population. This shows that working on your strength can help you live longer, and also live better as you are most likely more able and independent.

3. Community & connection This week I attended the Tallaght Person of the Year Awards and the sense of community and connection was incredible. By getting more involved, not only are you giving back to your community! Getting involved involves meeting & connecting with people regularly. This sense of connection is proven to increase your chances of a longer healthier life.

Enjoy this journey. So it seems the magic potion may be within our reach!

Remember, always consult with your GP before embarking on any change in diet or new health & fitness regime.

UrsUla FrawlEy IS A PERSONAl TRAINER AND OWNER Of MOvE IT fITNESS. HER ONlINE STRENGTH & fITNESS clASSES, WHIcH RuN llvE 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 llvES WITH HER HuSBAND AND fOuR cHIldREN IN DuBlIN 24. YOu MORE INfORMATION YOu cAN EMAIl HER AT INfO@MOvEITfITNESS.IE OR WWW.MOvEITfITNESS.IE



Football Club Fundraiser

5KM RUN HELD BY COLLINSTOWN FC

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Dean and Greyson



U 13/14's in Collinstown Park on Saturday



Rosie and Sinead



Eddie and Joe (Coaches)



Cllr Shane Moynihan and Family



Club players from Collinstown Football Club



Page, Tori,Keira, Hallie and Mia



All teams in Collinstown took part in the fundraiser



U10's took part in the fundraiser for winter training

> "Never underestimate the power of good food. Eating delicious food can be a life-changing experience.
>
> *Shon Mehta*

Food with Passion

MOUTH-WATERING MEATLOAF

by **John Paul Kennedy** / jpkennedy.kennedy@gmail.com



THERE is nothing more mouth-watering and comforting than a superior quality Meatloaf made with top quality ingredients, lightened up with some seasonal flavours. Great for feeding a crowd, this meatloaf is quick and easy to prepare, is super moist and flavoursome. I would always recommend sourcing excellent quality meat from your local butchers, I find it's always better quality! When this comes out of the oven it is a real feast for the eyes, coupled with the most delicious smells; served with mash potato and some seasonal greens and you have a winning dish that all the family will love. My brother Barry enjoyed this so much he went back for third helpings – it is that good!

Ingredients: (serves six, if making for more double the recipe)

1lb minced beef.
1lb minced pork.
One carrot finely diced.
One onion finely diced.
½ celery stick finely chopped
Tablespoon each of fresh Thyme or sage and rosemary finely chopped.
One ball of fresh mozzarella – chopped into small pieces.
One tablespoon of tomato puree
400ml of hot chicken stock
Twelve pieces of smoked streaky bacon
One egg
100g fresh breadcrumbs'
One teaspoon of whole grain mustard
One teaspoon of Dijon mustard
Dash of Olive oil
Sea Salt and cracked black pepper.













John Paul KEnnEdy IS A SEIf-TAuGHT COOK AND AN AvID fAN Of COIIECTING COOKERy BOOKS WITH A PASSION fOR GOOD OID-fASHIONED HOME COOKING. HIS PASSION fOR PROPER fAMIIy COOKING STEMS fROM HIS TWO GRANDMOTHERS, WHO WERE BOTH ExCEIIENT COOKS, ONE Of WHOM WAS A TRAINED CHEf. **JP** PROMISES TO BRING uS PIENTy Of TASTy TREATS AND fAMIIy-INSPIRED RECIPES WHIIE SHOWING uS HOW TO GET THE BASICS RIGHT.

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 190 degrees /350f. In a large casserole / cast-iron dish drizzle in some olive oil and on a medium heat fry off the carrot, onions, celery, and half of the chopped fresh herbs and cook off for about 10 minutes.

2. In a large mixing bowl combine the cooked carrots, onions and celery with the meats, mozzarella cheese, tomato puree, wholegrain mustard, egg, breadcrumbs, remaining herbs and a grinding of salt and pepper and mix well until everything is well combined.

3. In a large baking dish, mould into a loaf shape and cover with the streaky bacon in a criss-cross design. Cover with tinfoil and roast for 30 minutes.

4. After 30 minutes remove the foil and mix the hot chicken stock with the Dijon mustard and pour over and around the meatloaf. Cook for another 45- 55 minutes until the bacon is nice and crispy.

5. Serve with creamy mashed potato and season greens, peas, broccoli or cabbage and a generous drizzle of stock from the bottom of the pan and enjoy – Comfort food heaven.

At this time of year, everyone craves perfect comfort seasonal food. Stews, casseroles, and this meatloaf are perfect one pot / pan dishes that go a long way. This meatloaf is incredibly moist, light, and flavoursome and served with the perfect accompaniments such as mash and greens, for me is the ultimate comfort food bowl as the nights get darker and colder. This is a new favourite in my household, and I am sure if you give this recipe a go it will become a family favourite in yours too.

Contact JP on:
Twitter: @JPKCooking
Email: JPKCooking@gmail.com
Instagram: jpkennedy.kennedy

Annual Photography Exhibition

PASSIONATE GROUP CAPTURE LIFE THROUGH THE LENS

by **Chiara-Lian Gruschke** / news@echo.ie

In celebration of visual artistry, the Ratfarnham Social Photography Group (RSPG) is set to mesmerize the local community with their annual Photographic Exhibition. The showcase, featuring a diverse array of photographic subjects and styles, will be hosted at the SDCC Ballyroan Library from November 1 to November 23.

The RSPG has been a beacon of artistc expression in the community, a group of passionate photographers, most of whom are retirees, who have discovered the joy of capturing life through the lens. They are not only photographers but also tight-knit social group who revel in the camaraderie that blooms admidst the shutter clicks and camera flashes.

"The annual exhibition is a culmination of our shared love for photography, a tangible representation of the bonds we have built as a group", Bob Tait, a dedicated member of the RSPG, stated.

The exhibition will encompass a plethora of captivating themes including Landscape, Portrait, Wildlife and the timeless elegance of Black and White photography. The photographs on display are not just images; they are windows to the world as seen through the eyes of this talented group.

"We're not just taking pictures; we're creating memories. We explore a variety of themes sweeping landscapes that Ireland offers to intimate portraits that tell a story." According to Bob.

Rathfarnham Social Photography Group regularly meets in Ballyroan Library for workshops, where they exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, and indulge in spirited discussions about their shared interest. But it's not all about indoor sessions; they venture out into the world to capture the beauty and diversity of their surroundings.

Twice a year, the RSPG goes the extra mile, quite literally, by embarking on extended photographic expeditions throughout Ireland. These journeys serve as both a creative retreat and a social retreat, where the group members forge unforgettable memories while immortalizing the splendor of Ireland in their photographs.



When asked about the inspiration behind the annual exhibition, a spokesperson for the group stated, "We create this exhibition each year to give the members of our group an opportunity to print their best photographs for sharing with customers of the library and the local community. It's a way for us to give back and share the beauty we've captured."

The exhibition will run until November 23, welcoming everyone to come, appreciate, and be inspired by the fruits of their labor. It's not just an exhibition; it's a journey into the world as seen through the eyes of the Rathfarnham Social Photography Group.

Winter Production of 'Carmen'

BALLET DRAWS ITS INSPIRATION FROM A TRAGIC LOVE STORY

by **Chiara-Lian Gruschke** / news@echo.ie



The dance production comes to the Civic
Photo by Andrew Ross

In a collaboration between artistry and corporate patronage, EY Ireland and Ballet Ireland are set to present the winter production of "Carmen" at prestigious venues across Ireland. This exquisite performance will captivate audiences as it embarks on a journey through ten illustrious locations, including the Civic Theatre in Tallaght on November 21.

The ballet "Carmen" draws its inspiration from a tragic love story, narrating the tumultuous relationship between Carmen and the young soldier, Don José.

Choreographed by Morgann Runacre-Temple, the production's dance sequences promise to vividly bring the emotional narrative to life on stage.

Enhancing this experience is a reworked score by Russian composer Rodion Schredrin, along with live performances of flamenco guitar arrangements by musician John Walsh.

This ballet originally captivated audiences with its portrayal of the young soldier, José, ensnared by the fiery Carmen's charm, leading him to abandon his respectable life to be with her. However, Carmen, akin to love itself, is an entity that defies captivity. José's unwavering desire to possess her ultimately spells doom for them both.

This timeless narrative, as relevant today as ever, has been reimagined in a contemporary setting by the award-winning choreographer Morgann Runacre-Temple, renowned for her work in "Nutcracker Sweeties" and "Romeo & Juliet."

Presented by Ballet Ireland and generously supported by EY Ireland, this production boasts a runtime of 90 minutes with a single intermission. It is suitable for audiences aged 12 and above, making it an ideal choice for families and individuals alike.

Ballet Ireland's "Carmen" promises to transport audiences into a world of intense passion and desire, offering a captivating fusion of ballet's grace and the raw emotions of human experience. So mark your calendar for the performance of "Carmen" at the Civic Theatre, Tallaght, on Tuesday, November 21, at 7.30pm.

Blind Picnic

AN EXCITING AND TERRIFYING EVENING OF SHORT AUDIO

by **Ryan Butler** / news@echo.ie

With live music by Steve Wickham (Waterboys), 'Blind Panic' is an exciting and terrifying evening of short audio theater thrillers performed in the dark by a cast of 25 blind people from three counties (blindfolds are optional).

'Ash' (Sightless Cinema Meath) takes place during a thunderstorm in a ghostly country resort guest home.

Laura discovers in 'The Visitor' (Sightless Cinema Laois) that her new home has a horrifying past.

The hilariously humorous mystery 'Horse with No Jockey' (Sightless Cinema Tallaght) is set over a blind weekend.

The final performance of the evening is 'Are You Blind or What?', a live radio drama featuring music and sound effects performed by all three ensembles.

Sightless Cinema has exhibited seven unique surround-sound play programs since 2015.

These have been shown in the Lighthouse Cinema, IMC Cinema, and most recently, the Solstice Arts Centre Navan in January.

Additionally, they have created the phone comedy Ballymuck Exchange and the web comic The Covid Tapes.

People with sight loss collaborate on audio theater through Sightless Cinema. Ciarán Taylor, a theatrical director, founded it in 2015.

The project expanded significantly in 2023, giving blind and visually impaired persons local arts possibilities and collaboration with other Leinster groups.

In a groundbreaking partnership, South Dublin, Meath, and Laois County Council Arts Offices created the Sightless Cinema Network with partner venues in each county and financing from the Arts Council's An Invitation to Collaborate Scheme.

The Sightless Cinema project has been based at Rua Red Arts Centre, Tallaght, since 2017.

In 2022, Solstice Arts Centre, Navan, launched in-person projects, followed by Portlaoise in 2023.

In November 2023, the three companies will tour a collaborative production of recorded and live audio dramas to Solstice Arts Centre, Navan, on November 18, Civic Theatre, Tallaght, on November 23, and Dunamaise Arts Centre, Portlaoise, on November 28.

To further grow, the organization is educating new collaborative theater artists.



Cast Glenda Browne (Meath), Marian Murray (Laois) and Bernie Kenny (South Dublin)
Photo by Felipe Jóia

Musically Sound

WALKINSTOWN CHOIR 'SCALING NEW HEIGHTS'

by **Ryan Butler** / news@echo.ie

The talented 'Musically Sound' choir from Walkinstown is delighted to bring their skills to Tallaght in a matinee performance at our very own Tallaght Theatre!

After a string of upcoming evening shows at their home in the Cherrytree Pub (which have all been sold out), the choir will be taking the show on the road to perform 'Scaling New Heights' here in Tallaght.

The choir, first established in June 2017, has performed at all local festivals in Harold's Cross, Walkinstown, Drimnagh, and Lucan, as well as in the Derry International Choral Festival in 2019 and 2022 and 'Dance for Cancer' a local-run charity event in 2019 and 2023; they raised €12,000 for charity this year.

According to Saoirse Kinsella, director of 'Musically Sound', the idea to perform at Tallaght Theatre came about when they "played around with the idea of performing on a big stage".



Walkinstown Choir

The choir typically meets up once a week for two hours for rehearsals, which involves vocal warm-ups and then splitting up into four sections: sopranos, middles, altos, and bass.

Each section is then taught a different melodic line to the same song, practicing until they can create a four-part harmony.

However, the group also plays fun games and laughs about misheard song lyrics, with Saoirse adding, "We are a very social group and all get along well, which feeds into rehearsals."

The choir's future plans include performing for more charity events and festivals, taking their annual trip to do some singing, traveling the country spreading the joy of music, and hopefully having a visit from their choral friends from England in late 2024.

