



Tower's lose out in league opener See page 59

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Laurels Cycle to raise funds for new ageing well centre page 24

Board to publish Cherry Orchard plans in April page 26



Faces of the community

Page 30



It is one of the worst illnesses ever

A MUM of three is leaping out of a plane at 13,000 feet to raise awareness about a painful and incurable skin condition, see page 22.

CASEY (11) LIVES WITH PAINFUL, INCURABLE SKIN CONDITION



Generations of residents grew up with roundabout in community

Iconic roundabout is a symbol of our identity

A PETITION to save the “iconic” Ballyfermot roundabout gathered over 500 signatures within a few days of a resident setting up the campaign this week, reports Maurice Garvey. See page 6

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THE

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Next Edition

The next edition of *The Echo*
in the shops from Thursday,
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Echojoe: see pages 50 and 51

Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

ANNUAL REGISTER OF DONATION
STATEMENTS

In accordance with the Local Elections
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Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24, and the
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PROTEST: Donal O'Toole, Martin Majoram and Noel Gorman protesting outside TU Dublin in Tallaght on Tuesday

Protest at TU Dublin over regional variations

Union claim department is failing to agree to a collective agreement

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

A PROTEST held this week at TU Dublin Tallaght was part of nationwide demonstrations over “unacceptable” regional variations in pay and conditions within the Technological University sector.

At lunchtime on Tuesday, protests were held by third level members of the Teachers’ Union of Ireland (TUI) who claim that the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) is failing to adhere to a collective agreement voted on in 2017.

TUI members at third level voted in a national ballot in 2017 to accept a collective agreement concerning the establishment of Technological Universities.

In a statement on Tuesday, the TUI said: “The agreement provided for retention of the sector – previously the Institute of Technology sector and thenceforth the Technological University sector – and for prior meaningful communication, consultation and, where appropriate, negotiation with the TUI on relevant matters.

“Regrettably, DFHERIS and management have not adhered to this collective agreement, deliberately and consistently frustrating the

proper functioning of the third level industrial relations fora.

“TUI has described the Department’s approach as an attempt to have each TU free to operate separately, without regard or recourse to national negotiation.

“This is a clear and wholly unacceptable breach of a collective agreement accepted in good faith by our members.”

The trade union is now asking the DFHERIS to engage “meaningfully with us on these key issues”.

“Should they continue to fail to do so, the union already has a strong mandate for a campaign of industrial action, up to and including strike action, on this critical issue following a national ballot of members last month”, the TUI statement said.

Noel Gorman is the Chair with the union’s TU Dublin Tallaght Branch and has been based at the local campus for more than 30 years in the School of Maths and Statistics.

Speaking with *The Echo* on Tuesday, he said that the cause of current issues is down to the forum not operating as it should.

“[The forum] is not functioning in the way it was intended... and we would like to ensure the function of the forum as agreed”, he said.

Mr Gorman said that the forum was established to stop technological universities

from “acting unilaterally”, and believes if this was to happen, there would not be a sector anymore.

In relation to pay, he said: “It’s about equal pay for equal work.

“There should be a parity of esteem across the sector.”

When contacted by *The Echo*, the Department said that it has engaged “consistently” with the TUI on the reform of the Technological University sector.

A spokesperson said: “The Department has engaged consistently with the TUI on the reform of the TU sector through the appropriate forums and remains available to enter into discussions on this matter.

“The dispute has arisen in relation to the establishment of a new Executive Management Team in MTU which has been sanctioned by the Department of Public Expenditure.

“The Department does not accept that there has been any breach of the 2017 agreement or any other agreement.

“DFHERIS is continuing to engage with TUI to seek an agreed solution and is willing to avail of the dispute resolution mechanisms that exist if necessary.”

Service to students was not affected by the lunchtime protests.

212 families became homeless following a notice to quit last year

OVER 200 families and individuals became homeless in 2023 in Dublin South following a notice to quit, the Council was told last week, reports *Stephen Farrell*.

The figures were released as part of a question asked by People Before Profit Councillor Madeleine Johansson at the council meeting. 150 of those were evicted into homelessness after the lifting of the eviction ban at the end of March 2023.

New figures from South Dublin County Council show that a total of 212 families and individuals presented as homeless in 2023 following a notice to quit.

“I’m one of thousands of tenants facing eviction later this year. In our situation none of the measures introduced by the government such as tenant in situ or purchase of the property are possible. This is leaving tenants like me with no options except emergency accommodation,” said

Cllr Johansson.

Cllr Johansson feels that there needs to be further protections afforded to tenants. “We need a ban on no fault evictions, especially on the grounds of sale. We also need additional short-term measures to prevent tenants from being evicted into homelessness,” said Cllr Johansson.

Cllr Johansson also feels that the measures brought in by the government to counter the effect of the lifting of the eviction ban

are ineffective.

“It’s absolutely shocking to see that over 200 families and individuals were evicted by landlords into homelessness. When the government lifted the eviction ban at the end of March they promised that measures were in place to stop people being evicted into homelessness.

“These measures are clearly not working as people continue to be evicted into homelessness,” she said.

Cries of newborn baby girl bring cheers and applause

Quick thinking McDonald's staff help deliver baby girl are hailed heroes

THE quick thinking staff of McDonald's Belgard Road branch were hailed as heroes on Tuesday when they stepped up to help a mother deliver her baby in the ladies toilet, reports Ken Doyle.

A customer who was there at the time told *The Echo*, "We heard a bit of a kerfuffle happening nearby and at first we thought something was wrong."

"We only knew what was really happening when we heard the baby crying."

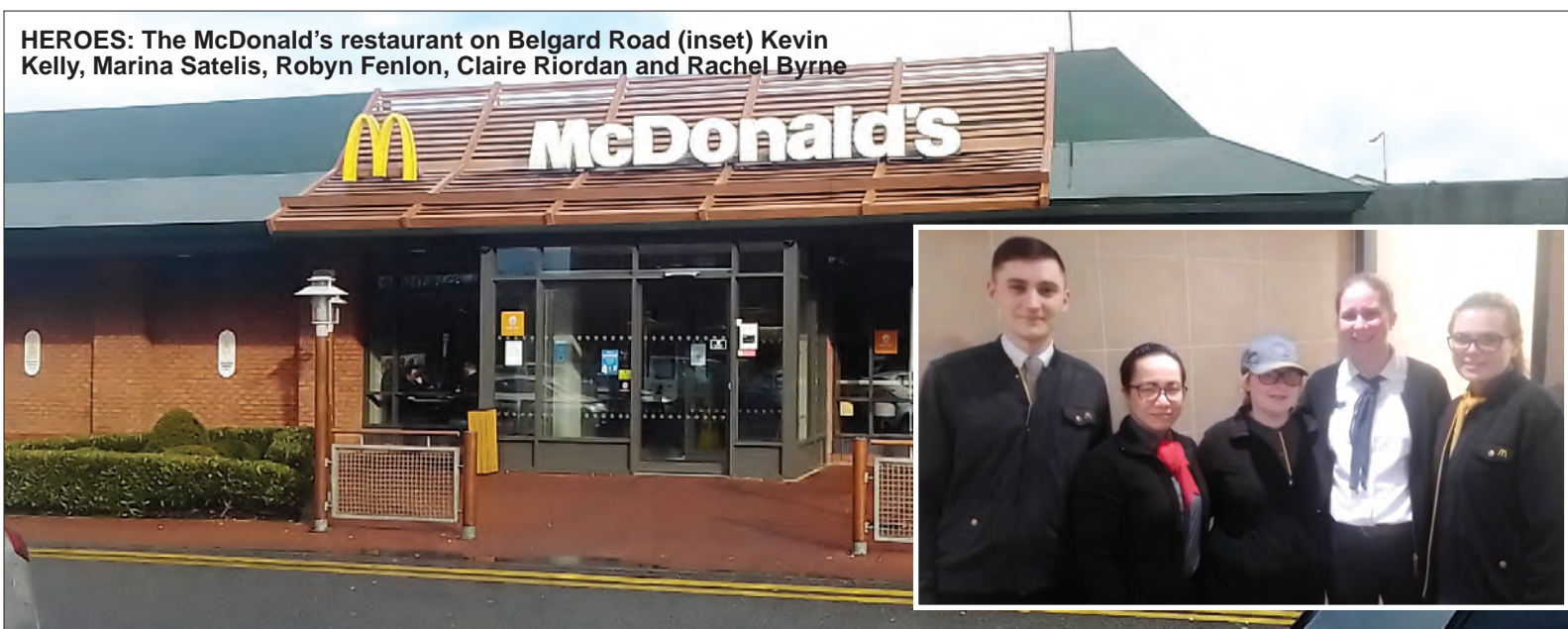
Store manager Claire Riordan told *The Echo*: "My colleague Kevin told me about what was going on, so I ran into the ladies loo to help. We were waiting for the ambulance to come and me and some female members of the team held her hand and reassured her that help was on the way."

Claire added, "I have four children myself so I kind of knew the drill this was the lady's third child so eventually to everyone's relief, we managed to deliver a healthy little girl."

Before long the emergency services arrived and the lady and her baby were carried to the ambulance by what was described as "a crew of big burly men."

According to Claire, "The poor woman was mortified about going into labour in McDonald's and then even

HEROES: The McDonald's restaurant on Belgard Road (inset) Kevin Kelly, Marina Satelis, Robyn Fenlon, Claire Riordan and Rachel Byrne



more so when she realised she was going to give birth on the floor of the loo. We're all just very grateful we had a happy ending."

By now the mood in the restaurant had become jubilant and everyone

involved was cheered and applauded by the customers.

Another onlooker said, "Everyone was just so happy and relieved that something so joyous came out of a situation where we were all so worried

about what was happening."

"As soon as we heard the baby cry, we all started celebrating. It was a fantastic moment."

The fire brigade crew arrived approximately five minutes after the

baby was born and commented that the staff handled the entire situation brilliantly.

The mother and child were taken to the Coombe hospital and *The Echo* understands that both are doing well.

Mary opens new offices



NEW OFFICES: Mary Kennedy with Siobhan Crowley CEO of Medray Group

RTE star Mary Kennedy from Clondalkin performed the official opening of new state-of-the-art offices for Medray Group. The new offices are in South West Business Park in Cheeverstown.

The company employs 30 plus people at these offices with most employees coming from Clondalkin, Tallaght and Lucan and surrounding areas. The company employs a total of 120+ people across its operations in Ireland and the UK.

Medray Group is a leading provider of equipment, servicing and consumables to the healthcare, veterinary and dental markets across Ireland and the UK.

Over the past decade, the company has successfully grown into a leading provider of diagnostic imaging equipment and has

broadened its portfolio to include dental and veterinary equipment and services in addition to its consumable offering in these sectors.

Speaking on Wednesday, Siobhan Crowley, Medray CEO, said that the company looking forward to further growth and expansion in the coming years.

"Thanks to the hard work and professionalism of all our staff, Medray has grown to become one of the leading businesses in our sector. We have ambitious plans to grow further here in Ireland and in the UK and the team here in Cheeverstown will be at the forefront of our plans to grow significantly in the years ahead."

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€750,000 funding boost for local community centres

Bawnogue Youth and Community Centre and Adamstown receive funding

By Aideen O'Flaherty

aideen@echo.ie

LOCAL community centres have received a funding boost of €750k from South Dublin County Council's Community Centre Support Management Fund.

The Bawnogue Youth and Community Centre has been awarded €47,300, the Rowlagh Community Centre has received €46,900 and the Jobstown Community and Youth Centre has received €46,600.

The Palmerstown Youth and Community Centre and the Saggart Schoolhouse Community Centre have been granted €44,900 each.

The Park Community Centre in Ballycullen has received a grant of €40,185, while €34,100 has been awarded to the Ballyowen Castle Youth and Community Centre.

A total of €30,600 has been granted to St Finian's Community Hall in Newcastle, €26,775 will go to the Glenasmole Community Centre and the Adamstown Youth and Community Centre has received €26,100.

Smaller sums were awarded to other youth and community centres, including Brookfield (€8,600), Knockmitten (€17,600), Fettercairn (€17,900), Kingswood (€17,600) and



FUNDING: Bawnogue Youth and Community Centre has been awarded €47,400

Whitechurch (€16,600).

The council released the details of the grant awardees at Monday's monthly council meeting and confirmed the sums that were awarded.

"In order to be deemed eligible for Management Support Funding, all

boards of management were requested to send at least one representative board member to three governance-related workshops, that were delivered by Governance Ireland on behalf of the council," said SDCC.

"In addition, each board was also

asked to commit to engage with Sportskey to examine the opportunities from implementing an Online Booking System for their respective community centres.

"A total of thirty-two applications were received and assessed with due

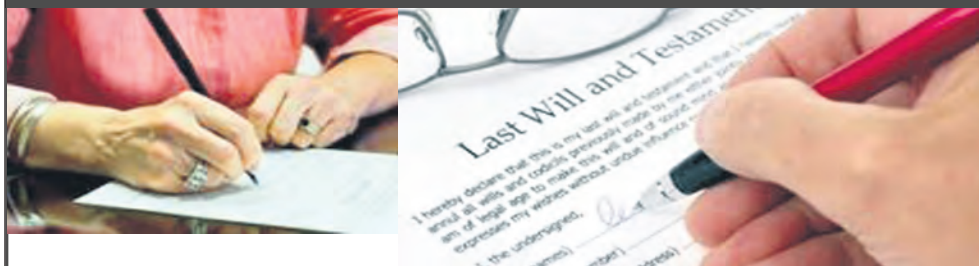
consideration given to existing core funding and income levels for each centre and how allocations of funding would assist centres to improve both service delivery to the local communities and make improvements to centre management operations."



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Nobody informed over plans for warehouse site

PLANS: The industrial unit in Cherry Orchard Industrial Estate

Plans to accommodate international protection applicants in industrial estate

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

NO LOCAL representatives were informed of plans to accommodate “international protection applicants” in Cherry Orchard Industrial Estate, despite the Department of Children confirming their interest in the site last July, according to Cllr Paul Gogarty (Ind).

Last month, *The Echo* reported that Tailored Project Limited applied for exempted development at units 64 & 65 Cherry Orchard Industrial Estate, Palmerstown to house international protection applicants.

It is the same site where developer AAI Palmerstown Limited was granted planning permission in July to build 127 apartments. The decision was appealed and is awaiting decision by An Bord Pleanála.

Unit 64 & 65 was the former site of an indoor BMX club and skate park, which ceased operating years ago.

In an update on his website Cllr Gogarty said nobody was informed about the plans before the application was submitted.

“SDCC wasn’t informed, councillors and TDs weren’t informed. Nobody in Palmerstown was informed,” said Gogarty.

He referenced a letter submitted by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) – dated July 14, 2023 - confirming their intention to use buildings and land at units 64 & 65 Cherry Orchard Industrial Estate and at 355 South Circular Road “for the provision of accommodation to protected people.”

The Lucan Cllr said local representatives have no idea how many people will potentially be accommodated at the industrial site and when it might happen.

“It’s unlikely the developer will give us that information, but if we get it

through the council or other sources we will make the information available.”

Gogarty believes receiving information from the Department of Children “will be a challenge, given past track record.”

“However it’s likely that some information will be given in the coming weeks and closer to the date of any people being accommodated on-site,” said Gogarty.

In January, the Department of Children said they will only confirm buildings housing migrants with local representatives once contracts have been signed.

The Echo asked the Dept again about

St John’s House in Tallaght, which is mooted as another potential site for international applicants.

“As per the automatic response, the Department can only confirm use of a premises once a contract has been signed, and will, in the first instance, inform local public representatives and statutory agencies through its Community Engagement Team,” said a Dept spokesperson.

In his update, Cllr Gogarty said no community has a veto on who goes into the building “nor should it” and that “any discussion on asylum or immigration policy is part of a wider debate.”

How Long is a Piece of Rope

THIS Friday the Womens Collective will perform a new play, “How Long is a Piece of Rope” in North Clondalkin Library at 11am.

They say that it is an energetic play exploring Article 41.2 (Women in the Home) of the Irish Constitution.

In a panel discussion after the play they will be joined by Ailbhe Smyth and Senator Lynn Ruane from Killinarden.

The drama group will explore through how article 41.2 has impacted the lives of women in Ireland socially, economically and personally.

Although the subject matter is serious, the group promise a lot of humour and fun in this dramatic performance. This is to raise awareness and to start a conversation in relation to the referendum being held on March 8, International Women’s Day. There will be talk and discussion following the performance.

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Iconic roundabout is part of community for generations

Over 500 residents sign petition to save roundabout outside Assumption Church

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

A PETITION to save the “iconic” Ballyfermot roundabout gathered over 500 signatures within a few days of a resident setting up the change.org campaign this week.

Plans revealed in 2022 by the National Transport Agency (NTA) for radical changes to facilitate the Liffey Valley to city centre bus corridor scheme, include redesigning the roundabout at Assumption Church into a signalised junction.

This would involve the installation of bus lanes, cycle paths, and a one-way traffic system heading west on Ballyfermot Road.

It will also see the removal of the Our Lady of Assumption holy statue, located within the roundabout since the 1970s, to make way for a junction.

Patrick Gorman, a Ballyfermot resident was compelled to start the petition as the “iconic roundabout has been a part of our community for generations.”

“It is more than just a traffic feature, it’s a symbol of our identity. Plans to remove this landmark to make way for an intersection and bus lanes, turning Ballyfermot main road into a one-way system not only disrupts the character of our area, but also involves taking private property away from people,” said Gorman’s



ICONIC: The roundabout in Ballyfermot opposite the Assumption Church

petition.

NTA plans include the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO’s) of private property along the 9.2km route, including roadside lands on Ballyfermot Road and Sarsfield Road.

Gorman feels the proposed changes will “benefit those outside

Ballyfermot at the expense of local residents” and fears the intersection will worsen traffic conditions and affect local businesses.

Sean Brennan, a member of Ballyfermot Heritage Group believes the one-way system will lead to a “choc-o-block” situation on smaller

roads.

“If it is one way, you come out of Tesco’s, and have to go left and up to Grange Cross and around. The smaller roads aren’t built for that traffic. Before BusConnects we had five designated Ballyfermot buses, but now we only have buses that go

through Ballyfermot, and when they arrive here at peak times, they are often already full,” said Brennan.

Meanwhile, Cllr Hazel De Nortúin (PBP) is hosting a BusConnects public meeting on Thursday, February 29, at Ballyfermot Resource Centre (7.30pm).

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PAINTINGS in the Knocklyon Art Group Exhibition in Ballyroan Library range from landscape, to figurative and still-life and reflect the ongoing creativity, resourcefulness and passion for painting which is evident in the notable standard on display until March 2.

The Knocklyon Art Group currently meet every Tuesday morning in the Knocklyon Youth and Community Centre where members enjoy an easy-going, relaxed but focused atmosphere in which they work on their own particular projects. Importance is placed on encouraging members to express and develop their own unique and individual style of creativity.

THE **Echo**

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Defibrillator placed at secure location outside Garda Station

Local Forum was instrumental in securing a new defibrillator for the community



SUPPORT: Karen Griffen (DCC), Scott Watson (DCC), Tom Scott (C.W.F), Garda Mick Creegan, Sgt Ciarán Wynne, James Bagnall, Mary Thomas (C.W.LF), Chief Supt Majella Armstrong, Insp Robert Smithers and Sup Paul Maher

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

THE LAUNCH of a new defibrillator, which is available to the public outside Crumlin Garda Station, took place this week.

Crumlin Walkinstown Local Forum were instrumental in securing a defibrillator for the community, and

received support from Crumlin Garda Station and funding assistance from Dublin City Council for the venture.

Forum member Mary Thomas said the plan was in the works for a year, but worth the wait as it will be available 24/7 to people in need, and protected by the security of the station and CCTV cameras.

“From the moment I spoke to Sgt Ciaran Wynne (Crumlin Garda Station), he was great and worked hard. He put us

in touch with the Superintendent.”

The secure location was a big incentive for the location of the defibrillator.

“That was the whole idea,” said Mary.

“The key for the defibrillator is available inside the station, which is open 24/7. There is a camera on the box and a camera in the station, so it will deter any messers. The defibrillator is up and running within the last week.”

Craig Wade, from Tallaght Community First Responders, was not available for

the picture on Tuesday but was involved in the project.

Unfortunately this was the last project the Crumlin Walkinstown Local Forum are involved in as they have now disbanded.

“We were going for 10 years and organised events like the computer classes, family fun days, Christmas day dinners for people living alone and clean ups in the village, that is all gone now,” said Mary.

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Man who attacked sex workers is jailed

A MAN who attacked two sex workers, leaving one with “potentially life-threatening” wounds, has been jailed for a further four and a half years, *reports David O’Sullivan.*

Buti Sashi (27) of Tyrconnell Grove, Inchicore, Dublin 8 appeared before Judge Martin Nolan in Dublin Circuit Criminal Court after pleading guilty to assault causing harm, two counts of aggravated burglary, robbery, false imprisonment and assault causing serious harm on two separate occasions in 2017.

In the separate incidents, Sashi contacted the victims for sex before arriving to their apartments, attacking them, then left the scene.

He has already been convicted for similar offences and is currently serving a sentence, for which his earliest possible release date had been June 23, 2029.

In sentencing, Judge Nolan said “undoubtedly this defendant has a violent propensity.”

He described the incidents as “very serious crimes” and said Sashi’s motivation was not clear, but was “probably theft”.

“I hope that he is remorseful and

shameful for what he did. I’m going to take that to be the case.”

Judge Nolan sentenced Sashi to four and a half years imprisonment, which is run consecutively to his current sentence.

“I’m reducing it from about ten years on the basis of the totality principle,” said the judge, “If he came here on bail, not serving a sentence, I would have given him ten years.”

Detective Garda Carl Colgan told Emmet Nolan BL, prosecuting, that Sashi robbed a male sex worker at his flat on May 25, 2017. Sashi pleaded guilty to charges of assault causing harm, robbery and aggravated burglary in relation to this incident.

On the day, the injured party received a text message from Sashi to book an appointment.

Sashi arrived to his apartment along with another man later that evening.

When the two men arrived, they threatened him before attacking him with a Stanley knife and scissors. He suffered injuries to the face and body.

The two attackers then stole the man’s mobile phone and €200 in cash.

The injured party made a complaint to gardai just over a month

later. He said it had taken him that length of time because he had been terrified of contacting gardai due to the nature of their work.

He gave gardai a description of Sashi and said he’d seen him walking around Ranelagh in the past.

Sashi, who was under investigation for separate, similar incidents at the time, fit the physical description provided by the victim.

Data was later extracted from a mobile phone belonging to Sashi which showed he had been the person to contact this victim on the night of the attack.

Sashi was arrested at his home address and detained. The court was told Sashi denied and minimised his role during interview, and attempted to distance himself from the assault that had been carried out.

Dt Gda Colgan also told the court of a second incident on June 24, 2017 during which Sashi attacked a female sex worker.

Sashi pleaded guilty to counts of aggravated burglary, assault causing serious harm and false imprisonment in relation to this incident..

This victim received a call from Sashi to arrange an appointment and

he arrived at her apartment just after midnight.

The woman buzzed him into the apartment complex, and a minute or two later Sashi knocked on the door. She opened the door and he came inside.

He then grabbed her by the elbow and dragged her into the bedroom, shouting “I want money”.

The woman shouted for help and tried to escape, but Sashi was blocking the door.

He then produced a knife and grabbed her. She was terrified.

Sashi stabbed her seven times on her right hand side. He dragged her into a bathroom, punching and kicking her, before throwing her into a bathtub.

One of the woman’s friends, who had been in the apartment when Sashi arrived, ran to get help. Neighbours came in to the flat.

Sashi picked the victim out of the bathtub and dragged her to the door, keeping his arm around her neck in what was described as a “hostage hold.”

He then threw her to the floor and fled the scene.

The woman was brought to

hospital with what were described in court as “potentially life threatening” stab wounds to her arm, stomach and thigh. She had also suffered a left eye socket fracture.

A mobile phone which had been dropped at the crime scene was used to identify Sashi as the attacker.

Sashi was arrested and interviewed, during which he denied what had happened. He said he was the victim after the woman had tried to take his wallet and then another man proceeded to attack him.

Victim impact statements from the two injured parties were handed in to the court.

Ciaran O’Loughlin SC, defending, described the incidents as a “very serious crime spree.”

He said his client had an alcohol problem and began drinking at six years of age. This had developed into cannabis, cocaine and tablet use.

Mr O’Loughlin also said his client was once a “very promising athlete” and has been attending an online university while in custody.

Sashi has 19 previous convictions, which the court was told included “multiple for offences of a similar nature against similar victims”.

Hoax call of car outside station with a bomb in it

Man (41) with over 60 previous convictions is jailed for a series of hoax phone calls

A MAN has been jailed for a series of hoax phone calls during which he threatened to petrol bomb a coroner and go to the house of a former state pathologist with an AK-47 rifle, among other false reports, *reports Sonya McLean and Jessica Magee.*

Judge Martin Nolan said Thomas McDonagh (41) had “a grievance against the State” following the death of his brother in Castlerea Prison four years previously.

He said McDonagh had made various threats due to this grievance.

“They may have been far-fetched but those who took the calls would have had to take precautions.

That was his intention to cause an inconvenience,” Judge Nolan said.

McDonagh of no fixed abode, pleaded guilty to making three hoax phone calls on August 15, 2019 and a further false phone call some weeks later on August 26. He has over 60 previous convictions.

He was sentenced to 18 months in prison at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court on Wednesday after Judge Nolan said he had to go to prison.

“He has caused a lot of difficulties for others,” the judge said.

The court heard that on August 15, 2019, McDonagh made three 999 calls, including one in which he threatened to go to the home of the former State Pathologist Dr

HOAX PHONE CALLS: The man rang Tallaght Garda Station and said there was going to be car parked outside the station with a bomb in it



Marie Cassidy with an AK-47.

In the second 999 call, he made threats to Castlerea Prison, saying there was Semtex in the prison building and under several prison officers’ cars.

The third 999 call was a threat

to petrol bomb the home of the coroner based in Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon.

On August 26, McDonagh rang Tallaght Garda Station and said there was going to be a car parked outside the station with a

bomb in it.

The court heard that McDonagh’s brother had died some four years previous to the offences, while in the custody of Castlerea Prison.

A prosecuting garda told

Maddie Grant BL, for the State, that McDonagh was identified through the use of a prepaid mobile phone and a WhatsApp profile containing a photo of the accused.

McDonagh has been homeless

for periods of time and has also spent time in custody and the court heard that gardai were unable to make contact with him in relation to this until May 2021.

He met with gardai by appointment and made full admissions, saying he had been very intoxicated at the time of the phone calls.

McDonagh told gardai that he had been very upset around the anniversary of his brother’s death and had never intended to carry out any of the threats.

He said he was “bullied into it” and hadn’t realised it was serious, but that he was glad no one was hurt.

David Staunton BL, defending, said that the offences arose out of “a perceived conflict” his client had with these parties following the death of his brother.

“He sought to ventilate this over a short period of time, one night and then two weeks later, he did it again. He realised the “jig was up” and ceased to do it,” Mr Staunton said.

He said his client had “an appalling history” and had lived rough in Dublin for over a decade.

He has since secured accommodation and counsel said he has “taken pro-active steps” to rehabilitate.

Mr Staunton said the methodologies suggested by his client in the 999 calls were “fantastical” but accepted that “precautions had to be taken” after receiving those calls.

Life-saving treatment will give Ethan a better quality of life

22-month-old boy was diagnosed with an extremely rare immune disorder

By **Mary Dennehy**

mary@echo.ie

A FUNDRAISING campaign is underway to support the family of a little boy who needs life-saving treatment for a rare immune disorder.

Ethan Tierney is a mischievous 22-month-old boy who last month was diagnosed with an extremely rare immune disorder called Hyper IgM Syndrome.

Living in Cavan with mam Jacqui, originally from Tallaght, dad David and his four older siblings, Ethan's immune system does not function properly.

According to mam Jacqui, her little boy does not make antibodies to fight infection.

Since he was around five months, Ethan has been ill a lot and has had frequent GP visits and seven admissions to hospital.

Jacqui, who grew up in Old Bawn, where her family still live, told *The Echo*: "Ethan has constantly been on antibiotics, I knew something wasn't right."

"A child of that age should not be on antibiotics three weeks out of every month."

After a specific immune blood test, Ethan was in January diagnosed with Hyper IgM Syndrome.

According to Jacqui, the only known cure for Hyper IgM Syndrome is chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant, which is delivered in the UK.

"We've been told if we don't go ahead with treatment, Ethan can't go to crowded places, school... he'll never have a normal life", Jacqui said.



CAMPAIGN: Ethan Tierney out with his family and (inset) brave Ethan

"We'll be petrified if he gets an infection, even an everyday infection."

"This is life-saving treatment. Ethan's condition has a poor prognosis as he's at risk of infection all the time."

Since Ethan was diagnosed, he has been

receiving antibody infusions in Crumlin hospital – a temporary step to keep Ethan stable until treatment at Great North Children's Hospital in Newcastle.

According to Jacqui, Ethan, who has a peg for medication and some feeds, is the best he's ever

been thanks to the infusions and is fully enjoying not feeling sick.

"Ethan is so mischievous, he rules the roost", Jacqui said.

"He's the best now that we've ever seen him... and he's hitting all his milestones."

"We now see who he is and how he can be; this is the first time he has felt well and he's into everything."

"He's delighted with himself."

Witnessing the impact of the antibody infusions on Ethan's quality of life has reinforced the family's decision to travel for treatment.

Treatment in the UK is expected to last between six and eight months and to support David, Jacqui and the kids during this time, which will include renting accommodation in Newcastle, their friends and family have started a fundraising campaign.

David and Jacqui, who are both nurses, are also unable to work.

When asked about the campaign, Jacqui said: "We're completely blown away by everyone, there's people even reaching out to do fundraisers."

"You really see the good in people when a family is in need."

Jacqui also believes the awareness being raised of Hyper IgM Syndrome is important too.

As the family now looks forward, Jacqui said their hope is that little Ethan comes home after treatment with a "new immune system" and the chance to live a normal life.

For more on Ethan's story and to support his family, visit Go Fund Me (Baby Ethan's fight against Hyper IGM Syndrome).

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‘If I find out where you live, I’ll rape and murder your family’

This is what a passenger told a Luas Protection officer as new campaign launched

By **Stephen Farrell**
stephenf@echo.ie

“If I find out where you live, I’ll rape and murder your family.”

This is what a passenger on the Luas told Adam O’Brien, a Revenue Protection Officer working with the tram system operator.

“How do you respond to something like that,” he asked in desperation.

SIPTU launched the ‘Respect Transport Workers’ campaign on Tuesday to demand greater safeguards for staff on bus, rail and Luas networks following a survey by the Union that revealed more than 80% suffered regular incidents of abuse.

Mr O’Brien works mostly on the Red Line but would also work frequently on the Green Line. Anti-social behaviour is “mostly prominent” on the Red Line. “It’s a daily occurrence, there is physical, verbal abuse, abuse towards members of the transgender community and against female members of staff,” he said.

He feels that while there may always be some element of anti-social behaviour, if there was a deterrent that this would have a positive impact.

“That’s why we’re pushing with SIPTU to have a dedicated transport police. The security officers currently on the Luas have very little powers. There is a need for a dedicated unit with An Garda Síochána to tackle anti-social behaviour,” said Mr O’Brien.

INCIDENTS: The portion on the Red Line between Belgard and Saggart is considered a hotspot for antisocial behaviour



“That’s why we’re pushing with SIPTU to have a dedicated transport police. The security officers currently on the Luas have very little powers. There is a need for a dedicated unit with An Garda Síochána to tackle anti-social behaviour

He has noticed a significant increase in incidents of anti-social behaviour since the end of the Covid pandemic. “People’s mental health has been affected by Covid and that has had a knock-on effect on the general public,” he said.

The portion of the Red Line between Belgard in Tallaght and Saggart is considered “a hotspot” for anti-social behaviour, said Mr O’Brien.

“I was recently talking to a person

travelling on the Luas who told me they were concerned for their safety when transferring between trams at Belgard,” he said. There can be a four to five minute wait at this stop. “There is a security presence there, but if something happens four or five stops away, they have to leave and that leaves that spot open then,” he added.

Mr O’Brien strongly believes that any new deterrent needs to be continuous. “We do operations with

the Gardaí but that happens only twice or three times a month. It does make a massive difference on the day, the presence of Gardaí on the tram. But they can predict when the Gardaí will be there,” he said.

SIPTU are also seeking the establishment of the National Transport Advisory Council and the implementation of a ‘Transport Charter’ outlining what is unacceptable behaviour towards staff.

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor PC



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Cllrs Yvonne Collins, Teresa Costello,
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Local Area Reps Adam Smyth and
Lynda Prendergast

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Help shape an Ireland for all

Retailers should ensure recycling machines are accessible for everyone

RETAILERS participating in the Deposit Return Scheme have a responsibility to ensure their recycling machines are accessible for everyone.

Councillor Vicki Casserly said people who use wheelchairs or may have mobility issues are reporting difficulties accessing and using machines which are currently installed in a large number of major retail units, as well as smaller and independent shops.

“The return chute on these machines is simply too high for someone to reach who is in a wheelchair or may be of short stature,” Councillor Casserly explained. “It’s extremely disappointing that as we embark on another path of progress to meet our recycling targets, people with disabilities are once again being left out in the cold,” Councillor Casserly said.

“For years, we fought for wheelchair friendly changing rooms, cashier stations and bring banks to be made accessible to people with disabilities. Yet still, with this latest rollout of deposit return machines, many cannot use them – it’s another slap in the face to those who want to embrace change and carry out their civic

responsibilities like everyone else.

“I have written to all the major supermarkets operating in Ireland to ask them what their policy is regarding the new machines and how they plan to facilitate those who cannot access them. It is depressing that this was not foreseen ahead of a nationwide rollout and that once again, those with disabilities must fight to be included and to participate. Unfortunately this sector is used to battling to access the same things as everyone else, but the onus is on retailers now to rectify this glaring oversight immediately.”



SCHEME: Cllr Vicki Casserly at a Deposit Return Scheme

Drive and Drop event

A COLLECTION for baby equipment will take place at St Mary's Church car park in Lucan on Sunday, March 10. Community Connect is a registered charity that helps pregnant mothers, parents with new babies and young children, who are in need.

They provide baby equipment, clothing and essential items to families struggling financially.

The Drive and Drop event aims to collect practical items that will be distributed directly to these families. Two local Community Connect volunteers will be present in St Mary's parish car park to collect these items on March 10, between 11-1pm.

Demo on home energy

A DEMONSTRATION session on home energy will be conducted by Codema in Lucan Library on March 6 (7pm).

Codema, the energy efficiency agency, will provide a hands on demo of the home energy saving kit at the event.

All are welcome to attend. Bookings for the event can be done on Eventbrite or at the library desk on the night.

Council will seek advice in relation to civic offices

Councillor feels that there is a lot of wasted space at civic offices

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

SOUTH Dublin County Council are taking "expert advice" to modernise their growing workforce, and this will include looking at how best to utilise Clondalkin civic offices.

According to a 2022 gender pay gap report, the council had approximately 1,350 employees, but their workforce has increased over the last year.

Speaking at the February council meeting, Cllr William Carey (SF) expressed concern that the Clondalkin civic centre on Ninth Lock Road is under utilised and contains "wasted space."

"I just feel there is a lot of wasted space down there, given that our ACM's (area meetings) are held here (in Tallaght) now rather than down in the Clondalkin area. There is not many other meetings that take place down there. I feel it could be better used."

Cllr Carey enquired if any consideration has been given to increasing delivery of services at the civic offices in Clondalkin.

In response, SDCC Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management Lorna Maxwell said that in terms of Clondalkin, the council are looking at taking in expert advice in relation to the development of county hall and Clondalkin offices.

EXPERT ADVICE: The council will look at how best to utilise the civic offices in Clondalkin



"Partly because of the significant change in the working environment, introduced by hybrid (working) but also the need to modernise a growing workforce needs accommodation too. We

need to look at all aspects there and are looking at the full facilities available to us within Clondalkin, as part of that work as well, and that is underway," said Ms Maxwell.

SDCC chief executive Colm Ward reiterated the need to "repurpose" the organisation's workspaces "to be fit for a growing workforce and Clondalkin will come into that."

'This is not what Tallaght is about' following alleged attack

"THIS is not what Tallaght is about."

This was the message delivered at a protest meeting attended by about thirty people on Monday evening in Tallaght.

The meeting was called by Le Chéile in response to the alleged assault on Dr Shaykh Umar Al-Qadri, the Chief Imam of the Islamic Centre Ireland in Tallaght last Thursday.

Speaking at the meeting Paul Murphy, TD for Dublin South-West read out a statement from Dr Al-Quadri, who was unable to attend the meeting as he was still recovering from the alleged assault, according to Mr Murphy. The People Before Profit – Solidarity TD also wished Dr Al-Quadri a speedy recovery.

Dr Al-Quadri said that he was willing to communicate with and forgive the perpetrators of the assault and that his commitment to peace and integration remains and that his mission was "to foster understanding in our communities". He also assured that the Gardaí are investigating the matter. He also thanked people who had offered support in the aftermath of the attack and that their words had "touched his heart". He said that he felt the love and compassion of the Irish community.

Councillor Leah Whelan (Solidarity) said that "there is no place for division and racism in our community" and that the Far Right have hooked on to the



INCIDENT: Dr Shaykh Umar Al-Qadri

housing and health crisis. She said that the housing crisis was caused by successive governments and the solution to it was not by putting the blame on refugees. "The Far-right are organising, we need to do the same," she said.

Mr Murphy was also critical of the Far Right who he said were casting doubt on whether the attack was racist. "It's important to call out racist violence when we see it," he said. "We have to take a stand to defend the rights of anyone attacked in such a way," he added.

He said that the Far-Right take the anger that people feel about "actual issues" and point that anger at those who are "also victims of those crises".

Mr Murphy said that it was hoped that there would be a meeting in the next week or so to organise a group in the Dublin Southwest area. "We need to come together in Dublin South-West," he said.

Speaking to *The Echo* afterwards he said that it was "a mistake" to create a two-tier asylum system, between Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian applicants. "This demonises non-Ukrainian asylum seekers," he said. "We should be treating everyone humanely," he added.

Kay Keane, local People Before Profit candidate for Tallaght South said that when she went out on Saturday and canvassed the area the majority were "shocked" at the alleged assault.

Paula Gilligan, from Drogheda but who has been living in Tallaght for 22 years, also attended the meeting. "When you're walking around Tallaght it's really, genuinely a cosmopolitan place, very relaxed. I hate to hear of anyone assaulted in that manner, it's just disgusting," she said.

Dr Al-Quadri has said that he was assaulted by two individuals with whom he had arranged to meet on February 15. He also posted on X, formerly known as Twitter that he spent the night of February 15 in hospital.

Dr Al-Quadri, who reported severe swelling to the left side of his face and damage to his front teeth, posted on Sunday that he was feeling much better.

He has also posted that his focus now is on his recovery. Le Chéile is an organisation formed in 2020 to tackle the rise of the far right in Ireland.

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INCIDENTS: The junction on the N7 at Boot Road approaching Newlands Cross

Concerns after 'slew' of incidents at junction

Council are working with options with TII to solve problem

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

A COUNCILLOR is concerned that a busy section of traffic lanes responsible for a "slew" of incidents is not included in collision analysis by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

Cllr William Carey (SF) says collisions at the junction at N7 and Boot Road in Clondalkin are recorded by gardai "under headings of Boot Rd, Old Naas Road and Green Isle Road."

"It seems that the data is not showing up in the proper manner here," said Carey.

"The most recent serious incident took place here on

December 10 when a two-car collision resulted in some serious injuries but luckily there were no fatalities."

South Dublin County Council contacted TII after the issue was raised at an October meeting.

In response, TII said it conducts collision analysis of the national road network every year and "this location has not been identified in the analysis, nor does there appear to be any history of collisions."

TII Road Safety has requested that lane markings at the location be refreshed in early 2024 "which could help with the lane confusion."

In a subsequent letter to TII in January, Carey said the main issue is the layout of the approach to the junction and the further junction at

Newlands Cross underpass which has led to "several incidents."

"The stretch consists of three traffic lanes and a bus lane. There is no bus route here, nor is there one planned in the future. All national bus routes using the N7 enroute to Dublin would use the main three lanes to journey over the Newlands Cross flyover and will never use the bus lane here."

"In fact, those bus drivers that have found themselves in the bus lane are having to re-enter the flow of traffic over the bypass at this point. This criss-crossing of traffic lanes is in fact a hazard as these buses seek to re-enter the flow towards Dublin."

Carey believes drivers "unfamiliar with the area" and travelling too fast towards

Newlands Cross via the bus lane are "a danger to traffic entering the N7 from Boot Rd."

In their response to the council in November TII said they can meet with county council delegations but are not in a position to facilitate meetings with individual municipal districts or area committees.

At the Clondalkin area meeting on Wednesday, Carey sought the establishment of a working group.

In response, SDCC said they are working through a range of options with the TII including traffic calming measures "along the N7 on the approach to the Boot Road junction, also a solution around allowing access off Boot Road onto the N7 slip only as an option."

Echoopinion...

Respect transport workers on Luas and bus services

A RESPECT Transport Workers campaign was launched this week to demand greater safeguards for workers on bus, Luas and rail networks.

This follows a survey by unions that highlighted that more than 80% of staff suffered regular incidents of abuse during their daily working routine.

These public transport staff provide a vital service in our communities, and they should not be subject to this type of abuse and anti-social behaviour - its simply not good enough.

If you take this week for example, the Luas and bus services will carry hundreds of supporters into town this Saturday for Ireland's Six Nations rugby match against Wales and the double-header National League game involving All-Ireland Football champions Dublin and All-Ireland Hurling champions Limerick.

The Luas will be packed, and their staff will be providing hundreds of people a safe way to travel to town to the games and safely home afterwards.

Every day we see hundreds pack the bus and Luas either going to work, school or college and we sometimes take this service for granted.

The Echo spoke to a Luas Protection Officer this week who was told by a customer: "If I find out where you live, I'll rape and murder your family".

In this day and age it's simply not good enough for people to speak to transport staff like this.

Some have experienced issues on a daily basis, others on a weekly basis and staff are saying it's got worse in the past 12 months. In excess of 83% staff felt abuse and anti-social behaviour is a big issue for them.

Nobody should have to go to work daily and put up with this abuse. Unions are calling for action and the development of a unit dedicated to policing the public transport system and hopefully this could help solve the issue.

Researcher didn't realise she struck elderly man

A POSTDOCTORAL researcher who didn't realise she had struck an elderly man as he was crossing the street one January night has been given a three-month suspended sentence *reports Sonya McLean.*

Megan O'Shaughnessy (32) contacted the gardai the following day after she noticed a dent in her Nissan Micra. She had initially thought she had struck debris while driving home at 9.45pm the previous evening.

The court heard that O'Shaughnessy had a panic attack when she was informed by officers that she had struck a 75-year-old man while he was attempting to cross the road. The man was later treated in hospital for a broken wrist and arm.

He didn't prepare a victim impact statement for the case.

O'Shaughnessy, of Turret Road, Palmerstown, Dublin 20 pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to careless driving causing seriously bodily harm on Emmet Road, Dublin 8 on January 27, 2022.

She has no previous convictions and the vehicle was insured, taxed and had passed its most recent NCT.

O'Shaughnessy's phone and the vehicle were taken and analysed and gardai were satisfied that she was not using her phone at the time of the incident, nor speeding.

Her speed was estimated to be in the region of 45km/hr at all times during her journey home that night.

Judge Martin Nolan accepted that O'Shaughnessy had an excellent mitigation, accepting various references before the court which described her as dedicated, hard-working and exemplary.

He said the man was crossing the road and O'Shaughnessy was driving her vehicle in a safe way but "she didn't seem to notice him and thought she had impacted something different".

"She didn't know she had struck the unfortunate victim. He was there and she should have seen him," Judge Nolan said before he added that "people make mistakes all the time driving".

He sentenced O'Shaughnessy to three months in prison which he suspended in full on strict conditions.

When asked by Judge Nolan, why O'Shaughnessy had not seen the man while he

was crossing the road, James Dwyer SC defending replied, "because she was driving without due care and attention".

He emphasized that his client has pleaded guilty to careless driving and told the court that she doesn't have any penalty points.

He said she now avoids driving since the accident.

Mr Dwyer said his client has a PhD and is currently working as a post-doctoral researcher in Trinity College, specialising in lung disease.

He said she had wanted to communicate to the victim by a letter but was advised by the gardai that this may not be appropriate, although the gardai did inform the victim's family that O'Shaughnessy had wanted to express her remorse.

Counsel said his client had "a stellar academic career" and submitted that her guilty plea and co-operation with gardai was of "great assistance" to the investigation.

Emmet Nolan BL prosecuting told the court that one woman later told gardai that she had been driving that night on Emmet Road and had spotted an elderly man with a crutch attempting to cross the road.

She said she stopped her car and gestured for him to cross, when she noticed a vehicle on the opposite of the road. She said she flashed her lights to indicate to the driver that a pedestrian was crossing but the car hit the man and failed to stop.

Emergency services were called and they arrived at the scene the victim was lying on his back, opposite a bus stop, close to the kerb. He was taken to hospital and received treatment over the course of four days.

The man was discharged but re-admitted to hospital the following month due to sustained pain and a delusional episode. He remained in hospital then for four weeks.

O'Shaughnessy gave a prepared voluntary statement to gardai in March 2022 stating that she knew she had hit something that night but she didn't realise it was a person.

Mr Nolan confirmed that there is "no evidence" to contradict O'Shaughnessy's claim that she had not realised she had hit someone that night.

The court heard that gardai spoke with the victim six months ago and although he is still confused at times, he is doing well.

Abandoned dog Sadie is looking for a new home

Rescued young girl dog was found by volunteers tied to a pole

A DOG abandoned in Crumlin on Sunday morning was rescued by My Lovely Horse volunteers, who are seeking the public's assistance in finding a home for the Bully-breed girl called Sadie, *reports Maurice Garvey*.

Most of MLHR's work involves rescuing horses that have been abused and abandoned, but increasingly they are taking calls to help dogs.

Just last month, one of their volunteers rescued an "8 to 9 month old baby girl" Pocket Bully tied to a door of a Carry Out off licence in Clondalkin, after "two young men" were seen running from the scene.

XL Bully dogs were added to a list of restricted breeds at the start of the year by the Irish government, with a doubling of on-the-spot fines of up to €300 for people who don't control their dogs appropriately.

This has led to an increase in cases for the animal rescue group.

Martina Kenny, co-founder of My Lovely Horse Rescue, said social housing tenants are not allowed to bring the dog with them if moving to a new home, leading to increased calls.

A Facebook post by MLHR said: "This beautiful young girl was found tied to a pole in the early hours of the morning by the fantastic An Garda Síochána Crumlin. To say they have all fallen in love with her is an understatement."

MLHR have appealed for people to "help this little Garda wanna be" and shared a link to a foster home

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScD69QZmQoaQRj3TRxa0VwDkRhZQJGXILpQxtdPJtdn_k69ew/viewform



RESCUED: Sadie who was found abandoned is looking for a new home

17 vacancies leave mental health services in 'crisis'

THERE are currently 17 vacancies in Clondalkin mental health services positions, which represents a "crisis" according to TD Mark Ward, Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Mental Health, *reports Maurice Garvey*.

Deputy Ward was speaking following receiving a parliamentary response from the HSE which highlighted that that the 17 vacancies in Clondalkin include five staff nurses, and three clinical nurse specialists.

"Our community mental health teams are unacceptably understaffed. This is a crisis," said Ward, who says Steeple House in Clondalkin is among the affected facilities.

"When your community mental health teams are not fully staffed, people in crisis have nowhere to turn other than the emergency department and this is not an appropriate place for someone with mental health difficulties."

"I raised this on the floor of the Dáil and Minister Butler did not give a satisfactory answer."

"I have since followed up with a further parliamentary question to identify how many posts have actually been filled and what efforts are being made to address the high level of vacancies."

The 17 vacancies in Clondalkin Mental Health includes an Area Director of Nursing, Clinical Nurse Managers, Community Mental Health Nurses, and an Advanced Nurse Practitioner.

Deputy Ward fears the HSE recruitment embargo "will only make matters worse."

"The people of Clondalkin and the surrounding areas deserve a fully staffed community mental health team," he said.

FACILITY: Steeple House is among the affected facilities



Paul Murphy TD

Jess Spear
Tallaght Central

Kay Keane
Tallaght South

Scan for links to social media



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Local Enterprise Office South Dublin





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Day	Event	Venue
Monday 4th March 9.30am - 12.30pm	Empowering Enterprise with South Dublin County Partnership: Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion through Self Employment, Entrepreneurship and Training	Maldron Hotel, Tallaght
Monday 4th March 9.30am - 11.30am	Student Enterprise Event: If You Can See It, You Can Be It	Sancta Maria School, Rathfarnham
Monday 4th March 2pm - 4pm	Regional Event Development of Export Opportunities: Featuring Export Support Agencies and successful Entrepreneurs Enterprise Ireland, Intertrade Ireland &EEN	Maldron Hotel, Newlands Cross
Tuesday 5th March 9.30am - 11.30am	Student Enterprise Event: If You Can See It, You Can Be It	Moyle Park, Clondalkin
Tuesday 5th March 2pm -5pm	Trading Online Voucher Event: Boost your productivity with AI and Machinery Learning Tools featuring Google Experts on AI and Machine Learning	Online
Tuesday 5th March 3.15 pm - 5.30 pm	Dublin Food Chain Event: Meet the Food & Drink Entrepreneurs	The Stillorgan Park Hotel, Stillorgan
Wednesday 6th March 10am - 1pm	1 to 1 Mentoring Clinic: Advice On How To Optimise Your Businesses Potential	Work IQ, Innovation Quarter, Tallaght, D24 E1TT
Wednesday 6th March 10am & 2pm	"Your Journey Starts Here: Explore The Future Of Work": An exclusive tour and discover the innovative environment waiting for your business at Work IQ.	Work IQ, Innovation Quarter, Tallaght, D24 E1TT
Thursday 7th March 9.30 - 11am	Regional Event - Raising Finance: Hosted by broadcaster and journalist Richard Curran, this dynamic session will introduce you to a wide array of options for raising finance for your business start-up or business expansion.	Crowne Plaza, Blanchardstown
Thursday 7th March 9.30am - 11.00am	Student Enterprise Event: If You Can See It, You Can Be It	Kishoge Community College, Lucan
Thursday 7th March 2pm - 4.30pm	Introduction to Start your own Business programme	Online
Thursday 7th March 6pm - 10.30pm	Local Enterprise Awards	Maldron Hotel, Tallaght
Friday 8th March 10am - 12pm	Pitch Perfect: Battle of the Start-ups. Event with LEO Dublin Region and TUD	TUD Concert Hall, Grangegorman
Friday 8th March 1.30pm -4pm	International Women's Day at Olly's Farm Event and session of 'Laughter Yoga' with Cathy of New Wave Laughter Yoga	Olly's Farm, Glenasmole, Dublin
Saturday 9th March 2pm - 5pm	GAL PAL Collective: The Truth Behind The Treatment. This workshop is from the "Directed by Her" series and will be delivered by Nell Hensey, a Filipino-Irish screenwriter and director from the west of Ireland.	Rua Red, Tallaght

Dedicated Easter Chick Ladies raise €16k for Tallaght Hospital

Group have now raised an incredible €14,000 for aged related healthcare over the years

By Mary Dennehy

mary@echo.ie

A DEDICATED group of ladies crafted their way to a fundraising feat of €16,000 for age-related healthcare and stroke services in Tallaght University Hospital.

The well-known Easter Chick Ladies raised over €16k through their craft stall in the local hospital over Christmas - and as they handed over the cheque, remembered a compassionate team member who recently passed away.

Last week's handover of more than €16k saw the volunteer group knit its way past the €100,000 fundraising mark - having now raised an incredible €14,000 for age-related healthcare over the years.

Thanking the team for its commitment, Tallaght University Hospital Foundation (TUHF) said: "The Easter Chick Ladies have long been recognised for their remarkable contributions to the community, and this latest achievement further exemplifies their dedication to making a difference in the lives of others.

"Every cent raised by the group goes directly towards supporting vital healthcare services for the elderly and stroke patients.

In a heartwarming cheque handover at TUH, Professor Rónán Collins, Professor Seán Kennelly, and Professor Des O'Neill accepted the donation on behalf of the hospital.

"Their presence underscores the significance of the Easter Chick Ladies' fundraising



CRAFT: Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist Gillian Heart, Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist Fiona Tobin, Professor Des O'Neill, Professor Seán Kennelly, Easter Chick Lady volunteers Tina O'Toole and Phylis Gaines, TUHF's Emma Poynton, Easter Chick Lady volunteers Kitty Aylward, Liz Norris and Ann Carthy, Falls CNM2 Rachel Pierpoint and Easter Chick Lady volunteer Mairead O'Rourke.

Photo by TUHF

efforts in advancing healthcare initiatives that benefit countless individuals in need", TUHF said.

"Over the years they have raised an incredible €14,000."

Amidst the celebration, the Easter Chick Ladies remembered one of their

members, Pauline McDonnell who passed away shortly before Christmas.

Pauline was an integral part of the group, demonstrating "exceptional leadership" alongside Ann Carthy, who founded the Easter Chick Ladies.

According to the group, they pledge to honour Pauline's memory by "remaining steadfast in their commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others".

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of our dear friend and fellow Easter Chick Lady,

Pauline McDonnell", Ann Carthy said.

"Her passion, enthusiasm, and unwavering dedication to our cause has left an indelible mark on our hearts and the community we serve.

"While her presence will be greatly missed, her spirit will

continue to inspire us as we carry on her legacy of compassion and generosity".

The Easter Chick Ladies wished to express their gratitude to all supporters, volunteers and donors who have contributed to their fundraising over the years.

Cllr Mick Duff

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

Mick can be contacted on:
087 2865570

Email: mduff@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie

Twitter: @CllrMickDuff



Mick DUFF

From the Community and For the Community

Residents encouraged to check that you are registered to vote

WITH local and European elections in June, followed by a general election at a date no later than March 2025, residents are encouraged to check that they are registered to vote.

Cllr Teresa Costello (FF) raised concerns at the monthly council meeting that constituents who contacted were finding it difficult to register for the referendum on checktheregister.ie

South Dublin County Council Director Lorna Maxwell responded that there was "no glitch" in the system as far as she was aware, but she would look into it.

Speaking to *The Echo*, Cllr Costello said numerous people got in touch with her to report difficulties in checking their details on checktheregister.ie in the lead up to the referendums.

"Lorna said it was very case sensitive. I tried to enter my postal address, but that didn't work, so I put in my Eircode and that did work," said Costello.

It was the same scenario for this reporter when checking the register - name and address typed in did not return a result, but the name and Eircode confirmed my registration to vote. Although the deadline to register to vote for the referendums on March 8, passed this week on February 20, Costello fears difficulties could lead to some people "jumping the gun."

"There is a conspiracy element that might think 'they don't want you to vote' but I think it is down to a system error. It shouldn't be that

hard," said Cllr Costello.

"I have been asking people to register and have their say. I don't believe there should be any pressure or influence on people to vote a certain way, which seems like it has got to that stage in recent years. I'm happy for anybody to contact me to ensure they are registered but will leave it up to them how they vote."

Each local authority is legally obliged to maintain, update and publish its Register of Electors, which must be maintained and updated on an ongoing basis.

SDCC said: "Voters who access checktheregister.ie are asked to select their Local Authority, on selecting South Dublin County Council they are linked to Voter.ie which is South Dublin's platform for the Register of Electors. Voters in the South Dublin County Council area can check to see if they are registered and that their details are correct by logging on to www.voter.ie. Those who are not on the register, can register online at www.voter.ie. Voters who need to change current details can do so online as above or by emailing registerofelectors@sdublincoco.ie. Alternatively, application forms to register or amend your details are available at <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/our-council/elections-and-voting/>, Council libraries or by contacting the Council's Franchise Section at 4149000."

Womens World Day of Prayer

THE Womens' World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical movement of Christian Women from Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox traditions which holds a service on the first Friday of March each year.