Saoirse would like to thank co-director Gillian Sayers, drummer Bobby Blake, and the 'Dream Team' stage crew (Lorraine Byrne, Kelly Prendergast, Adrianne Prendergast, Sandra Kinsella, Aidan Griffin, and Claire Griffin) for helping to run the choir.

She is also very grateful for the rehearsal space and support provided by Gerry and Austin McGeough of the Cherrytree.

Musically Sound are performing November 18 at 2pm in the Tallaght Theatre.



TALLAGHT PERSON OF THE YEAR 1984 to 2022

40th 1984 to 2023





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40th 1984 to 2023

TALLAGHT PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2023

Go n-éiri leat Nico!



Nico Crowley, Tallaght Person of The Year 2023

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40th
1984 to 2023
TALLAGHT PERSON OF THE YEAR

Tallaght Person Of The Year

LOCAL HEROES RECOGNISED AT GALA AWARDS NIGHT

by **Paddy Barrett & Mark Pollock** / pictures@echo.ie



Lifetime achievement award winner Tony Byrne with Al Porter



Tallaght Person of The Year 2023 Nico Crowley with TPOTY 2022 Zak Moradi



David Kennedy, past winner of Tallaght Person of The Year with the Business Award winners, Jackie's Florist and Peter Daly (TCC)



Past winner of Tallaght Person of The Year Gar Tyrrell, Environment Award winner, Thomas Murray and Tara de Buitléar (TCC)



Sinead Tighe (TCC) with Marta Górska, winner of the Special Needs and Carers Award, Ann McAuley and Evelyn Riordan (TCC)



Nico Crowley, Tallaght Person of The Year 2023



Paul Perth, winner of the Youth Award with Chris Keeley (TCC)



Glenda Murphy-Smullen accepted a Merit award on behalf of The Orla Byrne Cup with Nico Crowley



Frances McNulty accepting her Lifetime Achievement award



Joyce Keane and Catherine Keane with Nico Crowley accepted a Lifetime Achievement award on behalf of Glenville Pitch and Putt Club who are celebrating 75 years



Gerry Stockil (TCC), Sherin and Rachel Hughes, Sister Sheds, winners of the Learning and Innovation Award with past Tallaght Person of The Year Des Garry



Ryan, Nico and Rebecca Crowley



Chris Keeley (TCC) with Janine Nagle, winner of the Arts and Culture Award and past winner of Tallaght Person of The Year, Bridie Sweeney



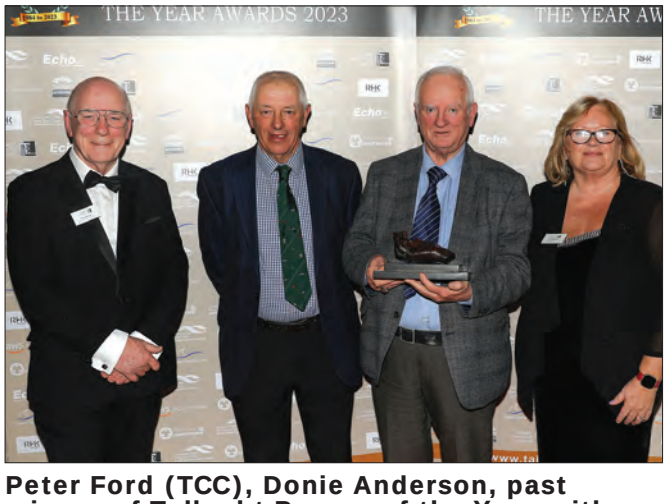
Merit award winner Pauline Dalton with Al Porter



Merit Award winners, Lorraine Reynolds and Antoinette Barry (Primary Pals), Stephen Brennan (Walk and Talk), Glenda Murphy-Smullen (Orla Byrne Cup) and Pauline Dalton (Kingswood Community Choir)



Heart of Gold Award winners, Emily Nutly, Ben and Alesha Kelly and Sean Guerrine with past winner of Tallaght Person of The Year, Rose O'Keeffe and Mary Butler (TCC)



Peter Ford (TCC), Donie Anderson, past winner of Tallaght Person of the Year with Tom Lillis, winner of the Community Award and Liz Kennedy (TCC)



Norman Kelly, past winner of Tallaght Person of The Year, Jodie Browne, winner of the Philip Preston Sport Award and Aine Kelly (TCC)



Niamh Honer from The Civic with Nico Crowley

40th
1984 to 2023
TALLAGHT PERSON OF THE YEAR

Tallaght Person Of The Year

LOCAL HEROES RECOGNISED AT GALA AWARDS NIGHT

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Heart of Gold Ben Kelly and Tallaght Person of The Year 2023, Nico Crowley



Compere for the evening Al Porter



Lionel, Joe and Reiltín



Eoghan O'Reilly, Majella Kernan Finlay, Juliga and Andrzej Platek, The Maldron Hotel, Tallaght



Cllrs Charlie O'Connor and Lilian Gueret



Tom, Alesha, Ben and Rachel Kelly



Caroline, Pauline, Fionnuala, Teresa, Mary and Rose



Xquisite Dance performing at the awards



Helena Doody and David Murphy



Roisin Burke, Teresa Costello and Helena Doody



Garda Mairead Lyttle, Sinead Tighe, Nico Crowley and Garda Sgt Emer Lamon



Kevin, Jennifer, Chris, Nico, Ryan, Bobby and Alex



Gerry and Hazel



Michael and Noeleen Baneham



Adam and Craig (Tallaght CFB)



Vivienne and Phil Dowmen



Pamela and Sean Crowe, TD



Bridie Sweeney, The first Tallaght Person of the Year in 1984 announcing the Arts & Culture winner with Chris Keeley (TCC)



Nicola, Angel, Asia and Dianna



Martina Fitzpatrick, Lisa Kennedy, Hayley Keeley and Alex Fitzpatrick



Robyn, Zac and Jessica



Audrey, Eimear, Michelle

40th
1984 to 2023
TALLAGHT PERSON OF THE YEAR

Tallaght Person Of The Year

LOCAL HEROES RECOGNISED AT GALA AWARDS NIGHT

by **Paddy Barrett & Mark Pollock** / pictures@echo.ie



Managing Director of Oceans Electric Ltd (Gold Sponsors) Craig Mahon and Lyndsey Mahon



Outgoing Tallaght Person of the Year Zak Moradi addresses the audience



Heart of Gold Emily Nutly and Tallaght Person of The Year 2023, Nico Crowley



Tara de Buitlear, Stephen Hudson from AWS in Communities (Gold Sponsors) and Gerry Stockil



Mary and Pat



Lynda, Paloma, Emily and Victoria



The Keeley brothers performing with 'For One Night Only'



Emma Kennedy, *The Echo*, **Mary Kelly, Mary Samantha Griffin, South Dublin County Partnership**



Chris Keeley, Mike O'Brien, Dolores Cronin, Greg McKeown and John Joe Walsh



Mayor Alan Edge with Tara De Buitléar (TCC), Raul Crenier and Oisín Crenier



Lynn, Zak, Stephen and Olga



Reverend William Deverell with Lionel and Valerie Deverell



The staff at The Civic Theatre



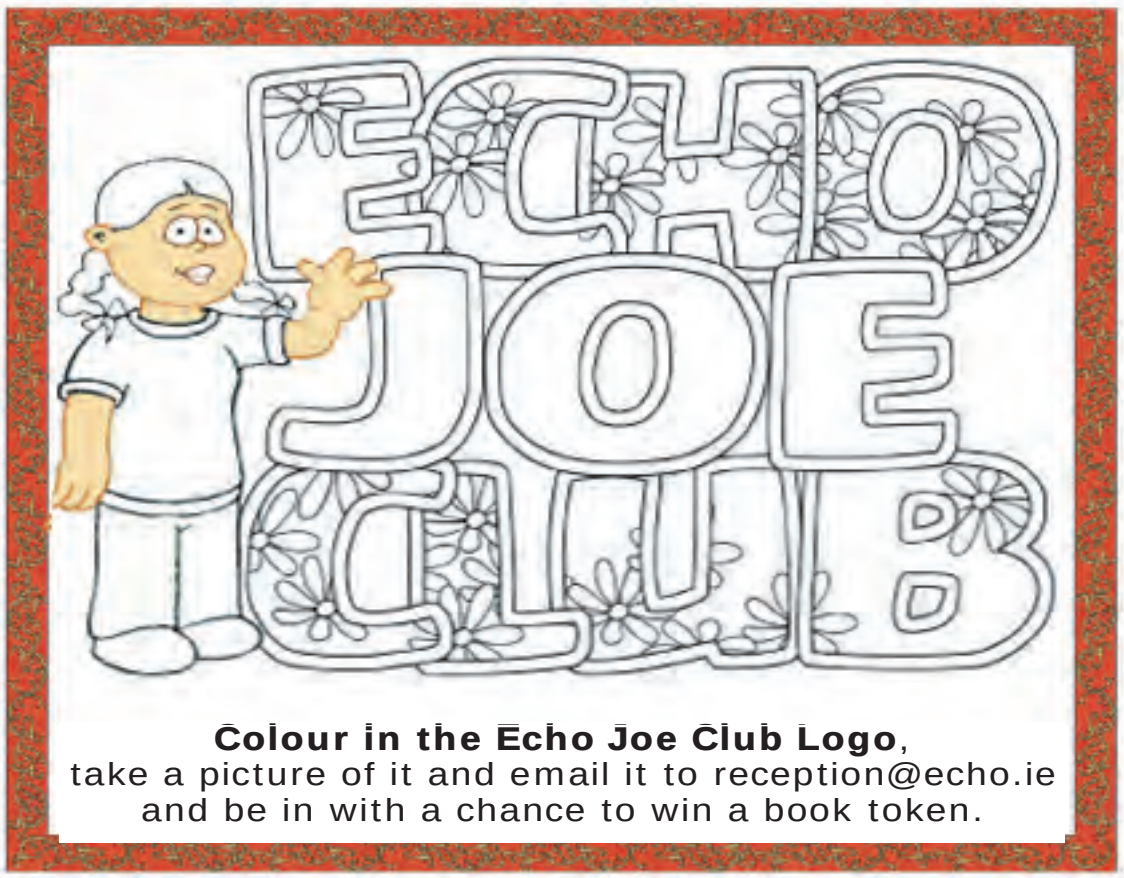
Past winner of Tallaght Person of The Year, Mary McLoughlin with Mary Browne and Brenda Daly



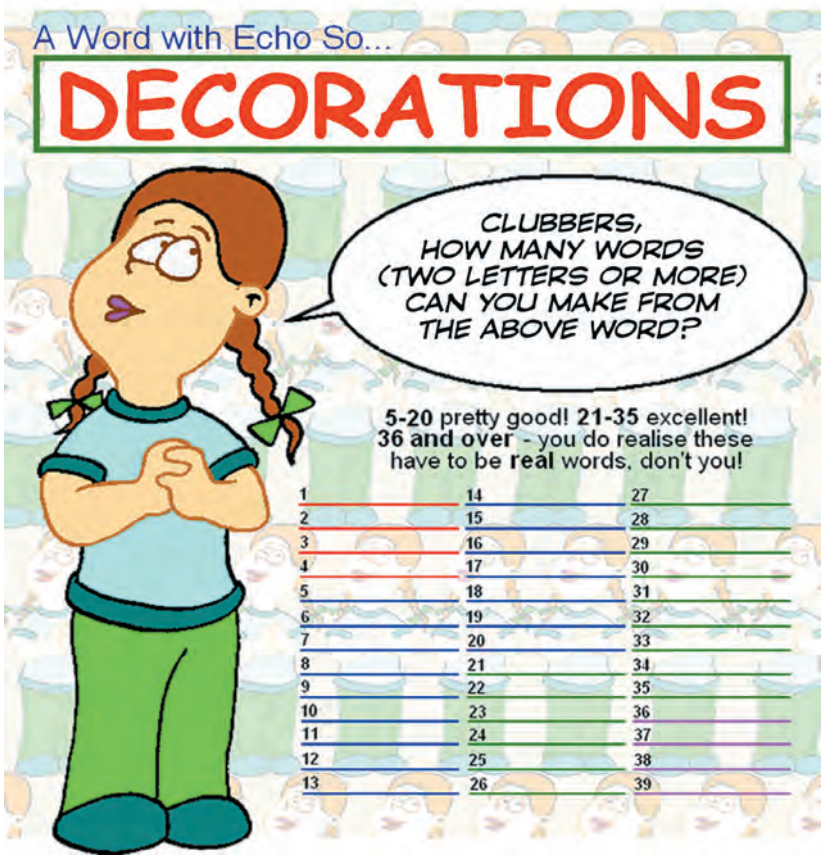
Al Porter with Roderick Smyth (Chairperson of Tallaght Community Council), Adam Smyth and Ruairi Smyth