It began in 1887 in America. The service is composed by women from a different country each year and is inspired by the moto 'informed prayer and prayerful action'.

Services are held all over Ireland and across the world on the same day every year and are led by lay women, but all are welcome including men.

There is always a service in Tallaght and this year the service will be in St Martin de Porres Church in Aylesbury at 7.30pm on Friday, March 1 and will be followed by refreshments.

This year's service has been composed by Christian women in Palestine and the theme is 'I beg you....bear with one another in Love' based on Ephesians 4 v1-7.

Unfortunately it is all too relevant at the moment. During the service the stories of three Christian women are told who have experienced great difficulties living in Palestine, including one family, only one of many who have been forced out of their houses and become refugees.

The family in the service had to flee to Jordan, and even today people are still being forced out of their homes.

Many people keep their keys in the hope that they will one day be able to return to their homes. Nakbas which means catastrophe is the name given to the time when there was mass displacement and dispossession of Palestinians including the tiny Christian minority during the 1948 Arab/Israeli war. Prior to Nakba Palestine was a multi-ethnic multi-cultural society.

17,725 on waiting list at driving test centre

Tallaght represents 10% of the entire backlog of all 40 centres

THE Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan has been accused of failing utterly in trying to tackle the waiting list in the Tallaght driving test centre after figures from the RSA show the backlog now stands at 17,725.

Sinn Féin TD for Dublin South West Seán Crowe comments came after new figures revealed that, during Minister's Ryan's current time as Minister, the waiting list for a driving test in Tallaght has grown by more than ten thousand people.

Teachta Crowe said: "As of 31 January last, there were 17,725 people on the waiting list of the Tallaght driving test centre. That's greater than the population of Leixlip.

"When Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan took office in June of 2020, there was less than 7,000 waiting in Tallaght. By any standard of judgement, the Minister has failed the people of Tallaght abysmally.


"This is not a new problem. I raised it in the Dáil with the then-Tánaiste Leo Varadkar in 2022 and was informed that it was 'important that people get a timely driving test'. I asked that additional staff were deployed to Tallaght but this didn't come close to meeting demand. That is when I approached Minister Ryan directly about the need for an additional testing centre to serve south Dublin, but I was rebuffed.

"I have written to minister Ryan again to highlight the case for an additional testing centre in south Dublin. Tallaght represents over 10% of the entire backlog in a system that has over 40 testing centres. Temporary measures and additional staff clearly aren't going to cut it anymore.

"The Minister has failed the people of Tallaght who so desperately need a driving licence by forcing them into a queue that takes months and years to get through, all the while they are faced with barriers in accessing education, employment, and childcare.



BACKLOG: The driving test centre in Tallaght



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

AN TACHT TOGHCHÁIN (LEASÚ) (MAOINIÚ POLAITÍOCHTA), 2012

Spriocdháta an 31 Márta 2024 le haghaidh síntiúis pholaitiúla ó thríú páirtithe a thuairisciú

Ní mór do gach thríú páirtí a fhaigheann síntiús airgid os cionn €100 a leithéid a chlárú lena n-údarás áitiúil, cuntas síntiús polaitíochta a oscailt chomh maith le ráiteas ó institiúid airgeadais le deimhniú agus dearbhú reachtúil a chur faoi bhráid a n-údarás áitiúil tráth nach déanaí ná an **31 Márta** gach bliain.

Tá tuilleadh eolais ina leith ar fáil ó:

Miriam Reilly Uasal,
An Roinn Feidhmíochta Corparáidí agus Bainistiú Athruithe,
Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas,
Halla an Chontae, Tamhlacht,
Baile Átha Cliath 24.

ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) (POLITICAL FUNDING) ACT 2012


31st March 2024 deadline for reporting of political donations by third parties

A third party that receives a monetary donation in excess of €100 is required to register with their local authority, to open a political donations account and to submit a statement from a financial institution with a certificate and statutory declaration to their local authority not later than **31st March** in each year.

Further information and details available from:

Ms. Miriam Reilly,
Corporate Performance & Change Management Department,
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall, Tallaght,
Dublin 24

Web: www.sdcc.ie



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Caught with large haul of anabolic steroids

A HUSBAND and wife who were caught with a large haul of anabolic steroids in their family home have been sentenced at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court, reports *Sonya McLean*.

Kristina Daunaraviciene and her husband Saulius Daunaravicius of Swiftwood, Garters Lane, Saggart, Co Dublin both pleaded guilty to charges of keeping for supply without a prescription various medicinal products and that they unlawfully placed medicinal products on the market, while not lawfully conducting a retail pharmacy, at their home on September 23, 2022.

Neither have previous convictions. They have three children together while Daunaravicius has a fourth child.

Daunaravicius was jailed for two years while his wife received a two-year suspended sentence.

Alan Smullen, an authorised officer with the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) told Diarmuid Collins BL, prosecuting, that a customs officer examined a package that was addressed to Kristina, bearing her maiden name and found it contained 9,040 tablets and 61 vials, worth an estimated €10,000.

A warrant was secured to search the address on the package and it was executed on September 23, 2022 by Mr Smullen, along with gardai.

Daunaraviciene had just returned home. She asked could she contact her husband who was working nearby as a security guard and she handed over her phone and PIN number for the phone.

Mr Smullen said he spotted receipts from An Post and seized these as part of the search. During the search, a number of unauthorised medicinal products were found in the fridge and kitchen presses.

Daunaravicius arrived home and accepted responsibility for the products. He claimed they were for his use and that of his friends and informed gardai that he didn't have a phone. Further products were recovered in an upstairs bedroom.

Mr Smullen said that in total 78,689 tablets and 5,961 vials were recovered. He said the drugs were anabolic steroids.

He said they are restricted products as they need to be administered under medical supervision as they have potential adverse side effects that can impact the kidneys, nervous system and potentially cause heart attacks, stroke and liver tumours.

Mr Smullen said these steroids are commonly taken by body builders and in the past such users have experienced sudden death due to the unauthorised taking of the medication. He said the drugs have also been found to have an impact on a user's psychiatric health as well as their fertility.

Mr Smullen said a conservative estimate for the value of the items found was €69,000. He explained there was a lot of material found during the search but due to limited resources, HPRA were not in a position to test it all.

John Noonan BL, representing Daunaravicius, said his client was head of security at City West Hotel at the time of the

search.

He said he has three children with his co-accused and another child from a previous relationship.

Mr Noonan said his client has "never not worked" having worked previously as a carpenter before he began working in security. He has had an interest in personal fitness since he was a teenager and began to take anabolic steroids when he was 25 years old.

Counsel said his client accepts full responsibility for his role and handed in a reference from his current employer.

Morgan Shelley BL, defending Daunaraviciene, said his client came to Ireland 20 years ago and has worked continuously ever since. She is currently six years in her current job in a technical sales role in a civil engineering and construction company.

Mr Shelley submitted that his client is a hard-working pro-social person and has taken responsibility for the ownership of the drugs along with her husband as she accepts that she permitted the drugs to be kept in her home. She has never been in trouble with the gardai.

Judge Martin Nolan said Daunaraviciene had been fully co-operative from the start of the investigation and said he has drawn the inference that her involvement was "somewhat lesser than her husband".

He took into account her plea of guilty, co-operation, lack of criminal record, good work history and family responsibilities before he said he has come to the conclusion that it is highly unlikely that she will re-offend in the future.

Judge Nolan said it would be "unjust" to impose a prison term on Daunaraviciene at this time before he imposed a two-year suspended term on the condition that she keep the peace and be of good behaviour for those two years.

He said in relation to Daunaravicius, officers had uncovered a large quantity of anabolic steroids used in the fitness and body building industry. He described the valuation placed on those drugs as "conservative" given Mr Smullen's evidence.

"The principal responsibility must fall on him. He was involved in distributing these drugs to third parties to help them in their endeavours in the gym. A lot of people must have been taking advantage of this situation," Judge Nolan said.

He said such drugs are usually dispensed by pharmacists who undergo years of training and have considerable expertise in the way these drugs are dispensed. "They are dangerous drugs that can have serious effects on the people who take them," Judge Nolan continued.

He accepted that Daunaravicius had no previous convictions and was unlikely to re-offend but he said he was involved in "a serious way with drugs that he had no entitlement to have or distribute".

"He is a very accomplished man who has achieved a lot and no doubt contributed to this country. He deserves a custodial sentence to punish him and deter others who might think of getting involved in this kind of behaviour," Judge Nolan said before he jailed him for two years.

Binman caused over €175k damages 'played dodgems'

Man avoids jail after he damaged four bin lorries in the early hours of the morning

A BINMAN who caused over €175,000 worth of damage when he "played dodgems" with four bin lorries in the early hours of the morning has avoided jail with a suspended sentence, reports *Jessica Magee*.

Marian Calderas (39) was working at Key Waste Management Ltd on the Greenhills Road in Tallaght, on January 24 2023 when his colleagues realised he was drunk.

Calderas, with an address at Fenton Green, Church Street, Kilcock, Co Kildare, had started working for the company some six weeks earlier.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard that Calderas had been collecting refuse bins and putting them into bin lorries when his colleagues realised that the plastic bottle he was drinking from contained not water or juice, but alcohol.

His colleagues collected him at around midnight and brought him into the canteen on the Greenhills Road for his own safety, the court heard.

Calderas was left unattended in the canteen and slept for a time before CCTV showed him at 2.25am, using a code to gain access to a room with keys to bin lorries.

He got into a bin truck with a 2017 registration plate and crashed it into three other bin lorries, all captured on CCTV.

Calderas caused more than €87,000 of damage to one truck, over €38,000 to another and about €49,000 to a third, bringing the total cost of the damage to €175,998.

He pleaded guilty to three counts of

DAMAGE: Key Waste is based on the Greenhills Road



criminal damage and was given a sentence of three years, suspended in full.

Judge Martin Nolan ordered Calderas to hand over the sum of €5,000 for transferral to the company immediately, with a further sum of €7,250 to be collected and transferred within the next year.

Judge Nolan had heard evidence in the case yesterday/on Wednesday but adjourned the matter overnight as he said he didn't know how to deal with Calderas and had consulted with

several colleagues.

In his ruling on Thursday, the judge said Calderas was "totally intoxicated" and in a "besotted state" when he drove a bin lorry very recklessly and caused huge damage.

"It's hard to get into his mind and establish what he was trying to accomplish, but he must have entertained himself driving around like the bumpers and crashing into things," said Judge Nolan.

Garda Amy Murphy told Patrick Jackson BL, prosecuting, that Key

Waste paid €150,000 of the repair cost themselves as they were very concerned as to how it might affect their premium if they claimed.

The company remains at a loss of €150,000 and is still waiting to see what way their premium will be affected.

Gda Murphy said CCTV from the incident showed Calderas being thrown from one part of the cab to the other as the bin lorry collided with the other trucks.

He was seen leaving the premises at

about 3.30am.

Calderas was arrested two weeks later, answered all questions and made admissions.

He was apologetic and remorseful and became upset at various times during interview, the court heard.

Calderas, who had begun working with Key Waste on December 5, 2022, was dismissed for gross misconduct.

He has no previous convictions in this jurisdiction or in his country of origin, Romania.

When Judge Nolan asked Garda Murphy if Calderas had offered any explanation for his actions, she replied that it was to do with alcohol.

"Madness overtook him. He played dodgem cars and did a huge amount of damage," said Judge Nolan, adding that it could have been far more serious if anyone had been in the vehicles.

Gda Murphy agreed with counsel for the defence that Calderas was unlikely to reoffend and had not come to any garda attention since this incident.

The court heard Calderas is now working as a general operative and earning €500 a week.

Character references were handed in from his partner, his church and from Pavee Point, as Calderas is a member of the Roma community.

Judge Nolan said that if the injured party does not wish to accept the sum of €12,250, it should be given to a local charity of the company's choice.

"Hopefully this fine will remind him not to do this again. Hopefully he'll stay away from alcohol," concluded the judge.

New heritage walking trail map ‘preserves local history’

Map features 15 prominent landmarks including De La Salle monastery and Railway Bridge

THE official launch of the Ballyfermot heritage walking trail map and guide took place this week, reports *Maurice Garvey*.

Dublin City Council and Ballyfermot Heritage Group worked together to complete the design of the heritage walking trail, which has been in operation since its original launch during Heritage Week last August.

On Tuesday morning, Dublin City Council Mayor Daithí de Róiste was at Ballyfermot Road to launch the venture, beside a sign for the trail at the corner of Tesco's.

The walking trail map features 15 prominent landmarks in the area, including the Church of Our Lady of Assumption, De La Salle, Ruby Finnegan's and the Ranch, De La Salle Monastery, Seven Oaks Convent, and Le Fanu Road Railway Bridge.

An interactive map of the trail is available on the Ballyfermot Heritage website. Visitors who click on one of the 15 sites can enjoy an audio and oral history of the site, with narration by local historian Sean Brennan, a member of the Ballyfermot Heritage Group.

“It is a great idea that preserves local history for future generations,” Sean said.

“De La Salle monastery, in another five to ten years time, people might not know it existed, but this will preserve that. We have the walking trail map as an interactive on our heritage website.

“You can go from one to 15, or just click on the one you are interested in, which will provide you a video, photos and an oral history.”

Dublin City Council printed 2,000 copies of the heritage trail map and some are available at the library, credit union, civic centre and some local shops.



LAUNCH: City Council Mayor Daithí de Róiste launched the Ballyfermot heritage trail map and guide

School choir performs at the Peace Proms alongside Matilda star Alisha

45 pupils from the school joined a cast of 2,000 students from all around Leinster

THE school choir from Scoil Maelruain Senior School in Tallaght performed as part of the Peace Proms in the RDS this month, alongside ‘Matilda’ star and Knocklyon native Alisha Weir, reports *Aideen O’Flaherty*.

The 45 pupils from the school choir joined a cast of 2,000 students from around Leinster to give show-stopping performances on February 3 and 4.

Rehearsals for their Tallaght students’ performances were in full swing in the weeks leading up to the Peace Proms, under the instruction of teachers Margaret Murphy and Eve Conlon.

The children’s repertoire included a medley of musical numbers from films including ‘High School Musical’ and ‘Matilda’, with ‘Matilda’ star Alisha Weir making a surprise appearance at the event.

They also sang a medley of pop songs from the past year, and a stirring rendition of ‘You’re the Voice’, in a nod to the Peace Proms’ beginning as a cross-border orchestra during the Peace process.

The cross-border orchestra is still going strong, and they provided musical accompaniment to the children who performed.

Commenting on her pupils’ experience at the Peace Proms, Ms Murphy told The Echo: “It’s a great opportunity for them to perform with



PEACE PROMS: Pupils from Scoil Maelruain who took part in the Peace Proms

an orchestra like that, and at that scale.

“They get such a buzz out of singing on stage and the response that they get from the audience.

“This year they had Alisha Weir as a surprise guest, and the kids were all very excited to see her.

“They did a lot of medleys. There

was a musical medley, and they do a pop medley of songs every year from the last year, and they sang ‘You’re the Voice’ – it’s a song with a message of peace.

“They loved it all. It’s very hard to explain what it’s like to the children who haven’t gone, but they love it.

“We asked them did they want to go again next year and they said, ‘Absolutely’. They can’t wait – they love the performances, and it gives them a lot of confidence.”

This confidence boost was apparent in a card that Ms Murphy received from the parent of a child who

performed at this year’s Peace Proms in the Scoil Maelruain Senior School choir.

“One parent gave me a card saying they have a very quiet child,” she said, “but they made memories at the Peace Proms that they will remember for life.”

Local history with Monica McGill

Residents caring about our built heritage are dismayed

An instruction from ABP was the only thing protecting it but the instruction has been disregarded

“WHAT we have here is failure to communicate.” - a famous line from the 1967 American film “Cool Hand Luke”. Actor Martin Strother played the authoritarian Captain over the prison depicted in the film.

Paul Newman played Luke, a prisoner refusing the Captain’s attitude and behaviours.

The scenario could apply to our planning authorities when communicating sometimes with local people – at least in Clondalkin.

As one local said recently “If they can’t be trusted to protect 20m of a wall that’s at least 200 years old, what can they be trusted to protect?”

This dismay refers to part of our remaining local built heritage, a wall built of local black calp limestone along one of Clondalkin’s main roads.

An instruction from An Bórd Pleanála (APB) was the only thing protecting it, but the instruction has been disregarded.

The wall used to be part of the boundary of a landed estate. James Joyce referred to the estate’s big house in his book, Ulysses. Piecemeal, the old wall is going into landfill.

By de facto permission, this old wall is being replaced by a modern hotch-potch of non-local stone not at all in keeping with what was originally there.

The developer has attempted to “age” the replacement wall by applying a preparation to it, a clear admission that the new wall is out of character and unsuitable.

Meanwhile, the Council has a supply of local calp limestone, ready cut, and salvaged from other local projects as suggested by local people and Councillors.

Does this amount to official erosion of our built heritage?

The same developer felled a mature tree outside the boundary of the project.

The Council reacted quickly when notified, but it was too late. The County Development Plan 2022-2028 (Objective NCBH21 SLO1) states part of its purpose is “To protect and



HERITAGE: The characteristic heritage wall, further along the road.

Photo © Monica McGill

maintain the remaining old walls of Clondalkin.” This County Development Plan was implemented in August 2022, too late to protect this old wall (and also the old walls at the Convent and Boot Road health centre).

The Council okayed the replacement wall. The old wall was demolished because it was later described as unsafe, despite being fine for at least 200 years.

The Council’s okay is in contravention of ABP’s written instruction to retain the original. Both the Council and its superior authority, ABP, regret greatly that there is nothing they can do.

ABP say they have no part in upholding their own instructions, referring people to the Council’s Enforcement Section. The Council say they are happy with the replacement wall. It is to their satisfaction and their file on the matter is closed. Failure to communicate? No. The message is clear.

Locals caring about our built heritage are dismayed and angry. They ask what’s the point in having Authorities that are toothless? What a shame – the essence of the communications in this instance is: shut up and put up.

Other than lodge observations like everyone else, or politely ask questions of Council officials, our County Councillors are powerless to influence the situation.

They are permitted to vote only on “Part 8” projects – the ones that are planned for Council-owned lands. This powerlessness became law years ago after weak and greedy Councillors accepted bribes to vote in certain ways.

Planning Process

Broadly, this involves submitting a planning application to the County Council for permission to build the intended project.

The developer of a larger project can have a pre-planning consultation

with the Council. This takes place before submitting the final plans for publication on the Council’s website. Presumably, the pre-planning consultation increases the chances that the Council will publicly “pass” the plans and give planning permission. Details of pre-planning consultations are not available to the public. This is all perfectly legal.

The required official site notice (approximately 12” x 10”) or the required notice in a local or national newspaper notify people about the general project.

Those wanting to support or object to the project get a limited time to write to the Council.

The correct fee (€20) must accompany their “observations”, as these are called. Elected representatives are exempt from this fee.

The final plans are published on the Council’s website. However, experience shows that online they can be too indistinct to convey the detail people sometimes need, and can take days to be uploaded.

The entire file of hard-copy plans should be available at the Council’s public counter at its headquarters, but disappointingly this is not always so. There are various reasons for this; some of them understandable, some not so much.

The Council carefully communicates with people who have submitted observations, letting them know of progress. The Council may ask the developer for further information, usually supplied. Shortly after the time limit, the Council announces publicly on their website or by letter to observers whether the project has been “passed” or rejected.

At this stage, either the developer or any initial observer may appeal the Council’s decision to the higher planning authority An Bórd Pleanála

(ABP).

Appeals must be submitted within a time limit and accompanied by a further, larger fee, sometimes unaffordable by ordinary observers. ABP can decide whether to hold a public meeting about the project, or not.

When the relevant time limit has expired, ABP publishes its decision to either uphold the Council’s decision or to alter or reject it. ABP can issue instructions to the developer regarding the project, as they did in the case of the old wall mentioned above - retention.

Dissatisfied developers or observers can then appeal the matter to the High Court for judicial review. However, the High Court rules only on legal issues. The relevant cost of this is rumoured to be in ten thousands of Euros.

So? On the ground, the sad experience regarding the heritage wall suggests we have a toothless planning process that doesn’t work to serve the people properly.

It seems developers can essentially do what they like (if they apply for planning permission at all).

In 2022, both the Chair and Deputy Chair of ABP resigned following scandalous “months of turmoil ... [which] engulfed the authority” (Irish Times <https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/2022/11/03/an-bord-pleanala-chairman-to-leave-planning-authority-after-months-of-turmoil-over-work-of-former-deputy/>) The Deputy Chair was jailed. Dáil deputies (including a local TD) demanded reforms and hopefully things are improving.

Both planning authorities must jettison their inability or unwillingness to serve people properly if public confidence in their processes is to be restored. They could start with this heritage wall.



BLOTCHES: Replacement wall, with applied blotches.

Photo © Monica McGill

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'We have little to moan about when you look at someone with EB'

AWARENESS: Liz O'Donoghue with Casey Connors



Brave Casey (11) inspires her SNA to leap out of plane at 13,000 feet

A MUM of three is leaping out of a plane at 13,000 feet to raise awareness about a painful and incurable skin condition.

Liz O'Donoghue, a primary school special needs assistant (SNA), said her first-ever parachute jump has been inspired by the bravery of an 11-year-

old girl who lives with epidermolysis bullosa (EB).

Casey Connors was born with EB and battles pain every day as a result of the agonising blisters which can erupt on her skin at the slightest touch.

But despite her devastating symptoms, Casey, who lives next to the Liffey Valley shopping centre in Dublin 22, attends school like most other children her age.

SNA Liz said she had never heard of EB – also known as Butterfly Skin due to the fragility of the skin – until she became Casey's full-time classroom helper at St

Ronan's National School, in Clondalkin.

"It is one of the worst illnesses ever," said Liz, whose daring jump next month will raise funds for national EB charity Debra, which supports Casey and her family as well as 300 other people in Ireland living with the condition.

"So that's the real point of the skydive, to raise awareness and tell as many people as possible about this terrible disease."

EB is caused by the absence of essential proteins that bind the skin together.

As yet, there is no cure and in the most severe cases, such as Casey's, regular bandage changes are required to treat painful blisters.

But, according to Liz, the schoolgirl

rarely complains and is great company.

"She has a great sense of humour and we have a lot of fun," said Liz, 55, who lives in Johnstownbridge, Co Kildare.

"We have little to moan about, really, when you look at someone with EB."

Casey, Liz added, is fed at night via a tube known as a PEG (poercutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy), which is inserted into her stomach.

"I recently asked Casey what was the worst thing about having EB? Is it kids looking at you? Is it your skin? And she said 'no, it's the PEG'.

"On top of her bandage changes, she has to lie there for four hours at night as she is fed nutrients through

her stomach. That's tough for a little girl."

Liz is taking the plunge on March 10 in the skies above the Irish Parachute Club in Clonbullogue, Co Offaly.

"I'm doing a tandem jump with an instructor, so not a lot of training is required," she said.

"I'm looking forward to it. I just hope we are not hanging around too long on the day, getting nervous."

"It's my mother's anniversary that weekend and I'm hoping to hear her say: 'Liz, it's not your time!' as I jump out of the plane."

Liz has already raised €5,340 for Debra.

To donate, visit <https://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/LizODonoghue>

“So that's the real point of the skydive, to raise awareness and tell as many people as possible about this terrible disease

Almost half of 7,000 adults accessing emergency accommodation were Irish

ALMOST half of the almost seven thousand adults accessing emergency accommodation across the Dublin region in December 2023 were Irish, reports Stephen Farrell.

This is according to a reply from the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) to a question from Councillor Kieran Mahon, (Solidarity) at last week's Council meeting.

One quarter of adults accessing emergency accommodation came from EEA (European Economic area) countries and one quarter came from non-EEA countries.

The EEA is an area of free trade and free movement of peoples comprising the member states of the European Union, in addition to Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

Only one per cent of adults accessing emergency accommodation came from the UK which amounted to 43 adults.

A total of 6,754 adults accessed emergency accommodation in December 2023. 3,307 Irish adults, 1,702 EEA and 1,702 non-EEA adults availed of these services.

The DRHE also said that it sources

emergency accommodation via an open tender procurement process that seeks emergency accommodation across the Dublin Region. They work with providers that are identified during this process, where accommodation is available and is most suitable. They also support other Dublin Local Authorities to develop emergency accommodation in their areas.

Calls on government not to attend White House on St Patrick's Day

A LOCAL councillor is asking the Council to call on the government to not attend the St Patrick's Day celebrations in the White House, reports **Stephen Farrell**.

Councillor Leah Whelan (Solidarity) is asking the local authority to call on the Taoiseach, government and opposition parties to refrain from 'business as usual'

politics by not attending St Patrick's Day celebrations in the White House with President Biden.

This, according to Ms Whelan, is due to the direct role he, and the US government, are playing in upholding genocide by supplying Israel with weapons [and] bombs and being the sole vote in the UN security council opposing a

ceasefire.

According to Ms Whelan's facebook page, her motion was not reached in the agenda before the close of the meeting.

However, she feels that this gives her and her supporters more time to build more pressure on local government and opposition parties in the Council who plan to attend

the White House visit.

"We say listen to the demands of activists, listen to the cries of people in Palestine and do not shake hands with President Biden who is an enabler of genocide. Do not normalise this event!", her facebook post continued.

In a video accompanying her facebook post, Ms. Whelan added,

"we need to say no to shaking hands with Genocide Joe".

A vote on the motion will now take place on March 11th, according to Ms. Whelan's facebook post.

Ms. Whelan also thanked her supporters who came down to the Council office last week hoping to see a vote on her motion.

Jump Start boxing kids 'proud and excited' to finish training

Thirty children receive participation boxing certificates at the awards ceremony



JUMP START: Participants receive their certificates at the ceremony last week

By **Stephen Farrell**
stephenf@echo.ie

THIRTY young children from Clondalkin continued their journey in boxing.

The children who have completed five-weeks training under the Jump Start boxing initiative received their participation certificates at the awards

ceremony held in the library.

Paddy Jennings, Jump Start boxing, Andre Goode, North Clondalkin Library and Active South Dublin presented the certificates while Stuart Goodall, Chairman of Collinstown Football Club was a special guest.

"Paddy started Jump Start boxing, he trains the local kids," said Gráinne Breen, South Dublin County libraries.

"It started as a small group in the library and it progressed to expand over to Collinstown Sports Centre, which is across the road from the library," she added.

Two different classes of 15 were in

training for the Jump Start certificates. "The juniors were in North Clondalkin Library while the seniors were in the Collinstown Sports Centre, where the hall was paid for by Active South Dublin," said Paddy.

The library is very happy with how the event went. "All the children's families were there, it was a really big turnout. We got really good feedback, everyone was really excited and really proud about finishing the training," Gráinne said.

The awards were set up by Paddy and Andre over a year ago. Paddy, a former Irish Champion at light welter weight (10st 4pounds), has been very involved in boxing for the last thirty-five years, and is also a referee.

Andre, who has assisted Paddy in the sessions, is "very helpful", said Paddy.

He explained how Jump Start began. "Andre and I started chatting, we were looking to get children in the area involved in something positive, and we came up with Jump Start Boxing," he said.

At the training sessions the children learn the basic foundations of boxing. "It has gone real well, they've really seemed to enjoy it and it's good for their physical and mental wellbeing too," he added. Approximately 140 children have received training under the initiative since it began.

A previous participant, Kim Chrystal, who has gone on to join Palmerstown Boxing Club, is a

winner of the Dublin Leagues, a boxing championship for girls.

Paddy was keen to mention some other people, as well as Andre, without whom Jump Start would not be possible, including Thos McDermott, Active South Dublin, and Rosina Hand, Manager of North Clondalkin Library.

He also thanked the parents for bringing their children along to the sessions.

Paddy is also looking to spread the initiative to more libraries and perhaps schools. "Jump Start began in St Aidan's Community School, Tallaght on Monday, January 15 and it will start in Divine Mercy Junior National School, Balgaddy on February 21," he said.

“It started as a small group in the library and it progressed to expand to Collinstown Sports Centre, which is across

Libraries want you to Get Lost in a good book



SPECIAL EVENT: Emily Hourican

LIBRARIES throughout South Dublin County are taking part in Ireland Reads a campaign to get the whole country reading this month in the lead up to a National Day of Reading on Saturday, February 24.

Irish libraries have teamed up with publishers, booksellers, authors, and others for the campaign, which is part of the government's Healthy Ireland programme and aims to celebrate reading and all the benefits it can have for wellbeing and enjoyment.

The campaign is asking everyone to 'Get Lost in a Good Book' during February and especially on Ireland Reads Day, Saturday, February 24.

Events for all ages to celebrate reading, books and literature are planned throughout the county.

Bookstagram Live takes place at Lucan Library on Thursday 22 February at 7pm! Join book champions and Bookstagram icons Sinéad Cuddihy (Tired Mammy Book Club) and Chloe Cowman (Nurse Fancy Pants) for lively book chat and recommendations galore!

At North Clondalkin Library, join the Family Poetry treasure hunt with Juliette Saumande on Saturday, February 24 from 1pm -3pm, all welcome! Follow the trail of clues, answer the questions, and help create a big poem with other treasure hunters!

At Ballyroan Library, there's more family fun with storyteller Roisín Murphy who will be telling some Revolting Rhymes at 1.30pm on Saturday. All welcome!

On Thursday, February 22 Clondalkin Library are hosting a very special event with author and editor Emily Hourican.

Emily will share insights into her life as a writer, a mother and the real-life historical events that have inspired her books. Her best-selling novels including her most recent An

Invitation to the Kennedy's inspired by the life of Kathleen 'Kick' Kennedy.

At Tallaght Library on February 24 we are launching the brand new reading campaign for adults, D24 Reads.

The aim of the challenge is to read 24 books in 2024. There will be lots of prizes, incentives, and events along the way. Join us and make 2024 your most bookish yet! Join us for the launch at 11am where the Mayor, Alan Edge will be in attendance, and refreshments will be provided. All welcome.

The Ireland Reads website also offers book recommendations suited to a person's interests and the time they have available.

There are more than 1,500 recommendations from librarians all around the country for all interests and reading levels.

A website user can simply enter their favourite type of book and how long they would like to read each day and the website will offer the perfect book suggestion and work out how long it will take to complete – so you can set yourself a challenge if you're finding it hard to get back to reading.

You can also recommend a book to a friend through the website.

Urging everyone in South Dublin to get involved in Ireland Reads, County Librarian Paul Fusco said:

"Getting lost in a good book is one of the best things you can do, at any age. Reading is great for your wellbeing and South Dublin Libraries hopes we can get the whole county reading this month, especially those who might not be avid readers right now.

If you don't read or you haven't read in a while, this is the perfect time to call into your local library and pick up a book."



CYCLE CREW: Derek Cummins, Kelly Crowley, Stuart O'Connor, Louise Moles, Tony Lawlor, Damien Long and Mark Reddington outside the Tallaght University Ageing Wellness Centre in Clondalkin Village

Laurels Cycyle to r for new ageing well Laurels Charity Crew have raised

THIS year marks the 15th year of the annual Laurels Cycle Crew's (LCC) Galway to Dublin charity cycle, which will take place from April 26-28.

Over the past 14 years the crew has raised over €1.2m for various charities.

This year LCC are fundraising on behalf of Tallaght University Hospital Foundation (TUHF) to support the Tallaght University

By Maurice Garvey
maurice@echo.ie

Hospital (TUH) Ageing Well Centre in Clondalkin village at the Presentation Convent on New Road which is due to open soon.

Kelly Crowley, Head of Development for TUHF said: "We are delighted to have been

selected as the LCC charity partner which will support the development of a new Ageing Well Centre in Clondalkin, helping local people access vital healthcare directly within their community.

"Thanks to this generous community support, we can support Tallaght University Hospital to continue to improve services and infrastructure

“ We are delighted to have been selected as the LCC charity partner which will support the development of a new Ageing Well Centre in Clondalkin, helping local people access vital healthcare directly within their community. Thanks to this generous community support, we can support Tallaght Hospital to



raise funds centre over €1.2 million

extending beyond the confines of the hospital walls.”

For the past 14 years cyclists of all abilities have taken part in what is a fun filled, albeit energy sapping challenge to cycle from Galway to Dublin.

Day one is the biggie, covering 127km to Tullamore from the Connaught Hotel in Galway, followed by a barbeque later on that evening to regale friends with stories from the day.

Day two covers 91km from Tullamore to The Laurels in Clondalkin where a big crowd is always in attendance to welcome home the cyclists and crew.

Every year the crew’s support team and road marshals provide assistance to the riders during the challenge, which supports the LCC mantra that “nobody gets left behind.”

There are stops every 25km or so for participants to refuel and reload until the next stop.

The crew always welcome new participants of all abilities, for a fun filled and rewarding event.

For more details visit <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/galway2dublin-2024-tickets-765617451407?aff=erelexpmlt>

Volunteers free tour guides highlight their passion for local history



PASSION: Josephine Byrne and a group of tour guides in Brú Chrónáin.

CLANN Chrónáin, Clondalkin’s Volunteer Tour Guides group, were more than a little surprised to learn recently that February 21 is designated International Tourist Guide (ITG) Day.

ITG Day has been celebrated annually on this date since 1989 but this was news to Clann Chrónáin when SDCC’s Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development division contacted the tour guides to ask how they were going to mark the day.

In response, Aisling Brady, Clann Chrónáin’s social media officer, offered to film a number of the tour guides speaking about the kinds of free tours they provide six days a week in Brú Chrónáin/The Round Tower Visitor Centre on Tower Road.

“We hope through the short videos on Facebook that we can spread the word and encourage more groups, families and individuals to book their own free tour,” Aisling explains.

The theme for this year’s ITG Day is Tourist Guides: Our Guardians in promoting and encouraging Green Tourism and among Clann Chrónáin Tour Guides who share their experience on video are Alan Warren and Dermot Doyle who specialise in giving garden tours both to drop-in visitors and booked in groups at Brú Chrónáin.

“We show people around the garden and tell them how the herbs and the plants relate back to the monastery”, explains Dermot.

“We have at least 50 plants, trees and herbs here, depending on the season and our tours last anything from 15 minutes to an hour.”

Garden Guide colleague, Alan Warren adds “Maybe when we’re thinking of food 1,500 years ago, we might have thought the food would have been very bland but the monks were growing lots of herbs to add to their food and enhance all the flavours.”

The tour guides also tell interesting stories about the medicinal cures and some more unusual uses of some of the garden plants – but to find out more, you’ll have to book a tour! You can view Dermot and Alan’s video on the Clann Chrónáin Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Clann-Chronain/100069781543993/>

Other videos feature Sadie Russell and Margaret Pardoe who enjoy sharing the history of the mill cottages with both school groups and international visitors, while Dave Ó Muineacháin has a particular interest in the history of Ireland’s round towers. Margaret and Dave are just two of a number of tour guides who provide tours as Gaeilge on request.

“Giving free tours is our way of sharing our passion for Clondalkin’s local history and it’s also a way to give back to the community”, says Clann Chrónáin Co-ordinator, Bernardine Nic Giolla Phádraig, who along with Jo Byrne, Thyges Kavanagh and Tommy Byrne of Clondalkin Round Tower Heritage Group established Clann Chrónáin Tour Guides back in 2017.

“With the Visitor’s Centre being developed, we felt it was the next logical step so we applied to SDCC for funding to run a 14-week training course. To our surprise and delight 40 volunteers took and graduated from the course with almost 30 still involved, giving generously of their time in one way or another, including organising talks and temporary exhibitions in the Visitor Centre.”

Adult groups and organisations, families or individuals, as well as school groups, are welcome to book a tour in the Visitor Centre or a walking tour around Clondalkin Village. The easy booking request form is available on Dublin’s Great Outdoors site: <https://www.dublinsoutdoors.ie/round-tower-clondalkin-village/>



Paddy Ging leads a guided walk with Paddy O'Reilly, Aisling Brady, Margaret Pardoe and Jo Byrne

Implementation Board to publish plan in April



PLAN: Cherry Orchard (inset) the garda car was rammed in 2022

Board was established following high profile anti-social incidents including a garda car rammed

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

THE Cherry Orchard Implementation Board is to publish its plan in April.

It was established following a number of high profile anti-social incidents which attracted national media attention in 2022, including a video of a garda car being rammed by juvenile joyriders, which was widely shared on social media at the time.

The board includes representation between Dublin City Council and stakeholders in the community, including An Garda Síochána, Tusla, the HSE, the Probation Service, St Ultan's primary school and Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership.

Speaking to Newstalk, Chair of the Board, Brendan Foster, says thousands of homes planned for the area will bring employment and much needed facilities.

"A lot of the residents, a lot of the community

based organisations will say that over the years they've had some false dawns, they've had plans, they've had lots of launches and some of the funding, or some of the state agencies haven't followed the funding," he said.

Foster believes it's within the government's "gift" to ensure that promises are followed through.

Cllr Hazel de Nortúin (PBP) has previously called for local representation on the board to inform decision making, but says local reps are

not included on the board and are being drip-fed information.

"A lot of hard work has gone in for years to get the community together, having consultation nights, getting their feedback, really getting them on board," said Cllr de Nortúin.

"And I just don't think that it's an option now that if this fails because of the coordination around this board, that we can go back and start again.

This is literally our last try before we lose the community as a whole."

TOGETHER FM - HOW TO FIND US



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Update on school projects at TCS and Sancta Maria College

IN A recent parliamentary question addressed to the Minister for Education, John Lahart, Fianna Fáil TD for Dublin South West, sought updates on significant school building projects in the constituency.

Lahart's inquiry specifically focused on Sancta Maria College in Ballyroan and Tallaght Community School, two well established educational institutions in the constituency.

The Sancta Maria College project is now at Stage 3, getting ready for the tender process.

It involves renovating the college and building a new Sports Hall due to issues with the original contract.

The Design Team is selecting potential contractors, and once chosen, the project will move forward. The Department promises to keep the school informed.

For Tallaght Community School, this project is part of the Department's Construction Programme.


It aims to create a new post-primary school for 1,000 students, including facilities for 6 classrooms for children with special needs.

A professional Project Manager will oversee the

Design Team to ensure smooth progress from planning to construction. The Department is committed to keeping the school updated on the project's progress.

According to the Minister's response, the project for Sancta Maria College has reached Stage 3 and is getting ready for the tender process. It involves renovating the college and building a new Sports Hall due to issues with the original contract. The Design Team is selecting potential contractors, and once chosen, the project will move forward. The Department promises to keep the school informed.

John Lahart emphasises the importance of these projects for improving local education and assures constituents of his dedication to enhancing educational facilities and ensuring the best possible learning environments for students in Dublin South West.



UPDATE: Tallaght Community School

Residents will play an integral role in shaping housing project

Project at former filter bed project next to canal aims to provide 360-410 units

By Maurice Garvey
maurice@echo.ie

THE Land Development Agency and Dublin City Council have launched a process of engagement with residents, community groups and businesses in Dublin 12 to inform the design of a new social and affordable housing development.

The Bluebell Waterways Project, located at the former filter bed complex next to the Grand Canal 5th Lock, aims to provide between 360-410 units.

The project aims to deliver central community spaces for social, arts and cultural use, alongside long-established services.

Dublin City Council will offer new sustainable social homes to residents of the Bluebell maisonettes and to those on the housing waiting list. Cost rental homes will offer long-term rental accommodation at discounted market rates and will be managed by the LDA.

The LDA and DCC are inviting local residents, community groups and businesses to contribute to the design process. A new website (bluebellwaterways.ie) has been launched, with a series of workshops



PROJECT: The site of the proposed Bluebell Waterways development in Bluebell, Dublin 12

“The LDA understands the value and importance of hearing from the local community in Bluebell as the Agency, alongside Dublin City Council, endeavours to design a much needed social and affordable homes development for the area

and meetings planned over the coming weeks.

People can submit ideas and feedback via email, dedicated phonenumber or during organised engagement meetings.

Phelim O'Neill, Head of Property at the Land Development Agency said: “The LDA understands the value and importance of hearing from the local community in Bluebell as the Agency,

alongside Dublin City Council, endeavours to design a much needed social and affordable homes development for the area.

The residents of Dublin 12 are the lifeblood of the community and will play an integral role in the shaping of this project.”

Dave Dinnigan, Director of Housing Delivery at Dublin City Council added: “Bluebell Waterways

provides an opportunity for DCC, in partnership with the LDA, to breathe new life into Dublin 12. This proposed site is perfectly positioned to take advantage of the local transport links and future greenway plans to regenerate the area through community spaces and new amenities.”

A full consultation and display of plans will follow at the end of March.

Advertorial

Laurie Hartz Springtime Festival



All roads lead to the west of Ireland in early April for a weekend of music, song and dance! Dublin's most popular cabaret singer, Laurie Hartz, is staging his Springtime Weekend Music Festival at the luxurious 4 star Breaffy House Hotel Resort, Castlebar, County Mayo on Friday and Saturday April 12 and 13.

And what a weekend it promises to be! Organisers of the event, Showtours, are offering a mouthwatering package deal of 2 nights bed and breakfast at Breaffy House.

The package includes a gala dinner on Saturday night plus all the weekend entertainment featuring Laurie on 2 nights, the Joe Dolan Show with Paschal Brennan, John Dixon and Sandra Dee plus free use of the exclusive leisure facilities

for only 249 euro per person sharing.

That's not all!

Stay on Sunday April 14 and avail of bed and breakfast + plus 8 hours of social dancing with 4 bands + free professional dance lessons with Patricia's Social Dance Class, direct from Copper Face Jacks in Dublin, plus jiving competitions, all for only 79 euro per person sharing.

Now booking online at www.showtours.ie or breaffyhouserestort.com. Credit card bookings - call Showtours 0818300888 or Breaffy House 0949022033.

Return trains to and from Castlebar. Senior citizens travel free.

For more details see page 11

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



‘Peter Pan’ tadpoles?



PONDS: February and March are busy months as frogs return to their ponds and look for a mate

CLUMPS of frog spawn are beginning to appear like magic in ponds or around the edges of lakes, and even in deep roadside puddles where rainwater has gathered.

Once they hatch from their jelly-like eggs in February or March, tadpoles spend between four to six weeks growing as a tadpole.

By July and August, most of them have developed further by growing their legs and losing their tails before finally leaving the pond.

It generally takes three to four months from the egg stage to the fully developed little adult frog.

Sometimes, however, things appear to stand still for some tadpoles, and by winter they are still wriggling little tadpoles with tails and without legs.

These will overwinter as tadpoles. They will hope to survive the cold winter weather in the bottom of the pond, waiting until springtime before they begin to develop once again and finally turn into adult frogs.

Studies suggest a number of possible causes

behind this ‘Peter Pan’ option, where they stay in their young stage for longer than usual.

Water temperature may be one reason.

Tadpoles grow quickly in warm water. Higher temperatures, however, reduce oxygen levels to a point which can slow down or stop their growth altogether.

On the other hand, very low temperatures will slow down a tadpole’s metabolism, affecting its growth rate or stopping it completely.

Overwintering as a tadpole can be an advantage however, if it can manage to survive until springtime.

When the tadpole eventually turns into an adult frog the following spring, there will be no other young frogs around. This leaves more food for them to grow and mature before the next season’s tadpoles emerge as frogs in late summer.

Interestingly, studies also indicate that tadpoles can in fact speed up their development. If it looks like their pond is drying up, they can develop very quickly and escape before the pond disappears.



PUDDLES: Roadside puddles that dry up are risky locations for frog spawn



Pre-school su

Over 70 bikers to raise fund

A BIKER who is raising funds for Children’s Health Ireland (CHI) Tallaght began his fundraising journey in a pre-school in Tallaght on Monday.

“It was brilliant, the kids were hopping,” said Suzanne Sheridan, owner of St Elmo’s pre-school, Knockmore. The children were also thrilled to get into a Lamborghini car which was there on the day.

Dave Perry, Bailieborough, County Cavan along with twenty other bikers brought their motor bikes to St Elmo’s for a display in their yard, giving the afterschool children the chance to have a chat with the bikers and get photos taken with the motorbikes.

By **Stephen Farrell**
stephenf@echo.ie

Dave along with 70 other bikers will travel Route 66 in the U.S for about 10 days in September. This will involve travelling 3,800 kilometres across nine states and over four different time zones with participants having to raise €10,000 each for the Children’s Health Foundation.

Hospitals under the Children’s Health Foundation include CHI at Tallaght, which provides outpatient and emergency care unit services, the paediatric outpatient and urgent care

“Two years ago this fundraiser raised €800,000 which covered the cost of a full intensive care suite in the Children’s Hospital in Temple Street. Money raised also goes towards parents having to stay in rented accommodation nearby



ON YOUR BIKE: Clive Kenny, Mark Sheridan, Kinga Kraszkiewicz and Stephen Murphy (South Dublin bikers) and INSET: Bikers at St Elmo's pre-school in Knockmore on Monday

Supports Route 66 adventure

for Children's Health Ireland in Tallaght travelling 3,800km

centre in Connolly hospital, Blanchardstown, and the emergency and urgent care services at Crumlin.

"All the children were involved and engaged with the bikers, asking questions, they knew all about Route 66. It won't be forgotten," said Suzanne.

The company Little Cookie Monsters trading as St. Elmo's Preschool, Knockmore Junior School, Tallaght, Dublin 24, which is owned by Suzanne, is donating €1000 to Dave's fundraising efforts.

Tea and sandwiches were also provided at today's event by local newsagent, 'Timmy's', Knockmore Avenue.

The Route 66 fundraiser has taken place once every two years since 2002 (except for during the pandemic) and has raised over €5 million for sick children. The impact of this fundraiser is visible throughout the CHI hospitals and urgent care centres, according to the CHI website. Money raised to date has helped to redevelop critical wards and purchase vital life-saving equipment.

"Two years ago this fundraiser raised €800,000, which covered the cost of a full intensive care suite in the Children's Hospital in Temple Street. Money raised also goes towards parents having to stay in rented accommodation nearby which is especially important for parents who live down the country," said Dave.

Originally from the UK but having lived in Ireland for the last twenty years, Dave is a cameraman and also a passionate biker.

He is also making a documentary about his fundraising and his travels on Route 66 which will be available on his you-tube channel, and his social media channels at Wheelie Good TV where people can also make donations.

Last year Dave met Suzanne's husband, Mark on a fundraising bike ride for Jigsaw, the National Centre for Youth Mental Health. Mark was unable to take part in the Route 66 fundraiser but Suzanne still wanted to donate to Dave's fundraising efforts. "After all the kids are out future," said Suzanne.



FUNDRAISER: Suzanne Sheridan presents Dave Perry with a cheque for €1,000

AS PART of *The Echo* celebrating over 40 years, we're celebrating you, and local faces and places. Over the last three years we've shared the stories of local people, and remind ourselves of the great community spirit alive across local areas. This week, **Ken Doyle** talks to artistic creator Tommy Byrne.



The Echo – celebrating community for over 40 years

THIS week in Faces of the Community, we're celebrating one of our artistic creators.

Tommy Byrne of Floraville in Clondalkin has been a noted painter, specialising in watercolours for many years and *The Echo* had the pleasure of his company recently to talk about his life and artistic endeavours.

When handed this commission, I must admit I was worried that some of the artistic things we'd talk about would go over my head but Tommy is a man of patience as well as talent and he went easy on me, explaining the processes and procedures perfectly.

In fact we probably spent as much time talking about music and football as we did about art. Which was fine with me.

"I suppose my story starts in Ushers Quay which is where we lived when I was a child. Even though the amenities weren't great I have nothing but happy memories of it. We eventually moved to Bluebell and I had a very happy childhood."

Tommy is still haunted by Ushers Quay and Bluebell because his good lady wife, Clondalkin historian and firebrand Josephine, shoves him out of the house whenever she has a meeting with one of her Clondalkin groups saying "you're not really Clondalkin."

"You'd never guess I'd been living here for fifty years, would you!" Tommy laughs.

I ask Tommy about his education in art as a young man and he tells me; "There wasn't really an education as such when I was young. I just always drew as a hobby and I seemed to have a knack for it. I was always interested in art in general but it wasn't until later that I did anything to pursue it."

Indeed, when he left school, the art scene must have seemed a world away as he got a job as an apprentice fitter at the gas board.

As Tommy worked his way up the ranks at Bord Gáis, eventually becoming a PR man no less, his artistic ambitions were reinvigorated by an encounter with the art of someone who became a huge influence on him.

"I saw some stained glass work by the Irish artist Harry Clarke and it was absolutely wonderful. Breathtaking. It spurred me on to take my stuff more seriously."

"Harry Clarke's work can be seen in, amongst many other places, the Hugh Lane Gallery where you can see his illustration of John Keats' poem 'The Eve of St Agnes' and there's also some work of his on display in Bewley's in Grafton Street."

Tommy tells me he's a regular visitor to the Hugh Lane Gallery and he meets friends there once a week for "Coffee and conversation" about all things artistic.

There seems to be a great social aspect to the art community and Tommy is extremely passionate about that side of it.

"In 1991, in Aras Chrónáin, we founded the Clondalkin Art Group and we've been meeting regularly ever since. It's been a great source of joy for a lot of us and there's nothing better than just getting together and talking about art. Or anything else for that matter. I'm delighted to have had a hand in bringing a group like that to Clondalkin."

There's also a social 'drop in' Open House at 10 o'clock on a Friday morning in Aras Chrónáin where musicians, artists, photographers and all sorts of creatively minded people get together.

A proud Dub through and through, Tommy is committed to capturing and preserving the charm and idiosyncrasies of the city. He speaks with great reverence of Flora H. Mitchell's 1966 collection "Vanishing Dublin" which is considered a classic of the genre.

Much of Tommy's work reflects his love for his city. As indeed does his choice of football team.

"I've been a Shamrock Rovers fan all my life, from Milltown to now. I get there when I can and I also love an Ireland away trip. I remember being there in Stuttgart when Razor stuck the ball in the English net. We went wild. That was some trip."

Once Tommy and Josephine had reared their children, daughter Anne and son Cathal, they did some travelling which inspired Tommy even more.

"There were trips to Amsterdam and a few other places, but New York was special. It's the centre of the art world and the energy is just incredible. We've been a few times now, but there's one thing that sticks in my mind. We were there on the St Patrick's Day directly after 9/11. It was the first time that the fire fighters had all got together since the horror of that day. The reception they got from the people there was something I'll never forget."

So inspired was Tommy that he began to paint New York scenes straight away.

"It's a brilliant place and I can't wait to go back," he tells me.

Tommy's work has won many prizes and awards down the years, and I breach the subject of the dreaded commercial value of his work.

He says; "I've sold a few bits and used to have regular exhibitions, especially at Christmas but I really don't feel the need anymore. The only work I do now that I really share with

“ I’ve been a Shamrock Rovers fan all my life, from Milltown to now. I get there when I can and I also love an Ireland away trip. I remember being there in Stuttgart when Razor stuck the ball in the English net. We went wild. That was some trip

INFLUENCE:
Tommy Byrne
has specialised
in watercolours
for many years



people is I paint a Christmas card every year and send it out to family and friends. I have a great small printer that I go to every year and at the moment I'm happy enough with that. But you never know, maybe I'll do something at some stage, we'll see."

These days, when he's not painting or being thrown out of the house, you can often find Tommy listening to his beloved Bob Dylan records.

"Yes, Dylan would be another hero of mine, I've been a huge fan since the sixties."

He also tells me he emulated his hero in his own small way; "Believe it or not I sang in a folk band called The Circle in my early twenties."

Oh I well believe it.

Thanks Tommy. A true Renaissance Man.



PASSIONATE: Tommy with some of his paint work



CONCERNS: Newcastle has experienced a population explosion putting pressure on families seeking a secondary school place

Anxious wait for families not securing secondary school place

Concerns came to a fore during the application process leading to anxiety for primary pupils

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By **Stephen Farrell**
stephenf@echo.ie

A NEW committee has been formed in Newcastle to gather data to assess whether there is a need for a secondary school in the area.

“It’s hard work, we have been carrying out an assessment of needs [for a secondary school] in the village,” said Emily McInerney, who is a member of the newly formed Newcastle Community Secondary School Committee (NCSSC).

“At the doors, the people have been fabulous to us, we have been out on wet nights”, she added.

The spur for the formation of the committee has been the increasing difficulty of primary school students in Newcastle in securing a secondary school place in Rathcoole or other nearby secondary schools. Concerns came to the fore during the application process this year.

“When the outcome [to the application process] came there were so many disappointments,” said Ms McInerney.

Previously, primary school pupils in the Newcastle area had no concerns in securing a place in Rathcoole or in a nearby secondary school.

“Up to now it [securing a secondary school place] hasn’t been a big deal, but this year there has been stress and anxiety on the part of primary school pupils. A number of primary school pupils didn’t get a place even after the second round,” said Ms. McInerney.

Even those pupils who got a place were anxious for their friends who didn’t get a place. “My own granddaughter got a place, but she was very anxious for her friends. This fired my interest. Previously you could choose which secondary school you wanted to go to, now that’s not the case,” said Ms McInerney. A lot of families have had to go out of the county to places like Celbridge to secure a place, according to Ms McInerney.

She feels that the Newcastle area needs a secondary school. In the initial stages of carrying out their assessment of needs the group met seven families whose child had not secured a secondary school place.

“Last night [Monday] I was talking to a parent whose child has not secured a secondary school place,” said Ms McInerney.

The Committee have received “massive support” from the locality, according to Ms McInerney. “People are wanting it [a secondary school] for the area,” she added.

Even in securing a place in Rathcoole things are not plain sailing for students from Newcastle. “There are transport costs, the uncertainty – there is no public service to Rathcoole. Children have to negotiate traffic, it’s one hour each way, at good times it only takes seven minutes,” Ms McInerney said.

She is not convinced that the proposed extensions of Holy Family Community School, Rathcoole and Coláiste Pobail Fola Community College, Citywest, Saggart will solve the situation.

The Committee recognises that going to secondary school in one’s own community is an aspiration and they are therefore ascertaining first whether there is a need.

“We are in our infancy, we are very determined that the children of Newcastle shouldn’t have concerns securing a secondary school place, we are also looking for recognition of the population explosion,” said Ms McInerney. There has also been a population explosion in Citywest, according to Ms McInerney.

The Committee are “making every effort on the ground by gathering our data”, said Ms McInerney. “It’s essential that what we say, we can back it up,” she added.

“We are in our infancy, we are very determined that the children of Newcastle shouldn’t have concerns securing a secondary school place, we are looking for recognition of the population explosion

Auxilion secures €8m in deals since new service is launched

Park West based IT service and solutions provider invested €1.5 million in service

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

PARK West IT and service and solutions provider Auxilion has secured €8 million in new deals after launching its enhanced service management platform.

This business consists of four new contracts, including several HPE GreenLake cloud solutions and the provision of service management support over the next three years.

Auxilion has invested €1.5m in its new service management capabilities which is part of a broader Managed Services Continuous Improvement Programme (MSCIP).

The offering, soft launched in July 2023, significantly enhances the company's service delivery and support capabilities for its clients.

The platform also delivers new Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities which will further boost productivity, ensure operational continuity and support business growth for organisations.

The development follows Auxilion's growth last year, as it opened an office in Sheffield following a €4.6m investment as phase one of a €17m UK expansion plan.

Donal Sullivan, CTO, Auxilion, said: "The nature of IT is fundamentally changing across modern organisations, and IT itself needs to profoundly change how it



BUSINESS FUNCTIONS: Philip Maguire and Donal Sullivan

supports business functions and, indeed, where its perceived value lies. As opposed to IT leading with IT projects, we see the need to empower business leaders by giving them the platforms and tools to drive their own projects, with technologies supporting them.

"Every business function – whether

it be in operations, finance or HR – needs to understand how technology can be used to empower leadership, while aligning with and driving business performance."

Philip Maguire, CEO, Auxilion, added: "The IT managed services sector is primed to experience a disruptive change on the same

magnitude as the impact of the internet – a total gamechanger. This is happening within the context of struggling IT departments which are battling against increased demand for security monitoring, threat protection and outages. With the growing prominence, or soon to be dominance, of AI, businesses will need more

proactive and innovative service management capabilities.

"Our investment in tooling and training to enhance our capabilities firmly puts us at the forefront of crossing this chasm of IT disruption, supporting customers on their transformation and innovation journeys."