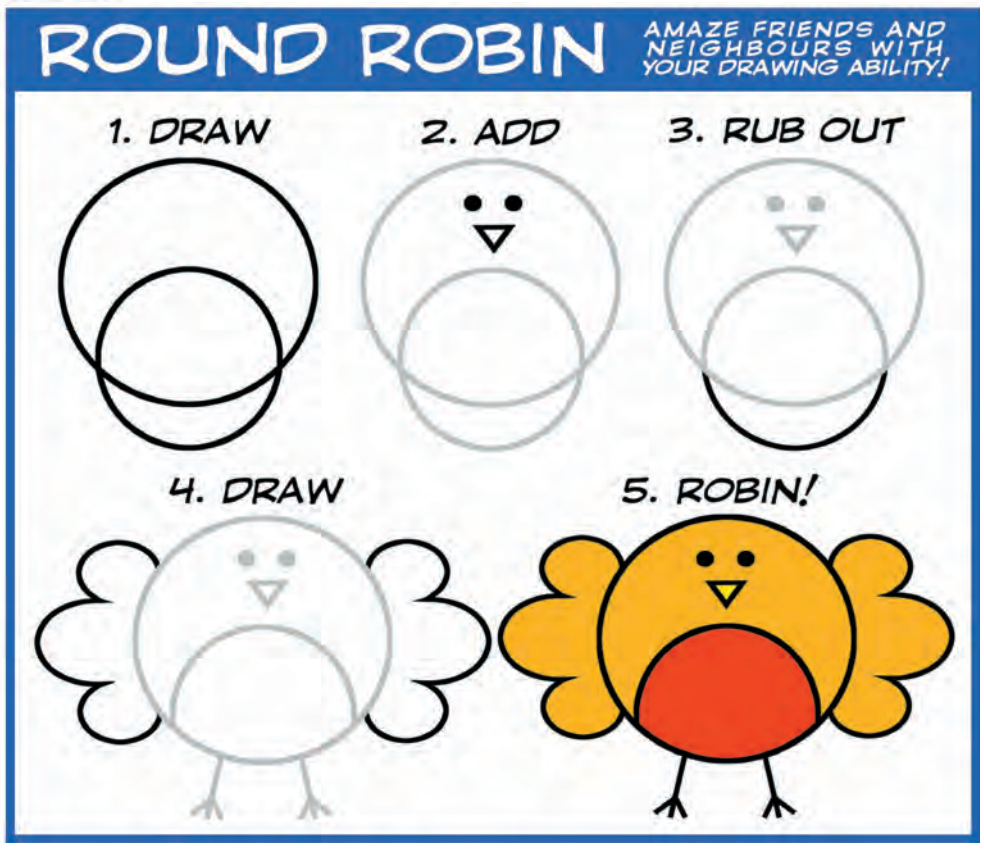
Shauna, Samantha, Natasha, Adam and Martina

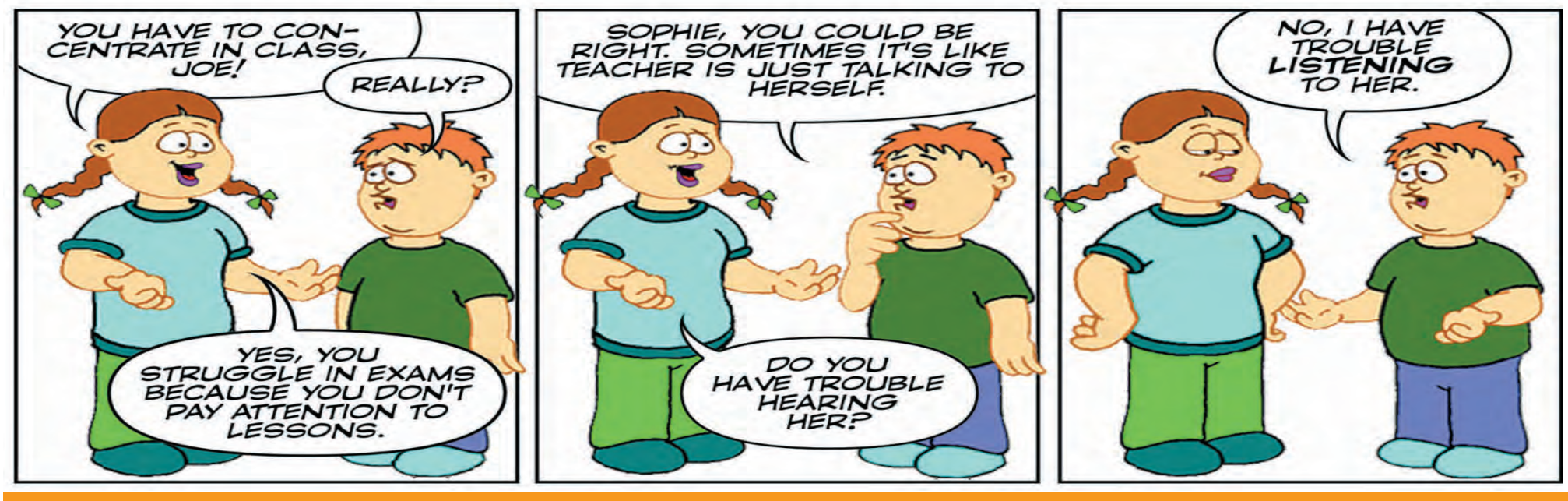


Colour in the Echo Joe Club Logo, take a picture of it and email it to reception@echo.ie and be in with a chance to win a book token.







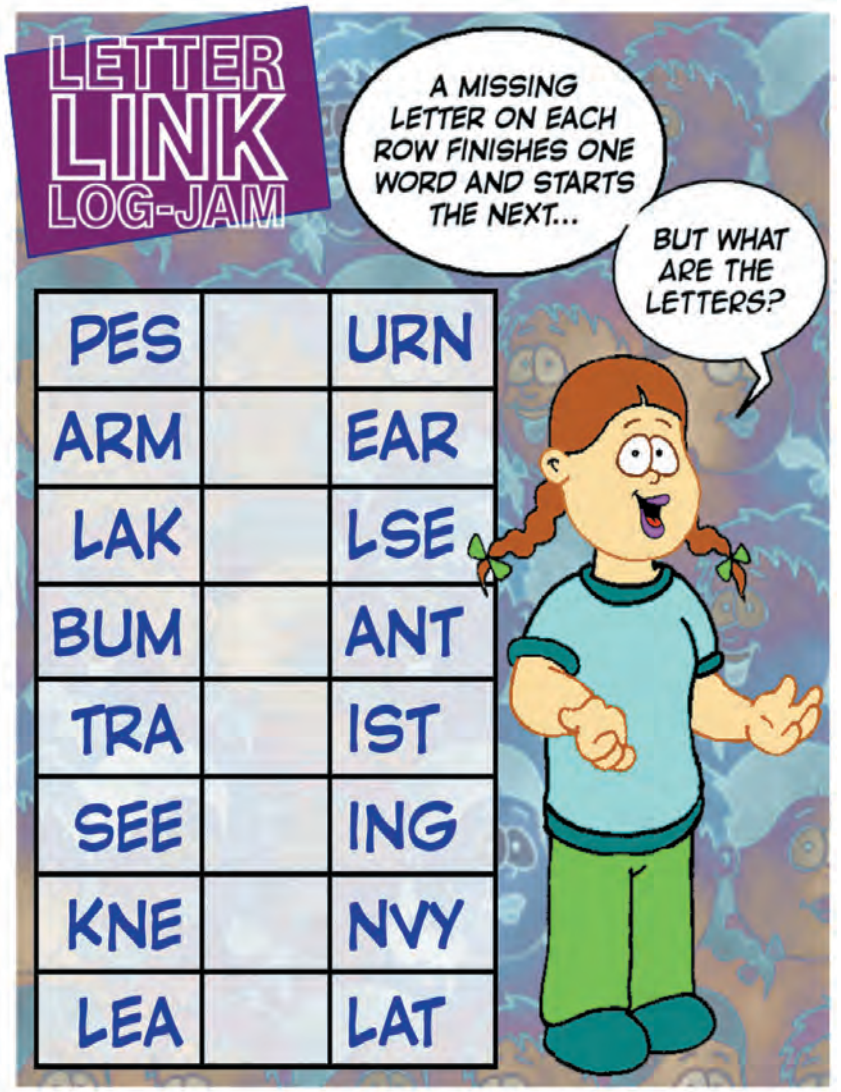


These 2 pages of Awesome, Amazon, Activities

SPOT THE SIX DIFFERENCES!



LETTER LINK LOG-JAM



PES		URN
ARM		EAR
LAK		LSE
BUM		ANT
TRA		IST
SEE		ING
KNE		NVY
LEA		LAT

the missing letters: T, Y, E, P, M, K, E, F

COLOURING BOOK



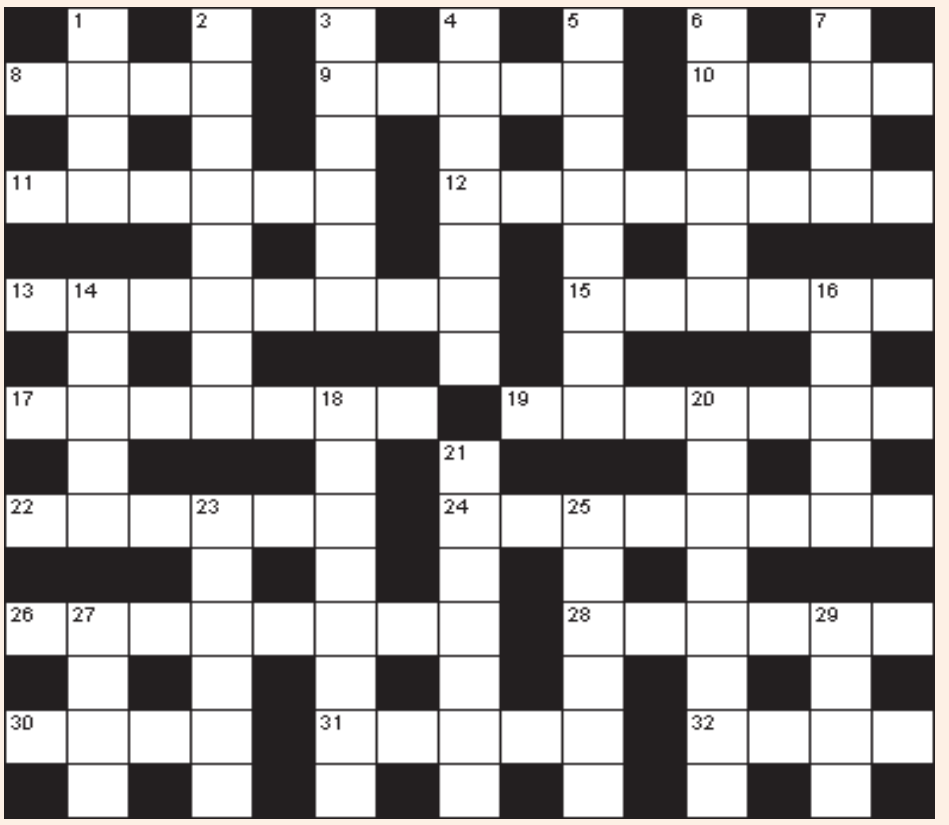
winner



Emily Healy, aged 7, is this week's winnerof The Echo Joe Club logo colouring competition. Emily, your prize will be on the way to you soon.

are kindly sponsored by aws InCommunities

echocrossquiz Q1611



ACROSS

8. Laugh (4)
9. Midday meal (5)
10. At a distance (4)
11. An intergalactic gas cloud (6)
12. Word square (8)
13. Place (8)
15. Luxurious (6)
17. Kind of penguin (7)
19. Enteric fever (7)
22. A poor densely populated city district (6)
24. Educator (8)
26. Usually (8)
28. An abdominal organ (6)
30. It rings every hour (4)
31. Bit of parsley (5)
32. Fly high (4)

DOWN

1. Ceremonial staff (4)
2. Arrange into rows and columns (8)
3. Acid neutralizer (6)
4. Surpassing the ordinary (7)
5. A weekday (8)
6. Mortarboard attachment (6)
7. Cab (4)
14. Sex appeal (5)
16. Eighteen in Roman numerals (5)
18. Without a smell (8)
20. Reckless (8)
21. A rope for raising or lowering a sail or flag (7)
23. A place of worship (6)
25. Designate (6)
27. Is endebted to (4)
29. Test (4)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 0911