Council recruit 139 new staff while 738 candidates interviewed for posts

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

SOUTH Dublin County Council recruited 139 new staff in 2023, according to its corporate annual progress report.

According to the report, there was 86 promotions during the year at the local authority through 58 competitions held, 1,430 applications processed, 61 interviews over 148 days and 736 candidates interviewed while the WAM Graduate Programme (Willing Able Mentoring) was supported in partnership with AHEAD.

Workforce planning in the organisation directly informs the

development of the Council's People Strategy and the Learning and Development Strategy.

There was almost 400 staff training and development events in 2023.

Meanwhile, programmes were arranged including 293 training courses plus various mentoring and coaching programmes, conference attendance and the Scheme of Assistance for formal education courses.

A new Induction Programme was launched in June to support better onboarding of new employees.

A General Operative Traineeship programme was developed in collaboration with the Educational

Training Board initiative offering 18–23 year-olds a real pathway to a career and provides training and experience in various operational roles.

SDCC say they continue to develop partnerships with the universities in the Dublin region, working with them to promote South Dublin County Council as an "employer of choice" and to support students in gaining practical and meaningful work experience.

This is done via internship programmes across Business, Landscape Architecture, Planning and Communications disciplines, with students coming from TU Dublin and UCD.



REPORT: South Dublin County Council headquarters

€1.94bn worth of assets bought by CRH from Texas-based firm

Belgard Road based CRH continues to expand its reach in the US after purchase

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

BUILDING supplies giant CRH has completed the purchase of €1.94bn worth of assets from Texas-based Martin Marietta Materials as it continues to expand its reach in the US.

The purchase included a portfolio of cement and ready-mixed concrete assets. The deal had been announced in November last year but had been subject to regulatory approval.

CRH said it expected this acquisition to generate €57.8m in earnings a year.

The assets comprise a 2.1 megaton capacity cement plant located between San Antonio and Austin, as well as a network of terminals along the eastern gulf of Texas.

It also included a portfolio of 20 ready-mixed concrete plants with annual shipments of about 1.6 million cubic yards serving the Austin and San Antonio markets.

Announcing the deal last year, CRH chief executive Albert Manifold said the acquisition would strengthen the company's "market-leading position"

EXPAND: CRH is based on the Belgard Road



in Texas and increase its exposure to attractive high-growth markets.

This is the latest move for the company, which is seeking to position itself as more of an American company.

Last year, the company's shareholders voted to delist itself from the Euronext Dublin stock exchange to New York.

In December, CRH announced it was seeking to help to buy out

Australian concrete maker Adbri after linking with the Barro Group, in a €1.3bn deal that will help boost its presence in a country which has until now been one of the smaller contributors to its global operations.

Its head office located in Rathfarnham, CRH employs 75,800 people at 3,160 operating locations in 29 countries, and has market leadership positions in both North America and Europe.

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EV charging company opens its new base in Ballymount



NEW BASE:
Brendan Crowley has been appointed director of public charging at ePower

ELECTRIC vehicle (EV) charging company ePower has opened a new Dublin base in Ballymount to meet demand in the market, reports Maurice Garvey.

Based in Cork, ePower helps in the installation, maintenance and management of domestic, commercial and public electric vehicle chargers across Ireland.

In February 2023, the company partnered with the Plaza Hotel in Tallaght, installing on-site electric car chargers in the carpark which can charge up to six vehicles at one time.

The company has also appointed Brendan Crowley as its director of public charging, and currently has about 2,000 public chargers across the country.

Crowley has over 25 years in the traditional oil-based motor fuel domain, and believes they need 5,000 to 6,000 public chargers in the short to medium term to keep up with demand.

"Public charging is an important factor in making it convenient for people to use electric vehicles as well as addressing any lingering 'range anxiety' for EV drivers. Our role at ePower in implementing this over the coming years is an exciting and important one," said Crowley.

Data from the Central Statistics Office indicates a 52 per cent increase in the number of newly licensed electric cars in the first nine months of 2023.

Coffee firm looking for new home after deal falls through

Bump & Grind coffee is looking for a space big enough for 20 foot container

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

A BALLYFERMOT coffee business has taken to social media in an effort to find a new premises after a deal for a proposed premises fell through.

Bump & Grind coffee shop opened three years ago on the lower end of Ballyfermot Road and have been a valuable addition to the community.

However, the coffee shop fears they will have to let six employees go if they can't find a new location in the coming weeks.

"As some of you already know, our big move was due to happen in March. Unfortunately our new home has fallen through and our last day trading from our current location is March 12," said the coffee shop in a social media post.

"Which leaves us in the tricky position of looking for a new home ASAP. We are looking for a space big enough for a 20ft container, in a busy area that would suit a take away coffee and food business.

"We know social media is a long shot, but with the short notice we need all the help we can get."

Residents are asked to get in touch with Bump & Grind if they can think of any suitable locations that might be available.

Customers have been taking to social media to express their support for the popular coffee dock.



DRIVE THRU:
Bump & Grind
on lower
Ballyfermot
Road

Crowley to step down from C&C Board after nine years

BULMERS maker C&C Group sees a change in their management personnel with Vincent Crowley stepping down as senior independent director of the drinks group, reports Maurice Garvey.

Mr Crowley has been replaced by non-executive director Chris Browne.

Crowley will also step down from the C&C board after nine years at the company's AGM in July.

"I would like to thank Vincent for his dedication to C&C and his significant contribution to the board as non-executive director, and senior independent director has been invaluable," said Ralph Findlay, group executive chair of C&C.

"On behalf of the company and the board, we wish Vincent all the best for the future and are delighted to have Chris succeed him in this role."

Headquartered at Bulmer House in Crumlin, C&C appointed Andrew Andrea as its new chief financial officer in December.

Mr Andrea will take up the position in March.

Meanwhile, C&C, who acquired Bibendum, announced that Burgundian wine producer Maison Champy, has joined the Bibendum business.

Maison Champy has a legacy dating back to 1720. Five wines from the Champy range



CHANGES: Bulmers maker C&C Group sees a change in their management personnel

will be distributed into the UK through Bibendum.

C&C Group reported "resilient" trading over the Christmas period.

Branded net revenue at the group rose 6 per cent in the ten months to December last year, while distribution net revenue dipped by 3 per cent.

C&C has manufacturing operations in Tipperary and Glasgow, owns Bulmers, Magners and Tennent's, as well as brands such as Five Lamps and Orchard Pig.

The group exports its Magners and Tennent's brands to over 40 countries. C&C's annual results are due to be published in May.

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Change of use to house on ground floor to retail refused

Applicant had ‘not demonstrated the provision of adequate car parking’

By Aideen O’Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

A PROPOSAL for the change of use of an existing house in Rathfarnham into retail use at ground floor and office use at first floor has been refused planning permission due to parking concerns.

South Dublin County Council said the proposal for the change of use of 1 Dodder Park Drive had “not demonstrated the provision of adequate car parking provision” to serve the development.

Applicant Owen Chubb submitted a planning application for the development last October, where he detailed his plans.

They included the change of use of existing residential use to retail at ground floor and associated office accommodation at first floor.

The demolition of an existing rear extension and the construction of a new 31.2sq.m single-storey extension formed part of the plans.

The proposed new shop and front elevation and 1.38 sqm of non-illuminated signage was to extend existing retail space as a design studio showroom and retail with associated accommodation at first floor level.

Associated groundworks, landscaping, drainage, engineering and ancillary works necessary to facilitate the development were included.

On February 8, South Dublin County Council refused permission for the change of use due to parking issues.

“The applicant has not demonstrated the provision of adequate car parking provision to serve the proposed development within lands in the ownership of/within the scope of control of the applicant,” stated the council in



REFUSED: The existing house in Rathfarnham at Dodder Park Drive

its decision.

“The proposed development would not, therefore, accord with the provisions of the South Dublin County Development Plan

2022-2028, and thus would not be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.” However, the council did note that “the

principle of the change of use of the subject property is considered acceptable” but the lack of parking provision led to its decision to refuse permission.

Base Woodfired Pizza owners granted planning for subdivision of vacant cafe

THE OWNERS of Base Woodfired Pizza have been granted planning permission for the subdivision of a vacant café unit to instead provide a restaurant and a café in Two Oaks in Knocklyon, reports Aideen O’Flaherty.

The subject site is on the ground floor of apartment block C3 in the Two Oaks development, at Beechpark and Maryfield in Scholarstown, Knocklyon.

Base Control Management Limited, which owns Base Woodfired Pizza, this month secured permission for the subdivision of the vacant café unit at the ground floor of Block C3.

The subdivision will provide a restaurant (130 sq.m) with associated signage and a café (188 sq.m), and all associated works are included in the proposal.

The associated signage comprises BASE signs on the south and

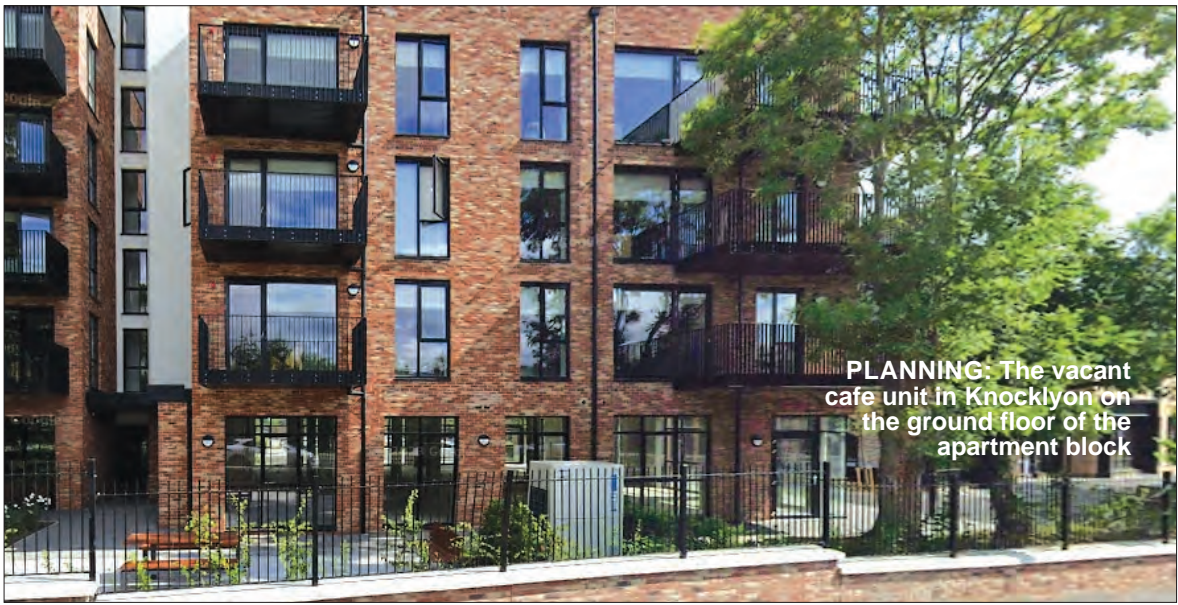
eastern elevations, a projecting sign on the southern elevation, and a woodfired pizza sign on the eastern elevation.

On February 6, South Dublin County Council granted permission for the subdivision with a number of conditions.

These conditions include the restaurant operating only between the hours of 4.30pm to 11pm, Monday to Friday, and from 12pm to 11pm on Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays.

The ancillary takeaway element of the restaurant shall operate from 5pm to 11pm on Monday to Friday and from 12pm to 11pm on Saturday and Sunday.

SDCC also stated that the level of illumination of the lighting for the signs shall be reviewable at any time by the Roads Department of the Planning Authority in the interests of traffic safety.



PLANNING: The vacant cafe unit in Knocklyon on the ground floor of the apartment block

Terraced office and workshop unit has guide of €250,000

Business Park Unit is approximately 60 per cent office and 40 per cent workshop

By Aileen O'Flaherty

aileen@echo.ie

A TERRACED office and workshop unit in the Centrepark Business Park in Clondalkin has gone on the market with a guide price of €250k.

The unit is approximately 60 per cent office and 40 per cent workshop, according to the listing by selling agent Colman Grimes.

The property comprises a two-storey office building with warehouse toilet facilities, kitchenette and six designated parking spaces.

The ground floor contains an entrance hallway, two offices, a kitchen, toilets, a lobby and a large room that can function as an office or a warehouse.

The first floor comprises stairs and a landing, a toilet and four offices, with one of the offices being described as open plan and another being noted as a large office.

There is also double door access to the rear of the building and parking, while the offices all contain carpeted floors and fluorescent lighting.

The property was built in 2021 and is supplied with electric heating, while the rates are €4,496.04 per annum and management fees are €2,060 per annum.



WORKSHOP: The terraced office and workshop in Centrepark Business Park

Mid-terrace three storey house is 'ideal investment opportunity'

A MID-TERRACE three-storey house in Kilmainham that has been rearranged into three apartments will go under the hammer at an online auction this month with a guide price of €550k, reports Aileen O'Flaherty.

The property at 78 Old Kilmainham Road has a total floor area extending to approximately 96 sq.m (1,034 sq.ft).

Auctioneer BidX1 described the property as an "ideal investment opportunity" with total rent reserved at €39,900 per annum, with vacant possession of one apartment.

Internally the property comprises one one-bedroom apartment at ground floor with a private patio, and one two-bedroom apartment on first floor level.

There is also one one-bedroom apartment at top floor level with a private balcony, with the house being located between St James's Hospital and the Irish Museum of Modern Art.

Surrounding transport links include Heuston Station and St James's Luas stop, and the property benefits from being 2.5km west of the city centre.



OPPORTUNITY: The mid-terrace three-storey house in Kilmainham

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Tallaght Childcare Centre is a community childcare crèche offering full-time and part-time day-care to over 70 children, enabling parents to avail of training, education, and employment opportunities. We currently are looking to recruit for a vacancy in our services.

Caretaker/Security

This is a part-time permanent post (Mon. – Fri. 1.30pm – 5.30pm) The Caretaker/Security person will be responsible for all repair and maintenance requirements and to ensure the service is securely locked up in the evening time and that it is kept safe for all occupants/users.

Qualification

The caretaker/security person must be reliable and have standards of safety and cleanliness.

Tallaght Childcare Centre is an equal opportunities employer. **Applications by CV and cover letter should be submitted by email to lizjackson@tallaghtchildcarecentre.ie By close of business Friday 23rd February 2024**



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- Experience working and reporting to statutory funders
- Preparation of payroll
- Advanced proficiency in accounting software

Tallaght Childcare Centre is an equal opportunities employer. **Applications by CV and cover letter should be submitted to: lizjackson@tallaghtchildcarecentre.ie By close of business Friday 16th February 2024**



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Looking for Psoriasis sufferers to partake in research study

Dear Editor

I'D BE grateful for the opportunity to alert readers who have been diagnosed with the psoriasis skin condition of a new research study that aims to examine their risk of developing arthritis related to psoriasis, or what is known as psoriatic arthritis.

Psoriasis causes flaky, scaly and itchy pink/red patches on the skin and affects more than 29,000 people in Dublin.

For one-third of patients, psoriasis can predispose them to developing an associated arthritis, primarily affecting the joints, which causes pain, swelling, stiffness and joint damage.

A team of researchers at University College Dublin is undertaking this research study as part of a Europe-wide initiative in conjunction with the University of Oxford.

The current situation is that we don't know which patients with psoriasis will go on to develop psoriatic arthritis and which will not.

Our aim is to better determine which psoriasis patients may develop psoriatic arthritis in order to prevent it before it occurs.

It will also inform wider research efforts to diagnose the condition earlier and predict disease progression, as well as in developing new diagnostic



FLAKY: Man with psoriasis which causes flaky, scaly red patches

tests and personalised therapies to better target it.

Anyone over 18 years who has been diagnosed with psoriasis, except those already diagnosed with psoriatic arthritis, can take part in the study which is completely online.

Participants will be asked to complete a questionnaire every six months about their psoriasis and other medical conditions, any musculoskeletal symptoms arising, treatments they are receiving, and details of their lifestyle.

Participants will benefit from ongoing monitoring of their condition, and an early diagnosis of psoriatic arthritis should it arise, while we also hope it will spell the end of the condition for future generations.

The research team would like to acknowledge the support provided by the Innovative Medicines Initiative together with AbbVie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, in enabling this research to take place.

Readers interested in finding out more about the study can visit www.hpos.study

Yours sincerely,
Prof. Oliver FitzGerald
Consultant Rheumatologist
University College Dublin
Dublin 4

Rising cost of the National Children's Hospital to €2.24bn is 'deeply concerning'

Dear editor

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly said the cost of the National Children's Hospital (NCH) has risen by €12m, to €2.24bn, that has led to a political outcry from Sinn Féin over its spiralling costs. Costings banded around were €450m in 2017 and €1.7 billion.

Back in 2016, then health minister Leo Varadkar said: "short of an asteroid hitting the planet", the NCH would be operational by 2020. The astronomically expensive facility is 90 per cent on track and its planned completion date is 29 October 2024.

After commissioning, the

facility is expected to open in "April or May 2025".

In 2023, the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board submitted a final cost estimate to the Department of Health. Yet the project director said funding could not be released due to commercial sensitivity.

Included in this estimate are design, build and equipment costs of €1.88 billion, and €360 million for integration and transition of services to the facility.

Speaking on RTE's News at One, Mr Stephen Donnelly said the total cost includes €40m sanctioned in December and: "in the lifetime of this Government, there will be no memo seeking

additional funding".

But the amount we have put in here today, includes forecast from the development board as to the full and final cost of this," he said. Government allocated funds will not satisfy BAM claims for additional funding.

Out of €770million claim from BAM, €645million has already been settled with fewer than 2.7 per cent claims awarded.

The remaining €123 million has yet to be adjudicated upon in the Courts. Social Democrats, TD Catherine Murphy described Stephen Donnelly's comments as "deeply troubling".

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh



RISING COST: The National Children's Hospital

Record profits at Kingspan even though sales fell to €8.1bn

Dear editor;

INSULATION and building materials giant reported 'record performance against a challenging backdrop' with after-tax profits of €654m up 6 per cent €616m in 2022 while its revenue fell three per cent to €8.091 from €8.341 billion.

Earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda): €1.07 billion (FY 2022: €998 million). Kingspan spent

€248.4m on acquisitions including 100 per cent of the share capital of CaPlast for €66.9m.

A number of smaller acquisitions were completed for a combined cash consideration of €139.3m, including Alao in Portugal, LRM in France and 51 per cent of the share capital of MontFrio in Uruguay and Toode Group in the Baltics.

Kingspan's bought 80 per cent of the share capital of HempFlax Building Solutions in Germany and 100 per cent of the share capital of

Thor Building Products in Australia. It approved a final dividend of 26.6 cent, up from 23.8 cent in 2022.

CEO, Gene Murtagh, said despite markets and geographies moving at different speeds, Kingspan delivered record profits and record cash generation while continuing to diversify its revenue base.

"Through our Planet Passionate initiative, we are well progressed in meeting our net zero ambitions by 2030, or sooner, and are already on

the cusp of our 2030 ambition to recycle 1 billion PET bottles annually," Mr Murtagh said. "Beyond insulation, each of our climate focused business units across Roofing + Waterproofing, Light, Air + Water and Data + Flooring are scaling at pace with every potential for each to exceed €1 billion divisional revenue over the coming years."

Yours sincerely
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh

Susan, did you view Echo.ie in 2023?

We think you're

One in a Million!

Actually you're one in 2,383,955

Page Views

2,383,955

Users

993,135

Top Story

15,000 Views

Top Video

112,900 Views



Sessions

1,581,054

Best Reach

153,000

Link Clicks

3,200

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Mother Tongues Festival

Impactful
project is a
celebration
of diversity,
cultural
exchange and
the power of
multilingualism

Page 46 & 47

THE CIVIC COMEDY CLUB

feat. COLM O'REGAN, EDWIN SAMMON, PAUL MARSH & KATE FEENEY

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY | 8.15pm

See www.civictheatre.ie or contact Box Office (01) 462 7477

THE CIVIC



“ Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.

Mahatma Gandhi

Health & Fitness

STRONG ARMS FOR WOMEN ARE IN!

by Ursula Frawley / info@moveitfitness.ie



You might have seen Miley Cyrus's sculpted arms at the Grammys recently. There's a lot of talk about women's strength and how we can build a strong body as a female. So how can we do it and is it too late to start?

My motto is to build strength for everyday health and function! It feels amazing to have the ability to lift, carry or hold heavy items and feel so incredible!

Here's some great tips to build a strong upper body that will help you in every day life too!

Starting out: Make sure that you get a qualified trainer to show you proper form before you add any weight. Learn the exercise without any weight or bands first, and then begin adding resistance using a band or dumbbell. It's never too late to start with basic body weight exercises.

Equipment: It doesn't take much equipment to build upper body strength. Generally speaking, our upper body strength will not be as high as our lower body. Therefore, light weights are great as a start. You can also use resistance bands which are a safe, effective way to start your journey to strength.

Build up gradually: As the lighter weight or band becomes too light you now need to add more weight or more resistance to challenge your muscles. Moving from a 2 kg dumbbell to a 3 kg dumbbell will challenge you more. Also, trying a slightly heavier band gives your muscles more stimulus. When you move up, you might not be able to do as many repetitions, so take it slowly and build up little by little.

What is the ideal number of repetitions? The ideal number is somewhere between seven and 10 and you should feel very challenged by the time you get to numbers nine and 10.

UrSUI a FraWIEy IS A PeRSoNAL TRAIneR And oWneR oF Move IT FITneSS. HeR onLine STRenGTH & FITneSS CLASSEs, WHICH Run LIve SeVen TImeS A WeeK, HAve BeEn HeLPInG WoMen To FeeL STRonGeR And FITTeR SIncE 2020. HeR onLine And In-PeRSoN PRoGRAMMeS ARe FoCuSed on MoTIVATInG And CHAnGInG A MIndSeT To enJoYInG The FITneSS jouRneY, WHILe FeeLInG eMPoWeRed WITH A PoSITive MIndSeT. uRSuLA LIveS In duBLIn 24 WITH HeR HuSBAnd And FouR CHILdRen. GeT MoRe InFoRMATIon BY eMAILInG HeR AT InFo@MoveITFITneSS.Ie oR WWW.MoveITFITneSS.Ie

Building strong upper body muscles is not a quick journey, but it is a beautiful, slow and empowering journey that your body will thank you for! You can start at any age once you work with a qualified trainer to get a solid foundation.

Thanks again Miley for showing us the way to strong arms!

This article is not a substitute for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment.

Remember, always consult with your GP before embarking on any change in diet or new health & fitness regime.



The Head On Him!

SHORT FILM IS WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SEÁN GALLEN

By Ryan Butler / news@echo.ie

The Dublin International Film Festival will feature a film by a Dubliner about growing up in Clondalkin in the 1990s and encountering racism.

'The Head on Him' is a short film written and directed by Irish/Martinican artist Seán Gallen.

The narrative is about Jamie, a young child from Nigeria who immigrates to Ireland in the 1990s and cuts off his afro in order to blend in.

This keeps happening until it keeps getting bigger and bigger and ensnaring him in his room.

Wishing to portray that there is more to Dublin estates than "misery porn," Sean uses this new film to tackle difficult subject matter with his own light-hearted touch and sense of charm, making for a humorous watch.

This week, we sat down with Sean to discuss 'The Head On Him', which will be screened as part of the Virgin Media Discovers collection of short films at the Light House Cinema on February 24.

How long have you had the idea for the story?

I was applying for the Virgin Media Discovers Fund in February 2023, and the idea came to me in the shower in March. I often get interesting ideas in the shower. It may be one of the few places where my mind is almost blank and relaxed enough to allow ideas to come through. In 2020, I published an article in the Irish Times about my experience growing up in Ireland. That was a bit like opening Pandora's box; I was able to access and convey parts of growing up like never before. I continued to write, and I processed that period of my life through writing. So I was still swimming in ideas about growing up in Clondalkin since then.

Was it always planned to have a light-hearted tone?

Yes. My first love is comedy, and that's where I started obsessively rewatching "Blazing Saddles" as a teenager and doing like five open mics in Glasgow as a student. Then I moved to Berlin, only wore black, and wanted to be taken seriously as a drama writer, but quickly realised I couldn't keep a straight face and crawled back to comedy. I love deceptively clever comedies that use humour to disarm audiences. You can make viewers comfortable through laughter and then sneak bigger ideas later in the movie. Comedy is a great Trojan Horse for talking about bigger topics in a more indirect way. I also feel like a lot of depictions of Dublin estates are often bleak and morbid, misery-porn. It was important for me to capture the joy and humor of that world. I wanted to show that it's more than Garda, gangs, and crying mothers.

What kind of processes were involved in making the idea come to fruition?

The funniest and most challenging part was figuring out how to depict the giant afro that grows and consumes our protagonist. It was fun to write, but then we had to figure out how, in the Lord's name, we were going to pull it off. In the beginning, I thought we could just CGI it, but after some quick initial research, I discovered that even giants like Disney and Pixar are still struggling with animating hair, especially black hair. In the end, we worked closely with a great VFX expert (Michael Hollinger at Mind



Seán Gallen
in 'The
Head on
Him'

Console), an amazing production designer,

Tracey O'Hanlon, a masterful cinematographer in Rua Meegan, and an exceptional hair expert in Stephanie Nwambu of Callah Crowns to bring the hair to life with a combination of practical effects, in-camera effects, CGI, wigs, and styling.

How much time was dedicated to writing the film?

So as part of the Virgin Media Discovers initiative, after winning the first round, we were allotted some budget and time for development and pre-production. I was assigned a brilliant mentor to guide me through this process (Elaine Walsh is a legend). The first draft of the script came out after a couple of weeks, followed by months of redrafting all the way up until the first shooting day. There was a period of "punching up" where we wanted to make it funnier, and Virgin Media was really supportive. They managed to arrange a call with Lisa McGee (the creator of Derry Girls), who gave me some excellent advice on comedy writing.

What are your plans for your career after this screening?

Here's what I imagine in my mind when I'm daydreaming on the bus. "The Head on Him" opens at DIFF, and people like it. I celebrate with the cast and crew at the

Cobblestone. It then goes on to other festivals around the world, and more people like it. The important decision-makers like it enough to fund my first feature movie and are delighted to hear that I already have an idea or three ready to go. I start making that feature film by the end of the year.

Who would you like to thank for helping you get to this point?

My family were the ones who first gave me a love of film and always believed in and supported me. Ciara Gillan and Kevin Napier of Rickless Fascination were the only producers to take a chance on me and have helped me immensely over the last couple of years. The whole funding experience with Virgin Media was great; thanks to Elaine Walsh for her mentorship, Daniel Lloyd, and Sinead Stimpfig for their constant support and allowing me the freedom to write and shoot in my own voice. It takes a village to make a film, and we were so lucky to find such a talented cast and crew to bring all of this to life. I want to give special thanks to our lead actor, Ethan Lieghio, who was able to connect with the material on a deep level and deliver such a great performance, which is no easy feat for a young actor shouldering a whole production like that.

“You would be amazed by what you can give up, lose, or break, and yet still be a person who gets happy over brownies.

Food with Passion

CHOCOLATE GUINNESS BROWNIES



Augusten Burroughs

by John Paul Kennedy / jpkennedy.kennedy@gmail.com

I have been making the same heavenly brownie recipe for over a decade or more but from time to time it is nice to shake things up and experiment with different versions of tried and tested recipes. I came across this recipe a few weeks back and decided to give it a bash. I already knew from making my chocolate Guinness cake that these two ingredients are a match made in heaven and incorporated in brownies, certainly did not disappoint. They are surprisingly light for a brownie but super moist and fudgy, sheer indulgence and decadence! Serve with cream or ice-cream and you have a winning dessert or treat to look forward to at the end of a hard-working day!

Ingredients: (makes about 12 brownies)
350g superior quality dark chocolate (at least 70% cocoa content)
250g unsalted butter
250g dark brown soft sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 eggs
200ml Guinness
150g plain flour

John Paul Kennedy IS A SELF-TAUGHT COOK AND AN AVID FAN OF COLLECTING COOKERY BOOKS WITH A PASSION FOR GOOD OLD-FASHIONED HOME COOKING. HIS PASSION FOR PROPER FAMILY COOKING STEMS FROM HIS GRANDMOTHERS, WHO WERE BOTH EXCELLENT COOKS, ONE OF WHOM WAS A TRAINED CHEF. **JP** PROMISES TO BRING US PLENTY OF FAMILY-INSPIRED RECIPES AND TASTY TREATS WHILE SHOWING US HOW TO GET THE BASICS RIGHT.



- Method:**
1. Grease and line 9-inch baking tin with greaseproof baking paper.
 2. Preheat your oven to 160c Fan/ 350F / Gas mark 4.
 3. melt the chocolate and butter and Guinness in a pan over a low heat until glossy, smooth, and set aside to cool for 5 minutes.
 4. whisk together the eggs, vanilla, and sugar in a bowl for 5 minutes until light and fluffy. Add the chocolate mixture slowly whisking constantly until nice and combined.
 5. Add the flour and mix through and pour into the prepared tin, pop into the oven to bake for 30-35 minutes. Set aside and allow to cool completely in the tin before removing and portioning into individual brownies. dust with icing sugar.

These brownies should be stored in an airtight container and will last / be at their best for up to 3 days. Everyone devoured these when I made them last weekend for post Sunday roast dessert. A simple recipe that does not compromise on flavour. You could if you wanted to add some chocolate chips or chopped walnuts to the mixture, but I decided to go traditional and classic served with a big dollop of whipped double cream – Sheer Heaven!



Contact JP on:
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Email: JPKCooking@gmail.com
Instagram: jpkennedy.kennedy

‘Dilemma’ In The Civic

SHOW IS INSPIRED BY EMMA DORAN TURNING 40

by **Ryan Butler** / news@echo.ie

One of the most popular comedians in Ireland, Emma Doran, is taking her brand-new show, ‘Dilemma’, to the Civic!

After making an appearance on Graham Norton’s hugely popular show Last One Laughing Ireland, Emma will embark on a 21-date national tour in March.

The tour will end with two nights in Vicar Street in May, and in October, Emma will bring the shows to audiences in the UK.

It’s the post-apocalyptic world. There’s only one contraceptive pill left. Do you give it to your 20-year-old daughter or keep it for yourself?

Is it better to be a 40-year-old grandmother or a 40-year-old new Mum?

These are the dilemmas facing Emma Doran, aged 39 and 7/8’s, even though the most obvious outcome is neither.

If turning 40 is the start of something new, what is it the end of?

Emma Doran, originally from Tallaght but now living in Rathfarnham, is one of the most exciting stand-ups to emerge

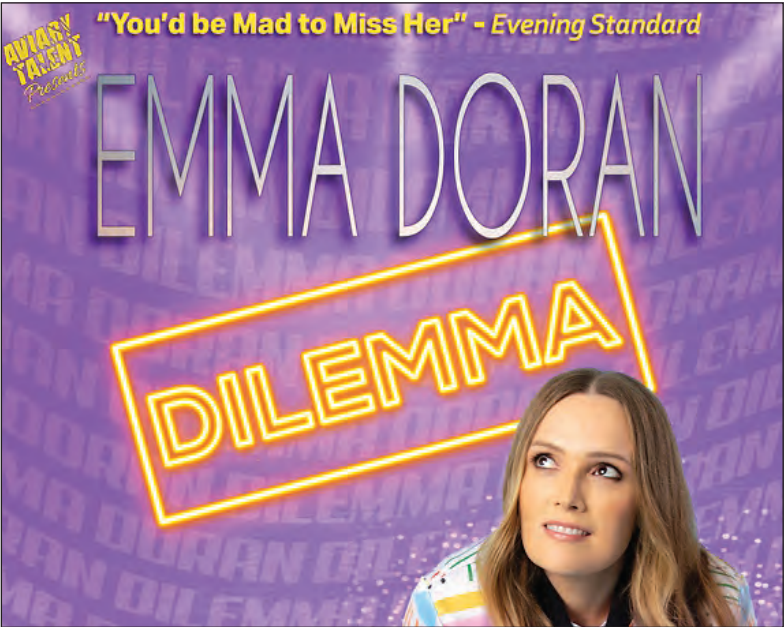
from these shores in years. She’s crammed so much into the last 20 years of her life that she is now officially the voice of 3 generations.

This show was inspired by Emma turning 40 and her daughter turning 21 in the same year, having first started her career when she was 29 and being shocked at how far she has come.

It has been in the works since last year, when Emma was going into pubs around the country and “testing it out,” and while the stage at the Civic is a “different kind of dynamic,” testing the show out in pubs and clubs gave her an idea beforehand of how it would be received.

Emma’s plans after this tour is over include “getting a gin and tonic,” as well as performing in a summer festival such as Electric Picnic, taking the ‘Dilemma’ tour on the road, and doing a leg in the UK in autumn this year, with a show in the Leicester Square Theatre in London.

For helping her reach this point in her career, Emma would like to thank her “fella,” the audiences that have supported and paid to come



and see her over the years, and herself. Buy tickets now to see Emma performing in the Civic on May 11! Don't miss out!

Spectacular Double Bill

TALLAGHT THEATRE GROUP AND CLONDALKIN DRAMA STAGE SHOWS

by **Ryan Butler** / news@echo.ie



Tallaght Theatre Group and Clondalkin Drama Group are delighted to come together to offer a spectacular double bill of their respective shows, ‘Roman Fever’ and ‘Bags and Browning’!

‘Roman Fever’ is a “wonderfully intriguing play,” according to director Emer O’Neill, that is set in Rome in the 1930s and focuses on two old friends, Grace and Alida, who reunite after being separated for many years.

You can be there to see how everything turns out because Grace and Alida have both been hiding certain secrets.

This relationship is examined and conflicting motivations exposed in a fantastic one-act play, and the two starring ladies—locals Bernadette Fagan and Ita McAteer—give such genuine performances.

This small gem of a play, directed by Emer O’Neill and Martina Halnon, is not to be missed for everything it has to offer.

Meanwhile, ‘Bags and Browning’, which *The Echo* previously reported on when it was performed in autumn last year in Quinlan’s Black Lion pub in Clondalkin, is a “great story” by Liz Carroll that explores themes of love, grief, and poetry that will leave you both “laughing and crying.”

‘Roman Fever’ by Hugh Leonard is a play that has “been waiting in the wings for many years for just the right team of people to come together,” including Bernadette, Ita, and Liam Flanagan Shelley, a transition year student at Firhouse Community College, who will be making his debut on the Tallaght Theatre stage.

Tallaght Theatre Group’s production of ‘Roman Fever’ has been in the works for the past six weeks, via bi-weekly rehearsals that began after Christmas, while Clondalkin Drama Group have finished their pantomime run and are excited to get back to playing their characters from ‘Bags and Browning’.

The next play in the pipeline for Tallaght Theatre Group is ‘Turning Mammy’ by Leitrim playwright John McDwyer, which is eyeing a slot in early April.

The two groups would like to thank Michael Lynchcaun, the theatre manager, who has been climbing ladders and transporting set pieces.

The groups are very excited to get the audience through the doors of the theatre to see these two really entertaining pieces.

They will be performed from February 22–24 in the Tallaght Theatre on Greenhills Road.

This is guaranteed to be a great night out, so don’t miss it!

Mother Tongues Festival

CELEBRATION OF LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY, CULTURAL



Enjoying the workshops during the two-day festival in Tallaght on Friday and Saturday



Celebrating multilingualism and intercultural dialogue in Ireland with creative workshops and multilingual events.



Mayor Alan Edge addresses the festival



Enjoying the workshops at the Mother Tongues Festival

val Impactful Projects

EXCHANGE AND THE POWER OF MULTILINGUALISM

The Mother Tongues Festival was a celebration of linguistic diversity, cultural exchange, and the power of multilingualism to unite communities.

Held on Friday and Saturday in Tallaght, there were panel discussions to dynamic workshops with the festival offering a diverse range of events tailored to language enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds.

Attendees were treated to thought-provoking presentations, interactive sessions, and engaging performances that celebrated the richness of languages present in our society.

One of the highlights of the festival was Dr Francesca La Morgia's insightful presentation on the mission of Mother Tongues and its impactful projects in collaboration with Early Childhood Ireland and Baby Erasmus. Participants were inspired by Dr La Morgia's vision for promoting multilingualism and linguistic inclusion in our communities as a peace-making tool.

The festival also featured a dynamic workshop led by Miriam Stewart, 'Living Languages,' which brought language to life through drama and movement. Participants explored the playful side of multilingualism and discovered new ways to express themselves through language.

The enlightening panel discussion facilitated by Erika Piazzoli, featuring esteemed academics Jean-Rémi Lapaire, Claire Dunne, and Iseult Ní Chonchúir, delved into the fascinating realm of multilingualism and creativity. Their insights sparked meaningful conversations and deepened our understanding of the role of language in shaping our world.

The festival's inclusive atmosphere fostered connections, bridged cultures, and celebrated the beauty of linguistic diversity.

The launch of the photographic exhibition "Like Parents in Fairytales" at the Mother Tongues Festival was marked by the attendance of Mayor Cllr Alan Edge and the Romanian Ambassador, H.E. Mr Laurentiu Mihai Stefan. Their presence underscored the importance of celebrating diversity and multiculturalism within our communities and through the arts.

In her speech, Dr La Morgia, *Mother Tongues'* director, not only honoured the individuals depicted but also emphasised the role of families as custodians of cultural heritage and guardians of heritage languages and shared traditions.

Moreover, Dr La Morgia underscored the festival's ethos of unity in diversity, inspiring everyone to embrace their heritage and share their unique stories with pride and dignity.

The Mayor's attendance at the Mother Tongues Festival was not only marked by the launch of this exhibition but also by his engagement with the moving installation created by the Italian collective Cantieri Meticci.

This collaborative effort, which involved students from Scoil Aoife National School and Firhouse Educate Together School, explored the

poignant story of Uccelina (Little Bird), a fable crafted by Afghan children in a refugee camp in Croatia.

Over the course of their two-week residency, the artists immersed themselves in the narrative of Uccelina, symbolizing the aspirations of displaced children to find refuge and access education in a secure environment. Through their collaborative work with local schools, Cantieri Meticci brought this inspiring tale to life, amplifying marginalized voices and shedding light on the challenges faced by displaced communities worldwide. By engaging with the artwork and embracing its message of solidarity and inclusion, the Mayor reaffirmed his commitment to fostering empathy and understanding within our diverse society.

Through initiatives like the Cantieri Metecci installation, the Mother Tongues Festival continues to serve as a platform for dialogue, reflection, and cultural exchange, inspiring individuals and communities to embrace the richness of linguistic and cultural diversity.

At the heart of the Mother Tongues Festival 2024, families from diverse backgrounds came together, creating an atmosphere of cultural exchange and linguistic exploration. Through engaging multilingual workshops, children and grown-ups explored each other's cultures, embracing the beauty of diversity with open hearts and eager minds.

With passion and enthusiasm, families embraced the opportunity to learn from one another, immersing themselves in the kaleidoscope of languages and cultures showcased at the festival.

The Mother Tongues Festival is funded and supported by the Arts Council and South Dublin County Arts Office, South Dublin's Outdoors, Languages Connect, Rua Red, The Civic and RTÉ Supporting the Arts.





Juniors from the panto



Emma and Mya



Tadhg, Lily, Clodagh, Alana and Ruby



Celine and Doreen



Holly and Louise



James Doran and Jane Moore



Molly and Nanny Gay



Some of the Tots from the panto



Oblate Cubs enjoying the show



Tom, Amy and Emily



Cast members from Inchicore Variety Group who put on a brilliant show in the Oblates last week



Jamie Stears (Woody) and Sean Woods (Erizad)

Snow White and Seven Dwarfs

SUCCESSFUL SHOW HELD BY INCHICORE VARIETY GROUP

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

Photos taken for *The Echo* are available to purchase. Email reception@echo.ie or call 01-4685350.
You can view *The Echo* Photography Policy on echo.ie



Some of the Tots from the panto

SNOW White and the Seven Dwarfs Panto produced by the Inchicore Variety Show proved a huge success last week.

Up to 76 people from five-years-old up to 85-years-old were part of the cast with another 30 people helping backstage, side stage or front of house.

There was also a couple of families who had three generations of family involved in Inchicore Variety Group over the four-days from Wednesday to Sunday in Ard Mhuire Hall in the Oblates.

The group hired a professional Light and Sound Crews to help us achieve the most professional production for the audience which was directed by Inchicore local Terry Martin.

Terry has been part of IVG for 20 years, sometimes on stage himself, helping backstage and also director for multiple shows.

The group have been rehearsing for this panto since last September with resident choreographer Emma Powderly creating all the dance routines for all age groups.



Deirdre and Tadhg



Eileen, Eve, Declan, Denise and Paul



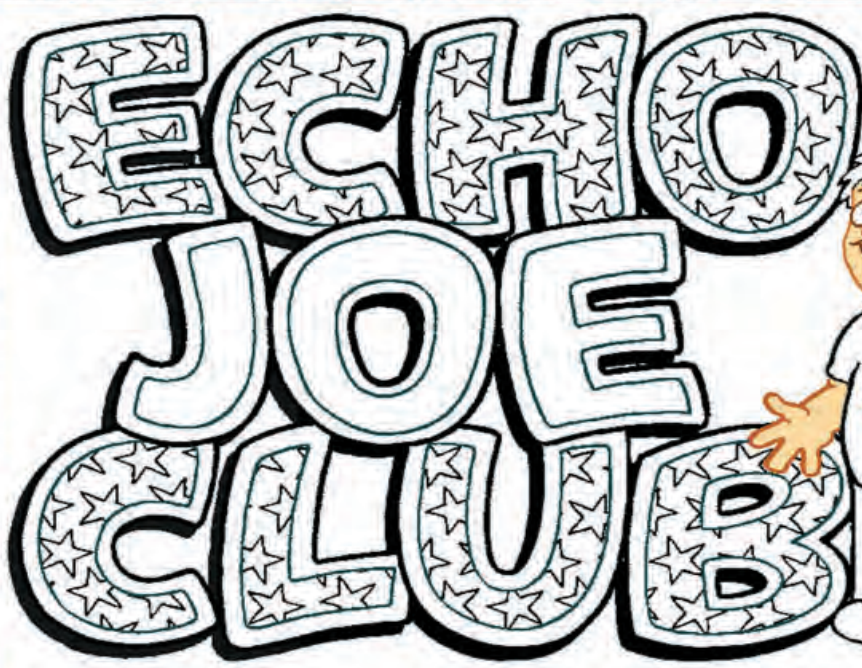
Kay, Catherine and Lucy



Tots Lara, Ava and Kym




Katie Darcy and Family



COMPETITION: 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 **PRIZE**.

A Word with Echo So...

Spring Daffodils



CLUBBERS,
HOW MANY WORDS
(TWO LETTERS OR MORE)
CAN YOU MAKE FROM
THE ABOVE WORDS?

5-20 pretty good! 21-35 excellent!
36 and over - you do realise these
have to be real words, don't you!

1	14	27
2	15	28
3	16	29
4	17	30
5	18	31
6	19	32
7	20	33
8	21	34
9	22	35
10	23	36
11	24	37
12	25	38
13	26	39

WE PLAYED SCHOOL
AT BIG BREAK
TODAY.

TIM WAS
THE TEACHER
AND COLIN WAS
THE PRINCIPAL.


OH, AND
WHAT WERE
YOU?

ABSENT.

I BELIEVE
IT WENT VERY
WELL.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

ANIMALS



z	e	u	f	f	z	e	b	r	a	e	t	j	c	q	s	h	e	c	t
a	l	i	g	a	t	o	r	q	l	d	v	m	l	o	p	k	k	p	
n	g	q	g	b	e	a	r	w	k	e	q	g	b	w	o	n	b	r	u
z	d	l	e	o	p	a	r	d	a	p	x	t	r	q	p	p	e	h	m
c	h	p	m	e	o	j	o	p	n	h	v	i	y	n	i	t	a	i	a
e	l	a	o	d	z	a	c	a	g	a	q	g	k	j	v	l	v	n	g
b	i	n	n	m	l	g	a	n	a	n	f	e					e	o	i
z	o	t	k	w	l	u	m	d	r	t	l	r					r	c	r
k	n	h	e	m	a	a	e	a	o	q	t	o					k	e	a
l	b	e	y	c	m	r	l	y	o	y	s	r					y	r	f
y	h	r	y	v	a	q	c	q	w	o	l	f	e	t	s	b	x	o	f
t	x	l	e	r	q	c	r	o	c	o	d	i	l	e	x	d	h	s	e

alligator

bear

beaver

elephant

giraffe

jaguar

lion

llama

monkey

puma

rhinoceros

tiger

kangaroo

leopard

camel

panda

panther

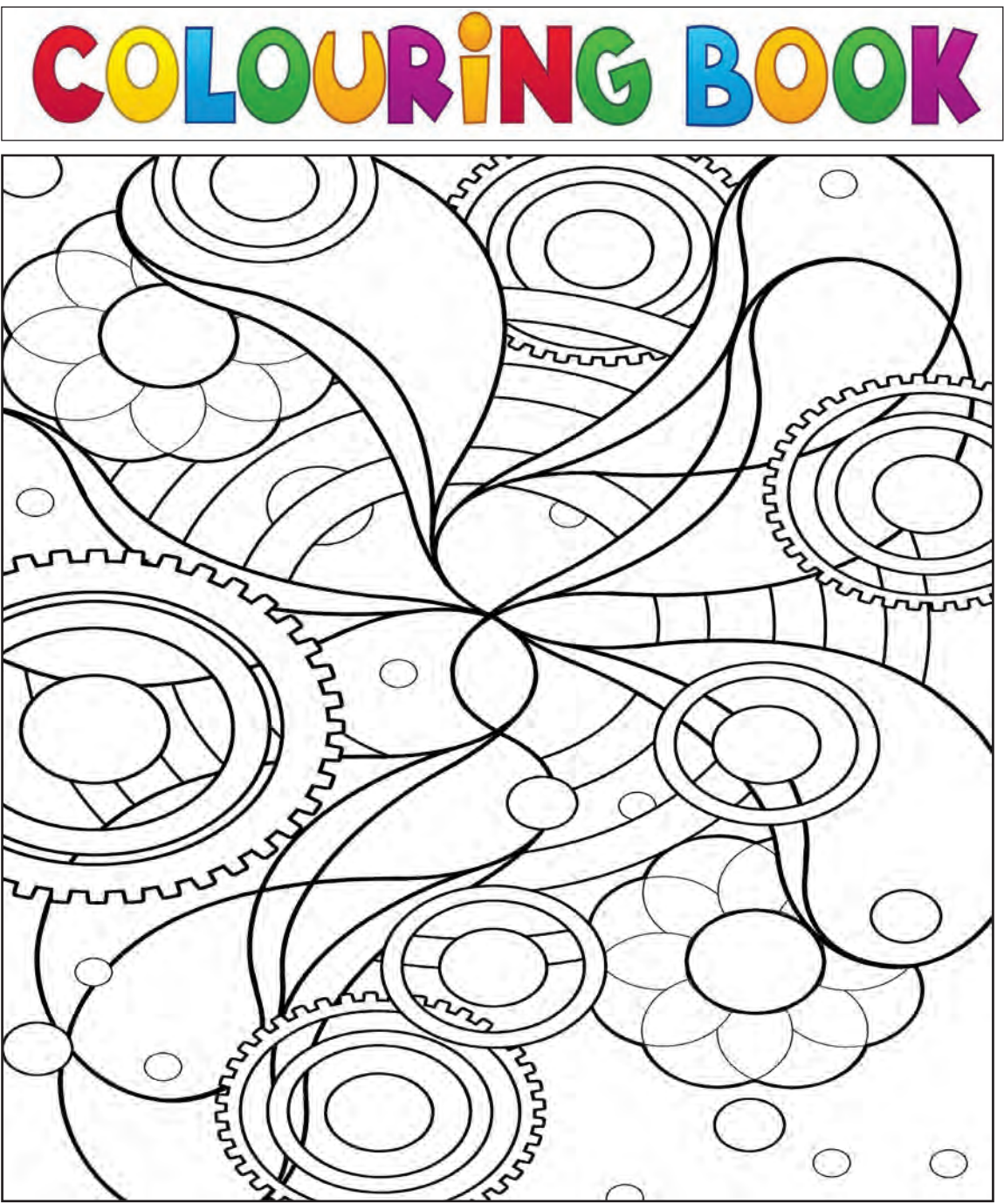
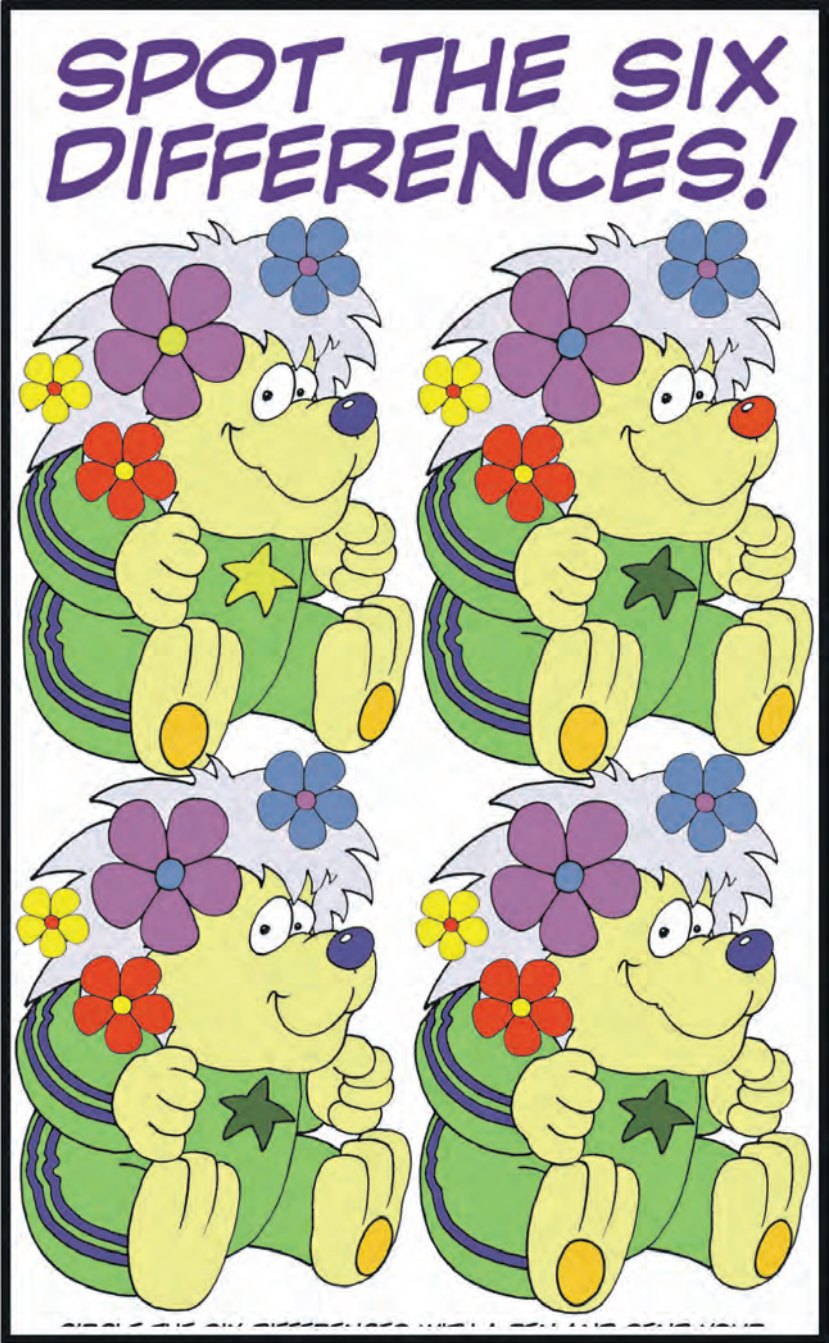
crocodile

wolf

zebra

Help the little bee find his honey pot





LETTER LINK LOG-JAM

A MISSING LETTER ON EACH ROW FINISHES ONE WORD AND STARTS THE NEXT...

BUT WHAT ARE THE LETTERS?

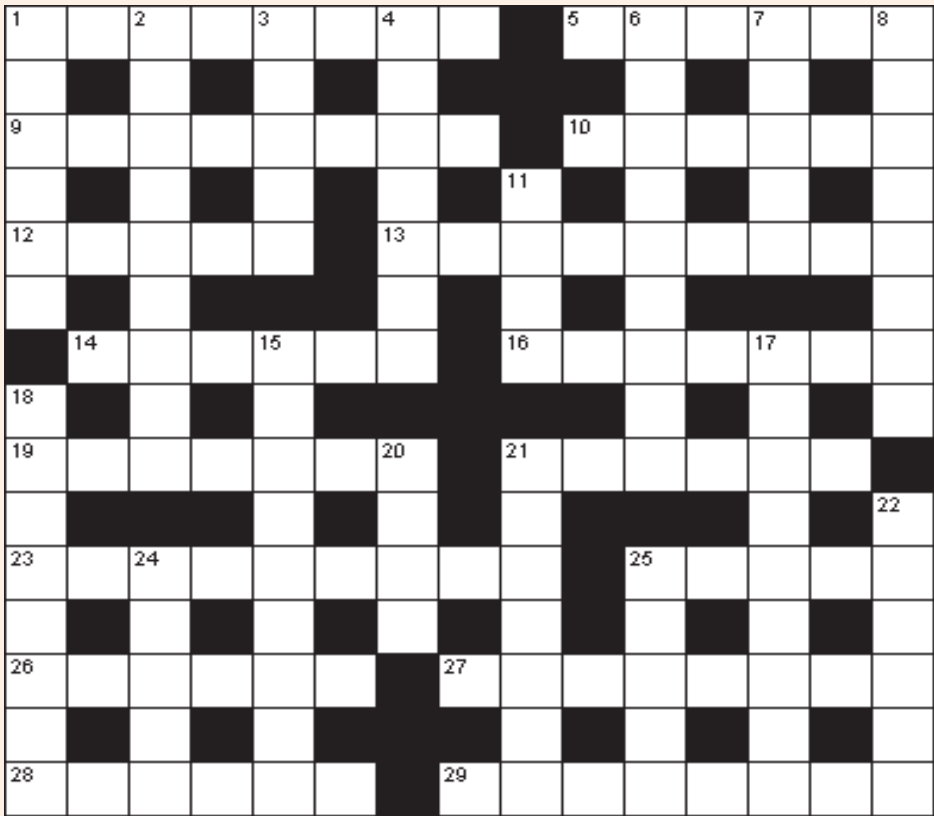
PER		IND
TRA		EAR
BUS		EAP
DIS		ISS
HEL		OUR
PRO		AST
YEL		URE
TRE		ILL

the missing letters: K, Y, H, K, P, P, P, P, K.

winner

Mairéad Dennehy, is this week's winner of The Echo Joe Club logo colouring competition. Mairéad, your prize will be on the way to you soon. All entries stay in so you have another chance to win!

echocrossquiz Q2202



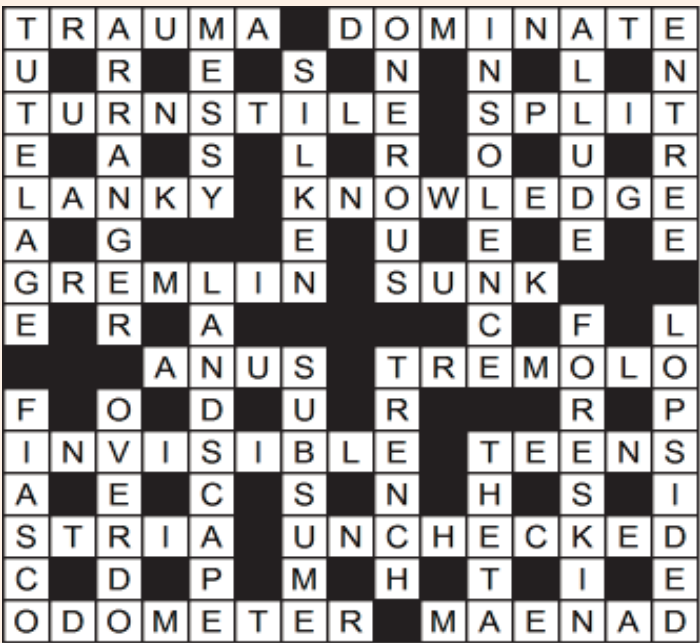
ACROSS

- 1. Familiarize (8)
- 5. Not unusual (6)
- 9. Lodgers (8)
- 10. Trifle (6)
- 12. Care giver (5)
- 13. A political system governed by a few people (9)
- 14. Athletic competitions (6)
- 16. Defraud (7)
- 19. Incomplete (7)
- 21. 2nd largest country in area (6)
- 23. Grossly unconventional (9)
- 25. Specialty (5)
- 26. Beginning (6)
- 27. Not a pessimist (8)
- 28. Intensify (6)
- 29. Colander (8)

DOWN

- 1. A person with white hair and milky skin (6)
- 2. Increase fourfold (9)
- 3. Befuddle (5)
- 4. Anxious (7)
- 6. A medical procedure (9)
- 7. An illusory feat (5)
- 8. Someone recently married (8)
- 11. Boosts (4)
- 15. Bury the hatchet (9)
- 17. Reasoning (9)
- 18. Space rock (8)
- 20. 3 feet (4)
- 21. Pilot compartment (7)
- 22. Annoy (6)
- 24. Law-breaking (5)
- 25. Nigerian monetary unit (5)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 1502



SUDOKU 1

8				1	5			4
		7	2		5			8
				4		5		
	3				7		6	
							3	
2	1		6	9	8			
		3		1				
	6	9			2	1		

SUDOKU 2

			9		7		2	
	6			4				1
	3							8
	9						3	
				2	3	4		6
						2		
			6		4			
5		7	2					3
							5	

ANSWERS

6	5	8	1	3	7	9	2	4
3	4	9	6	8	2	7	1	5
2	1	7	4	5	9	6	8	3
7	8	2	5	6	1	3	4	9
9	6	4	3	2	8	5	7	1
5	3	1	6	7	4	8	9	2
8	9	6	2	1	5	4	3	7
1	7	5	8	4	3	2	9	6
4	2	3	7	9	6	1	5	8

SUDOKU 2

5	8	1	2	4	3	6	9	7
9	6	2	7	1	5	3	8	4
7	4	3	8	6	9	5	1	2
3	9	4	6	2	1	8	7	5
9	2	7	6	5	8	4	3	1
1	5	8	4	3	7	2	6	9
8	1	6	5	6	2	7	4	3
4	3	5	1	7	9	6	2	8
2	7	6	3	8	4	1	5	9

SUDOKU 1

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Killinarden, the Square.
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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



Comerford, Eddie
1st Anniversary occurs 23rd February.