■	A	D	M	I	N	I	S	T	R	A	T	I	O	N
C	■	E	■	N	■	D	■	E	■	G	■	R	■	E
L	Y	C	E	E	■	I	M	M	I	G	R	A	N	T
O	■	O	■	P	■	O	■	P	■	R	■	T	■	W
S	T	R	A	T	U	M	■	T	H	E	R	E	T	O
E	■	A	■	■	■	A	■	■	■	S	■	■	■	R
T	O	T	E	M	■	T	O	W	N	S	F	O	L	K
■	■	O	■	A	■	I	■	O	■	O	■	P	■	■
S	T	R	E	E	T	C	A	R	■	R	E	E	V	E
T	■	■	■	L	■	■	■	T	■	■	■	R	■	L
A	R	T	I	S	T	S	■	H	U	S	B	A	N	D
M	■	O	■	T	■	K	■	L	■	C	■	T	■	E
I	M	P	O	R	T	U	N	E	■	R	U	I	N	S
N	■	I	■	O	■	L	■	S	■	A	■	O	■	T
A	C	C	O	M	P	L	I	S	H	M	E	N	T	■

CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1

					4	2	5	
	6	9						8
3	4	5	9		8			
		1	3					
8			2					
		4		1	7			3
	9			2			1	
		3	4	5			7	

SUDOKU 2

	4	2					7	1
6				5				
9						8		
3				4			2	
	9		8				6	
				6				9
				2			4	
1				9				
	3		1		4		5	

ANSWERS

8	4	2	6	3	9	5	7	1
6	1	3	7	5	8	2	9	4
9	5	7	4	1	2	8	3	6
2	9	6	1	4	7	3	8	7
3	6	5	9	4	1	7	2	8
4	7	8	2	6	5	3	1	9
5	8	9	3	2	6	1	4	7
1	2	4	5	9	7	6	8	3
7	3	6	8	1	4	9	5	2

SUDOKU 2

4	1	2	5	8	6	3	9	7
7	3	8	1	9	4	2	5	6
5	6	9	7	3	2	1	4	8
3	4	5	9	6	8	7	2	1
9	2	1	3	7	5	8	6	4
8	7	6	2	4	1	5	3	9
2	5	4	6	1	7	9	8	3
6	9	7	8	2	3	4	1	5
1	8	3	4	5	9	6	7	2

SUDOKU 1

Poet's Corner

CASHLESS

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 tooth fairy
Is stressed
he has no
revolut
He hasent got a
euro
For little Jonnies
tooth
No more window
cleaners
No kids to cut
the grass
The world is
going cashless
We are in big
brothers grasp
They can track
us
All our life
They know what
we have
Saved
Nothing can be
hid
from the cradle
to the grave
The banks
control
our cash
We are paying
through the
nose
No more
mattress money
That's the future
I suppose ?

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WINDOWS

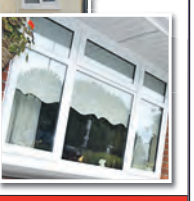
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CLASSES

Ceili dancing starting back every Wednesday from September 7th at 7.45-9pm in the Belgard Community Centre. Beginners and walk-ins are welcome. For more details **Phone: 0857567231.**

FOR SALE

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A double bed and headboard for sale. Perfect condition rarely used **€200. Phone 087 4167169**

Stihl KLM100R Strimmer for sale. Excellent condition. €360 **Ph: 086 8418098**

Piano to give away must be collected **Ph: 0872491203**

LOST

Lost silver identity bracelet, with the name Paul. Lost in vicinity of Kiltalown, Jobstown, Killinarden, the Square. Around May 23rd 2018. **Very sentimental to owner. Ph: 085-7696525**

Lost house & car keys. Clondalkin area.

Ph: 087 2592248

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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



McCabe, Thomas
2nd Anniversary - 17/11/21.
In loving memory of a very special husband Thomas.

When God was making husbands,
As far as I can see,
He made a special soul mate,
Especially for me,
He made a perfect gentleman,
Compassionate and kind,
With more love and affection than you could wish to find,
He gave my darling husband,
A heart of solid gold,
He gave me wonderful memories,
Only my heart can hold,
He was someone I could talk to,
That no one can replace,
He was someone I could laugh with,
Till the tears ran down my face,
Next time we meet will be at heaven's door,
When I see you standing there,
I won't cry anymore,
I will put my arms around you,
And kiss your smiling face,
Then the pieces of my broken heart,
Will fall back into place.
Also remembering our son Anthony's Heavenly Birthday occurs 27th November and my grandson baby Richard, born an angel, 18th Birthday in Heaven occurred 13th November.
Always loved and missed from his heart broken wife and mam Eileen, Sons, Daughters, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren. xx

Dad
Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.
Also Happy Heavenly Birthday to my brother Anthony. Always loved and missed From your son Tomo and Family. xx

Dad
Those special memories of a dad,
Will always bring a smile,
If only I could have you back,
For 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 bring me pain,
For now you're forever in my heart,
Until we meet again.
Also remembering my brother Anthony whose Birthday occurs 27th November. Happy Heavenly Birthday Bro.
Loved and missed beyond words your daughter Samantha, Thomas, Kean, Taylor, Kelsey, Mya, Kendall and Caiden. xxx

Dad
I miss you so much,
Also remembering my brother Anthony on his Birthday. Miss you so much.
A father's touch, a daddy's kiss.
A grieving daughter of a dad I miss,
An empty house, an empty chair,
A father's love no longer there,
A broken heart, tear filled eyes,
Another soul in the sky,
The time we shared,
The laugh we had,
Things I miss when I think of you dad.
Loved and missed always daughter Tina, PJ, Kiki and Colby. xxx

Dad
2 years ago, God called your name,
And it was your time to fly,
It broke my heart to watch you go,
And left me wondering why,
As months passed, I felt you close,
Like you never really left,
I feel your laughter in times of joy,
And your hugs when I'm distressed,
See you never really left me dad,
In my heart you will always be,
I can't look back with how,
Why cry for a soul set free,
These 2 years were just the first of many,
That you'll be missed each passing day,
But I know we'll be reunited in heaven,
And there forever we shall stay.
Also remembering my brother Anthony whose Birthday occurs 27th November and my nephew baby Richard's 18th Birthday. Loved and missed son Jonathan, Sinead, Tori, Amie, Amber and Aubrie. xxx

NOVENA

Novena to St. Clare
Ask St. Clare for 3 favours, 1 business, 2 impossible. Say 9 Hail Marys for 9 nights with lighted candle. Pray whether you believe or not. Publish on the ninth day. Powerful Novena. Say "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified and loved, today and every day, throughout the whole world, AMEN". Say 6 times every day for 9 days. Your request will be granted, no matter how impossible it may seem. Publication must be promised. **M.M.**

NOVENA

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ANNIVERSARY



Duncan, Joseph (Joe)
1st Anniversary occurs 18th November. Formerly of Kingswood Heights.

How do we write on paper,
The feelings we have inside,
From your heartbroken sisters and brother,
Who have missed you since you died,
Our hearts still ache with sadness,
Our secret tears still flow,
For what it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know,
Call Joseph's name out softly, Lord,
And when he looks your way,
Tell him that we love and miss him every day.
Your name is often spoken,
We talk about you still,
You haven't been forgotten,
You know you never will,
No words or verse could ever say,
How much we miss you every day,
Deep in our hearts your memory is kept,
We love you too dearly to ever forget.
Never forgotten by your loving sisters Breda and Mary & brother Christy. Safe in the arms of the divine mercy.

NOVENA

Miracle Prayer
Dear heart of Jesus I ask you this special favour (mention one) take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. Amen. say this prayer 3 days promise publication and favour will be granted never known to fail. **T.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.G.**

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Glass, Colette
80th Birthday, 13th away from home occurs on the 18th of November. Late of Avonmore Park.

Mam
A million tear stained kisses,
We send especially to you,
Because today's your birthday,
And we are really missing you.
Love today and always Colette, Tina and Brian. xxx

Super Nan
Happy Birthday Nana.
Love always your Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren. xxx

ANNIVERSARY

Kavanagh, Dermot
1st Anniversary occurred 14th November.

We cannot bring the old days back,
When we were all together,
The family chain is broken now,
But the memories live forever.
Sadly missed by your sister Joan, brother Declan and Family.

NOVENA

Angel Of Portugal
Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly. I offer you the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which he is offended. And, through the infinite merits of his Most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners. **T.G.**

NOVENA

August Queen of Heaven
Sovereign Mistress of the angels! Thou who from the beginning hast received from God the power and mission to crush the head of Satan, we humbly beseech thee to send thy holy Legions, that, under thy command and by thy power, they may pursue the evil spirits, encounter them on every side, resist their bold attacks and drive them hence into the abyss of eternal woe. Amen **T.G.**

NOVENA

Angel Of Portugal
Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly. I offer you the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which he is offended. And, through the infinite merits of his Most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners. **R.G.**

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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



Wall, Edward
16th Anniversary occurs 21st November. Late of Killinarden Estate.

I think of you in silence Ned,
I often speak your name,
I have so many memories,
And your picture in a frame,
My heart still aches with sadness,
My silent tears still flow,
What it meant to lose you Ned,
No one will ever know,
Too special to be forgotten.
Always loved, your loving wife Christine. Also remembering our grandson Cillian.

Dad
Unknown to the world,
You stand by our side,
For this is a love death cannot divide,
As long as we live,
We will always be glad,
For a wonderful Dad,
We were proud to have had.
You live in our hearts,
And walk by our side,
From heaven above,
You are always our guide.
Always loved never forgotten, your loving daughter Samantha and son-in-law Derek.

Dad
You will always live within our hearts,
If tears could build a stair way,
And memories were a lane,
I would walk right up to heaven,
To bring you home again.
No farewell words were spoken,
No time to say goodbye,
You were gone before I knew it,
And only God knows why,
My heart still aches with sadness,
And secret tears still flow,
What it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know.
Your loving daughter Carol and son-in-law Stephen.

Dad
Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard but always near,
Still loved, still missed and always dear.
In our hearts your memories linger,
Sweetly tender fond and true,
There is not a day dear Dad,
We do not think of you.
Also remembering our son Cillian. Your loving son Robert and daughter-in-law Sarah.

A special smile,
A special face,
A special grandad,
We cannot replace,
Gone from our lives,
Gone from our thoughts,
But not from our hearts,
Because you are loved so much.
Your loving grandsons James and Max and granddaughters Jessica, Amber and Lara.

ANNIVERSARY



O'Brien, Thomas (Tommy)
In loving memory of Thomas (Tommy) O'Brien whose 4th Anniversary occurs on 21st November.

Tommy
Sometimes I think of you,
As I walk along the street,
Sometimes I hear you call me,
As I'm falling off to sleep,
The times when I get lonely,
And shed a silent tear,
I hear you whisper to me,
'It's ok love, I'm here',
As time goes by without you,
And days turn into years,
They hold a million memories,
And a million silent tears,
Although I cannot see you,
Your love has kept me strong,
So stay beside me always,
My whole life long.
Love and miss you always your loving wife Bernie. xxx

Dad - Grandad
Your needs in life were simple,
Your love for your family true,
As long as we were happy,
You were happy too,
You taught us many things in life,
Always good and true,
But you never taught us how to cope,
With the pain of losing you,
No matter how life changes,
No matter what we do,
A special place within our hearts,
Is always kept for you,
No words can heal our heartache,
Or stop our fallen tears,
Or take away our memories,
Of a dad and grandad, we loved so dear.
We love and miss you so much every day from your loving Son, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren. xxxx

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.G.**

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Scannell, Mary
Late of Killinarden Estate. 11th Birthday away from home occurs 17th November. Also remembering my dad John.

Another day goes by without you,
Another day to reminisce,
About all the times we shared together,
And everything I miss,
Flowers at your graveside,
Photos in a frame,
I still feel you all around me,
But nothing seems the same,
If I could see you for just a minute,
I know what I would do,
I'd freeze that moment in a heartbeat,
So I could stay with you,
I know someday we'll be together,
In a place not far away,
And my heart will not be broken,
Just like it is today.
Happy Birthday Mam, loved, remembered, and missed by your son John.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Doyle, Robert
Late of Palmerstown. Whose 46th Birthday occurred 14th November, his 16th away from home.

We cannot stop the hands of time,
Or live again the past,
But we will love and miss you,
As long as life will last,
Memories are precious,
They don't fade away,
We think of you always,
Especially today.
For our loving son and brother, Robert, on your 46th Birthday.
From your loving Mam, Tom, sisters Michelle, Sharon and Jennifer & brother Wesley. Kelley, Megan, Shane, Sister-in-Law, Brothers-in-Law, Nieces and Nephews, Friends and Family.