Eddie
*Today is a really hard day,
It's been a year without you,
I try and cope the best I can,
But I'm missing you so much.
Life will never be the same again,
You've left behind a broken heart,
Now that we're apart.
Love and miss you always
Maureen. xxx*


Dad
*A year has passed,
Since we saw you last,
That terrible day,
When you went away.
But in our hearts and minds,
You will forever live on,
Looking after us, we know,
You will never be gone.
From your son Stephen,
daughter-in-law Gina and
grandchildren Nadine, Leah,
Cayla and Callum. Love
always.*

Dad & Grandad
*First year away Dad,
You are always in our thoughts,
We are so thankful for all the
memories we shared together.
Missing you. Edward &
Dylan. xx*

Dad
*With tearful eyes we watched you,
And saw you pass away,
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay,
We hold you close within our
hearts,
And there you shall remain,
To walk with us throughout our
lives,
Until we meet again.
From your loving daughter
Lorena and grandson Kane.
xxx*

Dad
*You were the strongest and yet
kindest man I've ever known,
Your bravery through your
sickness was heroic,
And the example you gave me in
life,
Showed me the importance of
hard work and family.
I was blessed to have you as
my dad, love from Dominic.*


ANNIVERSARY



Nugent, Christy
Whose 14th Anniversary occurs 24th February.

*There never comes a moment,
When I don't think of you,
Or a day passes,
That your face is not in view,
And when I'm feeling lonely,
And tears come to my eyes,
I think of you at peace,
And I know I shouldn't cry.
So I try to hide the heartache,
As you would want me to,
And when I shed a tear,
No one knows but you.
Sadly missed by your brother
Myles, your sister-in-law
Ann, Mark, Grace, Barry,
Layla, Fia and Esme, Lisa,
Glen, Sarah, Callum and
Ellie.
Also remembering Mammy
(Lil) 28th Anniversary 1st
November and Daddy
(Paddy) 25th Anniversary
21st February. Brother John
73rd Anniversary on 2nd
November. Also remembering
Lily, John, Mary, Carmel and
Peter whose anniversaries
occur.*


ANNIVERSARY



Kinsella, Annette
1st Anniversary occurs 22nd February.

*One year ago God called your
name,
And it was your time to fly,
It broke our hearts to watch you
go,
And left us wondering why.
As months passed we felt you
close,
Like you never really left,
We feel your laughter in times of
joy,
And your hugs when we're
distressed.
See you never really left us,
In our hearts you'll always be,
We can't look back with sadness
now,
Why cry for a soul set free.
This year was just the first of
many,
That you'll be missed each
passing day,
But we know we'll reunite in
heaven,
And then forever we shall stay.
Sadly missed by Andy, Sonia,
Jem, Andrew and Family.
Forever in our hearts.*

ANNIVERSARY



Devoy, Liam
5th Anniversary occurs 27th February.

*Sadly missed along life's way,
Quietly remembered every day,
No longer in our life to share,
But in our hearts, you're always
there.
Forever missed and loved by
your wife Beatrice, Lisa &
Wayne, Noelle & Derek,
Martin & Susan, Patrick &
Nicola and his adored
Grandchildren.*

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.R.*

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. P.P.*

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

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

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affection and faith, I offer this
candle which shall burn every day.
Please comfort me in my
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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
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to increase devotion to St.
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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

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. M.C.*

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family notices

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Items for publication for memorial
pages must be in by 1pm Friday
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email: reception@echo.ie

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Carroll, Thomas
Loving Birthday Remembrance of Thomas Carroll whose 31st Birthday occurs 23rd February. 10th Birthday away from home. Forever 21.

Son
Wishing you were here today,
For even just a while,
So I could say happy 31st birthday son,
And see your loving smile,
Thinking of you always,
And on your special day,
Wishing you were here with me,
And hadn't gone away,
Though I miss you always,
I miss you more today,
Because it's your birthday,
And you're so far away,
All my life I will miss you,
As the years come and go,
But in my heart you will live forever,
Because I love you so.
Happy 31st birthday in heaven Son. I love and miss you so much it hurts. There's never a day that I don't think of you. Love always from your heartbroken Ma. xxxxxxxxxx

Brother
Of all the gifts in life,
However great or small,
To have you as my brother,
Was the greatest gift of all.
A special time,
A special place,
A special brother,
I can't replace.
With an aching heart,
I whisper low,
I miss you Thomas,
And love you so.
Happy Heavenly Birthday. Loved and missed always from Lou and Tommy. xxx

Bro
To my brother in heaven,
I love you so much,
And I miss you every single day of my life.
Happy 31st Birthday Tom. Love always from your brother Glen and kids. xxxxx

Brother x
Birthday wishes sent to Heaven,
From your family below,
We miss and love you dearly,
We wanted you to know.
Your birthdays not forgotten,
Your memory, lives on,
We celebrate the life you had,
Even though you've gone.
If we were given just one wish,
One that would come true,
We'd wish you back beside us,

*To spend this day with you.
We will always love and miss you,
And will often shed a tear,
Especially on your birthday,
Year after year.
Forever a part of us Tom,
celebrate in style with daddy.
Lots of love and hugs sent both your way. Love your sister Shauna and your beautiful baby niece, you never got to meet, Harbor. xxx*

Thomas - Precious Grandson
Silent memories keep you near,
As time unfolds another year,
Out of our lives you may be gone,
But in our hearts you still live on,
Memories are precious,
They don't fade away,
I think of you always,
Especially today.
Sadly missed, love you always Nana O'Brien. xxx

Nephew
As I look upon your photo,
Sweet memories I recall,
Of a face so full of sunshine,
A beautiful smile for all.
It broke our hearts to lose you Tom,
But you did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.
Happy Birthday in heaven Snowball. Love and miss you always Jen & Alex. xxxx

Nephew
A smile for all, a heart of gold,
These are the memories we all hold.
No verse, no tears, no words can say,
How much we miss you every day.
Thinking of you on your Birthday Tom. Love and miss you always Kev and Emma. xxx

Grandson
You left us just your photograph,
Yet your smile still seems to say,
Don't cry, I'm only sleeping,
We'll meet again someday.
Love and miss you always Tom Tom. Happy Heavenly Birthday, Nanny & Granda Carroll. xxxx

Nephew/Friend
There is a bridge of golden memories,
From here to heaven above,
It keeps you within all our hearts,
It's called the bridge of love.
Happy Heavenly Birthday Snowball. You'd miss your smiley face. Love always Caroline & Karl. xxxxx

Dad
I will never let today,
Become just another day,
Because it will always be,
Your special day.
Happy Birthday Dad love and miss you always Kayla. xx

*Happy Birthday to my angel in heaven.
My beautiful Tom I love and miss you always Mairead. xx*

*Happy Birthday Tom.
Love Mags. xx*

ANNIVERSARY



McCarthy, Martha Olive
4th Anniversary away from home occurred 19th February. Also remembering her son David who sadly died on January 19th 2022.

*We wish we could see you one more time,
Come walking through the door,
But we know that's impossible,
We will hear your voice no more,
We know you can feel our tears,
And you don't want us to cry.
Yet our hearts are broken because,
We can't understand why,
Someone so precious had to go,
We pray that God will give us strength,
And somehow get us through,
As we struggle with the heartache,
That came when we lost you.
Sadly missed by your sons and daughters Corrine, Noeleen, James, Olive, Patrick, Mary, Johnathan, Margaret, Owen & Christopher, Brothers and Sisters, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren. x*

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



O'Reilly, Siobhán
Birthday Remembrance occurs 25th February. 6th Birthday away from home.

*Our only gift today Siobhán,
Are the memories you left behind,
Of laughter, joy and happiness,
That echo on in our minds.
May the Angels hold you closely,
And sing you a happy song,
And we will send best wishes,
Today and all year long.
Happy Heavenly Birthday Siobhán.
Forever Loved and missed.
Mom, Paul, Anne, Padraig,
sisters-in-law Karen & Edie,
your loving husband Mick,
Nieces and Nephews.*

NOVENA

Memorare Prayer
Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, We fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins my Mother; to thee do we come, before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful; O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer them. T.H.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Prendergast, Suzanne
39th Birthday away from home occurred 20th February.

*It's so hard on this day,
To remember you have gone away,
We want to give you a hug and birthday kiss,
But we can only remember the things we miss.
Happy 52nd birthday princess, love and miss you and Mam always.
Dad, Clodagh, Alison & Tony,
Mark & Joanne, Ciaran & Jane, nieces & nephews
Hannah, Sarah, Thomas, Caitlin, Joseph, Ollie, Faye and Ella.*

NOVENA

Memorare Prayer
Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, We fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins my Mother; to thee do we come, before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful; O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer them. T.H.

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.

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Permission sought to extend an existing garden shed at rear including the raising of roof from 2.680 metres to 3.385 metres at 166C St Maelruans Pk, Old Bawn, Tallaght, Dublin 24 for Eamon Walsh. 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 that 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
John Healy seeks permission for construction of a 2 storey, 5 bedroom detached house with 1 no. car parking space using existing access via Goldenbridge Walk, with shed to rear plus associated landscaping and drainage works, at 7 Goldenbridge Walk, Inchicore, Dublin 8. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a

copy, at the offices of Dublin City Council during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

South Dublin County Council
We, Robert Collins & Tanya Kelly are applying planning permission for an attic conversion to habitable status comprising of two bedrooms and a bathroom with dormer roofs to the front and rear at 14 Mountdown Park, Manor Estate, Dublin 12, D12 E793. 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 that 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
We, Sinead Murphy & Neil Emerson are applying for Planning Permission for (A) demolition of existing flat roof garage to side (south west) elevation, (B) replacement single storey extension to side (south west) elevation to form new utility, toilet and study room, (C) new flat roof extension to rear (south east) elevation of existing two storey house to form new kitchen & lounge room extension and (D) new single storey extension to front (north west) elevation to form new front door entrance and to extend existing sitting room. at 19 The Orchard, Woodfarm Acres, Palmerstown, Dublin 20, D20 WC04. 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 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 9, 2024

<p>SD23A/0209 09 Feb 2024 Permission and Retention Additional Information Applicant: Julie Lucid Location: 1, Monalea Park, Firhouse, Dublin 24 Description: Demolish existing carport & shed, erect new 2-storey 3 bedroom detached dwelling at front, side & rear. Erect new realigned 2 metre high wall on the northern side to run alongside the existing public footpath and an extended 2.675 metre high wall on the Ballycullen Rd. elevation. New front vehicular entrance for new dwelling and the repositioning of the existing vehicular entrance for the existing dwelling. Permission is also sought for retention of existing front porch.</p>	<p>SD24B/0035W 05 Feb 2024 Permission New Application Applicant: Ola & Anna Bademosi Zapf Location: 89, St Peter's Road, Greenhills, Dublin 12, D12 W2C8 Description: New vehicular access with dropped kerb. Part removal of front wall.</p>	<p>Applicant: Peter Doherty Location: 84, Arthur Griffith Park, Lucan, Dublin Description: Widening of existing driveway entrance and dishing of footpath to allow for vehicular access to include removal of pier and wall to front of existing property and all ancillary site works required</p>
<p>SD24A/0021 08 Feb 2024 Permission New Application Applicant: Claire Doyle & Tracy Smullen Location: 19/20, Main Street, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14, D14V3H9 Description: The material change of use for intensification of the existing Laurelwood Montessori LTD T/A Rathfarnham Daycare facility to increase the number of childcare spaces from 170 number to 250 number.</p>	<p>SD24B/0036 06 Feb 2024 Permission New Application Applicant: Shane Hunter & Ciara Mooney Location: 7, Ashton Close, Dublin 16 Description: A new front Porch with pitched roof to side of dwelling, a new single storey rear extension with roof windows and all associated site works</p>	<p>SD23A/0237 09 Feb 2024 Permission and Retention Significant Additional Information Applicant: Samcava Ltd Location: Site of the former, Cookstown House, Cookstown Way, Tallaght, Dublin 24. Description: (a) Planning permission is sought for: (i) the construction of a residential development comprising a total of 84 no. apartments (40 no. one-bedroom units, 36 no. two-bedroom units and 8 no. three bedroom units) in a building ranging in height from 4 to 7 storeys (Part 4, part 5, part 7 storey building). Each apartment is provided with private amenity space in the form of a terrace or balcony space and has access to internal communal amenity space at ground floor level (265.54 sq.m); and external amenity space in the form of a designated communal open space area to the east of the proposed building, a central public plaza between the proposed building and the adjacent under-construction residential scheme at the Cookstown Gateway site to the north (ABP Ref. ABP-303803-19); and an external communal roof terrace at fifth floor level. A total of 190 no. bicycle parking spaces are provided at ground floor level to serve the development, including 2 no. resident bicycle stores comprising a total of 138 no. cycle spaces and 4 no. visitor bicycle parking areas at surface level comprising a total of 50 no. cycle spaces. The proposed development also includes: (ii) the provision of 1 no. commercial / retail unit (214.85 sq.m) at ground floor level with 2 no. staff cycle spaces provided internally; and (iii) associated site and infrastructural works which include; foul and surface water drainage; the provision of solar panels at the upper roof level; lighting; landscaping; boundary treatments; plant rooms; signage; footpaths and internal hard and soft landscaping; bin storage; and all associated site development works. (b) Retention permission is also sought for; (i) the demolition of the previously existing, pitched roof, derelict structure on site known as Cookstown House (88.4 sq.m)</p>
<p>SD24A/0022 09 Feb 2024 Permission and Retention New Application Applicant: Evolve Eatery Location: Unit 01, Monastery Road, Dublin 22, D22 H7R2 Description: Retention Permission of change of use from light industrial to coffee shop/ restaurant/takeaway with external seating area and associated signage with internal modifications and associated site works</p>	<p>SD24B/0037 07 Feb 2024 Permission New Application Applicant: Alex Craft Location: 42, Willington Drive, Dublin 6w Description: A single storey Ground Floor Rear Extension with flat roof and roof lights , front porch extension with tiled roof, attic conversion with dormer roof extension to the rear with windows, single window roof in side gable wall at attic level, roof lights to the front of the existing roof widening of driveway, vehicular entrance, dishing of public footpath and kerb, internal alterations and associated site works</p>	
<p>SD24A/0024 09 Feb 2024 Permission New Application Applicant: Kingscroft Developments Limited Location: Site at junction of Citywest Road and Garter Avenue, Citywest, Dublin 24 Description: we Kingscroft Development Limited seek Planning Permission for modifications to the granted permission (planning reg ref SD16A/0210) at the site west of Citywest Road (N82) South of Garter Avenue/Citywest Avenue, Citywest Dublin 24., The development site is bounded to the east by the N82 Citywest Road, to the North East by Garter Avenue and to the south by lands. The modifications include the change of use of the granted community floor space on the ground Floor of the granted 4 Storey Apartment Building to 1no 2 bed apartment unit and 1no 1 bed apartment unit. All with associated siteworks</p>	<p>SD24B/0038 08 Feb 2024 Permission New Application Applicant: Rita Ward Location: 3, Wainsfort Grove, Dublin 6w Description: Proposed domestic extensions to side/rear, attic conversion to non-habitable space including dormer and family flat to rear with porch and Velux rooflight to front of existing dwelling.</p>	
	<p>SD24B/0040W 09 Feb 2024 Permission New Application Applicant: Philip Ryan Location: 36 Woodlawn Park Drive, Firhouse, Dublin 24, D24 TH6D Description: Conversion of existing attic space comprising of modification of existing roof structure, raising of existing gable c/w window, new access stairs, 2no. roof windows to the front and flat roof dormer to the rear.</p>	
	<p>SD24B/0041 09 Feb 2024 Permission New Application</p>	<p>SD23A/0303 09 Feb 2024 Permission Significant Additional Information Applicant: C&C Sports Consultants Ltd Location: Unit 5 & 8, Building 2 & 3, Cookstown Industrial Estate, Tallaght, Dublin 24 Description: Change of use from warehouse to padel tennis sports facility, with minor internal modifications, including reception, ancillary cafe, seating area, bathrooms / changing rooms, and all associated and ancillary site works.</p>

Contact *The Echo* to have a planning notification published Call 468 5350 or email reception@echo.ie

Echo Sport

Deputy Sports Editor: William O'Connor

Thursday, February 22, 2024

Tyrrell kicks late winner for the Dubs

All-Ireland champions Dublin staged a stunning comeback in the closing minutes to come from three points down to beat Galway in the Lidl Ladies National Football League in Parnell Park.

Trailing by 1-11 to 0-11, Mick Bohan's team got five of the last six scores to edge past the Tribeswomen by just one.

"We probably stole it in the end," admitted Bohan.

"But their character in that last 15 minutes was fantastic. A lot of young kids still. We'd a couple of girls making their debut there. So for them to experience that in the cauldron that was here in Parnell Park was very pleasing. Feel a little bit sorry for Galway and I'm not sure that we deserved the three points."

Entering the final minutes of normal time, Jennifer Dunne and Hannah Tyrrell left one between them before Olivia Divilly replied for Galway.

But as much as the visitors held out opposing attacks, Kate Sullivan and Orlagh Nolan levelled while Galway captain Ailbhe Davoren got a yellow card. Tyrrell landed the winning free following a foul on Leah Caffrey.

Galway got off to the ideal start with Roisin Leonard converting two frees in as many minutes before a Tyrrell placed ball opened for Dublin. However, the visitors maintained their momentum with Leonard from play and Aoife O'Rourke making it 0-4 to 0-2 on 10 minutes.

Another Tyrrell free was Dublin's reply and then they enjoyed their best spell. Nolan, Tyrrell and Annabelle Timothy scored by the 13th minute putting Dublin one ahead.

The Tribeswomen responded two minutes later. Starting with Aoife Ni Cheallaigh, Shauna Hynes and Leanne Coen were involved resulting in the latter offloading to Linda Booth who kicked to the roof of the net.

Galway maintained their advantage even though Kate Sullivan replied with a Dublin point. Coen and Aoife O'Rourke had Daniel Moynihan's charges three in front on 20 minutes. Chloe Darby and Sullivan reduced arrears but Ailbhe Davoren's point had Galway 1-7 to 0-8 up at half-time.

The hosts came out quickest after the break with Murray pointing on 32 minutes. Galway midfielder Mairead Glynn pushed forward to convert two minutes later before Sullivan's third of the afternoon left Dublin 1-8 to 0-10 down on 37 minutes.

O'Rourke registered for Galway on the three quarter mark. Danielle Lawless hit back but a Leonard free four minutes later kept the maroon and white 1-10 to 0-11 up.

But it was Dublin who kicked on for their second win of the campaign as Galway slipped to their fourth loss and are bottom of the table.

All eyes are on Croke ahead of Kerry and Limerick double bill

ALL EYES will be on Croke Park this Saturday evening with both All-Ireland Senior Football and All-Ireland Senior Hurling champions in action in the National League.

Sam Maguire holders Dublin have a huge game in front of them when they go head to head with old rivals Kerry in the third round of the competition.

Dessie Farrell's side will be looking to build on their first league win last week when they disposed of Roscommon by seven-points having lost to Monaghan and Mayo by a point in their opening matches.

Having led by a point at the interval, Dublin hit the turbo-boost button in the second half with Templeogue Synge Street's Niall Scully finding the net after 55 minutes.

Con O'Callaghan impressed for the Dubs with seven points in total while Templeogue Synge Street man Lorcan O'Dell also landed a good score.

Thomas Davis' Cian Murphy continues to impress in defence and he and his team mates will be under plenty of pressure this weekend as they face the likes of David and Paudie Clifford.

David Clifford kicked a superb winner for Kerry against Mayo last weekend having scored five points in total while Sean O'Shea was another player who led by example for the Kingdom.

The Dubs will be keen to limit the Clifford's threat in attack while Joe and Diarmuid O'Connor and Tadgh Morley are others who will pose trouble for the Dubs.

Dublin are looking for a first league win over Kerry since 2018 and they will be hoping O'Callaghan, Brian Fenton and Ciaran Kilkenny lead by example.

In the curtain-raiser, Dublin' senior hurlers have their hands full when they square up to All-Ireland champions Limerick.

The Dubs suffered an opening round defeat to Tipperary but bounced back against Antrim in the second round.

A late goal from Cian O'Sullivan secured the win in Belfast and will know a big performance in required this weekend.

Limerick easily overcame Antrim in the opening round and they went on to beat Westmeath last week.



Niall Scully was on target for Dublin last weekend

Rovers and Pat's look for first win

IN AN action-packed Friday night of League of Ireland Premier Division football, fans witnessed contrasting tales of resilience and drama as Shamrock Rovers hosted Dundalk in a 1-1 encounter, while St Patrick's Athletic ventured west in a clash with Galway United where Jamie Lennon salvaged all three points for the Dublin 8 outfit *reports Rory Merriman.*

At Tallaght Stadium, Shamrock Rovers showcased their determination against Dundalk in a hard-fought encounter. The home side, led by manager Stephen Bradley, made two changes to their lineup, with Conan Noonan and Rory Gaffney earning starting berths. The Hoops dominated early possession but struggled to create clear-cut chances.

Midway through the first half, Neil Farrugia's unfortunate injury halted the game, resulting in a prolonged stoppage. The disruption affected Rovers' momentum, allowing Dundalk's Jamie Gullan to seize an opportunity and convert a free-kick, putting the visitors ahead.

Rovers responded with urgency, and Aaron Greene, coming off the bench, levelled the score just before the hour mark, connecting with Conan Noonan's free-kick. Despite sustained pressure and multiple half-chances, Rovers couldn't secure the winning goal. The match concluded in a 1-1 draw, leaving the Hoops with mixed emotions on the opening day.

In the other fixture, St Patrick's Athletic secured a hard-fought 1-0 victory against Galway United at Eamonn

Deacy Park. Jamie Lennon's early strike, capitalizing on defensive indecision, proved to be the decisive moment. Despite challenging conditions on the muddy pitch, both teams battled fiercely, with St Pat's displaying a brighter start.

Galway United, making their return to the top flight, settled into the game, but St Pat's had opportunities to extend their lead, notably when Kian Leavy narrowly missed after a poor clearance by Galway's goalkeeper. The match turned intense, with tensions rising on both benches.

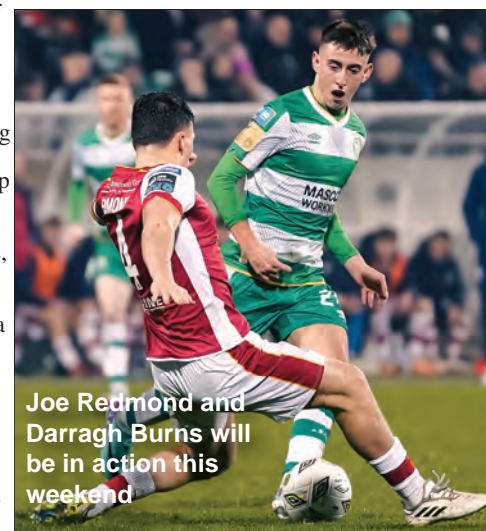
In the final 15 minutes, the game reached a boiling point as Galway's Stephen Walsh received a red card for dissent, reducing the home side to ten men. St Pat's held onto their one-goal lead, securing the

victory in a scrappy affair.

Looking ahead, St Patrick's Athletic will return to Richmond Park for their first home game of the season, welcoming Bohemians, who will seek revenge having lost to St Pats in the FAI Cup final in November.

Meanwhile, Shamrock Rovers will host Drogheda at Tallaght Stadium, aiming to bounce back from the draw and secure three points in front of their

home crowd. Bradley's men will need more than a point this week if they really want to kick start their drive for five.



Joe Redmond and Darragh Burns will be in action this weekend

Basketball

Three in a row for Colaiste Éanna

COLÁISTE Éanna served up a display of exceptional composure to surmount Mercy Mounthawk and land their third successive All-Ireland Under 19A Boys Schools League title, winning out 62-54 in the National Basketball Arena on Tuesday.

Looking to avenge their loss to Mercy in the National Cup semi-finals earlier this season, Éanna stole a march on their Tralee rivals early on in this League decider, racing 8-0 up within the opening two minutes as Viktor Lovic and Adam Charles each drained two buckets.

But Mercy soon settled and restored parity, courtesy of David Lucid and Tomas Kennedy who quickly followed his big three with a deuce.

Still, it was the Dubliners who finished that opening period on the front foot thanks to buckets by Lovic and Dean Kiernan that left them up by four. The second quarter proved a real see-saw affair as buckets from Olaf Michalczuk, Kennedy and Lucid for Mercy were countered with those of Nathan Comerford, Lovic and Charles for Éanna.

The Rathfarnham side still held a three-point advantage heading into the third quarter, but a Michalczuk effort from beyond the arc, coupled with a Kennedy effort saw Mounthawk overtake into a two-point lead. It set the scene for another enthralling



Coláiste Éanna celebrate winning All-Ireland Schools League U19 A Boys Final
Photo Credit ©INPHO/James Crombie

quarter of basketball in which both sides continued to go toe-to-toe, with the lead swinging back and forth. Yet Éanna suddenly began to inflict a lot more damage from downtown, as Comerford, Adam McCarthy, Kiernan and Adam Walsh all got a return from their long-distance attempts before Charles had the Éanna faithful on their feet with a delightful dunk on the counter.

That capped a superb close to the penultimate quarter for the Dubliners who led by 11 heading into the closing eight minutes of play, which they ignited with Lovic and Charles buckets that pushed their advantage out to 15.

Tralee's Joshua Osaynrhion

attempted to jar that momentum with a steal and basket only to see Kiernan respond with yet another three for Éanna.

Osaynrhion went to the line for two more before Michalczuk drained a three to make it a seven-point game, but a three-point play by Charles helped Éanna keep the ship steady.

Lovic was left in the clear to plant a bucket before Charles claimed one from the line to keep the Dubliners up by seven with a minute to go and Mercy were unable to produce a late special to turn this one around.

"They [Mercy Mounthawk] actually beat us in the cup semi-final, so for the lads, that was

something we had to get over" stressed Coláiste Éanna head coach, Hillary Netsiyanwa.

"The players knew exactly what they had to do. They'd been preparing for this over the mid-term, so it's a credit to the players and how committed they are.

"There were future Super League players on both sides of the court here today, so the calibre of teams is amazing for Under 19 schools basketball. What a great role-model they are for the younger kids.

"I must also add my thanks to Karen Hogan who manages our team and all the basketball in the school" he said.

Rugby

Tallaght girls lose final league game

THE Tallaght women's team took on Ashbourne in their final Leinster Division Four league game of the season, going down 26-33.

Second placed Ashbourne had more motivation as they were battling with the third placed South East Lions for a play-off spot for a shot at promotion.

Ashbourne needed to win to be sure to finish second and they started off at a great pace with right wing Katie Kelly scoring two tries out wide to give Ashbourne a 10-0 lead.

Tallaght were playing positive rugby though and their own right wing Ellen Crotty scored an excellent try of her own to bring it back to 10-5.

Kelly got her hat-trick try to make it 15-5 to Ashbourne, but Tallaght came back strongly off a powerful run from Aisling Pyke and skipper Eileen Shanahan broke through a gap for a try.

Grainne Leonard Flood converted to make it 15-12, but again from the restart Ashbourne won the ball back and they worked it wide for

Kelly to score her fourth try of the match.

Tallaght hit back again, and Chloe Conroy scored an excellent individual try which Grainne Leonard Flood converted to make the half-time score 20-19 to Ashbourne.

Tallaght started the half brightly but Kelly scored her fifth try for Ashbourne to increase their lead to 25-19.

But inspired by the talismanic Martina Fitzpatrick, who rolled back the years with a fantastic display of ball carrying, Tallaght advanced down the pitch. After more strong carries by Orlaith Plunkett and Kim Littlefield, Aisling Pyke forced her way over the line to score the try. Grainne Leonard Flood converted to give Tallaght the lead for the first time in the match at 26-25.

Ashbourne came back hard at Tallaght and were camped in the twenty-two for a sustained period. Tallaght defended incredibly bravely, and they held Ashbourne up or won turnovers on several occasions. But on every occasion they couldn't kick the ball far enough to get out of their half. Eventually the pressure told and first Grace Mahon kicked a penalty to regain the lead for Ashbourne, before Katie Kelly scored her sixth try of the game to make it 33-26. Tallaght kept playing positive rugby, despite losing the immense Aisling Pyke to a shoulder injury. They offloaded their way up the field and, in the final play of the game, they looked like scoring a try. But the final pass went forward and Ashbourne were relieved to kick the ball off the field to end the contest.

Meanwhile, the Tallaght men's team lost 50-6 to Greystones in Metro Division 6. Rob Hudson kicked two penalties for Tallaght.



Martina Fitzpatrick takes a big hit from one of the Ashbourne players during Tallaght's loss

Hockey

Loreto remain on course for league

THIS EY Hockey League Division One women's game full of incidents and opportunities to score goals for both teams as Loreto saw off UCD 1-0.

Two teams playing very well producing an afternoon's excellent hockey and the defending champions and the champions elect at the height of their powers, surely a goal feast would ensue.

Preventing that happening were two goalkeepers at the top of their game. Loreto's Liz Murphy making numerous saves illustrating why she is part of the Women's National squad and her UCD counterpart Erika Gallagher also gave an excellent display of goalkeeping.

These two goalkeepers were the outstanding performers on the day.

Both defenses held firm, marshalled by Hannah Matthews (Loreto) and Katie Jane Marshall (UCD) respectively.

There were sixteen

penalty corners in all, and the only goal of the game occurred from none of these.

Superb saves, wayward shots and the occasional bit of riding their luck made sure that the nets were not breached for over 60 minutes of the game.

When the goal for Loreto came, it was a bit of a travesty, because neither keeper deserved to be denied their due, which on the basis of their excellence on the day, was a shutout.

However, Loreto are not leading the League with a 100% record for no reason and Sarah Torrans shot found its way to the net in the 63rd minute to leave the Champions elect a mere three points away from the 2024 EYHL Women's Division 1 title a trophy that eluded them last year on the final day of the season when UCD won on a day that Loreto only needed a draw but failed to get any points to clinch the 2023 title.

Big weekend for Glenanne

THIS weekend sees five of the clubs eight teams participate in the latter stages of provincial and Irish cup competitions.

In the Irish Senior Cup quarter-final, Glenanne Men's first play host to Banbridge in what is a repeat of the 2023 final.

Last season Banbridge came out victors 4-1 in a penalty shootout to claim the treble.

The Tallaght side entered the tournament in the 'round of 16' where they faced a formidable Cork Harlequins.

After a tough start and going 1-0 down early in quarter two, Glenanne powered back to go in 2-1 at half time. A third goal from Glenanne in the final quarter sealed victory thus setting up a mouthwatering tie against Banbridge in Dublin on Saturday at 1.45pm in St Andrew's.

The women's section have a very busy weekend ahead with all teams in action in their respective cup semi-finals. This year has seen an influx of new players along with some great 'up & coming' juniors finding their feet in the senior section.

The Women's 1x11 team welcome their third northern team opposition Dungannon to St Andrew's in the semi-final of the Irish Hockey Trophy.

This is Glenanne's first time competing in this Hockey Ireland national competition and reached the semi final with victories over Armagh (4-1) and Ballymena (4-0)

earlier this year. A potential final is in addition to a positive league campaign that sees them sitting 3rd, just 3 points off 2nd with a game in hand.

Glenanne women's second team are competing in the Division 5/6 Cup semi-final against UCD. This Glenanne team have gone from strength to strength in the last few years- Division 5/6 Shield winners 2022 and 2023 plus winning Division 6 in 2023 and are currently in 1st place in Division 5 with promotion already secured with 3 matches left to play.

Glenanne's path to the semi-final included victories over Railway (7-0) & Laois (4-1).

Glenanne Women's 3rds are competing in the Division 9/10 semi-final and the club last won this competition in both 2012 & 2013. Promotion from Division 11 to 10 this season has proved encouraging for this team and they have already beaten Our Lady's Grove (1-0) who are a division higher. Other victories over Portrane (5-4) and YMCA (2-1) have set up a semi-final clash against Naas (who are in the top half of Division 9).

Glenanne Women's 4ths were re-established this season after several years and joined Division 12 in Leinster. This new team, under the guidance of Steven Tornney and Paul Kennedy has slowly found their feet in the division culminating in a cup semi-final appearance against Railway Union in the Division 11/12 Cup.

GAA

Davis under new manager up and running in Division One

THOMAS Davis senior footballers got their Division One season up and running under new manager Stephen Maxwell.

A former coach with the Dublin senior ladies' All-Ireland successful team, Maxwell saw his side hang on for a 1-13 to 1-12 win over Ballymun Kickhams at Kiltipper Road on Sunday morning.

The home side at one stage were seven points to the good but Kickhams clawed their way back thanks to a converted penalty from former Dublin All-Ireland winner Dean Rock.

Davis' were 1-7 to 0-5 in front at the break with Mark Nolan grabbing his side's goal while Ryan Deegan, Fionn Murray and Eric Rowan chipped in with scores.

Indeed, Davis could have been further in front but they failed to convert a penalty when Conor Guilfoyle's effort failed to find the target.

Deegan landed five points for the winners while Murray helped himself to three converted frees while Eanna O'Toole and Sallier were among the point scorers.

Kickhams made a real go of it in the final quarter and Rock's penalty gave them a good lift.

They did have an opportunity with a 45-metre free in the closing moment but opted to go short with Davis clearing their lines to hold out for the win.

Mary's seniors go down by a point

ST MARY'S senior footballers suffered a narrow 1-10 to 1-11 defeat to Round Tower (Lusk) in their opening Division One match in Rathcoole Park on Sunday morning.

Both teams were only promoted to the top-flight this year and it was Mary's first match under manager Brendan Hackett who had previously guided Ballymun Kickhams to the All-Ireland Club final.

Mary's had the better of the opening half exchanges but Tower's hit a purple patch straight after the break when they registered a goal and five points in response to Mary's one score. This put Tower's three to the good mid-way through the half and despite the hosts kicking two late points it was not good enough to earn a draw.

Mick O'Keeffe chipped in with Mary's goal in the first half while Eoin Murray landed three points before the interval.

Carl Finn and Ciaran Howard were the other points scorers in the first half for Mary's as they clocked up a couple of good scores.

However, Tower's raised the tempo after the restart and tested the Mary's defence at times. Conor Jameson kept Mary's in touch with three points while Eoin Murray landed two scores, but the Lusk side held out for the win. Next up for Mary's is the meeting of Ballinteer St John's.

Elsewhere, St Mary's junior footballers overcame Na Gaeil Oga 1-10 to 0-6 in Division Seven.

Tower's edged out in league opener



Round Tower senior footballers lost out to Naomh Mearnog in their opening game at Monastery Road

THERE was disappointment for Round Tower senior footballers who finished second best to Naomh Mearnog 1-10 to 0-16 in their opening Division Two match at Monastery Road on Sunday morning.

While only three points separated the teams at the finish, it was the visitors who looked the sharper side in front of goals and chipped in with a couple of impressive scores which proved the difference.

Mearnog took their scores in the opening 20 minutes where they established a 0-7 to 0-1 lead with full forward Ian Ward striking over his sides opening score on five minutes.

The visitors played direct football with their full forward line taking their scores at every opportunity as they tested the Tower's defence throughout.

By the 20th minute Mearnog had kicked five wides and edged further in front with a pointed free before Tower's got a breakthrough against the run of play.

A quick ball to Michael Walsh saw him find a way through the Mearnog defence and as he went to shoot for goal he was fouled in the square to win a penalty.

Up stepped James Kelly with the spot kick which struck the cross bar and ended up in the net bringing his

team back into contention.

The score gave Tower's a lift and Ward raced through with two quick points within two minutes of each other to leave the game hanging in the balance.

At the other end, Mearnog had their best chance of a goal three minutes before the break when the ball went inches wide off Gary Cleary's goal, before they added a point to leave three between them at half time.

Substitute Michael Cleary made an immediate impact when he kicked a good ball from play but again Mearnog were dangerous going forward with three unanswered points before Ward

added another to leave it 1-6 to 0-14 six minutes into the half.

Towers rallied with Joe Leech and Ward accounting for two points as Tower's enjoyed their best spell on 11 minutes, but no other scores arrived until the 27th minute as both defences held firm.

Mearnog kicked two great scores to push them four clear but to Tower's credit they never gave up with Cleary adding a second and Ward kicking his sides last scores in a frantic finish.

The game got a bit messy in the closing stages and Tower's keeper Gary Cleary was sent to the line as the hosts ran out of time chasing the draw.

Boden dig deep for victory

BALLYBODEN St Enda's senior footballers had to dig deep to see off the challenge of Skerries Harps 1-12 to 0-11 in Division One in Sancta Maria on Sunday morning.

With injuries, emigration and Dublin commitments, numbers were tight for this first game of the new season. Boden were on the score board after three minutes when Ciarán O'Reilly tested the Skerries goalie with a good shot and he diverted the ball over the bar.

Daire Sweeney added two points from frees before the visitors had to re-arrange their team after their goalie suffered an accidental injury and they eventually got off the mark on 12 minutes.

By the 22nd minute, the visitors were leading by a point, but Daire Sweeney levelled matters again with another free on 24 minutes.

Boden were then reduced to 14 players after a player was sent to the line and two further points were scored by Skerries to leave them two up at the interval.

Skerries extended their lead in the first minute of the second half and could have extended the lead further when they missed a good goal chance.

A Cathal Flaherty pointed effort hit the post, but Ciarán O'Reilly scored a good point on seven minutes.

After Skerries cancelled out this score a minute later, points by Daire Sweeney (free) and Darren O'Reilly, following a good catch by Conor Hanrahan, kept Boden in touch.

Skerries responded with another point mid-way through the 2nd half but then Boden hit a purple patch.

In the space of two minutes, Daire Sweeney hit a good point from play and then, when he received a good pass from Luke O'Donoghue, he showed great maturity by slotting the ball to the net to put Boden two points ahead.

Darren O'Reilly added another point and Ryan Basquel, who had come on as a substitute, scored two great points to put Boden further ahead but unfortunately Ryan had to retire with an injury a few minutes later.

The visitors were not giving up and hit the post when shooting for a goal and then hit the post again when shooting for a point.

Skerries scored two more points before the end, but Daire Sweeney cancelled out one of these with a long range free to leave Boden with two hard earned league points.



Alex Gavin on the attack for Ballyboden. Photo by John Kirwan

Athletics

Abdel impresses in Boston



Abdel Laadjel and Louis O'Loughlin at the BU Terrier DMR Meet at Boston MA

DONNING the colours of Donore Harriers Abdel Laadjel became the 59th Irish athlete to go under 4 minutes for the one-mile race at the Boston University Terrier Indoor Meet at Boston University indoor track on Friday.

Laadjel admitted afterwards that: "the race did not go to plan. My coach (Ray Treacy) told me not to go to the back of the field and to not make a surge in the middle of the race. And that's exactly what I did".

In a very competitive 14-man field comprising several professional athletes the Providence College student found himself vying for 13th position throughout the opening five and a-half laps.

With about 500m remaining the 20-year-old Donore athlete quickly moved up to 9th place but was unable to make gains on the leaders.

He ran the final 200m circuit in 28.79 to move up to 8th position and to close in a time of 3:59.89. His race was won by Ryan Adams of UA Mission Run in 3:57.25.

Laadjel became the 4th member of Donore Harriers to join the sub-4 club.

The late Basil Clifford was the 1st club athlete to achieve the feat when he ran 3:59.80 to place 3rd in the Emsley Carr Mile at White City Stadium on the 3rd of August 1962.

Eamonn Coghlan holds the club mile record with a time of 3:52.45 set when finishing 4th in the Oslo Golden Mile on the 17th of July 1979.

In more recent times John Travers ran 3:55.44 to place 6th in a very competitive Morton Mile at Santry on the 11th of July 2014.

The club's other Stateside star Louis O'Loughlin was also in action at the Boston University 'Terrier' meet.

O'Loughlin, representing the Auburn University Tigers track and field team, ran the 3rd leg in the Distance Medley Relay (DMR). His teammates Max Hardin (1200m) and LeBron Bessick (400m) ran strongly, and O'Loughlin took over the baton in 6th place. He 'bombed' his first 200m (24.73) to quickly gain to 4th and had to dig deep to hold that position until his hand-off to Ryan Kinnane on the final changeover. O'Loughlin clocked a time of 1:48.69 for his 800m leg.

Kinnane edged the team to 3rd position in the final 1,600m leg.

The Auburn Tigers team's time of 9:24.43 smashed their previous college record for the DMR event and gives them a realistic chance of making the US national finals.



Athletes shine at the National Senior Indoor Championships in Abbotstown

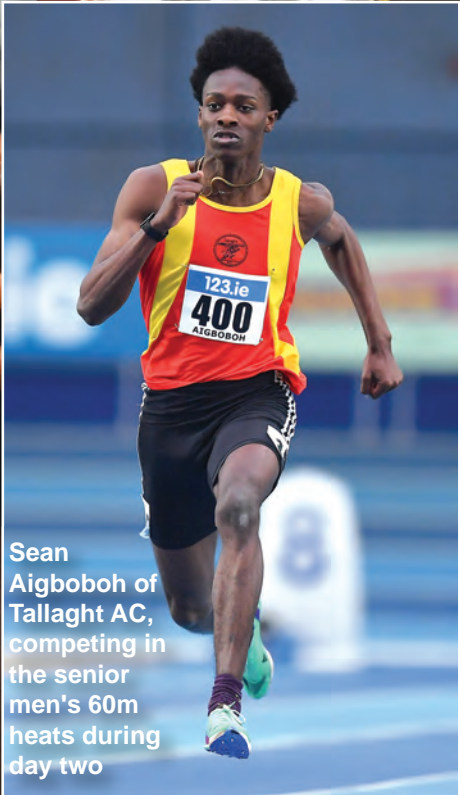
TALLAGHT Athletics club sprinters were in top form at the National Senior Indoor Championships in Abbotstown at the weekend.

Indeed, it was truly a momentous occasion for the clubs sprinting group with all four athletes, Israel Olatunde (6.85), Sean Aigboboh (6.90), Joseph Ojewumi (6.91), and Simon Essuman (7.02 P.B.) all qualifying through the 60m heats to the semi-finals on Sunday morning, with Israel Olatunde, Sean Aigboboh and Joseph Ojewumi making the final.

And the trio then lined up for what turned out to be a thrilling final with Israel Olatunde retaining his title and topping the podium with a winning time of 6.71 and Sean Aigboboh taking bronze with a new personal best time of 6.77, and Joseph Ojewumi finishing shy of the podium in 4th (6.80).

Carlotta Malaga Moran recorded a time of 8.09 in her heat of the 60m and she recorded a new personal best time of 26.00 in the heats of the 200m the previous day with Godwin Mathias recording a new personal best time of 50.59 to qualify for the semi-finals of the 400m and Cormac Dixon, in his first Senior Championships was another who qualified from the 1500m heats on Saturday and in the final on Sunday he recorded a new personal best time of 3:52.27 when crossing the line in 6th place.

The club will be fielding eight juvenile relay teams at the Dublin Juvenile Indoor Championships in Abbotstown this Saturday and Sunday, where they will be aiming to make the podium and qualify for the National Indoor Championships.



Sean Aigboboh of Tallaght AC, competing in the senior men's 60m heats during day two



Israel Olatunde of Tallaght AC, left, poses for a photograph with his gold medal and men's senior 60m trophy alongside bronze medalist Sean Aigboboh of Tallaght AC after the senior men's 60m during day two of the 123.ie National Senior Indoor Championships at the Sport Ireland National Indoor Arena
Photos by Sportsfile

Busy times for Harriers athletes



Ellie O'Neill, Anne McGrane at Donadea

ON Saturday, Lucan Harriers AC had two senior ladies, Ellie O'Neill and Anne McGrane represent the Club in the 50km Ultra Marathon in Donadea Forest.
This was a tough, hilly and muddy course comprising 14 laps of the forest.
Anne came home in a time of 5.24 and Ellie came thundering behind her in a time of 5.41.
Elsewhere, Mary Browne was the lone Lucan Harrier in Dundalk DKIT for the Intermediate & Masters National Cross Country



Tony Keaney, Rathcoffey 10k

Championships last week.
Conditions were very mucky and difficult to find respite on a firm patch. Mary finished age category 2nd in 00:21:30. Pauline Moran Mayo AC 1st in 00:21:25 (same result as last year). Mayo AC also won O50 Team Gold.
Tony Keaney took part in the Rathcoffey 10k Road Race and achieved a PB in 46:57 and also came 22nd in his age group. A Challenging course with rolling hills, out in the Kildare countryside, lovely scenery and the early spring sun was shining.

Super win for John Travers

THERE was a super win for Donore Harriers John Travers at the national indoors, winning the 3000m at the National Senior Track and Field Indoors.
This is Johns 10th national title since 2013 and he dominated the race in the latter stages, turning up the speed to win in 8.13.17.
Aoife Lynch reached the semi-finals of the 60m and ran the 200m on day 1 while Jack Raftery won his 400m heat and semi-final but was unfortunately forced to withdraw from the 400m final.
Elsewhere, a bright sunny Sunday morning, a welcome change from the recent miserable rain, Donore had the third race of the Meet and Train series in Tymon Park.
Caroline McCarthy, the winner of the previous race had a great battle in the top three all the way with Lisa

Gaughran (DSD AC) and Deirdre Lyons (Dublin Front Runners) from the previous race.
Caroline eventually finished fifth after misjudging the finish line, but it was another very dominant performance.
Emily Cuniffe wasn't too far behind in 11th place and ran a very determined race from the gun with Louise Kelly tracking her all the way in 13th.
They were followed in by Ellen Flanagan 21st, Suzie Henley Willis 27th, (running the race as part of her long run!), Ruth Chambers 42nd, Sarah Ni Ruairc 94th place, Catherine McKeon 98th place and Ann Woodlock bringing our fantastic team home in 113th. Ann never ceases to amaze at 85 years young and looks to be in great form for the European Indoors in Torun next month.



Donore Harriers John Travers (centre) on the podium

Soccer

Noonan on target for Ireland U17s

ST PATRICK'S Athletic's Michael Noonan netted his 13th international goal of the season in a defeat for Ireland Men's Under-17s against Denmark in Pinatar, Spain.

In the second of two friendlies for Colin O'Brien's side this week, the Danes were ruthless winning the game 5-1 having been 3-0 up inside 20 minutes.

In the 40th minute Oisín Cooney saved a penalty only to see the rebound converted to as Denmark went 4-0 up by half-time.

But Ireland were much better in the second half causing Denmark problems. Niall McAndrew took things into his own hands driving at goal and firing an effort that just went over.

In 59th minute Noonan profited from pressure from Ireland in the Danish penalty area and the St. Pat's teen netted his sixth goal in four international games.

Denmark made it 5-1 against the run of play when Arsenal's Chidozie Obie slotted home after a counter attack.

William Martin thought he netted a second for Ireland late on but the Odense BK forward, playing against one of his club mates, saw his effort ruled out.

O'Brien's team are back in action next month when they're in UEFA U17 EURO Elite Round action against Portugal, Germany and Croatia.

Shamrock Rovers James Roche started in defence for Ireland.

Peamount players called into Ireland squad

PEAMOUNT United players Erin McLaughlin and Jess Fitzgerald have been brought in as replacements ahead of the Ireland Women's National Team ahead of their International Friendlies against Italy and Cymru.

It is a first senior call up for 17-year-old Lucan native Fitzgerald who is promoted from the Ireland Women's Under 19s.

Both McLaughlin and Fitzgerald had great season's last year as they played a vital role in assisting Peamount to the Airtricity League title.

Also in the Ireland squad is Kilmanagh's Katie McCabe who plays with Arsenal along with Jessie Stapleton from Cherry Orchard who is on loan with Reading from West Ham United).

Ireland play Italy in Florence on Friday and a big crowd is expected in Tallaght Stadium next Tuesday evening for the match against Cymru.

Sacred Heart tops in nine-goal thriller



Esker Celtic lost out to Killinarden Sacred Heart in a close fought match

Killinarden side hold on for victory after Esker battle back

SACRED Heart secured a nail-biting 5-4 victory over Esker Celtic in a U17 DDSL B1 league last Sunday reports Rory Merriman.

The showdown unfolded at Killinarden Hill, with the home team coming out on top, as manager Glen Moran and Mark Jordan watched on from the sidelines.

"The lads put in a great shift," Moran told *The Echo*.

"We got off to a superb start, the second half was a different story."

The match kicked off in dramatic fashion as Killinarden's Leon Murray, showcasing remarkable form, netted a hat-trick in the opening half.

His opening goal stemmed from a high press on the Esker Celtic

goalkeeper, forcing an error and slotting the ball home for a 1-0 lead. Midfielder, Scott Moran extended the lead to two closely followed by Murray adding another with an excellent volley from outside the box.

Despite Esker Celtic pulling one back in the first half, Murray's third goal just before halftime, courtesy of a perfectly placed ball from Craig Donnelly, made it 4-1.

Cameron Quinn joined the scoring frenzy in the second half with an impressive outside-the-box volley, bringing the score to a commanding 5-1 for Killinarden Sacred Hearts.

However, a lapse in concentration allowed Esker Celtic to mount a comeback, scoring three quick goals

in the second half to narrow the margin to 5-4.

The last 10 minutes saw Sacred Heart's defence holding firm, led by captain Josh O'Neill, who rallied his teammates and showcased excellent kicking skills.

Sacred Heart managed to secure the victory, defending fiercely in the closing moments. O'Neill's leadership and a resilient team effort ensured that the home side emerged victorious in the thrilling encounter.

The 5-4 clash at Killinarden Hill serves as a testament to the unpredictability of youth football, with both teams displaying remarkable skill and determination. Leon Murray's hat-trick and the overall team performance

highlighted the excitement of the U17 DDSL B1 league.

Despite the late scare, Killinarden Sacred Heart held on, showcasing their resilience.

"It was a great opening 45 minutes with Leon Murray scoring a hat trick in the first half. Cian Heshon was in goals for us and his kicking was excellent out there."

"Thinking the game was over at the half, I made sure to tell the lads not to take the foot off the gas and take the foot off the gas they did."

"Thankfully the lads regrouped, and finished the game showing real resilience. Our Captain Josh O'Neill took charge of the lads back there and we managed to get it over the line in the end."



Jude Gael of Esker Celtic tries to get past Sean Jacob of Sacred Heart
Photos by Paddy Barrett

Oldbury are too good in league



Oldbury FC have taken a five point lead in Division 3A after their victory over Tamhlacht FC
Photos by John Mooney

OLDBURY FC opened up a five point lead at the top of the UCFL Division 3A section, when they entertained Tamhlacht FC in Sean Walsh Park Astro and ran out 3-0 winners on Saturday morning reports John Mooney.

ROC Celtic are their nearest rivals at this stage, they are in second place with two games in hand, but it's points on the board that matter and the Bury have them in the bag.

Saturday's game saw Tamhlacht give a good account of themselves, but they just couldn't find the net and their missed chances cost them.

Jamie Smullen, Jason Byrne and Nathan Flynn all had chances to score throughout this tie but, for one reason or another, they left their shooting boots at home.

No such problems for Oldbury who, after securing a 2-0 lead at the break, were never really going to throw it all away as they put even more light between themselves and Tamhlacht, who lie in third position but have played three more games than the home side.

Tiernan O'Hanlon set them on their way

after 15 minutes play when the visitors failed to deal with a straight forward free kick into the area, Niall O'Byrne gathered and laid it off to O'Hanlon to finish.

That lead was doubled on 35 minutes and it all came from a Tamhlacht free kick, when a quick counter attack saw O'Hanlon turn provider when he set up the reliable Andy Nowlan to make it 2-0.

It was going to be an uphill battle for the visitors in the second half and Oldbury made them work hard for everything, but as stated earlier the shooting boots were nowhere to be found and the game was killed as a spectacle on 65 minutes with a screamer.

Dan Barnwell picked up a loose ball in the middle of the park and slipped it to Leigh Callery, he steadied himself and smashed home to the top corner of the net, from all of 35 yards.

It was a fitting way to finish off the scoring but unfortunately for both teams players suffered bad injuries, Oldbury's Sean Molloy had to taken away in an ambulance with a bad shin injury, while Tamhlacht lost Byrne with a popped shoulder.

Five-star Crumlin on form

OUT OF action for the past 15 weeks, Ger Shortt made a welcome return for Crumlin United by grabbing a hat-trick in their 5-2 win over Tolka Rovers in the Senior Division in Armagh Road on Sunday morning.

Unbeaten in their last five outings, Crumlin showed plenty of character as they came from a goal down twice in the match to secure maximum points.

It was the visitors who grabbed an early goal in this contest against the run of play before Paul Fox slotted home to get his side onto level terms.

Both sides were creating chances and it was Tolka again who took the lead when they scored a fine effort from a free kick.

Again, Crumlin hit back, this time the lively Paul Fox was taken down in the box and up stepped Ger Shortt to score the first of his three goals.

The hosts regrouped for the second half and took the lead for the first time 10 minutes in when an Eoin McDermott free kick was met by Aidan Friel who guided

home.

Crumlin grew in confidence after this score, and they soon extended their lead when a long kick out by keeper Cian Clarke was not defended by Tolka and Shortt was quickest to react and score from a tight angle.

The game was wrapped up in stoppage time when a breakaway goal from Shortt completed the rout for Crumlin and a fine performance by the lethal striker.

"We were delighted to come away too with the victory," Crumlin United manager James Lee told *The Echo*.

"We are rebuilding the team and have good quality players and to get a result like this is very important.

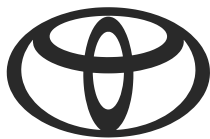
"We have a number of players coming back from injury which is a boost, and we are just staying positive with every game played," added James.

Crumlin have only lost one out of their last nine matches and are in good form at the moment.



Crumlin had an emphatic 5-2 win over Tolka Rovers Photo by Anthony O'Brien

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