NOVENA

August Queen of Heaven
Sovereign Mistress of the angels! Thou who from the beginning hast received from God the power and mission to crush the head of Satan, we humbly beseech thee to send thy holy Legions, that, under thy command and by thy power, they may pursue the evil spirits, encounter them on every side, resist their bold attacks and drive them hence into the abyss of eternal woe. Amen **D.D.**

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.B.**

NOVENA

Novena to St. Jude
Most Holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honours and invokes you universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore, you, of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need, that I may receive the consolation and help of Heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly, (here make your request) and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever, I promise O Blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. **E.C.**

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.B.**

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planning notices

All planning applications must be in before 5pm Monday

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South Dublin County Council
I, Aidan O'Connell Intend to apply for permission For a development at this site, 67 Bancroft Park, Tallaght, Dublin 24. Eircode D24 PE0W. The development will consist of a single storey porch and kitchen extension to the front, convert existing garage to a study, erect a single storey extension to the rear and widen the existing vehicular entrance from 2.5 metres to 4.0 metres. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am – 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

South Dublin County Council
Permission sought for retention of existing front porch and existing first floor bedroom extension over existing garage at side of 84 Barton Drive, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14, D14 XP29, for Declan & Una Lernihan. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am – 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

South Dublin County Council
Michael Murphy is applying for Planning Permission for (A) Construction of a one and a half storey and part single storey type house, (B) Garage/store for domestic use with 2 no stables and tackroom, (C) The installation of an Oakstown BAF wastewater treatment plant with percolation area and (D) New vehicular entrance and driveway off the shared access laneway and all associated site works at Aghfarrell, Brittas, Co. Dublin
This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am – 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

Dublin City Council
I Myles Miley, intend to apply for planning permission for development at this site 193 Downpatrick Rd, Crumlin, Dublin D12 A2N3. The development will consist of: Two-storey and single-storey extensions to the side and back of the house
The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the Planning Authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 3, 2023

SD23A/0108 03 Nov 2023 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Brennans Bakery
Location: Greenhills Industrial Estate, Greenhills Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12
Description: Demolition of the existing Unit 1 building at the eastern end of the site and the construction of a new enclosed van and truck loading area which shall contain two articulated vehicle loading docks on its northern gable along with a large roller shutter door providing access to twenty internal van loading points and a finished goods storage area.

SD23B/0207 03 Nov 2023 Permission and Retention Additional Information
Applicant: Sarah Walker
Location: 10, Saggart Lakes, Saggart, Co. Dublin
Description: Extensions and alterations to existing two storey detached house to include (a) single storey detached domestic garage (garage 1) to front of existing house; (b) single storey (garage 2) and family flat extension to front of existing house to include change of use of existing garage/store to family flat use; (c) single storey porch to front of existing use; (d) 2 single storey domestic use extensions to rear of existing house and all associated alterations; (e) modifications to window openings to rear and side of existing house; (f) landscaping and all associated site development works; Retention of single storey domestic extension to side of existing house.

SD23B/0334 02 Nov 2023 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Barry & Ciara Cronin
Location: 17, The Rise, Boden Park, Dublin 16
Description: Attic Conversion incorporating raising of side hip to form new Dutch hip together with dormer windows to rear and rooflights to front and modifications to existing first floor window to front

SD23B/0227 02 Nov 2023 Permission Clarification of Additional Information
Applicant: Brian Carroll
Location: 57, Monksfield Grove, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.
Description: Demolition of single storey detached shed to side and /rear and erection of a new 2 storey extension to side single storey extension to rear with internal modifications and associated site works.

SD23A/0285 31 Oct 2023 Permission and Retention New Application
Applicant: Campami Ltd
Location: 10, The View, Ballycullen Gate, Firhouse, Dublin 24
Description: Retention permission & permission for development on a site of c. 0.044 hectares (c. 444 sq.m) which has the approved name of No. 10 The View, Ballycullen Gate, Firhouse, Dublin 24 (i.e., the proposed development is located within the permitted Ballycullen Gate development granted permission under Ref.'s SD17A/0468 and SD22A/0356, which is located south of Oldcourt Road, Firhouse, Dublin 24, and is currently under construction). The proposed development seeks retention permission for existing foundations in place at the site and permission for an extension of 19 sq.m to the permitted 83 sq.m "C1-A" house type granted permission under Ref. SD22A/0356, increasing the unit size from a permitted 2 bed 4-person bungalow (83 sq.m) to a proposed 3 bed 5-person bungalow (102 sq.m). The proposed development includes all associated site development works and will have the effect of modifying extant permission Ref.s SD17A/0468 and SD22A/0356. SD23A/0286 31 Oct 2023 Permission New Application Applicant: John Gargan Location: Greenogue Recycling, Tay Lane, Rathcreedan, Rathcoole, Co Dublin Description: The development will consist of a 4.42 hectare stie currently in use as Greenogue Recycling to include the following; A) Demolition of existing green recycling structures on site including office and storage shed with total area of 2,265m2. B) Construction of 7 no. warehouse units, with maximum height of 15.3 meters, all with ancillary office, staff areas, bin stores etc. Each unit has access to service yard and HGV loading / unloading area. The total floor area of the warehouse development is 16,602.2 m2, made up as follows; i) Unit 1 - gross floor area of 3,851.1 m2. ii) Unit 2 - gross floor area of 3,886.8 m2. iii) Unit 3 - gross floor area of 2,758.3 m2. iv) Unit 4 - gross floor area of 1,685.4 m2. v) Unit 5 - gross floor area of 1,062.2 m2. vi) Unit 6 gross floor area of 1,679.2 m2. vii) Unit 7 - gross floor area of 1,679.2 m2. C) Access to be provided from existing entrance to the site via Tay Lane. New footpaths / cyclepaths throughout the site including a new footpath / cyclepath connection to the Greenogue Logistics Park to the north of the site. D) 170 no. car parking spaces and 100 no. secure, sheltered bicycle parking spaces to serve the warehouse units. E) All ancillary site development works to include; minor realignment of site entrance, landscaping, internal raods, drainage, utility services, service yards, HGV loading / unloading areas, level access goods doors, dock levellers, site lighting, boundary treatments, signage, storm water drainage network, underground water and foul servicing, green roofs on warehouse units, form part of this application.

SD23A/0287 01 Nov 2023 Permission New Application
Applicant: Carl Fox
Location: 121A/121, at Rear, Aylmer Road, Newcastle, Dublin, D22 RK64
Description: The erection of 1 no. single storey 3 bedroom dwelling house circa 122 m2 nett internal area (circa 153 m2 gross external area) to include new vehicle access, car parking, new service & drainage connections & other associated site works including partial removal of existing boundary wall & fence, on overall site comprising 0.0752 hectares (circa 752 m2)

SD23A/0288 02 Nov 2023 Permission New Application
Applicant: Atlantico Partnership
Location: Greenfield portion of lands immediately adjacent to the east of, Unit 11 Broomhill Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 PF20
Description: Construction of 82 no. residential apartment units and associated commercial floorspace in 3 no. residential apartment blocks 5 to 6 storeys as follows: Block A contains 44 no. apartment units in a 6-storey apartment block (with double height mezzanine corner feature at 5th floor level addressing the corner of Greenhills Road and Broomhill Road). This will consist of 25 no. 1 bed apartments, 17 no. 2 bed apartments and 2 no. 3 bed apartments. All apartment units will be provided with associated private terraces / balconies. Block B contains 23 no. apartment units in a 5-storey apartment block. This will consist of 8 no. 1 bed apartments, 9 no. 2 bed apartments and 6 no. 3 bed apartments. All apartment units will be provided with associated private terraces / balconies. Block C contains 15 no. apartments in a 5-storey apartment block. This will consist of 4 no. 1 bed apartments, 7 no. 2 bed apartments and 4 no. 3 bed apartments. All apartment units will be provided with associated private terraces / balconies. A resident's lounge (c. 73.6 sq.m) for use by occupants of all proposed apartment units is provided at ground floor level of Block C. A commercial unit (c. 148.5 sq.m) front Greenhills Road is also provided at ground floor level in Block C. New vehicular access to the site will be provided from the Broomhill Road. Provision of an area of landscaped public open space (c 776 sq.m) and communal open space (592 sq.m) including c.192 sq.m as a roof terrace area for residents. Lobbies, stair / lifts, photovoltaic panels and green roofs throughout Blocks A, B and C. Provision of 41 no. car parking spaces and 182 no. bicycle parking spaces for residents of the proposed development. All associated site development works, services provision, infrastructural and drainage works, provision of esb substations, bin stores, public lighting, landscaping, open space, and boundary treatment works on this site of 0.69 ha.

SD23A/0289 03 Nov 2023 Permission New Application
Applicant: JMC Van Trans Ltd
Location: Baldonnell Lower, Kingswood Business Park, Dublin, D22 E9C3
Description: Erect 1 no. company logo advertising sign to our existing warehouse unit (built as per previously granted planning permissions reg ref SD18A/0314 (ABP-304148-19); SD19A/0408, SD20A/0187, SD21A/0239 and SD22A/0302) at Kingswood Business Park Baldonnell Dublin 22. The signage (total area of 28.55 sq.m) is proposed to be affixed to the existing warehouse unit side (eastern) elevation, 12.25m above ground floor level and it will consist of raised backlit company logo lettering. All other details such as site access, landscaping, external surface finishes, water supply, drainage, attenuation systems etc will remain as per the aforementioned granted planning permissions.

SD23A/0290 03 Nov 2023 Outline Permission New Application
Applicant: Mary McDonald & Pat McDonald
Location: 63, Verschoyle Park, Citywest Road, Saggart, D24 KX46
Description: Outline permission for detached two bedroomed single storey dwelling to be built in adjoining site.

SD23B/0455 31 Oct 2023 Permission New Application
Applicant: Patrick & Lorna O'Flaherty
Location: 3 The Vale, Woodfarm Acres, Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
Description: Proposed first floor bedroom extension to front of house also all associated site works

Contact *The Echo* to have a planning notification published Call 468 5350 or email reception@echo.ie

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Deputy Sports Editor: William O'Connor

Thursday, November 16, 2023

'Finals like this don't come along too often'

Tallaght girl looking forward to WFAI Cup decider with Shelbourne

IT HAS been a busy few weeks for young Shelbourne player Rebecca Devereux and this weekend the talented striker is looking forward to the WFAI Cup final in Tallaght Stadium on Sunday, *reports William O'Connor.*

From Sundale in Tallaght, Rebecca has played in the U17 Women's National League decider when they beat Athlone 2-1 and then played in the U19 final against Wexford Youths last week.

Having scored in the U17 final, Rebecca is now looking forward to being part of the Shelbourne senior squad in the WFAI Cup final against Athlone Town.

"I'm really excited about the final, it's going to be a close match and a big crowd is expected so we are all looking forward to the occasion.

"For me playing in Tallaght is great. It's only down the road from my house and I only played their once against Shamrock Rovers a few weeks ago so I'm looking forward to the occasion,"

Having joined Shelbourne in June 2022 from Peamount United, Rebecca has enjoyed a productive season with the northsiders.

"It's been a busy season with the club and the Ireland U17s and to get to this stage of the WFAI Cup is great.

"We played Athlone three times this season, but they have a new manager in Ciaran Kilduff and we can take nothing for granted.

"It's such a great achievement to get to the final and we are all looking forward to the day. Finals like this don't come too often and it should be a great occasion".

Having turned 17-years in June, Rebecca has certainly plenty to look forward to on the club and international scene.



Rebecca Devereux of Shelbourne poses for a portrait during a media day at Tallaght Stadium ahead of the Sports Direct Women's FAI Cup Final between Athlone Town FC v Shelbourne FC
Photo by Sportsfile

Delight for Joshua after securing national boxing title

JOBSTOWN celebrates a historic victory as Joshua Olaniyan, the 75kg National Elite champion, secures his title following a remarkable performance in the ring *reports Rory Merriman.*

Olaniyan's journey to this pinnacle of success was no easy feat, marked by strategic bouts and resilient determination.

In the preliminary rounds, Josh faced a challenging match against Jack Brady from Crumlin BC, exhibiting a tactical approach to secure a spot in the semi-finals.

The real test awaited him in Cathal McLaughlin, the senior champion from Raphoe BC, off the back of a recently clinched victory in the seniors.

Against all odds that were up against him with a cut above his eye from a previous bout, Joshua adhered to a meticulous game plan, maintaining distance accompanied by an inteligent style of boxing.

The result was a unanimous victory across all three rounds, propelling him into the finals.

The championship bout pitted Joshua against Chris O'Reilly from Holy Family BC, marking their third encounter.

After a contentious defeat in the Elites the previous year, Joshua rebounded with a decisive 5/0 win in a box cup in England.

Armed with a strategic game plan focused on leveraging his sharp jab and evading a brawl with the tenacious O'Reilly, Joshua executed a master class performance.

The final result saw the hand of a Dublin 24 native raised as the Elite champion, fulfilling a dream for both him and his dedicated coaches.

For the coaches at Jobstown, this victory holds special significance.

Operating for only eight years, the gym has flourished under the guidance of head coach James, who invested countless hours refining Joshua's skills for elite competitions.

The coach-boxer relationship between them is described as unique, with open communication on areas of improvement and success.

The win is not only a personal triumph but also a historic moment for Jobstown, marking their first Elite title.

The emotional impact resonated throughout the gym as Joshua's hand was raised, symbolizing the culmination of eight years of hard work and dedication.

With this victory, Jobstown boasts an impressive tally of 31 Irish national titles, a testament to the success and growth they've achieved in a relatively short span.

In the broader context, Joshua's victory contributes significantly to Jobstown's stellar record, having won titles at every age and level.

His success, along with that of his brother, who is also a champion, has become integral to the gym's identity and its legacy in Irish boxing.

This Elite title not only feels like a lottery win for Jobstown but also cements their status as a powerhouse in Irish boxing, thanks to the talent and dedication of athletes like Joshua Olaniyan.



Joshua Olaniyan

Athletics

Donore athletes impress stateside

IN MARCH 2020, just one week before the first Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, Abdel Laadjel of Donore Harriers and Michael Morgan of Sligo AC won the All-Ireland Schools Cross-Country championship titles in the intermediate and senior grades respectively.

On Friday last the same two athletes were running in tandem near the front of the NCAA North-East Regional Cross-Country Championships at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, New York.

The 10km course was fast and consisted of one-short and two long loops.

Running for the esteemed Providence College Friars the duo set their targets on a top-10 finish in the hope of qualifying for the NCAA National Cross-Country Championships to take place in Charlottesville, Virginia next Saturday, November 18.

The training partners were always running close to the top order in a highly competitive field, with Laadjel making positional gains between the 7km and 9km points and eventually secured 9th spot in an impressive time of 29.55.0.

Morgan pushed forward in the final kilometre to place sixth and the race was won by Graham Blanks (29.31.6) of Harvard University. There were 253 finishers.

Laadjel was the 2nd scorer on the Friars team that placed 4th of 37.

In the NCAA South Regional Championships at the Mark Bostick Golf Course at Gainesville, Florida Louis O'Loughlin, the other Donore Harriers athlete presently on scholarship in the States, placed 51st of 171 finishers in a time of 30.38.7.

The Clondalkin man was lying back in the 80s and 90s positions in the middle part of the race and left himself with too much to do in the latter stages to impact toward the front of the race.

He finished as the 4th scorer on the Auburn University Tigers team that placed 7th of 23.

His race was won by Hilary Cheryiouut (28.26.8) of Alabama University.



Abdel Laadjel with Michael Morgan at the North-East XC

Donore women take part in meet and train in Tymon



Donore's women meet and train

It was a great morning in Tymon Park for the first round of the women's meet and train cross country league.

Thankfully the rain stopped well in time although conditions underfoot were slippy and muddy.

Donore Harriers had seven runners out, three of which did the marathon a few weeks ago.

117 runners took part in the two-mile three-lap race hosted by Sportsworld,

Louise Kelly finished 15th, Suzie Henley Willis 28th, Ruth Chambers 45th, Lee Chambers 72nd, Sarah Ni Ruairc 90th, Catherine McKeon 96th and Ann Woodlock 116th.

Louise, Suzie and Sarah ran particularly well working their way through the field with the marathon still in their legs, great to see Lee and Ruth Chambers back in action as well as stalwarts Catherine and Ann.

Back at the race afters in St Jude's GAA, the legendary Ann was also presented with a gift of a customised medal holder from her clubmates to mark her world indoor win this year in Poland.

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Busy times for Harriers



Sadhbh Ni Bhuachalla, Izzy Cuffe, Saoirse Fitzgerald, Eve Clarke and Eilis Tomney at the National Cross Country Championships

THE annual British and Irish Masters Cross country took place in Glasgow on Saturday. A very tough 6k Cross Country. Blue skies heavy underfoot typical cross-country conditions. Some great results for the Irish team including Lucan's Mary Browne team silver for the W065.

Fantastic morning in the Phoenix Park for the annual Remembrance Run. Over 3000 taking part. Families, friends, individuals all with a common goal of remembering loved ones.

17 Harriers turned up to steward and help support the event and showcase the club. Well done to John Rabbett for coordinating the stewarding.

The Dublin Juvenile Cross-Country Championships were held on 2 dates over the past month. The even age championships took place in Abbottstown on the 15th of October and the uneven championships took place in Santry Demesne last Sunday. Weather wise the days were similar but the underfoot conditions couldn't have been more different with last Sunday being a proverbial mud bath!

As usual we had a very large Lucan Harriers contingent on both dates with everyone giving their all.

In total Lucan Harriers won 7 team medals with the following teams making the podium:

On the individual side we had 25 top 12 finish with those finishing top 12 in U11 and older age groups qualifying to represent Dublin at the National Cross-Country Championships· U10 Girls – Roise Ni Dhomhnaill – 9th, U10 Boys – David Abbott – 2nd, Charlie Smith 5th, Arda Hayes, 8th, Paul Bastable – 11th; U11 Boys – Seimi Anglim – 3rd, Stephen Abbott – 12th; U12 Girls – Doireann Ni Fhiaich – 3rd, U12 Boys, Seimi Anglim 9th, U13 Boys Conal Fitzgerald1st, Daniel Abbott 3rd, U14 Boys Conor Abbott 6th, U15 Girls - Rachel Jez - 10th, U15 Boys Conor Abbott 10th, U16 Girls Eve Clarke 3rd, U16 Boys Jacob Ciomek 1st, David Coakley 12th, U17 Girls, Izzy Cuffe 4th, Eve Clarke 9th, Saoirse Fitzgerald 10th, U18 Girls Izzy Cuffe 7th, U19 Girls Aisling Fitzpatrick 5th, Eve Noctor 7th, Maggie Jez 8th and U20 (Junior) Men and Dara Donoghue 4th.

Congratulations to Aoife Coffey who will be heading to the University of Toledo in Ohio next year on scholarship. Best of luck to Aoife and we will be watching from afar. It's a fantastic opportunity for this young lady and indeed a great honour for her and her family. Aoife has been one of the emerging stars of Lucan Harriers over the last few years.

Well done to Mary Browne, 3.50.36 in the New York marathon on Sunday. An incredible achievement for this lady who only took up running 5 years ago. According to Mary had a very strong first half and unfortunately couldn't quite maintain it for the 2nd half. The hills of the second half ultimately took its toll. It was still a fantastic time for Mary.



Patricia Hennessy, Lorraine Mullally, Catherine Dunne, Pat Newham, John Rabbett, Celine Murphy and Colin O'Gara at the Remembrance Run



Mary Browne team at the New York marathon



Kathleen Trunk, Eileen O'Brien, Avril Feeney, Lhyne Ganadin, Irene Namugere and John Rabbett at the Remembrance Run in the Phoenix Park

Hockey

Glens' have no answer

GLENANNE men's team were on the wrong side of a 3-0 defeat to Lisnagarvey in EYHL Division One at the weekend.

Lisanagarvey came out of the blocks early in this game and took the lead in the sixth minute through a Matthew Nelson goal from open play to make it 1-0 to Garvey.

Ben Nelson opened his account only seven minutes later when his goal from open play made the score 2-0.

He completed the scoring in the first half by gaining his second goal from open play in the thirty third minute to leave the visitors 3-0 ahead at the half time break .

Quarters three and four did not prove fruitful for either side.

Meanwhile Three Rock Rover's men's team played out a 2-2 draw with Monkstown.

After a scoreless first quarter, the visitors took the lead in the thirtieth minute through a field goal from James Walker and led 1-0 at the half time break.

Alistair Empey increased the visitors lead in the fifty-fourth minute when his field goal gave them a 2-0 lead.

Monkstown though are a tough nut to crack and have a resilience this season that makes them difficult to keep down.

They struck twice late on to snatch a draw from the jaws of defeat. Mark Gibbons converted penalty corner in the sixty-eighth minute got them on the scoresheet but they were still trailing 1-2 into the final minute.

Theodore Kohlmann came to the rescue with a goal from open play to steal a point.

Loret women Wander on in league

LORETO women's hockey secured maximum points in the EYHL Division One following their 4-0 win over Wanderers.

Things began to unravel for the visitors as early as the seventh minute when Loreto were awarded a penalty stroke.

Hannah McLoughlin converted the stroke to give Loreto a 1-0 lead and this was a lead they maintained until half-time.

They increased their lead after half time through a Síofra O'Brien goal from open play to lead 2-0 in the forty seventh minute.

Aisling Murray's converted penalty corner increased their lead in the 55th minute to leave the score 3-0 at that stage.

Síofra O'Brien secured the victory with her second goal of the game again from open play in the fifty-eighth minute to leave the final score Loreto 4 Pembroke Wanderers 0.

Rugby

Tallaght girls edged out

The Tallaght women's team took on Ashbourne away in Division 4 looking to maintain their place at the top of the table but went down to Ashbourne 15-25 at Archerstown Road.

The two teams renewed their rivalry after Tallaght beat Ashbourne to win Division 5 last season, although Ashbourne knocked Tallaght out of the cup before going on to win it. Ashbourne started the game well and were carrying aggressively.

After sustained pressure, Ashbourne broke through to score the first try of the game to take a 5-0 lead however Tallaght hit back quickly.

Strong carries from Orlaith Plunkett and Nicole Fanning forced Ashbourne to concede a series of penalties in their twenty two.

From a tapped penalty Louise Leonard went to the blindside to put winger Niamh Moore in for her first try for the club to tie the game at 5-all.

Ashbourne hit back with another try to make it 10-5 but Tallaght responded again with a superb flowing move which was completed when Lorraine McManus and Doireann O'Byrne exchanged passes and McManus touched down the try in the corner.

Then the Ashbourne left wing busted through two tacklers to race away to score a fine try which made it 15-10 to Ashbourne at half-time.

Tallaght needed a strong start to the second half, but Ashbourne's tactical kicking game was strong and put them in good positions.

Tallaght's tactical kicking suffered by comparison, and they found themselves getting bogged down in their own half.

There was some brave resistance from Tallaght particularly from replacement full back Jensen Byrne who made superb cover tackles on three different occasions to save certain tries. Eventually the pressure told and Ashbourne scored a converted try to take a 22-10 lead.

Tallaght fought back again and a nice pass from Nicole Fanning put replacement Roisin Ni Uileagoid in for her first try for the club in the left hand corner to make it 22-15. With time running out more poor discipline from Tallaght conceded a penalty in front of the posts which Ashbourne kicked to make the final score 25-15 and deny Tallaght a losing bonus point.



Niamh Moore tries to escape the attention of Ashbourne players during their defeat

Head coach Hayley Whyte was disappointed with her side's performance. "Credit to Ashbourne, they played better and deserved their win but we left that game behind us today if we're honest. Our tackling, decision-making, ruck speed, line speed and discipline was second best all day. It was a big game but we lacked that big game intensity from the start".

Tallaght play out draw with Greystones

TALLAGHT'S men's senior team played out a 18-18 draw with Greystones in the Metro League Division Six League at Dr Hickey Park at the weekend.

Third placed Tallaght took on first placed Greystones in Metro Division 6 in a game moved to Greystones as the Tallaght home pitch was declared unplayable by the council despite hardly any rain during the week.

Tallaght started well and were making good progress off strong carries from Brian Lacey and Jordan Corrigan which earned Tallaght a penalty shot at goal. It was away to the left from a good distance out, but Rob Hudson nailed it to give Tallaght a 3-0 lead.

Then from a scrum just inside their own half half backs Darryl Keogh and Dave Clarke launched a backline move. Leon Tanfin made the break and fed full back Raheel Hussain. Hussain passed to Hudson who timed his pass perfectly for fellow wing Alex Sadiku to score his first competitive try at this level. This made it 8-0 to Tallaght but Greystones hit back with a converted try to make the halftime score 8-7.



Daryl Keogh starts a move that finishes in a try for the Tallaght men's team

At the start of the second half Greystones were dominant. They got their offloading game going and found spaces out wide in the Tallaght defence. They scored an unconverted try and added a penalty kick to take a 15-8 lead. Greystones came again at Tallaght and were camped in their twenty-two but big hits by Darryl Keogh, Al Sower and Graham Timmins kept them out.

Tallaght started getting on the front foot again and from a break by Darryl Keogh Tallaght earned good field position for tight head prop Adam Nolan to launch a speculative cross field kick with a trajectory that could only be described as "wonky".

Miraculously Leon Tanfin was able to pluck the kick from the air and get over the line for a try. This reduced the deficit to 15-13 but Greystones hit back again with a penalty to make it 18-13. Tallaght kept going though and in the final play of the game Kevin Quinn put Mick Corrigan over in the corner for a try to tie the game up. It was also Corrigan's first try at this level. The difficult touchline conversion was missed meaning the very entertaining contest finished an 18-all draw.

Tallaght head coach Adam Nolan was proud of the his team came back. "We played really well in the first half, our shape in both attack and defence was really good. We slipped off that level for ten minutes at the start of the second half and they got a decent lead. But once again, we showed great character to come back and snatch a draw. Greystones are a good side so to come away with two points is a decent result and the lads are actually disappointed we didn't win. We had a tough start to the season with a couple of heavy defeats but the lads has bounced back really well."

GAA

Tower U15 ladies win shield title

ROUND Tower U15 ladies footballers were celebrating on Saturday when they overcame Raheny 5-11 to 6-6 to secure the Division Three Shield.

It looked like Towers were cruising to victory at half time after a strong first half performance in defense with Mary Kelly, Jemma Pluck, Ashley Trusler, Ella Behan and Madison Farrell all standing out.

Two great saves from keeper Zoe O'Brien kept the Raheny attack at bay and goals from Tara Kelly and Neasa Breen and points for Neasa Breen, Orlagh Ní Dhubhain, Sophie Doyle, Saoirse Maher saw the Clondalkin side led by 10 points at half time.

Raheny had the better of the second half with a strong comeback which put huge pressure on the Towers defense and saw them register two goals and a point without reply.

However, the Tower's girls rallied with points from Alannah Casey and points and a goal from Kitty Quinlan saw them establish a seven-point cushion.



Round Tower U15 ladies secured the Division Three shield

The northsiders weren't finished and raised a gear which saw them score three quick goals in succession.

But two points from Towers Neasa Breen made it a one-point game to Raheny with two minutes to go.

In a dramatic finish, Towers midfielder Orlagh Ní Dhubhain won a Towers kick out deep inside her own half and went on a solo run up to the Raheny 21 before passing the ball into full forward Kitty Quinlan who had no problem finding the back of the net.

Captain Saoirse Maher saw to one last rally from Raheny with a courageous block which surely would have been a score just before the referee blew the full-time whistle to the delight of the Tower's players.

Neasa Breen accounted for a goal and six points for Tower's while Tara Kelly scored (2-0), Kitty Quinlan (2-1), Alannah Casey (0-1), Sophie Doyle (0-1), Orlagh Ní Dhubhain (0-1) and Saoirse Maher (0-1).

First hurling league title for Na Gaeil Oga



Action from the league final

THERE was delight for Na Gaeil Oga U15 boys who won the clubs first ever hurling league final last week.

The team who got to the semi-final in last year's hurling Championship and lost after a replay in Oldtown against Wild Geese, was spurred on to go all the way on this year.

However, Na Gaeil Oga made no mistake this time around when they brushed aside the challenge of Castleknock 4-4 to 1-7 after coming from five-point down at half time.

But the Lucan side got things right in the second half and registered three goals against the run of play which proved decisive at the finish.

Jake Nesbit had a key role to play and scored a goal in the first half, and his twin brother Max registered a goal in second half.

Captain Shannon Reilly who played midfield had a great performance particularly in the second half and got in on the scoring act with a goal while Dara de Burca at centre half forward, as always worked very hard and had an great performance on the day.

Sean Behan put in a solid display in defence as did Sean Anderson in goal and the full back line defended brilliantly for the last 15 minutes to hold out for the win.

Lucan minor ladies claim shield crown

Lucan Sarsfields minor Ladies finished out the season with a solid match against Thomas Davis in a fixture that was a repeat of their earlier group stage encounter to emerge 0-11 to 0-5 winners in the shield decider.

Having drawn in the group stages of the championship this game promised to be competitive encounter and didn't fail to live up to expectations. The first half began at a blistering pace with both teams looking to take an early advantage.

The Kiltipper side edged into an early lead with the first point of the game, and a well-organised defence made it hard for Sarsfields to register scores early on.

Lucan's Orla Morrisey started to torment the Davis defence making clever runs and winning ball to help set up attacks and their first score came when Caoimhe Keller's fired over the bar.



Lucan Sarfields beat Thomas Davis to claim the shield

Thomas Davis responded with their second point of the game and began to apply pressure to make further inroads on the scoreboard however Lucan's defenders in particular Shauna Rooney, Caoilfhionn Sheary and Saoirse Balfe stood out.

Lucan's half back line also stood out with Aoife Fox, team captain Niamh Roche and Eve Bruton putting in good shifts to stop a lively Davis attack.

Leah Duffy tagged on another score for Lucan but at the other end of the pitch keeper Tegan Kelleher pulled off a brilliant save to deny Davis a certain goal.

The teams exchanged scores before the interval with Siobhan Birnie following good work from Caoimhe Costello and Milly Hughes sent the teams in all square at the break.

In the second half scores from Milly Hughes and Leah Duffy helped Lucan to an early second half lead with Davis responding to leave the match hanging in the balance.

A further point from the excellent free taking of Leah Duffy followed by a brilliant solo effort from Aisling Colfer edged Lucan in front but they can thank defenders Rebecca McGrath and Niamh Roche who had superb games for the winners.

Faughs U14s lift Division 1 title for the first time

FAUGHS U14 camogie team created history by winning the Division One Championship for the first time at juvenile level in their club's history.

The Templeogue side secured the title when they overcame the challenge of Clontarf in a titanic battle 1-6 to 0-8 at the GAA National Sports Campus, Abbotstown last week.

Faughs got off to a strong start in this match attacking hard from the outset and this paid off as they registered 1-3 to no score lead after 20 minutes, with quick points from Sadhbh King, Jessica Lombard and Shona King.

This was followed in the first half by a crucial goal scored by Sophie Walsh who showed great determination to get the ball over the line after a good stop by the Clontarf goalkeeper.

The northsiders settled into the game for the remainder of the first half getting good scores to leave it 1-3 to 0-3 at half time.

Both teams came out early from the half time break and picked up where they left off. Clontarf had made some tactical changes at half time that proved effective in the first period of the second half, bringing them to within one-point of Faughs.

Faughs further adjusted their setup however to counter these changes, and restored a three-point lead again through scores from Sophie Ward and Sadhbh King, who showed her usual technique and cool head in scoring from a long range free.

Clontarf continued to battle really hard and showed great spirit, putting increasing pressure on Faughs as the second half played out.

The Faughs backline stood firm, marshalled by their full back and captain on the day, Grace O'Sullivan supported by Isabelle O'Flaherty who made a super save close to the end, wing back Tori Whelan - whose heroics ultimately earned her the Player of the Match award.

Drama was high in the final five minutes of the half with Daisy Sunderland delivering at both ends of the pitch, scoring a point up one end and blocking down a goalward-bound Clontarf shot at the other. Clontarf continued to pick off scores right up to the end, mainly from frees conceded by Faughs as they battled to keep the opposition at bay. When the final whistle blew, only one point separated the teams in what was a fantastic and well-fought contest between two equally impressive teams.



Faughs U14's camogie team made history winning the division 1 Championship

Soccer

Celebration time for the Super Saints

A RECORD 43,881 spectators watched from the stands on Sunday as St Patricks Athletic trounced Bohemians in the FAI Cup Final for the second time in three years clinching their 5th FAI Cup title *reports Rory Merriman.*

Declan Devine's Bohemians not only prolonged their FAI Cup dry spell from 14 years to 15 with the loss, but they also forfeited European football in the 2024 season, making way for north side rivals Shelbourne FC.

Capping off a triumphant season that secured European football for the Inchicore side, Jon Daly's army triumphed in two out of their last three encounters with the Gypsies. It was now time to add the proverbial cherry on top.

Hailing from Clondalkin originally, Daly replaced former Saints manager, Tim Clancy in back April of this year and completely turned the season around for Pats. "I'm thrilled. I'm delighted for the players I'm delighted for my family. The fans have been excellent this year," he revealed in a post-match interview with RTÉ.

Having spent the 2021 Cup final fervently supporting the Dublin 8 side from behind the Aviva Stadium goal, 23-year-old Joe Redmond has come full circle leading the Saints in this year's final as captain of the side.



Clondalkin man Jon Daly led his side to FAI Cup glory against Bohemians



Joe Redmond from Kilnamanagh celebrates after forcing an own goal by Bohemian's Krystian Nowak
Photos by Matt Lysaght

In true Dublin Derby fashion, the final faced a customary delay as pyro flares were thrown onto the pitch, creating a misty cloud of red smoke.

Commencing shortly after 3 PM, the game unfolded with St Pats' left-back, Anto Breslin, conceding a 9th-minute penalty by fouling Afolabi. Unsurprisingly, the Tallaght striker converted, securing his 20th goal of the season.

Bohemians' lead lasted a mere 14 minutes as Dublin 8's Jake Mulraney delivered a precise free-kick, met by Saints winger Mark Doyle's head to level the score.

At halftime, the deadlock left the title's destination uncertain, with Dylan Connolly's relentless attacks and Kian Leavy's impactful offense keeping the outcome unpredictable.

The second half saw James Talbot tirelessly tested, making crucial saves to thwart St Pats' advances. However, the persistence paid off when Krystian Nowak inadvertently directed Jake Mulraney's dangerous delivery into the Gypsies' net, putting St Pats ahead 2-1.

The Bohemian fans fell silent, and momentum shifted decisively to the southside club. Substitute Tommy Lonergan sealed the victory with a third goal for the Saints, closing the chapter on any potential Bohs comeback.

A notable moment unfolded as 16-year-old Mason Melia entered the pitch, not only becoming the youngest player to participate in an FAI Cup final but also securing the title as the youngest player ever to win it. Remarkably, he had sat his junior cert exams in June.

Reflecting in post-match interview, the Dublin 22 opened up about the youth available in his squad with Mason Melia (16), Adam Murphy (18) and Tommy Lonergan (19).

"For me I was lucky to get an opportunity as a young player so it's great to be able to repay that and give them opportunity to place first team football," Daly said.

In the end, the Dublin Derby final showcased the drama and unpredictability characteristic of such encounters, with St Pats emerging victorious, etching their names in both the history of the FAI Cup and the record books with the introduction of the youngest ever winner, Mason Melia.

With 9 league titles to their name, St. Pats secure their 5th FAI Cup title in a victorious battle against Bohs.

The gypsies were sent back to Dublin 7 with their tales between their legs as the saints go marching on.



St Pat's celebrate with the trophy on the pitch

Motorsport

Delight for Daire Flock after securing JSCC Championship

IT'S BEEN a fantastic year for young Daire Flock when he claimed the JSCC Championship at the weekend and becoming the the first Irishman to win the title in the UK.

Coming into Brands Hatch, Flock lead the JSCC championship by 28 points, with double points for both races it could go either way in the Championship.

With the weather forecast for Saturday being heavy rain, it was decided that qualifying would follow the safety car for three laps and the grid for both races will be formed by championship positions, giving Daire pole position for both races.

Race 1 was wet and very slippery, Daire got off from pole, but was demoted to second as they entered the first corner, as the lap continued an incident caused the race to be stopped.

On the restart

Daire got a better start, led into the first corner, with second place pushing the Tallaght lad throughout the race, the two of them were able to gap third.

With three laps to go the safety car was deployed for another incident that allowed Daire to take his 14th win of the season.

The last race of the season and the decider was dry and sunny, again Daire was on pole position.

As he led them off the line 3rd position was able to take the led Daire knowing a championship was at stake slotted in behind him the leader.

Daire took the lead after a mistake, it was a close battle to the end with Daire coming home 2nd ensuring he became the 2023 JSCC champion and becoming the first Irishman to win championship in the UK.

Daire said "I want to thank my team, mum and dad for all the effort in giving me this opportunity to win that Championship. It's been a fantastic year and Westbourne Motorsport gave me a car that allowed me to get 14 wins, 21 podiums and a lap record at Silverstone. I now start to focus on next year, stepping up to the Clio Cup. I would like to thank all my sponsors that came onboard throughout the year, Reactive Welding and Sub Zero."



Daire Flock is the first Irishman to win the JSCC Championship in the UK

Soccer

VEC bag their first win of the season



VEC FC got their first win of the season against AGPFC



AGPFC were the losing side of a close game against VEC FC

VEC FC gained their first win of the season, in the UCFL Premier Division, when they welcomed AGPFC to Terenure and won 3-2 at the end of a cracking game *reports John Mooney.*

It was only VEC's second league game of the season, due to cup commitments and games being called off, but they showed their mettle to dig deep after being pulled back from being 1-0 and 2-1 in front.

A new look side with a mixture of experience and youth, they got off to a perfect start when they opened their account in the 10th minute.

Oisin Kinsella was the scorer, and a cracker at that, when he picked up the ball just outside the visitors area and planted a beauty beyond the reach of Dean McEntee in the AGP goal.

It was a set-back for the visitors but within 13 minutes they were on level terms, as VEC player/coach Carl O'Gorman was chased down by Joe Byrne and, as he played the ball back, he accidentally put it past his own keeper.

However, VEC really should have been home and dry before the break but to vital stops by, first, McEntee to prevent an own goal, and, then, Matt Cawley to deny Joe Byrne when he had the goal at his mercy kept the side level at the break.

The second half started in explosive fashion with the visitors creating two half chances before VEC regained the lead with barely four minutes played, as Byrne was on hand to guide the ball home.

But just five minutes later it was all-square again, as Florab Pashas slipped the ball down the right hand channel for Herukus Svigutsicas to chase and slip beyond the advancing Sergei O'Brien in the home goal.

In fairness after that things got a little bit scrappy for a while, but Kinsella came up with the goods on 65 minutes to finally kill off the visitors' challenge.

Picking the ball up wide on the right he twisted and turned before planting a beauty into the bottom right hand corner of the net.

He then almost capped off a great performance when he drilled in a free kick that McEntee was equal to, but on the day three goals was enough to bag the points in this cracking game.

VEC FC: S. O'Brien, J. DeCastro, S. Lynch, N. Love, R. Newe, C. O'Gorman, J. McGavern, M. Kinsella, J. Byrne, T. Wrynne, O. Kinsella, P. Meghen, J. Berta, R. Lages, D. Sena, J. Hester.

AGF FC: D. McEntee, J. McEntee, D. Gaffney, C. O'Neill, M. Cawley, T. Donoghue, F. Pashas, D. Coulter, H. Svigutscias, R. O'Connor. C. Cooper, L. Comerford, L. Reid, D. Muller, R. McLeonard.

Match Officials: P. Lang, J, Keating, G. Kearney.



VEC FC's Neil Love gets a shot away before AGPFC's Fjorab Pashas can close him
Photos by John Mooney



Oisin Kinsella of VEC holds off both Troy Donoghue and Dylan Coulter of AGPFC

Soccer

Peamount and Rovers players in running for awards

The nominees for the main categories in the 2023 SSE Airtricity Women's Premier Division Awards have been announced ahead of a Ceremony in Clontarf Castle on Thursday, November 23.

The list of nominees and winners were collated from votes from players and a select committee made up of members of the media and League observers.

SSE Airtricity Women's Premier Division champions Peamount United dominate with three SSE Airtricity Player of the Year nominees Sadhbh Doyle, Karen Duggan, Erin McLaughlin), one SSE Airtricity Young Player of the Year nominee Jess Fitzgerald and SSE Airtricity Manager of the Year nominee James O'Callaghan.

Shamrock Rovers duo Lia O'Leary and Scarlett Herron are also in the mix for the Young Player of the Year award, while Galway United's Phil Trill and Shamrock Rovers' Collie O'Neill are nominated for Manager of the Year.

A couple of categories have already been decided following the conclusion of the League campaign with Peamount United goalkeeper Niamh Reid-Burke claiming the Bank of Ireland Golden Gloves for her 11 clean sheets and Athlone Town forward Dana Scheriff winning the EVOKE.ie Golden Boot after scoring 13 goals.

The EA SPORTS LOI Academy Players of the Year are also known with Wexford Youths forward Ceola Bergin claiming the WU19 award and Athlone Town defender Mary Philips securing the WU17 award.

At the ceremony, the SSE Airtricity Team of the Year will be announced along with the recipients of the Services to the League of Ireland Award.

Local lads play their part in U16 Victory Shield win

Ireland Men's Under-16s lifted the Victory Shield in North Wales at the weekend making it three wins out of three in the tournament with a 3-1 win over Northern Ireland.

Among the goal scorers were Michael Noonan from St Patrick's Athletic and former Kilnamanagh player Billy O'Neill who now plays with Bray Wanderers who helped Ireland secure their 100 per cent record in this year's edition of the tournament having beaten Scotland, Wales and neighbours Northern Ireland.

It was a fourth win of the title, and a fourth win of the competition for Head Coach Paul Osam, since they entered the tournament in 2016. Only England and Scotland have won more titles than the Boys in Green since the competition began.

Ireland came into the game high on confidence having retained their title in dramatic fashion against hosts Wales on Wednesday, coming from 2-0 down to win 3-2 through a last minute Muhammed Oladiti penalty.

And their confidence showed as they led through a header from McDonnell in the 4th minute after an excellent corner from Max Kovalevskis.

The Vancouver Whitecaps playmaker almost scored from another header 10-minutes later but this time his effort flashed just wide.

With almost 30 minutes on the clock Northern Ireland were level when Glen McCourt went through on goal to fire past Alex Noonan.

In the second half Ireland regained the lead early on. Michael Noonan netting his seventh goal of this international season with a fine header from another excellent Kovalevskis cross.

Noonan could have added to his tally in the 63rd minute when he got on the end of a Brody Lee cross and with the keeper beaten he just couldn't direct his effort on target.

With three minutes to go Billy O'Neill scored a beautiful curling effort to wrap up the win – his first goal of the international season.

Speaking after the game Osam reflected the tournament: "The players have been excellent, the staff have been excellent. I think anyone watching on LOITV would have seen we have dominated all three games. It's all from the hard work from schoolboy clubs, LOI Academy teams and the work gone in at Under-15s at international level too".



Collinstown raid the Orchard to remain top of league

Action from Cherry Orchard against Collinstown in Elmdale on Sunday. Photos by Anthony O'Brien

Clondalkin side come from a goal behind to secure points

IN A riveting clash at Elmdale astro pitch on Sunday, Cherry Orchard played host to Collinstown FC in a highly competitive encounter that unfolded as a tale of resilience and unpredictability as the visitors registered a late goal to remain top of the league *reports Rory Merriman.*

Just off the back of a victory against Leinster Senior League 1A league leaders Liffey Wanderers, Cherry Orchard faced off against Clondalkin's Collinstown with a skip in their step.

The game commenced with Cherry Orchard showcasing their offensive prowess, and within the opening 10 minutes, Troy O'Dowd found the back of the net, opening the scoring for the home side. The early goal set the tone for an exciting and closely contested battle.

Collinstown, however, responded around the half-hour mark, with Kurtis Byrne delivering the equalizing goal.

The momentum swung back and forth as both teams displayed their footballing prowess, making it clear that victory was far from certain for either side.

Adding an intriguing layer to the match, Cherry Orchard manager Tony Kilbane revealed that his side are a work in progress having established an official pathway bridging the schoolboy section with the senior ranks.

"Our senior Sunday team is what was our U17 team last year, who having won the FAI U17 trophy, were crowned the All-Ireland champions.

"We've created this pathway to keep as many of our academy graduates and our schoolboy high-end players transferring into our senior section," Kilbane told *The Echo*.

Despite this initiative, Cherry Orchard currently boasts the distinction of being the youngest team in the Intermediate League.

The decisive moment arrived near the end of the game with a bizarre winning goal, originating from a passback that wasn't effectively cleared was blocked by Collinstown and deflected back into the home net. Shane Stritch was credited with the goal, securing a lead for Collinstown in an unconventional manner.

Collinstown, coming off a challenging defeat to Inchicore in the Metro Cup the previous week, exhibited resilience and determination. Their ability to rally from behind and secure three points demonstrated their character and determination on the field.

In the broader context, the match unfolded as a great spectacle of football, showcasing the talents and competitive spirit of both Cherry Orchard and Collinstown.

The seesawing nature of the game, coupled with the strategic developments within Cherry Orchard's player development structure, added layers of intrigue to an already captivating encounter.

As the final whistle blew, Collinstown emerged victorious, clinching a well-deserved triumph after overcoming the early setback, capping off a Sunday afternoon filled with football excitement and drama.

"It was a really good game, Collinstown have a number of experienced footballers who have been around the block who are good players.

"Certainly our lads more than held their own yesterday. It's an unfortunate result for us but we're going in the right direction," Kilbane said.



Collinstown FC saw off a young Cherry Orchard side last Sunday



Cherry Orchard put up a brave performance

Soccer



The Peamount squad with the Airtricity Women's Premier Division trophy

Peamount United womens team lift the National League trophy for the fourth time in their club's history
Photos by Bartley Ramsay

Newcastle outfit finish season in style winning 17 out of 20 matches

PEAMOUNT United ascended to the pinnacle of women's Irish footbal, clinching the SSE Airtricity Women's Premier Division trophy for the fourth time in their storied history *reports Rory Merriman.*

The crowning moment unfolded with a resounding 6-1 victory over Sligo Rovers at PRL Park, showcasing their dominance and securing their 17th win of the season in impeccable fashion.

The spectacle unfolded before a captivated audience of 1,059 spectators and the watchful gaze of TG4 cameras, capturing every moment of Peamount's coronation.

The air was charged with anticipation as the Peas had already sealed the 2023 title with two games to spare, yet they approached the showdown with Sligo Rovers with unwavering determination and a hunger for excellence.

From the opening minutes, Peamount exhibited their attacking prowess, with Freya Healy threatening to break the deadlock.

The breakthrough, however, arrived in the 37th minute when Player of the Match Jess Fitzgerald capitalized on a well-timed lay-off from Ellen Dolan, unleashing a blistering shot from outside the penalty area—a testament to her class and precision.

Dolan added to the spectacle, notching the second goal on 44 minutes. A sublime pass from the outstanding Healy set the stage for Dolan to gracefully lift the ball over Sligo goalkeeper Amber Hardy, demonstrating Peamount's seamless coordination and execution.

Early in the second half, Ireland WNT international Erin McLaughlin widened the lead to 3-0, converting a penalty awarded for a handball against Leah Kelly.

The Peas' relentless counter-attacking style yielded a fourth goal, as Dearbhaile Beirne's overlapping run set the stage for Dolan's volley on 58 minutes.

Jess Fitzgerald continued her stellar performance, delivering a remarkable direct free-kick on the hour mark that soared past Hardy, extending the lead to 5-0.

Sligo Rovers managed to pull one back through Emma Doherty on 67 minutes, displaying resilience in the face of Peamount's dominance.

The night's glory was completed by substitute Avril Brierley, who added a stunning long-range finish on 75 minutes, sealing the comprehensive victory and solidifying Peamount's status as champions.

As the curtain fell on the domestic season, Peamount goalkeeper Niamh Reid-Burke was crowned the Bank of Ireland Golden Gloves award winner, amassing an impressive total of 11 clean sheets.

Speaking with *The Echo*, Peamount manager and manager of the year nominee expressed immense pride in his side, "The season's been a long, tough but successful season. We won 17 wins out of 20 matches, which is very consistent. Yeah, we lost a lot of players over the year, but we also had some excellent players emerge into the team as well."

With a high player turnover rate in Peamount United squad, larger clubs with more money such as Shamrock Rovers can be difficult to compete with in terms of contract offers richer clubs are willing to make.

"The other teams are getting subsidized by the men's counter part of the clubs, but of course Peamount don't have that. With limited financial resources, it's important that we get the best out of our players and make the most of young local players coming through," added O'Callaghan.

In other league clashes, Shamrock Rovers' quest for a second-place finish was thwarted in a thrilling 4-4 draw with Athlone Town, where Dana Scheriff's brace earned her the Evoke.ie Top Goalscorer title with 13 goals.

Shelbourne secured a commanding 5-1 victory over Cork City, Bohemians triumphed 1-0 over Treaty United, and Galway United dominated Wexford Youths with a 4-0 win at Ferrycarrig Park, featuring braces from Abbie Callanan and Rola Olsuola.

While the domestic season will conclude with the Sports Direct Women's FAI Cup Final, this memorable night belonged to Peamount United, etching their name as the undisputed champions of the SSE Airtricity Women's Premier Division for 2023.

In a league of their own


Jess Fitzgerald was Player of the Match last weekend




Freya, Niamh and Mia hold the trophy


The Pea's defence celebrate with the Premier Division trophy


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